



LINE UP IN THE AIR Tomlin believes Heyward will play in opener **B1**

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Federal changes might hamper vaccine rollout

Lawmakers look at options under state Health Department oversight

BY JACK TROY

CVS is requiring prescriptions for covid-19 shots in Pennsylvania because of delays on a federal panel that recommends vaccines. The new requirement reflects uncertainty over the nation's vaccine policy under the Trump administration.

Such turmoil has led several Democratic Pennsylvania lawmakers to explore whether they can put more power in the hands of the state to authorize vaccines. The federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has yet to recommend

covid shots, despite respiratory illness season fast approaching. Pennsylvania is one of 16 states — along with Washington, D.C. — that allows pharmacists to administer only vaccines that are approved by the committee, according to Amy Thibault, a CVS spokeswoman.

There are exceptions in 13 states plus the capital for patients who present a valid prescription. CVS is not offering covid-19 vaccines in Massachusetts, Nevada or New Mexico whatsoever. Walgreens did not return a request for comment on its policies. The New York Times reported last week the drug store is requiring prescriptions in 16 states, though

not Pennsylvania. CVS has about 500 stores in Pennsylvania. Walgreens has roughly 100. The committee is slated to meet Sept. 18, but it's no rubber stamp for vaccines. In June, Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. removed all 17 members. He then named eight new members, many of



CVS, with about 500 stores in Pennsylvania, is requiring prescriptions from those seeking to get a covid-19 vaccination this fall.

VACCINE · A2

Judge targeted in scam on Facebook

Police investigating as Westmoreland's Mears says hacker selling items from his page

BY RICH CHOLODOFSKY AND MEGAN SWIFT

People reporting their Facebook pages were hacked is a relatively common occurrence. But the victims usually aren't Westmoreland County Common Pleas judges. Judge Scott Mears said his account was compromised over the weekend. A scammer made a post on the judge's page, claiming his uncle had recently entered an assisted living facility, and that he was selling his personal items.

The false post claimed the judge's uncle suffers from dementia and solicited money for items including vehicles, appliances, exercise equipment and furniture. State police is investigating, the judge said. Requests made directly to Meta, the owners of Facebook, to remove the post have been unsuccessful, he said.

"This story is fraudulent, and the items listed do not exist," Mears said in a statement. "I am urging residents to remain vigilant against these types of attacks and to report them to law enforcement immediately. Should anyone receive a friend request from me or a direct message soliciting interest in purchasing items, please do not accept the request and report all such outreach attempts to Meta directly."

Mears has been blocked from access to his Facebook page and can't delete the posts, several of which are soliciting money.

"This crime is particularly troubling because the hacker is exploiting the trust that people place in a judge. I want the public to know that I am doing everything within my power to stop this scam and prevent future harm," Mears said.

A spokesman for the state police did not respond to a request for comment.

Multiple reports

Facebook users across the country have reported similar occurrences, with increased frequency this year.

In the Reddit page r/Scams, a user posted about their account getting hacked, leading a mutual friend to send \$2,500

SCAMS · A2

MLB MILESTONE MARKED



MASSOUD HOSSAINI | TRIBUNE

Pirates Hall of Fame inductee Al Oliver unveils a historical marker at the former site of Three Rivers Stadium commemorating Major League Baseball's first all-minority lineup that the Pirates started Sept. 1, 1971. From left are Colleen Hroncich, granddaughter of Danny Murtaugh, along with Steve Blass, Dave Cash and Roberto Clemente Jr. Seated in front is Manny Sanguillén. **Story, B1.**

Acrisure upgrades

Steelers fans to see new food, tech, exhibits ahead of '25 season, '26 Draft

BY JULIA BURDELSKI

Pittsburgh Steelers fans will see a slew of Acrisure Stadium upgrades, new food options and technology improvements ahead of the upcoming NFL season.

The enhancements come before Pittsburgh hosts the 2026 NFL Draft in April. The weekend-long event is expected to bring hundreds of thousands of football fans to the city's North Shore and Downtown areas.

A 2026 NFL Draft mobile exhibit will be displayed on Art Rooney Avenue on Steelers game days this season. The exhibit will showcase the city's football legacy. When it's not being displayed on game days, it will be open throughout the 2025 season in the FedEx Great Hall.

Acrisure Stadium officials said Tuesday a new synthetic



AP

field has been completed outside of the North Shore venue. The 44-by-25-yard field will be used for the NFL Draft and other programming through the Steelers and University of Pittsburgh.

STADIUM · A2

Trump set to send in guard

Chicago, Baltimore targeted as judge rules deployment to Los Angeles was unlawful

ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump said Tuesday that he's ready to order federal authorities to mobilize and combat crime in Chicago and Baltimore, despite staunch opposition from elected leaders and many residents in both cities.

Asked by reporters in the Oval Office about sending National Guard troops to the nation's third-largest city, Trump said, "We're going in," but added, "I didn't say when." "I have an obligation," the president said. "This isn't a political thing."

Trump has already sent National Guard troops into Los Angeles and Washington, where he's also federalized the police force. He has said he plans similar moves in other Democrat-run cities even as a federal judge on Tuesday deemed the California deployment illegal.

In the 52-page ruling, U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer in San Francisco noted Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth have stated their intention to deploy National Guard troops to other cities across the country, including Oakland and San Francisco, and that raises concerns they are "creating a national police force with the President as its chief."

Breyer did not require the 300 remaining

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INSIDE
» More Nation and World news **B7**

Kraft Heinz to split but keep Pittsburgh, Chicago HQ's

Better-selling brands appear bound for same company

BY JACK TROY

At least some part of Kraft Heinz will stay in Pittsburgh as the processed food conglomerate divides its brands into two new companies.

Kraft Heinz said Tuesday while announcing the split it has no plans to move its co-headquarters in Pittsburgh and Chicago.

That's about all the company

offered on keeping its longstanding ties to Southwestern Pennsylvania, where Heinz — and later Kraft Heinz — has been based more than 150 years.

In 1869, Henry John Heinz started making horseradish in Sharpsburg. By 1888, he was producing ketchup under the H.J. Heinz Co. name. When he died in 1919, Heinz had more than two dozen factories in the U.S. and abroad.



AP

Changes reportedly planned in the breakup of Kraft Heinz will have Heinz Ketchup under the same banner as Kraft Mac & Cheese.

KRAFT HEINZ · A2

INSIDE WORLD NATION SPORTS

SEEKING SURVIVORS
» As the death toll from a weekend earthquake in Afghanistan passes 1,400, crews continue to search the rubble. **B7**

SHAKE-UP ORDERED
» A federal judge prohibits some of the tactics Google uses to drive traffic to its services, but leaves Chrome alone. **A10**

PACK THE PARK
» Kiski Area defeats Norwin in the annual outdoor volleyball game in Kennedy Park in Vandergrift. **B1**

WEATHER 82 · 60
Clouds and sun today; partly cloudy tonight
Details, A2

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