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City at odds over numbers

Gainey administration maintains budget is balanced; council, controller disagree

By Hallie Lauer
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

CITY COUNCIL

Discussions regarding Pittsburgh's 2026 budget have become all consuming on Grant Street, and Friday afternoon, members of Mayor Ed Gainey's administration doubled down on their belief that the financial document is solvent.

City Council members and the city controller have decried the budget as dishonest and not accurately representing the city's financial status. They believe that there is a \$20 million to \$30 million gap in the budget that must be filled.

Mr. Gainey and his staff — including Jake Pawlak, the director of the Office of Management and Budget, which creates the financial document — are adamant that there is no gap but conceded that it leaves little margin for error in the city's finances.

"It is not our position or belief that there is a structural gap in the proposed budget," Mr. Pawlak told reporters Friday. "We believe that the budget proposal we advanced to

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Giuseppe LoPiccolo/Post-Gazette

"It is not our position or belief that there is a structural gap in the proposed budget," said Jake Pawlak, director of the Office of Management and Budget.

EPSTEIN PHOTOS RELEASED BY DEMS

Trump, Clinton among those seen in images

By Stephen Groves
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Democrats released a selection of photos from the estate of Jeffrey Epstein on Friday, including some of Donald Trump, Bill Clinton and the former Prince Andrew.

The 19 photos released by Democratic lawmakers on the House Oversight Committee were a small part of more than 95,000 they received from the estate of Epstein, who died in a New York jail cell in 2019 while awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges.

The photos released Friday were separate from the case files that the Department of Justice is now under compulsion to release, but anticipation is growing as the Trump administration faces a deadline next week to produce the Epstein files that have been the source of conspiracy theories and speculation for years.

The photos were released without captions or context and included a black-and-white image of Trump alongside six women whose faces were blacked out.

Rep. Robert Garcia, the top Democrat on the House Oversight Committee, did not say

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STORM PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY



Sebastian Foltz/Post-Gazette

A public works vehicle scoops salt to load into a snowplow Friday at the Allegheny County Department of Public Works maintenance facility in South Park. Widespread snow is forecast to return to the region Saturday, prompting a winter storm warning. **Story in Local, Page A-4**

Steelers' Watt undergoes 'successful surgery'



Sebastian Foltz/Post-Gazette

Steelers linebacker T.J. Watt has been ruled out for Monday night's game against the Miami Dolphins.

Had partially collapsed lung, his brother says

By Brian Batko
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Steelers linebacker T.J. Watt had a "partially collapsed lung" following a dry needling treatment and underwent surgery to treat it, his brother J.J. posted on social media Friday.

Steelers coach Mike Tomlin ruled T.J. Watt out for Monday night's game against the Miami Dolphins, but J.J. Watt indicated that the Steelers' pass rusher was at least well enough to leave

the hospital.

"Yesterday TJ had successful surgery to stabilize and repair a partially collapsed lung suffered Wednesday after a dry needling treatment session at the facility," J.J. Watt wrote on social media. "Recovery timeline is still TBD, but all went well and he is being released from the hospital today."

Mr. Tomlin said on Thursday that T.J. Watt experienced discomfort at the team's practice facility, went to the hospi-

tal and remained there overnight for further medical evaluation.

On Friday, Mr. Tomlin declined to go into any detail about the procedure.

"It's day-to-day life in this business at this level," he said.

Teammates continued to keep T.J. Watt in their thoughts as they prepared for another practice without him Friday. Longest-tenured Steeler and defensive lineman Cam Heyward, who has been in Pittsburgh for T.J. Watt's entire career, confirmed he has been in

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Judge bars Abrego Garcia's rearrest

By Michael Kunzelman
Associated Press

BALTIMORE — A federal judge blocked U.S. immigration authorities on Friday from re-detaining Kilmar Abrego Garcia, saying she feared they might take him into custody again just hours after she had ordered his release from a detention center.

The order came as Mr. Abrego Garcia appeared at a scheduled appointment at an Immigration and Customs Enforcement field office roughly 14 hours after he walked out of immigration detention facility in Pennsylvania.

His lawyers had sent an urgent request to the judge, warning that ICE officials could immediately place him back into custody. Instead, Mr. Abrego Garcia exited the building after a short appointment, emerging to cheers from supporters who had gathered outside.

Speaking briefly to the crowd, he urged others to "stand tall" against what he



Abrego Garcia

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Breezy, then snow.
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tonight's low, 12.
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