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Legal Department

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May 27, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Matthew L. Homsher, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building – 2nd Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

**Re: Pa. P.U.C. v. Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.
Docket No. R-2025-3053499**

Dear Secretary Homsher:

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 filed pursuant to 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.

Very truly yours,

Candis A. Tunilo

/kak
Enclosures

Cc Certificate of Service (w/enc.)

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA :
 :
 :
COUNTY OF YORK :
 :

SS.

AFFIDAVIT

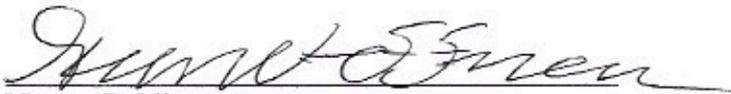
On this 23rd day of May 2025, before me, a Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and York County, personally appeared Russell Bedell, who, being duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is Director of Communications of Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. (“Columbia”) and that: (1) on March 20, 2025, Columbia filed Supplement No. 392 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 20, 2025, 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 20, 2025, 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

20, 2025; (7) the attached "Proofs of Publication" of paid newspaper advertisements containing notice of the proposed rate change were provided by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, published on March 20, 2025; by Greensburg Tribune Review; Valley News Dispatch; York Daily Record; York Dispatch; Somerset Daily American; Uniontown Herald Standard; Daily Courier; Kittanning Leader Times; Gettysburg Times; Bradford Era; Beaver County Times; Butler Eagle; and the Washington Observer-Reporter, published on March 21, 2025 (the first available publication date after March 20); and by Centre Daily Times, published on March 23, 2025 (the first available publication date after March 20); 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 23rd day of
May 2025



Notary Public

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal
Shane Hoffman, Notary Public
York County
My commission expires May 3, 2027
Commission number 1433321
Member, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries

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.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RATE CHANGE


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 19, 2025. 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 \$110.5 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 April 2027 billing cycle and a request to make permanent the Company's currently effective Pilot Weather Normalization Adjustment. The Company has included a request to extend its Energy Efficiency Pilot for residential customers and to initiate an Energy Efficiency Program Pilot for small commercial customers, for which costs will be recovered beginning January 1, 2026. Columbia Gas is introducing an Economic Development Distribution Service tariff to allow flexibility to enter into individual contracts with new large load non-jurisdictional customers in a manner that provides for accelerated cost recovery while protecting the interests of the Company's jurisdictional customers.

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 \$138.52 to \$154.29 per month, or by 11.38 percent.

The total bill for a small commercial customer using 150 therms of gas purchased from Columbia per month would increase from \$240.61 to \$269.45, or by 11.99 percent.

Rates for a small industrial customer using 1,460 therms of gas from Columbia per month would increase from \$1,907.69 to \$2,109.67 per month, or by 10.59 percent.

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. 392, 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. 392, 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 20, 2025

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Lee Gierczynski
Columbia Gas Communications
412.328.8378
lgierczynski@nisource.com



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

Request also supports economic development, enhanced safety 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 2025.

With more than 1,500 full-time employees and contracted resources, Columbia Gas has proudly invested more than \$4.1 billion in Pennsylvania since 2007 as part of its long-term plan to modernize and expand its natural gas distribution system. Of that amount, approximately \$3.2 billion has been dedicated to replacing nearly 1,500 miles of aging pipeline, and the company plans to continue investing in infrastructure replacement for the safety of its communities.

"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 7,800 miles of energy infrastructure to meet our customers' current and future energy needs," said Mark Kempic, Columbia Gas president and chief operating officer.

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.

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 2025.

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 \$138.52 to \$154.29 per month, or by 11.38 percent. The total bill for a small commercial customer purchasing 150 therms of gas from Columbia Gas per month would increase from \$240.61 to \$269.45, or by 11.99 percent. The total monthly bill for a small industrial customer purchasing 1,460 therms of gas from Columbia Gas would increase from \$1,907.69 to \$2,109.67 per month, or by 10.59 percent.

The total overall request represents a \$110.5 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 for more information.

About Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania

Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania delivers clean, dependable, and efficient natural gas to more than 446,000 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. More information about Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania and NiSource, including our record of leadership in sustainability, investments in the communities we serve, and how we live our vision to be an innovative and trusted energy partner, is available at www.ColumbiaGasPA.com and 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 7,700 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 list of America's Best Employers 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. NI-F

Forward-Looking Statements

This Press Release contains "forward-looking statements," within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"). Investors and prospective investors should understand that many factors govern whether any forward-looking statement contained herein will be or can be realized. Any one of those factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected. Forward-looking statements in this press release include, but are not limited to, statements concerning

our plans, strategies, objectives, expected performance, expenditures, recovery of expenditures through rates, stated on either a consolidated or segment basis, and any and all underlying assumptions and other statements that are other than statements of historical fact. Expressions of future goals and expectations and similar expressions, including "may," "will," "should," "could," "would," "aims," "seeks," "expects," "plans," "anticipates," "intends," "believes," "estimates," "predicts," "potential," "targets," "forecast," and "continue," reflecting something other than historical fact are intended to identify forward-looking statements. All forward-looking statements are based on assumptions that management believes to be reasonable; however, there can be no assurance that actual results will not differ materially. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from the projections, forecasts, estimates and expectations discussed in this Press Release include, among other things: our ability to execute our business plan or growth strategy, including utility infrastructure investments, or business opportunities, such as data center development and related generation sources and transmission capabilities to meet potential load growth; our ability to manage data center growth in our service territories; potential incidents and other operating risks associated with our business; our ability to work successfully with our third-party investors; our ability to adapt to, and manage costs related to, advances in technology, including alternative energy sources and changes in laws and regulations; our increased dependency on technology; impacts related to our aging infrastructure; our ability to obtain sufficient insurance coverage and whether such coverage will protect us against significant losses; the success of our electric generation strategy; construction risks and supply risks; fluctuations in demand from residential and commercial customers; fluctuations in the price of energy commodities and related transportation costs or an inability to obtain an adequate, reliable and cost-effective fuel supply to meet customer demand; our ability to attract, retain or re-skill a qualified, diverse workforce and maintain good labor relations; our ability to manage new initiatives and organizational changes; the performance and quality of third-party suppliers and service providers; our ability to manage the financial and operational risks related to achieving our carbon emission reduction goals, including our Net Zero Goal (as defined below), including any future associated impact from business opportunities such as data center development as those opportunities evolve; potential cybersecurity attacks or security breaches; increased requirements and costs related to cybersecurity; the actions of activist stockholders; any damage to our reputation; the impacts of natural disasters, potential terrorist attacks or other catastrophic events; the physical impacts of climate change and the transition to a lower carbon future; our debt obligations; any changes to our credit rating or the credit rating of certain of our subsidiaries; adverse economic and capital market conditions, including increases in inflation or interest rates, recession, or changes in investor sentiment; economic regulation and the impact of regulatory rate reviews; our ability to obtain expected financial or regulatory outcomes; economic conditions in certain industries; the reliability of customers and suppliers to fulfill their payment and contractual obligations; the ability of our subsidiaries to generate cash; pension funding obligations; potential impairments of goodwill; the outcome of legal and regulatory proceedings, investigations, incidents, claims and litigation; compliance with changes in, or new interpretations of applicable laws, regulations and tariffs; the cost of compliance with environmental laws and regulations and the costs of associated liabilities; changes in tax laws or the interpretation thereof; and other matters set forth in Item 1, "Business," Item 1A, "Risk Factors" and Part II, Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024, some of which risks are beyond our control. In addition, the relative contributions to profitability by each business segment, and the assumptions underlying the forward-looking statements relating thereto, may change over time. All forward-looking statements are expressly qualified in their entirety by the foregoing cautionary statements. We undertake no obligation to, and expressly disclaim any such obligation to, update or revise any forward-looking statements to reflect changed assumptions, the occurrence of anticipated or unanticipated events or changes to the future results over time or otherwise, except as required by law.

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PROOFS OF PUBLICATION

AFFIDAVIT FOR PROOF OF PUBLICATION

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

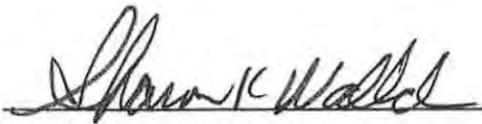
Insertion Order #: **CG-2025-WOR**

Date of Insertion: **3/21/2025**

Caption: **RATE COST 2025**

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.

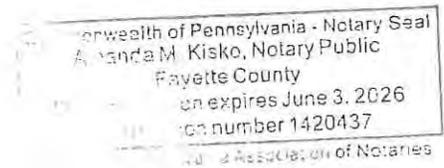


Publication Signature

The Notary Public Seal

Amanda M. Kisko

Name (Please Print)



State of: Pennsylvania

County of: Fayette

Sworn to and subscribed before me

Amanda M. Kisko

Notary Public Signature

Date: 3-24-25

Woman accused of stealing from Wash High football boosters

A woman who served as the vice president of the Washington High School football boosters club is accused of stealing more than \$4,300 from the organization. Washington police charged Nicole Cook, 38, of Washington, with felonies of theft by unlawful taking and receiving stolen property. According to the criminal complaint filed last month, Washington Area School District athletic director and

head football coach Mike Bosnic and booster club officers reported Jan. 13 that Cook stole \$4,176 from the club's bank account. Charging documents state that additional transactions were processed in the course of the investigation, bringing the total to \$4,331.42. Cook allegedly told investigators that she was struggling financially and began using the booster

club's debit card for personal purchases, the complaint states. This included rent money as well as purchases at Walmart, Dick's Sporting Goods and Sam's Club. According to the complaint, Cook returned \$3,000 to the club. Cook's current status with the booster club was not immediately clear. According to online court records, Cook has not been arraigned on the charges.

Central Greene forgery suspect arraigned

By GABRIEL REESE
For the Observer-Reporter
greesee@observer-reporter.com

One of the Pittsburgh men suspected of conspiring to steal a check from Central Greene School District and altering it to cash more than \$16,000 at local banks was arraigned in Greene County District Court Wednesday morning. Dominic George, 37, was arrested in February. Along with Brandon Vuocolo, 32, he allegedly stole a \$6,498 check the district had sent last August to pay

the Waller Corporation for work done for the district. They copied the check and cashed variants with different amounts and check numbers at three local Community Bank branches the next week, according to court documents. The district's business manager discovered the theft after the vendor said they had not received payment. Each cashed three checks, the criminal complaints against both men said. The totals: \$9,756.72

for George, and another \$6,791.16 for Vuocolo. The two suspects face an identical set of 11 felony charges, theft and receiving stolen property. Vuocolo was arraigned earlier this month. George's preliminary hearing is scheduled for March 27, the same day as Vuocolo. George's bond was set at \$25,000; he is lodged in the Greene County Jail. He was also ordered to avoid contact with the victims.

Energy leaders reflect on industry's direction at Range Resources event

By Brad Lindor
Staff writer
brad.lindor@observer-reporter.com

A 20th anniversary of anything is an occasion for reflection and stock-taking, and on Wednesday, leaders in the commonwealth's energy, policy and business industries discussed where the energy industry is headed amid what they believe are strong tailwinds coming from Washington, D.C. At what was billed as an "energy and economic opportunity event" at Range Resources' Southpointe headquarters sponsored by the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry and the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, the consensus seemed to be that the Trump administration is looking favorably on the fossil fuel industry, but Pennsylvania still had ground to make up if it wanted to be more competitive with other states.

"The future is coming at us," said George Stark, a former director of external affairs at Coterra Energy. "We have the opportunity to develop the resources that we have and develop them for the next generation. We need to figure out what comes next."

In the two months since the second Trump administration began, it has looked favorably upon the fossil fuel industry, pausing federal permits for wind farms and declaring a natural energy emergency in order to "unlock America's full energy potential." Kristina Montgomery, director of retail policy for the power company Vistra Corp., explained that policy changes in the nation's capital are "coming fast and furious," adding, "the tone has been set by Washington, D.C."

Christopher Koop, public affairs manager for Energy



Brad Lindor/Observer-Reporter

Jeff Kotula, president of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, welcomes those attending an "energy and economic opportunity event" at Range Resources' Southpointe headquarters Wednesday.

Transfer, agreed. "This administration has made unleashing American energy a high priority for the next four years," he said.

Many of the participants in two panel discussions hoped that there would be reforms when it comes to permitting, regulatory certainty and policies that, in their estimation, would promote growth.

"This week, a bill was approved by the Senate in neighboring Ohio that its supporters say would lead to the development of additional power plants fueled by natural gas. Stark said the Buckeye State has "a very, very favorable legis-

lature," and that Gov. Mike DeWine "understands the importance of utilizing Ohio energy."

According to Luke Berstein, president and CEO of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, "The reality is, we have to be more competitive."

The 20th anniversary of natural gas drilling in Washington County arrived last year, and Erin McDowell, senior vice president and general manager of Range Resources, said the arrival of the industry in the region has brought "enormous economic development."

"Think about what we've done for the last 20 years," McDowell explained.

Questions about today's number

BINGO

Call the Observer-Reporter Bingo Line:
724-222-2202

Bring a children's book to Kids Fest, March 29 at the Washington Crown Center Mall, and be entered to Win a Prize!

The Observer Reporter and the United Way of Washington County are partnering for a Children's Book Collection.

- Bring your new or gently used children's books to Kids Fest
- Visit the United Way of Washington County's table to drop off your donation of books
- Every person who donates a book will be entered to win a prize awarded at Kids Fest
- Books will be distributed to local nonprofit organizations and schools in need
- Thank You for making a positive impact in our community!

For more information contact Jessica Tennant
jtennant@unitedwaywashco.org

UNITED WAY Washington County Observer-Reporter

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For convenient home delivery, call 724-222-2201.

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 19, 2025. 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 \$110.5 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 April 2027 billing cycle; and a request to make permanent the Company's currently effective Gas Price Weather Normalization Adjustment. The Company has included a request to extend its Energy Efficiency Pilot for residential customers and to include an Energy Efficiency Program Pilot for small commercial customers, for which credits will be recovered beginning January 1, 2025. Columbia Gas is introducing an Landed Development Distribution Service tariff to allow flexibility to enter into individual contracts with new large load non-participating customers in a manner that provides for accelerated cost recovery while protecting the interests of the Company's jurisdictional customers.

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To find out your customer class or how the requested increase might affect your gas bill, call Columbia Gas at 1-888-468-4332. The rates requested by the Company may be found in proposed Columbia Gas Service Tariff No. 9 (Supplement No. 392, which is available at <https://www.columbiagas.com/columbia-company/about-us/regulatory-information>). You may examine the materials 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. 392, explaining why the rate increase has been requested.

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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, a 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 at the company's service area.

For more information, call the PUC at 1-800-692-7300. You may leave your name and address so that you can be notified of any hearings that may be scheduled in the case.

Columbia Gas
A NSource Company

AFFIDAVIT FOR PROOF OF PUBLICATION

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

Insertion Order #: **CG-2025-BE**

Date of Insertion: **3/21/2025**

Caption: **RATE COST 2025**

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

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal
CAROLYN ELAINE ORTIZ - Notary Public
Butler County
My Commission Expires March 25, 2027
Commission Number 1348650

The Notary Public Seal

Kerry J. Santons

Name (Please Print)

State of: PA

County of: BUTLER

Sworn to and subscribed before me

Date: 3/24/25



Notary Public Signature

County

From Page 1

its growth rate is ranked ninth.

There are more manufacturers in the county than any other county, and the county helped support them by using federal funds to provide \$140,000 in grants to cover soft costs, such as financing costs, for expansion projects, she said.

"I think we're one of the only counties that really tried to assist our manufacturing community with our ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds as well," Boozel said. "We've invested back into the community, while we invested in the county system itself."

He said the stability of the county government has led to economic growth during the last 10 years.

Infrastructure update

The ongoing Route 228 corridor improvement project will have an economic impact of \$38 billion, according to Gordon. The \$49 million first phase was completed earlier than expected and under budget, and the \$65 million second phase will be finished by November. Weekly meetings with contractors help keep the project on schedule and on budget, Gordon said.

A 3.2-mile section of the road is all that remains to be built, and county officials are meeting Monday in Washington, D.C., with legislators representing the county to obtain funding to complete that section, he said.

Cranberry, Middlesex and Adams townships assisted with project funding, Osche added.

Boozel said some of the \$11 million generated by the \$5 fee the county assesses on vehicle registrations has gone toward the Route 228 project, as well as road and bridge projects throughout the county.

Additionally, Gordon commended 11 municipalities in the county's southern tier for joining together to help finance \$39 million in stormwater improvements. He said other funding came from federal American Rescue Plan funds, and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection worked with the municipalities.

He also applauded the new \$5 million sewage system in Marion Town-



From left, Kim Geyer, county commissioner; Leslie Osche, county commissioner; Luke Bernstein, president and CEO of PA Chamber of Business and Industry; Kevin Boozel, county commissioner; and Mark Gordon, chief of economic development and planning, talk during the Butler County Chamber of Commerce's 2025 State of the County event at The Atrium, in Franklin Township, on Thursday. Bernstein was moderator of the event. ROB MCGRAW/BUTLER EAGLE

Independence Health's finances improving

By Steve Ferris, Eagle Staff Writer

FRANKLIN TWP — Independence Health System is planning to return to profitability next year, according to president and CEO Ken DeFurio.

DeFurio updated the health system's finances and operations Thursday as guest speaker at the Butler County Chamber of Commerce's 2025 State of the County event at The Atrium.

"Things are fine," he said about the health system that was created in 2023 in a merger of Butler Health System and Excelsa Health. "We're on the

right track."

The system had a consolidated operating loss of \$75 million in 2023, reduced it to \$40 million in 2024, will further reduce it to about \$20 million when the 2025 fiscal year ends in June and will produce positive earnings in 2026, he said.

"Next year we are budgeted to actually get this back in the black," DeFurio said. "That's pretty remarkable progress in a relatively short period of time."

In addition, he said the system, which includes Butler Memorial Hospital and four other hospitals in Westmoreland and

Clarion counties, is the largest employer in all three counties with 7,300 total employees, he said.

At Butler Memorial Hospital, the system is negotiating a new contract with the nurses' union, he said. The union has been organized longer than the 39 years DeFurio said he has been with the hospital and health system.

He said negotiations are going well and are being conducted respectfully.

"We will get to a successful agreement. I'm confident we will," DeFurio said.

ship and the \$5.5 million to \$6 million water and sewer replacement project at the Allegheny Clarion Valley Business Park, where 600 employees account for \$30 million in total annual payroll. The business park project is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Several officials said the county is working with Armstrong to expand broadband services to unserved and underserved areas, including service gaps in the Slippery Rock Area and Montebau school districts.

Gordon said the expansion in the school districts will be done by the end of 2026 and will involve installing 390 miles of fiber computer line.

At the airport

Geyer said the Pittsburgh-Butler Regional Airport is the fifth busiest airport in the state, and will be the site of a federally operated control tower.

The airport is home to 85,000 to 89,000 operations a year, two flight schools, charter flights, emergency medical flights, and aircraft rental and sales.

She said the tower will improve safety of the airport and community.

"There's not many lowers in Western Pennsylvania at airports. So we have an opportunity to have a regional impact other than Pittsburgh International Airport," Geyer said.

She said the airport authority will be responsible for the design, construction and maintenance of the tower, and the tower must be completed in five years.

The Federal Aviation Administration is making \$100 million out of the \$600 million allocated for airports available for tower projects, she said. Federally hired employees will operate the tower.

Officials are hoping to

capitalize on some of the federal funds to be able to see this project to fruition, Geyer said.

She said the Federal Aviation Administration used a cost-benefit analysis to select the airport for the tower.

A ramp at the airport was rehabilitated last year with federal funding secured by U.S. Rep. Mike Kelly, R-16th, and more than 40 acres of airport property is in an Airport Land Development

Zone, which provides \$2,100 in tax credits for 10 years to employers that locate and create jobs there, Geyer said.

Data centers

The county is a prime location for data centers due to available electric power, natural gas and land, Osche said. She said the commissioners have met with First Energy to learn about the energy requirements of a data center and plan

to meet with data center builders to learn about site requirements.

She said she would like to see an old industrial or retail site used for a data center if enough power is available. Data centers require 1.5 to 7 gigahertz of electric power, she said. For a comparison, she said, it takes 5 gigahertz to power New York City.

President and CEO of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, Luke Bernstein, who moderated the panel, also took time to speak about the region's potential as an energy hub.

He said Western Pennsylvania has the potential to be the energy capital of the world.

More ahead

Turning to parks, Osche said significant upgrades have been made to facilities at Alameda Park and a forestry management plan has been developed to help control invasive species.

The county is working with Butler on renovating Diamond Park on Main Street. Plans include removing the fountain and building a pavilion for events, Osche said.

Improvement projects are also ongoing at county buildings and Alameda Park; and the next project will be building a garage for the county's emergency response vehicles, which are currently stored at scattered sites, according to Osche.

"We are looking good into the future," Osche said.

Boozel said building improvements include \$6 million spent on renovations to the courthouse, the Butler city and Butler Township district court offices have been relocated, the election bureau was relocated to its own building and the county's computer system has been updated.

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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. 392, 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. 392, explaining why the rate increase has been requested.

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For more information, call the PUC at 1-800-692-7260. 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

Jackson

From Page 1

maybe (makes) our wells go bad? That's a major question, and that's something that needs to be addressed for everybody."

Township manager Chris Rearek said residents who live in the area have brought their concerns about water to township officials.

"The Franklin Road corridor, West Kaufman, East Kaufman tends to be an area where we have had residents coming to us, voicing concerns about particularly water and lack of water quantity," he said.

Rearek said "most of the township" is served by Pennsylvania American Water, since the township does not have its own water authority.

Township officials have taken steps to try and alleviate some of that burden. That included securing a \$500,000 grant through the state's H2O PA Act, which was passed in 2008 and is meant to assist municipalities with the

construction of drinking water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer projects.

Moving forward, Rearek said "the township's hope is to get access to Municipal Water Authority of Adams Township."

He also said the developer has consented to halt any construction efforts until a public water source has been secured.

"One of the conditions the developer has consented to is that obviously he cannot record this plan until he has public water," Rearek said. "So none of these lots can or will be served by private water, well water or public or private sewer."

The path toward doing that, according to Rearek, would involve procuring an easement through adjoining properties to Callery Road and constructing a water line to the Kaufman Road corridor.

That plan would allow existing nearby residents to tap in to public water, but it would not be a mandatory requirement.

"We can say that it would offer public access to folks who didn't have it before, although they would not be compelled to tap in," Rearek said. "So I think that's the best answer we can give in terms of water."

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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:

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Court orders

Continued from Page 1A

William Alsop said the Trump administration appeared not to be sending first probationary employees back to work, but is instead placing them on administrative leave. The administration has said it complied with his order.

Government noncompliance can involve an agency saying it recognizes the need to comply but cannot.

For example, the Trump administration has told U.S. Judge Amir Ali, who ordered the resumption of some foreign aid-related payments, that complicated payment systems are preventing the agency from complying with the judge's timeline.

Rather than ordering the government to meet a compliance date, the judge on March 10 asked the government to propose its own timeline.

What can courts do to enforce compliance?

Judges generally try to avoid show-downs over court orders, legal experts say, and prefer to find ways to modify demands to get compliance. Legal experts said that accusing a department of noncompliance and then setting compliance benchmarks and deadlines often solves the problem.

As a result, U.S. judges almost never impose fines or monetary penalties against heads of federal agencies even though such fines are used with private defendants.

One rare instance occurred in 1999, when a federal judge found the secretaries of the Treasury and Interior departments were in contempt of court for failing to produce documents in a court case.

However, the sanction the judge imposed was limited to paying the fees of the plaintiff's attorneys.

Judges in at least two instances have used the threat of jail, which is more commonly used against private defendants and local government officials. A federal judge in Montana in 2008 threatened to send an Agriculture Department official to jail, which led to compliance.

What problems do courts face?

Reluctance to impose sanctions

against the federal government may reflect judges' concerns over sovereign immunity, the doctrine that the government cannot be sued unless it consents.

In one instance in which a U.S. District Court imposed financial penalties on the secretary of health and human services, it was reversed by a U.S. Court of Appeals, which cited sovereign immunity.

Enforcing contempt sanctions is carried out by the U.S. Marshals Service, a Department of Justice body within the executive branch.

Some have speculated that if the Trump administration chose not to comply with a court order, it could also direct the Marshals to not comply with enforcing any sanctions, deepening a crisis.

Opening

Continued from Page 1A

photo-taking opportunities with Tuft and his friends.

What's new at Kennywood this year

The Eggecellent Easter Celebration will also introduce guests to Kennywood Junction, a new themed activity area for the whole family that's "inspired by the park's rich history and connection to the Steel City," according to an email from Palace Entertainment, which owns and operates Kennywood Park and Sandcastle Water Park in Pittsburgh and Idlewild Park & SoakZone in Ligonier, Westmoreland County.

Kennywood Junction activities include: Olde Kennywood Railroad, which takes guests on a train ride to relive memories from the park's history and the city's steel-making heyday; Kenny's Cargo Drop, which takes riders high above the area in a cargo-lifting crane; Parker's Cloud Cruisers, where riders pilot their own helicopter above the raging rapids and other landmarks; Fire Bustin' Brigade, where guests can put out flames from the back of a fire engine and Coal Haulin' Convoys, where guests can take a diesel locomotive ride around Kennywood Junction.

The new area also includes a gift shop and a Celebration Room, which offers space to host birthday and graduation parties, family reunions and other celebrations.

"Kennywood and Pittsburgh are synonymous and our new family-friendly area, Kennywood Junction, pays tribute to just that, our park and its historic love for the Steel City," said Ricky Spicuzza, the park's general manager.

Steel Curtain coaster to reopen

The Steel Curtain, billed as Pennsylvania's tallest roller coaster, is also expected to reopen sometime this season

after a year-long closure to make modifications to the ride, according to a video announcement by Spicuzza.

"We can't wait to announce an opening date soon, so stay tuned," he said in the video.

Idlewild, SoakZone and Sandcastle set opening dates

Idlewild in Ligonier will open to the public on May 17, according to the park's website. This is the third oldest amusement park in the country, and it "offers a unique collection of attractions and experiences that the entire family can enjoy together. Around every corner is a new, unexpected surprise that delights not only children but kids at heart," said Lynsey Winters, communications director for Palace Entertainment, in an email.

With over 40 rides and attractions around the park, including Story Book Forest, Jumpin' Jungle and Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood, as well as Olde Idlewild, Hootin' Holler, the Wild Mouse, Paratrooper and Round Up, there's lots of activities and entertainment for everyone in the family to enjoy.

Sandcastle and SoakZone, Palace Entertainment's water parks in Pittsburgh and Ligonier, respectively, will each open on May 24 for the 2025 season.

Kennywood Park is getting ready for its longest season ever in 2025, with a new opening day event, a new themed area at the park and the reopening of its Steel Curtain roller coaster all planned for the coming season. April 12 is opening day at Kennywood this year, and to celebrate, the park is hosting its first-ever "Eggecellent Celebration" on weekends through April 27. Guests can meet the park's newest costumed character Tuft the Easter Bunny, ride the rides and see the attractions, take part in an Easter egg scavenger hunt and more.



Kenny's Cargo Drop is one of the rides in the new Kennywood Junction themed area that will open on April 12 for the park's 2025 season.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY PALACE ENTERTAINMENT



The Paratrooper ride at Idlewild will take its first spin this year on May 17, which is opening day for the park's 2025 season.

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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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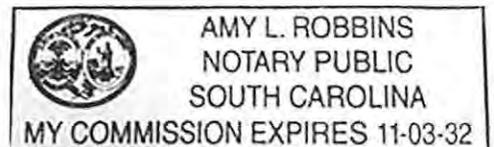
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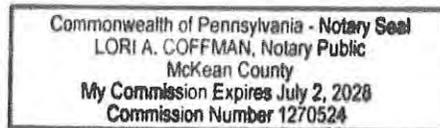
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Compensating the wrongly convicted a hard sell in some states

By CHARLOTTE KRAMON
Associated Press/Report for America

ATLANTA (AP) — Earlier this year, Michael Woolfolk attended a legislative committee in Georgia where lawmakers considered for a third year whether to compensate the 45-year-old behind bars for a 2002 killing before charges against him were dismissed.

Behind him sat Daryl Lee Clark, also 45, who spent 25 years in prison for a 1998 murder conviction that was vacated over a series of legal and police errors. It was his second attempt to obtain compensation.

Georgia is one of 12 states with no law compensating people found to have been wrongfully convicted. Individuals seeking compensation take their cases to the legislature, where they seek a lawmaker to sponsor a resolution to pay them. Critics say it mires the process in politics.

Lawmakers have been considering legislation to move the decision to judges, but now it's unclear if that will pass this year.

"We need to take care simply of people who have lost so many years of their lives and their ability to make



Michael Woolfolk poses for a photo at the Georgia state capitol March 6 in Atlanta.

money, have a job, have a family, create stability," Republican Rep. Katie Dempsey, a sponsor of the Georgia bill, told The Associated Press. "Many are at the age where they would be looking at their savings, and instead, there's none."

Missouri lawmakers have sent the governor a bill updating the state's compensation law, and legislatures in Florida and Oregon also are considering updates of their laws. Montana is considering an update of its expired program and Pennsylvania is among those, like Georgia, looking to create one.

A TRICKY PROCESS

Of the 1,739 people who have filed wrongful compensation claims under state laws since 1989, 1,328 received compensation, accord-

ing in data from George Washington University law professor Jeffrey Gutman.

That doesn't include cases in states like Georgia, which has no law outlining a process.

Since 1995, 12 Georgians have received compensation and at least 11 more have sought it, according to the Georgia Innocence Project. Even some people with strong cases were turned down because they failed to convince lawmakers they were innocent, advocates say.

The latest version of Georgia's proposal would require individuals to prove their innocence to an administrative law judge. They could receive \$75,000 for each year of incarceration and reimbursement for other costs such as fines and

fees. There would be an additional \$25,000 for each year of incarceration awaiting a death sentence.

"The way that the state has treated these individuals by taking away their freedom and liberty and effectively running the clock, by wrongfully convicting them and then failing to expeditiously compensate them and help them get back on their feet, doesn't sit well with me," said Democratic Rep. Scott Holcomb, a bill sponsor and former prosecutor.

Whether a person was released based on a finding they were not guilty or based on trial or law enforcement error is often a sticking point. Advocates say those wrongfully convicted deserve compensation either way because they are innocent until proven guilty, but some lawmakers are hesitant to pay them.

Senate Majority Whip Randy Robertson, a former sheriff's deputy, was the lead opponent last year of individual requests for compensation and an effort to pass a compensation law. He takes issue with the term "exonerated," which he says is too often used in cases where convictions are overturned based on trial errors.

Robertson this year introduced a different

compensation bill with stricter rules that didn't get a hearing.

OTHER STATES CONSIDER CHANGES

Florida is the only state that prevents exonerates with previous felony convictions from qualifying for compensation, according to an analysis by the advocacy group The Innocence Project.

Florida Republican state Sen. Jennifer Bradley wants to change that. For the third year she is sponsoring a bill to end the rule, arguing that an unrelated charge should not prevent people who were wrongfully by the state from being compensated for their "lost liberty."

A bill in the Oregon Legislature would update a law passed in 2022 that provides exonerates \$65,000 for each year they were wrongfully imprisoned, on the condition they file a successful petition proving their innocence.

The new bill comes amid criticism that few exonerates have received compensation since the law took effect.

Missouri's legislature recently passed and sent

to the governor a measure expanding a restitution program for people wrongfully convicted of felonies. The legislation would raise compensation from \$100 to \$179 per day of imprisonment and remove a requirement that innocence is proven by DNA analysis.

Many Georgia lawmakers have said they don't want to play judge and hope the state process changes.

If the legislature doesn't pass a bill before adjourning April 4, Woolfolk and Clark may not be compensated this year. The House overwhelmingly approved five requests that could fail in the Senate.

Starting a career at 45 is hard, Woolfolk said, and he missed his children's upbringing. He said he is sick of trying to convince lawmakers to help him.

Clark, who does not have children, got a standing ovation from House lawmakers last exonerates who were received compensation since the law took effect.

Missouri's legislature recently passed and sent

Free showing of 'If' at JCC in Olean

OLEAN, N.Y. — Children and families are invited to a free showing of the movie "If" at 2 p.m. March 29 at Cutco Theater on JCC's Cattaraugus County Campus.

Visit sunyjcc.edu/event/family-movie-if to find a link to reserve free tickets. Popcorn and water will be provided at no cost and treats from the new I Latch Café will be available for purchase. Cutco Theater is outfitted with a 165-inch video wall that was installed in 2022 as part of major renovations to the space.

"If" follows 12-year-old Bea, who moves into her grandmother Margaret's apartment while her

father undergoes heart surgery. Bea discovers a world of imaginary friends, Ifs, who have been forgotten as their original children grew up. Teaming up with Cal, a man who works with Ifs, Bea embarks on a journey to help these creatures find new children or reunite with their original companions.

Released in 2024, "If" features performances by Caley Fleming, Ryan Reynolds and John Krasinski, with voice roles from Steve Carell, George Clooney, Matt Damon, Blake Lively, Bradley Cooper, Bill Hader and Amy Schumer, among others.

Lawmakers push for solutions to rural education funding disparities

HARRISBURG — In response to growing concerns from rural school officials and taxpayers regarding inadequate funding increases in Gov. Josh Shapiro's proposed budget, Sens. Lisa Haker (R-20) and Lynda Schlegel Culver (R-27) are calling for urgent action to address disparities in education funding across Pennsylvania's rural communities.

In a letter to Acting Pennsylvania Secretary of Education Dr. Carrie Rowe, the senators outlined the challenges rural districts face due to inequitable funding distribution, which limits their ability to recruit personnel, invest in technology and enhance curriculum to meet student performance standards.

"The reality is that

many rural districts struggle to keep up as larger, well-funded schools attract veteran educators and invest heavily in resources. We must ensure that students in small communities have the same opportunities for success as those in urban and suburban districts," said Haker. "Now is the time for real, actionable change. We look forward to working with Secretary Rowe and all stakeholders to ensure Pennsylvania's rural students are not left behind."

The senators highlighted concerns regarding cyber charter school costs, demographic shifts and economic challenges as additional burdens affecting rural districts. They are urging their colleagues in the legislature, the governor and his administra-

tion, and stakeholders to work together to prioritize fair funding solutions that will provide immediate relief and long-term sustainability for struggling schools.

"For too long, the focus has been on failing schools needing more money," said Culver. "We want to shine a light on our rural schools that provide a quality education but are struggling to balance their budgets and maintain the level of service and academic achievement their students and taxpayers have come to expect — all because of a funding formula that has left some schools at a disadvantage."

The legislators have formally invited Rowe to participate in a Community Conversation on Rural Education

Funding Disparities in April to hear directly from impacted communities. The conversation, if accepted by Rowe, is expected to bring together educators, administrators, parents and policymakers for a constructive discussion addressing those challenges. The event will be hosted by Northwest Area School District, where school leaders and community members have already been seeking solutions.

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 18, 2025. 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 \$110.5 million per year. This filing also includes a request for approval of the following alternative rate mechanisms in accordance with 69 Pa. C.S. § 1232: Revenue Neutralization Adjustment mechanism to stabilize ability revenues regardless of changes in actual customer usage that would become effective with the April 2027 billing cycle and a request to make permanent the Company's currently effective Pilot Weather Normalization Adjustment. The Company has included a request to extend its Energy Efficiency Pilot for residential customers and to initiate an Energy Efficiency Program Pilot for small commercial customers, for which costs will be recovered beginning January 1, 2026. Columbia Gas is introducing an Economic Development Distribution Service Tariff to allow flexibility to enter into individual contracts with very large load non-jurisdictional customers in a manner that provides for accelerated cost recovery while protecting the interests of the Company's jurisdictional customers.

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 \$138.82 to \$154.29 per month, or by 11.38 percent.

The total bill for a small commercial customer using 150 therms of gas purchased from Columbia per month would increase from \$240.61 to \$269.45, or by 11.99 percent.

Rates for a small industrial customer using 1,460 therms of gas from Columbia per month would increase from \$1,807.69 to \$2,103.57 per month, or by 16.59 percent.

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 His. II - Supplement No. 392, which is available at <https://www.columbiagas.com/en/customer-utility-utility-jurisdiction>. 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. 392, 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 rates and can prevent hearing rates from changing until it investigates under 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 3285, Harrisburg, PA 17105-3285. 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 view 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 to that you can be notified of any hearings that may be scheduled in this case.

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- * Name of Publication: **GETTYSBURG TIMES**
- * City, State: **GETTYSBURG, PA**
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Insertion Order #: **CG-2025-GT**

Date of Insertion: **3/21/2025**

Caption: **RATE COST 2025**

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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.

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My commission expires February 25, 2029
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EARP

(Continued from Page A1)

frivolous investment scheme involved sums of money building over time. Some of the smaller investments were returning the invested 30% return, until the money disappeared.

Expansion of the automatic

license plate reader system with four fixed cameras is not online yet, according to Station Clerk Brent Young, who said the plate reader expansion remains in the administrative state as we are trying to finish up access to mounting locations and permission releases to do so.

The department is still trying to calculate the cost of allowing officers to "purchase" years toward their pension eligibility with past experience in military service or other law enforcement departments.

The benefit comes at a cost to the department, says EARP solicitor Joseph Rudolph, because the timing changes for the payout of the benefit.

The PA Act 49 describes the program, said Rudolph, noting and he will speak with Conrad Siegel to acquire the calculations he needs to explain the impact on the benefit plan.

Discussion of this benefit are driven by one officer who has purchased time toward pension eligibility with military service, and began in the mid fall. Rudolph has provided the guidance to the commission.

Letter

(Continued from Page A1)

"The College does not ordinarily comment on correspondence from advocacy organizations, and this is not the appropriate forum to address the specifics of the letter. We have been in touch with the programs and committees mentioned in the letter. Because the letter is already being discussed on campus

and connects to the issues about higher education being raised at the federal level, I do want to take this opportunity to reaffirm some of the foundational principles that guide us.

"First and foremost, the College is driven by our mission to value... This starts with an unwavering commitment to free expression and academic freedom, clearly

articulated in our Freedom of Expression Philosophy. We create an environment that encourages a wide range of views, including views with which other members of the community (and outside advocacy organizations) might disagree. This is foundational to any quality education.

"For this reason, we do not limit free speech and academic inquiry to certain viewpoints.

"We also believe in our responsibility to honor and respect the worth and dignity of every member of our community. Learning and the pursuit of knowledge flourish in a place committed to the open exchange of ideas — an environment where individuals from different backgrounds, beliefs, and experiences engage in meaningful dialogue. For this to occur at any depth,

every member of our community must be fully included and empowered to contribute.

"Finally, the College conducts its operations with a deep respect for its legal and ethical responsibilities. We do not agree that the College is violating civil rights laws and, of course, will discuss that with OCR, should it pursue an investigation. The principles I have out-

lined today are not new to the College, they rest in commitments that have guided us throughout the nearly 200 years since our founding.

"Thank you for your continued support, for your commitment to our enduring mission, and for your belief in the College and our core educational values.

"Bob Lillimo
"President"

Center

(Continued from Page A1)

Students gain industry certifications, and earn college credits before graduation.

The idea for CCTC was first proposed by former CVSD Superintendent Dr. Russell Greenholt, who spearheaded the effort to provide students with career-focused training that aligned with local workforce needs. With the support of over 50 businesses, the district secured \$6 million in funding and in-kind donations, allowing the vision to become a reality.

Greenholt, who now serves as vice president of CVTF, reflected on how business partnerships played a critical role in shaping the program.

Since its opening, student demand for CCTC programs has increased significantly, fill-

ing classrooms to capacity. Throughout the morning, CCTC teachers and students shared how the program has evolved and helped prepare students for careers and higher education.

Kim Smith, leader of the family and consumer science department, highlighted the education program, which was created to address Pennsylvania's teacher shortage. Students in the program earn 11 college credits before graduation and complete a 500-hour educator apprenticeship in CVSD classrooms.

"They're getting hands-on teaching experience, college credit, and they're also building relationships and learning how to be a teacher," Smith said.

Senior Dylan Lacey, who participates in the education program, said his experience working with kindergarten

through third-grade students has reinforced his passion for becoming a teacher.

"These classes have put into perspective how passionate my desire for education is," Lacey said. "I've loved working with all the students I've had."

A business department leader Patricia Bealmar said CCTC's accounting and diversified occupational programs help students develop technical and leadership skills that prepare them for careers in business and finance. Students also run the school store, gaining hands-on experience in entrepreneurship and management.

"As a teacher, I know how much easier it is for me to teach from experience," Bealmar said.

Former students often return to share their experiences, including one who recently spoke to her class about how

the program helped him in college and his career.

"We've modified our curriculum to make it more relevant. We want to address local and regional workforce needs," Bealmar said.

Zoelei Rodriguez Torres, a student in the accounting program, said CCTC gave her opportunities he never expected when he moved in CVSD from Puerto Rico.

"I never thought that somebody who came from a school from different backgrounds, beliefs, and had a little fan in the corner could end up studying at a school where he was getting prepared to study in the field," Rodriguez Torres said.

Shawn Myers, leader of the applied technology department, said CCTC's biggest impact over the past five years has been creating connections between students and local

industries.

"I want to thank all of you guys that have been involved in this and provided feedback and guidance, because without that, a lot of these opportunities would not exist," Myers said.

Students now train on industry-standard equipment, and do all work-ready skills in fields such as welding, engineering, horticulture, and construction, he said. Myers said partnerships with local employers have been crucial in helping students secure job placements after graduation.

For many supporters, the five-year anniversary event was a chance to see how far CCTC has come and how it continues to evolve.

"This journey would not have been possible without the generosity of companies in our community," said 2023 NOHS graduate Alaine Myers, a sopho-

more at Pennsylvania College of Technology who got her start in welding at CCTC and went on to win a national title in the 2022 SkillsUSA competition.

Music for the occasion was provided by New Roxford, NOHS's select modern band of students who participate in both modern music and the school's traditional ensembles under the direction of Dr. David Bowman. Established the same year as CCTC, Little said the modern band program provides students opportunities to play and record modern music in a student-centered classroom where collaboration is encouraged.

"We started to look at things five, six, seven years ago. Yes, we were focused on career and technical education, but we have a vision for everything. This is just one of them," Little said.

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On Line Auction-Now Open 161 N Main St, Biglerville Upper Adams School District is selling some shop equipment and food service items that are no longer needed. Shop items include, Milling machine, metal lath, parts washers, press, hardware, etc. Larry Swartz auctioneer: hbid.com Preview is Tuesday, March 25th 4:00-5:00pm Use north entrance, park by greenhouse and enter the shop area via the large overhead door on N side. Bidding begins closing, March 31 at 7:00PM If you have any questions or need assistance bidding, please contact the auctioneer. Questions on machines contact Michelle Miller 717-752-4781 Auctioneer: Sale for: Larry Swartz, AU5624 Upper Adams School District 717-360-4656

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HARB

(Continued from Page A1)

be 24 feet wide and 80 feet long, including a 12-foot-deep porch. The building would be just over 19 feet high at the peak of the roof and 13 feet high at the side walls, Shaffer said.

A wider building was considered, but there would not have been enough room since it is required by code to be at least

10 feet away from the main building, he said.

The roof and side walls are structural polycarbonate, but the front of the proposed garden center is glass, "which will give it a significant transparency," he said.

The building's location in the rendering provided to HARB was questioned by member Joe Fdgar, as it appeared different

from that in Shaffer's plans.

The rendering was done before it was realized that maneuvering room would be needed in front because tractor trailers enter from that side of the building to back into the yard, Shaffer said.

The building's proposed location is 16 feet further away from the road than it appears in the rendering, allowing suf-

ficient space between it and the signpost, he said.

"I like the fact that it stands out from the Acc Building. It's a light structure, compared with the heavy mass" of the existing building, Fdgar said.

"I think it's a nice addition to this property," he said. Richard Franki may be contacted at rfranki@gettysburgtimes.com.

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 10, 2025. The notice describes the Company's rate request, the PUC's role, and what actions you can take.

Columbia Gas requested an overall rate increase of \$110.5 million per year. This filing also includes a request for approval of the following rate increase measures to commence with P.U.C. Case # 13309, a Revenue Normalization Adjustment mechanism to stabilize utility revenues regardless of changes in actual weather usage that would increase revenue with the April 2022 billing cycle and a request to make permanent the Company's effective Plus Weather Normalization Adjustment. The Company has included a request to extend its Energy Efficiency Pilot for residential customers and to initiate an Energy Efficiency Program Pilot for small commercial customers, for which costs will be recovered through January 1, 2026. Columbia Gas is introducing the proposed Development Distribution Service tariff to allow flexibility to enter into individual contracts with new large load non-utility customers in a manner that provides for accelerated cost recovery while protecting the interests of the Company's residential customers.

If the Company's rates request is approved, the total bill for a residential customer who purchases 70 therms of gas from Columbia per month would increase from \$138.50 to \$154.24 per month, or by 11.38 percent.

The total bill for a small commercial customer using 150 therms of gas from Columbia per month would increase from \$407.69 to \$493.45, or by 21.34 percent.

For a 2000 cubic foot customer using 1,500 therms of gas from Columbia per month would increase from \$1,807.69 to \$2,108.02 per month, or by 16.58 percent.

To find out your customer class or how the requested increase might affect your gas bill, call Columbia Gas at 1-800-408-4339. The rates requested by the Company may be found in proposed Columbia Gas Service Tariff No. 9 - Supplement No. 392, which is available at https://www.columbiagas.com/customer-service/inquiry-information. You may examine the materials filed with the PUC, which explains the requested increase and the reasons for it, in any of the regional or local Columbia offices. Upon request, the Company will send you a statement of reasons for Supplement No. 392, 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 proposed rate increase and can prevent existing rates from changing until it investigates and decides how or on the request. The Company will provide the requested rates as requested. After reviewing 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 rates charged to you might be different than the rates requested by the Company as shown above.

There are three ways to challenge a company's request for higher rates:

- 1. You may file a formal complaint. If you want a hearing before a judge, you need file a formal complaint by filing a formal complaint. You always have the opportunity to take part in hearings about the rate increase request. All complaints should be filed as soon as possible. If a formal complaint are filed, the PUC may grant all, some, or none of the request without holding a hearing and set a date.
- 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 equipment. The information you provide will be available when the PUC holds a hearing on the rate request. Send your letter or request for a formal complaint form to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, P.O. Box 2265, Harrisburg, PA 17105-0256. Your letter or formal complaint can be filed electronically with the PUC. Information regarding the filing is available at https://www.puc.pa.gov.
- 3. You may file a written or oral public input hearing. Public input hearings are held if the PUC issues an investigation of the company's rates to determine if there are a large number of complaints filed in the case. At these hearings, you have the opportunity to present your views on the PUC's rate hearing the case and the company representatives. All testimony given "under oath" becomes part of the official record. These hearings are held for the company's service area.

For more information, call the PUC at 1-800-892-7399. You may leave your name and address on that you can be notified of any hearings that may be held about the rate.



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Perform

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ignoring expectations. She is simultaneously rural and cosmopolitan, historically minded and contemporary, idiosyncratic and fashionable, mystical and down-to-earth."

Leading up to the live performance at the Majestic, June plans to engage the Gettysburg community in a variety of ways, including outdoor pop-up concerts (weather dependent) and visits to local schools, according to the release.

The program is made possible by the Endeavor Foundation and is sponsored by the Gettysburg College Office of the Provost, and the Ann McElhenny Harvard Program for Culture and Music at Gettysburg College, according to the release.

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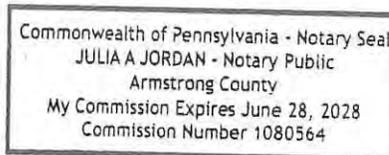
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Caption: **RATE COST 2025**

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Tammy Bish
Publication Signature



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Date: 3/21/25

Julia A Jordan
Notary Public Signature

Thousands rally outside Istanbul city hall for 2nd night over mayor's arrest

By MEHMET GÜZEL
AND SUZAN FRASER
Associated Press

ISTANBUL — Thousands of people gathered outside Istanbul's city hall for a second consecutive night on Thursday to rally against the arrest of the city's mayor, a prominent center-right opposition figure, joined the rally outside Istanbul city hall on Thursday, calling on all opposition parties to join forces against "injustices."

Police blocked a group of youths who attempted to breach a barricade in an effort to march toward Taksim, Istanbul's central square. In Ankara, police fired tear gas to prevent students from advancing along a main avenue.

Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu was arrested after a dawn raid on his residence on Wednesday as part of investigations into alleged corruption and other links, escalating a crackdown on opposition figures and dissenting voices. Several other prominent figures, including two district mayors, were also detained.

The detention of a popular opposition leader deepened concerns over democracy and sparked protests in Istanbul and elsewhere, despite a four-day ban on demonstrations in the city and road closures.

It also caused a shockwave in the financial market, triggering temporary halts in trading on Wednesday to prevent panic selling.

Mansur Yavaş, the mayor of the capital Anara and another popular opposition figure, joined the rally outside Istanbul city hall on Thursday, calling on all opposition parties to join forces against "injustices."

Police blocked a group of youths who attempted to breach a barricade in an effort to march toward Taksim, Istanbul's central square. In Ankara, police fired tear gas to prevent students from advancing along a main avenue.

Erdogan's party rejects accusations of interference

Critics see the crackdown as an effort by Erdogan to extend his more than two-decade rule following significant losses by the ruling party in local elections last year. Government officials reject claims that legal actions against opposition figures are politically motivated and insist that the courts operate independently.

Earlier, Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said authorities had detained dozens of people for sharing "provocative" social media content related

to the mayor's detention. The authorities identified 261 social media accounts that shared posts that allegedly incited public hatred or crime, including 62 that are run by people based abroad, Yerlikaya wrote on X. At least 37 of the suspected owners were detained and efforts to detain other suspects were continuing.

İmamoğlu's arrest came just days before he was expected to be nominated as the opposition Republican People's Party's presidential candidate in a primary scheduled for Sunday. The party's leader has said the primary will go ahead as planned.

Germany calls the arrest a bad sign

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz expressed concern over the mayor's detention, saying it was a "very, very bad sign" for Turkey's relations with the European Union.

Scholz said it was "depressing for democracy in Turkey, but certainly also depressing for the relationship between Europe and Turkey."

"We can only call for this to end immediately and for opposition and government

to stand in competition with each other, and not the opposition being brought to court," he said.

Prosecutors accused İmamoğlu of exploiting his position for financial gain, including the improper allocation of government contracts.

In a separate investigation, prosecutors also accuse İmamoğlu of aiding the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, by allegedly forming an alliance with Kurdish groups for the Istanbul municipal elections. The PKK, behind a decades-long insurgency in Turkey, is designated a terrorist organization by Ankara, Washington and other nations.

Imamoğlu faces other charges

Before his detention, İmamoğlu already faced multiple criminal cases that could result in prison sentences and

a political ban. He is also appealing a 2022 conviction for insulting members of Turkey's Supreme Electoral Council, a case that could result in a political ban.

This week, a city council nullified his diploma, citing alleged irregularities in his 1990 transfer from a private university in northern Cyprus to its business faculty, a decision İmamoğlu said he would challenge. The decision effectively bars him from running for president, since the position requires candidates to be university graduates.

İmamoğlu was elected mayor of Turkey's largest city in March 2019, a historic blow to Erdogan and the president's Justice and Development Party, which had controlled Istanbul for a quarter-century. Erdogan's party pushed to void the municipal election results in the city of 16 million, alleging irregularities.

The challenge resulted in a repeat of the election a few months later, which İmamoğlu also won. The mayor retained his seat following local elections last year, during which his party made significant gains against Erdogan's governing party.

Finland is again ranked the happiest country in the world. The US falls to its lowest-ever position

By KRISTEN GRIESHABER
AND KOSTYA MANENKOV
Associated Press

HELSINKI — Finland is the happiest country in the world for the eighth year in a row, according to the World Happiness Report 2025 published Thursday.

Other Nordic countries are also once again at the top of the happiness rankings in the annual report published by the Wellbeing Research Centre at the University of Oxford. Besides Finland, Denmark, Iceland and Sweden remain the top four and in the same order.

Aino Virolainen, a digital commerce director, has lived abroad but always wants to return home to Finland.

"This is where I always want to come back to and where I want to go. You know, grow my kids and grow old myself," Virolainen said Thursday. "And I think it's because, you know, the peace and the quietness and the trustworthiness. You know, how we speak directly and the nature, of course. It's clean and the air is fresh and what's there not to love?"

Country rankings were based on answers people give when asked to rate their own lives. The study was done in partnership with the analytics firm Gallup and the U.N. Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

"Happiness isn't just about wealth or growth — it's about trust, connection and knowing people have your back," said Jon Clifton, the CFO of Gallup. "If we want stronger communities and economies, we must invest in what truly matters: each other."

Sharing meals and having somebody to count on

Researchers say that beyond health and wealth,

some factors that influence happiness sound deceptively simple: sharing meals with others, having somebody to count on for social support, and household size. In Mexico and Europe, for example, a household size of four to five people predicts the highest levels of happiness, the study said.

Believing in the kindness of others is also much more closely tied to happiness than previously thought, according to the latest findings.

As an example, the report suggests that people who believe that others are willing to return their lost wallet is a strong predictor of the overall happiness of a population.

Nordic nations rank among the top places for expected and actual return of lost wallets, the study found.

Alexandra Peth, a managing director, said Finland prioritizes trust and connection.

"People trust each other in Finland and I think on many levels in the society, we try to support each other," Peth said. "So I think the system makes it kind of that you can trust it somehow."

Overall, researchers said that global evidence on the perceived and actual return of lost wallets shows that people are much too pessimistic about the kindness of their communities compared to reality — actual rates of wallet return are around twice as high as people expect.

The U.S. falls to its lowest-ever position in the happiness ranking

While European countries dominate the top 20 in the ranking, there were some exceptions. Despite the war with Hamas, Israel came in at eighth, Costa Rica and Mexico entered the top 10 for the first time, ranking at sixth and 10th respectively.

When it comes to decreasing happiness — or growing unhappiness — the United States has dropped to its lowest-ever position at 24, having previously peaked at 11th place in 2012. The report states that the number of people dining alone in the United States has increased 53% over the past two decades.

The United Kingdom, at position 23, is reporting its lowest average life evaluation since the 2017 report.

Afghanistan is again ranked as the unhappiest country in the world, with Afghan women saying their lives are especially difficult.

Sierra Leone in western Africa is the second unhappiest, followed by Lebanon, ranking third from the bottom.

Almost one-fifth of young adults globally have no social support

In a concerning development, the study said that 19% of young adults across the world reported in 2023 that they have no one they could count on for social support. That is a 39% increase compared to 2006.

All countries are ranked according to their self-assessed life evaluations as averaged over 2022 to 2024.

Experts in economics, psychology, sociology and beyond then seek to explain the variations across countries and over time using factors such as gross domestic product per capita, healthy life expectancy, leaving someone to count on, a sense of freedom, generosity and perceptions of corruption.

Jouhi Purhonen, a Helsinki resident, called Finns "really calm."

"So we have the time to think about things like our life really peacefully and I guess, as you will," Purhonen said.

China calls for protections for students in US after Congressional panel demands data from colleges

By CHRISTOPHER BODEN
Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Beijing on Thursday demanded protections for Chinese students in the U.S. after a Congressional panel asked six American universities to hand over a large amount of detailed information on their Chinese students, citing national security concerns.

A letter sent to the universities, including Stanford and Carnegie Mellon, alleged that the Chinese government was embedding spies into top American institutions to gain access to sensitive technologies.

In response, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said Chinese students account for

about one-quarter of all international students in the U.S. and that their activities have promoted "the economic prosperity and financial development of the U.S."

"This is in the interest of both parties," Mao told reporters at a daily briefing. "We urge the U.S. to stop oversteering the concept of national security, effectively protect the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese students, and not impose discriminatory, restrictive measures on Chinese students."

Her remarks came a day after the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party, sent a letter to six colleges requesting information on Chinese students

enrolled in advanced science and technology programs. He accused the institutions of putting American research at risk in exchange for financial incentives.

The colleges named in Mao's letter were Carnegie Mellon University, Purdue University, Stanford University, the University of Illinois, the University of Maryland, and the University of Southern California.

"The Chinese Communist Party has established a well-organized, systematic pipeline to embed researchers in leading U.S. institutions, providing them direct exposure to sensitive technologies with dual-use military applications," Moollanar wrote in a letter to Farnam Jahanian, president of Carnegie Mellon University.

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 15, 2025. 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 \$110.2 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 revenue regardless of changes in actual customer usage that would become effective with the April 2027 billing cycle and a request to make permanent the Company's current effective First Weather Normalization Adjustment. The Company has included a request to extend its Energy Efficiency Pilot for residential customers and to initiate an Energy Efficiency Program Pilot for small commercial customers, for which costs will be recovered beginning January 1, 2028. Columbia is also requesting an Economic Development Distribution Service tariff to allow flexibility to enter into individual contracts with new large load non-jurisdictional customers in a manner that provides for accelerated cost recovery while protecting the interests of the Company's jurisdictional customers.

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 \$130.52 to \$134.23 per month, or by 11.38 percent.

The total bill for a small commercial customer using 156 therms of gas purchased from Columbia per month would increase from \$240.01 to \$255.45, or by 10.59 percent.

Rates for a small industrial customer using 1,480 therms of gas from Columbia per month would increase from \$1,907.69 to \$2,109.67 per month, or by 10.59 percent.

To find out your customer class or how the requested increase might affect your gas bill, call Columbia Gas at 1-800-468-4332. The rates requested by the Company may be found in proposed Columbia Gas Service Tariff No. 3 - Supplement No. 392, which is available at <https://www.columbiagas.com/can-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 sent to all Columbia's offices. Upon request, the Company will send you a statement of reasons for Supplement No. 392, 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. All complaints should be filed as soon as possible. If no formal complaint is 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 judges hearing the case and the company representatives. All hearings given "public input" become part of the official case record. These hearings are held in the company's service area.

For more information, call the PUC at 1-800-692-7369. You may leave your name and address so that you can be notified of any hearings that may be scheduled for this case.


A National Company

North Macedonia holds mass funerals for young victims of nightclub fire

By VISAR KRIVETI
AND KONSTANTIN TROSHKOV
Associated Press

SKOPJE, North Macedonia — Thousands of mourners. Rocked to fragments Thursday in North Macedonia, the site of a vicious fire that razed a devastating nightclub fire, bringing flowers and photographs and some of them collapsing in grief.

The March 16 blaze claimed 59 lives, mostly young people, including several members of the pop band DNA, who were per-

forming when flames engulfed the venue in the eastern town of Kocani. Authorities have set up a cordoned area around the site to provide privacy for mourning families.

Burials were held in several cities and towns throughout the country, but the main funeral took place in Kocani, a town of about 25,000 people east of the capital, where 30 of the victims were being buried, with coffins lined up near graves dug by excavators.

Thousands of mourners walked solemnly along dirt paths to the freshly dug graves marked with

paper signs. Many carried baskets of white flowers or clutched photographs of their loved ones. Many wore t-shirts and badges with pictures and names of the deceased.

Several people overcome by grief received medical attention. A weeping man reviled his head on the edge of one of the coffins.

And Kostadinovska, a backing vocalist for the band DNA, who survived the fire, wrote in an online post: "A part of my second family has left. Along with them, my soul."

AFFIDAVIT FOR PROOF OF PUBLICATION

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

Insertion Order #: **CG-2025-DC**

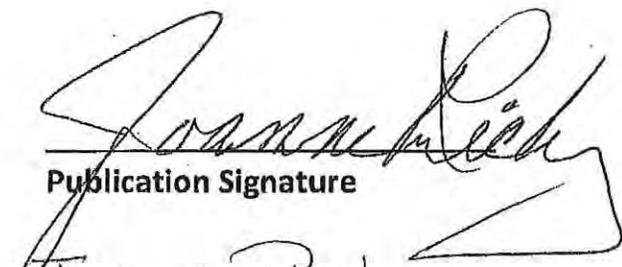
Date of Insertion: **3/21/2025**

Caption: **RATE COST 2025**

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
Rosemary Furman, Notary Public
Fayette County
My commission expires August 5, 2028
Commission number 1299996
Member, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries



Publication Signature
Joanne Richey

Name (Please Print)

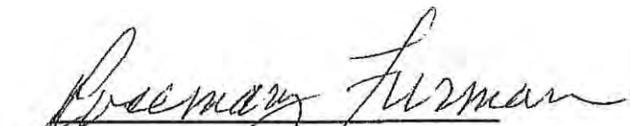
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Notary Public Signature

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For Saturday Publication: 3:00 pm Thur.

Public Notice

SOUTHMORELAND SCHOOL DISTRICT ENACTMENT NOTICE UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT DEBT ACT

Notice is hereby given that the Board of School Directors of Southmoreland School District, at a meeting held on March 16, 2025, adopted a Resolution titled and summarized as follows:

AUTHORIZING THE INCURRING OF NONELECTORAL DEBT BY THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS (THE "BONDS") IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED NINETEEN MILLION DOLLARS (\$19,000,000); COVENANTING TO PAY, AND PLEDGING ALL AVAILABLE TAXING POWER OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BONDS; PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SINKING FUND AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A SINKING FUND DEPOSITORY; FIXING THE FORM, MAXIMUM INTEREST RATES, MATURITY, REDEMPTION AND OTHER PROVISIONS FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF; AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE BONDS; AUTHORIZING A FILING OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; RATIFYING AND DIRECTING CERTAIN ACTIONS OF OFFICERS; AND MAKING CERTAIN OTHER COVENANTS AND PROVISIONS IN RESPECT OF THE BONDS.

The Resolution was not amended from its proposed form during final passage.

The maximum interest rate on the Bonds, once issued, is 6.00%.

The Bonds will be purchased by PNC Capital Markets LLC at a purchase price of not less than 95.00%, inclusive of net original issue discount/premium, if any, together with accrued interest to the date of delivery.

The full text of the Resolution as adopted may be examined by any citizen between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on regular school business days at the Southmoreland Business Office, 2351 Route 961, Alverton, Pennsylvania 15612.

SOUTHMORELAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
Pam Moldack
Business Manager
(724) 887-2046

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Daily Courier

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For additional questions, please contact Karen-Marie Johnson, Senior Physician Recruiter & Talent Advisor

WVUHS Medical Group is an AAEEO employer
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JR25-02694

Estate Notice

Estate of Caroline G. Rigg, a/k/a Caroline Rigg

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of Caroline G. Rigg, a/k/a Caroline Rigg, Farmington, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, having been granted to Bryon G. Rigg and G. Samuel Rigg by the Register of Wills of Fayette County, Pennsylvania, No. 25-25-0003, notice is hereby given to all persons indebted to said Estate to make immediate payment, and to those having claims against the same to present them to the undersigned, duly authenticated for settlement.

Submitted by:
Bryon G. Rigg, Co-Executor
G. Samuel Rigg, Co-Executor
William M. Radcliffe, Esquire
RADCLIFFE MARTIN LAW, L.L.C.
648 Morgantown Road, Suite B
Uniontown, PA 15401
(724) 439-3939

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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 19, 2025. 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 \$110.5 million per year. This filing also includes a request for approval of the following alternative rate mechanisms in accordance with 66 Pa. C.S. § 1030: a Revenue Normalization Adjustment mechanism to stabilize utility revenues regardless of changes in actual customer usage that would become effective with the April 2027 billing cycle and a request to make permanent the Company's currently effective Pilot Weather Normalization Adjustment. The Company has included a request to extend its Energy Efficiency Pilot for residential customers and to initiate an Energy Efficiency Program Pilot for small commercial customers, for which costs will be recovered beginning January 1, 2025. Columbia Gas is introducing an Economic Development Distribution Service tariff to allow flexibility to enter into individual contracts with new large load non-jurisdictional customers in a manner that provides for accelerated cost recovery while protecting the interests of the Company's jurisdictional customers.

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 \$138.52 to \$154.29 per month, or by 11.33 percent.

The total bill for a small commercial customer using 150 therms of gas purchased from Columbia per month would increase from \$240.61 to \$268.45, or by 11.59 percent.

Rates for a small industrial customer using 1,460 therms of gas from Columbia per month would increase from \$1,907.69 to \$2,109.67 per month, or by 10.59 percent.

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. 392, 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. 392, 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 rates and 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. 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 letting 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 3262, Harrisburg, PA 17105-3262. 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.

Columbia Gas
AN SNGRES Company

AFFIDAVIT FOR PROOF OF PUBLICATION

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

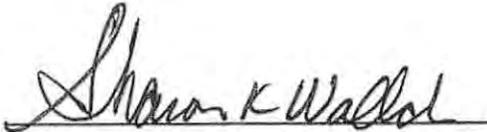
Insertion Order #: **CG-2025-UHS**

Date of Insertion: **3/21/2025**

Caption: **RATE COST 2025**

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.

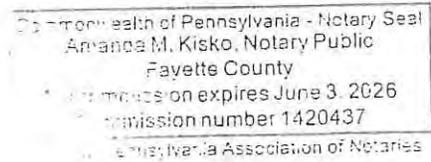


Publication Signature

The Notary Public Seal



Name (Please Print)



State of: Pennsylvania

County of: Fayette

Sworn to and subscribed before me



Notary Public Signature

Date: 3-24-25

Joseph Gregory Cornish

MOUNT PLEASANT

Joseph Gregory "Greg" Cornish, 63, of Mount Pleasant, passed away unexpectedly Sunday, March 16, 2025, in UPMC Jameson, of a heart attack. He was born April 6, 1961, in Uniontown Hospital, a son of the late Joseph Gregory Cornish, and Elizabeth "Penny" Robinson Gallagher, who survives.

In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Joseph and Josephine Brownfield Cornish; maternal grandparents, James and Kay Robinson; and several aunts and uncles.

He attended Uniontown High School, Class of 1979. Greg attended The Art Institute of Pittsburgh and Pitt Greensburg.

Greg was an antique broker and often assisted in the purchase of classic cars with his brother, Scott.

He was a music lover who attended many concerts. He enjoyed hiking and spending time outdoors, but most of all he loved spending time with his family, where he was recognized as the fun uncle.

Greg attended the Church of Love, Truth, and Peace in Uniontown, where he was on the board of directors. Greg was instrumental in the establishment and day-to-day operations of the church, assisting his friend and pastor, Phil Zebro.



Greg was a kind soul, who would help anyone in need; he had an especially strong calling to help the homeless and he was in the early planning stages of starting a homeless shelter. Even in death, he was still helping people by being an organ donor.

He was a lover of animals and was willing to be the designated babysitter for his golden retriever nephew, Dodge, and his canine corso great-nephew, Sonny, who both loved their Uncle Greg. Greg was loved by all who knew him and will be deeply missed.

Left to cherish Greg's memories are his mother, Elizabeth "Penny" Robinson Gallagher of Charleston, S.C.; brother, Scott Cornish and wife, Kimberly of Scottsdale; sister, Kristen Husted Harper and fiancée Courtney Friedman of Folly Beach, S.C. (Graysen, Charlotte, Whitaker, Laney, Elly, Isabelle); niece, Alysia Stephens and husband Dave of Scottsdale (Mason, Logan, Millie); nephew,

Anthony Cornish and girlfriend Anna Gatti of Mount Pleasant; nephew, Frank Gregor and wife Jen of Bolivar, Mo. (Tristan, Andrew, Montana); nephew, Ryan Fuller of Everson; uncle, James Robinson and wife Linda of Troy, Mo.; girlfriend, Jill Sparks of Rogers, Ark.; and many other relatives and friends.

Arrangements have been entrusted to VITO C. MARTUCCI FUNERAL HOME LLC, 123 S 1st Street, Connellsville, where the family will receive friends from 3 to 6 p.m., the time of a service, Friday, March 21, with Pastor Phil Zebro officiating. Interment will be private. Dinner will follow at the Scott C's Classic Building, 712 E Crawford Avenue, Connellsville; friends and family are invited to attend.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Church of Love, Truth, and Peace, 120 Lincoln Street, Uniontown, PA 15401, in memory of Greg Cornish. A celebration of life will follow at a later date.

"You will never regret the times you stopped to listen to a loved one, or put down your phone to be present, or paused to notice something beautiful, or made an effort to be kind. This is the good stuff. Don't miss it." To sign the guest registry, visit www.martucci-funeralhome.com

Lisa Ann Dolan Spiczuzza

DUNBAR

Lisa Ann Dolan Spiczuzza, 56, of Dunbar, passed away Monday, March 17, 2025, in WVU Uniontown Hospital, Uniontown.

She was born November 22, 1968, in Connellsville, to Hilda (Dean) Dolan, and the late Frank Edward Dolan Jr.

She is survived by her husband, William R. Spiczuzza; her son, Albert (Amanda) Cannors; four grandchildren, Kylie, Jackson, Parker, and Delaney; three siblings, Marcy (Drew) Schneider, Mary (John) Leapline, and Timothy (Kim) Dolan; nephews, Christopher Wiles, Johnathan Leapline, Joshua Leapline, Timothy Dolan, and Tommy Dolan; as well as many friends.

Lisa was an incredibly loving soul. She was caring beyond measure, possessed



unwavering kindness, and had a wonderful, generous heart. She would freely give anything that she had to anyone in need that she encountered.

She will fondly be remembered for her beautiful smile and infectious laugh.

Lisa was a deeply loving daughter, wife, mother, sister, friend, and beacon of light to

all who had the genuine good fortune of knowing her.

Friends will be received from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the hour of service, Friday, March 21, in the BURHANS-CROUSE FUNERAL HOME, 28 Cannellville Street, Dunbar, with Pastor Lee Waley officiating.

"Though Lisa is no longer with us, her presence will carry on through the legacy of love and laughter that she is leaving behind for all to cherish. While we are saddened by her passing, we take comfort in knowing that she is now at peace... awaiting our arrival to rejoin her one day."

Condolences for the family may be left at www.burhanscrousefuneralhome.com or at the funeral home's Facebook page, @burhanscrouse.

Erin H. Leff

FORMERLY OF UNIONTOWN

Erin H. Leff, 75, of Upper Gwynedd, passed away Thursday, March 6, 2025. Born December 20, 1948, in Rom, she was the cherished daughter of the late Jay C. and Florence Zarrin Leff. Erin was the beloved wife of David W. Tucker.

Erin was known for her work as a psychologist and an attorney. She worked in Philadelphia, New Jersey, New Mexico, and Maryland, and made many good friends. She will be missed.

She is survived by her stepson, Ben Tucker and wife Jill, residing in Hircrest, Wash.; her granddaughter, Grace Tucker; her brother and sister-in-law, Scott Leff and Marilyn McDaniel, residing in Pittsburgh; and her nephews Zarrin and Marston Leff.

Services are private and are under the direction of HUFF & LAKJER FUNERAL HOME in Lansdale. Contributions may be made in her memory to the ACLU.

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Sam Smitley

FAIRCHANCE

Sam Smitley, 73, of Fairchance, passed away Tuesday, March 18, 2025.

He was born July 7, 1951, in Uniontown.

Preceding him in death were his parents, Thomas and Ethel Smitley; brothers, Donald and Stanley Smitley.

Surviving are his wife of

Sam Smitley

FAIRCHANCE

53 years, Darlene; son, Mike and his wife Alicia; brother, Robert Smitley; sister, Kathy Clark; and other family members.

The family will receive friends from 3 to 7 p.m.

Friday, March 21, and 9 to 10 a.m., the hour of service, Saturday, March 22, with Pastor Vince Cable officiating, in the DEANX WHITMARSH FUNERAL HOME, 134 West Church Street, Fairchance.

Interment will follow in Mt. Moriah Baptist Cemetery, Smithfield.

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 10, 2025. 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 \$176 million per year. This filing also includes a request for approval of the following adjustment rate mechanisms in accordance with 66 Pa. C.S. § 7350, a Revenue Normalization Adjustment mechanism to stabilize utility revenue regardless of changes in actual customer usage that would become effective with the April 2027 billing cycle, and a request to make permanent the Company's currently effective Pilot Weather Normalization Adjustment. The Company has included a request to extend its Energy Efficiency Pilot for residential customers and to include an Energy Efficiency Program Pilot for small commercial customers, for which costs will be recovered beginning January 1, 2026. Columbia Gas is introducing an Economic Development Distribution Service tariff to allow flexibility to enter into individual contracts with new large load non-residential customers in a manner that provides for accelerated cost recovery while protecting the interests of the Company's residential customers.

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 \$158.92 to \$154.28 per month, or by 11.38 percent.

The total bill for a small commercial customer using 150 therms of gas purchased from Columbia per month would increase from \$243.61 to \$269.45, or by 11.99 percent.

Rates for a small industrial customer using 1,300 therms of gas from Columbia per month would increase from \$1,907.69 to \$2,097.67 per month, or by 10.59 percent.

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 material Columbia Gas Service Tariff No. 3, Supplement No. 302, which is available at <http://info.columbia-gas.com/na/na302>, or you may contact your account manager at <http://info.columbia-gas.com/na/na302> for more 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. 302, 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 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 existing rate class. As a result, the rate charged to you might be different from 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 a hearing 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 3025, Harrisburg, PA 17105-3025. Your letter or formal complaint can be filed electronically with the PUC. Information regarding electronic filing is available at <http://www.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.



AMVETS POST #103

HOPWOOD, PA 724-439-6151

DAILY SPECIALS

TUESDAY: MEATLOAF OR PORK CHOP DINNER

WEDNESDAY: CHICKEN AND BISCUITS, SPAGHETTI WITH MEAT BALLS, MEATBALL HOAGIE, AND CHICKEN PARMESAN

THURSDAY: TACOS OR WINGS

FRIDAY: NEW YORK STRIP, CRAB CAKE DINNER, SHRIMP DINNER, FISH DINNER, SEAFOOD DINNER

ALL DINNERS COME WITH SALAD, ROLLS AND 2 SIDES.

OTHER SIDES AVAILABLE TO EAT IN OR TO GO

SENIOR AGER DANCE EVERY THURSDAY 1PM TO 3 PM WITH DJ ARNIE AMBER

KITCHEN OPEN TUESDAY THRU FRIDAY 4:30 PM TO 8:00 PM

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MARCH 22, 2025 • 8PM to Midnight

Members and Guests Welcome!!

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SATURDAY, MARCH 22 • 10AM-4PM

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AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Mike Hough
C/O ENCOMPASS MEDIA
Columbia Gas Of Pa/Encompass Media
Po Box 1243
MIKE HOUGH
Coraopolis PA 15108

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:

03/21/2025

Sworn to and subscribed before on 03/21/2025

Legal Clerk

Notary, State of WI, County of Brown

My commission expires

Publication Cost:	\$328.46	
Tax Amount:	\$0.00	
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VICKY FELTY
Notary Public
State of Wisconsin

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Mike Hough
C/O ENCOMPASS MEDIA
Columbia Gas Of Pa/Encompass Media
Po Box 1243
MIKE HOUGH
Coraopolis PA 15108

STATE OF WISCONSIN, COUNTY OF BROWN

The below stated newspapers that are generally circulated in the county of York, State of Pennsylvania, printed and published and personal knowledge of the facts herein state and that the notice hereto annexed was Published in said newspapers in the issue dated on:

YOR York Daily Record 03/21/2025
YOR York Dispatch 03/21/2025

and that the fees charged are legal.
Sworn to and subscribed before on 03/21/2025

Keegan Cloran

Legal Clerk
Walter Joz

Notary, State of WI, County of Brown
3.7.27

My commission expires

Publication Cost:	\$577.22	
Tax Amount:	\$0.00	
Payment Cost:	\$577.22	
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Customer No:	800102	1

PO #:

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KAITLYN FELTY
Notary Public
State of Wisconsin

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 19, 2025. 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 \$110.5 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 April 2027 billing cycle and a request to make permanent the Company's currently effective Pilot Weather Normalization Adjustment. The Company has included a request to extend its Energy Efficiency Pilot for residential customers and to initiate an Energy Efficiency Program Pilot for small commercial customers, for which costs will be recovered beginning January 1, 2026. Columbia Gas is introducing an Economic Development Distribution Service tariff to allow flexibility to enter into individual contracts with new large load non-jurisdictional customers in a manner that provides for accelerated cost recovery while protecting the interests of the Company's jurisdictional customers.

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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 \$240.61 to \$269.45, or by 11.99 percent.

Rates for a small industrial customer using 1,460 therms of gas from Columbia per month would increase from \$1,907.69 to \$2,109.67 per month, or by 10.59 percent.

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. 392, 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. 392, 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.



DOVER

(Continued from A1)

season," said Clare Twomey, executive director of the York City Human Relations Commission.

Almy agreed. "Talk about a policy that is basically useless," she said. "It allows for bullying."

Even worse, Almy said the policy encourages school teachers to actively misgender students. That sets a dangerous example that impressionable teens are liable to follow, she said.

Now, she said, the schools are empowered to be bullier, too.

Twomey said that the vagueness of the bathroom policy opens the door for school administrators to enforce it by "any means necessary."

As a minister and not as the commission's executive director, she stressed — Twomey feels there is nothing Christian about this. For her, this is the antithesis of how Christians are supposed to act toward one another.

"Just when I think that these haters shrouded in Christian Nationalism can't debase themselves any further, they go ahead and demonstrate their complete disregard for the humanity of our youth," she said.

Christian nationalism is a fusion of American and Christian identities that seeks a privileged place for Christianity in American public life. Scholars say it often overlaps with conservative Christian political agenda, including opposition to abortion, same-sex marriage and transgender rights.

Rainbow Rose Center Executive Director Eric Stiles said for the pronouns policy he was worried about whether other students can get an exemption and how that could lead to bullying.

For the bathroom policy, he questioned who could do the investigation process and what it would look like.

Almy said the policy makes no sense. As a retired police officer, she recalled how she had to call the parents of minors before she could arrest or question them. If there was a search because of a threat, it was a quick pat down. She questioned how searches don't violate students' rights.

Twomey said the policies had no practicality and voiced concerns that this may allow adult volunteers



DAWN J. SAGERT — dawnsagert@yorkdispatch.com

The Dover Area School District Board of Directors meets at the Dover Area School District Administration Office in Dover borough on Tuesday.

to take the lead on investigating students' gender.

For Stiles, recent trends are reminiscent of "The Lavender Scarf," the campaign against gays and lesbians in government that transpired during President Dwight Eisenhower's administration in the 1950s.

Stiles didn't experience any of that firsthand, he said, but older community members have shared their experiences. "This feels very threatening to the community right now," Stiles said, explaining it's the whole community — and not only transgender people.

These discriminatory policies are a slippery slope, he said. It's especially troubling that, in Dover's case, it didn't sound like there were true safeguards to prevent bullying or negative outcomes.

On Tuesday, before the Dover Area School Board met, a district spokesman told The York Dispatch that staff members would continue to follow federal and state law — meaning they would not be inspecting any students' genitals, as some social media posts indicated.

But the vague language of the ordinance left many questions unanswered.

School Board President David Conley, when asked about enforcement Tuesday night, said he was leaving all of that up to administrators.

Stiles questioned what happens with the student's gender information, such as where it is stored and how long it will follow them.

"The confusion over this is creating even more harm to the community because there's no clear understanding of how they plan on implementing such strategies, who and what information is going to and stored and

there appears to be really no safeguards for bullying," he said, adding it makes the choice for students and teachers to bully easier.

He called this uncharted territory because there is no clear road map. The center has gotten calls that have expressed dislike or hatred of the LGBTQ+.

Lauri Rakoff, the Pennsylvania State Education Association's regional advocacy coordinator, said the situation reflects Dover's misplaced priorities.

"No matter what the intent of the seven board members who voted for this bathroom policy," she said, "I think we can agree that it demonstrates a disturbing fixation on policing children's bodies when they should be fixated on addressing the district's real problems such as staff retention, finding a new superintendent and working on passing a budget."

Rakoff pointed out there is a "large and growing number of unfilled positions" in the Dover staff that is causing larger class sizes and cuts to vital programs that provide a "robust well-rounded education" for the students.

"Sadly we have too many school boards, not just in Dover, that are being driven by the narrow-focused agendas of anti-public education groups like the PA Economic Growth PAC and the Independence Law Center at the expense of the educational needs of all students and the welfare of our communities," she said.

Dover Area's school board is one of the districts with a majority of members endorsed by the PA Economic

Growth PAC. The conservative political action committee is backed by influential York County Republicans, including state lawmakers Mike Johns and Dawn Keefer.

The PAC required endorsed candidates to agree to a host of far-right priorities — including restrictions on LGBTQ+ students. It also hosted a secret meeting with board members from across the county. The agenda of one such meeting included the I.L.C., a far-right, Christian law firm that promotes book bans and anti-LGBTQ+ policies.

Stiles also pointed out the center is concerned "the contraction of support for the community is happening so rapidly in so many directions" across the region and country. This is in response to the conversations at the federal level, he said, adding it will play out locally.

"It's scary times for the LGBTQ+ community," Almy said. "And for our youth."

She added her heart breaks for them. Kristina Moon, senior attorney at the

Education Law Center, said these policies that restrict the gender diverse student is "another devastating example of civil rights violations for this population that is very small and in our school but unfortunately receiving a significant number of political attacks across the state."

Another concern, which is legally problematic because of state and federal protections, is to suggest school staff investigate students' private medical information.

"It's also deeply troubling to imagine the school piling students against each other instead of focusing on providing a school climate and learning environment where everyone feels safe and included," she said.

Twomey noted that President Donald Trump's plan to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education — something that would legally require an act of Congress — could undermine the agency's Office of Civil Rights.

"That would leave students — and not just LGBTQ+ students — with fewer resources to defend themselves, she

Help available

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: Dial 988
Dauphin County Crisis: 717-232-7511
The Trevor Project: 24/7 line: 1-866-486-7886
Trans Lifeline: 1-877-565-8660

LGBT National Youth Talkline: 1-800-246-7743
The Rainbow Rose Center in York does not currently have set drop-in hours but has many services available at https://www.rainbowrosecenter.org/

"LGBT Center of Central PA in Harrisburg is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. More information at https://centralpaglbtcntr.org/
GLO Harrisburg is open M/T/W/F 3 to 8 p.m. More information at https://www.gloharrisburg.org/

said. "This is not education," she said.

Additionally, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act that redefined the state's legal definition of sex in 2023 to include gender identity and expression is also under threat.

The Thomas More Society, the same firm that represented Dover Area in the Intelligent Design lawsuit 20 years ago, recently filed a lawsuit challenging those state protections.

If the PHRA protections are taken down, Twomey said, those children wouldn't have much recourse.

"They don't even have any place to go," she said.

For now, Moon advised students to contact the PHRC — at 717-787-4410 — and the I.L.C.'s hotline at 267-436-6055 if they face any discrimination.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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 19, 2025. This notice describes the Company's rate request, the PUC's role, and what actions you can take.

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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.



NOTICE OF AUDIT	
<p>Pursuant to the provisions of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Township Code, notice is hereby given that the Auditor's Report for the financial information included on Form DCR-DCR-2024, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Municipal Annual Audit and Financial Report of Jackson Township, York County, Pennsylvania for the year ended December 31, 2024 has been filed as required by law. The audit of the financial information included on Form DCR-DCR-2024, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Municipal Annual Audit and Financial Report, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, was performed by Marlene A. Houser, C. MacArthur, CPA, Chartered, the following is the summary financial information as of and for the year ended:</p>	
JACKSON TOWNSHIP	
SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION	
SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT INFORMATION	SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS AND CHARGES
ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUPS	IN NET POSITION - ALL FUND TYPES
DECEMBER 31, 2024	FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024
Assets and Other Credits	Revenues and Other Financial Sources
Cash and Investments \$ 9,518,340	Grant \$ 50,482.87
	Licensing and Permits 111,217
	Fees and Forfeitures 43,248
Total Assets and Other Credits \$ 9,518,340	Market, Invest, and Royalties 428,600
	Intergovernmental Revenues 448,658
Liabilities	Charges for Services 352,600
All Other Current Liabilities \$ 290,233	Undeclared Operating Revenues 250,928
	Other Financing Sources 246,270
Net Position	Total Revenues and Other Financing Sources 22,034,225
Investments	Contributions and Other Financing Uses
Designated for Pension Benefits 2,396,678	General Government 302,697
Unrestricted 1,303,451	Public Safety 1,376,206
Other 518,509	Health and Human Services 74,418
Total Net Position 4,218,638	Public Works 1,111,381
	Culture and Recreation 283,311
Total Liabilities and Net Position \$ 9,518,340	Post Services 84,948
	Employee Paid Benefits and Withholding Taxes 546,662
	Insurance 34,045
	Personnel Paid Expenses 186,167
	Other Operating Uses 47,646,326
	Total Expenditures and Other Financing Uses 31,716,320
	Change in Net Position 617,985
	Net Position
	January 1, 2024 6,302,624
	December 31, 2024 6,920,609

Tariffs likely to drive up cost of auto insurance

Betty Lin-Fisher
USA TODAY

Add auto insurance to the list of items that will likely cost more because of tariffs.

The national average cost of full-coverage car insurance could increase by 8% by the end of the year if 25% tariffs on imports from Canada and Mexico go into effect April 2, according to an analysis by Insurify. The average insurance premium would go from \$2,313 to \$2,502. The cost is likely higher than that since the analysis was done before President Donald Trump imposed 25% tariffs on aluminum and steel last week.

Trump agreed to postpone until early April tariffs on imports from Mexico and Canada that fall under the USMCA, a free trade deal he signed in 2019. They make up 50% of Mexican goods coming into the U.S. and 38% of those from Canada.

Without the 25% tariffs on imports, Insurify projected car insurance to increase 5% year over year.

Many consumers are worried about how the tariffs will affect the costs of their goods, but many aren't thinking about how services they pay for will also be impacted. Matt Brannon, an Insurify data journalist who completed the analysis, told USA TODAY.

"It might not be intuitive to people that the tariffs would end up raising people's car insurance rates and the main way they do that is because tariffs would increase the price of car parts," he said.

"The cost of car insurance is based in part on the cost of car parts."

One-fifth of the cars and light trucks sold in the U.S. come from Canada and Mexico, Insurify said, and the U.S. imports roughly 32% of its total auto parts from Canada and Mexico.

According to data released in February by the American Property Casualty Insurance Association, about 6 out of every 10 auto replacement parts used in U.S. auto shop repairs are imported from Mexico, Canada and China.

"If parts become more expensive,



Without the 25% tariffs on imports, Insurify projected car insurance to increase 5% year over year. GETTY IMAGES

car owners will pay more each time they need something fixed," the association said.

Tariffs will also increase the price of new cars. According to Wolfe Research, the tariffs would likely raise the cost of new cars by around \$3,000. The average new car costs \$48,641, according to Wolfe, which estimates tariffs would raise the price to \$51,641.

Car insurance rates are based on both replacement costs after an accident as well as the overall cost of a car, Brannon said.

Even if auto insurers tried to source a part made in the U.S. instead of one imported from Mexico or Canada with a tariff tacked on, it might not be cheaper, Brannon said.

"The reality is that a lot of times, these companies in the U.S. will know that the insurer can't pay a cheaper price like they used to in the past, so they'll also tend to raise their prices," he said.

Based on existing auto insurance rates, New York will see the highest cost increase in insurance rates, Brannon said. The cost of annual coverage would increase by \$489 in the end of the year, with \$10 of that increase directly attributable to tariffs.

Tariffs are expected to increase rates in all states, based on Insurify's estimates.

Labor market stable, but job opportunities limited

Lucia Mutikani
REUTERS

WASHINGTON — The number of Americans filing new applications for unemployment benefits increased slightly last week, suggesting the labor market remained stable in March, though the outlook is darkening amid rising trade tensions and deep cuts in government spending.

Despite the low level of layoffs, more people are staying on jobless rolls longer compared to the same period last year. Economists say still-high interest rates and policy uncertainty are making companies cautious about increasing head counts.

"The data continue to tell a story of relatively few private-sector layoffs but limited employment opportunities for those who are unemployed," said Nancy Vanden Houten, lead U.S. economist at Oxford Economics.

Initial claims for state unemployment benefits rose 2,000 to a seasonally adjusted 223,000 for the week ending March 15, the Labor Department said Thursday. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast 224,000 claims for the latest week.

Claims have been bouncing in the middle of the 203,000-242,000 range this year, with layoffs generally staying low and hiring cooling off.

A separate program for unemployment compensation for federal employees, which is reported with a one-week lag, still showed a marginal impact of the mass firings of public workers by President Donald Trump's administration as part of an unprecedented push to shrink the government.

Labor analysts said the rapid firings led by White House adviser Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency were in some cases being undertaken in ways that made it harder for laid-off workers to file for unemployment benefits.

"But the chaotic nature of the terminations has jerked federal workers through firings, reinstatements, and in-between statuses like 'administra-



More people are staying on jobless rolls longer compared to the same period in 2024, according to Labor Department data.

DREW ANGERER/GETTY IMAGES FILE

leave,' meaning many don't show up as fully unemployed yet," said Andrew Steiner, a senior fellow at the Century Foundation.

The government in court filings this week acknowledged that nearly 25,000 recently hired workers had been fired.

A judge ruled their terminations were likely illegal, resulting in the workers being reinstated but placed on administrative leave, at least temporarily.

The claims data covered the period during which the government surveyed businesses for the nonfarm payroll portion of March's employment report. Claims rose moderately between the February and March survey periods.

The economy added 351,000 jobs in February. Data next week on the number of people receiving benefits after an initial week of aid, a proxy for hiring, could offer more clarity on the health of the labor market in March.

The so-called continuing claims increased 33,000 to a seasonally adjusted 1.892 million during the week ending March 8, the claims report showed. Continuing claims were around 1.795 million a year ago.

The Fed projected the unemployment rate would rise to 4.4% this year, revised up from the 4.3% forecast in December.

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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 19, 2025. 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 \$110.5 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 April 2027 billing cycle and a request to make permanent the Company's currently effective Pilot Weather Normalization Adjustment. The Company has included a request to extend its Energy Efficiency Pilot for residential customers and to initiate an Energy Efficiency Program Pilot for small commercial customers, for which costs will be recovered beginning January 1, 2026. Columbia Gas is introducing an Economic Development Distribution Service tariff to allow flexibility to enter into individual contracts with new large load non-jurisdictional customers in a manner that provides for accelerated cost recovery while protecting the interests of the Company's jurisdictional customers.

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 \$139.52 to \$154.29 per month, or by 11.38 percent.

The total bill for a small commercial customer using 150 therms of gas purchased from Columbia per month would increase from \$240.61 to \$269.45, or by 11.99 percent.

Rates for a small industrial customer using 1,460 therms of gas from Columbia per month would increase from \$1,907.69 to \$2,103.67 per month, or by 10.59 percent.

To find out your customer class or how the requested increase might affect your gas bill, call Columbia Gas at 1-800-460-4332. The rates requested by the Company may be found in proposed Columbia Gas Service Tariff No. 1 - Supplement No. 392, which is available at <https://www.columbiagaspa.com/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. 392, 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 investigations and/or public 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 1-800-692-7380. 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

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-2025-TTM**

Date of Insertion: **3/21/2025**

Caption: **RATE COST 2025**

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

Jennifer Tyman Williams

Name (Please Print)

State of: Pennsylvania

County of: Westmoreland

Sworn to and subscribed before me

Date: March 25, 2025

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal
Paula Conaway, Notary Public
Westmoreland County
My commission expires January 27, 2029
Commission number 1455986
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The Notary Public Seal


Notary Public Signature



Steelers fans cheer during the NFL Draft last year in Detroit. When selecting a city for the draft, the NFL likes teams with a great fandom. "There's fans of the black and yellow all over the country and the world," said Nicki Ewell, senior director of events for the NFL.

NFL Draft events set for Point State Park, stadium

League to be given use of venues free of charge, retain most revenues

BY ABIGAIL HAKAS

Steelers Nation can take some credit for bringing the league's largest offseason event to Pittsburgh.

And, for the NFL Draft next year, they'll be taking over Point State Park, the anticipated venue of a free fan festival known as the NFL Draft Experience, documents show.

Cities compete to host the draft, and the NFL generally looks for a few traits in potential host cities: a rich football history, great fandom and a location that can't host a Super Bowl, said Nicki Ewell, senior director of events for the NFL.

"There's fans of the black and yellow all over the country and the world," Ewell said. "They have really deep roots, and so we want to reward cities that we know are rich in football history."

Pittsburgh, in particular, has some of the highest fan engagement in the league, Ewell said. A strong public and private partnership with the ability to raise the needed money to host the draft solidified the bid.

While the NFL has a play-book for the draft, it's customized for each city, Ewell said.

The NFL is looking at using the rivers to make it a uniquely Pittsburgh draft, but the specifics have yet to be confirmed.

"It has to be unique to the city. That's what makes it very challenging but also makes it very unique," she said.

Incorporating iconic Pittsburgh sites, such as Point State Park and the North Shore, is one way to do that — but the NFL won't be paying a lofty price for the venues where an estimated half a million or more people will attend the draft from April 23-25 next year.

In fact, the NFL won't be paying at all. Pennsylvania will provide the park for free to the NFL, according to a signed letter of commitment provided by the

Bureau of State Parks to Next Generation Newsroom. It's a trend across the potential draft venues. Two locations on the North Shore, a stretch of the riverfront and parking lots near Acrisure Stadium, are being given to the NFL rent-free, according to two letters of commitment obtained by Next Generation Newsroom through Right-to-Know requests. All three letters of commitment were signed in February 2023.

The main stage location, where draft picks are announced, will be outside Acrisure Stadium, Ewell said.

On the Downtown side, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will work to draft an agreement with the local organizing committee to use Point State Park if the NFL confirms the park as the Draft Experience venue, according to the Bureau of State Parks.

"Over the next year, there will be coordination between the NFL and local partners, including VisitPittsburgh and the Local Organizing Committee, as event details like site location and activities get planned," said Cecelia Cagni, director of corporate communications for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

"As an organization, we continue to be excited for the 2026 NFL Draft and know many sports fans are, as well."

DCNR would then invoice the local organizing committee for any fees associated with park use, the bureau said. It's not the only expense the local organizing committee could be footing the bill for.

Throughout the letters of commitment, the NFL asks for control over a range of details and for waived fees, including not being charged for utilities and "no revenue sharing, ticket fees or other forms of fees or charges paid to the venue."

If rental fees are charged by any of the venues, those must be paid by the local organizing committee, which has an \$11 million fund to host the draft.

While local businesses aim to get a piece of profit through the NFL's Source program,

the NFL will call the shots on who is working the venue. The NFL will curate a list of restaurants to serve food and beverages at Point State Park, and those businesses will keep all of the revenue from sales, Ewell said.

In Detroit, which hosted the 2024 draft, vendors earned more than \$1 million, Ewell said.

But, aside from food and beverage, the NFL doesn't have vendors selling anything other than its own merchandise operator, currently Legends Global Merchandise, and doesn't allow booths for non-NFL partners.

"It's not like a street fair or a festival in that way, but we're also hosting an event that's completely free for the entire community," Ewell said. "Even if you're a member of the Source (program) but you don't get a contract, there's still impact to your city and to your business, potentially."

Across all three venues, the NFL will select contractors, caterers and security, according to the letters of commitment.

With much of the revenue from the event retained by the NFL, local officials hope to see money roll in elsewhere. The draft is expected to bring between \$120 million and \$213 million in economic impact, based on prior drafts.

It also showcases Pittsburgh's ability to host a large-scale event, Ewell said. Gov. Josh Shapiro expects the draft to be the largest event Pittsburgh has ever seen.

"Even if you're not a fan of the NFL, you're not a fan of sports, you're not a fan of the Steelers, there's still something for you to do and see and just be part of the community, which I think is the really powerful thing about the draft," Ewell said.

Abigail Hakas is a reporter for Next Generation Newsroom, part of the Center for Media Innovation at Point State University. Reach her at ahakas@pointstate.edu. ncgn@pointstate.edu is a regional news service that focuses on government and enterprise reporting in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Information on this page, including The Stroller, can be mailed at least two weeks in advance to: The Stroller, c/o Valley News Dispatch, 210 Wood St., Tarentum, PA 15134; email stroller@trib.com; or fax 724-226-4677.

CALENDAR

Freeport

April 8: Freeport Area Library, 328 Market St., is accepting donations for its thrift store and jewelry and used book sale. Gently used items will be accepted until April 9. Details: 724-295-3616.

Harrison

Sunday: Girl Scout Troop 28807 will sell Girl Scout cookies from noon to 3 p.m. outside Walmart, Freeport Road, Natrona Heights. Donations will be accepted to send cookies to UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh's Ronald McDonald House.

April 8: The drama department of St. Joseph High School will sponsor a bingo fundraiser at 6 p.m. at Pater-son Hall at Guardian Angels Parish, 800 Montana Ave. Admission \$5, includes two hot dogs, a bag of chips, cookie and bottle of water. There will be 22 games that will be priced per game from 50 cents to \$5 per card, additional snacks, drinks, rapid and all-night 50-50 raffles, games of chance and a basket raffle. A preview of this year's musical will be presented at intermission. Reservations required by April 1. Reservations: timandjessie@comcast.net or tinyurl.com/mryadna.

Peoples Library plans annual luncheon fundraiser

The Peoples Library Spring Luncheon will be April 26 at the Banquet on Barnes Event Center at Knead Community Cafe, 1011 Barnes St., New Kensington. Doors will open at 12:30 p.m., and the buffet lunch will begin at 1:30 p.m. There will be a bake sale, raffle prizes and a 50-50. Reservations by credit card, visit peopleslibrary.org. To pay with a check, mail a check payable to Peoples Library to 880 Barnes St., New Kensington, PA 15068, or stop in at the New Kensington or Lower Burrell library locations.

New Kensington

May 17: Vendor applications are being accepted by Knead Community Cafe, 1011 Barnes St., for an outdoor Mother Nature's Garden Market at the cafe, rain or shine. Items must be homemade, natural-based or garden-related. Cost: \$35, for a 10-by-10-foot space. Details and applications: kneadcommunitycafe.org/mng/vendor-application.

Parks Township

Sunday: Parks Township Sportsman's Club will have a country music jam night from 5 to 8 p.m. at the club, 111 Shipman Road. Bring your favorite stringed instrument and sing along. Refreshments available. Public welcome. Details: 724-845-2300.

Springdale

April 8: Springdale Free Public Library, 321 School St., will celebrate National Deep-dish Pizza Day with a pizza party from 11 a.m. to noon at the library. Children in prekindergarten through sixth grade welcome. Reservations required. Reservations: 724-274-8728.

Tarentum

April 3: Tarentum Recreation Board will host a free bingo for senior citizens at 1 p.m. at Highland Senior Center located in Daltons Edge, 704 E. Second Ave. Lunch will be served afterward. Reservations required. Reservations: Carrie, 724-448-1170, or email shewavm.timko@nasmc.com.

Jared Ryder Foundation to host spaghetti dinner

A spaghetti dinner to benefit the Jared Ryder Foundation will be from noon to 5 p.m. March 30 at the Marconi Club, 135 River Ave., Leechburg. The menu will include spaghetti, meatballs, salad, roll, dessert and the drink, dine in or takeout. There will be a silent auction, children's craft table, T-shirt sales and a 50-50. Tickets are \$15, and children, \$8. The foundation helps children and families affected by congenital heart disease. For tickets, contact Linda Sarraf at 412-965-2531.

Prospect Cemetery to honor Civil War veterans

Prospect Cemetery is planning a July 24 event to recognize soldiers who are buried in the cemetery who served in the Civil War. The cemetery staff is looking for photographs of these individuals to use at the event. For details, contact Cindy at 724-612-0076 or call the cemetery at 724-294-4552.

Let us know about Easter events

The Valley News Dispatch will publish a list of community Easter egg hunts and activities. To have an event listed online at triblive.com and in the print edition, send information as soon as possible to The Stroller, Valley News Dispatch, 210 Wood St., Tarentum PA 15084, email rplnto-smith@triblive.com or fax 724-226-4677.

Burrell HS to present 'Matilda'

The drama department at Burrell High School will present its spring musical, "Matilda," at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 28 and March 29 in the high school auditorium in Lower Burrell. Tickets are \$10. For ticket information, visit tinyurl.com/mzvvtblj.

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 724-226-4666.

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 15, 2025. This notice describes the increase of the rate, the PUC's role and what actions you can take.

Columbia Gas requested an overall rate increase of \$10.5 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 natural customer usage that would become effective in the April 2027 billing cycle and a request to realign the Company's currently effective Pilot Weather Normalization Adjustment. The Company has included a request to enter its Energy Efficiency Pilot for residential customers and to initiate an Energy Efficiency Program Pilot for small commercial customers, for which costs will be recovered beginning January 1, 2025. Columbia Gas is introducing an Economic Development Distribution Service tariff to allow flexibility to enter into individual contracts with new large non-jurisdictional customers. A program that provides for accelerated cost recovery while protecting the interests of the Company's jurisdictional customers.

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 \$139.52 to \$154.29 per month, or by 11.08 percent.

The total bill for a small commercial customer using 150 therms of gas purchased from Columbia per month would increase from \$240.01 to \$269.45, or by 11.59 percent.

Rates for a small industrial customer using 1,450 therms of gas from Columbia per month would increase from \$1,907.09 to \$2,103.97 per month, or by 10.59 percent.

To find out your customer class or how the requested increase might affect your gas bill, call Columbia Gas at 1-888-829-3332. The rates requested by the Company may be found in proposed Columbia Gas Service Tariff No. 2 - Supplement No. 392, 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. 392, 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 it 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. If filing a formal complaint, you assume 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 convinces 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 from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, P. O. Box 3265, Harrisburg, PA 17103-3265. 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 customer objections to the rates. 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 1-800-892-7380. You may leave your name and address so that you can be notified of any hearings that may be scheduled in this case.

Former, current students offer praise for experience at Penn State New Ken

PSNK - FROM A

"For the first time in a long time, New Kensington isn't talked about in terms of what we used to be, but now it's about what we can be and what we are," Guzzo said.

Student Alexandra Reilly, who is in her third year studying criminal justice, said attending Penn State New Kensington was optimal for her financially and it helped being close to family. She initially was going to complete two years at Penn State New Kensington before finishing her degree at University Park, but "once I started at Penn State New Kensington, it was clearly where I belonged."

"This campus has allowed me to earn a Penn State degree but in a way that was most beneficial to my circumstances and needs," she said. Closing Penn State New Kensington would hinder economic growth and educational opportunities not only in New Kensington but the Alle-Kiski Valley, speakers

said. Carl Tutak, a 2016 graduate and manager of radiology operations at the Allegheny Health Network, emphasized the importance of the college's radiology program to local health care institutions.

The campus provides high-quality, accessible education, Tutak said, and prevents local, talented students from relocating elsewhere for more lucrative opportunities that can plague smaller communities like New Kensington. That, in turn, contributes to the economic vitality of the region, he said.

"The impact of losing this campus and losing this program is unmistakable," he said. "Local hospitals, including the one in which I work at, benefit directly from a steady stream of highly competent graduates."

Professors and staff at Penn State New Kensington foster opportunities for education and growth for students, said Alyssa Albini of Kittanning, who is in her second year

studying Radiologic Sciences. She's not sure what she would have done post-high school graduation had it not been for the Upper Burrell campus.

"Penn State is a reputable name, and New Kensington is the closest," she said. "I believe it's definitely an important aspect to our area. It's a very good opportunity across all fields at Penn State New Kensington."

The campus also provides an affordable and accessible option for people in this area, especially for nontraditional students and first-generation college students, like state Rep. Jill Cooper, R-Murrysville.

"We have a chance to chart a stronger path, creating thriving businesses that will hire our young professionals," Cooper said. "Imagine the possibility if these creative partnerships are expanded, not shut down."

Kellen Stepler is a TribLive staff writer. He can be reached at kstepler@triblive.com.

AFFIDAVIT FOR PROOF OF PUBLICATION

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

Insertion Order #: **CG-2025-PG**

Date of Insertion: **3/20/2025**

Caption: **RATE COST 2025**

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.

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Allegheny County
My commission expires July 18, 2028
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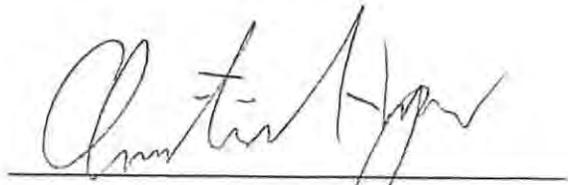
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State of: Pennsylvania

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Date: 3/24/2025



Notary Public Signature

International

Israeli troops retake part of Gaza corridor

By Wafaa Shurafa,
Julia Frankel and Sammy Magdy
Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — Israel said Wednesday its troops retook part of a corridor that bisects Gaza, and its defense minister warned that attacks would intensify until Hamas frees dozens of hostages and gives up control of the territory.

The military said it had retaken part of the Netzarim Corridor that divides northern Gaza from the south, and from where it had previously withdrawn as part of a ceasefire that began in January. That truce was shattered Tuesday by Israeli airstrikes that killed more than 400 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to the Gaza Health Ministry.

The advances on the ground by Israel on Wednesday — which included sending more troops to southern Gaza — threatened to drag the sides into all-out war again. The ceasefire had given war-weary Palestinians some respite, allowed a much-needed surge of humanitarian aid into Gaza — and led to the release of dozens of hostages who had been held for more than 15 months.

Within Israel, the resumption of airstrikes and ground maneuvers has raised concerns about the fate of roughly two dozen hostages held by Hamas who are believed to still be alive. Thousands in Israel are taking part in anti-government demonstrations in Jerusalem, with many calling for a deal to bring the captives home.

A Hamas spokesman, Abdel-Latif al-Qarqawi, said the moves by ground forces in Gaza was a clear sign that Israel had backed out of the truce and was reimposing a "blockade." There have been no reports of rocket attacks by Hamas since Tuesday's bombardment.

Also Wednesday, the United Nations said one of its employees was killed in Gaza and five others were wounded in an apparent strike on a guesthouse. It was not immediately clear who was behind the strike, the U.N. said.

Israel launches 'limited' ground operations in Gaza

The military said its "limited ground operation" in Gaza would create a "partial buffer between



Palestinians leave with their belongings and head toward Gaza City on Wednesday after an Israeli evacuation order, in Beit Hanoun, northern Gaza Strip.

northern and southern Gaza." It wasn't immediately clear whether the move would entirely block Palestinians from traveling north or south through the Netzarim Corridor.

Israel used the roughly 4-mile corridor as a military zone during the war. It ran from the Israeli border to the coast, just south of Gaza City, the territory's largest metropolitan area.

Israel said airstrikes on Wednesday hit dozens of militants and militant sites, including the command center of a Hamas battalion. It denied Palestinian claims that it hit the U.N. guesthouse.

Fares Awad, an official in the Gaza Health Ministry, said an Israeli strike on a gathering of mourners in the northern town of Beit Lahiya killed 17 and wounded 30. The Israeli military had no immediate comment.

Israel says it will order new evacuations

Until Israel withdrew from

Netzarim in January, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who had fled northern Gaza for the south were prevented from returning throughout the war. Many of them have since returned.

But Israel Katz, the Israeli defense minister, said the military would soon order Palestinians to evacuate from certain zones.

Mr. Katz said Tuesday's aerial bombardment "was just the first step" in Israel's plan to ratchet up the pressure on Hamas to release the remaining hostages and give up control of Gaza. Until it does, Israel will attack "with an intensity that you have not known."

U.N. worker is killed in a strike

Jorge Moreira da Silva, head of the U.N. Office for Project Services, declined to say who carried out the strike in the central city of Deir al-Balah. He said the blast was not accidental or related to demining activity.

He did not provide the nationalities of those killed and wounded.

Mr. Moreira da Silva said strikes had hit near the compound on Monday and struck it directly on Tuesday and again on Wednesday. He said the agency had contacted the Israeli military after the first strike. "Israel knew this was a U.N. premise, that people were living, staying and working there," he said.

Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, a military spokesperson, said the explosion was not caused by Israeli fire. After the strike Wednesday, the wounded were rushed to Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Hospital in central city of Deir al-Balah. One man was carried inside on a blanket held up by medical workers. Another lay on a hospital bed, his knee bandaged.

In southern Lebanon, a U.N. peacekeeper was wounded after stepping on a mine. U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said the incident took place during "operational activity" by the peacekeeping mission known as UNIFIL in the village of Zibin, adding that the injuries are not life-threatening.

Hundreds of Palestinians have been killed in new offensive

The Gaza Health Ministry said at least 436 people, including 183 children and 94 women, have been killed since Israel launched the strikes early Tuesday. It said another 678 people have been wounded.

The military says it only strikes militants and blames civilian deaths on Hamas because it operates in densely populated areas.

The war has killed nearly 49,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials, and displaced 90% of Gaza's population. The Health Ministry doesn't differentiate between civilians and militants but says over half of the dead have been women and children.

Israelis protest against their government

Before this week's attacks, Israel and Hamas were set to negotiate an extension of the first phase of the ceasefire agreement, which lasted six weeks.

But those talks never got off the ground. Hamas has demanded that Israel stick to the terms of the initial ceasefire deal, including a full withdrawal from Gaza and an end to the war. Israel, which has vowed to defeat Hamas, has put forward a new proposal that would extend the truce and free more hostages held by Hamas, without a commitment to end the war.

The breakdown of the ceasefire was met with anger in Israel, where many support the plight of the hostage families to free their loved ones.

Israel's return to a military campaign came as Mr. Netanyahu faces mounting domestic pressure, with mass protests taking place over his handling of the hostage crisis and his plan to free the head of Israel's internal security agency. Demonstrations massed around Israel's parliament on Wednesday and later marched near Mr. Netanyahu's residence in Jerusalem, where police sprayed water to try to clear them.

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 19, 2025. 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 \$110.5 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 Equalization Adjustment mechanism to stabilize utility revenue regardless of changes in actual customer usage that would become effective with the April 2027 billing cycle and a request to make permanent the Company's currently effective Pilot Weather Normalization Adjustment. The Company has included a request to opt-out its Energy Efficiency Pilot for residential customers and to initiate an Energy Efficiency Program Pilot for small commercial customers, for which costs will be recovered beginning January 1, 2026. Columbia Gas is introducing an Economic Development Distribution Service tariff to allow flexibility to enter into individual contracts with new large load non-jurisdictional customers in a manner that provides for accelerated cost recovery while protecting the interests of the Company's jurisdictional customers.

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 \$138.52 to \$154.29 per month, or by 11.36 percent.

The total bill for a small commercial customer using 150 therms of gas purchased from Columbia per month would increase from \$240.51 to \$269.45, or by 11.99 percent.

Rates for a small industrial customer using 1,460 therms of gas from Columbia per month would increase from \$1,907.69 to \$2,109.67 per month, or by 10.55 percent.

To find out your customer class or how the requested increase might affect your gas bill, call Columbia Gas at 1-800-468-5332. The rates requested by the Company may be found in proposed Columbia Gas Service Tariff No. 9 - Supplement No. 392, 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. 392, 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 meets gas 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 that the PUC does not have that could help it make a better decision on the request. 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.

Columbia Gas
A NSource Company

Vatican: Pope Francis no longer needs mechanical help to breathe

By Nicole Winfield
Associated Press

ROME — Pope Francis' condition continued to improve Wednesday and he hasn't needed to use the mechanical ventilation mask to help him breathe, the Vatican said in signaling further progress in his recovery from double pneumonia.

The 88-year-old pontiff is also reducing his reliance on high-flow supplemental oxygen during the day, the Vatican said in a medical bulletin. His pneumonia infection, while not completely eliminated, is under control, the Holy See press office said.

Pope Francis celebrated Mass on Wednesday, which is an important feast day for the Catholic Church and is the anniversary of his installation as pope 12 years ago.

Pope Francis has been at Rome's Gemelli hospital since Feb. 14 for a complex lung infection that turned into pneumonia in both lungs. He has been receiving respiratory and physical therapy to help strengthen his lungs.

For two nights in a row, he hasn't needed to use the non-invasive mechanical ventilation mask, which pumps oxygen into his lungs, and doctors said its use had been "suspended." Pope Francis was put on the ventilation mask after he suffered a spate of respiratory crises in late February and early March during which he was unable to expel the mucus and fluid that had accumulated in his lungs.

Suspending use of the mask means Pope Francis' lungs are working harder and better on their own.

The Vatican is also again reducing its medical updates as Pope Francis slowly continues his recovery, with the next one not expected before Monday.



People pray for Pope Francis on Wednesday in front of the Agostino Gemelli Polyclinic in Rome, where the pontiff has been hospitalized since Feb. 14.

Well wishes via the mail

The Italian postal service has seen a huge increase in mail addressed to Pope Francis since his Feb. 14 hospitalization, with some letters clearly written by children, bearing stamps from around the world and simply addressed to the pope at "Gemelli Hospital" in Rome. Postal workers sort the mail into big yellow boxes, labeled "Papa Francesco." Each day hospital workers come to take the letters away to make sure they get to the 88-year-old Francis at the 10th floor hospital suite where he is recovering from double pneumonia.

The mail arrives first at the primary sorting center at Rome's Fiumicino airport where it is checked to make sure it is safe to be delivered.

Normally, the Vatican receives around 230 pounds of mail a day, said Antonello Chidichimo, the director of the Fiumicino sorting center. "Recently, we have had peaks of 150 kilos (530 pounds). Naturally this includes mail arriving from abroad," he told the Associated Press. "We have also seen that many of these letters have been written by

children."

Once cleared at Fiumicino, the mail is sent to the Belstio distribution center in Rome. In a vast sorting area, it is divided into a mechanized sector with trays, machines, conveyor belts and optical readers, and a quieter one where the post is sorted manually and put into pigeon holes by workers.

Addresses vary greatly, with some letters destined for "Gemelli" and others correctly sent to "Casa Santa Marta" in Vatican City, where the pope chose to live after his election in 2013, instead of in the papal residence in the Apostolic Palace.

Some of the letters are ornately written in calligraphic script, while others have addresses typed on a computer. But many are in the writing of very young children.

It is not an everyday experience to have to sort through and deliver letters addressed to the Holy Father," said Andrea Di Tommaso who is in charge of the Belstio distribution center. He said the large increase in mail for the pope has been a deeply moving experience.

"We hope he gets better soon," he said.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served upon the following persons, in the manner indicated, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

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