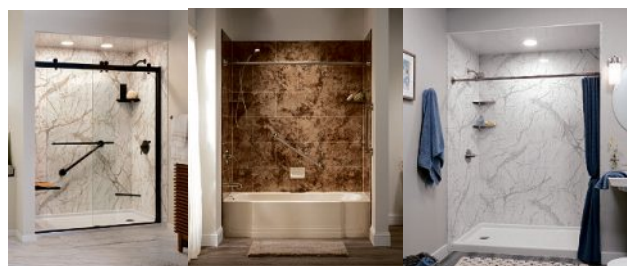




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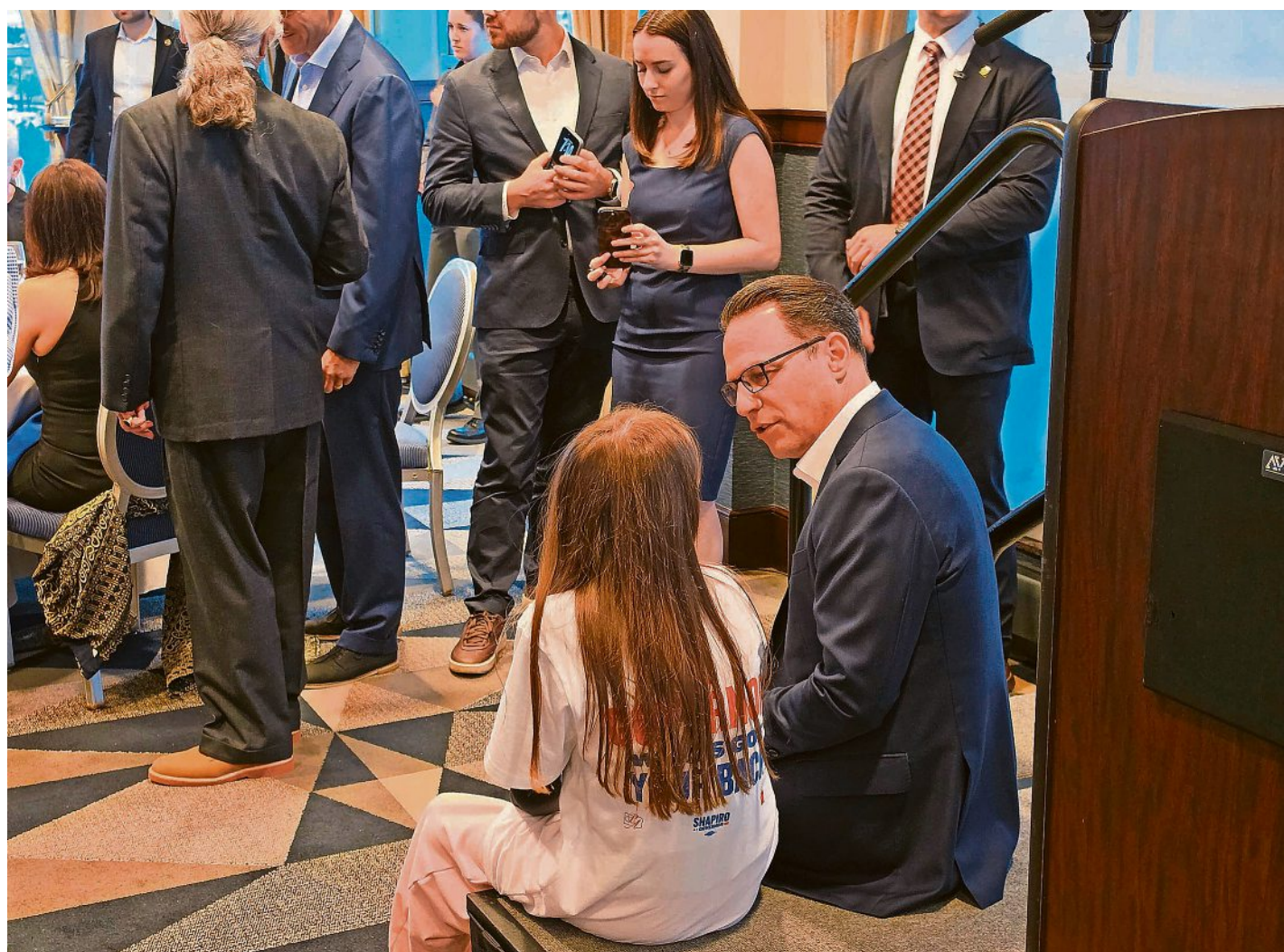


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# The Intelligencer

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**Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, right, talks with 10-year-old Winnie Copeland, a fourth-grader at North East Elementary School, shortly after delivering the keynote speech at the Erie County Democratic Party's annual spring dinner on May 6 at the Sheraton Bayfront Hotel in Erie. PHOTOS BY MATTHEW RINK/USA TODAY NETWORK**

## Shapiro focuses re-election message on 1st-term record

**Matthew Rink**  
USA TODAY NETWORK

At a recent campaign stop in Erie County, Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro was quick to rattle off a list of first-term accomplishments:

He's cut taxes seven times and created the Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit, which has given 940,000 Pennsylvania residents up to \$800 each.

He's overseen the largest growth of the state's economy in decades. There's been more growth in his first term, he says, than in the 15 previous years combined, and Moody's has determined that Pennsylvania is the only state in the Northeastern U.S. with a growing economy, fueled by \$40 billion in private-sector investment.

He also touts record investment in public education, which includes \$300 million for districts to hire counselors to address the mental health crisis, and his work with both parties to secure

universal free breakfast for children. Under Shapiro, the state has also implemented a stipend for student teachers to help address teacher shortages across the state and nation.

And under his watch, he boasts of declining crime rates, including violent crimes, and the work he did to expand the ranks of the Pennsylvania State Police.

"I fundamentally believe that if you give a kid a good school and a safe community to live in, a job that she wants in a neighborhood that she can afford, in a place that respects her for who she is, that's a recipe for success and that's the work that we're doing every single day in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania," Shapiro said May 6 while speaking at the Erie County Democratic Party's spring dinner. "I'm proud that on our watch we've made historic investments in public education."

**See SHAPIRO, Page 2A**



**Shapiro told the Erie County Democratic Party at their annual spring dinner May 6 in Erie: "This is our moment now, a moment where we can't look to others to do this work. A moment where we can't simply look to the history books and think someone there is going to have some magic formula, but rather we need to look inside ourselves and see if we have what it takes."**

## What is campaign red boxing?

Candidates can use the tactic as a PAC loophole

**Jess Rohan**  
Bucks County Courier Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Bucks County Commissioner Bob Harvie's campaign for Congress is using a tactic on his website that's typically deployed to skirt campaign finance rules, experts say.

Federal election rules place spending limits on certain types of political fundraising. But under the Citizens United ruling, independent spending from groups known as super PACs is virtually unlimited.

A caveat is that campaigns can't coordinate with super PACs on spending.

To go around that rule, some politicians use a technique known as "red boxing": A section of their public campaign website (sometimes framed in red) describing the demographics, mediums and messages a campaign would like independent groups to spend on. The sites may also include photos and videos that groups can use in ads.

Some congressional campaigns — such as for Lehigh Valley and Philadelphia candidates this cycle — can include highly detailed information, down to the age groups and ZIP codes campaigns want outside money to target.

The campaign website for Harvie, who's running in the Democratic primary for the seat of Republican U.S. Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick against mathematician Lucia Simonelli, features a page called "What voters need to know," accessible from the homepage via a red button.

"Democratic primary voters in Montgomery and Bucks county need to see on YouTube and streaming platforms that Bob Harvie is the Democrat they can trust," the page reads, followed by information about Harvie's career as a teacher, opposition to ICE detention facilities and support for Obamacare.

It's not clear whether any outside groups have used Harvie's advertising instructions yet. His campaign did not answer which PACs, if any, they hoped to target.

But Aaron McKean, a senior campaign finance attorney with the non-partisan Campaign Legal Center, said

**See RED BOXING, Page 2A**

## Service honors man who wrote letters from Newtown during WWII

**JD Mullane**  
Bucks County Courier Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Among the unsung heroes during World War II on the Bucks County home front was John Janney, sexton of the Newtown Presbyterian Church.

During the war he provided an invaluable service by keeping soldiers who wrote to him in touch with how things were at home, sending them small gifts, giving them encouragement and, re-

markably, creating an early version of what's today called a "group chat" for Newtown's residents and their sons fighting overseas.

Working from a small shed behind the church where he lived, Janney spent nights and weekends in solitude writing hundreds of letters to Newtown's sons in Europe, the South Pacific and around the world.

"For these guys his letters were more than just letters, they were their hope," said Nancy Webster, a volunteer with

the Newtown Historic Association.

Now — more than 80 years after the war ended, and 77 years after Janney died in obscurity at age 51 — she aims to give him an overdue honor.

On May 18, a solemn service is to be held at his graveside at the Newtown Cemetery, with prayer, poetry and appropriate remarks by local officials.

"It's something he deserves, and he's someone Newtown should know," Webster said.

For Newtown men serving in the war

between 1942 and 1945, Janney became their go-to contact for news from back home. They were grateful.

"Dear John," wrote Army Pvt. John Lambert on Nov. 21, 1944, "I just received your letter ... thanks for the little card you sent. I was really glad to get it and to see my name on the (town) Honor Roll ... I didn't think people back home remembered me ... Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

**See JANNEY, Page 2A**

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