

COVID'S LASTING IMPACT ON LOCAL DINING, MUSIC

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SHOPPING SAVINGS INSIDE

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Meet three iconic Pittsburgh women whose family stories are woven deeply into city's history. **goodness, F-1**

Sunday

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VOTER DISCONTENT HITS HOME



Fetterman, McCormick face calls for more accessibility

By Benjamin Kail Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

her federal representatives regularly "because of the chaos in Washington," with almost no one ever picking up for Democratic Sen. John Fetterman or Republican Sen. Dave McCormick. Staffers for Rep. Summer Lee, D-Swissvale, consistently answer the phone and address her concerns, she said.

"Fetterman and McCormick... seem to be playing hide-and-seek with constituents," Ms. Fischhoff said this past week, after a joint paid event focused on mentorship and a new book from Mr. McCormick and his wife was scheduled for Pittsburgh City Winery on Saturday, only to have the location pulled from the event page once



Lucy Schaly/Post-Gazette

Protesters hold images of Sens. Dave McCormick and John Fetterman at Schenley Plaza in Oakland on Saturday.

INSIDE
Top vaccine official resigns from FDA, criticizes RFK Jr. for promoting "misinformation and lies." **Page A-5**

WASHINGTON — Mozart. Handel. Schubert. Beethoven. For almost 10 minutes the classical hits kept coming. Then a click. "Senator Fetterman's office." This marked the first time Pittsburgher Maya Fischhoff had gotten through to a human. She told the Post-Gazette she has been calling

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POST-GAZETTE SPECIAL REPORT

DEEP FEAR IN COAL COUNTRY

Agency cuts put region's miners, families on edge



Benjamin B. Braun/Post-Gazette photos



Top: Danny Johnson is a former coal miner who suffers from black lung disease. **Above:** Nurse practitioner Shelly Pack checks the respiration of West Virginia miner Randall Dickerson, 49, who frequently travels to the Bluestone Health Association clinic in Princeton, W.Va., to receive treatment for black lung. The married father of three said on most days, "I stay tired. For me to walk 100 feet, it's tough."

By Michael Sallah, Michael Wereschagin and Jimmy Cloutier Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

For federal safety inspectors, the call to their sprawling mining office near Pittsburgh was bleak: Man crushed in the rubble of an aging mine in the heart of coal country. Agents from the Mount Pleasant office arrived at the scene shortly after the body of

Joseph Guzzo Jr. had been pulled from the massive chunk of earth that collapsed in the underground tunnel four years ago.

Then, months after launching an investigation that found the mine operator had failed to provide critical protections, it happened again.

Another worker in a mine just an hour away suffered catastrophic injuries when a large rock broke from a wall and slammed him against a machine.

Agents from the Mine Safety and Health Administration office would once again conduct an inquiry and find the operator never detected the breaks in the wall that led to the collapse.

Year after year, investigators from the Mount Pleasant office — the most active mine safety center in the nation — launched inquiries into deaths and injuries in some of

SEE **MINE**, PAGE A-10

CMU BRACES FOR THE WORST

School leaders scramble to adjust to looming cuts

By Maddie Aiken Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

It has been weeks of whiplash at Carnegie Mellon University.

Federal research funding cuts loom. A bipartisan group of lawmakers is pressing the institution over its high enrollment of Chinese international students. An investigation of what the White House sees as race-exclusionary practices could mean a further loss of federal funding.

A year ago, federal challenges to university practices and ideology in such rapid succession would have been unthinkable. But two months into the second Trump administration, this is the new normal for CMU and other elite institutions nationwide.

Last week, CMU President Farnam Jahanian penned a lengthy letter broadly addressing these topics and what he sees as the potential fallout. It was a move that stood out as CMU officials have largely remained close-mouthed — at least publicly — on the changes to education and research funding introduced by President Donald Trump.

It remains to be seen how drastically the private Pittsburgh institution will be impacted by federal pressures over the next four years.

In the interim, school leaders are scrambling to both adapt to a shifting landscape and maintain CMU's "strengths and values," as Mr. Jahanian puts it.

"The people at the top of the university are having to earn their [salaries]," Robert Strauss, a CMU professor of economics and public policy, said half-jokingly.

CMU isn't alone in facing federal shake-ups. Forty-four other universities are being probed for their ties to The PhD Project, a nonprofit created to help Black and



Jahanian

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