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FINAL

STATE BUDGET

Trump bill impacting talks

Uncertainty over federal funding puts added pressure on intense negotiations

By Benjamin Kail and Ford Turner
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Two days after Pennsylvania missed a constitutionally mandated June 30 state budget deadline for the fourth year in a row,

contentious debate over a major federal tax and policy bill — which could put states on the hook for substantial health care and food-assistance costs — returned to the U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday.

Multiple state lawmakers have

said Congress' wrestling match over Republicans' controversial "big beautiful" reconciliation bill is influencing the pace of talks in Harrisburg. The package has no Democratic support and needed Vice President JD Vance to cast a tiebreaking vote in the U.S. Senate on Tuesday.

As Gov. Josh Shapiro and state lawmakers hammer out a deal amid debate over how to address a \$3 billion operational deficit, an effort to tax skill games and a divide over transit system funding, they are also grappling along with other states across the country with increased uncertainty when it comes to billions of federal dollars.

Pennsylvania remains one of six states that have yet to enact a budget for the new fiscal year, according to the National Association of State Budget Officers.

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TRUMP'S BIG BILL

GOP TARGETS HOUSE HOLDOUTS

Late-night session held as Friday deadline looms

By Kevin Freking, Lisa Mascaro and Joey Cappelletti
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Republicans were training past midnight Thursday to advance President Donald Trump's tax and spending cuts package despite GOP leaders having spent the afternoon and evening working furiously to convince skeptical holdouts to send it to his desk by the Fourth of July deadline.

The roll call vote that started late Wednesday was being held open for more than an hour as several Republicans refused to give their votes. With few to spare from their slim majority, the outcome was in jeopardy. House Speaker Mike Johnson had recalled lawmakers to Washington, eager to seize on the momentum of the bill's passage the day before in the Senate and vowed to press ahead.

"Everybody wants to get to yes," Mr. Johnson said during an interview on Fox News as the voting was underway.

But as voting stalled Trump lashed out in a midnight post: "What are the

SEE **BILL**, PAGE A-5



RIDING HIGH INTO THE 4TH

Above, fairgoers ride the swings at the Big Butler Fair on Wednesday. The fair, which lasts for nine days, runs through July 5.

At right, Mavree Anderson, 4, of New Brighton, goes down the slide with her father Brian Anderson and sister Jerzii Anderson, 6.



Sebastian Foltz/Post-Gazette photos

SEAN 'DIDDY' COMBS SEX TRAFFICKING TRIAL

No bail after split verdict

Hip-hop mogul to stay in jail until sentencing

By Michael R. Sisak and Larry Neumeister
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Sean "Diddy" Combs dropped to his knees and prayed in the courtroom after he was acquitted Wednesday of sex trafficking and racketeering charges that could have put one of hip-hop's celebrated figures behind bars for life. The rapper was convicted of lesser prostitution-related offenses and denied bond by the judge as he awaits sentencing.

The mixed result capped a sordid legal odyssey that shattered Combs' affable "Puff Daddy" image and derailed his career as a Grammy-winning artist and music executive, fashion entrepreneur, brand ambassador and reality TV star.

Combs stands convicted of two counts of a crime — transportation to engage in prostitution — that carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison. But jurors

SEE **DIDDY**, PAGE A-3

Changes likely for city's Stop the Violence fund

Council OKs proposal to address concerns

By Hallie Lauer and Laura Esposito
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

It was standing room only in Pittsburgh City Council chambers Wednesday as members and city officials convened to give preliminary approval to structural reforms to the city's Stop the Violence Trust Fund to address transparency and accountability concerns.

The changes — which includes adding a steering committee responsible for monitoring account

spending and the outcomes of the programs and an equitable distribution of funds, among other provisions — were proposed by Councilmen Dan Lavelle and Khari Mosely.

The proposed changes also look to move the program away from grants to actually contracting with the community groups who are essentially "providing a service for

us," according to Felicity Williams, the mayor's deputy chief of staff. If approved, recipients will have to go through the standard procurement process to receive the funding, rather than a grant application.

The legislation came immediately after revelations that the

SEE **STOP**, PAGE A-2



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Weather
Scattered thunderstorms.
Daytime high, 85;
tonight's low, 61.
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