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Lucy Schaly/Post-Gazette photos

Rabbi Jeffrey Myers, center, is joined onstage by survivors, families and dignitaries for a breaking of the glass and singing of the Shehecheyanu at a groundbreaking ceremony Sunday for the new addition to the Tree of Life synagogue in Squirrel Hill.

MIDEAST CONFLICT

Israel winding down in Gaza

Netanyahu: Lebanon clash could be next

By Josef Federman
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday that the current phase of fighting against Hamas in Gaza is winding down, setting the stage for Israel to send more troops to its northern border to confront the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.

The comments threatened to further heighten the tensions between Israel and Hezbollah at a time when they appear to be moving closer to war. Mr. Netanyahu also signaled that there is no end in sight for the grinding war in Gaza.

The Israeli leader said in a lengthy TV interview that while the army is close to completing its current ground offensive in the southern Gaza city of Rafah, that would not mean the war against Hamas is over. But he said fewer troops would be needed in Gaza, freeing up forces to battle Hezbollah.

"We will have the possibility of transferring some of our forces north, and we will do that," he told Israel's Channel 14, a pro-Netanyahu TV channel, in an interview that was

SEE **CONFLICT**, PAGE A-5

SUPREME COURT

Abortion medication issue still not settled

By Hanna Webster
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The Supreme Court unanimously rejected a lawsuit challenging the key abortion medication mifepristone last week, but legal experts say the issue is hardly settled.

The case, brought to the court by the anti-abortion organization Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine, aimed to limit access to medication abortion by questioning the Food and Drug Administration's regulatory power. Experts say the ruling does nothing to change access to mifepristone and represents just one battle in a long war against the procedure.

"This decision from the Supreme Court means that nothing changes," said David S. Cohen, a professor at the Drexel University School of Law, specializing in abortion law. "It just means this lawsuit was not properly brought, but it changes nothing in the world."

SEE **ABORTION**, PAGE A-13

'THIS WILL BE A SANCTUARY'

Groundbreaking for synagogue shooting memorial begins new chapter

By Megan Guza
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The Jewish tradition of breaking glass to end a wedding ceremony is meant to be a reminder — a symbol of the pain of the past amid the joy of the celebration at hand.

Some link its symbolism to the destruction of the first Temple in Jerusalem. Others, to the fragility of life and relationships.

On Sunday, it perhaps stood for all of that as hundreds gathered in Squirrel Hill to mark the ceremonial groundbreaking on the site of the deadliest antisemitic attack in U.S. history.

Against the backdrop of the remaining pieces of the synagogue that once stood at the corner of Shady and Wilkins avenues, dozens of those touched by the ripple effects of Oct. 27, 2018, carried out the tradition just yards away from where the shooter's horrific and deadly rampage was carried out.

"It is a way to hold both the joy of the moment and the heartache we experienced on the journey to the celebration," said Carole

SEE **GROUND**, PAGE A-2



Survivor Andrea Mallinger Wedner hugs friends and family before the ceremony, which was permeated by a sense of hope as well as the lingering grief.

Heat-related hospital visits tripled last week

Only a few Pittsburgh heat waves were longer

By Michael Korsh
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Gusts of wind and cracks of thunder are set to announce the end of a largely unprecedented heat wave that swept through Western Pennsylvania and much of the U.S. last week.

Nationally, more than 100 million people were under heat alerts this weekend: in the Tri-state region of Pennsylvania, Ohio, and

West Virginia, as well as Delaware, New Jersey, Connecticut, Indiana, Michigan,

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Starting on Monday, the

SEE **HEAT**, PAGE A-16



Benjamin B. Braun/Post-Gazette

William "Snoop" Johnson drinks water given out Wednesday by Light of Life Rescue Mission outreach workers.



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Weather
Partly sunny and less humid.
Daytime high, 82;
tonight's low, 58.
Page B-6

Almanac **A-2**
Bridge **B-4**
Classified **B-5**
Comics **B-3**
Crosswords **B-4**

Editorials **A-18**
Horoscope **B-4**
Local News **A-15**
Lottery **A-15**
Magazine **B-1**

Obituaries **A-17**
Perspectives **A-19**
Scoreboard **C-7**
Sports **C-1**
Television **B-2**



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Heat-related hospital visits tripled

HEAT, FROM A-1

Pittsburgh area saw average temperatures rise above 80 degrees for six consecutive days — with the high nationally, more than 100 million people were under heat alerts this weekend: in the Tri-state region of Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia, as well as Delaware, New Jersey, Connecticut, Indiana, Michigan, Virginia, New York, and Maryland.

In Pittsburgh, temperatures fell just short of a historic spike in June 1994, NWS data shows.

During that six-day heat wave, Pittsburgh saw three days reach 97 degrees and three others reach 95 degrees.

Pittsburgh experienced its longest heat wave in 1988 when, from July 4 to 16 of that year, the highs soared above 90 degrees for 13 days straight. The second-longest heat wave occurred June 30 to July 10, 1878, with 11 days featuring high temperatures ranging from 90 to 97 degrees and an average daily temperature of 80 degrees or higher.

The city's most intense heat wave, on the other hand, came nearly a century ago in July 1936 — an eight-day run in which three days peaked above 100 degrees.

Ahead of the scorching heat, multiple state agencies issued health advisories to encourage residents to protect themselves from the risks of heat-related illness.

Last year set the record for heat-related deaths nationwide, with more than 2,300 people dying from complications with heat,

according to the an Associated Press analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data.

After the heat wave's onset Monday, rates of heat-related visits to the emergency department spiked in Pennsylvania and neighboring states including West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland and Delaware.

According to CDC data as of late last week, from Monday through Friday, that region of states saw a daily average of 362 emergency department visits per 100,000 that were heat-related — ballooning from a daily average of 118 per 100,000 over the same time period in the region the prior week.

In a statement to the Post-Gazette, the Pennsylvania Department of Health warned of the risk of heat exhaustion or heatstroke — which can be life-threatening — from prolonged exposure to the high temperatures.

"It's critically important for Pennsylvanians to keep an eye out for and take care of each other, and the Shapiro Administration will be here to support our county partners throughout the coming days," said Randy Padfield, director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, in its Monday release.

As the dangerously high temperatures moved into the Pittsburgh area, the city and other municipalities activated cooling centers throughout the week to provide residents with shelter.

Homeless shelters and street outreach programs also prepared for a surge in demand during the ex-



Six-year-old James Charles Liptak, of the North Side, keeps cool from the oppressive heat on June 17 with a walk on the water steps by PNC Park on the North Shore.

Lucy Schaly/Post-Gazette

treme heat, especially after a recent fire at Second Avenue Commons displaced dozens of people — a disaster Allegheny County Director of Human Services Erin Dalton called an "unprecedented crisis."

The county later announced that displaced residents will be moved to an emergency shelter on the North Side.

With Sunday's high expected to reach 89 degrees — the first day below 90 since the heat wave began — National Weather Service meteorologists predicted a period of showers and thunderstorms with wind gusts up to 28 miles per hour to follow the intense heat evening Sunday evening and late into the night.

Last Monday's heat and humidity acted as a catalyst for severe thunderstorms that swept across Western Pennsylvania in the early evening. These storms caused significant disruptions, leading to tens of thousands of power outages and heightening concerns about how residents would cope.

Duquesne Light reported that more than 85,000 customers had lost power on Monday evening "due to roughly 60 broken poles and 40 transformer issues." As of Wednesday evening, about 1,600 utility customers in the area remained without power while crews worked to repair the damage.

The company reported that the outages had been resolved as of Sunday afternoon.

Michael Korsh: mkorsh@post-gazette.com

Programs for veterans ineffective

VETS, FROM A-15

lucky ones.

"The people without college degrees, without leadership experience in the military, without the pedigree or background I had — how are they doing?" she said. "Our guess was probably not so well and our research supports that."

The Pittsburgh region has long been touted as one of the best areas for vets to live. There's dozens of organizations and advocacy groups for former service members, and the city even hosts the longest-running Veterans Day parade in the nation.

Allegheny County is one of the most populous areas for vets in the commonwealth, which is home to the fourth-largest population of vets nationwide.

But Ms. Andros said the Steel City owes much more to its population of vets.

"Here in Pittsburgh, we're actually an anomaly in that our veteran unemployment rate is higher than our civilian unemployment rate," she said. "That is not the case in most places in the country."

In Allegheny County, veterans between the ages of 18-34 have an 8.5% unemployment rate, which sits about 2% higher than the non-veteran unemployment.

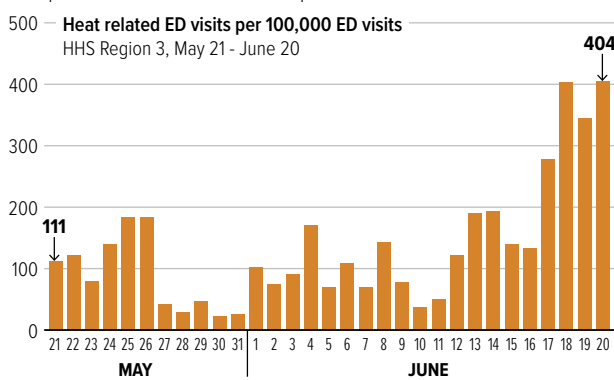
Ms. Andros said a major issue throughout the region is underemployment, where former service members aren't paid for or aren't doing work that fully uses their skills.

"We as a community have to recognize that these [vets] are assets to our region. There really haven't been a lot of companies in Pittsburgh that have done that," she said.

"We in Pittsburgh should be doing better."

Heat related emergency department visits are up

The daily rates of emergency department visits associated with heat-related illness have risen dramatically over the past few days as the region continues to experience hotter than normal temperatures.



Note: Region 3, defined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), includes Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Ed Yozwick/Post-Gazette

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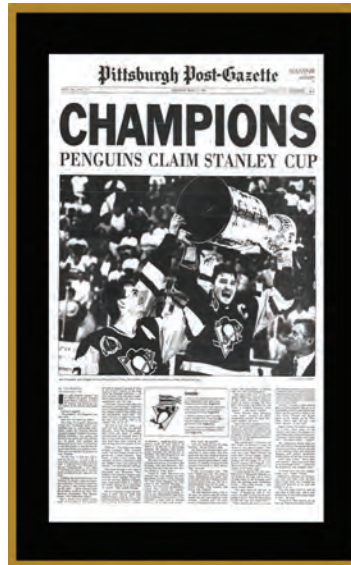
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