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IMMIGRATION

ICE arrests 14 in Marshall

Agents detain workers at Mexican restaurant

By Hal B. Klein and Jacob Geanous
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Following a tip on his nonprofit's 24-hour Immigration and Customs Enforcement hotline, Jaime Martinez arrived in Marshall on Wednesday morning to find armed agents and unmarked vehicles blocking off the parking lot of a Mexican restaurant there. Employees of Tepache Mexican Kitchen and Bar were standing outside crying, said Mr. Martinez, community defense organizer for Beechview-based advocacy group Casa San Jose, as officers detained people inside. "I could see through the window of the front door, people with their hands clasped in prayer, some with their hands bound," Mr. Martinez said. "I saw this young, probably 18-

or 19-year-old, baby-faced kid come out sobbing, puffy eyes, being escorted into a van, and he waved at us. We were able to tell that we see him and we see his dignity." Mr. Martinez took out a megaphone and started reciting prayers in both Spanish and English. About three hours after they arrived at the restaurant, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers were gone, along with 14 people they detained. The location of those picked up by the ICE agents is unknown. As similar incidents play out across the country, the operation north of Pittsburgh highlights a now-familiar script: a surprise raid, the lack of a paper trail, community confusion.

SEE **TEPACHE**, PAGE A-2



Anya Sostek/Post-Gazette
A sign hangs on the door of Tepache Mexican Kitchen and Bar in O'Hara Township on Thursday. Some of the restaurant's employees were arrested during an ICE operation at the Marshall location on Wednesday.

MIDEAST WAR

DAMAGE DONE BY STRIKES DEBATED

Iran's nuclear capability divides senators

By Joey Cappelletti and Mary Clare Jalonick
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senators emerged from a classified briefing Thursday with sharply diverging assessments of President Donald Trump's bombing of three Iranian nuclear sites, with Republicans calling the mission a clear success and Democrats expressing deep skepticism.

CIA Director John Ratcliffe, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, came to Capitol Hill to give the classified briefings, originally scheduled for Tuesday. Many Republicans left satisfied, though their assessments of how much Iran's nuclear program was set back by the bombing varied. Sen. Tom Cotton said a "major blow" and "catastrophic damage" had been dealt to Iran's facilities.

"Their operational capability was

SEE **IRAN**, PAGE A-14

INSIDE

Israeli strike kills 18 Palestinians in central Gaza; turmoil mounts over aid. **A-14**

PITTSBURGH HOUSING

Program aims to sell idle homes

Initiative could help shrink city's backlog

By Hallie Lauer
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

With thousands of abandoned properties under the city's ownership, Pittsburgh is eyeing a new program that will bring life back into the structures and add much needed tax revenue to bolster its coffers. The program's trial run, which won't officially start until September, includes five homes in the Mount Washington, Sheraden, Windgap and West End neighborhoods. Some have been empty for decades, but each has provoked the ire of the neighbors with overgrown weeds, crumbling fences and an overall look of abandonment. The plan is for the city to list those buildings as is, for interested buyers to fix up. The city sees it as a threefold win. In addition to the new tax revenue, it will reduce the number of dilapidated city-owned properties and remove barriers for first-time homebuyers.

SEE **HOUSING**, PAGE A-2



Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Cars exit the Fort Duquesne Bridge on Thursday over Pittsburgh's North Shore. According to a report released Thursday by the nonprofit transportation research group TRIP, 2,036 miles of Pennsylvania state and local roads — about 38% of the region's network — are in poor condition. The report also noted that 641 bridges, or 15% of the total, are similarly rated as poor.

DIRE CONDITIONS

Report: 38% of state's roads, 15% of bridges in region rated 'poor'

By Steve Bohnel
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette


A report released Thursday by a national nonprofit that researches roadway infrastructure shows that thousands of miles of road and hundreds of bridges in the greater Pittsburgh region are in dire need of repair or replacement. That report, published by National Transportation Research Nonprofit, or TRIP, used PennDOT and NHSTA data to analyze the condition of roads and bridges across Pennsylv-

nia. It used Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Lawrence, Washington and Westmoreland as counties within the Pittsburgh region. According to TRIP's findings, 2,036 road miles of state and local roads, or 38% of the roads, were in "poor" condition in the Pittsburgh region. And 641 state or local bridges, or 15%, were poor in the region. A poor score indicates that the road or bridge is in serious need of repair or replacement. Pittsburgh specifically has had its issues with bridges in recent

years, from the collapse of the Fern Hollow bridge and yearslong backlog in needed repairs, which has forced the closure of some structures. In early 2023, city officials closed the Charles Anderson Bridge in Oakland. In recent years, inspectors found a slew of issues at multiple city bridges — concrete falling at the Larimer Bridge, and heavy rusting, exposed rebar and missing or leaking seals at the Swindell Bridge. And when the 28th Street Bridge was repaired in 2019, debris was still falling from the

span a year later. In May, the Herron Avenue Bridge was suddenly closed after structural experts found issues. Rocky Moretti, TRIP's director of policy and research, said the bipartisan infrastructure law has helped various state and local governments pay for much needed projects, including in Pennsylvania. But one issue that is arising is the increased cost of them, in a post-COVID world. "The reality is we've seen that inflation has actually

SEE **ROADS**, PAGE A-3




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Weather
Humid with a shower and t'storm. Daytime high, 85; tonight's low, 72.
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