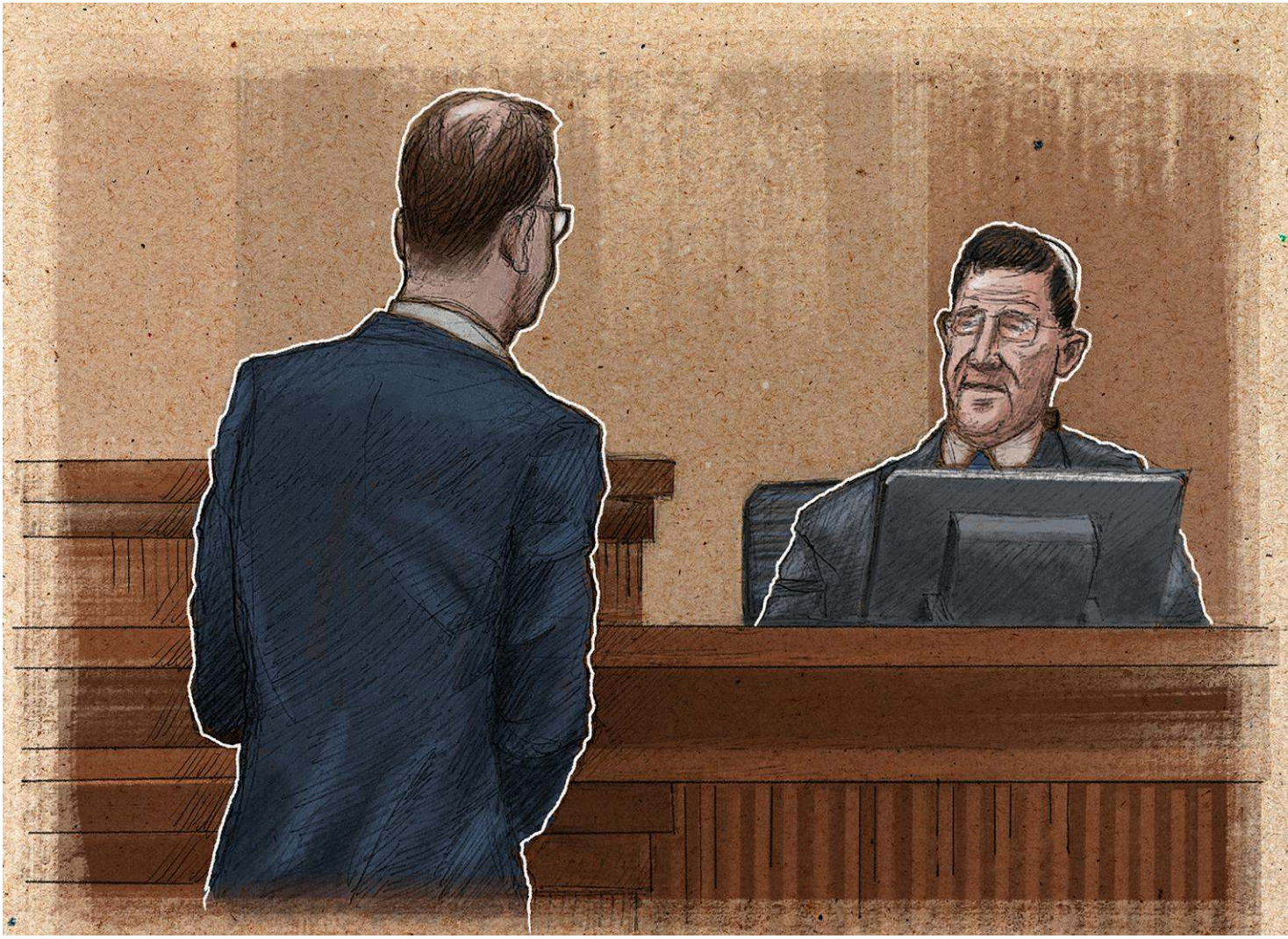




Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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James Hilston/Post-Gazette

Federal prosecutor Eric G. Olshan, left, questions Rabbi Jonathan Perlman of the New Light congregation on Thursday.

U.S. DEBT CEILING

Senate OKs bill, sends it to Biden

The Associated Press

Fending off a U.S. default, the Senate gave final approval late Thursday to a debt ceiling and budget cuts package, grinding into the night to wrap up work on the bipartisan deal.

It will be sent to President Joe Biden's desk to become law before the fast-approaching deadline.

INSIDE

Lee voted no on House's debt bill, A-8

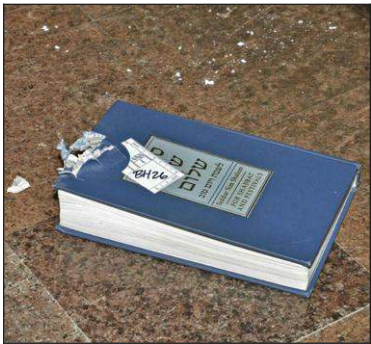
The compromise package negotiated between Mr. Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy leaves neither Republicans nor Democrats fully pleased with the outcome. But the result, after weeks of hard-fought budget negotiations, shelve the volatile debt ceiling issue that risked upending the U.S. and global economy until 2025 after the next presidential election.

Approval in the Senate on a bipartisan vote, 63-36, reflected the overwhelming House tally the day before, relying on centrists in both parties to pull the Biden-McCarthy

SEE DEAL, PAGE A-8

'MURDERED IN FRONT OF US'

Synagogue shooting survivors describe horrific scenes



A bullet ripped through this Sabbath prayer book. Prosecutors have shared nearly 100 photos during the trial's first week. Story, A-3.

By Megan Guza
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Pittsburgh police Officer Dan Mead can still hear the gunshot and see the muzzle flash. "Plain as day," he said.

The shot came from behind the synagogue's glass door, and that glass shattered outward and into the officer's leg.

"Boy, that stung," he said Thursday, the third day of testimony in the trial of accused Pittsburgh synagogue shooter Robert Bowers. While the shrapnel hit his leg, the rifle round itself hit his hand, blasting his

SYNAGOGUE SHOOTING TRIAL

arm upward "like a rag doll," he said.

Officer Mead was the first officer to encounter Mr. Bowers on the morning of the mass shooting that left 11 dead at the Squirrel Hill synagogue.

Mr. Bowers, 50, faces 63 federal charges, including hate crime-related counts, and the

prospect of the death penalty. While he has pleaded not guilty the specific charges against him, his lawyer has acknowledged he was the shooter.

Those killed became the faces of the worst antisemitic attack in American history: Richard Gottfried, Joyce Fienberg, Rose Mallinger, Jerry Rabinowitz, David and Cecil Rosenthal, Bernice and Sylvan Simon, Daniel Stein, Melvin Wax, Irving Younger.

Officer Mead and his partner, Michael Smidga, weren't quite

SEE TRIAL, PAGE A-2

SEA seeks arena land extension

Its parking rights set to expire on June 14

By Mark Belko
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

After the former Civic Arena was demolished in 2012, the city gave the Sports & Exhibition Authority 11 years to use the land for parking while it was being redeveloped.

It turned out not to be enough time.

Whether you chalk it up to delays, the slow pace of development, or other reasons, the SEA was back before the city's Zoning Board of Adjustment Thursday seeking an indefinite extension of the parking use while the Pittsburgh Penguins continue to redevelop the 28-acre site.

Doug Straley, SEA project executive, said he was "very hopeful" the Penguins would move quickly in transforming the rest of the lower Hill District land so that the requested extension won't be a long one.

He noted that the Penguins, who hold the development rights to the

SEE ARENA, PAGE A-9

Officials unveil plans for city's space district

By Michael Korsh
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

A panel of industry executives and government officials, including Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey and U.S. Rep. Summer Lee, unveiled a master planning process Thursday for the Keystone Space and Defense Innovation District, a proposed space and defense industry cluster to be located on the city's North Side.

Speaking to more than 250 attendees of the Keystone Space Collaborative's second annual conference at the Sheraton Pittsburgh

Hotel at Station Square, Mr. Gainey hailed the proposed district as an ambitious rejuvenation of the area's economic development.

"I always say our greatest natural resource in the city is called our riverfront," Mr. Gainey said. "And this is going to be built about eight, nine blocks from the river. It just continues to add vibrancy to our city, to our river life area, and everything else that we're doing."

Anchored by the Keystone

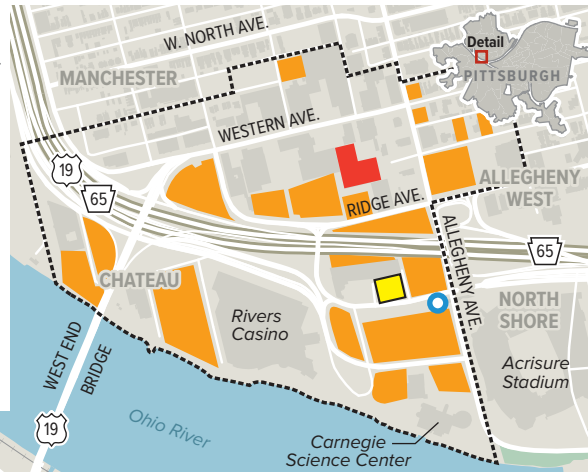
SEE SPACE, PAGE A-9

Space and Defense Innovation District plan unveiled

The Keystone Space and Defense Innovation District, a proposed cluster of space and defense industry to be located on the city's North Side, seeks to serve as a unified physical location for major players in an industry that is projected to be valued at \$1 trillion by 2030.

Key

- Proposed Space District economic zone
- Astrobotic HQ
- New Astrobotic facility
- Surface parking lots, potential development
- Existing transit station



Source: Esri

Ed Yozwick/Post-Gazette



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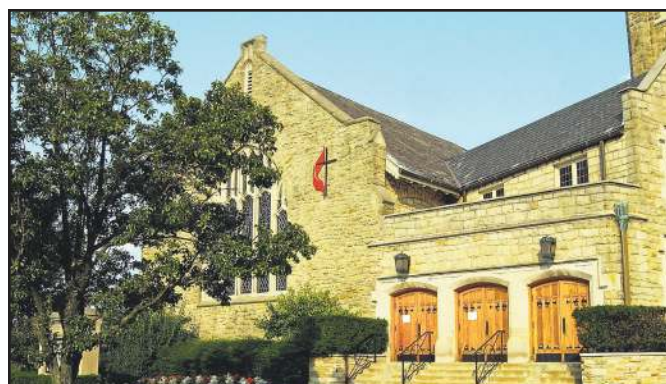
Weather

Mostly sunny and hot. Daytime high, 90; tonight's low, 65. Page B-6

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Local

Officials, executives propose space district on North Side

SPACE, FROM A-1

Space Collaborative — which works to expand the space industry's presence in the tri-state area of Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia — the Space and Defense Innovation District seeks to serve as a unified physical location for major players in an industry that is projected to be valued at \$1 trillion by 2030.

According to Justine Kasznica, the collaborative's founder and board chair, the Keystone Space and Defense Innovation District is intended to be a multi-year project. Ongoing developments have already begun, she said, such as the Carnegie Science Center's acquisition of an 8-acre property that stretches from the science center, through Allegheny Avenue and into Western Avenue.

Ms. Lee, who sits on Congress's Committee on Science, Space and Technology, said the district would reconnect the Manchester-Chateau neighborhood, a section of the city that has been historically neglected and remains fractured. She also pointed to Pittsburgh as one of five cities the Biden administration designated as "workforce hubs" last month.

"We have, at the same time, a city, a federal and a county government that is rectifying the wrongs, acknowledging the wrongs of the past and using the resources that we have through our offices to address it instead of ignoring it," said Ms. Lee, D-Swissvale. "Instead of building upon a rocky foundation, this is the great opportunity to build on a fresh, solid foundation so that we can build something that's sustainable, something that is equitable and ethical, and

something that's going to be long-lasting."

Other panelists at the district's announcement included Jason Brown, director of the Carnegie Science Center, John Thornton, CEO of Astrobotic, and Steve Winn, CEO of Mirasol Capital, a major financial stakeholder in the project.

Mr. Thornton, of Astrobotic, which moved its headquarters to Pittsburgh's North Side in 2020, said the company is committed to being "at the crosshairs" of the efforts to redevelop the Manchester-Chateau neighborhood.

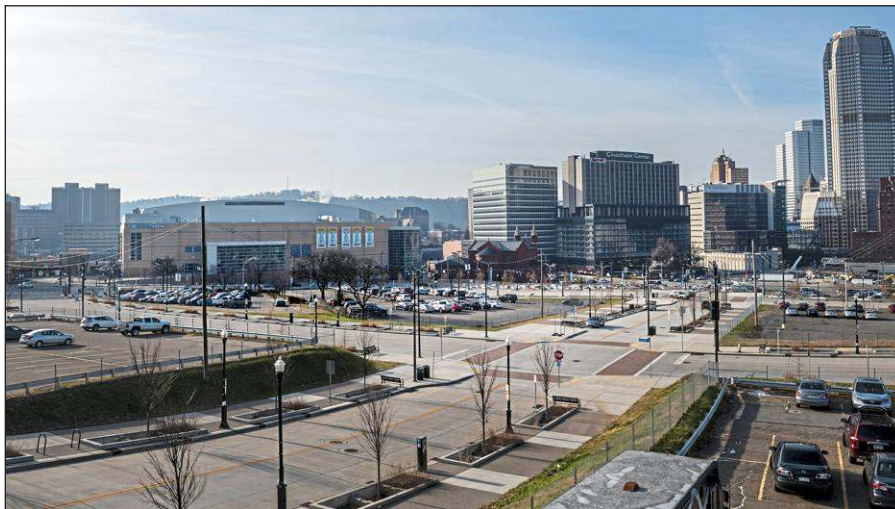
"Too often we hear these developments become closed communities and little cloisters and pockets," Mr. Thornton said. "This is an opportunity to use space as a thing to bring us all together."

Ms. Kasznica, of the Keystone Collaborative, said the master visioning process has been funded through a combination of public and private dollars, and he emphasized the continued need for a strong public-private partnership to support the district's development.

Mr. Gainey called the Space and Defense Innovation District one of the city's "game rooms," an extension of one of his frequently used metaphors that the city's Downtown is akin to its living room.

And like the Golden Triangle — which has seen repeated public safety concerns from business owners in the past six months — he said safety is a priority for the proposed development.

"The more people, the more safe. The more industry, the more safe. The more people going to work, the more safe. And coming out of a pandemic, we need this," Mr. Gainey said.



Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The Sports & Exhibition Authority is seeking a parking use extension for the former site of the Civic Arena.

SEA seeks arena land extension

ARENA, FROM A-1

publicly owned real estate, have started construction on a 26-story office tower to be anchored by First National Bank and are close to kicking off work on a live music venue and 910-space parking garage to be built next to it.

When the zoning board first approved the special exception and variance needed to allow temporary parking in 2012, the number of spaces involved was 862, Mr. Straley said. But with the build-out of streets within the site as well as the office project, that number has been whittled down to 368.

"Eventually, though, we still believe, like we said originally, that this parking will be developed," he said. "We can't tell you the exact time frame of that development but in the end it no longer would be surface parking."

There are still four parcels below Fullerton Street being used for parking.

Of those four, the Penguins are "very locked in" on two and have already begun the development process, Mr. Straley said. The team has "a concept" in mind for a third, but has yet to submit a letter of intent to start the project.

Mr. Straley did not elaborate on the plans during the hearing and did not respond to an email seeking more specifics.

However, the Penguins have notified the SEA and the city Urban Redevelopment Authority, the owners of the site, that they intend to start the first phase of residential housing on a 3.2-acre parcel bordered by Fullerton Street and Centre, Wylie and Bedford avenues.

That would be in line with the parcels still in need of development.

According to a letter of intent submitted to the SEA, that \$115.6 million residential development would feature as many as seven stories containing about 340 apartments plus 21,000 square feet of ground-level retail and 176 parking spaces, with 101 of those reserved for residents.

In keeping with the mandates of a community collaboration and implementation plan, 20% of the units — about 68 in all — would be designated for households at 60% to 80% of the area median income. For a two-person household, that would equate to incomes of \$45,540 to \$60,720, based on 2022 calculations.

The Penguins have said they hope to close on the land needed for the first phase by the end of the year.

Mr. Straley said the fourth parcel still used for parking was once reserved for the construction of a new headquarters for U.S. Steel. But that deal fell apart

in 2016.

He added he hasn't heard of any new development plans for that piece.

"I think it's proposed to be office but the office market's a little soft right now," he said.

At the least, the SEA would need to retain the temporary parking until the new parking garage is finished in two years, officials said.

"In light of the continuing development and the lack of the construction of the permanent parking, we believe that it is imperative that the interim parking approval be extended until that development is finalized," said Alex Lacey, attorney for the SEA.

While the SEA asked for an open-ended extension, Mr. Lacey added that the zoning board could limit it to the completion of the parking garage or "some other key development."

Without an extension, the SEA's right to use the land for temporary parking would expire on June 14.

Mr. Straley said the zoning board placed the initial 11-year limit on the parking as a way to make sure the land was being developed.

At the time, some community stakeholders raised concerns that the Penguins would be content to simply collect parking revenue from the site since that money accrued to the team.

Mayor Ed Gainey speaks at the Keystone Space Collaborative's second annual Space Conference.



John Colombo/For the Post-Gazette

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