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FINAL

EQT builds case for pipelines

CEO says January storm shows consumers will pay the price for lack of infrastructure

By Anya Litvak
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

EQT's Corp.'s CEO Toby Rice narrated the peak of the massive winter storm last month from the company's Papa Bear well pad in Washington County. On Jan. 25, his beard flecked

with snow, Mr. Rice shot a series of video selfies showing how a frozen piece of equipment is thawed so gas can continue to flow: By using a heater that the well tender said is known as "the Al Gore — because it blows a lot of hot air."

"Rain, sleet, snow, shine, doesn't matter," Mr. Rice said in

one of several dispatches posted to X. "We're making sure energy moves for America."

After years of weatherizing their equipment, natural gas producers in Appalachia avoided the widespread freeze-offs that took some 30% of gas production off the market during another major storm in December 2022.

And they made a lot of money doing so.

Natural gas is the dominant heating fuel in much of the Mid-

west and mid-Atlantic regions. It also powers the biggest chunk of electricity generation in the PJM transmission grid, which covers 13 states, including Pennsylvania.

When demand is high, prices rise — sometimes dramatically. Some places, including New York and New England, saw enormous spikes in the cost of natural gas during the cold stretch.

"Spot gas prices through this

SEE **EQT**, PAGE A-2

FUNDING LAPSE CURTAILS FEMA

Officials suspend travel to most disaster areas

By Brianna Sacks
The Washington Post

The Department of Homeland Security has halted almost all travel amid the ongoing standoff over its funding, restricting the ability of some Federal Emergency Management Agency staff to move in and out of disaster-affected areas, according to emails and documents obtained by The Washington Post.

Much of the department ran out of money over the weekend after negotiations stalled between the White House and Democratic lawmakers over restrictions on federal immigration enforcement.

It is normal for the department to stop employees from traveling across the country for various assignments, such as trainings, during a funding lapse, 10 current and former FEMA officials said. But it is unusual for a government shutdown to impede ongoing disaster recovery efforts, the officials explained, saying it further reflects sweeping policies instituted under Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem.

Typically, some FEMA staffers' ability to travel to and from ongoing disaster

SEE **FEMA**, PAGE A-5

ASH WEDNESDAY



Giuseppe LoPiccolo/Post-Gazette photos

People receive ashes on their foreheads during an Ash Wednesday prayer vigil organized by representatives of local faith communities outside the William S. Moorhead Federal Building on Wednesday. Many gathering in the Downtown vigil said they are reflecting on a time that they see as uncertain, citing financial challenges, policy changes and an increased need in the community.

'A TIME TO REFLECT'

Pittsburghers open up about justice, oppression and community needs as Lent begins

By Lindsay Shachnow
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Five candles burned at the base of a towering American flag outside of the William S. Moorhead Federal Building in Downtown on Wednesday evening.

About 50 people had gathered to observe Ash Wednesday, marking the first day of Lent, a solemn period before Easter and a time for prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Those gathered opted out of the traditional church setting, choos-

ing instead to receive their ashes at the intersection of Grant Street and Liberty Avenue to reflect on the people impacted by the federal government's new immigration policies.

"We're asking that people come and publicly proclaim justice," said Sister Barbara Finch of St. Joseph in Baden, "that the federal government repair what they have broken and the oppression that they've caused."

SEE **ASH**, PAGE A-2



Congregants stand after receiving ashes on their foreheads at St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church in the Strip District.

Caregivers call to reject Trump pick

Health workers: Landa policies hurt residents

By Sam Janesch
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

WASHINGTON — Six months into the COVID-19 pandemic, Lindsey Burns became a licensed practical nurse at the nursing home in New Castle where she'd worked as an activities aide for a few years.

Residents were isolated. Resources were strained. And the situation wasn't helped much, she believed, by the facility's ownership, a group known as Comprehensive Healthcare Management Services.

"It was rough for us at our facility because we didn't have the equipment we needed," she said. "We had to reuse masks. ... We lost residents that we had taken care of for years."

Now, one of the stakeholders in Ms. Burns' nursing home and more than two dozen others across Pennsylvania at that time is set to secure a post in President Donald Trump's administration — and she and her colleagues are mobilizing.

The stakeholder, longtime nursing home owner Benjamin Landa, is Trump's

SEE **MCCORMICK**, PAGE A-3



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Weather
Mostly cloudy; p.m. showers.
Daytime high, 60;
tonight's low, 45.
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