

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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State mulls HOV lane changes

PennDOT to study two-way traffic, tolls on parkway to Pittsburgh's North Hills

By Ed Blazina
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation will study whether it should change the HOV lanes along Interstates 279 and 579 to allow two-way traffic.

The study will be funded by a \$1.25 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Build America Bureau announced earlier this week. The bureau, formed in 2021 under the Biden administration's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to push

innovative public-private partnerships, awarded \$47 million in grants to 45 projects across the country on Monday.

PennDOT's District 11 office recommended that the agency's Public-Private Partnership program undertake the study to determine if two-way traffic is a good idea and whether the agency should seek a private operator to run the program.

At a meeting June 9, the P3 board agreed to begin the study —

SEE **HOV**, PAGE A-4



Inbound traffic on the Parkway North moves slowly as traffic in the HOV lanes moves at a normal speed approaching the Venture Street ramps during a morning commute on Sept. 25, 2019.

IRAN PEACE AGREEMENT

U.S. LIFTS BLOCKADE AS STRAIT REOPENS

Khamenei endorses talks with Americans

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. on Thursday lifted its blockade of Iran, and oil tankers began freely moving through the Strait of Hormuz after months of being unable to use the critical channel, as the tentative agreement to end the war took effect.

Meanwhile, Vice President JD Vance announced that he has postponed a trip to Switzerland that had been planned for Friday and included a ceremonial signing of the deal. And a Trump administration envoy told U.S. lawmakers in a private briefing that Iran will invite the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog agency to inspect its nuclear sites.



Mojtaba Khamenei

In other developments, Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei endorsed direct negotiations with the U.S. in a statement read by state media.

"It is obvious that the face-to-face negotiations that will be held in the future will not mean accepting the enemy's opinion," he said.

It was Khamenei's first reaction to the agreement, and it indicated a shift in Iran's approach. Hard-liners, especially Khamenei's father, the previous supreme leader, have long opposed direct talks, especially after the U.S. pulled out of the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers.

The supreme leader has not been seen in public since he was wounded in a strike at the start of the war.

Trump envoy Steve Witkoff told lawmakers that Iran will invite the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog agency to inspect its nuclear sites and begin work on identifying

SEE **IRAN**, PAGE A-2

SUPREME COURT RULING

Feds can't restrict gun ownership over pot use

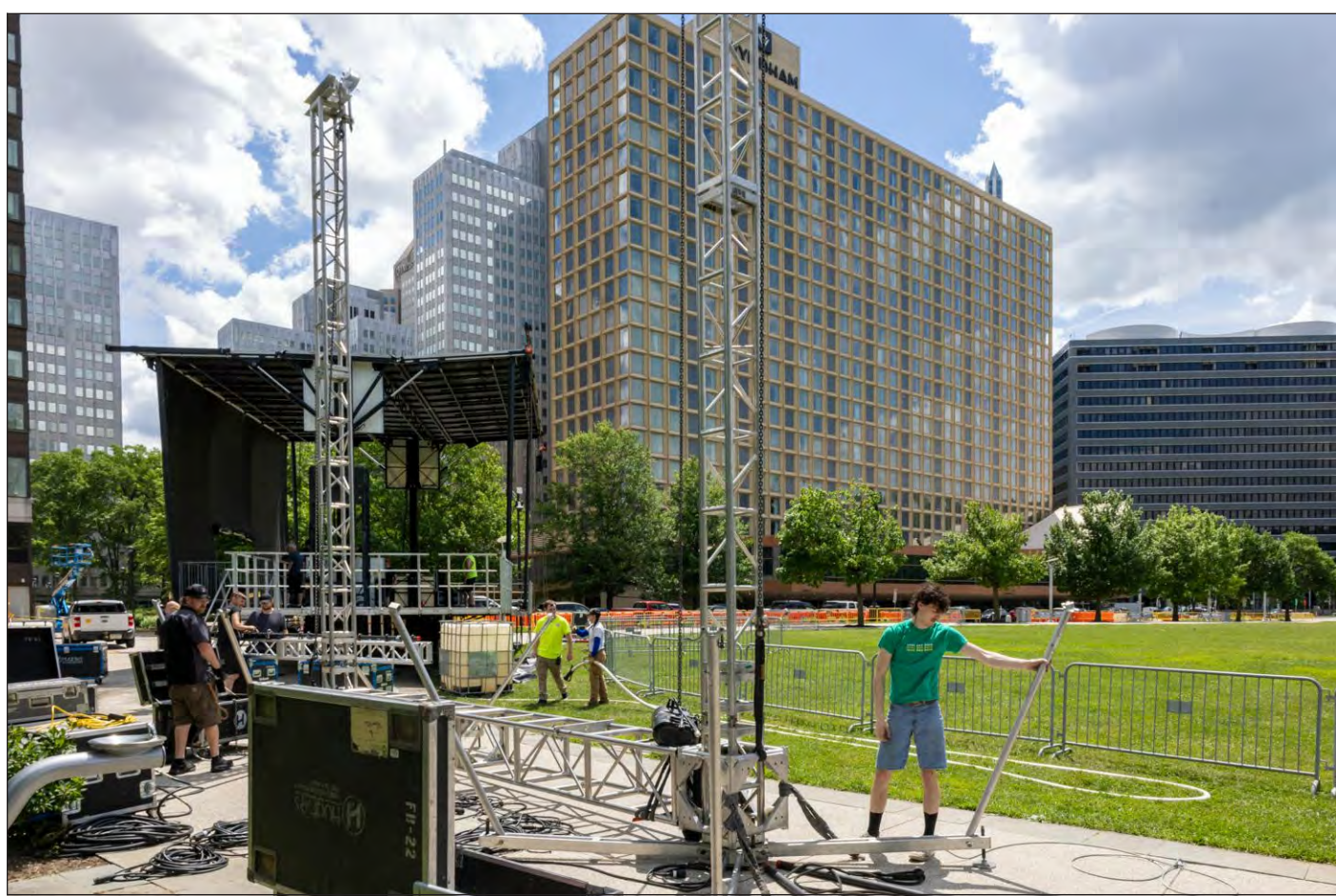
By Lindsay Whitehurst
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled Thursday against a broad federal ban on gun ownership by marijuana users, the latest in a line of firearm cases from a court that has expanded gun rights.

The justices decided unanimously in favor of Ali Daniai Hemani, a Texas man who argued that a law barring guns from anyone who regularly uses illegal drugs violates the Second Amendment.

Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote that his opinion narrowly limits the government's power to take guns away from drug users who are not considered dangerous. Hemani, who was not charged with any other crimes or accused of using the weapon under the influence, is thankful he "finally has closure," lawyer Zachary Newland said.

SEE **GUNS**, PAGE A-3



Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Crews construct a stage at Point State Park on Thursday for Pittsburgh's Western Pennsylvania Juneteenth Celebration & Festival, which will take place on Friday and Saturday Downtown and at the state park.

'A moral marker'

Juneteenth is more than a cultural festival for Western Pa.'s black families



Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Angelia Dunn, left, and Letisha Cooper, both of Raleigh, N.C., build signs on Thursday advertising food. More than 30 other U.S. states have made Juneteenth a recognized holiday.

By Stephana Ocneanu
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Five years after Juneteenth became a federal holiday, residents across Western Pa. are still seeing starkly different levels of recognition depending on where they live.

Many counties close government offices and give employees a paid day off to commemorate the end of slavery in the U.S.. Some even mark the day with a lineup of events from weekend-long festivals to living history encampments.

"In Western Pennsylvania, where Black families have fought for belonging, dignity

and equal treatment for generations ... Juneteenth is our declaration that we are still here, still organizing and still demanding the promises of this nation be kept," said Jacqueline Hill, president of the Pittsburgh branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"It is not simply a cultural festival. It is a moral marker."

But in at least a handful of counties in the region, government operations continue as normal on June 19 — making it one of the most inconsistently observed holidays.

SEE **HOLIDAY**, PAGE A-5

'Teen takeover' prompts massive response

By Megan Guza
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Public safety leaders are frustrated and searching for solutions as so-called "teen takeovers" continue to pop up across the city, sparking fights and disorder and putting a strain on police resources.

The latest — and, to date, largest — incident began shortly before 8 p.m. Wednesday when sev-

eral hundred juveniles and young people descended on Liberty Green Park, a 3-acre greenspace and playground at Larimer Avenue and Station Street.

Officers responded and found an estimated 400 kids and young people being disorderly, Chief Jason Lando told the Post-Gazette. A nearby department store was

briefly put on lockdown for fear the group could move from the park and take over the store, officials said.

Lando said the initial lieutenant who responded to the call "realized that they were significantly outnumbered," and officers from across the city poured into East Liberty. Because the gather-

ing was a disorderly one — whether the kids were actually fighting or play-fighting was unclear — officers gave three separate dispersal orders.

"The kids totally ignored the officers," Lando said.

Officers deployed pepper spray at the teens, who seemed to be the biggest agitators around 8:30 p.m., at which point most of the

SEE **TEENS**, PAGE A-4



ONLINE TODAY:
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Weather
Partly cloudy, breezy.
Daytime high, 75;
tonight's low, 55.
Page B-10

Almanac A-2
Bridge B-9
Business A-8
Classified B-10
Comics B-8

Crosswords B-9
Horoscope B-9
Local News A-4
Lottery A-5
MLB B-6

Obituaries A-6
Scoreboard B-5
Sports B-1
Sudoku B-9
Television B-7



National / International

Hegseth blasts NATO over defense issues

Plans review of U.S. forces in Europe

By Lorne Cook
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth lashed out at NATO allies on Thursday as he announced a six-month Pentagon review of American forces in Europe whose outcome will depend on how fast the Europeans take responsibility for their own security.

The review was yet another surprise for European allies and Canada as they learn to deal with an increasingly unpredictable ally. U.S. officials and senior military officers had promised to coordinate closely with the Europeans as America draws down.

In recent months, President Donald Trump and the Pentagon have sent conflicting signals about whether America is reducing or increasing its military footprint in Europe, as well as threatening to annex Greenland, a semiautonomous island that is part of ally Denmark. Just weeks ago, the Trump administration said that it would no longer provide as much military support should any NATO member come under attack.

"This will be a real review. It will be designed to ensure that NATO is moving fast and irreversibly toward Europe

leading, stepping up to take primary responsibility for the defense of Europe," Hegseth told his NATO counterparts. "It's a review that some countries will fail and others will pass with flying colors."

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz later said the allies have long been aware of U.S. plans to pull troops from Europe at some point and that they must take care of their own security.

"We know that we must do more and we are doing it," Merz said.

Dressing down over bases, gender, migration

In a fiery speech at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Hegseth lambasted European allies for failing to provide U.S. forces access to bases in Europe to launch attacks on Iran, calling it "shameful."

"These allies, they put America's sons and daughters, our sons and daughters, at risk by denying them the predictable access, basing and overflight that never should have been in question at all," he said. The review would also assess whether the U.S. has full access and overflight "when we need it."

While defense ministers and military officers sat in silence, Hegseth railed against



Virginia Mayo/Associated Press

United States Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, right, speaks Thursday during a meeting of the North Atlantic Council at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

migration and gender equality policies in Europe, in remarks reminiscent to those of Vice President JD Vance in February last year that angered many Europeans.

"Instead of tanks and fighters and air defenses, the focus has been on gender equity and climate change and defense austerity. Europe's borders flew wide open, welfare states expanded, defense budgets cratered, along with Europe's belief in itself and its civilization," Hegseth said.

Hegseth's comments largely mischaracterized European policies today. On defense, European allies and Canada have launched an unprecedented effort to boost

defense spending and expand their armed forces. NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte noted on Thursday that they spent \$90 billion more on defense last year, a 20% increase over 2024. And while Europe accepted large numbers of migrants and asylum seekers more than a decade ago, most countries have tightened their borders since.

It does not augur well for a summit of NATO leaders in Turkey on July 7-8.

A rare, short visit to NATO

It was a rare visit to NATO by Hegseth, his first this year after skipping a meeting in February. The Pentagon chief did not stay long, leaving well before the

gathering was over and hours before Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was due to press allies for more weapons for his country.

Speaking to reporters at Brussels airport before flying home, Hegseth said, "It was great to hear country after country say, 'We're going to meet our target. We're going to meet our target.' There are still a few outliers, and we will be clear with them as we do this review."

NATO's supreme allied commander, an American, is working on backup plans to defend Europe after the U.S. signaled on June 3 that it would no longer supply an aircraft carrier and support ships, aerial refueling planes and dozens of fighter jets, among other military assets, in a crisis.

The Trump administration insists that it needs to be able to plan for two simultaneous conflicts and wants more military resources at hand should it clash with China in the Indo-Pacific region.

Under NATO's collective security guarantee — Article 5 of its founding treaty — the 32 allies pledge that an attack on one of them will be considered an attack on all. It does not oblige them to provide military support, although many likely would.

In essence, the United States is scaling back how it might help should an ally

trigger Article 5.

U.S. nuclear arms will stay

The U.S. has by far NATO's biggest armed forces. It does not intend to withdraw its nuclear weapons in Europe, which are key to NATO's deterrence. To underscore that point, NATO's Nuclear Planning Group issued its first statement in 19 years after Thursday's meeting.

In the statement, it "recalled that the strategic nuclear forces of the Alliance remain the supreme guarantee of Allied security and underpin NATO's extended deterrence architecture."

The ministers "agreed to continue enhancing NATO's nuclear deterrence mission by modernizing NATO's nuclear capabilities, strengthening its nuclear planning capacity, and adapting to achieve its security interests."

Rutte played down the impact of the U.S. decision, saying that the NATO Force Model — the system for organizing what forces member countries will provide commanders in times of peace, crisis or conflict — is just "a planning tool," and not a reflection of what would actually happen.

"If war breaks out, we will all max out what we need to do to make sure we can fight the war," Rutte told reporters. "In the planning phase, it is important to know what we can count on. What is in theory there."

TENTATIVE AGREEMENT TAKES EFFECT

IRAN, FROM A-1

and uncovering the locations of Tehran's enriched material, which is believed to be buried under rubble.

The private briefing was described by two people familiar with the conversation who spoke to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity to share the closed-door details.

Witkoff told congressional leadership and members of national security-related committees that the agreement that the U.S. struck with Iran did not include any side deals, but a side letter was

drafted between Tehran and the International Atomic Energy Agency extending the invitation. Witkoff disclosed the existence of the letter and invitation in the briefing, according to the people.

Witkoff said the letter to IAEA Director-General Rafael Mariano Grossi would enable him to bring U.S. nuclear inspectors to Tehran.

The agreement states that Iran's stockpile of highly enriched uranium must at minimum be diluted under international supervision. It also says that Iran shall not procure or develop nuclear weapons — a commitment it



Vahid Salemi/Associated Press

A man waves a religious flag Thursday as people beat their chests during a mourning ceremony in Tehran, Iran.

has made previously.

Timeline could make it tough to promote deal

Vance's visit might have helped start talks on the next, potentially even more critical, round of negotiations between the two sides.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also postponed a planned visit to Switzerland, where Islamabad officials were to host the ceremony, because the agreement had already been signed, said two senior officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

The uncertain timeline could raise new questions and make it even more difficult for the Trump administration to promote a deal that many in the U.S. — including some congressional Republicans — have criticized as too favorable to Tehran.

"Our plan is to go to Switzerland. I don't know exactly when," Vance said during a briefing with reporters at the White House when asked about not flying, as planned, to the signing ceremony.

That injected new doubt into an agreement that President Donald Trump said he signed to avoid "economic catastrophe" in the U.S.

Vance's announcement came a day after Trump signed the pact with Iran while dining with French President Emmanuel Macron at the Palace of Versailles. The deal is slated to take immediate effect and extends a ceasefire while giving each side 60 days to hammer out broader agreements on larger issues.

Trump said the deal would avoid continued stress on the U.S. economy after the war caused oil prices to skyrocket, made financial markets skittish and fueled inflation. He

repeatedly said he did not want to be compared to Herbert Hoover, whose policies helped exacerbate the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Vance defends deal

The vice president, who was initially personally skeptical of the U.S. going to war with Iran, has increasingly become the administration's face of the conflict and has been outspoken in defending the deal. Asked about concerns it concedes too much, the vice president said repeatedly that the accord would force Iran to "change their behavior."

Vance shrugged off accusations that its rollout has been piecemeal and sometimes contradictory, saying, "I don't think our public messaging has been chaotic."

He also offered a surprisingly blunt warning to Israel, which has pushed the U.S. to take a harder stance against

Iran and launched attacks on the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militia in Lebanon throughout the war, including just before the deal extending the ceasefire was reached. Those attacks complicated the peace efforts with Iran.

Trump "is the only head of state in the entire world who is sympathetic to the nation of Israel at this moment in time," Vance said. "And he happens to be the head of state of the world's superpower."

The vice president said more than 12.5 million barrels went through the Strait of Hormuz on Wednesday night. That could further soothe oil prices that spiked during the war but have been falling since the U.S. and Iran announced a tentative deal to end the conflict.

At least two oil tankers left Iran and crossed the U.S. military blockade without being stopped. A merchant shipping tracking website said the ships were carrying a combined total of 3.8 million barrels of Iranian crude oil. Iranian state media said shipping had "normalized" at Iran's southern ports but added that the strait remains supervised and under the control of the Iranian military, and transiting through the vital waterway still requires coordination.

Major shipowners began moving vessels through the strait after the agreement was signed, according to maritime data company Lloyd's List Intelligence, though Lloyd's did not give data on how many ships have passed through the strait as of Thursday.

In a media briefing, Richard Meade, editor-in-chief of Lloyd's List, said for the first time in 110 days, ships owned by major companies are transiting the strait after effectively being marooned there since February.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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Corrections & clarifications

If you have a correction and cannot reach the responsible reporter or editor, please call the office of Stan Wischnowski, executive editor, at 412-263-1890.

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ALMANAC

On this day, June 19

1865 Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War was over and that all remaining enslaved people in Texas were free — an event celebrated as the Juneteenth national holiday in the U.S.
1910 The first-ever Father's Day in the United States was celebrated in Spokane, Wash. (President Richard Nixon would make Father's Day a federally recognized annual observation through a proclamation in 1972.)
1953 Julius Rosenberg, 35, and his wife, Ethel, 37, convicted of conspiring to pass U.S. atomic secrets to the Soviet Union, were executed at Sing Sing Prison in Ossining, N.Y.; they were the first American civilians to be executed for espionage.
1963 Soviet cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova completed her historic flight as the first woman in space, landing safely at the

conclusion of the Vostok 6 mission.
1964 The landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 was approved by the U.S. Senate, 73-27, after surviving a lengthy filibuster.
1975 Former Chicago organized crime boss Sam Giancana was shot to death in the basement of his home in Oak Park, Ill.; the killing has never been solved.
1986 University of Maryland basketball star Len Bias, the first draft pick of the Boston Celtics two days earlier, suffered a fatal cocaine-induced seizure.
1987 The U.S. Supreme Court, in *Edwards v. Aguillard*, struck down a Louisiana law requiring any public school teaching the theory of evolution to teach creation science as well.
1991 The last Soviet troops withdrew from Hungary after a decadeslong presence, retreating amid the collapse of the Soviet

bloc and under pressure from Hungary's new democratic government.
2018 President Donald Trump signed the nation's 10 millionth patent, awarding it to a California employee of the Raytheon Co. who found a new way to get real-time readings from large laser radars.
Today's birthdays: Hall of Fame auto racer Shirley Muldowney, 86. Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, 81. Author Tobias Wolff, 81. Author Salman Rushdie, 79. Actor Phylicia Rashad, 78. Rock singer Ann Wilson (Heart), 76. Actor Kathleen Turner, 72. Singer-choreographer-TV personality Paula Abdul, 64. TV host Lara Spencer, 57. Actor Jean Dujardin, 54. Actor Robin Tunney, 54. Basketball Hall of Famer Dirk Nowitzki, 48. Actor Zoe Saldana, 48. Rapper Macklemore, 43. Actor Paul Dano, 42. NBA player Jordan Poole, 27. Actor Millie Gibson, 22.

Nation/World briefs

Dems: Tax cut money paying for ballroom

Compiled from news services

More than \$350 million from President Donald Trump's "big, beautiful bill" has been quietly directed to White House security, an allotment that Democrats warn appears to be helping fund his new ballroom project — despite the president's insistence that no taxpayer dollars would be used.

The apportionment of funds, which the White House's Office of Management and Budget made last week, comes from two accounts that were intended to provide the U.S. Secret Service with extra money for hiring and training in the aftermath of last year's assassination attempts on the president, according to Democrats on the Senate Budget Committee. The shift was made days after Congress rejected a \$1 billion request for the White House in a Homeland Security bill that Trump signed law and as the ballroom project is tangled in legal challenges.

Senate Judiciary Committee chairman Chuck Grassley, whose panel initially drafted the security funding, said Thursday he was unaware of the allocations.

"The president said that it was all going to be paid for with private money," said Grassley, R-Iowa. "And that's what the country expects."

Sen. Jeff Merkley, of Oregon, the top Democrat on the Senate Budget Committee, charged that Trump's actions are potentially illegal.

"After repeatedly telling the American people that zero taxpayer dollars would be spent on his gold-plated ballroom boondoggle, now Trump appears to be using a smoke and mirrors tactic," Merkley said in a statement.

Hate-crime charges filed in Chicago cross burning

A 21-year-old man has been charged with a hate crime, arson and other offenses for a cross that was set on fire in a Chicago park, police said.

Merlin Lu admitted to a TV station this week that he was responsible for the recent cross burning in Grant Park. But he insisted that he was protesting President Donald Trump and Christian nationalists and was not using the cross as a historical symbol of hate against Black people.

Lu appeared in court Thursday on four felonies and four misdemeanors, including a hate crime, property damage and burning a cross to intimidate. A judge denied a request by prosecutors to keep him detained.

Defense attorney Alexander Michael told the judge that Lu was exercising free speech in a "foolish manner." He also disputed that it could be a hate crime against certain Christians.

On June 9, in the middle of the day, Lu created a cross

with two pieces of wood, wrapped it in toilet paper, doused it with kerosene and started a fire, Cook County prosecutors said in a court filing.

Lu told WMAQ-TV before his arrest that he was protesting the "ruling class" and Christian nationalists who support Trump, and attached a red hat to symbolize the MAGA hat favored by the president's allies.

Ukrainian drones set Moscow refinery ablaze

Ukraine struck a major Moscow oil refinery Thursday for a second time in a week, sending huge plumes of black smoke over the capital and disrupting hundreds of flights at its airports in one of its biggest drone attacks since Russia's full-scale invasion over four years ago, officials said.

Ukraine has repeatedly targeted Russian oil facilities, aiming to cut Moscow's revenue for the war and make Russians feel the consequences of the invasion. Some areas have reported fuel shortages.

The attack by dozens of drones came hours after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he had held "an important coordination call" with the presidents of the United States and France and had won key pledges of further support from this week's G7 summit.

"If Ukraine is going to burn, your Moscow will burn, too," Zelenskyy said, adding that the attack was part of Kyiv's effort to bring Russian President Vladimir Putin to the negotiating table.

The Moscow attack was the latest embarrassment for Putin. Ukrainian drones attacked his hometown of St. Petersburg earlier this month as he welcomed foreign VIPs to his showcase economic forum in the city.

Niger airport attack kills 11 soldiers and 2 civilians

Gunmen attacked the main airport in Niger's capital early Thursday, killing 11 soldiers and two civilians in an exchange of fire that also left 22 of the attackers dead, authorities said.

Niger's Defense Ministry said in a statement that the attack in Niamey was foiled and that 20 suspects were arrested along with weapons and ammunition.

Witnesses reported gunfire and explosions during the attack, and an Associated Press journalist saw soldiers searching people on the road to the airport in the aftermath of the violence.

Hours later, the National Civil Aviation Agency said the airport was operating normally.

Niger, led by a military junta since a 2023 coup, has struggled to contain deadly jihadi violence that has battered parts of Africa's Sahel region, including neighbors Burkina Faso and Mali that are also run by military juntas.

Unanimous top court rejects ban on pot users owning guns

GUNS, FROM A-1

The decision is a loss for President Donald Trump's Republican administration, which had defended the 1968 law despite arguing against other gun restrictions. Its core argument "fails under every measure," Gorsuch wrote.

The law was originally meant to keep guns away from dangerous people, but millions of people now use marijuana, Gorsuch wrote. It is broadly legal in about half the states and has gained widespread use for health purposes.

"Whatever one thinks of these developments, the federal government has not just tolerated them; it helped fuel them," Gorsuch wrote. "All of which leaves it awkwardly positioned to suggest that the millions of Americans who now regularly use marijuana are categorically and unusually dangerous."

The law was also used in a case against Hunter Biden, who was convicted in Wilmington, Del., of buying a gun while addicted to cocaine in 2018. He was later pardoned by his father, Democratic President Joe Biden.

Someone addicted to an illegal drug could potentially still be prosecuted after Thursday's decision.

"We do not address efforts to ban addicts, or those presently intoxicated, from possessing a firearm," Gorsuch wrote. Prosecutors could charge a marijuana user if they had evidence the person was dangerous, he said.

Recreational use remains illegal on a federal level even after the Trump administration reclassified medical marijuana as a less-dangerous drug in April.

The case made for some unusual political alliances. The American Civil Liberties Union and the National Rifle Association supported Hemani's case, as did cannabis legalization groups such as NORML. On the other side were gun safety groups including Everytown that usually oppose the administration on Second Amendment issues.

The ACLU applauded the ruling, saying that nearly half of Americans have reported using marijuana at some point in their lives.

"The court has sent a strong message that the government cannot criminalize the conduct of large numbers of people by making categorical and unfounded assumptions about whether they are dangerous," said Cecilia Wang, legal director at the ACLU.

The Second Amendment Foundation called it a "major victory for gun owners."

The group Smart Approaches to Marijuana, which opposes legalization of the drug, condemned the court's decision.

"While the justices in this case appear to be most concerned with historical battles over Second Amendment rights, public health and safety are the collateral damage in this decision," said CEO Kevin Sabet.

It is rare to see stand-alone criminal charges filed against



Matt Rourke/Associated Press

The Supreme Court found Thursday that a Texas man could not be prosecuted under a federal law that prohibits regular users of controlled substances, such as marijuana, from possessing firearms.

people accused solely of owning guns and using drugs. The charge is more often filed against people also accused of other crimes.

The opinion is the latest in a series of firearm cases to reach the Supreme Court since its

landmark ruling expanding gun rights in 2022 led to a wave of challenges around the country.

Since then, the high court has upheld a law aimed at protecting victims of domestic violence and strict regulations

on ghost gun kits but has struck down a ban on bump stocks, an accessory that enables rapid fire. The justices are also considering a second firearm case this term over strict regulations on carrying guns in Hawaii.



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New bus stops at The Waterfront open Sunday

Shopping complex had threatened to close them over safety concerns

By Ed Blazina
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Nine months after Pittsburgh Regional Transit and The Waterfront shopping and entertainment complex reached a deal, new bus stops will begin operation on Sunday.

In September, managers at The Waterfront notified PRT that it would have to close stops on private property in front of the Giant Eagle and Target stores because they had been creating dangerous conditions for years. Owners said bus stops in front of the businesses weren't safe for shoppers in the nearby parking lots because shoppers would step into the roadway from between buses, and years of attempts to find alternatives were unsuccessful.

PRT and transit advocates said moving the stops to private property nearby would

create a hardship by making about 400 daily riders walk a long distance with groceries and other items to other stops on public property. The stops are among PRT's busiest in the Monongahela Valley.

After local and federal elected officials got involved, the parties reached a deal a few days later to allow the stops to remain until alternatives could be prepared.

PRT will begin using the new stops Sunday, when the six bus routes that previously had full pickup and drop off in front of each of the neighboring stores will drop off passengers at the Giant Eagle pharmacy on the side of the store and pick up riders at a stop between the two stores.

In a news release, The Waterfront officials said the new stops are "in line" with the goal of the complex to improve safety and the shopping



Pittsburgh Regional Transit will begin using new bus stops at the Waterfront in Homestead on Sunday. Stops were relocated from in front of Giant Eagle and Target for safety reasons.

ADA accessible ramp, an upgraded bus shelter, lighting and new landscaping to the area.

Katharine Kelleman, PRT's CEO, said in another news release that the new stops are the result of collaboration among the agency, The Waterfront, elected officials and riders.

"The opening of these new bus stops reflects the commitment we made to the community and the power of collaboration to deliver practical results," Allegheny County Executive Sarah Innamorato said.

Not everyone is sold on the new stops.

Laura Wiens, executive director of Pittsburghers for Public Transit, said signs at the site are confusing about where riders should stand to get the buses and the new shelter is smaller than the previous one.

Still, the new stops are "closer and safer" than the alternatives offered last year.

"We'll see how it works out," she said.

experience.

"Once completed, this project will enhance the safety for guests and employ-

ees by eliminating traffic jams that can be caused by multiple buses," said Emily Wittmer, marketing director and

assistant general manager at The Waterfront.

The complex has poured new sidewalks and added an

EAST BUSWAY

PRT to start upgrade of bridge in Shadyside

By Ed Blazina
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Pittsburgh Regional Transit expects to begin an upgrade of the poorly rated Centre Avenue Bridge over the Martin Luther King Jr. East Busway in Shadyside late this year or early next year.

Denise Ott, director of capital programs, outlined the project on the 240-foot bridge Thursday for the agency's Performance Oversight Committee. The committee recommended awarding a \$1.8 million contract for the project to Mosites Construction Co. when the board of directors meets June 26.

Ott said the project will involve a lot of substructure work, including replacing and resetting bridge bearings, new bearing supports and painting.

Mosites likely will receive permission to proceed in about two months. The work is expected to take about 11 months.

Greg O'Hare, PRT's chief engineer, said the structure near the Hillman Cancer Center was built in 1979 in anticipation of the construction of the East Busway. The busway was installed beside Norfolk Southern railroad tracks and the new bridge was needed to provide additional space to accommodate the busway underneath it.

As a result, the bridge has a complicated ownership.

PRT is responsible for the substructure and one abutment, which is what will be addressed with this project, but Pittsburgh is responsible for the bridge deck and the railroad owns the other abutment.

Ott said there will be some traffic restrictions during the project when the bridge is closed so it can be raised with jacks to replace the bearings, but the exact dates for that work haven't been set yet.



Matt Rourke/Associated Press

A federal appeals court panel on Thursday struck down a lower court injunction and ruled the Trump administration can replace a slavery exhibit at George Washington's home in Philadelphia.

Slavery exhibit in Philadelphia can be replaced, court rules

By Michael Casey and Claudia Lauer
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The Trump administration can replace a slavery exhibit at George Washington's home in Philadelphia, a federal appeals court panel said Thursday, striking down a lower court's injunction that required the National Park Service to reinstall the interpretive panels.

The unanimous ruling by the three-judge panel of the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said a lower court judge wrongly interpreted Philadelphia's contract claims involving Independence National Historical Park, saying the city merely having standing to sue did not mean its arguments had merit. The panel also praised the plans for the replacement installation, writing that they were, "full of historical context," despite objections from historians and city officials that the content appears whitewashed.

The ruling comes a week after a Massachusetts federal judge ordered the Trump administration to restore sites changed under an executive order calling for the nation's museums, parks and land-

marks to not display elements that "inappropriately disparage Americans past or living." The federal government has asked for a stay on that ruling while it appeals.

It was unclear how the Massachusetts ruling would affect the restoration or replacement of the panels at the President's House Site. About half the large panels at the outdoor exhibit had been restored before a February pause in the work.

Phone and email messages left for attorneys representing the city were not returned early Thursday. Messages to spokespeople for the Department of Interior and the National Park Service also were not returned.

In a statement on Instagram late Thursday, Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker vowed to pursue legal avenues to reverse the decision.

"We cannot and WILL not rest until the full story of American history — including the existence of Slavery at the President's House here in Philadelphia — is told, for our Nation and the World to see," she wrote.

Dawn Chavous, a volunteer for

SEE EXHIBIT, PAGE A-5

Police seek ways to calm teen disorder

TEENS, FROM A-1

group took off, he said. About two dozen ran onto the nearby Pittsburgh Regional Transit busway, prompting a response from PRT police, Lando said.

Because most of the kids fled when pepper spray was deployed, no arrests were made.

City Councilman Khari Mosley, whose district includes East Liberty, said in a statement Thursday morning that authorities believe the "flash crowd disturbance was organized online, involved teens from numerous municipalities across Allegheny County and appears to have involved very few young people from the immediate area."

Lando said at an unrelated news conference Wednesday — and reiterated to the Post-Gazette on Thursday — that the solution to the problem can't fall solely on police.

"There are a lot of entities that I think play a role in helping us to combat this issue," he said, "and one of my frustrations is that people aren't coming to the table. And by virtue of that, it has become a police problem, and we can't solve this problem alone."

Lando said it's frustrating when his officers are arresting young teenagers with guns for the third and fourth time. He said he can't keep asking his officers to arrest the same kids over and over.

"If they're not going to be detained and if mom and dad either don't know where they are or don't care where they are — if we can't get everyone else ... to say, 'Hey, how can we help?' — then it's just going to be police chasing these kids around," he said.

Not only do the disorderly masses create an immediate public safety risk, the chief said, the need for a citywide response puts a strain on police resources.

"Whether we're talking about Downtown or East Liberty or wherever it might be, when we repeatedly have to draw resources from other zones to respond to these calls," he said, "that leaves those zones with fewer officers to handle true emergencies that are happening."

"Could you imagine," he continued, "whether it's a serious crash or a violent domestic incident and there's a wait ... because there's 25 police cars Downtown or out in East

Liberty dealing with a group of 400 disorderly kids? That just compounds the problem."

Such crowds in Downtown's Market Square this spring prompted a chaperone policy that officials said seems to be working.

At an unrelated news conference in Downtown Pittsburgh on Wednesday, Lt. Bob Monticelli said they've issued only a handful of citations since the policy went into place: five citations in the area around Market Square and four in Market Square. He said most of those citations have been on nights when the chaperone policy isn't in place.

He said there has been one arrest that was for an outstanding warrant unrelated to Market Square.

For context, the lieutenant said, there were 45 citations issued the month prior to the chaperone policy.

"The concern was that placing these restrictions on Market Square were going to lead to more police interactions," Monticelli said. "They've actually led to considerably fewer police interactions — which, it's a good thing if you can have less negative police interactions with our youth while we're working to come up with a creative solution to address [teen takeover situations]."

The chaperone policy in the Downtown hub — juveniles must be accompanied by an adult over 21 from 3 p.m. to midnight Thursday through Sunday — was sparked by a mass gathering in March that devolved into fights and ended in pepper spray, some sprayed by police responding to the incident and some sprayed by the kids involved.

Days after the melee in Market Square in March, Pittsburgh Public Schools officials warned of a planned "downtown takeover event" the following Friday. A message to parents pleaded for families to "discourage their children from attending."

The mass gatherings have sparked curfew talks in cities across the U.S., including Chicago and Atlanta.

Malls and other shopping districts have become hot spots for such gatherings, prompting more targeted curfews. Locally, the Mall at Robinson instituted a chaperone policy in 2023. Malls in Houston and Charlotte, N.C., have implemented similar rules.

PennDOT to study changes for Parkway North HOV

HOV, FROM A-1

which will include looking at whether drivers should have to pay a toll to use the exclusive lanes and, if so, how much the charge should be.

The study is expected to take about a year.

The I-279/579 HOV Modernization Project is under consideration by PennDOT and is in the very early stages

of analysis," Alexis Campbell, statewide spokeswoman for the agency, said in an email. "The funds from USDOT will help PennDOT conduct a detailed-level screening of the project to help determine its feasibility."

In 1989, PennDOT opened 6.1-mile lanes for high-occupancy vehicles along I-279/579 between McKnight Road in Ross and Downtown Pitts-

burgh. The goal of the lanes — open to vehicles with two or more people — was to reduce congestion on the main roadway and encourage carpooling and the use of public transportation.

It hasn't worked as well as expected, with an average of just over 2,300 vehicles a day using the lanes.

In fact, the recap of the P3 board meeting on PennDOT's

website refers to the lanes as "underutilized."

The agency thinks part of the problem is that the lanes can be confusing for drivers because they are only open inbound in the mornings and outbound in the evenings.

Additionally, the agency has had repeated problems with opening gates used to control the flow of traffic on the special lanes.

The study will look at whether use would increase if the lanes were open in both directions all the time. Over the years, PennDOT has used the lanes for traffic in both directions when there has been construction on the main highway, but Campbell said it is too early to say whether additional capacity would have to be added for a permanent situation.

If the study shows converting the HOV lanes to two-way traffic is a good idea, the P3 board will solicit proposals from private companies interested in helping to make the changes and operating the system.

"We are still in the very early stages of exploring the project's feasibility," she said. "A final design has not yet been determined."

Juneteenth recognition varies in Western Pa.

HOLIDAY, FROM A-1

Hill believes the inconsistency itself tells a story.

Some public agencies and school districts integrate Juneteenth history into their educational programming with “real intentionality,” she said, while others have simply added it to a list of recognized holidays without any accompanying education or community engagement.

“That is not enough. Five years is sufficient time to have moved beyond acknowledgement into action.”

More than just a cultural festival

The significance of Juneteenth dates back 161 years, when Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas, on June 19, 1865, to announce that more than 250,000 enslaved Black people in the state were free by an executive decree, according to the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

That moment marked Texas as the last Confederate state where enslaved people officially gained their freedom — more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation that guaranteed freedom for enslaved people in states that had seceded from the U.S.

The first organized celebrations of the event took place one year later, and June 19 soon eventually to be known as “Juneteenth,” although official recognition of it as a holiday did not begin until more than a century later.

On January 1, 1980, Texas became the first state to declare the day as a paid, legal holiday, according to the Congressional Research Service, calling it “Emancipation Day of Texas.”

More than 30 other states in the U.S. have since added it to their list of recognized holidays, according to the PEW Research Center, including Pennsylvania, which announced its recognition in 2019.

In Arkansas, Iowa and Montana, Juneteenth remains an observance only — meaning it’s recognized as a day of remembrance or celebration, but there is no mandates for a day off or closures.

Public awareness of Juneteenth grew even more in 2020, amid nationwide protests over police brutality and the killings of several Black Americans — including George Floyd, who was killed on May 25 when a Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee on Floyd’s neck for nearly 10 minutes.

That following year, former President Joe Biden signed a bipartisan bill that made June 19 a federal holiday, with many local governments following suit.

“After 2021, we saw a welcome expansion: more municipalities acknowledging the date, more corporations issuing statements, more schools incorporating the history into their curricula,” Hill said. “But I want to be clear: Visibility is not the same as understanding.”

Sending a message

In Allegheny County, Juneteenth has been recognized as a holiday since 2020.

“It is important to recognize that living up to the creed of our founding is a project that requires the full measure of devotion from the



Angelia Dunn, of Raleigh, N.C., works on signs Downtown for this weekend’s Western Pennsylvania Juneteenth Celebration & Festival.



Crews build the stage at Point State Park. The festivities begin Friday and continue through Sunday.

corners of our nation that believe in the promise of democracy and the power of liberty,” Allegheny County Manager John Fournier said.

“In today’s America, it is especially important to celebrate and reflect on this important history,” he said.

During the holiday, residents can expect county administrative offices to be closed.

Same goes with the city of Pittsburgh’s administrative offices and all CitiParks facilities, with the exception of spray parks.

County parks, including golf courses, spray parks and pools, will be operating on a normal schedule, weather permitting.

Hill said the paid time off and office closures matter not only symbolically, but practically.

“They allow Black employees to participate in community commemorations without sacrifice. They signal to all employees, regardless of race, that this is a date worth marking, worth understanding, worth gathering around,” she said. “When an institution is open and operating as usual on Juneteenth, it normalizes the erasure of that history.”

But in other parts of the region where Juneteenth is not considered a paid holiday, government offices will be open and fully operational.

Somerset County Commissioner Pamela Tokar-Ickes told the Post-Gazette in an email statement that Somerset’s official calendar is largely governed by labor contracts and only includes

12 paid holidays. Juneteenth has never been considered or requested as an additional or replacement paid holiday, she said, but

“the county recognizes the significance of the day in our nation’s history as we continue to aspire to the principles of racial equity and justice.”

The counties of Beaver, Westmoreland and Armstrong also do not include Juneteenth in their calendar of paid holidays. In each of those counties, Black resi-

He said he believes the county should align itself with the state and federal government. He has suggested swapping the holiday with Flag Day, which commemorates the adoption of the American flag on June 14.

But his efforts have failed to gain the support of the other commissioners, Sean Kertes and Douglas W. Chew, who could not be reached for comment.

“It’s clearly a very important holiday for our nation, not just for the African American community, but really it’s a celebration of America’s quest to reach its ideals,” he

said. “And it’s regrettable to date that I have not got my colleagues to agree.”

Hill said that when a government agency remains open on Juneteenth but closes for holidays like Columbus Day, it’s “communicating a hierarchy of whose history is valued and whose liberation is considered worthy of pause.”

“That is not a subtle signal. It is a statement,” she said. “And the message is heard clearly by Black employees and community members.”

Beyond the celebrations

This year’s Juneteenth is the second observed during President Donald Trump’s second term, arriving at an especially tumultuous time for Black people across the Pittsburgh region.

Trump started his second term by signing an executive order eliminating diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) practices by federal contractors and their subcontractors.

Last summer, the University of Pittsburgh announced it was replacing its Office for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion following funding loss threats from the Trump administration.

Hill said the push against DEI makes it even more important to look at Juneteenth not only as “a retrospective holiday,” but also as a moment to evaluate what a municipality is doing to fix disparities Black residents experience.

“What we have gained in visibility, we have not always gained in depth. Too often, recognition has taken the form of a social media post or a brief mention at a public meeting, rather than genuine engagement with what Juneteenth demands of us — a commitment to the ongoing work of racial equity.”

Thursday, June 18, 2026

PENNSYLVANIA LOTTERY

For prize amounts and more information, go to: post-gazette.com/lottery

Thursday’s Cash 5
05-10-30-31-43

Thursday’s Match 6
04-09-24-31-48-49

Thursday’s Treasure Hunt
13-14-15-24-26

Thursday’s Pick 5
5-4-6-8-3 (day);
3-5-9-4-2 (night)

Thursday’s Pick 4
2-1-9-9 (day);
5-9-3-2 (night)

Thursday’s Pick 3
7-1-1 (day); 8-2-2 (night)

Thursday’s Pick 2
3-4 (day); 4-2 (night)

Wild ball
6 (day); 2 (night)

Tonight’s **CASH 5** is worth an estimated \$500,000.
Tonight’s **TREASURE HUNT** is worth an estimated \$28,000.
Tonight’s **MEGA MILLIONS** is worth an estimated \$452 million.
Tonight’s **MATCH 6** is worth an estimated \$560,000.
Tomorrow’s **POWERBALL** is worth an estimated \$302 million.

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Ruling on exhibit overturned

EXHIBIT, FROM A-4

Avenging the Ancestors Coalition, one of the advocacy groups that helped develop the site in the 2000s, said they are disappointed with the decision but are speaking to their attorneys and considering options.

“For decades, ATAC has worked to ensure that the stories of the enslaved African descendants who

lived and labored at the President’s House are not erased, overlooked, or misrepresented,” the group said in an emailed statement. “That commitment remains unwavering. We believe that historical truth matters, and we will continue to advocate for the protection, preservation, and accurate interpretation of this important chapter of American history.”

SLAYING OF HEALTH INSURANCE CEO

Mangione's lawyers opt against psychiatric defense

Reversal comes day after attorneys informed court of defense plans

By Michael R. Sisak
Associated Press

NEW YORK — In a stunning reversal, Luigi Mangione's lawyers told a judge Thursday that he will no longer be asserting a psychiatric defense at his state murder trial in the killing of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson.

The retraction came just a day after Mangione's lawyers told Judge Gregory Carro that they planned to pursue a defense involving claims that the 28-year-old Ivy League graduate was suffering from extreme emotional disturbance at the time of the Dec. 4, 2024, killing.

A message seeking comment was left with a spokesperson for Mangione's lawyers. The Manhattan district attorney's office, which is prosecuting the state case, declined to comment.

Mangione's lawyers had faced a deadline Thursday to provide prosecutors with information to support the

emotional disturbance claim. Also Thursday, a transcript of a secret hearing held on the matter on June 3 was made public after Carro ordered it unsealed.

If Mangione were to have gone through with the extreme emotional disturbance defense, he would have effectively been admitting that he killed Thompson but did so because of mitigating circumstances. It wouldn't have absolved him of responsibility, but could have led to less time in prison.

If a jury accepts the defense, it is obligated to convict a defendant of manslaughter, which is punishable by up to 25 years in prison, instead of murder, which carries a potential life sentence. In a letter to Carro on Thursday, Mangione lawyer Karen Friedman Agnifilo said the defense "respectfully withdraws" its notice under New York's psychiatric defense statute.

Mangione, 28, has pleaded not guilty to state and federal



Steven Hirsch/New York Post via AP

Luigi Mangione appears at a hearing in Manhattan Criminal Court in New York on Wednesday. Mangione's attorneys on Thursday informed the judge in his New York state murder case that they would withdraw their plan to argue at trial that he killed UnitedHealthcare's chief executive while suffering an extreme emotional disturbance.

charges. His state trial is scheduled to start Sept. 8. His federal trial, which involves stalking charges, is set to begin on Oct. 15.

At Wednesday's hearing,

Friedman Agnifilo protested Carro's decision to unseal materials related to his psychiatric defense, saying it will be "prejudicial to his defense to the exact same facts" in his

federal case, where an extreme emotional disturbance defense isn't allowed.

An emotional disturbance defense is not the same as a not guilty by reason of insan-

ity defense, which would allow a defendant to go to a psychiatric facility instead of prison.

Thompson, 50, was killed as he walked to a Manhattan hotel for UnitedHealth Group's annual investor conference. Surveillance video showed a masked gunman shooting him from behind. Police say "delay," "deny" and "depose" were written on the ammunition, mimicking a phrase used to describe how insurers avoid paying claims.

Mangione, an Ivy League graduate from a wealthy Maryland family, was arrested five days later at a McDonald's in Altoona, Blair County, about 230 miles west of Manhattan.

At a hearing last month, Carro ruled that a gun and notebook that prosecutors say link Mangione to the killing can be used as evidence against him.

The gun, a 3D-printed pistol, matches the one used to kill Thompson, prosecutors said. The notebook describes wanting to "wack" a health insurance executive and rebelling against "the deadly, greed fueled health insurance cartel."

BOB PACKWOOD | Sept. 11, 1932 - June 6, 2026

Ex-senator resigned after sexual harassment scandal

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Former Sen. Bob Packwood, a moderate Oregon Republican whose reputation as a champion of abortion and women's rights was spoiled at the end of his career by allegations of sexual harassment, died June 6. He was 93.

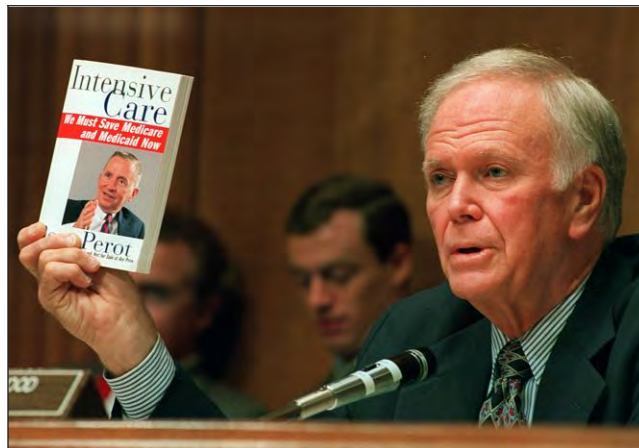
Packwood's death was announced in an obituary sent to media outlets by his family. The release didn't include additional details.

Packwood was a political scrapper who first refused to quit the chamber in which he had served for 27 years, saying he didn't want to be remembered only for that controversy.

Before the #MeToo era, Packwood stood out as an example of private behavior undermining a man's public image. He had been praised by Planned Parenthood and others.

The great-grandson of a member of the 1857 Oregon Constitutional Convention, Packwood established himself as a social moderate and fiscal conservative who often voted across party lines. He considered running for president in 1980.

Elected to the Senate in 1968, Packwood was best known as the leading Republican advocate of abortion rights and was widely admired by women's groups throughout the country until the Senate Ethics Committee launched an investigation



Dennis Cook/Associated Press

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Bob Packwood, R-Ore., holds a book titled "Intensive Care" by Ross Perot during 1995 hearings dealing with the future of Medicare.

into the allegations of sexual and official misconduct in 1993.

More than two dozen women, former employees and acquaintances, accused him of making unwanted or uninvited sexual advances.

The allegations remained the target of an ethics probe that widened to include other alleged acts of official misconduct. He resigned in September 1995, then went to start a lucrative lobbying business in Washington.

Democratic U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, who replaced Packwood in 1996, said while he should be praised for his record on abortion rights and tax reform, how he treated women overshadows it all.

"His horrible history as

documented in his own diaries will forever overshadow that public record. Simply put, historians' first line about Bob Packwood must include those women who he abused and assaulted for years and years," Wyden said in a statement.

As chairman and then ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, Packwood was a master of cutting deals and forging compromises needed to pass tax legislation through Congress.

He was most proud of the lead role he played in a sweeping tax reform of 1986 that lowered the top income tax bracket and eliminated many itemized deductions.

Over his career, he was de-

scribed as a blunt, independent, outspoken politician who was a maverick, boat-rocker, loose cannon, skilled partisan, and, above all, political survivor.

"I think they probably all ring true," Packwood told the Associated Press in December 1992.

"I would like to think that I am nobody's lackey. I try to reach conclusions independently and then I'm willing to fight for those conclusions; if necessary, having to fight against my party or my party's president," he said.

Packwood won his first Senate election at age 36, narrowly defeating Democratic Sen. Wayne L. Morse, an Oregon legend who had held the seat for 23 years. He quickly grabbed attention as a rising star in the GOP. By 1980, he was elected chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee.

But he lost the seat when the White House backed a competitor after Packwood publicly accused President Ronald Reagan of alienating women, African Americans and Jews.

Just two weeks after Packwood's re-election in 1992, The Washington Post printed allegations from former female employees and acquaintances that the senator had subjected them to uninvited sexual advances.

The Senate Ethics Committee also investigated allegations that Packwood solicited jobs from lobbyists for his

ex-wife, used his staff to try to threaten the female accusers into keeping quiet and obstructed the investigation by altering his personal diaries.

The Senate held two days of extraordinary debate in 1993 over whether Packwood should have to comply with an ethics committee subpoena for his diaries, in which he reportedly made entries relevant to the investigation.

The Senate voted, 94-6, to enforce the subpoena.

Packwood took the case to federal courts and lost, ending when Chief Justice William Rehnquist refused Packwood's request for the U.S. Supreme Court to intercede.

Packwood launched his lobbying business, Sunrise Research Corp., in 1997. By 1999, the firm was grossing \$1.5 million a year.

CLASSIFIED OBITUARIES

LUCILLE B. (RACKAUSKAS) BORZA

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Lucille B. "Sis" Borza, who peacefully passed away on Sunday, June 14, 2026, at the age of 89. She was the beloved wife of 24 years of the late Michael Borza; loving mother of Nancy, Michael (Beth) and Thomas (Melanie) Borza; cherished grandmother of Dennis (Lauren) Florian, Jennifer (Justin) Seemann, Hannah (Justin) Steele, Dean Borza, Sam Borza, Mike Borza, Kate Borza, and the late Shelley Florian; great-grandmother of Grayson Florian, Marlow Borza and the late Benjamin Florian; daughter of the late Vincent and Helen (Babyak) Rackauskas; sister of Annette (Russell) Earl and the late Vincent "Butch" (Sharon, surviving) Rackauskas; aunt of generations of nieces and nephews, and the late Christopher Earl. Lucy was a devoted nurse, loving mother and grandmother, and vibrant woman, whose kindness, creativity, and deep love for family left a lasting impact on everyone who knew her. Visitation held Friday, June 19, 2-4 and 6-8 P.M., at the **SAVOLSKIS-WASIK-GLENN FUNERAL HOME INC.**, 3501 Main Street, Munhall, PA 15120, with a concluding Blessing Service at 7:30 P.M. in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to a charity of your choice. Condolences may be left at: www.swgfuneralhome.com
Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

THEODORE BABIN



Of McKees Rocks, Theodore "Ted" James Babin, Sr., passed away peacefully on June 15, 2026, in Wexford, PA, at the age of 96. Born on February 17, 1930, in McKees Rocks, PA, Ted was blessed with a rich and full life with the love of family and respect of acquaintances and colleagues.

Ted was married for 73 years to the love of his life Dolores ("Dee") Tkacik (b. 1932, d. 2025). He was devoted father to Theodore J. Babin, Jr. (Allison), Cynthia Babin Anderson (David), and Gregory Babin (Janine), and beloved grandfather to Nicholas Babin (Stephanie), Andrew Babin (Lexi), William Anderson (Rachael), and Bethany Anderson Frank (Colt), along with numerous step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was "Uncle Teddy" to many nieces and nephews.

Ted served in the US Army in Korea and was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service in a combat zone. While serving in the Army, he became a stenographer and spent a long and rewarding career as a court reporter in the Allegheny County Court system.

His children thank him for the generosity and love he showed them through the years, giving them wonderful travel adventures, cultural enrichment, Steeler games, family picnics, and Disney trips. He showed the same love and attention to his grandchildren Nick, Andy, Will, and Beth, who will cherish the time spent with Grandpa.

Ted was a devout and active parishioner of Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church in McKees Rocks for his entire life and served the church and the community as a pirohi worker for many years.

Family and friends are welcome to the **SZAL FUNERAL HOME, INC.**, 238 Helen Street, McKees Rocks on Monday, June 22, 2026, from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. where Parastas will be held at 7:00 p.m. The Panahida Service will begin at the funeral home on Tuesday June 23, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. followed by a Liturgy of Christian Burial in Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church at 10:00 a.m. Interment will follow at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies at 12:30 p.m.

Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

TOM DRESEN | Sept. 11, 1939 - June 17, 2026

Comedian and Sinatra's opening act

By Beth Harris
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Tom Dreesen, who along with partner Tim Reid formed one of America's first interracial stand-up comedy duos and later spent years as Frank Sinatra's opening act, died Wednesday. He was 86.

Dreesen died at his home in Los Angeles, according to publicist Lori De Waal. A cause of death was not provided.

After meeting in Chicago, Dreesen and Reid, who was Black, formed "Tim and Tom" in 1969. Against a backdrop of simmering racial tension, they used humor to address social issues and promote understanding between audiences of different backgrounds. They worked together until the mid-1970s. Reid went on to solo success playing DJ Venus Flytrap on the popular TV sitcom "WKRP in Cincinnati," where



Tom Dreesen

Dreesen was a guest star.

"When I was a kid I found an album he and his comedy partner did called Tim and Tom and took it home and played it and it was one of the albums that changed the course of my life. So great," comedian and filmmaker Mike Binder wrote on X.

After splitting with Reid, Dreesen honed a solo comedy act, making over 500 national TV appearances, including 60 visits to "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson." He

also was a frequent guest and sometime guest host on "The Late Show with David Letterman." Their friendship dated to the early 1970s when both worked at The Comedy Store in West Hollywood, Calif.

Dreesen's final TV appearance came last week on "Comics Unleashed with Byron Allen," which replaced Stephen Colbert's canceled CBS late-night show.

Dreesen was Sinatra's opening act for 14 years and became close with the entertainer.

"If he loved you, he worshipped the ground you walked on," Dreesen told The Desert Sun newspaper in 2014. "In a lot of ways, he was like a father to me. I didn't have a father that really cared that much where I was and what I did. But Frank would give me advice and counsel, and then he was a buddy in a lot of ways."

Dreesen also toured with Sinatra's fellow Rat Pack

member Sammy Davis Jr., as well as Liza Minnelli, Smokey Robinson, Gladys Knight and Tony Orlando.

"He was one of the most brilliant comedians of all time. Tonight, he'll once again be opening for Dean, Frank and Sammy," Deana Martin, a daughter of Dean Martin, posted on X.

In 2008, he co-wrote the book "Tim and Tom: An American Comedy Act in Black and White" and in 2020 he authored his memoir.

Dreesen acted in such TV shows as "Columbo," "Murder, She Wrote," and "Touched by an Angel." His film roles included "Spaceballs," "Man on the Moon" and "Trouble With the Curve," as well as the HBO movies "The Rat Pack" and "Lansky."

Dreesen was active in charitable work, motivational speaking and veterans' causes, including serving as ambassador for the Gary Sinatra Foundation.

CLASSIFIED OBITUARIES

MARGARET A. GENTILE



Margaret A. Gentile, 85, of Valencia, passed away peacefully on June 16, 2026, surrounded by the love of her family.

Born in Pittsburgh on June 7, 1941, she was the beloved daughter of the late Lawrence and Margaret (Schenk) McGovern.

For 64 years, Peggy shared a remarkable marriage with her beloved husband, Robert F. Gentile.

Together they built not just a home, but a life centered on love, loyalty, laughter, and family. Through every joy and every challenge, they stood side by side, creating a home where everyone felt welcomed, cared for, and loved. Margaret took tremendous pride in her home, making it a place where family gathered, memories were made, and love was always present.

Nothing in Peggy's life meant more to her than her family. She was the loving mother of Jeffrey Gentile (Carolann) and Bradley Gentile (Nicole), and there was never a question how deeply she loved her boys. She celebrated their successes, comforted them through life's disappointments, and remained their biggest supporter through every stage of their lives. Her love, guidance, and quiet strength helped shape the men they became, and that gift will remain with them forever.

She was also a proud and devoted Grandma to Chelsea, Reece, and Brynn, who brought immeasurable joy to her life. She treasured every visit, every laugh, and every milestone they shared together.

Peggy found happiness in life's simple pleasures. She adored her beloved dogs, who were never just pets but cherished members of the family. She had a gift for gardening, creating beautiful flowers and a yard that reflected the same care and patience she showed those she loved. She also enjoyed cross-stitching and embroidery, spending countless hours creating beautiful keepsakes that her family will treasure for generations.

Those who knew Peggy knew she wasn't afraid to speak her mind. She had a spirited personality, a quick wit, and just enough spice to keep everyone on their toes. She was genuine, honest, and fiercely loyal to the people she loved. Her strength and authenticity were part of what made her so special, and her family wouldn't have wanted her any other way.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her sister, Kathleen Fiorito.

To know Peggy was to know a woman whose greatest joy came not from what she had, but from the people she loved. If you had asked her what her greatest accomplishment in life was, she would never have talked about herself. She simply would have pointed to her family. She measured her life by the happiness of her husband, her children, and her grandchildren, and she gave them the greatest gift she could—her unconditional love.

Peggy will be remembered as a devoted wife, an extraordinary mother, a proud grandmother, and a loyal friend. Her kindness, quiet strength, and unwavering love touched everyone fortunate enough to know her. While her family will miss her beyond words, they find comfort knowing that her love remains with them—in the home she cherished, in the flowers that bloom each spring, in every carefully stitched keepsake she created, and in the countless memories that will forever bring smiles through tears.

Her greatest legacy is not simply the years she lived, but the love she gave so freely. That love lives on in the hearts of those who were blessed to call her wife, Mom, Grandma, and friend. She will be deeply missed, forever loved, and never forgotten.

Thank you, Mom, for your endless love, your strength, your guidance, and the countless sacrifices you made for us. We will carry your love with us always until we meet again.

The family would especially like to thank the people at Bethany Hospice and the staff at The Province of Wexford for their unwavering dedication to people in need. Special people, all of you. A heartfelt thank you to the many neighbors of our parents who are truly angels.

Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations to Animal Friends, thinkoutsidethecage.org.

Arrangements by **SHELLHAAS FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES, LTD.**, Bakerstown, PA, www.shellhaasfh.com.

Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

EILEEN T. EBERLE



On Tuesday, June 16, 2026, age 85, of Millvale. Daughter of the late George and Helen Sisek. Beloved Wife of the late Robert J. Eberle. Loving Mother of Terri Eberle, Joe (Natalie) Eberle, Jennifer (Scott) Davis, and Bernadette (Peter) Briselli. Proud Grandmother of Brett Briselli, Nova, and the late Gabriel Davis. Sister of the late Joe Sisek. Sister-in-law of Fran Hurka.

Friends received Saturday 2-8 PM and Sunday 12 noon-6 PM at the **HAHN FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES, INC.**, 123 North Avenue, Millvale. Mass of Christian Burial Monday 10 AM at St. Matthew's Parish, Holy Spirit Church. Eileen loved spending time with her family, especially during the holidays and at their annual Oscar party. She was known for her wonderful cooking, particularly her famous pasta sauce, Thanksgiving dinners with homemade stuffing, and delicious apple and pecan pies. She enjoyed simple pleasures like popcorn, candy, and a good beer. A devoted Catholic and Christian mother, she was also a loving mother and grandmother. She always put the needs of others before her own, and her family will forever remember her as a caring, generous, and devoted mother whose love will continue to inspire them.

Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

MARY JO MARION



Age 80, of North Huntingdon, passed away on June 17, 2026, at UPMC Presbyterian, surrounded by her family and wonderful caregivers. Mary Jo was born on November 4, 1945, in Washington County, Pennsylvania, and lived most of her life in North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. She is survived by her loving and devoted husband of 60 years, Thomas J. Marion;

and her daughters, Annetta Marion and Maria Marion. Also surviving are two brothers, two sisters-in-law, and several cousins, nephews, and nieces. Mary Jo graduated from Norwin High School in 1963, and shortly thereafter worked as a secretary in the attendance office at the high school. A few years later, she began a secretarial position at West Penn Power, at Cabin Hill, in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. An avid book lover, Mary Jo became an ardent supporter of the local Norwin Library and eventually started running many successful fundraisers for the library through the Friends of the Library organization. Mary Jo will be remembered for her kindness, generosity, and beautiful smile. A Celebration of Life will be announced and held at a later date. Arrangements are under the direction of the **WILLIAM SNYDER FUNERAL HOME INC.**, 521 Main Street, Irwin, 724-863-1200. For online condolences, please visit: www.snyderfuneralservices.com

Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

RANDI ELLEN (SPECTER) MARKOVITZ



Randi Ellen (Specter) Markovitz, age 69, of Jefferson Hills, Pennsylvania, passed away peacefully at home on June 17, 2026, surrounded by her loved ones.

Born on May 1, 1957, in Erie, Pennsylvania, Randi was the beloved daughter of Benjamin and Shirley Specter. She graduated from Mercyhurst Preparatory School before

attending the University of Pittsburgh, where she majored in social work and met her eventual husband, Jeffrey Markovitz. Together during their nearly 45 wonderful years of marriage, they built a loving family that was the center of her life. She was a cherished mother to Bryan (Alina) Markovitz, Craig (Becky) Markovitz, and Elyse (Dan) Wiedemann, and most recently a proud grandmother to eight grandchildren: Brayden, Brody, Carter, Aaron, Mila, Sadie, Natalie, and Garrett.

For 25 years, Randi and Jeff owned and operated a family run pharmacy, proudly serving the Mon Valley community and building lasting relationships with countless customers and employees. Her dedication, compassion, and genuine care for others left a lasting impact on everyone she met.

Randi had a passion for travel. She explored nearly every corner of the United States, visiting 49 of the 50 states, and traveled extensively internationally. Randi's most recent favorite destination was to Woodloch Pines, a family resort in the Poconos, which had quickly become her favorite week of the year to spend with her whole family.

Randi cherished the friendships she cultivated throughout her life and looked forward to her weekly Tuesday card games with friends. She also enjoyed participating in bowling leagues, getting lost in a good book, and keeping her mind sharp with crossword puzzles and other word games. No matter what she was doing, she approached life with a positive spirit, guided by her favorite motto: "make every day a good day."

More than anything, Randi's greatest pride and purpose came from her family. She was a devoted mother who offered unwavering love, endless encouragement, and steadfast support through every stage of her children's lives. Somehow, she always seemed to know exactly what was going on—proving time and again that she truly had eyes in the back of her head.

This love of family was further strengthened with her role as Grandma. She rarely missed a sporting event, recital, school function, or special milestone. She delighted in hosting family dinners and holiday celebrations, planning special outings with her grandchildren, and stopping by for a visit just because. Her home was a place where family gathered, laughter was abundant, and everyone knew they were deeply loved. The memories she created with her children and grandchildren will remain a lasting gift to those who were fortunate enough to call her Mom and Grandma.

Services at **RALPH SCHUGAR CHAPEL, INC.**, 5509 Centre Avenue, Shadyside, on Friday, June 19, 2026, at 11:30 AM. Visitation 10 AM to 11:30 AM. Interment B'Nai Erunoh Cemetery at 2649 Wickline Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044.

Please call the funeral home at 412-621-8282 for access to the Zoom and for shiva details.

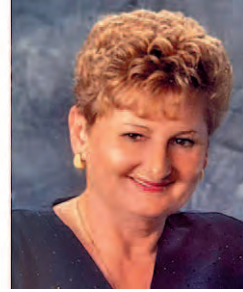
The family would like to extend their deepest heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Jan Drappatz for his exceptional and empathetic care. His kindness, compassion, and unwavering support brought comfort to Randi and her family throughout her journey.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations be made to the Jewish National Fund (www.jnf.org) to plant a tree in Randi's memory or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (<https://www.stjude.org/donate/>).

www.schugar.com

Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

MARJETA SPEHAR



Our beloved mother, Marjeta Spehar, passed away peacefully on June 15, 2026, surrounded by her family. She was 78 years old.

Marjeta was the heart of our home -- a source of unconditional love, wisdom, kindness, and laughter. Throughout her prolonged battle with cancer, she touched and inspired so many with her strength, grit, and

unwavering optimism.

Marjeta found joy in caring for her vegetable garden and many flower beds, and in preparing wonderful food for those she loved. She was a loved and cherished spouse that will be greatly missed. Her legacy will live on through her children and grandchildren, who hope to carry forward her courage, resilience, and generous spirit.

Marjeta is survived by her spouse, Michael Spehar, and her children Anita Spehar, and Robert Spehar; and her grandchildren, Nikolas and Daniella Pruitt. She was preceded in death by Marta and Josef Jerebic.

Though our hearts are heavy, we are deeply grateful for the love, lessons, and memories she leaves behind. Marjeta will be forever cherished, lovingly remembered, and missed beyond measure.

Family and friends will be received for visitation on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, from 3 P.M. to 7 P.M. at the **BOYLAN-GLENN-KILDON FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SVCS., INC.**, 130 Wisconsin Ave., Cranberry Twp., PA 16066.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 A.M. on Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at Divine Grace Parish - St. Ferdinand Catholic Church, 2535 Rochester Road, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066.

Marjeta will be laid to rest after Mass at Holy Savior Cemetery in Gibsonia.

Please remember Marjeta with a donation in her memory to the Cancer Society at <https://donate.cancer.org/>. Thank you.

Expressions of sympathy may be shared with the family at www.boylanfuneralservices.com.

Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

LOIS "LOTUS BLOSSOM" F. WARDLE



Age 100, passed away peacefully, on Monday, June 15, 2026. She was the only child of Henry and Margaret M. "Peg" (Gottschalk) Friday; she was raised in Lawrenceville, PA. Lois' mother, Peg, was the oldest of ten children. Lois was blessed to grow up with dozens of Gottschalk aunts, uncles and cousins. She was a professional shopper, and enjoyed playing golf at the

Churchill Valley Country Club, and loved bowling and playing bridge. Lois was happiest when in the company of her grandsons. She is survived by one son, Scott H. Wardle and his fiancée, Christen Wisinski; three grandsons, Justin Wardle, Christian Wardle and Matthew Wardle. She was preceded in death by her parents, Henry and Margaret Friday; her husband, William "Bill" Wardle; and one son, Thomas W. Wardle. The family will honor Lois in private burial.

ROSE
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES, INC.
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MARILYN L. CHRISTIAN

December 19, 1932 - June 15, 2026



Marilyn L. Christian was born December 19, 1932, to the late Savias and Josephine (Evans) Christian in Pittsburgh. She passed from this life on June 15, 2026, at UPMC Mercy Hospital after a short illness. She was a long-time Shadyside resident who recently resided in Mount Lebanon.

Marilyn graduated from the University of Pittsburgh and taught elementary school in the Pittsburgh School District for several decades. Her career in education took her to California, Colorado, Michigan, and back to Pittsburgh. Though retired, Marilyn continued to take classes as she was an avid learner. She also volunteered as a teacher in Germany with her sister, Nancy.

Travel, friendship, and faith played large roles in her life. From Norway, France, Ireland, and beyond, Marilyn could tell the story of each special souvenir she collected from each trip. Visiting and traveling with her local "friends group" was something she truly enjoyed, especially if the trip took them to a coastal shore. She always had a bag packed ready to travel. Marilyn never met a stranger and was kind to all. A long-time member of St. Jude Parish in Shadyside, she was involved with the Women's Group and ministering to the women of Haiti.

She was preceded in death by her sisters, Barbara Raffaele, Martha Joan Raiders, Nancy Costanza, and Elizabeth Chavren; and her brothers, Robert Christian and Thomas Christian. She is survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, great-grandnieces, and great-grandnephews around the United States and beyond.

Friends will be received at **JOHN A. FREYVOGEL SONS, INC.** (freyvogelfuneralhome.com), at 4900 Centre Avenue at Devonshire Street, on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, from 3-6 PM. The funeral is Wednesday, June 24, 2026. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at Sacred Heart Church of St. Jude Parish at 10 AM. Interment in Calvary Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in Marilyn's honor to St. Jude's Research Hospital for Children, Memphis, Tennessee.

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THOMAS A. MITCHELL



Thomas A. Mitchell, age 84, of Gibsonia, PA, died on May 30, 2026. Born in Pittsburgh, PA on August 25, 1941, son of the late Irwin Mitchell and Charlotte Howarth Mitchell. Beloved husband for 63 years of Carol Benno Mitchell. Father of Thomas Mitchell, Jr. (Angie) and Timothy Mitchell (Angela). Brother of the late Irwin Mitchell. Grandfather of Megan, Molly and Jordan.

Tom was the youngest service manager in the United States for all dealerships with Ford Motor Company, working for Lyons Ford in Bellevue. He then opened Mitchell's Truck and Auto, originally on the loop in Avalon borough and then Rt. 65, Ohio River Blvd., which Tom owned and operated for many years.

Family and friends are invited to a celebration of life service on Saturday, July 11, 2026, at 11 a.m. in Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 3832 Gibsonia Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044. Pastor Tony Schenk, officiant. Private interment in Allegheny County Memorial Park.

Arrangements by **SHELLHAAS FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES, LTD.**, Bakerstown, PA.

www.shellhaasfh.com

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JORDAN COYNER



It still feels like yesterday, when everything changed. Though the ache of missing you is always with us, we carry it with love, not just sorrow.

We miss your voice, your laugh, your energy, and all the moments, big and small, that should've been.

There's a space no one else can ever fill. Your kindness, quiet strength, and steady presence brought so much light into our lives. That light still lives on in us.

As a son, a brother, and such a meaningful part of our world, You'll always be with us. We hold close the memories we were lucky to make, And mourn the many more we'll never get to share.

You are our eternal angel. And the strength and love you left behind, Keeps us going one day at a time. Love you lots and miss you more,
Mom, Dad and Shane
Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

In Memoriam

MARKET PULSE

DOW JONES
51,564.70 (+72.15)

S&P 500
7,500.58 (+80.48)

NASDAQ
26,517.93 (+496.28)

GOLD
\$4,206.70 (-\$39.20)

PLATINUM
\$1,686.12 (-\$12.41)

SILVER
\$66.05 (-\$0.75)



Legacy Development Partners

Legacy Development Partners has acquired 610 Smithfield St., a historic building located in Downtown next to Mellon Square.

Historic Downtown building changes hands

Buyer considers adding residential units to Smithfield Street property

By **Chloe Jad**
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

More residential units could be coming to the heart of Downtown after Legacy Development Partners announced its acquisition of 610 Smithfield St., anchored by the Brooks Brothers store.

"This is more than just a building acquisition. It's an opportunity to participate in the next era of Downtown Pittsburgh," said Herky Pollock, president and CEO of Legacy Development Partners in an announcement Thursday.

"Smithfield Street has always been one of

the city's most important corridors. We believe 610 can play a meaningful role in the street's revitalization by blending history, community and new residential energy in a way that reflects where Downtown is headed."

Financial details were not provided. McKnight Realty Partners bought the 85,000-square-foot building for \$1 million in 2002 with the goal to "substantially redesign and renovate the entrance lobby and office floors into first-class space, on par with the Heinz 57 Center across the street," according to McKnight.

Legacy said it will now assess adding resi-

dential units to the upper floors of the building and a potential rooftop development.

The bottom floors of the Smithfield building have been occupied by the Brooks Brothers, the Carnegie Public Library Downtown branch and formerly by Fragasso Financial Advisors and law firm Flaherty & O'Hara, both of which moved.

Legacy's acquisition comes at a time of intentional change for Smithfield Street.

This summer begins a multiyear project to revamp the street into a more pedestrian-friendly corridor, including wider sidewalks

SEE **BUILDING**, PAGE A-9

Gas prices below \$4 for 1st time since March

By **Michelle Chapman**
Associated Press

U.S. gas prices fell below \$4 a gallon on average Thursday, but just barely.

It is the first time since March that the average cost for a regular gallon has been that low. Prices fell overnight after President Donald Trump signed an agreement with Iran that calls for Tehran to dilute its stockpile of highly enriched uranium and waives U.S.-backed sanctions on the country.

Gas prices are at \$3.999 on average in the U.S., according to motor club AAA. The drop below \$4 follows a 15% decline in the price of U.S. crude this month.

But fluctuations in gas prices remain across the country. In California, gas prices are averaging \$5.64 per gallon, while in South Carolina it's \$3.58 per gallon.

The agreement between the U.S. and Iran calls for a permanent end to hostilities and starts a 60-day negotiating clock to reach a final deal on the future of Iran's nuclear program, though Trump left the door open to resume attacks. It appears to offer Iran several benefits up front while extracting little in return.

Oil prices fell Monday to about \$80 for a barrel of U.S. benchmark crude. That compares to \$67 per barrel before the war and the price of over \$120 a barrel reached earlier in the conflict.

Even as gas prices start to decline, it is anticipated to take weeks or months for oil to start flowing through the Strait of Hormuz again.

Before the war, the strait carried a fifth of the world's crude oil. Now, it will take time for hundreds of ships trapped in the Persian Gulf to exit through the narrow strait. And Gulf oil producers that throttled back production will need time to get the oil moving again.

WALL STREET

Stocks rise amid gains in big tech

By **Damian J. Troise**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Stocks rose on Wall Street on Thursday and erased most of their losses from a day earlier to notch weekly gains.

The market's reversal was powered by sharp gains for big technology companies. The decline on Wednesday was driven by anticipation that the Federal Reserve will likely raise interest rates this year in an effort to fight inflation.

On Thursday, stocks faced less pressure as bond yields eased and oil prices spent most of the day falling.

The S&P 500 rose 80.48 points, or 1.1%, to 7,500.58. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 72.15 points, or 0.1%, to 51,564.70. The Nasdaq composite surged

SEE **STOCKS**, PAGE A-9

Regulators give data centers a boost

Federal action allows large energy users to connect faster to transmission systems

By **Matthew Daly**
and **Marc Levy**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal regulators on Thursday agreed to let large energy users connect more quickly to the nation's inefficient and electric transmission system to accommodate surging demand from power-hungry artificial intelligence data centers.

Energy Secretary Chris Wright had urged the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to act in

an effort to help the United States better compete with China for superiority in the fast-growing AI sector. Tech companies and data center developers have welcomed the chances for faster connections to the country's power supply.

But utilities, states and regional grid operators worried that the Republican administration's plan would remove their authority to manage the process. Clean energy advocates want the agency to advance, rather than undermine, state-level efforts to require the



Mike Stewart/Associated Press

Meta's Stanton Springs Data Center in Newton County, Ga.

use of renewable energies.

The commission's actions come as a backlash grows against data centers over fears about rising electricity prices and concerns

about the massive amounts of energy and water they use, polluting communities across the country

SEE **CENTERS**, PAGE A-9

Business briefs

Bernie Sanders wants to give public ownership of AI

Sen. Bernie Sanders is proposing a plan to give Americans ownership stakes in the country's largest artificial intelligence companies. The legislation shown first to the Associated Press would impose a one-time 50% tax on the stock of major AI companies and place those shares into a sovereign wealth fund overseen by an independent commission. Sanders, I-Vt., estimates the fund would be worth roughly \$7 trillion and provide annual payments to Americans. While the idea of public ownership of AI companies has been backed by President Donald Trump



Giuseppe LoPiccolo/Post-Gazette

Sen. Bernie Sanders is proposing a plan to give Americans ownership stakes in the country's largest AI companies.

and AI executives, Sanders' proposal goes far beyond that, with the public have decision-making power in the companies.

Average 30-year U.S. mortgage rate falls to 6.47%

The average long-term U.S. mortgage rate fell this week, tracking Treasury yields that have retreated since a deal to end the war with Iran was announced. The benchmark 30-year fixed-rate mortgage rate fell to 6.47% from 6.52% last week, mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said Thursday. One year ago, the average rate was 6.81%. Borrowing costs on 15-year fixed-rate mortgages, often sought by borrowers refinancing a home loan, also came down this week. That average rate fell to 5.81%

this week from 5.84% last week. A year ago, it was at 5.96%, Freddie Mac said.

New York leaders push to end horse carriage industry

The death of an Indian teenager in New York's Central Park has led to renewed calls to ban horse-drawn carriages. The accident happened Wednesday when a horse bolted from its driver. The father of 18-year-old Romanch Mahajan told The New York Times that his son jumped out to try to save his mother after she fell out of the carriage. New York City leaders are now pushing to end the 150-year-old industry. The city council plans to hold a hearing next month. The Transport Workers Union con-

firmed the driver has been suspended, and the horse retired.

Cuba's Communist Party approves emergency plan

Cuba's Communist Party approved an emergency economic package with unprecedented free-market measures. The plan aims to open the struggling island's economy by expanding private enterprise and attracting foreign investment. The document, not yet public, will be submitted to Cuba's National Assembly. Recent protests in Havana highlight growing frustration over power outages. President Miguel Diaz-Canel said the plan is inspired by China and Vietnam's market-oriented reforms.

— *From wire reports*

U.S. filings for jobless benefits decline

By Matt Ott
Associated Press

The number of Americans applying for jobless aid fell modestly last week as layoffs remained in the same historically low range of recent years.

U.S. applications for unemployment benefits in the week ending June 13 dropped by 4,000 to 226,000, the Labor Department reported Thursday. That's in line with the 225,000 new applications forecast by analysts surveyed by the data firm FactSet.

Weekly filings for unemployment benefits are considered representative of U.S. layoffs and are close to a real-time indicator of the health of the job market.

Despite concerns that the conflict in the Middle East would further squeeze a flagging labor market, hiring has picked up in recent months following a miserable 2025 that saw fewer than 200,000 job gains. For comparison, about 1.5 million jobs were added in 2024.

U.S. employers delivered a

surprising 172,000 new jobs in May and the economy is averaging 188,000 job gains in the three months since the Iran war began in late February. That's the best three months of hiring since early 2024. The unemployment rate remains historically low at 4.3%.

Job openings also rose in April as employers posted 7.6 million vacancies, up from 6.9 million in March and the most since May 2024.

The government reported last week that rising gas prices — triggered by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz off Iran's southern border — pushed U.S. consumer inflation in May to 4.2%, its highest level in three years. Despite recent declines, prices for oil and gas remain elevated, which can squeeze consumers' budgets and make businesses think twice about hiring.

Earlier this week, Iran and the U.S. agreed to a deal to end the war and allow Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and sell its oil without restrictions.

With inflation still well above the Federal Reserve's



A hiring sign outside of a company in Wheeling, Ill., earlier this month.

Nam Y. Huh/Associated Press

2% target, officials at the U.S. central bank left the benchmark interest rate where it was on Wednesday. It was the first meeting with new Fed Chair Kevin Warsh, who re-

placed Jerome Powell after his eight-year run as the U.S. central bank's leader.

Lower interest rates can boost the economy and hiring, but also tend to stoke in-

flation, leading a number of Fed policymakers to say they are actually willing to consider at least one interest rate hike this year. That could potentially help bring inflation

down, but higher borrowing costs generally make businesses more reluctant to hire.

Optimism over artificial intelligence has also injected a degree of uncertainty about the job market due to the investment required to develop it and because the powerful technology could alter or even replace some jobs.

Among the companies that have cut jobs recently are Verizon, UPS, Amazon, Disney, Starbucks and Walmart.

Weekly jobless aid applications have stabilized in a range mostly between 200,000 and 250,000 since the U.S. economy emerged from the pandemic recession. However, hiring began slowing about two years ago and tapered further in 2025 due to President Donald Trump's tariffs, his purge of the federal workforce and the lingering effects of high interest rates meant to control inflation.

The Labor Department's report Thursday showed that the four-week moving average of jobless claims, which eases out some of the weekly volatility, rose by 4,000 to 223,250.

Data centers receive power boost

CENTERS, FROM A-8

and straining water resources and the electric grid.

FERC members voted unanimously to direct that AI data centers and other large power users are "able to connect to the transmission system in a timely and orderly manner."

Laura Swett, an appointee of President Donald Trump who leads the commission, called the vote a historic action to push the country's electricity market into the future while also protecting ratepayers from shouldering the costs.

Data centers would pay the full cost of any grid upgrades needed for their connection, under the commission order. But that order can do little to address the tightening energy supplies that are driving up electricity bills in some areas and raising warnings of blackouts as the construction of data centers outpaces the speed of new power plants coming online to serve them.

The vote comes eight months after Wright asked the independent agency to take more control over ensuring that the vast network of mas-



Fans, part of a cooling system, are visible on the roof of a data center in Hillsboro, Ore.

Jenny Kane/Associated Press

sive computing warehouses needed to power AI are connected quickly to high-voltage transmission lines.

Tech giants are scrambling to find enough power for their data centers and report that, in some places, it will take years to connect to the electric grid.

Besides power bottlenecks, the tech industry is running into widespread opposition from communities.

More than 4,000 data centers now operate in the U.S.,

according to one estimate, with an additional 3,000 planned or under construction, including some that consume more energy than a small city. Such facilities have ballooned in size to accommodate the demands of AI.

Trump has tried to deflect public concerns about AI, seeing the fast-evolving technology as crucial for the U.S. to attract foreign investment and maintain its economic and military prowess. Trump signed an executive order this

month that establishes a framework for the federal government to vet the national security risks of the most advanced AI systems for up to a month before their public release.

In December, FERC took an earlier step to help data center operators get electricity quickly, voting to allow tech companies to effectively plug a data center directly into a power plant.

Companies such as xAI, Google, Microsoft, Meta, Oracle, OpenAI and Amazon have signed Trump's Ratepayer Protection Pledge, in which they agreed to build or buy new sources of power generation for their data centers and cover the expense of infrastructure upgrades. They also committed to making backup generation available to prevent blackouts in times of emergency.

Data from the Electric Power Research Institute shows that data centers now account for about 5% of U.S. electricity demand, but could triple by 2035. In Virginia, data centers account for more than 25% of demand and could rise to more than 40% by 2030.

Residential units eyed for historic building

BUILDING, FROM A-8

and public garden improvements. The Post-Gazette reported in February that about \$6.3 million worth of work is planned between Forbes and Sixth avenues.

"It's been a long time coming," said Jeremy Waldrup, president and CEO of the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership, at the time of the announcement. "We are thrilled to see it moving forward. Smithfield is just a very important historical and retail area."

Though the entire project will take three to five years to finish, Mr. Waldrup said a reimagined Smithfield Street will work well with other Downtown projects already completed or nearing completion, including Market Square, Allegheny Riverfront Park and Art's Landing along Fort Duquesne Boulevard in the Cultural District.

"The design is fresh and really current," he said. "It ties in perfectly."

Pollock said he believes Downtown is entering a new cycle, shifting away from re-

liance on office occupancy and into residential, experiential neighborhood needs.

In late 2024, Gov. Josh Shapiro announced a nearly \$600 million plan designed to pump new life into Downtown Pittsburgh. The plan includes the repositioning of seven Downtown buildings for residential reuse, including the historic Gulf Tower.

"The future of Downtown belongs to those willing to adapt," Pollock said on Thursday. "We're excited to study how 610 Smithfield can become part of that future — not just as a historic building, but as a catalyst for bringing more life, more residents and more momentum back to the center of the city."

Pollock is also a serial restaurateur, involved in Burgatory and Shorty's on the North Shore, as well as Ritual House and the newly opened The Common Good in the Union Trust Building, where Legacy has its offices.

Pollock dedicated the property acquisition to his family dog, Jackson Pollock, who recently passed.

Stocks largely reverse losses from the previous session

STOCKS, FROM A-8

496.28 points, or 1.9%, to 26,517.93. Every major index notched weekly gains.

U.S. markets will be closed Friday for Juneteenth.

Technology stocks had some of the biggest gains and the most influence on the broader market's rise. Intel surged 10.6% after President Donald

Trump announced that the semiconductor giant will make chips for Apple in the U.S. Other big semiconductor companies gained ground. Nvidia rose 3% and Micron Technology jumped 8.7%.

On the losing end, SpaceX fell for the second straight day since its ballyhooed debut on the U.S. stock market last week. The Elon Musk-led

rocket maker and AI company was down 3.6% following a 4.9% loss Wednesday.

Oil prices wavered after the United States and Iran signed an agreement to end their war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz to oil tanker traffic. Brent crude, the international standard, spent most of the day lower before settling 0.4% higher at \$79.85 per barrel.

U.S. benchmark crude fell 0.2% to \$75.85 per barrel.

Airlines had some of the bigger gains. American Airlines rose 3.7% and United Airlines rose 2.1%. Cruise line company Carnival jumped 3.2%.

Energy companies lost ground. Exxon Mobil fell 2.1% and Chevron fell 2.2%.

Prices for crude oil are still

above roughly \$70 per barrel from before the war, but are well below the \$100-plus price from a few weeks ago.

Higher oil prices have been weighing on markets throughout the U.S. war with Iran. The current deal between the nations waives sanctions against Iran and allows it to sell its oil freely. It also opens up the Strait of

Hormuz, where a fifth of the world's oil supply is shipped.

Rising energy costs have been putting more pressure on already hot inflation. The average price of gasoline in the U.S. has dipped below \$4 a gallon, but is still 25% higher from a year ago. Prices have been rising for a wide range of goods because of higher shipping costs.

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Mortgage Guide

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
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		Fees: \$241	15 yr jumbo	5.500	0.000	\$241	25%	5.504		
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		Points: 1.000	20 yr fixed	5.875	1.000	\$195	20%	6.103		
		Fees: \$195	15 yr jumbo	5.500	1.000	\$195	20%	5.749		
		% Down: 20%	30 yr jumbo	6.250	1.000	\$195	20%	6.409		
<p>Advocate Mortgage Services</p>	5.955%	Rate: 5.875	15 yr fixed	5.125	0.000	\$1450	20%	5.257	412-921-1300 www.keitheliou.com	NMLS# 100276 LIC# 44820
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National

Obama Center opens in Chicago

3 former leaders join 44th president in issuing call to defend democracy

By Scott Bauer
Associated Press

Former President Barack Obama formally opened his presidential center in Chicago on Thursday with a call to defend democracy as three former presidents joined him onstage in an extraordinary event featuring politicians, A-list celebrities, athletes and other internationally known figures.

"I hope this center will serve as an affirmation of just how special, how precious our democracy truly is and remind us what we can achieve when we embrace our shared responsibilities as citizens," the nation's first Black president told the crowd.

Bono, John Legend, Christina Aguilera, Marc Anthony and Eddie Vedder took turns on the stage ahead of Bruce Springsteen and Stevie Wonder, who closed the show singing "Higher Ground" as the former presidents, world leaders and others danced along.

President Donald Trump was conspicuous both in his physical absence and by not being mentioned by any of the speakers or performers. Trump called the \$850 million center a "total disaster" in a social media post in February.

Obama voiced his support for character, honesty, integrity, kindness, compassion and sense of duty, praising both Democrats and Republicans, including those he defeated.

"Every president here today, as different as we are, has tried our best to uphold values that John McCain and Mitt Romney believed in no less than I did," Obama said. "It is our greatest inheritance."

Reflecting on his arrival in Chicago in 1985 as an untested political organizer, he said he could not have built the Obama Presidential Center anywhere else. He met his future wife Michelle nearby, their wedding reception was within walking distance, his children were born in the neighborhood and he launched his first candidacy not far away.

"It's an expression of thanks, an acknowledgment that so much of what I hold most dear I owe to the people of this city and the people of the surrounding neighborhoods," Obama said.

Michelle had emotional words for her husband

The Obamas and their daughters shared the stage with former presidents Joe Biden, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton along with former first ladies Jill Biden, Laura Bush and Hillary Rodham Clinton. Former Vice President Kamala Harris and many other leading Democrats were in the audience.

Michelle Obama spoke directly to her husband when she stepped up to the podium. "Eight years in the crucible and not once did you melt in the heat. Not once did you let it harden you."

"Instead, you used it to reveal your truest essence," she said. "Your stubborn optimism and unflinching courage. Your dazzling brilliance and unpretentious decency. Your ferocious work ethic and absolutely unshakable moral fiber. And to do it all as a first."

She ticked off highlights from her husband's eight years in office, including ordering the raid that led to the



Jeff Roberson/Associated Press photos

Former President Barack Obama, right, shares a laugh with former first lady Michelle Obama, left, onstage Thursday during the dedication ceremony for the Obama Presidential Center. Behind them are former President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.



Singer John Legend, left, and rapper Common perform during the dedication ceremony for the Obama Presidential Center.

killing of Osama bin Laden, "standing up for marriage equality" and "listening to science."

"And you did it all with such grace and class and cool," she said. "You made the hardest job in the world look like a walk in this beautiful park."

Obama appeared to wipe away a tear as she praised him.

Michelle Obama also referenced the current "anxious and divisive times" and warned against being cynical or complacent as "everything

feels so upside down." She pitched the center as "a respite from all that."

Inspirational anthems and protest songs

Jennifer Hudson sang the national anthem and Aguilera delivered a rousing rendition of "What a Wonderful World." Pearl Jam's Vedder, joined by Chicago teenagers in the nonprofit Guitars Over Guns program, sang an original song called "Better Believe," written just for the dedication.

Legend sang "Someday We'll All Be Free" and was joined by the rapper Common and Uniting Voices Chicago for their Academy Award-winning song "Glory."

Bono, who said he was representing the Irish, joined with The Edge in singing the U2 song "City of Blinding Lights." The Roots served as the house band. And Springsteen sang "Land of Hopes

and Dreams" before turning to the Obamas and saying, "I love you."

Wonder sang "All I Do" and "Signed, Sealed, Delivered (I'm Yours)" before the grand finale, joined by the performers who preceded him.

The VIP crowd included several potential 2028 Democratic presidential candidates; civil rights leaders Andrew Young and Al Sharpton; Oprah Winfrey; comedians David Letterman, Conan O'Brien and Stephen Colbert; actor Tom Hanks; tennis legend Billie Jean King and Chicago Cubs Chairman Tom Ricketts.

Former world leaders in attendance included former German Chancellor Angela Merkel and former Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

The three-hour, invite-only celebration included commentary from a nearby park where thousands gathered, and it was livestreamed to many more. It kicks off a weekend of events as the center opens to the general public on Juneteenth.

The opening, like the ribbon-cuttings of other presidential libraries over the years, had a heavy focus on accomplishments.

This former president also expressed some regrets — such as the increase in political polarization during his two terms.

"It's one of the few regrets of my presidency — that the rancor and suspicion between the parties has gotten worse instead of better," Obama said in his final State of the Union.

"Some of the exhibits reflect unfinished business," Obama said Thursday. "In some cases, my own shortcomings and mistakes."

General admission tickets for the center are sold out through the end of October.



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PITT THE MODERN ERA OF COLLEGE ATHLETICS

INSIDE H2PNIL

A bidding war for Heintschel alerted Pitt to a new reality: The Panthers need to find a way to spend above the cap

By Christopher Carter | Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Heading into the offseason, Pitt faced a challenge keeping its starting quarterback, Mason Heintschel. The star freshman led the Panthers to a 6-3 record over nine starts in 2025, with an average of 261.5 passing yards per game, plus 16 touchdown passes and just eight interceptions. But the promising freshman from Oregon, Ohio, entered Pat Narduzzi's office with a problem Pitt needed to



Post-Gazette (Green), Associated Press (Heintschel)
A bidding war with Miami for Mason Heintschel, below, helped Pitt and athletic director Allen Greene finalize what the Panthers call H2PNIL.

“

We are now prioritizing this effort more than ever, recognizing that its mission is critical to success.”

Pitt senior associate athletic director Pat Bostick

handle on the morning of Jan. 15. It was the day before the transfer portal closed, and Miami had offered a big NIL contract to Heintschel in an effort to fill its starting quarterback role with Pitt's young star.

Heintschel told Narduzzi about the offer but said he didn't want to leave the program. He'd formed a bond with his teammates and coaches that he wanted to see through into a new season.

“Listen, you're not going anywhere,” Narduzzi told Heintschel. “You love it here. You love the people.”

SEE PITT, PAGE B-2



Pirates

‘Fun place to play’

PG's Colin Beazley and players agree: A's minor league ballpark is A-OK

IWEST SACRAMENTO, Calif. — hadn't even made it inside Sutter Health Park when someone asked me what I thought of the stadium.

Those conversations continued all series. At least for the visitors, the novelty of playing major league baseball games in a minor league stadium never wore off.

The Athletics hosted the Pirates for a three-game series in West Sacramento, with the Pirates taking the final two games. Pittsburgh closed out the series with a 12-4 victory Wednesday.

The A's, who are transitioning from their 56-year home at Oakland Coliseum to their future palace in Las Vegas, are in their second of three seasons playing at the Triple-A ballpark belonging to the Sacramento River Cats.



Colin Beazley/Post-Gazette

Sutter Health Park, normally home to the Triple-A Sacramento River Cats, was a surprisingly pleasant place for a major league game.

It's a strange setup. For one, major league ball at a minor league park is different. The other elephant in the room is the A's haven't exactly embraced Sacramento, while Sacramento would much prefer a true MLB expansion team.

SEE PIRATES, PAGE B-7



Up next

Game: Pirates vs. Rockies, Coors Field.

When: 8:40 p.m. Friday.

TV, radio: SNP, 93.7 FM.

Probable pitchers: RHP Bubba Chandler (2-7, 4.76 ERA) for Pirates; LHP Kyle Freeland (1-7, 7.98) for Rockies.

World Cup

Formations explained: All the ways to set it up

By Tales Azzoni
Associated Press

GUADALAJARA, Mexico — It's number-crunching time when it comes to formations at the World Cup.

Every team starts with a goalkeeper in front of the net, but then it's up to the 48 coaches to try to arrange their lineups to optimize their players and match up effectively with opponents.

On paper, the lists may look more like area codes, phone numbers or lottery combinations: 4-4-2, 5-3-2, 4-2-3-1 and so on.

But it's all about how coaches set up their 10 field players, with some of them focusing more on attacking, others on containing a tough opponent or maybe trying to capitalize on the talent of a star player.

Coaches tend to have preferred formations, but it's not unusual for them to change them depending on

Up next for U.S.

Game: United States vs. Australia, Lumen Field, Seattle.

When: 3 p.m. Friday.

TV, stream: Fox, Peacock.

Inside: U.S. star Christian Pulisic's status remains uncertain ahead of the Americans' second World Cup match. Plus, Switzerland beats up Bosnia-Herzegovina late and Canada crushes Qatar. **Page B-3**

opponents or even during matches to secure a lead or reverse a deficit. Coaches frequently start a match with one scheme and finish it with another.

Here's a look at the nine formations used in the opening matches of World Cup group play, according to FIFA's match reports, and what they mean.

SEE CUP, PAGE B-3

U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills

2023 winner Wyndham Clark was 6 under through 16 holes when play was suspended due to darkness Thursday, good for a four-stroke lead. **Page B-3**

Sports

SPORTS SHORT

College sports bill clears key Senate hurdle despite pushback

A bill that top lawmakers and athletic leaders have described as the best chance to stabilize college sports cleared a key vote in the Senate on Thursday with bipartisan support after weeks of input from schools, conferences and athletes.

The bipartisan Protect College Sports Act aims to regulate payments to players, limit them to one free transfer over their careers and create a rule to restrict coaches from changing jobs during a season. It advanced out of the Senate Commerce Committee on a 19-9 vote and now heads to the full Senate for consideration.

Thursday's vote came hours after the Southeastern Conference and Big Ten Conference, the two most powerful in college sports, reiterated their position that "revisions are needed to secure our support for the bill." Several senators who voted against it cited concerns raised by the two conferences, which could spell trouble for its chances.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, who supported the bill, said he would like to be able to bring it up for a vote in the Senate next month, before the August recess. He said the legislation will "continue to get refined as time goes on."

"It was a really strong vote coming out of the committee," Thune said.

The committee vote advancing the bill followed endorsements from several athletic conferences, the NFL and its players union, and the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee. The Olympic committee backed the revised measure after lawmakers added additional protections for women's and Olympic sports.

"The new agreement also reflects the critical importance of Olympic sports," Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, the Republican chair of the committee, said in opening remarks. "That is a major part of what this bill is about. College athletics is not only football and men's basketball."

NCAA President Charlie Baker applauded the Senate action, saying it was a "powerful statement to the growing bipartisan support for targeted intervention."

In an interview with AP after the vote, Washington Sen. Maria Cantwell — the top-ranking Democrat on the committee — said the vote result felt "pretty darn good." The legislation is the product of months of negotiations between Cruz and Cantwell as other attempts in Congress to intervene in college sports have failed to advance far.

"This is a big milestone," Cantwell said.

— Associated Press



Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Pitt athletic director Allen Greene seems to be making some progress after taking over in the fall of 2024.

Pitt builds new NIL platform

PITT, FROM B-1

Narduzzi and the Panthers were able to scramble to retain Heintschel. But the experience helped to convince Pitt administrators that keeping their star players would require a more organized approach in how they gathered above-the-cap NIL funds.

H2PNIL became their answer.

The new comprehensive NIL platform is meant to assemble corporate partners to raise above-the-cap NIL funding. And for Pitt, that will hopefully ensure it can spend beyond the NCAA's annual \$20.5 million cap for revenue sharing, assemble increasingly competitive rosters and keep more of the star athletes Pitt develops.

Pitt athletics continued its rollout of new efforts to revolutionize its NIL fundraising Thursday with the announcement of the Backyard Basketball Classic. The two-game basketball event will feature Pitt men's basketball against West Virginia at PPG Paints Arena on Dec. 9, along with another game to be announced at a later date.

The event marks the first public showcase for H2PNIL, which Pitt athletics announced along with multimedia rights partner JMI Sports on Tuesday.

The Post-Gazette spoke with Greene and multiple leaders within Pitt athletics to learn the details of this plan, which has been in development over the course of the past year, and the vision of how it will impact their sports teams for years to come.

"We know that, around the country, teams are spending more than the \$20.5 million revenue-sharing cap," Greene said. "They're doing that through corporate investment, and H2PNIL is the vehicle by which corporate investment can invest in Pitt athletics."

Sources told the Post-Gazette that Pitt athletics spent all of its \$20.5 million revenue-sharing cap on NIL investments to its players for the 2025-26 athletic year and is set to do so again in 2026-27.

But Greene said the new college athletics spending environment made one thing clear when it came to the \$20.5 million cap created by the House v. NCAA settlement.

"The ceiling quickly became the floor," he said.

How Pitt kept Mason Heintschel

Narduzzi had to act fast and get Pitt athletics' sponsors involved. Within an hour, the coach was on the phone with his athletic director.

"Narduzzi calls me and says, 'Allen, we've got to do something,'" Greene recalled. "I said, 'OK, how much money are we talking about? What do we think?'"

Within an hour, Greene gathered the financial re-



Associated Press

To raise money for H2PNIL, Pitt will play West Virginia at PPG Paints Arena in the Backyard Basketball Classic, a doubleheader set for Dec. 9. Above, a 2018 game against Duquesne.

sources from Pitt athletics' supporters to give Heintschel a new offer that would ensure he'd stay with the program.

"He didn't need a dollar-for-dollar match because Mason wanted to be here," Greene said. "Coach and the staff had developed such a good relationship with Mason, and he believes in what we're doing."

By 3 p.m. that afternoon, Heintschel had announced his commitment to stick to Pitt. The crisis was averted.

Soon after, Miami got Darian Mensah, Duke's star quarterback who had already agreed to an NIL contract with the Blue Devils, to renege and commit to the Hurricanes in the transfer portal with several millions of NIL dollars.

"If we lose [Heintschel], we lose another 15 players," Narduzzi told the Post-Gazette. "A lot of players stayed because of Mason."

Keeping Heintschel wasn't just about retaining a quarterback. Pitt's leaders saw it as proof that simply maxing out the NCAA's revenue-sharing cap was no longer enough to compete.

But the prompt actions to keep Heintschel also exposed another need for Pitt. While Pitt athletics worked behind the scenes for months to connect donors and corporate partners to athletes, the process remained fragmented.

"We had to piece things together, certainly for football with Mason," Pitt senior associate athletic director Pat Bostick said. "That informed a lot of our strategy with regard to H2PNIL. We were going to those same entities separately to ask them to consider NIL, and what this creates is a one-stop shop for that whole value proposition."

How H2PNIL changes Pitt's future

Pitt's leaders do not expect NIL spending in college

sports to slow down any time soon.

"At Pitt, we are preparing for there to be no ceiling," Greene said.

That belief made the development of H2PNIL a priority.

"We are now prioritizing this effort more than ever, recognizing that it's mission-critical to success," Bostick said, again going back to Heintschel. "The degree to which we can build this enterprise will also reflect how we're able to limit those types of situations and keep our stars here at Pitt."

Pitt currently has between eight to 10 corporate sponsors participating in H2PNIL, with the expectation that most of the athletic department's approximate 70 corporate partners will eventually join as contracts are restructured to include NIL opportunities.

Bostick has worked at Pitt athletics since 2012. After the dissolution of Alliance 412 — Pitt's former NIL collective — the athletic department absorbed its fundraising responsibilities and Greene moved Bostick into an important role in the development of H2PNIL.

"Pat's work helped us build the football roster," Greene said of Bostick. "Pat's work helped us build and support the growing men's basketball roster within the transfer portal. We've been doing this work for a while — we're just now formalizing it and putting some packaging around it."

The Backyard Basketball Classic is the first public venture for H2PNIL. The idea came internally from within Pitt athletics, working with the departments' bigger sponsors in PPG Trucking, Hope Utilities, JMI and other key partners.

"What we have learned after being here for 18 months is that Pittsburgh is an event city," Greene said. "People love events. Businesses love events. And it creates oppor-

tunities that we otherwise wouldn't have."

Two weeks ago, Greene made it public that Pitt athletics planned to put all of its chips into football and men's basketball as the primary revenue drivers for the department. Now, the public can see some of the mechanics of how Pitt will accomplish those goals — and the many challenges that come with it.

"We spent more money on our basketball roster than I thought we were going to spend," Greene told the Post-Gazette. "Honestly, we need to continue to generate revenue or resources to help fund our men's basketball roster for this year."

By moving the Backyard Brawl to PPG Paints Arena, Pitt gains sponsorship opportunities that would've been unavailable through a traditional home game at Petersen Events Center, where all generated revenue for the event would've counted toward the \$20.5 million revenue-sharing cap.

Now, the event creates additional revenue streams that support Pitt's above-the-cap NIL opportunities.

"The [revenue-spending] cap is the price of admission," Bostick said. "The war now is not being waged with how nice your facility is. It's being waged above the cap."

For Greene, H2PNIL isn't simply about raising money.

He sees it as a way to deepen the relationship between Pitt athletics and the businesses that support it, creating what he hopes will be lasting benefits for the university and the city it calls home.

"Success for H2PNIL is about more engagement in the business community to help support Pitt athletics being nationally competitive," Greene said. "Such success drives a nationally and internationally competitive university. And that drives a vibrant and thriving Pittsburgh community."

FIVE-DAY OUTLOOK

Home games shaded	Friday 19	Saturday 20	Sunday 21	Monday 22	Tuesday 23
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Pirates

P	Rockies 8:40 p.m.	Rockies 9:10 p.m.	Rockies 3:10 p.m.		Mariners 6:40 p.m.
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Riverhounds

			Hartford 7 p.m.		
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UP NEXT

Wild Things	Frontier League	Friday at Lake Erie, 7 p.m.
Riveters	USL W	Sunday vs. Cleveland, 6 p.m.

TV/RADIO

MEN'S AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL		
5:25 a.m.	AFL: Hawthorn at Gold Coast	FS2
AUTO RACING		
Noon	NASCAR Truck Series: Practice	FS2
1 p.m.	NASCAR Truck Series: Qualifying	FS2
3 p.m.	Indy NXT Series: Practice	FS1
4 p.m.	NTT IndyCar Series: Practice	FS2
5 p.m.	NASCAR Cup Series: Practice	PRIME
7 p.m.	NASCAR Truck Series: Navy 250	FS1
BEACH VOLLEYBALL		
8 p.m.	AVP: Las Vegas	CW
10 p.m.	AVP: Las Vegas	CBSSN
GOLF		
6:30 a.m.	USGA: U.S. Open	PEACOCK
1:30 p.m.	USGA: U.S. Open	NBC
3 p.m.	LPGA Tour: Meijer Classic	GOLF
HORSE RACING		
3 p.m.	NYRA: America's Day at the Races	FS2
4 p.m.	NYRA: America's Day at the Races	FS1
MLB		
7 p.m.	Milwaukee at Atlanta	MLBN
8:15 p.m.	St. Louis at Kansas City	APPLE TV
8:40 p.m.	Pirates at Colorado	SNP, 93.7 FM
9:45 p.m.	Minnesota at Arizona	APPLE TV
10 p.m.	Boston at Seattle	MLBN
MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL		
6:30 p.m.	Clearwater at Bradenton	SNP+
MEN'S RUGBY		
12:55 a.m. Sat.	NRL: Dolphins at Wests	FS2
MEN'S SOCCER: WORLD CUP		
3 p.m.	U.S. vs. Australia	FOX/PEACOCK
6 p.m.	Scotland vs. Morocco	FOX/PEACOCK
8:30 p.m.	Brazil vs. Haiti	FOX/PEACOCK
11 p.m.	Turkey vs. Paraguay	FS1/PEACOCK
SOFTBALL		
9 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited: Spark at Cascade	ESPN2
SWIMMING		
6 p.m.	TYR: Pro Swim Series	PEACOCK
TENNIS		
5 a.m.	London/Halle-ATP, Berlin/Nottingham-WTA	TENNIS
5:30 a.m. Sat.	London/Halle-ATP, Berlin/Nottingham-WTA	TENNIS
WNBA		
7:30 p.m.	Washington at New York	ION
10 p.m.	Minnesota at Golden State	ION

Sports



Associated Press

Wyndham Clark takes aim on the third hole Thursday and takes a four-shot lead into Friday.

U.S. Open

Gust of Wyndham

'23 champ Clark takes advantage as breeze eases at Shinnecock

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press

SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y. — The USGA set up a different golf course at Shinnecock Hills to keep it playable in strong wind. And when the wind subsided late Thursday afternoon, Wyndham Clark looked like he was playing in a different U.S. Open.

Clark seized on a more gentle course — slightly calmer and still soft — by pulling away late to reach 6-under par through 16 holes.

He left in darkness with a four-shot lead over seven players, one of them Oklahoma junior Ryder Cowan, another one the surprisingly resurgent Dustin Johnson.

Rory McIlroy thought he had made a fine effort with a 1-under 69 in gusts that topped 30 mph in the middle of the day, when the scoring average was well above 74. The afternoon started tough until the wind kept subsiding, and players began taking aim at flags. The afternoon wave was playing a course that was at least a stroke easier than the early starters who faced relentless wind.

“Everything was kind of clicking,” said Clark, who came into the U.S. Open playing as well as anyone. “We were definitely fortunate with the wind laying down.”

Shinnecock was still a brute of a test, but the red numbers on the white scoreboard were an unfamiliar site for this course. When play was suspended by darkness, 17 players were under par.

The lowest opening round in the previous five U.S. Opens at Shinnecock is 66. Clark could play his final two holes Friday morning in 1-under par and still shoot 65.

Cowan birdied his last hole for a 68 to join former Sooner Max McGreevy and former Oklahoma State star Sam Stevens, the only one of that trio who faced the harsh wind of the morning wave.

Johnson, in his final year of being exempt from the U.S. Open he won at Oakmont in 2016, ran off four straight birdies and was tied with Clark after 13 holes. But Johnson failed to get up-and-down for birdie on the easy par-5 fifth, where Clark made eagle. And then Johnson three-putted from short range for double bogey on the sixth to double four shots behind.

Scottie Scheffler, who needs the U.S. Open to complete the career Grand Slam, battled all day and relied



Associated Press

Scottie Scheffler, playing from the fescue on the fourth hole, shot a 2-over 72 in the first round at Shinnecock Hills.

heavily on his short game to salvage a 2-over 72. It was his 10th consecutive U.S. Open round without breaking par, but at the time he was only four shots out of the lead.

Clark, who won the U.S. Open in Los Angeles three years ago, changed the look of the leaderboard. He was to return Friday morning to complete the round, then head out for the second round in wind expected to be not as strong as Thursday morning.

One key to his round might have happened some five hours before he even showed up.

Thirty minutes after the tournament began, play was stopped because of fog so dense it was difficult to see the green on the par-3 11th. The two-hour delay pushed back tee times.

The forecast was for the strongest wind of the week during the brightest part of Thursday.

“I would say when I got my tee times on Tuesday, I was like, ‘Oh, could be a tough draw,’” Clark said. “That two-hour fog delay was very helpful, and it was really nice [the wind] laid down. It definitely helped those last six, seven holes we played.”

His golf wasn’t too shabby, either. Clark started on No. 10 and opened with two quick birdies. He went out in 32 to get his name atop the leaderboard. And after missing an 8-foot birdie putt on No. 1 (his 10th hole) and failing to save par from a bunker on the long par-3 second, he took off.

He hit wedge to 5 feet on No. 3 for birdie, made a 20-foot birdie putt on No. 4 and then from 207 yards with some wind at his back, he hit his second on the par-5 fifth to 3 feet for eagle.

The wind was so strong and the conditions so severe that it took Scheffler’s group nearly three hours to complete nine holes.

Only 27 out of the 77 players from the afternoon wave

— Jason Day withdrew because of a back injury — finished the first round.

Johnson was joined by three other U.S. Open champions — Matt Fitzpatrick (2022), Gary Woodland (2019) and Jon Rahm (2021) — at 2 under, with all still having holes to play.

Rahm, who had a chance in the final hour at the PGA Championship, was bogey-free and reached 2 under by making a 60-foot birdie putt on the par-3 17th hole.

Stevens overcame a double bogey to start his round — a hole that took him over two hours to complete because of the fog — and strung together six birdies for his 68.

“The greens haven’t been too firm, the fairways haven’t been too firm, so I’ve really felt like it’s pretty scorable,” said Stevens, who had only his second sub-70 round in four U.S. Open starts. “Obviously, it’s difficult, but overall it’s an awesome place. I think the setup is great right now.”

For half of the opening round, the USGA appeared to have the ideal test. Coming off two Opens at Shinnecock when the course got out of control, it slowed the greens to 10.5 on the Stimpmeter — rare for any of the three majors on U.S. soil — and kept plenty of water on the putting surfaces.

It was all due to the wind, which did not disappoint. The sustained wind approached 25 mph, and gusts were even stronger. If that wasn’t enough, it shifted directions in the middle of the day.

“It was tough around here without wind, and then it was blowing pretty hard — really hard,” Keegan Bradley said after a 70. “The USGA did a great job setting the course up because if the greens were any faster or firmer, we might not be playing right now.”

But they played, and it became more ideal with each passing hour late in the afternoon.

World Cup highlights

Pulisic still questionable ahead of U.S.-Aussie match

The Associated Press

Christian Pulisic trained apart from his U.S. teammates on Thursday for the fourth straight day because of his left calf injury, so his availability remains in question ahead of Friday’s World Cup game against Australia in Seattle.

Pulisic started last week’s 4-1 victory over Paraguay, but came off at halftime after feeling stiffness from a calf injury incurred in training. He did not work out with his teammates earlier in the week at their base in Orange County, nor did he Thursday morning at Husky Soccer Stadium on the University of Washington campus.

The Milan winger joined his U.S. teammates for a pre-warmup huddle while wearing a compression sleeve on his calf, then went inside to do individual work in the gym.

The 27-year-old Pulisic is the most accomplished U.S. player. He helped create an own-goal by Paraguay in the opening minutes last Friday, and assisted on Folarin Balogun’s first of two goals.

His absence could hinder a team coming off its highest-scoring World Cup performance and with a wave of momentum.

Should Pulisic not be fit to play against the Soccerroos, U.S. coach Mauricio Pochettino has a few options to replace him.

The most likely choices appear to be Brenden Aaronson, a winger who had four goals and five assists for Leeds last season, and Marseille forward Tim Weah, who can impact a game with his speed on either wing.

Thursday’s games

Canada 6, Qatar 0: Jonathan David scored three goals and Canada won its first-ever World Cup match while all but securing a spot in the knockout round with its victory in Vancouver, B.C.

Qatar was reduced to nine players because of red cards in a chaotic match. Assim Madibo was handed a red early in the second half after a tackle on Ismael Kone, who was stretched off with a serious injury to his lower left leg. Homan Ahmed was sent off in the first half for a challenge on Tajon Buchanan.

With the outburst of scoring, Canada tripled its all-time goal total at the World Cup. Cyle Larin scored in the



Associated Press

Mexico’s Julian Quinones, left, battles for the ball with South Korea’s Lee Han-beom Thursday. Mexico held on for a 1-0 win.

Canadians’ opening draw against Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Alphonso Davies scored four years ago in a loss to Croatia in Qatar, where Canada also got on the board with an own goal by Morocco. The Canadians were shut out three times in the 1986 World Cup.

Switzerland 4, Bosnia-Herzegovina 1: Substitute Johan Manzambi scored his first World Cup goal on an outstanding volley in the 74th minute, and Switzerland erupted late to take control of its group with its win in Inglewood, Calif.

Rubén Vargas scored in the 84th minute for the Swiss shortly after Tarik Muharemovic was sent off for a dangerous tackle, leaving Bosnia with 10 men. Manzambi scored again in the 90th on a pass from Vargas, and captain Granit Xhaka converted from the penalty spot with the final kick of the game in stoppage time.

Ermin Mahmic scored in second-half injury time for Bosnia, which still has a legitimate chance of reaching the knockout stage after hanging with higher-ranked Switzerland deep into the second half.

Switzerland followed up its disappointing 1-1 draw with Qatar last week by largely dominating play against the momentum-laden Dragons, who were unbeaten in their last nine competitive matches.

South Africa 1, Czech Republic 1: Teboho Mokoena started the game with tears in his eyes and finished it with a smile after converting a second-half penalty to help South Africa to a draw in Atlanta.

Thapelo Maseko’s long-range shot late in the match caught the hand of Czech opponent Pavel Sulc in the area. Then Mokoena, who was shown on camera with tears rolling down his cheeks during the pregame national anthem, stepped up to the penalty spot and sent his shot low past Czech goalkeeper Matej Kovar in the 83rd minute.

The South Africa midfielder said he was thinking about his late grandfather before kickoff.

Michal Sadilek had given the Czechs the lead in the sixth minute.

Both teams lost their opening matches.

Notes

Lionel Messi’s father is undergoing medical treatment for an undisclosed illness and his family asked the media for “humanity” amid rumors about Jorge Messi’s health while his son competes at the World Cup.

The family did not specify the illness that the 68-year-old Jorge Messi is suffering from.

The 38-year-old Messi said after Argentina’s 3-0 victory over Algeria in the team’s opener that he was going through a difficult personal situation. He was very emotional after scoring the first of his three goals.

Ivory Coast striker Elye Wahi, under investigation for alleged betting-related offenses, has received authorization to enter Canada for Saturday’s match against Germany.

Neymar has been ruled out of Brazil’s match against Haiti on Friday because of a lingering calf injury.

The science of setting formations

CUP, FROM B-1

The traditional (4-4-2)

Four defenders, four midfielders and two forwards.

That was used by 12 of the 48 teams involved in the first 24 matches at the World Cup. But it produced only two wins — by Scotland over Haiti and Ivory Coast over Ecuador. It also matched the 3-4-3 scheme with the most losses, four.

Brazil, Uruguay and co-host Canada were among the teams using the formation that theoretically promotes a balanced squad with a focus on solid defending by keeping the lines compact.

It was a traditional formation in recent decades, along with the 4-3-3 and 5-3-2, until coaches began experimenting with more daring alternatives.

Offensive-minded midfield (4-2-3-1)

Four defenders, two defensive midfielders, three attacking midfielders and one striker.

The formation has become common in modern soccer, with two holding midfielders protecting the back line and three more offensive players taking care of the transition toward the central striker.

Ten teams used the design so far, with the United States, England, France and Austria winning their matches.

Attacking heavy (4-1-2-3)

Four defenders, one defensive midfielder, two midfielders and three forwards.

This formation and the 4-2-3-1 had the most wins, with four each.

It’s a slight change from the above, with an extra player in the offensive phase. Mexico, Norway, Ghana and Colombia used it to win their openers.

Eight teams used the scheme, which has two wingers and a central striker up front ahead of the three-piece midfield. It’s a more offensive formation, with only one defensive midfielder.

Title favorites Spain and the Netherlands also used the formation.

Solid midfield (3-4-3)

Three central defenders, four midfielders and three forwards.

Seven teams used the formation that promotes a balance between defense and offense around a solid midfield.

Only two teams won — South Korea and Germany, which scored the most goals so far with a 7-1 rout of Curacao.

Another old-timer (4-3-3)

Four defenders, three midfielders and three forwards.

Among the five teams using the formation was Lionel Messi’s Argentina, and it helped him score three goals in a 3-0 win over Algeria.

It was the only team that won with the traditional formation, with three midfielders feeding the two side forwards and the striker up front.

It was used by one of the World Cup’s most famous squads — Brazil’s 1970 team led by Pelé. Argentina won the 2022 World Cup with that formation.

Attacking fullbacks (5-3-2)

Five defenders, three midfielders and two forwards.

There were no winners among the three teams that used the formation, which puts emphasis on the back line but has the two fullbacks changing into wingers in the offensive phase.

South Africa and Tunisia lost, but it was good enough for Congo to manage a surprising 1-1 draw against Cristiano Ronaldo and Portugal.

It was also a traditional scheme for decades.

Bare midfield (5-2-3)

Five defenders, two midfielders and three forwards.

Only the Czech Republic, which lost to South Korea, used the formation in which the two fullbacks also work up toward the midfield, depending on the phase of the game.

Defensive-minded (5-4-1)

Five defenders, four midfielders and one striker.

Australia picked up a win against Turkey with the formation that focuses on defense first, with nine players between the back line and the midfield.

Transition-focused (3-4-1-2)

Three central defenders, four midfielders, one attacking midfielder and two forwards.

Sweden used the formation in its 5-1 win over Tunisia. The design has an attacking midfielder playing in between the midfield and the forwards to try to promote an easier transition from defense to offense.

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Sports

Morning briefing

MLB owners propose banning prep players

From local and wire dispatches

Baseball owners proposed banning high school players from signing with major league teams, raising the age for international amateurs and slashing the money spent on signing bonuses in negotiations Thursday for a new collective bargaining agreement.

The amateur draft for players residing in the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico would be cut from 20 rounds to 12 beginning in 2027 under the proposal Major League Baseball made during a bargaining session with the players' association. An identical 12-round draft would be started for international prospects, a proposal the union has rejected in the past.

Starting in 2028, a prospect for the amateur draft would have to be at least 20 years old by Sept. 1 of his signing year and two years removed from the graduating year of his high school class — a restriction that also would eliminate players who completed their first year of junior college.

Raising signing ages would likely lead to players being older when they become eligible for free agency, which currently requires six years of major league service.

MLB cited increased revenue in college baseball as reasoning. In addition, MLB said 75% of high schoolers signed from 2012-19 did not reach the major leagues.

“Expanded scholarships, NIL opportunities, revenue sharing and significant investments in facilities and player development have made college baseball an increasingly

important pathway that is producing major league-ready talent at an accelerated rate,” MLB said in a statement. “By creating a draft system centered around college-aged players and making most college players eligible one year earlier, more players will benefit from both a college education and an elite development environment while reaching professional baseball — and ultimately the major leagues — more quickly.”

The players' association claimed the plan would decrease compensation by \$1 billion over five years. “MLB made another set of proposals that are flat-out bad for baseball, ones that would cripple the next generation of players and damage the future of our game,” the union said in a statement.

ACC commissioner Jim Phillips supported keeping more prospects in college for longer. He said in a statement that improvements in facilities, technology and scholarships “are creating more opportunities for student-athletes and providing additional pathways to develop at the collegiate level before taking the next step to the professional ranks.”

MLB said it will not seek to reduce the 120 minor-league teams in the top four levels when it negotiates new professional development licenses in 2030 to replace expiring 10-year deals. It would cap bonuses for undrafted players at \$10,000 — Middle Tennessee two-way player Trace Phillips was bypassed in the draft last July and signed with Tampa Bay for \$629,200.



The Knicks celebrate their NBA title during a championship parade Thursday in New York.

Associated Press

More baseball

The Home Run Derby is eliminating the clock.

Each hitter will have 20 swings in the first round of this year's contest at Philadelphia's Citizens Bank Park on July 13. The change coincides with a switch in broadcaster to Netflix from ESPN, which had televised the event since 1994.

• Milwaukee Brewers right-hander Quinn Priester will undergo season-ending surgery for thoracic outlet syndrome and is expected to be sidelined for 8 to 10 months.

Priester was a key cog in the team's rotation a season ago when he went 13-3 with a 3.32 ERA in 29 appearances, including 24 starts, for a team that made it to the NLCS.

Priester was expected to play a major role again but he has not pitched in the majors this season.

• Los Angeles Angels center fielder Mike Trout is being placed on the 10-day injured list with a right hamstring strain.

Trout said he suffered the injury while running to first base Wednesday.

• Chicago White Sox center fielder Everson Pereira was placed on the seven-day injured list with a concussion Thursday, one day after crashing into the left-center field fence at Yankee Stadium.

Pro basketball

Jalen Brunson held up the golden NBA championship trophy for a forest of outstretched hands to touch as fans celebrated the New York Knicks' first title in 53 years with a booming parade through Manhattan's skyscraper-flanked “Canyon of Heroes.”

“Damn, New York, we re-

ally did it,” Brunson, the NBA Finals MVP, said at a celebration at City Hall. “Somehow, somehow, I knew we were going to find a way to get this done.”

Moments later, Mayor Zohran Mamdani presented keys to the city to Knicks players, coaches, owners and staff. Wearing a team jersey under his suit jacket, Mamdani said he and other fans “waited because we knew deep down in our sick, suffering hearts” the Knicks would someday win.

Blue and orange confetti swirled through the air during the parade. Massive cheers of “Let’s go, Knicks!” and “Knicks in five!” kept erupting.

And OG Anunoby, who scored the go-ahead basket in Game 4 on a tip-in with 1.2 seconds left, left his parade float to interact with fans, holding the NBA Cup in-season championship trophy in one hand and a bottle of Patron tequila in the other.

Director Spike Lee, perhaps the team's most iconic fan, was on a float with Brunson, savoring the moment. “I’ve never been to a parade — ever — and I’m glad it’s this one,” Lee said.

Hockey

The NHL said it completed a review of Mike Babcock's tenure in Columbus, clearing him to coach the Edmonton Oilers if they opt to hire him.

The league launched an investigation at the request of the NHL Players' Association in light of the Oilers' interest in hiring Babcock. The league in a statement said even in the least favorable light, there

was no basis to restrict Babcock's employment.

It was not immediately clear if or when the Oilers would name Babcock coach. They have been looking for a replacement since firing Kris Knoblauch following a first-round playoff exit that came after back-to-back trips to the Stanley Cup Final.

Babcock, 63, has not coached in the NHL since 2019, when he was fired by Toronto 23 games into his fifth season in charge. The Blue Jackets hired him on July 1, 2023, and Babcock resigned in September after his requests for personal photos from players in an attempt to get to know them drew criticism as an invasion of privacy.

• The Washington Capitals have signed coach Spencer Carbery to a multiyear contract extension.

The team announced the move but did not provide any details on the length or terms of the deal.

Golf

A lawyer for Phil Mickelson says the six-time major winner resigned from a country club near San Diego where he was accused of inappropriate contact with a female employee.

Golf Digest last week reported that Mickelson was no longer a member of The Farms Country Club and that the golfer was asked by club management to leave the course during his round after the employee reported the allegations of misconduct. Tom Clare, a defamation lawyer hired by Mickelson, said that the golfer later resigned from the club.

PRO BASEBALL

MLB AMERICAN LEAGUE EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
N.Y. Yankees	45	28	.616	—
Tampa Bay	41	30	.577	3
Toronto	37	38	.493	9
Baltimore	35	41	.461	11½
Boston	29	43	.403	15½

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago White Sox	39	34	.534	—
Cleveland	40	35	.533	—
Minnesota	36	40	.474	4½
Detroit	30	44	.405	9½
Kansas City	30	45	.400	10

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Seattle	39	37	.513	—
Athletics	36	38	.486	2
Texas	35	39	.473	3
Houston	35	41	.461	4
L.A. Angels	30	45	.400	8½

NATIONAL LEAGUE EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Atlanta	46	27	.630	—
Philadelphia	40	35	.533	7
Washington	39	36	.520	8
Miami	37	38	.493	10
N.Y. Mets	34	41	.453	13

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Milwaukee	45	27	.625	—
St. Louis	40	32	.556	5
Chicago Cubs	39	36	.520	7½
Pittsburgh	38	37	.507	8½
Cincinnati	35	38	.479	10½

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
L.A. Dodgers	48	27	.640	—
San Diego	38	35	.521	9
Arizona	38	36	.514	9½
San Francisco	31	43	.419	16½
Colorado	28	47	.373	20

AMERICAN LEAGUE WESTERN DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Baltimore 5, Seattle 3				
Houston 4, Detroit 2				
N.Y. Yankees 10, Chicago White Sox 5				
Toronto 3, Boston 0				
Chicago White Sox 5, N.Y. Yankees 1				
Minnesota 9, Texas 3				
Seattle 3, Baltimore 0				
Toronto 4, Boston 3				
L.A. Angels at Athletics				
Friday's Games				
Chicago White Sox (Fedde 2-5) at Detroit (Skubal 3-3), 6:40 p.m.				
Cleveland (Bibee 2-7) at Houston (Imai 3-3), 8:10 p.m.				
L.A. Angels (Soriano 8-4) at Athletics (Springs 3-7), 9:40 p.m.				
Boston (Suarez 2-3) at Seattle (Miller 3-0), 10:10 p.m.				

INTERLEAGUE

	W	L	PCT	GB
Wednesday's Games				
Arizona 8, L.A. Angels 1				
Kansas City 6, Washington 2				
L.A. Dodgers 5, Tampa Bay 4				
Milwaukee 9, Cleveland 4				
Pittsburgh 12, Athletics 4				
Thursday's Games				
Cleveland 4, Milwaukee 2				
St. Louis at Kansas City				
Friday's Games				
Toronto (Gausman 4-4) at Chicago Cubs (Brown 3-2), 2:20 p.m.				
Cincinnati (Londer 3-3) at N.Y. Yankees (Schlitter 7-3), 7:05 p.m.				
Washington (Cavalli 4-4) at Tampa Bay (Jax 1-5), 7:10 p.m.				
San Diego (Vásquez 6-4) at Texas (deGrom 5-4), 8:05 p.m.				
St. Louis (McGreavy 3-5) at Kansas City (Lugo 2-4), 8:15 p.m.				
Minnesota (Priest 2-4) at Arizona (Soroka 8-3), 9:45 p.m.				
Baltimore (Gibson 1-2) at L.A. Dodgers (Sasaki 3-4), 10:10 p.m.				

NATIONAL LEAGUE WESTERN DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Wednesday's Games				
Chicago Cubs 8, Colorado 6				
Miami 12, Philadelphia 4				
Milwaukee 9, Cleveland 4				
N.Y. Mets 9, Cincinnati 1				
San Diego 6, St. Louis 1				
San Francisco 7, Atlanta 2 (comp of susp. gm)				
San Francisco 7, Atlanta 5				

Thursday's Games

N.Y. Mets 6, Philadelphia 4
San Francisco at Atlanta (ppd., rain)
Friday's Games
San Francisco (McDonald 2-4) at Miami (TBD), 7:10 p.m.
Milwaukee (Misiorowski 8-2) at Atlanta (Sale 8-5), 7:15 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Chandler 2-7) at Colorado (Freeland 1-7), 8:40 p.m.

NCAA DIV I BASEBALL WORLD SERIES

At Omaha, Neb.
DOUBLE ELIMINATION
Wednesday's Games
North Carolina 12, West Virginia 7
Oklahoma 11, Georgia 4

CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES (Best-of-3)

Saturday's Game
North Carolina vs. Oklahoma, 8 p.m.
Sunday's Game
North Carolina vs. Oklahoma, 2:30 p.m.
Monday, June 22
x-North Carolina vs. Oklahoma, 7 p.m.
x — played only if necessary

MILB TRIPLE A INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

Wednesday's Games
Charlotte 5, Buffalo 1
Iowa 6, Indianapolis 5 (10 innings)
Jacksonville 8, Durham 2
Louisville 4, Gwinnett 2 (1st game)
Gwinnett 6, Louisville 0 (2nd game)
Rochester 6, Toledo 5 (11 innings)
Nashville 10, Memphis 8
Norfolk 6, Syracuse 5
Worcester 7, Lehigh Valley 4 (10 innings)
Omaha at St. Paul (ppd., rain)
Scranton/WB at Columbus (ppd., rain)
Thursday's Games
Charlotte 4, Buffalo 0
Columbus 7, Scranton/Wilkes-Barre 5
Jacksonville 11, Durham 5 (7 innings, rain)
Lehigh Valley 5, Worcester 4
Omaha 12, St. Paul 4 (1st game)
Syracuse 6, Norfolk 5 (10 innings)
Toledo 10, Rochester 6
Louisville at Gwinnett (ppd, weather)
Indianapolis at Iowa
Nashville at Memphis
Omaha at St. Paul (2nd game)
Friday's Games
Louisville at Gwinnett (DH), 5:05 p.m.
Charlotte at Buffalo, 6:35 p.m.
Norfolk at Syracuse, 6:35 p.m.
Toledo at Rochester, 6:45 p.m.
Jacksonville at Durham, 6:45 p.m.
Worcester at Lehigh Valley, 6:45 p.m.
Scranton/WB at Columbus, 7:05 p.m.
Nashville at Memphis, 8:05 p.m.
Omaha at St. Paul, 8:07 p.m.
Indianapolis at Iowa, 8:08 p.m.

PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE

Wednesday's Games
El Paso 9, Reno 6
Las Vegas 7, Round Rock 4
Sacramento 9, Oklahoma City 6
Sugar Land 21, Albuquerque 8
Tacoma 12, Salt Lake 6
Thursday's Games
Albuquerque 3, Sugar Land 2 (10 innings)
Oklahoma City 5, Sacramento 4 (10 innings)
Tacoma at Salt Lake
Reno at El Paso
Round Rock at Las Vega
Friday's Games
Sacramento at Oklahoma City, 8:05 p.m.
Tacoma at Salt Lake, 8:35 p.m.
Sugar Land at Albuquerque, 8:35 p.m.
Reno at El Paso, 8:35 p.m.
Round Rock at Las Vegas, 10:05 p.m.

DOUBLE A EASTERN LEAGUE

Wednesday's Games
Altoona 5, Akron 5 (comp. of susp. game)
Altoona 4, Akron 1
Binghamton 8, New Hampshire 1
Harrisburg 3, Erie 1
Hartford 10, Reading 6
Portland 7, Somerset 6

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	11	4	.733	—
Atlanta	10	4	.714	½
Indiana	9	6	.600	2
Toronto	7	8	.467	4
Washington	6	7	.462	4
Chicago	4	10	.286	6½
Connecticut	2	14	.125	9½

TEXAS LEAGUE

Wednesday's Games
Amarillo 8, Midland 3
Arkansas 9, Frisco 4 (1st game)
Frisco 13, Arkansas 3 (2nd game)
NW Arkansas 7, Tulsa 2
San Antonio 4, Corpus Christi 3 (1st game)
Corpus Christi 7, San Antonio 4 (2nd game)
Wichita 10, Springfield 9
Thursday's Games
Springfield at Wichita (1st game)
Springfield at Wichita (2nd game)
San Antonio at Corpus Christi
Arkansas at Frisco
Tulsa at NW Arkansas
Midland at Amarillo
Friday's Games
Springfield at Wichita, 7:35 p.m.
San Antonio at Corpus Christi, 8:05 p.m.
Arkansas at Frisco, 8:05 p.m.
Tulsa at NW Arkansas, 8:05 p.m.
Midland at Amarillo, 8:05 p.m.

PWHL DRAFT

At Detroit
Wednesday
FIRST ROUND
1. Vancouver, Caroline 'KK' Harvey, D, University of Wisconsin (NCAA)
2. Seattle, Abbey Murphy, F, Minnesota (NCAA)
3. Las Vegas (from Detroit), Tessa Janeke, F, Penn State (NCAA)
4. San Jose, Laila Edwards, D, Wisconsin (NCAA)
5. Las Vegas, Lacey Eden, F, Wisconsin (NCAA)
6. Hamilton, Nelli Laitinen, D, Minnesota (NCAA)
7. New York, Emma Peschel, D, Ohio State (NCAA)
8. Toronto, Kirsten Simms, F, Wisconsin (NCAA)
9. Minnesota, Sara Swiderski, D, Ohio State (NCAA)
10. Boston, Grace Dwyer, D, Cornell (NCAA)
11. Ottawa, Vivian Jungels, D, Wisconsin (NCAA)
12. Montréal, Petra Nieminen, F, Lulea (Sweden)

PRO BASKETBALL

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	11	4	.733	—
Atlanta	10	4	.714	½
Indiana	9	6	.600	2
Toronto	7	8	.467	4
Washington	6	7	.462	4
Chicago	4	10	.286	6½
Connecticut	2	14	.125	9½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	12	3	.800	—
Las Vegas	11	4	.733	1
Golden State	10	5	.667	2
Dallas	9	6	.600	3
Portland	8	9	.471	5
Los Angeles	7	8	.467	5
Phoenix	4	12	.250	8½
Seattle	3	13	.188	9½

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES

Baseball

Around MLB

Brewers' Misiorowski on Skenes-esque run

In past 8 starts, 24-year-old RHP boasts 0.17 ERA

By Steve Megargee
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Milwaukee Brewers right-hander Jacob Misiorowski isn't content with merely being the game's hardest-throwing starting pitcher. He's intent on becoming the best. He already may be there.

The 24-year-old is hitting unprecedented velocities for a starter in MLB's pitch-tracking era that began in 2008. Over the past month, he's dominated unlike any pitcher in the last century.

Misiorowski has allowed just one run over his past eight starts heading into his Friday matchup with the Atlanta Braves. He says he can't come up with a specific moment or decision that sparked this surge.

"It's more that it finally



Associated Press

At this rate, Brewers phenom Jacob Misiorowski is on his way to a Cy Young Award.

clicked," said Misiorowski, who is 8-2 with a 1.34 ERA and 131 strikeouts to lead the majors in the latter two categories. "Everything started settling in and feeling good."

The fact Misiorowski used the word "finally" to describe an emergence in his first full major league season underscores his exacting standards.

Misiorowski's rise has Brewers manager Pat Murphy

comparing him to Forrest Gump, which prompted a social media post by the pitcher his own face over the Tom Hanks movie character's body.

"It's for sure meant to be a compliment for a guy who didn't put in limits on himself and his naiveté," Murphy said. "It was a factor in a positive way, where he went out and achieved whatever he set his mind to, and didn't let the outside forces, weren't even aware of the outside forces, and didn't let anything hold him back."

Misiorowski was selected to the All-Star Game last season after only five starts. He struggled late last year before producing a 1.50 postseason ERA during Milwaukee's run to the NL Championship Series. Now he's a Cy Young Award favorite.

The eye-popping numbers most associated with Misiorowski come from the radar gun. He reached 104.5 mph — the fastest velocity by a starter in the pitch tracking era — and got to 100 mph on a record 58 pitches during the Brewers' 6

-0 win over the Philadelphia Phillies on Friday.

He's thrown 460 pitches at least 100 mph this season, already surpassing the record for a starter set by Cincinnati's Hunter Greene with 357 such pitches in 2022.

But his most impressive statistics have more to do with results than velocity.

According to MLB.com, Misiorowski's 0.17 ERA since May 1 is the best in an eight-start stretch for any pitcher since earned runs became an official statistic in 1913. Against Philadelphia, he became the third pitcher since 1900 to throw a shutout while striking out 15 and allowing no more than one baserunner.

Opponents are batting just .140 against Misiorowski this season. SportRadar says no starting pitcher has allowed an opponent batting average of .166 or below over a full non-pandemic season since at least 1910. Boston's Pedro Martinez had batters hitting .167 against him in 2000. Opponents hit .168 against Cleveland's Luis Tiant in 1968.

Misiorowski's development into a complete pitcher should come as no surprise, considering who he grew up watching.

The list of pitchers he admired growing up includes Adam Wainwright, Zack Greinke, Clayton Kershaw and Chris Sale. While Sale is a hard thrower and Kershaw also had outstanding velocity early in his career, Wainwright and Greinke succeeded without overpowering fastballs.

They had one thing in common.

"Every game, you felt like they could trust them to get a win," Misiorowski said. "That was the big thing."

His appreciation for baseball history includes a baseball card collection he says numbers in the thousands, though he probably owns even more Pokemon cards.

"Since I was a kid, my dad got me into it," Misiorowski said of his baseball card collection. "It's huge right now. I think I need to downsize it a little bit, but it's fun."

His enthusiasm shows on the mound and in his work

ethic. He devoted the offseason to upgrading his leg strength to withstand the rigors of a full season and results are showing in his improved endurance and command.

"He could rest on his laurels. 'Hey, I was an All-Star in my first year. I pitched in the playoffs. I pitched well. I can do it. I'm fine. I'll be all right,'" Murphy said. "Or you can say, 'I'm going home. I'm going to get stronger. I'm going to do whatever I can do to come back and dominate.' That's what he's done."

Misiorowski's growth has helped the Brewers overcome numerous pitching injuries to build a comfortable NL Central lead. With Misiorowski and Kyle Harrison (8-1, 2.47) leading the rotation, the Brewers rank fourth in the majors in ERA.

Over his last eight starts, Misiorowski has struck out 80 while allowing nine walks and 14 hits over 54 1/3 innings. The only extra-base hit he's allowed over his last nine starts was a double by Houston's Isaac Paredes on May 31.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION												
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA	DIFF
New York	45	28	.616	—		8-2	L-1	21-13	24-15	381	263	118
Tampa Bay	41	30	.577	3	+6	4-6	L-3	24-18	17-21	315	310	5
Toronto	37	38	.493	9	—	6-4	W-3	21-18	16-20	306	319	-13
Baltimore	35	41	.461	11 1/2	2 1/2	4-6	L-1	22-19	13-22	349	385	-36
Kansas City	29	43	.403	15 1/2	6 1/2	2-8	L-4	12-25	17-18	282	295	-13

CENTRAL DIVISION												
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA	DIFF
Chicago	39	34	.534	—		6-4	W-1	24-12	15-22	345	344	1
Cleveland	40	35	.533	—	+3	4-6	W-1	19-17	21-18	298	305	-7
Minnesota	36	40	.474	4 1/2	1 1/2	6-4	W-4	20-19	16-21	363	387	-24
Detroit	30	44	.405	9 1/2	6 1/2	4-6	L-2	18-16	12-28	301	311	-10
Kansas City	30	45	.400	10	7	4-6	W-1	17-21	13-24	301	352	-51

WEST DIVISION												
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA	DIFF
Seattle	39	37	.513	—		5-5	W-1	21-17	18-20	320	297	23
Athletics	36	38	.486	2	1/2	4-6	L-2	16-21	20-17	340	391	-51
Texas	35	39	.473	3	1 1/2	6-4	L-3	17-17	18-22	292	304	-12
Houston	35	41	.461	4	2 1/2	5-5	W-2	18-20	17-21	344	385	-41
Los Angeles	30	45	.400	8 1/2	7	6-4	L-1	17-20	13-25	333	365	-32

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION												
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA	DIFF
Atlanta	46	27	.630	—		4-6	L-3	22-13	24-14	366	266	100
Philadelphia	40	35	.533	7	+1	5-5	L-2	19-19	19-16	308	328	-20
Washington	39	36	.520	8	—	6-4	L-1	21-22	23-14	407	392	15
Miami	37	38	.493	10	2	7-3	W-1	23-16	14-22	324	329	5
New York	34	41	.453	13	5	5-5	W-2	18-18	16-23	306	321	-15

CENTRAL DIVISION												
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA	DIFF
Milwaukee	45	27	.625	—		6-4	L-1	25-15	20-12	383	267	116
St. Louis	40	32	.556	5	+2 1/2	4-6	L-1	21-17	19-15	326	315	11
Chicago	39	36	.520	7 1/2	—	5-5	W-1	22-16	17-20	336	329	7
Pittsburgh	38	37	.507	8 1/2	1	4-6	W-2	20-19	18-18	379	365	14
Cincinnati	35	38	.479	10 1/2	3	4-6	L-1	19-19	16-19	311	363	-52

WEST DIVISION												
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA	DIFF
Los Angeles	48	27	.640	—		6-4	W-3	25-12	23-15	396	252	144
San Diego	38	35	.521	9	—	5-5	W-1	19-19	19-16	280	289	-9
Arizona	38	36	.514	9 1/2	1/2	5-5	W-1	23-15	15-21	304	330	-26
San Francisco	31	43	.419	16 1/2	7 1/2	4-6	W-3	14-20	17-23	310	359	-49
Colorado	28	47	.373	20	11	5-5	L-1	14-20	14-27	338	426	-88

BOSTON												
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA	DIFF
Fisher, Woods Richardson (2), Fluharty (5), Miles (5), Hoffman (7), Ty, Rogers (8), L.Vanland (9) and Kirk; Bennett, T.Guerrero (6), Weissert (8), Coulombe (9) and Gasper, W.—Woods Richardson 1-7. L.—Bennett 1-3. Sv.—L.Vanland (14).												

N.Y. YANKEES 10, CHI. WHITE SOX 5												
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA	DIFF
Chicago 003 000 011 5 11 1												
New York 220 050 10x 10 13 0												

BALTIMORE 5, SEATTLE 3												
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA	DIFF
Baltimore 002 001 101 5 10 2												
Seattle 000 100 002 3 7 0												

INTERLEAGUE

KANSAS CITY 6, WASHINGTON 2												
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA	DIFF
Kansas City 112 002 000 6 12 0												
Washington 000 002 000 2 6 0												

L.A. DODGERS 5, TAMPA BAY 4												
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA	DIFF
Tampa Bay 000 040 000 4 8 0												
Los Angeles 000 212 00x 5 9 0												

PITTSBURGH 12, ATHLETICS 4												
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA	DIFF
Pittsburgh 320 200 500 12 16 1												
Athletics 000 002 101 4 8 0												

N.Y. METS 9, CINCINNATI 1												
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA	DIFF
New York 003 040 020 9 15 2												
Cincinnati 001 000 000 1 5 1												

MIAMI 12, PHILADELPHIA 11												
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA	DIFF
Miami 120 020 011 7 10 0												
Philadelphia 220 000 000 4 10 2												

SAN FRANCISCO 7, ATLANTA 2												
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA	DIFF
San Francisco 120 020 011 7 10 0												
Atlanta 200 000 000 2 7 0												

SAN DIEGO 6, ST. LOUIS 1												
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA	DIFF
San Diego 100 110 003 6 14 0												
St. Louis 000 010 000 1 6 1												

SAN FRANCISCO 7, ATLANTA 5												
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA	DIFF
San Francisco 140 000 002 7 9 0												
Atlanta 000 002 003 5 12 0												

CHICAGO CUBS 8, COLORADO 6												
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA	DIFF
Colorado 001 010 031 6 9 0												
Chicago 070 100 00x 8 12 1												

HOUSTON 4, DETROIT 2												
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA	DIFF
Houston 001 021 00x 4 9 0												
Detroit 000 000 101 2 3 0												

CLEVELAND 4, MILWAUKEE 2												
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA	DIFF
Cleveland AB R H BI BB SO Avg.												

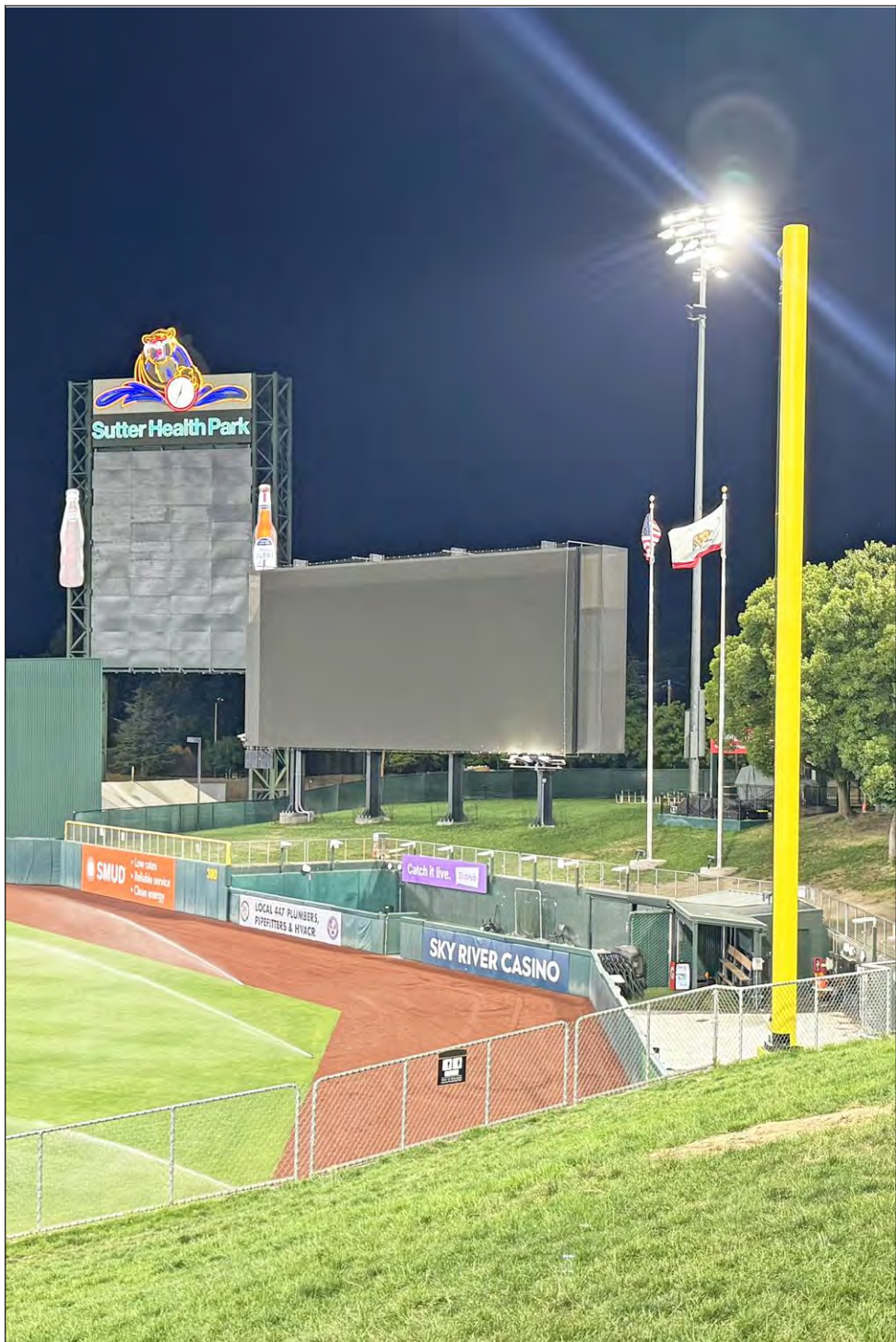
THURSDAY

AMERICAN LEAGUE

CHI. WHITE SOX 5, N.Y. YANKEES 1

	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Meidroth							

Baseball



Park's cozy dimensions draw raves from hitters

PIRATES, FROM B-1

The Pirates made their first and likely only visit to West Sacramento this week. Reviews, both from this reporter and from the Pirates, were surprisingly positive.

"I think they've done a really nice job of being able to transfer this into a big-league-type atmosphere and stadium for these three years that they're going to be here," manager Don Kelly said. "I think it's been good."

An informal survey of the Pirates' clubhouse yielded similar results.

"They actually made this place pretty nice, especially on our end," Mitch Keller said. "It's not a bad ballpark by any means."

"It's a fun place to play," Brandon Lowe said. "Obviously, there's some shadows early, but as a whole, the only thing that stinks is your clubhouse is in left field. That's truly the only thing that I can really say that's not a good thing about this place."

Still, some aspects of the minor league environment were apparent.

The most obvious were the attendance and layout. The A's drew more than 10,000 fans for just one of three games. There are no outfield seats at Sutter Health Park, just a berm extending from right-center field to the foul pole.

The clubhouse location is another. Pirates players routinely had to make the move across the field, either to get to the clubhouse or to stay loose in the batting cage mid-game. In the fifth inning Wednesday, Tyler Callihan, Esmerlyn Valdez and Billy Cook all jogged from left-center, bats and batting gloves in hand.

The most talked-about aspect of the ballpark was the hitter-friendly environment. There were four homers in each game of the series — in part due to a combination of smaller dimensions and dry, hot air.

Pitchers weren't thrilled about it. But the hitters?

Bryan Reynolds talked about it with Kelly after his second homer on Tuesday. "I think I told him, 'This place is awesome,'" Reynolds said, before adding a caveat, "if you're a hitter."

Players were mostly content with the amenities. One



There are no seats in the outfield at Sutter Health Park in West Sacramento, Calif. But the lineups were posted on a whiteboard, and the barbecue was surprisingly good.

Colin Beazley/Post-Gazette photo

complaint was the size of the clubhouse. While the lockers themselves were nice, the space was more cramped than most visiting clubhouses.

One player walked through after a postgame shower and declared, "I hate this clubhouse," though the complaint was almost certainly affected by the media members in his way.

Few would agree it's an ideal situation for the A's, from the controversial move from Oakland to the wait for a ballpark. But it seems West Sacramento is making the best of it.

"For the situation that they're put in, this is a good place to be," Lowe said.

My experience was generally positive. It's a minor league ballpark, but it's a good one.

Like the clubhouse, the press box was tight. The main box was taken up by Athletics employees and data operations folks, so beat writers for both teams were housed in a converted suite. The space was certainly enough for a June series, but if the A's make the postseason, it will be a logistical nightmare.

I was pleasantly surprised by the food options. There's a smokehouse in right field, so I

enjoyed barbecue ribs and mac and cheese at Wednesday's game.

The hospitality was also impressive. Staffers for both the Athletics and the ballpark were friendly and helpful. The locals — from those around the ballpark to an Uber driver who wanted to talk baseball to the cat roaming the concourse postgame Wednesday — seemed genuinely excited to show off Sacramento.

Will the Pirates and I be back?

The Pirates' next road series against the Athletics is in 2028. If all goes to plan, that will be the Athletics' inaugural season in Las Vegas.

Were three games at Sutter Health Park an unforgettable, baseball bucket list experience? Not really. The players agreed with that, too. There's some excitement, both from players and media, to get back to the normalcy of a major league venue in Colorado on Friday.

Yet most seemed to agree it was a better three days than expected. Athletics baseball in West Sacramento isn't an ideal setup for anyone, but they have done well to make a pleasant experience out of a bad situation.

FRIDAY		MOVIES	SPORTS	KIDS	NEWS	TALK		
	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2 KDKA	Sheriff Country "The Hunting Party"		Fire Country "Best Mom in the World"		Boston Blue "Patrol"		News at Eleven (N)	(:35) Comics (N)
4 WTAE	Celebrity Wheel of Fortune Candace Parker		20/20 (N)				Action News 4 (N)	(:35) J. Kimmel
6 WJAC	America's Got Talent "Auditions 3"				Dateline NBC (N)		WJAC News	(:35) J. Fallon
7 WTRF	Sheriff "The Hunting Party"		Fire Country		Boston Blue "Patrol"		7News at (N)	(:35) Comics
8 WWCP	FIFA (N)	FIFA World Cup 2026 Group C: Brazil vs. Haiti (N) (Live)			Paid Prog.		FOX 8	FOX 8 News
9 WTOV	America's Got Talent "Auditions 3"				Dateline NBC (N)		News (N)	(:35) J. Fallon
10 WTAJ	Sheriff "The Hunting Party"		Fire Country		Boston Blue "Patrol"		News (N)	(:35) Comics
11 WPXI	America's Got Talent "Auditions 3"				Dateline NBC (N)		News (Live)	(:35) Tonight Show
13 WQED	Washington Wk (N)	Firing-Hoover (N)	American Experience "George H.W. Bush" President George H.W. Bush's early career.				Black Horizons Special: House of Soul	
16 WINP	(7:30) WNBA Basketball		WNBA-Game		Basketball Minnesota Lynx at Golden State Valkyries (N)			
19 WPKD	Primetime News on KDKA+ (N)		48 Hours "Defending DJ"		News (N)	(:35) Nightly Sports Call	Neighbor	Neighbor
21 WFMJ	America's Got Talent "Auditions 3"				Dateline NBC (N)		News (N)	(:35) J. Fallon
22 WPNT	AVP Beach Volleyball League, Week 4 From Las Vegas. (N) (Live)				Channel 11 News on Fox 53 (N) (Live)		The National News Desk	
27 WKBN	Sheriff "The Hunting Party"		Fire Country		Boston Blue "Patrol"		First News	(:35) Comics
33 WYTV	Celebrity Wheel		20/20 (N)				News Chan.	(:35) J. Kimmel
40 WPCB	Unscripted Faith	RadiantTV	Move Your Mountain		Arlene Williams	Billy Graham	Bible Discovery	Christian World News
43 WUAB	Chicago Fire		19 News at 9 PM		News	(:45) Sports	Chicago Fire	
53 WPGH	FIFA (N) (Live)	FIFA World Cup 2026 Group C: Brazil vs. Haiti Group C. (N) (Live)			The Big Bang Theory		Seinfeld	Seinfeld
59 WEPA	King	King	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	George	George
PREMIUM CABLE								
HBO	Earth, Wind & Fire (To Be Celebrated vs. That's the Weight of the World) (26) Verdine White, Philip Bailey.		Real Time With Mike Pence, Chris Murphy (N)		Bring Me the Beauties "Mind Games"			
HBO/2	Seven Kingdoms	(:40) Seven Kingdoms	(:15) A Knight "The Squire"	(:45) A Knight "Seven"	(:20) Seven Kingdoms "In the Name of the Mother"		(:55) Seven Kingdoms	PIllion (25)
MAX	(:20) Broken City (13) Russell Crowe, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Mark Wahlberg.		(:10) The Post (17) Tom Hanks, Bruce Greenwood, Meryl Streep.					
PARSHO	The Chi	McConaughy, Tom Taylor, Idris Elba.	(:35) Molly's Game (17) Idris Elba, Michael Cera, Jessica Chastain.					
STARZ	Power Book III: Raising Kanan "MANY MEN" (N)	The Listeners (N)	(:45) Power Book III "MANY MEN"		(:40) The Listeners "Episode 2"		(:25) Power Book III	
STARZ-E	(7:10) The Long Walk (25) Cooper Hoffman.	Van Helsing (04) Kate Beckinsale, Richard Roxburgh, Hugh Jackman.			(:10) Baby on Board (08) Jerry O'Connell.			
STZENC	(7:00) I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry (07)	Turbulence (25) Jeremy Irvine, Kelsey Grammer, Hera Hilmar.			(:40) Jaws (75) Robert Shaw, Richard Dreyfuss, Roy Scheider.			
STZ/ENCL	(7:25) Are We Done Yet? (07) Nia Long, Ice Cube.	Poetic Justice (93) Tupac Shakur, Regina King, Janet Jackson.			(:50) New Jersey Drive (95) Gabriel Casseus, Saul Stein, Sharron Corley.			
STZ/ENCW	(:55) Maverick	(:45) Maverick "The Savage Hills"	(:35) Angel and the Badman (47) Gail Russell, Harry Carey, John Wayne.		(:15) Four Fast Guns (59) James Craig.			
STZ/ENSU	(7:30) House of the Rising Sun (11)	Passenger 57 (92) Bruce Payne, Tom Sizemore, Wesley Snipes.			(:25) Takers (10) Paul Walker, Idris Elba, Matt Dillon.			
TMC	Friday the 13th Part VII -- The New Blood (88) Terry Kiser, Lar Park-Lincoln.	Friday the 13th Part VIII: Jason Takes Manhattan (89) Jensen Daggett.			(:15) The Faculty (98) Jordana Brewster.			
BASIC, EXPANDED AND DIGITAL CABLE								
A&E	Crime in Progress "Manhunt in Georgia"	Crime in Progress "Nowhere to Hide"	Crime in Progress "Twin Baby Abduction"		(:05) Crime-Pr. "Kidnapper's House/Mother's Nightmare.."			
AMC	(:15) Captain America: The Winter Soldier (14) Scarlett Johansson, Samuel L. Jackson, Chris Evans.		(:15) The Equalizer 2 (18) Denzel Washington.					
ANIM	Treehouse Masters	Treehouse Masters	Treehouse Masters		Treehouse Masters			
ATSP	Pirates (N)	MLB Baseball Pittsburgh Pirates at Colorado Rockies (N) (Live)			Pirates (N)			
BBC	Law & Order "Sanctuary"	Law & Order "Nurture"	Law & Order "Doubles"		Law & Order "Old Friends"			
BET	Movie	Barbershop (02) Anthony Anderson, Cedric the Entertainer, Ice Cube.			Movie			
BRAVO	The Gilgo Beach "Monster Among Us" (N)	(:15) The Gilgo Beach Killer: House of Secrets "House of Secrets" (N)			(:40) The Gilgo Beach Killer: House of Secrets "The Good Wife" (N)			
CMT	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Golden Girls	Golden Girls
CNBC	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank		Shark Tank			
CNN	Cooper 360 (N) (Live)	The Source With (N) (Live)	The Source With (N) (Live)		The Source With (N) (Live)		Laura Coates Live (N) (Live)	
COM	The Office	The Office	The Office		The Office		Step Brothers (08)	
C-SPAN	C-SPAN Primetime				Ceasfire		C-SPAN Primetime	
DEST	Island Life	Island Life	Island Life	Island Life	Island Life	Island Life	Island Life	Island Life
DFC	Island "Big Time in Fiji"	Island Hunters	Island Hunters	Island Hunters	Island Hunters	Island Hunters	Island Hunters	Island Hunters
DIS	Toy Story 4 (19) Voices of Tim Allen, Annie Potts, Tom Hanks.	(:45) ZOMBIES	(:10) ZOMBIES	(:35) ZOMBIES	Ladybug "Yaksi Gozen"	Ladybug "Grendiaper"		
DSC	Deadliest Catch "Wrong Side of the Law" (N)	The Last Woodsmen "Taking on Water" (N)			Deadliest Catch "Curse of Adak Island"	Deadliest Catch "Super El Niño"		
DSC/INV	People Magazine "Who Killed Our Girls?"	Big Girls Wanted "The Mirage"			Big Girls Wanted "Feeding the Fantasy"	Big Girls Wanted "The Cost of Curves"		
E!	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Sully (P)	
ESPN	(7:00) Banana Ball	ESPN Films (N)			SportsCenter (N) (Live)	SportsCenter (N) (Live)		
ESPN2	College Basketball Texas A&M at Arkansas From Bud Walton Arena in Fayetteville, Ark.				College Basketball Texas at Arkansas From Bud Walton Arena in Fayetteville, Ark.			
ESPN2	Women's Sports Now	AUSL Oklahoma City Spark at Portland Cascade (N) (Live)			ESPN Films (N)			
EWTN	EWTN News In-Depth (N)	EWTN News	Rosary (N)	Life/Rock	Icons	Women of Rites		
FNC	Jesse Watters (N) (Live)	Hannity (N) (Live)	Gutfeld! (N)			Fox News (N) (Live)		
FOOD	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Food Network's "Brunch"	Diners	Diners	
FREE FRM	The Little Mermaid (23) Jonah Hauer-King, Daveed Diggs, Halle Bailey.				The 700 Club			
FS1	(7:00) NASCAR Navy 250 (N) (Live)		Travis	TMZ Sports	FIFA (N)	FIFA World Cup 2026		
FX	Jungle Cruise (21) Emily Blunt, Edgar Ramirez, Dwayne Johnson. A skipper guides a researcher down the Amazon to find a tree that has the power to heal.				Miracle (04) Patricia Clarkson, Kurt Russell.			
FXX	Family Guy "#JOLO"	Family Guy "Once Bitten"	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy "Guy Robot"
GOLF	(7:30) Live From the U.S. Open (N) (Live)		Live From the U.S. Open					U.S. Open
GSN	The Wall "Chris and Katie"	Press Your Luck	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud
HALL	Single on the 25th (25) Lyndsy Fonseca.		Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls
HGTV	Dream Home	Dream Home	Zillow (N)	Hunters (N)	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters
HIST	The Clash of Nations: Joe Louis vs. Max Schmeling (N)		(:05) Jim Thorpe: Lit by Lightning					
IFC	(:45) Pretty in Pink	(:45) Sixteen Candles (84) Anthony Michael Hall, Michael Schoeffling, Molly Ringwald.			(:45) Dirty Dancing (87) Patrick Swayze, Jerry Orbach, Jennifer Grey.			
LIFE	NCIS "Missing" (N)	NCIS "Split Decision" (N)	(:05) NCIS "The Weak Link" (N)		(:05) NCIS "Reveille" (N)			
MSNBC	All in With Chr. (N) (Live)	Hope Comes (N) (P)			The 11th (N) (Live)			
MTV	(7:00) Pitch Perfect (12)		Pitch Perfect 2 (15) Rebel Wilson, Hailee Steinfeld, Anna Kendrick.					
NBTV	Draft	Playoff Playback			Draft			
NGEO	David "SE Asia"	David "India"	(:55) David	(:45) David "South Africa"	(:40) David			
NICK	(7:00) Despicable Me 2 (13) Steve Carell.	Friends	Friends	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory
NWSN	Cuomo (N)	On Balance (N)			Katie Pavlich Tonight (N)	Jesse Weber Live (N)		
OWN	Belle Collective "Mother-in-Law and Order" (N)	Heart & Hustle: Houston "Friends & Frenemies"	Heart & Hustle: Houston "Lines in the Sand"		Belle Collective "Mother-in-Law and Order"			
OXYGEN	Snapped "Patricia Brown"	Snapped "Dephne Wright"	Snapped "Patty James"		Snapped "Karen Coleman"			
PARMT	Dutton "Den of Sin" (N)	(:55) Dutton	(:50) The Departed (06) Matt Damon, Leonardo DiCaprio.					
PCNC	J. Bettis	Channel 11	Channel 11	Channel 11	Forensic (N)	Forensic	News	Channel 11
SC	Mysteries "The Wright Brothers: Cleared for Take.."	Mysteries of			Mysteries (N) "Oklahoma's Toxic Ghost Town"	Mysteries "Pullman, Chicago: The Town That Pa.."		
SYFY	(6:30) Red (10) Morgan Freeman, Bruce Willis.	Red 2 (13) John Malkovich, Mary-Louise Parker, Bruce Willis.			Red (10)			
TBS	Beetlejuice Beetlejuice (24) Winona Ryder, Catherine O'Hara, Michael Keaton. (P)		(:05) We're the Millers (13) Jason Sudeikis, Will Poulter, Jennifer Aniston.					
TCM	(:45) Zou Zou (34) Jean Gabin, Yvette Lebon, Josephine Baker.	(:45) Song of Freedom (36) Elisabeth Welch, Paul Robeson.			(:15) A Raisin in the Sun (61) Sidney Poitier.			
TLC	90 Day "More to Love: When Two Worlds Collide" (N)		90 Day (N)	90 Day: The Last Resort	90 Day			
TNT	I, Robot (04) Bridget Moynahan, Bruce Greenwood, Will Smith. A homicide detective (Will Smith) tracks a dangerous robot in 2035.		Godzilla vs. Kong (21) Millie Bobby Brown, Rebecca Hall, Alexander Skarsgård.					
TOON	Burgers	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Rick Morty	Rick Morty	Rick Morty
TRAV	The Dead Files	The Dead Files	The Dead Files		The Dead Files			
TRUTV	Savannah	Banana Ball Party Animals vs. Texas Tailgaters (N) (Live)			Wimbledon (04) Kirsten Dunst.			
TVL	(:10) Raymond	(:45) Raymond	(:20) Raymond "The Author"	(:55) Raymond	Raymond	King	King	King
USA	WWE Friday Night SmackDown Superstars of World Wrestling Entertainment display their skills as rivalries play out in the ring. (N) (Live)				Everything on (N)	Everything on		
VH1	Good Burger (97) Kenan Thompson, Kel Mitchell.		Scary Movie Marlon Wayans, Shawn Wayans.					
WE	Love After "Double Release Trouble" (N)	Poly "Big Swing Energy" (N)	Love After "Double Release Trouble"					

Peanuts

By Charles Schulz



Mutts

By Patrick McDonnell



Doonesbury

By Garry Trudeau



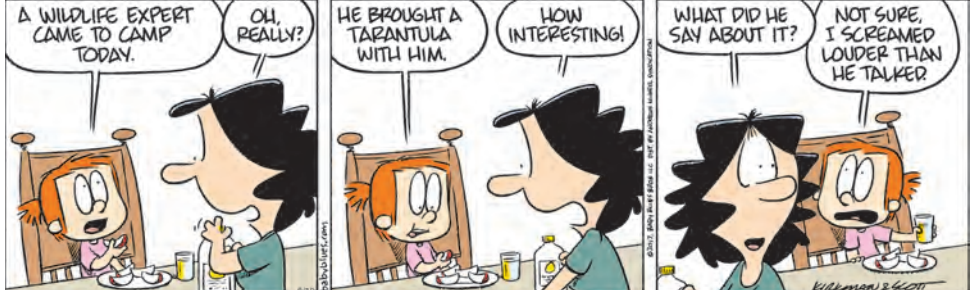
Zits

By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



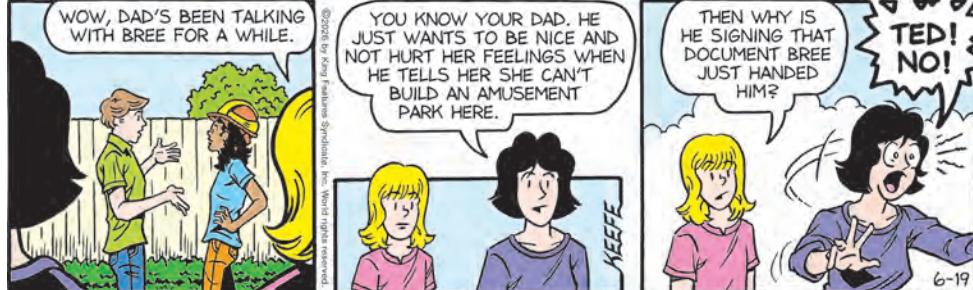
Baby Blues

By Jerry Scott and Rick Kirkman



Sally Forth

By Francesco Marciuliano and Jim Keefe



Blondie

By Dean Young and John Marshall



Carpe Diem

By Niklas Eriksson



Beetle Bailey

By Greg, Brian and Neal Walker



Curtis

By Ray Billingsley



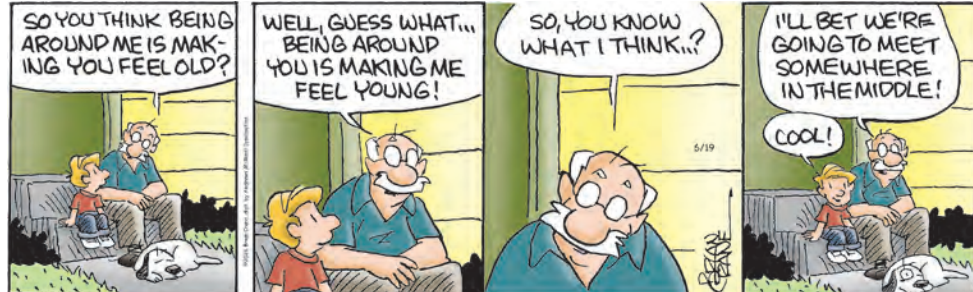
Dustin

By Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Pickles

By Brian Crane



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Born Loser

By Art and Chip Sansom



For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



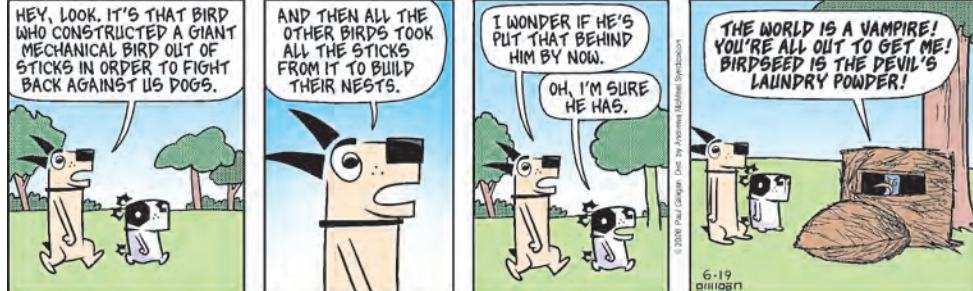
Rhymes With Orange

By Hilary Price and Rina Piccolo



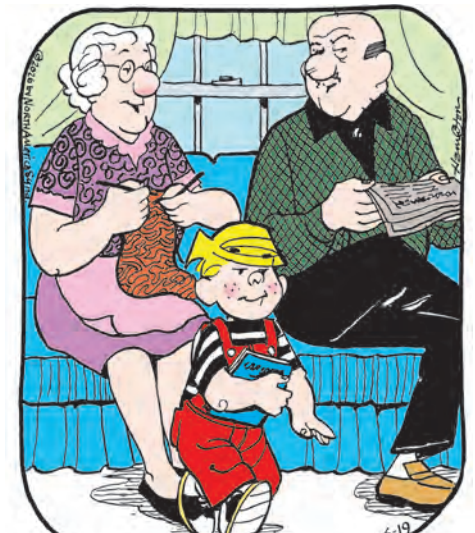
Pooch Cafe

By Paul Gilligan



Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham



The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



Bizarro

By Wayno and Piraro



Non Sequitur

By Wiley Miller



"JUST THINK WHAT DENNIS HAS ADDED TO YOUR LIFE, GEORGE."

"GIMME A MINUTE... I'M STILL THINKING!"

He gives shorter timeouts than Mommy.

Wiley Miller 6-19

WILEY MILLER 6-19

Friday PUZZLES, HOROSCOPE AND BRIDGE

Cryptoquip

AILIMOMBI NCUO AUOMUBM
FGU BMRMC AICQRMA IU
WU LBPIGQBK NYLFYMAAYP:
“Q GLRM BU QWMLY.”

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals V

Solution for previous Cryptoquip: Supposing some trees went to a pool party, do you think they would wear swimming trunks?

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words, and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.
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Ken Ken

5-	20X		3+		72X
		40X	2-	2÷	14+
3					
			4-	15X	
	2÷	2÷			12X
			5-		

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3	4	5	2	6	1
5	2	3	1	4	6
6	3	4	5	1	2
4	5	1	6	2	3
1	6	2	4	3	5
2	1	6	3	5	4

Directions: Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 6 without repeating. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners. Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

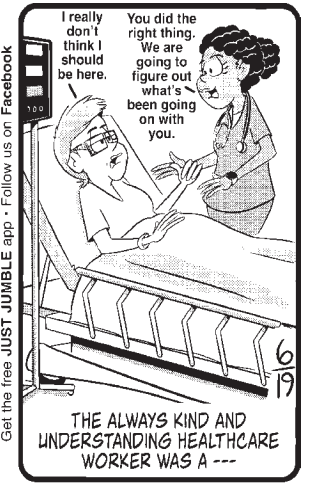
Previous solution

Jumble

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

UTNTS
PIVRE
NTIBDA
STTCEU

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THE ALWAYS KIND AND UNDERSTANDING HEALTHCARE WORKER WAS A ---

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

Sudoku

DAVE GREEN

						9	4	
				6	9	5		
7	2							
		4				6		
6	2	4						
3							1	
9			4	6		2	3	
		8			6			
8	2		3	1	9			

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

Difficulty: ★★★

5	4	6	2	8	7	9	3	1
2	7	9	6	3	1	5	8	4
8	3	1	9	5	4	2	6	7
9	8	2	1	4	6	7	5	3
4	1	3	5	7	9	8	2	6
7	6	5	3	2	8	1	4	9
3	2	4	7	9	5	6	1	8
1	9	8	4	6	2	3	7	5
6	5	7	8	1	3	4	9	2

Horoscope

GEORGIA NICOLS

Friday, June 19, 2026

The following astrological forecasts should be read for entertainment value only. These predictions have no reliable basis in scientific fact.

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping (except for food and gas) and important decisions from 7 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. EDT today (4 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. PDT). After that, the Moon moves from LEO into VIRGO.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ☆☆☆☆ Pet owners should be extra vigilant today because something unexpected could impact your pet, and it might possibly be an accident. Meanwhile, today your work routine will likely be interrupted. Give yourself extra time so you have wiggle room to deal with the unexpected. Stay sharp! Today: Get organized.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ☆☆☆☆ Parents should keep an eye on their kids today because this is an accident-prone day for your kids. Toddlers especially need to be protected from hazardous situations. Meanwhile, social plans might be canceled. Alternatively, a surprise invitation might come your way. Today: Socialize.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ☆☆☆☆ Your home routine might be interrupted today. Small appliances might break down or a minor breakage could occur. Someone unexpected might

knock at your door. Stock the fridge so you're ready for anything. (Ah yes, food soothes the savage beast.) Today: Relax at home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ☆☆☆☆ Pay attention to everything you say and do because this is a mildly accident-prone day for you. Therefore, be smart and think before you speak or act. If you jog or you're out walking, be alert. On the upside, you might dream up genius-like ideas. Who knew? Today: Conversations.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ☆☆☆☆ Keep an eye on your money and your possessions today to protect yourself from loss, theft or damage. Meanwhile, you might find money. Yes, you might lose money. A friend or a member of a group might surprise you. Today: Maintain your possessions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ☆☆☆☆ Today the Moon is in your sign; however, it is at odds with wild, unpredictable Uranus, which means you might be hasty to jump to conclusions. You also might choose to do the opposite of what anyone suggests because you feel impatient and independent. Really? Today: You win!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ☆☆☆☆ Today you might feel unsettled or restless in a strange way. This is because the Moon is hiding in your chart, and yet it is challenged by unpredictable Uranus. This combo will trigger an emotional unrest within you. Don't worry, because it's a fleeting influence. Hang tight. Today: Enjoy privacy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ☆☆☆☆ A friend or a member of a group might do something

that catches you off guard today. You might even feel offended. Be aware that a disruptive influence exists today, but it's brief and then it's gone. Pool! Don't overreact. Don't take things personally. Be friendly to an unusual encounter. Today: Be friendly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ☆☆☆☆ This is not the day to cross swords with authority figures — bosses, parents, teachers, VIPs or the police. You might attempt to do so because you want to feel liberated. (Today, this is the wrong call.) Channel your rebellious independence elsewhere so you'll have no regrets. Today: You're admired.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ☆☆☆☆ Travel plans might suddenly change today. Or, alternatively, you might suddenly have to travel when you did not expect to do so. Likewise, news in the media might surprise you. School schedules also might change or confuse you for some reason. Slow down and take it easy. Today: Explore and learn!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ☆☆☆☆ Double-check banking details because something related to your financial assets (including bank accounts) might have a glitch today. Stay on top of things so you don't overlook anything. "Nobody expects the Spanish Inquisition!" Today: Check your finances.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ☆☆☆☆ Relations with friends, partners and even members of the general public might hold a few surprises today because people are unpredictable. Everyone is impatient with restraints, duties and responsibilities. This is because people feel a strong need to be free and do their own thing today. Today: Cooperate.

Contract Bridge

STEVE BECKER

Bidding quiz
You are South, and the bidding has gone:
West North East South
1♦ Dble Pass ?
What would you bid with each of the following five hands?
1. ♠85 ♥K8743 ♦43 ♣AQ72
2. ♠109 ♥J82 ♦KJ94 ♣AQ53
3. ♠J642 ♥754 ♦83 ♣KQ107
4. ♠Q3 ♥AQ9743 ♦7 ♣Q842
5. ♠J853 ♥A96 ♦A42 ♣KQ6

1. Two hearts. Partner's double indicates the values for at least an opening bid and also implies good support for the unbid suits. Because you are required to answer the double regardless of the strength of your hand, you must distinguish between a forced response based on possibly no high-card points, and one where you hold

values that could potentially produce a game.
In general, you respond by bidding the cheapest amount of your longest suit with zero to eight points; jump to the next level (as in the present case) with nine to 11; and leap to game or cuebid the opponents' suit with 12 or more points. The single jump-response is highly invitational but not forcing.
2. Two notrump. This hand also has game potential — you have 11 points and might have had none — so again you make a jump-response. The only genuine suit you could have bid was clubs, but there's not much point in aiming for an 11-trick game when a nine-trick game offers better prospects. True, you lack strength in spades and hearts, but partner is virtually certain to have both suits well covered.
3. One spade. There's little hope for game unless partner bids again, so all you can do for the moment is bid one spade. Note that you respond in spades rather than clubs

even though the clubs are much stronger. If there is a game, it is much more likely to be in spades than clubs.
4. Four hearts. The short route to game is the best route. You should expect to make at least 10 tricks, and the simplest way to express that conviction is to leap directly to game.
5. Two diamonds. Since you have an opening bid and partner has the equivalent of one, you should assume that your side can make a game. However, a jump to three notrump is risky with only one diamond stopper, and so is a jump to four spades with such a shabby suit.
You can best show your strength, and at the same time your uncertainty about where to play the hand, by cuebidding West's suit, and partner's response will very likely help you find the best final contract. There is no good reason to make the decision unilaterally when you have a partner who can light the way.

Joseph Crossword

ACROSS

- Moisten while roasting
- Deadly
- Greek vowel
- Curaçao's neighbor
- Will names
- Ready for bed
- Brooklyn team
- Crumb carriers
- Muscle quality
- "The King —"
- Paris pal
- Pajama material
- Juicy fruit
- Skater Fleming
- Captivate
- Campaign pro
- Bulldog's school
- Misplace
- Sound of agony

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		
45								46		

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| 36 Asian language | 44 Stylishly quaint | 18 Unexciting |
| 38 Rainy month | 45 Newark's county | 19 Mideast |
| 40 Personal | 46 School paper | sultanate |
| 43 Cost as much | | 21 Snoozes |

U	T	A	H		A	F	F	A	I	R
R	O	B	E		L	I	O	T	T	A
S	O	U	L		E	G	R	E	S	S
A	N	G	L	I	C	A	N			
		S	O	S		R	O	I	L	S
W	E	L	S	H		O	W	N	U	P
A	L	I						S	C	I
L	I	F	T	S		A	P	I	A	N
L	O	E	W	E		R	I	D		
				O	V	E	R	S	E	E
T	R	A	C	E	R		C	O	C	O
S	A	F	A	R	I		E	U	R	O
E	N	T	R	E	E		S	T	U	N

DOWN

- Derisive cry
- Hearty quaff
- Raconteur's specialty
- First odd prime
- Compass point
- Diet no-no
- Daughter of Minos
- Decisive moments
- Aid illegally
- Young fellows
- Mineo of movies
- Ninny
- They may clash
- Singer Lovett
- Coarse-grained rock
- Filming site
- Highway
- Divisions
- Foal's mother
- Creative work
- Take on
- Bagel topper
- Pitching number
- Singer Orbison

The New York Times Crossword

No. 0515

ACROSS

- To the ___ (as much as possible)
- Electrifying people, so to speak
- Dog howling at night, maybe
- Vintage bike feature
- Good name for a yoga instructor?
- Hairy get-up
- Wych ___ (tree type)
- Miss Doolittle of "Pygmalion"
- Civil rights activist Williams, an associate of Martin Luther King Jr.
- Splits apart
- Annual coll. basketball competition
- Class for some aspiring bilinguals, in brief
- Led
- Play casually, say
- Like some kitchens
- Harps on
- MacMurray of "Double Indemnity"
- Throw in at the end
- Pulls off
- Jarring film transition to a new scene
- Sired
- Give a hand?
- Language of southern India
- Sierra, e.g.
- "Nasty!"
- Rainwater reservoir
- Duane ___ (New York-based pharmacy chain)

S	C	A	R	P		S	L	I	D		P	S	I
A	L	L	M	E		U	M	A	M		O	H	M
C	O	L	O	R		P	H	O	T	O	S		T
S	T	A	N	D		I	N	G	H		H	M	A
		T	I	T	O		R	O	U	T	E		S
O	N	T	H	E		H	C	A	N	N	O	N	S
D	E	I	S	M		F	I	A	T		I	S	T
D	E	M		S		M	I	T	T	E	N		K
E	D	E	N		A	R	C	O		E	K	I	N
R	E	T	A	I	N	G	H			H	W	I	N
		D	R	A	C	O			D		D		S
R	A	I	N	G		H	P	I	T	C	H	E	R
A	S	A		I		H	E	A	R	T	R	A	D
G	A	L		N		O	R	E		E	R	I	C
U	P	S		G	E	O	S		W	A	T	E	R

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		
42	43	44					45			46			
47							48			49	50		
52							53						54
55													56
57													58

- | | |
|--|--|
| 49 Figures in "Puss in Boots" and "Hop-o'-My-Thumb" | 15 Made hay? |
| 51 Sickly-looking | 19 Uniform |
| 52 "I don't care either way" | 22 Puma rival |
| 54 Magician's accessory | 24 Setting for the graphic novel series "Persepolis" |
| 55 Use of a popular song to make a scene iconic, in film-speak | 27 Transition |
| 56 "Your turn to speak" | 28 Competitor of the early Chevrolet 490 |
| 57 Difficult time for farmers | 30 "Sticks" |
| 58 Hot ___ | 31 Dangerous ocean phenomenon |

DOWN

- Big name in meal prep kits
- "Tell me!"
- Line of attack?
- Cause of a boom
- Material for the blue eyebrows on the mask of Tutankhamen, in brief
- Mother of Don Juan
- Here goes nothing!
- Brian of ambient music
- Part of a bass in a jug band
-
- Get new life out of
- Eponym for a lounge chair
- "I can't believe that price" bargain
- Break the ice?
- Knockouts
- Blind followers, informally
- Friend of Nancy Drew
- Moor
- Daily ___
- Element of a poetry analysis, maybe
- Baseball's Stengel
- Sing like Michael Bublé
- Threads
- Food item whose name comes from the Greek for "turn"
- Occasion that may involve fine china
- Common end to an address

Thursday's Jumble: Digit, Wound, Active, Myself. To see proof that the car hadn't been well-cared-for, they looked at the — "Evi-dents".

AccuWeather
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 for Better Decisions.
 Visit AccuWeather.com
 or get the app.

Weather outlook

Shifting clouds and sun, becoming breezy this afternoon with a passing shower or two. Chance of precipitation 55%. Partly cloudy tonight. Partial sunshine tomorrow. Sunday: mostly cloudy and comfortable. Monday: cloudy with a couple of showers and a thunderstorm. Chance of precipitation 90%.

Today

75
55

A shower or two in the afternoon; breezy. Winds W at 7-14 mph.

A.M. RUSH **58**
 LUNCH **71**
 RUSH **74**

Tomorrow

75
57

Partial sunshine. Winds WNW at 7-14 mph.

Sunday

78
61

Mostly cloudy and comfortable. Winds W at 4-8 mph.

Monday

73
56

Cloudy with a shower and thunderstorm. Winds N at 8-16 mph.

Tuesday

77
58

Partly sunny, pleasant and less humid. Winds NW at 6-12 mph.

Nation Cities

	Today	Tomorrow
	Hi/Lo W	Hi/Lo W
Albany	77/59 pc	75/54 pc
Albuquerque	96/70 pc	98/65 pc
Allentown	81/59 pc	80/55 s
Anchorage	71/53 pc	67/51 pc
Atlanta	85/70 t	86/71 pc
Atlantic City	79/67 t	84/66 s
Baltimore	84/62 t	85/61 pc
Birmingham	85/70 t	83/72 pc
Boise	95/67 pc	87/59 pc
Boston	82/65 pc	79/62 pc
Buffalo	69/54 sh	71/56 t
Charleston, S.C.	89/74 t	91/71 pc
Charleston, W.Va.	79/56 pc	79/61 pc
Charlotte	88/66 t	87/68 s
Chicago	78/61 s	80/62 s
Cincinnati	77/58 pc	79/63 pc
Cleveland	76/55 sh	75/58 t
Columbus	78/56 pc	78/58 pc
Dallas	87/74 t	89/78 t
Dayton	77/59 pc	79/60 pc
Denver	86/56 s	90/57 pc
Des Moines	79/61 pc	82/63 pc
Detroit	76/55 pc	76/56 t
Erie	72/57 sh	71/57 t
Fairbanks	82/56 pc	81/57 c
Grand Rapids	73/55 pc	74/53 pc
Greensboro	88/62 t	86/64 s
Hartford	82/60 pc	78/58 pc
Harrisburg	82/61 pc	82/60 pc
Honolulu	88/74 s	89/74 sh
Houston	92/80 t	90/80 t
Indianapolis	78/60 s	80/62 pc
Jackson, Miss.	88/74 t	83/74 c
Kansas City	85/66 s	83/69 pc
Las Vegas	103/77 s	103/78 t
Los Angeles	75/60 pc	74/60 pc
Louisville	83/64 pc	85/65 s
Memphis	84/69 pc	84/72 pc
Miami	93/80 t	92/77 t
Milwaukee	76/60 pc	75/59 pc
Minneapolis	73/54 t	75/57 pc
Myrtle Beach	87/73 t	87/71 pc
Nashville	85/64 c	87/66 pc
New Orleans	94/79 t	90/78 t
New York City	82/64 pc	80/63 s
Norfolk	79/69 t	85/68 s
Oklahoma City	84/70 t	89/73 pc
Omaha	83/63 sh	85/63 pc
Orlando	94/75 t	90/74 t
Philadelphia	83/66 pc	83/64 s
Phoenix	106/80 s	106/81 s
Portland, Maine	79/59 pc	73/56 pc
Portland, Ore.	88/56 s	78/54 pc
Providence	82/63 pc	81/61 s
Richmond	83/62 t	88/63 s
Sacramento	80/54 pc	86/55 s
St. Louis	84/68 s	87/68 pc
Salt Lake City	97/72 pc	88/62 pc
San Diego	72/63 pc	72/65 pc
San Francisco	71/58 pc	70/56 pc
San Juan	90/78 pc	89/78 t
Seattle	82/54 s	74/53 pc
Spokane	83/58 s	85/54 s
Syracuse	75/58 sh	73/53 t
Tampa	92/80 t	92/80 t
Toledo	77/54 sh	79/55 t
Tucson	101/70 s	102/72 s
Washington, D.C.	85/66 t	86/67 s
Wheeling	74/54 pc	76/57 sh
Wilmington, Del.	82/62 pc	84/61 s

Yesterday's Record

Readings from the Pittsburgh Int'l. Airport through 5 p.m. June 18, 2026

TEMPERATURE

High	80
Normal high	80
Year ago	85
Record high	97 (1994)
Low	67
Normal low	60
Year ago	69
Record low	43 (1999)

DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL

Yesterday	+3.3
Month to date	+1.9
Year to date	+1.2

HUMIDITY

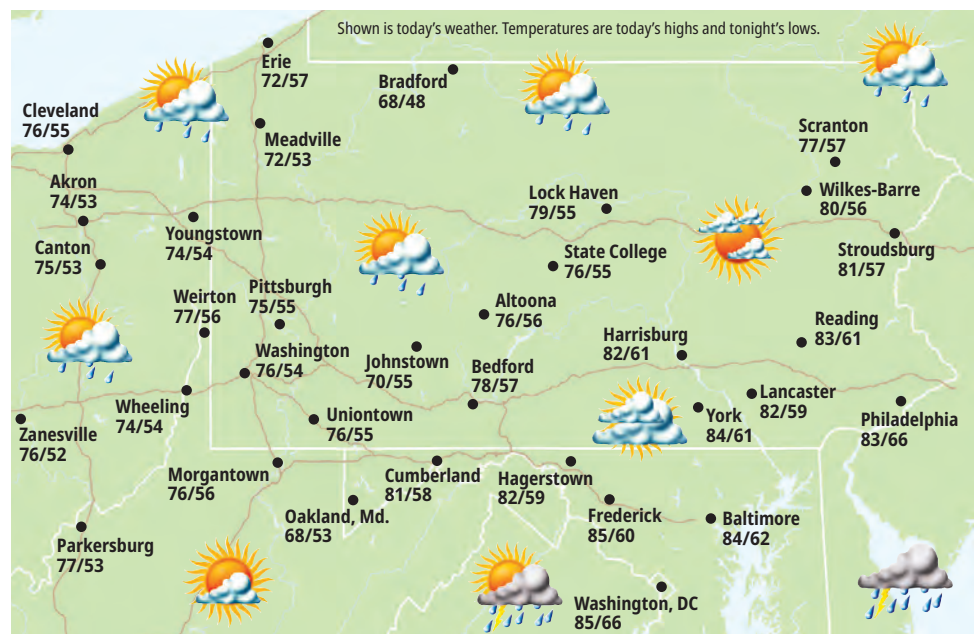
High	84 (at 1 a.m.)
Low	46 (at 1 p.m.)

PRECIPITATION (inches)

24 hours ending 5 p.m. yest.	0.06
Month to date	1.13
Normal month to date	2.42
Departure from normal	-1.29
Year to date	19.37
Normal year to date	18.30
Departure from normal	+1.07

BAROMETER

Yesterday's high	29.65
Yesterday's low	29.51

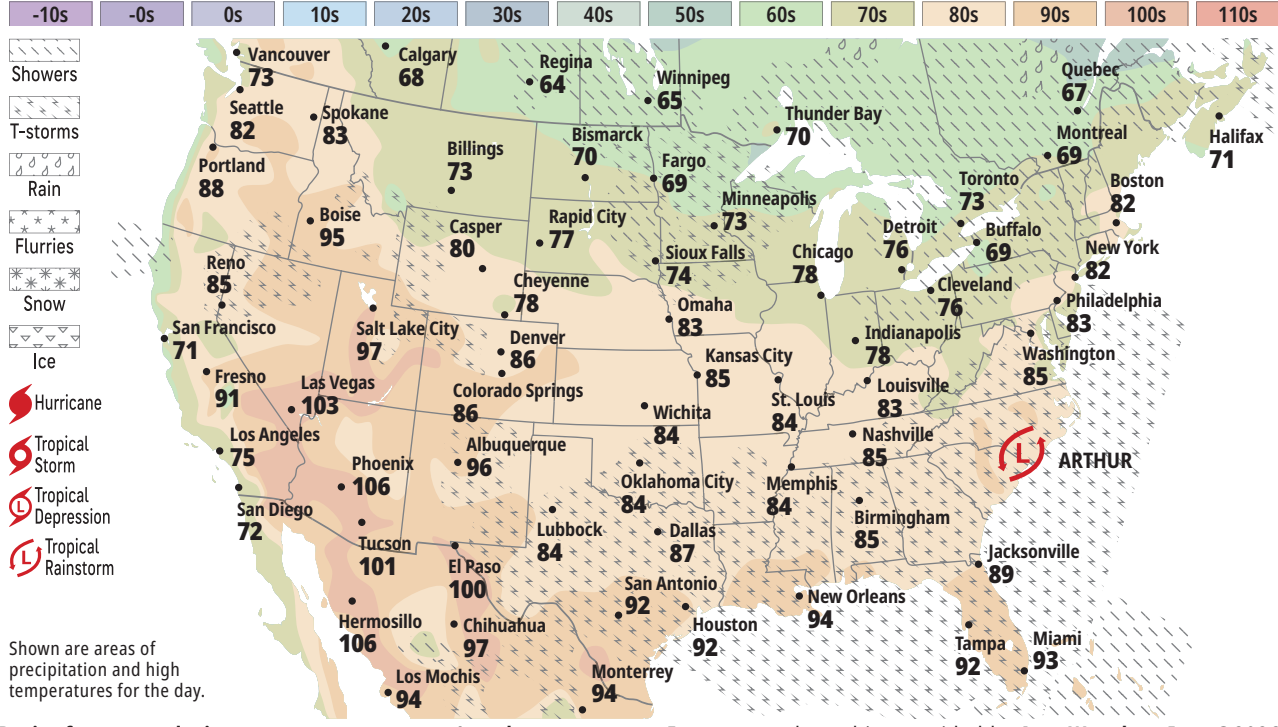


Skywatch today

Sunrise 5:50 a.m.
 Sunset 8:54 p.m.
 Moonrise 11:01 a.m.
 Moonset 12:07 a.m.

Air Quality

Primary pollutant: Ozone
 0-50: Good, 51-100: Moderate, 101-150: Unhealthy for sensitive groups, 151-200: Unhealthy, 201-300: Very Unhealthy, 301-500: Hazardous
 Source: Pa. Dept. of Environmental Protection



River Stages

ALLEGHENY

Franklin, Pa.	3.75 F
Parker, Pa.	2.92 F
Sharpsburg, Pa.	10.65 F

MONONGAHELA

Gray's Landing, Pa.	11.22 F
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CHEAT

Parsons, W.Va.	3.90 F
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WEST FORK

Clarksburg, W.Va.	1.80 F
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YOUIGHOGENY

Sutersville, Pa.	3.78 F
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BEAVER

Beaver Falls, Pa.	5.02 F
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OHIO

Pittsburgh, Pa.	16.40 R
Dashields Dam	14.62 F
Montgomery Dam, Pa.	12.37 R
Pike Is. Lock and Dam, W.Va.	14.01 F

F-Falling; M-Missing; P-Pool; R-Rising; S-Stationary

Moon Phases



World Cities

	Today	Tomorrow
	Hi/Lo W	Hi/Lo W
Athens	87/67 s	87/70 s
Auckland	61/45 s	61/53 c
Baghdad	117/87 s	118/87 s
Beijing	80/70 t	86/57 t
Berlin	93/68 pc	91/67 t
Bermuda	84/75 s	82/76 sh
Bogota	66/49 pc	66/48 pc
Buenos Aires	59/45 pc	59/47 pc
Cairo	93/72 pc	94/73 pc
Copenhagen	75/63 s	78/60 t
Dublin	67/51 sh	68/49 c
Frankfurt	98/68 c	97/71 s
Hong Kong	90/83 r	92/83 t
Jerusalem	81/64 s	84/65 s
Johannesburg	61/41 pc	60/41 pc
Kinshasa	84/71 pc	88/72 pc
London	85/63 s	81/63 pc
Madrid	97/65 pc	100/69 c
Manila	95/81 t	96/82 t
Mexico City	76/58 r	77/58 c
Montreal	69/58 sh	68/58 sh
Moscow	69/54 c	68/51 sh
Nairobi	74/58 c	72/57 sh
Nassau	90/80 s	90/78 s
New Delhi	101/85 s	103/85 s
Oslo	73/61 pc	74/54 r
Paris	99/66 s	95/69 t
Rio de Janeiro	75/64 pc	78/68 pc
Rome	90/67 s	90/67 s
Seoul	91/71 c	75/67 sh
Singapore	88/78 r	88/78 pc
Sydney	68/56 c	70/50 s
Tokyo	82/70 pc	74/69 t
Toronto	73/55 sh	72/54 t
Vancouver	73/55 s	70/55 s
Vienna	92/66 s	94/69 t
Warsaw	80/60 pc	89/66 t

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

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LIVE ONSITE AUCTION W/ ONLINE BIDDING
 Saturday July 11th, 2026 at 11:00 AM

Auction & Preview Location: The Atwood Yacht Club - 2637 Lodge Rd SW, Sherrodsville, OH 44675
 Preview: Thursday June 18th - 5:00 to 7:00 PM

Register and bid at WWW.KAUFMANAUCTIONS.COM
 Kaufman Realty & Auctions 330-852-4111
 Curt Yoder 330-204-2447

Lost



Monroeville Valley Farm Seeking photos of the Monroeville Valley farm (aka Murrysville) in my mother's pastel from 1964. Rendered from our Shangri-La home on Mountain View Dr, the valley was developed into McClure Rd and Wiltshire Circle in the 70s. Was it originally Greer Farm, as seen in the old county map in my online version of this ad, or that of another family-- MAURO, Beggy, Bender, Betty & Harry Smith, Johnston, McClure, Rose, Deakins, Creighton, Fitzsimmons, Swanger, Elliott, Phillips, Aber, Myers, Knipp, Gibson, Sands, Duer, Keppelman, Haberstroh? The original pastel by Barbara Boyd Carter (1932-2019) is on view at the Monroeville Historical Society. Contact: Debbie Carter, villagerexpat@aol.com 212-925-3721, landline, no texts

Lost



Seeking photos of the former Bailey-Farrell mansion/College Club for Women, 143 No. Craig St., next to St. Paul's Cathedral. Demolished in 1959, it was purchased by the College Club in 1920 for \$48,000 from the estate of John Farrell/Harriet Bailey but fell into disrepair when a new clubhouse was built, as you can see in my mother's painting and in the Clyde Hare photo from 1953, posted online. My mother, Barbara Boyd Carter (1932-2019), rendered this as an art student at Carnegie Tech in the early 50s when she studied with Warhol's teachers. Debbie Carter, villagerexpat@aol.com 646-284-7074

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