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Donna Ancypa Holmes, front left, and Alisa Grishman, center, raise their hands during a chant with other rallygoers Sunday at a trans rights rally on Grant Street outside of UPMC's offices in the U.S. Steel Building, Downtown.

'WE DESERVE BETTER'

Hundreds gather to protest UPMC stoppage of care for trans teens

By Hallie Lauer
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Less than 24 hours before Pittsburgh's largest health care provider was poised to stop providing gender-affirming care to trans youth, hundreds of people gathered outside UPMC headquarters Sunday afternoon to protest the decision.

UPMC recently made it clear to its patients that starting on June 30 it would no longer be providing gender care for patients under 19 years old, citing the potential for prosecution following a Supreme Court ruling earlier this month.

The health care giant had stopped some gender-affirming

care in March, but had grandfathered in young patients with existing prescriptions. However, it appears all care will be stopped on Monday.

Four UPMC employees spoke at the protest Sunday afternoon, reading from a letter signed by 387 other UPMC workers who say they are disappointed and outraged by the health care provider's decision to stop care.

Katherine Anderson, who works at a youth suicide prevention clinic operated by UPMC, co-authored the letter.

She said that her staff was told to prepare "for an influx of suicidal trans teens" after June 30.

SEE PROTEST, PAGE A-2



Dena Stanley, executive director of TransYOUning, speaks at the rally. The organization has created a fund account to help provide money for those families to seek health care elsewhere.

PENN STATE CAMPUS CLOSURES

Wildlife and forestry programs will live on

By Maddie Aiken
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Wildlife and forestry programs at Penn State DuBois and Mont Alto will continue after these campuses' eventually close, though local leaders and alumni worry that program relocation could harm the campuses' communities.

The university is evaluating strategies to maintain Mont Alto's 122-year old forestry program and

DuBois's 41-year old wildlife program, Penn State spokesman Andrew Krebs confirmed to the Post-Gazette.

Both campuses — and five others, including New Kensington, Fayette and Shenango in Western Pennsylvania — are slated to shutter after the spring 2027 semester. Closure comes after varying levels of enrollment declines and financial strains at the branch campuses.

Local leaders and alumni who spoke with the Post-Gazette said both programs are vital to the state's agricultural industries and economy.

But they also expressed concerns that, if and when the university relocates the programs, this could harm the DuBois and Mont Alto regions, as well as the programs that have been structured around these communities.

"I understand moving [the

wildlife program], but I feel like you're going to lose a little bit of the meat and potatoes of the program," said Emma Walters, a Penn State DuBois alumna who now works with the Keystone Elk Country Alliance in Elk County.

"It was quite perfect having it placed up here in DuBois."

Both programs offer two-year degrees and train professionals in

SEE PROGRAMS, PAGE A-2

No place like home

Young predatory birds hone hunting skills, but still return to the nest to feed

By Mary Ann Thomas
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The formerly endangered peregrine falcon produced a bumper crop of at least 23 juveniles this year in the Pittsburgh region.

That's a lot of young birds that will add to an already busy landscape with more peregrine nests than volunteer monitors can confirm.

Now is when raptor juveniles take

to the Pittsburgh skies to learn to fly and hunt, while continually begging their parents for food.

Sound familiar? They stop back home after they've left the nest, hoping to find a meal.

With high enrollments in "falcon school" this year, the young peregrines are learning to take dangling prey from their parents' talons or

SEE BIRDS, PAGE A-3



A juvenile peregrine falcon known as Yellow returned to its home Monday at the Cathedral of Learning on the University of Pittsburgh campus in Oakland.

TRUMP BUDGET BILL

DEMS ATTEMPT TO STALL PASSAGE

Senate begins debate as process grinds on

By Lisa Mascaro, Kevin Freking and Joey Cappelletti
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Debate got underway in the Senate for an all-night session Sunday, with Republicans wrestling President Donald Trump's big bill of tax breaks and spending cuts over mounting Democratic opposition — and even some brake-pumping over the budget slashing by the president himself.

The outcome from the weekend of work in the Senate remains uncertain and highly volatile, and overnight voting has been pushed off until Monday. GOP leaders are rushing to meet Trump's Fourth of July deadline to pass the package, but they barely secured enough support to muscle it past a procedural hurdle in a tense scene the day before. A handful of Republican holdouts revolted, and it took phone calls from Trump and a visit from Vice President JD Vance to keep it on track.

A new analysis from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office found that 11.8 million more Americans would become uninsured by 2034 if the bill became law. It also said the package would increase the deficit by nearly \$3.3 trillion over the decade.

But other Senate Republicans, along with conservatives in the House, are pushing for steeper cuts, particularly to health care, drawing their own unexpected warning from Trump.

"Don't go too crazy!" the president posted on social media. "REMEMBER, you still have to get reelected."

All told, the Senate bill includes some \$4 trillion in tax cuts, making permanent Trump's 2017 rates, which would expire at the end of the year if Congress fails to act, while adding the new ones he campaigned on, including no taxes on tips.

SEE BILL, PAGE A-6

MIDEAST WAR

Trump calls for ceasefire in Gaza

Signs of progress emerge

By Tia Goldenberg, Samy Magdy and Wafaa Shurafa
Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — President Donald Trump on Sunday urged progress in ceasefire talks in the 20-month war in Gaza between Israel and Hamas, though some weary Palestinians were skeptical about the chances. Israel issued a new mass evacuation order for parts of northern Gaza.

Ron Dermer, a top adviser to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, was set to travel to Washington this week for talks on a ceasefire, an Israeli official said, and plans were being made for Mr. Netanyahu to travel there in the coming weeks, a sign there may be movement on a deal.

SEE WAR, PAGE A-7

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Weather
Humid; afternoon storms.
Daytime high, 84;
tonight's low, 72.
Page B-6

Almanac.....A-2
Bridge.....B-4
Classified.....B-5
Comics.....B-3
Crosswords.....B-4

Editorials.....A-11
Horoscope.....B-4
Letters.....A-11
Local News.....A-4
Lottery.....A-6

Magazine.....B-1
Obituaries.....A-9
Scoreboard.....C-6
Sports.....C-1
Television.....B-2

6 08136 26301 8