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Alexandra Wimley/Post-Gazette

Workers begin the cleanup effort on Sunday after the conclusion of the NFL Draft, as the draft clock displays a message thanking the city, on the North Shore.

D.C. GALA SHOOTING SUSPECT RAILED AGAINST POLICIES

Referred to himself as a 'Federal Assassin'

By Eric Tucker, Alanna Durkin Richer and Michael Balsamo
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The man accused of opening fire at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner railed against Trump administration policies and referred to himself as a "Friendly Federal Assassin" in writings sent to family members minutes before an attack that authorities increasingly believe was politically motivated, according to a message reviewed by The Associated Press.

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Sen. Thom Tillis said he's ready to confirm Kevin Warsh as Fed chair, A-7

The writings, sent shortly before shots were fired Saturday night at the Washington Hilton, made repeated references to President Donald Trump without naming him directly and alluded to grievances over a range of administration actions, including U.S. strikes on boats accused of smuggling drugs in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

Investigators are treating the writings, along with a trail of social media posts and interviews with family members, as some of the clearest evidence yet of the suspect's mindset and possible motives.

Authorities uncovered what one law enforcement official described as numerous anti-Trump social media posts linked to the suspect, Cole Tomas Allen, a 31-year-old California man accused of trying to breach a security checkpoint at the dinner while armed with multiple guns and knives.

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DRAFT HIGHS AND LOWS

Despite high attendance, many small businesses lost customers

By Hallie Lauer
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Pittsburgh's NFL Draft hosted record-breaking crowds over the three-day event, but many local small businesses said their sales were lower than ever.

Over the three days, about 805,000 people attended the event, according to the NFL, and while many vendors were happy their city was in the national spotlight, many were disappointed that sales were lower



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than they had anticipated.

The NFL's count of people is an aggregate, so if one person attended all three days, they would be counted three times. Thursday's attendance totaled about 320,000 — a record-setting sin-

gle-day count, per the NFL.

But many local businesses didn't benefit from those high numbers.

Rainy Leonor-Lake, the founder of Minimo, a custom jewelry store, had paid to set up a vendor table outside Downtown's Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh hotel, hoping to capitalize on the foot traffic headed into Point State Park. That is, until the NFL set up barricades blocking people from the sidewalk where she and other vendors were located.

"It was awful," she said of the weekend. "People were focused on getting to the Point."

Her sales were down so much, she said, that the Wyndham Grand let her set up her vendor table again Sunday, free of charge.

Emily Thornton, one of the owners of 1:11 Juice Bar, posted on social media that despite being set up right in Market Square, the business had 800 bottles of juice left.

SEE DRAFT, PAGE A-2

Football allowed city to show its best side

By Noah Hiles
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Growing up, my family often hosted holiday and or celebratory gatherings. Those dinners and parties produced plenty of special moments, but one of the things I remember most from those days was the chaos that ensued before our company would arrive.

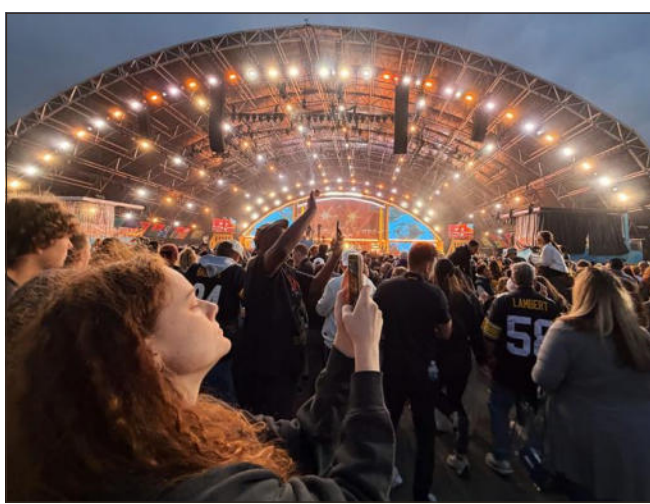
My mother was always on the move, rushing from room to room to ensure everything was clean and accommodating. My father, meanwhile, often handled coordinating

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the food and entertainment, so our guests would have an enjoyable experience. My sister and I were their personal assistants, constantly on call to provide help wherever and whenever it was needed.

At times, it was stressful. We regularly had to adjust and adapt to some minor inconveniences along the way. But in the end, it was worth it.

SEE HILES, PAGE A-2



Justin Guido/Post-Gazette

A fan takes a picture of the screen as country star Kane Brown performs on Day 3 to close out the NFL Draft at Acrisure Stadium on Saturday.

WAR IN THE MIDEAST

Pakistan attempts to reignite negotiations

By Munir Ahmed, Samy Magdy and Melanie Lidman
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Iran's foreign minister briefly visited Islamabad again on Sunday as Pakistan's political and military leadership scrambled to reignite ceasefire negotiations between Tehran and Washington, but President Donald Trump said they could talk by phone instead.

Abbas Araghchi had left Pakistan's capital late the previous day, creating confusion around an expected second round of talks there, but he returned before continuing on to Moscow on Sunday, Iranian state media said. He had been in Oman, which previously mediated talks and is on the other side of the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

The White House last week said it would dispatch envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner to Islamabad to follow up on historic face-to-face talks earlier this month. But shortly after Mr. Araghchi's departure Saturday, Trump said he had called off the mission because of a lack of progress with Iran.

SEE IRAN, PAGE A-9

Local groups boost aid to Cuban sister city

U.S.-imposed oil blockade is putting stress on country's hospitals and schools

By Lindsay Shachnow
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Angela J. Garcia knew things were different when she landed in Cuba in February.

A stench hung in the air, and she recalled seeing smoldering material everywhere.

With little access to fuel for

garbage trucks, pickup had been put on hold, forcing people to burn their trash. And some people were cooking outside over open fires, she said.

Blackouts have been rampant in Cuba amid an oil blockade imposed by the Trump administration in January. Without power, residents have faced difficulty

in preventing food from spoiling, and schools have struggled to stay open.

The challenges hit every part of life. Daily routines have changed because of little access to public transit, and at hospitals, doctors wash and reuse medical gloves.

"They're embarrassed to say that," said Ms. Garcia, executive director of Global Links, a Pittsburgh-based nonprofit that provides medical supplies to people in Cuba. "They know it's not ideal."

In the months since the fuel shortages began, Pittsburgh-based groups such as Global Links have been increasing efforts to help with supplies such as surgical equipment and wound-care bandages. Global Links has a license that allows it to provide humanitarian aide despite current restrictions.

But it's not enough. Without the proper resources, Ms. Garcia said, doctors have been forced to cancel surgeries.

SEE CUBA, PAGE A-5



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Weather

Partly sunny.
Daytime high, 73;
tonight's low, 54.
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