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Solving the broadband issue

Pennsylvania internet companies scramble to rebid expansion work and provide service

By Kris B. Mamula
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Getting every U.S. home and business connected to the internet will take longer than planned as Pennsylvania and every other state scrambles to compete again for government-funded broadband expansion money, experts say.

The Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority had anticipated awarding contracts for expanded high-speed broadband service by the end of the year, but those plans have been pushed back a year or more by new U.S. Department of Commerce

bidding rules. Instead of improving internet access, though, experts say the new criteria disadvantage rural America by adding an internet service option that is more costly and slower than other technologies.

The broadband authority said the final proposals for expansion projects must be submitted to the government by Sept. 4.

"The PBDA is on track to meet that deadline and moving quickly to connect every Pennsylvanian to high-speed, affordable internet by 2030,"

SEE **BROADBAND**, PAGE A-2



Sebastian Foltz/Post-Gazette

A cell tower looms beyond houses Tuesday in Uniontown, Fayette County. About 8,000 addresses are without good broadband internet connections in the county.

MIDEAST WAR

FRAGILE TRUCE TEETERS, BUT HOLDS

Region urges a new round of diplomacy

The Washington Post

CAIRO — As a ceasefire between Israel and Iran went into effect Tuesday, the Middle East drew a collective, if tentative, sigh of relief.

It was unclear if the truce would hold — with each side accusing the other of violations — but Arab countries that sought frantically to de-escalate the fighting expressed hope that it would stave off a potentially catastrophic war in the wider region.

INSIDE

Gaza authorities say Israel kills 44 waiting for aid. **A-7**

"Despite ceasefire violations we saw today, we hope that the ceasefire holds and that the issue returns to the diplomatic track," Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani said Tuesday at a news conference. "We also urge the American side and the Iranian side to return immediately to the negotiating table regarding the nuclear talks and to resume these talks to reach a diplomatic solution."

The prime minister and Qatari's emir helped negotiate the ceasefire, along with President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance, according to a diplomat briefed on the matter, who spoke on the

SEE **ISRAEL**, PAGE A-7

A DRIVE TO SAVE LIVES



Giuseppe LoPiccolo/Post-Gazette

The Pirates and Vitalant kicked off their 29th annual blood drive at PNC Park on Tuesday. Donors receive two free Pirates tickets, redeemable for Sunday through Thursday games during the 2025 season. The drive continues through Thursday. **Story in Business, A-10**

Shapiro: Budget talks are making progress

By Ford Turner
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

HARRISBURG — Gov. Josh Shapiro said late Tuesday morning that state budget talks are "making progress" and negotiators know what the key issues are, but the Republican-controlled Senate has to start moving legislation that goes toward common goals.

Mr. Shapiro spoke at an appearance in Harrisburg with former Philadelphia Eagles and University of Pittsburgh football star LeSean McCoy, the driving force behind a new affordable-housing complex there. And Mr. Shapiro said that

last week, another former Pitt star, Aaron Donald, told him that Mr. Donald's work on affordable housing in Pittsburgh was being modeled on Mr. McCoy's work.

Hence, Mr. Shapiro said, Mr. McCoy is "inspiring others with platforms to give back to their communities."

On the budget, Mr. Shapiro said that earlier in the morning as well as on Monday and over the weekend, he had been in "constructive" meetings. Nonetheless, Mr. Shapiro, a Democrat, pointed out that the Democratic-controlled House has passed multiple pieces

SEE **SHAPIRO**, PAGE A-2

REPORT CASTS DOUBT ON CLAIM



Haiyun Jiang/Pool via AP

President Donald Trump, left, talks with secretary general of NATO Mark Rutte, center, Tuesday at the 2025 NATO summit in The Hague. A leak of a new U.S. intelligence report casts doubt on Trump's claim that U.S. strikes had "obliterated" Iran's nuclear programs. **Story, A-14**

By Hallie Lauer
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

As executive orders from President Donald Trump and rulings from the U.S. Supreme Court roll back protections for members of the LGBTQ+ community, Pittsburgh lawmakers and activists are looking to pre-emptively codify anti-discrimination measures.

New legislation introduced Tuesday morning by Pittsburgh City Council member Barb Warwick seeks to classify the refusal or denial of medical care based on a person's gender identity or expression as discrimination.

In the spring, UPMC, the city's largest medical care provider, canceled surgeries scheduled for young trans patients and confirmed that it would be winding down much of the gender-affirming care they were providing.

To comply with recent federal directives, UPMC will have major cuts to gender-affirming care starting June 30.

SEE **COUNCIL**, PAGE A-3

CITY COUNCIL

Legislation to protect LGBTQ+ proposed



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Weather

Mostly sunny; a p.m. t'storm.
Daytime high, 90;
tonight's low, 72.
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