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FINAL

Pitt tuition increasing again

Trustees cite rising costs and government funding uncertainties

By Maddie Aiken
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

For the sixth consecutive year, the University of Pittsburgh will increase tuition, a move officials say is in response to rising costs and stagnant state funding.

University trustees on Friday unanimously approved the hike, which will bring annual base undergraduate tuition up 3% to \$21,595 for Pennsylvania residents at the Oakland campus.

Out-of-state undergraduate tuition will increase 4%, to \$43,328 a year.

Other tuition hikes for 2026-27 include an in-state graduate student increase of 2%, out-of-state graduate student increase of 4%, and regional campus increase of 1%.

Housing costs will rise 5%, and meal plans will go up 4%.

Gov. Josh Shapiro has proposed \$151.5 million for Pitt in his most recent state budget — the same

amount it has received since 2019, according to the university — though it is also anticipating receiving several million dollars in performance-based funding. State lawmakers have not yet approved the 2026-27 budget.

The university will operate under a \$3.3 billion budget with a research base of \$1.2 billion. Last year's budget was \$3.2 billion with a research base of \$1.2 billion.

Universities across the country are learning to adapt to an ever-

INSIDE

As lawmakers convene, Shapiro thinks Pa. budget deal is close. **Page A-4**

-changing higher education landscape as the college-age population decreases, federal research dollars are scrutinized, operational costs rise, and name, image and likeness deals turn collegiate athletics upside down.

Though enrollment at Pitt remains strong, the university

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WAR IN THE MIDEAST

U.S. SETS PAIR OF DEMANDS WITH IRAN

Wants strait open and ship attacks to cease

By Michelle L. Price,
Jon Gambrell and Will Weissert
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. is demanding that Iran make a public statement saying the Strait of Hormuz is open and that ships crossing the vital corridor won't be attacked anymore, senior U.S. officials said Friday, adding that internal Tehran power struggles have made it difficult to reach and keep a deal.

The U.S. officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe to reporters the state of play with Iran, said the resumption of strikes this week came after what they described as a rogue faction of Iranian hard-liners trying to sabotage the ceasefire between Tehran and Washington.

It comes as President Donald Trump reiterated on social media Friday that he views the interim ceasefire deal as "OVER!" But he said the U.S. would continue talks aimed at putting a permanent end to the war.

The officials said Friday that Trump is giving U.S. negotiators limited time to reach a deal with Iran, but, in a sign of the challenges ahead, they underscored that the president had a wide range of options if talks fall apart. They also said a power struggle was playing out in real time in Iran after U.S. and Israeli strikes at the start of the war killed its longtime leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

SEE **IRAN**, PAGE A-5



Matt Freed/Post-Gazette photos

An aerial view of the Commercial Street Bridge replacement project on Friday in Pittsburgh. Parkway East traffic will be detoured for 25 days.

LENGTHY SHUTDOWN UNDERWAY

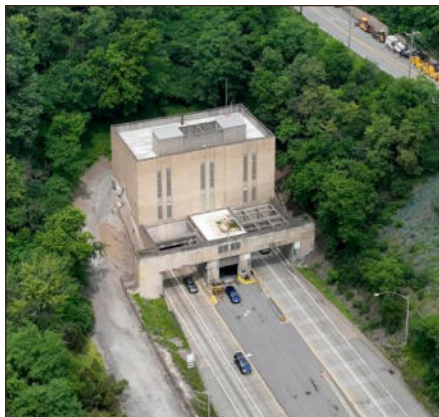
100,000 daily motorists brace for disruptions

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Here we go, Pittsburgh, here we go. Years of planning came to a head Friday night when the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation officially closed the Parkway East, and construction crews took over to prepare for the demolition and replacement of the Commercial Street Bridge.

The first extended closure of the interstate highway in nearly 10 years will force the 100,000 motorists who use the road every day to find alternative plans, whether that's working from home or navigating one of several detours around the site.

The plan — building a new bridge next to the old one, then sliding it into place with 42 hydraulic jacks — is as ambitious as it promises to be frustrating for people directly impacted.



Parkway East 376 Closure

Myler, PennDOT's assistant construction engineer for District 11 who is overseeing the project. "Typically we don't close an interstate on purpose for

a long period of time. ...

"We had the opportunity to get ahead of this and really inform the public and ... minimize the impact that everybody would face with this."

Once the highway closed Friday night, demolition crews took to the deck of the existing bridge to begin removing the deck. Once that work is done — four to five days, officials said the substructure will be demolished with explosives.

The exact date hasn't been set yet for the implosion, but residents will get a 24-hour warning. There will be a strict 800-foot safety perimeter established and there will be no viewing area. PennDOT will have a

SEE **PARKWAY**, PAGE A-7

PennDOT also will repave inside the Squirrel Hill Tunnel during the project.

PennDOT gets it, and has tried to warn residents of what is to come.

"The amount of public outreach we did for this project has been very high and really to levels we've never done before," said John

DEVASTATING WILDFIRE IN SPAIN



Military Emergency Unit via AP

Members of Spain's Military Emergency Unit spray water on burning vegetation during a wildfire near Los Gallardos, Almeria, Spain, on Friday. At least 12 people have died and 23 are missing. **Story, A-6**

Trump ousts election commission members

By Bill Barrow
Associated Press

President Donald Trump has ousted members of a bipartisan federal election commission that resisted his efforts to require would-be voters to document their U.S. citizenship before registering.

The White House on Friday confirmed the executive action against members of the Election Assistance Commission, which distributes federal grants to states, oversees the testing of voting systems and maintains the national voter registration form.

Though the move likely

won't have major effects on the November midterms, it's the latest instance of the Republican president trying to exert White House influence over how U.S. elections are conducted, and it's the first test of his newly expanded presidential power after the Supreme Court ruled recently that the president can fire members of independent agency boards without cause.

"The President, and head of the Executive Branch, reserves the right to remove individuals that may not be totally aligned with the

SEE **TRUMP**, PAGE A-5

Weather

Humid with a shower and a thunderstorm. Daytime high, 84; tonight's low, 65.

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