

In Case You Missed It:

Region Receives \$30M In Transit Funding: The Pittsburgh region is receiving more than \$30 million in transit funding from the infrastructure law passed in November, but it remains unknown how the region’s largest transit agency will use the money.

The money is coming from the \$234 million allocated for Pennsylvania and is earmarked for the first four to five months of the 2022 fiscal year, with more funding expected after Congress passes an additional spending bill for the fiscal year, according to the office of U.S. Sen. Bob Casey, D-Scranton.

In addition to Pittsburgh’s \$30 million, the Monessen-California area received about \$983,000 and the Uniontown-Connellsville area received about \$900,000 in public transit funding. The funding also included more than \$11 million for rural areas or Appalachian counties and \$2.5 million for enhanced mobility of seniors and people with disabilities for communities with a population of less than 200,000.

Port Authority of Allegheny County will receive the vast majority of the Pittsburgh region’s allocation.

It’s unclear how Port Authority will use the \$30 million, as the agency awaits more information from the federal government.

Port Authority Sued: A West View man is suing Port Authority of Allegheny County for negligence after he said his arm got caught in the rear door of a bus when the driver closed it early, causing him to be dragged.

Lloyd Gaston was a passenger on the 61B and boarded the bus around 12:55 p.m. Aug. 18, 2020, on Forbes Avenue at Atwood Street in Oakland, the complaint said.

The lawsuit said that the driver was either inattentive or distracted when she closed the rear bus doors on Gaston’s arm.

She then accelerated, dragging Gaston, the lawsuit said. The complaint said that Gaston fell and was possibly run over by the bus before becoming pinned between the rear passenger-side tire and the curb.

According to the complaint, Gaston suffered multiple rib fractures, a liver laceration, internal bleeding, injuries to his bowels and altered GI function as a result.

The lawsuit, which includes Gaston’s wife, Barbara, as a plaintiff, includes claims for negligence and carelessness against Port Authority.

A Port Authority spokesman said he could not comment on pending litigation.



ATP Flight School is taking delivery of 25 new Piper Archers throughout 2022.

ATP Flight School Opens New Training Center In Pittsburgh During Pilot Shortage

ATP Flight School is opening its 70th location at Allegheny County Airport (AGC) in West Mifflin, Pa., just 10 miles from Downtown Pittsburgh, bringing professional airline pilot training to the Pittsburgh region during an unprecedented pilot shortage. Through the Airline Career Pilot Program, aspiring pilots in the area can now fasttrack their career to the airlines ATP’s fixed-cost, accelerated program provides students with all the resources and airline connections needed to quickly establish their airline careers and capitalize on the growing shortage of qualified pilots. Students at AGC will train using airline-oriented procedures in ATP’s reliable fleet of modern aircraft, including glass cockpit Piper Archers. Twenty-five of these new aircraft will join ATP’s existing fleet of 450 aircraft this year.

Partnerships with over 30 airlines and corpo-

rate operators provide ATP graduates with pathways to all major airlines, with some offering up to \$17,500 in tuition reimbursement and bonus incentives totaling \$172,500. Recently, ATP announced new partnerships with Frontier Airlines, Sun Country, and Avelo Airlines allowing ATP graduates and instructors to advance directly to an Airbus or Boeing First Officer position at 1,500 hours of flight time.

“The airline industry is facing a shortage of pilots, presenting a tremendous opportunity for new pilots to establish a rewarding and lucrative career,” said Michael Arnold, director of marketing, ATP Flight School. “We’re excited to bring this opportunity to aspiring pilots in Pittsburgh and provide them with the fastest track to becoming an airline pilot.”

“We are thrilled to welcome ATP to Allegheny

County Airport, which has a 90-year history in the aviation industry,” said Traci Clark, Vice President, Corporate and General Aviation for the Allegheny County Airport Authority. “More pilots need to be trained to address the national pilot shortage and having another first-class option like ATP in Western Pennsylvania is key. It’s another example of the important role general aviation airports like AGC have in the community and industry.”

ATP’s airline career solution has been proven by more than 20,000 pilots since 1984, with 930 graduates placed at airlines in just the last 12 months. Airline Career Pilot Program class dates start each Monday at the new Pittsburgh training center. To schedule a tour or introductory training flight, call ATP Admissions at (904) 595-7950.

Nicholas Electric Co., Inc. To Be Purchased By Longtime Employees

M. Nicholas Glova grew up in Rankin and earned an associate degree in Electrical Technology. He had ten years of experience as an electrician for USX Corp. Glova has provided a full line of electrical services from his Rankin based business since 1978.

In 1989, John M. Hejnosz, who also has an associate degree in Electrical Technology, joined Glova, the president of NEC, as a partner, secretary, and treasurer and helped the business grow. The business known as Nicholas Electric Co., Inc., was started in 1989 and incorporated 1995. Safety, satisfaction, and affordability is the motto Nicholas Electric Co., Inc. has adhered to in providing electrical services to residential, commercial, and light industrial customers. In 1996, the firm built a new 2,400 sq. ft. office and warehouse addition. The business is located at 525 Duquesne Avenue in Rankin.

Glova also gives credit to his wife, Jodi, saying that, “She was with me in the Uno Restaurant when I drew our logo on a cocktail napkin. She ran to get us supplies, she’d work all night, and on her



M. Nicholas Glova, John M Hejnosz, John E.G Bird, and James R. Chusko Jr.

way home, she’d stop for coffee and donuts and deliver them to us on our job sites. She has definitely been an essential part of NEC.”

The reason Glova kiddingly states for he and Hejnosz selling the business at this time is, “We’re old and tired of working.”

John E. G. Bird and James Chusko, Jr. are the buyers. They’ve been working with Nicholas Elec-

tric Co., Inc. for 23 years. Glova says, “John and Jim are like family to us. They both exhibit our traits for wiring perfection and neatness. They’re definitely the best fit for taking it over.”

John E.G. Bird has been running the company since 2014, he is the lead supervisor/project manager.

Bird graduated from Taylor

Alderdice in 1995. He attended Dean Technical Institute and received an associate degree in electrical technology in 1996. He also worked as an electrician with his father the late, John, G. Bird Jr. in Greenfield and surrounding areas. Bird started working with

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Air Quality Approves Ten Mon Valley Episode Rule Plans, Rejects Six

The Allegheny County Health Department has reviewed air emissions mitigation plans for 16 sources that are required to submit such plans under the Mon Valley Air Pollution Episode Rule; 10 were approved, and six were rejected.

Enforcement orders identifying deficiencies in the six sources were issued January 31 after the Air Quality Program determined that the submitted plans were inadequate. Sources were instructed to resubmit plans with more information and/or pollution reductions.

“The Mon Valley Episode Rule is an important and innovative enforcement tool designed to protect

people in an area that has long suffered from poor air quality,” Health Department Director Dr. Debra Bogen said. “Everyone has the right to clean air, and our Air Quality program staff will ensure cooperation and compliance from all sources, for the health and wellbeing of everyone in the Mon Valley.”

Letters of approval and enforcement orders rejecting plans can be found at www.alleghenycounty.us/Health-Department/Programs/Air-Quality/Mon-Valley-Episode-Rule.aspx.

The Mon Valley Episode Rule, an addition to Article XXI - Air

Pollution Control Regulations, was signed into law in September 2021 by Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald to develop and implement a system to respond to weather-related inversions in the Mon Valley, which can result in episodes of high levels of particulate matter pollution (PM2.5).

Under the rule, Air Quality staff monitors pollution forecasts for conditions that could lead to an episode. When conditions are likely to exceed acceptable levels for the Mon Valley, sources are required to follow approved mitigation plans to reduce their emissions. Under the direction of the

Health Department Director, an Air Pollution Watch is issued when weather conditions are forecast to cause a high concentration of particulates in the Mon Valley, and an Air Pollution Warning is issued when the exceedance occurs and is expected to continue for 24 hours.

The rule applies to sources within or near the following municipalities: Braddock, Braddock Hills, Chalfant, Clairton, Dravosburg, Duquesne, East McKeesport, East Pittsburgh, Elizabeth Borough, Elizabeth Township, Forest Hills, Forward, Glassport, Jefferson Hills, Liberty, Lincoln, McKeesport, Munhall, North Brad-

dock, North Versailles, Port Vue, Rankin, Swissvale, Turtle Creek, Versailles, Wall, West Elizabeth, West Mifflin, White Oak, Wilkins, Wilmerding and Whitaker.

Notifications and alerts will be sent out using Allegheny Alerts. To sign up, go to member.everbridge.net/453003085611110/new. Notifications can be sent to you via email, text, and/or phone call. A free subscription is required.

More information on the Episode Rule can be found at www.alleghenycounty.us/Health-Department/Programs/Air-Quality/Mon-Valley-Episode-Rule.aspx.

Local Round Up

Braddock Hills

The Braddock Hills Shopping Center has temporarily added a new tenant to the center. There is now a clinic offering Covid testing in the parking lot behind Dollar Bank. Drive-thru testing is available, and no appointments are required. The center is open every day from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Homeowner Assistance Fund, or PAHAF, is now accepting applications. This is a housing-related program funded by the U.S. Department of the Treasury to assist Pennsylvania homeowners facing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic that began after Jan. 21, 2020. The program is now open and will provide financial assistance to homeowners for qualified mortgage and housing-related expenses to avoid delinquency, default, foreclosure, or displacement. To learn more about eligibility requirements, what the program covers, and how to apply, visit pahaf.org.

Pennsylvania

The USDA is considering the regulations as transitional nutrition standards that will be put into effect over the next two years. They are intended to give “schools to transition from current, pandemic operations, toward more nutritious meals,” the agency said. Schools will be allowed to offer low-fat, or 1%, milk along with nonfat and other low-fat options. At least 80% of breakfasts and lunches must be whole-grain rich, and starting in the 2023-2024 school year, lunches must have a 10% lower sodium rate weekly than they do currently.

Woodland Hills School District

The Woodland Hills School District has received a \$20,836 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. It comes from the School Food Equipment program, in which grants are awarded to schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program. Schools use grants to purchase or upgrade equipment such as refrigerators, freezers, stoves, and dishwashers. Woodland Hills was awarded the funding to help pay for new reach-in refrigerators for both Edgewood Elementary STEAM Academy and Wilkins Elementary STEAM Academy. This School Food Equipment funding round distributed more than \$946,000 to 44 elementary, middle, and high schools in 23 counties.

Woodland Hills School District


Rivers of Steel has partnered with Rankin Christian Center to offer free after-school metal workshops for up to ten students; and two paid internships for students residing in Rankin and or the Woodland Hills School District. This is a direct result of the advisory board that Rankin Mayor McDonald participated on with other leaders within the Mon Valley. The Rivers of Steel is working hard on an initiative to diversity metal arts. Food is provided, and transportation to the furnace leaving the RCC is as well. Teens can learn to weld, make some art, pour molten metal, and hammer hot iron. To learn more email dmcgregor@rankinchristiancenter.org.

Employees Purchase Nicholas Electric Co., Inc.

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Nicholas Electric in 1998 and was quickly recognized for his strong work ethic and his broad knowledge of electrical applications and wiring methods. He has a beautiful wife, Lisa Bird, and two children. He loves spending time with his family and he is a sports fanatic.

James R. Chusko Jr. is a supervisor/foreman, he graduated from Woodland Hills High School. He received an associate degree from Forbes Road Technical School. He worked for various electrical contractors before joining the Nicholas Electric Family in 1999. Jim



James R. Chusko Jr. and John E.G. Bird

has a beautiful wife named Kristi and they have three lovely daughters. Jim is the go-to technical adviser

of Nicholas Electric and is well versed in modern communication/data wiring, as well as a strong commercial

wiring background. Jim and his family are avid sports fans and enjoy bowling, and traveling.

Ronald McDonald Care Mobile Available At Barrett Elementary

*By Andrew Chiappazzi
AIU Communications Specialist*

The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile will be available at Barrett Elementary School on Friday, February 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Care Mobile offers medical care to children throughout the Pittsburgh area and will be available for families in the Steel Valley community with this visit to Barrett. The Care Mobile can provide immunizations, routine physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses in children, adolescent and youth adult health care, referrals for specialty care, and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) form assistance.

All of the services are provided at no out-of-pocket cost to families. Anyone interested in stopping by the Care Mobile should make sure they arrive by 1:30 p.m. on Friday, February 11 in order to register in time. The Care Mobile is a collaboration between UPMC Children's Hospital and the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Pittsburgh and Morgantown. Anyone in need of more information before the visit can call 412-352-1059 or visit www.chp.edu/our-services/mobile-medical-clinic.

Davis Encouraged By Gov. Wolf's Address

Following Governor Tom Wolf's budget address, state Rep. Austin Davis, D-Allegheny, issued the following statement:

“The Governor's proposal outlines a plan that touches on many of the priorities that matter most to working-class families in Pennsylvania.

“I'm encouraged to see the proposed increase in education funding, which builds on our previous investments in education and is a solid step toward bringing fair funding to underserved school districts. These investments in our schools, teachers and, most importantly, our children, advances access to education at every level and will help ensure that every child – regardless of Zip code – will have the chance to succeed and grow to their full potential.

“Along with historic investments in infrastructure by the federal government, this budget represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our communities and in the people of Pennsylvania. From our roads and bridges, which we know need work, to job training and investing in our small businesses, this budget will advance our commonwealth's economic recovery and position Pennsylvania to be a competitive player not just nationally, but across the globe.”

Police Blotter

Allegheny County

On February 4, 2022, a victim was contacted by a caller claiming to be Allegheny County Sheriff's Office employee, Sgt. Tom Ninehouser, and Lt. Conor Mullen. The calls were coming from a 412-350-XXXX phone number. This is common practice by scammers to spoof phone numbers associated with the police office and other organizations.

The caller stated that the victim missed federal court and was required to attend to verify a signature but could not do so until fines were paid. Initially, the first portion was to be paid via Apple Pay. The rest was to be paid by a prepaid credit card known as MoneyPak. The victim paid the initial installment via Apple Pay of \$8,000.00 to what seemed to be the Department of Treasury. The remainder was purchased in the prepaid cards, and the information from the cards was translated to the caller.

The caller also claimed that the victim could not contact anyone regarding this case, or they would jeopardize the integrity of the investigation. Furthermore, if they did contact anyone, they would be arrested.

Munhall

Police have two men in custody after a high-speed police chase led them through the streets of Munhall to where the vehicle crashed in Braddock, near Margaretta St. and Corey Ave. Two males involved in the pursuit fled the car by foot after the crash but were subsequently apprehended. Police recovered a large number of narcotics from the vehicle and a firearm. Police have not named anyone involved or given any more details at this time.

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