



HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

SPORTS, C-1

Pine-Richland 28
Bethel Park 7
Peters Township 7
Upper St. Clair 3

Clairton 24
Bishop Canevin 0
Fort Cherry 49
Jeannette 14

Central Valley 31
Elizabeth Forward 15
Seton LaSalle 27
Steel Valley 13

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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Airport fees are taking flight

Rates for airlines, rental car customers to help pay for \$1.57B modernization

By Mark Belko
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Fees for Pittsburgh International Airport airlines and rental car customers are taking off next year to help pay for a \$1.57 billion terminal modernization.

The carriers will be hit with a 29.2% hike in the cost per enplanement, while travelers and others who rent cars are facing a whopping 33.3% jump in a customer facility charge, the second increase in five years.

In a slide presentation on the

2025 budget, the Allegheny County Airport Authority, which operates Pittsburgh International, tied the increase in the cost per enplanement to the debt service payments that will kick in next July once the new landside terminal is completed.

The cost to the airlines to board a passenger next year will jump from \$11.95 to \$15.44. The 29.2% increase comes after the airport authority reduced the cost by two

cents for 2024.

It is still lower than the \$20.50 airlines paid in 2020 during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic when passenger traffic plummeted to record lows. But it's much higher than the \$9.77 the airlines paid in 2019.

The new rate is also greater than the \$14.97 they forked over in 2011. That was the all-time high before

SEE AIRPORT, PAGE A-3

Johnson: Block ethics review

Speaker wants Gaetz report concealed

By Meryl Kornfield,
Marianna Sotomayor
and Paul Kane
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., said Friday that he will urge the House Ethics Committee to suppress its report into former congressman Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., and block the Senate Judiciary Committee from viewing the investigation, an unusual intervention that could shape a divisive nomination fight.



"I'm going to strongly request the Ethics Committee not issue the report because that is not the way we do things in the House, and I think that would be a terrible precedent," Mr. Johnson told reporters midday Friday.

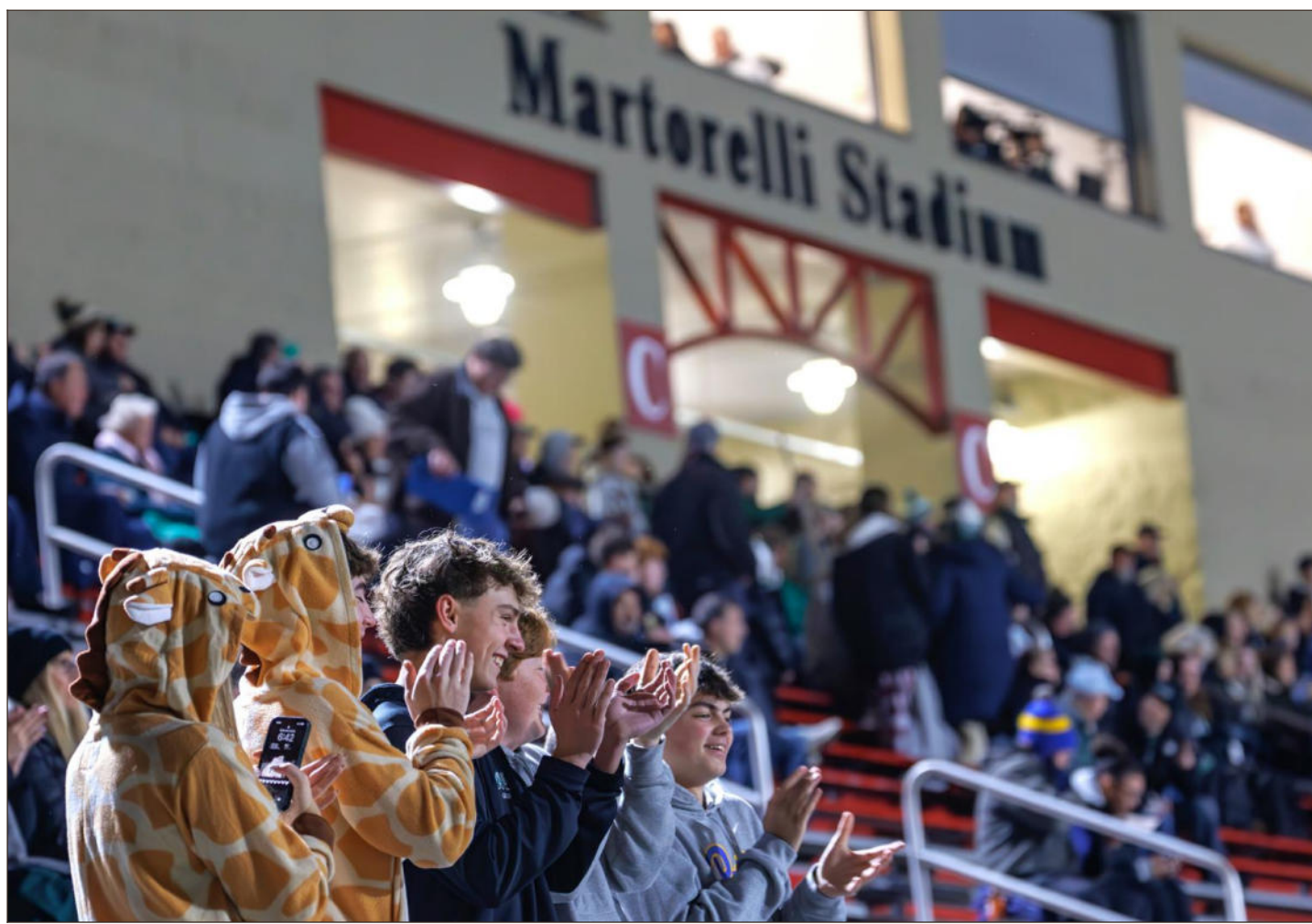
Pressed again on whether he would stop it from coming out publicly or from going to the Judiciary Committee for consideration of Mr. Gaetz's nomination, Mr. Johnson said, "I'm going to request that it not be."

The committee was looking into allegations that Mr. Gaetz, now President-elect Donald Trump's pick to run the Justice Department, engaged in sexual misconduct and illegal drug use and accepted improper gifts, while a member of Congress.

The comments marked a stunning reversal for Mr. Johnson, who just Thursday told Fox News that the

SEE GAETZ, PAGE A-4

SUPPORT GROUP



JJ LaBella/For the Post-Gazette

Pine-Richland High School fans cheer prior to the start of the WPIAL Class 5A semifinal football game against Bethel Park on Friday at Martorelli Stadium. Pine-Richland won, 28-7, to advance to the championship game. More high school football playoffs coverage in **Sports, Section C**

Race embroiled in Pa. courts

Legality of undated ballots in dispute

By Benjamin Kail
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

WASHINGTON — Republican David McCormick — the senator-elect, according to the Associated Press — is appealing Philadelphia County's decision this week to count 600-plus undated or misdated ballots as his contentious race with incumbent U.S. Sen. Bob Casey boils over

into a battle in Pennsylvania courts.

Backed by the Republican National Committee and the state GOP, Mr. McCormick on Friday morning filed a notice of appeal in Philadelphia County court arguing Wednesday's party-line vote by county commissioners approving the counting of 607 improperly dated ballots flies in the face of multiple rulings by the state Supreme Court along with state election code, which "unambiguously" requires mail voters to "fill out, date and sign the declaration" on

SEE SENATE, PAGE A-2

Election 2024 AFTERMATH



Casey

McCormick

What to know about Pa.'s Senate race recount

By Adam Babetski
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Incumbent Democratic Sen. Bob Casey and leading Republican candidate David McCormick are headed for a recount in a controversial race that could flip a key swing state seat for the GOP.

Here's what Pennsylvanians need to know about the recount process:

What is a recount?

A recount is the process of retallying all of the votes cast in an election to make sure that the results are accurate.

In Pennsylvania, votes that were cast electronically are recounted using a different tabulation method than the first time to

SEE RECOUNT, PAGE A-2

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Dahny! Champine, 17, of Rankin, and Raujenay Rixey, 17, of Braddock, perform an original rap song Friday at the announcement of plans for a new community center at Hazelwood Green in Hazelwood. **Story, A-7**



Sebastian Foltz/Post-Gazette

District won't close any buildings in 2025-26 as officials review suggestions

By Megan Tomasic
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

After months of uncertainty about a potential major overhaul of Pittsburgh Public Schools, the district Friday evening announced that no school closures or grade reconfigurations will take place in the 2025-26 school year.

Instead, the district will use the additional time to conduct a more comprehensive review of recom-

mendations that could close 14 schools and change grade reconfigurations at 12 others.

"It's very positive, because I felt like this was an incredibly rushed process," Nathan VanHoudnos, who has three children in the district, told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on Friday evening. "So I'm

glad that the district is taking the additional time necessary to roll out changes like this."

The announcement came exactly a month after Massachusetts-based education consulting firm Education Resource Strategies presented final recommendations that included school closures and streamlining grade structures to follow a PreK-5 and 6-8 model

SEE PPS, PAGE A-2



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Weather
Mostly cloudy.
Daytime high, 55;
tonight's low, 38.
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