

The Times-Tribune



DO YOU HAVE ANOTHER INCOME TAX REFUND COMING YOUR WAY?

There's still time to collect. Here's how you can find out **c1**

How to escape the trap of perfectionism **B8**

We're *All* About It

MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024

\$2.00 NEWSSTAND

Grants to aid broadband projects

Millions in funding to improve high-speed internet for NEPA residents

BY JEFF HORVATH
STAFF WRITER

Grant-supported broadband projects by Adams Cable, Blue Ridge Communications, Comcast and Verizon will improve access to high-speed internet for residents of Northeast Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Broad-

band Development Authority announced last week more than \$204 million in Broadband Infrastructure Grant awards for projects in 42 counties, including Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Schuylkill, Wayne and Wyoming. Comcast Cable Communi-

cations, for example, received grants of roughly \$9 million for a \$22 million broadband project in Lackawanna County, \$4.3 million for an almost \$10 million project in Luzerne County and about \$2.8 million for a more than \$4 million project in Wyoming County.

Residents of Monroe, Pike and Wayne counties will benefit from a nearly \$6 million broadband project by Verityzon Pennsylvania LLC, supported by an almost \$3 million grant. Blue Ridge Communications, meanwhile, received \$524,857 in grant funding for

a nearly \$700,000 project in Monroe County, while Adams CATV Inc. received \$387,969 for a \$517,292 project in Wayne County. Verizon North LLC's nearly \$9.3 million Schuylkill County project was approved for a more than \$3.8 million grant.

State Sens. Marty Flynn, Lisa Baker and Rosemary Brown highlighted the grants, which were made possible by the federally funded Broadband Infrastructure Program. Funding is aimed at areas lacking

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CHRISTOPHER DOLAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

President Joe Biden hugs Megan Bell Giroux, the daughter of his childhood friend Tom Bell, during a campaign event Tuesday at the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America Local 445 union in South Scranton.

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

In his return to Scranton and swing through Pennsylvania, Biden focused on small and intimate campaign stops. The city native hopes the approach can help him win.

BY JULIA TERRUSO
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

SCRANTON — As Megan Bell Giroux introduced President Joe Biden, a childhood best friend of her father's, she recalled the first time she'd learned the word "smitten." Biden, on a return visit to Scranton, used it to describe the feeling of meeting his first wife, Neilia, who died in a car crash just six years into their marriage.

At Giroux's mention of Neilia, Biden turned away from the crowd of supporters and dabbed at his eyes. When it was his turn to talk, he gave a somewhat circuitous, 10-minute retelling of that meeting — the way the sunlight hit her face when they met on spring break, and how she subtly slipped him cash, realizing he was short, on their first date.

"No man deserves one great love, let alone two," said Biden, who married Jill Biden in 1977. "Anyway, I don't know why the hell I told ya all that."

The moment, in a smaller room filled with a few dozen Scranton supporters and union workers, was personal in a way that Biden's campaign hopes can set him apart from former President Donald Trump.

The campaign has for several months woven more intimate events with everyday people into Biden's campaign schedule. That was on display in his three-day swing

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CHRISTOPHER DOLAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

President Joe Biden speaks to a small invited crowd Tuesday at the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America Local 445 union at its union hall on Pear Street in South Scranton.

What to expect in Pennsylvania's presidential and state primaries

BY ROBERT YOON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump will go before voters Tuesday in Pennsylvania's presidential primaries, a prelude to the November general election, when the commonwealth



TRUMP



2024
ELECTION

is expected to once again play a critical role in the race for the White House. Further down the ballot, voters will also select nominees in competitive primaries for Congress, the state Legislature and three statewide offices. Biden clinched the Democratic nomination and Trump

clinched the Republican nomination on March 12, and neither faces serious opposition on the primary ballot. Nonetheless, both presumptive nominees have campaigned in Pennsylvania in recent days with their focus more on the November election and each other than on Tuesday's vote.

Biden just completed a three-day campaign swing that began Tuesday in his

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State's gaming revenue hits high

Mount Airy, Mohegan Pennsylvania see drop in March.

BY ROBERT TOMKAVAGE
STAFF WRITER

As total gaming revenue reached a new record monthly high statewide in March, the figures recorded by Mohegan Pennsylvania and Mount Airy Casino Resort weren't quite as impressive.

Overall, the \$554,625,294 surpassed the previous high of \$534,215,808 from December, the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board announced.

However, combined revenue at Mohegan Pennsylvania in Plains Twp. dipped 0.48% from March 2023 and revenue at Mount Airy in Paradise Twp. dropped 3.79%, according to the gaming board.

Despite the slight drop, Mohegan Pennsylvania experienced a 21.61% increase in retail table games revenue last month compared to the same period last year.

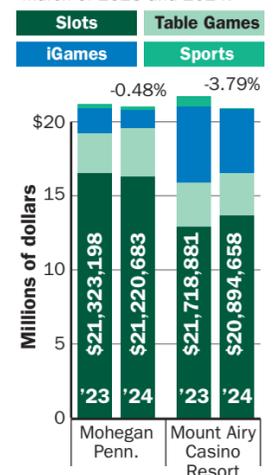
Richard McGarvey, a gaming board spokesman, noted while the growth is promising, the table games numbers can vary greatly from month to month.

"Tables can be volatile," McGarvey said. "Not as volatile as sports wagering, but still up and down more than what you see for slot machine play. You don't see big swings nearly as often with slots as you do with tables."

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Casino revenue

Combined revenues for March of 2023 and 2024.



Statewide March total

2023 \$515,278,831
2024 \$554,625,294

% Change +7.64%

SOURCE: PA GAMING CONTROL BOARD

KEVIN O'NEILL / STAFF ARTIST

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Good morning



Warmer
High: 58°
Low: 36°
Weather, B10

Avoiding plastic

On Earth Day, follow these tips to minimize the amount of plastic packaging and products you use at the grocery store. **B10**

Case continues

A former Lackawanna County deputy prison warden's federal lawsuit over her firing will likely stretch into 2025. **A3**