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SCRANTON

YOU DIG THIS?

Excavation underway for gasoline tanks at the site of a Wawa along Moosic Street in the city's South Side



Construction is underway for a Wawa on Moosic Street in Scranton, as seen Tuesday. SEAN MCKEAG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

By Jim Lockwood
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SCRANTON — A project to build a Wawa in Scranton advanced with the start of excavation for installation of underground gasoline tanks, a city official said.

The developer contacted the city last month about starting construction at the site by the end of May, and the excavation taking place along Moosic Street in South Side began May 26 for installation of gasoline tanks, city Planner Don King said.

The proposal for a Wawa in South Scranton by NDA Moosic LLC of Vestal, New York, was the first of the five potential Wawa locations in Lackawanna County to arise in recent years.

In 2022, NDA Moosic LLC received Scranton zoning approval for a Wawa on the 5-acre site at 1130-36 Moosic St. and 117 Meadow Ave., as well as an Aldi grocery store on a rear portion of that property.

Before the excavation that started last week, work done previously at the Wawa site in Scranton involved demolition of a vacant building at 1130 Moosic St. that years ago was a Profera's Pizza and later Electric City Hot Yoga; and environmental cleanup of contaminated soil at the former industrial tract in South Side.

Efforts to reach this developer of the Wawa in Scranton were unsuccessful.



An excavator digs Monday at the site of a Wawa under construction at Moosic Street and Meadow Avenue in Scranton. The convenience store and gas station will join two existing gas stations already operating at the intersection. ISAAC DIAZ / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Four other, separate proposals for Wawas elsewhere in Lackawanna County involve other developers and those projects have been in various stages of planning. They include:

- Two in Dickson City: one at the former Lackawanna Executive Park, a small strip mall at the corner of Main Street and Viewmont Drive; and the other along Cold Spring Road on Bell Mountain just above Business Route 6.

■ One in Carbondale Twp. along Meredith and Main streets across from an existing Sheetz.

■ One in Covington Twp., near Drinker Turnpike and Bochicchio Boulevard near North Pocono High School.

Efforts also were unsuccessful to reach a Wawa spokesperson for information on the statuses of all Wawas

See **WAWA** on Page A7

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Blanche: Admin is scrapping \$1.8B fund

Reversal comes after widespread backlash and setbacks in court

By Eric Tucker and Alanna Durkin Richer
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche said Tuesday that the Trump administration was scrapping plans to create a \$1.8 billion fund meant to compensate allies of the Republican president after widespread political backlash and setbacks in the courts.



Blanche

"We are not moving forward with the fund, period," Blanche said in response to questions at a House hearing on the Justice Department budget.

"Not moving forward, ever?" asked Rep. Grace Meng, a New York Democrat.

The blunt declaration marked an extraordinary turnabout for a Trump Justice Department that just two weeks ago had pronounced

See **FUND** on Page A7

LAST CALL?

States look to extend bar and restaurant hours amid World Cup

By Kimberlee Kruesi
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — World Cup fans in a growing number of U.S. cities won't have an issue finding a well-poured pint to go with their late-night match.

State leaders across the U.S. are signing off on extending bar and restaurant hours during the world's most-watched sporting event. They want to help businesses and improve fan experiences, particularly for those who may have been priced out of tickets. Others see the move as a last-ditch effort to boost sales as expectations for a World Cup economic boon have dampened.

So far, Kansas, Missouri, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Washington — states either hosting World Cup matches or adjacent to the activity — have all approved various measures to extend hours for alcohol sales during the tournament. Similar

See **HOURS** on Page A6

THE NEPA 30

Wilkes-Barre cartoonist Fisher brought the city to the funnies

By Joe Healey
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Long before Captain America or modern superheroes dominated global box offices, a Wilkes-Barre native created a clean-cut heavyweight boxer who captured the heart of the nation, becoming a symbol of patriotism that earned the personal gratitude of the White House.

Ripped from the funny pages, the adventures of legendary boxer Joe Palooka were drawn by cartoonist and Wilkes-Barre native Hammond Edward "Ham" Fisher.



THE NEPA 30

No. 28: As the nation approaches America250, we are counting down ways NEPA has powered American history.

boxers and their crew he met around Public Square.

When America entered World War II in 1941, so did Joe. Palooka was one of the first on the funny pages to enlist.

His storyline shifted to fighting Nazis, promoting patriotism and encouraging civilians to buy war bonds and plant victory gardens, according to press

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Ham Fisher, cartoonist and creator of comic Joe Palooka in 1939. FILE PHOTO

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