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Megan E. Rulli

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File #: 203798

November 25, 2024

***VIA ELECTRONIC FILING***

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street, 2nd Floor  
P.O. Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

**Re: Pa. Public Utility Commission, *et al.* v. Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.  
Docket Nos. R-2024-3046519, *et al.***

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Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Enclosed for filing on behalf of Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. (“Columbia”), is the Affidavit of Russell Bedell, with attachments, regarding compliance with public notice requirements in the above-referenced proceeding. The Affidavit is being filed pursuant to Ordering Paragraph No. 3 of the Commission’s Order entered November 21, 2024 in this proceeding and the Commission’s regulations at 52 Pa. Code § 53.45(h) (regarding filing of an affidavit upon completion of notice requirements).

Copies will be provided as indicated on the Certificate of Service.

Respectfully submitted,



Megan E. Rulli

MER/dmc  
Attachments

cc: Marc Hoffer, Director – Finance Division, Bureau of Technical Utility Services (*via email*;  
*w/attachments*)  
Certificate of Service

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that true and correct copies of the foregoing have been served upon the following persons, in the manner indicated, in accordance with the requirements of § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

### VIA E-MAIL ONLY

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Christy M. Appleby, Esquire  
Harrison W. Breitman, Esquire  
Emily A. Farren, Esquire  
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Ria M. Pereira, Esquire  
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Rebecca E. Lyttle, Esquire  
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*Consultant for OCA*

**VIA EMAIL AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL**

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Linda Allison  
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York, PA 17404  
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Dated: November 25, 2024



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Megan E. Rulli

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA :

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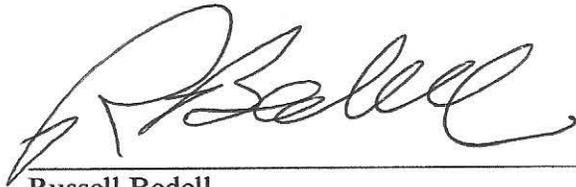
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COUNTY OF YORK

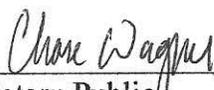
AFFIDAVIT

On this 25<sup>th</sup> day of November 2024, before me, a Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and York County, personally appeared Russell Bedell, who, being duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is Director of Communications of Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. (“Columbia”) and that: (1) on March 15, 2024, Columbia filed Supplement No. 374 to its Tariff Gas – Pa. P.U.C. No. 9 (“Tariff”) with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission”), which filing constitutes a general base rate increase; (2) Columbia has complied with the “Alternative Method” notice requirements of the Commission's regulations at 52 Pa. Code § 53.45(b)(4); (3) for customers receiving paper bills, the attached copy of a notice to customers concerning the filing of the Tariff (“Bill Insert”) was inserted in envelopes containing customer bills beginning on or about March 15, 2024, and which Bill Insert continued to be inserted in envelopes containing customer bills for an entire billing cycle until all Columbia’s paper billing customers whose rates would be increased by the Tariff received the notice; (4) for customers enrolled in electronic billing, a link to the attached Bill Insert was included with customer electronic bills beginning on or about March 15, 2024, and which Bill Insert continued to be included with customer bills for an entire billing cycle until all Columbia’s electronic billing customers whose rates would be increased by the Tariff received the notice; (5) there are no Columbia offices at which payments are accepted; (6) the attached “News Release” was distributed to the major newspapers, radio and television stations in Columbia’s service territory on March

15, 2024; (7) the attached "Proofs of Publication" of paid newspaper advertisements containing notice of the proposed rate change, published on March 15, 2024, were provided by Trib Total Media; Valley News Dispatch; York Daily Record/York Dispatch; Somerset Daily American; Uniontown Herald Standard; Daily Courier; Kittanning Leader Times; Gettysburg Times; Bradford Era; Centre Daily Times; Beaver County Times; Butler Eagle; and the Washington Observer-Reporter; published on March 17, 2024, (the first available publication date after March 15) by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette; and (8) notice of the proposed rate change has been provided to new customers of Columbia following completion of an application for service.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Russell Bedell

Subscribed and sworn to  
before me this 25th day of  
November 2024

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal  
Chase Wagner, Notary Public  
York County  
My Commission Expires October 4, 2027  
Commission Number 1438681

**BILL INSERT**

**There are three ways to challenge a company's request to change its rates:**

1. You may file a formal complaint. If you want a hearing before a judge, you must file a formal complaint. By filing a formal complaint, you assure yourself the opportunity to take part in hearings about the rate increase request. All complaints should be filed as soon as possible. If no formal complaints are filed, the PUC may grant all, some, or none of the request without holding a hearing before a judge.
2. You may send the PUC a letter telling why you object to the requested rate increase. Sometimes there is information in these letters that makes the PUC aware of problems with the company's service or management. This information can be helpful when the PUC investigates the rate request. Send your letter or request for a formal complaint form to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, P. O. Box 3265, Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265. Your letter or formal complaint can be filed electronically with the PUC. Information regarding electronic filing is available at <https://efiling.puc.pa.gov/>.
3. You may be a witness at a public input hearing. Public input hearings are held if the PUC opens an investigation of the company's rate increase request and if there are a large number of customers interested in the case. At these hearings, you have the opportunity to present your views in person to the PUC judge hearing the case and the company representatives. All testimony given "under oath" becomes part of the official rate case record. These hearings are held in the company's service area.

For more information, call the PUC at 1-800-692-7380. You may leave your name and address so that you can be notified of any hearings that may be scheduled in this case.

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# NOTICE OF PROPOSED RATE CHANGE

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A NiSource Company

Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. (Columbia Gas or the Company) has filed a request with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) for an increase in your natural gas distribution rates as of May 14, 2024. This notice describes the Company's rate request, the PUC's role, and what actions you can take.

Columbia has requested an overall rate increase of \$124.1 million per year. This filing also includes a request for approval of the following alternative rate mechanisms in accordance with 66 Pa. C.S. § 1330: a Revenue Normalization Adjustment mechanism to stabilize utility revenue regardless of changes in actual customer usage that would become effective with the January 2025 billing cycle and a request to remove the dead band associated with the currently effective Weather Normalization Adjustment. The filing also includes a request for approval of a Municipal Levelization Charge, which would further increase bills issued to residents of the City of Pittsburgh and Perryopolis, and decrease bills issued to residents of Roscoe Borough and New Sewickley.

If the Company's entire request is approved, the total bill for a residential customer who purchases 70 therms of gas from Columbia per month would increase from \$118.16 to \$136.92 per month, or by 15.88 percent.

The total bill for a small commercial customer using 150 therms of gas purchased from Columbia per month would increase from \$196.43 to \$226.24, or by 15.18 percent.

Rates for a small industrial customer using 1,215 therms of gas from Columbia per month would increase from \$1,281.25 to \$1,452.98 per month, or by 13.40 percent.

If the Company's Municipal Levelization Charge is approved, customers located in the City of Pittsburgh and Perryopolis would be billed \$0.70 per month in addition to the increases described above. Bills for customers located in Roscoe Borough and New Sewickley Township would increase as described above, but they would receive a monthly bill credit of \$7.44.

To find out your customer class or how the requested increase might affect your gas bill, call Columbia Gas at 1-888-460-4332. The rates requested by the Company may be found in proposed Columbia Gas Service Tariff No. 9 - Supplement No. 373 which is available at <https://www.columbiagaspa.com/our-company/about-us/regulatory-information>. You may examine the material filed with the PUC, which explains the requested increase and the reasons for it. A copy of this material is kept at Columbia's office. Upon request, the Company will send you a statement of reasons for Supplement No. 373, explaining why the rate increase has been requested.

The state agency that approves rates for public utilities is the PUC. The PUC will examine the requested rate increase and can prevent existing rates from changing until it investigates and/or holds hearings on the request. The Company must prove that the requested rates are reasonable. After examining the evidence, the PUC may grant all, some, or none of the request, or may reduce existing rates. The PUC may change the amount of the rate increase requested by the utility for each customer class. As a result, the rate charged to you might be different than the rate requested by the Company as shown above.

# **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 15, 2024

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Lee Gierczynski  
Columbia Gas Communications  
412.328.8378  
[lgierczynski@nisource.com](mailto:lgierczynski@nisource.com)



**Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania Proposes Further Safety Investments Through Aging Infrastructure Replacements, Upgrades**

*Request supports economic development; enhanced safety, energy efficiency initiatives*

**CANONSBURG, PA**— Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc., a subsidiary of NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI), filed a request today with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PA PUC) to approve revised rates for further upgrading and replacing portions of the company's underground natural gas distribution pipelines to benefit its customers. If approved, these proposed rate adjustments would not go into effect until mid-to-late December 2024.

With more than 1,700 full-time employees and contracted resources, Columbia Gas has proudly invested more than \$3.7 billion in Pennsylvania since 2007 as part of its long-term plan to modernize and expand its natural gas distribution system and to contribute to the Commonwealth's economic wellbeing.

"Ensuring the continued reliability of the vital service we provide and the long-term safety of our customers and communities we serve are indispensable parts of our business, and they require a necessary level of investment to modernize our more than 7,700 miles of energy infrastructure to meet our customers' current and future energy needs," said Mark Kempic, Columbia Gas president and chief operating officer. "Our filing also identifies enhancements to our energy efficiency program and seeks approval of other proposals to fairly balance costs and services to continue delivering on our customer commitments."

In its filing Columbia Gas identifies certain enhancements to its residential energy efficiency program, such as rebates on natural gas-powered heat pumps, and insulation and air sealing, which are designed to help Columbia Gas's residential customers reduce their energy consumption, improve efficiency, and conserve resources.

In addition to the positive economic and customer benefits associated with the previous and proposed future Columbia Gas investments across its 26-county service area, this proposal supports continued investments in strategic safety initiatives, such as advanced leak detection technology, enhanced workforce training, and continuous improvement processes to sustain a positive customer experience and company culture that is focused on safely meeting or exceeding all federal and state industry requirements.

**Helping Customers in Need**

At all times, Columbia Gas is committed to providing its customers with the tools, resources, and programs they need to stay safe and warm in their homes.

“Even with these necessary investments, any change in customer bills is meaningful,” added Kempic. “We are sensitive to that and want customers to know that assistance is available. We’re here to help and to work with customers to identify solutions to keep them connected.”

Any Columbia Gas customer who may have fallen behind on their energy bills is encouraged to reach out to the company at 1-888-460-4332 or by visiting [www.columbiagaspa.com/assistance](http://www.columbiagaspa.com/assistance).

## **Review Process by PA PUC**

While the company filed its request with the PA PUC today, it is important to note that after filing for a rate adjustment, the review process by the Commission will take approximately nine months. As a result, in this case, any approved and adjusted rates by the PA PUC would not go into effect until mid-to-late December 2024.

Approval of the proposal would result in the average total bill for a residential customer who purchases 70 therms of gas per month from Columbia Gas to increase from \$118.16 to \$136.92 per month, or by 15.88 percent. The total bill for a small commercial customer purchasing 150 therms of gas from Columbia Gas per month would increase from \$196.43 to \$226.24, or by 15.18 percent. The total monthly bill for a small industrial customer purchasing 1,215 therms of gas from Columbia Gas would increase from \$1,281.25 to \$1,452.98 per month, or by 13.40 percent.

If the request is approved as filed, the total average residential customer bill would still be 24 percent lower than it was 20 years ago, when adjusted for inflation.

The total overall request represents a \$124.1 million increase annually.

## **How Customers Can Participate in the Rate Review Process**

It is important to note that the public has a voice in the review process. Anyone interested in the case can participate by reaching out to the PA PUC, and the company encourages active involvement by customers and any interested parties.

Customers can participate through written comments, attendance at public hearings and through various consumer advocacy organizations that participate in the proceedings.

Customers with questions regarding the proposed rates may call Columbia Gas at 1-888-460-4332 or visit [www.ColumbiaGasPA.com](http://www.ColumbiaGasPA.com) for more information.

### **About Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania**

*Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania delivers clean, dependable, and efficient natural gas to approximately 445,000 customers. With headquarters in Canonsburg, it is one of six regulated utility companies of NiSource (NYSE: NI), one of the largest fully regulated utility companies in the United States. NiSource employees are focused on our mission to deliver safe, reliable energy that drives value to our customers, and guided by our vision to be an innovative and trusted energy partner. More information about Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania and NiSource, including its goal of achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions from its operations by 2040, is available at [www.ColumbiaGasPA.com](http://www.ColumbiaGasPA.com) and [www.NiSource.com](http://www.NiSource.com).*

### **About NiSource**

*NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI) is one of the largest fully regulated utility companies in the United States, serving approximately 3.3 million natural gas customers and 500,000 electric customers across six states through its local Columbia Gas and NIPSCO brands. The mission of our approximately 7,400 employees is to deliver safe, reliable energy that drives value to our customers. NiSource is a member of the Dow Jones Sustainability - North America Index and is on Forbes lists of America’s Best Employers for Women and Diversity. Learn more about NiSource’s record of leadership in sustainability, investments in the communities it serves and how we live our vision to be an innovative and trusted energy partner at [www.NiSource.com](http://www.NiSource.com). NI-F*

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# **PROOFS OF PUBLICATIONS**



The Beaufort Gazette  
 The Belleville News-Democrat  
 Bellingham Herald  
 Centre Daily Times  
 Sun Herald  
 Idaho Statesman  
 Bradenton Herald  
 The Charlotte Observer  
 The State  
 Ledger-Enquirer

Durham | The Herald-Sun  
 Fort Worth Star-Telegram  
 The Fresno Bee  
 The Island Packet  
 The Kansas City Star  
 Lexington Herald-Leader  
 The Telegraph - Macon  
 Merced Sun-Star  
 Miami Herald  
 El Nuevo Herald

The Modesto Bee  
 The Sun News - Myrtle Beach  
 Raleigh News & Observer  
 Rock Hill | The Herald  
 The Sacramento Bee  
 San Luis Obispo Tribune  
 Tacoma | The News Tribune  
 Tri-City Herald  
 The Wichita Eagle  
 The Olympian

## AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Account #	Order Number	Identification	Order PO	Amount	Cols	Depth
19998	528074	STC_COLUMBIA GAS/ENCOMPASS MEDIA_ROP_MAR-APR	CG-2024-CDT	\$567.00	3	10.18 in

**Attention:** Mike Hough  
 COLUMBIA GAS/ENCOMPASS MEDIA  
 PO BOX 1243  
 MOON TOWNSHIP  
 CORAOPOLIS, PA 15108

Copy of ad content  
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### THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF DALLAS

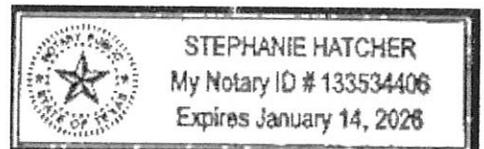
Crystal Trunick, being duly sworn, according to law says that he/she is an agent of the Centre Daily Times, a daily newspaper of general circulation, having its place of business in State College, Centre County, Pennsylvania, and having been established in the year 1898; that the advertisement appeared in said newspaper, that the affiant is not interested in the subject matter of the notice or advertisement; that all of the allegations contained herein relative to the time, place and character of the publication are true.

1 insertion(s) published on:  
 03/15/24

Witness Signature

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 15th day of March in the year of 2024

Notary Public in and for the state of Texas, residing in Dallas County



Extra charge for lost or duplicate affidavits.  
 Legal document please do not destroy!

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED RATE CHANGE

Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. (Columbia Gas or the Company) has filed a request with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) for an increase in your natural gas distribution rates as of May 14, 2024. This notice describes the Company's rate request, the PUC's role, and what actions you can take.

Columbia has requested an overall rate increase of \$186.1 million per year. This filing also includes a request for approval of the following alternative rate mechanisms in accordance with 68 Pa. C.S. § 1330: a Revenue Normalization Adjustment mechanism to stabilize utility revenues regardless of changes in actual customer usage that would become effective with the January 2025 billing cycle and a request to remove the dead band associated with the currently effective Weather Normalization Adjustment. This filing also includes a request for approval of a Municipal Levitation Charge, which would further increase bills issued to residents of the City of Pittsburgh and Perryopolis, and decrease bills issued to residents of Roanoke Borough and New Kensington.

If the Company's entire request is approved, the total bill for a residential customer who purchases 70 therms of gas from Columbia per month would increase from \$118.18 to \$196.88 per month, or by 16.85 percent.

The total bill for a small commercial customer using 150 therms of gas purchased from Columbia per month would increase from \$168.45 to \$228.86, or by 35.18 percent.

Rates for a small industrial customer using 1,215 therms of gas from Columbia per month would increase from \$1,981.56 to \$1,468.88 per month, or by 13.40 percent.

If the Company's Municipal Levitation Charge is approved, customers located in the City of Pittsburgh and Perryopolis would be billed \$0.70 per month in addition to the increases described above. Bills for customers located in Roanoke Borough and New Kensington Township would increase as described above, but they would receive a monthly bill credit of \$7.44.

To find out your customer class or how the requested increase might affect your gas bill, call Columbia Gas at 1-888-400-4388. The rates requested by the Company may be found in proposed Columbia Gas Service Test No. 8 - Supplement No. 373 which is available at <https://www.columbiagas.com/our-company/about-us/regulatory-information>. You may examine the material filed with the PUC, which explains the requested increase and the reasons for it. A copy of this material is kept at Columbia's office. Upon request, the Company will send you a statement of reasons for Supplement No. 373, explaining why the rate increase has been requested.

The state agency that approves rates for public utilities is the PUC. The PUC will examine the requested rate increases and can prevent existing rates from changing until it investigates and/or holds hearings on the request. The Company must prove that the requested rates are reasonable. After assessing the evidence, the PUC may grant all, some, or none of the request, or may reduce existing rates. The PUC may change the amount of the rate increase requested by the utility for each customer class. As a result, the rate charged to you might be different than the rate requested by the Company as shown above.

There are three ways to challenge a company's request to change its rates:

1. You may file a formal complaint. If you want a hearing before a judge, you must file a formal complaint. By filing a formal complaint, you assure yourself the opportunity to take part in hearings about the rate increase request. All complaints should be filed as soon as possible. If no formal complaints are filed, the PUC may grant all, some, or none of the request without holding a hearing before a judge.

2. You may send the PUC a letter telling why you object to the requested rate increase. Sometimes there is information in these letters that raises the PUC's sense of problems with the company's service or management. This information can be helpful when the PUC investigates the rate request. Send your letter or request for a formal complaint form to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, P. O. Box 3885, Harrisburg, PA 17105-3885. Your letter or formal complaint can be filed electronically with the PUC. Information regarding electronic filing is available at <https://efiling.puc.pa.gov/>.

3. You may be a witness at a public input hearing. Public input hearings are held if the PUC opens an investigation of the company's rate increase request and if there are a large number of customers interested in the case. At these hearings, you have the opportunity to present your views in person to the PUC judge hearing the case and the company representatives. All testimony given "in person" becomes part of the official rate case record. These hearings are held in the company's service area.

For more information, call the PUC at 1-800-881-7283. You may leave your name and address so that you can be notified of any hearings that may be scheduled in this case.

  
A NiSource Company

## Plan for new Haitian leadership is moving forward

Associated Press

A plan to create a transitional presidential council is moving forward after a majority of Haitian parties and coalitions submitted the names of those charged with finding new leaders for the country, Caribbean officials said Thursday.

The names were provided to a regional trade bloc known as Caricom that is helping lead the transition. The names have not been made public.

"It is all up now to the Haitians as they are the ones who want a Haitian-led solution," Surinamese Foreign Minister Albert Ramdin told The Associated Press. "It is for them to pick up the ball and run with it, being responsible for their own destiny."

## On Pi Day, FDA revokes rules for frozen cherry pie

UPI.com

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration marked Pi Day with a decision that it will no longer hold frozen cherry pie to a higher standard than other frozen or fruit pies. Pi Day, an annual celebration of the mathematical constant pi, is observed March 14.

On Thursday, the FDA announced it would revoke the standards of identity and quality for frozen cherry pies, saying they were no longer needed to ensure the products meet consumer expectations. Frozen cherry pie has been the only variety of fruit pie or frozen fruit pie that required separate standards.

The agency's decision comes after years of lobbying by organizations like the American Baker's Association.

# Spacecraft lost in 3rd test of SpaceX mega rocket

BY MARCIA DUNN  
Associated Press

SpaceX's mega rocket blasted off on another test flight Thursday and made it farther than two previous attempts, but the spacecraft was lost as it descended back to Earth.

The company said it lost contact with the spacecraft as it neared its goal, a splashdown in the Indian Ocean, about an hour after liftoff from the southern tip of Texas near the Mexican border.

Two test flights last year both ended in explosions minutes after liftoff.

Starship, the biggest and most powerful rocket ever built, headed out over the Gulf of Mexico after launch Thursday. Minutes later, the booster separated seamlessly from the spacecraft and splashed



SpaceX's mega rocket Starship launches for its third test flight from Starbase in Boca Chica, Texas, Thursday. SpaceX lost contact with it during its descent.

down into the gulf and the spacecraft continued eastward. No people or satellites were on board. An hour later, SpaceX commentators said con-

nect had been lost with the spacecraft.

"The ship has been lost. So no splashdown today," said SpaceX's Dan Hoot. "But again, it's incredible to see how much further we got this time around."

The second launch attempt in November saw both the Super Heavy booster explode on its way back down to the Gulf of Mexico and Starship self-destruct before it completed its ascent burn, according to Orlando Sentinel reports. This time the Super Heavy booster made it closer back to Earth, although not completing what SpaceX had planned.

Earlier during the flight Thursday, SpaceX's Elon Musk had congratulated his team. "SpaceX has come a long way," Musk said via X, former Twitter. The rocket company was founded exactly 22 years ago Thursday.

The rocket and futuristic-looking spacecraft towers 397 feet, easily exceeding NASA's past and present moon rockets.

NASA watched with keen interest: The space agency needs Starship to succeed in order to land astronauts on the moon in the next two or so years.

## British court rules Australian isn't bitcoin founder

Associated Press

Britain's high court ruled Thursday that an Australian computer scientist is not, as he claimed, the mysterious creator of the bitcoin cryptocurrency.

Craig Wright has for eight years claimed that he was the man behind "Satoshi Nakamoto," the pseudonym that masked the identity of the creator of bitcoin.

His claim was rejected by the Crypto Open Patent Alliance, or Copia, a non-profit group of technology and cryptocurrency firms, who brought the case to court.

In his ruling, Justice James Mellor said Wright did not invent bitcoin, was not the man behind Satoshi, or the author of the initial versions of the Bitcoin software.

## NATO chief urges more military aid for Ukraine

UPI.com

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg used his annual review of the "state of the alliance" to urge members of the newly-expanded 32-country military pact to increase the flow of weapons and ammunition to Ukraine.

Unprecedented aid from NATO allies had helped Ukraine to survive as a sovereign, independent nation, he told a press conference in Brussels accompanying the release of his 2023 Annual Report, but that it "needed even more support and they need it now."

"The Ukrainians are not running out of courage."

They are running out of ammunition," he said. "Together, we have the capacity to provide Ukraine what it needs," he added.

## Autopsy finds non-binary teen died by suicide

BY SHERI WALSH  
UPI.com

The death of 16-year-old nonbinary student Nex Benedict, who was bullied and injured in a school fight last month, has been ruled a suicide by overdose, the Oklahoma State Medical Examiner's office announced Wednesday.

The autopsy report listed the probable cause of death

as a toxic combination of Diphenhydramine and Fluoxetine. Diphenhydramine is an antihistamine to relieve allergies. Fluoxetine is an antidepressant.

Benedict died Feb. 8, one day after a fight with three girls, who were accused of bullying the teen inside a bathroom at Owasso High School. The 10th-grader was treated for minor injuries at a local hospital before being released.

Benedict was rushed back to the hospital the following day and later died. The teen's death grabbed national attention and sparked widespread outrage, with vigils and protests throughout the country.

In response, the Owasso, Okla., Police Department, which found the injuries from the fight were not the cause of death, released body cam footage of their interview with Benedict in the hospital. The footage shows officer Caleb Thompson interviewing Benedict at Bailey Medical Center Feb. 7. Nex's mother is also present.

"I was talking with my friends, they were talking with their friends, and we

were laughing and they had said something like, 'Why do they laugh like that?' And they were talking about us in front of us," Benedict said.

"And so I went up there and I poured water on them. And then all three of them came at me," Benedict adds. "They came at me, they grabbed my hair, I grabbed onto them. I threw one of them into a paper towel dispenser and then they got my legs out from under me, got me on the ground, started beating the [expletive] out of me."

Owasso Public Schools is currently under federal investigation for potential discrimination related to Benedict's death.

### NOTICE OF PROPOSED RATE CHANGE

Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. (Columbia Gas or the Company) has filed a request with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) for an increase in your natural gas distribution rates as of May 14, 2024. This notice describes the Company's rate request, the PUC's role, and what actions you can take.

Columbia has requested an overall rate increase of \$124.1 million per year. This filing also includes a request for approval of the following alternative rate mechanisms in accordance with 68 Pa. C.S. § 1332: a Revenue Normalization Adjustment mechanism to stabilize utility rates regardless of changes in actual customer usage that would become effective with the January 2025 billing cycle and a request to remove the dead band associated with the currently effective Weather Normalization Adjustment. The filing also includes a request for approval of a Municipal Levelization Charge, which would further increase bills issued to residents of the City of Pittsburgh and Perryopolis, and decrease bills issued to residents of Roscoe Borough and New Sewickley.

If the Company's entire request is approved, the total bill for a residential customer who purchases 70 therms of gas from Columbia per month would increase from \$118.18 to \$136.92 per month, or by 15.88 percent.

The total bill for a small commercial customer using 150 therms of gas purchased from Columbia per month would increase from \$196.43 to \$226.24, or by 15.18 percent.

Rates for a small industrial customer using 1,215 therms of gas from Columbia per month would increase from \$1,261.25 to \$1,452.98 per month, or by 13.40 percent.

If the Company's Municipal Levelization Charge is approved, customers located in the City of Pittsburgh and Perryopolis would be billed \$0.70 per month in addition to the increases described above. Bills for customers located in Roscoe Borough and New Sewickley Township would increase as described above, but they would receive a monthly bill credit of \$7.44.

To find out your customer class or how the requested increase might affect your gas bill, call Columbia Gas at 1-888-689-4332. The rates requested by the Company may be found in proposed Columbia Gas Service Tariff No. 9 - Supplement No. 373 which is available at <https://www.columbiagaspa.com/our-company/about-us/regulatory-information>. You may examine the material filed with the PUC, which explains the requested increase and the reasons for it. A copy of this material is kept at Columbia's office. Upon request, the Company will send you a statement of reasons for Supplement No. 373, explaining why the rate increase has been requested.

The state agency that approves rates for public utilities is the PUC. The PUC will examine the requested rate increase and can prevent existing rates from changing until it investigates and/or holds hearings on the request. The Company must prove that the requested rates are reasonable. After examining the evidence, the PUC may grant all, some, or none of the request, or may reduce existing rates. The PUC may change the amount of the rate increase requested by the utility for each customer class. As a result, the rate charged to you might be different than the rate requested by the Company as shown above.

There are three ways to challenge a company's request to change its rates:

1. You may file a formal complaint. If you want a hearing before a judge, you must file a formal complaint. By filing a formal complaint, you assure yourself the opportunity to take part in hearings about the rate increase request. All complaints should be filed as soon as possible. If no formal complaints are filed, the PUC may grant all, some, or none of the request without holding a hearing before a judge.
2. You may send the PUC a letter telling why you object to the requested rate increase. Sometimes there is information in these letters that makes the PUC aware of problems with the company's service or management. This information can be helpful when the PUC investigates the rate request. Send your letter or request for a formal complaint form to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, P. O. Box 3265, Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265. Your letter or formal complaint can be filed electronically with the PUC. Information regarding electronic filing is available at <https://efiling.pucpa.gov/>.
3. You may be a witness at a public input hearing. Public input hearings are held if the PUC conducts an investigation of the company's rate increase request and if there are a large number of customers interested in the case. At these hearings, you have the opportunity to present your views in person to the PUC judge hearing the case and the company representatives. All testimony given "under oath" becomes part of the official rate case record. These hearings are held in the company's service area.

For more information, call the PUC at 1-800-692-7380. You may leave your name and address so that you can be notified of any hearings that may be scheduled in this case.

**Columbia Gas**  
A NiSource Company

# AMENDMENT

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**Sunday, March 17, 2024**  
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Coraopolis PA 15108

### STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA, COUNTY OF BEAVER

The Beaver County Times, Ellwood City Ledger, a daily newspaper of general circulation, published and having its place of business at Aliquippa, Beaver County, PA; that attached hereto is a facsimile of the printed notice which is exactly as printed and published in said newspaper issue dated on:

03/15/2024

That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated on those dates.

Sworn to and subscribed before on 03/15/2024

Legal Clerk

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*M. H. H.*

Notary, State of WI, County of Brown

*8.25.26*

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# AFFIDAVIT FOR PROOF OF PUBLICATION

- \* Name of Publication: **BRADFORD ERA**
- \* City, State: **BRADFORD, PA**
- \* Advertiser name: **COLUMBIA GAS OF PENNSYLVANIA**

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Caption: **2024 – RATE CASE**

Ad Size: **3 Col. x 9"**

Affiant further disposes and says that (s)he is an employee of the publisher of the said newspaper and has been authorized to verify the foregoing statement and that (s)he is not interested in the subject matter of the aforesaid notice or publication and that all allegations in the foregoing statement as to time, place, and character of publication are true. I verify that the aforementioned ad ran as noted above. Before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal  
LORI A COFFMAN - Notary Public  
Mckean County  
My Commission Expires Jul 2, 2024  
Commission Number 1270524

Jill Henry  
Publication Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Notary Public Seal

Jill Henry  
Name (Please Print)

State of: PA

County of: Mckean

Sworn to and subscribed before me

Lori A Coffman  
Notary Public Signature

Date: 3/19/2024

# Biden opposes plan to sell US Steel to Japanese firm

Citing the need for 'American steel workers'

By JOSH BOAK  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden came out in opposition to the planned sale of U.S. Steel to Nippon Steel of Japan, saying on Thursday that the U.S. needs to "maintain strong American steel companies powered by American steel workers."

In a statement, Biden added: "U.S. Steel has been an iconic American steel company for more than a century, and it is vital for it to remain an American steel company that is domestically owned and operated."

By opposing the merger, Biden has chosen to support unionized workers in a critical election year at the risk of upsetting the business community and an essential ally in Japan. Thursday's announcement, coming as Biden is campaigning in the Midwest, could have ripples in his race against the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, Donald Trump.

The Democratic president has made the restoration of American manufacturing a cornerstone of his agenda as he



The United States Steel Mon Valley Works Clairton Plant is shown Feb. 26. President Joe Biden is opposing the planned sale of U.S. Steel to Nippon Steel of Japan. AP photo

seeks reelection, and he has the endorsements of the AFL-CIO and several other prominent unions. The White House said Thursday that Biden called David McCall, president of United Steelworkers, to reiterate his support for its members.

Nippon Steel announced in December that it planned to buy the Pittsburgh-based

steel producer for \$14.1 billion in cash, raising concerns about what the transaction could mean for unionized workers, supply chains and U.S. national security.

The Japanese company has tried to assuage critics by promising no job losses due to the merger. It also committed to keeping the U.S. Steel name and Pittsburgh headquarters, while noting it already has a presence in the American market and would bring in new resources to foster job growth.

The company, which is the world's fourth largest steel producer, launched a website with supportive statements from Larry Summers, the former treasury secretary, and Pat Toomey, a Republican and former senator from Pennsylvania.

Shortly after the steel deal was announced, the White House indicated it would be under review by the secretive Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States. The government does not officially provide updates on the CFIOUS review process.

Biden has a big megaphone to weigh in on the matter, but he is not intervening in the review process or formally blocking the deal, according to a person familiar with deliberations who insisted on anonymity to discuss the situation.

When asked about the deal on Thursday, White House national security spokesman John Kirby declined to say if the president wanted to stop it outright or would be

amendable to changes in its structure. But Kirby told reporters that the United States sees its alliance with Japan as "stronger than it's ever been."

Still, the president holds sway over CFIOUS. The treasury secretary leads the committee, which is also composed of the heads of federal agencies and, as deemed appropriate, directors of White House councils on the economy and national security.

Trump said earlier this year after meeting with the Teamsters union that he would stop the U.S. Steel acquisition: "I would block it. I think it's a horrible thing, when Japan buys U.S. Steel. I would block it instantaneously."

Biden traveled Thursday to Saginaw, Michigan, which was once home to multiple General Motors plants and where he hopes his backing from

union workers can resonate with voters.

The city is in a swing county that narrowly backed Trump in 2016 and then flipped to Biden in 2020, making it a crucial contest in this year's presidential race.

Biden has a close relationship with the United Steelworkers. He gave the union members "personal assurances" that he has their backs, according to a February statement by the union about Nippon Steel's plans. U.S. Steel is headquartered in Pennsylvania, another key state in this year's election.

The United Steelworkers issued a statement last week after meeting with representatives from Nippon Steel that it had concerns about whether the company would honor existing labor agreements and about the company's

financial transparency, adding that there were "barriers" to closing a merger.

The U.S. considers Japan to be one of its closest allies and a key partner in countering China's ambitions and influence in Asia. Biden has visited the country twice as president and will host Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida at the White House on April 10. But Nippon Steel's connections to China have raised concerns within the Biden administration. More than half the steel produced globally comes from China, according to the World Steel Association. India is the second-largest producer, followed by Japan and the United States.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce warned in a February blog post that it would be foolhardy of the Biden administration to block the deal. Doing so could hurt foreign investment into the United States, cause other countries to block the overseas investments that U.S. companies want to make and undermine the U.S.-Japan alliance, the chamber said.

John Murphy, the head of international issues for the chamber, said Thursday that it was "inappropriate and counterproductive" of Biden to politicize the CFIOUS review.

"It's imperative that the CFIOUS review proceed; and if, as expected, it reveals no national security concerns, the sale should proceed," Murphy said.

But Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pennsylvania, who is up for reelection, applauded Biden's statement, saying, "I'll work like hell against any deal that leaves our Steelworkers behind."

## The Bradford Era ANOTHER ERA

By MARCIE SCHELLHAMMER

### 10 YEARS AGO

Bradford High's girls' 200 free relay team is celebrating today! The quartet of Donna Good, Kyleigh Anderson, Jessica Buchheit and Ann Confer battled their way to an overall 14th place finish and all-state honors at the PIAA Swimming and Diving Championships at Bucknell University on Friday.

### 50 YEARS AGO

Science projects and a demonstration of the new elementary science curriculum will highlight the Bradford Area Schools Science Exhibit. Grades K-12, at the Bradford Mall today. According to Donald Graybill, Bradford Area High School science chairman, 38 junior and senior high projects will be exhibited, the best of which will enter the regional science fair to be held at the Bradford Area School March 30.

### 100 YEARS AGO

Bradford's new high school building will cost approximately \$375,000, according to bids opened by the School Board. The complete building, according to the lowest figures submitted by contractors, will cost \$340,140.42 to which must be added about \$25,000 for equipment not included in the builders' specifications.

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The total bill for a small commercial customer using 150 therms of gas purchased from Columbia per month would increase from \$1,281.25 to \$1,432.98 per month, or by 13.40 percent.

Rates for a small industrial customer using 1,215 therms of gas from Columbia per month would increase from \$1,281.25 to \$1,432.98 per month, or by 13.40 percent.

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For more information, call the PUC at 1-800-692-7380. You may leave your name and address so that you can be notified of any hearings that may be scheduled in this case.

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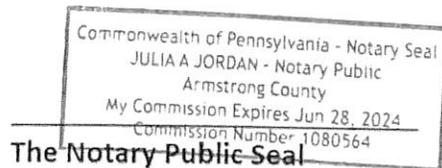
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Caption: **2024 – RATE CASE**

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Affiant further disposes and says that (s)he is an employee of the publisher of the said newspaper and has been authorized to verify the foregoing statement and that (s)he is not interested in the subject matter of the aforesaid notice or publication and that all allegations in the foregoing statement as to time, place, and character of publication are true. I verify that the aforementioned ad ran as noted above. Before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared.

Tammy Bish  
 Publication Signature



Tammy Bish  
 Name (Please Print)

State of: Pennsylvania

County of: ARMSTRONG

Sworn to and subscribed before me

Date: March 18, 2024

Julia A. Jordan  
 Notary Public Signature

# Stock market today: Wall Street slips after another report on inflation that was worse than expected

By **STAN CHOE**  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — U.S. stocks slipped Thursday after a mixed batch of economic data seemed to drive the financial market into hopes that easier interest rates may arrive very soon.

The S&P 500 fell 14.83 points, or 0.3%, to 5,150.48, though it's still close to its all-time high set Tuesday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average sank 137.66, or 0.4%, to 38,905.66, and the Nasdaq composite lost 49.24, or 0.3%, to 16,128.53.

The moves were more decisive in the bond market, where Treasury yields rose after a report showed inflation was a touch hotter at the wholesale level last month than economists expected. It's the latest in a string of data on inflation that's been worse than forecast, which has kept the door closed on earlier hopes that the Federal Reserve could start cutting interest rates at its meeting next week.

But other reports released Thursday also showed some softening in the economy, which kept alive hopes that the long-term trend for inflation remains downward.

Traders still saw largely expect the Fed to begin cutting rates in June, according to data from CME Group. The Fed's main rate is at its highest level since 2001 in hopes of grinding down inflation, and cuts would relieve pressure on the economy and financial system.

The question hanging over Wall Street is how much the latest signals of potentially stubborn inflation will ultimately delay rate cuts. That in turn could damage the huge run U.S. stocks have been on since late October, rising in 16 of the last 19 weeks.

Traders on Thursday pushed some bets for the first cut to interest rates in July from June.

The day's mix of data could push the Federal Reserve to signal it foresees only two cuts to rates this year, down from three, according to Brian Jacobson, chief economist at Annex Wealth Management.

Fed officials will give their latest forecasts for where they see interest rates heading this year on Wednesday, following their latest policy meeting.

Among the data they'll mull is a report from Thursday that said shoppers spent less at U.S. retailers last month than economists expected. Such data drags on the overall economy but could also remove upward pressure on inflation.

The government also said retail sales were weaker in January than earlier thought. Strong spending by U.S. households has been one of the linchpins keeping the economy out of a recession despite high interest rates.

A separate report said fewer U.S. workers applied for unemployment benefits last week than expected. That's good news for workers generally. But too much strength in the job market, which has remained remarkably resilient, could add upward pressure on inflation.

The mix of data sent the yield on the 10-year Treasury up to 4.28% from 4.19% late Wednesday. The two-year yield, which more closely tracks expectations for the Fed, rose to 4.69% from 4.63%.

On Wall Street, Dollar General swung sharply despite reporting stronger profit and revenue for the latest quarter than expected. Its stock fell 5.1% after being up more than 6% earlier.

Dollar General executives said inflation is pushing customers to make trade-offs in the aisles, away from non-essentials and name brands. It's also removing self-checkout from more than 300 of its stores that are experiencing high losses of inventories.

A day earlier, rival Dollar Tree tumbled after reporting weaker-than-expected results and saying it would close hundreds of its Family Dollar stores.

Dick's Sporting Goods jumped 15.5% after it reported stronger profit for the latest quarter than expected and increased its dividend.

Robinson Financial Markets gained 5.2% as near-record stock and crypto prices drove strong growth in trading activity among its customers last month.

U.S. Steel sank 6.4% after President Joe Biden came out in opposition of the planned sale of the company to Nippon Steel of Japan.

Nippon Steel announced in December that it planned to buy the Pittsburgh-based steel producer for \$14.1 billion in cash, raising concerns about what the transaction could mean for unionized workers, supply chains and U.S. national security.

Shares of Anheuser-Busch InBev trading in the United States slumped 5.5% after Altria said it was selling a portion of its stake in the maker of Budweiser.

Homebuilder Lennar sank 7.6% despite reporting stronger growth in profit than expected, as its revenue fell short of analysts' forecasts.

In stock markets abroad, indexes were mixed across Europe and Asia.

Japan's Nikkei 225 rose 0.3%, as speculation rose that the Bank of Japan may soon end its policy to keep interest rates below zero.

# February retail sales up 0.6%, yet fissures emerge in what has been a driving force for US economy

By **ANNE D'INNOCENZO**  
AP Retail Writer

**NEW YORK** — Americans picked up their spending a bit in February after pulling back the previous month. But last month's gain was weaker than expected, and January's decline was revised even lower, suggesting that many are growing more cautious with their money.

Retail sales rose 0.6% last month after falling a revised 1.1% in January, dragged down in part by inclement weather, according to the Commerce Department's report on Thursday.

February's number was also lifted in part by higher gas prices as well as higher auto sales and a rebound in building materials, which were depressed by severe weather in January. Excluding sales from gas stations and auto dealers, sales rose 0.3%.

The national average gas price Thursday was \$3.41 per gallon, per AAA, up from \$3.39 a week ago, and \$3.26 last month.

Government retail data isn't adjusted for inflation, which ticked up 0.4% from January to February, higher than the previous month's figure of 0.5%, according to the latest government report. So retailers only eked out a slight increase accounting for inflation.

February retail sales provide further proof that spending on discretionary goods in 2024 is likely to be soft following several years of strong growth and as consumer health — albeit still

relatively strong — is somewhat weakened down by inflation and reduced savings," said David Silverman, senior director at Fitch Ratings.

The report also reflects an ongoing spending shift away from goods toward services. The snapshot offers only a partial look at consumer spending and doesn't include many services, including travel and hotel lodges.

"Elevated interest rates, an uptick in energy costs, and persistent discomfort with price levels continue to push consumers to make trade-offs with budgeting, with goods categories increasingly overlooked in favor of services spending," said Kayla Bruun, senior economist at Morning Consult, a data intelligence firm.

Business at department stores fell 0.2%, while clothing and accessory stores posted a 0.5% drop. Furniture and home furnishings stores had a 1.1% decline. Online sales showed a rare decline of 0.1%. Electronics and appliance stores had a solid 1.5% increase.

A strong jobs market and rising wages have fueled household spending, which also has become choppy in the face of rising credit costs and higher prices.

America's employers continued to hire in February, adding a surprising 275,000 jobs, undercutting the U.S. economy's resilience, despite efforts of the U.S. Federal Reserve to knock down inflation

by slowing spending.

While costs for many goods appear to have plateaued, consumer prices in the United States picked up last month. That again reversed the complexity of the Fed's task in slowing the economy to keep prices in check, and also a potential headache for President Joe Biden in his bid for re-election.

The most recent quarterly financial reports from big retailers like Walmart, Target and Macy's show that their customers are looking for deals and in many cases sticking to the necessities when they shop.

"They continue to shop but they are more constrained," Target CEO Brian Cornell told The Associated Press in an interview last week. "People are using credit cards to get through the month. Rent costs across the country are up, and gas has been volatile."

Chris Riccobono, founder of New York clothing chain Unkuckit, said his experience indicates that customers are waiting for items to go on sale before making purchases. Riccobono nonetheless hopes to cut back on the company's reliance on discounts to drive sales. Before the coronavirus pandemic, Unkuckit only held sales three times a year.

"I want to start to train our customers to get back into the pre-COVID days," he said. Yet even with some customers hesitant to spend, Unkuckit, which began as an online retailer, plans to add 14 more stores this year, bringing its total to close to 100.

# Actor Pierce Brosnan pleads guilty to walking in Yellowstone park thermal area, must pay \$1,500

**MAMMOTH, Wyo.** (AP) — Pierce Brosnan, whose fictitious character James Bond has been in hot water plenty of times, pleaded guilty Thursday to stepping off a trail in a thermal area during a November visit to Yellowstone National Park.

Brosnan, who called in to the court hearing, was fined \$500 and ordered to make a \$1,000 donation to Yellowstone Forever — a nonprofit organization that supports the park — by April 1, court records said.

A second petty offense, for violating closures and signs, was dismissed by U.S. Magistrate Judge Stephanie Hambrick.

Brosnan's attorney, Karl Knuchel, was not immediately available for comment.

Brosnan, 70, walked in an off-limits area at Mammoth Terraces, in the northern part of Yellowstone near the Wyoming-Montana line, on Nov. 1, according to the citations.

# SpaceX comes close to completing test flight of mega rocket but loses spacecraft near end

By **MARCIA DUNN**  
AP Aerospace Writer

SpaceX came close to completing an hour-long test flight of its mega rocket on its third try Thursday, but the spacecraft was lost as it descended back to Earth.

The company said it lost contact with Starship as it neared its goal, a splashdown in the Indian Ocean. The first-stage booster also ended up in pieces, breaking apart much earlier in the flight over the Gulf of Mexico after launching from the southern tip of Texas near the Mexican border.

"The ship has been lost. So no splashdown today," said SpaceX's Dan Hoat. "But again, it's incredible to see how much further we got this time around."

Two test flights last year both ended in explosions minutes after liftoff. By surviving for close to 50 minutes this time, Thursday's effort was considered a win by not only SpaceX's Elon Musk, but NASA as well as Starship soared higher and farther than ever before. The space agency is counting on Starship to land its astronauts on the moon in another few years.

The nearly 400-foot (121-meter) Starship — the biggest and most powerful rocket ever built, headed out over the Gulf of Mexico after liftoff Thursday morning, flying east. Spectators crowded the nearby beaches in South Padre Island and Mexico.

A few minutes later, the booster separated successfully from the spacecraft, but broke apart 1,500 feet (462 meters)

above the gulf, instead of plummeting into the water intact. By then, the spacecraft was well to the east and continuing upward, with no people or satellites on board.

Starship reached an altitude of about 145 miles (233 kilometers) as it coasted across the Atlantic and South Africa, before approaching the Indian Ocean. But 49 minutes into the flight — with just 15 minutes remaining — all contact was lost and the spacecraft presumably broke apart.

At that point, it was 40 miles (65 kilometers) high and traveling around 16,000 mph (25,700 kph).

SpaceX's Elon Musk had just congratulated his team a little earlier. "SpaceX has come a long way," he said via X, formerly called Twitter. The rocket company was founded exactly 22 years ago Thursday.

NASA watched with keen interest: The space agency needs Starship to succeed in order to land astronauts on the moon in the next two or so years. This new crop of moonwalkers — the first since last century's Apollo program — will descend to the lunar surface in a Starship after transferring from NASA's Orion capsule in lunar orbit.

NASA Administrator Bill Nelson quickly congratulated SpaceX on what he called a successful test flight as part of the space agency's Artemis moon-landing program.

The stainless steel, bullet-shaped spacecraft launched atop a first-stage booster known as the Super Heavy. Both the booster and the spacecraft are

designed to be reusable, although they were never meant to be salvaged Thursday.

On Starship's inaugural launch last April, several of the booster's 33 methane-fueled engines failed and the booster did not separate from the spacecraft, causing the entire vehicle to explode and crash into the gulf four minutes after liftoff.

SpaceX managed to double the length of the flight during November's trial run. While all 33 engines fired and the booster pedaled away as planned, the flight ended in a pair of explosions: first the booster and then the spacecraft.

The Federal Aviation Administration reviewed all the corrections made to Starship, before signing off on Thursday's launch. The FAA said after the flight that it would again investigate what happened. As during the second flight, all 33 booster engines performed well during ascent, according to SpaceX.

Initially, SpaceX plans to use the mammoth rockets to launch the company's Starlink internet satellites, as well as other spacecraft. Test pilots would follow to orbit, before the company flies wealthy clients around the moon and back. Musk considers the moon a stepping stone to Mars, his ultimate quest.

NASA is insisting that an empty Starship land successfully on the moon, before future moonwalkers climb aboard. The space agency is targeting the end of 2026 for the first moon landing crew under the Artemis program, named after the mythological twin sister of Apollo.

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If the Company's entire request is approved, the total bill for a residential customer who purchases 70 therms of gas from Columbia per month would increase from \$118.16 to \$306.92 per month, or by 15.88 percent.

The total bill for a small commercial customer using 150 therms of gas purchased from Columbia per month would increase from \$199.43 to \$226.24, or by 13.48 percent.

For a small industrial customer using 1.215 therms of gas from Columbia per month would increase from \$1,291.25 to \$1,452.98 per month, or by 13.48 percent.

If the Company's Municipal Levelization Charge is approved, customers located in the City of Pittsburgh and Perryopolis would be billed \$0.70 per therm in addition to the increases described above. Bills for customers located in Roscoe Borough and New Sewickley Township would increase as described above, but they would receive a monthly bill credit of \$7.44.

To find out your customer class or how the requested increase might affect your gas bill, call Columbia Gas at 1-888-460-4332. The rates requested by the Company may be found in proposed Columbia Gas Service Unit No. 9 - Supplement No. 373 which is available at <https://www.columbiagaspa.com/our-company/about-us/regulatory-information>. You may examine the material filed with the PUC, which contains the requested increase and the reasons for it. A copy of this material is kept at Columbia's office. Upon request, the Company will send you a statement of reasons for Supplement No. 373, explaining why the rate increase has been requested.

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For more information, call the PUC at 1-800-692-7380. You may leave your name and address so that you can be notified of any hearings that may be scheduled in this case.

**Columbia Gas**  
A NSource Company

# AFFIDAVIT FOR PROOF OF PUBLICATION

- \* Name of Publication: **GETTYSBURG TIMES**
- \* City, State: **GETTYSBURG, PA**
- \* Advertiser name: **COLUMBIA GAS OF PENNSYLVANIA**

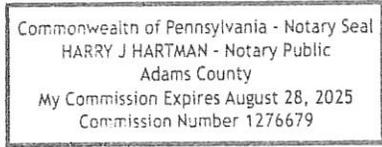
Insertion Order #: **CG-2024-GT**

Date of Insertion: **3/15/2024**

Caption: **2024 – RATE CASE**

Ad Size: **3 Col. x 9"**

Affiant further disposes and says that (s)he is an employee of the publisher of the said newspaper and has been authorized to verify the foregoing statement and that (s)he is not interested in the subject matter of the aforesaid notice or publication and that all allegations in the foregoing statement as to time, place, and character of publication are true. I verify that the aforementioned ad ran as noted above. Before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry Hartman".

Publication Signature

The Notary Public Seal

Harry Hartman  
Name (Please Print)

State of: PA

County of: Adams

Sworn to and subscribed before me

Date: 3-15-24

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry Hartman".

Notary Public Signature

# Fairfield volunteer firefighters host annual banquet

Times Staff Report

About 100 people attended Fairfield Fire and Emergency Medical Services Co. 2's Annual Appreciation Banquet. The event took place March 9 at the fire station. Awards were presented.

Photos by Darryl Wheeler/Gettysburg Times

officers were introduced, and veteran members, living and deceased, were recognized. A review of the year was presented and the Fireman's Prayer was offered. Numerous state, Adams County, and local elected officials were in attendance.



Robert Stanley, mayor of Fairfield, selects a dessert during the Fairfield fire company's awards banquet March 9.



Fairfield Fire Chief Bill Jacobs, left, presents the Firefighter of the Year Award to Brad Shughart.



Fairfield Fire Chief Bill Jacobs, left, presents the chief of the year award to Miles Leister.



The line officers of Fairfield Fire and Emergency Medical Services Co. 2 are from left, Chad Fogle, captain; Brad Hartdagen, assistant chief; William Jacobs, chief; Adam Jacobs, deputy chief; Brad Shughart, lieutenant; Mike Hartdagen fire police captain; Steve Bata, fire police lieutenant.



Fire company administrative officers are from left, Holly Kuykendall, treasurer; Carole Hartdagen, treasurer; Miles Leister, vice president; Gary Shorb Jr., president; Dianna Ratliff, membership secretary; and Rose Jacobs, recording secretary.



Fairfield Fire and Emergency Medical Services Co. 2 Board of Directors members are from left, Wyatt Shorb, Mike Hartdagen, Brad Hartdagen, Dianna Ratliff, Rose Jacobs, Brad Shughart and Miles Leister.

# Math enthusiasts celebrate Pi Day all around the globe

By Curt Anderson  
Associated Press

Math enthusiasts around the world, from college kids to rock scientists, celebrate Pi Day on

Thursday, which is March 14 or 3/14 — the first three digits of an infinite number with many practical uses. Around the world many people will mark the day with a slice of pie — sweet, savory or even

fields, dating back thousands of years to ancient Egypt, Babylon and China. Pi Day itself dates to 1988, when physicist Larry Shaw began celebrations at the Exploratorium science museum in San Francisco. The holiday didn't really gain national recognition until two decades later. In 2009, Congress designated every March 14 to be the big day — to hopefully spur more interest in math and science. Fittingly enough, the day is also Albert Einstein's birthday.

Here's a little more about the holiday's origin and how it's celebrated today. Pi can calculate the circumference of a circle by measuring the diameter — the distance straight across the circle's middle — and multiplying that by the 3.14-plus number. It is considered a constant number and it is also infinite, meaning it is mathematically irrational. Long before computers, historic scientists such as Isaac Newton spent many hours calculating decimal places by hand. Today, using sophisticated computers, researchers have come up with trillions of digits

for pi, but there is no end. It wasn't given its name until 1706, when Welsh mathematician William Jones began using the Greek symbol for the number. Why that letter? It's the first Greek letter in the words "periphery" and "perimeter," and pi is the ratio of a circle's periphery — or circumference — to its diameter. The number is key to accurately pointing an antenna toward a satellite. It helps figure out everything from the size of a massive cylinder needed in refinery equipment to the size of paper rolls used in printers. Pi is also useful in determining the necessary scale of a tank that serves heating and air conditioning systems in buildings of various sizes. NASA uses pi on a daily basis. It's key to calculating orbits, the positions of planets and other celestial bodies, elements of rocket propulsion, spacecraft communication and even the correct deployment of parachutes when a vehicle splashes down on Earth or lands on Mars. Using just nine digits of pi, scientists say it can calculate the Earth's circumference so

accurately it only errs by about a quarter of an inch (0.6 centimeters) for every 25,000 miles (about 40,000 kilometers). Every year the San Francisco museum that coined the holiday organizes events, including a parade around a circular plaque, called the Pi Shrine. 3.14 times pi — and then, of course, festivities with lots of pie.

Around the country, many events now take place on college campuses. For example, Nova Southeastern University in Florida will hold a series of activities, including a game called "Mental Math Bingo" and event with free pizza (pies) — and for dessert, the requisite pie.

"Every year Pi Day provides us with a way to celebrate math, have some fun and recognize how important math is in all our lives," said Jason Gershlman, chair of NSU's math department. At Michèle's Pies in Norwalk, Connecticut, manager Stephen Jarrett said it's one of their biggest days of the year.

"We have hundreds of pies going out for orders (Thursday) to companies, schools and just individuals," Jarrett said in an interview. "Pi Day is such a fun, silly holiday because it's a mathematical number that people love to turn into something fun and something delicious. So people celebrate Pi Day with sweet pies, savory pies, and it's just an excuse for a little treat."

NASA has its annual "Pi Day Challenge" online, offering people plenty of games and puzzles, some of them directly from the space agency's own play book such as calculating the orbit of an asteroid or the distance a moon rover would need to travel each day to survey a certain lunar area.

Possibly the world's best-known scientist, Einstein was born on March 14, 1879, in Germany. The infinite number of pi was used in many of his breakthrough theories and now Pi Day gives the world another reason to celebrate his achievements.

In a bit of math symmetry, famed physicist Stephen Hawking died on March 14, 2018, at age 76. Still, pi is not a perfect number. He once laid this to say: "One of the basic rules of the universe is that nothing is perfect. Perfection simply doesn't exist. Without imperfection, neither you nor I would exist."

Associated Press video journalist John Minichello contributed from Norwalk, Connecticut.

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## LIVING LIBRARY

There's more to the story...

MONDAY, APRIL 22 - SATURDAY, APRIL 27

The YWCA Gettysburg & Adams County and the Adams County Library System are excited to announce our second annual Living Library experience! It takes place during the fourth week in April and is loosely based on the global Human Library® initiative. Join us for an opportunity to engage in conversations with human "books," where individuals share their unique life experiences and perspectives. New for 2024, sessions will be held at library branches throughout the county, offering both small group sessions and one-on-one interactions. Stay tuned for more details!

Stay tuned for more information at [www.adamslibrary.org/living-library](http://www.adamslibrary.org/living-library)

eliminating racism empowering women  
ywca  
Gettysburg & Adams County

ADAMS COUNTY LIBRARY  
"Forward" logo

# AFFIDAVIT FOR PROOF OF PUBLICATION

- \* Name of Publication: **UNIONTOWN HERALD STANDARD**
- \* City, State: **UNIONTOWN, PA**
- \* Advertiser name: **COLUMBIA GAS OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Insertion Order #: **CG-2024-UHS**

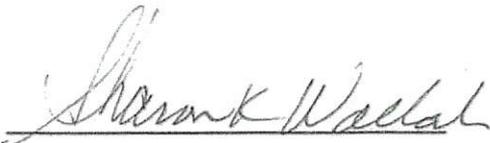
Date of Insertion: **3/15/2024**

Caption: **2024 – RATE CASE**

Ad Size: **3 Col. x 9"**

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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal  
Amanda M. Kisko, Notary Public  
Fayette County  
My commission expires June 3, 2026  
Commission number 1420437  
Member, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries



**Publication Signature**

**The Notary Public Seal**

SHARON K. WALLACH

**Name (Please Print)**

State of: Pennsylvania

County of: Fayette

Sworn to and subscribed before me



**Notary Public Signature**

Date: 3/15/24

# No one injured when car hits into garage in Uniontown

By MARK HOFMANN  
mhofmann@heraldstandard.com

A Uniontown woman accidentally pressed the accelerator when she was backing her car out of the driveway Thursday morning, causing the vehicle to hit into a neighbor's garage.

Uniontown police Lt. Tom Kolencik said Linda Weaver's car crossed the street to 133 Cleveland Ave. when she hit the accelerator. The impact caused a support beam in the garage, located below her neighbor's house, to fall onto the car when she hit it just

before 11 a.m. Kolencik said Weaver, whose age was not provided, was not injured, and noted that there was nobody in the neighboring house or garage. He classified the crash as accidental, and said it was not caused by a health-related event or impairment.

Along with Uniontown police, Uniontown Fire Department and Fayette EMS responded to the scene.

Kolencik said that officials contacted K2 Engineering to inspect the house to determine if the garage needs additional support, or is safe for use.



A Uniontown woman was uninjured when she accidentally backed her car into a neighbor's garage on Cleveland Avenue Thursday morning.

## OBITS

### OBITS

Continued from A3

She is survived by her sister, Betty Hardy of Murrysville; her sons, Kenneth (Beatrice) of Connellsville and Dennis (Karen) of Pittsburgh; her daughters, Verona (David) Griffin of Monroeville; Patricia (Walter) Cherry of Washington and Pamela Washington of Frisco, Texas. Together they made Doris a grandmother 15 times and a great-grandmother 20 times.

Family and friends will be received at the LANTZ FUNERAL HOME, INC., 297 E. Main Street, Uniontown, from 4 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, March 17. A second viewing will be held at the Rodman Street Baptist Church, 6111 Rodman Street, East Liberty, Pittsburgh, PA 15206, from 10 to 11 a.m. on Monday, March 18. The funeral service will begin at 11 a.m. with the Reverend Dr. Darryl Canady Sr., Pastor, officiating. Interment will be held at a later date at the Green Ridge Cemetery in Connellsville.

Condolences and floral tributes may be submitted via [www.lantzfh.com](http://www.lantzfh.com)

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Doris' name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, [www.stjude.org/](http://www.stjude.org/) and Shriners' [www.syr-inshriners.org/](http://www.syr-inshriners.org/)

# PennWest California to host Science Olympiad regional competition

By PAUL PATERRA  
nevaroom@heraldstandard.com

About 400 students from school districts in 13 counties will converge on PennWest California Saturday for the Southwestern Regional tournament of the Pennsylvania Science Olympiad.

The tournament, hosted at the California campus for some 30 years, involves students from Western Pennsylvania, including Washington, Greene and Fayette counties. The Northwest Regional was held Feb. 24 at PennWest Clarion.

Student teams are challenged by various STEM-related events.

"They do different events related to science subjects," said Dr. Candice Riley, associate professor of parks and recreation management at PennWest California. "There's

a unit where they make modified paper airplanes, there's different exams, robotics types of events, all sorts of different things."

Riley is one of the organizers of the Olympiad, along with Dr. Steven Brooks and Dr. Matt Price.

"I think it's important to instill that love of science, increase that interest in science," Riley said. "Competition is always fun. You want to do the best that you can. It's a good way for middle and high school students to test their knowledge."

Science Olympiad is an international nonprofit organization devoted to improving the quality of science education, increasing student interest in science, and providing recognition for outstanding achievement in science education.



Sarah Urso, a student at Ringgold High School, took part in the Scramble competition at the 2023 Southwestern Regional Tournament of the Pennsylvania Science Olympiad.

About 50 PennWest California students are expected to volunteer their time to help with the Science Olympiad. Faculty members volunteer as judges.

"It's a good way to get the university community involved," Riley said. "We've reached out to student clubs

and student organizations and different classes that we offer. It's also a good recruiting tool for students who are thinking about college, they could consider our university."

The top-performing teams are eligible to advance to the state tournament, scheduled for April 27 at Penn State Altoona.



Liam Glover, left, and Cannon Hazel, students at A.J. McMullen Middle School in the Uniontown Area School District, participated in the roller-coaster competition at the 2022 Southwestern Regional Tournament of the Pennsylvania Science Olympiad.

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Columbia Gas  
A NSource Company



**Simple Cremation \$995**  
**Burial \$3,295**

**724-434-CARE**

65 N. GALLATIN AVENUE  
UNIONTOWN, PA 15401



**Stacey A. Dollif,**  
Funeral Director



**Todd M. DeGusipe,**  
Owner, Funeral Director

# AFFIDAVIT FOR PROOF OF PUBLICATION

- \* Name of Publication: **DAILY COURIER**
- \* City, State: **CONNELLSVILLE, PA**
- \* Advertiser name: **COLUMBIA GAS OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Insertion Order #: **CG-2024-DC**

Date of Insertion: **3/15/2024**

Caption: **2024 – RATE CASE**

Ad Size: **3 Col. x 9"**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
**Publication Signature**  
Joanne Richey  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name (Please Print)**

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal  
Rosemary Furman, Notary Public  
Westmoreland County  
My commission expires August 5, 2024  
Commission number 1299996  
Member, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries

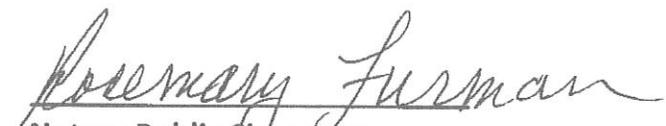
\_\_\_\_\_  
**The Notary Public Seal**

**State of:** Pennsylvania

**County of:** Fayette

**Sworn to and subscribed before me**

**Date:** March 15, 2024

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Notary Public Signature**

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If the Company's entire request is approved, the total bill for a residential customer who purchases 70 therms of gas from Columbia per month would increase from \$118.16 to \$136.90 per month, or by 15.88 percent.

The total bill for a small commercial customer using 150 therms of gas purchased from Columbia per month would increase from \$78.33 to \$92.24, or by 15.18 percent.

Rates for a small industrial customer using 1,215 therms of gas from Columbia per month would increase from \$1,281.25 to \$1,452.86 per month, or by 13.40 percent.

If the Company's Municipal Levelization Change is approved, customers located in the City of Pittsburgh and Perryopolis would be billed \$0.70 per month in addition to the increases described above. Bills for customers located in Roscoe Borough and New Sewickley Township would increase as described above, but they would receive a monthly bill credit of \$7.44.

To find out your customer class or how the requested increase might affect your gas bill, call Columbia Gas at 1-888-460-4332. The rates requested by the Company may be found in proposed Columbia Gas Service Rule No. 9 - Supplement No. 373 which is available at <https://www.columbia-gas.com/en/company/about-us/regulatory-information>. You may examine the material filed with the PUC, which explains the requested increase and the reasons for it. A copy of this material is kept at Columbia's office. Upon request, the Company will send you a statement of reasons for Supplement No. 373, explaining why the rate increase has been requested.

The state agency that approves rates for public utilities is the PUC. The PUC will examine the requested rate increase and can prevent existing rates from changing until it investigates and/or holds hearings on the request. The Company must prove that the requested rate increase is reasonable. After examining the evidence, the PUC may grant all, some, or none of the request, or may reduce existing rates. The PUC may change the amount of the rate increase requested by the utility for each customer class. As a result, the rate charged to you might be different than the rate requested by the Company as shown above.

There are three ways to challenge a company's request to change its rates:

1. You may file a formal complaint. If you want a hearing before a judge, you must file a formal complaint. By filing a formal complaint, you assure yourself the opportunity to take part in hearings about the rate increase request. All complaints should be filed as soon as possible. If no formal complaints are filed, the PUC may grant all, some, or none of the request, or may reduce existing rates, but you will not have a hearing before a judge.
2. You may send the PUC a letter telling why you object to the requested rate increase. Sometimes there is information in these letters that makes the PUC aware of problems with the company's service or management. This information can be helpful when the PUC investigates the rate request. Send your letter or request for a formal complaint form to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, P. O. Box 3265, Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265. Your letter or formal complaint can be filed electronically with the PUC. Information regarding electronic filing is available at <https://efiling.puc.pa.gov/>.
3. You may be a witness at a public input hearing. Public input hearings are held if the PUC opens an investigation of the company's rate increase request and if there are a large number of customers interested in the case. At these hearings, you have the opportunity to present your views or present to the PUC judge hearing the case and the company representatives. All testimony given "under oath" becomes part of the official rate case record. These hearings are held in the company's service area.

For more information, call the PUC at 1-800-662-7380. You may leave your name and address so that you can be notified of any hearings that may be scheduled in this case.



# Grab and go lunch planned March 21



PAM MCCLAIN

St. Raymond's Fish/Shrimp Lenten Dinners will be held tonight and continue March 22 from 4 to 7 p.m. The dinners will be held in the church hall, 170 School House Lane, Donegal. Eat-in or take-out will be available.

Springfield Township Volunteer Hose Company will hold an auction fundraiser 6 p.m. Friday at their fire hall in Mill Run. The items auctioned off will be new. There will be food available to purchase.

Indian Creek Baptist Church in Mill Run will host their November Senior Luncheon on March 20 in the church basement. The complimentary lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. Takeouts are available upon request.

A free Grab and Go lunch will be available starting at 11 a.m. March 21 at the Critchfield Alliance Church, 471 Jim Mountain Road, Mill Run. The menu is two hot dogs with or without chili, chips, apple, cookie and a bottle of water. You will receive one lunch for every person in the vehicle while supplies last. Grab and Go will be on the third Thursday of every month.

A Christian Skate Night will be held 6 to 9 p.m. March 22 at the Donegal Event Center. This free skate night includes drink, pizza and dessert, free face painting, giveaways and more just bring your own skates. The event is sponsored by Light On The Hill Outreach Church. For more information, call 724-806-0135.

The Buchanan Church of God will host a chicken and biscuit dinner to benefit their youth group 4 to 7 p.m. March 23. Dine-in or carry-out is available. The church is located at 836 Buchanan Road, White. A silent auction will take place during the event.

A Kid's Easter Celebration will be held 1 to 3 p.m. March 24 at the Buchanan Church of God. Come and enjoy a fun-filled afternoon of coloring eggs, egg hunt, snacks and listen to the Easter Story. Please bring six hard boiled eggs to color and your Easter basket to collect eggs.

A Pennsylvania Game Commission Hunter Trapper Education class will be held 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 30 at ICV Sportsman Club, 235 Kesler School Road, Acme.

Participants must be 11 years old or older on the day of the class. To register go to the PA Game Commission website to hunter education and look on the calendar on March 30 and you will see the class. Lunch will be provided.

Joan Leeper's Meats for their annual Farmer Cottontail's Egg-Bean Hunt March 30 at 260 Harr Road, Acme. There will be two hunting sessions at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The cost is \$6 for children up to age 12 and includes a treat bag. Their goal for their egg-bean hunt is always to provide a safe, fun, and very enjoyable experience on the farm for all children and their family members.

This is why they have a limit on how many children families they register for each hunting session. The hunt takes place in their egg-bean (formerly soybean) field. You and your children will be enjoying a real hunt on acres of field for twelve matching eggs. It's not about how many eggs you find, you must find 12 matching eggs and then return to the mill to claim your prize.

Along with your hunt, you may enjoy crafters who will be set up 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. that day, lunch, and other games, activities and more prizes. While they love providing this fun Easter event for your families, their goal is also to communicate the meaning of Easter and that our Lord and Savior, Jesus, died for our sins so that we may have eternal life.

They are thankful to partner with Donegal Christian & Missionary Alliance Church for this event. In 2020, they began using the proceeds from this event to help support local volunteer fire departments. They love continuing this tradition and working with local fire departments to provide fire safety.

See MCCLAIN on Page A7

## Do Just One Thing

Ever try to remove a price tag or label from an item and it just won't come off? Instead of reaching for a chemical product, you can make your own degreaser with two simple ingredients: coconut oil and baking soda. Just mix 1/3 cup of coconut oil and 1/4 cup of baking soda together. The coconut oil helps saturate the label and lift the adhesive that's on the jar or container, and the baking soda acts as a gentle abrasive to help scrub off the label. Just leave the mixture on the label for at least 10 minutes and it'll wipe right off.

## Today's Fact

The salary of the chief justice of the United States was \$4,000 in 1789. Chief Justice John Roberts' salary is currently \$286,700.

## Today's Quote

"Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier."  
Mother Teresa

## HERMAN



"He'll take the one on the left."

## SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

**HOW TO PLAY:**  
Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

## MODERATELY CONFUSED



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## Highlights in History:

- March 15, 44 B.C., Roman emperor Julius Caesar was assassinated by a group of senators that included Brutus and Cassius.
- In 1493, Italian explorer Christopher Columbus arrived back in the Spanish harbor of Palos de la Frontera, two months after concluding his first voyage to the Western Hemisphere.
- In 1767, the seventh president of the U.S., Andrew Jackson, was born in the Waxhaw settlement along the North Carolina-South Carolina border.
- In 1820, Maine was admitted as the 23rd U.S. state.
- In 1913, President Woodrow Wilson met with about 100 reporters for the first formal presidential press conference.
- In 1916, a U.S. expeditionary force led by Brig. Gen. John J. Pershing entered Mexico on an ultimately futile mission to capture Pancho Villa, whose raiders had attacked Columbus, New Mexico, killing 18 U.S. citizens.
- In 1917, Czar Nicholas II abdicated in favor of his brother, Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich, who declined the crown, marking the end of imperial rule in Russia.
- In 1919, members of the American Expeditionary Force from World War I convened in Paris for a three-day meeting to found the American Legion.
- In 1922, Sultan Fuad I proclaimed himself the first king of modern Egypt.
- In 1937, America's first hospital blood bank was opened at Cook County Hospital in Illinois.
- In 1944, during World War II, Allied bombers again raided German-held Monte Cassino.
- In 1954, the "CBS Morning Show" premiered, with Walter Cronkite & Jack Paar.
- In 1956, the Lerner and Loewe musical play "My Fair Lady" based on Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion," opened on Broadway.
- In 1964, actress Elizabeth Taylor married actor Richard Burton in Montreal; it was her fifth marriage, his second.
- In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson, addressing a joint session of Congress, called for new legislation to guarantee every American's right to vote. The result was pas-

## sage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

- In 1977, the sitcom "Three's Company" premiered on ABC-TV.
- In 1985, Symbolics Computer Corp. of Massachusetts registered the first internet domain name.
- In 1998, CBS' "60 Minutes" aired an interview with former White House employee Kathleen Willey, who said President Bill Clinton had made unwelcome sexual advances toward her in the Oval Office in 1993, a charge advanced by the president. Dr. Benjamin Spock, whose child care guidance spanned half a century, died in San Diego at 94.
- In 2005, former WorldCom chief Bernard Ebbers was convicted in New York of engineering the largest corporate fraud in U.S. history. (He was later sentenced to 25 years in prison.)
- In 2008, A construction crane, 19 stories tall and attached to an apartment tower under construction on Manhattan's East Side, broke away and toppled onto buildings as far as a block away, killing seven people.
- In 2009, The space shuttle Discovery was launched on a mission to the International Space Station that had been delayed five times.
- In 2011, security forces opened fire on protesters in Damascus, marking the beginning of the Syrian Civil War.
- In 2018, a pedestrian bridge that was under construction collapsed onto a busy Miami highway, crushing vehicles beneath massive slabs of concrete and steel; six people died and 10 were injured. Seven service members aboard a U.S. helicopter were killed when the aircraft crashed in Iraq.
- In 2019, a gunman killed 51 people at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, streaming the massacre live on Facebook.
- In 2022, Russia stepped up its bombardment of the Ukrainian capital Kyiv.

## BIZARRO



## REALITY CHECK



# LOCALiQ

Erie Times-News | The Intelligencer  
Bucks County Courier Times  
The Daily American | Beaver County Times  
Pocono Record | Burlington County Times

PO Box 630531 Cincinnati, OH 45263-0531

## PROOF OF PUBLICATION

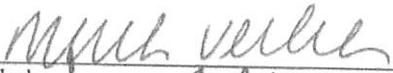
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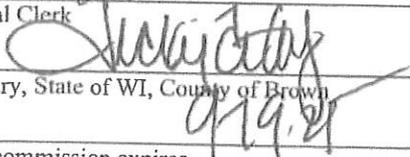
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, COUNTY OF SOMERSET

The Somerset Daily American is a newspaper of general circulation, published at 334 West Main Street, in the borough of Somerset, County of Somerset and State of Pennsylvania. That said newspaper was established as a daily newspaper of general circulation on the First day of July, 1929, since which date said newspaper has been published daily in the Borough of Somerset; that a copy of the printed notice, hereto attached, is exactly as the same was printed and published in the regular edition of the Daily American, published in the issue dated:

03/15/2024

Sworn to and subscribed before on 03/15/2024

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary, State of WI, County of Brown

My commission expires

Publication Cost: \$328.46  
Order No: 9953029 # of Copies:  
Customer No: 546849 1  
PO #: 2024 Columbia Gas Public Notice

**THIS IS NOT AN INVOICE!**

*Please do not use this form for payment remittance.*

VICKY FELTY  
Notary Public  
State of Wisconsin

# AFFIDAVIT FOR PROOF OF PUBLICATION

- \* Name of Publication: YORK DAILY RECORD/YORK DISPATCH
- \* City, State: YORK, PA
- \* Advertiser name: COLUMBIA GAS OF PENNSYLVANIA

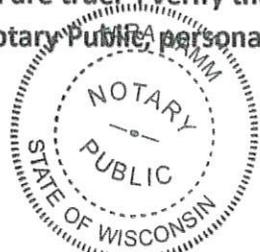
Insertion Order #: CG-2024-YDRD

Date of Insertion: 3/15/2024

Caption: 2024 – RATE CASE

Ad Size: 3 Col. x 9"

Affiant further disposes and says that (s)he is an employee of the publisher of the said newspaper and has been authorized to verify the foregoing statement and that (s)he is not interested in the subject matter of the aforesaid notice or publication and that all allegations in the foregoing statement as to time, place, and character of publication are true. I verify that the aforementioned ad ran as noted above. Before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared.



Edward Hobaugh

Publication Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Notary Public Seal

Edward Hobaugh

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Please Print)

State of: Wisconsin

County of: Marathon

Sworn to and subscribed before me

Sara Hamm

Notary Public Signature

Date: 3/15/2024



**► DEBATE**

*Continued from A3*

he said, he's lived a quarter of his life, and if elected, he'll be accountable to that for the rest of his life. It's not because it takes 10 to 15 years for legislation to truly take hold.

"I'm running for this office because throughout my life I have been a leader, and I understand that leadership is not about taking charge of those in your care but taking care of those in your charge, because I have always been an outspoken advocate for the things I believe in because I truly want to fight for a better tomorrow," he said. "I see no better measure of accountability than having to live through those choices."

Mara Anderson, a Northern High School teacher, was at times the most fiery debater, including stating that the Democratic Party had corrupted elections and that he was firmly not a member of the teacher's union.

Despite entreaties from the moderator not to applaud, his statements drew the most applause from the crowd.

"When you get our mailers, it's all going to say the same thing: 'I'm going to look very familiar. Our websites look very familiar, so what's the difference,'" Anderson asked. "I would be accountable to the taxpayer because I've already been accountable to the taxpayers. I don't have a flexible job, I get paid at school."

Kile noted his experience as a financial adviser as well as his experience as president of the Northern York School Board.

"Consider the values that define us: our shared commitment to liberty, our fiscal responsibility and our respect for each other. I'm not just another politician seeking

office. No, I'm your friend, and I'm an unwavering advocate for limited government, individual freedoms, fiscal responsibility, the sanctity of life," he said. "Our hard-earned tax dollars shouldn't be squandered on bloated bureaucracies, but it should be spent wisely, and this is the world I live in every day."

Wyatt cited his long experience in both the U.S. Army and other walks of life. His entire life should be legislated, he said, about serving others, he said.

"This country is on the precipice of disaster," Wyatt said. "It's not just a question of being a patriotic American but about being successful at every single level and making connections with people. I've done that, with plumbers, presidents and everybody in between."

Questions: The nearly two-hour debate included questions about election security, if recreational marijuana should be legalized, Gov. Josh Shapiro's budget, the Second Amendment and school choice.

One question that was asked regarded how to get conservative agenda enacted into law with a divided Legislature. Davis said he'd focus on getting the simple stuff done and through the process with united conservatives, including cutting spending, voter ID and talking to Democrats about what matters.

Anderson, after claiming George Soros-funded district attorneys changed the justice system, said Republicans need to be smart and incrementally chip away at things. The success in school boards, he said, was an example.

Kile said there are hills worth dying on, but there are some things Republicans can get along with and put into place. Republicans can't be just the party of no; they have to be the party that unites people, he said.

Wyatt said Republicans have to be realistic, saying he'd spent his entire adult life negotiating. Don't compromise on convictions, he said, but Republicans have to compromise on the greater good.

Kelley cited her experience on Dillsburg Borough Council, including negotiating contracts, Collaboration, listening having respect for each

other and having discussion and debates are important, and those skills have been lost, she said. She would bring her skills in negotiating to the seat, she said.

**At the debate:** Former York County GOP chair David Prevora and former counsel to the York County GOP Jim Mann moderated the debate. Darla Byerly, who has been involved in initiatives to remove voting machines in York County and participated in a secret meeting with York County officials where she and other propped conspiracy theories about Wi-Fi, was one of the time-keepers; at times, she would also wave an American flag.

Attendees at the debate also included Reps. Mike Jones, R-York Township; Joe D'Orsio, R-Mount Wolf; Wendy Fink, R-Windsor Township; and Keefer herself.

Keefer is not running for reelection in the House because she is running for state Senate in the 28th District, the seat currently held by Sen. Mike Regan, who is not running for reelection. She is opposed in that race by Democrat Mark Tomons.

**Democrat:** Democratic candidate Dan Almoney, who ran unsuccessfully against Keefer in the 2022 election, also attended the debate. He is running unopposed in the Democratic primary.

"I think that we heard a lot of the traditional Republican fluff. We heard a lot of talking points without any specifics or any plans," Almoney said. He also noted that Democrats have been winning special elections since they took control of the Pennsylvania House in 2022, so it's likely that control will remain in Democrats' hands after the November election.

"So the only way to get anything done is to have a Democrat in the House representing northern York County so that we can achieve things that we need to achieve, like watching development in our counties, making sure our drinking water's safe, raising the minimum wage and getting good jobs," Almoney said. "I heard a lot about cutting taxes. I didn't hear a lot about standing up for working people."

The primary is April 23. To watch the full debate, visit the PA Economic Growth PAC Facebook page.

— *Reach Matt Enright via email at [menright@yorkdispatch.com](mailto:menright@yorkdispatch.com) or via Twitter at @Matthew\_Enright.*

**► STEEL**

*Continued from A3*

House indicated it would be under review by the secretive Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States. The government does not officially provide updates on the CFIUS review process.

Biden has a big megaphone to weigh in on the matter, but he is not intervening in the review process or formally blocking the deal, according to a person familiar with deliberations who insisted on anonymity to discuss the situation.

When asked about the deal on Thursday, White House national security spokesman John Kirby declined to say if the president wanted to stop it outright or to be amenable to changes in its structure. But Kirby told reporters that the United States sees its alliance with Japan as "stronger than it's ever been."

Still, the president holds sway over CFIUS. The treasury secretary leads the committee, which is also composed of the heads of federal agencies and, as deemed appropriate, directors of White House councils on the economy and national security.

Trump said earlier this year after meeting with the Teamsters union that he would stop the U.S. Steel acquisition: "I would block it. I think it's a horrible thing, when Japan buys U.S. Steel. I would block it instantly with voters."

Biden will travel on Thursday to Saginaw, Michigan, which was once home to multiple General Motors plants and where he hopes his backing from union workers can resonate with voters.

The city is in a swing county that

**► KOREA**

*Continued from A3*

January to rewrite the constitution to eliminate the country's longstanding goal to seek peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula and cement South Korea as its "invariable principal enemy."

He said the new constitution must specify North Korea would annex and subjugate the South if another war breaks out.

Kim's moves signal "North Korea's fundamental change on its South Korea policy,

beyond just rhetoric," as the North's previous push for inter-Korean unity had allowed it to make a steadfast call for the removal of U.S. troops in South Korea, a senior South Korean presidential official told a small group of reporters Monday. He requested anonymity, citing the delicate nature of the issue.

Observers say Kim likely wants to use his upgraded weapons arsenal to win U.S. concessions like extensive

narrowly backed Trump in 2016 and then flipped to Biden in 2020, making it a crucial contest in this year's presidential race.

Biden has a close relationship with the United Steelworkers. He gave the union members "personal assurances" that he has their backs, according to a February statement by the union about Nippon Steel's plans. U.S. Steel is headquartered in Pennsylvania, another key state in this year's election.

The United Steelworkers issued a statement last week after meeting with representatives from Nippon Steel that it had concerns about whether the company would honor existing labor agreements and about the company's financial transparency, adding that there were "barriers" to closing a merger.

The U.S. considers Japan to be one of its closest allies and a key partner in countering China's ambitions and influence in Asia. Biden has visited the country twice as president and will host Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida at the White House on April 10.

But Nippon Steel's connections to China have raised concerns within the Biden administration. More than half the steel produced globally comes from China, according to the World Steel Association. India is the second-largest producer, followed by Japan and the United States.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce warned in a February blog post that it would be foolhardy of the Biden administration to block the deal. Doing so could hurt foreign investment into the U.S., cause other countries to block the overseas investments that U.S. companies hope to make and undermine the U.S.-Japan alliance.

**► PRISON**

*Continued from A5*

California. Warden Adam Ogle called the air purification system a big deal.

"Once it's in place, we'll have tests to prove just how well it's doing in terms of mitigating germs and viruses," Ogle said.

The installation of the system will take about two months, Ogle said. "A demonstration and Q&A session was given from Germ Solutions to multiple facilities across the state, and we were provided data concerning significant decreases in infection rates in health care facilities that implemented this technology," Ogle said when asked about confidence in the system at a previous meeting discussing the Germ Solutions contract.

Meanwhile, the county approved over \$200,000 on various licenses and technology. Those include:

- A \$65,779 contract with Montgomery Technology Systems LLC for camera computers and licensing.
- A \$28,600 contract with Montgomery Technology Systems LLC for building entrance card readers.
- A \$97,051 contract with Millcreek Fence & Decks LLC for upgrades in security razor wire.
- A \$13,886 contract with Axon Enterprises for body cameras and licensing.
- A \$4,058 contract with Axon Enterprises for new tasers.
- A \$21,532 contract with ESCO

Security for annual CCTV camera license renewal.

The spending will need to be approved by the Board of Commissioners at its next meeting. That meeting will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday on the second floor of the York County Administrative Center, 28 E. Market St. As has been the case for months, York County Prison's overtime remained high. Ogle said the county had spent \$723,841 on 9,133 hours of overtime in February. That's more than double February 2023's \$331,397.

Ogle noted, however, that last month had three pay periods in comparison to February 2023's two pay periods. He continued to say that reinforcements were on the way.

"We have seven officers that will be completing their on-the-job training next Friday. So in about a week and a half, they'll be hitting the floor as full-fledged officers," he said.

Meanwhile, the Prison Board once again held a lengthy executive session.

The board met for 11 minutes in its regular session before transitioning into an executive session that lasted almost an hour.

Ogle said he could not elaborate on the reason for the executive session, citing security-related matters.

— *Reach Matt Enright via email at [menright@yorkdispatch.com](mailto:menright@yorkdispatch.com) or via Twitter at @Matthew\_Enright.*

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RATE CHANGE**

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To find out your customer class or how the requested increase might affect your gas bill, call Columbia Gas at 1-800-460-4532. The rate requested by the Company may be found in proposed Columbia Gas Service Tariff No. 9 - Supplement No. 373 which is available at <https://www.columbiagaspa.com/our-company/regulatory-information>. You may examine the material filed with the PUC, which explains the requested increase and the reasons for it. A copy of this material is kept at Columbia's office. Upon request, the Company will send you a statement of reasons for Supplement No. 373, explaining why the rate increase has been requested.

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There are three ways to challenge a company's request to change its rates:

1. You may file a formal complaint. If you want a hearing before a judge, you must file a formal complaint. By filing a formal complaint, you assume you'll get the opportunity to take part in hearings about the rate increase request. All complaints should be filed as soon as possible. If no formal complaints are filed, the PUC may grant all, some, or none of the request without holding a hearing before a judge.
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3. You may be a witness at a public input hearing. Public input hearings are held if the PUC opens an investigation of the company's rate increase request and if there are a large number of customers interested in the case. At these hearings, you have the opportunity to present your views in person to the PUC judge hearing the case and the company representatives. All testimony given "under oath" becomes part of the official rate case record. These hearings are held in the company's service area.

For more information, call the PUC at 1-800-692-7380. You may leave your name and address so that you can be notified of any hearings that may be scheduled in this case.

# AFFIDAVIT FOR PROOF OF PUBLICATION

- \* Name of Publication: **GREENSBURG TRIBUNE REVIEW/VALLEY NEWS DISPATCH**
- \* City, State: **GREENSBURG, PA**
- \* Advertiser name: **COLUMBIA GAS OF PENNSYLVANIA**

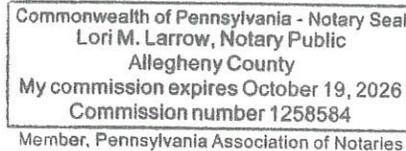
Insertion Order #: **CG-2024-TTM**

Date of Insertion: **3/15/2024**

Caption: **2024 – RATE CASE**

Ad Size: **3 Col. x 9"**

Affiant further disposes and says that (s)he is an employee of the publisher of the said newspaper and has been authorized to verify the foregoing statement and that (s)he is not interested in the subject matter of the aforesaid notice or publication and that all allegations in the foregoing statement as to time, place, and character of publication are true. I verify that the aforementioned ad ran as noted above. Before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared.



*Jennifer Tyman Williams*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Publication Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Notary Public Seal

Jennifer Tyman Williams  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name (Please Print)

State of: Pennsylvania

County of: Allegheny

Sworn to and subscribed before me

Date: 3/19/24

*Lori M. Larrow*  
\_\_\_\_\_

Notary Public Signature

Lori M. Larrow  
Commission expires 10/19/26

**Mary A. Pedatella**  
LOWER BURRELL

Mary A. Pedatella, 87, of Lower Burrell, died Tuesday, March 12, 2024, in Family Hospice at Canterbury Place. She was born in New Kensington on April 16, 1926, to the late Samuel and Diane Paladino Migliore and had been a lifelong resident of the local area. Mrs. Pedatella was a licensed beautician and was a member of St. Margaret Mary Roman Catholic Church, Lower Burrell, and the FO Eagles, New Kensington. She was a wonderful dancer and enjoyed playing poker, cooking and spending time with family and friends. She is survived by her son Ronald (Kelly) Pedatella of Spring Church; daughter Rene (Marty) Bertolino of Lower Burrell with whom she made her home; two grandchildren, Marty (Allison) Bertolino, Lesley Pedatella; sister Darlene (Paul) Cicciarelli; and numerous nieces and nephews. In

**DEATH NOTICES**

addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Alfonso Pedatella; granddaughter Ashley Bertolino; brother Sam Migliore; and sister Carmella Parrotta. Friends will be received from 2 to 7 p.m. Sunday at RUSIEWICZ OF LOWER BURRELL FUNERAL HOME, 3124 Leechburg Road at Alder Street, where Prayers of Transfer will be said at 9:30 a.m. Monday followed by Christian funeral Mass at 10 a.m. in St. Margaret Mary Church. Burial will follow in Greenwood Memorial Park, Lower Burrell. www.RusiewiczFH.com.

**Jeremy Michael Williams**  
GILPIN TOWNSHIP

Jeremy Michael Williams, 28, of Gilpin Township, passed away on Sunday, March 10, 2024, in his residence. A son of Thomas M. Williams and

Toni M. (Berta) Williams, he was born Aug. 24, 1995, in Natrona Heights. Jeremy had been employed as a utility line locator by USIC Locating Services of Carlisle. He was Presbyterian by faith. Jeremy was a car enthusiast who loved attending car shows and being with his friends. Survivors include his parents, of Gilpin Township; a brother, Christopher L. Williams (Brooke) of Gilpin Township; paternal grandparents, Beverly Williams of Gilpin Township; numerous aunts, uncles and cousins; a niece; and a nephew on the way. He was preceded in death by his paternal grandfather, Warren E. "Duck" Williams Jr.; and maternal grandparents, Louis and Patricia L. Berta. CLAWSON FUNERAL & CREMATION CENTER, 170 Main St., Leechburg, 724-842-1051, has been entrusted with private arrangements. Friends will be welcomed by his family for a Celebration of Life service to be announced at a later date. Condolences to the Williams family may be offered at www.clawsonfuneralhome.com.

**Apollo Meals on Wheels seeking volunteers**

Apollo Area Meals on Wheels needs volunteers to help prepare meals and deliver meals to clients. Hours for kitchen help are 7 to 9 a.m., and hours for drivers are 9 to 11 a.m., both Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays. For details, call the office at 724-478-3117.

**Ford City**

**Sunday:** A spaghetti dinner fundraiser to benefit the K-9 program of Southern Armstrong Regional Police Department will be from 2 to 7 p.m. in St. John Lutheran Church, 1038 Fourth Ave. Cost: \$12, includes spaghetti, salad, bread, drink and dessert.

**Harrison**

**March 25:** The adult craft club at Community Library of Allegheny Valley will meet from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. in the library, 1522 Broadview Blvd. This month's project will be an Easter tea towel. Bring your own drinks and snacks. Must be 18 or older. One towel and fabric paint will be provided. Bring additional basic tools to make more. Reservations required. Reservations: https://tinyurl.com/7vstjxkk.

**Lower Burrell**

**Sunday:** The American Legion, 1100 Wildlife Lodge Road, will be open from 9 a.m. to noon for breakfast. Menu: pancakes, creamed ground beef on toast, eggs made to order with toast, home fries and sausage or bacon.

**Thursday:** Peoples Library will offer an online talk with Madeline Miller, author of "The Song of Achilles and Circe," at 7 p.m. Reservations required. Reservations: library.org/peopleslibrary.

**New Kensington**

**March 22:** An online Sarris Candies fundraiser to benefit Zen Cat Sanctuary will continue through March 22. Details and orders: tinyurl.com/3vypa2z7.

**April 7:** St. George Orthodox Church Fellowship Committee is accepting orders for a spinach pie sale. Order deadline: March 29. Pickup: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. April 7 in the church hall, 1150 Leishman Ave. Cost: \$55 a dozen, \$30 a half-dozen. Orders and details: 724-337-3918.

**Parks Township**

**Sunday:** Parks Township Sportsman's Club will have a country music jam night from 5 to 8 p.m. at the club, 1111 Shipman Road. Bring your favorite stringed instrument and sing along. Refreshments available. Public welcome. Details: 724-845-2190.

**Tarentum**

**Sunday and Tuesday:** Alcoholics Anonymous will meet from 7 to 8 p.m. in Central Presbyterian Church, 365 Allegheny St. An opportunity to assist prayer will be at 6:30 p.m.

**CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS**

It is the policy of this newspaper to correct errors of fact in news stories as soon as possible. To request a correction or clarification, call the city desk at 724-226-4665.

**Advance tickets required for Ramble**

WINGS - FROM A3

Youngwood's Five Star Trail, Smithton Borough Building, and the West Newton Municipal Building.

**Restaurant Ramble**

Eleven restaurants are participating in the Restaurant Ramble, sponsored by Shop Small Shop New Ken, which will follow the wings unveiling. A VIP experience starts at 11 a.m. with the general event beginning at noon. It ends at 3 p.m.

Tickets are available online, with sales ending at midnight Saturday, and at Vendors meeting on Fifth Avenue in New Kensington during regular business hours until Saturday. No tickets will be sold the day of the event.

Tickets for the VIP experience cost \$58, while general tickets are \$38.

The participating restaurants offering small bites and beverages range from Farm House Fresh, in its second year, to Eazer's Restaurant & Deli, a mainstay in New Kensington for more than 100 years. Many are in their third or fourth years in business.

"If you look at the stats, I think 50% of restaurants fold



Robert Gregerson, president of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, talks about the Westmoreland Cultural Trust's Wings Across Westmoreland installation, which was unveiled in February on the Hemphield campus.

within the first year and most don't make it to five years," said Michelle Thom, operations manager of Olde Towne Overhaul and Voodoo Brewing in New Kensington. "This is a really difficult business to be in, and this event is geared toward the small restaurants downtown coming together to help each other out during a difficult time of year, and getting people familiarized with the food that is downtown and hopefully coming back after the event to eat at the restaurants."

- Eazer's: Greek salad with grilled chicken
- Farm House Fresh: Small cheesecakes
- Fat Cat's Fundraiser Subs: Hoagies and homemade wedding soup
- Fox's Pizza Den: Buffalo chicken pizza, deluxe pizza and plain cheese pizza
- Kimi's Konfections: Variety of cupcakes
- Panda Chinese: Crab Rangoon
- Steel Cup Coffee: Regular 8-ounce coffee
- SweetAlchemy: A variety of sweets
- Sweet Tillies: Chocolate peanut butter baklava
- Voodoo: Lamb and sweet potato wontons with lime crema and a beverage

Evan C. Rittmeyer is a TribLive staff writer. He can be reached at erittmeyer@triblive.com.

**Register of wills defends her record**

REGISTER OF WILLS - FROM A3

A supervisor with a private nonprofit that oversees adoptions for the state's adoption network and serves as a subcontractor for the Westmoreland County Children's Bureau testified the Register of Wills Office was out of compliance with the court orders for all of 2023 and during the first two months of this year.

Juliann Botten said there were at least four cases in 2023 in which it took more than 260 days to file adoption certificates and three other cases with delays of more than 100 days to produce those records.

Those documents take between five and six minutes to produce, Botten said. Filing delays can produce substantial hardships for new parents who require those records to secure birth certificates, legal proof for medical insurance, school enrollment and other issues.

Other allegations leveled against the Register of Wills Office included claims that staff and supervisors ignored court orders to process and forward records to state courts for appeals and were discourteous and dismissive

of court administrators and judges.

"There have been problems with adoption (records) for seven or eight years," Botten testified.

She said her staff of paralegals spent one month last year assisting the Register of Wills Office in processing adoption records, and, during that time, backlogs were eased. Hamilton rejected offers from the county children's bureau to pay for additional staff to continue that work, she testified.

Without that assistance, the adoption filing again slowed, Botten said.

"Was I shocked? No. Disappointed? Yes," Botten said. Attorney Jeff Loughner said he represented clients who were frustrated by the ongoing delays in completing the required paperwork that he said, took between four months and a year to finalize in some instances.

"We tried to live with it but hoped someday it would be corrected," Loughner testified.

Hamilton, who was elected to a third term in November, defended her oversight of the office. She said, upon

her full-time return to work in December, staff performance has improved. She said new employees were hired to augment the workforce because of pay hikes she lobbied county commissioners to approve in February.

The office has 11 employees and two vacancies. In addition to seeking information about Hamilton's duties as head of the Register of Wills Office, the judges asked about her qualifications for the job.

Hamilton served two years as the office's chief deputy under then-Register Michael Ginsburg. She previously worked as a lawyer and was a Hemphield Township supervisor.

The office, she said, processes about 3,000 new cases each year, including about 200 adoptions. Much of the filing work is assigned to her staff, she testified.

"In my role, I am more involved with policy, budgets, hiring and working with court administration," Hamilton said.

Kirk Chiodofsky is a TribLive staff writer. He can be reached at kchiodofsky@triblive.com.

**Cruising lights make officers more visible**

LIGHTS - FROM A3

costs on all of the vehicles amounted to a few hundred dollars. The program launched March 1.

A minimum of three Southern Armstrong Regional patrol cars are on patrol in Freeport, Gilpin and Ford City at any given time.

Det. Hunter Tackett works nights for Southern Armstrong Regional and said he

welcomes the new light procedure.

"It's a great thing because it shows the community that we're out there. Before, we had some unmarked vehicles, and now all of our officers are in a marked vehicle," he said.

Tackett said he hasn't experienced any issues with drivers pulling to the side of the road because they thought they were being pulled over.

Fabe stressed that motorists should pull over whenever they see flashing police lights or hear sirens behind them.

"People are talking about it, so they're spreading the word to tell people that those (steady, cruise-mode) lights don't mean you're getting pulled over," Tackett said.

Joyce Francis is a TribLive staff writer. She can be reached at jfrancis@triblive.com.

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**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RATE CHANGE**

Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. (Columbia Gas or the Company) has filed a request with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) for an increase in your natural gas distribution rates as of May 14, 2024. This notice describes the Company's rate request, the PUC's role, and what actions you can take.

Columbia has requested an overall rate increase of \$124.1 million per year. This filing also includes a request for approval of the following alternative rate mechanisms in accordance with 66 Pa. C.S. § 1320: a Revenue Normalization Adjustment mechanism to stabilize utility revenue regardless of changes in actual customer usage that would become effective with the January 2025 billing cycle and a request to remove the dead band associated with the currently effective Weather Normalization Adjustment. The filing also includes a request for approval of a Municipal Levelization Charge, which would further increase bills issued to residents of the City of Pittsburgh and Perryopolis, and decrease bills issued to residents of Roscoe Borough and New Sewickley.

If the Company's entire request is approved, the total bill for a residential customer who purchases 70 therms of gas from Columbia per month would increase from \$118.16 to \$136.92 per month, or by 15.88 percent.

The total bill for a small commercial customer using 150 therms of gas purchased from Columbia per month would increase from \$198.43 to \$226.24, or by 13.48 percent.

Rates for a small industrial customer using 1,215 therms of gas from Columbia per month would increase from \$1,281.25 to \$1,432.98 per month, or by 13.40 percent.

If the Company's Municipal Levelization Charge is approved, customers located in the City of Pittsburgh and Perryopolis would be billed \$0.70 per month in addition to the increases described above. Bills for customers located in Roscoe Borough and New Sewickley Township would increase as described above, but they would receive a monthly bill credit of \$1.44.

To find out your customer class or how the requested increase might affect your gas bill, call Columbia Gas at 1-888-460-3322. The rates requested by the Company may be found in proposed Columbia Gas Service Tariff No. 9 - Supplement No. 573 which is available at https://www.columbiagas.com/columbia-company/about-us/regulatory-information. You may examine the material filed with the PUC, which explains the requested increase and the reasons for it. A copy of this material is kept at Columbia's offices. Upon request, the Company will send you a statement of reasons for Supplement No. 573, explaining why the rate increase has been requested.

The state agency that approves rates for public utilities is the PUC. The PUC will examine the requested rate increase and can prevent existing rates from changing until it investigates and/or holds hearings on the request. The Company must prove that the requested rates are reasonable. After examining the evidence, the PUC may grant all, some, or none of the request, or may reduce existing rates. The PUC may change the amount of the rate increase requested by the utility for each customer class. As a result, the rate change to you might be different than the rate requested by the Company as shown above.

There are three ways to challenge a company's request to change its rates:

1. You may file a formal complaint. If you want a hearing before a judge, you must file a formal complaint. By filing a formal complaint, you assure yourself the opportunity to take part in hearings about the rate increase request. All complaints should be filed as soon as possible. If no formal complaints are filed, the PUC may grant all, some, or none of the request without holding a hearing before a judge.

2. You may send the PUC a letter telling why you object to the requested rate increase. Sometimes there is information in these letters that makes the PUC aware of problems with the company's service or management. This information can be helpful when the PUC investigates the rate request. Send your letter or request for a formal complaint form to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, P. O. Box 2655, Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265. Your letter or formal complaint can be filed electronically with the PUC. Information regarding electronic filing is available at https://efiling.puc.pa.gov/.

3. You may be a witness at a public input hearing. Public input hearings are held if the PUC opens an investigation of the company's rate increase request and if there are a large number of customers interested in the case. At these hearings, you have the opportunity to present your views in person to the PUC judge hearing the case and the company representatives. All testimony given "under oath" becomes part of the official rate case record. These hearings are held in the company's service area.

For more information, call the PUC at 1-800-492-7380. You may leave your name and address so that you can be notified of any hearings that may be scheduled in this case.



FORECAST Updated continuously at [www.TribLIVE.com](http://www.TribLIVE.com)

TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<b>HIGH 59</b> Cooler with rain at times	<b>LOW 34</b> Mostly cloudy and cooler	<b>56</b> Breezy in the afternoon	<b>50</b> Windy and cooler with a shower	<b>37</b> A rain or snow shower; cooler	<b>39</b> Cold; breezy in the morning
<b>WINDS:</b> NW 6-12 mph <b>POP:</b> 90%	<b>WINDS:</b> NW 6-12 mph <b>POP:</b> 15%	<b>WINDS:</b> SW 8-16 mph <b>POP:</b> 0%	<b>WINDS:</b> W 10-20 mph <b>POP:</b> 65%	<b>WINDS:</b> W 10-20 mph <b>POP:</b> 60%	<b>WINDS:</b> WSW 8-16 mph <b>POP:</b> 25%

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

9 a.m. Noon 3 p.m. 6 p.m.  
[58] [55] [55] [54]

Lowest: 2 a.m.

**Almanac**  
Statistics for Pittsburgh through 5 p.m., Thursday

**Temperatures**  
High/Low: 74/45  
Normal high/low: 48/30  
Year ago high/low: 28/23  
Record high: 73 in 1930  
Record low: 6 in 1993

**Precipitation**  
24 hours through 5 p.m., Thursday: 0.00"  
Month to date: 1.53"  
Normal month to date: 1.43"  
Year to date: 8.67"  
Normal year to date: 7.11"  
Last year to date: 5.67"

**Snowfall**  
Thursday: 0.0"  
Record: 5.4" in 1975  
Month to date: 0.4"  
Season to date: 16.2"  
Normal season to date: 40.5"

**Lake Erie forecast**  
Wind from the north-northwest at 4-8 knots today. Seas 2 feet or less. Visibility generally unrestricted.

**River stages as of 7 a.m. Thursday**

Station	Stage	24 hr. chg.
Allegheny	21	1.20 -0.20
Franklin	21	12.90 -0.20
Clinton L&D	23	14.12 -0.37
Freepont L&D	21	14.55 -0.05
Natrona L&D	17	13.35 -0.15
C.W. Bill Young L&D	21	13.60 -0.30
Shenandoah L&D	17	5.95 -0.28
Loyalhanna Creek	17	7.48 N.A.
Kingston	17	5.00 -0.40
Latrobe	20	6.90 -0.50
Youghiogheny	17	5.00 -0.40
Cornellsville	17	5.00 -0.40
Sutersville	17	5.00 -0.40

**Flood stage**  
Stage 24 hr. chg.  
7 7.50 -0.20  
21 12.90 -0.20  
23 14.12 -0.37  
21 14.55 -0.05  
17 13.35 -0.15  
21 13.60 -0.30

**Regional forecast**  
Rain at times today; breezy in eastern parts of the area in the morning. Mostly cloudy tonight.

**National weather today** • AccuWeather Visit [AccuWeather.com](http://AccuWeather.com)  
Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are high for the day.

**Air Quality Index**  
Today's forecast: Thursday

**Sun & Moon**

Event	Time	Day
Sunrise	7:31 a.m.	Today
Sunset	7:27 p.m.	Sat.
Moonrise	10:26 a.m.	Today
Moonset	10:09 a.m.	Sat.
First Quarter	March 16	Today
Full Moon	March 25	Next
Last Quarter	April 1	Next
New Moon	April 8	Next

**Weather Trivia™**  
Q: At what temperature are large snowflakes most likely to occur?  
A: Near or just above the freezing mark.

**LOTTERIES**

Numbers drawn Thursday: 7 of 5: 20,352 \$1  
Today's jackpot at least \$90,000

**Pick 2** Day: 48 Night: 71  
Pick 3 Day: 320 Night: 977  
Pick 4 Day: 33853 Night: 23000

**Wild Ball** Day 4 Night: 6  
Treasure Hunt: 3 8 15 16 19  
Cash 5: 2 4 15 18 25  
Cash 6: 7 12 14 50 52  
Cash Ball: 3

**Treasure Hunt payout**  
Matches: 5 of 5: 0 \$0  
4 of 5: 1.2 \$100  
3 of 5: 2.5 \$6

**Cash 5 payout**  
Matches: 5 of 5: 0 \$0  
4 of 5: 16 \$200  
3 of 5: 941 \$10  
2 of 5: 1,053 \$2

**Powerball drawn Wednesday**  
Drawing: 21 29 54 59 62  
Powerball/PowerPlay: 4/2  
Double Play: 2 25 64 65 67  
Powerball: 5

**Treasure Hunt payout**  
Matches: 5 of 5: 0 \$0  
4 of 5: 1.2 \$100  
3 of 5: 2.5 \$6

# U.S. sees strong alliance with Japan

**U.S. STEEL - FROM A1**

The Democratic president has made the restoration of American manufacturing a cornerstone of his agenda as he seeks reelection, and he has the endorsements of the AFL-CIO and several other prominent unions.

Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pennsylvania, who is up for reelection, applauded Biden's statement, saying, "I'll work like hell against any deal that leaves our steel workers behind."

Nippon Steel announced in December that it planned to buy the Pittsburgh-based steel



President Joe Biden talks with supporters during a campaign event Thursday in Saginaw, Mich. Biden has a big megaphone to weigh in on the U.S. Steel sale, but he is not intervening or formally blocking the deal, according to a person familiar with deliberations.

producer for \$14.1 billion in cash, raising concerns about what the transaction could mean for unionized workers, supply chains and U.S. national security.

The Japanese company has tried to assuage concerns by promising no job losses due to the merger. It also committed to keeping the U.S. Steel name and Pittsburgh headquarters, while noting it already has a presence in the American market and would bring in new resources to foster job growth.

The company, which is the world's fourth largest steel producer, launched a website with supportive statements from Larry Summers, the former treasury secretary, and Pat Toomey, a Republican and former senator from Pennsylvania.

Shortly after the steel deal was announced, the White House indicated it would be placed under review by the secretive Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States. The government does not officially provide updates on the CFIOUS review process.

Biden has a big megaphone to weigh in on the matter, but he is not intervening in the review process or formally blocking the deal, according to a person familiar with deliberations who insisted on anonymity.

When asked about the deal Thursday, White House national security spokesman John Kirby declined to say whether the president wanted to stop it outright or would be amenable to changes in its structure.

But Kirby said the United States sees its alliance with Japan as "stronger than it's ever been."

Still, the president holds sway over CFIOUS. The

treasury secretary leads the committee, which also is composed of the heads of federal agencies and, as deemed appropriate, directors of White House councils on the economy and national security.

Trump said earlier this year after meeting with the Teamsters union that he would stop the U.S. Steel acquisition. "I would block it. I think it's a horrible thing, when Japan buys U.S. Steel. I would block it instantaneously."

Biden has a close relationship with the United Steelworkers. He gave the union members "personal assurances" that he has their backs, according to a February statement by the union about Nippon Steel's plans. U.S. Steel is headquartered in Pennsylvania, another key state in this year's election.

The United Steelworkers issued a statement last week after meeting with representatives from Nippon Steel that it had concerns about whether the company would honor existing labor agreements and about the company's financial transparency, adding that there were "barriers" to closing a merger.

The U.S. considers Japan to be one of its closest allies and a key partner in countering China's ambitions and influ-

ence in Asia. Biden has visited the country twice as president and will host Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida at the White House on April 16.

But Nippon Steel's connections to China have raised concerns within the Biden administration. More than half the steel produced globally comes from China, according to the World Steel Association. India is the second-largest producer, followed by Japan and the United States.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce warned in a February blog post that it would be "foolhardy of the Biden administration to block the deal. Doing so could hurt foreign investment into the United States, cause other countries to block the overseas investments that U.S. companies want to make and undermine the U.S.-Japan alliance, the chamber said."

John Murphy, the head of international issues for the chamber, said Thursday it was "inappropriate and counterproductive" of Biden to politicize the CFIOUS review.

"It's imperative that the CFIOUS review proceed; and if, as expected, it reveals no national security concerns, the sale should proceed," Murphy said.

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To find out your customer class or how the requested increase might affect your gas bill, call Columbia Gas at 1-888-460-4332. The rates requested by the Company may be found in proposed Columbia Gas Service Tariff No. 9 - Supplement No. 373 which is available at <https://www.columbiagas.com/our-company/about-us/regulatory-information>. You may examine the material filed with the PUC, which explains the requested increase and the reasons for it. A copy of this material is kept at Columbia's office. Upon request, the Company will send you a statement of reasons for Supplement No. 373, explaining why the rate increase has been requested.

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3. You may be a witness at a public input hearing. Public input hearings are held if the PUC opens an investigation of the company's rate increase request and if there are a large number of customers interested in the case. At these hearings, you have the opportunity to present your views in person to the PUC judge hearing the case and the company representatives. All testimony given "under oath" becomes part of the official case record. These hearings are held in the company's service area.

For more information, call the PUC at 1-800-692-7380. You may leave your name and address so that you can be notified of any hearings that may be scheduled in this case.

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**Tribune-Review** Vol. 136, No. 37 Friday, March 15, 2024

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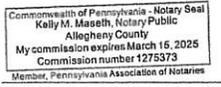
# AFFIDAVIT FOR PROOF OF PUBLICATION

- \* Name of Publication: PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE
- \* City, State: PITTSBURGH, PA
- \* Advertiser name: COLUMBIA GAS OF PENNSYLVANIA

Insertion Order #: CG-2024-PG  
Date of Insertion: 3/17/2024  
Caption: 2024 – RATE CASE  
Ad Size: 3 Col. x 9"

Affiant further disposes and says that (s)he is an employee of the publisher of the said newspaper and has been authorized to verify the foregoing statement and that (s)he is not interested in the subject matter of the aforesaid notice or publication and that all allegations in the foregoing statement as to time, place, and character of publication are true. I verify that the aforementioned ad ran as noted above. Before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared.

B. DeJames  
Publication Signature



The Notary Public Seal

Brianna DeJames  
Name (Please Print)

State of: PA

County of: Allegheny

Sworn to and subscribed before me

Kelly M Maseeth  
Notary Public Signature

Date: 3/18/2024

National

# Libraries struggle to afford the demand for e-books

By Susan Haigh  
Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Whenever bestselling author Robin Cook releases a new medical thriller, the head of the public library in West Haven knows demand for digital copies will be high. So will the price.

Like many libraries, West Haven has been grappling with the soaring costs of e-books and audiobooks. The digital titles often come with a price tag that's far higher than what consumers pay. While one hardcover copy of Dr. Cook's latest novel costs the library \$18, it costs \$55 to lease a digital copy—a price that can't be hagglled with publishers.

And for that, the e-book expires after a limited time, usually after one or two years, or after 26 checkouts, whichever comes first. While e-books purchased by consumers can last into perpetuity, libraries need to renew their leased e-material.

### It costs to renew

The modestly funded West Haven Library has spent more than \$12,000 over the last three years to lease just 28 additional digital titles beyond what patrons can access through a consortium of public libraries. Eighty-four of those books are no longer available. If that same amount had been spent on paper books, it would have covered about 600 titles.

"Imagine if a playground was built at a school with tax dollars, only to be taken down after two years of use," librarian Colleen Bullie said at a recent public hearing.

Publishers, however, argue the arrangement is fair considering e-book licenses for libraries allow numerous patrons to "borrow" them

and the per-reader cost is much less expensive than the per-reader rate.

Librarians in several states have been pushing for legislation to rein in the costs and restrictions on electronic material, which has been growing in popularity since the COVID-19 pandemic. Patrons are stuck on long waiting lists for audiobooks and e-books, and digital offerings are limited.

### Legislative help

This year, lawmakers in states including Connecticut, Massachusetts, Illinois, Hawaii and New Hampshire have proposed bills aimed at closing the affordability gap. A bill was introduced in Virginia but was tabled in February.

They face strong opposition from the publishing industry, which argues the legislation undermines intellectual property values and will harm the publishing ecosystem.

"They do have a funding problem, but the answer is to take it out of the pockets of authors and destroy the rights of creators and pass unconstitutional legislation," said Shelley Husband, senior vice president of government affairs at the Association of American Publishers, noting how more people than ever can access e-material that might otherwise have been purchased from booksellers.

Readers across the globe borrowed 662 million e-books, audiobooks and digital magazines last year, up 19% since 2022, according to data provided by OverDrive, the main distributor of digital content for libraries and schools.

Libraries Online Inc., a Connecticut interlibrary consortium, is currently spending roughly \$20,000 a

month on e-books for its 38 members. Replacing expired titles consumes 20% of the consortium's budget, said e-book committee chair, Rebecca Harlow.

"If we replaced all of the content titles that expired this year, the cost would exceed our entire annual budget for e-books," Ms. Harlow recently told lawmakers. "We have completely lost the ability to build a library collection."

The consortium leases fewer than 30 books a month for children and 30 books a month for teens, she said.

Dumping e-books and audiobooks isn't considered an option for libraries with patrons like Casey Rosseau, 53, of West Hartford, Conn.

Mr. Rosseau, an information technology worker, has worsening eyesight. He reads about 200 audiobooks a year using OverDrive's Libby app on his phone, and is typically on waiting lists for months at a time for the most coveted titles.

"I've always gone to the library to get the latest John Grisham or the latest James Patterson (novel)," he said. "Those come out so often that you have to have really deep pockets in order to be able to afford to buy them."

### Copyright laws

In 2021, Maryland passed a law that would have required publishers to make e-books available on "reasonable terms" to libraries if they were being offered to the general public. That was struck down by a judge in 2022, after publishers successfully argued that federal copyright law bars states from regulating publishing transactions. New York Gov. Kathy Hochul vetoed a similar measure in 2023.

Many of the latest legislative proposals try a different approach.



Jessica Hill/Associated Press

Instructions for using Libby, a free app for e-books, digital audiobooks and magazines, was on display last month at the Windsor Public Library in Windsor, Conn.

An Illinois bill would void contracts between libraries and publishers that include certain provisions, such as restricting a library's right to determine loan periods for licensed electronic material. Massachusetts and

Connecticut are looking at similar proposals.

"Basically, rather than telling the publishers that they have to do anything in particular, our bill would tell the libraries on what terms they can make deals with the

publishers," said Connecticut state Rep. Matt Blumenthal, a Democrat.

Husband, of the Association of American Publishers, said she sees no real difference between the overturned Maryland law and these latest efforts. Last year, organizations representing publishers, booksellers and authors formed The Protect the Creative Economy Coalition to oppose state legislation.

But Julie Holden, assistant library director for the Cranston Public Library in Rhode Island, said that without legislative change, local librarians will not only continue to face financial strain, they'll be bogged down examining lists of expiring digital leases to decide whether they can justify spending more money to renew each one.

"Taxpayers who fund our public libraries deserve better. Way better," she said.

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### NOTICE OF PROPOSED RATE CHANGE

Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. (Columbia Gas or the Company) has filed a request with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) for an increase in your natural gas distribution rates as of May 14, 2024. This notice describes the Company's rate request, the PUC's role, and what actions you can take.

Columbia has requested an overall rate increase of \$124.1 million per year. This filing also includes a request for approval of the following alternative rate mechanisms in accordance with 66 Pa. C.S. § 1330.3: Revenue Normalization Adjustment mechanism to stabilize utility revenue regardless of changes in actual customer usage that would become effective with the January 2025 billing cycle and a request to remove the dead band associated with the currently effective Weather Normalization Adjustment. This filing also includes a request for approval of a Municipal Levelization Change, which would further increase bills issued to residents of the City of Pittsburgh and Perryopolis, and decrease bills issued to residents of Roscoe Borough and New Sewickley.

If the Company's entire request is approved, the total bill for a residential customer who purchases 70 therms of gas from Columbia per month would increase from \$118.16 to \$136.92 per month, or by 15.88 percent.

The total bill for a small commercial customer using 150 therms of gas purchased from Columbia per month would increase from \$196.43 to \$226.24, or by 15.18 percent.

Rates for a small industrial customer using 1,215 therms of gas from Columbia per month would increase from \$1,281.25 to \$1,452.98 per month, or by 13.40 percent.

If the Company's Municipal Levelization Change is approved, customers located in the City of Pittsburgh and Perryopolis would be billed \$0.70 per month in addition to the increases described above. Bills for customers located in Roscoe Borough and New Sewickley Township would increase as described above, but they would receive a monthly bill credit of \$7.44.

To find out your customer class or how the requested increase might affect your gas bill, call Columbia Gas at 1-888-650-4322. The rates requested by the Company may be found in proposed Columbia Gas Service Tariff No. 9 - Supplement No. 373 which is available at <https://www.columbiagaspa.com/out-company/about-us/regulatory-information>. You may examine the material filed with the PUC, which explains the requested increase and the reasons for it. A copy of this material is kept at Columbia's office. Upon request, the Company will send you a statement of reasons for Supplement No. 373, explaining why the rate increase has been requested.

The state agency that approves rates for public utilities is the PUC. The PUC will examine the requested rate increase and can prevent existing rates from changing until it investigates and/or holds hearings on the request. The Company must prove that the requested rates are reasonable. After examining the evidence, the PUC may grant all, some, or none of the request, or may reduce existing rates. The PUC may change the amount of the rate increase requested by the utility for each customer class. As a result, the rate charged to you might be different than the rate requested by the Company as shown above.

There are three ways to challenge a company's request to change its rates:

1. You may file a formal complaint. If you want a hearing before a judge, you must file a formal complaint. By filing a formal complaint, you assure yourself the opportunity to take part in hearings about the rate increase request. All complaints should be filed as soon as possible. If no formal complaints are filed, the PUC may grant all, some, or none of the request without holding a hearing before a judge.

2. You may send the PUC a letter telling why you object to the requested rate increase. Sometimes there is information in these letters that makes the PUC aware of problems with the company's service or management. This information can be helpful when the PUC investigates the rate request. Send your letter or request for a formal complaint form to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, P. O. Box 3265, Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265. Your letter or formal complaint can be filed electronically with the PUC. Information regarding electronic filing is available at <https://efiling.puc.pa.gov/>.

3. You may be a witness at a public input hearing. Public input hearings are held if the PUC opens an investigation of the company's rate increase request and if there are a large number of customers interested in the case. At these hearings, you have the opportunity to present your views in person to the PUC judge hearing the case and the company representatives. All testimony given "under oath" becomes part of the official rate case record. These hearings are held in the company's service area.

For more information, call the PUC at 1-800-662-7380. You may leave your name and address so that you can be notified of any hearings that may be scheduled in this case.



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# AFFIDAVIT FOR PROOF OF PUBLICATION

- \* Name of Publication: **BUTLER EAGLE**
- \* City, State: **BUTLER, PA**
- \* Advertiser name: **COLUMBIA GAS OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Insertion Order #: **CG-2024-BE**

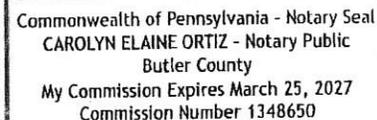
Date of Insertion: **3/15/2024**

Caption: **2024 – RATE CASE**

Ad Size: **3 Col. x 9"**

**Affiant further disposes and says that (s)he is an employee of the publisher of the said newspaper and has been authorized to verify the foregoing statement and that (s)he is not interested in the subject matter of the aforesaid notice or publication and that all allegations in the foregoing statement as to time, place, and character of publication are true. I verify that the aforementioned ad ran as noted above. Before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Publication Signature



\_\_\_\_\_  
The Notary Public Seal

Kenneth J. Gortman  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Please Print)

State of: Pennsylvania  
County of: Butler

Sworn to and subscribed before me

Date: 3-20-2024

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public Signature

# AFFIDAVIT FOR PROOF OF PUBLICATION

- \* Name of Publication: **WASHINGTON OBSERVER-REPORTER**
- \* City, State: **WASHINGTON, PA**
- \* Advertiser name: **COLUMBIA GAS OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Insertion Order #: **CG-2024-WOR**

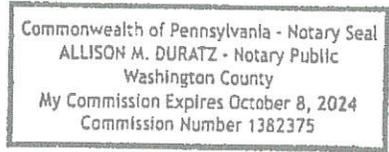
Date of Insertion: **3/15/2024**

Caption: **2024 – RATE CASE**

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*Pamala Tuscano*  
Publication Signature



\_\_\_\_\_  
The Notary Public Seal

PAMALA TUSCANO  
Name (Please Print)

State of: Pennsylvania  
County of: Washington

Sworn to and subscribed before me

Date: March 15, 2024

*Allison M. Duratz*  
Notary Public Signature

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RATE CHANGE**

Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. (Columbia Gas or the Company) has filed a request with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) for an increase in your natural gas distribution rates as of May 14, 2024. This notice describes the Company's rate request, the PUC's role, and what actions you can take.

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To find out your customer class or how the requested increase might affect your gas bill, call Columbia Gas at 1-888-460-4332. The rates requested by the Company may be found in proposed Columbia Gas Service Tariff No. 9 - Supplement No. 373 which is available at <https://www.columbiagaspa.com/our-company/about-us/regulatory-information>. You may examine the material filed with the PUC, which explains the requested increase and the reasons for it. A copy of this material is kept at Columbia's office. Upon request, the Company will send you a statement of reasons for Supplement No. 373, explaining why the rate increase has been requested.

The state agency that approves rates for public utilities is the PUC. The PUC will examine the requested rate increase and can prevent existing rates from changing until it investigates and/or holds hearings on the request. The Company must prove that the requested rates are reasonable. After examining the evidence, the PUC may grant all, some, or none of the request, or may reduce existing rates. The PUC may change the amount of the rate increase requested by the utility for each customer class. As a result, the rate charged to you might be different than the rate requested by the Company as shown above.

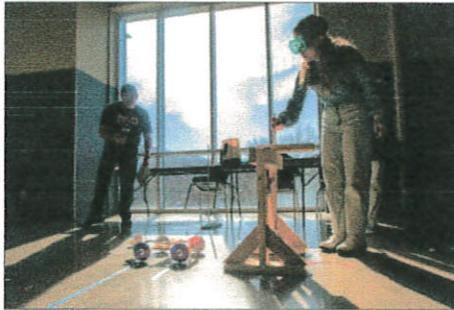
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2. You may send the PUC a letter telling why you object to the requested rate increase. Sometimes there is information in these letters that makes the PUC aware of problems with the company's service or management. This information can be helpful when the PUC investigates the rate request. Send your letter or request for a formal complaint form to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, P. O. Box 3265, Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265. Your letter or formal complaint can be filed electronically with the PUC. Information regarding electronic filing is available at <https://efiling.puc.pa.gov>.
3. You may be a witness at a public input hearing. Public input hearings are held if the PUC opens an investigation of the company's rate increase request and if there are a large number of customers interested in the case. At these hearings, you have the opportunity to present your views in person to the PUC judge hearing the case and the company representatives. All testimony given "under oath" becomes part of the official rate case record. These hearings are held in the company's service area.

For more information, call the PUC at 1-800-692-7380. You may leave your name and address so that you can be notified of any hearings that may be scheduled in this case.



Please recycle this newspaper



Sarah Urso, a student at Ringgold High School, took part in the Scramble competition at the 2023 Southwestern Regional Tournament of the Pennsylvania Pennsylvania Science Olympiad.

**PennWest California to host Science Olympiad regional**

By PAUL PATTERNA  
Staff writer  
[ppatterna@observer-reporter.com](mailto:ppatterna@observer-reporter.com)

About 400 students from school districts in 13 counties will converge on PennWest California Saturday for the Southwestern Regional tournament of the Pennsylvania Science Olympiad.

The tournament, hosted at the California campus for some 30 years, invites students from Western Pennsylvania, including Washington, Greene and Fayette counties. The Northwest Regional was held Feb. 24 at PennWest Clarion.

Student teams are challenged by various STEM-related events.

"They do different events related to science subjects," said Dr. Candice Riley, associate professor of parks and recreation management at PennWest California. "There's a unit where they make modified paper airplanes, there's different exams, robotics types of events, all sorts of different things."

Riley is one of the organizers of the Olympiad, along with Dr. Steven Brooks and Dr. Matt Price.



Liam Glover, left, and Cannon Hazal, students at A.J. McMullen Middle School in the Untown Area School District, participated in the roller-coaster competition at the 2022 Southwestern Regional Tournament of the Pennsylvania Science Olympiad.

"I think it's important to instill that love of science, increase that interest in science," Riley said. "Competition is always fun. You want to do the best that you can. It's a good way for middle and high school students to test their knowledge."

Science Olympiad is an international nonprofit organization devoted to improving the quality of science education, increasing student interest in science, and providing recognition for outstanding achievement in science education.

About 50 PennWest California students are expected to volunteer their time to help with the Science Olympiad. Faculty members volunteer as judges.

"It's a good way to get the university community involved," Riley said. "We've reached out to student clubs and student organizations and different classes that we offer. It's also a good recruiting tool for students who are thinking about college, they could consider our university."

The top-performing teams are eligible to advance to the state tournament, scheduled for April 27 at Penn State Altoona.

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**SOUTH STRABANE SPRING CLEANUP**  
South Strabane residents may place tree limbs and branches curbside for pickup by the Public Works Department. Limbs and branches collected at the curb may not exceed 6 inches in diameter and no longer than 10 feet in length. Collection will occur on March 25, and April 1st. Residents are asked to place materials curbside by 7 a.m. on the days of collection. In order to accommodate all Township residents, the Public Works Department will only allocate a maximum of ten minutes per property for collection. Additionally, we encourage all Township residents to utilize the 24/7 Recycle Center located 253 Zediker Station Road for depositing yard debris outside of scheduled pickups.  
For Questions Call 724-225-9055

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**Phipps Conservatory Spring Flower Show**  
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