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FINAL

Thousands in Pa. drop health care

Insurance providers, hospitals warn of 'catastrophe' as federal subsidies expire

By Evan Robinson-Johnson
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Nansi Armstrong is living in America's painful health insurance purgatory: earning too much to qualify for Medicaid but not enough to cover premiums set to double next year.

The 48-year-old mother works

multiple jobs, including a full-time gig as an office manager for a Harrisburg law firm that comes without benefits.

At \$650 per month, coverage this year was already expensive. But it paled in comparison to the forecast for 2026, which Ms. Armstrong described as "insane."

So, despite lingering nerve pain

from a bout of shingles and the uncertainty of her family's history of cancer, Ms. Armstrong made the difficult decision to forgo coverage next year.

"It's scary," she said. "If I get sick or anything like that, I just have to deal with it on my own."

Part of her feels fortunate she got a hysterectomy out of the way this year.

"If I hadn't the insurance, I wouldn't have been able to get that procedure," she said.

Ms. Armstrong is one of 55,000

Pennsylvanians who have dropped health care coverage since Nov. 1 as premiums doubled due to the expiration of federal subsidies. A thousand state residents are now dropping health insurance each day as hope of a last ditch fix from Congress fizzles, said Devon Trolley, executive director of the Pennsylvania Health Insurance Exchange.

She is still hoping lawmakers will pass an eleventh hour

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METCALF HIT WITH 2-GAME PENALTY

Steelers WR to appeal NFL's suspension

By Brian Batko
and Ray Fittipaldo
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

DETROIT — If the Steelers have to clinch a playoff berth on their own they're going to have to do it without DK Metcalf, their top wide receiver who was suspended for two games by the NFL for "conduct detrimental to the NFL" following his sideline incident with a Detroit Lions fan during Sunday's 29-24 victory at Ford Field.



Metcalf

Mr. Metcalf will appeal his suspension, but if the suspension is upheld he will miss the final two games of the regular season against the Cleveland Browns and the Baltimore Ravens.

This could end up being a big deal or no deal at all.

If the Green Bay Packers defeat the Ravens on Saturday, the Steelers will win the AFC North Division title and qualify for the AFC playoffs.

However, if the Ravens beat the Packers, the Steelers would have to beat either the Browns or the Ravens to win the division and gain their berth in the postseason.

Mr. Metcalf did not speak with media Sunday after the game, and the Steelers declined to comment Monday evening on

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GETTING THE CLAUS OUT



Alexandra Wimley/Post-Gazette

A skater wearing a Santa hat takes the ice shortly after the Schenley Park Ice Skating Rink opens for the evening on Monday in Oakland. Expect rain Tuesday with breezy conditions and a high of 46 degrees. **Weather Report, B-12.**

Pa. plugging into \$112M in federal funds

OK'd to use money on EV charging stations

By Ed Blazina
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Expansion of electric vehicle charging stations in Pennsylvania just took two big steps forward: The state has received federal approval to spend the remaining \$112 million it received under the Biden administration for the program and the Pennsylvania Turnpike has opened its first federally funded charging station.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation said Monday it would begin accepting applications immediately for the Corridor Con-

nections program run by the federal Department of Transportation.

That is the second of four parts of the \$5 billion National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure project — a Biden-era program that the Trump administration froze in January.

Under that program, Pennsylvania had been awarded \$171.5 million for 150 charging stations as part of then-President Joe Biden's plan to spur the sales of electric vehicles, generate economic growth and reduce pollution. The state committed \$59 million for 90 projects, almost all of them along the state's busiest travel roads, called Alternative Fuel Corridors, before the money was frozen.

U.S. Transportation Secretary

SEE **CHARGERS**, PAGE A-2



PennDOT

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation announced the opening of the first federally funded electric vehicle charging station on the Pennsylvania Turnpike built using funds from the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure program.

Trump offers new warning for Maduro

U.S. steps up pressure campaign on Venezuela

By Aamer Madhani, Emma Burrows
and Regina Garcia Cano
Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — President Donald Trump on Monday delivered a new warning to Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro as the U.S. Coast Guard steps up efforts to interdict oil tankers in the Caribbean Sea as part of the Republican administration's escalating pressure campaign on the government in Caracas.

Trump was surrounded by his top national security aides, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, as he suggested that he remains ready to further escalate his four-month pressure campaign on the Maduro government, which began with the stated purpose of stemming the flow of illegal drugs from the South American nation but has developed into something more amorphous.

"If he wants to do something, if he plays tough, it'll be the last time he'll ever be

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Rain and drizzle.
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tonight's low, 31.
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