

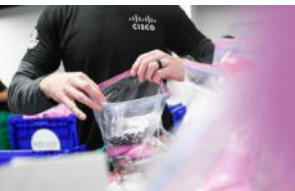
PANTHERS ROLL TO
5TH STRAIGHT WIN

PITT 35, STANFORD 20 • SPORTS, B-1



LOCAL AGENCIES LEND
AID TO QUAKE VICTIMS

LATEST FROM JAMAICA • LOCAL, C-1



SHOPPING
SAVINGS
INSIDE

College basketball preview
Can Pitt challenge for an ACC title? The PG presents its guide to the '25-'26 season. **Sports, B-1**

Sunday

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GOVERNMENT FUNDING IN FLUX



Giuseppe LoPiccolo/Post-Gazette

FOOD ASSISTANCE
Financial assistance that helps to feed 300,000 people in the Pittsburgh region, and 42 million nationally, was set to expire this weekend.



Lucy Schaly/Post-Gazette

AIRPORT STAFFING
Aviation officials in Pittsburgh and beyond are monitoring staffing shortages related to the shutdown that could lead to flight delays.



Rebecca Blackwell/Associated Press

HEALTH PREMIUMS
Enrollment for the Affordable Care Act marketplace opened Saturday, with premiums projected to rise significantly in the days ahead.



Sebastian Foltz/Post-Gazette

HEAD START FUNDING
Head Start programs in the region that provide thousands of families with free child care are bracing for funding to dry up.

SHUTDOWN SHAKEUP

November brings harsh reality for region's many recipients of federal aid

By Sam Janesch
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

WASHINGTON — One month in and barreling toward a new record, the federal government shutdown is about to cross a historic inflection point — one bound to have widespread impacts across Western Pennsylvania and the entire country. Financial assistance that helps feed 383,800 people in the Pittsburgh region and about 42 million other Americans was, for the first time, set to not go out on

INSIDE
How the federal government shutdown is impacting public health in the region and state. **Local, C-1**

schedule this weekend. The evaporation of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits wasn't the only ripple effect of a federal stalemate entering its second month with no end in sight. Federal employees — about

19,000 of whom work in the Pittsburgh metro area — were going without pay in large numbers, with the state seeing a spike in unemployment insurance claims. Head Start programs that provide thousands of families with free child care were bracing for funding to dry up. Airport leaders were monitoring staffing shortages that could lead to flight delays. Rising health insurance premiums in 2026 — the issue that initiated the shutdown

SEE **SHAKEUP**, PAGE A-12

Election 2025

DECISION TIME FOR VOTERS ARRIVES

As O'Connor closes in on mayoral win, retention vote grabs the attention

By Hallie Lauer
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

On Tuesday, Pittsburgh voters will head to the polls in what might seem like a quiet election after the intense 2024 presidential race. But it is one that will determine who leads a city facing a crossroads unlike any in recent decades.

Pennsylvania's second-largest city is grappling with shrinking revenue sources, an aging fleet and an affordable-housing crisis, even as it boasts of a \$600 million Downtown revitalization and will enter the national spotlight by hosting the 2026 NFL draft in April.

Democrat Corey O'Connor and Republican Tony Moreno are vying to convince voters that they can handle the challenges.

Besides the mayoral election, voters will also have a say in City Council races, including who will replace longtime Councilwoman Theresa Kail-Smith — her chief of staff, Kim



O'Connor



Moreno

SEE **MAYOR**, PAGE A-7

Council race an indicator of voter shift?

By Stephana Ocneanu
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

On the steep Elktion Street in Elliott, weeds rise through sidewalk cracks and wrap around boarded-up windows of abandoned homes.

Annette Schwartzmiller said the sight is a constant reminder of years of neglect.

"We're forgotten. Elliott, Sheraden, Esplen — we're all forgotten," the 67-year-old Elliott resident said as she scanned the scene from her front porch.

Discontent is bubbling in parts of Pittsburgh's West End, where some residents say they feel overlooked by city government and that their concerns about blight and public safety have gone unanswered for years.

SEE **COUNCIL**, PAGE A-6

Uncertainty engulfs food aid program

SNAP distribution still facing delays; other key subsidies reach expiration

By Stephen Groves,
Ali Swenson and Susan Haigh
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The crises at the heart of the government shutdown fight in Washington were coming to a head Saturday as the federal food assistance program faced delays and mil-

lions of Americans were set to see a dramatic rise in their health insurance bills.

The impacts on basic needs — food and medical care — underscored how the impasse is hitting homes across the United States. Plans by the Trump administration to freeze payments to the Supplemental Nutrition Assis-

tance Program on Saturday were halted by federal judges, but the delay in payouts will still likely leave millions of people short on their grocery bills.

It all added to the strain on the country, with a month of missed paychecks for federal workers and growing air travel delays. The shutdown is already the second longest in history and entered its second month on Saturday.

"This is more than a crisis," said the Rev. John Udo-Onkon, who runs the Word of Life Chris-

tian Fellowship International food pantry in the Bronx, where hundreds more people than usual lined up in the New York City borough as early as 4 a.m. Saturday to collect groceries. "Right now, you can see the desperation, you can feel the frustration that the people are going through."

But back in Washington, there was little urgency to end the government funding impasse. Lawmakers are away from Capitol Hill

SEE **FOOD**, PAGE A-13

DID YOU NOTICE?
CLOCKS HAVE TURNED
BACK ONE HOUR

Weather

Daytime high, 60;
tonight's low, 40.
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