



**STEELERS UNSTEADY?**  
Le'Veon Bell's injury clouds playoff picture. **SPORTS 3**



**BIG CITY, BIG WIN**  
A win in the Pinstripe Bowl has Penn State looking forward to next season. **SPORTS**

\$1 • Single copy  
\$1.49 • Home delivery  
FINAL EDITION

# The Patriot-News

**TUESDAY**  
DECEMBER 30, 2014

2014 PENNSYLVANIA NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



2012 PULITZER PRIZE FOR LOCAL REPORTING

**DRIVING IN PENNSYLVANIA**

## HITTING THE ROAD WILL COST YOU



Associated Press, 2008

Driving will get more expensive in 2015, with registration, the gas tax and tolls going up.

**» TAXES PUSHING GAS PRICES UP 10 CENTS**

On Thursday, the state's uncapping of another third of its oil company franchise tax will cause it to rise by 10 cents a gallon, and that likely will impact what you pay at the pump. But with gas prices averaging \$2.47 a gallon on Monday, according to GasBuddy's survey of 241 gas outlets in Harrisburg, even if that full increase is passed along to consumers, it would still keep the per-gallon price well below the \$3 or higher price that motorists had paid in recent months.

Nationally, Pennsylvania ranks near the top of states with the highest gas taxes, according to information from the American Petroleum Institute. As of October, the state and federal gas taxes combined accounted for 60.2 cents of the per-gallon price that Pennsylvania motorists paid.

**» TURNPIKE TOLLS TO SEE HIKE**

Along with the rising taxes and other fees, the Pennsylvania Turnpike will add to the tab of driving in the commonwealth in the coming year.

Starting at 12:01 a.m. Jan. 4, tolls are rising by 5 percent for E-ZPass and cash customers.

That means those who take the turnpike to get from the East Shore to the West Shore will pay 10 cents more if they pay cash (or \$1.70) and 5 cents more if they use E-ZPass (\$1.09).



**» REGISTRATION, LICENSE, INSPECTION FEES GOING UP**

On July 1, annual passenger car and motorcycle registration will rise by \$1 to \$37 and \$19, respectively. Pickup registration will rise \$1.50, to \$60, and antique, classic and collectible vehicle registration by \$2, to \$77. Vehicle inspection stickers that now cost \$6, will rise to \$7, as of July 1. And the base license fee, which does not include the cost of the photo, will rise \$1, to \$22 on July 1. All of these increases are a result of Act 89 of 2013, the transportation funding law, which state Department of Transportation officials say is paying for the uptick in road and bridge work seen throughout the region.



— Jan Murphy, jmurphy@pennlive.com

**HARRISBURG**

## City stands firm on gun regulations

Four gun groups have threatened a lawsuit against Harrisburg under a new law that allows them to challenge existing local gun ordinances.

BY CHRISTINE VENDEL  
cvendel@pennlive.com



**“The city's not going to repeal its ordinances because our police department feels that they are in the public interest, and I do, too. What responsible gun owner believes guns should be recklessly discharged within the city limits?”**

MAYOR ERIC PAFENFUSE

A showdown over firearms ordinances in the city of Harrisburg has begun.

Four Pennsylvania gun-owner groups have notified Harrisburg they plan to sue the cash-strapped capital city under a controversial new state law that gives them standing to challenge the existence of local gun ordinances.

The law, which the National Rifle Association has called “the strongest firearms preemption statute in the country,” also allows successful plaintiffs to force municipalities to pay their legal fees, expert-witness fees, all court costs and any compensation for lost income.

The law takes effect Jan. 5 and expands a long-standing general rule in the statutes that the state is responsible for gun regulations.

A letter from attorney Joshua Prince to Harrisburg's city solicitor dated Dec. 14 asks city officials to rescind five “unlawful”

Please see **GUNS** on Back Page

**ECONOMY**

## U.S. should see burst of growth in 2015

An economy expanding at an expected 3 percent should boost those of other countries, as well.

BY CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER  
The Associated Press

**READERS RESPOND**

**WASHINGTON** • The United States is back and ready to drive global growth in 2015.

After struggling to claw its way out of the Great Recession, the world's biggest economy is on an extended win streak that is edging it closer to full health. But the new year doesn't look quite so bright in other major countries.

China is slowing as it transitions from investment to consumption. Japan has slid into a recession. Russia appears headed for one. Europe is barely growing.

And the U.S.?

Six years after its financial system nearly sank, and nearly that long since the recession ended, the United States is expected to grow in 2015 at its fastest pace in a decade.

Its expansion from July through September — a 5 percent annual rate —

Are you better off now than in 2008-09?

I'm worse off. From where I'm standing, claiming economic recovery is premature.

**43%**

Nothing has changed. I'm doing as well as I was before the recession.

**25%**

I'm better off. Things really improved, I think, once the economy started to recover.

**23%**

Nothing has changed. I'm doing as poorly as I was before the recession.

**9%**

Please see **ECONOMY** on Back Page

## NEW YEAR ALMOST HERE



PAUL CHAPLIN, PennLive

Hershey employees practice the Hershey's Kiss drop Monday at the corner of Chocolate and Cocoa avenues.

**IN LIVING**

◀ A giant Hershey's Kiss is only one of many things that will be dropped in the midstate. Everything from roses to nails and bologna will be seen falling from the sky Wednesday night. See the complete list. **PAGES B1-2**

▶ The midstate said goodbye to some favorite restaurants, while welcoming several new eateries. See which locales made PennLive/The Patriot-News' top 10 food stories for 2014. **PAGES B1-2**

**Chilly temps will ring in 2015**

▼ Bundle up if you plan on attending any outdoor New Year's Eve festivities. Temperatures will drop, but so far, there's no sign of rain or snow. **BACK PAGE**

**NEW YEAR'S FORECAST**

WEDNESDAY	NIGHT
SUN, COLD	CLEAR
<b>32</b>	<b>21</b>