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FINAL

SYNAGOGUE SHOOTING — 7 YEARS LATER



Survivors from the shooting read Psalm 23 Monday during a ceremony that marked seven years since the 2018 Pittsburgh synagogue shooting, hosted by the 10/27 Healing Partnership Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh in Squirrel Hill.

'STRONGER TOGETHER'

A community, still shattered, gathers to remember and heal

By Megan Guza
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

In Squirrel Hill's Jewish Community Center Monday night, the long and varied tendrils of the 2018 synagogue shooting were clear.

The U.S. attorneys who prosecuted the case against the gunman during the 2023 trial sat together on one side. Brett Keisel, a close friend of the Rosenthal family, stood off to one side. One of the Pittsburgh police officers wounded in the Oct. 27, 2018, shooting, observed from the back.

How and when they became inextricably linked to the attack on the synagogue varies: Some happenstance, some from the beginning.

Others came to know the tragedy years later, joining the massive community of those touched in some way by Oct. 27, 2018.

The ties that bind Jason Lando to

SEE CEREMONY, PAGE A-2



Relatives of Dan Stein, one of the shooting victims, light a candle during a ceremony Monday.

American Water, Essential Utilities to merge

Deal leaves Peoples with uncertainty

By Anya Litvak
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

American Water Works Co., a water and wastewater utility that serves 2.1 million customers in Pennsylvania, announced its in-

tention to acquire Essential Utilities Inc. in an all-stock deal worth about \$12 billion based on both companies' closing stock prices on Friday.

Bryn Mawr-based Essential is the parent company of Peoples Natural Gas and Aqua. The fate of Peoples will be decided in a strategic review following the closing of the merger, which is expected to be during the first quarter of 2027.

"This is still a ways off and we won't speculate what the outcome might be," American Water's President and CEO John Griffith said during a call with analysts Monday morning.

The deal must first clear public utility commissions in at least seven states and receive shareholder approvals and federal antitrust clearances.

The sales agreement grants

.305 shares of American Water stock for each Essential share at closing. If consummated, American Water shareholders will own about 69% of the combined company and Essential shareholders will control the remaining 31%.

Mr. Griffith will lead the combined company, with Essential's current CEO and Executive

SEE MERGER, PAGE A-3

STATE BUDGET IMPASSE

Westmoreland Intermediate Unit considers furloughs

By Megan Tomasic
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Union workers plan to attend a Westmoreland Intermediate Unit meeting Tuesday to speak out against proposed furloughs the organization is considering as the state budget impasse drags past 100 days.

Members of the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit Education Association, the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit Education Support Professionals and the Pennsylvania State Education Association plan to urge the WIU board of directors to hold off on any job cuts as it struggles to maintain costs without state funding.

The members also will call on Senate leaders Kim Ward and Joe Pittman to pass a state budget.

"We're not holding the IU board responsible for this," Matt Edgell, regional advocacy coordinator for the PSEA southwestern region, said. "We just want to

SEE WIU, PAGE A-2



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Weather
Mostly sunny and breezy.
Daytime high, 57;
tonight's low, 38.
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