

STEELERS VS. BROWNS:  
MATCHUPS TO WATCH

AT CLEVELAND, 1 P.M., CBS • SPORTS, B-1



THE PG'S BEST  
PHOTOS OF 2025

PAGES A-8 AND A-9

SHOPPING  
SAVINGS  
INSIDE

#### Helping older drivers

Many families have no plan for what to do when a relative starts losing their skills. **Magazine, G-1**

Sunday

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FINAL

#### THE GAINEY LEGACY

## GAINEY CLAIMS SUCCESS AS MAYORAL TERM ENDS

Others see missed chances: 'I think they got in their own way'

By Hallie Lauer  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Four years after being elected amid the COVID-19 pandemic and becoming Pittsburgh's first Black mayor in a predominantly white city long shaped by segregation, Ed Gainey is proud of what his adminis-

tration accomplished.

"I'm very satisfied with what we did here," Mr. Gainey said in a recent interview in his Downtown office assessing his sometimes tumultuous term. "We did what they said we couldn't."

Now, after losing the Democratic primary in May and becoming a one

-term mayor, Mr. Gainey is philosophical about the shifts in his political fortunes and convinced that his administration saw more success in four years than other mayors did in eight.

"I was never going to be afforded

SEE **GAINEY**, PAGE A-7



Steve Mellon/Post-Gazette

Mayor Ed Gainey, in his Downtown office, attributed his loss in a bid for a second term to his willingness to challenge the status quo. "In order to make this an equitable city, we had to lay out an agenda that was inclusive of everybody."



Ashley Berka, a mother of three, carries boxes as she crosses Little Wheeling Creek via a makeshift bridge on Dec. 19.

Giuseppe LoPiccolo/Post-Gazette

#### POST-GAZETTE SPECIAL REPORT

## AFTER THE STORMS

From Wheeling to Wilkinsburg, region still reeling from a wild year

Part one of a two-part series.

By Lindsay Shachnow  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

TRIADELPHIA, W.Va. — Ashley Berka had just returned home from her son's baseball game.

It was June 14, the day before Father's Day, and she was planning an early celebratory dinner for her husband, a firefighter for

the Triadelphia Volunteer Fire Department.

Ms. Berka stepped outside to check on her three rose bushes before starting dinner at about 6 p.m. It was sunny, she recalled.

Before long, it started to rain — a lot. Too much in too short of a period of time for the creeks to sustain. The National Weather Service would later say that several inches had fallen in about 45 minutes.

Flash flooding tore through the town, and Ms. Berka remembered hearing

screams and wailing sirens coming from across the creek. Within five minutes, the 100-year-old Little Wheeling Creek bridge that leads to her house was swept away.

And the 30-year-old, who was eight months pregnant, was trapped. It was a high-risk pregnancy — if Ms. Berka went into labor without the proper medical treatment, she and her baby could die.

SEE **WEATHER**, PAGE A-10



Steve Mellon/Post-Gazette

Anthony Dixon picks out a few items during a Wilkinsburg Community Ministry food distribution at the Douglas Plaza apartment complex in Wilkinsburg on Dec. 18.

## Insurance premiums spike with new year

Brokers: Clients struggle as ACA costs soar

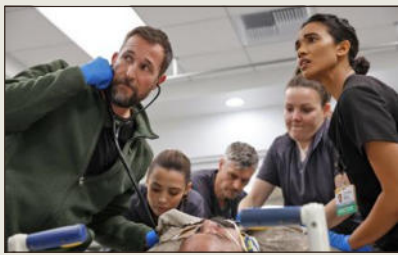
By Roberta Burkhart  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Mary Jo Armstrong and her ex-husband, William, didn't exactly remarry for love. They remarried for health insurance.

After 18 years of marriage and a divorce, finalized in 2014, the Upper Burrell couple found themselves side-by-side again Dec. 18. Joining them — not in a church or courthouse but over a Microsoft Teams call — was Buff Jackson from the Allegheny County Department of Court Records.

Eight witnesses — including their twin daughters, coincidentally celebrating their birthday that day — looked on as they confirmed their marriage license application, choosing the self-uniting option to make it official. The video call took place during Mary Jo's lunch break, and the plan was to mark the occasion with a lighthearted exchange of vows later that evening during happy hour at the Hayloft in West Deer.

SEE **ACA**, PAGE A-6



Warrick Page/MAX

#### A BUSY 2025

In addition to "The Pitt," above, filming of two other TV shows and two movies occurred in the region this year. **Magazine, Page G-1**

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