



Alexandra Wimley/Post-Gazette photos
As traffic passes on the existing Commercial Street Bridge, construction workers work on the bridge replacement project on Monday.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

PennDOT to provide details about July's Parkway East closure



A car drives under the Commercial Street Bridge on Monday as construction work continues above. The Parkway East will close for 26 days between the Edgewood-Swissvale and Squirrel Hill exits beginning July 10.

By Ed Blazina
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

It has been talked about for nearly five years, but with the complete closure of the Parkway East just over eight weeks away, it's time to get serious.

The highway that carries about 100,000 vehicles a day will close for 26 days between the Edgewood-Swissvale and Squirrel Hill exits beginning July 10 for the \$95 million replacement of the Commercial Street Bridge. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation will hold a virtual meeting from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday to discuss the detours, announce the schedule for when blasting will take place to bring down part of the existing bridge and offer recommendations on how motorists who must travel can navigate through the construction area.

PennDOT is using a unique process to replace the bridge, which is located just beyond the out-bound end of the Squirrel Hill Tunnel. To avoid more than four years of closure or extreme lane limitations that would have been required for conventional bridge replacement, general contractor Fay S&B USA is building the new bridge beside the

SEE BRIDGE, PAGE A-5

STATE SUPREME COURT

JUSTICE WECHT LEAVES PARTY

Says Democrats are tolerating antisemitism

By Mike Wereschagin and Jacob Geanous
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice David Wecht said he has left the Democratic Party over what he said is a growing tolerance for antisemitism.

Wecht, a former top official in the state party, said in a statement Monday that "acquiescence to Jew-hatred is now disturbingly common among activists, leaders and even many elected officials in the Democratic Party."

"I can no longer abide this. So, I won't. I am no longer registered with any political party," wrote Wecht, the son of the late Cyril Wecht, a longtime Democratic leader in Allegheny County and former county medical examiner.

The sudden announcement comes amid a fierce debate among Democrats over U.S. support for Israel, which erupted into pro-Palestinian protests against the war in Gaza on campuses and in cities across the country.

In Maine, a Democratic U.S. Senate candidate's tattoo of a Nazi symbol led many to call on the party to reject him even as polls showed his lead over his opponent, Gov. Janet Mills, grew. The candidate, Graham Platner, has said he did not know the tattoo was a Nazi symbol when he got it as a young Marine and has since had it covered up.



Wecht

SEE WECHT, PAGE A-4

WAR IN THE MIDEAST

Trump: Ceasefire is on 'life support'

The Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — President Donald Trump on Monday said the Iran ceasefire is on "life support" after he rejected Tehran's latest proposal to end the war. Officials said the proposal included some concessions on Iran's disputed nuclear program, but Trump dismissed it as "garbage."

The stalled diplomacy and recent exchanges of fire could tip the Middle East back into open warfare and prolong the worldwide energy crisis sparked by the conflict, with Iran's chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz and America's blockade of Iranian ports still in place.

Asked at an unrelated White House event if the ceasefire was still in place, Trump said it's "unbelievably weak" and on "life support."

"I would call it the weakest right now after reading that piece of garbage they sent us," Trump added. "I didn't even finish reading it."

Trump is expected to use a trip this week to China to urge President Xi Jinping to pressure Iran. Beijing is the biggest buyer of Iran's sanctioned crude oil, giving it leverage.

But the U.S. and Iran remain far apart on a host of issues. Trump has demanded a

SEE IRAN, PAGE A-2

Hantavirus causing alert, but risk is low in W. Pa.

By Stephana Ocneanu
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The words "virus" and "outbreak" still trigger memories of COVID-19 for much of the world — lockdowns, remote work and learning, and daily case counts as the disease rapidly spread across the globe.

Now, as hantavirus infections and deaths linked to a cruise ship outbreak have gripped headlines, many may have thought: Could this become the next global health threat?

Health experts say the answer is likely no.

Here's everything you need to know about the hantavirus, from

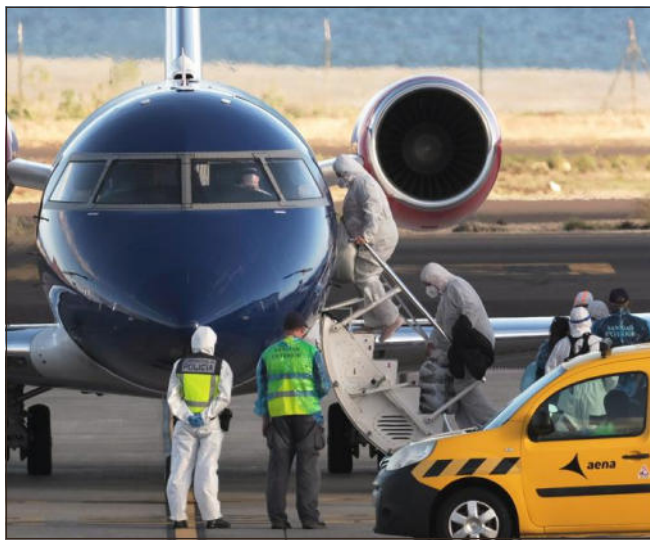
where it starts, to how it spreads and what that means for the average American — and Pittsburgh residents — after an outbreak on a Dutch cruise ship.

What is hantavirus?

Hantaviruses are a family of viruses that mainly spread through contact with rodents and their urine, droppings and saliva, according to the World Health Organization.

Humans can catch the virus by breathing infected particles from the rodent's secretions and waste, which can linger and settle on surfaces

SEE VIRUS, PAGE A-5



Arturo Rodríguez/Associated Press
Passengers board a plane bound for the Netherlands after disembarking Monday from the hantavirus-stricken cruise ship MV Hondius at the airport in Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain.

Supreme Court extends mifepristone access

By Mark Sherman, Geoff Mulvihill and Matthew Perrone
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court is leaving women's access to a widely used abortion pill untouched until at least Thursday, while the justices consider whether to allow restric-

tions on the drug, mifepristone, to take effect.

Justice Samuel Alito's order Monday allows women seeking abortions to continue obtaining the pill at pharmacies or through the mail, without an in-person visit to a doctor. It prevents restrictions on mifepristone imposed by a federal appeals court from taking effect for the time being.

The court is dealing with its latest abortion controversy four years after its conservative majority overturned Roe v. Wade and allowed more than a dozen states to effectively ban abortion outright.

The case before the court stems from a lawsuit Louisiana filed to roll back the Food and Drug Ad-

ministration's rules on how mifepristone can be prescribed. The state claims the policy undermines the ban there, and it questions the safety of the drug, which was first approved in 2000 and has repeatedly been deemed safe and effective by FDA scientists.

Lower courts concluded that

SEE PILLS, PAGE A-2



ONLINE TODAY:
Get real-time breaking news and much more at post-gazette.com

Weather
Increasing cloudiness.
Daytime high, 68;
tonight's low, 55.
Page B-10

Almanac A-2
Bridge B-9
Business A-8
Classified B-10
Comics B-8

Crosswords B-9
High Schools B-5
Horoscope B-9
Local News A-4
Lottery A-5

Obituaries A-6
Scoreboard B-6
Sports B-1
Sudoku B-9
Television B-7

