



# Local News

Section  
**B**

PAGE B-8 COVERAGE CLOSE TO HOME • EDITORIALS • OBITUARIES • Pittsburgh Post-Gazette • SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2013

## Entrance to city's McKinley Park gets makeover

By Diana Nelson Jones  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

McKinley Park in Beltzhoover is one of Pittsburgh's oldest parks and, aside from the city's five regional parks, its largest. But its grandeur has gone largely unnoticed by residents citywide.

Until recently, the park greeted the neighborhood with a crumbling 1930s stone wall and a barren, patched asphalt parking lot. Today, a repaired wall, a porous parking lot surrounded by rain gardens and other landscaping, connective pathways, new classic lamp posts and benches deliver a different message.

"It's not just about the park," state Rep. Jake Wheatley, D-Hill District, said Friday at a dedication ceremony. "It's what it means to the people."

"As many generations that have been able to touch that wall, that many more generations now will be able to touch it, sit on it and create new memories," said Eric Ford, president of the Beltzhoover Neighborhood Council. "A year ago, this was just a vision."

At the request of city Councilman Bruce Kraus and Mr. Wheatley, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy last year began planning with the Department of Public Works and Citiparks for a \$250,000 makeover of the entrance on Delmont Avenue. Funding came from various state and city sources and from the Birmingham Foundation.

The work began in the spring.

"Wow," said state Sen. Wayne Fontana, D-Brookline, upon his arrival for the event. "What a difference."

"What an unheralded gem we have here," said city Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak, in whose District 4 the park lies. "When we talk about our park system we talk about Riverview, Frick and Schenley. One day, I want to see McKinley at the top of that list."

Susan Rademacher, conservancy curator and McKinley project manager, said a goal is to extend the pathways to connect all parts of the park. Known by park users as "upper" and "lower" McKinley Park, it has its greatest visibility in the baseball field and tennis courts along Bausman Street.

A city park since 1898, when the city annexed Beltzhoover Borough, it is 79 acres, much of it woodlands, with ravines and a neglected trail system.

On Friday, day campers in purple T-shirts filled the basketball court that lies a gentle slope down from the parking lot.

"The goal was to reconnect people to the park, make people feel more comfortable in the park, to improve accessibility and its historic features," said Meg Cheever, the conservancy's president and CEO.

SEE **PARK**, PAGE B-2

## Kane defends same-sex marriage stance

By Kate Giammarise  
Post-Gazette Harrisburg Bureau

HARRISBURG — A day after calling Pennsylvania's same-sex marriage ban unconstitutional and saying she will not fight for it in court, Attorney General Kathleen Kane defended her decision from critics who say it is her duty to do so and who

questioned why her office is continuing to defend a controversial voter ID law.

Ms. Kane made national headlines Thursday when she said she announced in the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia she could not ethically defend the state's version of the Defense of Marriage Act — the subject of a federal lawsuit filed earlier

this week by the ACLU and a Philadelphia law firm.

She has since faced a barrage of criticism, much of it from Republicans, who say as the state's top attorney she must defend the statute, regardless of her beliefs, and shouldn't leave the job up to the governor's office of general counsel, to whom the job likely now falls.

Not so, Ms. Kane said Friday in a statement.

"The Commonwealth Attorneys Act has a specific, plainly written provision that enables me to refer cases at my sole discretion. The [office of attorney general] refers cases to the [office of general counsel] hundreds of times each year, for many different reasons."

While state law charges the attorney general with defending against challenges to statutes, it tasks the separate office of the general counsel to "defend the commonwealth or any executive agency when ... the attorney general refuses or fails to initiate appropriate proceedings."

SEE **KANE**, PAGE B-5



On Thursday at White Thorn Lodge in Darlington, Michelle, left, talks with Margie, a member of the board, center, and Brian, right.

Larry Roberts/Post-Gazette photos

## Local lodge part of multimillion-dollar 'nude tourism' industry

### 'It's just camp to us'

By Jessica Contrera  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

It's your typical Thursday morning in Darlington. Someone is mowing the lawn, someone is cooking breakfast — and everybody is naked.

Young, old, skinny, rotund, tan, pale but all naked. The 300-some members of White Thorn Lodge won't discriminate, or even ask you your last name, but they will expect you to disrobe.

"After the initial tour, we give people about 15 minutes to warm up to it," said board member Louis Maxwell, 64. "But you came here to be nude. If you don't want to be nude, go to a KOA."

Hundreds of visitors descend upon White Thorn Lodge nearly year round, but this weekend's celebration of National Nude Recreation Week is the pinnacle of what the club is all about. A 5K run, dance parties and cookouts — all in the nude — intermix with lying by the pool, hiking through the 200-acre property and just plain relaxing.

Nude tourism, often called



On the patio Thursday outside the social hall at White Thorn Lodge, a family-oriented nudist club in Darlington, board members Lewis Maxwell and Margie, right, relax and talk about the club's history and rules.

"nakationing," generates \$440 million annually at more than 250 resorts nationwide, according to the American Association of Nude Recreation (AANR).

White Thorn Lodge, which was founded in 1961, was ahead of the trend. The patch of land off Route 251 in Beaver

County has become one of the region's largest nudist clubs, complete with campgrounds, permanent homes, clubhouses and sports complexes, all hidden from view by a thick forest. Some members live on the grounds all summer, but most visitors come for a weekend at a time.

But lately, as the population of nudists who got their start in the 1960s and 1970s grows older, people like Mr. Maxwell are concerned for the future of the resorts. White Thorn's membership is primarily older than 50. The 35,000 members of the AANR are almost entirely older than 35.

"It's younger, more athletically minded people we need now," Mr. Maxwell said.

Eileen Breckstein's preferred level of clothing, a thin grey sweater only, provided little cover as she explained who she believes is the future of nudist camps: children and grandchildren.

Ms. Breckstein's daughters were raised at White Thorn along with dozens of other children who frequently tag along with their parents. Although they now live in North Carolina, her daughters still visit the resort as adults.

"This is the perfect place to raise kids," Ms. Breckstein, 67, said. "You can't keep clothes on them anyways. Here, they learn to be comfortable with

SEE **CAMP**, PAGE B-2

## Inmate charged in attack at jail

By Liz Navratil  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The suspect in last year's Downtown hostage situation beat another inmate and tried to drag him into a cell to attack him with a shank, but failed when other inmates intervened, police said.

Allegheny County police wrote in a criminal complaint that Klein Michael Thaxton, 23, of McKeesport, created an 8-inch shank out of plastic and a 10-foot, 6-inch rope out of cloth sheeting.

On June 26, while he was in a common area shared by protected inmates at the Allegheny County Jail, Mr. Thaxton began beating inmate James Cole, police said.

Mr. Thaxton later told a corrections officer he intended to drag Mr. Cole into his cell and tie the door shut, according to the complaint. He failed because his cell door unintentionally closed during the fight, which three inmates — including a homicide suspect — tried to break up.

When corrections officers searched his cell, they found a note addressed "Dear Mom" that said someone had called Mr. Thaxton a name and "This is the person who is going to let me exert all of my negative energy in 'full force,'" police wrote.

When police interviewed Mr. Cole on Wednesday, he had two black eyes, and scratches on his face and ribs. Mr. Cole told police he thought Mr. Thaxton was trying to kill him, according to the complaint.

Mr. Thaxton faces charges of assault by a prisoner, unlawful restraint and possessing weapons or implements for escape.

He was arrested in September after police said he held a man hostage in 3 Gateway Center for six hours. Attorneys who represented Mr. Thaxton have said he has schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and depression, and was not taking his medication on the day of the hostage situation. The attorney representing him in that case declined to comment on the new charges.

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## RODEO DOWN TIME



Rebecca Droke/Post-Gazette-

Tanner Naylor, 9, of Hancock, Md., right, tries to rope Taylor Miller, 13, in pink, of Newville, Pa., and Karly Stoltzfus, 15, of McClure, Pa., before the start of the Fort Armstrong Championship Rodeo at the Crooked Creek Horse Park in Ford City on Friday.

## Ceiling flaws close St. Mary's

### Mount Washington church relocates Masses, events

By Alex Zimmerman  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

After a routine inspection revealed structural flaws with the ceiling at St. Mary of the Mount Church, officials are scrambling to relocate what will likely be several weeks worth of baptisms, Masses, funerals and weddings — among other church activities — until repairs are made.

The Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh said Friday that there are "serious concerns with the integrity of the church ceiling," but the Rev. Michael Stumpf, the church's pastor, doesn't think the problem is

that severe.

"People imagine a big gaping hole — it's nothing like that," he said.

Father Stumpf said the structural problem doesn't surprise him because the ceiling is original to the building, which was finished in 1897.

He acknowledged that "it's certainly a safety issue."

The Mount Washington church, which hovers over the Downtown skyline, attracts about 700 worshipers combined in its four Sunday Masses, Father Stumpf said.

Masses have been moved to Sullivan Hall, 115 Bigham St. in Mount Washington, until repairs are completed, a process Father Stumpf said would hopefully take just a few weeks.

A popular venue for weddings, the church has four booked for the remainder of

July and seven in August, according to its online calendar.

One wedding is scheduled for 3 p.m. today.

"That's of the utmost concern," Father Stumpf said, noting that the Grace Anglican Church agreed to reach across the denominational aisle to hold the ceremony.

Many members of the church expressed surprise at the news and wondered exactly what character church activities would take on in the absence of familiar surroundings.

"It shouldn't be too bad," said Braden Mills, a 20-year-old member of the church. "I just hope we won't really have to cram."

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# Rescue was just ducky for 7 young waterfowl

By Megan Doyle  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Friday morning turned fowl for Pittsburgh Animal Control when seven ducklings fell into a South Side sewer, but rescuers quickly put all their ducks in a row in a smooth rescue.

The ducklings were following their mother across South Water Street near the UPMC Center for Sports Medicine shortly after 10 a.m. when they slipped through the openings in the sewer grate. An Allegheny County sheriff's deputy witnessed the tumble and called Animal Control.

Animal Control officers Leo Mincin and John Weprich arrived to find the mother duck waddling nervously near the grate while her babies quacked in distress below her.

With the help of two Pittsburgh public works employees, the officers removed the grate in an attempt to snare the ducklings with a large net. They rattled a similar grate about 15 feet down the road to drive the youngsters away from the loud noise and toward Mr. Weprich at the other end of the underground sewer tunnel. He waited above ground, shushing the other members of the team, ready to snag the baby ducks with the net.

Once they had lured one duckling out of the tunnel, the officers put it in a cage and let its quacking draw the others from the sewer to safety.

"It's a waiting game," Mr. Mincin said. "They start following the sound. They all want to

The several-foot fall into the sewer did not injure the ducklings.

be together."

Their patience paid off, and one by one, the siblings waddled out of the tunnel and into Mr. Weprich's net. The rescue took about 40 minutes, with one straggler taking a little longer than his brothers and sisters to emerge from the sewer.

"The last one didn't want to come out," Mr. Weprich said, laughing as he carried the cage of seven rescued ducklings to nearby bushes for their release.

The several-foot fall into the sewer did not injure the ducklings, Mr. Mincin said. The officers said they responded to a similar call earlier this week, rescuing a group of ducklings from a sewer near Baum Boulevard in Shadyside.

The mother duck in Friday morning's incident quacked from the bushes throughout the rescue, waddling close to the sewer at times to check on her offspring.

"Moms in nature are more protective than humans sometimes," Mr. Mincin said.

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# Bill looks to repair bridges

By Tracie Mauriello  
Post-Gazette Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A West Virginia lawmaker and a former Pennsylvania governor teamed up this week to call for increased federal funding to repair crumbling bridges nationwide.

Rep. Nick Rahall, D-W.Va., recently introduced a \$5.5 billion bridge bill, but it's unclear whether it will get a vote in the Transportation Committee, chaired by Rep. Bill Shuster, R-Blair.

Committee spokesman Justin Harclerode said Mr. Shuster is working with Mr. Rahall, the committee's rank-

ing Democrat, but is focused on a comprehensive transportation reauthorization bill rather than on separate measures addressing specific needs such as bridge funding.

Mr. Shuster wants broad legislation that "focuses our limited resources on our nation's most essential bridge, road and transit needs," Mr. Harclerode said.

But Mr. Rahall said bridges can't wait. "It's an emergency out there. We can't dilly-dally," he said.

Six weeks ago, a bridge over Skagit River in Mount Vernon, Washington, collapsed after it was struck by a truck.

"We cannot afford to wait for the next bridge collapse. It's time to act," Mr. Rahall said at a Thursday news conference on Capitol Hill.

Former Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell, who joined him at the news conference, said \$5.5 billion is a small price for such important work.

"We always talk about the cost of infrastructure improvement, but what we don't talk about is the cost of doing nothing," said Mr. Rendell.

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# McKinley Park gets entrance makeover

PARK, FROM PAGE B-1

Landscape architect A.J. Schwartz of Environmental Planning & Design said the entrance improvements were "a first step" toward making the park more accessible. "Before, you had to walk through the parking lot to get from the basketball court to the rec center and through the grass to get to the playground."

He said the porous parking lot — the first in a city park that the city will be maintaining — "is kind of a test case to see if we can do this in other parks."

One other porous lot in the city's park system, in Schenley Park, is maintained by Phipps Conservatory, said Ms. Rademacher.

"The city recognizes that this is the future and [public works] has learned how to keep this clean," by vacuuming or power washing, she said. The pores in the asphalt have to be free of dirt to absorb water quickly. The porosity has exceeded expectations, she said, especially given this week's heavy rains, during which there was not enough runoff to register in an overflow rock pit.

Mr. Schwartz poured some water from a cup to show how the parking lot acts as a sponge.

"It's ironic that we're standing here just days after a landmark rainfall," said Ms. Rudiak. "Porous pavement, bioswales, rain gardens: Those aren't buzz words. It's what we're surrounded by today. We should be proud that this is one of the solutions to our stormwater problems."

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# 'It's just camp' to nudists

CAMP, FROM PAGE B-1

who they are."

Brian, a member from Monaca who asked not to be identified by his last name, started bringing his son to White Thorn when his wife was still pregnant.

"Now, he's 12 years old," Brian said. "We don't say, 'going to the nudist camp,' it's just 'camp' to us."

The nudists are perfectly aware of what the idea of naked children sounds like to outsiders.

"This is not a place for perverts," Mr. Maxwell said. "The weirdos think they can come here and look normal, but they stand out."

And if they don't abide by the etiquette rules, they're promptly escorted out.

White Thorn has an extensive list of rules, meant to protect children and adults. Among them: no gawking, no photos, no sitting down without a towel, no heavy drinking and most importantly, no overt sexual behavior. Swimsuits are prohibited, particularly those that might be con-



sidered racy.

"Provocative clothing like that indicates a sexual factor to nudism. That's not what we are here," said board member Margie from Canton, Ohio, who declined to give her last name.

"When it comes to touching, if you wouldn't do it at a regular campground, you don't do it here."

With the sexual element removed, everyone is on the same level, Margie said. After meeting her husband at White Thorn, the couple had a naked marriage on the property.

"Clothes have a way of changing people. They can

disguise themselves as rich in designer clothes or you can hide yourself in shabby clothes," she said. "When you're a nudist, you are who you really are."

Margie's first experience at White Thorn was the club's signature event, the Nude Volleyball Superbowl. Started in 1971, the event draws more than 2,000 people from across the U.S. and Canada.

Many come just for the competitive volleyball — but they're required to get naked anyway.

The weekend of events begins Saturday morning with the naked 5K run/walk. Visitors will then join in a skinny dip occurring at all AANR resorts simultaneously, in an attempt to set a world record. The rest of the day will include massage therapy, a bocce tournament and a cookout.

They'll be having strip steak.

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## CITY

### More than 30 treated for heat ailments at concert

Sixteen people were transported to area hospitals and another 16 were treated for dehydration and heat-related ailments at Stage AE Friday night during the Mac Miller concert.

The show was outside, and the air temperature was only in the low 70s, but Pittsburgh Paramedic District Chief Paul Sabol said the humidity can still cause dehydration — especially if

alcohol is consumed.

"You'd think it was a nice night, but when you get a whole bunch of people huddled together, it doesn't take much to get overheated."

Two patients were transported to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, and the rest went to UPMC Mercy and Allegheny General Hospital.

The bulk of the calls for medical help occurred between 9:30 and 10:30 p.m. The show ended just after 11.

About 3,000 people attended the Pittsburgh hip-hop artist's show.

### Swap Meet robbery defendants sentenced

The final two defendants in the seven-person conspiracy to rob the Swap Meet variety store in 2010 were sentenced to lengthy prison terms, U.S. Attorney David Hickton's office announced Friday.

U.S. District Judge Joy Flowers Conti sentenced Zane Alex-

ander Lundy, 27, of the Hill District, to 12 years and 10 months in prison for conspiracy to rob the Swap Meet and to sell the marijuana stored there, and for carrying a firearm in relation to a crime of violence.

She sentenced Derrick Holliday, also 27 and of the Hill, to 10 years and 10 months in prison on similar charges.

Police said the men plotted to rob the Swap Meet variety store, located on the North Side, and made off with \$300 to \$400 and a kilogram of marijuana. When police responded, some of the men fired upon them, and an officer was injured when she was hit by a getaway van.

### Bicyclist hit by car and killed in Hays

A man riding a bicycle along Baldwin Road in Hays on Friday afternoon was killed after being struck by a vehicle.

The Allegheny County medical examiner's office identified the man as Jeffrey Zietak, 57, of

the South Side.

An autopsy will be performed today.

Investigators did not find a helmet at the scene.

According to Sgt. Eugene Hlavac, the bicyclist was traveling inbound in the outbound lane of Baldwin Road in the 700 block. He was hit by a car traveling outbound about 4:18 p.m.

The Pittsburgh police accident investigation unit was called to the scene and is leading the investigation.

### Ceoffe seeks council seat

A Lawrenceville activist and city housing authority worker confirmed Friday that he will run again for the city council seat vacated this week by Patrick Dowd.

Tony Ceoffe, 29, said he will make his special election run for the District 7 seat official this morning at a rally at Doughboy Square. He is a client placement specialist for the Pittsburgh Housing Authority, son of Lawrenceville District Justice Tony Ceoffe and chair of the Democratic committee in the city's 6th Ward.

He also is vice president of the community group Lawrenceville United.

Other confirmed candidates include Deb Gross, 47, a Highland Park resident and former director of the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Alliance, and Jim Wudarczyk, 61, of Bloomfield. Both Mr. Ceoffe and Ms. Gross intend to seek the Democratic committee's endorsement in the race, although they can also run as independents. The endorsement vote in advance of the Nov. 5 special election to fill the last two years in Mr. Dowd's term has not been scheduled.

### SOUTH

### Library rail service halted for weekend tree trimming

Port Authority's Library line will be closed south of Washington Junction for most of the day today and Sunday during tree trimming along the right-of-way. The closure and detour will begin with start of service and end at approximately 4 p.m. both days. The work requires power to be turned off along the affected portion of the line.

Blue Line-Library service will serve its normal stops between the North Shore and Washington Junction, then detour to South Hills Village. T stops on the closed section will be served by bus shuttles operating in both directions between Washington Junction and Library Station.

### Resurfacing starts Monday on Castle Shannon Boulevard

Milling and resurfacing on Castle Shannon Boulevard in Castle Shannon will cause alternating one-way traffic between Route 88 and Willow Avenue weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. starting Monday, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation announced. Work will conclude in late August.

## SUNDAY EDITION

Top newsmakers, tough questions.

Sunday at 11:30 a.m. on KDKA-TV

We'll look at the future of access to health care in Southwestern Pennsylvania and how it will be affected by the dispute between UPMC and Highmark.

STACY SMITH

DAVID SHRIBMAN

KEN RICE

In this broadcast, the first in a series of discussions on this subject, we'll talk with **Paul C. Wood**, Vice-President & Chief Communications Officer for UPMC and **Steven D. Shapiro**, M.D., Executive Vice-President, Chief Medical & Scientific Officer, and President of the Physician Services Division of UPMC.

# Jackpot.

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Drawings for Friday, July 12, 2013

## LOTTERY RESULTS

Results over the web? ■ [post-gazette.com/lottery/](http://post-gazette.com/lottery/) ■ PA - OH - WV

### PENNSYLVANIA LOTTERY

Friday's Mega Millions results

4-5-25-27-51

Mega ball: 10 Megaplier: 3

Friday's Cash 5 results

20-26-32-33-39

Matches	No. of winners	Prize
5 of 5 numbers:	None	None
4 of 5 numbers:	38	\$367.50
3 of 5 numbers:	1,658	\$14
2 of 5 numbers:	21,129	\$1

Friday's Treasure Hunt results

2-3-19-22-27  
No jackpot winner

Friday's Quinto results

33347 (day); 06523 (night)  
Winner count: 14 (day); 48 (night)

Friday's Daily Numbers

1-6-3 (day); 3-1-6 (night)  
Number of winners: 2,645; 10,527  
Payout: \$206,960; \$1,142,385  
Last hit straight: 9/21/12; 12/29/08  
Last hit boxed: 6/23/13; 6/23/13

Friday's Big 4

7-0-5-2 (day); 2-6-5-8 (night)  
Number of winners: 461; 696  
Payout: \$65,300; \$259,200  
Last hit straight: 5/24/91; 12/9/93  
Last hit boxed: 3/15/13; 1/26/13

Tonight's **CASH 5** is worth an estimated \$225,000.

Tonight's **TREASURE HUNT** is worth an estimated \$120,000.

Tuesday's **MEGA MILLIONS** is worth an estimated \$13 million.

Monday's **MATCH 6** is worth an estimated \$2.2 million.

Tonight's **POWERBALL** is worth an estimated \$94 million.

Big 4 analysis

(Times each number has been picked in each position, and the total times drawn since the game began Nov. 22, 1980.)

NUMBER	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	TOTAL	NUMBER	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	TOTAL
0	1379	1407	1428	1381	5,595	5	1405	1411	1406	1338	5,560
1	1348	1350	1338	1421	5,457	6	1411	1351	1355	1372	5,489
2	1406	1347	1372	1456	5,581	7	1434	1433	1400	1361	5,628
3	1406	1433	1439	1416	5,694	8	1316	1425	1378	1391	5,510
4	1432	1394	1423	1374	5,623	9	1410	1396	1408	1437	5,651

Ohio Pick 3: 9-9-4; 8-5-2 ■ Pick 4: 2-0-5-1; 4-6-2-2 ■ Rolling Cash 5: 18-22-31-35-36

West Virginia Daily 3: 9-2-2 ■ Daily 4: 6-4-0-7 ■ Cash 25: 2-4-12-14-19-20

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