



Red Wings lose much-delayed, ch-ch-chilly season opener

SPORTS, PAGE 1D

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Rochester mail carriers go above and beyond

They lead nation in performing heroic acts on the job



Letter carrier Jeff Gebhard of Greece works through the snow, cold and icicles in Charlotte in 2010.

JAY CAPERS/FILE PHOTO

Victoria E. Freile Rochester Democrat and Chronicle
USA TODAY NETWORK

Chris Turner, a mail carrier who is also an Army veteran, sprang into action last month when he spotted smoke rising from an apartment building in Spencerport.

Without a second thought, he left his postal truck by the curb March 16 and ran toward the burning building to assist a man and his daughter trapped in their second-floor apartment.

Emergency responders had been summoned but had not yet arrived on scene.

"In the Army, you see people shot, people dying, and then you come home and see this happening and you just want to help," he said.

From the ground, Turner yelled to the girl that she needed to jump. Within moments, she launched herself from the open window.

"I caught her, but thank God for the snowbank behind me that broke my own fall," said Turner, who has been a mail carrier since 2014. Firefighters rescued the girl's father and several others trapped on the other side of the building. "They were safe and that was all that mattered."

Each year, hundreds of mail carriers across the country like Turner go out of their way to help someone in need, according to the National Association of Letter Carriers, which is based in Washington, D.C.

But letter carriers in Rochester lead the nation in he-



Chris Turner, a U.S. Postal Service worker, rescued a girl from a burning apartment building in Spencerport after finishing his postal route. PROVIDED

to the association.

"Letter carriers do this because they are about the community they live and work in," said Geneva Kubal, a former letter carrier of 20 years who now coordinates the hero program for the National Association of Letter

See CARRIERS, Page 5A

roic acts while on the job.

In the past three-and-a-half years, more than two dozen local letter carriers have performed heroic acts while on the job in the Rochester region, according to the group.

With between 300 and 400 such incidents occurring nationwide each year, and more than 1,100 incidents since 2014, Rochester carriers have gone above and beyond more than two dozen times the national average, according

New York leads U.S. in closing gender pay gap

Joseph Spector Albany Bureau
USA TODAY NETWORK

ALBANY - Steps taken in New York to close the gender pay gap appear to be paying off — literally.

New York had the smallest pay gap between men and women in the nation, a new report found.

Women working full time in New York earned 89 cents on the dollar compared to men, a pay gap of 11 cents, placing them first out of all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The report from the American Association of University Women, a Washington, D.C., group that promotes gender equality, comes in advance of Equal Pay Day on Tuesday that aims to fight the gender pay gap.

The group wants to end the pay gap by 2030.

"Women in New York — and all over the country — are sick of unequal pay," said Kim Churches, the group's CEO, in

See GAP, Page 5A

USA TODAY



President Donald Trump, joined by miners and lawmakers from coal-producing states, shows off his signature reversing environmental regulations. CAROLYN KASTER/AP

Coal not in a comeback

To many in the coal industry, Donald Trump's election to the presidency was a reason to celebrate, and they say miners are optimistic for the first time in a long time.

But the numbers don't seem to jibe with that buoyant feeling.

A surge of 2,000 new jobs in the industry shortly after Trump took over the White House leveled off soon afterward to just 900.

Page 1B