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HAVE THE UNHOUSED FOUND A NEW HOME?

Strip District businesses and residents wary of a homeless migration from Downtown

By Anna Rubenstein
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Olabisi Olatunji, a server at Italian restaurant Bella Notte in the Strip District, encourages her customers, especially tourists staying at hotels, to take any extra food in boxes and give it to people in need on their way out of the neighborhood.

"Now, as times are getting tougher, and we're very close to Downtown, I definitely see people migrating down here," she said. "They know people come here on the weekends ... it's a place for them to see some type of help."

A rise in homelessness, the city's clearing of encampments Downtown, limited shelter capac-

ity and a seeming absence of answers has business owners, employees and residents in the Strip keeping a wary eye out on what will happen in their neighborhood. City efforts to develop solutions, such as building transitional housing and permanent affordable homes, have foundered at the City Planning Commission. The recent fire at Second Avenue Commons further emphasized the lack of shelter space the city has to offer.

The Strip District, which borders Downtown, has been on a roll of late — seeing new development continue and more residents moving in. A 2023 report

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Benjamin B. Braun/Post-Gazette

People walk near the Strip District Terminal on Saturday. The city's clearing of homeless encampments in Downtown and the limited shelter space have some concerned that the Strip will soon see a rise in homeless people entering the neighborhood.

MIDEAST CONFLICT

Death toll from raid at 274

Palestinians bear brunt in rescue of 4 hostages

By Wafaa Shurafa and Samy Magdy
Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — At least 274 Palestinians, including dozens of children, were killed, and hundreds more were wounded, in the Israeli raid that rescued four hostages held by Hamas, Gaza's Health Ministry said Sunday. The Israeli military said its forces came under heavy fire and responded during the complex daytime operation in central Gaza.

The killing of so many Palestinians, in a raid that Israelis celebrated as a stunning success, showed the heavy cost of such operations on top of the already soaring toll of the 8-month-old war ignited by Hamas' Oct. 7 attack.

The Israeli bombing was "hell," witness Mohamed al-Habash told The Associated Press. "We saw many fighter jets flying over the area. We saw people fleeing in the streets. Women and children were screaming and crying."

INSIDE

Centrist member of Israel's war cabinet resigns, **A-10**

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JUNETEENTH YOUTHFEST



Lucy Schaly/Post-Gazette

Buffalo Bills safety and McKees Rocks native Damar Hamlin greets youngsters Sunday at the Juneteenth YouthFest celebration at Mellon Park. Mr. Hamlin hosted a charity event promoting his Chasing M's Foundation at YouthFest. He also donated AEDs to local organizations.

EU ELECTIONS

Far-right deals defeat to Macron

French leader dissolves national parliament

By Raf Casert, Lorne Cook and Samuel Petrequin
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — Far-right parties rattled the traditional powers in the European Union and made major gains in parliamentary elections Sunday, dealing an especially humiliating defeat to French President Emmanuel Macron.

On a night where the 27-member bloc palpably shifted to the right, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni more than doubled her seats in the EU parliament. And even if the Alternative for Germany extreme right party was hounded by scandal involving candidates, it still rallied enough seats to sweep past the slumping Social Democrats of Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

Sensing a threat from the far right, the Christian Democrats of EU

SEE **ELECTION**, PAGE A-5

Report: More working Pa. families struggle

“It's a perfect storm of factors that have worked against our working families.”

Sally Ellwein
Chief program and policy officer at United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania

Says vulnerable sector is growing rapidly

By Jordan Anderson
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

As the pandemic plunged families into financial uncertainty, even temporary safety nets and bigger paychecks haven't been enough to keep working households afloat.

But poverty rates only tell one

part of the story. Another vulnerable sector of the population is rapidly growing, according to a new report from the United Way of Pennsylvania.

Between 2021 and 2022, the number of Pennsylvania households in poverty grew by 4%. While the number of households that fall under a category known as ALICE — or Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed — increased by 6%.

ALICE households earn above the federal poverty level but can-

not afford the basic cost of living. Despite the challenges they face making ends meet, this group often does not qualify for public assistance.

The trend was especially apparent in Allegheny County, where the poverty rate remained stagnant between 2021 to 2022 but the share of ALICE households grew by 12%, or about 17,000 households. That puts just under a third of Allegheny County

SEE **STRUGGLE**, PAGE A-11



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Weather

Cooler with a shower in spots. Daytime high, 63; tonight's low, 48.
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