

# Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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\$4.00 238 YEARS OF SERVICE SATURDAY, JULY 5, 2025 VOL. 98, NO. 338, 7/5/25 FINAL

## TRUMP SIGNS SPENDING CUTS BILL

Sweeping policy legislation enacted at July 4th picnic

By Michelle L. Price and Nicholas Riccardi  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump signed his package of tax breaks and spending cuts into law Friday after his cajoling produced almost unanimous Republican support in Congress for the domestic priority that could cement his second-term legacy.

Flanked by Republican legislators and members of his Cabinet, Trump signed the multitrillion-dollar legis-

lation outside the White House, and then banged down the gavel that House Speaker Mike Johnson gifted him that was used during the bill's final passage Thursday.

Against odds that at times seemed improbable, Trump achieved his goal of celebrating a historic — and divisive — legislative victory in time for the nation's birthday. Fighter jets and stealth bombers streaked through the sky over the annual White House Fourth of July picnic.

"America's winning, winning,

winning like never before," Trump said, noting last month's bombing campaign against Iran's nuclear program, which he said the flyover was meant to honor. "Promises made, promises kept, and we've kept them."

The White House was hung with red, white and blue bunting for the regular Fourth of July festivities. The United States Marine Band played patriotic marches — and, in a typical Trumpian touch, tunes by

SEE BILL, PAGE A-3



Evan Vucci/Associated Press

President Donald Trump, surrounded by members of Congress, signs his signature bill of tax breaks and spending cuts Friday at the White House.



Giuseppe LoPiccolo/Post-Gazette

Fireworks burst over Point State Park and the Ohio River on Friday as the display caps Fourth of July festivities in Pittsburgh.

### FOURTH OF JULY

## A TRADITION

Independence Day celebrations unite residents throughout Western Pennsylvania

**INSIDE**

- People celebrate, protest and travel across the U.S. **A-10**
- Joey Chestnut reclaims title in Nathan's Famous hot dog eating contest. **A-10**

By Samuel Long  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Kristine Purcell-Sacco has been coming to Brentwood's July 4 celebration since she was a kid in the early 1960s.

It reminds the Bethel Park native of her childhood, when her father, Tom Purcell, made it a

family tradition to attend. It was the same for Tom, born in 1933, who had loved going to the parade because it reminded him of his younger years.

Though her father died more than two years ago, Mrs. Purcell-Sacco continues to follow that tradition. Her four children, and now

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Justin Guido/Post-Gazette

Emily King, left, Ashley King and Natalie Rush, all students at Canon-McMillan High School, cheer for their friends in the band during the Canonsburg Fourth of July Parade.

## Fluoride not long for Pa. faucets?

Bills would ban mineral in public water systems

By Anya Sostek  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Fluoride is under fire nationally, driven in part by concerns from Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

In March, Utah became the first state to ban community water fluoridation, followed by a prohibition in Florida that took effect Tuesday.

Now, legislators have taken up the cause in Pennsylvania.

A pair of bills introduced last month in the Pennsylvania Legislature would ban added fluoride from public water systems statewide.

Sen. Dawn Keefer, R-York, introduced the Fluoride Choice Act in the Senate on June 19 amid "growing concerns about the safety and necessity of water fluoridation," she said in a news release. Rep. Jason Ortity, R-Canonsburg, introduced the House version of the bill six days later.

The bills have alarmed dental health advocates, who say that removing fluoride from public water systems would lead to more cavities, especially in vulnerable populations.

Fluoride, a naturally occurring mineral, was first added to public drinking water in the U.S. in 1945. Used in the right quantities, it helps prevent tooth decay by hardening the enamel around a tooth, reducing cavities by about 25% in children and adults.

The majority of the country drinks fluoridated water, but Pennsylvania — with 1,800 different water systems — is split, with fluoride added to about 55% of the state's community water systems. Most, though not all, of Allegheny County drinks fluoridated water, while most of Westmoreland County does not.

The bills in the Pennsylvania Legislature would prohibit any public water systems in Pennsylvania from adding fluoride.

SEE FLUORIDE, PAGE A-5

A raging Guadalupe River leaves fallen trees and debris in its wake, in Kerrville, Texas, on Friday.



Eric Gay/Associated Press

## At least 24 dead in Texas floods

More than 20 children missing from a girls summer camp

By Hannah Fingerhut and Jim Vertuno  
Associated Press

KERRVILLE, Texas — Months worth of heavy rain fell in a matter of hours on Texas Hill Country, leaving 24 people dead and many more unaccounted for Friday, including more than 20 girls attending a summer camp, as search teams conducted

boat and helicopter rescues in fast-moving floodwaters.

Desperate pleas peppered social media as loved ones sought any information about people caught in the flood zone. At least 10 inches of rain poured down overnight in central Kerr County, causing flash flooding of the Guadalupe River.

At a news conference late Friday, Kerr County Sheriff Larry Lei-

tha said 24 people had been killed. Authorities said 237 people had been rescued so far, including 167 by helicopter.

The situation was still developing and officials said the death toll could change, with rescue operations ongoing for an unspecified total number of missing.

SEE TEXAS, PAGE A-2



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**Weather**  
Mostly sunny; hot and more humid. Daytime high, 90; tonight's low, 69.  
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