



# Local News

Section  
**B**

PAGE B-8 COVERAGE CLOSE TO HOME • EDITORIALS • OBITUARIES • Pittsburgh Post-Gazette • MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2013

## Job bias against pregnant women protested

### Lawmakers trying to protect employees

By Jessica Contrera  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Carole Smith of Bethel Park never dreamed that having a baby would lead to being fired. But in 2006, when her doctor ordered her to remain home for six weeks after her cesarean

section, Normandy Properties terminated her employment.

Ms. Smith's story is an example of pregnancy discrimination, a practice that is routinely inflicted on pregnant U.S. workers, according to a recent report by the National Women's Law Center.

"When it happens to you, it's absolutely devastating," Ms. Smith said. "You're not committing a crime; you're having a baby."

In the 2012 fiscal year, 171 pregnancy discrimination charges were filed to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Pennsylvania. Nationally, there were 3,779 charges.

When Ms. Smith, a property manager, took her issue to court in 2008, the jury awarded her \$1.8 million in damages.

But most pregnancy discrimination occurs in lower skilled jobs, like retail, food service

and manufacturing. Situations arise when a woman is unable to perform her duties exactly as before, such as standing for long periods of time, going without water or lifting heavy objects.

"It's not overt dislike for pregnant women, it's just employers not wanting the inconvenience," said Pittsburgh employment attorney Samuel Cordes.

Mr. Cordes said the economy is partially to blame.

"When economic times are

slow, the people who are most vulnerable tend to be the ones who are dismissed," Mr. Cordes said.

Theoretically, there are three laws in place that should stop pregnancy discrimination from occurring: the Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Family and Medical Leave Act. Yet discrimination lawyers and women's rights organizations say there are too many loopholes in the existing

legislation.

"They're sort of like a patchwork of protections," said Pittsburgh attorney Charles Lambert. "There is no uniform and comprehensive set of protections against the problems that could come up for pregnant workers."

A group of lawmakers including U.S. Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa, is trying to fix that.

SEE **PROTESTS**, PAGE B-5



Bob Donaldson/Post-Gazette photos

### FORT LIGONIER 'ATTACKED' AGAIN

A British soldier re-enactor (**above**) stands watch Sunday at Fort Ligonier before the staging of the 250th anniversary of the attack and siege there during Pontiac's War in June 1763.

The commemoration included an encampment and battle and artillery demonstrations at the reconstructed fort, including Native American re-enactors (**right**) firing on British and Colonial soldiers, and the soldiers shooting at the retreating Native Americans (**below left and right**).

Fort Ligonier was one of a string of British forts built by Gen. John Forbes during his march across Pennsylvania to capture Fort Duquesne from the French.



### Turks in Pittsburgh concerned for nation

By Megan Doyle  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Last week, University of Pittsburgh graduate student Gunes Ertan was protesting in Ankara, Turkey, armed with antacid tablets and milk to help her recover from the effects of the tear gas riot police sprayed over the crowd.

This week, Ms. Ertan is in Pittsburgh, aching for her home country as she communicates with Turkish friends through Facebook and Twitter.

"It was very hard and heartbreaking [to leave Turkey]," Ms. Ertan said. "My heart and my mind is there."

Ms. Ertan has spent the last several months in Turkey researching her dissertation on social movements. Just weeks before she was scheduled to return to the United States on June 13, social media networks spread word to Ankara of the government's plan to raze an Istanbul park. What began as an environmental protest in Gezi Park on May 31 surged into a nationwide movement against the government, and Ms. Ertan took to the Ankara streets with her friends. Since that first night, more than 3,000 people have been detained by police for demonstrating, more than

SEE **TURKS**, PAGE B-2

### Highmark network expanding Carnegie Mellon partnership

By Bill Toland  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Highmark Inc. and its new Allegheny Health Network are expanding their partnership with Carnegie Mellon University's new health care improvement lab, called the Disruptive Health Technology Institute.

The organizations plan to announce details of the partnership this morning.

In May, CMU, Highmark and AHN announced a six-month initiative, led by Alan Russell, the Highmark distinguished career professor at CMU's Institute for Complex Engineered Systems, and an adviser at Highmark, to "increase the simplicity, affordability and accessibility of health

care through science and engineering."

That six-month partnership is expected to be formalized into a multiyear investment, according to an official with knowledge of the arrangement.

Dr. Russell will continue to lead the effort; on Monday, other Highmark and CMU officials will explain their role in the expanded partnership.

Dr. Russell was founding director of the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh, serving there from 2001 to 2011.

Officials at Highmark and CMU hope that the two organizations can use Highmark's deep reservoir of real health utilization and outcomes data and

CMU's talent base to improve the health of the region, developing "strategic science and engineering driven programs in multiple areas," according to a May announcement from CMU.

In the health care field, so-called "disruptive" technologies are those that have the potential to alter the status quo, upending the way things are commonly done in the industry. An article in the Harvard Business Review cites the example of at-home blood sugar testing as a "disruptive" advance in medical technologies.

Before 1980, patients with diabetes used less-accurate urine tests or routinely had blood sam-

SEE **CMU**, PAGE B-5

### Duquesne Brewery nonprofit looking to developers

8 firms interested in S. Side building

By Diana Nelson Jones  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The Brew House Association, an artist-driven nonprofit that owns the former Duquesne Brewery on the South Side, has taken on a consultant to solicit developers' interest in the building.

The association and consultant Rick Belloli, principal of Civic Square LLC, issued a request for qualifications last week. Mr. Belloli led a recent tour for 12 people representing eight firms interested in redeveloping the late 19th century structure, which is really three adjoined buildings, the tallest being eight stories.

Mr. Belloli said the board was pleased by the number of hefty developers who are interested. He said they came from Pittsburgh, Wheeling, State College and Ohio.

The Brew House Association, which was established in 1990, wants a developer as a partner so that the 104,000-square-foot building at 2100 Mary St. can continue to house its studio and exhibition space. As part of a larger redevelopment, arts-related and commercial entities and housing would be welcome,

SEE **ARTISTS**, PAGE B-2

### United Way allocating \$538,000 for women

By Alex Zimmerman  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The United Way of Allegheny County announced it will spend \$538,000 in its first round of funding for a new program aimed at supporting women in crisis.

The new program, United For Women, offers short-term assistance to women who face significant financial roadblocks, said Bob Nelkin, president of the United Way of Allegheny County.

Among the groups that will receive the first round of United For Women funding are The Female Veterans Project at \$113,000, South Hills Interfaith Ministries at \$150,000 and Jewish Family & Children's Services at \$100,000.

"We look for the top human service agencies — the ones that are well managed by an executive and well managed by a volunteer board," Mr. Nelkin said. "Good intentions are not enough."

The United Way of Allegheny County posted about \$33 million in donations for 2012 — a 2.7 percent increase over the previous year that was fueled partly by an increase in donations from women who gave more than \$1,000.

United For Women generated about \$700,000 through late

SEE **PROGRAMS**, PAGE B-5

INSIDE

LOTTERY PAGE B-2 | OBITUARIES PAGE B-3 | EDITORIALS PAGE B-6

post-gazette.com

FOR MORE LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE AND BREAKING UPDATES, VISIT POST-GAZETTE.COM

E-mail: localnews@post-gazette.com

Phone: 412-263-1601

Web: post-gazette.com/localnews

Editor: Tom Birdsong

Questions about delivery or service? Call 1-800-228-NEWS (6397).



CITY CALENDAR EVENTS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY

DOWNTOWN: The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation will conduct a free tour of the Allegheny County Jail Museum...

TUESDAY

OAKLAND: Four local poets will read their works in the next program in the Summer Poetry Series at Hemingway's Cafe...

THURSDAY

DOWNTOWN: The Mellon Square Summer Concert Series will present a performance by Lyndsey Smith & Soul Distribution...

WEDNESDAY

SHADYSIDE: Members of the Pittsburgh Poetry Exchange's poetry book discussion group will meet at 7:30 p.m. at The Coffee Tree...

United Way focus on women, youth

PROGRAMS, FROM PAGE B-1

May and Mr. Nelkin hopes to announce that they have reached their \$1 million goal in September.

Also announced were the recipients of nearly \$2.4 million that will fund programs designed to support children and youth.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Pa. topped the list at \$440,000, which will help fund a program

designed to give roughly 450 students in grades six through 12 money management and career readiness skills...

But even though the Boys & Girls Clubs have been long-standing recipients of United Way funding, most important is the recognition that the funding confers...

"It is a symbol that is highly regarded," said Mr. Hepler, referring to the award for excellence in human services...

this round of funding.

Mr. Hepler added that being a recipient of United Way funding often snowballs into increased donations.

"When charitable people are looking at where they want to invest their dollars, they're looking for something like a good housekeeping seal of approval..."

Alex Zimmerman: azimmerman@post-gazette.com or 412-263-3909 or on Twitter @AGZimmerman

Highmark-CMU initiative expands

CMU, FROM PAGE B-1

ples taken to measure glucose levels via expensive lab equipment.

"Today, patients pack miniature blood glucose meters with

them wherever they go ... They get far higher quality care far more conveniently, even though the companies that made the large laboratory blood-glucose testers were all driven from the market...

In April, Highmark officially christened the Allegheny Health

Network, the name given to Highmark's new health provider wing, which includes the West Penn Allegheny Health System...

Bill Toland: btoland@post-gazette.com or 412-263-2625.

Pregnant women lobby for job rights

PROTESTS, FROM PAGE B-1

Mr. Casey is the main sponsor of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, S. 942. If made a law, it would force employers to make reasonable workplace adjustments for employees who become pregnant...

The changes would be similar to laws already in place for employees with disabilities, Mr. Casey said.

"We have been making those accommodations for years, even if it is a bit of a challenge for employers," Mr. Casey said.

tically, it should be even easier to make accommodations for women who are pregnant or just had a baby."

Although the bill has been introduced in both the House and the Senate, Ms. Casey admits it might be difficult to gain bipartisan support...

It is also unclear when, if an employee is physically unable to perform her job, it becomes discrimination. Nancy Egbert, assistant director of Genesis of Pittsburgh, said many women who come to the nonprofit for services have been forced out of fast food jobs.

"If the girl can't lift or stay on her feet, there aren't a lot of alternatives," Ms. Egbert said. "Often they just have to go on unemployment and not go back to work until they have the baby."

Although the number of

burgh Civic Orchestra will perform at the next program of the "Bach, Beethoven and Brunch" concert series at Mellon Park...

To list events happening within the city limits, please fax information to City Calendar, 412-391-8452, or send e-mail to localnews@post-gazette.com...

Cont. from Previous Page



RATHKE ROBERT C.

Age 92, of Spring Hill, passed away on Saturday, June 22, 2013. Beloved husband of Rose Henzler; loving father of Carol (Walt), Darlene, Donna, Robert and Jim (Kim)...

ROBERTS RONALD L. "BILL"

Age 78, of Oakdale, formerly of Upper St. Clair, passed away June 22, 2013, surrounded by his loving family. Beloved husband of the late Regina A. Roberts...

SIKER EPHRAIM S.

Ephraim S. Siker, known to his family and friends as Rick was born in Port Chester, NY on March 24, 1926, and died on Friday, June 21, 2013. The son of the late Samuel and Adele Siker...

TOMCIK GARY G.

Age 63, unexpectedly, on Saturday, June 22, 2013, of Crafton. Husband of the late Helen Tomcik; son of the late George C. and Grace (Andrews) Tomcik...

In Memoriam



FISHER RUBY L. (FITTA)

Aug. 29, 1954 - June 24, 2012 Sadly missed by your family. We love you and think of you often.

REITZ FLORENCE LUCILLE

Age 87, of Plano, TX, formerly of West Mifflin, passed into the arms of her Heavenly Father on Thursday, June 20, 2013. Wife of the late Donald Reitz...

SABINO LOUIS F. "SONNY"

Of Monroeville, age 85, on Saturday, June 22, 2013. Loving husband of the late Theresa M. (Walschott) Sabino; devoted father of Kenneth, Daniel, and the late Francis Sabino...

STEINMETZ ELLY K.

Age 88, of Economy Boro, on Saturday, June 22, 2013. Beloved wife of the late Charles Steinmetz; loving mother of Valerie Steinmetz, Janet Miller (Richard) and Charles Steinmetz...



WARD MARY LOU (SCAVINSKY)

Of North Braddock, age 79, on Thursday, June 20, 2013. Beloved mother of William "Scuz" (Karen) Scavinsky of Penn Twp....



FROMLAK JEFFREY W.

06-24-1986 to 01-27-2013 Happy Birthday Jeff! Many of them were celebrated in exotic lands...



SULLIVAN CATHERINE G.

Age 87, of Mount Lebanon, on Saturday, June 22, Born April 1, 1926, the only daughter of the late John J. and Catherine (Morgan) Sullivan...

WILKINSON ALFRED G.

86, of West Mifflin, on June 22, 2013. Loving husband of Anna F. (Danowski) for 64 years; beloved father of Kathleen (Mark) Bobonich of Mooresville, NC...



GRUENER HARRY H.

July 5, 1920 to June 24, 2007 In Loving Memory Forever remembered. Forever loved. Forever missed. Your loving wife, Shirley and Branowitz family

JANCZAK JOSEPH "JOE-JOE"

It broke my heart to lose you. You did not go alone. For part of me went with you, the day God called you home. You left me with the memories. Your wisdom is still my guide...

NORMILE-WILSON PAMELA L. SEGIEL

JUNE 24, 2013 Pam! Your Laughter, Your Beautiful Smile, Our Memories... For The Joy That Awaits... Your New Grandson Jack. Loving Birthday Missing You Always, Mom, Dad, Family & Friends

Jefferson Memorial Cemetery and Funeral Home Send condolences at post-gazette.com/gb