



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY
PARENTING TIPS FROM THE MOTHER OF 2 STEELERS AND A MOM WHO PRIDES HERSELF ON LEADING A FAMILY OF NURSES. HEALTH AND WELLNESS, H-1



ROOKIE CAMP STANDOUTS FUEL STEELERS' OPTIMISM
SPORTS, B-1

SHOPPING SAVINGS INSIDE

Sinkholes and symphonies
Philly and Pittsburgh orchestras played the same music. Who was superior? **Sunday Magazine, G-1**

Sunday

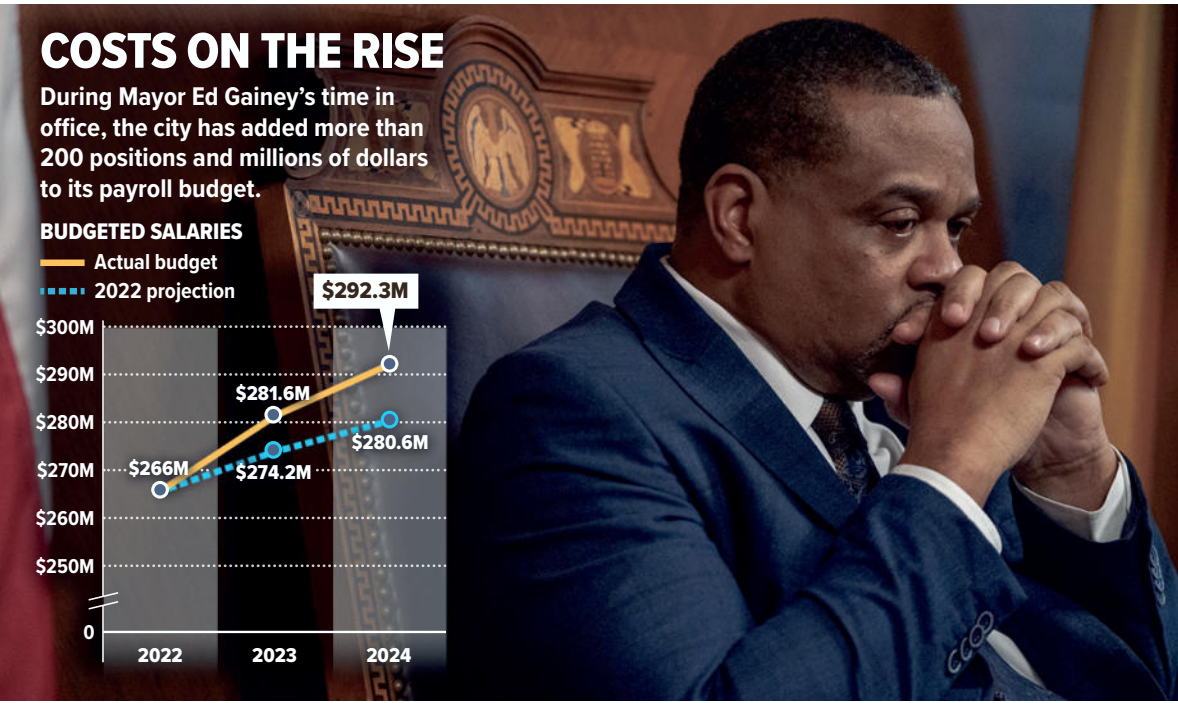
PA. NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
Winner of the Keystone Media Award in 2020, 2022 and 2023 for top performing newsroom among Pennsylvania's largest news organizations



Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

ONE OF AMERICA'S GREAT NEWSPAPERS

\$5.00 237 YEARS OF SERVICE SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2024 VOL. 97, NO. 285, 5/12/24 FINAL



Source: City of Pittsburgh operating budgets Research: Mike Wereschagin/Post-Gazette; Graphic illustration: Ed Yozwick/Post-Gazette

POST-GAZETTE INVESTIGATION CITY HIRING PUSH RAISES FISCAL RISK

Despite major revenue loss projections, mayor accelerates payroll spending pace

By Mike Wereschagin and Hallie Lauer
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The warning signs about threats to the city's financial future began emerging soon after Mayor Ed Gainey took office in January 2022. Key sources of revenue started to diminish in amounts that the city did not expect, while city

workers were pushing for raises and Pittsburgh leaders faced massive expenses needed to cover urgent infrastructure repairs that included badly deteriorating bridges. Instead of imposing critical controls, local leaders moved in another direction: They planned for a hiring spree.

SEE CITY, PAGE A-4

A HIGH-ENERGY DEBUT



Sebastian Foltz/Post-Gazette photos

Fans stand and cheer as Paul Skenes makes his major league debut Saturday against the Chicago Cubs. He pitched into the fifth inning, allowing three runs and striking out seven. The Pirates defeated the Cubs, 10-9. For a complete game story, see **Sports, Page B-1**.

Skenes' long-awaited first start electrifies fans at PNC Park

By Jason Mackey
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Craig Skenes has watched his son Paul pitch for the Air Force Academy and win an NCAA national championship at LSU, two settings that didn't exactly lack pressure or intensity.

Commentary

But as Craig Skenes stood on the second level of the left-field rotunda at PNC Park on Saturday, waiting for Paul to walk out to the bullpen to warm up, the older Skenes knew this would be different than anything they've experienced.

Fans lined the left-field bleachers, eager for the massive, mustachioed man to arrive wearing a sparkling white uniform, No. 30 stitched across the back. There were rows three or four deep closer to the bullpens. Throughout the park, fans reacted to every move the premium pitching prospect made.

"It's sometimes overwhelming, the level of attention everyone is paying to it," the older Skenes told me. "But this is incredible. I hope it's another opportunity for people to get excited about Pirates baseball."

SEE DEBUT, PAGE A-6



Expanded coverage inside

- Skenes shines before bullpen implodes and storm rains on Pirates parade. **B-1**
- Offense has bottomed out, but Cherington believes solutions are in house. **B-2**

An attempted church shooting points to gaps in police reform

Dwindling pool of officers, rise in consolidations pose response-time challenges

By Megan Guza and Jacob Geanous
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The minutes ticked by slowly last Sunday afternoon as the Rev. Glenn Germany and one of the deacons at his North Brad-dock church kept a would-be shooter pinned to the ground as they waited for police to arrive.

Five minutes, then 10, then 15. At 1:31 p.m., more than 20 minutes after Bernard Junior Polite allegedly pointed a handgun at the pastor and pulled the trigger, Pennsylvania State Police troopers arrived at the Jesus' Dwelling Place Church on Lobinger Street.

Within a minute of the failed shooting — it's unclear why the gun didn't fire — Deacon Clarence McCallister had tackled Mr. Polite to the ground in front of the pulpit. Rev. Germany wrestled the gun out of the man's grasp.

Then they waited. "It was quite a long time," Rev. Germany said. "It could have been worse, by far."

The church, a dark-brick building with a squared steeple, is less than a mile from the Eastern Regional Mon Valley Police Department, the newly formed police agency that covers that area.

The department is a merger of several small neighboring municipal agencies, and its formation is perhaps a case study in the staffing challenges facing modern policing: The pool of police applicants has shrunk nationwide while the cost of competitive pay to reel in those applicants has gone up.

SEE REFORM, PAGE A-7

post-gazette.com
Get the latest news and more online plus e-delivery of our daily newspaper at my.post-gazette.com/activate

Weather
Daytime high, 65; tonight's low, 48.
Page A-20

Almanac **A-2**
Books **D-5**
Bridge **G-8**
Business **E-1**
Crosswords **G-8**

Editorials **D-2**
Goodness **F-1**
Health **H-1**
Horoscope **G-6**
Insight **D-1**

Jobs **E-5**
Lottery **A-14**
Mortgages **G-6**
Obituaries **C-5**
Real Estate **G-4**



CLs
LANDSCAPING & SUPPLY CO
"A women owned and managed company."
We service the South Hills and surrounding areas.
5081 Old Clairton Road, Whitehall, Pa 15236
412.885.0322
congletonlandscapesupply.com

WHAT CAN BE BUILT FOR YOUR BACKYARD OASIS?

- Smoker • Grill • Side Burner • Waste Basket • Pizza Oven
- Refrigerator • Speakers • Underlighting • Outlets • Sink
- Warming Drawer • Ice Bin • Storage Areas

Authorized Distributor for Paving Stone and Retaining Wall System **UNILOCK**

CALL NOW TO SCHEDULE YOUR FALL CLEAN-UPS, PLANTING, SEEDING AND MORE!