



FIELDS BRACES FOR POSSIBLE DEMOTION

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Scirotto returns to refereeing

Police chief and mayor had said he would not work in part-time job while leading the bureau

By Megan Guza
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Pittsburgh police Chief Larry Scirotto has again taken up a part-time gig as an NCAA basketball referee despite assurances from Mayor Ed Gainey and the chief himself at the outset of his tenure that he would not ref while head of the bureau.

"We had a conversation about

this, and at this time, he will not be doing that," Mr. Gainey said May 3, 2023, as he introduced Chief Scirotto as his pick for top cop.

The chief on Thursday announced that he'd be "getting back on the basketball court" as a college basketball referee in "a few days." He said he would address any questions next week.

SEE **CHIEF**, PAGE A-10



Megan Guza/Post-Gazette

Pittsburgh police Chief Larry Scirotto will again ref NCAA basketball games, according to an announcement from the city. He previously said returning to his former role as college referee would not happen.

TRUMP SHOOTING AFTERMATH

PANEL CALLS FOR SECRET SERVICE CHANGES

Scathing report suggests shakeup for leadership

By Rebecca Santana
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An independent panel investigating the attempted assassination of Donald Trump at a Pennsylvania campaign rally in July says the Secret Service needs "fundamental reform" and new leadership, and that "another Butler can and will happen again" without major changes in how candidates are protected.

The review faulted the Secret Service for poor communications that day and failing to secure the building where the gunman took his shots while Trump spoke at the Butler Farm Show grounds. It also found more systemic issues at the agency such as a failure to understand the unique risks facing Trump and a culture of doing "more with less."

SEE **PANEL**, PAGE A-4



Lucy Schaly/Post-Gazette

Republican vice presidential candidate JD Vance says goodbye at the end of a campaign rally Thursday at the Pennsylvania in Downtown.

VANCE FIRES AWAY

VP candidate takes shots at Harris, addresses voter integrity



INSIDE

- In final weeks of campaign, Harris is keeping a focus on "blue wall" states. **A-3**
- Trump's rambling speeches focus critics, worry allies. **A-4**
- Trump extends weekend stay in Pa. with town hall in Lancaster on Sunday. **A-11**

By Adam Babetski
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Republican vice presidential nominee and Ohio Sen. JD Vance spoke about election integrity and disparaged Kamala Harris' recent interview with Fox News during a rally in Downtown Pittsburgh Thursday afternoon.

A contingent of local Republican officials led by U.S. House chief deputy whip Rep. Guy Reschenthaler, R-Peters, and

Slippery Rock Mayor JD Longo kicked off the rally, which took place in the Grand Hall at the Pennsylvania, a Gilded Age train station and former luxury hotel.

Mr. Vance took the stage to applause from the roughly 200 supporters. He gestured to his surroundings, dubbing Pittsburgh "one of the great capitals of American craftsmanship."

Mr. Vance quickly moved on to Ms. Harris' contentious interview with Fox News anchor

Bret Baier that aired Wednesday night.

"Wow, wow," he said, shaking his head. "That made me feel pretty bad. I felt bad for her, and I felt bad for every single person who was watching."

"The entire theme of her campaign is basically her pretending that she doesn't even know who Joe Biden is," he said. He claimed Ms. Harris doesn't want to be held responsible for her

SEE **VANCE**, PAGE A-2

Downtown conversion plans may be working

Real estate report shows drop in office vacancies

By Mark Belko
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The drive to convert failing office space in Downtown into apartments may already be having a positive impact, at least in terms of the vacancy rate.

That's one of the conclusions of the third-quarter office report for Pittsburgh released Thursday by the Jones Lang LaSalle real estate firm.

JLL noted that the Downtown vacancy rate, at 19.5%, is lower than the overall rate of 21.33% for the Pittsburgh market.

That suggests that "the removal of high-vacancy office buildings for conversion opportunities may already be positively impacting market fundamentals," the report stated.

JLL did not cite any specific examples.

SEE **OFFICE**, PAGE A-9

PPG plans to lay off 1,800 employees

Company closing facilities, selling its paint business

By Anya Litvak
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

PPG announced Thursday morning that it has reached a deal to sell its architectural paints business in the U.S. and Canada in a transaction valued at \$550 million.

Headquartered in Cranberry, with

more than 6,000 employees and 750 company-owned stores, the paints division is likely the most recognizable output for the average retail customer, who is used to seeing brands like Glidden on the shelves of hardware stores.

It is being sold to American Industrial Partners, a New York-based private equity investment firm. PPG's U.S. and Canadian paints business will be among the biggest in American Industrial's portfolio, which includes dozens of companies in industrial, logistics, chemicals and other businesses.

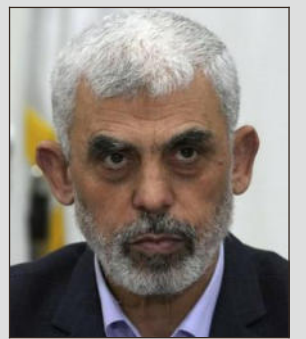
The transaction, subject to regulatory approvals, is expected to close late this year or in early 2025, company leaders said. On a call with investors, PPG said it will net about \$450 million in cash to the company.

The Downtown-based firm also announced a cost-cutting program that company leaders referred to as a "self-help" initiative. The program will result in the elimination of 1,800 positions at the company in the U.S. and Europe.

SEE **PPG**, PAGE A-18

HAMAS LEADER KILLED IN GAZA

The Israeli military confirmed Thursday that Yahya Sinwar, the powerful and elusive Hamas militant leader who has been the No. 1 target for Israel since the beginning of the war in the Gaza Strip, had been killed in battle. Sinwar was a chief architect of the Oct. 7 attack on Israel. **Story, A-6**



Adel Hana/Associated Press



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Weather

Sunny.
Daytime high, 68;
tonight's low, 37.
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