

# Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

ONE OF AMERICA'S GREAT NEWSPAPERS

\$4.00

239 YEARS OF SERVICE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2025

VOL. 99, NO. 26, 8/28/25

FINAL

## MINNEAPOLIS SCHOOL SHOOTING

# 'HORRIFIC VIOLENCE'



A parent hugs her son during an active shooter situation at the Annunciation Church in Minneapolis on Wednesday. Richard Tsong-Taatarii/Star Tribune via AP

## 2 CHILDREN KILLED, 17 PEOPLE WOUNDED IN SHOOTING AT CATHOLIC CHURCH

By Steve Karnowski,  
Mark Vancleave and  
Giovanna Dell'Orto  
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — A shooter opened fire with a rifle Wednesday through the windows of a Catholic church in Minneapolis and struck children celebrating Mass during the first week of school, killing two and wounding 17 people in an act of violence the police chief called “absolutely incomprehensible.” Armed with a rifle, shotgun and pistol, 23-year-old Robin Westman approached the side of the church and shot dozens of rounds through the windows toward the children sitting in the pews during Mass at

the Annunciation Catholic School just before 8:30 a.m., Minneapolis police Chief Brian O'Hara said at news conferences. He said the shooter then died by suicide. The children who died were 8 and 10. Fourteen other kids and three octogenarian parishioners were wounded but expected to survive, the chief said. “I am heartbroken by the horrific violence at Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis,” Minnesota Democratic Sen. Amy Klobuchar said. Fifth grader Weston Halsne told reporters he ducked for the pews, covering his head, shielded by a

SEE SHOOTING, PAGE A-6



Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey sits on the steps of the Annunciation Church's school as police respond to the shooting. Abbie Parr/Associated Press

## City Catholic schools on high alert

By Jacob Geanous  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The Diocese of Pittsburgh is urging all of its security staff and administrative workers to remain vigilant as it continues to monitor news of a mass shooting at a Minneapolis Catholic school Wednesday. While authorities continue investigating the shooting — which occurred during a school Mass at Annunciation Catholic School — Minneapolis police late Wednesday

### INSIDE

- Shapiro, McCormick, other Pa. leaders offer prayers, support. **A-6**
- Explaining a school shooting to a child: Assess anxiety levels, and “turn your TV off.” **A-7**

day morning said two children, ages 8 and 10, were killed where they sat in the pews. The shooter, in his early 20s, shot and killed himself behind the church. “This story touches our local

Church in a particular way. Archbishop Bernard Hebda, who shepherds the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, is a native son of the Diocese of Pittsburgh,” Bishop Mark Eckman said in a statement. “We hold him, the victims, and their grieving families in our hearts.” The Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh held a news conference Wednesday morning to showcase its latest schools report, but began the event by discussing the incident and praying for all

those involved. “It took place at a Catholic school while the student body was at church,” Bishop Mark Eckman said. “So it's very tragic. We don't know any information as far as how many victims are involved, but it seems to be a large number of people, so we're very concerned and we are watching that.” Two children were killed and 17 others were wounded, with 14 of those being children.

SEE DIOCESE, PAGE A-7

### COVID-19

## FDA OKs vaccines, but with limits

By Matthew Perrone  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. regulators approved updated COVID-19 shots Wednesday but limited their use for many Americans — and removed one of the two vaccines available for young children. The new shots from Pfizer, Moderna and Novavax are approved for all seniors. But the Food and Drug Administration narrowed their use for younger adults and children to those with at least one high-risk health condition, such as asthma or obesity. That presents new barriers to access for millions of Americans who would have to prove their risk — and millions more who may want to get vaccinated and suddenly no longer qualify. Additionally, Pfizer's vaccine will no longer be available for any child under 5, because the FDA said it was revoking the shot's emergency authorization for that age group. Parents will still be able to seek out shots from rival drugmaker Moderna, the other maker of mRNA vaccines, which has full FDA approval for children as young as 6 months. But the company's Spikevax vaccine is only approved for children with at least one serious health problem.

SEE COVID, PAGE A-2

### STATE

## New report says electric utilities are less reliable

By Anya Litvak  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

If it feels like your electric company is struggling with more storms and more frequent and longer outages, it's more than just a feeling. Last week, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, which regulates electric utilities across the state, released its annual service reliability assessment that showed a record number of storms in 2024 knocked out power to 2.8 million people in the state, about twice as many as the year before. The PUC calculated there were 71 such outages last year where at least 5%, or at least 2,500, utility customers lost power. That's the highest number since the commission started keeping track some 30 years ago. You could blame the trees. Over the past decade, vegetation has been the leading cause of power outages and “this issue has increased sharply,” the PUC's report said.

SEE ELECTRIC, PAGE A-3



ONLINE TODAY:  
Get real-time breaking  
news and much more at  
**post-gazette.com**

**Weather**  
Clouds and sun; a shower  
in the afternoon. Daytime  
high, 75; tonight's low, 55.  
**Page B-8**

Bridge.....**D-8**  
Business.....**D-1**  
Celebrations.....**B-2**  
Classified.....**C-11**  
Comics.....**D-7**  
Crosswords.....**D-8**

Editorials.....**A-10**  
Food.....**E-1**  
High Schools.....**C-6**  
Horoscope.....**D-8**  
Local News.....**B-1**  
Lottery.....**B-2**

Obituaries.....**B-6**  
Perspectives.....**A-11**  
Scoreboard.....**C-10**  
Sports.....**C-1**  
Television.....**C-9**  
Weekend Mag.....**WE-1**



OVER 200 BOOTHS!

32ND ANNUAL PENNSYLVANIA Arts & Crafts LABOR DAY FESTIVAL

AUG. 29, 30, 31, SEPT. 1

WESTMORELAND FAIRGROUNDS

DAILY 10-5

FANTASTIC FESTIVAL FOODS

PENN TRAFFORD COMMUNITY BAND - SAT.

SHELLEY DUFF BAND - SUN. & MON.

DJ Ed - Friday

BARREL TRAIN RIDES

PETTING ZOO

HENNA TATTOOS

FACE PAINTING

724-863-4577

BUY TICKETS AT THE GATE OR ONLINE AT FAMILYFESTIVALS.COM

SAVE 50¢

REDEEM AD FOR 50¢ OFF ONE ADULT OR SENIOR ADMISSION