

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024

FORECAST

Updated continuously at [www.TribLIVE.com](#)

TODAY

HIGH 59

Breezy this afternoon

WINDS: SW 8-16 mph

POP: 0%

TONIGHT

LOW 42

Breezy; a few showers late

WINDS: SW 8-16 mph

POP: 65%

SUNDAY

50 / 30

Windy and cooler with a shower

WINDS: W 10-20 mph

POP: 40%

MONDAY

37 / 27

Colder with snow showers

WINDS: W 10-20 mph

POP: 65%

TUESDAY

41 / 30

Mostly cloudy, breezy and cold

WINDS: WSW 10-20 mph

POP: 15%

WEDNESDAY

45 / 27

Times of clouds and sun

WINDS: WNW 6-12 mph

POP: 25%

Wind Chill today

An indication of how cold it feels based on temperature and wind speed. The graph reflects the lowest value for the day.

9 a.m.

Noon

3 p.m.

6 p.m.

30

42

56

57

Lowest 6 a.m.

Almanac

Statistics for Pittsburgh through 5 p.m. Friday

Temperatures

High/low 61/47

Normal high/low 49/30

Year ago high/low 44/21

Record high 80 in 1990

Record low 1 in 1993

Precipitation

24 hours through 5 p.m. Friday 0.02"

Month to date 1.65"

Normal month to date 1.53"

Year to date 8.69"

Normal year to date 7.21"

Last year to date 6.61"

Snowfall

Friday 0.0"

Record 7.3" in 1906

Month to date 0.4"

Season to date 16.2"

Normal season to date 40.8"

Lake Erie forecast

Wind from the southwest at 10-20 knots today. Seas 1-3 feet. Visibility generally unrestricted.

Shown is today's weather.

Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

River stages

as of 7 a.m. Friday

Allegheny

Franklin 17 7.60 +0.10

Clinton L&D 21 12.60 -0.30

Freeport L&D 23 13.74 -0.38

Natrona L&D 21 13.99 -0.56

C.W. Bill Young L&D 17 13.04 -0.31

Sharpsburg L&D 21 13.20 -0.40

Loyalhanna Creek

Kingston 17 3.68 -0.27

Latrobe 17 7.24 N.A.

Youghiogheny

Connellsville 12 4.80 -0.20

Sutersville 20 6.60 -0.30

National weather today

AccuWeather

Get the AccuWeather app

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

Shows

T-storms

Rain

Flurries

Snow

Ice

Cold front

Warm front

Stationary front

Air Quality Index

Today's forecast

Friday

Good

Moderate

Unhealthy (sensitive groups)

Unhealthy

Very unhealthy

Hazardous

Friday's cause: Ozone

Statistics for Southwestern Pennsylvania from Pa. Dept. of Environmental Protection.

Weather Trivia™

Q: Where is most of the world's ice stored?

A: 90% is stored in the Antarctic ice cap

Sun & Moon

Today

Sunrise 7:29 a.m.

Sunset 7:28 p.m.

Moonrise 11:11 a.m.

Moonset 2:20 a.m.

First Quarter

Full Moon

Last Quarter

New Moon

March 16

March 25

April 1

April 8

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2024

‘My dream come true’

BY JULIA MARUCA

Medical student Rachel Kann said she couldn't be happier to find out she'll be staying in Pittsburgh.

"This is my dream come true. ... I'm just so grateful to have gotten the chance to stay in this amazing city for seven more years and practice here," Kann said.

A Fox Chapel native, Kann was among those who opened envelopes at Friday's Match Day event at the University of Pittsburgh's Petersen Events Center. She was matched with UPMC Presbyterian.

Kann's next seven years will be spent working with the hospital's general surgery program.

"I'm staying here! I'm ecstatic," she said.

The confetti, balloons, cheering and celebration at noon Friday marked the beginning of a new chapter for Kann and 148 other medical students at the Pitt School of Medicine.

During the annual Match Day festivities, medical students across the country find out where they'll be spending the next several years of their lives in residency programs. Students open their envelopes at the same time in an event meant to celebrate their next steps.

Medical student Rachel Kann (right) of Fox Chapel hugs her mom, Kris, on Friday after finding out she will do her residency at UPMC Presbyterian in general surgery on Match Day 2024 at Pitt.

Chenits Pettigrew Jr., associate dean for diversity, equity and inclusion at the Pitt School of Medicine, described the event as a culmination of the students' hard work.

"This is really what tells them that they have finally gotten where they are trying to go," he said.

"It's probably as important a day as graduation," said Alda Maria Gonzaga, associate dean for student affairs. "This is just really exciting. This is the beginning of a transition for them from student to physician."

Emotions run high

Match Day is an emotional time for medical students, said student Lena Vodovotz of the North Hills.

"It's definitely been stressful," she said. "It's hard to wrap your head around the idea of your fate being sealed inside that envelope, so to speak."

Even with the stress, she said, she has been able to catch up with friends from inside and outside the program and try to unwind.

Exams already have wrapped up for this year's medical class, she said, but some rotations continue. The cohort will graduate at the end of May and start their residencies over the summer.

"It's a long, grueling road with a lot of twists and turns, but I wouldn't give it up for anything," she said of the program so far.

Nick Aloï of Brighton, another medical student, said his interest in medicine started when he injured his meniscus and ACL while playing basketball for high school powerhouse Lincoln Park. He matched into orthopedic surgery and will be doing his residency at UPMC Hamot in Erie.

"Sports injuries in particular is what I took an interest in — broken bones, broken ligaments, torn tendons," he said. "I think that that motivated me to go into medicine — to treat the kids that I used to be."

The process leading up to Match Day started in the summer of last year, he said, when students applied to different programs. They then received interview invites and could rank numerically the programs they interviewed with by preference. The programs in turn rank all of their applicants, and the match process assigns the students to programs based on both rankings.

"It's one of these points in life that's a transition point," Aloï said. "Each stage along the residency process, you get little wins here and there. ... There's a lot of culmination and stuff leading up to today that I think makes it such an exciting day."

Leadup to celebration

The Match Day celebration is organized by the medical students themselves, said Savannah Tollefson, class council president.

"I think that one thing that was important to all of us was highlighting our class as a whole," said Tollefson, who is originally from Richmond, Va. She will be doing her residency at UPMC in the OB-GYN program.

This year's graduating class of the medical school started its program in fall 2020, meaning many of the students' first-year classes were virtual, she noted.

"We went through a pandemic together, and I just feel like we've been through the thick of it together, and we really wanted to celebrate that."

Match Day used to be a more formal affair, Gonzaga said. Students would go up one by one to find out where they would spend their residency. About six or seven years ago, she said, students started creating more of a party atmosphere to commemorate the occasion.

"This is much more of a, 'We're here to celebrate with each other,'" she said. "While a big deal, the students have really driven it to be more of celebrating in the same moment at the same time, with lots of balloons and fun music."

To amp up the festivities, the cohort put together a collaborative playlist for the event, which included 2020 viral hits such as the "Wellerman" sea shanty. Students also continued a Match Day T-shirt tradition, in which each student customizes a T-shirt with the names of their program and assigned location once they find out where they're going.

"We tried to incorporate everyone as much as possible in the process, beyond just the class council," Tollefson said. "Even though it's a stressful day, this is really a culmination of everything we've worked toward."

Julia Maruca is a TribLive staff writer. She can be reached at jmaruca@triblive.com.

Judge cites ‘appearance of impropriety’ in ruling

GEORGIA · FROM A1

who pledged to hold Trump accountable but found their own actions under a public microscope.

Wade offered his resignation in a letter to Willis, saying he was doing so "in the interest of democracy, in dedication to the American public and to move this case forward as quickly as possible."

Willis complimented Wade's "professionalism and dignity" in a letter accepting

his resignation, effective immediately. She said he had endured threats against himself and his family, as well as "unjustified attacks" in the media and in court on his reputation as a lawyer.

Trump's team felt differently.

In a social media post, Trump said the "Fani Willis lover" had "resigned in disgrace," and Trump repeated his assertion that the case is an effort to hurt his campaign to reclaim the White House in November. Trump has denied doing anything wrong and pleaded not guilty.

An attorney for the former president said they respected the court's decision but believe the judge "did not afford appropriate significance to the prosecutorial misconduct of Willis and Wade."

"We will use all legal options available as we continue to fight to end this case, which should never have been brought in the first place," Trump attorney Steve Sadow said.

Defense attorneys could try to appeal the ruling, but they would need the judge's permission to do so.

Wade's resignation came hours after Fulton County Superior Court Judge Scott McAfie said he had to be removed or Willis must step aside from the case. McAfee did not find that Willis' relationship with Wade amounted to a conflict of interest but said the allegations created an "appearance of impropriety" that infected the prosecution team.

"As the case moves forward, reasonable members of the public could easily be left to wonder whether the financial exchanges have continued resulting in some form of benefit to the District Attorney, or even whether the romantic relationship has resumed," the judge wrote.

"Put differently, an outsider could reasonably think that the District Attorney is not exercising her independent professional judgment totally free of any compromising influences. As long as Wade remains on the case, this unnecessary perception will persist."

Friday's extraordinary developments underscored the extent to which the case that began with allegations that a former president tried to undermine the will of the people who voted him out of the White House had become consumed by talk of the love lives of its top prosecutors. In accepting Wade's resignation, Willis made clear her determination to turn the page from weeks of embarrassing headlines about romantic get-aways, sex and stashes of cash that have dominated coverage of the case.

Trump's hush-money trial delayed until mid-April

Judge cites last-minute evidence dump

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Donald Trump's New York hush-money criminal trial was delayed Friday until at least mid-April as the judge seeks answers about a last-minute evidence dump that the former president's lawyers said has hampered their ability to prepare their defense.

Manhattan Judge Juan Manuel Merchan agreed to a 30-day delay starting Friday and scheduled a hearing for March 25 after Trump's lawyers complained that they only recently started receiving more than 100,000 pages of documents from a previous federal investigation into the matter.

The trial had been scheduled to start March 25. The delay means the trial would start no earlier than April 15.

Prosecutors had said they wouldn't object to a short delay. Trump's lawyers have requested a three-month delay as well as asking for the case to be thrown out.

In a statement Friday, the Trump campaign continued to argue that the case "has no basis in law or fact, and should be dismissed."

In a letter Friday, Merchan told Manhattan prosecutors and Trump's defense team that he wanted to assess "who, if anyone, is at fault for the late production of the documents," whether it hurt either side and whether any sanctions are warranted.

The judge demanded a timeline of events detailing when the documents were requested and when they were turned over. He also wants all correspondence between the Manhattan district attorney's office, which is prosecuting Trump, and the U.S. attorney's office, which previously investigated the matter in 2018.

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Westmoreland prison warden gets \$11K raise

Other county officials also see boosts in salaries, bonuses

BY RICH CHOLODOFSKY

Westmoreland County's new warden, on the job for less than a month, has been given an \$11,000 raise. Commissioners and Controller Jeffrey Balzer, acting as the county's salary board this week, approved raises for a series of department heads and supervisors in what they said was an effort to retain staff in a struggling employ-

ment environment. Steven Pelesky, 49, of Ligonier was hired by the prison board Feb. 28 after serving as the jail's interim warden for five months following the resignation of Warden Bryan Kline in September. Pelesky has worked for nearly three decades in various roles at the jail. When hired to the full-time warden's job last month, commissioners said his \$80,000 salary would be unchanged. Commissioner Sean Kertes said the new warden's salary was reevaluated over the past several weeks.

"He's a 30-year veteran at the jail, and we're trying to bring him up to where he needs to be," Kertes said. "We thought we didn't pay him for the time he served as interim warden. We're righting the ship." New park police officers hired to full-time jobs in 2024 will earn \$4,500 bonuses at the completion of 12 months on staff under the financial plan approved by the salary board. The board also approved a series of pay hikes for the county's domestic relations office staff. Pay for behavioral health department casework-

ers will be increased across the board to bring most staffers to the same pay level, earning about \$70,000 annually. Raises that average about \$10,000 a year were approved for 911 emergency dispatch supervisors; hourly rates paid to telecommunications officers in training were increased by more than 21%. Scott Stepanovich, deputy director for the county's public safety department, said the 911 raises will ensure supervisors continue to earn higher salaries than the dispatchers they oversee. The department has six supervisors on staff

and is seeking to fill two vacancies. The current pay structure became skewed after union dispatchers received 17% raises this year as part of a new labor deal and, without an adjustment, officials feared it would be difficult to promote existing staffers, Stepanovich said. "We want to incentivize people to step up," he said. Kertes said the pay hikes were necessary to ensure the county's vital program continue to be adequately staffed. "One of the biggest problems in Westmoreland County

is retaining our employees. According to the county commissioners association, we have one of the lowest paid staffs in Pennsylvania, and retention is a more cost-effective way to ensure we have enough people to work," Kertes said. Kertes said this year's \$456.7 million budget included funds earmarked for pay raises. In addition to the raises approved this week, county leaders ratified a new three-year labor deal at the start of 2023 with about 500 union workers. That is expected to cost \$2.7 million. Commissioners

PAY RAISE · A4



Taylor Shawley, of Greensburg, smiles as she gets a St. Patrick's Day-themed green tea matcha latte from Greensburg business Steep Mountain Tea Co. PHOTOS: SHANE DUNLAP TRIBLIVE



SLÁINTE!

Dave Hart performs with violinist Gina Ketter, both from Pittsburgh, as the pair play traditional Irish music under their stage name, Smiley and Clams, Friday during the monthly Art on Tap event at the Westmoreland Museum of American Art in Greensburg.

MT. PLEASANT

Borough hopes to boost communication with Little League

Mt. Pleasant officials have asked for better communication with the Mt. Pleasant Area Little League. Council voted to approve Silvis Landscaping mowing the baseball fields at Willows Park twice monthly at a cost of \$260 per mow and asked that the MPALL keep them up-to-date on work happening at the ballfields. MPALL Secretary Patrick Hresko said there's no ongoing work at the fields, but improvements had been made recently to the dugouts. "It seems like the borough is always the last to know about these things," said council President Susan Ruszkowski. "I don't think anyone's unhappy with the work that's gone on," Councilman Andy Davis said. "We just need to see

things like the league schedule and project plans, so we know what's going on there from year to year."

Councilman Ken Phillabaum said the MPALL's leadership in recent years "has kind of been a revolving door and things fall by the wayside. I'm dealing with the same thing with football."

Hresko said he would provide the borough with any documentation they needed and would work to keep council updated.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Fake fundraisers noted following house blast

Crescent police are warning of illegitimate fundraising efforts for the family affected by Tuesday's house explosion that killed two people. In a social media post, police said those who created the fake fundraisers are taking advantage of the situation. "I must emphasize that the

family has not endorsed any such initiatives," the post reads. The blast in the small Ohio River community was reported just before 9 a.m. Emergency responders arrived to find debris from the home, which had been destroyed, scattered around the neighborhood. Helen Mitchell, 87, and David L. Mitchell Jr., 89, were killed, according to the Allegheny County Medical Examiner's Office.

Two other homes were damaged, and the explosion was felt miles away. Police said any future fundraising efforts by the Mitchells' family will be communicated through reputable channels.

REGION

Discount registration open for Mon/Yough 5K and half marathon

Special early pricing is set to end Sunday for the Mon/Yough Trail Council's annual 5K and half marathon races that start

at the Boston access of the Great Allegheny Passage. The races, the group's largest annual fundraiser, will take place April 13. Both races will run south along the Youghiogheny River. The half marathon starts at 9 a.m. and the 5K at 9:15. The finish line for both will be at the Boston trailhead. Registration at the special pricing through Sunday is \$40 for the half marathon (13.1 miles) and \$25 for the 5K (3.1 miles). Registrations at a higher price will be accepted until April 11. Awards will be given to top finishers. To register or for more details, visit thebostontrail.com. Mon/Yough Trail Council volunteers maintain 15 miles of trail between McKeesport and the border of Allegheny and Westmoreland counties. They formed in 1991. The Great Allegheny Passage was officially named in 2001. It is an former railroad line that has been transformed into a 150-mile walking and biking trail between Pittsburgh and Cumberland, Md.

Kennametal CEO to retire; replacement named

BY JOE NAPSHA

Kennametal Inc.'s top officer will retire and the president of its metal cutting segment will take charge of the global corporation that generated almost \$2.1 billion in sales in its 2023 fiscal year, the Pittsburgh-based company said.

Sanjay Chowbey, a Kennametal vice president, will succeed Christopher Rossi, who decided to retire effective May 31 after almost seven years as the company's president and CEO. Kennametal's board unanimously appointed Chowbey to take over the corporation's top post effective June 1.

Kennametal, which started in Latrobe and has a corporate office in Unity, makes cutting tools across a variety of industries, including aerospace and defense, earthworks, energy, general engineering and transportation. During Rossi's tenure as Kennametal's CEO, the company underwent what it called a simplification and modernization strategy that included closing plants and reducing its global workforce. One of the victims of the strategy was its Carbide plant along Arona Road in Hempfield, which closed at the end of 2019, resulting in a loss of 60 jobs.

Rossi took over the company in August 2017, from Ronald DeFeo, who was named CEO in February 2016. Kennametal had 10,700 employees, of which 3,500 were in the U.S., according to its 2017 annual report. By the publication of its 2023 annual report last year, Kennametal had 8,700 employees in close to 100 countries.

Kennametal reported \$2.08 billion in sales in the fiscal year that ended in June 30 up from \$2.01 billion in fiscal year 2022.

"Chris led the company through the challenges of covid-19, drove a significant and lasting cultural transformation, and improved the underlying performance of the business," said William M. Lambert, board chairman.

Chowbey joined Kennametal in 2021 as president of its metal cutting segment. The business has grown its customer base, consistently delivered sales growth, expanded its operating margins, launched more than 20 new products and improved employee engagement, the company said.

Kennametal revealed its leadership change shortly after the stock market closed at 4 p.m. Thursday. Kennametal's shares closed at \$23.81, down \$1.15 from Wednesday's closing price.

In the past 52 weeks, Kennametal's stock reached a high of \$30.60 on July 31, but dropped to a low of \$22.08 on Nov. 1.

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



Chowbey: Will succeed Christopher Rossi as Kennametal CEO.

Wordle fans to celebrate 1,000th word-game puzzle

BY MEGAN SWIFT

As a speech pathologist, Jessica Valko is a fan of word games. But there's one in particular that she's been playing every day — Wordle. The online word game that's run by the New York Times is celebrating its 1,000th puzzle Friday. Valko, 51, of Murrysburg said she loves playing the five-letter guessing game on her phone. Though she jumped on the craze when the game was released in October 2021 by Josh Wardle, she, her mom and her sister were playing separately until they realized they were all interested. Now, the trio competes and talks in Vandergrift. Valko's sister, Diana Zabinski, lives in Michigan.

they rotate who chooses the word that all three use as their first guess. Wordle gives users six tries to guess the five-letter word. "We are a little bit of a competitive family by nature, so everybody wants the bragging rights," Valko said. For the 1,000th Wordle, it will be Valko's turn to choose. Though sometimes they don't guess the Wordle, the game gives them a chance to connect every day when they might not always be able to otherwise. "We don't always have a chance to talk about our daily lives, but every day we talk about our Wordle," Valko said. Valko's mom, Linda Kardos, lives in Vandergrift. Valko's sister, Diana Zabinski, lives in Michigan.

"It means so much to me because we connect every single day," Kardos said. "And if I can beat them, as a mother, I love it," she said with a laugh. Wordle has given Christy Bash and her three sisters a chance to connect daily as well. Bash, 70, of New Alexandria and her sisters also take turns coming up with the word they all use as their first guess. They've been playing together for over a year. Two live in Pennsylvania, and one lives in Oregon. "It's fun, and we have a lot of laughs over it," she said. "It's just something we can do together even though we don't live close." Bash, a communications consultant at Elliott, and her sisters ask friendly competitive questions like:

"Who got the highest score?" and "How did you get it that quick?" "I think it's a really quick way to do something that stimulates your brain," she said. And they've branched out from Wordle as well, playing the New York Times' Connections game. Gayle Rogers, professor and chair of the University of Pittsburgh's English department, said he's never missed a day playing the word game. "I'm still playing — I think the phenomenon is still going," he said. "I think it hit at the right time as a pandemic activity that you can share virtually." Rogers said he texts with friends, family and colleagues to discuss the puzzles almost daily. "I do it first thing in the morning, and I find it a fun way to wake

your brain up a little bit," he said. "My brother and I always exchange scores and paths ... and find ourselves doing very similar things a lot of the time — and it's interesting to see." For Rogers, the most interesting words to guess are the easy ones, he said. "We use them so commonly, so we don't necessarily think of them as words very often," Rogers said. "Those are the ones that ... you kind of smack your forehead after that and say, 'Oh, right.'" Rogers plans to continue playing Wordle every day. "It's a small, fun part of the day."

Megan Swift is a TribLive staff writer. She can be reached at mswift@triblive.com.

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or email obits@triblive.com.

Susan Elizabeth (Love) Dell

LATROBE



Susan Elizabeth (Love) Dell, 83, passed away on Friday, March 15, 2024. Born Sept. 24, 1940, in Latrobe, Susan was the daughter of the late George H. and Elizabeth Letitia (Wermer) Love. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of almost 60 years, Byron R. Dell; and her brother, George H. Love Jr. Susan was Catholic by faith and was a member of Saint Vincent Basilica Parish, Latrobe. She attended Plymouth High School in Plymouth, Mich., and graduated from Derry Area High School. She went on to earn her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Pittsburgh. She enjoyed camping with her children and grandchildren, taking nature walks, literature, music, art and the rescuing of several Pomeranian senior pups. Susan's family was her world, and she is survived by three daughters, Tish Darazio (Allan), Barb Mock (Terry) and Suzie Klimchock (Matt); one son, Michael Dell; seven beloved grandchildren, who knew her as Grandma, Melissa Beck (Jesse), TJ Mock (Anna), Kacie Pence (Lee), Nick Mock (Jordan Morosini), Chris Mock, Kory Klimchock (Becky Cribbs) and Kyle Klimchock (Nisa Sabdarali); three beloved great-grandchildren, Jase Beck, Parker Pence and Porter Pence; three sisters-in-law, JoAnn Love, Shirley Connor and Dorothy Dell; one brother-in-law, Donnie Dell; as well as several nieces and nephews. Not to be forgotten are her 'Michigan Family,' her high school friend and sister by choice, Myrna Payton, whose friendship has brought forth three generations of love and family. The family would like to give a special thanks to her loving caregivers, Tish Tomlinson and Brandie Dunlap for their excellent care and compassion. **Family and friends will be received from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday at LOPATICH-BRINKER FUNERAL HOME LLC, 601 Weldon St., Latrobe. Members of the Saint Vincent Rosary Society will recite the rosary at 11:30 a.m. Sunday in the funeral home. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Monday at Saint Vincent Basilica. Interment is private.** In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to Action for Animals, P.O. Box 814, Latrobe, PA 15650 or to Animal Friends of Westmoreland County, 216 Depot St., Youngwood, PA 15697, or planting a tree in her honor. To sign the online guest book, send condolences, or share a story, please visit www.lopatichbbrinker.com



Regional deaths

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Name, Age	Residence	Funeral home
Reid, John, 64*	Baldwin	Cremation & Burial Society, Wexford

FAYETTE COUNTY

Name, Age	Residence	Funeral home
Nicholson, Clara, 86*	Normalville	Brooks, Connellsville
Sokol Jr., John, 85*	Uniontown	Crawford, Hopwood

INDIANA COUNTY

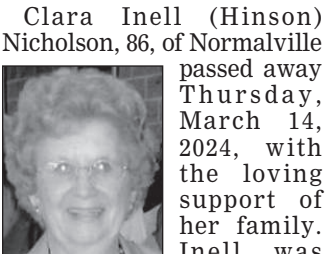
Name, Age	Residence	Funeral home
Kanurick, Bonnie, 77	Blairsville	Shoemaker, Blairsville

WESTMORELAND COUNTY

Name, Age	Residence	Funeral home
Dell, Susan, 83*	Latrobe	Lopatich Brinker, Latrobe
Dawning, Lester, 88	Greensburg	Nye, Youngwood
Ferrante, Thomas, 82	Penn Township	Vaia, Delmont
Galbraith, Donald, 87	North Huntingdon	Snyder, Irwin
Horner, Lugene, 67*	Ligonier	Snyder-Green, Ligonier
Kercheval, Ralph, 73	Greensburg	Kepple-Graft, Greensburg
McGeary, Amanda, 39	Scottsdale	Kapr, Scottsdale
Reiter, Rose, 84*	Greensburg	Bacha, Greensburg

Clara Inell (Hinson) Nicholson

NORMALVILLE



Clara Inell (Hinson) Nicholson, 86, of Normalville passed away Thursday, March 14, 2024, with the loving support of her family. Inell was born in Sumter, S.C., on Sept. 26, 1937, to William A. and Erlene (Watts) Hinson. She was one of eight children. Inell is survived by a daughter, Cindi (Mark) Geiger; a son, Greg (Sherryl) Nicholson; a daughter-in-law, Chris (George) Gardner; grandsons, Zachary Scott (Emily) Geiger and Devin Gardner; and her beloved cat, Sgt. Snugglepuss. Inell is also survived by her sisters, Frances DeGarmo and Willene Josey; her brothers-in-laws, Jesse Nicholson, Herman Kosarski and Rob Washburn; sisters-in-laws, Bessie Lovelace, Linda Kosarski and Ida Nicholson; and numerous special nieces and nephews both Northern and Southern. Inell was predeceased by her husband, Raymond D. Nicholson Sr.; a son, Raymond "Dale" Nicholson Jr.; brothers, Louie Hinson, William Hinson Jr., Thereon Hinson and Burnett Hinson; sister, Patricia Washburn; brothers-in-law, Donald DeGarmo, Allen Josey, Teddy Nicholson, Leroy Nicholson, Merle Nicholson and Philip Nicholson; John Clark, George Clark, Bryce White and WD Lovelace; sisters-in-law, Wanda Hinson, Mary Hinson, Hattie Hinson, Helen Nicholson, Evelyn Nicholson, Luella Nicholson, Arlene Nicholson, Vernice Simmons, Leona Clark, Minnie Clark, Ella Mae White and Ester George. Inell attended Bethel School and Edmunds High School in Sumter, S.C. After meeting and marrying her husband, Raymond (Nick) while he was stationed at Shaw Field Air Force Base in Sumter, S.C., Inell spent the majority of her life in Normalville, where she loved everything but the Pennsylvania winters. She never grew

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.

to like those very much. She enjoyed her frequent visits back to the warmth of South Carolina. Quiet and very private by nature, Inell built her life around her family. Her children and grandchildren were everything to her. She ingrained in them a VERY deep love of animals, which were always part of her life and a definite Hinson trait. Inell was an extremely competent seamstress, having worked at Carilee and Union Apparel, even sewing for Christian Dior at one time. But her talent was showcased the most in the items she sewed for her home and almost all her daughter's clothing, which were unique and sewn with love. In her lifetime, Inell worked in the cotton fields and Anchor Hocking, also. She was, as her husband said, "the hardest working woman he knew." Her family cannot stress enough what a hard worker she was. Inell was also an excellent cook of both Northern and Southern dishes that her family will never be able to replicate quite the way she made them. In 1965, Inell was baptized as one of Jehovah's Witnesses, and she enjoyed learning from the Bible. She was confident that Jesus gave his life on behalf of us all and that through his sacrifice, all mankind can gain eternal life. Her favorite Scripture was Joshua 1:9 which says, "Have I not commanded you Be courageous and strong. Do not be struck with fear or terror, for Jehovah your God is with you wherever you go." Inell lived her entire life courageously to the very end. **A memorial will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 14, 2024, at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, Route 119, Connellsville, to which all her friends and family are welcome to attend. For those who wish to attend, but are physically unable to do so, please reach out to her family to get the online ZOOM link to her memorial service. At her request, interment was private and handled by BROOKS FUNERAL HOME, INC. in Connellsville.** In lieu of flowers, friends may make a donation to the animal rescue

organization of their choice. To offer a condolence or remembrance, please visit www.brooksfuneralhomes.com

Lugene L. Horner

LIGONIER

Lugene L. Horner, 67, of Ligonier, peacefully passed away surrounded by family on March 13, 2024. Lugene was born on Aug. 1, 1956, in Johnstown. She was known not only for her professional accomplishments but also for her loving and kind personality. Loving wife of David Horner. She is preceded in death by her parents, Logan and Florence Decker; late brother, Terry Decker; late son, Timothy Horner; and sister, Janice Decker. Lugene was also the sister-in-law of the late Tom Horner.

John 'Jack' Andrew Reid

BALDWIN

John "Jack" Andrew Reid, 64, of Baldwin, and formerly North Point Breeze, passed away Thursday, March 7, 2024. "He never met a stranger." When Jack met you, you became a friend, someone he was attentive to, someone he was there for, someone who mattered, no matter where you came from, what you did, what you had, or what you didn't have. And you would get cards, cards for holidays, cards of concern and support, or cards just to say hi. Jack was intelligent, wise, witty, and kind. A great reader and lover of music Chopin, Queen, and the Beach Boys. A gentle man with refined tastes and a rock 'n' roll soul. Jack was a self-improver. As a "tech guy," he made spread sheets of everything, including schedules to practice the piano, work on electronics, brush up on math, and write. He spent long hours playing strategy games, anything from fantasy to military history. He loved animals, and any pet he had was thoughtfully cared for and cherished for its companionship, innocence, and trust. And Jack was brave. He faced down the challenge of a terminal illness without complaint. He trusted in those who cared for him and protected those who loved

him. Jack was a deeply spiritual man, gravitating toward scripture that focused on our relationships to others and to the natural world. As a young man, Jack became an Eagle Scout. He attended CMU, where he became a brother in the Carnegie Chapter of Delta Upsilon and earned a degree in public policy. Later, he became a technical trainer with his own company. He adventured by taking sailing and flying lessons. He believed in volunteering and did so at both Phipps Conservatory and his church. Throughout his life, Jack was an enthusiastic member of various organizations, including Toastmasters, the Allegheny HYP Club, and the Greater South Hills Lodge No. 684 Freemasons. Jack was predeceased by his parents, Joseph and Marjorie Reid, longtime residents of New Cumberland. He is survived by his partner, Becky Carpenter; his best friend, Dick Beeler; his cousin, Sheila Bobala in Seattle; many other cousins in the Northeast and Northwest, and his many wonderful friends. **Family and friends are invited to a memorial service at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 13, with a reception to follow at Hamilton Presbyterian Church, 4500 Hamilton Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15236. RSVP to bac7727@gmail.com.** Donations in Jack's memory may be made to the Human Society of Pennsylvania, the American Cancer Society, or to any other cause you wish.

Rose Marie Reiter

GREENSBURG

Rose Marie Reiter, 84, of Greensburg, formerly of Irwin, died Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at Independence Health System Westmoreland Hospital, Greensburg. She was born July 4, 1939, in Greensburg, a daughter of the late John W. and Elizabeth (Steel) Reiter. She was a graduate of North Huntingdon High School, Class of 1958. Rose worked for Jeannette District Memorial Hospital before retiring from Greensburg Care Center. She was a resident of Gilbert Straub, where she enjoyed her friends and playing bingo. She loved the Steelers, Klondike Bars, and going to the zoo. She is survived by her sister, Patricia (Reiter) Tantlinger and husband Ralph; a nephew, Brian Tantlinger (Debra); two nieces, Rene Bensur (Christopher), and Jodi Tantlinger (James Richards); two great-nephews, Brandon and Bradley Tantlinger; and a great-niece, Ashley Bensur. **Friends will be received from 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday at LEO M. BACHA FUNERAL HOME INC., 516 Stanton Street, Greensburg. A funeral liturgy will begin at 11 a.m. Monday in the funeral home. Private**

interment in Westmoreland County Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the family to assist with funeral expenses. www.bachahf.com.

John L. Sokol Jr.

UNIONTOWN



John L. Sokol Jr., 85, of Uniontown, passed away on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at Ruby Memorial Hospital, Morgantown, W.Va. He was born Jan. 5, 1939, in New Kensington, the son of the late John S. Sr. and Louise (Napierkowski) Sokol. In addition to his parents, John is predeceased by his brother, Thomas Sokol. John is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Patricia (Frenchik) Sokol; children Diane Waters (Dale) of Streetsboro, Ohio, Chris Sokol of Uniontown, and Jennifer Brach (Paul) of Pittsburgh; grandchildren, who called him 'Pop Pop', Samantha, Mason, Jacob, Courtney, Marilyn, and John Paul; and great-grandson Elliott. Visits from his grandchildren and great-grandson were the joy of his life. He was the Executive Director for the PA Turnpike and worked as a PennDOT 12th District Engineer. John was a member of St. John the Evangelist R.C. Church, Knights of Columbus, American Society of Civil Engineers, PA Society of Professional Engineers, board of directors for the International Bridge, Turnpike and Tunnel Association, and chairman of the committee development of EZ Pass. He was an avid baseball fan and a lifelong Pittsburgh Pirates supporter. **Friends and family will be received from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday, March 17, in the DONALD R. CRAWFORD FUNERAL HOME, Hopwood. Prayers of transfer will be held at 9:30 a.m. Monday, March 18, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. in St. John's RC Church. Interment will follow at Mount Macrina Cemetery.** To honor John's memory, please make a donation to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

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

Maryland men suspected of Unity vehicle break-ins

BY RENATTA SIGNORINI

An off-duty Westmoreland County detective who noticed suspicious activity in his Unity neighborhood this week helped state police identify two men they believe stole a handgun, a Louis Vuitton wallet and \$340 from four vehicles, according to court documents.

Arrest warrants have been issued for the suspects: Dominyck S. Sims, 26, and Joeshua D. Waye, 27, both of Maryland.

The detective reported seeing a Dodge Charger driving slowly in the early morning hours Tuesday outside his home in the Mountain View area. Two men got out of the car and walked along a street with backpacks.

When the men got back into the car to leave, the detective followed them to a gas station in South Greensburg, about 8 miles away, according to court papers. Two state troopers caught up with them there and said they identified one of the men as Waye. He was wearing dark clothing.

The other man provided a false name, but investigators said they later identified him as Sims. It was unclear how they did so from court papers.

The two troopers apparently let the men go. They had not been arraigned. Police could not be reached Friday.

Four residents in the Mountain View area reported items and cash were taken from their vehicles overnight. One of them had footage from a doorbell camera that showed Sims wearing black clothing entering his vehicle after 3 a.m.

Security footage from another location showed a person fitting the description of Waye attempting to get into a vehicle, but it was locked, according to court papers.

The suspects are charged with theft, conspiracy, loitering and prowling at night and related offenses. Sims faces an additional charge of providing false identification to police.

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

Budget included funds earmarked for raises

PAY RAISE · FROM A3

also signed off on 3% raises for 400 nonunion employees.

Kertes, along with Commissioner Doug Chew and Balzer, also this week approved raises for the county's director of records management, Nathan Banwar, and a benefits coordinator in the human resources office.

Commissioner Ted Kopas opposed the more than \$8,500 pay hike to Banwar and a \$7,000 raise for the human resources staffer.

"The county simply cannot afford to hand out management raises like candy. I only supported raises for public safety or human services largely funded by the state. I've heard from many of our residents who are fed up

with county spending," Kopas said.

Kopas also said he will propose as early as next month a plan to cap annual raises doled out to the county's elected officials. Those raises are determined by increases in the Consumer Price Index, which last year totaled 3.5%. The county commissioners and other elected officials have earned raises that totaled nearly 17% since 2022.

Kopas said he wants to rescind an ordinance approved in the late 1990s that tied those raises to federal labor statistics and cap annual pay hikes to elected officials at 2.5%.

Rich Cholodofsky is a TribLive staff writer. He can be reached at rcholodofsky@triblive.com.

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Easter

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A PART OF PITTSBURGH’S IDENTITY

The dollars and sense of the Mon Incline

There are certain fixtures that simply define their city.
For Paris, it’s the Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe. For Washington, there are the White House and the Capitol and the monuments on the mall. For Philadelphia, it’s the Liberty Bell, the LOVE sculpture and the steps of the Museum of Art made famous in “Rocky.”

Pittsburgh is defined by geometry. The triangle of Point State Park. The pyramid spires of PPG Place. The elegant arcs of the bridges. And the angles of the inclines climbing Mt. Washington.

The city once had more than a dozen funiculars — that’s the formal name of the cars that climb the side of mountains. Most closed before

The incline is more than a pathway from the bottom of the mountain to the top. It is part of the city’s identity.

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1964. Just two remain: Duquesne Incline and the oldest of them all, the Monongahela Incline. And the Mon Incline is closed, too. Usually, at least.

Despite \$8.2 million in renovations from August 2022 to March 2023, malfunctions have shut the incline yet again. Ironically, the 154-year-old conveyance isn’t hurting from its antique parts. It’s the modern computer technology causing problems now.

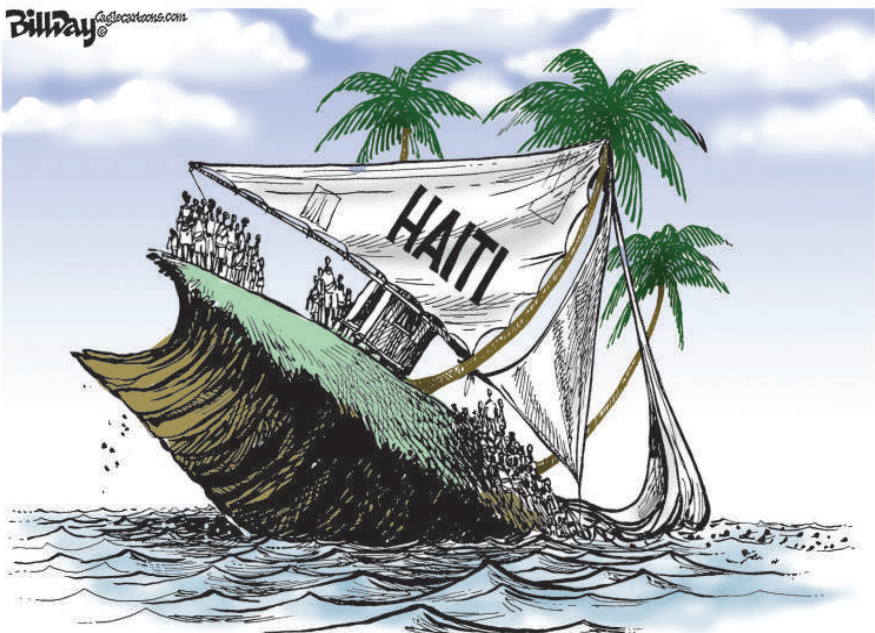
Pittsburgh Regional Transit is forming a committee to talk about the future of the incline — one of just 10 working versions left in the country. Replacement is on the table.

If you look at the numbers, it makes sense to consider giving up on it. It isn’t the only way to get up the mountain. The number of riders is low — although looking at the last two years when it’s been closed for a total of almost 10 months does give a distorted view.

But the incline is more than a pathway from the bottom of the mountain to the top. It is part of the city’s identity.

It’s the moment of wonder when kids press their noses on the glass as it rises. It’s the breath-taking view of the skyline when you get to the top. It’s the quaint image of the car following its short track back and forth.

Is there a place where the cost no longer makes sense? Of course. But the funicular — the oldest funicular — has a value that must be considered outside of dollars and cents.



LETTERS

Congress must rein in PBMs

As a clinical pharmacist, it’s difficult to sit by and watch as policies and practices put in place by insurers and pharmacy benefit managers, or PBMs, continue to have such a negative impact on patient access to care, affordability and the future of local, independent pharmacies here in Pennsylvania and nationwide.

While it’s frustrating that Congress failed to pass PBM reform last year, I’m hopeful lawmakers, including Sens. Bob Casey Jr. and John Fetterman, can work to pass the bipartisan DRUG Act. The patient-focused reforms within the DRUG Act would help rein in the unscrupulous business practices PBMs use to profit while chipping away at patient access. PBMs use policies that

Patient steering, for example, is when PBMs will restrict patients to the pharmacies that the PBMs own or are affiliated with — which also pose a threat to smaller, independent pharmacies that have been serving their communities for generations.

maximize their profit while failing to pass along promised savings to patients. Unfortunately, their practices also lead to unnecessary delays and denials of care as well as barriers that patients must work to overcome. Patient steering, for example, is when PBMs will restrict patients to the pharmacies that the PBMs own or are affiliated with — which also pose a threat to smaller, independent pharmacies

that have been serving their communities for generations. Congress should pass this bill to hold PBMs more accountable for their practices that threaten patient access, drive up out-of-pocket costs, and hurt independent pharmacies. Hopefully, Pennsylvania lawmakers can help push for these much-needed reforms.

Meghan Cahalane
Mt. Lebanon

Republicans shouldn’t compromise on abortion

In Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court ruled a person may choose an abortion until a fetus (genetically complete human being) becomes viable. “Viability” is an arbitrary term used to determine when it is legal to terminate human life. Factors such as fetal lung development, heartbeat and the ability to feel pain are a few of the arbitrary factors attached to defining viability.

Republicans are currently floating another factor to add to the list of arbitrary terms, “electability.” To win elections, Republicans are proposing a compromise strategy to allow abortions up to 14 weeks. This is nonsense.

Pro-life Republicans are repeatedly elected to public office. Compromise and appeasement are not virtuous political strategies; ask Neville Chamberlain.

Christians are bound to a higher authority than the Supreme Court and state legislatures. Christian standards and virtues should never be compromised for political expediency or to win elections. If we are ever to regain and secure the blessing of nature’s God, we might consider returning to and adhering to his laws.

Kris DeJeet
Salem

Vote smart, end stupid

Stupidity is a cruel word which means lack of intelligence, and I like to think that nobody is stupid. Well, our politicians have proven me wrong again.

When Donald Trump tells Republicans to nix a bipartisan immigration bill, I guess because it’ll be an election issue and they listen to him, they are stupid. When 170 Democrats nix the bipartisan Laken Riley Act, I guess just to get back at the Republicans, that is stupid. Hopefully the Laken Riley Act will become a law.

It seems the more education some people get, the dumber they get. I guess the real issue in “stupid Washington” is due to our own stupidity, we keep reelecting these people. It is time for all voters to get smarter and vote smarter and quit reelecting the stupid people who don’t work for the betterment of our country. It is time for the word “bipartisan” to be a reality instead of just a stupid word.

Jack Juris
Buffalo Township

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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S.E. CUPP

Biden and Trump are not treated the same

Welp, it’s official. President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump are going to be our two major party choices for president. Congrats, America?

On Tuesday night, both Biden and Trump clinched enough delegates to become the presumptive nominees of their parties and will await their conventions to be formally nominated.

But who starts this next phase of what will be an excruciatingly long slog of a campaign in the better position? That’s up to interpretation. Democrats are celebrating a strong State of the Union performance by Biden last week, which — at least for the moment — allayed fears that he is coming across as too old for the job.

Democrats also believe Biden has the upper hand when it comes to money. Here, they’re not wrong — Biden, the Democratic National Committee and groups who support him have far out-raised those supporting Trump, who is

also bleeding cash due to his many ongoing lawsuits, legal fees and legal fines.

And there are the issues. Democrats believe earnestly — just ask them — that Biden’s economy is improving by the day. At his SOTU address, he even boasted that the U.S. economy is the “envy of the world.”

But don’t tell that to U.S. voters, who disagree. Whatever bright spots there are, they’re not translating to approval, nor do voters believe Biden’s economy is better than Trump’s was.

Democrats also feel good about the issue of women’s reproductive health — and they should. Republicans’ efforts to ban or limit access to abortions and in vitro fertilization have not endeared them to a majority of voters.

But the news isn’t all good for Biden.

On immigration, still a top issue among many voters, Biden’s policies have been a clear failure, and despite Republicans’ craven

attempts to keep the problem alive so Trump can run on it, the issue still plagues Democrats.

But the biggest problem for Biden is that the bar is set differently for him than it is for Trump.

Trump benefits from having a voter base with an exceedingly low bar. Trump can be a literal loser, who lost the White House, the House and the Senate for Republicans in four short years. He can be a convicted criminal — many of his voters say they’d still support him.

Trump can equivocate, back-track and contradict himself on policy, as he has on myriad issues from abortion to entitlements. Trump can make vile and impolitic statements regularly — using Hitler-ian language to describe migrants, for example, or mocking Biden for a childhood stutter. He can be a liar, a jerk and an ignoramus. He’s conditioned his base over the past nine years to love it all.

Biden, on the other hand, is

being held to a much higher standard — by his own voters.

While his most stalwart defenders insist they’re fine with his age and fitness, 75% of voters — and half of Democrats — are very concerned about his health.

When Biden makes rhetorical or policy gaffes — for instance, calling an undocumented immigrant accused of murdering a Georgia college student an “illegal,” his base lets him know in no uncertain terms that he messed up.

In short, his own voters are telling him to do better, be better, whereas Trump’s voters love him even when he’s the absolute worst.

The dueling bars mean Trump will have to fight to win new voters, while Biden will have to fight just to keep his own.

Meanwhile, many of us are looking for the bar — so we can drown our sorrows over this crummy choice.

S.E. Cupp is the host of
“S.E. Cupp Unfiltered” on CNN.

GARY FRANKS

Have we lowered bar for Biden?

Press conferences? “No, we’re good,” implies the Biden administration. And the liberal media allows President Joe Biden to get away with it. No president in recorded history has done fewer. It is a basic part of his job. But he insists he is ready for four more years in office.

It must be nice being Biden. He gets away with things that all the recent presidents would never be allowed to get away with. That must be one of the benefits of old age.

Heck, if former Presidents Barack Obama or George H.W. Bush or George W. Bush had allowed millions of illegal immigrants to invade America, they would have been kicked to the curb.

A recent Gallup poll states that most Americans see the border invasion as a “critical threat” to our security. At a minimum, every “gotaway” is a national security threat. But Biden does nothing but blame others. Protecting America is another basic part of his job.

As America’s oldest president, Biden seems to get graded on a curve, or we have dramatically lowered the bar for him.

Biden takes advantage of his advantages. No tough questions for him. He picks only those reporters who can talk nicely to him.

Press conferences allow all Americans to get an immediate regular report on what is going on and what the president has planned. They also allow the media to question the president. This is important because 330 million Americans cannot do so all at once. The best and brightest reporters are given this task and have done it so admirably for over 100 years.

This year, Biden did one news conference, kind of. He angrily burst into a small room in the White House in an unscheduled early evening meeting with the White House press. What was it about? It concerned his rebuttal to Special Counsel Robert Hur, who wrote of the president’s mental decline in a recent report.

Why does Biden want to avoid the media, despite many in the media being ultra friendly to him?

Maybe because he would get one of the following questions:

“Mr. President, the Constitution says that the United States must protect each state from an invasion. Are you failing to do that?”

“Mr. President, why have you rejected a return to the border policies of the Obama administration, which you were a part of?”

“Mr. President, why are you asking Congress to fund other countries’ needs before addressing America’s needs? What can you do and what will you do to protect America?”

“Mr. President, if a president does not abide by his oath of office and does not protect the Constitution, should he be removed from office?”

“Mr. President, prior to your presidency, Americans were spending \$100 for groceries a week and now are spending over \$120 a week for the same items. How is that better for Americans? Is Bidenomics working?”

I could go on. But I think you get the point.

Biden needs to be on a platform in prime time addressing these issues from the media and give the American people answers. We are wise enough to fairly evaluate you like we have done past presidents.

A regular press conference in which you respond to tougher questions — can you do it? Will you do it? Can you do one per month?

If done well, this move could actually help you. It could alleviate concerns about your declining mental capabilities. Failing to do so confirms our concerns.

It must be nice being Biden, being old, being treated differently, being given advantages — but it is not good for America.

Gary Franks served three terms as U.S. representative for Connecticut’s 5th District. He was the first Black Republican elected to the House in nearly 60 years. He is the author of “With God, For God, and For Country.” @GaryFranks

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Fans anticipate new era of Steelers

FANS · FROM A1

“The coach has got to go,” he said, adding that he would have liked to see Pickett spend a little more time in Pittsburgh.

While visiting friends in Pittsburgh, Kevin Meloni of Long Island, N.Y., stopped by the Strip District to buy a powder blue Sidney Crosby jersey when he saw a group of people buying Pickett T-shirts.

“They took a ‘L,’ ” joked Meloni. “There’s no refunds over there.”

A Chicago Bears fan, Meloni opposed fans who predict the Steelers will acquire free agent quarterback Justin Shields, who the Bears drafted No. 1 in 2021 after graduating from Ohio State.

“Your Steelers are not going to touch my Justin Fields, I tell you that,” he said.

But Ohio State grad Jeff Slezak of Cranberry feels just the opposite — he would like to see Fields come to the Steelers.

“He was never going to be anything,” Slezak said of Pickett. “I think we’ve already seen that. I don’t love (that we have Wilson), but I get it.”

His friend, Connor Duddy, of Pittsburgh’s North Hills, said he’s glad Pickett is leaving.

“I was pretty happy,” he said. “I called my dad and said, ‘I told you so.’ ”

For Matt Zegarelli, the Steelers’ decision to let go of Pickett and backup quarterback Mitch Trubisky is a good move.

“I love it. I mean, they’re trying to win,” said Zegarelli of North Huntingdon. “I feel like they have a really good shot at, at least being a playoff team — winning playoff games — this year.”

Zegarelli would like to see the Steelers bring in Fields.

Zegarelli’s wife, Erin, was sad to see former backup quarterback Mason Rudolph



MIKE DIVITTORIO | TRIBLIVE

Friends Connor Duddy, Jeff Slezak, Mike P. and Tim O’Brien talk about the Kenny Pickett trade while having a drink at Tom’s Watch Bar in Pittsburgh’s North Shore on Friday.

leave, joining the Tennessee Titans in free agency. But she was pleasantly surprised the Steelers would make this many changes to their quarterback roster.

“I’m actually happy they made a move,” Erin Zegarelli said. “I just feel like they do the same thing (every year) and it’s not any different.”

Bob Marino of Cheswick said he thought Pickett did OK for a while, but had a difficult time playing up to the level of better teams.

But the Steelers’ mediocre season can’t be blamed solely on Pickett, he said.

“You can’t just point at one person and say, ‘You’re the reason we didn’t win,’ ” Marino said. “It’s still a team game.”

Mark Stitt of Ford City has mixed feelings about the trade.

“I, like everybody else, wanted great things for Kenny Pickett,” he said.

Between injuries and being benched in favor of other quarterbacks, Pickett didn’t have enough time to grow and meet the demands of the NFL, Stitt said.

DJ Givner, manager at Tom’s Watch Bar in

Pittsburgh’s North Shore, is excited to see what Wilson will do.

“You’ve got a Hall of Fame-caliber quarterback coming in who’s already won a Super Bowl,” Givner said. “I think it’s exciting for the area. We want Pittsburgh to get back to its winning ways again.”

For Mark Zuzich, Wilson has proven himself a talented professional while Pickett didn’t live up to expectations.

“Kenny had an opportunity for the last year-and-a-half, two years. It just didn’t seem like he really had it to play in the NFL,” said Zuzich of Penn Township. “It’s a whole different ball game. I think maybe he’ll do better somewhere else. I wish him well.”

Being a young athlete, Pickett’s chances at a good professional career are likely, according to Dan Hearn of Braddock Hills.

“He was a good quarterback,” Hearn said. “He just didn’t have the protection. And he’s young. He’ll do all right, going to Philly. He just needs time.”

Quincey Reese, Kellen Stepler and Michael Divittorio are TribLive staff writers.

‘They’re most likely going to pop up’

BUBBLEHEADS · FROM A1

was happy to shoot a quick, slick video about the missing toys that bore his likeness.

In the 18-second production, trotted out by the Penguins on social media, Jagr strapped a seat belt onto one of his mini-mes, telling the toy, “Buckle up, baby, let’s go find your friends.”

Jagr saluted and then exited a garage in a yellow Ford pickup with the Penguins name plastered on the tailgate and a vanity license plate, 68 WWATCH, with the team’s logo. The plate referred to Jagr’s time as a free agent when fans were trying to woo him back to Pittsburgh.

The video ended with the words, “To be continued ...”

Acklin said the bobblehead in the pickup was a prototype for the giveaway. He said he has it locked in his office.

Acklin would not divulge the name of the vendor that made the bobbleheads. He also would not identify the freight company.

“We have no idea where this stuff is,” Acklin said. “It’s either going to turn up, or they’re going to produce more bobbleheads.”

Detective Sgt. Clifford Jones of the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department said Friday night the team will have to be patient for the shipment to

turn up, but turn up it likely will.

“It could be in Arizona, it could be in Colorado,” he said. It could end up along the side of a freeway.

“They’re most likely going to pop up,” Jones said.

Pennsylvania, though, seemed a pretty unlikely destination.

After arriving in port in Los Angeles, the bobbleheads were transported to a warehouse facility in Carson, a suburb in Los Angeles County south of LA near Long Beach.

There they fell victim to a common crime, Jones said.

Someone with a truck and fake paperwork tricked the warehouse staff, loaded the containers of bobbleheads and drove off, likely having no idea what they were filching, Jones said.

“A truckload was stolen,” Jones said. “Not an actual truck.”

Usually, thieves who raid warehouses are hoping for TVs, washing machines or other valuable items that they can fence.

But Jagr bobbleheads?

At best, they’re a niche item. A very niche item.

“We have the Ducks and the Sharks, but hockey is not like the Lakers,” said Jones, who grew up in Lake Placid, N.Y.

He knows a little something

about hockey. Jones said he played defense during his time decades ago at the University of Scranton.

Jones admitted to not being a Pens fan, but said that he liked Lemieux and, yes, Jagr. (“I never got into the whole Crosby craze,” he said.)

Whether in deference to a professional sports team, in recognition of the inherent value of thousands of miniature Jagr lookalikes or something else, the California authorities kicked the case upstairs.

Jones said it had been taken off the hands of the Carson station and turned over to the sheriff’s department’s Cargo Criminal Apprehension Team, the Cargo C.A.T.S.

Even though there’s little chance that the bobbleheads will turn up in the Pittsburgh area, authorities here still plan to keep an eye out.

“We understand the community and the Pittsburgh Penguins want their bobbleheads back safe and quickly,” Gagliardi said. “We will help in any way possible and continue to check locations with any updated information we receive.”

Staff writer Haley Daugherty contributed to this report. Jonathan D. Silver is a TribLive news editor. He can be reached at jsilver@triblive.com.

Xylazine cannot be counteracted with Narcan

OVERDOSES · FROM A1

and Alcohol Commission. “In 2023, we distributed 5,016 Narcan kits. That’s a 30.5% increase over 2022.”

After hitting a high point in 2017 with 193 drug overdose deaths, the statistics dropped dramatically and 2023’s numbers cut that figure by more than half.

Heroin has continued to disappear as a major factor in overdose deaths. Fentanyl was the main contributor in 77 deaths in 2023 — 89 when including a dozen overdoses attributed to derivatives such as acetyl-fentanyl and para-fluorofentanyl — while heroin was the primary cause in just three.

Overall, the overdose figures are the county’s lowest since 2014.

Minardi said the commission has adjusted its approach with the onset of fentanyl and xylazine, offering not just the Narcan kits but also drug testing strips that can recognize the presence of both substances.

“We developed harm reduction kits, and just like the Narcan kits, we can send them by mail and we have them at our offices in Monessen, Mt. Pleasant and Greensburg,” she said. “So if someone is not ready to quit, they can at least test their drugs and know what they’re taking.”

Unlike opioid-based drugs, xylazine cannot be counteracted with Narcan or naloxone, its generic form.

The annual report released showed a slight drop in Coroner Tim Carson’s caseload, from 3,309 in 2022 to 3,120 last

year. The number of autopsies performed has fallen dramatically since 2022, when it dropped from 208 to 128, and then to 117 last year. Those are the lowest figures since 2014 (153).

There were 27 traffic-related deaths and four homicides. In addition, deaths by suicide — 60 — were just two shy of the county record set last year.

The number of suicides has remained between 46 and 62 for the past decade. The corner’s office has been working with Ray of Hope, the county’s suicide awareness and prevention task force, to get resources to families when the deputies respond to death by suicide calls.

Patrick Varine is a TribLive staff writer. He can be reached at pvarine@triblive.com.

Pickett came with high expectations

PICKETT · FROM A1

audible background of scores of camera shutters.

Pickett, the star of the college team that shares a practice facility with the Steelers, was staying in Pittsburgh.

Though Pickett grew up near the New Jersey coastline, he’d earned status as a “hometown hero” in the Steel City by way of leading Pitt to its first conference championship in school history in 2021. Pitt’s first finalist for the Heisman Trophy in 18 years and the first quarterback off the draft board in 2022, Pickett was something of a storybook choice for the Steelers as their successor to future Hall of Fame quarterback Ben Roethlisberger.

Less than 23 months later, Pickett’s marriage to the Steelers uncereemoniously ended with no fanfare — or even much advance warning. Word broke mid-afternoon Friday that the Steelers had traded Pickett to the Philadelphia Eagles, the team Pickett grew up rooting for.

The package sent in return for Pickett was as underwhelming as his career had been with the Steelers: The Eagles surrendered two 2025 seventh-round picks and swapped a third-round pick in next month’s draft for a Steelers’ fourth-round pick.

In return, Philadelphia got the quarterback who had the worst touchdown-pass percentage of any who’d thrown at least 500 passes over the past 54 seasons.

But it wasn’t necessarily the mere 13 touchdown passes in 25 career games that did in Pickett’s Steelers career. Nor was it that among 32 qualifying NFL quarterbacks this past season Pickett ranked 27th in yards per attempt and 28th in completion percentage, or even that Pickett’s six touchdown passes were bested by 36 quarterbacks across the league in 2023.

It was that the Steelers came to the apparent determination that Pickett was unwilling to accept a back-



CHAZ PALLA | TRIBLIVE

Kenny Pickett greets the press April 29, 2022, with Steelers president Art Rooney II at the UPMC Rooney Sports Performance Complex.

up role or the prospect of a competition to hold on to the starting job.

That Friday’s trade was confirmed to TribLive about 3½ hours after the Steelers officially announced the signing of nine-time Pro Bowl quarterback Russell Wilson was not a coincidence.

The team would not have signed Wilson, a 35-year-old former Super Bowl champion, if it was 100% sold on Pickett as the franchise quarterback. Wilson, in turn, would not have agreed to join the Steelers if he believed Pickett was going to be the 2024 starter.

Pickett held unwavering public backing from Tomlin throughout his mediocre-at-best production this past season. But he watched from the sidelines as a backup for both the Steelers’ regular-season finale in Baltimore and their wild-card round playoff game at the Buffalo Bills.

Pickett at first fell out of the lineup because of an ankle injury suffered during a Dec. 3 loss. But once Mason Rudolph took over to lead a home win Dec. 23 following the benching of former No. 2 QB Mitch Trubisky, Tomlin elected to stick with Rudolph despite Pickett’s return to practice.

Apparently healthy enough to play, Pickett did not dress for a Dec. 31 Rudolph-led win at Seattle

that came four days after he offered a curiously curt and flat answer of “no” to a question about whether he’d learned anything or gleaned any lessons by watching Rudolph succeed in the previous game.

It would have been inconceivable then to consider that Pickett had played his final down for the Steelers. That he had is a remarkable development given his erstwhile popularity in the city, robust public support from the organization and first-round draft status.

It had been 32 years since the Steelers gave up on a first-round pick before the start of his third season with the team.

It was impossible to ignore Friday that the trade of Pickett came to light came about two hours after Wilson had stood at a podium at the UPMC Rooney Sports Complex, with Tomlin listening on while standing off to the left with palpable pride.

Less than two years ago, similarly, Tomlin beamed as he stood tall in a visually tangible display of support for a prospective new starting quarterback. Little did anyone know then that Pickett’s tenure as the Steelers’ face of the franchise would end so quickly.

Chris Adamski is a TribLive staff writer. He can be reached at cadamski@triblive.com.

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Justices rule public officials can be sued for blocking social media critics

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A unanimous Supreme Court ruled Friday that public officials can sometimes be sued for blocking their critics on social media, an issue that first arose for the high court in a case involving then-President Donald Trump.

Justice Amy Coney Barrett, writing for the court, said officials who use personal accounts to make official statements may not be free to delete comments about those statements or block critics altogether.

On the other hand, Barrett wrote, “State officials have private lives and their own constitutional rights.”

The court ruled in two cases involving lawsuits filed by people who were blocked after leaving critical comments on social media accounts belonging to school board members in Southern California and a city manager in Port Huron, Mich., northeast of Detroit. They are similar to a case involving Trump and his decision to block critics from his personal account on Twitter, now known as X. The justices dismissed the case after Trump left office in January 2021.

The cases forced the court to deal with the competing free speech rights of public officials and their constituents, all in a rapidly evolving virtual world. They are among five social media cases on the court’s docket this term.

Appeals courts in San Francisco and Cincinnati had reached conflicting decisions about when personal accounts become official, and the high court did not embrace either ruling, returning the cases to the appeals courts to apply the standard the justices laid out Friday.

“When a government official posts about job-related topics on social media, it can be difficult to tell whether the speech is official or private,” Barrett said.

Officials must have the authority to speak on behalf of their governments and intend to use it for their posts to be regarded essentially as the government’s, Barrett wrote. In such cases, they have to allow criticism, or risk being sued, she wrote.



AP

BURIED IN WHITE

A bicycle sits covered with snow as a city bus moves along the westbound lanes of Speer Boulevard as a late winter storm dropped up to a foot of snow Thursday in Denver. Forecasters predict the storm will persist through early Friday, snarling traffic along Colorado’s Front Range communities. Those higher elevations had up to 3 feet of snow by Thursday, forcing flight cancellations and shutting down a highway that connects Denver to Colorado ski resorts for much of the day, stranding some people in their cars for hours.

Real estate settlement upends policies that set agent commissions

A powerful real estate trade group has agreed to do away with policies that for decades helped set agent commissions, moving to resolve lawsuits that claim the rules have forced people to pay artificially inflated costs to sell their homes.

The National Association of Realtors also agreed to pay \$418 million to help compensate home sellers across the U.S.

As part of the settlement, NAR agreed to no longer require a broker advertising a home for sale to offer upfront compensation to a buyer’s agent. The rule change leaves it open for individual sellers to negotiate with a buyer’s agent.

The trade group also agreed to require agents or others working with a homebuyer to enter into a written agreement with them. That is meant to ensure homebuyers know going in what their agent will charge them for their services.

Best Buy recalls over 287K air fryers due to overheating issue

NEW YORK — Best Buy is recalling more than 287,000 air fryers and air fryer

ovens due to an overheating issue that can cause the products’ parts to melt or shatter, posing fire and laceration risks.

According to a Thursday notice from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Insignia-branded air fryer ovens can overheat — and the glass doors can shatter. The air fryers’ handles can also melt or break when overheated.

There have been 24 reports of melting or glass shattering, the CPSC said, including six reports of the fryers catching on fire. No injuries have been reported.

Marriages in U.S. back to pre-pandemic levels, CDC says

NEW YORK — U.S. marriages have rebounded to pre-pandemic levels with nearly 2.1 million in 2022.

That’s a 4% increase from the year before. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released the data Friday, but has not released marriage data for last year.

In 2020, the first year of the covid-19 pandemic, there were 1.7 million U.S. weddings — the lowest number recorded since 1963.

The number and rate of U.S. divorces in 2022 fell slightly, continuing a downward trend, the CDC said.

— Wire reports

Report: Sheriff had cause to take killer’s guns

Relatives had warned authorities about mental health of man before Maine mass shooting left 18 dead

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORTLAND, Maine — A sheriff’s office investigating a mass shooting in Maine had cause to take the killer into protective custody beforehand and to take away his guns, according to a report issued by an independent commission Friday.

Democratic Gov. Janet Mills and Attorney General Aaron Frey assembled the commission to review both the events leading up to Oct. 25, when Army reservist Robert Card killed 18 people in a bowling alley and a bar, and the response to the tragedy.

Led by a former chief justice of Maine’s highest court, the commission included a former U.S. attorney and the former chief forensic psychologist for the state. It held seven sessions starting in November, hearing from law enforcement, survivors and victims’ family members and members of the Army Reserve as it explored whether anything could have been done to prevent the tragedy and what changes should be made going forward.

Card, who was found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot after a two-day search, was well known to law enforcement, and his family and fellow service members had raised flags about his behavior, deteriorating mental health and potential for violence before the shootings.

In May, relatives warned police Card had grown paranoid, and they expressed concern about his access to guns. In July, Card was hospitalized in a psychiatric unit for two weeks after shoving a fellow reservist and locking himself in a motel room. In August, the Army barred him from handling weapons while on duty and declared him nondeployable. And in September, a fellow reservist texted an Army supervisor about his growing concerns about Card, saying, “I believe he’s going to snap and do a mass shooting.”

But law enforcement officials told commission members that Maine’s yellow flag law makes it difficult to remove guns from potentially dangerous people.

“I couldn’t get him to the door. I can’t make him open the door,” said Sgt. Aaron Skolfield, who visited Card’s home for a welfare check in September. “If I had kicked in the door, that would’ve been a violation of the law.”

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Blondie

HONEY, I HEAR A NOISE DOWNSTAIRS...I HOPE IT'S NOT THAT MOUSE AGAIN.

IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING.

I HOPE THOSE BROWNIES ON THE KITCHEN COUNTER WILL BE OK.

THEN AGAIN, YOU NEVER KNOW.

Beetle Bailey

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL DAY?

AT THE ART MUSEUM.

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE AN ART LOVER.

I LOVE MEETING GIRLS WHO LOVE ART.

Agnes

GRANDMA, I HAVE BEEN READING A HIGHLY INFORMATIVE WOMEN'S MAGAZINE, AND IT DID A PRETTY GOOD JOB TROUBLESHOOTING A PROBLEM OF MINE.

IT SEEMS I HAVE A RARE "FOOD-BASED" ANXIETY DISORDER. ADDING THIS ONE FOOD TO MY DAILY DIET WILL RESULT IN ME BEING CALM AND COLLECTED.

AND ACCORDING TO THIS CHART, THAT FOOD IS REESE'S CUPS.

SWEAT IT OUT.

For Better or for Worse

I HEAR YOU'VE BEEN TAKEN OVER BY YOUR GARAGE, GORD!

YEAH! AN' TRACEY'S DOIN' ALL THE PAPER-WORK.

WE FIGURE IF WE REALLY PUT EVERYTHING INTO IT, SHE SHOULD BE A PRETTY GOOD BUSINESS.

...YOU'RE GOING INTO THIS THING TOGETHER?

DON'T WORRY, MIKE... IT'S GONNA BE SORT OF AN UNLIMITED PARTNERSHIP.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY UNLIMITED?

WE'RE GETTING MARRIED!

Prickly City

THIS IS NOT WHAT I THOUGHT WOULD HAPPEN IF WE COMBINED REASON WITH EMOTION....

Baby Blues

IT'S AWFULLY QUIET IN THERE.

HAMMIE IS READING TO WREN.

AWWW! THAT'S SO SWEET!

YOU MIGHT WANT TO CLOSE YOUR EYES FOR THIS PART.

Get Fuzzy

SATCHEL AND I ARE COMPETING TO SEE WHO CAN WRITE THE SCARIEST MOVIE.

I WROTE ABOUT A KID IN WHITE MAKEUP CRAWLING ON ALL FOURS LIKE A CRAB!

PFF. EVERY SO-CALLED "SCARY MOVIE" HAS A JUVENILE, PALE-FACED CRAB-WALKER. NOT SCARY. OF COURSE, NOTHING SCARES ME.

BOO!

BOO, THE MOVIE... I LIKE IT.

THERE'S YOUR MOVIE, SATCH.

BOO, THE MOVIE... I LIKE IT.

Hagar the Horrible

I'M GLAD HELGA AND THE KIDS ARE HERE.

YOU'RE LUCKY TO HAVE FAMILY SHOW UP!

WHAM!

IF ONLY THAT WERE ENTIRELY TRUE!

Born Loser

THEY CONSTANTLY ADVERTISE PRODUCTS ON TV THAT AID OLDER PEOPLE'S MEMORY.

YOUR MEMORY IS SO SHARP, YOU'VE NEVER HAD TO USE THOSE PRODUCTS, HAVE YOU, UNCLE TED?

NO, I HAVEN'T... AT LEAST NOT THAT I RECALL.

Pearls Before Swine

HEY, MARLA AND CARLA TEA. WANT TO GO TO THE MOVIES WITH ME TOMORROW?

SURE, BUT IT WOULD BE EVEN BETTER IF YOU SPENT THE NIGHT WITH US.

TEASE.

YES, TEAS.

IT'S NOTHING TO BE PROUD OF.

WE WERE BORN THIS WAY, YOU RACIST!

DATING IS SO CONFUSING.

Bizarro

I'm celebrating sustainably.

Wayne's Bizarro 3-16-24

WEARING of the MICROGREENS

Pluggers

Thanks to Karen Ridings, Winchester, Virginia

You're a plugger if you have 20 snazzy shirts in the closet but always choose a T-shirt with a hole.

Flo & Friends

I THINK YOU GIRLS WILL FIND THAT ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE IS TO BE COMFORTABLE IN YOUR OWN SKIN.

THAT'S RIGHT, GIRLS...

IT'S NOT EASY! IT'S TAKEN ME YEARS TO FEEL COMFORTABLE IN MY OWN SKIN, BUT I DO...

NOW THAT IT'S NOT THAT TIGHT OF A FIT ANYMORE!

Wizard of Id

WOW, THIS REALLY IS A TOUGH HOLE...

SARLACC PIT

Garfield

WHAT'S THE PERFECT ACCESSORY...

THAT GOES WITH EVERYTHING?

BUTTER!

Flash Gordon

I SURMISE THE ASSASSIN, INVISIBLE, SOUGHT YOUR CONFIRMATION THAT HER TARGET WAS IN SIGHT...

SO! YOU'VE CAUGHT THE REAL KILLER.

WHAT'LL YOU DO WITH HER?

AFRAID OF WHAT SHE MIGHT TELL ME?

I SAW YOU ON THE DRONE, WHISPERING INTO YOUR HAND.

...MISTAKING THAT YOU MEANT THE HATED PRINCE MING, NOT THE BELOVED PRINCE RONAL.

HUH! SO WHY MAKE FLASH TAKE THE FALL?

BETTER A MAN WITH NO COUNTRY THAN A HEAD OF STATE, PRINCE VULTAN.

I NOTE YOU DID NOT SPEAK IN HIS DEFENSE...

BAH! HE'S FLASH GORDON!

HE'LL WEAR OUT ANY JAIL YOU PUT HIM IN!

HA. DO NOT CONCERN YOURSELF WITH YOUR WAYWARD ASSASSIN, YOUR GRACE.

PRISONERS GO MISSING ALL THE TIME.

Pickles

HAVE YOU TAUGHT BUSTER ANY OTHER HAND SIGNALS TO HELP YOU COMMUNICATE WITH HIM?

NO, BUT I HAVE TAUGHT HIM A LIP SIGNAL.

IT MEANS "TIME FOR KISSES," DOESN'T IT, BUSTER?

YOU SHOULD REALLY GET A BOYFRIEND, EMILY.

Big Nate

MRS. CZERWICKY! LET ME OUT EARLY!

WE'LL LEAVE YOU TWO ALONE! YOU HAVE A LOT TO TALK ABOUT!

HUH.

WONDER WHAT SHE MEANT BY THAT?

Over the Hedge

AHHH! A GRAY HAIR!

WHERE?

GROWING OUT OF MY EAR!

THAT'S NOT A HAIR.

WHAT IS IT??

A CRANE FLY.

I'M SO RELIEVED!

IT WAS EMPTY IN THERE! I WAS TRYING TO STAY OUT OF THE RAIN!

I KNOW. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.

	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM	12:30	1 AM	1:30	2 AM	2:30		
CBS	College Basketball Mountain West Tournament, Championship: Teams TBA From Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas. (N) (Live)				55th NAACP Image Awards (N) (Live)				48 Hours "Lamar Johnson: Standing in Truth" Investigative reports on crime and justice cases. (N)		(2) News (N) (7) 7News Weekend at (N) (10) WTAJ News at 11 (N)	(2) (35) Draft (7) Cash Explosion (10) (35) Hiring America Access Hollywood	(2) (05) Equalizer (7) Inside Ed. (10) (05) Access Hollywood	(7) The Equalizer "Legacy"	(2) (10) (05) SEAL Team "Welcome to the Refuge"	(7) Paid Programming	(2) (05) Entertainment. (N) (7) Paid Prog. (10) (05) SEAL Team	(7) Paid Programming		
(2) KDKA WTRF WTAJ																				
ABC	(4) Postgame (N) (23) Housewife	(4) News (N) (23) ABC World News (N)	(4) ABC World News (N) (23) Jeopardy!	(4) Vets-Pets (23) Wheel	NBA Countdown (N) (Live)	NBA Basketball Golden State Warriors at Los Angeles Lakers The Warriors and Lakers shift their tied season series to Los Angeles for the third contest. (N) (Live)					(4) News (N) (23) The National Desk (N) (Live)	(4) (35) Fast: Home Rescue "Mountain Man Homestead"	(23) The Outdoorsman With Buck McNeely	(4) (35) Big Deal (23) The Rookie	(4) (05) Inside Edition Weekend (N)	(4) Bensinger Steph Curry (23) The Rookie	(4) Access Hollywood (N)	(23) Forensic Files "Dollars and Sense"		
(4) WTAE WATM																				
NBC	(2:00) 2024 Players Championship Third Round The remaining field navigates TPC Sawgrass during the third round of the 2024 Players Championship. (N) (Live)		(6) Judge Judy (9) News 9 at (N) (11) Jeopardy!	(6) Big Bang (9) (11) Wheel	The Wall "John and Toni" Father and daughter John and Toni from Antioch, Calif., contend with the wall.		Weakest Link "Smells Like Money" Eight strangers play a high-stakes game of trivia and then vote each other off one by one.		Saturday Night Live Idris Elba; Khalid From March 9, 2019; Host Idris Elba; Khalid performs. (N)		(6) WJAC News (9) News (11) Channel 11 News at	Saturday Night Live Dakota Johnson; Justin Timberlake Host Dakota Johnson; Justin Timberlake performs.		(6) (9) (05) 1st Look (11) (05) Game Time Matt Olson (N)	(6) (9) Open House "Stunning Renovations" (11) (35) Sports (N)	(6) (9) Open House (11) (05) Pawn Stars	(6) FamFeud (9) Laughs (11) (35) Pawn Stars			
(6) WJAC WTVQ WPXI																				
FOX	Big East Tournament Pregame (N) (Live)	College Basketball Big East Tournament, Championship: Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York. (N) (Live)		Big East Tournament Postgame (N) (Live)		College Basketball Pac-12 Tournament, Championship: Teams TBA From T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas. (N) (Live)				(8) The National Desk (N) (Live) (53) The Floor "All Hail the King of the Floor"	(8) Floor, The (53) Attkisson (N)	(53) The Armstrong Williams Show	(8) Last Man Standing "Big Shots" (53) TMZ (N)	(8) Last Man Standing "Risky Behavior"	(8) Simpsons "Pixelated and Afraid" (53) SHARK!	(8) Young Sheldon				
(8) WWVP WPGH																				
(13) WQED	PBS News Weekend (N)	Rick Steves' Europe	Antiques Roadshow "LSU Rural Life Museum Hour 2" (N)	Doc Martin "Love Will Set You Free"	The Paris Murders		Filmmaker's Corner "David B and the Arts"		ACL 9th Annual Hall of Fame Honors Trisha Yearwood		My Music With "Old Friends"		Caverns "Iron & Wine"		America's Home Cooking: Gadgets & Gizmos					
(16) WINP	Law-SVU "Collateral Damages"	NWSL- Pre (P) NWSL Soccer Chicago Red Stars at Utah Royals FC (N) (Live)	NWSL- Post (N)	Bull "The Necklace"					Bull "The Woman in 8D"		Bull "Unambiguous"		Bull "Callisto"		Shark's		Shark			
(19) WPKD	Family Feud	Family Feud	USL Championship Soccer Orange County SC at Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC From Highmark Stadium in Pittsburgh. (N) (Live)	Family Feud	Family Feud	The 10 O'Clock Sports Call	(35) Nightly Sports Call	Friends	WOW - Women Of Wrestling	Friends	The Song	The Song "Maddie & Tae"	Kickin' It: With Byron Allen (N)							
(22) WPNT	The Liquidator	Modern Fam.	Modern Fam.	Modern Fam.	The Go-Go's (20)		News at 10 (N) Modern Fam.		Vacuum, Mop @ 1 Time	News at 10	The National Desk	Vacuum, Mop @ 1 Time	Eye Bags?							
(40) WPCB	Cornerstone Block Party	Monk "Mr. Monk and the Bully"		Columbo "A Trace of Murder"		Charles Stanley (N)		Truths That (N) Corner	Glory Hour	Ankerberg	Wretched	Prop. Conn	Hope Today	More Song	Cross TV Specials	Las Vegas				
(59) WEPA	Monk	Monk "Mr. Monk and the Bully"		Columbo "A Trace of Murder"		Charles Stanley (N)		Truths That (N) Corner	Glory Hour	Ankerberg	Wretched	Prop. Conn	Hope Today	More Song	Cross TV Specials	Las Vegas				
A&E	The First 48		The First 48 "End Game"		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48 (05) The First 48 "Last Shift"		(05) The First 48		(05) The First 48		(05) The First 48		(05) The First 48			
AMC	Iron Man (08) Terrence Howard, Gwyneth Paltrow, Robert Downey Jr.				Iron Man 2 (10) Gwyneth Paltrow, Don Cheadle, Robert Downey Jr.				Iron Man 2 (10) Gwyneth Paltrow, Don Cheadle, Robert Downey Jr.				Star Trek Into Darkness (13) Zachary Quinto, Karl Urban, Chris Pine.							
ANPL	North-Law "Snow Way Out"		North-Law "Treacherous Trails"		North Woods Law		North-Law "Out of Options"		North-Law "Bump in the Road"		North Woods Law "Case Closed"		North Woods Law		North-Law "Out of Options"		North-Law "Bump in the Road"			
ATTSP	(4:00) MLB Baseball Detroit Tigers at Pittsburgh Pirates From LECOM Park in Bradenton, Fla. (N) (Live)				(4:00) MLB Baseball Detroit Tigers at Pittsburgh Pirates From LECOM Park in Bradenton, Fla. (N) (Live)				(4:00) MLB Baseball Detroit Tigers at Pittsburgh Pirates From LECOM Park in Bradenton, Fla. (N) (Live)				(4:00) MLB Baseball Detroit Tigers at Pittsburgh Pirates From LECOM Park in Bradenton, Fla. (N) (Live)							
BBC	(5:30) The Three Musketeers (93) Charlie Sheen.				The Three Musketeers (93) Charlie Sheen.				The Three Musketeers (93) Charlie Sheen.				The Three Musketeers (93) Charlie Sheen.				Planet "Frozen Peaks"			
BET	(4:00) Creed (15)				Image Awards (N) (Live)				55th NAACP Image Awards (N) (Live)				55th NAACP Image Awards (N) (Live)				Planet "Frozen Lands"			
BRAVO	Vanderpump "Prank Wars"				Vanderpump Rules				Vanderpump Rules				Vanderpump Rules				Vanderpump "Unfriended"			
CMT	(4:30) The Help (11) Emma Stone, Viola Davis.				55th NAACP Image Awards (N)				55th NAACP Image Awards (N)				55th NAACP Image Awards (N)				Vanderpump "Secrets Revealed"			
COM	The Little Fockers (10) Ben Stiller, Owen Wilson, Robert De Niro.				55th NAACP Image Awards (N)				55th NAACP Image Awards (N)				55th NAACP Image Awards (N)				Vanderpump "Secrets Revealed"			
DISC	Expedition Unknown				Expedition Unknown				Expedition Unknown				Expedition Unknown				Vanderpump "Secrets Revealed"			
DISNEY	Big City		Big City		Big City		Big City		Big City		Big City		Big City		Big City		Big City			
EI	Movie The Proposal (09) Ryan Reynolds, Mary Steenburgen, Sandra Bullock.				The Proposal (09) Ryan Reynolds, Mary Steenburgen, Sandra Bullock.				The Proposal (09) Ryan Reynolds, Mary Steenburgen, Sandra Bullock.				The Proposal (09) Ryan Reynolds, Mary Steenburgen, Sandra Bullock.				The Proposal (09) Ryan Reynolds, Mary Steenburgen, Sandra Bullock.			
ESPN	Basketball Big 12 Tournament, Championship: Teams TBA (N)				Basketball ACC Tournament, Championship: Teams TBA (N)				Basketball SEC Tournament, Championship: Teams TBA (N)				Basketball Big West Tournament, Championship: Teams TBA (N)				Basketball WAC Tournament, Championship: Teams TBA (N)			
ESPNU	(5:30) Women's College Basketball				Basketball MAAC Tournament, Championship: Teams TBA (N)				Basketball SWAC Tournament, Championship: Teams TBA (N)				Basketball SEC Tournament, Championship: Teams TBA (N)				Basketball Big West Tournament, Championship: Teams TBA (N)			
ESP2	(5:30) College Basketball				Basketball MAAC Tournament, Championship: Teams TBA (N)				Basketball SWAC Tournament, Championship: Teams TBA (N)				Basketball SEC Tournament, Championship: Teams TBA (N)				Basketball Big West Tournament, Championship: Teams TBA (N)			
EWTN	The Miracle		Thirst (N)		Daily Mass: Olam Daily Mass		Light of Soledad (16) Elena Furias, Lolita Flores.		Living "Welcome Father Mitch"		Web/Faith		EWTN Book		Daily Mass: Olam Daily Mass		Father Spitzer's Universe			
FOOD	Diners, Drive		Diners, Drive		Diners, Drive		Diners, Drive		Diners, Drive		Diners, Drive		Diners, Drive		Diners, Drive		Diners, Drive			
FREEFM	(20) The Jungle Cruise (21) Emily Blunt, Edgar Ramirez, Dwayne Johnson.				The Jungle Cruise (21) Emily Blunt, Edgar Ramirez, Dwayne Johnson.				The Jungle Cruise (21) Emily Blunt, Edgar Ramirez, Dwayne Johnson.				The Jungle Cruise (21) Emily Blunt, Edgar Ramirez, Dwayne Johnson.				The Jungle Cruise (21) Emily Blunt, Edgar Ramirez, Dwayne Johnson.			
FX	(5:30) The Mulan (20) Donnie Yen, Jason Scott Lee, Crystal Liu.				The Black Widow (21) Florence Pugh, David Harbour, Scarlett Johansson.				The Black Widow (21) Florence Pugh, David Harbour, Scarlett Johansson.				The Black Widow (21) Florence Pugh, David Harbour, Scarlett Johansson.				The Black Widow (21) Florence Pugh, David Harbour, Scarlett Johansson.			
FYI	King		King		King		King		King		King		King		King		King			
GOLF	The Golf Fix		The Golf Fix		Live From THE PLAYERS (N) (Live)				Live From THE PLAYERS Comprehensive news coverage surrounding THE PLAYERS Championship.				Live From THE PLAYERS Comprehensive news coverage surrounding THE PLAYERS Championship.				Live From THE PLAYERS Comprehensive news coverage surrounding THE PLAYERS Championship.			
GSN	Family Feud		Family Feud		Switch		Split Second		The \$100,000 Pyramid		Pyramid		Family Feud		Family Feud		Family Feud			
HALL	The 27-Hour Day (21) Andrew Walker, Autumn Reeser.				The 27-Hour Day (21) Andrew Walker, Autumn Reeser.				The 27-Hour Day (21) Andrew Walker, Autumn Reeser.				The 27-Hour Day (21) Andrew Walker, Autumn Reeser.				The 27-Hour Day (21) Andrew Walker, Autumn Reeser.			
HGTV	Married "Education in Design"		House Hunters		House Hunters		House Hunters		House Hunters		House Hunters		House Hunters		House Hunters		House Hunters			
HIST	The UnXplained		The UnXplained "Holy Relics"		The UnXplained		The UnXplained		The UnXplained		The UnXplained		The UnXplained		The UnXplained		The UnXplained			
ID	Married to "What Lies Beneath"		Married to Evil		Married to Evil		Married to Evil		Married to Evil		Married to Evil		Married to Evil		Married to Evil		Married to Evil			
LIFE	The Paramedic Who Stalked Me (23) Lexi Minnetree.				Friday Night Sext Scandal (24) Keana Lyn Bastidas. (P)				Friday Night Sext Scandal (24) Keana Lyn Bastidas. (P)				Friday Night Sext Scandal (24) Keana Lyn Bastidas. (P)				Friday Night Sext Scandal (24) Keana Lyn Bastidas. (P)			
MTV	(5:30) Ocean's Eleven (01) Matt Damon, George Clooney.				55th NAACP Image Awards (N)				55th NAACP Image Awards (N)				55th NAACP Image Awards (N)				55th NAACP Image Awards (N)			
NBTV	(4:30) Marquee "Marquee 2023-2024: Los Angeles Lakers at Golden State Warriors				Marquee 2023-2024: Los Angeles Lakers at Golden State Warriors				Marquee 2023-2024: Los Angeles Lakers at Golden State Warriors				Marquee 2023-2024: Los Angeles Lakers at Golden State Warriors				Marquee 2023-2024: Los Angeles Lakers at Golden State Warriors			
NGEO	Catch.. "Stash House Takeover"				Catch.. "Hidden Compartments"				Catch Smuggler "Mama's Meth"				Border (N)				Border (N)			
NICK	(5:30) Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs				The Thundermans Return (24) Kira Kosarin.				Friends				Friends				Friends			
NWSN	Blue Bloods "In the Box"				NewsNation Prime (N) (Live)				NewsNation Prime (N) (Live)				NewsNation Prime (N) (Live)				NewsNation Prime (N) (Live)			
OWN	Love "Check Your Sass"				Love "Winter Blunder Land"				Love "Ashley's Silva Lining?" (N)				Love "The Joi-less Ride"				Love "The Joi-less Ride"			
OXY	Cold Justice "Silenced"				Cold Justice "Killer at the Door"				Cold "Enemy Next Door" (N)				Kill "A Fatal Fork in the Road" (N)				Kill "Grandma's Gun"			
PARMT	(5:05) Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (89)				55th NAACP Image Awards (N)				55th NAACP Image Awards (N)				55th NAACP Image Awards (N)				55th NAACP Image Awards (N)			
PCN	(15) PCN (40) PIAA Girls 2A Swimming Championships "Day 2" (N) (Live)				PCN Programming / (45) PIAA Girls 2A Diving Championship				PCN Programming / (45) PIAA Girls 2A Diving Championship				PCN Programming / (45) PIAA Girls 2A Diving Championship				PCN Programming / (45) PIAA Girls 2A Diving Championship			
PCNC	PCNC News		PCNC		PCNC News		PCNC7:3P		PCNC News		PCNC News		PCNC News		PCNC News		PCNC News			
SVFY	Movie (40) Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (06) Orlando Bloom, Keira Knightley, Johnny Depp.				Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (06) Orlando Bloom, Keira Knightley, Johnny Depp.				Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (06) Orlando Bloom, Keira Knightley, Johnny Depp.				Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (06) Orlando Bloom, Keira Knightley, Johnny Depp.				Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (06) Orlando Bloom, Keira Knightley, Johnny Depp.			
TBS	(5:45) 22 Jump Street (14) Channing Tatum, Jonah Hill.				22 Jump Street (14) Channing Tatum, Jonah Hill.				22 Jump Street (14) Channing Tatum, Jonah Hill.				22 Jump Street (14) Channing Tatum, Jonah Hill.				22 Jump Street (14) Channing Tatum, Jonah Hill.			
TCM	(5:45) Spencer's Mountain (63) Henry Fonda.				King Solomon's Mines (50) Deborah Kerr.				King Solomon's Mines (50) Deborah Kerr.				King Solomon's Mines (50) Deborah Kerr.				King Solomon's Mines (50) Deborah Kerr.			
TLC	Seeking Sister Wife				Seeking Sister Wife				Seeking Sister Wife				Seeking Sister Wife				Seeking Sister Wife			
TNT	(5:30) Justice League (17) Henry Cavill, Ben Affleck.				Justice League (17) Henry Cavill, Ben Affleck.				Justice League (17) Henry Cavill, Ben Affleck.				Justice League (17) Henry Cavill, Ben Affleck.				Justice League (17) Henry Cavill, Ben Affleck.			
TOON	King of the Hill		King of the Hill		Bob's Burgers		Bob's Burgers		Bob's Burgers		Bob's Burgers		Bob's Burgers		Bob's Burgers		Bob's Burgers			
TRAVEL	Mystery "No Dying 'Tryin' Today"				Files "Did We Nuke Jupiter?"				NASA's Unexplained Files "Red Storm Rising"				NASA's Unexplained Files "Red Storm Rising"				NASA's Unexplained Files "Red Storm Rising"			
TRVL	Imp. Jokers				Imp. Jokers				Imp. Jokers				Imp. Jokers				Imp. Jokers			
TVLAND	Mike & Molly		Mike & Molly		Mike & Molly		Mike & Molly		55th NAACP Image Awards (N)		Raymond				Raymond					
USA	(4:00) IMSA Weatherch Twelve Hours of Sebring From Sebring International Raceway in Sebring, Fla. (N) (Live)				55th NAACP Image Awards (N)				55th NAACP Image Awards (N)				55th NAACP Image Awards (N)				55th NAACP Image Awards (N)			
VH1	(4:30) Boot A Madea Halloween				Image Awards (N)				55th NAACP Image Awards (N)				55th NAACP Image Awards (N)				55th NAACP Image Awards (N)			
WE	NCIS "Nature of the Beast"				NCIS "Restless"				NCIS "The Penelope Papers"				NCIS "Enemy on the Hill"				NCIS "Safe Harbor"			
HBO	Meg 2: The Trench (23) Jing Wu, Sophia Cai, Jason Statham.				Dream Scenario (23) Nicolas Cage. (P)				Get Smart (08) Anne Hathaway, Steve Carell.				Nikki Glaser				Pitch Perfect 2 (15) Rebel Wilson, Anna Kendrick.			
MAX	(5:55) XXX (02) Asia Argento, Marton Csokas, Vin Diesel.				Black Mass (15) Joel Edgerton, Johnny Depp.				Freedomland (06) Julianne Moore, Samuel L. Jackson.				Attack the Block (11) John Boyega.				Fifty Shades of Grey (15)			
SHOW	(5:15) Emily (22) Emma Mackey.				You Hurt My Feelings (23) Meg Ryan. (P)				Sleeping With Other People (13) Jason Sudeikis.				Adore (13) Naomi Watts, Ben Mendelsohn, Robin Wright.				Movie			
STARZ	(5:15) Vengeance (22)				BMF "Sanctuary"				Django Unchained (12) Christoph Waltz, Jamie Foxx.				BMF "Sanctuary"				Naked Singularity (21) John Boyega.			
STZENC	(5:25) Corsicana (22)				Pixels (15) Kevin James, Adam Sandler.				John Wick: Chapter 4 (23) Donnie Yen, Bill Skarsgård, Keanu Reeves.				Marry Me (22) Owen Wilson, Jennifer Lopez.				Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret.			
TMC	The Godfather (72) Al Pacino, James Caan, Marlon Brando.				The Godfather, Part II (74) Robert Duvall, Diana Keaton, Al Pacino.				The Godfather, Part II (74) Robert Duvall, Diana Keaton, Al Pacino.				The Godfather, Part II (74) Robert Duvall, Diana Keaton, Al Pacino.				The Godfather, Part II (74) Robert Duvall, Diana Keaton, Al Pacino.			
TRAVEL	Mystery "No Dying 'Tryin' Today"				Files "Did We Nuke Jupiter?"				NASA's Unexplained Files "Red Storm Rising"				NASA's Unexplained Files "Red Storm Rising"				NASA's Unexplained Files "Red Storm Rising"			
TRVL	Imp. Jokers				Imp. Jokers				Imp. Jokers				Imp. Jokers				Imp. Jokers			
TVLAND	Mike & Molly		Mike & Molly		Mike & Molly		Mike & Molly		55th NAACP Image Awards (N)		Raymond				Raymond					
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VH1	(4:30) Boot A Madea Halloween				Image Awards (N)				55th NAACP Image Awards (N)				55th NAACP Image Awards (N)				55th NAACP Image Awards (N)			
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TRAVEL	Mystery "No Dying 'Tryin' Today"				Files "Did We Nuke Jupiter?"				NASA's Unexplained Files "Red Storm Rising"				NASA's Unexplained Files "Red Storm Rising"				NASA's Unexplained Files "Red Storm Rising"			
TRVL	Imp. Jokers				Imp. Jokers				Imp. Jokers				Imp. Jokers				Imp. Jokers			
TVLAND	Mike & Molly		Mike & Molly		Mike & Molly		Mike & Molly		55th NAACP Image Awards (N)		Raymond				Raymond					
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TRVL	Imp. Jokers				Imp. Jokers				Imp. Jokers				Imp. Jokers				Imp. Jokers			
TVLAND	Mike & Molly		Mike & Molly		Mike & Molly		Mike & Molly		55th NAACP Image Awards (N)		Raymond				Raymond					
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STARZ	(5:15) Vengeance (22)																			

Steelers

STEELERS OFFSEASON

NO COMPETITION



PHOTOS: WILSON, AP; PICKETT, CHAZ PALLA | TRIBLIVE
On Friday, the Steelers introduced new quarterback Russell Wilson (left) and traded Kenny Pickett (above) to the Eagles.

Wilson had sights on Steelers

BY JOE RUTTER

Russell Wilson likened his first foray into free agency to his NFL introduction in 2012 when he interviewed with teams at the scouting combine.

This time, the difference was that, coming on the heels of a decorated 12-year pro career, Wilson got to choose his destination.

And he had his sights set on the Pittsburgh Steelers the entire time.

“I was fortunate to have several teams call,” Wilson said Friday at his introductory news conference, “but this is the place I wanted to be.”

Adorned in a black crew neck shirt and suit jacket that both matched his new team’s colors, the highest-profile free agent signee in Steelers history talked about the reasons he agreed to a one-year

INSIDE

» Rams Super Bowl champion, former Pitt star Donald retires **B4**

» Steelers agree to terms with WR Van Jefferson **B4**

contract late Sunday night rather than drag out the free agent process.

After being informed by the Denver Broncos that he would be released after two disappointing seasons, Wilson didn’t waste time choosing the Steelers over the New York Giants, the other team he is known to have met with before the NFL’s legal tampering period began Monday. He didn’t bother to wait to see if any other suitors emerged.

“There were a few things that jumped off the board about the Pittsburgh

WILSON • B4

Pickett traded to Philadelphia

BY JOE RUTTER

On the day the Pittsburgh Steelers introduced new quarterback Russell Wilson, they traded the only other one on their roster.

Kenny Pickett, the former first-round pick from Pitt whose starting status was in question after Wilson’s signing, was sent to the Philadelphia Eagles, a league source confirmed to TribLive, ending his sometimes tumultuous two-year tenure with the Steelers.

According to ESPN, which initially reported the trade, the Steelers will get the No. 98 overall pick in the 2024 draft and two seventh-round picks in 2025. In addition to Pickett, the Eagles will get the No. 120 overall pick in this year’s draft.

By making the deal, the Steelers and general manager Omar Khan are moving

on from their top pick of the 2022 draft, the last of the Kevin Colbert era. Taken No. 20 overall that year — the same slot the Steelers hold this season — Pickett moved into the starting role a month into his rookie season and held the job until late in 2023.

Pickett went 14-10 in 24 career starts over those two seasons, and he threw an equal number of interceptions and touchdown passes (13).

Pickett struggled in former offensive coordinator Matt Canada’s system and had his best game after the Steelers dismissed Canada in November. But, after Pickett injured his ankle the next week against Arizona, he never returned to the field.

Pickett was healthy enough to play late

PICKETT • B4

Pickett saga shows Steelers can’t be trusted

On Feb. 29, Pittsburgh Steelers general manager Omar Khan said he has “full faith” in Kenny Pickett.

Now it’s March 15, and last year’s starting quarterback is a Philadelphia Eagle.

If that’s “full faith,” what does “half faith” look like?



TIM BENZ

When Mason Rudolph started to play well at the end of last season, the Steelers were so sensitive to Kenny Pickett’s feelings that they wouldn’t move Rudolph’s name to the top of the depth chart even when he had been announced as the starting quarterback.

Now they care so little about Pickett’s feelings that they removed him from the roster entirely.

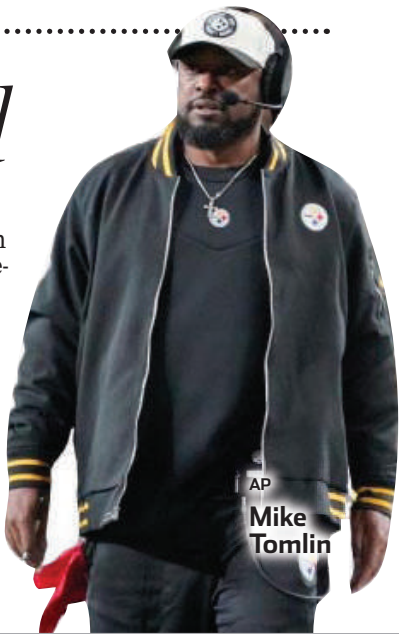
According to ESPN, the Steelers shipped the 2022 first-round draft choice across the state for a late third-round pick (No. 98 overall) in the 2024 draft and two seventh-round picks in 2025. The Eagles will get Pickett and the No. 120 overall pick (Round 4) in this year’s draft.

That’s probably a good thing for Pickett, who clearly had fallen out of favor with Steelers management and coaches despite their protests to the contrary.

As a result, the franchise is all in on newly acquired veteran QB Russell Wilson as its starter. I have my doubts, but I do think he is at least an upgrade from Pickett.

You can believe the Steelers

BENZ • B4



AP
Mike Tomlin

NORTH CAROLINA 72, PITT 65

Pitt battles but can’t knock off Tar Heels

Hinson, Leggett cold; team’s fate now in hands of committee

BY JERRY DiPAOLA

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In the end, Pitt’s 72-65 loss to North Carolina on Friday night did nothing to throw the team off its intended course.

There is nothing more for Pitt’s players to do about their NCAA Tournament hopes.

And the loss to the Tar Heels (27-6) might force the Panthers (22-11) to slip off the bubble — others were winning Friday while Pitt was losing — but Blake Hinson said he plans to spend the next two days working on his game.

Guillermo Diaz Graham agrees with his captain, saying he will prepare as if he’s still in the middle of the season, and there’s another game to play.

“A little bit of recovery. A little bit of rest and back to work on us,” Diaz Graham said. “Prepare to play again this season. I know we’re going to play again.”

That’s not for him to say, however.

Although Jaland Lowe said he believes Pitt is a tournament team, he admits he is a bit nervous after putting the decision in the hands of 12 selection committee members.

“Nervous? Not gonna lie, a little bit,” Lowe said. “I’m

PITT • B2



ANDREW PALLA | FOR TRIBLIVE

Franklin Regional’s Finian Hutchinson scores on a layup over Shaler’s Joey DeSabato on Friday at Gateway.

PIAA CLASS 5A QUARTERFINALS: FRANKLIN REGIONAL 63, SHALER 51

Panthers sprint into semifinals

FR keeps pushing pace to top Shaler; rematch with Moon up next

BY BILL BECKNER JR.

If Franklin Regional isn’t sprinting up and down the floor, there is a good chance it isn’t winning basketball games.

Transition is the lifeblood of this Panthers team. A Panthers team that has two speeds: fast and turbo-fast.

“That’s when our guys are at their best,” coach Jesse Reed said. “When they can get out and run and use their instincts. That’s when they make plays.”

INSIDE

» Mt. Pleasant swimmers dominate at PIAAs **B4**

They found the fast lane again and outran another opponent to extend their season.

Using their patented transition game to relieve some tense moments — and a complementary halfcourt defense that kept good looks to a minimum — Franklin Regional held off Shaler, 63-51, in a Class 5A quarterfinal on Friday night at Gateway’s Henry J. Furrie Sports Complex.

The Panthers (26-3), who finished second in the WPIAL, will get a rematch with

FRANKLIN REGIONAL • B3

Pirates bring in Gold Glove CF

Signing will allow Reynolds, Suwinski to play corner positions

BY KEVIN GORMAN

The Pittsburgh Pirates made a defensive upgrade in center field Friday by agreeing to a one-year, \$4 million contract with former AL Gold Glove winner Michael A. Taylor, sources confirmed to TribLive.

Taylor's deal, which is pending a physical, gives the Pirates a proven veteran in center field and allows them to play Bryan Reynolds and Jack Suwinski in the corner outfield spots.

Taylor, 32, is a 10-year veteran who played seven seasons with the Washington Nationals — winning the World Series in 2019 — followed by two years with the Kansas City Royals and last season with the Minnesota Twins. Taylor, who won the Gold Glove with the Royals in 2021, has 72 career defensive runs saved, per FanGraphs.

The 6-foot-4, 215-pound right-handed hitter had a career-best 21 home runs last season with the Twins. He batted .220/.278/.442 with 14 doubles and 51 RBIs but also had 130 strikeouts, and his 33.5% strikeout rate and 33.6% whiff rate ranked in the bottom 10th percentile, per Statcast.

Taylor remains an above-average defender, compiling five DRS in 960⅓ innings last season and ranking in the 98th percentile in arm strength, 94th in range and 84th in sprint speed, at 28.7 feet per second.

Suwinski switched to center last spring but had a minus-10 DRS in 931⅓ innings over 120 games there last season. The Pirates also used Ji Hwan Bae in center for 62 games to take advantage of his speed, but he has been out since March 5 because of a left hip flexor.

The Pirates returned Connor Joe and Joshua Palacios and added Billy McKinney and Edward Olivares through trades this offseason, but Taylor's addition could cost at least a couple of those players a spot on the Opening Day roster.

Kevin Gorman is a TribLive staff writer. He can be reached at kgorman@triblive.com.

Bucs sign pitcher German

The Pittsburgh Pirates continued to address their starting pitching depth by agreeing to a one-year, \$1.5 million minor-league contract Friday night with right-handed pitcher Domingo German, a source confirmed to TribLive.

The 31-year-old Dominican was 31-28 with a 4.41 ERA and 1.18 WHIP while averaging 9.4 strikeouts and 2.8 walks per nine innings over six seasons with the New York Yankees.

On June 28, German became the 24th player in MLB history to pitch a perfect game, striking out nine batters and throwing strikes on 72 of his 99 pitches in an 11-0 win over the Oakland A's at Oakland Coliseum.

German, however, missed the final two months of the season after voluntarily submitting to treatment for alcohol abuse following a clubhouse confrontation with Yankees manager Aaron Boone. German was placed on outright waivers Nov. 2.

— Kevin Gorman

PIRATES 6, YANKEES 2

Priester makes case for spot

Young Pirates pitcher impresses, could be in line to join starters

BY KEVIN GORMAN

Quinn Priester made his case for a spot in the Pittsburgh Pirates' starting rotation, delivering his best performance of spring training.

Priester struck out five of the first nine batters he faced and held the New York Yankees to one run on three hits without a walk in 4⅓ innings in a 6-2 win Friday night in a Grapefruit League game at George M. Steinbrenner Field in Tampa.

Priester kept the Yankees scoreless through the first three innings by mixing his breaking and off-speed pitches to throw 38 of his 58 pitches for strikes. He now has 10 strikeouts and only one walk through 12⅓ innings over four outings this spring.

In the first, he got Juan Soto swinging at a full-count slider before Gleyber Torres doubled to center and advanced to third on a wild pitch. Priester escaped by getting Anthony Rizzo swinging at an 0-2 slider.

Priester got Trent Grisham looking at a 2-2 slider in the second and Jose Trevino at a 1-2 curve in the third, then ended the inning with Alex Verdugo chasing a 2-2 changeup in the dirt.

But Torres hammered a first-pitch slider at the bottom of the zone 390 feet for a homer to center field to tie the score 1-1 in the fourth.

Pirates righty Luis Ortiz allowed one run on four hits and two walks while striking out four in four innings of relief to earn the win.

The Pirates took a 1-0 lead in the first when third baseman Jack Brannigan, a top-10 prospect who was reassigned to the minor-league camp Tuesday, hit Clarke Schmidt's sinker 369 feet to left-center for a home run.

Brannigan, who was 1 for 17 coming into the game, also had an RBI single in the seventh inning to give the Pirates a 2-1 lead.

After Nick Gonzales drew a two-out walk, Jack Suwinski drilled an Anthony Misiewicz cutter 368 feet to right-center for his third homer, a three-run shot that stretched the lead to 5-1.

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Pitt comes up short in ACC run

PITT · FROM B1

very confident we should be in the tournament, but there are other people saying stuff that doesn't matter.

"I have to wait until Sunday (when bids go out). That's the sad part about it."

It's undeniably true that North Carolina played better than Pitt. Especially outscoring the Panthers, 10-3, in the last four minutes after Lowe tied the score 62-62 with a basket, the last two of his 17 points.

Freshman guards Lowe and Bub Carrington kept the game close throughout the evening. The Tar Heels' seven-point advantage at the end of the game was their largest.

Carrington played all 40 minutes and scored 24 points, with five rebounds and three assists. Lowe added four assists and four rebounds to his 17 points.

Meanwhile, ACC Player of the Year R.J. Davis and all-conference center Armando Bacot scored more than half the time they put up shots. Davis recorded 24 points, five rebounds and two assists. In the final decisive minutes, he scored nine, including two 3-pointers.

With Pitt bigs Federiko Federiko and Diaz Graham in foul trouble for much of the game, North Carolina had a decided advantage on the boards, 44-34. Bacot had his way in the paint with 19 points and 11 rebounds. Together, Bacot and Davis hit 16 of 31 attempts.

Diaz Graham admitted his foul trouble made it difficult to stop Bacot.



AP

Pitt's Blake Hinson loses the ball while colliding with North Carolina's Elliot Cadeau on Friday.

"You're going against an All-American center. I understand," he said. "If I'm a ref and I see a guy like Bacot going in against me or Fede, I'm going to call fouls all the time. We couldn't be there to help our guards play defense because we can't foul."

There were other flaws in Pitt's game that surfaced, and that allowed North Carolina to outscore the Panthers, 39-30, after halftime.

Somehow, Pitt led 35-33 at intermission even while Ishmael Leggett and Blake Hinson, who scored 30 and 20 points, respectively, in the quarterfinal victory against Wake Forest, were scoreless in the first half. Hinson scored only five points, missing 10 of his 12 shots, including all five 3-pointers.

It was clearly North Carolina's game plan to stop Hinson. He was followed everywhere he went on the court, but the Pitt captain placed the loss squarely on his shoulders.

NO. 4 NORTH CAROLINA 72, PITT 65

PITT (22-11) — Austin 1-4 0-0 3, Hinson 2-12 1-1 5, Federiko 1-3 0-0 2, Carrington 9-17 2-2 24, Lowe 7-16 2-2 17, Leggett 2-7 1-1 6, G.Diaz Graham 3-5 0-0 8, Jeffress 0-1 0-0 0. **Totals:** 25-65 6-6 65.

NORTH CAROLINA (27-6) — Ingram 2-6 1-2 6, Bacot 8-13 3-5 19, Cadeau 2-9 2-2 6, Davis 8-18 8-25, Ryan 1-9 0-0 3, Trimble 1-1 2-2 5, Withers 1-1 0-0 2, Washington 3-3 0-0 6.

Halftime: Pitt 35-33, 3-Point Goals—Pitt 9-27 (Carrington 4-8, G.Diaz Graham 2-3, Austin 1-3, Leggett 1-3, Lowe 1-4, Jeffress 0-1, Hinson 0-5), North Carolina 6-22 (Davis 3-10, Trimble 1-1, Ingram 1-3, Ryan 1-6, Cadeau 0-2). **Rebounds**—Pitt 29 (G.Diaz Graham 7), North Carolina 38 (Bacot 11). **Assists**—Pitt 10 (Lowe 4), North Carolina 16 (Trimble 4). **Total Fouls**—Pitt 17, North Carolina 12.

"They try their best to not let me score. It's my job to score. I didn't do my job," Hinson said. "Not necessarily anything they did in particular. They played good defense, for sure. At the end of the day, it's my job to overcome the good defense."

"I have to do my job better, regardless of what's going on. They could have eight people on me. It's my job to do my job. (If) I do my job, we win this game."

"I know my team. My team can beat that team."

Asked if Pitt is a tournament team, Hinson said, "I hope so. We are, for sure, a good enough team to be in there. So it would be lovely to get in there. We'll see. We definitely deserve it."

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Women's hockey set for PPG showcase

Toronto, Montreal to meet in Pittsburgh to promote 1st-year league

BY JUSTIN GUERRIERO

Nearly five years ago, hundreds of the top professional women's hockey players in North America came together and bet on themselves.

The wager they made — sitting out and not playing for a year — was bold.

But the decision, announced in early May 2019, was one many players felt needed to happen to secure a more viable future for their sport.

Fast forward five years, and the conversation around pro women's hockey has shifted drastically for the better.

The Professional Women's Hockey League, featuring teams in six cities and offering previously unheard-of salaries and benefits for players, launched in January.

It has gotten off to a hot start, with its teams, based in Boston, New York, St. Paul, Minn., Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa, receiving encouraging support.

"When we sat out (five) years ago, we dreamt of this and thought of this, but I don't think what's happening is what we thought was going to happen, especially in year one," said Montreal forward Laura Stacey.

"So it's been pretty amazing to see."

On Sunday, the Pittsburgh Penguins will host a game between Montreal and Toronto



AP

Toronto's Kali Flanagan (left) and Montreal's Laura Stacey vie for the puck during a PWHL game last week.

at PPG Paints Arena as part of "PWHL Takeover Weekend."

PWHL senior vice president of hockey operations Jayna Hefford, a five-time Olympic medalist with Canada and 2018 inductee into the Hockey Hall of Fame, is hopeful for 8,000 fans Sunday in Pittsburgh.

Montreal and Toronto previously met at Scotiabank Arena, home of the Maple Leafs, in mid-February, which attracted a crowd of 19,285, setting an attendance record for a pro women's hockey game.

"It's a privilege for us to have the opportunity to play," said Toronto coach Troy Ryan, who also has led Canada's women's national team since 2021. "Looking forward to playing Montreal. Just in general in sports, the Montreal-Toronto rivalry is a big one, a heated one. We're just excited to be this newest chapter in that exciting rivalry. It's going to be a special opportunity to play them again here."

For Montreal coach Kori Cheverie, Pittsburgh constitutes familiar grounds.

Cheverie, who also serves as Ryan's assistant with the Canadian women's national team, worked with the Penguins this past preseason as a guest coach.

"This just feels like a natural fit for a game to happen in their arena and under the scope of their organization," Cheverie said.

Ryan, Cheverie and several players for Montreal and Toronto previously participated in a game at PPG Paints Arena in 2022, when the Penguins hosted a contest between members of the U.S. and Canadian women's national teams after the Beijing Olympics.

"It's really exciting to be playing in Pittsburgh," said Toronto forward Rebecca Leslie. "We've

had a great reception from them in the past. ... I think the fans are in for a really high-paced, high-energetic game."

Montreal and Toronto, tied atop the PWHL's standings with 30 points apiece along with Minnesota, meet Sunday at 12:30 p.m.

The PWHL's CBA runs through 2031, by which time, if all goes as planned, expansion from six teams will have come into play.

With the Penguins' growing ties to the PWHL, Pittsburgh might find itself at the forefront of that eventual conversation.

"I get asked a lot, and I always try to remind myself that we're two months into our inaugural season," Hefford said. "Things are going amazingly well in our minds, but (there's a) long road to go. ... We're certainly thinking of it, but I don't think it's imminent."

For now, players, coaches and executives are excited to show off their on-ice product and continue building momentum for the league they fought so hard to create.

"The amount of skill with the players in this league — it's the best in the world," Stacey said. "That's what we wanted to create four years ago when we sat out, is to get every single person, whether you're from Europe, Canada, the U.S. — across the world — the very best players all in one league playing against each other and with each other every single night."

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Penguins' 3rd pair shows signs of life

Joseph, Ludvig make impact as team shuffles personnel on defense

BY JUSTIN GUERRIERO

Several parallels are visible when comparing the seasons of Pittsburgh Penguins defenseman P.O. Joseph and John Ludvig.

Joseph, 24, and Ludvig, 23, have landed on injured reserve this year and navigated stretches of being out of the lineup as healthy scratches.

While Joseph, in his fourth NHL campaign, has an edge in career games played (130) to the rookie Ludvig's 27, both players continue working to carve out an everyday role with the Penguins.

With one goal and four assists between them through 60 combined games played entering Thursday's contest against the San Jose Sharks, the contributions of Joseph and Ludvig to date had been more on the subtle side.

But during the Penguins'



6-3 win over San Jose at PPG Paints Arena, Joseph and Ludvig stepped into starring roles, helping generate a considerable portion of their club's offensive output that helped deliver a much-needed win.

Ludvig finished the night with a goal — the second of his young NHL career — and an assist, and Joseph notched his fourth and fifth assists of the year.

Joseph's assists were his first points in 17 games dating to Jan. 22, and Ludvig recorded his first career multi-point game.

The last time Joseph produced a multi-point effort was Feb. 17, 2023.

"I think those guys are competing hard," coach Mike Sullivan said. "They're try-ers. I thought (Ludvig) had a real strong game (Thursday, and)

P.O. made some nice plays along the offensive blue line."

Ludvig got on the scoresheet first, finding the back of the net at 2 minutes, 38 seconds of the final period by flinging a deep wrister from the point, with Joseph and Reilly Smith collecting assists.

The goal gave the Penguins a 4-3 lead they did not relinquish.

"We had a bunch of bodies at the net, and P.O. made a nice pass over to me," Ludvig said. "I just tried to make a little move and get it on net. Luckily, it went in."

Exactly two minutes later, Joseph fired a shot near the blue line that Rickard Rakell managed to deflect with his skate, beating Sharks goalie Magnus Chrona.

Ludvig contributed the secondary assist.

"We just talked about having more people around the net," Joseph said. "(Rakell) has been doing a really good job doing it, so we practice a lot of (defenseman) shooting and that was part of it."

"Ludvig made some good

offensive plays there in the third and just a lucky bounce that went in."

Joseph and Ludvig paired together Thursday night for the third straight game.

The former skated for 15:48 with a shot, two hits and a pair of blocks, and Ludvig had a hit and blocked shot over 14:06 of work.

Both players were on the ice late in the second period when San Jose's Klim Kostin beat Tristan Jarry on a feed from former Penguin Mikael Granlund to tie the score 3-3.

Erik Karlsson, Marcus Pettersson and Ryan Graves have shuffled around, as well.

"(Associate coach) Todd (Reirden) has moved the pairs around a lot," Sullivan said. "So (Joseph and Ludvig) are not strictly playing together. There's been a fair amount of movement back there by nature of special teams. (Letang) gets a lot of ice and (Karlsson) gets a lot of ice, so there's a lot of moving parts back there."

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Penn-Trafford 3, Upper St. Clair 0

Vikings clean up at states

Mt. Pleasant swimmers win 6 golds to open PIAAs

BY MICHAEL LOVE

WPIAL individual swimmers and relays captured nine out of a possible 12 state titles on the first day of the PIAA Class 2A championships Friday at Bucknell.

Mt. Pleasant claimed six of the nine and added a state record to the program portfolio.

Junior David Mutter was a big part of what ended up being a WPIAL sweep of the six boys championship heats. He set a state record in the preliminaries of the 100-yard butterfly Friday morning with a time of 47.58 seconds.

The previous record of 48.01 was set in 2015 by Brent Benedict from Corry.

Mutter came back in the evening and won the state title. He shaved off another five one-hundredths to 47.52.

Last year, Mutter finished runner-up to Southmoreland graduate Henry Miller.

“I had a quick stroke to the wall at the end. It was a rough finish, but it was a good swim overall, and it’s a state record,” Mutter said. “It’s a great, great feeling that I have the record for all of (Class 2A) in the state of Pennsylvania. I’ve only been beaten by one triple-A kid this year. He had a great swim with a 45.7. That is crazy fast.”

The Mt. Pleasant boys 200 medley relay of Mutter, Logan Snively, Joseph Gardner and Gunner Probst started things off by winning gold in a time of 1:32.57.

“My confidence in these guys was at an all-time high,” said Snively, who swam the relay’s leadoff leg.

“We have some really great guys. Joseph in the breaststroke, David in the fly and Gunner the freestyler. We worked so hard all year for this, since the summer. We put in thousands and thousands of yards. I had no doubt in my mind that they were going to bring it home and get the win.”

Gardner added to the medals haul with a win in the 200 IM. He cut more than 4 seconds from his prelim time and came from the No. 4 seed to finish in 1:49.01.

When it was the girls’ turn to take to the pool, the winning continued for Mt. Pleasant.

The Lady Vikings won three titles, starting with the 200 medley relay of juniors Kiersten O’Connor, Kaylie Korpiel, Maddie Barrick and Lily King.

The relay won in a time of 1:46.78 and led a contingent of five WPIAL teams in the championship heat.

King had a quick turnaround for the finals of the 200 free. She went in as the No. 1 seed.

She repeated as the event’s champion with a personal-best time of 1:45.51 as the WPIAL went 1-2-3. Northgate senior Elise Nardozzi was second, and Kiski Area senior Eliza Miller was third.

“I will say the (state record) was in the back of my mind,” King said. “But at the same time, I was trying to just focus on myself and go in with the mindset of swimming as fast as I can. I am always happy with a best time.”

King returns to the pool Saturday in the 100 free, where she is the defending champion. King won last year with a state-record 48.93, which also was a Bucknell pool record.

O’Connor capped the state-title haul for Mt. Pleasant and the WPIAL with a win in the 50 free.

After a time of 23.48 in the finals heat, O’Connor was right where she wanted to be.

“There’s not a lot of thoughts and strategy going on in a quick race like that,” she said. “I just go out and swim as fast as I can. It was an amazing feeling to get the title. I’ve been working up to this for like three years now. To be able to swim this event here and be a state champion is amazing.”

O’Connor dropped 24 one-hundredths of a second from her prelim time.

Westmoreland swimmers and relays claimed four additional medals.

The Latrobe boys 200 free relay of Chris Heese, Patrick Cratty, Jace Pedicone and Charlie Thomson placed fourth in the finals with a time of 1:27.52.

Earlier Friday evening, Cratty placed seventh in the finals of the 200 free with a time of 1:44.15.

Snively, Probst, Mutter and Seth Painter teamed to place the Mt. Pleasant boys 200 free relay in seventh overall (1:28.67).

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Steelers left with 1 QB

PICKETT · FROM B1

in the season, but the Steelers already had turned to No. 3 quarterback Mason Rudolph, who led the team to three consecutive victories and a playoff berth. Pickett also watched as Rudolph started the AFC wild-card playoff loss at Buffalo.

Pickett reportedly balked at serving as the emergency No. 3 quarterback in Week 17 at Seattle, which didn’t endear him to the organization. Still, Pickett entered the offseason as the starting quarterback, per coach Mike Tomlin.

In January, with Pickett and Mitch Trubisky serving as the only quarterbacks under contract — Rudolph was set to hit free agency — Tomlin said his 2024 starter already was on the roster. Last month, Khan said he had “full faith” in Pickett being the team’s starting quarterback next season.

That all happened before the Steelers signed Wilson, a nine-time Pro Bowl selection and former Super Bowl champion, to a one-year contract worth the NFL veteran minimum of \$1.21 million. The Steelers introduced Wilson at a news conference Friday at UPMC Rooney Sports Complex.

Khan attended the Wilson session, but he did not return to the media room later when the Steelers introduced safety DeShon Elliott. Khan presumably was finalizing the deal with the Eagles.

Khan now must find a backup.

Restocking the quarterback room

With Kenny Pickett gone, the Steelers have only one quarterback, Russell Wilson, on the roster. Here’s how they could restock the position:

Free agency

One backup option on the free agent market is former Miami Dolphins and Tennessee Titans quarterback Ryan Tannehill, who, like Wilson, is 35 years old. Tannehill lost his starting job last season with the Titans to rookie Will Levis.

Tannehill makes sense for the Steelers because he had his best success in Tennessee when Arthur Smith was his offensive coordinator. Smith was hired by the Steelers in the same role after he was fired as coach of the Atlanta Falcons.

Former Steelers backup Joshua Dobbs also is on market.

Make that two. The Steelers released Trubisky in February, and he signed a contract with his former team, the Buffalo Bills. Rudolph signed a one-year contract with the Tennessee Titans on Wednesday.

The Steelers now have none of the three quarterbacks from last season on the roster.

Trade

In the Pickett deal, the Steelers moved up 22 spots in this year’s draft, getting the Eagles’ compensatory pick in the third round. The Eagles will get the Steelers’ fourth-round selection. That boost in positioning could help fuel a trade should the Steelers decide to pursue Chicago’s Justin Fields.

The Bears are expected to trade Fields before they use the No. 1 overall pick in the draft on a quarterback.

Draft

With needs at center, right tackle and wide receiver, the Steelers likely won’t take a quarterback until the third day. This quarterback would be for developmental purposes to round out the roster. Among that tier of quarterbacks are South Carolina’s Spencer Rattler, Tulane’s Michael Pratt and Florida State’s Jordan Travis.

— Joe Rutter

As for Pickett, he’ll get a fresh start in Philadelphia, where he will back up Jalen Hurts. The trade sends Pickett closer to his roots. He was born and raised in Ocean Township, N.J., and starred as quarterback there before enrolling at Pitt.

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Wilson lands in desired spot

WILSON · FROM B1

Steelers,” Wilson said.

Wilson talked about the two games he played against the Steelers during his 10 seasons with the Seattle Seahawks, the atmosphere at Acrisure Stadium when he visited in 2019 and the positive reception he received when he returned a week ago to meet with owner Art Rooney II, general manager Omar Khan and coach Mike Tomlin.

“You come here, put your feet on the ground, go around the city and see the energy of the Pittsburgh Steelers and their fans,” he said. “Go by the stadium and see it. All of that was a big part of it.”

The Steelers put on quite the recruiting pitch to land Wilson, who is the only quarterback on the roster after Kenny Pickett was traded to the Philadelphia Eagles later Friday.

A FaceTime video with defensive captain Cameron Heyward turned into an hour-long conversation. Before he met with the Steelers in person, Wilson had a video chat with Tomlin and Khan.

“It was supposed to be 15-20 minutes,” Wilson said. “Next thing you know, it’s an hour and half later.”

That call was interrupted by one from All-Pro free safety Minkah Fitzpatrick.

“He said, ‘You like to compete ‘3,’ you like to win,’” Wilson said.

After agreeing to a deal that will cost the Steelers just \$1.21 million — the Broncos are on the hook for the balance of his \$39 million salary — Wilson reached out to

Steelers reach deal with WR Jefferson

On a day of a public changing of the guard at quarterback, the Pittsburgh Steelers began to reassemble the weapons available to new passer Russell Wilson.

The Steelers agreed to terms with veteran wide receiver Van Jefferson to a one-year contract, a league source confirmed late Friday. A five-year NFL veteran, Jefferson has 113 catches and 10 touchdowns over 61 NFL games since entering the league as a second-round pick of the Los Angeles Rams in 2020.

The 6-foot1, 200-pound Jefferson has lined up both outside and from the slot throughout his NFL career. This past October, he was dealt to the Atlanta Falcons in an exchange of late-round draft picks.

— Chris Adamski

All-Pro outside linebacker T.J. Watt. He also texted Pickett, his supposed competitor for the starting job until the Steelers removed that obstacle by sending Pickett to the Eagles.

Wilson met with the media before the Pickett deal was completed and sidestepped questions about competing for the job.

“Every day that you wake up, you look forward to helping the

team win,” Wilson said. “That is my focus now. I’ve been fortunate to be in the league for a long time. I’ve had a lot of success and done some cool things, but there is more to do. That is where my head is at.”

Wilson said he plans to play another “five to seven” years. How he fares with the Steelers in 2024 will go a long way toward extending his career. He had 26 touchdown passes to just eight interceptions last season with the Broncos, yet he was benched for the final two games with Denver owning a 7-8 record.

Still, it was an improvement over his first year with the Broncos, when he was 4-11 as a starter and threw 11 interceptions and 16 touchdown passes. He attributed some of those struggles to a lat injury that nagged throughout the 2022 season.

“This past year, I felt like myself again,” Wilson said. “I can’t wait to put on the cleats and go after it.”

The Steelers’ decision to sign Wilson played a part in the organization luring Patrick Queen, the top inside linebacker in free agency, away from the Baltimore Ravens.

“When you’ve got a guy like that who’s known to win, he probably has a little chip on his shoulder,” Queen said. “My job is to come in and try to help him get the ball back to him and the offense, let them do their thing. If Russ plays like Russ, this team is scary.”

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Team proved it can’t be trusted

BENZ · FROM B1

have made a wise move in that regard if you like. However, one thing is obvious when it comes to the Steelers: You can’t trust a single word they say on the record or even anything they leak off of it.

Just look at this Pickett situation. Beyond Khan’s comments, they built him up as much as they could since the season ended, only to spin him off for spare parts as soon as they landed a player they deemed to be a better option.

● After the playoff loss to Buffalo, coach Mike Tomlin said he thought 2024’s starter was currently on the roster, and that Pickett would resume his “QB1” role.

What we have since learned is that if Tomlin really did think those things were true, it’s only because he had little faith they could find anyone better. Or he just lied to the media again as he admitted he had done with his infamous “mojo” quote early in the season.

● A few weeks later, Art Rooney II threw his support behind Pickett as well when he had his usual season-ending sit-down with beat writers.

A few days after that, he downplayed the idea of trading for any other team’s quarterback. I guess technically that’s true because

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» Linebacker Queen says he is ready to fill Shazier’s void

Wilson was signed as a free agent. But let’s not split hairs.

The organization does that well enough on its own.

● New offensive coordinator Arthur Smith was interviewed on the team’s website about Pickett, and he gushed about how excited he was to work with the former Pitt QB.

“It’s exciting to hear the way that this offense is built with a lot of young players and, obviously, where Kenny Pickett is at going into his third year,” Smith said.

Well, “where he is at” now is the other end of the Pa. Turnpike.

● After the combine, NFL on CBS reporter Aditi Kinkhabwala said on 93.7 FM that the Steelers coaching staff was taking all the criticism of Pickett to heart and was angered that people on the outside seemed to think he couldn’t get better under their guidance.

What should’ve been added to that quote is “... get better under our guidance, unless they pick up a guy who doesn’t need as much work.”

Look, I get it. Top to bottom, the franchise was publicly posturing. They were fortifying the position behind Pickett to make him as tradeable as possible. They were

polishing an image of trust in Pickett for fans if efforts to sign Wilson or Kirk Cousins or trade for Justin Fields fell through.

Who knows, maybe those last two things happened before they decided to sign Wilson. I’m sure the Steelers would argue that. But, again, why should we believe them?

It’s not just the fans and media who have every reason in the world to take what the Steelers say out loud with a massive grain of salt. Beyond what Pickett and Rudolph had been told at various stages of this three-way QB melodrama, how about Mitch Trubisky?

He was given only a three-and-a-half game shot as the starter in 2022. Think he was given reason to expect more than that? I do.

How about Melvin Ingram, LeGarrette Blount and James Harrison (after his second stint in Pittsburgh)?

Oh, and speaking of Rudolph, I wonder if he would’ve stayed in Pittsburgh as Wilson’s backup if Pickett had been moved before Rudolph signed in Tennessee. I’m curious to know if the Steelers ever considered that prospect.

However the Steelers choose to answer that question, the opposite is probably true.

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Pitt star Donald retires

Penn Hills product was 3-time DPOY, helped Rams win Super Bowl

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Defensive lineman Aaron Donald has announced his retirement after a standout 10-year career with the Los Angeles Rams.

The three-time AP NFL Defensive Player of the Year, who began his football career at Penn Hills and went on to dominate at Pitt, made his surprising announcement on social media Friday.

The 32-year-old Donald spent his entire career with the Rams, who drafted him in the first round in 2014 out of Pitt. The Penn Hills native was selected for 10 Pro Bowls and eight All-Pro first teams, and he won the award as the league’s top defensive player in 2017, 2018 and 2020.

“Throughout my career, I have given my everything to football both mentally and physically — 365 days a year was dedicated to becoming the best possible player I could be,” Donald said in a statement. “I respected this game like no other, and I’m blessed to be able to conclude my NFL career with the same franchise that drafted me. Not many people get drafted to a team, win a world championship with that team and retire with that team. I do not, and will not, take that for granted.”

Although smaller than many defensive tackles, Donald used his extraordinary athleticism and game savvy to wreak havoc on offenses throughout his career. He was the cornerstone of every Rams defense during his tenure, drawing habitual double-teams away from his teammates and still racking up a franchise-record 111 sacks, third in the NFL among active players.

After winning the NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year award in 2014, Donald reached the peak of his stardom after the Rams franchise moved from St. Louis back to Los Angeles in 2016. He had a career-high 20½ sacks in 2018 on the way to his first Super Bowl appearance under coach Sean McVay.

He then played a major role in the Rams’ run to a Super Bowl victory three years later, most famously applying the pressure that forced Cincinnati’s Joe Burrow to throw incomplete at midfield on the Bengals’ final play of Los Angeles’ 23-20 victory in Super Bowl 56.

Lawrence Taylor and J.J. Watt are the only other players to win the defensive player of the year award three times.

Nothing capsulized Donald’s career at Pitt more than the game at Duke in 2013 when he tackled quarterback Brandon Connette and running back Josh Snead simultaneously — all 415 pounds of them. Weighing 280 pounds at the time, Donald quickly beat the block attempt on the line of scrimmage and reached the Duke players just as Connette was handing off to Snead. He grabbed one with his right arm and the other with his left.

Donald left Pitt as one of the most decorated players in school history. During his senior season, he won all four national awards annually given to collegiate linemen and defensive players: the Nagurski, Bednarik, Outland and Lombardi. He also was named defensive player of the year by three outlets and was a unanimous All-American.

At Penn Hills, Donald was a two-time first-team all-state player and a Tribune-Review Terrific 25 all-star as a senior in 2009, when he recorded 63 tackles, 15 for a loss, and 11 sacks.

Jerry DiPaola contributed.



Rams defensive lineman Aaron Donald holds up the Lombardi trophy during the victory celebration and parade Feb. 16, 2022.

HOCKEY

NHL EASTERN CONFERENCE						
Atlantic Division						
	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	45 <td>18</td> <td>4</td> <td>94</td> <td>221</td> <td>160</td>	18	4	94	221	160
Boston	39	14	15	93	225	185
Toronto	38	19	8	84	237	203
Tampa Bay	35	25	6	76	230	222
Detroit	33	27	6	72	225	222
Buffalo	32	30	5	69	200	198
Montreal	25	30	11	61	184	231
Ottawa	27	33	4	58	205	223
Metropolitan Division						
	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
N.Y. Rangers	43	19	4	90	217	179
Carolina	40	20	6	86	220	178
Philadelphia	34	25	8	76	197	202
N.Y. Islanders	29	22	14	72	197	213
Washington	31	25	9	71	174	205
New Jersey	32	30	4	68	218	229
Penguins	29	27	9	67	187	189
Columbus	22	33	11	55	194	238
WESTERN CONFERENCE						
Central Division						
	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Winnipeg	42	19	5	89	204	157
Colorado	42	20	5	89	251	202
Dallas	40	19	9	89	247	209
Nashville	38	25	4	80	215	203
Minnesota	33	27	7	73	210	216
St. Louis	34	29	3	71	187	201
Arizona	27	35	5	59	197	223
Chicago	18	43	5	41	145	235
Pacific Division						
	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	42	17	8	92	237	182
Edmonton	40	21	3	83	229	182
Los Angeles	33	21	11	77	198	174
Vegas	35	24	7	77	213	199
Calgary	32	29	5	69	206	213
Seattle	28	25	12	68	179	186
Anaheim	23	41	3	49	169	244
San Jose	16	42	7	39	144	259
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						
Thursday's games						
Penguins 6, San Jose 3						
Buffalo 4, N.Y. Islanders 0						
Boston 2, Montreal 1 (OT)						
Arizona 4, Detroit 1						
Carolina 4, Florida 0						
Tampa Bay 6, N.Y. Rangers 3						
Ottawa 3, Columbus 2 (SO)						
Toronto 6, Philadelphia 2						
Minnesota 2, Anaheim 0						
New Jersey 6, Dallas 2						
Calgary 4, Vegas 1						
Washington 2, Seattle 1						
Friday's games						
Winnipeg 6, Anaheim 0						
Los Angeles at Chicago (n)						
Today's games						
Buffalo at Detroit, 12:30 p.m.						
Ottawa at N.Y. Islanders, 12:30 p.m.						
N.Y. Rangers at Penguins, 3 p.m.						
New Jersey at Arizona, 5 p.m.						
Tampa Bay at Florida, 6 p.m.						
Carolina at Toronto, 7 p.m.						
Montreal at Calgary, 7 p.m.						
Philadelphia at Boston, 7 p.m.						
San Jose at Columbus, 7 p.m.						
Los Angeles at Dallas, 8 p.m.						

Minnesota at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Colorado at Edmonton, 10 p.m.
Nashville at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Washington at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

Sunday's games

N.Y. Islanders at N.Y. Rangers, 1 p.m.
New Jersey at Vegas, 3:30 p.m.
Detroit at **Penguins**, 6 p.m.
Carolina at Ottawa, 6 p.m.
San Jose at Chicago, 6 p.m.
Winnipeg at Columbus, 6 p.m.
Anaheim at St. Louis, 7 p.m.

COLLEGE

COLLEGE

BASKETBALL

CONFERENCE TOURNAMENTS

MEN

America East

Championship

Today

Vermont vs. Mass.-Lowell, 11 a.m.

American Athletic Conference

Quarterfinals

Friday's games

South Florida 81, East Carolina 59

UAB 72, Wichita St. 60

FAU 77, North Texas 71

Charlotte vs. Temple (n)

Semifinals

Today

South Florida vs. UAB, 3 p.m.

FAU vs. Charlotte-Temple-winner, 5:30 p.m.

Atlantic 10

Semifinals

Today

VCU vs. St. Joseph's, 1 p.m.

Duquesne vs. St. Bonaventure, 3:30 p.m.

ACC

Semifinals

Friday's games

North Carolina 72, Pitt 65

Virginia vs. NC State (n)

Championship

Today

North Carolina vs. Virginia-NC State-winner, 8:30 p.m.

Big 12

Friday's games

Houston 82, Texas Tech 59

Iowa St. vs. Baylor (n)

Championship

Today

Houston vs. Iowa St.-Baylor-winner, 6 p.m.

Big East

Semifinals

Friday's games

UConn 95, St. John's 90

Marquette vs. Providence, 8 p.m.

Championship

Today

UConn vs. Marquette-Providence-winner, 6:30 p.m.

Big Ten

Friday's games

Purdue 67, Michigan St. 62

Wisconsin 70, Northwestern 61

Illinois 77, Ohio St. 74

Nebraska vs. Indiana (n)

Semifinals

Today

Purdue vs. Wisconsin, 1 p.m.

Illinois vs. Nebraska-Indiana-winner, 3:30 p.m.

Big West

SUDOKU

3/16

6

3

8

4

3

4

8

2

9

7

5

4

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★★

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

6 1 8 4 7 3 5 2 9

5 4 9 1 6 2 3 8 7

7 2 3 8 9 5 1 4 6

1 7 6 9 3 8 4 5 2

9 8 2 5 4 6 7 3 1

3 5 4 2 1 7 9 6 8

8 9 1 6 5 4 2 7 3

2 3 5 7 8 9 6 1 4

4 6 7 3 2 1 8 9 5

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NINOO

SALHF

FYUTSF

CLAGNE

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

May I interest you in some champagne?

I can't believe our pipe dream came true.

We deserve to treat ourselves!

THE WEALTHY COUPLE BOUGHT A PRIVATE JET AND WERE ENJOYING THEIR ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Monday)

CRYPTOQUOTE

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

CRYPTOQUOTE

WN NWL TJJELSFTHLB HGL QLEU

B J L S F T K Z L W F P B NY UNPE

SNWQLEBTHFNW TB T VNZ VNLB.

SGEFBHNJGLE XNEKLU

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: MARCH BUSTLES IN ON WINDY FEET AND SWEEPS MY DOORSTEP AND MY STREET. — SUSAN REINER

BRIDGE BY FRANK STEWART

“Simple Saturday” columns treat basic technique and logical thinking.

Today's South might have blasted into 3NT at his second turn; no opening lead would beat that game. When South preferred to probe by bidding two spades, North signed off; but South tried again, and North went on to five diamonds with his “working” queen of spades and side ace.

West led the queen of clubs, and South took the ace, drew trumps, went to the ace of hearts and let the queen of spades ride. West won, and the defense cashed a club and two hearts.

ILLUSION

South succeeds with careful play. At Trick Two he leads a low spade. The finesse is an illusion; South gets two spade tricks whether it wins or loses. West takes the king and leads a second club, and East wins and shifts to the king of hearts.

South takes the ace and cashes the A-K of trumps. He pitches dummy's low hearts on the A-J of spades, ruffs a heart, ruffs a club, ruffs his last heart and wins the last two tricks with trumps.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ A J 5 ♥ 7 5 2 ♦ A K Q J 9 ♣ A 4. You open one diamond, your partner responds one

heart, you jump to 2NT and he bids three diamonds. What do you say?

ANSWER: Your 2NT showed a balanced 19 or so points and was almost but not quite forcing. Partner's three diamonds is forcing. Bid three hearts, showing three-card support for his suit. He can return to 3NT. If instead he judges to play at four hearts or five diamonds, fine.

South dealer

N-S vulnerable

NORTH

♠ Q

♥ A 4 3

♦ 7 5 3 2

♣ 8 6 5 3 2

WEST

♠ K 10 6 3 2

♥ 10 9 8

♦ 8

♣ Q J 10 9

EAST

♠ 9 8 7 4

♥ K Q J 6

♦ 10 6 4

♣ K 7

SOUTH

♠ A J 5

♥ 7 5 2

♦ A K Q J 9

♣ A 4

South

1 ♦

2 ♠

4 ♦

West

Pass

Pass

Pass

North

2 ♦

3 ♦

5 ♦

East

Pass

Pass

All Pass

Opening lead — ♣ Q

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Flock fathers

5 “Shucks!”

9 Copycat's cry

10 Less cordial

12 Distant

13 Pound parts

14 First aid kit item

16 Beat walker

17 Season on the Seine

18 Colorful kerchief

20 Reduce

22 Tennis's Roddick

23 Award for mystery writers

25 Church area

28 Campaign tactics

32 Old Western villain

34 Finger count

35 Quarter-back Manning

36 Irish wailer

38 Uses a VCR

40 Fielder's aid

41 Martin of movies

DOWN

1 Feel empathy

2 Makes amends

3 State of mind

4 Guest's sack

5 Turn red, maybe

6 Serving feat

7 Part of a primitive phone

8 Minute part

9 “Only Murders in the Building” role

11 Settle, as a debt

15 Rap style

19 Be bold

21 Canary snack

24 In the middle of

25 Aids illegally

26 Sense of taste

27 Made malicious remarks

29 Comfortable

30 “John Wick” star

31 Display disdain

33 “Ghosts” playwright

37 Turn

39 Planning time

C O C O H I S S

A L E P H A T E A M

D I R T Y N E R V E

E V E P Y G M I E S

T E A C H E S A M A

S L O E S A L E S

G I N P I N

B A R N F E D U P

A L A C A R A M E L

B A S S E T S B O A

E S S E N I N E R T

S K E E T A E R I E

A S K S T S A R

Yesterday's answer

9 “Only Murders in the Building” role

26 Sense of taste

27 Made malicious remarks

29 Comfortable

30 “John Wick” star

31 Display disdain

33 “Ghosts” playwright

37 Turn

39 Planning time

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 10 11

12 13

14 15 16

17 18 19

20 21 22

23 24

25 26 27 28 29 30 31

32 33 34

35 36 37

38 39 40

41 42

43 44

3-16

HOROSCOPES

BY MAGI HELENA

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Seek out just the right vibe if you want to find a new partner or new ally.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Friends may expect you to enthusiastically endorse causes that are somewhat alien to your beliefs. Be open-minded and respectful without caving.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Do some self-work, let go of doubts and fears, and learn to enjoy the ride.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stay in your lane and focus on your own life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep your money in your pocket and steer clear of making major financial investments or racking up credit card debts.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): If you're looking at all the pieces before any collapse, you have the choice to avoid the problem or go straight on through to rinse and repeat.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may have previously had backup to help take care of anything that slips through the cracks, but now it could be up to you to handle it all yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The best skill to develop is the ability to let go of any self-shaming and to analyze and learn from mistakes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put common sense to work on your behalf in life situations and financial analysis.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your healthy skepti-

cism could take a brief leave of absence for a few days.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your financial situation may have been fragile for some time, but fiscal stability could be coming soon.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't hold yourself back from full participation in things you are passionate about.

IF MARCH 16 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: You may be blessed by good health, imagination and peace of mind during the next six to eight weeks. You should be able to sit back and reap the rewards for a job well done and be able to live up to your ideals. Consider making key decisions in late April when that “lucky break” you've been praying for could appear and launch something of importance that might live up to your hopes. Early May could be a potentially great time for a vacation or spending time with a romantic partner, but consider putting key changes and decisions on hold. June may be a good time to update your social life by joining a club, a gym or organization.

Magi Helena is a Tribune Content Agency writer.

WORD SLEUTH • IRISH —

ON J G D A X U R O L J G D A

X V S P N K I F C A X V S Q O

L N F J G H E C A X V W T R P

N L O T A T O P J C H A R M S

H F L I E D R B Y I X V T R P

O M K K L E I K S L W G E D S

B Z L X I L W K C B S E U E T

R Q O R C O E N L U J T T I G

F A R D C Y A B Y P L T O S X

W E E C N A D V E E E F F O C

T T S S R N A C I R E M A P R

Friday's unlisted clue: TEXAS

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Saturday's unlisted clue hint: A SPUD

American Charms	Folklore Gaelic	Republic Roots	Stew Terrier
Coffee	Luck	Sea	Whiskey
Dance	Rebellion	Setter	

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3/16

ALMANAC

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Saturday, March 16, the 76th day of 2024. There are 290 days left in the year.

Highlights in history

In 1521: Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan and his crew reached the Philippines, where Magellan was killed during a battle with natives the following month.

In 1802: President Thomas Jefferson signed a measure authorizing the establishment of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

In 1935: Adolf Hitler decided to break the military terms set by the Treaty of Versailles by ordering the rearming of Germany.

In 1945: During World War II, American forces declared they had secured Iwo Jima, although pockets of Japanese resistance remained.

In 1968: The My Lai massacre took place during the Vietnam War as U.S. Army soldiers hunting for Viet Cong fighters and sympathizers killed unarmed villagers in two hamlets of Son My village; estimates of the death toll vary from 347 to 504.

In 1984: William Buckley, the CIA station chief in Beirut, was kidnapped by Hezbollah militants. (He was tortured by his captors and killed in 1985).

In 1994: Figure skater Tonya Harding pleaded guilty in Portland, Ore., to conspiracy to hinder prosecution for covering up an attack on rival Nancy Kerrigan, avoiding jail but drawing a \$100,000 fine.

In 2021: A gunman killed eight people, mostly women of Asian descent, at three Atlanta-area massage parlors in an attack that sent terror through the Asian-American community, which had increasingly been targeted during the pandemic. The white gunman, Robert Long, told police that the attack was not racially motivated, and that he had a “sex addiction.” (Long was sentenced to life in prison after pleading guilty in four of the deaths.)

In 2022: A powerful 7.3 magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Fukushima in northern Japan.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Game show host	83	Movie director	60
Chuck Woolery		Gore Verbinski	
Actor Erik Estrada	75	Country singer Tracy Bonham	57
Rock singer-musician		Actor Lauren Graham	57
Nancy Wilson (Heart)	70	R&B singer Blu Cantrell	48
Rapper-actor Flavor Flav	65	Actor Brooke Burns	46
Rock musician		Actor Alexandra Daddario	38
Jimmy DeGrasso	61	R&B singer Jhené Aiko	36
Actor Jerome Flynn	61	Rock musician	
Folk singer Patty Griffin	60	Wolfgang Van Halen	33

UNITED FEATURES CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Poorly lit

4 Foreman

8 Wagers

12 Mimic

13 Per person

14 Military group

15 Sailor

16 “— Lies”

17 Italia's capital

18 Lawn tool

20 Streetcar

22 State near Miss.

23 Twisted

24 Pitifully small

26 Machine part

27 Monk's title

30 Sibillant letter

31 London district

33 “— — Yankee Doodle ...”

34 Brewed beverage

DOWN

35 Art movement

37 Transgress

38 — -de-lance

39 Cleaning aid

40 Spiffy

42 Summa — laude

43 Flightless bird

44 Titled widow

48 Protest on foot

51 At a distance

52 Dorothy's dog

54 Feather scarf

55 Hurry

56 Black

57 Pipe fitting

58 Airspeed unit

59 Nerve network

60 Poor grade

Answer to Previous Puzzle

D A M C A S H C O W

R U E R I L E T O P E

O D E A L A R A N I L

P I T H Y P E R U S E D

A O K E T C

D O M I N A N C E I F S

A R I L P E A L O I L

M E N S P A R P U R E

P O E H A R N E S S E D

S R O E M S

U N H I T C H O T H E R

R E A M H A F T O R E

S A F E A L O E S A D

A T T R E E D E S S

4 Double-crosses

5 Scull

6 Rabbit's tail

7 Robin Hood's forest

8 Big and strong

9 Lab compound

10 Duration

11 Collar insert

19 Wapiti

21 Assn.

24 Unhearing

25 — of Wight

26 Fella

27 Made uneasy

28 Leave out

29 Countless

32 Mileage gauge

36 Sea polyp

39 Cup

41 Physicians' org.

42 Insert mark

44 Coffee roast option

45 In the twinkling — — eye

46 Texas city

47 Grad's wear

49 Composer — Porter

50 Robust

53 Kiddie

3-16

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jobs & more

Accounting-Finance

Bookkeeper / Admin Assistant Part-time

Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant, part-time position, 20 hours/week with flexible hours, available at Our Lady of the Lakes Roman Catholic Church in West Deer Township. Bookkeeping skills, as well as administrative skills, are essential in a small parish setting. Knowledge of, or a willingness to learn, specific accounting and database software. Must be comfortable working in a professional, yet somewhat informal, office setting. Please forward your resume to jholland@diopitt.org

legals

Bid Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that specifications and proposal forms for furnishing all labor, materials, permits, and fees for the following project, "HVAC Systems Air Purification Project", may be obtained by contacting Michelle Peters at mpeters@thebradleycenter.org beginning on 3/7/2024.

BIDS WILL BE RECEIVED until 5:00 p.m. on 4/2/2024 at The Bradley Center located at 5180 Campbells Run Road, Pittsburgh PA 15205 at the reception desk. Bids will be publicly opened at 11:00 a.m. on 4/3/2024 at The Bradley Center.

Bids must be on standard proposal forms in the manner therein described in the bid documents and enclosed in a sealed envelope, bearing the name and address of the bidder on the outside, addressed to The Bradley Center, Attention: Dave Blough, and marked with the project name.

Bids must be accompanied by a certified check upon a National or State bank, drawn and made payable without condition to The Bradley Center in the amount not less than five percent (5%) of the bid, or a bid bond of not less than 5%.

If there are additional questions, please contact Michelle Peters at The Bradley Center. 323578 (3/9,16,23/24)

Civil Notice

CHANGE OF NAME NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEASE OF WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

No. 1077 of 2024
In re: Petition of Jennifer Marie Lowe for change of name to Harlyn Remy Khamyri. To all persons interested: Notice is hereby given that an order of said Court authorized the filing said petition and fixed the 2nd day of May, 2024, at 11:45 a.m. as the time and the Westmoreland County Courthouse, Courtroom No. 2, 2 North Main Street, Greensburg, PA, as the place of hearing, and where all persons may show cause, if any they have, why said name should not be changed as prayed for.
325059

TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

OBITUARY DEPARTMENT

How to reach us...

Sunday through Friday 11:00 to 6:30 pm
Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm
Toll Free Phone: 1-844-523-4210
E-mail: Obits@triblive.com

Please contact your funeral home for deadlines and pricing.

jobs & more

General

Printing Press Operator

PrintSource Pittsburgh is seeking to fill the position of **Printing Press Operator** at our Falcon Print and Distribution Facility located in Tarentum, PA. This is a full-time position.

The ideal candidate will have the ability to work in a fast-paced environment and possess a strong commitment to top-quality work and a keen eye for detail. Requirements include setting up printing press for production runs, setting ink densities, registering photos and ads and running a folder and splicers. Goss Community tower experience a plus.

Prior experience in a team environment and the ability to interact with other production departments are essential. Mechanical aptitude is needed. Physical demands of the job require standing, walking, stooping, bending, lifting. The schedule will require weekends. A High School diploma or equivalent is required. Great opportunity with a stable printer and room for advancement.

PrintSource offers a comprehensive benefits package including medical, dental, vision, short-term disability, 401k with company match, life insurance, paid time off, and more.

Interested applicants should apply at <https://printpittsburgh.com/jobs/>

PrintSource is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages all qualified candidates to apply

Civil Notice

NOTICE OF FILING AN APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that on March 16, 2024 Somerset Trust Company, with its principal place of business located at 151 West Main Street, Somerset, Pennsylvania 15501 in Somerset County, filed with the Pennsylvania Department of Banking an application for a Letter of Authority to establish a branch at:

100 North Main Street
Greensburg, PA 15601

All interested persons may file comments regarding this application, in writing, with the Pennsylvania Department of Banking, Corporate Applications Division, 17 North Second Street, Suite 1300, Harrisburg, PA 17101-2290. In order to be considered, comments regarding this application must be received by the Department of Banking no later than ten (10) business days after the date of publication of this notice.
325286 (3/16/24)

TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

NOTICE OF FILING APPLICATION FOR A BRANCH OFFICE

Notice is hereby given that Somerset Trust Company of 151 West Main Street, Somerset, Pennsylvania 15501 intends to file an application for FDIC consent to establish a branch office at:

100 North Main Street
Greensburg, PA 15601

Any person wishing to comment on this application may file his or her comments in writing with the Regional Director of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at its Regional Office, 350 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1200, New York, New York 10118 not later than April 1, 2024. The non-confidential portions of the application are on file in the Regional office and are available for public inspection during regular business hours. Photocopies of the non-confidential portion of the application file will be made available upon request.
325287 (3/16/24)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:

The following self-storage unit contents containing houseold and other goods will be sold for cash by OpenSpace Self Storage, LLC as Agent for Owner 101 N. 4th Street Jeannette, PA 15644 to satisfy a lien on March 29, 2024 at approx. 12:00PM at www.storage-treasures.com.

Unit# 1192, Lisa Fannon; Unit# 2513 Gabriel Morgan; Unit# 2505 Mark Altman; Unit# 2532 Collin Hays; Unit# 2044 James Pride; Unit# 3015 Floyd McCurdy; Unit# 1031 Jasmine Hill; Unit# 1034 Shawn Seibel, Unit# 1074 Tatyana Tribble.
urn: 323712 (3/16/24, 3/25/24)

Estate Notice

Attorney: Keegan E. Miller, Esquire
Phone: 724-832-2499
Firm Name: Bononi & Company, P.C.
Address: 20 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 201, Greensburg, PA 15601

EXECUTOR NOTICE

Letters testamentary on the estate of Beverly Catharine Weyandt Black a/k/a Beverly C. Black, Beverly Weyandt Black, Beverly W. Black, Court Term No. 6524-0622, late of Irwin Borough, Westmoreland County, deceased, having been granted to the undersigned by the Register of Wills of Westmoreland County, notice is hereby given to all persons indebted to said estate to make immediate payment, and to those having claims the same to present them to the undersigned, duly authenticated for settlement.
Executor: Delmar Vance Black II and Delmar V. Black II c/o Keegan E. Miller, Esquire
Address: 20 N. Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 201
City: Greensburg, PA 15601
325409 (3/16/24, 3/23/24, 3/30/24)

News, sports, contests, classifieds and more!

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TRIB LIVE

Estate Notice

EXECUTRIX'S NOTICE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of Charles Adam Churley a/k/a Charles A. Churley, a/k/a Charles Churley, Court Term No. 6521-3200, late of Westmoreland County, deceased, having been granted to the undersigned by the Register of Westmoreland County, notice is hereby given to all persons indebted to said estate to make immediate payment, and to those having claims against the same to present them to the undersigned duly authenticated for settlement.

Christine Aiello, Executrix
12470 St. Nikolai Drive
North Huntingdon, PA 15642
325429 (3/16, 3/23, 3/30)

Letters Testamentary on the estate of Donald S. Rehm, Court Term No. 6524-0294, late of Ligonier, Westmoreland County, deceased, having been granted to the undersigned by the Register of Wills of Westmoreland County, notice is hereby given to all persons indebted to said estate to make immediate payment, and to those having claims against the same to present them to the undersigned, duly authenticated for settlement.
Executor: Donald L. Gilbert Jr.
Address: 425 Settler Road
City: Ligonier
323480 (3/1,9,16/24)

RYAN P. CRIBBS, ESQ., NAKLES and NAKLES, Attorney for the Estate of Bernice F. Crocker, a/k/a Bernice Crocker, deceased, late of Derry Township, Pennsylvania, Westmoreland County.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary on the Estate of Bernice F. Crocker, a/k/a Bernice Crocker, Westmoreland County, deceased, have been granted to the undersigned by the Register of Wills of Westmoreland County. Notice is hereby given to all persons indebted to said estate to make immediate payment, and to those having claims against the same to present them to the undersigned, duly authenticated for settlement.

Scott Chappell, Executor
c/o Ryan P. Cribbs, Esq.
Nakles and Nakles
1714 Lincoln Avenue
Latrobe, PA 15650
323504 (3/2,9,16)

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Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Answering in-bound customer calls and handling customer requests and complaints, including but not limited to, delivery issues, billing questions, content issues and concerns, etc.
- Demonstrates the ability to perform a wide range of diverse work. Handles duties in their appropriate priority with accuracy and speed.
- Actively participates in the retention programs involving outgoing calls to existing customers to improve service and secure payments and effectively solicit new customers/business.
- Project a professional and positive image through appearance and behavior to ensure a positive presence within Trib Total Media.
- Assist in the continuous improvement of delivery services by assisting customers and effectively communicating issues and concerns internally.
- Accurately processing transactions and paperwork associated with customer accounts.
- Gathers and disperses clear and complete information to handle all types of customer inquiries. Handles a high volume of inbound calls with accuracy and speed.
- Establishes a cooperative working relationship by being flexible and willing to adapt hours and tasks when necessary.
- Keeps effective lines of communication with co-workers and customers. Communicate ideas, suggestions, and concerns to management.
- Performs additional duties within the office as necessary (filing, dispatch, front desk, data entry, etc.).

Monday-Friday work shift between the hours of 7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Variable weekend hours Saturday-Sunday 7:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

We offer a comprehensive benefits package including medical, dental, vision, 401k, paid time off and more.

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miscellaneous & notices

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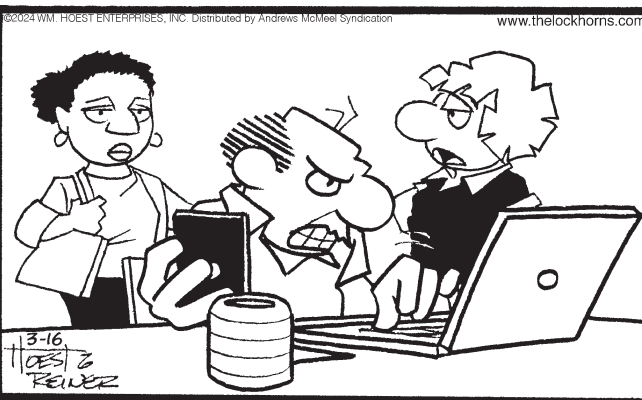
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General

Press Apprentice

PrintSource Pittsburgh has an excellent opportunity available to become a skilled printing press operator. No experience necessary.

Training is provided by the company and press crew. You will learn how to operate and maintain a printing press, folder, reels and stacker. This position offers step increases over a two-year period with increases based on an individual's ability to learn, retain information and demonstrate the skills learned. This is a full-time, evening position working 10pm – 6am. We offer a complete benefits package. Get paid to learn a skilled

Interested applicants should apply at <https://printpittsburgh.com/jobs/>

PrintSource is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages all qualified candidates to apply

General

Press Helper

PrintSource Pittsburgh is currently looking for a reliable **Press Helper** at our Falcon Distribution Center in Tarentum, PA. Responsibilities include assisting with press make readies which include set up stacker, stack finished product on skids, fill out skid tags, wrap and band finished skids. Empty the trash and sweep floors. Assist other members of the press crew.

Forklift operator certification preferred but will train. Must be able to lift and/or move up to 20 pounds. This position requires mechanical ability, mathematical aptitude, and the qualified candidate must be able to follow directions in a fast-paced environment. Must have reliable transportation. This is an evening position working 10pm-6am.

Interested applicants should apply at: <http://printpittsburgh.com/jobs/>

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garage sales

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Boston UM Church
6103 Smithfield St., 15135
Sat, Mar 16, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sun, Mar 17, 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Easter items and decorations, housewares, kitchen items, books, records, tv's (picture-tube) - GREAT FOR VINTAGE GAMING!, children's items and much more!
Enter side basement door
Refreshments available
Proceeds Benefit Elizabeth Twp Historical Society

Estate Sales

Estate Sale 718 Broadway St.
East McKeesport Sat 3/16 9am-1p
Furniture, Houseware Items, Cookware, Dishes, Artwork, Wicker Porch Furniture and more. 15035

Estate Sale
Friday, March 15th - 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 16th - 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
850 Alder Drive
N. Huntingdon, PA 15642

This is a wonderful, large, clean sale. With a little bit of everything! A movie theater poster of Mickey Mouse in Steamboat Willy, 2 large tables of African-American memorabilia (Christmas items, little statues, large Santa Clauses, Cabbage Patch dolls, posters, etc.). Dining room set (Cherry), buffet, dining room table, 6 chairs, leaves and pads, beautiful (like new). Bedroom set, dresser/mirror, chest, nightstand, and 2 headboards. Antique double bed, couch, chair, large leather ottoman, 2 coffee tables, desk. Small, old-fashioned icebox (new), crocks, a lot of wooden shelving, very large wooden jewelry box with mirror, matching dresser and chest. Single bed, freezer chest, stair lift (Acorn Super Glide, #130), 3 great rockers, nightstands, Crown cycle, many lamps. Bookcase, many books, wooden snack tables, Singer sewing machine, Domestic sewing machine, large Formica (yellow) antique table, tin cupboards. Whole sewing room, filing cabinets. Antique Hooshier (short), 2 armoires, old leather swivel chair, China, lots of Christmas items. Movie cameras, stamp collection. Tons of kitchen supplies (baking items, pots, pans - most still in boxes, triple slow cooker, baking supplies, new turkey roaster, frying pans, bread maker, electric skillet, 8 pieces of cast iron baking molds). A milk can, iron, many mixing bowl sets, different size rugs. Artifacts from all over the world. Artwork, bedding. About 50 new tablecloths - beautiful, never used. Computers and components and small tvs. Lots of old tin bar trays, tin beer signs (old), cigar boxes from around the world, handmade wooden garbage box for kitchen, China pieces, jewelry, whole set of Pfaltzcraft dishes (stoneware), Cabbage Patch dolls, Womens clothing, blankets, sheets, tin safe. Lots of Tupperware, CD's, old record albums (from way back - '40s and '50s), jigsaw, and lower mower, small train platform. Artwork purchased from world travels.

This is a great sale! Everything MUST go! Hope to see you there!

ESTATE SALE
LIQUIDATION SALE
Saturday, March 16 8am-2pm
205 Keller Rd Ruffs Dale, PA 15679

1984 Ford Bronco, furniture, washer/dryer, flat screen TVs, clothing, small appliances, cast iron Firebox stove, riding mowers, 2 mini-bikes, GE refrigerator, motorcycle lift, welders, air compressor, professional audio speakers, exercise equipment, records, small hand tools, jewelry, purses, bow and arrow set, small electric fireplace, dishes, miscellaneous and much more!
WHOLE HOUSE CONTENTS EVERYTHING MUST GO!
Cash and checks with proper ID
Gyda's Collectibles
412-558-4992

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Every Sunday in the
Tribune-Review

~ ESTATE SALE ~

Saturday, March 16th
7:30-3:30
1/2 Off at 1:00
243 George Street
Whitaker PA 15120

Antiques, Collectibles, Jewelry, Kitchenware, Glassware, PITT Memorabilia, Artwork, Electronics, Household Furniture, Woman's Clothing/Purses/Shoes, Vintage Dolls, Religious Items, Appliances, Records, China, Golf Clubs, Outdoor Furniture.

View All Photos on Our Facebook Page:

J Maslanka
Estate Sales
and Liquidation

Estate Sales

JEANNETTE 2-DAY ESTATE SALE
FRI/SAT MARCH 15/16 8am - 2pm
12 Sunbirch Dr Jeannette PA

House full of antiques, long time collection. Furniture: Victorian Primitive, Early American, Trunks, Chests, Pie Safes, Parlor Stands, Stained Glass Windows, Spinning Wheel, Koken Barber Chair, Pump Organ. Pottery & Glassware: Weller, Roseville, Hull, Royal Bonn Pieces, Hazel Atlas, Johnson Brothers, 400+ Pieces Westmoreland to Include: a Set of Princess Feather Dishes, Paneled Grape, Doric, Mary Gregory, Old Quilt, American Hobnail, Lotus, Zodiac Strawberry Platter, Pickle Jar. Linens: Quilts, Dolies, Purses, Hats, Gloves, and Hankies. Vintage Cast Iron Pieces, Clocks & Lamps: Shelf, Table Top, Ansonia, Wall Clocks, Reverse Painting Lamps, Tiffany Style Lamps, Gone w/ the Wind Lamps, Oil Lamps. Holiday: Easter, Christmas, Large Standing Paper Santa Coca - Cola and Beer Advertisements. Garage & Household: Sweepers, Snow Blower, Mower, Air Compressor, Tools, Washer & Dryer, Outdoor Furniture, Park Benches, Bicycles, Ladders, Many Box Lots. Park with Discretion.

Garage Sale Westmoreland

HUGE GARAGE SALE!
107 Elgin Drive Greensburg
Saturday March 16th 8am-1pm
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pets directory

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antique directory

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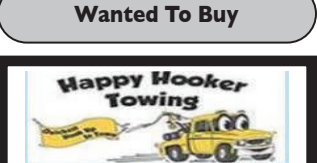
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2008 Honda Accord, Full Pwr, Air, Sedan, FWD, 73,320mi, Blue, \$9,995
2014 GMC Acadia Denali, DVD, 3rd row Seating, Dual Sunroof, Fully Loaded, AWD, 151K mi, Silver, \$10,995
2006 Chevy Malibu LT Sedan, full power and air, 99K, blue, \$5995
2012 Chevy Impala LT Sedan, full power and air, 177K, black, \$4995
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