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City clears Downtown camp

Safety, health concerns led to decommission

By Jordan Anderson and Megan Guza
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

People living in about a dozen tents in a homeless encampment in Downtown have until Thursday evening to clear out.

Outreach workers and police arrived at the camp at Fort Pitt Boulevard and Grant Street on Wednesday morning and began clearing out the people, tents and mounds of trash and debris. The site drew complaints for months about illegal activity and unsanitary conditions.

Camila Alarcon-Chelecki, assistant director of public safety and head of the Office of Community Health and Safety, said decommissioning a camp comes only as "the last resort."

Public safety officials and other city departments had tried to mitigate the issues at this particular camp, she said, but concerns with drug activity, reports of shots fired and litter and human waste scattered throughout made the situation untenable.

"We try to support the camp,

SEE **HOMELESS**, PAGE A-7



Lucy Schaly/Post-Gazette

Pittsburgh officials have given people living in a homeless encampment until Thursday to pack up and move out. The encampment is near Fort Pitt Boulevard and Grant Street, Downtown.

PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Skeptics question district's vision

Parents have doubts over plan to downsize

By Jacob Geanous
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

For many Pittsburgh Public parents, the release of a controversial plan aiming to shrink the district has done little to alleviate their concerns.

The recommendations were publicly presented Tuesday, and, if enacted, would ultimately close 14 schools and streamline the grade structures at 12 others. It would also phase out five full magnet schools and two partial magnets.

While the recommendations represent what could be a drastic change for many families, some parents said the plan did nothing to address one of the root causes of the district's need to downsize — falling enrollment numbers.

"It really makes it hard to continue to believe in the district

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FLOWER FORTE



Tim Robbbaro/For the Post-Gazette

Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra musicians perform Wednesday during "Chrysanthemums and Classical" at Phipps Conservatory. Phipps billed the event as a celebration of autumn in connection with its 131st Fall Flower Show, the longest running chrysanthemum show in the nation.

Gainey on board with Point Park project

University wants to build events center Downtown

By Mark Belko
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey is embracing Point Park University's plan to build a community events center in Downtown, saying the proposal could "make a difference" in revitalizing the city's core.



Gainey

At the end of a developers forum Wednesday on the college's campus in the heart of the Golden Triangle, Mr. Gainey said he believes in the vision, even as he acknowledged that funding would be a challenge.

"I do believe that it removes blight. I do believe when you talk about cities growing and reimagin-

ing exactly what could happen, you need that if you want to improve the nightlife Downtown," he said.

Point Park unveiled plans for the \$80 million-\$100 million venue last week in discussing the university's role in reshaping the Golden Triangle in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, high office vacancies and plummeting property values.

The center would host athletic events and concerts and serve as a training ground for students interested in careers involving live

entertainment.

Point Park is considering four to five sites for the venue, including a parking lot it owns at 340 Boulevard of the Allies next to its student center, a former YMCA.

The university hopes to fund the events center, which would seat about 2,000, through a combination of public, foundation and university resources similar to the way it financed the \$60 million

SEE **GAINERY**, PAGE A-9

GOP sees noncitizen voting as urgent issue

But election officials say there are few instances

By Jonathan D. Salant
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

WASHINGTON — Threats of unauthorized immigrants voting in presidential elections have become an issue in the 2024 campaign, and some experts say it could spark new challenges to election results in Pennsylvania and other battleground states.

Former President Donald Trump and various GOP officials have raised the specter of voter fraud as they refuse to say that they will accept the results of this year's election.



INSIDE

Harris calls on GOP voters to put 'country first' as Trump wooes Latino voters. **A-5**

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Sunny and warmer.
Daytime high, 59;
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