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ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Families scramble for support

Groups step up amid decision to cut special education specialists

By Megan Tomasic
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Ursula Lesic was ready to meet with her school district last year about creating a middle school transition plan for her children with special needs when she learned Allegheny County was cutting three ed-

ucation specialist positions, a role Ms. Lesic had come to rely on.

The decision sent her scrambling.

Rather than working with the specialist who provided consultation services between school districts and families to ensure student needs were met, Ms. Lesic in-

stead had to piece together experts in special education and on her children's disability to help her prepare for and attend individual education plan meetings, or IEPs, with her school district. Ms. Lesic has now spent hours learning the special education system and thousands of dollars

on experts rather than relying on the previously free service.

The problem, Ms. Lesic said, is that the specialists were more than just advocates; they also took the time to teach parents and families about districts' perspectives and what supports would look like once implemented in the education setting. Ms. Lesic asked

SEE **EDUCATION**, PAGE A-2

SUPREME COURT

FEDERAL JUDGES' POWER LIMITED

Ruling muddles state of birthright citizenship

By Mark Sherman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A united conservative majority of the Supreme Court ruled Friday that federal judges lack the authority to grant nationwide injunctions, but the decision left unclear whether President Donald Trump's restrictions on birthright citizenship could soon take effect in parts of the country.

The outcome represented a victory for Trump, who has complained about judges throwing up obstacles to his agenda. Nationwide, or universal, injunctions had emerged as an important check on the Republican president's efforts to expand executive power and remake the government and a source of mounting frustration to him and his allies.

But the court left open the possibility that the birthright citizenship changes

SEE **COURT**, PAGE A-6

U.S.-CANADA

Trump ending trade talks

Says move is to defend interests of tech firms

By Tony Romm, Andrew Duehren
and Matina Stevis-Gridneff
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Friday said the United States would terminate all trade discussions with Canada, "effective immediately," over the country's plan to begin collecting digital services taxes from U.S. technology giants.

Trump described those taxes as a "blatant attack," and promised on social media that he would inform Canada within the next seven days about the duties that "they will be paying to do business with the United States of America."

In ceasing talks, Trump once again upended the increasingly fraught relationship between the United States and Canada, which has traditionally been one of America's closest allies and largest trading partners.

Those relations had seemed to be improving after Canada's new prime

SEE **TRUMP**, PAGE A-3

MAIN ATTRACTION



Justin Guido/Post-Gazette

Pirates pitcher Paul Skenes takes a selfie with a crowd of children at his rookie card event at Dick's House of Sport in Ross Park Mall on Friday. Mr. Skenes shared some advice with the select group of youngsters who attended the event.

Flash flooding inundates businesses in Robinson

Campbells Run Road under 3 feet of water

By King Jemison
and Lindsay Shachnow
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Torrential rains flooded Campbells Run Road in Robinson on Thursday, covering the road in 3 feet of water, inundating local businesses that were still working to clean up the next day and could take weeks to get back to normal.

A thunderstorm dumped more

than 2½ inches of rain in less than an hour on the area, according to the National Weather Service in Moon. Swiftwater rescue teams lifted several people from cars trapped by floodwaters, and Campbells Run Road was closed until Friday afternoon.

And another quick but heavy storm flooded a Robinson

SEE **FLOOD**, PAGE A-2



Justin Guido/Post-Gazette

Service engineer Brian Young uses a squeegee to remove mud and water from the service bay at Pittsburgh Crane and Conveyor on Campbells Run Road on Friday.



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Weather

Humid; showers and a heavier t'storm. Daytime high, 85; tonight's low, 67.
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