



IT'S DO-OR-DIE TIME FOR STEELERS, RAVENS

GAME PREVIEW • SPORTS, B-1



HEALTHY DISHES TO START THE NEW YEAR

5 RECIPES FOR 2026 • FOOD, H-1



Carnegie's new leader

At 23, Sam Bigham is set to become one of the youngest mayors in Pennsylvania. **Local, C-1**

Sunday

NEWS ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

2022 • 2023 • 2024 • 2025

Named by Pa. NewsMedia Association Foundation for overall excellence across all departments



Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

ONE OF AMERICA'S GREAT NEWSPAPERS

\$6.00 239 YEARS OF SERVICE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026

VOL. 99, NO. 156, 1/4/26

FINAL

TRUMP: U.S. WILL 'RUN' VENEZUELA

Country's oil reserves will be tapped, president says, as captured
Maduro and his wife face federal charges in New York

By Regina Garcia Cano,
Konstantin Toropin
and Eric Tucker
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela — Hours after a military operation that plucked leader Nicolás Maduro from power and removed him from the country, President Donald Trump said Saturday that the United States would run Venezuela at least tem-

INSIDE

McCormick, Fetterman laud U.S. action in Venezuela as Lee, Deluzio denounce attack. **Local, C-1**

porarily and tap its vast oil reserves to sell to other nations.

The action capped an intensive Trump administration pressure campaign on the South American

nation and its autocratic leader and months of secret planning, resulting in the most assertive American action to achieve regime change since the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Legal experts immediately questioned whether the operation was lawful, and Venezuela's vice president demanded in a speech that the U.S. free Mr. Maduro and called him

SEE MADURO, PAGE A-7



President Donald Trump's Truth Social account

This image shows what President Donald Trump says is Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro onboard the USS Iwo Jima after the U.S. military captured him.

POST-GAZETTE SPECIAL: NEW MAYOR'S VISION



Steve Mellon/Post-Gazette
Corey O'Connor, 41, will be sworn in Monday as Pittsburgh mayor, succeeding Ed Gainey.

A focus on growth, families

O'Connor aims to bolster city services, affordability

By Hallie Lauer
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

As Corey O'Connor prepares to be sworn in Monday as Pittsburgh's next mayor, he's looking to change how government approaches long-standing problems in an effort to reshape the city into a hub for businesses and families.

Mr. O'Connor's inauguration will take place Monday afternoon at Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland — almost 20 years to the date that his father, Bob O'Connor, became mayor.

His return to the city's seat of government on Grant Street brings him back to where his political career began. He spent a decade on City Council before serving three years as Allegheny County controller.

Taking office as the 62nd mayor of Pennsylvania's second-largest city will come with immediate challenges.

Mr. O'Connor, taking the reins from outgoing Mayor Ed Gainey, likely will bear the brunt

SEE O'CONNOR, PAGE A-6



Pittsburgh Post-Gazette photos/James Histon/Post-Gazette photo illustration

QUARTER-CENTURY REFLECTIONS

FROM Y2K TO ROBOTICS ROW

BY BOB BATZ JR.
PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Sometimes it hits you how much Pittsburgh has changed over the past 25 years.

One such epiphany unfolded during a December 2023 concert at City Winery, a trendy franchise venue in The Terminal in the Strip District that bustled that frigid night with shoppers and diners at restaurants such as the upscale Argentinian Bal-

vanera. Karin Bergquist and Lincoln Detweiler, of the duo Over the Rhine, looked out at the twinkling lights and mused that the last time they'd played the city in 2002, it was in a dark, gritty, even scary warehouse district that was nothing like this.

Except that earlier show was at Rosebud — a club that had been

SEE OVERVIEW, PAGE A-10

IT'S 2026 AND WHAT'S NEXT?

BY ANYA SOSTEK
PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

The Pittsburgh of 2025 would have been difficult to envision a quarter century ago.

Artificial intelligence was a term known mainly in the computer labs of Carnegie Mellon University. Real estate in Lawrenceville was selling for closer to \$100,000 than \$1 million. And the city was on

the verge of literal bankruptcy.

So picturing the Pittsburgh of 2050 — jumping ahead a quarter century from now — may be a fool's errand. But it's worth a try.

"I think Pittsburgh's best days are ahead of it," said urban theorist Richard Florida.

SEE FUTURE, PAGE A-11



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, 30;
tonight's low, 21.
Page A-20

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

Editorials D-2
Food H-1
Goodness F-1
Health A-13
Home & Garden G-4

Horoscope F-5
Insight D-1
Jobs E-4
Lottery C-2
Obituaries C-5

Real Estate Sales G-6
Sports B-1
State & Region C-1
Sunday Magazine G-1
Television G-3



Explore the Beauty of Poland and its Gardens

with Garden Guru Doug Oster

Warsaw, Malbork Castle, Krakow, Black Madonna, Saxon Garden, Two Botanical Gardens, Jasna Gora Monastery, Poland countryside and much more!

June 18 - 29, 2026

www.dougoster.com

Call Travel Junction Inc. at (724) 266-5715



SPECIAL ONLINE TRAVEL PRESENTATION
Monday January 12th, 2026 at 6:00pm

