



ONE GOOD TURN
Steelers CB Darius Slay wants to help young teammates grow **B1**



FIELD OF GREENS
Steelers fans plan to travel abroad for first regular-season NFL game in Ireland **C1**

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MARCH 16, 2025

WESTMORELAND EDITION

UNDER PRESSURE



PHOTOS: SEAN STIPP | TRIBLIVE

Jeannette fire Chief Bill Frye turns off a fire hydrant after battling a fire on Chestnut Street in February. **Below:** A Municipal Water Authority of Westmoreland County worker uses a device to conduct flow tests on a fire hydrant.

Water flow issues can cripple firefighters who rely on patchwork of unregulated hydrants

BY RICH CHOLODOFSKY AND RENATTA SIGNORINI

Two Fayette County homes 4 miles apart went up in flames in a 10-month period in 2021 and 2022 while firefighters reportedly struggled to draw water from nearby fire hydrants.

Residents of those homes believe low water pressure contributed to them losing their possessions and pets, according to federal civil rights lawsuits against Dunbar Township and North Fayette County Municipal Authority.

The water pressure dilemma is one that has been, and could continue to be, repeated throughout the region as firefighting in Southwestern Pennsylvania relies on a hydrant system that lacks what officials say is essential data needed to ensure public safety.

A TribLive investigation found:
• Testing of hydrant water flow throughout the region can be inconsis-



tent and rare, leaving firefighters in some communities in the dark about how much water they can expect in an emergency.

• There are no state regulations that require water authorities to do flow testing or inspections of hydrants. Testing and inspections are left up to the patchwork

John Waters, a consultant for the Pennsylvania State Fire Commission and the Pennsylvania Fire Emergency Services Institute.

Attorney Joel Sansone represents residents of those two Fayette households,

INSIDE

» Water pressure varies among thousands of hydrants in Western Pa. **A7**

of large and small entities that provide water for numerous communities in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

• It is unknown how many hydrants in the region do not meet the 500 gallons-per-minute minimum recommended by National Fire Protection Association guidelines.

“There are no state laws that say you have to provide a specific amount of water. I don’t know of any requirements for fire hydrants,” said

HYDRANTS · A6

Trump orders airstrikes on Houthi rebels

President holds Iran ‘fully accountable’ for Yemen-based attacks on shipping vessels

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — President Donald Trump said he ordered a series of airstrikes on the Houthi-held areas in Yemen on Saturday, promising to use “overwhelming lethal force” until Iranian-backed Houthi rebels cease their attacks on shipping along a vital maritime corridor. The Houthis said 13 civilians were killed in the capital, Sanaa.

“Our brave Warfighters are right now carrying out aerial attacks on the terrorists’ bases, leaders, and missile defenses to protect American shipping, air, and naval assets, and to restore Navigational Freedom,” Trump said in a social media post. “No terrorist force will stop American commercial and naval vessels from freely sailing the Waterways of the World.”

He also warned Iran to stop supporting the rebel

INSIDE

» Trump signs bill funding government for 6 months, avoiding shutdown. **B7**

group, promising to hold the country “fully accountable” for the actions of its proxy. It comes two weeks after the U.S. leader sent a letter to Iranian leaders offering a path to restarting bilateral talks between the countries on Iran’s advancing nuclear weapons program. Trump has said he will not allow it to become operational.

The Houthis reported explosions in their territory Saturday evening, in Sanaa and the northern province of Saada, the rebels’ stronghold on the border with Saudi Arabia. Images online showed plumes of black smoke over the area of the Sanaa airport complex, which includes a sprawling military facility.

AIRSTRIKES · A5



MASSOUD HOSSAINI | TRIBLIVE

CITY’S ALL SMILES

Miss Smiling Irish Eyes — Melanie Grace Rayl of Mt. Lebanon — traverses Downtown in a grand carriage during the annual Pittsburgh St. Patrick’s Day Parade on Saturday. The event’s warmest weather in several years led to a strong turnout. **Story, A7**



KRISTINA SERAFINI | TRIBLIVE

An employee uses a private meeting pod inside the “Highmark Hub” on the second floor of the company’s headquarters in Downtown Pittsburgh on Wednesday.

Covid changed commercial landscape

From remote work to cashless venues, virus’ effects on business can be seen 5 years later

BY ALEXIS PAPALIA

The gathering was a who’s who of Pennsylvania politicians, all looking to share in the credit of a transformational \$600 million reimagination of Downtown Pittsburgh.

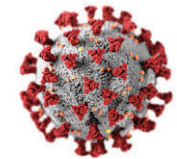
Gov. Josh Shapiro, Pitts-

burgh Mayor Ed Gainey and Allegheny County Executive Sara Innamorato, among others, huddled along Penn Avenue in October to tout the sizable investment that, in part, called for repurposing vacant office space into apartments.

Elements of the project were a result of the covid-19 pandemic’s lasting echoes.

“Downtown Pittsburgh, like

COVID 5 YEARS LATER



many core urban neighborhoods, was hit hard by the pandemic and has struggled to regain its footing,” state Sen. Jay Costa, D-Forest Hills, said at the time.

Of all of covid-19’s many impacts, arguably none is more noticeable than the vacant office spaces left in the virus’ wake. However, the empty desks left by people fleeing for the convenience of remote work are

but one effect covid had on the business sector.

Conducting business has changed forever since covid hit Western Pennsylvania five years ago this month.

Many businesses went cashless. The service industry — particularly dining — was hit hard. Countless workers were laid off, and some never returned to the workforce. Some restaurants found creative ways to stay afloat, the remnants of which still can

COVID · A4

WEATHER 69 · 37
Showers and t-storms; breezy, cooler tonight
Details, A2

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Weather forecast for TODAY, TONIGHT, MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY. Includes high/low temperatures, wind speeds, and precipitation probabilities.

Wind Chill today: An indication of how cold it feels based on temperature and wind speed. Includes a thermometer graphic showing 52 degrees.

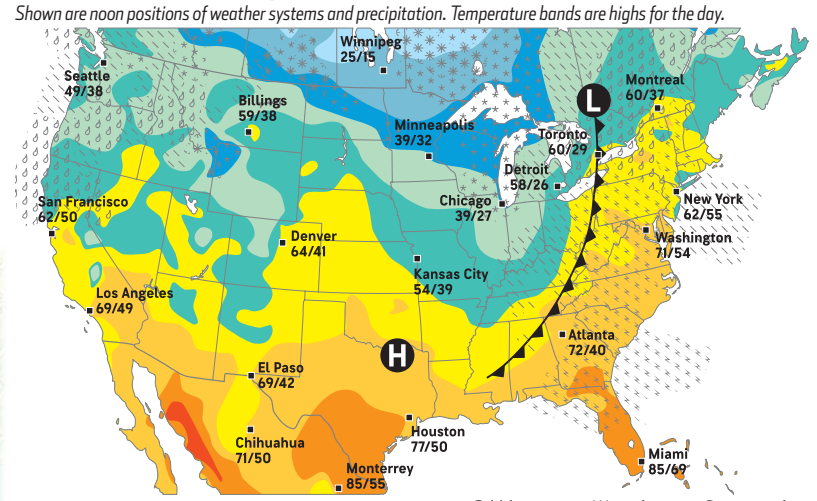
Almanac: Statistics for Pittsburgh through 5 p.m. Saturday. Includes temperatures, precipitation, and snowfall data.

Temperatures: High/low, Normal high/low, Year ago high/low, Record high, Record low. Precipitation: 24 hours through 5 p.m. Saturday, Month to date, Normal month to date, Year to date, Normal year to date, Last year to date. Snowfall: Saturday, Record, Month to date, Season to date, Normal season to date.

Lake Erie forecast: Wind from the south-southwest at 12-25 knots today. Seas 2-4 feet. Visibility less than 2 miles in showers.

River stages: as of 7 a.m. Saturday. Allegheny, Franklin, Clinton L&D, Freeport L&D, Natrona L&D, C.W. Bill Young L&D, Sharpshurg L&D. Loyahanna Creek, Kingston, Latrobe, Youghiogheny, Connellsville, Sutersville.

National weather today AccuWeather Visit AccuWeather.com

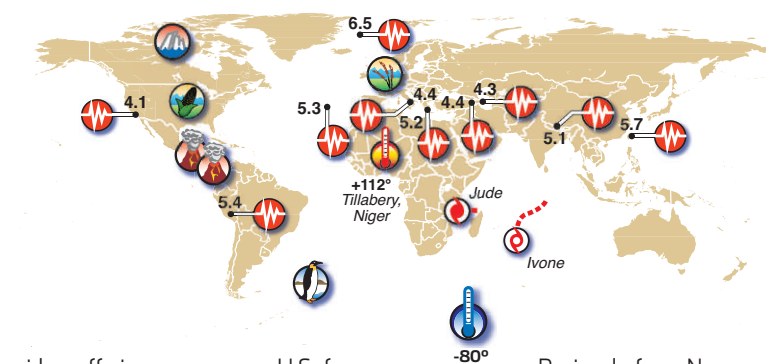


Air Quality Index: Today's forecast, Saturday. Sun & Moon: Sunrise, Sunset, Moonrise, Moonset. Weather Trivia: Where is most of the world's ice stored? (Antarctica). Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2025

Global melting

Combined global sea ice cover reached an all-time low in February, with both the Arctic and Antarctic experiencing extreme declines. Arctic sea ice remained 8% below average, continuing a three-month streak of record lows, while Antarctic sea ice was 26% below average, nearing its second-lowest summer minimum.

STEVE NEWMAN'S EARTH WEEK



U.S. farmers reporting that the lasers bring increased efficiency, reduced soil compaction and improved sustainability. Antarctic flu: The highly pathogenic H5N1 strain of bird flu has for the first time been detected in dead birds on the Antarctic mainland.

Earthquakes

People in Naples, Italy, slept outdoors after the strongest quake in 40 years damaged buildings. Tremors were also felt from Greenland and Iceland to Norway, and in southern Greece, the Azores, Armenia, Azerbaijan, the Tibet-Nepal border region, Taiwan, southern Peru and Los Angeles.



A robotic tractor shoots 250-watt lasers to kill weeds more quickly, enabling growers to cover more acres in less time.

farmland and forced nearly 300 families to flee the mountain's slopes. Costa Rica's Poás volcano erupted with a plume of vapor and debris that soared nearly 1,000 feet above the national park of the same name.

Plastic dimming

Microplastic pollution is reducing the ability of plants to photosynthesize, potentially cutting global crop yields and worsening food insecurity, according to a new study published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Tropical cyclones

Category-1 Cyclone Jude killed at least six people when it roared onto Mozambique's northeastern coast with winds of up to 75 mph, causing significant flooding and extensive damage.

LOTTERIES

Lottery results for SATURDAY, WEDNESDAY, TUESDAY, FRIDAY, THURSDAY, MONDAY, SUNDAY. Includes Pick 2, Pick 3, Pick 4, Pick 5, Wild Ball, Treasure Hunt, Cash 5, Cash4Life, Cash Ball, Match 6, Powerball, Mega Millions, and Mega Ball/Megaplier.

Monster storms leave at least 26 dead, vast devastation

Twisters ravage wide swath; dust storm causes 50-car pileup

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Violent tornadoes ripped through parts of the U.S., wiping out schools and toppling semitractor-trailers in several states, part of a monster storm

that has killed at least 26 people as more severe weather was expected late Saturday.

The number of fatalities increased after the Kansas Highway Patrol reported eight people died in a highway pile-up caused by a dust storm in Sherman County on Friday. At least 50 vehicles were involved.

talities than any other state as it withstood scattered twisters overnight that killed at least 12 people, authorities said. The deaths included a man who was killed after a tornado ripped apart his home.

"It was unrecognizable as a home. Just a debris field," said Coroner Jim Akers of Butler County, describing the scene that confronted rescuers.

"The floor was upside down. We were walking on walls."

Dakota Henderson said he and others rescuing people trapped in their homes Friday night found five dead bodies scattered in the debris outside what remained of his aunt's house in hard-hit Wayne County, Mo.

"It was a very rough deal last night," he said Saturday,

surrounded by uprooted trees and splintered homes. "It's really disturbing for what happened to the people, the casualties last night."

Henderson said they rescued his aunt from a bedroom that was the only room left standing in her house, taking her out through a window. They also carried out a man who had a broken arm and leg.

Officials in Arkansas said three people died in Independence County and 29 others were injured across eight counties as storms passed through the state.

"We have teams out surveying the damage from last night's tornadoes and have first responders on the ground to assist," Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders said.

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Tribune-Review Vol. 137, No. 36 Sunday, March 16, 2025. General offices, Retail ads, Rates, Weekly rates, Saturday & Sunday/Holiday package.

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Franklin Regional students 'discover dairy' by adopting a Holstein calf

BY PATRICK VARINE

A classroom pet isn't always a workable scenario for an elementary school teacher.

But when that pet can help students learn across several school subjects, the decision is a lot easier.

That's how Brienne May's fifth-grade science class at Franklin Regional Intermediate School found themselves adopting a 100-pound Holstein calf named Milkyway from Kurtland Farms in eastern Pennsylvania.

The "Adopt-a-Cow" program is part of Discover Dairy, a program that touches on math, science, reading and social studies while demonstrating the milk production cycle and emphasizing the importance of dairy farming and agriculture.

"If a farmer is going to have a newborn calf near the start of the school year, they can sign up and teachers will get updates on how the calf is doing, information on its physical progress, and information about agriculture that we can use in multiple educational disciplines," May said.

Franklin Regional students in the Discover Dairy program have practiced writing by drafting letters to their farmer, Paige Miller at Kurtland Farms. They've also taken virtual field trips and touched on social studies by looking at different cow breeds around the world.

"As a science teacher, one of the things we learn about is that all food energy ultimately comes from the sun," she said. "It grows plants, the animals eat the plants and so on. And we can look at these resources and understand how the

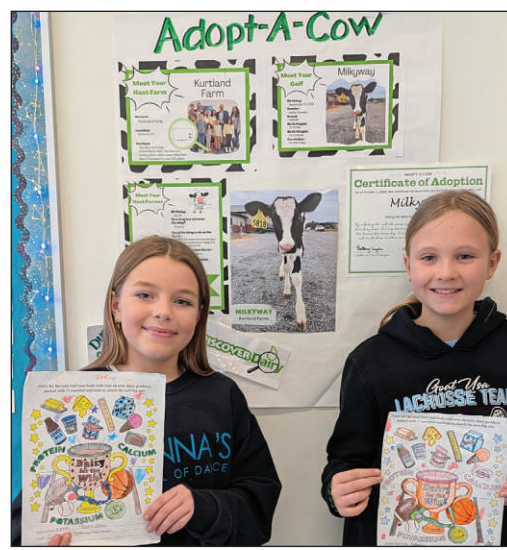
milk we get from a cow was created from the energy it got by eating grass, which got its energy to grow from sun."

There's even an art component, through a Discover Dairy drawing and coloring contest.

"The topic is 'how food gets from the farm to the grocery store,' so it's great to be able to show the kids that connection, especially using art, which most of them already love. It's definitely the most popular activity we've done," May said.

Discover Dairy isn't the only program aiming to use agriculture in multiple classes. The Pennsylvania FFA, formerly the Future Farmers of America, has a website dedicated to cross-curricular resources with lesson plans, video resources and suggestions for student activities.

ADOPT-A-COW · A8



Fifth graders Lexi Hamilton (left) and Ellie Anderson show their work on an activity about the 13 essential ingredients the human body can get from dairy products.

SUBMITTED BY THE FRANKLIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bids being accepted for Norwin stadium project

BY JOE NAPSHA

Norwin school officials will learn next month whether the extensive renovations planned for the Knights Stadium will cost the estimated \$24.8 million, or even more, when bids for the project are opened on April 8.

The school board in January had decided to proceed with an option presented by its architect, DRAW Collective of Mt. Lebanon, that was more expensive than an alternative was projected to cost closer to \$16 million.

Both options involved demolishing the home side grandstands and press box and install new seating and press box, along with new turf and running track. There is to be space for athletic training underneath the bleachers, making the visitors grandstand more accessible for those with disabilities, improvements to the concession stand and restrooms. The press box will include space for coaches and media, as well as an area for a community multi-purpose room.

Three of the nine board members favored a less expensive project, while maintaining seating capacity to about 2,400 seats. The press box and some amenities would have been scaled back with the less expensive project.

The district was told in November 2024 that the project could cost around \$25 million when it gave the architect the approval to create specifications for the project. The board had studies conducted in recent years that found the grandstand was showing signs of deterioration.

Construction is to begin once football season is complete in November, and is scheduled to be finished by the end of June 2027. That would mean the Norwin football team would have to play the entire 2026 season with no home games.

Had the board opted for a less expensive project, DRAW Collective said, the project would have been delayed a year to allow the design of the project specifications.

Joe Napsha is a TribLive staff writer. He can be reached at jnapsha@triblive.com.



PHOTOS: SEAN STIPP | TRIBLIVE



Counterclockwise from top: Volunteer Dan Balzarini (left) and Jim Clayton, vice chair of the Westmoreland Historical Society, move large sections of wood to be installed in the floor of a log house that is being rebuilt at Historic Hanna's Town. The house is referred to as a "log skyscraper" because of the 10-foot-high first-floor ceiling. The metal tags are lettered A,B,C or D for the sides and numbered from top to bottom. A view looking out the window opening.

Weathering 215 years

Historical society rebuilding 'log skyscraper' at Hanna's Town

BY JOE NAPSHA

Workers at Historic Hanna's Town are rebuilding part of Westmoreland County's colonial history, stacking two-century-old, 20-foot-long logs to give new life what the county historical society is calling its "log skyscraper."

"It's unusual (for log houses) because the first-floor ceiling is 10 feet tall. It looks like we are constructing a log skyscraper," said Lisa Hays, executive director of the Westmoreland County Historical Society. The society operates Historic Hanna's Town and its cluster of colonial-style buildings in Hempfield.

The two-story log house is being painstakingly reconstructed

under the direction of Andrew Lallemand of Lallemand Construction Inc. of Altoona, along with help from several historical society volunteers.

It was built around 1810 along what is now Hannatown Road, Hays said. The log house was constructed in what has become a remote section of the county-owned property, away from the other buildings around the fort and the historical society headquarters along Forbes Trail Road.

"We're trying to put it back together as close as possible to what it was," said Jim Clayton of Greensburg, vice chairman of the historical society. They are rebuilding the house

with its interior fireplace, as near as possible to the original. They have photographs of the house before it was dismantled in 2023.

Metal tags were placed on the logs that were salvageable, designating by letter which side of the house they were located and by numbers, from the foundation to the roof.

Because of some 215 years of enduring all kinds of weather, not all of the logs were salvageable, particularly those on the western side of the house, said Tom Klingensmith of New Kensington, a member of the historical society's board of directors and a colonial reenactor.

HANNA'S TOWN · A8

'It's been a problem for a while'

Flood control project proposed for Northmont neighborhood of Greensburg

BY RENATTA SIGNORINI

Greensburg is seeking easements on 22 properties to alleviate flooding that has been ongoing for decades in the Northmont section of the city.

Letters were sent Feb. 28 to property owners who would be affected by a proposed flood control project along an unnamed stream that runs parallel to Glenview Avenue. The stream mostly runs through backyards and goes underground before connecting to Jacks Run near Lynch Field.

"It's been a problem for a while," said Alec Italiano, director of planning and development.

The proposal will involve the construction of concrete culverts and U-channels along the unnamed stream. Italiano said he expects the project to take up to two years to complete. A potential cost is unknown, but the project will be funded through a state grant. Greensburg workers will be responsible for preparation work, such as clearing brush.

Of the 22 properties targeted, the city owns two. Some are in Hempfield, Italiano said. Attempts to reach several residents in the area Friday were unsuccessful.

Affected properties are on Roosevelt Way, New Alexandria Road, Harvey Avenue, Albert Way, Kenneth Street, Kenmore Avenue, Northmont Street and Oakhill Avenue.

Trib archives indicate city officials discussed the project in 2014 and said then that the problem had been going on for decades. The proposal had been shelved at some point, but heavy rain in August 2007 renewed interest in the work. After those rains, residents began complaining to council about flooded basements and sewage backup, the Trib reported in 2014.

Getting the necessary easements from property owners may have been an issue then, according to Trib archives.

The current version of the project and easements will not cost property owners anything, Italiano said. The project cannot start until all the easement agreements are signed.

"It's all designed to positively impact the properties to ease the flooding," he said. "This project is a long time coming."

He hopes work can start this year. A public meeting will be held before work commences to provide more information to residents.

Renatta Signorini is a TribLive staff writer. She can be reached at rsignorini@triblive.com.

ESPN's Pat McAfee, a Plum native, sells out PPG Paints Arena



TRIBLIVE

It will be a homecoming for Plum native Pat McAfee when he hosts his "Big Night AHT" show at Pittsburgh's PPG Paints Arena next month.

A sold-out homecoming, at that. Tickets for the April 9 event went on sale Thursday and sold out in less than two hours.

On hearing the news of the sell-out, the former Indianapolis Colts and West Virginia kicker, who now hosts a very popular sports talk show on ESPN, took to X to share an emotional

"PPG Paints Arena, in my hometown of Pittsburgh, was sold out in 92 minutes. I am so (very) grateful. Cant wait to enjoy a night together. and let's have a BIG Night AHT."

PAT MCAFFEE
IN A POST TO X

message on X thanking his fans.

"This morning I had no clue what was gonna happen with these ticket sales. we haven't done this in a long time," he wrote on the platform. "PPG Paints Arena, in my hometown of Pittsburgh, was sold out

in 92 minutes. I am so (very) grateful. Cant wait to enjoy a night together. and let's have a BIG Night AHT."

McAfee promoted the show Tuesday with a post on X stressing that tickets would start at \$20 and no ticket would be more than \$100.

McAfee also talked about the event selling out on his show Thursday afternoon.

After retiring from the Colts in 2016, McAfee started the "The Pat McAfee Show" in 2019 as a radio show which also broadcast on YouTube. His popularity soared.

He became a full-time analyst on ESPN for College Gameday in 2022. And the following year his namesake show began being simulcast on ESPN.

McAfee is also involved in wrestling and WWE programming.

Pat McAfee speaks at the ESPY awards on July 12, 2023, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.
AP

Many employers retained work-from-home option

COVID · FROM A1

be found today in curbside pickup. “Downtown Pittsburgh was thriving before the pandemic. It was very vibrant,” said Geoff Greco, a senior vice president at Jones Lang LaSalle, a global commercial real estate firm with holdings in Pittsburgh. “The pandemic has brought obvious challenges to Downtown.”

The rise of work-from-home

Pittsburgh-based Highmark, PNC and BNY Mellon have brought staff back to the office, but remote and hybrid work has become normalized. Before the pandemic, about 6.5% of workers did their jobs remotely. In June 2020, Stanford University reported that 42% of employees were working from home following initial covid-19-related shutdowns. Throughout the following years, those percentages have ebbed and flowed, especially as hybrid work models have become more prevalent. “The shift to remote work — we used to call it teleworking — was certainly accelerated. The trend toward telework before covid was increasing, but certainly not at the rate anyone was expecting,” said Christopher Briem, a regional economist at the University of Pittsburgh’s Center for Social and Urban Research.

David Lebel, an associate professor of business administration at Pitt’s School of Business, said about 30% of workdays in the U.S. are now remote. Hybrid work can come in a few forms, but Forbes reported in November that “structured hybrid” — set days, hours or time working in office vs. at home each week, set by the employer — has become the new norm. This method is on the rise, with 37% of employers buying in as of 2024. Lebel said the happy medium of hybrid models seems to be producing the best results for companies when it comes to productivity and long-term retention of employees.

“All of the research I’ve seen, there’s no difference in productivity between all in-person versus all virtual, that’s five days both ways,” he said, adding that productivity goes up in general with a hybrid schedule. “Humans desire some level of autonomy. They want some level of say about when, how and where they do their work,” Lebel said. “Coming off of the pandemic, when you gave a lot of workers some flexibility, it’s really difficult to take that back.”

A 2024 study from Pitt’s Katz Graduate School of Business found that employees enjoyed having less commute time and better work-life balance with the ability to work from home. It also found significant declines in reported job satisfaction after employers mandated a return to the office.

Chris Howden, 44, of West Homestead is an IT professional in finance who worked remotely for two years after the pandemic began. Now, she follows a flexible hybrid schedule,

choosing three office days per week, though policies vary by department, with some co-workers in-office full time.

The hybrid model, she said, works well. “My preference would be one or two days a week (in the office). When I was working 100% remote for a long period of time, there was a bit of a detachment, not being able to connect with people.”

Her company also utilizes “hoteling” for many of their departments, a practice that has become common across many industries since the post-pandemic return to work. A hoteling space is an unassigned office with cubicles where employees choose or reserve a seat daily. They log into a virtual desktop or connect a laptop to a docking station, and personal items are stored in lockers, Howden said.

She said she would prioritize looking for remote or hybrid flexibility in any new position. “What doesn’t work is when you’ve got a whole bunch of people who are clinging to one way and refusing to change and trying to apply those same practices to a virtual world.”

What remote work means for Downtown offices

The rise in work-from-home has caused issues for cities, including Pittsburgh, where commercial real estate vacancies remain higher than pre-2020 levels.

Jones Lang LaSalle reported this year that Pittsburgh’s commercial real estate vacancy is 22.1%, higher than this time last year and up from nearly 16% in the fourth quarter of 2019.

“At least in early covid, we measured financial services and industries like that, which shifted into remote work. What do we have here in Pittsburgh and concentrated in Downtown? A lot of financial service industries,” Briem said.

Jones Lang LaSalle believes the \$600 million revitalization project planned for Downtown — which includes converting 1 million square feet of commercial real estate into residential housing — will boost the area.

Pittsburgh City Council also has extended tax breaks to developers who repurpose office space for residential or new commercial uses.

“Having more residences Downtown and more people Downtown ... will in the long run create a more vibrant environment,” said Greco, the Jones Lang LaSalle executive.

Many of the region’s largest employers, including Highmark and PNC, began to bring workers back Downtown after the last covid-19 restrictions wore off.

“In 2023, Highmark Health asked our designated-hybrid team members to find ways to use the office nearest them at least three days a week,” said Highmark Health chief human resource officer Larry

Kleinman. “Since that time, we’ve seen increased usage of our building space in all the markets we serve. We don’t anticipate the organization making additional changes unless business needs change.”

Greco said the employers who had the most success maintaining office space Downtown were those who offered amenities such as fitness centers, conference centers and proximity to parking and public transportation.

Pittsburgh’s unemployment numbers also have recovered since their peak in April 2020. That month, the unemployment rate was 15.6%. Last December, it sat at 3.4%, two points lower than in February 2020 before the pandemic hit its hardest.

With employees scattered, the face of work meetings has changed. Workers became familiar with Zoom, a little-known application before March 2020. The rise of online meetings has sustained, even with employees returning to the office.

Pitt’s Lebel said he isn’t seeing evidence that people are less engaged in virtual meetings despite the prevalence of “Zoom fatigue.”

Down with cash, up with cards

The rise of mobile wallets already was accelerating toward fewer cash transactions, but the pandemic sped up the contactless payment trend with many large venues and companies going completely cashless.

Acrisure Stadium, PPG Paints Arena and PNC Park all have moved to accepting only credit and debit cards and mobile payment apps including Apple Pay and Google Pay, as have Kennywood, Sandcastle and Idlewild.

Many of these locations are equipped with “reverse ATMs” where patrons convert dollars into a pre-loaded card.

The Pennsylvania Turnpike is another place where cash is no longer accepted.

Crispin Havener, a Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission spokesperson, said the pandemic played a major role in its decision to go cashless.

They’ve now implemented open-road tolling, which replaces the current cashless stop-and-go tolling method, east of Reading. The system allows drivers to move under structures at highway speeds that will register their entrance or exit on the turnpike and bill them electronically.

When Kennywood and Sandcastle went cashless in 2022, their general manager, Mark Pauls, said it would provide a “better, more efficient experience to our guests.”

But detractors abound. Before the pandemic, analyst Jay Stanley with the American Civil Liberties Union highlighted the downsides of a cashless society, including privacy concerns, vulnerability to outages and disadvantages for low-income individuals. He noted that cashless systems assume financial stability and access to banking, which many — such as the poor, elderly and

homeless — lack because of ID and documentation barriers.

Restaurants rebound

When emergency measures were put into place in March 2020, the restaurant and hospitality industries were some of the hardest hit in the country.

Unable to provide dine-in service, and with already razor-thin profit margins — between 2% and 7%, according to Ben Fileccia, senior vice president of strategy and engagement for the Pennsylvania Restaurant and Lodging Association — many eateries were forced to close or lay off employees.

By August 2020, a staggering number of restaurants — from Pittsburgh institutions such as The Original Hot Dog Shop in Oakland to newer favorites, including Coca Cafe in the Strip District — had permanently closed.

Today, the outlook is considerably improved, according to Fileccia.

He said national restaurant revenue in 2024 was \$1.1 trillion and is projected to grow to \$1.5 trillion this year. In 2019, the total was \$863 billion, according to the Nation’s Restaurant News.

Jeanine DeGennaro owns DeGennaro’s Restaurant in Greensburg. The Italian eatery has been open for 26 years — even through the early months of covid-19.

DeGennaro became emotional while discussing the strain of 2020 shutdowns.

The rise in delivery and takeout offerings helped keep restaurants afloat — and those options haven’t gone away.

“That’s all I had at the beginning, and then I was only open for four hours at a time — but I was so busy during that four hours. I had such wonderful customers — they wanted to make sure I stayed around.”

She said she has more pickup orders than during pre-pandemic times, but it has decreased in the past two or three years. Things went completely back to normal for her about eight months ago.

DeGennaro also said she took out loans from the Small Business Administration to supplement income lost during the height of covid-19.

“It was a hard time, but if you really wanted to make it, you could. ... I really had to think outside the box of how I did everything,” DeGennaro said.

Rosann Veenis, owner of La Vita’s Restaurant in Greensburg, did a busy takeout business for the first months of the pandemic, including Easter and Thanksgiving. “I never closed a day during covid, never,” she said.

She had a group of regulars from the Westmoreland County Courthouse who came in to pick up meals, though some would stay and eat — distanced, of course. “We still have the tables set apart,” she said.

Veenis has owned the restaurant for 35 years and said those early

days were some of the hardest. Extra expenses came in the form of more takeout materials, as well.

But after about two years, her customers came back to eating in-house again.

Fileccia said pickup, takeout and delivery are still big business in a post-pandemic world.

“A lot of new restaurants are catering to that guest, maybe by making a portion of their kitchen just takeout or reconfiguring their dining room to accommodate,” he said.

The change of the takeout landscape has extended the average person’s delivery options past the standard pizza and Chinese food, he added.

“I believe restaurant employment at least, rebounded to pre-covid levels,” Briem said. “It’s back above where it was before covid.”

He also said there has been a shift from full-service dining — meaning sit-down restaurants — to limited dining establishments.

Adam Rauf, 41, of Point Breeze North was an avid patron of restaurants and bars before the pandemic. He and his husband welcomed a baby in May 2020, so they took their time going back to “normal” with going out.

Once vaccination became ubiquitous, Rauf started to feel more comfortable going out — but he still was cautious.

Rauf still doesn’t make it to as many eateries as he used to, between raising a preschooler and sticking to the habits his family formed during the pandemic.

“We still do a lot of takeout and delivery where we can,” he said.

After such a difficult period, Fileccia said, it was the support of communities that pulled restaurants through, as well as government funds that kept doors open and staff at their jobs.

“We just learned to adapt,” said Jackie Jaffre, owner of Jaffre’s Restaurant, Bar and Six Pack in Greensburg. “We had to keep changing and figuring out how to stay profitable, stay in business, stay relevant with what people were able to do with the circumstances they were in.”

Like other restaurants, Jaffre’s did plenty of takeout business — and they still do, thanks to the accessibility of delivery apps.

“I think people got used to the convenience of it, so they just continued it. Things like DoorDash have helped immensely.”

Some aspects of our everyday lives have changed and shifted forever, but at the five-year mark, crowded restaurants and bars are a common sight — even if it took a while.

Jaffre said it was as long as three years until things went back to normal.

“I think people tried to come back right away, as soon as they were able to,” she said. “But things didn’t feel normal for a long time.”

Alexis Papalia is a TribLive staff writer. She can be reached at apapalia@triblive.com.

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Lane violation adds to Duke-UNC lore

Withers' mistake costs Tar Heels tying free-throw after remarkable comeback

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Jae'Lyn Withers stood in a hallway of the Spectrum Center, his left arm resting around the shoulders of North Carolina coach Hubert Davis. He was surrounded by reporters, all wanting to know a simple question.

How did it happen?
It was roughly an hour after the Tar Heels nearly completed a comeback from a 24-point deficit against top-ranked Duke in the ACC Tournament. But it slipped painfully away on the most unusual of mistakes: Withers' lane violation in the final seconds that negated the tying free throw from Ven-Allen Lubin.

The Blue Devils hung on for a 74-71 victory Friday night in the semifinal, a game that was flirting with earning its own place in the rivalry's lore for the comeback — only to secure it for an entirely different reason. To his credit, Williams — a graduate forward who had helped lead the Tar Heels' final-month surge to revive their NCAA Tournament hopes — didn't hide from reporters. He instead faced the questions about that painful moment. He spoke in a low voice, his coach standing at his side in a public show of support.

"I guess you could just say I kind of mistimed the shot," Withers said. "I was trying to make sure I crashed hard to secure a rebound in case he did miss."

Before that moment, it seemed North Carolina (22-13) was on the verge of an improbable comeback likely to eliminate lingering doubts about its chances of earning a bid to March Madness. Duke was playing without freshman star Cooper Flagg and versatile defender Maliq Brown because of injuries but closed the first half on a 15-0 run and took its largest lead at 52-28 with 17 minutes, 1 second left.

But the Tar Heels took over, getting loose in transition to finally create some space and rhythm. And the lead steadily dwindled, eventually to single digits before finally UNC got the ball back down just 72-71 in the final minute. And after a timeout, Lubin drew the fifth foul on Duke's Khaman Maluach on a move in the paint with 4.1 seconds left.

Lubin missed the first free throw. Still, he had another shot coming, with UNC's momentum giving the Tar Heels plenty of optimism on what they could do if Lubin tied it and potentially forced overtime.

But as Lubin bent his knees to take the second, Withers stepped his right foot into the paint as he stood between Duke's Isaiah Evans and Patrick Ngongba. He quickly stepped back, but it was too late.

Ngongba immediately pointed toward Withers' feet. The whistle blew. Evans and Ngongba immediately started clapping their hands and celebrating right in front of Withers, while UNC teammate RJ Davis stood beyond the 3-point arc with his hands on his head in disbelief.

Worse, Lubin's shot dropped through the net for what would've been a 72-72 tie.

"I've never seen anything like that before, especially up one," Duke freshman Kon Knueppel said.

That was probably true of a packed in-state crowd full of the competing shades of rivalry blue, too.

"We all made mistakes in this game," RJ Davis said. "I am behind J-Wit. He has our full support, and we would not be in this position without J-Wit. I want him to hold his head high. We all make mistakes in this game. It's not just on him."

The Tar Heels missed a desperation 3-pointer on one final possession, and Withers immediately covered his face with his jersey at the bench in anguish. He regrouped enough to go through the postgame handshake line with a towel on his head.

"The emotions (that) followed was just the sense, I'd say mostly disbelief initially," Withers said. "But following that, of course, upset with the end result."

His voice trailed off. That's when his coach interjected.

"Guys," Hubert Davis told reporters, "we're not here without J-Wit."



North Carolina forward Jae'Lyn Withers pulls a rebound away from Wake Forest forward Efton Reid III in the quarterfinals of the ACC tournament.

Clemson locked out of locker room

Coach 'disappointed' after halftime fiasco during ACC tournament loss to Louisville

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The 10th-ranked Clemson Tigers trailed No. 13 Louisville, 33-28, at halftime of Friday night's semifinal game at the ACC Tournament and were in need of some in-game adjustments. So it didn't help when the Tigers found themselves locked out of their locker room at halftime.

Clemson players wound up sitting on the cement floor outside of the locker room while coach Brad Brownell addressed his team.

Eventually the door was unlocked by building security, and the Tigers were able to get in.

The ACC added two minutes to halftime as a result.

Whether it was coincidence or not, Clemson did not play well early in the second half, eventually falling behind by 15 after going more than six minutes without a field goal. The Tigers finally got some momentum and cut the lead to two with a furious rally and had a chance to tie before losing 76-73.

Brownell said that has never happened to his Clemson team before.

"No, not at this level," Brownell said. "It's disappointing, obviously."

An ACC spokesperson said it's unclear how the door, which locks from the inside, wound up getting locked. The conference posts a security guard outside every locker room for every game, and there had never been any incidents reported before.



Christopher Bell celebrates after winning a NASCAR Cup Series race this month at Phoenix Raceway.

Bell chases congratulatory text

Driver has heard from NASCAR legend Johnson 3 weeks in row

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS VEGAS — Christopher Bell sometimes can't believe seven-time NASCAR champion Jimmie Johnson even knows Bell exists. And when Bell's phone lights up with a new text message from the Hall of Famer, he can't stop himself from freaking out a little bit.

But the texts have come three weeks in a row now — after Bell victories at Atlanta, Circuit of the Americas in Texas and Phoenix — and Bell hopes Johnson hits that send button again Sunday at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Bell has the chance to become the first driver since Johnson in 2007 to win four consecutive Cup Series races — an accomplishment only eight drivers have achieved in the modern era of NASCAR that began in 1972. He starts 13th on Sunday.

"It is still the coolest thing in the world to me that I have Jimmie Johnson in my phone," Bell said. "He has talked to me, he has sent me a text message after every win so far. I'm still shocked every

time I see his name pop up. I respect the heck out of him. It's an honor to know that he thinks of me after the race to send a text message. That is so cool."

Bell's three straight wins is the Cup Series' longest winning streak since Kyle Larson won three in a row twice in 2021, and Bell is the first to do it in NASCAR's Next Gen car, which was introduced in 2022.

Who has won four races in a row before?

Among those who have accomplished the feat, seven are in NASCAR's Hall of Fame and six are Cup Series champions.

The drivers who have won four consecutive races in the modern era are Cale Yarborough in 1976, Darrell Waltrip in 1981, Dale Earnhardt in 1987, Harry Gant in 1981, Bill Elliott in 1992, Mark Martin in 1993, Jeff Gordon in 1998 and Johnson 18 years ago.

Bell's three wins this year tie his career-high victory tallies set in 2022 and matched in 2024, and breaking his season-best mark isn't out of the question at Las Vegas, where he has five career top-10 finishes in 10 starts and three poles. Bell, in his No. 20 Toyota for Joe Gibbs Racing, was the runner-up in Vegas' last two fall races.

He is not considering a fourth consecutive victory a lock even as he has dominated the first month of the season.

"One thing is for sure: Nothing that has happened the last three weeks means anything for this week," Bell said. "Everything is still ahead of me and nothing is set, and we have to go out there and perform. This has been a strong track for us in the past, but I'm just trying very hard to not get ahead of myself and understand it is a new week. It's a different race, and everyone is going to be bringing their best stuff to try to beat me."

Dirt disappointment

Bell has watched from the sidelines the last few years as longtime dirt rival Larson raced all over the world. Team owner Joe Gibbs had prevented Bell from extracurricular racing. He was admittedly jealous that Larson got to race on dirt while Bell was barred. But the ban was lifted this year, and Bell was set to make his debut in the Larson-owned High Limit Racing series this weekend at Las Vegas.

But inclement weather pushed Thursday's event to Friday, and when that also had to be postponed until Saturday, Bell was officially scratched the lineup. It's not

that Gibbs won't let him race the night before a Cup Series event — JGR teammate Ty Gibbs still plans to compete in Larson's race — but Bell and crew chief Adam Stevens came to a "mutual decision" to not run on Saturdays.

"I think some of (the reason) is we are on the West Coast and if I would bang my head up a little bit or crash, it would be harder to get a driver here to fill that void," Bell said. "I don't know if it would be different once we get to the East Coast, but as of right now, we are going to stay away from Saturdays. The Gibbs management group, that's not on them. They are allowing me to pick and choose my races wisely. That is strictly between me and Adam."

Odds and ends

Larson (+400) is the BetMGM Sportsbook favorite, followed by Bell (+450). ... Larson is the defending race winner, and Joey Logano won last fall. Logano said the Las Vegas win, which occurred in the third-round opener of the playoffs and pushed him into the championship-deciding race, gave him the momentum to win the title ... The field includes three Las Vegas natives: Kyle Busch, Noah Gragson and Riley Herbst.

Las Vegas Gragson gets used to new team

Driver enjoys 'smooth' change to Front Row Motorsports this year

LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

LAS VEGAS — Las Vegas native Noah Gragson is driving for his third team in his third season in the NASCAR Cup Series.

Gragson is in his first season racing for Front Row Motorsports. His car number and race shop are different, but not everything is entirely new for Gragson.

After Stewart-Hass Racing shut down after the 2024 season, Gragson transitioned to his new home at Front Row Motorsports and brought many of his crew members with him.

"It's been really smooth for me on my part and all the guys on the team; probably half of them worked with me last year at Stewart-Hass Racing," Gragson said. "For myself, it's been a pretty seamless transition, super easy and comfortable just learning some of the new members of the organization at Front Row Motorsports."

Gragson will race in Sunday's Pennzoil 400 NASCAR Cup Series race at Las Vegas Motor Speedway. The green flag is scheduled for 12:30 p.m.

The most noticeable similarity for Gragson is he was able to bring over crew chief Drew Blickensderfer to lead the No. 4 Ford. In his second full season driving in the Cup Series, Gragson said having an established relationship with his crew chief is beneficial to acclimating to a new team.



Noah Gragson makes a pit stop during the Daytona 500 last month.

Blickensderfer is "certainly a guy that I'm comfortable with and familiar with, so it makes that really easy to be able to talk to him and work with him," Gragson said. "We already have our communication in line and have spent a year working with each other and growing together."

Gragson joined the Cup Series in 2023, but his season for Legacy Motor Club was cut short when he was suspended in August for "liking" an insensitive meme on social media and didn't race the rest of the season.

After being reinstated, he joined Stewart-Hass Racing, but the team announced in May it would be shutting down. Any worries about finding a ride for 2025 were put to rest when Front Row Motorsports and Gragson an-

nounced in July he would join the organization.

Gragson finished 24th in the point standings and finished with seven top-10 finishes last season. He recorded a then-career-best sixth-place finish in last year's Pennzoil 400.

The biggest lesson Gragson said he learned was to not let one bad race weekend roll over into more races.

"I kind of ride the waves of when things are good, they're good," said Gragson, 31st in the Cup Series standings after four races. "When things are not so good, it kind of carries into the next couple of weeks on the racetrack. Just trying to get out of those slumps and continue to bring fast race cars to the track and maximize the race weekend."

Gragson, 26, is part of a young lineup at Front Row

Motorsports. The organization has become more competitive in the past few seasons and expanded to three cars this offseason. Gragson has two of his "buddies" as his teammates in Todd Gilliland and Zane Smith.

Gragson's relationship with Smith goes back to their youth, when they raced at the Bullring alongside Las Vegas native Riley Herbst, in his first season in the Cup Series with 23XI Racing.

Smith and Herbst had several years of racing experience when Gragson started racing at age 13. The three were teammates and raced at the three-eighths-mile Bullring on the LVMS property.

"We all support each other and want to see each other be successful on the racetrack," Gragson said.

Pitt's Bell gets 3-year extension

Offensive coordinator could boast longest tenure under Narduzzi

BY JERRY DIPAOLA

After a season of improved production on offense, Pitt extended the contract of offensive coordinator Kade Bell, senior associate athletic director Pat Bostick said Saturday on the "Panther Insider" Show on 93.7 FM.

The new contract and pay raise for Bell, 32, first was reported by ESPN's Pete Thamel. Bell is expected to be paid among the top one-third of offensive coordinators in the ACC, Thamel reported.



Bell

With the extension, Bell could become the longest-serving offensive coordinator under coach Pat Narduzzi. Hired a year ago, Bell is the sixth OC to work for Narduzzi, who is entering his 11th season at Pitt. Only Mark Whipple (2019-21) served more than two seasons.

Bell's hurry-up offense, a dramatic departure from previous Narduzzi teams at Pitt, averaged 408.7 total yards last season, a significant increase over 2023 (317.9) and better than 2022 (405.8) when the Panthers won nine games.

While finishing 7-6 in 2024, Pitt scored 45 touchdowns on offense, 42nd among 133 FBS schools.

Even after quarterback Eli Holstein was sidelined by injuries and played in only 10 games, Pitt's passing game averaged 266.9 yards, 24th in the nation, fourth in the ACC.

The extension comes after On3.com's Pete Nakos reported at the end of last season that Bell was under consideration to become Oklahoma's offensive coordinator, a job that eventually went to Ben Arbuckle of Washington State.

Jerry DiPaola is a TribLive staff writer. He can be reached at jdipaola@triblive.com.



Cornerback Darius Slay (left) missed three tackles in 55 attempts last season, according to Pro Football Focus.

Slay appreciates coordinator Austin

STEELERS · FROM B1

"so I've got to return the favor, and that's how I do it. I do it with genuine love, not by force. It's because I want them to be great."

Such was the case last season with the Eagles on their way to winning the Super Bowl. He knew he likely would be expendable after the Eagles used their top two draft picks in 2024 on cornerbacks Quinyon Mitchell and Cooper DeJean. And, sure enough, the Eagles gave Slay his release rather than pay him \$16 million in the final year of his contract. The confetti barely had been cleaned up from the Super Bowl celebration when Slay learned his time with the Eagles was over.

That knowledge didn't stop Slay from mentoring the Eagles' young tandem last season.

"I don't think I would have had the success I've had without him," Mitchell told reporters at the Super Bowl after a rookie season in which he had 12 pass breakups. "He's been a big brother, been a teammate. I can come to him about anything. On the football side, he's helped me a lot. In real life, outside football, he's helped me a lot as well. Talking to guys from other teams, that kind of shocked me

because that's not always the case." With the Steelers, Slay will encounter a cornerback room that includes Cory Trice Jr., Beanie Bishop and fellow free-agent signee Brandin Echols. Slay plans to take the same approach he used with Mitchell and DeJean in Philadelphia.

"I was not forcing myself upon them as in, 'We need to do this, we need to do that,' because I'm a guy that's a willing worker, and if you're a willing worker, it's easy to go," Slay said. "We worked out every day, met up in the morning. We worked out on offense doing their drills. We worked out on the side of the field getting our stuff in. I like young guys that want to be dedicated to your craft. If you're not dedicated to your craft, this is not the sport for you."

The Steelers gave Slay a \$10 million contract primarily because they believe he can be an upgrade over his predecessors. It is the third consecutive year the Steelers added a veteran from the outside, with Slay following Patrick Peterson and Donte Jackson. Peterson lasted one season before he was released, ending his illustrious career.

Jackson left for the Los Angeles Chargers in free agency, but the Steelers showed minimal interest

in bringing him back. And perhaps with good reason.

Although Jackson led the Steelers with five interceptions in his only season, he didn't fare well in other aspects of the game. According to Pro Football Focus, Jackson had the second-worst missed tackles percentage among all NFL cornerbacks at 24.4. He had 10 missed tackles on 41 attempts. Slay had just three missed tackles in 55 attempts, a rate of 5.5%.

Slay also received a 75.5 percent coverage grade in PFF's subjective rankings (No. 12 overall) compared to 45.1 (No. 72) for Jackson. And although Slay didn't have an interception last season, his 17 forced incompletions tied for the NFL lead, and he ranked second with 16 pass breakups.

Slay credits the success he's displayed in the twilight of his NFL career to working with Steelers defensive coordinator Teryl Austin in his early stages. In 2013, Slay's second NFL season, Austin was hired as Detroit's defensive coordinator. Austin remained with the Lions for four seasons. In his final year, Slay led the NFL with eight interceptions and 26 pass breakups.

"He taught me early at a young age, don't use your talent as much,"

Slay said. "Only use your God-given (abilities) when you need to. What he means by that is to come in the film room, so I kind of learned the game real quick and real early. People think I'm moving as fast as I possibly can, but I'm not because I just know where they are going probably before they know where they are going. That comes from watching film with TA and just trying to make sure I use my ability as long as I possibly can."

It didn't hurt that the Lions had future Hall of Fame wide receiver Calvin Johnson on the practice field every day to serve as a foil for Slay. Austin made sure to match up the duo whenever possible during the three seasons Slay and Johnson were teammates.

"He helped me become who I am today," Slay said about Austin. "I always looked at him as a father figure."

Now, it's Slay's turn to take on that role, and it's one he embraces.

"I want them to always be better than me," Slay said. "Every guy I ever had under me, my job is to make sure they'd be better than me — as a player, person, everything."

Joe Rutter is a TribLive staff writer. He can be reached at jrutter@triblive.com.

BASKETBALL

NBA RESULTS/SCHEDULE

Saturday's games
Boston 115, Brooklyn 113
Oklahoma City 113, Detroit 107
Chicago at Houston (n)
Indiana at Milwaukee (n)
Miami at Memphis (n)
New Orleans at San Antonio (n)
New York at Golden State (n)
Washington at Denver (n)
Today's games
Orlando at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 1 p.m.
Phoenix at L.A. Lakers, 3:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Brooklyn, 6 p.m.
Toronto at Portland, 6 p.m.
Charlotte at L.A. Clippers, 7 p.m.
Utah at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Milwaukee, 9 p.m.

COLLEGES

BASEBALL

Saturday's results
Cal (Pa.) 6, Mansfield 5
Geneva 16, SUNY Canton 1
Grand Valley State 19, Gannon 13
Heidelberg 4, Westminster 3
Pitt-Johnstown 6, Bloomsburg 3
Rochester 13, Allegheny 12
Saint Vincent 2, Newport News Apprentice School 0
Seton Hill 4, D'Youville 0
Slippery Rock 2, St. Anselm 0
Washington (Md.) 14, Thiel 4 (7 inn.)

BASKETBALL MEN

Saturday's conference tournament scores

America East Championship
Bryant 77, Maine 59
American Athletic Semifinal
Memphis 78, Tulane 77
UAB 66, North Texas 56
Atlantic 10 Semifinal
VCU 62, Loyola Chicago 55
George Mason 74, Saint Joseph's 64
Big 12 Championship
Houston 72, Arizona 64
Big East Championship
St. John's 82, Creighton 66
Big Ten Semifinal
Wisconsin 77, Michigan St. 74
Michigan 81, Maryland 80
Northern Sun Intercollegiate First round
Winona St. 69, SW Minnesota 62
Minn. St. (Moorhead) 69, Fort Hays St. 62
Peach Belt Athletic First round
SC-Aiken 80, Catawba 71
Columbus St. 75, Carson-Newman 74
Pennsylvania State Athletic First round
Gannon 99, East Stroudsburg 74
Rocky Mountain Athletic First round
Ala.-Huntsville 99, Tampa 88
Ivy League Semifinal
Yale 59, Princeton 57
Cornell 87, Dartmouth 71
Lone Star First round
St. Mary's (Texas) 67, Lubbock Christian 61
Dallas Baptist 74, Regis 54
Metro Atlantic Athletic Championship
Mount St. Mary's 63, Iona 49
Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletics First round
Washington 85, Harding 57
Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Championship
Norfolk St. 66, SC State 65
Mountain-West Championship Semifinal
Colorado St. 83, Utah St. 72
Championship
Colorado St. 69, Boise St. 56

Auto racing

MOTOGP

1:30 p.m. FIM The Argentina Grand Prix. FS2
NASCAR CUP SERIES 3:30 p.m. The Pennzoil 400. FS1

Baseball

MLB

6 a.m. 2025 MLB World Tour Tokyo Series: Chicago Cubs at Yomiuri Giants. MLB
1 p.m. Pirates vs. N.Y. Yankees. SportsNet Pittsburgh/93.7 FM
1 p.m. Houston vs. N.Y. Mets. MLB
4 p.m. Spring Breakout: Detroit Prospects vs. Atlanta Prospects. MLB
7:30 p.m. Spring Breakout: Cincinnati Prospects vs. Milwaukee Prospects. MLB
COLLEGE
2 p.m. Texas at Mississippi St. SECN
3 p.m. North Carolina at Louisville. ACCN
5 p.m. Alabama at Texas A&M. SECN

Basketball

Northeast-10

First round
Assumption 92, S. New Hampshire 66
Dominican (NY) 85, Adelphi 66
St. Thomas Aquinas 79, Pace 72
Northern Sun Intercollegiate First round
Winona St. 69, SW Minnesota 62
Minn. St. (Moorhead) 69, Fort Hays St. 62
Peach Belt Athletic First round
SC-Aiken 80, Catawba 71
Columbus St. 75, Carson-Newman 74
Pennsylvania State Athletic First round
Gannon 99, East Stroudsburg 74
Rocky Mountain Athletic First round
Ala.-Huntsville 99, Tampa 88
Ivy League Semifinal
Yale 59, Princeton 57
Cornell 87, Dartmouth 71
Lone Star First round
St. Mary's (Texas) 67, Lubbock Christian 61
Dallas Baptist 74, Regis 54
Metro Atlantic Athletic Championship
Mount St. Mary's 63, Iona 49
Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletics First round
Washington 85, Harding 57
Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Championship
Norfolk St. 66, SC State 65
Mountain-West Championship Semifinal
Colorado St. 83, Utah St. 72
Championship
Colorado St. 69, Boise St. 56

GOLF

SATURDAY'S SCORES

PGA TOUR

The Players Championship — Third round

J.J. Spaun..... 66-68-70=204 -12

3X3 WOMEN

7:30 p.m. Unrivaled Basketball League: Laces vs. Rose, semifinal. TNT, TRUTV (DataCast)
8:45 p.m. Unrivaled Basketball League: Vinyl vs. Lunar Owls, semifinal. TNT, TRUTV (DataCast)

COLLEGE MEN

Noon Ivy League Tournament: TBD, championship. ESPN
1 p.m. Atlantic 10 Tournament: TBD, championship. CBS
1 p.m. SEC Tournament: TBD, championship. ESPN
3:15 p.m. American Athletic Tournament: TBD, championship. ESPN
3:30 p.m. Big Ten Tournament: TBD, championship. CBS
6 p.m. NCAA Men's Basketball championship Selection Show. CBS

COLLEGE WOMEN

Noon Patriot League Tournament: Army at Lehigh, championship. CBS
Noon Northeast Tournament: Stonehill at Fairleigh Dickinson, championship. ESPN
2 p.m. Coastal Athletic

Bud Cauley

Bud Cauley..... 68-71-66=205 -11
Lucas Glover..... 66-70-71=207 -9
Alex Smalley..... 68-67-72=207 -9
Akshay Bhatia..... 67-66-75=208 -8
Corey Conners..... 71-71-66=208 -8
Rory McIlroy..... 67-68-73=208 -8
Stephan Jaeger..... 68-71-70=209 -7
Jake Knapp..... 69-68-72=209 -7
Max McGreevy..... 68-71-70=209 -7
Sepp Straka..... 70-68-71=209 -7
Danny Walker..... 73-70-66=209 -7
Ryan Gerard..... 72-69-69=210 -6
J.T. Poston..... 73-68-69=210 -6
Chris Kirk..... 70-71-70=211 -5
Min Woo Lee..... 67-66-78=211 -5
Robert MacIntyre..... 69-70-73=212 -4
Sam Ryder..... 68-71-72=211 -5
Scottie Scheffler..... 68-71-72=211 -5
Davis Thompson..... 72-68-71=211 -5
Daniel Berger..... 70-73-69=212 -4
Tommy Fleetwood..... 71-66-75=212 -4
Tom Hoge..... 71-70-71=212 -4
Tom Kim..... 70-73-69=212 -4
Denny McCarthy..... 68-74-70=212 -4
Taylor Moore..... 71-68-73=212 -4
Collin Morikawa..... 70-65-77=212 -4
Taylor Pendrith..... 69-70-73=212 -4
Mac Meissner..... 74-69-70=213 -3
Davis Riley..... 74-66-73=213 -3
Justin Thomas..... 78-62-73=213 -3
Keegan Bradley..... 70-72-72=214 -2
Jacob Bridgeman..... 69-69-76=214 -2
Harris English..... 72-66-76=214 -2
Ryan Fox..... 72-70-73=214 -2
Joe Highsmith..... 69-72-73=214 -2
Justin Lower..... 72-71-71=214 -2
Matthew McCarty..... 70-69-75=214 -2
Aaron Rai..... 68-74-72=214 -2
Jordan Spieth..... 70-71-73=214 -2
Jesper Svensson..... 72-70-72=214 -2
Will Zalatoris..... 70-66-78=214 -2

SPORTS BROADCASTS

Tournament: TBD, championship. CBSSN
2 p.m. Missouri Valley Tournament: TBD, championship. ESPN2
8 p.m. NCAA Women's Selection Special. ESPN

NBA

6 p.m. Orlando at Cleveland. ABC
3:30 p.m. Phoenix at L.A. Lakers. ABC
9:10 p.m. Oklahoma City at Milwaukee. ESPN
NBA G-LEAGUE 3 p.m. Stockton at Osceola. NBATV

Bowling

PBA TOUR 8 p.m. The WSOB XVI Scorpion championship. FS1

Golf

PGA TOUR 1 p.m. The 2025 PLAYERS championship final round. NBC

Gymnastics

COLLEGE MEN 3:30 p.m. Nebraska at Penn St. BTN

Lacrosse

COLLEGE MEN

3:30 p.m. Nebraska at Penn St. BTN

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Washington.....	44	15	8	96	244	175
Carolina.....	41	22	4	86	217	178
New Jersey.....	36	6	78	204	177	
N.Y. Rangers.....	33	28	6	72	203	201
Columbus.....	31	27	8	70	217	221
N.Y. Islanders.....	29	28	6	66	175	194
Penguins.....	28	31	6	66	202	250
Philadelphia.....	28	32	8	64	192	232

Pacific Division

W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Vegas.....	39	19	8	86	222	181
Edmonton.....	38	24	4	80	211	193
Los Angeles.....	35	20	9	79	184	169
Calgary.....	30	24	11	71	169	190
Vancouver.....	30	24	11	71	178	198
Anaheim.....	29	30	7	65	177	204

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Florida.....	41	23	3	85	219	180
Tampa Bay.....	38	23	5	81	234	179
Toronto.....	39	24	3	81	210	197
Ottawa.....	36	25	5	77	195	187
Montreal.....	32	27	7	71	197	216
Detroit.....	31	29	6	68	191	211
Boston.....	30	30	6	68	184	218
Buffalo.....	26	33	6	58	206	230

Metropolitan Division

W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Washington.....	44	15	8	96	244	175
Carolina.....	41	22	4	86	217	178
New Jersey.....	36	6	78	204	177	
N.Y. Rangers.....	33	28	6	72	203	201
Columbus.....	31	27	8	70	217	221
N.Y. Islanders.....	29	28	6	66	175	194
Penguins.....	28	31	6	66	202	250
Philadelphia.....	28	32	8	64	192	232

Central Division

W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Winnipeg.....	46	17	4	96	234	154
Dallas.....	42	21	2	86	222	170
Colorado.....	40	24	3	83	224	194
Minnesota.....	37	24	5	79	183	189
St. Louis.....	31	28	7	69	190	199
Utah.....	29	26	11	69	187	197
Nashville.....	25	33	7	57	171	213
Chicago.....	20	37	9	49	180	231

COLLEGE MEN

2 p.m. Jacksonville at North Carolina. ESPN

Hockey

AHL 4 p.m. Hershey at Chicago. NHLN
NHL 1 p.m. Vegas at Detroit. TNT, TRUTV (DataCast)
3:30 p.m. Dallas at Colorado. TNT, TRUTV (DataCast)

Horse racing

THOROUGHBRED 3 p.m. America's Day at the Races. FS2

Lacrosse

NLL

4:30 p.m. Las Vegas at San Diego. ESPN
9 p.m. Toronto at Vancouver. ESPN

Sailing

SAIL GP 5 p.m. The Rolex Los Angeles Grand Prix — Event 4. CBSSN

Soccer

BEACH

Seattle..... 29 34 4 62 201 218
San Jose..... 18 41 9 45 178 255
NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

RESULTS/SCHEDULE

Saturday's games

Penguins 7, New Jersey 3
Buffalo 4, Vegas 3 (SO)
Washington 5, San Jose 1
N.Y. Rangers 4, Columbus 0
Tampa Bay 6, Boston 2
Carolina 5, Philadelphia 2
Ottawa 4, Toronto 2
Montreal 3, Florida 1
Nashville at Los Angeles (n)
St. Louis at Minnesota (n)
Chicago at Vancouver (n)
Today's games
Vegas at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Dallas at Colorado, 3:30 p.m.
Anaheim at St. Louis, 6 p.m.
Edmonton at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Florida at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30 p.m.
Utah at Vancouver, 8 p.m.
Winnipeg at Seattle, 9 p.m.
Monday's games
Buffalo at Boston, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Calgary at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at Minnesota, 8 p.m.

MOTOR SPORTS

TODAY'S LINEUP

NASCAR CUP SERIES

Pennzoil 400

(Car number in parentheses)
1. (71) Michael McDowell, Chevrolet, 186.961 mph.
2. (22) Joey Logano, Ford, 186.864.

3. (2) Austin Cindric, Ford, 186.793.

4. (8) Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, 186.638.
5. (48) Erik Jones, Toyota, 186.632.
6. (48) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 186.619.
7. (21) Josh Berry, Ford, 186.599.
8. (24) William Byron, Chevrolet, 186.567.
9. (38) Zane Smith, Ford, 186.554.
10. (5) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 186.528.
11. (17) Chris Buescher, Ford, 186.438.
12. (60) Ryan Preece, Ford, 186.419.
13. (20) Christopher Bell, Toyota, 186.310.
14. (45) Tyler Reddick, Toyota, 186.265.
15. (11) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 186.239.
16. (9) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 186.207.
17. (10) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 186.085.
18. (16) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 186.079.
19. (1) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 186.072.
20. (23) Bubba Wallace, Toyota, 185.982.
21. (4) Noah Gragson, Ford, 185.829.
22. (3) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 185.771.
23. (99) Daniel Suarez, Chevrolet, 185.682.
24. (19) Chase Briscoe, Toyota, 185.370.
25. (77) Carson Hocevar, Chevrolet, 185.357.
26. (41) Cole Custer, Ford, 185.344.
27. (6) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 185.255.
28. (88) Shane Van Gisbergen, Chevrolet, 185.027.
29. (54) Ty Gibbs, Toyota, 184.989.
30. (42) John H. Nemechek, Toyota, 184.660.
31. (47) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Chevrolet, 184.395.
32. (34) Todd Gilliland, Ford, 184.024.
33. (7)

How much sleep do you really need? It depends, study finds

Specialist calls slumber 'the most natural form of self-care that we have'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chances are, if you're reading this, you got some sleep last night. But are you feeling rested?

Experts say it's an important question to consider.

Most of us spend a third of our lives sleeping, but you may need more or less than eight hours a night. The number of hours needed changes throughout your life, with babies and kids needing more sleep and people 65 and older able to function on slightly less than seven to nine hours.

Here's what sleep scientists and doctors say about how much you really need.

Sleep quality over quantity

Sleep is still a mystery, despite how critical it is for our health.

"The reasons aren't entirely clear, but it's an essential thing that we all do," said Dr. Rafael Pelayo, a sleep specialist at Stanford University. "Something remarkable happens when you sleep. It's the most natural form of self-care that we have."

Most of the population gets between seven and nine hours — and that category has the lowest association with health problems, said Molly Atwood, a behavioral sleep medicine clinician at Johns Hopkins.

Once people either dip into less than six hours of sleep or get more than nine hours on average, the risk of health problems inches up, Atwood said. But everybody is different.

When you're trying to figure out

how much sleep you need, it's important to think about the quality of it, Pelayo said: "What you really want to do is wake up feeling refreshed — that's what it's about."

Needs change

The amount of sleep we need changes throughout our lives. Newborns need the most — somewhere between 14 and 17 hours.

"Definitely when we're babies and children, because we are growing so rapidly, we do need a lot more sleep," Atwood said.

The National Sleep Foundation recommends most adults between 26 and 64 get between seven and nine hours of sleep. People who are 65 and older can get slightly less, and young adults between ages 16 and 25 can get slightly more.

Humans cycle through sleep stages

roughly every 90 minutes. In the first portion of the night, Atwood said, more of the cycle is slow wave sleep, or deep sleep, which is essential to repairing and restoring the body. It's also when "growth hormone" is released.

In the latter hours of the night, more of the sleep cycle is spent in rapid-eye movement sleep, or dream sleep, which is important for learning and memory consolidation, or the process in which short-term memory gets turned into long-term memory.

Kids get more "deep sleep," with about 50% of the night in that realm, she said. That drops at adolescence, Atwood said, because our body doesn't need the same kind of repair and restoration.

When to seek help

You'll know if you're not getting

enough sleep if you're feeling grumpy, irritable and inattentive. Long-term, those minor symptoms can become serious problems — even deadly.

"If you're not getting enough sleep or you have untreated insomnia or sleep apnea, your risk of depression increases," Atwood said. "Your risk of cardiovascular issues like high blood pressure, risk of heart attack and stroke increases. Your immune system is compromised. You're at greater risk for Alzheimer's."

If you're getting the recommended amount of sleep every night but still waking up feeling tired, you might consider going to your primary care physician. They can rule out other health conditions that may affect your sleep, Atwood said. But if problems persist, seeking out a sleep specialist could be helpful.

Voice of America silenced

Cuts begin at agency, other U.S.-funded media organizations

ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump's administration Saturday began making deep cuts to Voice of America and other government-run, pro-democracy programming, with the organization's director saying all VOA employees have been put on leave.

On Friday night, shortly after Congress passed its latest funding bill, Trump directed his administration to reduce the functions of several agencies to the minimum required by law. That included the U.S. Agency for Global Media, which houses Voice of America, Radio Free Europe and Asia, and Radio Marti, which beams Spanish-language news into Cuba.

On Saturday morning, Kari Lake, the failed Arizona gubernatorial and U.S. Senate candidate whom Trump named a senior adviser to the agency, posted on X that employees should check their email. That coincided with notices going out placing Voice of America staff on paid administrative leave.

"For the first time in 83 years, the storied Voice of America is being silenced," Michael Abramowitz, the organization's director, said in a statement. He added that "virtually" the entire 1300-person staff was placed on leave.

"VOA promotes freedom and democracy around the world by telling America's story and by providing objective and balanced news and information, especially for those living under tyranny," Abramowitz said.

One reporter, who spoke under the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the press, said: "We expected something like this to happen, and it just happened to be today."

The press advocacy group Reporters Without Borders said it "condemns this decision as a departure from the U.S.'s historic role as a defender of free information and calls on the U.S. government to restore VOA and urges Congress and the international community to take action against this unprecedented move."

The Agency for Global Media also sent notices terminating grants to Radio Free Asia and other programming run by the agency. Voice of America transmits United States domestic news into other countries, often translated into local languages. Radio Free Asia, Europe and Marti beam news into countries with authoritarian regimes in those regions like China, North Korea and Russia.

"The cancellation of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's grant agreement would be a massive gift to America's enemies," the network's President and CEO, Stephen Capus, said in a statement.

Combined, the networks reach an estimated 427 million people. They date to the Cold War.



LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

Since the bird flu outbreak was first reported in dairy cows last March, 70 people have been infected and one person has died.

Bird flu mutation spreads new fears

Variation found in cattle associated with mammal-to-mammal transmission

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Scientists are sounding alarms about a genetic mutation that was recently identified in four dairy cow herds, nearly one year after H5N1 bird flu was first reported in Texas dairy cattle.

The change is one that researchers have dreaded finding because it is associated with increased mammal-to-mammal transmission and disease severity.

"That is the mutation found in the first human case, which was extremely pathogenic in ferrets," said Yoshihiro Kawaoka, an infectious disease expert at the University of Wisconsin, Madison and the University of Tokyo. "Finding the same mutation in cows is significant."

The mutation is called PB2 E627K, and it was seen in a Texas dairy worker last March. It was not seen again until these sequences were uploaded last week. The

data was uploaded by the USDA's National Veterinary Laboratory Services to a public access genetic repository known as GISAIID.

Henry Niman, an evolutionary molecular biologist with Recombinomics Inc., a virus and vaccine research company in Pittsburgh, reviewed the sequence data and reported the results to the Los Angeles Times and on social media Wednesday.

Last summer, Kawaoka exposed ferrets in his laboratory to that viral strain. He found the ferrets were able to transmit the virus to one another via respiratory droplets, and it killed 100% of the infected animals.

The Texas dairy worker complained only of conjunctivitis; he didn't have a fever or show signs of respiratory dysfunction.

The information provided to GISAIID doesn't include location data, so scientists often use other

information to identify the herds.

In this case, because the sequence data was added last week, it is likely from herds that were only recently reported by the USDA. In the last week, herds from Idaho and California have been added to the USDA's tally.

The herds in California have the more common B3.13 strain, which has been associated with dairy cows since last year. The strain circulating in Idaho is D1.1, which spilled over from wild birds this year.

Therefore, the new sequence data added Tuesday — which were of the B3.13 variety — are likely from infected California herds.

Since the outbreak was first reported in dairy cows last March, 70 people have been infected and one person has died. According to the USDA, 985 dairy herds have been infected, with 754 of those located in California.

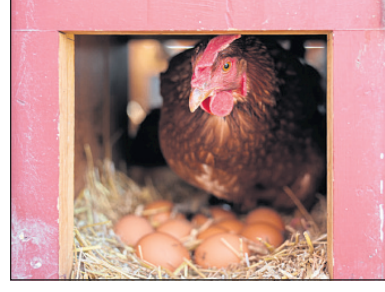
Egg price shock stirs talk of vaccinating poultry

ASSOCIATED PRESS

OMAHA, Neb. — Vaccines could be a key means of suppressing bird flu and avoiding the slaughter of millions of chickens, which is blamed for egg prices averaging about \$6 a dozen. But the move has been delayed in part because of concerns it could jeopardize chicken exports worth billions of dollars a year.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced plans to spend \$100 million to study bird flu vaccines to fight the disease in concert with meat chicken, egg and turkey groups. That's part of a larger \$1 billion effort to invest in more protections to keep the virus off farms in hopes of lowering egg prices.

Why doesn't the U.S. use a bird flu vaccine?



A Red Star hen stands watch over her eggs inside her coop at Historic Wagner Farm in Glenview, Ill.

AP

There are fears that vaccinating could allow the virus to linger undetected in flocks and mutate in ways that could make it more of a threat to humans and allow sick birds to get into the food supply. Like with other diseases, properly cooking chicken to 165 degrees will kill bird flu, but the industry and chicken buyers don't want it there at all.

For meat chicken, known as broilers, the virus isn't as significant

because those birds are slaughtered at 6 to 8 weeks old and thus have less chance of being infected than egg-laying hens, which live to 2 years or older. Also, most broilers are raised in the Southeast, which hasn't had as many outbreaks as the Midwest and West.

Another delay to vaccinating concerns distribution. Egg farmers want to administer it through chicken feed or water, saying it's not practical to give shots to millions

of birds in a single barn.

It can also be difficult to tell the difference between a vaccinated bird and one that has been sick with the virus. That would make other countries nervous about importing meat.

Would vaccinating poultry help lower egg prices?

Don't expect big relief anytime soon.

The USDA, which did not respond to a request for comment sent last week, clearly isn't moving to vaccinate immediately. And, regardless, it will take time to raise new hens.

"We're going to have to wait to replace those with new hatched chicks, and it takes 20 weeks before they even start laying," Shane said. "So I don't know where they're going to get the eggs from."

Domestic programs due for cutbacks

Trump signs bill making changes in spending plan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has signed into law legislation funding the government through the end of September, ending the threat of a partial government shutdown and capping a struggle in Congress that deeply divided Democrats.

Harrison Fields, White House principal deputy press secretary, said in a post on X that Trump signed the continuing resolution Saturday.

The bill largely keeps government funding at levels set during Joe Biden's presidency, though with changes. It trims non-defense spending by about \$13 billion from the previous year and increases defense spending by about \$6 billion, which are marginal changes when talking about a topline spending level of nearly \$1.7 trillion.

The Senate cleared the legislation Friday in a 54-46 vote, with 10 members of the Senate Democratic caucus helping the bill advance to passage despite opposition from within their party — most vocally from colleagues in the House, who exhorted them to reject the bill out of hand.

Senate Democrats argued for days over whether to force a shutdown, livid that Republicans in the House had drafted and passed the spending measure without their input. Democrats said the legislation shortchanges health care, housing and other priorities and gives Trump wide leeway to redirect federal spending even as his administration and the Department of Government Efficiency rapidly dismantle congressionally approved agencies and programs.

In the end, enough of the Democratic senators decided a government shutdown would be even worse than letting the funding bill pass.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said a shutdown would have given the Trump administration the ability to deem whole agencies, programs and personnel nonessential, furloughing staff with no promise they would ever be rehired.

"A shutdown will allow DOGE to shift into overdrive," Schumer said.



Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer

said a shutdown would have given the Trump administration the ability to deem whole agencies, programs and personnel nonessential, furloughing staff with no promise they would ever be rehired.

Tribune-Review

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PA. POLITICS

Westmoreland, Allegheny counties put swing in 'swing state'

If you want to know how political power is ebbing and flowing in Pennsylvania, take a look at Allegheny and Westmoreland counties.

Pennsylvania's politics swing like the clapper of a bell. It can be Democratic one year and Republican another. The 67 counties run the gamut of deepest blue to brightest red. That's how the same state that voted for Barack Obama and Joe Biden voted for Donald Trump twice.

Some things have been set in stone. Allegheny County is built on a bedrock of Democratic voters. Others have been a steady migration. Westmoreland County has moved from dominantly Democratic to more purple, sometimes leaning toward its urban neighbors in Pittsburgh and sometimes hewing more toward its rural roots.

Both are experiencing shake-ups. Westmoreland County's row offices are now all Republican. There is one Democratic county commissioner, but Ted Kopas holds that seat because it's required. Two seats go to the party that gets the most votes and one to the minority.

The last other Democrat elected in county government was Sheriff James Albert, who won running against Jonathan Held, a Republican incumbent mired in legal problems. Albert switched parties in 2020 and was re-elected as a Republican in 2023.

But for the 2025 elections, it is easy to predict a Republican sweep because no Democrats are running. District Attorney Nicole Ziccarelli, Clerk of Courts Megan Loughner and Prothonotary Gina O'Barto will walk to an easy win. Newly appointed Register of Wills Jon Wian and Coroner Tim Carson will have to fight for their seats, but so far, that will just be on the primary ticket against other Republicans.

Meanwhile, Democratic bastions Allegheny County and the city of Pittsburgh have a number of Republicans vying for high-profile seats.

Not only will Mayor Ed Gainey face Allegheny County Controller Corey O'Connor in the Democratic primary, but the winner will go on to a rare Republican challenge in the fall.

Of four city council seats up for reelection, only one incumbent, Erika Strassburger of District 8, faces no challenge in either race. Theresa Kail-Smith is retiring from District 2, but three Democrats will duke it out to replace her and then go on to a final battle with the one Republican who has stepped up. Anthony Coghil, District 4, has Democratic opposition. He and R. Daniel Lavelle, District 6, also have Republicans running for their seats.

Of six Allegheny County Council seats, only one — Bobby Palmosina, District 12 — has no challengers.

It speaks of a tidal shift. Republicans are more energized. Democrats are willing to fight each other more than the GOP. And some Democrats who want to serve are finding it more expedient to change parties than swim against the current.

The one thing you can guarantee is that nothing about Pennsylvania politics is permanent. If it was, it wouldn't be a swing state.



LARA WILLIAMS
 Let's take care of what we've got

Earlier this month, science delivered a really cute experimental result. Researchers created a "colossal woolly mouse," a fluffy rodent that's purported to be a step on the way to resurrecting woolly mammoths from the age of dinosaurs.

But that project — along with Elon Musk's obsession with establishing a colony on Mars — makes me wonder: Wouldn't the enthusiasm and resources be better devoted to protecting the animals and planet we already have?

Colossal Biosciences Inc., a Texas-based startup, provided details in a paper earlier this month, which hasn't yet been peer-reviewed. Each mammouse — forgive me — had seven genes altered to give it an abundance of golden fluff and an altered fat metabolism. The mice will be observed to see if they're better adapted to cold temperatures.

The company's aim is to genetically modify Asian elephants to express woolly mammoth traits. But some scientists are skeptical about whether this really brings us closer to creating a living woolly mammoth.

"Colossal's team made a number of genetic changes ... that are already known to produce longer, thicker, wavier — or woollier — coats in mice," Tori Herridge, a senior lecturer at the University of Sheffield, said in an emailed comment. "A mammoth is much more than just an elephant in a fur coat. It isn't yet known which sections of the genome are vital for achieving the characteristics needed to make an elephant fit for life in the Arctic Circle."

Why bother in the first place? Colossal says it's focused on "de-extinction," with projects aimed at raising mammoths, dodos and thylacines (also known as Tasmanian tigers) from the dead.

Colossal also points to another crisis of our times: "The rapid and accelerating loss of our planet's biodiversity." We're in the middle of the sixth mass-extinction event in Earth's history; this time, we only have ourselves to blame.

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List, more than 46,300 species — almost a third of all assessed species — are threatened with extinction thanks to threats such as global warming, habitat loss, invasive species and overexploitation. Yet the gap between current biodiversity finance and future needs has widened to \$942 billion, according to BloombergNEF.

The money being devoted to reanimating dead species might better be spent on conservation efforts for the long-suffering animals we have left. Reinserting extinct species back into their old ecosystems does nothing to avert the threats we've created.

Colossal says it's on track to introduce the first mammoth calves in 2028. Even if these babies are healthy, a long journey looms to create a genetically diverse herd that could be released into the wild. An elephant's gestation period is 22 months, and they take upwards of a decade to reach sexual maturity. The potential environmental gains from reincarnating mammoths won't be realized for many, many years; solutions with nearer-term benefits are desperately short of funding.

In many ways, Colossal's endeavors remind me of Musk's plans to inhabit Mars. Sure, there are arguments in favor of transporting humans to the red planet, including scientific exploration, new economic frontiers and creating a planetary backup for when we stuff things up irredeemably here.

But Musk estimates creating a self-sustaining city on Mars would cost several trillion dollars, and take decades. Consider what we might achieve if that money was spent on our climate-change obligations at home, allowing our livable and beautiful planet to thrive.

Lara Williams is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering climate change.

LETTERS

Prioritize funding for AAAs

As an older Pennsylvanian and advocate, I'm deeply concerned about the funding challenges facing Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs). AAAs are vital because they offer seniors information and support.

For 25 years, I've served on the Southwestern Pennsylvania AAA Advisory Board and visit my AAA, the Masontown Senior Center, three times a week, joining in bingo, weekly activities and hot meals.

We must ensure Gov. Josh Shapiro's 2025 budget includes meaningful support for AAAs and the older adults they serve. Fifty-two AAAs cover all 67 counties, providing a lifeline for Pennsylvania's 3.4 million older adults. These services

include roughly 2.3 million congregate meals per year, 6.7 million in-home meals per year, support for caregivers, health services, personal and home care services, transportation and more.

Without additional funding, AAAs will need to close about 40 senior centers, reduce or eliminate about 100 programs, and reduce staff hours or leave positions vacant.

This cannot happen.

I commend Shapiro's proposed investment for the next budget, but that will only Band-Aid the issue. Proper funding for AAAs means better health outcomes, increased independence and improved quality. Let's urge our legislators to invest in our communities.

Carolyn Capozza
 German Township

Council must approve increased fees to reduce pollution

Events like the one reported in the article "Damage reported at U.S. Steel facility in Braddock, followed by increase in air pollution," Feb. 24, TribLive) make Allegheny County's already bad air a lot worse.

The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) is charged with enforcing the Clean Air Act and keeping facilities like this from illegally releasing toxic air pollution. Funding for this work comes from operating permit fees paid by the facilities. Unfortunately, ACHD is woefully underfunded, making it harder to do its job to reduce air pollution and rein in illegal air polluters in the region.

There is a solution, thankfully. ACHD has proposed to increase fees on the

region's largest air polluters, to make sure they're paying for regulating the air pollution that they create. Ensuring polluters pay their fair share will be critical to reducing air pollution in the county.

Allegheny County Council is poised to act on this proposal in the coming weeks. Unfortunately, some council members haven't committed to supporting this proposal. County residents who want cleaner air should call their council member today at 412-350-6490 and ask them to support the polluter permit fee increase.

Wanda Wilson
 Point Breeze
 The writer is Western Pennsylvania advocate for PennEnvironment.

A common language binds us together

Annie Abbott's opinion of the president's declaration of English as the U.S. official language reveals a clear misunderstanding of history and political reality ("Multilingualism not a threat. It belongs in our country," March 7, TribLive). Countries need a key core concept that cultivates "commonality" which binds them. The U.S. was able to evolve as a country in large part because of its common English language. Anyone who studied U.S. history is familiar with this analysis and reasoning.

I lived through this as a young boy in the 1940s when my parents surrendered their Italian and Polish for English so that I could capitalize on the opportunities available here. Yes, I have some regrets and nostalgia. However, the benefits that followed were more than worthy. It's called the "American Dream."

Abbott's negative view is exaggerated and short-sighted. She should realize that any significant change in one's life can be traumatic and there may be a price to pay. If the price is so high, as she seems to believe, why do they stay or keep coming?

Louis F. D'Emilio
 Penn Township, Westmoreland County

WRITE US

The Tribune-Review welcomes your letters. Limit them to 200 words; include full name, address and day/night phone. Letters subject to editing.

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Corporation for Public Broadcasting like appendix



GEORGE WILL

If there are any actual, as distinct from merely rhetorical, fiscal hawks in Washington, they should be calling attention to the dismal fact that the government added \$838 billion to the national debt in just the first four months of fiscal 2025 (October through January). The lowest of the low-hanging fruit for budget-cutters is the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, an ornamental entity, decorative but inessential.

Last year's appropriation of \$535 million brought spending on the CPB to over \$15 billion since its 1967 founding. It was then a late piece in Lyndon Johnson's mosaic of national perfection called the Great Society.

The CPB's Public Broadcasting Service, launched 55 years ago, at least increased many Americans' network television

choices from three (CBS, NBC, ABC) to four. Thirty years ago, however, PBS improbably adopted the slogan "If PBS doesn't do it, who will?" Today, the antecedent of "it" can be almost anything, and the "who" will be many of the hundreds of channels available even on smartphones in scores of millions of Americans' pockets.

In addition to today's approximately 15,000 commercial AM and FM radio stations and more than 425 satellite radio channels in the United States, there are over 4 million registered podcasts worldwide, with

more than 500 million listeners, an increase of 40 million in the past year. With this mind-boggling menu of choices, should we really spend more than half a billion dollars a year for a few more options, many of them duplicative?

The CPB was created to provide services "responsive to the interests of people." Note well: It was to serve people's interests, not their preferences. For decades, CPB supporters often claimed that it was "for the kids," meaning, primarily, "Sesame Street." Now that children's programming is abundant elsewhere, CPB now claims to be for America's "most vulnerable people." So says a former NPR executive, who, like most public broadcasting advocates, understands the importance of being earnest.

Who are these vulnerable

people? "Very rural parts of the United States." Yes, the flannel-shirted fellow on the John Deere tractor is to be rescued by NPR from what the very urban Karl Marx called (in the "Communist Manifesto") "the idiocy of rural life." By which Marx meant the absence of revolutionary consciousness. NPR could have fixed that among Europe's 19th-century peasantry.

An axiom has it: The meek shall inherit the earth, but the affluent shall retain the mineral rights. They also will retain government entitlements for the comfortable, including CPB's economically and intellectually upscale audiences.

Actually, CPB is like the human appendix — vestigial, purposeless and susceptible to unhealthy episodes. In 2025, it is a cultural redundancy whose

remaining rationale is, amusingly, that government should subsidize its programing because so few want it. Commercial broadcasters cater to the vulgar multitude, so the refined few are left out.

Government funding of CPB's narrowcasting for its largely affluent constituency resembles agriculture subsidies for agribusiness. And as a critic has said — a defender of government-supported broadcasting — the "N" in NPR stands not for "National" but for "Niche."

If Republicans mean a syllable of what they say about pruning federal functions, they will begin with the CPB. They will ask: If not here, where? And if not now, when?

George Will is a columnist for The Washington Post and can be reached at georgewill@washpost.com.

Don't mess with the Strip

Pittsburgh's Strip District is a treasure. This uniquely Pittsburgh neighborhood has flourished without government planning and is beloved by generations of Pittsburghers and hundreds of thousands of annual visitors.

Mayor Ed Gainey's administration is about to permit the ruin of all that.

You may have seen the billboards that say "Preserve the Strip! Halt Mayor's Plan to Restrict Penn Avenue, Stifle Access, Impede Emergency Vehicles." Or you might have signed one of the many "Preserve the Strip" petitions circulated by Strip District businesses. That pushback is in response to a traffic plan being shoved

through by Gainey's Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI).

DOMI wants to make Penn Avenue one lane wide and create a bike lane between 31st and 22nd streets, the eastern gateway into the Strip. "Right sizing" is what DOMI calls its proposal to create a choke point just above the busiest stretch of Penn Avenue. It is actually "wrong sizing," "dangerous sizing" and "business destroying sizing."

One stopped vehicle — broken down, letting off a passenger, making a delivery — will shut down Penn Avenue. Predictably, traffic will stretch for blocks, idling vehicles will spew fumes and emergency vehicles will be boxed in. Strip business

owners are begging the mayor and city council to lead this time — instead of following the bureaucrats.

DOMI claims pedestrian and automobile safety is its goal. Everybody wants increased safety. Traffic signals at key intersections — and other traffic calming measures that DOMI is good at — should be the first and least disruptive safety measures. But there is something else driving DOMI's zeal, and that's the proposed bike lane.

BikePGH, which advocates for bike lanes, often seems to be calling the shots with DOMI. BikePGH has done some fine things, increasing



JOSEPH SABINO MISTICK

bike safety in many places and creating a youthful vibe that will attract a youthful workforce. But the organization is way off base in the Strip.

Sometimes it has seemed that BikePGH and DOMI are the same organization, ignoring the most obvious issues of economic vitality and, in this case, public safety, too. The bike lane lobby usually wins out over the neighbors with the help of like-minded DOMI employees who have been given a free hand by the mayor to redesign Pittsburgh's streets.

But this time must be different. The Strip District Business Association has a

major ally in the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation (PHLF), which has saved other treasured neighborhoods from destruction. In its recent newsletter, PHLF warned that DOMI's plan could kill "the economic vitality and entrepreneurial vigor that makes the Strip District a distinctive place of attraction, engagement and cultural life for Pittsburghers and tourists."

I have been going to the Strip for so long that I knew the real Primanti brothers. I am still there, along with many others, some traveling every Saturday from Ohio and West Virginia, just to hang out at La Prima Espresso in what has become our other neighborhood.

Whatever your tradition or taste — Italian, Greek, Middle Eastern, Asian — you can find it in the Strip, along with sports apparel, Pittsburgh souvenirs, furniture and other goods. The Strip hums, especially during holidays when whole families traditionally shop there together.

In the mid-1980s, when a national developer wanted to create a festival market in the Strip, the city told them to forget about it. We already had a festival market — a real one. Gritty and wonderful. And for all its happy chaos, the Strip works.

Most mayors — until now — have understood this basic rule: Don't mess with the Strip.

Joseph Sabino Mistick can be reached at misticklaw@gmail.com.



METRO CREATIVE

POINT

STEM is important, but economics is destiny

BY RICHARD LORENC

In late February, students at dozens of U.S. high schools participated in the first round of an international competition in economics. The top five American students will travel to historic Olympia, Greece, this year to compete against students from other countries.

The Economics Olympiad, as the competition is called, is challenging — especially for U.S. students, many of whom don't study economics in high school.

Regrettably, economics is one of the academic subjects that has been downgraded in recent years as U.S. schools have leaned into the STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) disciplines.

The Department of Education's National Assessment of Educational Progress periodically evaluates 12th grade students in a variety of subjects. The last time NAEP evaluated the economic literacy of 12th graders was in 2012, when more than half (58%) of the 11,000 students tested didn't qualify as "proficient."

Many of those 2012 students voted in their third presidential election in November. The economy was a key issue.

All told, just 27 states and the District of Columbia include some form of economics coursework as a high school graduation requirement. Many of these states approach it from a personal finance perspective — how to balance a checkbook, for example — rather than explaining economics as the study of how we peacefully transact and progress together.

Perhaps we'd have better

policies if more policymakers understood economics, especially the most fundamental lesson of all: That everything has a cost.

Every decision an individual, business leader or public official makes opens some opportunities and closes others. What we choose is the sum of our evaluation of the choices we see as available to us. Over time, these choices compound, just like interest.

Establish policies that consider the seen and unseen costs of the proposal, and economic gains will accumulate accordingly. Establish policies that consider only the immediately visible costs, and they will hamper other parts of our interdependent economy. Individual economic decisions react in a similar manner.

Consider this: The Federal Reserve Bank of New York recently reported that the total household debt in the United States, excluding mortgages, topped \$4.96 trillion at the end of September. "Credit-card balances increased by \$24 billion to hit \$1.17 trillion, and auto loan balances saw an \$18 billion increase and stood at \$1.64 trillion." Student loan balances also increased by \$21 billion, ticking up to \$1.61 trillion.

All of this red ink is the sum of millions of individual choices made over time.

And that's just household debt. The federal government also is drowning in debt — more than \$36 trillion and counting, according to Treasury Department figures. Chicago this year faces a \$982 million budget shortfall.

The choices public officials make affect countless others. Government officials in California, for example, are expected to spend as much as \$125 billion or more on high-speed rail — four times the original \$33 billion estimate — rather than prioritizing water infrastructure. They made a conscious choice whose

extraordinary costs are now sadly piling up.

As one of the Senate's greatest orators, former Minority Leader Everett McKinley Dirksen, R-Ill., is credited with saying, "A billion here, a billion there, and pretty soon you're talking (about) real money." The point, whether Dirksen said it or not, is that policymakers toss around these incomprehensibly large numbers almost casually, just as they might discuss their golf handicaps.

This makes one wish that policymakers (and others among the intellectual elite) were far more literate in economics.

The STEM subjects are important, but science and technology can't advance without an economy that can support them. That's why economics should be considered a core high school subject.

Failure to teach American students key economic principles denies them the critical knowledge they need to make intelligent and responsible adult decisions. We see evidence of this every day as yesterday's students make choices that shape the future.

In short, STEM is important, but economics is destiny.

Richard Lorenc, president of Certell Inc., a national education nonprofit that provides schools and teachers with free high-school-level education materials in economics and other subjects, wrote this for InsideSources.com.

COUNTERPOINT

STEM is key to our future

BY CHRIS TALGO

By nearly all objective measures, the U.S. education system is not fulfilling its primary duty of ensuring that today's students are prepared to achieve in the world of tomorrow.

As we all know, modern society is becoming ever more dependent on technology. Hence, if American students are to compete in the job market of the future, they must be competent in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Unfortunately, as national test scores consistently show, American students are not excelling in science, engineering and mathematics. By contrast, students in nations such as China are making gains in these fields. If America is to remain competitive with China and Russia in the global

AI arms race, it is imperative that we emphasize STEM education.

As a former high school social studies teacher, I am well aware that the point of education is not solely to prepare students for the workforce. In truth, the fundamental goal of education is to teach students how to think critically for themselves.

However, far too many of today's students are failing to even meet the minimum standards when it comes to the hard sciences.

While it is undoubtedly vital for American students to have a thorough understanding of our nation's history and the ability to understand literature, those skills are becoming less and less relevant in today's technology-driven society. As such, it makes perfect sense for America's schools to pivot and prioritize a STEM-focused curriculum.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, the U.S. education system did a much better job preparing students for success by offering classes specifically designed to aid in the development of skills that could be directly trans-

ferred to the workforce.

For instance, virtually all high schools offered a "shop class" to students who might pursue a career in one of the many trades. These classes, known as career tech education (CTE), prepared millions of students for in-demand trades such as welding, carpentry, masonry, etc.

Moreover, those students developed a set of real-world skills that they could deploy for the rest of their lives.

In the late 20th century, for various reasons, our education leaders determined that CTE education was no longer necessary and it would be better to focus on soft skills rather than hard skills.

That decades-long experiment has been an utter failure. In fact, America's education system is now failing on both ends of the spectrum. Not only are the vast majority of today's students woefully unprepared for a career in coding or any other technology-oriented field because they do not have the requisite mathematics or science background, but they are also falling behind in terms of reading and writing skills.

This begs the question: What are students actually learning? The answer is disturbing: Students are learning how to do the bare minimum to get a passing grade.

When I was teaching social studies at an above-average public high school in South Carolina less than a decade ago, I was shocked that nearly all students could not perform basic math, most could not read at grade level, and the majority struggled to write a coherent paragraph.

Tragically, we are now teaching our kids that math is subjective: 1 plus 1 does not necessarily have to equal 2. That may work in a coddled classroom, where the utmost goal is to not hurt a student's self-esteem, but it will not work in the real world.

Eventually, these students will enter the real world, where they are in for a rude awakening when they realize that objectivity and results, not their feelings, matter most.

The good news is that there still is time to right the ship. By aggressively promoting a STEM-based education, we can ensure that the next generation of American students is primed for success.

Chris Talgo, editorial director at The Heartland Institute, wrote this for InsideSources.com.

To place an obituary, call 844-523-4210 or email obits@triblive.com.

Dorothy L. Biss
BOLIVAR



Dorothy L. Biss, 86, of Bolivar, went home to be with the Lord on Friday, March 14, 2025, at

Communities of Indian Haven in Indiana. She was born Sept. 25, 1938, in Bolivar, a daughter of the late Jacob and Jane Shank Yeager. Dorothy had been a lifelong member of First Church of Christ in Bolivar, where she had previously enjoyed singing in the choir. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and friend. Her family's greatest comfort is the assurance that she is now in the arms of her Heavenly Father. Dorothy's early years revolved around her commitment to raising her seven children. After her nest was empty, she enjoyed baking and making homemade candy to share with her family and friends. She also loved decorating her home beautifully for the holidays and looked forward to shopping to pick up treasures to add to her collection. Her greatest joy was when her entire family would come for picnics and other family gatherings. She also enjoyed her quiet time with her Lord and read her Bible daily. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, John F. Biss; son, John Biss; daughter, Lisa Howard; grandson, Travis Biss; and her 10 siblings. She is survived by her daughter, Melanie Thompson (Eric) of Livonia, NY; sons, Daniel W. Biss (Mary) of Bolivar, Stephen W. Biss (Constance) of Robinson, Brian K. Biss of Bolivar and Glenn S. Biss of Ligonier; grandchildren, Scott Biss (Holly), Cassidy Biss (Jennifer), Amber Dubics (Douglas), Courtney Crowe (Johnathan), Colbee Hernandez (Carlos), Gavin Biss (Dominique), Chelsea Sager (Merle), Zoe Thompson and Danielle Biss; 14 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. **Friends will be received from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday, March 17, 2025, in MCCABE FUNERAL HOME, 144 E. Main St., Ligonier. A funeral service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 18, 2025, in First Church of Christ in Bolivar. Interment will be made in Fort Palmer Cemetery.** Online condolences may be made at www.mccabefuneralhome.com.

Regional deaths

An asterisk (*) after a name indicates that a full death notice appears in these pages. (F) after a residence denotes "formerly." Friends of the deceased are invited to sign the online guest book at www.TribLIVE.com.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

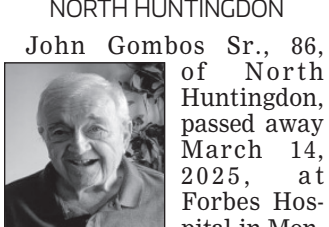
Name, Age	Residence	Funeral home
Sudgina, Donald, 92*	North Versailles	Strifflers, White Oak
Ways, Judith, 82*	Monroeville	Wolfe, Pittsburgh

WESTMORELAND COUNTY

Name, Age	Residence	Funeral home
Biss, Dorothy, 86*	Bolivar	McCabe, Ligonier
Evans, David, 79*	Ligonier	Freyvogel, Pittsburgh
Gombos, Sr., John, 86*	North Huntingdon	Shirley, North Huntingdon
Gunsallus, Marylou, 72*	Derry	Frederick, Latrobe
Haines, Betty, 96*	Irwin (F)	Mason-Gelder, Jeanette

until he died. Although a very private man, he was extremely generous and had many friendships all over the country. David was a longstanding member of the Hyannisport Club and The Beach Club of Craigville, MA, and other clubs in Pittsburgh. David will be missed by all that were lucky to have known him. He was a caring, concerned, and compassionate person. **There will be a graveside service at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 22, 2025, at Homewood Cemetery in Pittsburgh.** In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Union Chapel of Hyannis Port, P.O. Box 491, Hyannis Port, MA 02647. Arrangements by JOHN A. FREYVOGEL SONS INC. (freyvogelfuneralhome.com).

John Gombos Sr.
NORTH HUNTINGDON



John Gombos Sr., 86, of North Huntingdon, passed away March 14, 2025, at Forbes Hospital in Monroeville. He was born June 22, 1938, in Duquesne, a son of the late John and Jennie Gyure Gombos. John served in the U.S. Army as a military police officer. While stationed in France, John and his wife enjoyed traveling through Italy, spending time in Paris, and the Grotto in Lourdes. He was a member of St. Agnes Church in North Huntingdon, where he sang in the church choir, and a past treasurer for the annual St. Agnes Bazaar. John was also a former member of the Regent Square Rotary. Prior to his retirement, he worked in the banking industry for 33 years, followed by 10 years of service with the Port Authority. John enjoyed his interaction with his customers in both of his positions. In fact, after retiring from the Port Authority, he worked at Giant Eagle, North Huntingdon, interacting with customers and fellow employees. John's passion was spending time outdoors, tending to the lawn at his home and receiving many compliments from his neighbors. Most of all, John was known as a devoted husband, father and grandfather. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Daniel; and his niece, Elise. He is survived by his beloved wife, Carol Pzehoski Gombos; one son, John Jr. (Sherry); two daughters, Sharon Gombos and Susan Zurinsky (Jim); one brother, Russell Gombos (Judy); one sister-in-law, Rose Gombos; and three grandchildren, Justin (and fiancée Joellissa), Derek and Claire. **Friends will be received from 2 to 7 p.m. Monday, March 17, 2025, at JAMES W. SHIRLEY FUNERAL HOME, 176 Clay Pike, North Huntingdon. A funeral Mass will be held at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at St. Agnes Church, followed by interment at Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Irwin.** In lieu of flowers, contributions may be given in John's name to the Dementia Society of America. A great big thank you to the staff at Walden's View Personal Care, especially Stephanie and Jenna. www.shirleyfuneralhome.com.

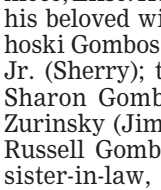
David Courtney Evans
LIGONIER



David Courtney Evans, 79, died Sunday, March 9, 2025, at his home, Orchard House,

in Ligonier, after a brief illness. David was born Oct. 1, 1945, to John Duncan Jr. and Virginia Evans of Pittsburgh. He attended Shady Side Academy, St. Paul's School, and the University of Pennsylvania. After graduating from Penn, David enlisted in the Army, serving as an ambulance driver with tours of duty in Okinawa and the Philippines. He spent winters in Aspen and was an accomplished skier who stood out from the crowd by always wearing a blue, one-piece mechanics outfit from a local garage. David is survived by his sister, Margaret (John) Tuten of Philadelphia. His brother, John Duncan Evans III (Vernelle), a Presbyterian minister, died in 2015. David was very close to his sister Gerry's children, John and Alex Tuten, and their children, Jack and Maddie; Gigi and Caleb Kuhnmann, and their children, Jack, Will and Molly; and Ginna and Mike Welsh, and their children, Sophia and Danny. He loved to take the children tubing on his boat "Jade" in Nantucket Sound. David was also close to his brother's children, John Paul Evans of England and Faith Evans-Sills of South Carolina. David always enjoyed spending Christmases with Faith and her husband, Frank, and their children, Jasper, Carys and Griffin. David was somewhat of a trickster, and he loved to play games with the children and taught them to juggle, at which he was proficient. David's favorite places were Aspen, Ligonier and Hyannis Port. He enjoyed driving across the country visiting friends. He was an avid Porsche lover, owning various models from age 18

Marylou Gunsallus
DERRY



Marylou Gunsallus, 72, of Derry, passed away Friday, March 14, 2025, at home, surrounded by her family. She was born Sept. 8, 1952, in Mt. Pleasant to the late Jack and Dorothy (Power) Gunsallus. Marylou's work life gave her a broad range of experiences. She had worked at the Mt. Pleasant police dispatch, as a phlebotomist, an interior painting specialist and finally as a retail jewelry salesperson. Among her many interests, Marylou was a nature lover; she loved being a river

guide at Ohiopyle and spoke of many adventures down the river. When she could, she was outside working in the garden, fishing and searching for berries. She loved her dog, Jasper, and enjoyed trips to the dog park with him. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a sister, Jill Weyandt; and two beloved nephews, Chad Auber and Michael Carns. Marylou is survived by her longtime companion Gerald Leonard Sr.; his children, who were very close to Marylou, Gerald Leonard Jr. (Dana), Kristen Steinman (Alan) and Erica Sellman (Eric). She also served as Bubba to Gerald's six grandchildren, Grant, Madeleine, Abigail, Blaire, Amelia and Elizabeth. Marylou is survived by four siblings, Jacqueline Swantek, Eleanor Ann Steiner (Bob), Jack Gunsallus (Lori) and Brooke Gunsallus (Debbie); and several nieces and nephews, Zachary Steiner (Kristie), Jessica Robinson (Brian), Jennifer Nardis (David), Richard Kisic (Rachel) and Brett Gunsallus; and many great-nieces and great-nephews. **Family and friends will be received from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, March 17, 2025, at FREDERICK FUNERAL HOME INC., 1543 Ligonier St., Latrobe, PA 15650. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at Saint Vincent Basilica, Latrobe, with Father Killian Loch, OSB, as celebrant. Interment will follow in Saint Vincent Cemetery, Latrobe.** To send condolences, please visit www.FrederickFuneralHome.com.

Betty Mae Haines
FORMERLY OF IRWIN



Betty Mae Haines, 96, formerly of Irwin, died Friday, March 14, 2025, in Westmoreland Manor. She was born June 20, 1928, in Penn., a daughter of the late Henry and Clara (Duncan) Haines. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brothers, Harry and Paul Haines; sisters, Florence Yereb and Margaret Kuznicki; a niece, Mary Yereb; and nephews, Charles Kuznicki and Edward Haines. Betty was a member of the former St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Jeannette. She loved hymns, especially "In the Garden." Betty worked at the Westinghouse Mica plant in Irwin and then East Pittsburgh. Surviving are her daughter, Carol Scherff (Robbie) of Lincoln Heights; two grandchildren, Ronnie Scherff (Kelly) and Renae Scherff; her great-granddaughter Devyn; and numerous nieces and nephews. **Visitation will be held at 11 a.m. until the time of service at noon Monday, March 17, 2025, in MASON-GELDER FUNERAL HOME INC., 201 N. First St., Jeannette. Interment will follow in Twin Valley Memorial Park, Delmont.** Betty's family wishes to thank the staff of Westmoreland Manor "B4" and Heartland Hospice for their extraordinary care. To send online condolences, visit www.mason-gelder.com.

an avid history buff, reading books about both the Revolutionary and Civil wars. His love of the outdoors flourished in fishing, hunting, gardening and farming. Albert enjoyed life to the fullest, traveling with his wife and family and watching his grandchildren at their sports events. Near or far, he would attend NASCAR races and local air shows to see military aircraft. He enjoyed listening to polka music and amazing his grandchildren with his musical talent playing the accordion. He was a generous, loving man who valued his family more than anything in the world. Albert was preceded in death by his parents, Albert F. Lojas Sr. and Josephine M. Lojas; and his brother, Bernie Lojas. He is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Anna (Kustra) Lojas; his son, John (Kandee) Lojas; his daughter, Marlene (Paul) Wilson; his sisters, Janie (Jack) Cochran and Rosie (Elmer) Kuhns; his sister-in-law, Beverly Lojas; and his grandchildren, whom he adored, Rachel Lojas, Britney Lojas, Zane (Caitlin) Wilson, Remington Lojas and Zoey Wilson. **Friends will be received from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday, March 17, 2025, at BEATTY-RICH FUNERAL HOME INC., Route 136, Madison, PA 15663, Ronald A. Rich Jr., Supervisor/FD. A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at the funeral home with Deacon Bob Stauffer officiating. Interment will follow at Westmoreland Memorial Park Cemetery in Greensburg, with full military honors by the Armbrust Veterans accorded.** In lieu of flowers, the family asks donations be made in Albert's memory to the Alzheimer's Association, 2835 E. Carson St., Suite 200, Pittsburgh PA 15203. To leave an online condolence, please visit www.beatty-richfuneralhome.com.

Albert Lojas Jr.
IRWIN



Albert Lojas Jr., 83, of Irwin, passed peacefully at home, and his spirit went to heaven to be with our Lord on Friday, March 14,

2025. Born on May 16, 1941, Albert grew up in Herminie No. 2, and graduated from Hempfield High School, Class of 1959. He served as an airman in the U.S. Air Force, missile defense. He married the beautiful Anna Lojas, and using his carpentry skills, built a family home where together they raised their twins, John and Marlene. Albert enjoyed his job working for Xerox, where he was employed for 30 years before retiring in 1999. He was

Lojas Jr., Albert, 83*	Irwin	Beatty-Rich, Madison
Maser, George, 64	Greensburg	Kepple-Graft, Greensburg
Miscovich, Gerald, 84*	Greensburg	Pantalone, Greensburg
Rossetti, Douglas, 67	West Newton	McCaulley, West Newton
Shurie, Dorothy, 78*	Latrobe	Lopatich-Brinker, Latrobe
Skreppen, Helge, 92	Murrysville	Hart, Murrysville
Stratemeier, Richard, 72*	Herminie	Snyder, Irwin
Swanson, Donald, 91*	Irwin	Ott, Irwin

ELSEWHERE

Name, Age	Residence	Funeral home
Martz, Richard, 75*	Big Bend, WV	Chapman's Mortuary, Inc., WV

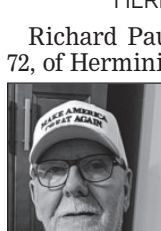
Gerald Leonard Miscovich
GREENSBURG



Gerald Leonard Miscovich, 84, of Greensburg, passed away peacefully at his home and went to be with our Lord on

Thursday, March 13, 2025. He was born Aug. 1, 1940, in Mutual, a son of the late Robert Charles and Vern L. Palinkas. He was a 1958 graduate of Hurst High School and employed by the city of Greensburg when he retired in 2002. He was a member of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral. Jerry loved working on cars and enjoyed restoring them. He belonged to the "Road King" Car Club and the Flying Tigers Motorcycle Club. He also enjoyed hunting and was a lifetime member of the Mutual Firemen's Club, United Amvets Club and United Slovak Club. He is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Gail Eileen Hartzell Miscovich; two sons, Gerald Allan (Maryann) of Douglasville and Charles Robert (Karen) of Greensburg; one grandson, Mack Charles Miscovich; three brothers, Robert (Gail A.), Thomas (Carol), all of Greensburg, and Regis (Heidi) and their daughter, Heather of Nevada; one nephew, Gary (Becky) of Greensburg, and their two children, Alexis and Alexander. **At Jerry's request, there will be no public viewing or services.** Jerry's family has entrusted his care to CLEMENT L. PANTALONE FUNERAL HOME INC., 409 W. Pittsburgh St., Greensburg, PA 15601, 724-837-0020. For online condolences/directions, visit us at pantalone.com. Natalie N. Pantalone, supervisor.

Richard Paul Stratemeier
HERMINIE



Richard Paul Stratemeier, 72, of Herminie, passed away Tuesday, March 11, 2025. He was born September 27, 1952 in Pittsburgh, a son of the late William and

Anna Stratemeier. He worked as a mechanic for many years and also worked as a newspaper carrier for the Tribune Review. He loved his family, watching the Pittsburgh Steelers and having Donald Trump as president again. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his daughter Lacey Stratemeier; and sister Carol Maddamma. He is survived by his children, Tina Graham of Michigan, Marcy (Robert Jr.) Smith of Carsonville, Michigan, Bruce (Aurore) Graham Jr. of Italy, Corie (Robert) Newton of Hilton Head, South Carolina, Richard Stratemeier of Greensburg, Joelle (Andrew) Botti of Irwin, Breanna (Darell) James of Irwin and Phoenix (Gretchen) Stratemeier of Somerset; 23 grandchildren; 5 great grandchildren; brother William Stratemeier; and brother-in-law Bob Maddamma. **Friends and family will be received from 3 to 6 p.m. Monday at the William Snyder Funeral Home, 521 Main Street, Irwin, 724-863-1200. A funeral service will be held at 6 p.m. Monday at the Calvary Church, 8653 Pennsylvania Avenue in Irwin with Rev. Nick Poole officiating. Private interment will be at Grandview Cemetery in North Versailles.** For online condolences please visit www.snyderfuneralservices.com.

Donald Richard Sudsina
NORTH VERSAILLES

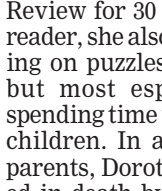


Donald Richard Sudsina, 92, of North Versailles, died Friday, March 14, 2025. He was born Oct. 19, 1932, in Duquesne

and is the son of the late Michael and Wilma Laban Sudsina. Donald was a member of the United States Navy Reserve for eight years. He was employed at U.S. Steel Duquesne Works for 35 years and later at Nextech in Turtle Creek for 20 years. He loved going to the casino and spending time with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Donald is survived by his wife of 70 years, Loretta Buck Sudsina; children, Donald J. Sudsina of Marienville, Karen (Kenneth) Randolph of New Cumberland, WV, Daniel J. (Nancy) Sudsina Sr. of North Huntingdon and Diana (Perry Sr.) Bruno of Jeannette; and grandchildren, Jason Hartman, Brad (Danielle) Davis, Jennifer Davis, Perry (Allison) Bruno Jr., Rachel (Mike) Pittenger, Daniel (Heather Colesnik) Sudsina Jr. and Nicole (Jeff) Law; great-grandchildren, Sadie Davis, Leonardo, Hazel and Scarlett Law, Eliana, Theodore and Celia Bruno, Haley Hartman, Daniel Sudsina III and Autumn Pittenger; sisters, Carol (Arthur) Hilgert of Imperial, Nancy Garris of Ohio and Bill; brothers, Michael "Mike" Sudsina of Sandusky, OH, and Larry (Patty) Sudsina of Greenville. **Family and friends are invited to gather to honor Donald's memory from 3 until the time of a military service at 7 p.m. Monday, March 17, 2025, at STRIFFLERS OF WHITE OAK CREMATION AND MORTUARY SERVICES INC., 1100 Lincoln Way, White Oak, 15131 (Sue Striffler Galaski, supervisor, 412-678-6177).** To share a memory or condolence, please visit www.strifflerfuneralhomes.com.

Dorothy L. (Hofecker) Shurie, 78, of Latrobe, passed away Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at Twin Lakes Rehabilitation and Healthcare. Born June 26, 1946, in Bolivar, she was the daughter of the late G. Ralph Hofecker and Lois (McBurney) Hofecker. Dorothy was a member of Cornerstone Ministries, Murrysville. Prior to her retirement, she had been employed as a circulation manager at the Tribune-Review for 30 years. An avid reader, she also enjoyed working on puzzles and traveling but most especially loved spending time with her grandchildren. In addition to her parents, Dorothy was preceded in death by two brothers, Ronald R. Hofecker and William C. Hofecker. Dorothy is survived by her husband of 59 years, Thomas D. Shurie of Latrobe; two sons, Patrick Shurie and his wife, Kimberly, of Gaithersburg, MD, and Randy R. Shurie of Latrobe; three grandchildren, Tobias, Samantha and Kayla Shurie; one great-granddaughter, Melody Love; and several nieces and nephews. **Family and friends are invited to attend a committal service at noon Saturday, March 22, 2025, at Unity Cemetery. Arrangements are being handled by LOPATICH-BRINKER FUNERAL HOME LLC, 601 Weldon St., Latrobe.** To sign the online guest book, send condolences, or share a story, please visit www.lopatichbrinker.com.

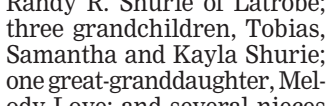
Dorothy L. (Hofecker) Shurie
LATROBE



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Richard Lee Martz, first sergeant (retired), 75, of Big Bend, WV, passed away while surrounded by his loving family March 10, 2025. He served for 20 years in the United States Army, including eight years as a drill instructor and two tours in Vietnam as a combat engineer. He enjoyed hunting, gardening, handiwork and watching wildlife on his beautiful mountain property in West Virginia. He had a deep love of family and a strong appreciation for nature. While in the Army, he was awarded the following: Army Service Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Bronze Service Star, NCO Professional Development Ribbon (X3), Army Good Conduct Medal (X5), Overseas Service Ribbon (X2), Army Commendation Medal w/ 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster, Cross of Gallantry w/ Palm, Overseas Service Bars (X3), Drill Sergeant Badge, Vietnam Service Medal w/4 Bronze Service Stars, Driver Badge, Vietnam Campaign Medal w/60 Device, Sharpshooter Badge w/M-16 Rifle, Expert Badge w/Hand Grenade, Meritorious Service Medal. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Barbara Ciglar Martz; sons, Mike Martz and Jay Martz; grandchildren, Dylan Martz, Asly Martz and Tiffany Martz; as well as great-grandchildren, Jonah Martz and Luna Martz. He is also survived by his siblings, Peggy Drop, Barry Martz, Jim Martz, Gary Martz and Sue Yeskey. He was preceded by his parents, William Martz and Geraldine Wissinger Martz; as well as his brothers, Allen Martz, Bill Martz and Jerry Martz; and his sisters, Marilyn Smith, Esther Czekaj and Cheryl Barr. **A memorial service will be announced at a later date.**

In the hearts of those who loved you, You will always be there.



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Donald J. Swanson
IRWIN



Donald J. Swanson, 91, of Irwin, passed away peacefully at home on March 10, 2025. He was born Jan. 8, 1934, in Reynolds-

ville, to the late Bernard and Beulah (Henry) Swanson. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Marvin Woodrow; daughter, Cher Woodrow; and nine siblings. Don is survived by his devoted wife, Eleanor P. (Kolesar) Swanson; two daughters, Sherri Goldbaugh and Terri Jones; two sons, Kurt Swanson and William Kolesar; 10 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and his brother, John R. Swanson. He is also lovingly remembered by many nieces and nephews. Don was a proud Marine Corps veteran, having served in the Korean War. He dedicated over 35 years of his career as a federal wage and hour inspector for the Department of Labor and Relations. A faithful member of First United Methodist Church of Irwin, Don rarely missed a Sunday service. He had a passion for gardening and had a special gift for making things grow.

He also loved playing dartball with his church league, golfing, traveling, and taking trips to the casino. Above all, Don cherished time spent with his family. He especially loved his little Bella. **Friends will be received from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, March 17, 2025, at OTT FUNERAL HOME INC., 805 Pennsylvania Ave., Irwin. A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at First United Methodist Church of Irwin, followed by burial at Irwin Union Cemetery.** To leave online condolences, please visit www.ottfuneralhome.com. Don will be remembered for

his kind heart, strong faith, and the love he shared with everyone who knew him.

Judith White Ways
MONROEVILLE



Judith White Ways, 86, of Monroeville, formerly of Forest Hills, passed away peacefully Thursday, March 13, 2025. Loving mother of James A. Ways (Jennifer) of Monrovia, MD, Kenneth E. Ways (Patricia) of Monroeville and Ronald E. Ways (Catherine

Snapp) of Gas City, IN. "GMA" of James Jr., Steven (Jennifer), David, Duncan, Rachel, and Chandler. "GGMA" of Calum and Weston. Preceded in death by her husband, Arthur Henry Way; and brothers, William Andrew White and James Kenneth White. Judy was born June 10, 1942, in Wilkesburg, the daughter of William "Jim" and Margaret "Jean" (Sims) White. She was a preschool teacher for over 30 years and a member of the Eastern Star, Rainbow Girls, Sweet Adelines, and Forest Hills Presbyterian Church. She actively volunteered with Forest Hills organizations including Meals on Wheels,

the Forest Hills Recreation Board, and many others. She enjoyed going out monthly with the "Lunch Bunch" at Panera Bread. **A memorial service will be scheduled at a future date.** Donations in Judy's memory may be given to Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, 1840 Ardmore Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15221; Riley Hospital Children's Foundation, 500 N. Meridian St., Suite 100, Indianapolis, IN 46204, rileykids.org; or Ronald McDonald House Charities, 435 Limestone St., Indianapolis, IN 46202, rmhc.org/donate. Arrangements by Wolfe Memorial LLC. www.wolfepgh.com.

Former McKeesport police captain charged with stealing \$260K from evidence room

by PAULA REED WARD

A former McKeesport police captain has been charged after a monthslong investigation with stealing more than \$260,000 from the department's evidence room.

Christopher Halaszynski, 54, of McKeesport was charged Wednesday with theft and receiving stolen property and immediately waived his case to Allegheny County Common Pleas Court.

He was released on \$50,000 unsecured bond by District Judge Eugene Riazzi Jr.

A message left with his attorney was not immediately returned.

McKeesport Mayor Michael Cherepko said in a statement that "no one is above the law."

"It is extremely disheartening that a once-trusted supervisor within this police department was capable of violating his oath to protect and serve by participating in the activities that have been alleged," Cherepko said. "We have instituted an entirely new process with policies and procedures that will not only modernize our evidence logs, but will provide a system of checks, balances and safety measures recommended by

experts in this field."

According to the criminal complaint in the case, Halaszynski stole a total of \$260,280.27 in cash over four years.

The money came from evidence in 159 cases, which are now considered to be compromised.

Halaszynski is the third McKeesport officer to face criminal charges in the last several months.

McKeesport police Chief Mark Steele asked the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office to investigate potential theft from the department's evidence room in September, according to the Halaszynski complaint.

Steele said he was supposed to meet with Halaszynski, who had been in charge of the evidence room for eight years, the week of Sept. 3, but the captain called off that day and the rest of the week, the complaint said.

On Sept. 9, Halaszynski was found unresponsive in a police car after a suspected suicide attempt.

On Sept. 17, Lt. Josh Alfer, who assumed control of the room, reported he found an envelope taken as evidence in a case that was empty when it

should have contained \$383.

Steele and Halaszynski were the only two officers to have access to the evidence room.

In an interview with investigators Oct. 23, Halaszynski said that he had been in charge of the evidence room from 2018 until late 2020 with no problems. However, when he separated from his wife, the complaint said, he told them he struggled to keep up with his finances.

"It was around this time that he first took money from the evidence room with the intention to return it," the complaint said.

His first theft, investigators said, was from an envelope on the evidence room shelves with several thousand dollars in it.

However, Halaszynski said, "he just got 'selfish and greedy, and it became easy,'" according to the complaint.

Halaszynski told investigators the evidence room was in disarray when he took over. He found evidence in drawers like a card catalog dating back several years. He told investigators he first stole money from those cases.

Halaszynski reported taking a couple of thousand dollars at a time, cutting the seals on

evidence packaging, slipping the money out. He then told investigators that he likely shredded the envelopes, the complaint said.

Halaszynski recalled one narcotics case in which officers had seized \$40,000 to \$60,000 in a soft cooler bag. He found the bag on the floor of the evidence room.

When he took the money, he told detectives, he deposited it into his bank account. Although the money was gone, Halaszynski told investigators the drugs should still be there.

Halaszynski told investigators that at first he used the money to pay bills, but later used it to go on trips at Christmastime.

"He stated that he did not buy new cars or real estate and that he has 'nothing to show for everything I've took.'"

According to the complaint, investigators and analysts from the DA's investigations unit conducted a review of all six evidence rooms, going shelf by shelf, box by box and package by package.

In some cases, envelopes that should have contained cash were empty, the complaint said. In others, some money was missing.

According to Halaszynski's bank records, from Jan. 1, 2020, to Sept. 3, 2024, he made 192 cash deposits totaling \$189,430.20.

Former Officer Joseph Osinski was charged by the state Attorney General's Office in September with theft, theft by deception and access device fraud for allegedly stealing more than \$1 million from the police union where he served as the financial officer.

Brenda Sawyer, who left McKeesport to become an agent with the state AG's office, was accused of stealing \$121,000 from the AG's North Huntingdon office the same day.

University of Pittsburgh criminal law professor David A. Harris said that it is unlikely the evidence room thefts will impact any closed cases — or even open ones.

Typically, when money is seized in an investigation, it is logged in as part of the chain of custody and simply remains in the evidence room. It's rare that it would be part of the actual evidence presented in a trial, Harris said.

That doesn't mean, though, that attorneys won't attempt to raise the theft of the cash

to defend their clients.

"As a defense attorney, you look for any possible argument you might have," Harris said.

Instances like this, he said, can impact the public's view of a department.

"These are large-scale thefts. It's not necessarily an indictment of the whole department, but this is enough of a red flag you want to examine the culture," Harris said. "The public can't help but look at the officers and question: Is this guy on the take? Is this woman honest?"

Paula Reed Ward is a TribLive staff writer. She can be reached at pward@triblive.com.

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Study puts ultraprocessed foods under microscope

Preliminary results suggest energy-rich foods don't necessarily cause weight gain

BETHESDA, Md. — Sam Srisatta, a 20-year-old Florida college student, spent a month living inside a government hospital here last fall, playing video games and allowing scientists to document every morsel of food that went into his mouth.

From big bowls of salad to platters of meatballs and spaghetti sauce, Srisatta noshed his way through a nutrition study aimed at understanding the health effects of ultraprocessed foods, the controversial fare that accounts for more than 70% of the U.S. food supply. He allowed the Associated Press to tag along for a day. "Today my lunch was chicken nuggets, some chips, some ketchup," said Srisatta, one of three dozen participants paid \$5,000 each to devote 28 days of their lives to science. "It was pretty fulfilling."

Push from Washington

Examining exactly what made those nuggets so satisfying is the goal of the widely anticipated research led by National Institutes of Health nutrition researcher Kevin Hall. "What we hope to do is figure out what those mechanisms are so that we can better understand that process," Hall said. Hall's study relies on 24/7 measurements of patients, rather than self-reported data, to investigate whether ultraprocessed foods cause people to eat more calories and gain weight, potentially leading to obesity and other well-documented health problems. And if they do, then how? At a time when Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has made nutrition and chronic disease a key priority, the answers can't come soon enough. Kennedy has repeatedly targeted processed foods as the primary



College student and research subject Sam Srisatta eats a lunch of chicken nuggets and chips for a study on the health effects of ultraprocessed foods at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md.

culprit behind a range of diseases that afflict Americans, particularly children. He vowed in a Senate confirmation hearing to focus on removing such foods from school lunches for kids because they're "making them sick."

Ultraprocessed foods have exploded in the U.S. and elsewhere in recent decades, just as rates of obesity and other diet-related diseases also rise. The foods, which are often high in fat, sodium and sugar, are typically cheap, mass-produced and contain added colors and chemicals not found in a home kitchen. Think sugary cereals and potato chips, frozen pizzas, sodas and ice cream.

The foods, which are often high in fat, sodium and sugar, are typically cheap, mass-produced and contain added colors and chemicals not found in a home kitchen. Think sugary cereals and potato chips, frozen pizzas, sodas and ice cream.

Studies have linked ultraprocessed foods to negative health effects, but whether it's the actual processing of the foods — rather than the nutrients they contain or something else — remains uncertain. A small 2019 analysis by Hall and his colleagues found that ultraprocessed foods led participants to eat about 500 calories a day more than when they ate a matched diet of un-

processed foods.

The new study aims to replicate and expand that research — and to test new theories about the effects of ultraprocessed foods. One is that some of the foods contain irresistible combinations of ingredients — fat, sugar, sodium and carbohydrates — that trigger people to eat more. The other is that the foods contain more calories per bite, making it possible to consume more without realizing it.

Close monitoring

Teasing out those answers requires the willingness of volunteers like Srisatta and the know-how of health and diet experts who identify, gather and analyze the data behind the estimated multimillion-dollar study.

During his month at NIH, Srisatta sported monitors on his wrist, ankle and waist to track his every movement and regularly gave up to 14 vials of blood. Once a week, he spent 24 hours inside a metabolic chamber, a tiny room outfitted with sensors

to measure how his body was using food, water and air. He was allowed to go outside, but only with supervision to prevent any wayward snacks. "It doesn't really feel that bad," Srisatta said.

He could eat as much or as little as he liked. The meals wheeled to his room three times a day were crafted to meet the precise requirements of the study, said Sara Turner, the NIH dietitian who designed the food plan. In the basement of the NIH building, a team carefully measured, weighed, sliced and cooked foods before sending them to Srisatta and other participants.

"The challenge is getting all the nutrients to work, but it still needs to be appetizing and look good," Turner said.

Early results intriguing

Results from the trial are expected this year, but preliminary results are intriguing. At a scientific conference in November, Hall reported that the first 18 trial participants ate about 1,000 calories a day more of an ultraprocessed diet that was particularly hyperpalatable and energy-dense than those who ate minimally processed foods, leading to weight gain.

When those qualities were modified, consumption went down, even if the foods were considered ultraprocessed, Hall said. Data is still being collected from remaining participants and must be completed, analyzed and published in a peer-reviewed journal.

Still, the early results suggest that "you can almost normalize" energy intake, "despite the fact that they're still eating a diet that is more than 80% of calories from ultraprocessed food," Hall told the audience.

Short duration criticized

Not everyone agrees with Hall's methods, or the implications of his research.

Dr. David Ludwig, an endocrinologist and researcher at Boston Children's Hospital, criticized Hall's 2019

study as "fundamentally flawed by its short duration" — about a month. Scientists have long known that it's possible to get people to eat more or less for brief periods of time, but those effects quickly wane, he said. "If they were persistent, we would have the answer to obesity," said Ludwig, who has argued for years that consumption of highly processed carbohydrates is the "prime dietary culprit" and focusing on the processing of the foods is "distracting."

He called for larger, better-designed studies lasting a minimum of two months, with "washout" periods separating the effects of one diet from the next. Otherwise, "we waste our energy, we mislead the science," Ludwig said.

Concerns about the short length of the studies may be valid, said Marion Nestle, a nutritionist and food policy expert.

"To resolve that, Hall needs funding to conduct longer studies with more people," she said in an email.

The NIH spends about \$2 billion a year, about 5% of its total budget, on nutrition research, according to Senate documents.

At the same time, the agency cut the capacity of the metabolic unit where investigators conduct such studies, reducing the number of beds that must be shared among researchers. The two participants enrolled now at the center and the two planned for next month are the most Hall can study at any one time, adding months to the research process.

Srisatta, the Florida volunteer who hopes to become an emergency room physician, said participating in the trial left him eager to know more about how processed foods affect human health.

"I mean, I think everyone knows it's better to not eat processed foods, right?" he said. "But having the evidence to back that up in ways that the public can easily digest" is important, he said.

Scientists find oldest known fossil of a human ancestor

Incomplete skull shows anatomical differences to Homo erectus

WASHINGTON — A fossil of a partial face from a human ancestor is the oldest in western Europe, archaeologists reported Wednesday.

The incomplete skull — a section of the left cheek bone and upper jaw — was found in northern Spain in 2022. The fossil is between 1.1 million and 1.4 million years old, according to research published in the journal Nature.

"The fossil is exciting," said Eric Delson, a paleontologist at the American Museum of Natural History, who was not involved in the study. "It's the first time we have significant remains older than 1 million years old in western Europe."

A collection of older fossils from early human ancestors was previously found in Georgia, near the crossroads of eastern Europe and Asia. Those are estimated to be 1.8 million years old.

The Spanish fossil is the first evidence that clearly shows human ancestors "were taking excursions into Europe" at that time, said Rick Potts,



A fossil (right) of the left midface of a hominin between 1.1 million and 1.4 million years old, recovered from Spain, is paired with a mirrored simulation of the other side.

director of the Smithsonian's Human Origins Program.

But there is not yet evidence that the earliest arrivals persisted there long, he said. "They may get to a new location and then die out," said Potts, who had no role in the study.

The partial skull bears many similarities to Homo erectus, but there are also some anatomical differences, said study co-author Rosa Huguet, an archaeologist at the Catalan Institute of Human Paleocology and Social Evolution in Tarragona, Spain.

Homo erectus arose around 2 million years ago and moved from Africa to regions of Asia and Europe, with the last in-

dividuals dying out around 100,000 years ago, Potts said.

It can be challenging to identify which group of early humans a fossil find belongs to if there's only a single fragment versus many bones that show a range of features, said University of Zurich paleoanthropologist Christoph Zollikofer, who was not involved in the study.

The same cave complex in Spain's Atapuerca Mountains where the new fossil was found also previously yielded other significant clues to the ancient human past. Researchers working in the region have also found more recent fossils from Neanderthals and early Homo sapiens.

Fukushima plant cleanup work involves high radiation, stress

OKUMA, Japan — The Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant's radiation levels have significantly dropped since the cataclysmic meltdown in Japan 14 years ago. Workers walk around in many areas wearing only surgical masks and regular clothes.

It's a different story for those who enter the reactor buildings, including the three damaged in the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. They must use maximum protection — full facemasks with filters, multilayered gloves and socks, shoe covers, hooded hazmat coveralls and a waterproof jacket, and a helmet.

As workers remove melted fuel debris from the reactors in a monumental nuclear cleanup effort that could take more than a century, they are facing both huge amounts of psychological stress and dangerous levels of radiation.

Cleaning 880 tons of melted fuel debris

A remote-controlled extendable robot with a tong had several mishaps including equipment failures before returning in November with a tiny piece of melted

fuel from inside the damaged No. 2 reactor.

That first successful test run is a crucial step in what will be a daunting, decades-long decommissioning that must deal with at least 880 tons of melted nuclear fuel that has mixed with broken parts of internal structures and other debris inside the three ruined reactors.

A second sample-retrieval mission at the No. 2 reactor is expected in coming weeks.

Hard to see, breathe or move

Radiation levels are still dangerously high inside the No. 2 reactor building, where the melted fuel debris is behind a thick concrete containment wall. Earlier decontamination work reduced those radiation levels to a fraction of what they used to be.

In late August, small groups took turns doing their work helping the robot in 15- to 30-minute shifts to minimize radiation exposure. They have a remotely controlled robot, but it has to be manually pushed in and out.

Full-face masks reduced visibility and made breath-

ing difficult, an extra waterproof jacket made it sweaty and hard to move, and triple-layered gloves made their fingers clumsy, Yokokawa said.

To eliminate unnecessary exposure, they taped around gloves and socks and carried a personal dosimeter to measure radiation. Workers also rehearsed the tasks they'd perform to minimize exposure.

The workers' highest individual radiation dose was more than the overall average but still far below anything approaching a 100-millisievert five-year dose limit.

What's next?

Workers recently started dismantling the emptied water tanks to make room to build facilities needed for the research and storage of melted fuel debris.

Experts say the hard work and huge challenges of decommissioning the plant are just beginning. There are estimations that the work could take more than a century. The government and TEPCO have an initial completion target of 2051, but the retrieval of melted fuel debris is already three years behind, and many big issues remain undecided.

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<p>CHARLESTON & SAVANNAH MAY 1-7.....\$2,224 PP DBL Experience a romantic tour of the South's grand ladies elegant and charming Charleston & Savannah. Includes a guided tour of Charleston, Magnolia Plantation and Gardens, Oyster House Seafood Restaurant, Boone Hall Plantation & Gardens, Harbor Cruise & Fort Sumter, Hyman's Seafood, guided tour of Savannah & Bonaventure Cemetery, Paula Deen's Lady & Son's Restaurant, Carriage Ride in Savannah, free time on Riverwalk, Savannah Riverboat Dinner Cruise. Six breakfasts and six dinners included, six nights' first class lodging.</p> <p>MULTI-DAY TOURS CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL WASHINGTON, DC APR. 22-25.....\$987 PP DBL Visit Smithsonian Museums, US Capitol Bldg. for a Red Coat Tour of the Capitol Visitor Center, Library of Congress, lunch at Capital Cafe Arlington Mall, Cemetery, Elegant Pink Champagne Luncheon Cruise, Illuminated Monuments evening tour, the National Mall, guided tour of George Washington's Mt. Vernon, guided tour of Old Alexandria, Ford's Theatre site of Abe Lincoln assassination, a visit to Peterston House, JFK Center for the Arts Observation desk to breathtaking views of the city, upgraded accommodations, 5 meals.</p> <p>VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL "TATTOO" APR. 24-27.....\$1,025 PP DBL First class Luxury Accommodations, Norfolk Dinner Cruise, visit MacArthur Memorial, Tour Heritage Museum & Gardens, HulaHula @ VA International "Tattoo" over 800 performers from all over the world in a display of military bands, drill teams, massed pipes & drums, Celtic dancers, choirs, and more. Parade of Nations, Norfolk NATO Festival, Maritime Discovery Center, Sunset Cruise on American River, visit Norfolk Botanical Gardens w/ tram ride, City Cruises Norfolk w/ all you can eat buffet and entertainment. Five meals.</p> <p>"NOAH" LAGASTER Apr. 30-May 1.....\$590 PP DBL Experience a getaway of relaxation, fun, an abundance of great food, luxurious lodging, great theatre. 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Royal, Famed Underground City, Hornblower Cruise into the Falls, Skytrain Tower Lunch, Niagara Duty Free Shops, CN Tower, St. Lawrence Market, Casa Loma, includes nineteen meals.</p> <p>BALTIMORE RAILS & SAILS JULY 13-15.....\$677 PP DBL Admission to B&O Railroad Museum, day on the BAY to St. Michaels Island, 4.5 hour ride on the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad, Baltimore Inner Harbor Cruise, free time at the Baltimore Inner Harbor, free time in historic Frostburg, MD, All You Can Eat Crab Feast at Phillips Seafood, 3 meals.</p> <p>NASHVILLE AUG. 10-14.....\$1,625 PP DBL Luxurious accommodations at Gaylord Opryland Resort, professional guided tour of Nashville, Ryman Auditorium, Buffet Dinner & show at Nashville Nightlife Theatre, historic RCA Studio B, Country Music Hall of Fame, Lunch at Blake Shelton's "Ole Red" in downtown Nashville, attend Grand Ole Opry, adm. To Hermitage, home of Andrew Jackson, Progressive Antebellum Dinner, James Polk home, historic Antebellum, tour Elm Springs, 8 meals inc. Paula Deen's & Sons.</p>	<p>WILDWOOD ATLANTIC CITY PHILADELPHIA JUNE 9-13.....\$879 PP DBL Adventurer Hotel Oceanfront accommodations. Atlantic City Resorts Casino w/ bonus & dinner, guided tour of Philadelphia, visit Terminal Market, Tomassello Winery w/ Tasting and Luncheon, Pizza Luncheon, Ice cream social, Trolley tour of Cape May, Dolphin Watch Boat Cruise, special night of entertainment, visit Historic Smithville, Cape May, Wildwood Boardwalk, 4 breakfasts, 4 dinners (inc. Lobster or Prime Rib Dinner).</p> <p>DAY TOURS "JUST GRAND" APR. 1.....\$159 Learn about the GRAND rich history of the town in Northeast Ohio as the bus drives down Millionaire Row! Visit Erie Hall Aviation Museum, Jimmie's Italian Specialties Market, The Packard Museum, tour the beautiful Taylor-Upton House, enjoy a delicious lunch at THE GRAND RESORT, old world charm and a touch of elegance. "REWIRED" CHICAGO TRIBUTE BAND APR. 25.....\$189 This not just another tribute band-CHICAGO REWIRED is the real deal delivering a high energy performance capturing the spirit and essence of Chicago- a must see event. Includes buffet dinner, shopping at an Antique Mall, and largest year round Christmas shoppe in Ohio.</p> <p>PGH. OLDIES ALL STAR SHOW APR. 27.....\$159 Listen to PGH's own crown jewels-The Jaggerz, Chuck Blasko's Vogues, The Skyliners, the Marcels, and the new Pure Gold at the Palace Theatre. Greensburg. Includes dinner at "De Nunzio's Chop House" Latrobe at Arnold Palmer Airport.</p> <p>SIMPLY SWEET MAY 20.....\$169 Visit a farm that's home to over 500 animals (some exotic) from six different continents. J.M. Smuckers Food & Beverage Store, P. Dumg gifts, handmade woodwork, décor, inspirational art, Lehman's Hardware, unique Amish products, embrace the past and reminisce your way thru thousands of products. Lunch & shopping at Amish Door Village.</p> <p>"THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS" MAY 27.....\$169 Spectacular show tells the story of Saul, later known as Paul, whose journey from a zealous persecutor of Christians to a devoted follower of Christ a musical journey through the Book of Acts. Dinner included. Sugarcreek, OH</p> <p>LET'S HANG ON - FRANKIE VALLI TRIBUTE MAY 31.....\$169 A FULL BLOWN STAGE PRODUCTION COVERS ALL THE GREAT Four Seasons hits with that awesome falsetto supported by superb harmonies! 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COURTESY OF WPXI

Is Liz Kilmer the new Channel 11 morning news co-anchor or is she just filling in? WPXI executives won't say.

Who's the Channel 11 morning co-anchor?

Q: I saw a morning promo for Channel 11 news and Liz Kilmer is not in it. How come?
— Robyn, via email

Rob: It's unclear if WPXI has named anyone as Gordon Loesch's morning news anchor replacement after his elevation to evenings following the December retirement of David Johnson. As far as I know, the station has not chosen anyone to take over Loesch's role permanently (or as permanent as any TV news role can be).

Channel 11 news director Scott Traubandt did not respond to an inquiry.

When station executives decide on a replacement, don't expect them to announce it.

After Katherine Amenta was sent packing in April, WPXI never named her replacement. Ten months later, it's clear — from the same promo Robyn referred to — that Jennifer Tomazik inherited Amenta's chair, but the station never made an announcement to that effect.

So maybe Kilmer has been appointed the Loesch replacement. Or perhaps she's still just filling in. I guess we'll find out if she (or someone else) shows up in a Channel 11 promo 10 months from now.

Q: I noticed the Pirates spring training game March 1 was a simulcast of the Baltimore Orioles broadcast with the Orioles' broadcast team. The March 2 game was a normal Pirates broadcast. Is simulcasting with other teams' broadcasters a money-saving tactic for SNP? I don't particularly enjoy turning on a Bucco game but hearing/watching the opposition's broadcast team.
— Bill, Washington

Rob: Yes, it surely saves money to simply take the rival away-team's broadcast feed than to pay to send the Pirates broadcasters to the away game.

Per a SNP spokeswoman, "The spring training games where we're airing the away team's broadcast is merely additive to our broadcast schedule in order to make more games available to our Pirates fans. This is only an initiative for spring training."

Q: Reading the paper March 6, I find out CBS canceled "FBI: Most Wanted" and "FBI: International." I watch all three "FBI" shows Tuesday night and love them all. Why cancel them? What are they going to put in their place, another game show? TV sure knows how to mess things up.
— Jane, Greensburg

Rob: As with almost all decisions in TV these days, cancellations usually come down to financial reasons. As shows age, they become more expensive as cast and crew generally get raises each season. "Most Wanted" is in its sixth season; "International" is in its fourth season. While the former usually wins its time slot and both draw a relatively healthy linear audience, the financial downside probably outweighs the incentives to continue these two shows.

It's too soon to know what CBS will replace these programs with — broadcast networks announce their fall schedules in May — but CBS is developing another "FBI" spinoff, the ridiculously titled "FBI: CIA."

Q: Since the first episode of "SNL" aired in October 1975, why didn't they wait until October 2025 for the 50th anniversary show?
— John via email

Rob: In addition to finances, scheduling probably played into this one. NBC airs NFL games on Sunday nights in the fall. If network execs wanted to air the anniversary special in that marquee Sunday time slot, which it's fair to assume they did, NBC couldn't program "SNL50" in the second half of the year. The number of homes using television are generally higher in the winter than the spring or summer, so that's probably how "SNL50" wound up airing in February.

You can reach TV writer Rob Owen at rowen@triblive.com or 412-380-8559. Follow @RobOwenTV on Threads, Twitter, Bluesky and Facebook. Ask TV questions by email or phone. Please include your first name and location.

FIELD OF GREENS



COURTESY OF MICHAEL BARTLEY

The Bartley brothers (from left) Bobby, Michael and David host a family party the same day as the annual Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day parade. The Bartley family of Greenfield has Irish roots in Galway and Tipperary, Ireland.

Steelers fans plan to travel abroad for first regular-season NFL game in Ireland

BY JOANNE KLIMOVICH HARROP

The Pittsburgh Steelers are going to Ireland this fall — and so are a number of their die-hard fans.

Dublin will host the first regular-season NFL game played in Ireland at its Croke Park. The Steelers played a preseason game against the Chicago Bears in 1997, also at Croke Park.

Croke Park is one of the largest stadiums in Europe, with a capacity of 82,300. It's the largest sporting arena in Ireland and headquarters of the Gaelic Athletic Association.

The NFL has announced the Steelers upcoming opponents but will not specify dates until May.

The Steelers will be the home team.

Beginning in 2025, the NFL can schedule up to eight league-operated regular season games internationally.

Pittsburghers will have another opportunity to travel to a football game in Ireland when the Pitt Panthers take on Wisconsin to open the 2027 season.

Booking travel

Fans are already making plans, according to Marita Williams of Lower Burrell, who works for AAA East Central as manager of travel promotions and product development. AAA has a trip organized that leaves Sept. 24 and arrives in Ireland on Sept. 25. Travelers will depart Ireland on Sept. 29.

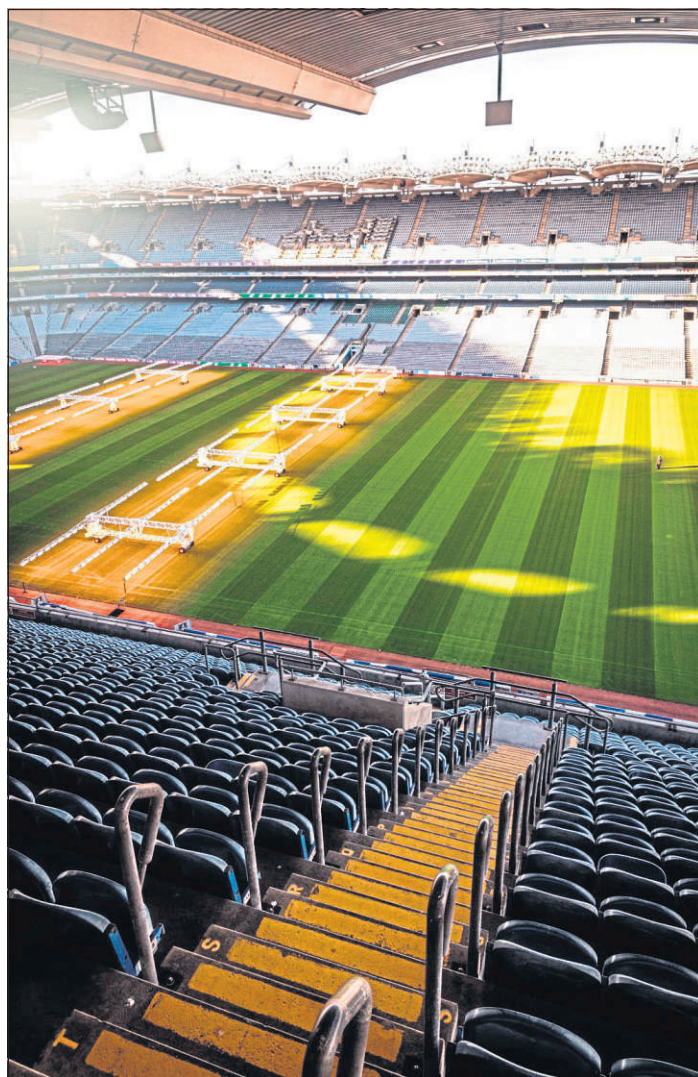
AAA said it is confident the game is Sept. 28 and deposits will be refunded only if the game date changes.

Pricing starts at \$4,959 per person for airfare, double occupancy for four nights, travel to and from the airport to the hotel and to the game, tickets, sightseeing at the Guinness Storehouse, a brewery experience of Guinness beer.

Williams said Ireland is one of the top three international destinations from the Pittsburgh region, along with Iceland and Italy.

"The people I have talked to are very excited," said Williams, who said limited spots are still available. "We have had a lot of interest. This will sell out. The people on this trip can be part of history."

Williams said AAA is pretty confident in the date, but the



COURTESY OF RICCARDO REA

Croke Park in Dublin is one of the largest stadiums in Europe, with a capacity of 82,300, and the largest sporting arena in Ireland and headquarters of the Gaelic Athletic Association.

Steelers said via email "specific details for the Dublin game are still being worked out in coordination with the NFL."

Via email, the Steelers have directed fans interested in purchasing tickets and travel packages to On Location, the NFL's Official Hospitality

Partner. The team said it anticipates there will be other entities offering packages.

KDKA radio host Michael Bartley was on the air when he saw the alert about the Ireland game.

'White Lotus' trio steals show's third season

About halfway through the third season of HBO's "The White Lotus" (9 p.m. Sunday) and the race to steal the most scenes in the show is on among Parker Posey's Victoria Ratliff and her specific Southern accent; the Ratliff brothers (Patrick Schwarzenegger, Sam Nivola), who may be on the verge of incest,

and the backbiting trio of friends played by Leslie Bibb, Carrie Coon and Michelle Monaghan. It's a tight race, but there's a relatability to childhood friends-turned-successful adults Laurie (Coon, "The Gilded Age"), Jaclyn (Monaghan) and Kate (Bibb) that gives them the edge. Now adults with insecurities galore, the trio are at their catty best (i.e.: worst) when two split off and start discussing the absent third member of their friend group. In a virtual press conference before the season premiered, Coon said the lack of honesty among the friends is what gets in their way most.

"We were joking that if these women had walked into the villa and said, 'Listen, this is what's going on with me right now,' and started off in this honest and authentic way, then it would have been a very different vacation," Coon said. "But that's not what happened. Everyone's pretending. I'm afraid everyone can relate to pretending to be living an extraordinary life, whereas everyone's actually feeling left out." Monaghan said the relationship among the "White Lotus" female



Carrie Coon, Michelle Monaghan and Leslie Bibb play a trio of friends in the third season of "The White Lotus."

friends is a testament to the "unrealistic expectations that we have for each other and the way that we've been socially conditioned to constantly judge ourselves, to be competitive with ourselves and one another, and always looking at each other and ourselves and saying, 'Am I enough? Can I be doing it better? Is the grass always greener?'" "This slow boil starts to happen and you start to see that slow reveal and that unraveling of women trying to defend their life's choices," Monaghan continued, "and

really try to be perceived as having this perfect life when really they're just going through their own lives and their own vulnerabilities." Bibb compared it to how people post their curated lives on Instagram, showing only the good stuff, nothing negative. "We're all swiping and everybody's life always looks so much dreamier on a phone than in real life when it's really happening," Bibb said. Monaghan also pointed to the "ever-shifting power dynamic" among the three friends, which

varies depending on which two are talking when the third is not there. "One's the peacekeeper, one's the victim, one's the perpetrator," she said. "That's something that feels familiar." As for the conversation in the March 2 episode where Kate revealed she voted for Trump, Bibb said that was a reference to the 2016 election because the script for this season was written in 2022, but the shock on the faces of Laurie and Jaclyn points to the idea that "who you were when you were growing up and who you've become can be

very different people." "For Kate, she's so scared to say any of her beliefs, whether it be political or whether or not she likes the color pink," Bibb said. "Her need to have the approval of these two women — and deeper than that, the respect of these two women — is so important to her. It's hard for her to really lean into one side. ... She is this great connector and this vacation is so important to her that these friendships feel that they're not sure if, truly, the friendship will survive it. Or in true 'White Lotus' fashion, if we will survive it."

And then there's the way all of these roiling internal thoughts and feelings get expressed in their performances, often through non-verbal facial expressions, which Monaghan credits to "White Lotus" writer/director Mike White, who began his career as an actor. He also competed on reality show "Survivor" in 2018.

"It's very unusual for a director to be able to take that kind of time and lean into that and really want reactions and for you to sit with something and ponder it, and how that informs your character, your character's response," Monaghan said. "That's like gold for actors. That's all we want to do. We want to say great words but we want to lean into the non-verbal moments because that's life. It was just great to be able to have a showrunner and a creator — (who is) an actor first and foremost — that actually really respects that part of the process."

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'The Steelers community reaches around the world'

STEELERS · FROM C1

He started receiving text messages and calls right away because anyone who knows Bartley knows the impact this game would have on him.

"As soon as I heard about it, I immediately thought there was no way I am not going to be there," said Bartley, 63, of Pittsburgh's Greenfield neighborhood. "I have been to Dublin many times with my college (Marquette University) buddy and we will be there for this game."

Bartley, who has traveled to see the team play, including in three Super Bowls, said he isn't concerned about getting tickets because he has a connection through the NFL.

"Dublin is a blast," said Bartley, whose grandparents came from Galway and Tipperary. "I can't wait for Steelers fans to experience it."

According to the Steelers, the number of tickets available in a season-ticket holder lottery, as well as how many tickets will be available for the opposing team and overseas for fans living in Ireland, are still being worked out in coordination with the NFL.

Irish connection

The Rooney family, owners of the team, emigrated from the town of Newry in Northern Ireland to the U.S. in the 19th century. The late Dan Rooney was one of the founders of The Ireland Fund, which merged with the American Irish Foundation to create The Ireland Funds, a leading charitable organization that is a global philanthropic network of friends of Ireland to promote and support peace, culture, education and community development across Ireland and among Irish communities around the world.

Rooney also served as United States Ambassador to Ireland as selected by President Barack Obama from 2009-2012.

Jim Lamb, president of the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh and Honorary Consul of Ireland for Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia, said he is working with the Steelers to buy tickets for people to travel to the game. He said for those who have thought about visiting Ireland and finding their roots, this is the perfect time to do it.

"The stars have aligned," said Lamb, who attended the pre-season matchup in 1997 at Croke Park, the last time the Steelers played in Ireland. Jim and Debbie Ramsay of Greensburg would like to go

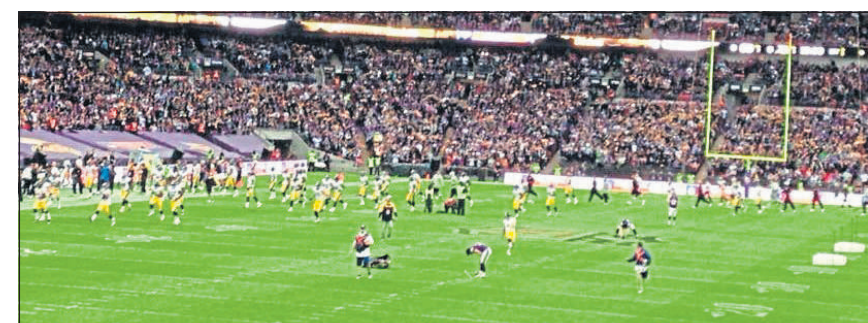


back to Ireland again. "Ireland is such a great place," said Jim Ramsay, a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, an Irish Catholic fraternal organization in the Greensburg and Indiana area that promotes friendship, unity and Christian charity. "There is a lot to see and do. It is such a beautiful country." Franco "Dok" Dokmanovich Harris, son of the late Franco Harris, is excited about going to Ireland for the game. "Dan Rooney connected the city of Pittsburgh to Ireland," Harris said. "What an experience this is going to be."

Dressed as St. Patrick at a recent fundraiser for the Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade at the Priory on Pittsburgh's North Side, Michael Moog of Whitehall said he would love to go to the game. "It is a great event to be a part of and Ireland is phenomenal," Moog said. "It's definitely a Steeler thing to have a game in Ireland. Anyone with Irish roots wanting to visit the homeland — this is an excuse to do it."

A trip to Ireland has been on Gail Paserba's bucket list. She and her husband, Thomas, had talked about making the trip, but he passed away before they could. When Paserba heard about the lottery for the season ticket holders for this game, she was ecstatic. Her son set up a special mailbox for any Steelers' correspondence so she doesn't miss anything. Her grandmother was a sports fan and inspired her love of the game. If she wins the ticket lottery, she said she plans to go with friends Dave Zirnsak and Jared Sullivan, both of Butler County, and build in extra days to explore Ireland.

"I am already thinking about what player jersey I would wear to the game if I am fortunate to get tickets," said Paserba, who also lives in Butler County. "One of the



Libby Wilcox (left), 40, of Las Vegas became a Steelers fan through her ROTC instructor, who gave extra credit to students who knew the score of a Steelers game. Wilcox rearranged her honeymoon when the Steelers played an exhibition game in London in 2013. She is a Steelers season ticket holder and serves on the Steelers advisory council, which serves to help improve the fan experience.

reasons I am so excited about this is Ireland was on our bucket list and my husband and I never made it. I would want to do this for him. This may never happen again in my lifetime." Bartley isn't going to miss it. He said he is "over the moon that this game is in Ireland." "Every ethnicity is proud of where they came from,"

said Bartley, who is on the Art Rooney Awards board. "Pittsburgh Irish are just ecstatic over this, especially because the owners are an Irish family with six Super Bowl championships. It's a huge source of pride. I am a kid who grew up during the 1970s Steelers dynasty. I have been a Steelers fan my whole life. My friend and I are dropping everything

and going." So is Libby Wilcox, 40, of Las Vegas, whose father is Irish, and who rearranged her honeymoon when the Steelers played a game in London in 2013 at Wembley Stadium. They lost to the Minnesota Vikings, 34-27. "We were already overseas, and I thought we can't miss this," said Wilcox, a U.S. Army veteran.

Wilcox became a Steelers fan through her Reserve Officers' Training Corps instructor Jim Miller. He always talked about the team and gave his students extra credit if they knew the score of the Steelers game. Wilcox watched the Steelers defeat Arizona 27-23 in Super Bowl LIX, while serving in Tallil, Iraq.

"The Steelers community reaches around the world," said Wilcox, who is a season ticket holder and member of the Steelers advisory council, which serves to help improve the fan experience. "This would be a wonderful family trip to experience part of the Steelers magic. When this game was announced, I could not have been more excited. It will be so much fun to see the sea of black and gold." And for this game, add in some green.

JoAnne Klimovich Harrop is a TribLive staff writer. She can be reached at jharrop@triblive.com.

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ALLEGHENY VALLEY VETERAN DOCTOR GUIDES PATIENTS THROUGH WEIGHT-LOSS OFFERINGS AT NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BODY SPA

Hill District site to help entertainment rise

Live Nation breaks ground on new venue

BY ALEXIS PAPALIA

Live Nation is turning up the volume in Pittsburgh.

The global entertainment giant broke ground Thursday on its new concert venue, Citizens Live at the Wylie, set to energize the Lower Hill District.

Community leaders, elected officials and representatives of Citizens Financial Group, Live Nation and the Pittsburgh Penguins gathered to celebrate the construction of the newly named venue.

The project will be a 4,000-person-capacity, 98,500-square-foot space that can accommodate a variety of show sizes, both seated and standing. Tom Loudermilk, the Pittsburgh market president at Live Nation, said the company hopes it will host between 80 and 110 events per year.

Those events could range from music concerts to comedy shows to speaker series and beyond.

“We’re standing across the street from what’s going to be the future site of Citizens Live at the Wylie, its name a testament to the historic Wylie Avenue that flows through the district,” Loudermilk remarked at the ceremony Thursday.

Many of the speakers, including Lt. Gov. Austin Davis and Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey, remarked on the historic arts scene of the Hill District and the legacy that the new venue inherits.

Live Nation estimates that the new space will open its doors in late 2026.

Bruce Van Saun, chairman



Construction is officially underway on Citizens Live at the Wylie, a 98,500-square-foot live music venue in Pittsburgh’s Lower Hill District.



KRISTINA SERAFINI | TRIBLIVE

Local leaders and officials take part in a groundbreaking ceremony for a new Live Nation venue — Citizens Live at the Wylie — near PPG Paints Arena on Thursday.

and CEO of Citizens, was also present for the ceremony.

“We’re thrilled to announce

our support of Citizens Live at the Wylie, a state-of-the-art music venue that will honor

this community’s past while investing in its future,” he said.

The Pittsburgh Penguins and the Fenway Sports Group are also partnering

on the project, as part of the Lower Hill’s wider revitalization.

Staffing the new venue will create over 300 new jobs, all with a base pay of \$20

an hour, according to Live Nation. The building will also contain a retail space containing Black-owned and local businesses.

“The economic impact of this project is going to be huge, not just for the Hill District and the city of Pittsburgh, but for our entire region,” Davis said.

Marimba Milliones, CEO of the Hill Community Development Corp., spoke about the process the corporation’s Development Review Panel went through with Live Nation to make this project a reality. “Live Nation not only worked in partnership with the Hill CDC and the Development Review Panel, but they demonstrated the level of respect for the history that this site demands.”

Live Nation said art from local visual artists will be prominently displayed inside the venue. In addition, a \$2 surcharge from every ticket sold will go to the Greater Hill District Neighborhood Reinvestment Fund.

Alexis Papalia is a TribLive staff writer. She can be reached at apapalia@triblive.com.

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724-836-4730

Q: My wife and I bought a house. We were going to repair it and sell it. Now we want to give it to our daughter. What is the most cost-effective route to complete this transaction?

A: The real question is what do you want to do. If you give it to her outright, it is hers. If she dies or gives it to somebody else or puts a mortgage on it, it is that what you want to do. Do you want to lease it to her with an option to purchase. Do you want to sell it to her so she gets a mortgage of some amount and then pays the mortgage to the bank? You can put it in her name with the rights of survivorship to you if she would die or something else happened. Do you need to protect her for any reason? I would not look to see what is the most cost-effective way of doing this. The most important thing to do is find out what you need to have happen. How do you protect your daughter if that is needed? Do you need to speak to your accountant about this or your attorney? It is best to figure what the right thing to do is before you make the transfer, not after if you change your mind. Do you have other children to consider? Is this part of an estate plan? See your attorney first.

CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY

L. Christian DeDiana
724-864-6840
Certified by National Elder Law Foundation
lcd@bumbaughgeorge.com

Q: How long should I keep bank statements?

A: If you ever apply for Medical Assistance (Medicaid) you will need 5 years of statements. If you are audited by the IRS, you may need at least 3 years of statements. If you have any accounts on line and do not receive monthly statements, you should print out your statements every month.

SENIOR CARE

Tim Beckes
Owner/President
Senior Helpers
724-834-5720

Q: My 79 year old father just failed the test to renew his driver’s license. He lives alone and is doing great, but how will he get his groceries, or visit his friends?

A: The ability to get out of the house and go where you want, when you want is an important part of a senior’s independence. The loss of a driver’s license does not have to mean the end of independent living. A helper can assist your father by driving him where he would like to go and accompanying him on his errands. Please call Senior Helpers to learn more.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Michael Noppe
Licensed Insurance Agent
Insurance Services LLC
1255 South Main, Greensburg
800-800-1999 ext. 65
mronppeinsurance.com
[Facebook.com/michaelnoppes](https://www.facebook.com/michaelnoppes)

Q: Mr. Noppe, I will be switching from my employer plan to Medicare and I am trying to decide the best way to go between advantage or gap plans. I just got Part B to go along with my Part A. The big issue is my weekly infusions at my doctor’s office.

A: Your weekly doctor visit is covered under Medicare Part B. Medicare Advantage Plans require a 20% copayment. Medigap Supplements pay the entire cost and you pay nothing.

(Not connected with or endorsed by the U.S. government or the federal Medicare program.) We do not offer every plan available in your area. Any information we provide is limited to those plans we do offer in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE to get information on all of your options.

RETIREMENT & IRA TAX PLANNING

Sam White CPA
member ED SLOTT’S Master
Elite IRA Advisor GroupSM
101 North Main, Greensburg, PA
724-634-2255

Q: I don’t think my wife or our tax preparer know anything about IRA’s and taxes. I can’t believe my wife can be so dumb. I just lost a lot of money in my IRA this week with the market dropping. I wanted to sell and take the losses for the 2025 taxes. Our preparer said it doesn’t work that way. The tax guy looks like a kid so who knows if he knows what he’s talking about. My wife reads your stuff and said you would know if I can do that. What do you know?

A: I don’t think you know anything about wives. You just told a huge number of people your wife is dumb. Your knowledge of taxes seems equally lacking. You cannot write off losses within IRA accounts, so the kid knows what he’s talking about with this subject. Since your wife reads my stuff I’m guessing you think she’s too dumb to figure out you are the one asking this question. I believe she will figure it out.

COMMUNITY BANKING

Donald Graham, VP
Regional Banking Manager
grahamd@firstbank.com
Cell: (724) 388-1163
NMLS #508952

Q: What are some ways that I might find out that someone has stolen my identity?

A: Read your bills. Do you see charges for things that you didn’t buy? Watch your bank account statement. Are there withdrawals you didn’t make? Are there changes you didn’t expect? Check your mail. Did you stop getting a bill? Did you get a bill for an account you never opened? Or did you get a letter about an employer you don’t recognize? Get your credit report. Are there accounts or other information you don’t recognize? To get your report, call Annual Credit Report at 877-322-8228 or go to AnnualCreditReport.com

SUNDAY EVENING

Movies Talk News Kids Sports

MARCH 16, 2025

Grid of TV channels and programs including CBS, ABC, NBC, FOX, A&E, AMC, ANPL, ATTSP, BBC, BET, BRAVO, CMT, COM, DISC, DISNEY, EI, ESPN, ESPNU, ESPN2, EWTN, FOOD, FREEFM, FX, FYI, GOLF, GSN, HALL, HGTV, HIST, ID, LIFE, MTV, NBATV, NGE0, NICK, NWSN, OWN, OXY, PARMT, PCN, PCNC, SYFY, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TOON, TRAVEL, TRUTV, TVLAND, USA, VH1, WE, HBO, MAX, PARSHO, STARZ, SZTENC, TMC.

Advertisement for Fay-West Dental featuring a smiling woman in a green hat. Text includes: 'NO LUCK NEEDED', 'When You HAVE GREAT DENTAL Care', 'COMPARE OUR PRICES ECONOMY DENTURE \$325', 'SEE US FOR: EXTRACTIONS DENTURE REPAIRS • ALL PHASES OF GENERAL DENTISTRY', 'Fay-West Dental Rt. 119 • Scottsdale • www.faywestdental.net', 'Randall L. Palmiscno, D.M.D. Daniel Whirlow, D.M.D • Peter Eddy, D.D.S. 1-800-442-6805 or 724-887-3060', '\$25 Off Any Upgraded Dentures custom or premium only OFFER GOOD THRU 04-06-2025'.

CEOs at 197 companies made big stock sales lately

Company insiders are ditching their own stock more than usual. An exception is oil and gas executives, some of whom are buying while their shares are depressed.

To gauge insider sentiment, look at the ratio of buys to sells by top executives and large shareholders. According to Gurufocus.com, about 34% of insiders' transactions normally are buys. In February the figure was only 24%.

During the early stages of the pandemic in 2020, when stock prices dived, insiders stepped up to the plate and bought shares at an above-normal clip five months in a row. Insiders also bought a lot of stock in the late stages of the Great Recession in 2008.

Sells normally exceed buys because top executives get some stock (often in the form of stock options) as part of their compensation. Lately, we've seen ten months in a row of below-normal buying. According to a screen I did on Gurufocus.com, chief executive officers at 197 companies have sold stock worth \$1 billion or more from Feb. 1 through March 5.

CEO Sales

At Palo Alto Networks Inc. (PANW), CEO Nikesh Arora sold more than \$275 million of stock in February and March. Since June 2022, his share holding has fallen from about 2.9 million shares to about 1.1 million shares.



JOHN DORFMAN
Investing

His sales were under a plan that provides for selling at predetermined intervals or prices.

At J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. (JPM), chairman Jamie Dimon was a buyer in 2007, 2009, 2012 and 2016. Since last year, he's been a seller. In February he sold \$233 million of stock, or more than 11% of his holding. His remaining shares are worth about \$1.6 billion.

At Tempus AI Inc. (TEM), which went public less than a year ago, CEO Eric Lefkofsky cashed in more than \$119 million in shares in February. That was about 8% of his holding.

Bahram Akradi, the founder and CEO of Life Time Group Holdings Inc. (LTH), sold 31% of his shares in late February, for proceeds of about \$150 million. The company operates a chain of fitness centers. Akradi himself is a triathlete.

Jeffrey Tangney, CEO of Doximity Inc. (DOCS), sold about \$75 million of his company's stock in February. He has about \$135 million of Doximity shares left. The company operates a digital platform for medical professionals.

When CEOs sell shares, it doesn't necessarily mean that they are bearish on the stock market or on their own companies' prospects. There are many reasons to sell, simple diversification being one.

Still, when I see the number of CEOs who have sold recently, and the volume of their sales, it gives me an uneasy feeling.

Energy buys

In the oil and gas industry I see more hopeful signs.

At Noble Corp., for example, CEO Robert Eifler spent about \$350,000 to add a bit to his holdings, which amount to about \$31 million at current prices. Richard Barker, the chief financial officer, bought about \$223,000 of Noble shares in February and has about \$7 million in the stock.

At Dorchester Minerals LP (DMLP), which collects royalties on oil-and-gas properties in 28 states, CEO Bradley Ehrman spent about \$100,000 on his partnership's shares in early March. He has about \$4 million in it.

And at Matador Resources Co. (MTDR), where I've noted insider buying previously, CEO Joseph Foran made four purchases totaling about \$632,000. That brings his holding to about \$245 million.

Oil and gas stocks are out of favor today, and I think they are oversold. I believe these three CEOs will be

happy about their purchases a year hence.

The record

This is the 73rd column I've written about insider purchases and sales. I can tabulate results for 63 columns — all those written from 1999 through a year ago.

Stocks that I said to avoid, even though insiders were buying, have underperformed the Standard & Poor's 500 Total Return Index by 24.3 percentage points.

Stocks where I noted insider selling have done 2.3 percentage points worse than the index.

Stocks I recommended based on insider buying have returned 9.1% — not too bad, but 1.3 percentage points below the benchmark's average.

Finally, there were some stocks where I noted insider buys, but made no comment or an ambiguous comment. These have beaten the S&P by 16.2 percentage points.

Bear in mind that my column results are hypothetical and shouldn't be confused with results I obtain for clients. Also, past performance doesn't predict the future.

Disclosure: I own J.P. Morgan shares personally and for most of my clients.

John Dorfman is chairman of Dorfman Value Investments in Boston. He can be reached at jdorfman@dorfmanvalue.com.

Nissan's chief executive steps down

Insider with Mexico experience gets tapped for position

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO — Japanese automaker Nissan's chief executive, Makoto Uchida, is stepping down after the company reported dismal financial results and its merger talks with Honda collapsed.

Nissan Motor Corp. said in a statement Tuesday that Ivan Espinosa, who is now the company's chief planning officer, will take Uchida's place, effective April 1.

Espinosa, who joined Nissan in 2003, has spent much of his Nissan career in Mexico and Southeast Asia, overseeing product planning including the drive toward electric vehicles, meaning he's an insider perhaps less willing to take drastic action.

"I sincerely believe that Nissan has so much more potential than what we're seeing today," Espinosa told reporters, while stressing that he needs time to come up with details for a turnaround.

He stressed his love for Nissan, noting he has developed a deep understanding of what makes the company unique and valuable.

Nissan said the company leadership needed to be "renewed" to achieve long-term growth. Uchida, who remains as a director, expressed confidence in Espinosa as "a real car guy" and stressed he was handing over the baton of leadership to better unify company ranks.

"I am confident that Nissan will definitely make a comeback," he said, appearing at the hastily called news conference with Espinosa.

Speculation about Uchida's future was rife after he called off talks last month with Japanese rival Honda Motor Co., announced late last year, to set up a joint holding company to integrate their businesses. At the time, he told reporters the focus of the talks had changed to making Nissan into a Honda subsidiary, which he denounced as unacceptable.

He also said their strategic partnership to realize synergies on specific projects like electric vehicles and other research will continue.

Nissan is projecting a loss of \$540 million for the full fiscal year through the end of this month.

When asked about talks with Honda and other possible partnerships, Espinosa declined comment, saying he needed more time.



Uchida: "I am confident that Nissan will definitely make a comeback."

eTRIB

Attention, readers: Because of Money & Market changes being made at the Associated Press, the weekly market roundup of stocks and mutual funds has been discontinued until further notice. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Ask the Fool

What Are 'Tech Stocks'?

Q What, exactly, are "tech stocks"? — *H.B., Hickory, North Carolina*

A There's no single definition, but in general, they're stocks tied to companies that are technology-oriented. They may include software companies, computer hardware manufacturers, semiconductor specialists, smartphone makers, wireless telecommunications businesses, streaming services, cloud computing providers and more.

It's worth noting, though, that these days, many companies not considered tech stocks also employ (and are often dependent on) technology. Brokerages, for example, conduct much of their business via online platforms. Pharmaceutical companies rely on technology to help them track and manage the clinical trials of their drugs in development. Some restaurants have begun employing robotic servers, while some retailers have robots working in warehouses. Some farmers are using artificial intelligence (AI) technology to help them make planting and other decisions. And some homebuilders are 3D-printing homes.

These days, technology is everywhere.

Q How are stockbrokers paid? — *K.G., Erie, Pennsylvania*

A If you're referring to people through whom you might buy or sell stock, or someone who might call you and try to sell you an investment, their compensation can include a salary, commissions on sales of investments, incentive bonuses and advisory fees. Much depends on their employer. According to Indeed.com, the average base salary of a U.S. broker was recently \$69,376, with salaries ranging between \$30,977 and \$155,276.

If you were wondering instead about brokerages, here's the scoop: They used to make a lot by charging trading commissions, but many now charge \$0 for that. Instead, they now rake in money via interest on margin loans and fees for asset management and other services.

Want more information about stocks? Send us an email to foolnews@fool.com.



The Motley Fool

To Educate, Amuse & Enrich™

Motley Fool Goes Mobile!



Get investing advice and information on the go, now FREE on Android and iPhone.

Fool's School

Annuities for Retirement Income

Having regular, dependable pension income to look forward to certainly sounds good, but while most workers had pensions decades ago, 401(k)s have now become far more prevalent, and pensions are relatively rare outside of the public sector.

If you're one of those don't have a pension, you might still be able to set up fairly reliable pensionlike retirement income via fixed immediate annuities. (There are other kinds of annuities, such as variable and indexed, but those are more complex and can be problematic. Research them deeply before buying.)

With a fixed immediate annuity, you pay an insurance company a significant sum, and it promises to send you regular payments for a set period — or for the rest of your life. By paying more money, or accepting smaller payments, you may be able to include features such as inflation adjustments, or payments that will continue for the duration of your spouse's life, too. There are even

some hybrid annuities that offer long-term care payments if you need them.

In the recent interest rate environment, a 65-year-old man might be quoted monthly \$648 payments (that's about \$7,800 a year) for the rest of his life for \$100,000. A 65-year-old woman might be quoted \$625 per month (\$7,500 annually); women generally get smaller payouts because they tend to live longer. A 70-year-old couple might get \$1,211 each month for \$200,000 (about \$14,500 over a year).

If you buy your annuities when interest rates are higher, you'll be offered more income — and interest rates these days are higher than they were a few years ago. If you expect them to drop soon, perhaps look into annuities sooner rather than later. You can get bigger payments if you buy when you're older, or if you choose a fixed deferred annuity (one that starts paying in the future).

Be sure to buy only from insurers with high credit ratings because the annuity payments are guaranteed only as long as the company is in business. (You might prefer to split your purchase among several strong insurers.)

My Smartest Investment

Tasers and Bodycams

My smartest investment was buying shares of Axon Enterprise four years ago at \$81 per share. I bought because I'd seen Axon's Tasers in use online, and because of their police-worn bodycams, for which they charge ongoing subscription fees for video storage, retrieval and so on. In the current environment, police support and spending on the latest technology could be poised to grow. My shares were recently trading at over \$500 apiece — an incredible increase — with, I believe, more to come. (The gain made a nice offset for some bad buys.) — *E.T., San Diego*

The Fool Responds: Axon has indeed been an impressive performer, averaging annual gains of more than 30% over the past 10 and 15 years. You're right that the new administration might deliver helpful tailwinds to Axon — but remember that it also might not.

In addition, Axon's stock recently looked overvalued, with a price-to-sales ratio near 20, well above its five-year average of around 12. It could still serve long-term investors well, but the stock might pull back to a lower valuation for a while.

You were smart to appreciate how big winners can offset losses in a portfolio. You can offset gains with losses on your tax return, too, if you sell shares of both winners and losers.

(Do you have a smart or regrettable investment move to share with us? Email it to TMFShare@fool.com.)

The Motley Fool Take

An Energetic Investment

The S&P 500 index was recently up 14% in total returns over the past year, while the utilities sector had surged 25% as domestic electricity demand reached a record high in 2024. JPMorgan Chase strategists estimate electricity demand will more than triple in the next few years compared to the previous decade, so consider investing in the Vanguard Utilities ETF (ticker: VPU).

The Vanguard Utilities ETF encompasses 69 U.S. utilities companies. Its recent top five holdings by weighting were NextEra Energy, Constellation Energy, Southern Company, Duke Energy and Vistra.

Artificial intelligence (AI) consumes a tremendous amount of power, especially while developing and training each model. Adoption of electric vehicles and increased domestic manufacturing should also contribute to demand for electricity.

Utility companies are often legal monopolies that generate consistent but slow-growing earnings; as a result, the utilities sector has often underperformed the S&P 500. But they are typically seen as defensive investments because they provide essential services, which means they're somewhat resistant to recessions. (JPMorgan Chase is an advertising partner of Motley Fool Money. The Motley Fool owns shares of and recommends Goldman Sachs Group, JPMorgan Chase and NextEra Energy. It recommends Constellation Energy and Duke Energy.)

LAST WEEK'S TRIVIA ANSWER

I trace my roots back to 1904, when two fellows who made cars in England joined forces to build four models. (One of them had broken the land speed record in 1903.) The new cars were big successes, and a venerable brand was born. An early iconic model was my Silver Ghost, and I still sell Ghosts today — for north of \$350,000 apiece. My hood ornament, the "Spirit of Ecstasy," was registered in 1911. I'm also a major supplier of business aircraft engines, and I make advanced combat systems and nuclear power plants. Who am I? (Answer: Rolls-Royce)



Want to Invest? Email us at foolnews@fool.com, and we'll send you some tips to start investing. Sorry, we can't provide individual financial advice.

Name That Company

I trace my roots back to two Kansas City brothers who started offering tax preparation services to their business clients in 1955 and discovered a great demand for it. After expanding to New York City, I began franchising in 1956. I bought CompuServe in 1980, which helped me use computers for tax preparation. (I helped the IRS test its e-filing technology, too.) Today I also offer bookkeeping, payroll, payment processing and advisory solutions for small businesses, among other services; I rake in more than \$3.5 billion annually. I've prepared more than 800 million tax returns so far. Who am I?

Think you know the answer? We'll announce it in next week's edition.

The Tribune-Review publishes only those real estate transactions valued at \$125,000 or more. Real Estate Transactions provided by RealSTATS, 1911 E. Carson St., Pittsburgh, PA 15203; 412-381-3880.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

PITTSBURGH 4TH WARD

• Estate of Soon Ja Hong to Guo Wang I LLC at 320 Atwood St. for \$629,000.

5TH WARD

• Julie Solomon to Elisabeth Belmont at 3214 Dobson St. for \$469,000.

7TH WARD

• Rebecca Peluso to Kimberly Rapso at Unknown Address for \$280,000.

8TH WARD

• Thomas Eldredge Critchfield to Jesse Gordon and Winfred Taylor Frazier at 455 Pearl St. for \$352,090.

9TH WARD

• Lisa Persichetti trustee to David Rohrich at 424 S Winebiddle St. for \$155,000.

10TH WARD

• Christine Rauscher to Westin Bantz and Wenxue Yi at 360 42nd St. for \$410,000.

11TH WARD

• Christopher Geihlsler to Samuel Levrich at 4933 Hatfield St. for \$565,500.

12TH WARD

• Pittsburgh SFR Portfolio 3E LLC to Life Reilly Properties LLC at 5118 Butler St. for \$385,000.

13TH WARD

• Charles Christie to Tyler Dean Wilson at 5259 Carnegie St. for \$309,000.

14TH WARD

• Custom Lux Homes LLC to Alexander Gregory and Jessica Fay Roegiers at 1715 Morningside Ave. for \$370,000.

15TH WARD

• Charles Lukehart to Michael Diaz and Nino Testa at 1382 Woodbine St. for \$309,000.

16TH WARD

• Domenico Costa to Alejandro Lince and Stephanie Broff at 5563 Hampton St. for \$1,200,000.

17TH WARD

• Kimberly Musial to ZKH Rentals LLC at 5491 Penn Ave. Unit B101 for \$300,000.

18TH WARD

• Pittsburgh Urb Leadership Service Experi to Noah Bate and Seana Brown at 5615 Stanton Ave. for \$300,000.

19TH WARD

• Rocco Oliver Palmieri to Good Neighbor Properties LLC at 4302 Bristol St. for \$220,000.

20TH WARD

• Bear & Beetle Properties LLC to R & Z Enterprise Inc. at 1221 E Carson St. for \$485,000.

21ST WARD

• Kevin Michael O'Laughlin to Nathan Humphreys Lucas at 96 Pius St. for \$200,000.

22ND WARD

• Matthew Cooper to Sally Steranko at 1010 Fordham Ave. for \$175,000.

23RD WARD

• Daniel Arthur Shanahan to Nathan Tunell at 630 Linda Drive for \$254,000.

24TH WARD

• Charles Oneill Jr. to Robert Jamison Hillard III and Alison Mary Hillard at 1621 Princess Ave. for \$135,125.

25TH WARD

• Estate of Mary Wallace to 542 Brookline Blvd L.P. at 2520 Wedgemere St. for \$130,000.

26TH WARD

• Sharon Glass to Jake Carson Dabkowski and Maggie Rose English at 2734 Louisiana Ave. for \$235,000.

27TH WARD

• Craig Mahouski to Mitchell King and Ally Lounder at 2367 Perricrest Drive for \$260,000.

28TH WARD

• Christopher McDevitt to Stephen Parker and Becky Hwang at 428 Lockhart St. for \$309,000.

29TH WARD

• David Dale Decking to Jesse White at 3912 Franklin Road for \$165,000.

30TH WARD

• Sreyser Rose Sam to Dawn Mondock at 1460 Perrysville Ave. for \$162,500.

31ST WARD

• Thomas Donaldson to Casey Derigoi and Desirae Madison at 3941 Brandon Road for \$250,000.

32ND WARD

• Sherry Clarke to Joseph and Ashley Moen at 908 Davis Ave. for \$210,000.

33RD WARD

• Banyan Tree Holdings LLC to Alexis Avella at 1032 Grand Ave. for \$222,000.

34TH WARD

• Olurun LLC to Where To Turn Invests LLC at 3184 McClure Ave. for \$130,000.

BALDWIN BOROUGH

• Jason Scheer to Carl and Megan Bennett at 682 Elaine Drive for \$235,000.

GLASSBORO

• Josh Saunders to Donald John Argyle III at 942 Elm St. for \$170,000.

HAMPTON

• Windmont Farms LLC to Maronda Homes LLC at 2730 Marra Drive for \$250,000.

HARRISON

• Olivier Patrick Henrichot to Juergen Kloof and Samantha Stanzione at 198 Camp Meeting Road Ext. for \$1,392,500.

BETHEL PARK

• William Young to William and Alyssa Fife at 2651 Bethel Crest Drive for \$369,000.

BRENTWOOD

• Harry Powell to Troy Spindler and Victoria Spindler Fox at 148 E Francis Ave. for \$214,900.

BRIDGEVILLE

• AASMIN LLC to Robert and Donna Esswein at 802 Mill St. for \$222,000.

CARNEGIE

• David McMullen to Elisa Waite and Alexis Szablowski at 416 Second Ave. for \$189,900.

CLIFF

• John Hart Jr. to Mary Conwell at 3061 Annandale Drive for \$591,250.

CORAOPOLIS

• Kiwi Properties LLC to Usetlon Enterprises LLC at 1402 Fourth Ave. for \$470,000.

CRANFORD

• Erich Schmidt to Ohmi Real Estate Holding LLC at 618 Ferree St. for \$133,000.

CRAWFORD

• Joseph Mulac to Bryan Donald and Michele Easter at 126 Hershey Drive for \$160,000.

MILLVALE

• Three Rivers Realty Inc. to Shannon Morgan Roche at 1122 North Ave. for \$213,500.

MURKIN

• Houston Hunt to Atikara Inc. at 208 Shoup St. for \$275,000.

MONROEVILLE

• Yvonne Morrison to Joseph Vincent Jabeir and Christina Anne Lauer at 1372 Hillsdale Drive for \$299,000.

MCKEES ROCKS

• Robert Kuhn to Hartlife LLC at 1020 Second St. for \$390,625.

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NORTH VERSAILLES

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• Robert Kuhn to Hartlife LLC at 1020 Second St. for \$390,625.

MCKEESPORT

• Joseph Mulac to Bryan Donald and Michele Easter at 126 Hershey Drive for \$160,000.

MILLVALE

• Three Rivers Realty Inc. to Shannon Morgan Roche at 1122 North Ave. for \$213,500.

MURKIN

• Houston Hunt to Atikara Inc. at 208 Shoup St. for \$275,000.

MONROEVILLE

• Yvonne Morrison to Joseph Vincent Jabeir and Christina Anne Lauer at 1372 Hillsdale Drive for \$299,000.

MCKEES ROCKS

• Robert Kuhn to Hartlife LLC at 1020 Second St. for \$390,625.

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MILLVALE

• Three Rivers Realty Inc. to Shannon Morgan Roche at 1122 North Ave. for \$213,500.

NORTH VERSAILLES

• Pat D'Abruzzo to Jenrola Adevole at 1206-1208 Center Ave. for \$226,500.

GLASSBORO

• Josh Saunders to Donald John Argyle III at 942 Elm St. for \$170,000.

HAMPTON

• Windmont Farms LLC to Maronda Homes LLC at 2730 Marra Drive for \$250,000.

HARRISON

• Olivier Patrick Henrichot to Juergen Kloof and Samantha Stanzione at 198 Camp Meeting Road Ext. for \$1,392,500.

BETHEL PARK

• William Young to William and Alyssa Fife at 2651 Bethel Crest Drive for \$369,000.

BRENTWOOD

• Harry Powell to Troy Spindler and Victoria Spindler Fox at 148 E Francis Ave. for \$214,900.

BRIDGEVILLE

• AASMIN LLC to Robert and Donna Esswein at 802 Mill St. for \$222,000.

CARNEGIE

• David McMullen to Elisa Waite and Alexis Szablowski at 416 Second Ave. for \$189,900.

CLIFF

• John Hart Jr. to Mary Conwell at 3061 Annandale Drive for \$591,250.

CORAOPOLIS

• Kiwi Properties LLC to Usetlon Enterprises LLC at 1402 Fourth Ave. for \$470,000.

CRANFORD

• Erich Schmidt to Ohmi Real Estate Holding LLC at 618 Ferree St. for \$133,000.

CRAWFORD

• Joseph Mulac to Bryan Donald and Michele Easter at 126 Hershey Drive for \$160,000.

MILLVALE

• Three

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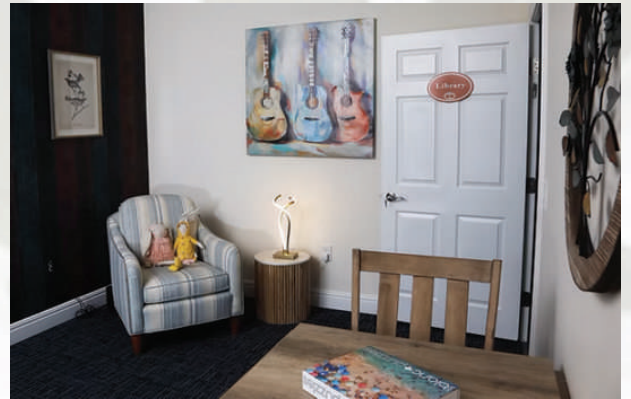
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PA Department of Education's Proposed Grant Application under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for FFY 2025



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Education

Director of Education at Ligonier Valley School District

The Director of Education is responsible for leading the district's educational initiatives, ensuring compliance with federal and state regulations, federal programs, managing Title IX policies and practices, and overseeing the development and administration of grants.

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General

Operations Manager Position

Unity Township Municipal Authority (UTMA) has an immediate opening for a full-time Operations Manager. UTMA is seeking an experienced manager with a minimum of 10 years of relevant management background including supervision of union and non-union personnel.

legals

Bid Notice

Bid Notice

The Board of School Directors of the Gateway School district is requesting sealed bids until 1:30pm, prevailing time, Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at the Administration Offices, 9000 Gateway Campus Blvd., Monroeville, PA 15146-3377 in the areas of SUPPLIES: 1. PAPER.

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General

Operations Manager Position

UTMA is seeking an experienced manager with a minimum of 10 years of relevant management background including supervision of union and non-union personnel, scheduling, strong verbal and written communication skills, ability to professionally interact with the UTMA Board, Professional Staff, Regulatory Personnel, Adjoining Municipal Managers and all other Personnel and the public.

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Bid Notice

PA Department of Education's Proposed Grant Application under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for FFY 2025

Public comment is invited regarding the Pennsylvania Department of Education's (PDE) proposed grant application under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA-B) for FFY 2025. The annual grant application provides, in part, assurance consistent with the federal requirements to ensure that a free appropriate public education is made available to all children with a disability from age 3 through 21, including children who have been suspended or expelled from school.

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DRY TAVERN - RICES LANDING 1163 Crucible Road Spacious grand 3bd-2bath-close to 79 & 43 farmhouse-style large yard Spacious main floor-remodeled kitchen-french doors-new roof Maryann Giovannelli 724-929-7228 MLS#1666428 \$176,000

CONNELLSVILLE 1300 Sycamore Street Beautiful brick 2-story, 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath - Spacious rooms. Corner lot. Finished gameroom area. Great location. Southside of Conneltsville. Zach Blackstone 724-797-9090 MLS#1679901 \$184,500

JEANNETTE 503 Maple St 2BR stone Ranch in beautiful neighborhood! All nwr mechanicals, lg EIK, HW flrs, pvt porch, wooden deck, grg. DIR: Rt30W, R Lewis, R Hickory, L Ohio, R Maple. Janice Smarto/Nathan Ross 724-838-3660 x5630 MLS#1684855 \$199,000

HEMPFIELD 552 Hemlock Street 4BR, 2-1/2BA 2 sty! Beautiful new kit & BA, 1st flr FR w/FP, cov porch, fin bsmt, 2 car grg, & 2 car det grg. DIR: Rt 30, L 130, R Hickory, L Jeffrey R Hemlock Jamil Hudson/Kathy DiCesare 724-838-3660 x1916 MLS#1690280 \$299,900

DERRY TWP. 1116 Route 217 3BR, 2-1/2BA brick split! Open LR, DR & kit area, rear deck, FR w/FP, sunroom, 2 car int grg & 38x26 det grg on .83 Acres. DIR: Rt 30E, L Rt 217N on R. Robert Keslar 724-838-3660 x5635 MLS#1682195 \$315,000

BEAR ROCKS 240 Birch Rd CHARMING 4BR Home on 2.4 acres. Updated & ready to move in. Remodeled kit, mstr suite w/balcony, Lg LR & FR & more. DIR: Rt31E, R Snowshoe, R Walnut, R Birch. Lori Syster 724-593-6195 x3212 MLS#1691274 \$319,000

HEMPFIELD 607 Buckingham Drive Stunning 4BR, 2-1/2BA Multi! FR w/FP, screened in porch, lvt yard, 2 car grg. DIR: Rt30W to Gbg/Mt Pls ex, L Mt Pls Rd, L Westland, to St Thomas, L Buckingham. Marilyn Davis 724-838-3660 x5632 MLS#1691347 \$329,000

HEMPFIELD 324 McCabe Dr BACK ON MARKET! Ready for you! 5/6 BR's, 4 full BA brk Ranch, Updated kit, LR w/FP, 4 Season room, GR w/wetbar & FP, workshop, 2 car grg. DIR: Rt 66N, L McCabe. Rebecca Parry 724-838-3660 x5639 MLS#1687455 \$359,000

PENN TWP. 1006 Sweetgum Ct Elegant 4BR, 2-1/2BA Carriage style in Village on Kistler Ridge! FR, 3 Season rm, patio, 2 car det grg. DIR:130 to L/R Chestnut, L Crabapple, L Sweetgum. Marilyn Davis 724-838-3660 x5632 MLS#1685583 \$589,900

GREENSBURG 718 Curtis Rd Stunning 4BR, 3-1/2BA brk on pvt wooded 1.03 Acres in Rose Fountain Farm! LR w/brk wall FP, 2 car grg. DIR: N on Main, R Kenneth, L Maple, R Sycamore. L Curtis Scott Ludwig 724-838-3660 x5637 MLS#1690740 \$650,000

LUXURY HOMES HEMPFIELD Sprawling five bedroom, 3-1/2 bath Ranch on 9.3 parklike acres! Livingroom and family room with fireplace and wet bar, huge GR, eat-in kitchen, rear patio, heated pool, 2 car garage. Call Scott Ludwig for more details at 724-838-3660 x5637 MLS#1685699 \$750,000

HEMPFIELD Stunning 4BR, 2-1/2BA multi! FR w/FP, HW flrs, 1st flr laundry, remodeled kit, inground pool enclosed by fence, 2 car grg. Marilyn Davis 724-838-3660 x5632 MLS#1685406 \$385,000

HEMPFIELD 324 McCabe Dr BACK ON MARKET! Ready for you! 5/6 BR's, 4 full BA brk Ranch, Updated kit, LR w/FP, 4 Season room, GR w/wetbar & FP, workshop, 2 car grg. DIR: Rt 66N, L McCabe. Rebecca Parry 724-838-3660 x5639 MLS#1687455 \$359,000

UNITY TOWNSHIP Three bedroom, 2-1/2BA Townhome in Unity Square! 1st flr LR, DR w/crown molding, FR w/FP & EIK, LL GR/den, 1 car grg. Yaley/Wetzel-Felice 724-838-3660 x5643/5663 MLS#1684176 \$226,500

PRICE REDUCTIONS PENN TOWNSHIP Totally renovated 2BR, 2BA Ranch, GR w/FP & bar, beautiful new kit & BA's, oversized 2 car det grg w/heat, water & electric. Janice Smarto 724-838-3660 x5630 MLS#1682130 \$245,000

HEMPFIELD 324 McCabe Dr BACK ON MARKET! Ready for you! 5/6 BR's, 4 full BA brk Ranch, Updated kit, LR w/FP, 4 Season room, GR w/wetbar & FP, workshop, 2 car grg. DIR: Rt 66N, L McCabe. Rebecca Parry 724-838-3660 x5639 MLS#1687455 \$359,000

UNITY TOWNSHIP Five bedroom, 4-1/2 bath 2-story on 16 private acres! Enormous Master ste, fully equip eat-in kitchen, lower level with 2nd kitchen, BR, BA & GR, inground pool, patio, 2 car garage. Marilyn Davis 724-838-3660 x5632 MLS#1670670 \$990,000

UNITY TOWNSHIP 4BR, 2 full & 2 half BA 2 sty on 1.02 Ac in Lago De Vita! Dbl decks, LR w/FP, EIK, 2 car grg. Janice Smarto 724-838-3660 x5630/5677 MLS#1673578 \$399,900

3 KIDS. 1 BATHROOM? Maybe it's time to make a move. #GoodToAsk

NEW LISTINGS HEMPFIELD Charming 2 BR, 2 full BA raised ranch, EIK, den or 3rd BR, FR, Commercial size 2 bay grg, cov porch & patio, on over half an acre. Marilyn Davis 724-838-3660 x5632 MLS#1688571 \$350,000

UNITY TOWNSHIP Three bedroom, 2-1/2BA Townhome in Unity Square! 1st flr LR, DR w/crown molding, FR w/FP & EIK, LL GR/den, 1 car grg. Yaley/Wetzel-Felice 724-838-3660 x5643/5663 MLS#1684176 \$226,500

3 KIDS. 1 BATHROOM? Maybe it's time to make a move. #GoodToAsk

NEW LISTINGS HEMPFIELD Charming 2 BR, 2 full BA raised ranch, EIK, den or 3rd BR, FR, Commercial size 2 bay grg, cov porch & patio, on over half an acre. Marilyn Davis 724-838-3660 x5632 MLS#1688571 \$350,000

UNITY TOWNSHIP 4BR, 2 full & 2 half BA 2 sty on 1.02 Ac in Lago De Vita! Dbl decks, LR w/FP, EIK, 2 car grg. Janice Smarto 724-838-3660 x5630/5677 MLS#1673578 \$399,900

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359 Pershing Dr, New Kensington
3BR, 2.5 bath home. LR, DR, kitchen and FR. Full basement. Enclosed front porch and detached grge.
\$214,900 MLS#1667944
Diane 724.205.1823

New Listing!



Lower Burrell
3BR, 2 bath ranch home. Spacious LR w/fireplace, DR, and kitchen. Finished game rm. Large, fenced back yard. 1 car grge.
\$255,000 MLS#1691239
Sandy 724.882.2050

Westmoreland West Association Board Top Agents



Congratulations!

Congratulations to these wonderful agents. This group was recognized at the Westmoreland West Association of Realtors annual banquet as top agents in their production categories. As always, they have demonstrated exceptional dedication, hard work, and outstanding service.

PHOTO CAPTION: From left to right: Kim Reynolds, Sandy Johnson, Patti Garrigan, Nicole Edwards and Lori Weig-Tamsey. Not pictured: Diane Wolford, Nancy Helsel, and Carol Upanot

Featured Home!



Allegheny Twp
4BR, 2.5 bath home on .60 acres. Eat in kitchen, sunrm, and DR. Finished game rm in LL. Nice back yard. 2 car grge.
\$265,000 MLS#1688651
Kim 724.448.2583

Featured Home!



New Kensington
3BR, 1.5 bath home. Updated eat in kitchen. Huge LR w/ fireplace and nice sized DR. Back yard w/patio. 2 car grge.
\$239,900 MLS#1682553
Rick 724.321.5698

Featured Home!



Springdale Boro
3BR, 2 bath home. Kitchen, LR w/fireplace and DR. Huge addition. Back deck. 1 car grge.
\$230,000 MLS#1682476
Bridget 724.448.9645

Featured Property! Commercial



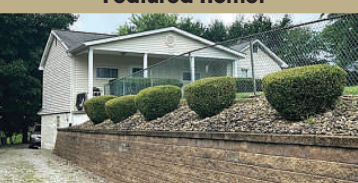
East Deer
Great visibility. 3 bay grge w/reception and office area. Additional metal 2 story bldg. Metal roof. Very well maintained.
\$219,900 MLS#1680954
Patti 724.980.0730

Featured Home!



Washington Twp
3BR, 2 bath home on .89 acres. Spacious LR and 2 main fl bedrooms. Nice kitchen and DR. Detached 2 car grge.
\$199,000 MLS#1687128
Nancy 724.681.3560

Featured Home!



Lower Burrell
2BR, 2 bath ranch home on .58 acres. Equipped kitchen, formal DR and LR. Updated bath. Lg covered front porch and grge.
\$169,900 MLS#1682908
Janet 412.607.4700

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Rebecca Rubie* 724-972-3488
Carolyn Barr 724-261-9260
Sara Cowan 724-261-7872
Lynne Kendrich - Assoc Broker/ Branch Manager

<p>SCOTSDALE \$165,000</p>  <p>1680902. Sprawling 3-bedroom brick ranch situated on a corner lot. This great one story provides loads of living space and storage options. In addition to 3 bedrooms the home includes 1 full bath adjoining the main bedroom, 2 half baths, a gas fireplace, main floor laundry, rear landscaped patio, and a covered front porch with a view of the surrounding area. The lower level offers workspace and options for a suite, studio or a family room. Parking is provided in the integral garage and at the rear of the property.</p> <p>REDUCED</p>	<p>MONESSEN \$75,000</p>  <p>1657114. Beautifully remodeled home with numerous updates, including new carpet and striking floors thru out home, master bath, kitchen, gorgeous landscaping, etc. Lovely large living, stunning dining room with built in China cabinet and mantle, generously proportioned kitchen, conveniently located laundry room on main floor, just a wonderful home.</p>
<p>SCOTSDALE \$189,000</p>  <p>1674037. This 3-bedroom 1 and 1/2 bath home offers spacious rooms throughout. The first level includes a sunporch off the side entry, a living room, formal dining room, 1/2 bath and a beautiful fully equipped eat-in kitchen with an abundance of workspace and storage options. An open staircase leads to the second level that has 3 bedrooms, a full bath, multiple closets and a walk-out attic. A covered rear porch/patio is equipped with electric and an overhead fan for warm summer nights. The 221 ft deep lot includes a detached garage and workshop and plenty of space for gardening and outdoor activities.</p>	<p>MT PLEASANT TWP \$269,900</p>  <p>1686837. Awesome home in wonderful Century Farms on cul-de-sac location. Many incredible updates thru out including beautiful hardwood floors, stunning newer full bathrooms. Large living room, fabulous dining room, adorable generously proportioned kitchen with island, fantastic family room for movie or game night, spacious bedrooms sizes with magnificent master bedroom suite, deep walk-in closets, spectacular fenced in backyard that is very unique.</p>
<p>DERRY BORO. \$120,000</p>  <p>1682615. Wonderful home is great move in condition, large lovely living room, nice generously proportioned kitchen, stunning hardwood floors thru out home, cute bedrooms, adorable spacious backyard, fantastic covered front porch for taking easy as well.</p>	<p>MASONTOWN \$39,900</p>  <p>1670741. Great moneymaking property in the heart of Masontown, side by side duplex, close to downtown area, shopping, parks, etc.</p>
<p>SCOTSDALE \$154,000</p>  <p>1674386. Two story, 3-bedroom, 2 bath home! A concrete driveway, detached garage and fenced rear lot leads to a cozy covered porch layered with a nature stone style floor. The home has a large equipped eat in kitchen, living room dining room, full bath and laundry on the main level and 3 bedrooms and a full bath on the second level. Updated roof, windows, furnace and hot water tank. Short drive to shopping, major roadways and the Laurel mountains. Shown by appointment.</p>	

MARMADUKE

BY BRAD & PAUL ANDERSON

Bid Notice

FORM OF ADVERTISEMENT
Milling of City Streets

Separate sealed proposals will be received by the City of Greensburg, Westmoreland County, at 416 South Main Street, Greensburg, PA 15601 until 10:00 a.m. Thursday, April 10, 2025, to be acted upon at the regularly scheduled City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 14, 2025, for the following:

Contract A Milling of City Streets-21,849 Sq. Yds. Milling (Depth 0"-3") Various Lengths and Widths (Peoples)

Contract B Milling of City Streets-10,527 Sq. Yds. Milling (Depth 0"-3") Various Lengths and Widths (Liquid Fuels)

Contract C Milling of City Streets-1,469 Sq. Yds. Milling (Depth 0"-3") Various Lengths and Widths (General Fund)

Liquidated damages apply at the rate of \$870 per calendar day. Prevailing wage rates do apply to bid. Proposals must be submitted on the forms furnished by the City of Greensburg. Said forms may be requested via email: administration@greensburgpa.org. The bid must be labeled **Contract A, Contract B, or Contract C** and be accompanied by a **certified check or bid bond in the amount of 10% of the bid** made payable to the City of Greensburg. A performance bond or certified check in the amount of 100% of the contract shall be furnished by the successful bidder within 20 days after the contract is awarded. Bids shall remain firm for a period of 90 days. The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

City of Greensburg
Kelsye Hantz

City Administrator
Zachary Kansler
City Solicitor
367484 (3/8, 3/16)

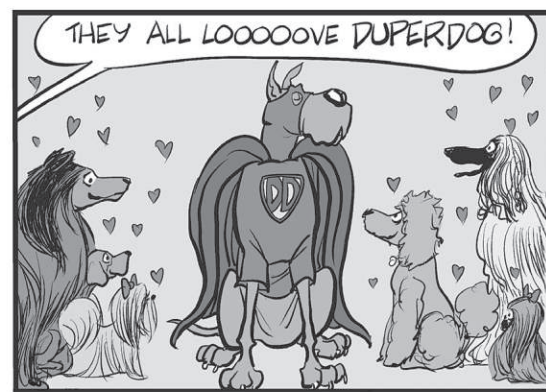
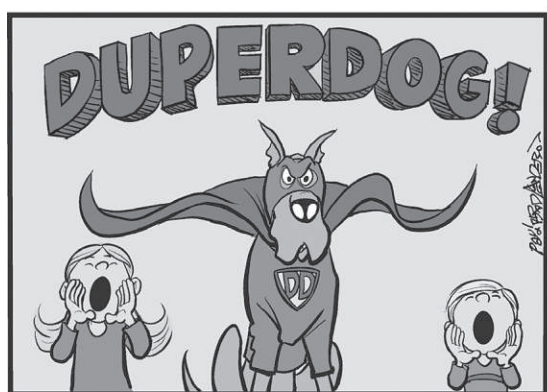
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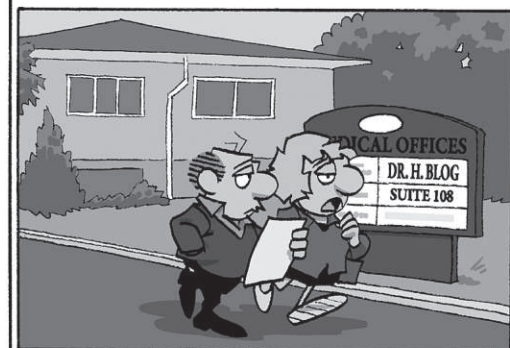
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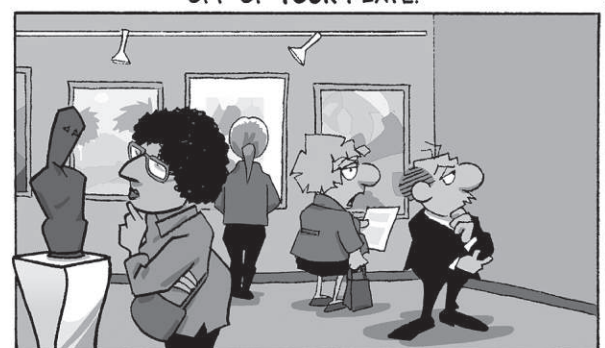
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Commercial Real Estate



Berkshire Hathaway's Women Realtors would like to recognize Women's History Month.

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 Marcia Dolan Realtor/Associate Broker	 Carolyn Domasky Realtor/Associate Broker/ Topper & Domasky Team	 Amy Fauth Realtor	 MaryLou Fitzgerald Realtor	 Lisa Galdo Realtor	 Heather Hauser Realtor	 Karen Henry Realtor	 Jami Hudson Realtor	 Beth Knizner Realtor	
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Government Notice

Notice is hereby given that the County Board of Elections will have its authorized agents conduct the Casting of Lots for the position of names upon the ballots and ballot labels for the May 20, 2025 Municipal Primary on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, beginning at 10:00 A.M. in the Westmoreland County Courthouse, Commissioners Public Meeting Room, 2 North Main Street, Greensburg, PA 15601.

All candidates may appear in person, or by an agent duly authorized by letter signed and acknowledged by an officer empowered to take acknowledgments. If a candidate cannot appear in person or by representative for the Casting of Lots, the County Board shall represent such absentee.

Commissioner Sean Kertes
Commissioner Douglas W. Chew
Commissioner Ted Kopas

Westmoreland County Board of Elections
366836(3/16)

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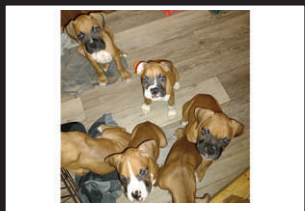
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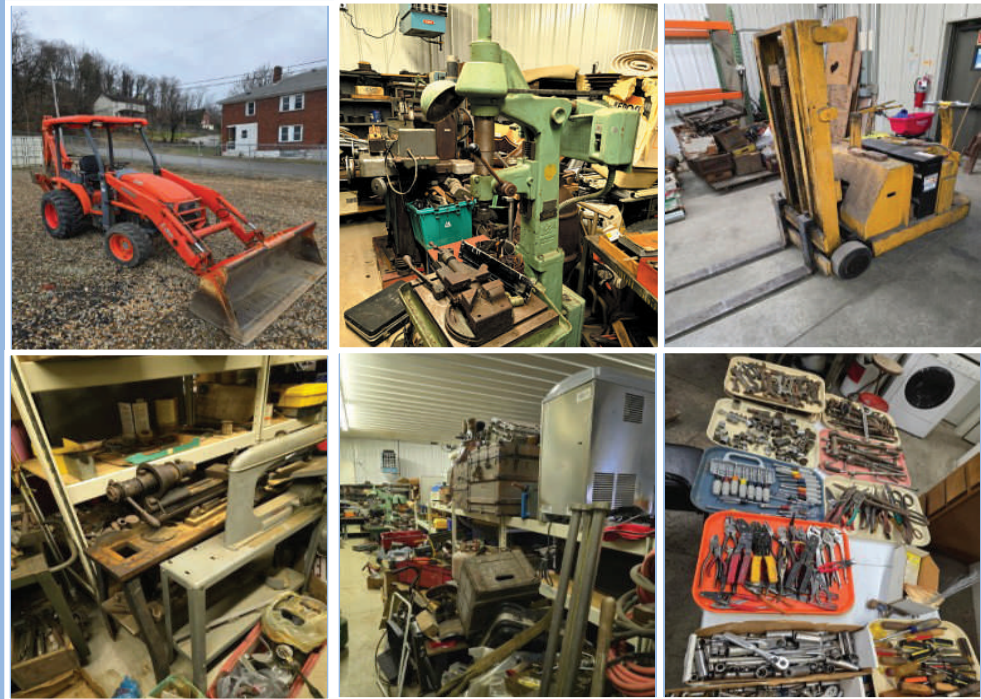
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PREMIER Crossword

By Frank A. Longo

MEAL REPLACEMENT ACROSS

14x14 crossword grid with black squares and numbers 1-122.

- 1 Unfortunate
8 Was filled to the very edge
15 Apple app replaced by Messages
20 Singer of the 2000 #1 hit "Try Again"
21 Decorated with leaves
22 Comeback to "Am not!"
23 Start of a riddle
26 Secretive U.S. gp.
27 "I.e.," spelled out
28 Pack animal
29 Nile birds
30 Like cold fish
32 Deputy
34 Sacha Baron Cohen persona
35 Riddle, part 2
43 "Miss Julie" composer Ned
44 Corp. VIP
45 U.S. tax org.
46 Towering
47 "I love," to Ovid
48 Abbr. on a meat stamp
51 Triumphs
53 Hand drum
54 Riddle, part 3
60 Extreme foolishness
61 "How awful!"
62 Soup holder
63 Surgical tubes
64 Actress Elaine
67 Pope from 1963 to 1978
72 Brick-hauling trough
74 "Sure, sure!"
75 Bar mitzvah age
77 Riddle, part 4
83 Tears into
84 Tiny complaints
85 "Tarzan" extras
86 Chi follower
87 The "A" of NBA: Abbr.
88 Feel sick
89 Do the slopes
91 Fibber's confession
93 End of the riddle
100 Actresses Ortiz and Gasteyer
101 Actor — Patrick Harris
102 Pungent bulb
103 "— U.S.A." (Beach Boys hit)
106 Briny deep
107 Many an open tourney
109 Puppy's bark
112 Riddle's answer
117 — wave
118 Comedown
119 Person finding something
120 Fruit pit

- 121 Chili-pepper powder
122 Twist together
DOWN
1 Goldie of "Housesitter"
2 Sauna sighs
3 Entreaty
4 Maya of architecture
5 Facial blinker
6 Glover of choreography
7 Strew with dog or cat fur
8 Fave pals
9 Tree's attachment system
10 Sick
11 Old emperor of Japan
12 Catholic services
13 SFO guesses
14 — Moines
15 — pentameter
16 University in Omaha
17 Chops down
18 Court great Arthur
19 Tot amusers
24 Mortgage deal, in brief
25 Bagpipers' garments
30 Bar drink
31 On the — (in hiding)
33 Actor Robert of "Quincy, M.E."
34 Lung cavity
35 Qom natives
36 Jiffy
37 Dancer and actress Juliet
38 Univ. sports org.
39 Bar drink
40 Zesty flavor
41 Gymnastics great Korbut
42 Tons
48 Alternative to Nytol or ZzzQuil
49 Matched collection
50 Alcohol abstainers
51 Was present at
52 — -Z (classic Camaro)
53 In base two
55 Former veep Quayle
56 Because
57 Magazine with a "400" list
58 Robber
59 Short putts
65 Color lightly
66 URL starter
68 Sporty truck, for short
69 Enter by jumping
70 Bible bits
71 Interior
73 Jeans
76 "— Haw"
77 Melt
78 Corned beef dish
79 Italian for "it"
80 Resident of the highest U.S. state capital
81 Full of grease
82 Train support
88 Yoga position
89 Fashion's Anna —
90 Co-star of "Harold & Kumar" films
91 Stock mkt. debut
92 "Mockery" star Chaney
94 Out of gear
95 Restless
96 Spiritualists' session
97 Edifice cover
98 Allow
99 San — (Hearst Castle site)
103 Makes a lap
104 Troop group
105 Work over
106 Mets' old stadium
108 Mechanical learning style
109 Fabled snow beast
110 Pressing tool
111 Funeral heap
113 Big U.S. health agcy.
114 Mil. VIP
115 Charade
116 Rural denial

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ANSWERS TO LAST WEEKS PUZZLE

Grid of crossword answers: ECLAT, MEDINA, JAMS, SAD, SHIR, RALOMAR, IMESSAGE, QUAKING, GASPEN, BIATHLON, URN, POMME, ERECT, OMNI, ELANTRA, QANTAS, AIRWAYS, AIM, LUNATE, EYE, QUICKACTING, AIRED, ALE, UHOH, RDS, LOEB, OPER, OUTOFGAS, QUARTER, AFTER, TRA, AOK, SUNTAN, ALF, HAS, QUEEN, ADELAIDE, IBM, MIDRIVALS, BOX, DRI, QATAR, ACAD, EMY, DONATION, BLEED, USER, HOO, INNS, SELECTEE, QUACK, ATTACK, ADO, TMINUS, WAH, QUADRUPLE, AXEL, ROBERTS, URSULA, CLEAR, ERIKA, AHA, IGOTT, THAT, QANDASESSION, TENEMENT, UMPIRE, CENSURE, ODE, IDES, EARNER, OWNER

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NEW 2025 RAM 1500 BIG HORN CREW CAB 4X4

STK#25C762
\$399 A MONTH / 36 MONTHS / 10K MILES/YR
 LEASE FOR
 OR SAVE OVER **\$10,000** OFF MSRP



ON IN STOCK UNITS ONLY. PRICE PLUS TAX, TAG AND FEES, \$5,000 CASH OR TRADE DUE AT SIGNING, WITH APPROVED CREDIT. MSRP \$57,170, TRI STAR DISCOUNT \$2,486, MILITARY DISCOUNT \$500, NATIONAL BONUS CASH \$1,500, TRUCK MONTH BONUS CASH \$1,000, NE STELLANTIS LEASE LOYALTY \$2,000, NATIONAL STELLANTIS LEASE LOYALTY \$2,000, FINAL PRICE \$47,684. ALL REBATES TO DEALER. OFFERS NOT IN CONJUNCTION.

NEW 2025 RAM 1500 TRADESMAN CREW CAB

STK#N668070
\$13,000 OFF MSRP
 SAVE OVER



ON IN STOCK UNITS ONLY. PRICE PLUS TAX, TAG AND FEES, MSRP \$33,945, NATIONAL LEASE LOYALTY \$2,000, TRI STAR DISCOUNT \$1,966, MILITARY DISCOUNT \$500, NATIONAL RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH \$4,000, NE STELLANTIS LEASE LOYALTY \$2,000, NE BC BONUS CASH \$500, NATIONAL BONUS CASH \$1,500, NATIONAL TRUCK MONTH BONUS CASH \$1,000, FINAL PRICE \$40,479. ALL REBATES TO DEALER. OFFERS NOT IN CONJUNCTION.

NEW 2025 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED

STK#25C781
\$388 A MONTH / 42 MONTHS / 10K MILES/YR
 LEASE FOR
 OR GET LEASE CASH SAVINGS OVER **\$5,700** OFF MSRP



ON IN STOCK UNITS ONLY. PRICE PLUS TAX, TAG AND FEES, \$4,200 CASH OR TRADE DUE AT SIGNING, WITH APPROVED CREDIT. MSRP \$52,935, TRI STAR DISCOUNT \$1,247, MILITARY DISCOUNT \$500, NE BC STELLANTIS BONUS CASH \$1,000, NE BC CONQUEST BONUS CASH \$3,000, FINAL PRICE \$47,188. ALL REBATES TO DEALER. OFFERS NOT IN CONJUNCTION.

NEW 2025 JEEP COMPASS LIMITED 4X4

STK#25C581
\$289 A MONTH / 42 MONTHS / 10K MILES/YR
 LEASE FOR JUST



ON IN STOCK UNITS ONLY. PRICE PLUS TAX, TAG AND FEES, \$4,200 CASH OR TRADE DUE AT SIGNING, WITH APPROVED CREDIT. MSRP \$34,435, MILITARY REBATE \$500, NE LEASE LOYALTY \$2,000, NATIONAL STELLANTIS LEASE LOYALTY \$1,500, FINAL PRICE \$30,435. ALL REBATES TO DEALER. OFFERS NOT IN CONJUNCTION.

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 LEASE FOR **\$299** /MO.
 36 MONTHS / 10,500 MILES/YEAR



\$4694 TOTAL DUE AT SIGNING, INCLUDES \$3000 CASH OR TRADE EQUITY. INCLUDES JEEP CONQUEST, PLUS TAX, TAG AND ACQUISITION FEE. MSRP \$35,995 LESS RETAIL CC \$750, TRI STAR DISCOUNT \$1,950, RETAIL CC \$1000, JEEP COMP CONQUEST \$32,000, FINAL PRICE \$30,995. OFFERS WITH APPROVED CREDIT. OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/25.

NEW 2024 FORD BRONCO BADLANDS 4-DOOR

STK#24F2366
 SAVE **\$13,500** OFF MSRP!
 LEASE FOR **\$499** /MO.
 36 MONTHS / 10,500 MILES/YEAR



\$5652 TOTAL DUE AT SIGNING, INCLUDES \$3749 DOWN, PLUS TAX, TAG AND ACQUISITION FEE. INCLUDES JEEP CONQUEST, BONUS CASH, 1ST PAYMENT. OFFERS WITH APPROVED CREDIT. MSRP \$68,700, LESS RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH \$3,000, TRI STAR DISCOUNT \$8,500, JEEP CONQUEST \$2,000, FINAL PRICE \$55,200. NO SECURITY DEPOSIT, REQUIRED. OFFERS WITH APPROVED CREDIT. OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/25.

NEW 2024 FORD ESCAPE ACTIVE AWD

STK#24F2124
 SAVE **\$6,000** OFF MSRP!
 LEASE FOR **\$299** /MO.
 36 MONTHS / 10,500 MILES/YEAR



\$2,000 CASH DOWN, PLUS TAX, TAG AND ACQUISITION FEE. INCLUDES JEEP/GM CONQUEST, TRADE ASSIST, 1ST PAYMENT, PLATES DUE AT SIGNING. OFFERS WITH APPROVED CREDIT. MSRP \$34,365, LESS RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH \$2,500, TRI STAR DISCOUNT \$1,500, JEEP CONQUEST \$2,000, FINAL PRICE \$28,865. NO SECURITY DEPOSIT, REQUIRED. OFFERS WITH APPROVED CREDIT. OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/25.

NEW 2024 FORD F150 XLT CREW CAB

STK#C24F1397
 LEASE FOR **\$399** /MO.
 36 MONTHS / 10,500 MILES/YEAR



\$675 TOTAL DUE AT SIGNING, INCLUDES \$4912 DOWN, INCLUDES BONUS CASH, RAM CONQUEST, TRUCK MONTH RETAIL BONUS CASH, PLUS TAX, TAG AND ACQUISITION FEE EXTRA. MSRP \$60,965, LESS RETAIL CC \$500, BC \$500, RAM CONQUEST \$52,000. OFFERS WITH APPROVED CREDIT. OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/25.

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*This is a combined offer. Make your best deal on a package price. See us for full details. Excludes fleet, commercial and municipal vehicles.

CAR WARS

TRI STAR IS COMPETING IN AN EPIC BATTLE TO SELL THE MOST VEHICLES THIS MARCH.



**NEW 2025 RAM
1500 BIG HORN
CREW CAB 4X4**
STK#25C762

**LEASE FOR
\$399 A MONTH
36 MONTHS
10K MILES/YR**
**OR SAVE OVER
\$10,000 OFF MSRP**



NEW 2025 RAM 1500 BIG HORN: ON IN STOCK UNITS ONLY. PRICE PLUS TAX, TAG AND FESS, \$5,000 CASH OR TRADE DUE AT SIGNING, WITH APPROVED CREDIT. MSRP \$57,170, TRI STAR DISCOUNT \$2,480, MILITARY DISCOUNT \$500, NATIONAL BONUS CASH \$1,500, TRUCK MONTH BONUS CASH \$1,000, NE STELLANTIS LEASE LOYALTY \$2,000, NATIONAL STELLANTIS LEASE LOYALTY \$2,000, FINAL PRICE \$47,684. ALL REBATES TO DEALER. OFFERS NOT IN CONJUNCTION.

**NEW 2024 JEEP
COMPASS
LATITUDE 4X4**
STK#24C940

**SAVE OVER
\$7,300
OFF MSRP**



NEW 2024 JEEP COMPASS LATITUDE 4X4: ON IN STOCK UNITS ONLY. PRICE PLUS TAX, TAG AND FESS, MSRP \$39,610, DISCOUNT \$811, MILITARY REBATE \$500, NATIONAL RETAIL CASH \$500, RETAIL BONUS CASH \$2,500, NATIONAL JEEP CELEBRATION CASH \$1,500, SF'S LEASE LOYALTY \$1,500, FINAL PRICE \$32,299. ALL REBATES TO DEALER. OFFERS NOT IN CONJUNCTION.

**NEW 2025 JEEP
COMPASS
LIMITED 4X4**
STK#25C81

**LEASE FOR JUST
\$289
A MONTH / 42 MONTHS
10K MILES/YR**



NEW 2025 JEEP COMPASS LIMITED 4X4: ON IN STOCK UNITS ONLY. PRICE PLUS TAX, TAG AND FESS, \$4,200 CASH OR TRADE DUE AT SIGNING, WITH APPROVED CREDIT. MSRP \$34,435, MILITARY REBATE \$500, NE LEASE LOYALTY \$2,000, NATIONAL STELLANTIS LEASE LOYALTY \$1,500, FINAL PRICE \$30,435. ALL REBATES TO DEALER. OFFERS NOT IN CONJUNCTION.

**NEW 2024 JEEP
WRANGLER 4
DOOR SPORT 4XE**
STK#24C543

**LEASE FOR
\$288 A MONTH
36 MONTHS
10K MILES/YR**
**OR GET LEASE CASH SAVINGS OVER
\$15,000 OFF MSRP**



NEW 2024 JEEP WRANGLER 4 DOOR SPORT 4XE: ON IN STOCK UNITS ONLY. PRICE PLUS TAX, TAG AND FESS, \$4,500 CASH OR TRADE DUE AT SIGNING, WITH APPROVED CREDIT. MSRP \$58,340, DISCOUNT \$4,194, MILITARY REBATE \$500, NATIONAL BONUS CASH \$2,500, NATIONAL JEEP CELEBRATION CASH \$500, FEDERAL TAX CREDIT \$7500, FINAL PRICE \$43,146. ALL REBATES TO DEALER. OFFERS NOT IN CONJUNCTION.

**NEW 2025 JEEP
GLADIATOR SPORT
4X4**
STK#24C959

**SAVE OVER
\$14,000
OFF MSRP**



NEW 2025 JEEP GLADIATOR SPORT 4X4: ON IN STOCK UNITS ONLY. PRICE PLUS TAX, TAG AND FESS, MSRP \$54,190, TRI STAR DISCOUNT \$5,594, MILITARY DISCOUNT \$500, 15% BELOW MSRP \$8128.50, FINAL PRICE \$39,967.50. ALL REBATES TO DEALER. OFFERS NOT IN CONJUNCTION.

**NEW 2025 JEEP
GRAND CHEROKEE
LIMITED**
STK#25C781

**LEASE FOR
\$388 A MONTH
42 MONTHS
10K MILES/YR**
**OR GET LEASE CASH SAVINGS OVER
\$5,700 OFF MSRP**

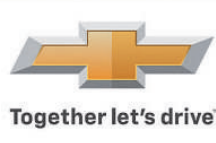


NEW 2025 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED: ON IN STOCK UNITS ONLY. PRICE PLUS TAX, TAG AND FESS, \$4,200 CASH OR TRADE DUE AT SIGNING, WITH APPROVED CREDIT. MSRP \$52,935, TRI STAR DISCOUNT \$1,247, MILITARY DISCOUNT \$500, NE BC STELLANTIS BONUS CASH \$1,000, NE BC CONQUEST BONUS CASH \$3,000, FINAL PRICE \$47,188. ALL REBATES TO DEALER. OFFERS NOT IN CONJUNCTION.

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Must present when order is written. Cannot be combined with other offers or previous purchases. See dealer for eligible vehicles and details. Expires 3/31/25.

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EQUINOX LT**

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\$31,540 EVERYONE QUALIFIES!**
TAX, TITLE AND PLATE/DOC FEE EXTRA.
**OR LEASE FOR
\$289 PER MONTH**



2025 EQUINOX MSRP \$31,995.00 (1 AVAILABLE) 10K MILES/YEAR @ \$289/MONTH FOR 24 MONTHS W/ \$6,750 CASH OR TRADE EQUITY DUE @ SIGNING. INCLUDES \$1,000 LEASE LOYALTY/CONQUEST LEASE IN HOUSEHOLD, 1ST PAYMENT, TAX, TITLE AND PLATE/DOC FEE EXTRA AND DUE @ SIGNING WITH APPROVED CREDIT. EXPIRES 03/31/2025

**NEW 2025 CHEVROLET
TRAX**

**BUY FOR ONLY
\$22,490**
**OR LEASE FOR
\$99 PER MONTH**



2025 TRAX LS MSRP \$22,490 (1 AVAILABLE) 10K MILES/YEAR @ \$99/MONTH FOR 24 MONTHS W/ \$6,750 CASH OR TRADE EQUITY DUE @ SIGNING. INCLUDES \$500 GM LEASE LOYALTY & LEASE CONQUEST, 1ST PAYMENT, TAX, TITLE AND PLATE/DOC FEE EXTRA AND DUE @ SIGNING WITH APPROVED CREDIT. EXPIRES 03/31/2025

**NEW 2024 CHEVROLET
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**SAVE
\$9,500
OFF OF MSRP**



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*This is a combined offer. Make your best deal on a package price. See us for full details. Excludes fleet, commercial and municipal vehicles.



Westmoreland Plus

LEADING ROLE Yough grad Bell helps Waynesburg baseball chase title **PAGE 6**

IN A BUBBLE

BOWLING EVENT AT WCCC PROVES TO BE A STRIKE — PAGE 3



Student Liam O'Connor of Murrysville climbed inside a giant bubble ball to attempt to knock over inflatable pins during Bubble Bowling at Westmoreland County Community College near Youngwood last week. The event was sponsored by the Campus Events Committee.

SEAN STIPP | TRIBLIVE



Above: Monica McNeil, owner of Mo Sweetz, a homemade bakery shop, sells her cupcakes at the Norwin Lions Club 10th annual Cubcake Wars at Norwin High School on March 9. McNeil was assisted by friends and coworkers Mary Angbanzon, Ada Weiss and Carter Pickering at the event. **Left:** Kande Lojas restocks cupcakes at the Spoonful of Sugar cupcake stand.

Norwin Lions Club hosts 10th annual 'Cubcake Wars'

Yearly event benefits food-insecure students

BY HALEY DAUGHERTY

Norwin High School cafeteria was transformed into a sugar lover's dream March 9.

The Norwin Lions Club hosted its 10th annual "Cubcake Wars," where 19 neighborhood and professional bakers volunteered their best recipes for a good cause.

Bakers sold their goods individually with all proceeds going toward the Lions' Kitty Sack Project, said club President Aaron Szymanski.

The Kitty Sack Project helps assist food-insecure elementary students in the school district.

Bakers were able to compete for titles such as Best Tasting Cupcake, Best Visual Performance and People's Choice.

The stand that collects the most money is labeled as the Cash Champion. The competition is all in good fun, with some people donating extra cash to win the biggest seller title.

"If they want to pad their own pots, we don't care. It's all going to the club and our Kitty Sack Project," Szymanski said.

Kande Lojas, a returning baker, ran the Spoonful of Sugar cupcake booth with her daughter Brittney.

"We would love to (win) again, but ultimately, the goal is to raise money for the kids. As long as we sell the cupcakes and they get the money, that's the biggest win."

KANDEE LOJAS
SPOONFUL OF SUGAR CUPCAKE BOOTH

The mother and daughter came to the Cubcake Wars for the third time this year.

"We've always baked together," Lojas said.

The duo took home awards for their strawberry crunch cupcake and their blueberry lemon drop cupcake in the past two years.

"It was a lot of fun and we decided to go for the hat trick," Lojas said.

They introduced a new blackberry dream cupcake that has a blackberry drizzle and a crumble on top, and a blackberry compote inside.

"We would love to (win) again, but ultimately, the goal is to raise the money for the kids," Lojas said.

"As long as we sell the cupcakes and they get the money, that's the biggest win."

The mother and daughter weren't the only family duo at the event.

Cousin-in-laws Emily and Katie McGrail started a Cubcake War fam-



PHOTOS: HALEY DAUGHERTY | TRIBLIVE

Lauren Talotta sells homemade baked goods at her stand, Alotta Talotta Bakes, during the Cubcake Wars.

ily tradition last year when the two decided to revisit their mutual love for the world of Harry Potter. They run a stand called McGrail's Wizarding World.

The McGrails' cupcakes were each themed a different aspect of the Harry Potter world. The Golden Snitch, the famous Sorting Hat and brooms made appearances.

Katie's cousin — McGrail's husband — ran through a list of themes while brainstorming the theme of the women's bake stand last year.

They all realized Harry Potter has remained a staple of pop culture amongst every generation since its creation.

"I grew up on Harry Potter," said McGrail, 34. Katie, 18, said she entered a "huge Harry Potter" phase in elementary and middle school.

She watched all the movies while baking the cupcakes.

Both women hope to keep up the tradition and work around Katie's schedule when she heads to the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg next year.

Through the Kitty Sack Project, Szymanski said, the club is assisting about 70 students. The project usually costs the club about \$25,000.

"We are giving them grocery store gift cards," he said.

The Cubcake Wars is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the project, Szymanski said.

The Club hoped to earn around \$15,000 from the event.

Haley Daugherty is a TribLive staff writer. She can be reached at hdaugherty@triblive.com.



PHOTOS: SEAN STIPP | TRIBLIVE

IN A BUBBLE

Above: A WCCC student attempts to knock over inflatable pins during Bubble Bowling at Westmoreland County Community College near Youngwood last week. The event was sponsored by the Campus Events Committee.

Right: Student Luke Sunny of Murrysville flips upside down inside a giant bubble ball while attempting to knock over inflatable pins.



JOYCE HANZ | TRIBLIVE

MARRIAGE LICENSES

These marriage licenses were issued by the Westmoreland County Register of Wills:

Christopher Anthony Writt and Alexis Kristine Thompson, both of Herndon, Va.

John Paul Feather and April Marie Uncapher, both of Greensburg.

Duy Quoc Lien and Jessica Ann Little, both of Greensburg.

Zakary Robert Jellison and Jennifer Marie Provance, both of Greensburg.

Talon Danyell Arlene Miller and Emily Louise Evans, both of Monongahela.

Michael David Raimondo and Stacy Angela Kovach, both of Greensburg.

Ethan James Patrick and Lena Marie Vaia, both of Delmont.

Charles Samuel Morrison and Amarette Leigh White, both of Greensburg.

Nathan James Kline and Angela Maria Mahkovic, both of Irwin.

Curtis John Tucak and Alyssa Renee Roseski, both of Greensburg.

Stuart Michael Schwartz and Regina Ann Laird, both of Churchill.

Ryan Anthony Krause of Irwin and Alyssa Nicole Bewska of Export.

Adam Nicholas Rifenburg and Alisha Marie Clifford, both of Greensburg.

James Lindsay Hricko and Natalie Daren Zaid Abouzaki, both of Hunker.

Richard Allen Masters of Ligonier and Carla Rae Yates

of Latrobe.

Dylan Abel Dushack and Allison Rachel Novosel, both of Jeannette.

Djon Lee Hall and Kelly Lynn Burk, both of Derry.

Jourdan Lee Williams and Kayla Jane Brougner, both of Grapeville.

Daemian Michael Keener and Theresa Hope Mullooly, both of Bradenville.

Charles George Mekic and Jerri Agnes Bungard, both of Mt. Pleasant.

Johnathan Charles Feick and Jackie Ann Worley, both of Ligonier.

Kyle Scott Smith and Elisa Knesch, both of Greensburg.

Tyler Lee Lindholm and Fawn Marie Luther, both of Irwin.

Randy William Miller and Stephanie Marie Kohl, both of Greensburg.

James Ian Campbell and Abigail Elizabeth Wallisch, both of Cazenovia, N.Y.

Travis James West Hornfeck and Juliana Ashlie Breegle, both of Sutersville.

Asher John Passalinqua of Monroeville and Sterling Grace Simek of Export.

Dwayne James Cooper and Hannah Elaine Labryer, both of West Newton.

Herbert Martin Walker and Taelor Ann Rutkowski, both of Murrysville.

Kevin Lee White and Michelle Marie Byers, both of Jeannette.

Jacob Mason Bickerstaff and Angerith Rebeca Flores-Mora, both of Ligonier.

Logan Dean Lowanse and Samantha Lynn Bates, both of Sutersville.

Emanuel James Sirnic of Latrobe and Kendal Faith Humm of Irwin.

James Larry Dick and Edi Sutrisno, both of Rostraver.

Danne Wayne McCutcheon and Courtney Marie Proctor, both of Herminie.

Beecher Warren Dale and Morgan Rose Dalicanidro, both of Greensburg.

James David Baker and Jennifer Marie Longenecker, both of Greensburg.

Micheal Rualo Cultura and Grace Espelita Resultay, both of Latrobe.

Leevon Oliver Richards and Amber Lynn Richards, both of Derry.

Nathan Robert Lovre of Jeannette and Elizabeth Catherine Palmer of Greensburg.

Douglas James Stancombe and Rosanna Nariko Knudtson, both of White Oak.

Robin Jeffery Tribou and Jill Kathleen Kitsko, both of Murrysville.

John Gerhard Hassler and Megan Ann Harr, both of Ligonier.

Robert Scott Venturo and Abril Flores Cruz, both of Greensburg.

Evan Nathan Pavloff and Kalyn Nicole Zumbo, both of Ligonier.

Raymond Mathew Weishorn and Karli Rai Laudadio Hileman, both of Penn.

Russell Jacob Graves and Kylee Joelle Lawson, both of West Newton.

BRIEFLY SPEAKING

Church News

• Greensburg Church of the Brethren hosts a night of fun and fellowship for individuals and groups with developmental disabilities from 5 to 7 p.m. Mondays at the church, 554 Stanton St., Southwest Greensburg. Dinner is included. Participants must be accompanied by a family member or caregiver. Donations will be accepted. **Details:** 724-834-2130 or gbgcob.org.

Fundraisers

• St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church, North Huntingdon, is accepting orders for a pierogi sale set for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 28 at the church, 90 Bethel Road. Cost per dozen: sweet cabbage and potato & cheese, \$14; sauerkraut, \$15; lekvar, \$16; and cottage cheese, \$17. Limited quantities will be available if not preordered. **Orders:** 412-627-1678 or SaintstephenBCC.org.

• Lincoln Heights Civic Asso-



ciation will have bingo from 1 to 3 p.m. March 20 at the center, 42 Millersdale Road, Hempfield. There will be 20 regular games and five quickies. Payout is 50-50. Free coffee. Cost: 25 cents for a three-card board; \$1 for quickies.

• Mon Valley Paws will sell pepperoni rolls from 11 a.m. until sold out March 22 at the intersection of Grand and Monessen boulevards in Monessen. Cost: \$5. **Orders:** tinyurl.com/2thw3a6b or stop in at the office at Pet Supply Plus,

101 Sara Way, Rostraver. **Details:** 724-493-8305.

Health

• A seminar about senior citizen bullying will be at 9 a.m. March 25 at Rehabilitation and Nursing Center of Greater Pittsburgh, 890 Weatherwood Lane, Hempfield. Sponsored by the RNC, Pennsylvania Link to Aging and Disability Resources and Wesley Family Services, there will be an opportunity for networking and sharing of resources. Light refreshments

will be served at 8:30 a.m. **Reservations required:** suzy.chertik@wfspa.org.

• Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6 p.m. Wednesdays at Union Presbyterian Church, 656 Route 380, Washington Township.

Senior Citizens

• A Seniors for Safe Driving class will be offered from 1 to 5 p.m. April 14 at Adams Memorial Library, 1112 Ligonier St., Latrobe. The class is PennDOT approved and for drivers who are at least 55 years old. Safe drivers can receive a 5 percent discount on auto insurance for three years. Cost: \$17. **Details and registration:** 800-559-4880 or seniorsforsafedriving.com.

Senior Citizen News

• Irwin Senior Activity Center, 310 Oak St., will have green bingo at 12:15 p.m. March 17. The center will close at 11 a.m. Wednesday. Lunch reservations required one day in advance.

Donations are accepted for all activities. **Details:** 724-787-1760.

• A health and resource fair will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 22 at the Irwin Senior Activity Center, 310 Oak St. Local and national vendors will be present and there will be giveaways, a bake sale, lunch and a visit with the Top Dog Therapy Team. Use the alley entrance. Public welcome. **Details:** 724-787-1760.

• Level Green Seniors will meet at 11 a.m. March 20 at the Level Green Lions Community Building, 123 Murrysville Road, Penn Township. Lunch will be from KFC, \$6, payable in advance. J.J. Mason will entertain. New members welcome. **Reservations and details:** Mary, 412-372-5422.

Veterans News

• A veterans service officer will be available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 19 in the office of state Rep. Jill Cooper, 105 Pfeffer Road, suite 5, Washington

Township. Services available will include disability and pension claims, benefit questions, assisting spouses with survivor benefits issues and applications for veterans grants. Appointments will be accepted, but walk-ins are welcome.

Appointments: 724-387-9113.

• In observation of Vietnam War Veterans Day, Norwin Elks will host a free lunch for all veterans March 29 at the Elks Lodge, 135 Elks Lane. Space is limited. Reservations required by March 19. **Reservations:** 724-392-4555, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays. Leave a message with your name and telephone number. Your call will be returned no later than the next business day.

Submissions from nonprofit organizations for Briefly Speaking should be emailed to cpinto-smith@triblive.com. Include a complete address and daytime phone number.

Submissions are due at least two weeks prior to the event. Each announcement is printed once; there is no fee.

TRACING IT BACK

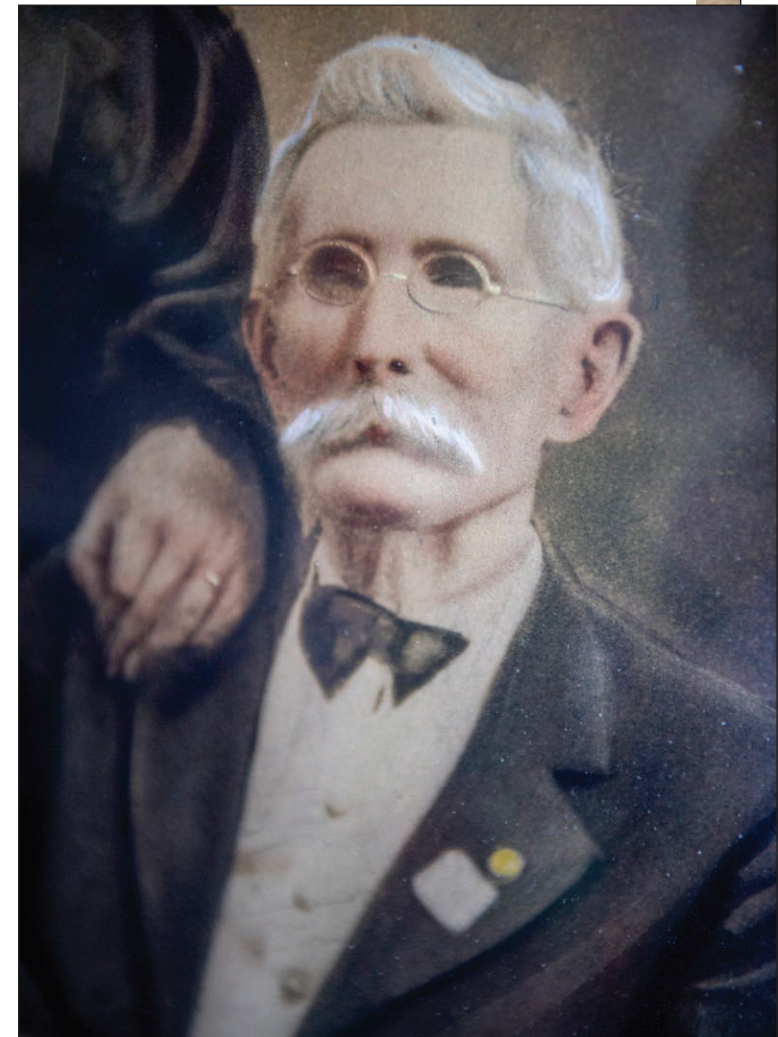
Family genealogy leads Greensburg man to ancestor's Civil War battle exploits



"It's like quicksand. You get so into this stuff, you just keep getting deeper and deeper and one thing leads to another. I need to know more about it."
 RICHARD BARNARD
 GREENSBURG

PHOTOS: MASSOUD HOSSAINI | TRIBLIVE

Richard Barnard of Greensburg displays four books he published resulting from research into his family genealogy. Among the ancestors he's chronicled is a great-grandfather, Welsh immigrant John Williams, who received a citation for his service in the U.S. Cavalry during the Civil War.



This photo shows John Williams on his 50th wedding anniversary circa 1917. It is among the prized family heirlooms of his great-grandson, Richard Barnard. Barnard has published an account of his forebear's brave service with the U.S. Cavalry during the Civil War.

BY JEFF HIMLER

John Williams wasn't a particularly tall man, standing at 5 feet, 6 inches, but he made a big impact after joining the Union cavalry at age 18 in September 1862. Greensburg resident Richard Barnard learned his great-grandfather captured a Confederate major when the two clashed with sabers the following April in Tennessee. "It was a big thing, capturing a Confederate officer single-handedly," said Barnard, who has been researching his family roots since retiring as a regional manager with Kodak in 2010. "I was amazed when I got that information. He executed what was called a front cut with his sword. He cut him three times on the head and face and knocked him off his horse." That encounter in McMinnville, Tenn., was one of the pivotal moments in the life of Williams, who was born in Wales in 1844 and died in Greensburg 79 years later.

'I kept writing books'

Enlisting in support of the Union cause less than nine years after his immigrant family made their new home in Pennsylvania's Schuylkill County, Williams underwent training in Harrisburg. He then joined the 7th Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry — already in the field in Tennessee, as part of Minty's Saber Brigade in the Army of the Cumberland — and was promoted to the rank of corporal on March 1, 1863. "They spent months in Tennessee," said Barnard, who has hunted official documents to learn about his great-grandfather's military history. "They were trying to rid the state of Confederate outposts." Through more than a decade of genealogical digging, Barnard has learned about more than two dozen relations who completed military service, dating from as early as the Revolutionary War. Williams is one of six veterans whose exploits he's written about in his 2019 book "Duty, Honor, Coun-

try" — among four volumes of tales from his extended family tree that he's self-published since 2016. In addition to distributing the volumes to relatives, Barnard has provided copies to the Greensburg-Hempfield Area Library and the Westmoreland County Historical Society's Calvin E. Pollins Memorial Library at Historic Hanna's Town. "It's an interesting hobby," Barnard said of his research. "You never know what you're going to find. I've gone to countless libraries and cemeteries and worked with websites in the UK run by the government. I kept finding information; that's why I kept writing books. Everybody I researched who served in the military had an interesting story" — including Williams.

Courageous action

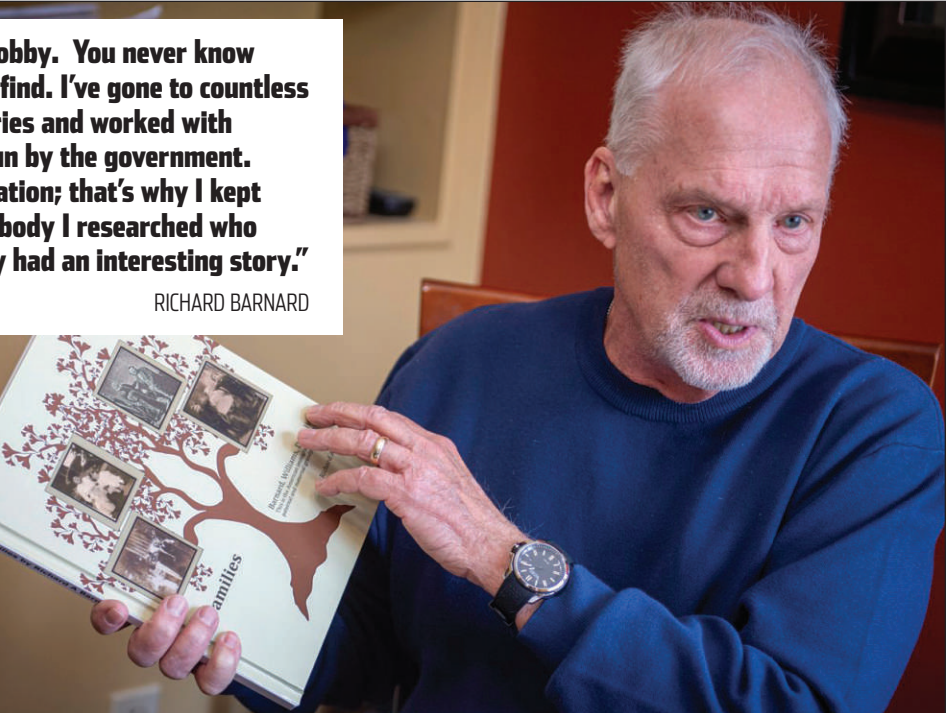
Williams' major blow against the enemy gained the attention of Union Maj. Gen. William Rosecrans. He issued a citation, directing that the corporal's name "be placed upon the Rolls of Honor" while declaring, "Such deeds of gallantry should not pass unnoticed." Barnard discovered his forebear's courageous action on the front lines didn't end there, but the next major encounter came at a heavy cost. On Sept. 18, 1863, Williams suffered a serious wound on the first day of the Battle of Chickamauga, in northwest Georgia.

Tradition of service

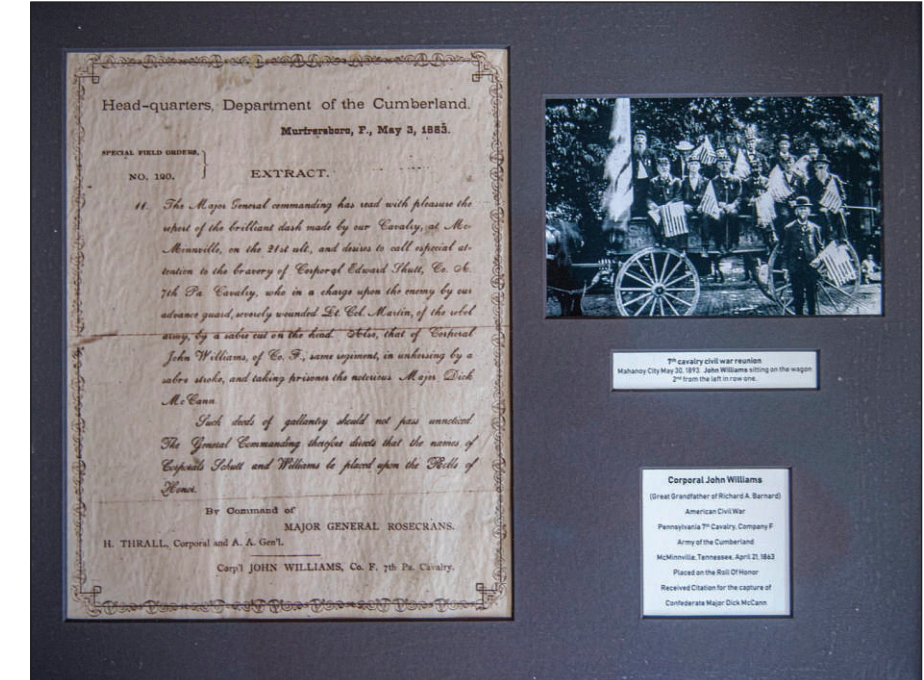
Barnard didn't learn many details of Williams' post-war life. But, he said, his partial disability kept him from returning to the anthracite coal mines of Schuylkill County, where he'd worked alongside his father, William, from the age of 15. Williams was mustered out of the army after serving for two years and nearly nine months. He returned to his family's adopted hometown of Mahanoy City, where he married Mary Powell and raised 11 children with her. Barnard was able to unearth an 1893 photo of his great-grandfather posing during a reunion there with fellow members of the 7th Cavalry's Company F. After fighting for the Union, Wil-

A brigade surgeon field-dressed Williams' Minie ball wound, and he was sent back to an army hospital in Chattanooga, Tenn. Ending on Sept. 20, the battle was a tactical victory for Confederate forces. But it was the second bloodiest battle of the war, behind Gettysburg, with the Confederates suffering the most casualties. According to estimates cited by the American Battlefield Trust, the Union army suffered more than 16,000 casualties, including about 1,600 dead, while the Confederate toll was more than 18,000 casualties, including more than 2,000 dead. Williams' recuperation involved two weeks in Chattanooga and a longer stay in a second hospital in Alabama. "It was about two months more before he got back to his unit, and he had limited use of his right arm after that," said Barnard. On another occasion, Williams suffered a back injury when his horse fell on him, though Barnard isn't sure of the involved circumstance. Barnard noted it wasn't always easy for soldiers of his great-grandfather's stature to mount an Army horse. "They might have to find a fence or get up on a log," he said.

"It's an interesting hobby. You never know what you're going to find. I've gone to countless libraries and cemeteries and worked with websites in the UK run by the government. I kept finding information; that's why I kept writing books. Everybody I researched who served in the military had an interesting story."
 RICHARD BARNARD



Richard Barnard discusses one of his four self-published books, "4 Families," which explores the immigrant paths that brought his ancestors together.



These items framed by Barnard include a citation earned by his great-grandfather John Williams, for capturing a Confederate officer during the Civil War, and a photo of Williams posing at a reunion three decades later with members of his Union cavalry unit.

liams was engaged in a much longer battle against red tape. Enlisting testimony from the field surgeon who treated him and from fellow soldiers, he filed multiple rounds of paperwork to obtain a meager military pension for his wartime disability. "It was just an endless thing," Barnard said. "They'd give it to him for a period of time and then they'd quit and he'd have to go through the whole thing again." In his later years, Williams relocated to Westmoreland County, living first with a son in Youngwood. Finally, he moved into the Greensburg home of his daughter and son-in-law — Jennie and Adam Barnard, Richard Barnard's grandparents. When he died on April 20, 1923, he was honored by the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic and by the Knights of the Golden Eagle before returning to Mahanoy City for interment. A powder horn that Williams owned and a portrait taken during his 50th wedding anniversary are among prized family heirlooms that Barnard has inherited. "About five years ago, I took a three-day trip down to Chickamauga," Barnard said. "With help of a park ranger on the battlefield, I found the exact spot where my

great-grandfather was shot." The family's military tradition has continued with his father, older brother and a son, all named Adam. His father was a World War II Navy veteran, his brother served with the Navy during the October 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis while the youngest of his two sons, an Air Force veteran, completed a tour in Afghanistan. "It's like quicksand" Barnard also has written about his late cousin and fellow Greensburg resident, Chuck Baker, a World War II veteran who died in 2017. "He was a bomber captain in the Army Air Force," Barnard said. "He flew missions over Germany and France. He came back one time with over 100 bullet holes in his fuselage. Another time, he had the nose gear shot out of his airplane, and he still landed." Through his research, Barnard

was able to connect Baker with a fellow bomber crew member he hadn't heard from in years. Barnard discovered many unknown relations by building a family tree and having his DNA analyzed through the online ancestry.com platform. That includes eight great uncles and great aunts and their descendants whom he hadn't realized were his kin through his grandfather, Adam Barnard Jr. "It allows you to meet people who know things that you don't that you'll never find out unless you talk to them," Richard Barnard said. "That's the fun part. It's like quicksand. You get so into this stuff, you just keep getting deeper and deeper and one thing leads to another. I need to know more about it."

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SPORTS *plus* WESTMORELAND EDITION

A NICE RING

Yough grad Bell expects to be key player as Waynesburg pushes for PAC baseball title

BY CHUCK CURTI

In his fifth year with the Waynesburg baseball team, Mike Bell had to start over.

A grad student coming off a season in which he earned his first Presidents' Athletic Conference postseason award — honorable mention — Bell and the rest of his returning teammates had to adapt to a new coaching staff. In July, Perry Cunningham, who had spent the past three seasons as head coach — and 17 overall with the program — stepped down.

A month later, Michael Impellittere was hired after coaching at Hood College in Maryland for seven years. For the Yellow Jackets, it was, in a manner of speaking, a whole new ballgame.

"It was definitely different," Bell, a Yough grad, said. "Anytime you get a new coach, you have to kind of rebuild that relationship and kind of figure out what they want and what they want to do with the team.

"But 'Coach I,' he made it pretty easy coming in. He set good boundaries for us, set very good goals that kind of flowed in for the most part. It wasn't too bad of a transfer, if I'm being honest."

Said Impellittere: "I think the biggest thing coming into a new team is just building their trust and understanding where their heads are at. ... I haven't been around such a great team environment from a culture perspective in a long time. ... We have eight or nine grad students and seniors who are established and definitely pulling their weight when they need to."

One of those is Bell, who has been one of Waynesburg's most consistent players over the past two seasons. In 2023, he hit .302, driving in 14 runs and scoring 22 then followed that by hitting .303 with 23 RBIs and 22 runs last season. The 2024 season also included his first collegiate home



COURTESY OF WAYNESBURG ATHLETICS

Yough grad Mike Bell has hit better than .300 in each of his last two seasons at Waynesburg.

run. It came in the second game of a doubleheader against Bethany with the Yellow Jackets down 7-1 going into the bottom of the eighth. Bell's three-run homer helped Waynesburg pull within 7-6 going to the ninth.

After the Bison tacked on another run in their half of the ninth, Bell hit a one-out single with Todd Burner on base. Bell was lifted for pinch runner Connor Hamrick, but it turned out Bell wouldn't have needed to run as Seth Burgdolt ended the game with a three-run homer.

"That was definitely a pretty cool one," Bell said about his homer. "I didn't think it was out when I hit it. It was kind

of a momentum booster for us at that point. It was definitely one of the better feelings I've had in my career."

It certainly was a better feeling than what Bell had throughout his sophomore season. After starting all but one of the Jackets' games during his freshman year, when he hit .289 and drove in 22 runs, Bell's average dipped 50 points the following season, and he struck out 14 times compared to only five the season before.

The dreaded sophomore slump had hit him.

"I was trying to change a few things that year, trying to work on things to maybe get a little more power," he said.

"I changed bats, what length of bat I used. I went from a 32 (inch) to 33, and I think that might have had a big part in it.

"I really didn't feel any different. Just things weren't really working out for me that year."

Bell, who has started all but one game in his time at Waynesburg, bounced back nicely the following year. Though his strikeout total went up again, his batting average increased to .302.

He took an even bigger stride last season. Though his average went up only slightly, it was his personal best. So, too, was his RBI total, slugging percentage (.438) and on-base percentage (.471).

His slugging percentage was a full 100 points higher than his previous best.

He also reduced his strikeouts to a mere four in 89 at-bats. In the field, he was solid at third base, posting a personal-best .957 fielding percentage and a career-low four errors. All those numbers helped him earn his first PAC postseason recognition.

"It was definitely cool," he said. "I mean, that's what you work for. You work hard to win games and get recognized."

This was the player Impellittere inherited, and, the new coach said, Bell has been helpful in leading the team into the new era.

"Mike has tremendous leadership," Impellittere said. "He's very even-keeled. Never too high, never too low, and I think in baseball you have to have that personality because some days you go 0 for 4, and the next day you're 3 for 4.

"When he does speak up, he says the right things to make guys tick."

For much of last season, the Yellow Jackets ticked like a Swiss watch, going 15-5 in the PAC and tying for second place with Grove City. It was the program's most PAC wins since 2019, and the .750 winning percentage matched the program's best of the PAC era.

With a number of players back from that team, hopes are high for another solid season. PAC play doesn't begin until Saturday, and heading into this past weekend's non-conference games, Waynesburg stood at 3-7.

Bell was hitting .259, but he expects his performance will ramp up as the season progresses. Impellittere is confident Bell will play a big role in any success the Jackets have.

"From a defensive perspective, I think Mike is one of the premier players over at third base from a glove perspective," Impellittere said. "He puts really great at-bats together. ... He has those certain at-bats that can really shift the momentum of the game."

Bell is hoping to make the most of what likely will be his final year of competitive baseball. A PAC championship would be the best way to go out.

"We're all kind of committed to doing that, and I'm definitely committed to doing that," he said. "We brought in some guys, and the guys that stayed, they all worked hard and they didn't get complacent. So I think we have the pieces we need to win the PAC championship."

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SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Leo Joseph, Latrobe

When the PIAA wrestling tournament concluded March 8, Latrobe's Leo Joseph knew his high school career had come to an end.

It was a career to be proud of, one with 140 victories, including a personal-best 39 wins in his senior season.

One of those wins was a sudden overtime thriller against Connellsville's Nolan Rice, securing the WPIAL Class 3A title at 121 pounds.

"At the match, I knew that I just needed to get a take-down on my feet," Joseph said. "He's good at defending shots once you're in, but I knew I just needed a clean finish and that was going to win me the match."

Joseph was one of five Wildcats to compete at the WPIAL championships, with teammates Luke Willochell and Hunter Snyder finishing second and third, respectively.

While some of his teammates were disappointed with their results, Joseph was proud to see a strong Latrobe presence.

"It didn't end up working out for Hunter and Luke at WPIALs, so I know they were actually a little disappointed," Joseph said. "We all had the mindset that we were going to do well because of last year."

At the PIAA tournament, Joseph placed fourth at 121 pounds.

While he was satisfied with his overall performance, he couldn't help but feel a bit of disappointment about missing a chance to wrestle for a state title.

"I feel like I wrestled well," Joseph said. "I would've liked to wrestle my semis match and had a chance to win states, but I was really happy that I was able to wrestle back after losing in the semis and go for third or fourth."

Joseph has dealt with injuries on and off all year, but it didn't stop him from finishing out the best season he's ever had.

Accumulating more than 100 wins is no easy feat, and there were lessons he learned along the way to help him get to that level.

"I learned early from my coach that good things usually happen to those that work hard," Joseph said. "I'd say my freshman and my sophomore year, I didn't really have a lot of confidence. Then, once I was able to get more confidence my junior and senior year, that really helped me out a lot and it made the difference."

After high school, Joseph plans to attend the U.S. Naval Academy.

This week, Joseph took some time for a Senior Spotlight Q&A:

How did you get started with wrestling?

I'd say my dad's really the reason that I started wrestling because he wrestled in college. And I think I started in third grade. I wrestled for the school that year.

How did this season as a whole go?

I'd say it went pretty well all year. I didn't really lose any matches I felt that I shouldn't have. Last year, maybe there were a couple matches that I felt like I shouldn't have lost, but I didn't wrestle my best. But this year, even with some injuries, I was able to win all the matches that I felt like I should have.

Is there a match or moment from your career that stands out as your favorite?

My freshman year, we wrestled Connellsville for the section title, and I was losing to Evan Petrovich. And I ended up pinning him, which really set the tone for the rest of the match. After that, we ended up blowing Connellsville out when it was supposed to be a close match. That one really stood out to me.

What went into your decision to join the Naval Academy?

One of my teammates went to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. When I saw him doing that, I really fell in love with wanting to go to the military academies, and I was pretty set on that. Really ever since my junior year, I was set on going to one of the academies. After I went to visit the Navy, I liked that one by far the most. I knew that was the right fit for me, with a great coaching staff, too, and just all around a really nice college.



Franklin Regional S.A.L.T. members, from left, Arden Tomely, Allison Brickner, Luca Bertucci and Whitney Davis meet to discuss ideas with middle school principal Dr. Tawnia St. Amant.



SUBMITTED

S.A.L.T aims to enhance athletics

Franklin Regional models its committee after Seneca Valley

BY BILL BECKNER JR.

When Franklin Regional saw what Seneca Valley was doing, the district decided to sprinkle a little salt on its athletics programs. S.A.L.T., that is.

The acronym stands for Student Athlete Leadership Team, a program Franklin Regional formed to enhance and direct forward its sports teams and athletes.

Think of a student section with decision-making influence.

"The purpose of this group is to empower our student-athletes to be owners of their culture and experience," Panthers athletic director Zach Kessler said. "We also want to build their capacities as leaders and as active participants in our school and community."

Overall, the leadership team has several committees, including health and nutrition, community service, social media and communications, leadership development and school spirit.

There are student representatives from each sport.

"We started here at FR



BILL BECKNER | TRIBLIVE

A S.A.L.T member wears a team T-shirt at a basketball game earlier this season.

thanks to Mr. Kessler and (assistant principal) Mr. (Heath) Curran and the help of the coaches to pick a few student-athlete leaders across all our sport teams to be a part of the team," said Franklin Regional team member Luca

Bertucci, a baseball player. "The team strives to engage in outreach, acknowledgment of student-athletes of all sports and their achievements, to educate on athlete health and leadership development and to also inspire school spirit

and pride."

The group was recognized at a basketball game earlier in the season.

Kessler said Seneca Valley and athletic director Heather Lewis are the business model for S.A.L.T.

"I found a few schools that had pretty good models, but the one that really stood out to me was the one put together at Seneca Valley," Kessler said. "(Lewis) shared some materials with me and also invited me to one of their S.A.L.T. meetings. We were able to not only observe but interact with their student-athletes, and we asked them quite a few questions.

"We were very impressed and decided, why recreate the wheel when we just witnessed a tremendous model?"

Officials asked coaches to identify leaders who could become invested in the program.

The student-athletes discuss ideas and ways to supplement the growth of programs.

"We were able to put together a very solid group of young leaders," Kessler said. "We shared the model from Seneca Valley with them to get their feedback. The students really liked that particular model. They instituted a few changes to make it their own."

Bill Beckner is a TribLive staff writer. He can be reached at bbeckner@triblive.com.

— Anthony DiFilippo

Cooking Corner



METRO CREATIVE

Irish Guinness Stew with Lamb

Serves 6

Cuisine is a big part of Irish culture, even if it's not the first thing people think of when pondering the Emerald Isle. This St. Patrick's Day, celebrants can bring a touch of Irish cuisine to their celebrations by preparing the following recipe for "Irish Guinness Stew with Lamb" courtesy of Lines+Angles.

- 8 cups lamb or beef stock; divided
- 1 cup pearl barley
- 3 lb. lamb shoulder, cubed
- Salt, to taste
- Freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 3 tablespoons oil
- 1/2 cup unbleached all-purpose flour
- 4 stalks of celery, washed, trimmed and chopped
- 2 large yellow onions, peeled and chopped
- 3 cloves of garlic, minced
- 3 large carrots, peeled and roughly chopped
- 12 fluid ounces Guinness stout
- 1 bunch fresh parsley
- 1 bunch fresh thyme
- 1 bunch fresh rosemary
- 3 large potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 2 teaspoons cornstarch
- 4 teaspoons water

1. In a medium saucepan set over medium heat, bring 3 cups of stock to a boil; add barley. Reduce heat to low and gently simmer for 20 minutes. Set aside.

2. Meanwhile, pat the meat dry with paper towels. Season the meat with salt and pepper. Heat the oil in a 6-quart Dutch oven. Brown the meat on all sides over medium-high heat. Using a slotted spoon, remove the meat from the pot. Sprinkle flour over the meat, shaking off any excess; set aside.

3. Add the celery, onions, garlic and carrots to the pot and saute until onions are soft and translucent. Add Guinness and deglaze the pot, scraping up all the caramelized bits on the bottom and sides of the pan.

4. Chop the leaves of the parsley, reserving the stems. Tie the parsley stems and several sprigs of thyme and rosemary into a bundle; drop the bundle into the pot. Chop the remaining thyme and rosemary; set chopped herbs aside.

5. Return the meat to the pot. Add the potatoes, barley and enough stock to cover the meat and vegetables. Bring to a boil over medium heat. Reduce heat to very low and simmer for 2 to 3 hours, or until meat is fork tender. Stir occasionally, adding remaining stock as necessary.

6. Check seasoning; adjust to taste. Stir in chopped parsley, thyme and rosemary. Mix cornstarch in water and stir. Add to stew, stirring to incorporate. Cook over low heat for 5 to 10 minutes or until stew thickens. Ladle into bowls. Serve with crusty bread and of course more Guinness if desired.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY WORD SEARCH

T	A	K	C	T	O	L	I	V	J	L	K	L	J	A	G	G	L	O	N
O	D	A	R	E	B	K	K	S	I	U	E	A	N	J	I	G	E	D	U
E	A	B	J	B	D	E	D	M	F	O	R	T	U	N	E	U	P	K	E
E	U	E	P	V	J	V	A	D	M	I	D	O	O	P	H	R	R	C	O
I	O	K	A	B	G	R	G	D	F	P	R	A	H	R	F	C	E	O	F
B	J	H	T	F	B	E	G	G	A	E	L	I	C	M	I	I	C	R	E
I	J	P	R	I	J	V	V	T	G	C	C	A	E	D	U	G	H	M	I
D	N	F	I	P	E	O	H	V	V	A	E	D	C	A	V	A	A	A	H
S	S	V	C	V	R	L	T	N	F	C	L	C	G	D	G	M	U	H	C
M	R	T	K	P	I	C	G	K	E	U	T	A	L	G	N	F	N	S	S
O	H	B	K	O	N	H	D	L	E	I	I	U	T	J	F	A	V	R	I
M	S	S	M	V	N	L	E	T	P	M	C	P	M	B	R	J	L	J	M
H	K	E	C	C	A	B	N	S	T	H	P	P	U	E	M	N	B	S	S
J	C	K	K	R	R	I	J	D	J	N	O	I	T	I	D	A	R	T	I
J	U	R	E	A	A	G	G	N	O	M	P	A	R	A	D	E	S	M	M
R	L	M	T	S	G	F	O	A	T	S	V	H	B	I	U	K	R	L	S
A	E	I	F	M	P	L	L	L	B	N	A	B	E	N	F	U	H	V	J
A	O	H	C	R	A	M	D	E	V	R	O	V	B	K	N	E	V	T	L
N	R	D	H	S	I	R	I	R	P	J	F	J	H	O	J	P	T	G	J
A	S	P	R	G	F	U	H	I	C	D	N	E	G	E	L	U	L	E	R

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- CELEBRATION
- CELTIC
- CLOVER
- EMERALD
- ERIN
- FORTUNE
- Gaelic
- GOLD
- HARP
- IRELAND
- IRISH
- ISLAND
- JIG
- LEGEND
- LEPRECHAUN
- LUCK
- MAGIC
- MARCH
- MISCHIEF
- PARADES
- PATRICK
- SAINT
- SHAMROCK
- TRADITION

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2							6	8
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5								
4	9	7	6					
9					5		8	
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Level: Advanced

“How they say that in...”

English: Green
Spanish: Verde
Italian: Verde
French: Vert
German: Grün

8	1	5	3	7	6	2	9	4
7	2	3	9	4	8	5	1	6
9	4	6	1	2	5	7	8	3
4	9	7	6	3	2	8	5	1
5	3	2	8	1	4	6	7	9
6	8	1	5	9	7	3	4	2
1	5	8	2	6	9	4	3	7
2	7	9	4	5	3	1	6	8
3	6	4	7	8	1	9	2	5

GUESS WHO ?

I am an actress born in Louisiana on March 22, 1976. I was a fashion model at age seven. I had a breakout role as a party girl who sets her sights on Harvard Law School. I won several awards for playing a country star with an equally famous husband.

Answer: Reese Witherspoon

