

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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\$4.00 238 YEARS OF SERVICE WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 2025 VOL. 98, NO. 335, 7/2/25 FINAL

TRUMP'S BIG BILL



Al Drago/Getty Images
Vice President JD Vance arrives Tuesday during a vote-a-rama at the U.S. Capitol. With three Republicans joining all Democrats in voting against the bill, Mr. Vance cast the tiebreaking vote to pass President Donald Trump's tax and spending cuts bill.

CITY

URA lays off 8% of its staff

Cites 'city-level funding reductions' in decision

By Hallie Lauer
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Citing "city-level funding reductions," the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh laid off seven employees Monday.

The seven employees let go account for 8% of the URA's workforce. It was not immediately clear which positions were eliminated.

"With city-level funding reductions impacting our programs, services and staffing, we've had to adapt, eliminate business lines, and focus on our core services and mission," URA Executive Director Susheela Nemani-Stanger wrote in an email sent to URA employees and shared with the Post-Gazette. "Looking into 2026, we had to make difficult and inevitable decisions to right-size the agency."

The URA is a city-affiliated organization that offers support to business and economic districts such as through loans and grants as well as funding programs to help first time homebuyers. The authority also helps revitalize long abandoned properties in the city.

The email went on to say that the URA decided to move forward with this decision in June, rather than December so that the organization could "offer meaningful support to the colleagues whose positions were impacted."

"By acting now," the email said, "we can provide valuable, transitional resources and other support services to help impacted staff navigate their next steps and move forward with support."

Ms. Nemani-Stanger wrote in the email that they "do not anticipate any further reduction" to staffing and that supervisors and the URA's human resources department are available to discuss any concerns remaining staff have.

"We plan to continue to work as a team to meet the needs of our clients and support inclusive growth and development in our city," the email said.

The layoffs come as the agency has been preparing to operate in an environment where it will no longer be able to rely on the federal COVID-19 relief funds that the city was awarded in 2021, which helped fund several URA projects, including some affordable housing projects, such as the

SEE **URA**, PAGE A-2

NARROW VICTORY

Senate passes tax package as Vance breaks 50-50 tie

By Lisa Mascaro,
Mary Clare Jalonick
and Matt Brown
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans hauled President Donald Trump's big tax breaks and spending cuts bill to passage Tuesday by the narrowest of margins, pushing past opposition from Democrats and their own GOP ranks after a turbulent overnight session.

The outcome capped an unusually tense weekend of work at the Capitol, the president's signature legislative priority teetering on the edge of approval or collapse. In the end that tally was 50-50, with Vice President JD Vance casting the tie-breaking vote.

Three Republican senators — Thom Tillis of North Carolina, Susan Collins of Maine and Rand Paul of Kentucky — joined all Democrats in voting against it.

"In the end we got the job done," Senate Majority Leader John Thune of South Dakota said afterward.

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Fetterman, McCormick divided on legislation

By Benjamin Kail
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

WASHINGTON — U.S. Sens. John Fetterman and Dave McCormick have formed a strong personal and working relationship this year, but their bipartisanship didn't extend to President Donald Trump's tax and spending plan, which passed along party lines at noon Tuesday.

The vote was 51-50, with Republicans needing Vice President JD Vance to cast the

tiebreaker. The bill now goes to the House, where a previous version was enthusiastically backed by Western Pennsylvania Republicans and denounced by Democrats.

Democrats warn the so-called "big beautiful bill" would undermine Medicaid and food assistance and gut clean energy jobs nationwide, while Trump and allies who labored to keep at least 50 GOP senators on board said

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Children's was sent gender care mandate

Letter warned select hospitals about federal directive

INSIDE

University of Pennsylvania settles with feds on transgender athletes case. **A-3**

By Hanna Webster
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Pennsylvania- and Ohio-based hospitals, including UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, appear to be among those on a list of hospitals that received

a warning letter from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services last month.

That letter urged nine total children's hospitals across the country to comply with Trump administration directives on gender care within 30 days — or risk

losing Medicaid funding. That 30 days was up on Saturday, June 28.

Funding from programs such as Medicaid can be critical sources of revenue for many hospitals, as the institutions care for patients from all income levels with varying types of insurance coverage.

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**JIMMY SWAGGART
DIES AT 90**

Pentecostal televangelist's career was felled by a sex scandal.
Obituary, A-8



PLANNING COMMISSION

Former boiler plant's conversion OK'd

Project to yield 97 Downtown housing units

By Madaleine Rubin
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

A former boiler plant in Downtown will join a growing list of historic properties preparing for major transformations.

The Pittsburgh Planning Commission on Tuesday unanimously approved plans to convert the old Phipps Power Plant at 120 Cecil Place into a new residential tower, with the majority of units designated affordable.

Developers will maintain an existing smokestack atop the structure that once generated steam heat and energy for other Downtown properties. But new stainless steel tiles will adorn the facade, while inside the building, 97 apartments will add to the city's affordable housing stock — the latest in a string of conversion projects in Downtown.

"[We're] trying to have the memory of the old, but making it expressly new," said Perfido Weiskopf Wagstaff + Goettel's Senior Associ-

ate Jennifer Szczesniak.

Also on Tuesday, the commission backed the demolition of a three-story structure in Uptown, heard updates on the Heinz History Center's planned expansion and approved the historic status of iconic Pittsburgh landmarks.

The approval of the boiler plant's conversion came after the commission initially delayed a vote on the project last month after members raised questions about the building's structure and design.

The project was referred to the

SEE **DOWNTOWN**, PAGE A-2



Sebastian Foltz/Post-Gazette

CLEARING UP A groundskeeper shields himself from the rain as he clears a drain near the Park View Apartments at Allegheny Center on the North Side on Tuesday. Wednesday will be mostly sunny, but a spotty shower could arrive on Thursday. **Weather, B-6**



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Sun and clouds.
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tonight's low, 64.
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