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‘Restoring safety to our roads’

Transportation secretary releases plan that calls for more self-driving vehicles

By Ed Blazina
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The U.S. Department of Transportation’s updated National Roadway Safety Strategy calls for increased traffic enforcement, cracking down on illegal truck

ministrations often release road-way safety strategies to set their agenda and funding priorities for the next few years.

“The Department is restoring safety to our roads by getting back to basics, including partnering with law enforcement to get dangerous drivers off the road, empowering our state and local partners through grant programs, and educating the public about risky driving behaviors,” Duffy said in a

letter introducing the update. “We are committed to making our roadways safer and bringing down the number of fatalities.

“We will achieve this by ensuring that truck drivers are appropriately licensed and qualified, designing roads that keep us both safe and moving, giving Americans access to affordable vehicles with the latest safety

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WAR IN THE MIDEAST

TRUMP’S GAZA PLAN REJECTED

Netanyahu in talks after proposal was dismissed

The Associated Press

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday dismissed the deal on Gaza announced by Trump last month, saying Israel’s military “will not carry out any withdrawal until Hamas is genuinely disarmed.”

Netanyahu told a Cabinet meeting that “Israel rejects the 15-point document” but is still discussing plans for Gaza with Washington, after making similar comments last week. Trump had said Israeli forces would withdraw as the Hamas militant group’s disarmament is completed. Israeli forces control over half the Palestinian enclave of about 2 million people that’s been largely destroyed.

There was no immediate White House comment on Netanyahu’s statement.

“We remain committed to the road map,” said a member of the Hamas political bureau, Bassem Naim, adding that the group expects mediators and the U.S. to pressure Netanyahu — who also faces domestic tensions as he struggles to hold onto power ahead of the next elections scheduled for Oct. 27.

The Hamas-led attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, sparked the war in Gaza. A fragile ceasefire continues.

INSIDE

Pakistan says new pact with Saudi Arabia and Turkey is “purely defensive,”

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SUPER DAY AT THE WATERFRONT



Giuseppe LoPiccolo/Post-Gazette

Lincoln Walenchok, 3, of Munhall, jumps over small hurdles Sunday at the Superhero Kids Club event at The Waterfront in Homestead. Children got the chance to unleash their inner superheroes during the free family event, featuring a superhero-themed obstacle course, games and giveaways, ice cream, photos with superheroes, face painting, balloon twisting and more. Kids were encouraged to come dressed as their favorite superheroes.

ALTERNATIVE FUNDING

From pancakes to wine, philanthropy takes center stage in supporting municipal services

By Kris B. Mamula
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

PORTAGE, Pa. — Dan Hajduk stood up inside a hot canvas tent Sunday where he was selling his handmade wares: wooden man-gers, which he used to give away to churches, and painted pine boards emblazoned with the American flag.

He reached out an open hand. “You never shake a man’s hand sitting down,” said Hajduk, 70, a coal miner for 27 years who lives in

Cherry Tree, Indiana County. “You just don’t do it.”

Hajduk’s booth was among dozens of Summerfest concessions at the Crichton McCormick Park here, where the Four Tops’ 1966 hit “Baby I Need Your Loving” blared from a pavilion, polished classic cars opened their hoods and trunks for display, and the local Rotary Club offered the best-ever meal deal: all-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage links, coffee, tea, chocolate

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Kris B. Mamula/Post-Gazette

A classic car show is one part of Portage’s Summerfest celebration, which annually injects valuable funds into municipal projects in the small rural Pennsylvania town.

Wildfires burn across Western U.S. and Canada

By Jamie Stengle and Wufei Yu
Associated Press

Wildfires burning across the western U.S. and Canada on Sunday left some residents keeping a wary eye out for possible evacuation orders while others already forced to flee their homes waited to see what would be left on their return.

In western Canada, more than 20,000 people were forced to flee communities along Okanagan Lake in British Columbia during the weekend as a fast-moving wildfire destroyed homes and dozens had to be rescued by aircraft. In the U.S., crews in Washington that have been fighting three wildfires that began burning in the Spokane area for over a week continued clean-up near containment lines.

Laurie Allen left her home in Nine Mile Falls, a community north of Spokane, last weekend, fleeing with her husband, dog and two kittens as a wildfire burned a short distance away. The roads into her neighborhood were still closed Sunday but she said she’d learned from a friend that while covered in ashes, her house and others nearby were intact.

“I’ve been here 65 years. It’s never happened,” Allen said. “We didn’t think about anything but grabbing our animals and leaving. But now it’s affected so many of our friends and family around. So it’s pretty dang devastating.”

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JAN. 6, 2021, ASSAULT ON U.S. CAPITOL

Defendants ramp up claims for payouts

By Zoe Tillman
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — Dozens of people who were charged or convicted in connection with the violent riots at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, have filed lawsuits seeking millions of dollars from the U.S. government after the Trump administration walked

back the sprawling prosecution effort.

The latest case, filed on Friday in Washington, was brought on behalf of 12 former Jan. 6 defendants, including one man found guilty of seditious conspiracy against the government in a high-profile case involving the extremist group the Oath Keepers. Earlier in the week, a judge “reluctantly”

let the government dismiss the original indictment.

The claimants in the new case are each seeking at least \$1 million, alleging they were victims of a “malicious prosecution” and suffered emotional distress and other harms. The case is one of at least a dozen Jan. 6 compensation lawsuits filed to date, according to Bloomberg’s analysis of court

records.

Cases filed by Jan. 6 defendants have picked up in recent months, after litigants said they exhausted a monthslong administrative process that’s required under U.S. law before they can take the government to court.

President Donald Trump

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Humid with showers and storms. Daytime high, 83; tonight’s low, 69.
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