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FINAL

## STATE BUDGET IMPASSE

# County to freeze spending

### Also puts pause on hiring, citing stalled Pa. fiscal plan, threat of federal shutdown

By Jacob Geanous  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Allegheny County is instituting a hiring and spending freeze due to the ongoing state budget impasse.

On Tuesday, Allegheny County

Manager John Fournier informed department directors of the pause, county spokeswoman Abigail Garner said Wednesday.

"The Allegheny County budget has been carefully managed this year and has strong liquidity, but due to the delay in passing a state

budget and the threat of a federal shutdown, we are asking staff to hold off on hiring open, non-critical positions and pause discretionary spending where possible," Ms. Garner said in a statement. "Those pauses in spending are effective next week. We hope the state can come to a resolution and pass the budget as soon as possible."

There are currently 145 county job openings, according to the

county career page.

The announcement comes after an over two-month-long state budget impasse.

Wednesday was the 79th day of the new fiscal year without a state budget in place. The lack of a spending plan means that since July 1, billions of dollars typically distributed by the state for education, human services and other

SEE **BUDGET**, PAGE A-3

# FED CUTS INTEREST RATE

### Signals more to come after quarter-point drop

By Christopher Rugaber  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve cut its key interest rate by a quarter-point Wednesday and projected it would do so twice more this year as concern grows at the central bank about the health of the nation's labor market.

The move is the Fed's first cut since December and lowered its short-term rate to about 4.1%, down from 4.3%. Fed officials, led by Chair Jerome Powell, had kept their rate unchanged this year as they evaluated the impact of tariffs, tighter immigration enforcement, and other Trump administration policies on inflation and the economy.

Yet the central bank's focus has shifted quickly from inflation, which remains modestly above its 2% target, to jobs, as hiring has nearly ground to a halt in recent months and the unemployment rate has ticked higher. Lower interest rates could reduce borrowing costs for mortgages, car loans, and business loans, and boost growth and hiring.

"It's really the risks that we're seeing to the labor market that were the focus of today's decision," Mr. Powell said at a news

SEE **FED**, PAGE A-5

## INSIDE

What the Fed rate cut will mean for your finances.  
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## ON THE BRIGHT SIDE



Chase Stelzer, of Carnegie, carries his daughter Eleanor, 2, as they walk through colorful nylon strands in the Garden of the Five Senses at Pittsburgh Botanic Garden in Oakdale on Wednesday. The installation, titled "Momentum," by Patrick Shearn, runs through the fall.

Lucy Schaly/Post-Gazette

# McCormick wrestled to save U.S. Steel deal

### Senator says his honest talk swayed Trump

By Evan Robinson-Johnson  
For the Post-Gazette

WASHINGTON — A frank conversation with President Donald Trump at a wrestling competition in Pennsylvania helped reverse the fate of U.S. Steel, a linchpin of America's return to manufacturing strength, Sen. Dave McCormick said Wednesday at an event in the nation's capital.

The proposed sale to Japan's Nippon Steel was on the rocks, and Trump was as opposed as former President Joe Biden, who blocked the deal in January. Mr. McCormick, a freshman senator, said he took it upon himself to change Trump's

mind. He had heard from steelworkers who felt the deal provided job security, and had overcome his own reservations about foreign ownership.

"This is for the working families that elected you," Mr. McCormick said he told the president as they sat next to each other during the NCAA wrestling championships in Philadelphia in March. Trump followed up with an invite to the Oval Office.

"I think that's what put him over the edge, and it was a much better deal for the United States and for U.S. Steel by the time the dust settled," Mr. McCormick said

SEE **NIPPON**, PAGE A-2



Sen. Dave McCormick, R-Pa., said at the Hudson Institute in Washington on Wednesday that the U.S. Steel purchase by Japan's Nippon Steel opened up avenues for future investment in the state.

Evan Robinson-Johnson/For the Post-Gazette

## YORK COUNTY

# 3 officers dead after shooting

### Two others are injured; gunman killed by police

Post-Gazette news services

NORTH CODORUS, Pa. — Three police officers were fatally shot and two wounded Wednesday in southern Pennsylvania, and the shooter was killed by police, authorities said.

The officers were at the scene to follow up on a domestic situation that began the previous day.

"This is an absolutely tragic and devastating day," Gov. Josh Shapiro said. "We grieve the loss of life of three precious souls who served this county, who served this commonwealth, who served this country."

It was one of the deadliest days for Pennsylvania police this century. In 2009, three Pittsburgh officers responding to a domestic disturbance were ambushed and shot to death by a man in a bulletproof vest.

"The grief will be unbearable but we will bear it," said Pennsylvania State police Commissioner Christopher Paris, who pledged a full, fair investigation.

SEE **SHOOTING**, PAGE A-4



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**Weather**  
Very warm with plenty of sunshine. Daytime high, 85; tonight's low, 56.  
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