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## Astrobotic shoots for moon again

During visit to North Side HQ, McCormick says industry’s growth critical for America

By Chloe Jad  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Astrobotic wants to take Pittsburgh to the moon, and U.S. Sen. Dave McCormick took Monday morning to walk through the space company’s halls — watching engineers build the Griffin lander and visiting the mission control room.

Astrobotic’s Griffin Mission One lander will ride a SpaceX rocket into space perhaps as early as July and attempt what the Peregrine Mission One failed to do in January 2024.

“Like taking a rifle and shooting at the moon, we’re the bullet,” Astrobotic CEO John Thornton said to Mr. McCormick as they stood behind the glass window. “This is Pennsylvania’s best foothold in the industry.”

Inside, Astrobotic scientists wearing protective suits, goggles and masks moved around the Griffin Mission One lander. North Side-based Astrobotic employs more than 200 people.

SEE **ASTROBOTIC**, PAGE A-2



Sebastian Foltz/Post-Gazette

U.S. Sen. Dave McCormick, right, tours Astrobotic’s headquarters on the North Side on Monday with Astrobotic CEO John Thornton.

## PENTAGON MAY BAR AID AT TOP SCHOOLS

CMU among 35 colleges that could be impacted

By Maddie Aiken  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Carnegie Mellon University could become one of multiple universities where active military members are barred from tuition assistance in graduate programs as the Trump administration tackles perceived collegiate bias against the U.S. military.

It is one of 35 schools at “moderate to high risk” of being impacted, according to a list obtained and reported by CNN last week. Other regional universities on the list include the University of Pennsylvania and Case Western University in Cleveland.

Carnegie Mellon has not received formal notification of such a review, CMU spokesman Chuck Carney told the Post-Gazette in an email.

“As always, CMU stands ready to engage constructively with the department on ways to strengthen and advance military education,” Mr. Carney wrote.

The Defense Department has already announced plans to cut ties with Harvard University beginning this fall, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said earlier this month.

Citing what he called the Ivy League’s

SEE **CMU**, PAGE A-2

## POWERING UP



Matt Freed/Post-Gazette

Pirates designated hitter Marcell Ozuna warms up during team workouts Monday at Pirate City in Bradenton, Fla. Mr. Ozuna, who officially became a member of the team on Monday, has a one-year, \$12 million deal with a mutual option for 2027 to bring power to a Pirates team that had little in 2025. More Pirates spring training coverage in **Sports, Section B**.

## INFLUX OF GIVING

Pittsburgh-area mosques aim to answer the call during Ramadan

By Lindsay Shachnow  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

At least 1,000 people are expected to gather at the Muslim Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh in Monroeville for each of the roughly 30 nights of Ramadan, which begins Tuesday evening.

That’s about twice as many as last year, said Imam Shamsan Aljabali.

Those attending the center’s iftar — a meal to break the daily fast each night of Ramadan — will eat free of charge. The meal starts with dates and water, before attendees

are served a rotating assortment of food from different cultures, according to Imam Aljabali.

Typically, several benefactors will sponsor one night of feeding about 1,000 expected guests, which costs between \$1,000 and \$1,500, he said, marked down because of wholesale pricing.

But the expected influx this year at the Monroeville site — and at other mosques around the region — presents the challenge of providing more food at a time when people have less money to give and have been increasingly leaning on mosques for financial assistance.



Sebastian Foltz/Post-Gazette

Muslim Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh member Salah Almoukamal leads a prayer service Friday at the center in Monroeville.

“Times are hard,” said Muslim Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh treasurer Adil Abdulahi. “We don’t ask more than what our community can provide.”

Ramadan is typically a heightened time of giving. That’s not unusual.

SEE **RAMADAN**, PAGE A-2

## Iran meets U.N. nuclear watchdog in Geneva

By Jamey Keaten and Stephanie Liechtenstein  
Associated Press

GENEVA — Iran’s top diplomat met with the head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency on Monday, ahead of a second round of negotiations with the United States over Tehran’s nuclear program.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi met with Rafael Grossi, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and said he would also meet with Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi of Oman, which is hosting the U.S.-Iran talks in Geneva on Tuesday.

“I am in Geneva with real ideas to achieve a fair and equitable deal,” Mr. Araghchi wrote on X. “What is not on the table: submission before threats.”

SEE **IRAN**, PAGE A-9

## Judge orders slavery exhibit restoration

By Hannah Schoenbaum  
Associated Press

An exhibit about nine people enslaved by George Washington must be restored at his former home in Philadelphia after President Donald Trump’s administration

**PHILADELPHIA**

tion took it down last month, a federal judge ruled on Presidents Day, the federal holiday honoring Washington’s legacy.

The city of Philadelphia sued in

January after the National Park Service removed the explanatory panels from Independence National Historical Park, the site where George and Martha Washington lived with nine of their slaves in the 1790s, when Philadelphia was the nation’s capital.

The removal came in response to a Trump executive order “re-storing truth and sanity to American history” at the nation’s museums, parks and landmarks. It directed the Interior

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Morning fog, then mostly cloudy. Daytime high, 57; tonight’s low, 45.  
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