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FINAL

## Kraft Heinz pauses splinter

CEO says \$600M slated for investment will be concentrated mostly in the U.S.

By Anya Litvak  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Kraft Heinz is hitting pause on its divorce and pumping \$600 million into fixing the marriage of the two iconic packaged food brands that merged in 2015. The company, which is co-headquartered in Pittsburgh and Chicago, is six weeks into the tenure of its new CEO, Steve Cahill-

ane, who announced on Wednesday that Kraft Heinz's problems are fixable if it works to lower product prices, invests more into marketing and R&D, and postpones the planned split the company said it would pursue in September. "As I have examined the business, I clearly see how much is fixable and how much is within our own control," Mr. Cahillane, who

led the former Kellogg Co., said on Wednesday. "It is clear that we have historically underinvested in our brands and in the business, resulting in persistent share loss over the last decade," he said in prepared remarks. "We acknowledge that our current teams are too lean, and this is limiting our ability to execute consistently." The past year has been a tough one for Kraft Heinz, driven in large part by a decline in its North American product sales. The company reported a net loss of \$5.8 billion, or \$4.93 per

share, for 2025, a 313% drop from its 2024 net income of \$2.7 billion, or \$2.26 per share. And things have only gotten worse during the past quarter, since the company told investors it would work to divvy up its brands into two separate companies by the end of 2026. "Consumer sentiment has worsened, industry trends have softened, and there is increasing volatility in the geopolitical landscape," Mr. Cahillane said. Instead of focusing on a split

SEE **HEINZ**, PAGE A-2

EPSTEIN FILES

## BONDI CLASHES WITH DEMS

By Alanna Durkin Richer,  
Eric Tucker and Stephen Groves  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Pam Bondi launched into a passionate defense of President Donald Trump on Wednesday as she tried to turn the page from relentless criticism of the Justice Department's handling of the Jeffrey Epstein files, repeatedly shouting at Democrats during a combative hearing in which she postured herself as the Republican president's chief protector. Besieged by questions over Epstein and accusations of a weaponized Justice Department, Ms. Bondi aggressively pivoted in an extraordinary speech in which she mocked her Democratic questioners, praised Trump over the performance of

SEE **BONDI**, PAGE A-5

### A SIGN OF THINGS TO COME



Matt Freed/Post-Gazette

Pirates shortstop prospect Konnor Griffin, who finished his first professional season with the Altoona Curve in 2025, signs autographs during workouts on Wednesday at Pirate City in Bradenton, Fla. **More Pirates spring training coverage in Sports, Section C**

## Perfect match: Couple sharing a life and a kidney

When husband needed a transplant, his wife was the donor

By Anya Sostek  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

In the summer of 2024, Hallie Szymanski and Naveen Kumar sat at their dining room table waiting for a phone call. When the call came, a kidney transplant coordinator from UPMC was on the line. "I'm just going to cut to the chase," she said. "You guys are a perfect match."

The two had recently gotten married and returned from their honey-

moon in Hawaii. Their feelings for each other weren't in question. This news was about Ms. Szymanski's kidneys, specifically whether she would be able to donate one to her new husband. "I'm from India, she's from Finleyville," said Mr. Kumar, 35. "What are the chances of a perfect match?" When the two met four or five years ago at a party at Mr. Kumar's East Liberty apartment, it was his golden retriever, Cecilia Waffles, that first made Ms. Szymanski's acquaintance. She also has a golden retriever, and they began to meet up for dog playdates. On those outings, Mr. Kumar's health became a topic of conversation. At the time, Ms. Szymanski was

SEE **TRANSPLANT**, PAGE A-2



Hallie Szymanski

Naveen Kumar and Hallie Szymanski on the day of their kidney transplant surgery in December 2024. Ms. Szymanski donated one of her kidneys to her husband, Mr. Kumar.

SAVE AMERICA ACT

## Fetterman explains his flip on voter ID

By Sam Janesch  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

WASHINGTON — Years after he railed against voter ID requirements as "insidious and unnecessary," U.S. Sen. John Fetterman's comments this week that it's not "unreasonable to show ID just to vote" was quickly celebrated by Republicans making an aggressive push for national election reforms. "Bravo!" Elon Musk wrote in one of a half-dozen posts amplifying Mr. Fetterman's message to his 234 million followers. "[Democrats] hate that guy now. They're mad at him because he says, 'I think you should probably have ID to vote,'" the podcaster Joe Rogan said to his millions of listeners Tuesday.

SEE **VOTER**, PAGE A-9

### JAMES VAN DER BEEK DIES AT 48

James Van Der Beek, a heartthrob known for his roles in "Dawson's Creek" and "Varsity Blues," died Wednesday following a battle with colorectal cancer. **Obituary, Page B-5**



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**Weather**  
Cloudy and cold with a flurry. Daytime high, 28; tonight's low, 19.  
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