

# Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

\$4.00 239 YEARS OF SERVICE MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2026 VOL. 99, NO. 318, 6/15/26 FINAL

## U.S. AND IRAN REACH INITIAL AGREEMENT

**WAR IN THE MIDEAST: ANNOUNCEMENT BRINGS RELIEF TO REGION AS IT ANTICIPATES END OF WAR, REOPENING OF STRAIT**

By Munir Ahmed, Julia Frankel, Abby Sewell and Will Weissert  
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — The United States and Iran have reached an initial agreement to end their war and open the Strait of Hormuz, offering relief to the Gulf region and global economy more than three months since fighting began. Details of the deal were not im-

mediately released, and Iran signaled implementation would not start until the signing, which key mediator Pakistan said would occur Friday in Switzerland. It was expected to extend the tenuous ceasefire reached in April so that negotiators can try to resolve thorny issues such as Iran's nuclear program and related sanctions. There was no immediate word

from Israel, which together with the U.S. started the war on Feb. 28 but has expressed skepticism about the negotiations. But even as it became clear the parties still have days to influence what lies ahead, the announcements had an air of relief. "Congratulations to all!" U.S. President Donald Trump wrote on social media, adding: "I hereby fully authorize the toll free opening of the

Strait of Hormuz, and, simultaneously herewith, authorize the immediate removal of the United States Naval blockade," imposed in retaliation for Iran's grip on the crucial waterway. He soon hedged, however, saying the strait wouldn't open until Friday's signing. The U.S. previously said it would ease its blockade of Iranian ports as the strait reopens, and would agree to relax sanctions to allow Iran to sell more of its oil and strengthen its battered economy. Iran's deputy foreign minister, Kazem Gharibabadi, confirmed the

agreement on state television but said Iran would not start implementing it until it was signed on Friday. He said the deal followed talks with Qatar, another mediator. Qatari mediators later left Tehran following 17 hours of negotiations, said an official briefed on the developments who spoke on condition of anonymity due to sensitivity of the talks. Separate preparatory meetings with each side will take place in Doha this week, the official said.

SEE IRAN, PAGE A-3



Giuseppe LoPiccolo/Post-Gazette

Festivalgoers peruse the artist booths along Fort Duquesne Boulevard during the final day of the Three Rivers Arts Festival on Sunday. This year's edition marked the first based at the Cultural Trust's new Arts Landing, Downtown.

## SUCCESSFUL LANDING

Early reviews praise new location of arts festival

By Ed Blazina  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Bill Collins has been bringing his Off the Deep End artwork to the Dollar Bank Three Rivers Arts Festival for more than 10 years, so he has seen the various locations, beginning with Downtown's Point State Park. He said Sunday that he and his wife, Mary-Anne, weren't sure what to expect when they heard this year's festival was moving for the fourth time in

recent years to the new Arts Landing space in the Cultural District. They sell polymer clay figures of fish and other sea creatures that glow in the dark. "[Point State Park] was great for what it was. I think I was drawn to it by my heart," Collins said of Point State Park, where at its peak the festival lasted 17 days. But Collins and his wife say they are "thrilled" with the new site, where the art vendors frame two sides of the music

stage with the trails and play areas in the background to gather diverse groups in one place. "We're very pleased with the permanence of the layout here," Collins said. "I will feel the same about this as the park. It won't be, 'Where will we be next year?'" "There's something for everyone here," his wife added. Official numbers won't be in for a few days, but if crowds and comments from vendors are any indication, the new perma-

nent home for the festival is a hit. The festival finished its 67th year Sunday, this time covering two weekends, Friday to Sunday the first weekend and Thursday to Sunday the second. The festival has been a vagabond since it was moved out of Point State Park in 2022, using a variety of street locations in Downtown before moving to the Strip District for a long weekend

SEE TRAF, PAGE A-5

## Trump marks his 80th birthday

Celebrates with Iran deal and UFC matches

By Will Weissert  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump marked turning 80 on Sunday by hailing an initial agreement to end the war in Iran before a birthday celebration that once would have seemed unfathomable: a cage-fighting show on the storied South Lawn of the White House. He had been touting the emerging deal for weeks, and last-minute strikes in the conflict had threatened to overshadow the ostentatious UFC mixed martial arts extravaganza — where combatants sealed inside a wire-mesh octagon try to punch, kick, chop and pummel each other into submission. Hours ahead of the fight starting, the president said an agreement to end the conflict "is now complete" and declared that the U.S. will end its blockade of Iran and that Strait of Hormuz would reopen. That could potentially ease high oil prices and skittish global markets. But the crucial details are still to be negotiated. Word of the deal was a preflight birthday present for Trump. A string of top administration officials attended the festivities,

SEE TRUMP, PAGE A-6

## PSU branch closures are balancing act

By Maddie Aiken  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Several years ago, it was unheard of for the leaders of Penn State's commonwealth campuses to work closely with one another. But now, as seven branch campuses are about to close and the remaining campuses tackle enrollment losses, academic program reviews and the growing presence of artificial intelligence in higher education, these leaders are rethinking their approaches to collaboration. That was clear one night last week, when the three chancellors from Western Pennsylvania's branches gathered at the National Aviary to discuss the future of their campuses. "This is a cultural shift for Penn State to think about collaborating better," Carey McDougall, regional chancellor of Penn State's Beaver and Shenango campuses, told the Post-Gazette. "Of course we are better together, and we wanted to share

SEE PSU, PAGE A-2

## Pennsylvania crime victim services face funding cuts

By Danielle Ohl  
Spotlight PA

SPOTLIGHT PA

HARRISBURG — Across Pennsylvania, organizations that provide resources for crime victims are scaling back services, cutting positions and leaving key roles vacant after the federal fund supporting them has received record-low deposits during President Donald Trump's second administration. These providers offer no-cost services to people dealing with the aftermath of domestic violence, sexual assault and other kinds of crimes. "Domestic violence victims who call in the middle of the night, who have been strangled, they try to get

them to a shelter so they can feel safe," Kathy Buckley, director of Pennsylvania's Office of Victims' Services, said of this type of support. "Rape victims, if they go to the hospital to get a forensic rape exam, the sexual assault agency is there to accompany them." These services are funded, in large part, by the fines and penalties that individuals and companies pay out when they are convicted of white-collar crimes, or settle with the federal government ahead of a

SEE VICTIMS, PAGE A-2



Commonwealth Media Services

"There has to be a way ... to support such critical lifesaving services to people in their darkest days," says Kathy Buckley, director of the state Office of Victims' Services.



ONLINE TODAY:  
Get real-time breaking news and much more at  
[post-gazette.com](http://post-gazette.com)

**Weather**  
Less humid.  
Daytime high, 68;  
tonight's low, 48.  
Page B-10

Almanac ..... A-2  
Bridge ..... B-9  
Classified ..... B-10  
Comics ..... B-8  
Crosswords ..... B-9

Horoscope ..... B-9  
Jumble ..... B-9  
Local News ..... A-4  
Lottery ..... A-5  
Obituaries ..... A-7

Scoreboard ..... B-6  
Sports ..... B-1  
Sudoku ..... B-9  
Television ..... B-7  
World Cup ..... B-2

