



TOMLIN CEMENTS WILSON AS QB1

SPORTS, C-1



PENGUINS FALL TO FLAMES, 4-3

SPORTS, C-1

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

ONE OF AMERICA'S GREAT NEWSPAPERS

\$4.00 238 YEARS OF SERVICE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2024 VOL. 98, NO. 83, 10/23/24 FINAL

Innamorato defends budget

County exec deflects critics, says tax increase needed to keep services

By Steve Bohnel
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

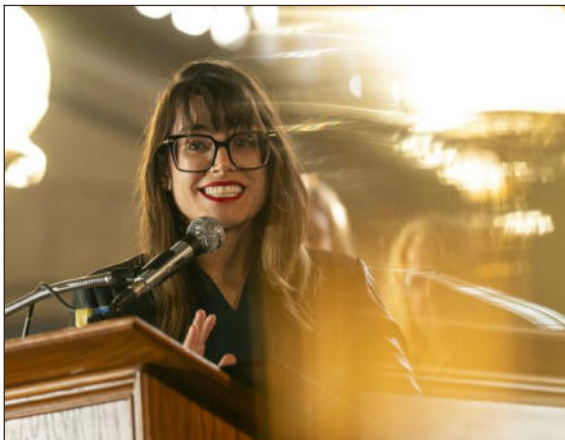
Allegheny County Executive Sara Innamorato defended her proposed budget and tax increase on Tuesday, saying that if County Council members want to reduce the proposed millage rate, they need to be more specific on what services they want to cut.

Ms. Innamorato spent multiple

minutes after a news conference on her All in Allegheny comprehensive plan talking with reporters about the importance of keeping her budget intact. In order to pay for increasing costs, she has proposed an increase of 2.2 mills, which would raise the county millage rate from 4.73 mills to 6.93 mills in 2025. On a house assessed at \$110,400, that would amount to \$182 more per year in taxes, accounting for an increase in the homestead exemption.

"What I heard from [County] Council is a lot of rhetoric and not a lot of proposed solutions," Ms.

SEE **BUDGET**, PAGE A-2



Benjamin B. Braun/Post-Gazette

Allegheny County Executive Sara Innamorato speaks during a news conference Tuesday at the Allegheny County Courthouse, Downtown.

PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Cracks in structure drawing concern

Catena points to issues at new parking garage

By Mark Belko
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The leader of Allegheny County Council is raising concerns about cracks that have appeared on the concrete decks of the new parking garage being built as part of Pittsburgh International Airport's \$1.57 billion modernization.

At a news conference Tuesday, Council President Patrick Catena said the cracks that have popped up throughout the \$200 million garage "appear to support the contention that the construction quality may be substandard."

"If I paid \$10,000 for a brand new driveway and my driveway was cracked like that, I would not pay for that," he said. "I don't think any contractor would come to me and say that's acceptable."

But the Allegheny County Airport Authority, which is overseeing the construction, shot back at Mr. Catena's claims, calling them "utterly unfounded."

In a statement, it stated that hairline cracks are "not uncommon on large-scale projects."

"Our current analysis and

SEE **AIRPORT**, PAGE A-9

ERADICATE HATE SUMMIT



Lucy Schaly/Post-Gazette

Laura Ellsworth, right, board co-chair of the Eradicate Hate Global Summit, helps former Arizona Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords to the stage as a keynote speaker at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center on Tuesday.

MIND OVER MATTER

Students, experts discuss rising tension on college campuses

By Laura Esposito
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Seated onstage at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, university students Tuesday morning told a packed crowd how they accomplished what college administrators across the country have sometimes failed to do — successfully defuse tensions on campuses.

During the second day of the Eradicate Hate Summit, a comprehensive anti-hate conference that draws hate-speech experts, leaders and survivors of hate crimes from around the globe, a session brought together students and experts in campus conflict mediation. The discussion aimed to equip the audience with student-led solutions that quell hate-filled speech and prevent violent crime.

"There is really a sense of urgency and gravity around this issue at so many institutions of higher education," said Cindy Shapira, president of The Shapira Foundation and a past chair of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh board, who moderated the session.

Since the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas terror attack in Israel, students

nationwide have taken to university grounds to protest Israel's war in Gaza and demand their schools disclose and divest from companies and institutions with ties to Israel, including at the University of Pittsburgh. Although most of Pitt's student-led protests have remained peaceful, two have resulted in

SEE **SUMMIT**, PAGE A-16

City cancels briefing on police chief's officiating

Councilman demands answers about 2nd job

By Megan Guza
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

A briefing at which Pittsburgh police Chief Larry Scirotto was set to answer questions regarding his return to college basketball officiating was canceled hours before it was set to begin Tuesday, and now at least one City Council member is demanding answers.

Chief Scirotto announced Oct. 17 that he would be "getting back on the basketball court" as a referee "in a few days." Records show that he actually officiated an exhibition game in Michigan on Oct. 13.

The chief has not responded to texts or emails sent directly to him, and public safety officials directed questions regarding his second job to Mayor Ed Gainey's office. The mayor's communications staff did not respond to a detailed list of questions.

Reached by phone Tuesday afternoon, mayoral spokeswoman Olga George said the administration did

SEE **SCIROTTO**, PAGE A-9



Scirotto

Allegheny County confident on mail count

Officials: Ballot tally should finish election night

By Adam Babetski
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Mail-in ballots in Pennsylvania are widely expected to take days to count after the election, but not in Allegheny County.

Members of the Allegheny County Board of Elections expressed confidence in the county's

ballot-counting system during a pre-election meeting Tuesday afternoon, but also discussed some practical concerns about mail-in voting as the number of Allegheny County mail-ins surpasses a quarter million.

The Board of Elections' three members, county Executive Sara Innamorato, Republican Council

Member Sam DeMarco and Democratic Councilwoman Bethany Hallam, spoke to a panel of elections officials led by David Voye, manager of the Division of Elections.

The county's 222 elections workers should be able to canvass the mail-in votes — in other words, count them and ensure that they are valid — by the end of election night, and workers will not stop

SEE **ELECTION**, PAGE A-2

Election 2024

MORE INSIDE

- Inside Harris' push to win back Muslim and Arab voters. **A-4**
- Trump airs familiar grievances; Harris courts Latino vote. **A-4**
- More Republicans are voting early than in recent years. **A-4**



ONLINE TODAY: Get real-time breaking news and much more at post-gazette.com

Weather

Partly cloudy. Daytime high, 76; tonight's low, 44. **Page B-6**

Bridge **B-4**
 Business **A-12**
 Classified **B-5**
 Comics **B-3**
 Crosswords **B-4**

Editorials **A-14**
 Horoscope **B-4**
 Local News **A-8**
 Lottery **A-8**
 Magazine **B-1**

Obituaries **A-10**
 Perspectives **A-15**
 Scoreboard **C-7**
 Sports **C-1**
 Television **B-2**



6 08136 26301 8