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ERADICATE HATE SUMMIT



Aaron Stark, left, takes a question from the crowd Monday during his presentation, "I Was Almost a School Shooter," at the Eradicate Hate Global Conference Monday at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Downtown.

ANOTHER PATH TAKEN

A man who nearly committed a mass shooting thankful that he was steered in a new direction

By Lindsay Shachnow
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Aaron Stark was almost a school shooter. Mr. Stark's earliest years, and those thereafter, were characterized by violence, self-harm and neglect. Now, he openly shares his story in an effort to interrupt the cycle of hate and violence. "As long as I can help one person not go down that path, that's enough," he said. Mr. Stark, 46, told his raw, unfiltered personal story at the fifth

Eradicate Hate Global Summit in Pittsburgh on Monday, alongside hundreds of ex-perts, activists and educators. The summit was created in the wake of the fatal antisemitic attack on the Tree of Life synagogue in 2018, where 11 people died. Amid an ongoing wave of political violence and school shootings across the country, Mr. Stark said the moment we are in is "really dangerous." "We have a large swath of kids that are craving for

SEE **SPEAKER**, PAGE A-2

Mass violence survivors share stories of healing

By Stephana Ocneanu
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Rev. Sharon Risher described the night in 2015 when her mother, cousins and family friends were murdered in the Charleston church massacre. "They were in their weekly Bible study. They welcomed this 21-year-old white supremacist, welcomed him, sat him down, and for an hour he listened to the parable of the sower. When it was time to dismiss, everyone gathered, holding

hands with their eyes closed and he began to shoot them down like they were animals," Ms. Risher said. At the Eradicate Hate Global Summit in Downtown Pittsburgh, survivors of mass shootings and other hate-fueled attacks came together Monday to reflect on the moments that changed their lives and the lessons they've learned. Rather than hosting a Q&A, the summit's co-founder Laura Ellsworth,

SEE **VICTIMS**, PAGE A-2

KIRK ASSASSINATION

FBI ties DNA to shooting suspect

Utah officials preparing capital murder charges

By Jesse Bedayn and John Seewer
Associated Press

OREM, Utah — DNA on a towel wrapped around a rifle found near where conservative activist Charlie Kirk was assassinated matched that of the 22-year-old accused in the killing, FBI Director Kash Patel said on Monday. Investigators also have used DNA evidence to link the suspect, Tyler Robinson, with a screwdriver recovered from the rooftop where the fatal shot was fired, Patel said Monday on the Fox News show "Fox & Friends." Authorities in Utah are preparing to file capital murder charges against Mr. Robinson as early as Tuesday in the killing of Mr. Kirk, a dominant figure in conservative politics who became a confidant of President Donald Trump after founding Arizona-based Turning Point USA, one of the nation's largest political organizations. Mr. Kirk, who brought young, conservative evangelical Christians into politics, was shot Wednesday while speaking at Utah Valley University during one of his many campus stops. The shooting raised fears about

SEE **KIRK**, PAGE A-6

MIDEAST WAR

U.S., Israel show unity after meeting

Rubio, Netanyahu play down furor over attacks

By Matthew Lee and Samy Magdy
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel and the United States showed a unified front on Monday in the face of growing international anger over Israel's airstrikes on Hamas leaders in Qatar and its intensifying bombardment of Gaza City. As Arab and Muslim leaders met in Doha to condemn Israel's attack last week in Qatar and new rounds of criticism were aired over Israeli plans to occupy Gaza City, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio stood shoulder-to-shoulder in Jerusalem and downplayed the furor that had, at least for a short time, taken the Trump administration aback. Mr. Rubio plans to pay a quick visit to Qatar on Tuesday, as the administration appears keen to ease tensions between its

SEE **MIDEAST**, PAGE A-8

Demolition begins on Squirrel Hill building

By Lindsay Shachnow
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Demolition of the Squirrel Hill apartment building that went up in flames last week began Sunday night. For hours last Tuesday, firefighters fought a massive fire at the Forward Avenue apartment building, which has displaced dozens of people. By Monday morning, signs of residents' lives inside the building could be seen from the street — a

box of Dr Pepper, a toaster, a suitcase — piled up in the rubble. The three-story residential building at 5660 Forward Ave. had about 40 units, 30 of which were occupied. No residents or firefighters were injured in the fire. Pittsburgh Public Safety said Monday morning that it had completed its assessment of the scene at the building, concluding that the cause of the fire was "electrical/accidental, originating in the basement

SEE **DEMOLITION**, PAGE A-5



Demolition work at the Jefferson Apartments in Squirrel Hill is shown on Monday. Demolition got underway late Sunday after Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey declared a disaster emergency in response to fire that ripped through the structure Sept. 9.



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Weather
Partly cloudy.
Daytime high, 82;
tonight's low, 58.
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