Tribune-Review

WEEKEND EDITION

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Pirates hope to pick another gem with a Top-10 pick for 7th year in a row **B1**

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Little Free Libraries are expanding book access across Western Pa. **C5**

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Parkway East closure

PennDOT will replace the Commercial Street Bridge along the Parkway East in Pittsburgh during a 25-day closure this summer. The project includes installing the bridge being built alongside the current span, with work beginning last night and the bridge expected to open in early August. (Sean Stipp | TribLive)

Westmoreland County drivers are scrambling to find detours, arrange new work schedules

BY PATRICK VARINE

From changing work schedules to plotting new physical routes, Parkway East commuters are scrambling to adapt to a massive highway closure.

The stretch between the Edgewood and Squirrel Hill exits will remain shut down for 25 days for the Commercial Street bridge replacement.

The disruption hits eastern suburbs and Westmoreland County particularly hard, forcing regular travelers to either find a new way into Pittsburgh or bypass the commute altogether.

Marge Bibb of Jeannette is switching her work schedule so her shift begins earlier, at 6 a.m., and plans to use one of the local detours. Bibb works for the United Steelworkers Health & Welfare Fund at the United Steelworkers Building in Downtown Pittsburgh.

"I've commuted to Pittsburgh for 28 years, and I used to van-pool into the city," Bibb said. "But all the van pools shut down after covid. I'm not able to work from home, but as long as my shift is between

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» How PennDOT will bring down and replace the Commercial Street Bridge **A8**

A road crew member works on preparations for closing the Parkway East near the Squirrel Hill Tunnels on Friday evening. (Louis B. Ruediger | TribLive)

Rule to tie federal funding to president's policies

Critics: Final OK for projects would no longer be made by experts in subject matter

LOS ANGELES TIMES

A rule proposed by the White House Office of Management and Budget would fundamentally overhaul the way federal grants are awarded and overseen; a sweeping change one scientific society said "would all but end the use of scientific merit in the selection of grants and programs across the government."

Proposed in late May, the rule would give political appointees unprecedented control over federal grants for research, education and infrastructure and specifies government funds can only be spent on projects "aligned with administration policies and priorities," according to a copy of the proposed rule.

The rule would restrict research topics, limit U.S. scientists' ability to collaborate with colleagues in other countries and make it easier for the government to suspend or cancel grants at any time.

The changes are intended to improve "transparency, accountability and oversight for federal awards" while "ensuring that American tax dollars are not wasted or misused," according to the White House office.

But critics say if the rule is implemented, the final sign-off for grants will no longer be in the hands of subject-matter experts within individual agencies, but in those of political appointees.

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» More Nation and World news **B7**

Parents wade into Trump Account details

Here's what to know about them — and the $1,000 seed money

BY MEGAN SWIFT

Arthur Brunazzi said it was a no-brainer to open a Trump Account for each of his three kids.

"I'm always looking for new avenues to invest," said Brunazzi, 43, of Elizabeth. "Everything comes with risk, even my investments that I have for myself."

Parents and guardians now can sign up their children for a Trump Account, a savings and investment platform for anyone younger than 18. Registration opened July 4.

President Donald Trump touted the retirement investment program as a means for future generations to own a stake in the American economy and boost financial security.

Children born as U.S. citizens between Jan. 1, 2025, and Dec. 31, 2028, will receive $1,000 from the U.S. Treasury Department to start their accounts, according to the Trump Accounts website. Up to $5,000 per year can be added to the accounts. The child will gain custody of the account when they turn 18 but can use it only for specific purposes, such as paying tuition, starting a business or making a down payment on a home.

According to the Treasury Department, accounts already have been opened for 5.5 million children, with 1.4 million of them eligible for the $1,000 contribution, the Associated Press reported. About 86% of those accounts were opened by families that earn less than $200,000 annually.

U.S. Sens. John Fetterman, D-Braddock, and Dave McCormick, R-Squirrel Hill, this week promoted the new savings accounts.

Todd McCollum, chairman of Pittsburgh's Republican committee, also endorsed the accounts, saying they're "an equal opportunity for everyone to rise up." He said he hopes people take advantage of them.

"This is a way for poverty-stricken people to get out of poverty," he told TribLive. "The longer you're involved in this, the better it's going to be."

Democrats aren't as enthusiastic. They argue the accounts offer limited tax benefits, could undermine Social Security benefits and don't offer enough for lower income families.

"It could really help people start building a retirement account — that otherwise wouldn't have been able to."

JAMES MOYER
PARTNER AND SENIOR WEALTH ADVISER AT ACCOUNTING FIRM SCHNEIDER DOWNS

TRUMP ACCOUNTS · A10

Pitt's tuition rates climb

Costs to rise for undergrads, graduate students, room, board

BY JULIA BURDELSKI

Tuition at the University of Pittsburgh is going up.

The school's trustees voted Friday to increase tuition for the upcoming academic year.

In-state undergraduate students will pay 3% more, and in-state graduate students will see their bills jump by 2%.

Out-of-state undergraduate and graduate students will pay 4% more in the new academic year.

Tuition at regional campuses will see a 1% bump.

As of the 2025-26 school year, there were 25,679 undergraduate students enrolled in total (21,388 at the main Oakland campus) and 9,849 graduate students.

Tuition rates vary depending on the specific school in which a student is enrolled and on whether a student is full- or part-time, according to tuition rates listed on the university's site.

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