

Today's Blue Edition is an initiative of the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association (PNA) recognizing essential workers and their contributions to local communities across the state. PA newspapers are going blue today, including The Butler Eagle Blue Edition brought to you by:



# SPECIAL EDITION

INSIDE TODAY;  
PAGES 5, 7, 10-16, 18

# Butler Eagle

Butler County's Great Daily Newspaper

SINGLE COPY \$1

MAY 27, 2020

## Essential Employee Appreciation



Butler Transit Authority bus driver Gary Brill offers riders advice and masks, if needed.

SEB FOLTZ/BUTLER EAGLE

## Butler Cath., diocese look at fall return

School faces economic challenges due to virus

By Samantha Beal  
Eagle Staff Writer

Pennsylvania school districts are struggling to make financial decisions when it comes to preparing for next year. The coronavirus pandemic has created many unknowns in tax revenue, state allocations and outside donations. For Catholic schools, which are supported mostly through tuition, the unknowns are even bigger. But locally, that doesn't mean next school year is a lost cause. "We are definitely opening next year," said Sister John Ann Mulhern, principal of Butler Catholic School. "We're definitely going to be here."

### Economic challenges

This is not to say Butler Catholic won't face economic challenges.

Although exact numbers still are unclear, Mulhern expects the school will need to navigate tuition shortages because of local pandemic-induced financial hardships.

"Every family is struggling financially," Mulhern said.

Mulhern said operating budgets for Catholic schools in the Pittsburgh Diocese break down in the same way: Between 60 percent and 65 percent is covered by tuition, about 25 percent is covered by parish subsidies and roughly 15 percent is covered by fundraising.

See Return, Page 4

## In the Driver's Seat

## Transit worker stays the course during pandemic, keeps bus riders safe

By Eric Jankiewicz, Eagle Staff Writer

Garold "Gary" Brill grew up in Southern California, sneaking into Disneyland for fun. Other times, he and his friends would pay 25 cents to take a bus down to the beach.

"It was no big deal," he said. When he moved to Butler, where he took a job as a bus driver for the Butler Transit Authority, people were amazed by how often he went to visit the home of Mickey Mouse as a child. For him, that wasn't notable. But moving to a place where there are well-de-

finied season changes and snow sticks to the ground?

"I love it. It's exciting. I love the cold. I love the four seasons. I love the changes in the weather," said Brill, 56. "I think the snow is really cool. I go out and play in it."

When Brill moved to Butler in 2017, he was amazed by how different the weather was to his home state. "For me to really sit down and see snowflakes come down, I've only experienced that when I moved out here," he said. "It's so different from what I'm used to."

Brill began working for the Butler

Transit Authority in April 2019 and just as he was getting used to the snow and the area, the coronavirus pandemic spread throughout the country, setting off a new set of realities he had to contend with. Like other parts of society, public transportation was scaled back and precautions were put in place to limit the spread of the virus.

As Brill learned more about the virus, he made the decision to continue working.

"I did what I was told and I worked," he said. "There's a lot of people that

See Driver, Page 5

## Adams fights subpoena that seeks officer's PFA testimony

By Eric Jankiewicz  
Eagle Staff Writer

Attempts to involve Adams Township and its police department in a domestic dispute were characterized as "unduly annoying, embarrassing, burdensome and expensive" in a court filing.

Michael Gallagher, Adams Township's solicitor, requested in a May 18 filing that Butler County Common Pleas Judge William Robinson nullify a subpoena filed by a private attorney that would require an Adams Township officer to appear at a protection from abuse hearing scheduled before the judge. Gallagher further requested the township be awarded \$1,190 for legal fees.

See Adams, Page 4

### DAILY MESSAGE

One in a series of messages from various local religious leaders from a variety of faiths

## Trust God: His time is always right

In Greek, the language in which the New Testament was written, there are two words for "time."

One is *chronos*, which means a specific time.

The other is *kairos*, which is a time appointed by God.

Basically, we'll know it when we get there.

Think of childbirth, for example. A physician gives an expectant mother a due date when they can expect the baby to be born.

This is *chronos* time. But we all know that due dates don't

really mean anything; the baby will be born when the baby will be born, regardless of the date on the calendar.

This is *kairos* time. In this season, which I have come to call "Covidtime," many churches have been focused on *chronos* time. Clo-

sures and event schedules have been planned and extended with specific

dates in mind, and have been adjusted accordingly. In our Western — particularly American, culture — *chronos* time is where we're comfortable.

We like to run according to the clock. What we have learned in the past two months is that *chronos* time is not a good measurement in our current situation.

As Drs. Anthony Fauci and Rachel Levine remind us often, the virus determines the timeline, not us.

It is much more uncomfortable for

See Trust, Page 2



Pastor Leigh Benish

VOL. 151,  
NO. 74



8 15769 00175 1

### DEATHS

Betty Jewel Benedetti Bosits, Valencia  
Florence Elizabeth Dennis, Harrisville  
Betty M. Heckard Donaldson, Evans City  
Charles F. Fleming, Penn Township  
Harry L. "Short" Griffiths, East Brady  
Constance "Connie" E. Hassler, Butler  
John A. Moore, Butler  
Frank R. "Dutz" Papania, Butler  
John Joseph Regan, Sarver  
Mary Anne Rivera, Evans City  
Mary Alice Cowher Webber, Butler  
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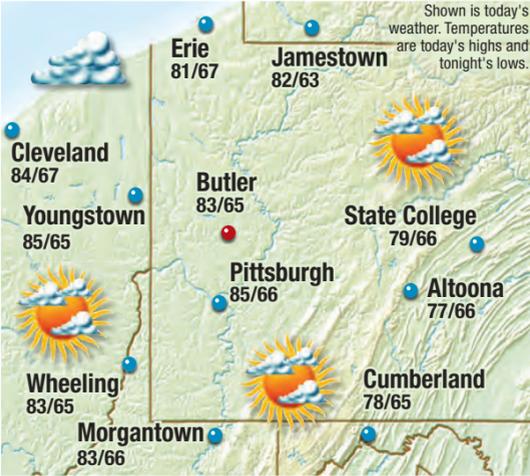
PELLA NOW --- PAY LATER

## WEATHER

### BUTLER 5-DAY FORECAST

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Very warm and humid with some sun	Variably cloudy, a t-storm; humid	Cloudy, a shower and t-storm around	Not as warm with clouds and sun	Mostly sunny and cool
83°   65°	82°   65°	79°   57°	69°   44°	64°   39°

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2020



### ALMANAC

Butler County Airport through 5 p.m. Tuesday

TEMPERATURES	
High/low	87°/60°
Normal high/low	72°/48°
Last year's high/low	76°/60°
Record high	87° in 2020
Record low	32° in 1969

PRECIPITATION	
24 hrs to 5 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	1.57"
Normal m-t-d	3.44"
Year to date	18.52"
Last y-t-d	13.93"
Normal y-t-d	15.54"

### SUN AND MOON TODAY

Sunrise today	5:53 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:41 p.m.
Moonrise today	10:05 a.m.
Moonset today	12:31 a.m.

	First	Full	Last	New
	May 29	Jun 5	Jun 13	Jun 21

### ALLEGHENY RIVER STAGES

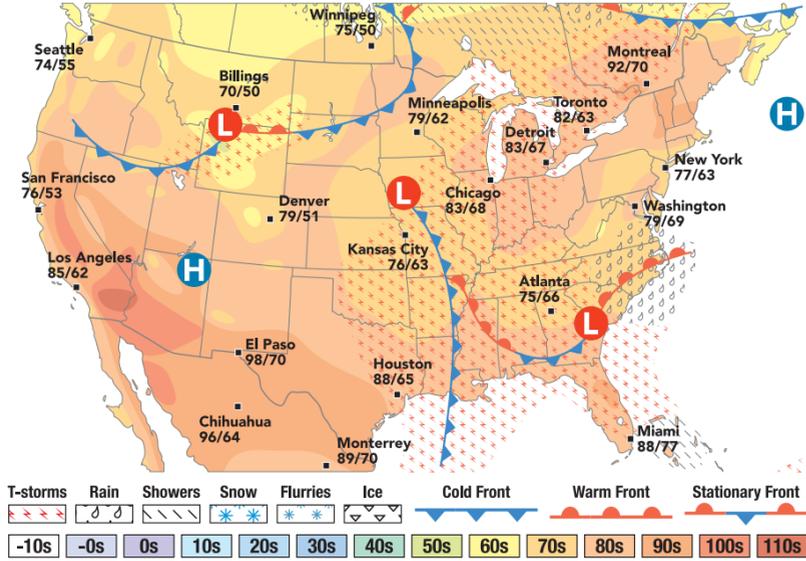
STATION	FLOOD STAGE	7 A.M. TUESDAY	FORECAST LEVEL
Franklin	17 feet	5.00 feet	4.80 feet
Parker	20 feet	4.40 feet	4.20 feet
Kittanning	21 feet	11.50 feet	11.40 feet

### LAKE ERIE

Wind from the south-southeast at 6-12 knots Wednesday. Seas less than a foot. Visibility clear to the horizon.

### TODAY'S NATIONAL WEATHER

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



## LOTTERY

### PENNSYLVANIA TUESDAY

Day: Pick 2: 3-9; Pick 3: 7-1-5; Pick 4: 1-6-6-0; Pick 5: 0-9-8-4-4 Wild 7; Treasure Hunt: 03-10-12-17-19; Night: Pick 2: 0-6; Pick 3: 0-7-0; Pick 4 Numbers: 9-8-6-9; Pick 5: 1-7-8-5-9 Wild 3; Cash Five: 14-17-20-27-29; Match 6: 08-10-17-19-40-48. For lottery information: www.palottery.state.pa.us.

### OHIO TUESDAY

Day: Pick 3 Numbers: 8-5-0; Pick 4 Numbers: 8-0-0-9; Pick 5 Numbers: 9-7-1-4-0; Night: Pick 3 Numbers: 6-3-0; Pick 4 Numbers: 5-2-5-9; Pick 5 Numbers: 3-9-1-6-0; Rolling Cash 5: 05-06-10-14-34

### WEST VIRGINIA TUESDAY

Daily 3: 2-4-2; Daily 4: 3-9-6-5; Cash 25: 05-06-07-13-17-22

# Pa. tracks child illness; 9 cases positively ID'd

## 6 more under investigation

By Nathan Bottiger  
Eagle Staff Writer

Dr. Rachel Levine, the state's secretary of health, announced the latest figures regarding MIS-C in Pennsylvania on Tuesday.

In a virtual news conference with Gov. Tom Wolf, Levine said there have been 17 reports of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children, which has been linked to children who have recovered from COVID-19.

Of the 17 reports, nine have been confirmed as cases of the syndrome, two have been discounted as cases and six are under investigation.

"There are developmental protocols being developed for those children," Levine said.

Dr. Zachary Aldewereld, a pediatric infectious disease fellow at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, said the hospital has had no confirmed cases of MIS-C as of Tuesday.

According to Aldewereld, UPMC assembled a team of that includes ICU doctors, inflammation doctors, heart doctors and infection doctors to create guidelines to diagnose and treat the condition. He said the team also would draw upon CDC guidance too.

MIS-C is described as a rare condition affecting children as late as four to six weeks after a child has recovered from COVID-19. Symptoms include fever, abdominal pain, rash, swollen lymph nodes and red eyes, among others. The condition is not COVID-19, but rather a syndrome that comes after the child has the virus.

"There is rather limited information about this condition," Levine said.

Aldewereld said there are two key concerns surrounding the syndrome. The first is that in its acute stage, children can be sick enough to need intensive care. The second is that following a bout with the condition, some children can develop enlarged coronary arteries, which poses a long-term concern. But there is room for optimism.

"We believe that with early diagnosis and treatment, that this risk is re-

## COVID-19 REGIONAL DATA

The following numbers on the coronavirus pandemic were compiled from the regular news releases from the state Department of Health figures.

Tuesday's COVID-19 statistics:

### BUTLER COUNTY

Confirmed cases: 240  
Negative tests: 3,343  
Deaths: 12

### PENNSYLVANIA

New cases: 451  
Total cases: 68,637  
New deaths: 13  
Total deaths: 5,152  
Negative tests: 339,835

### SURROUNDING COUNTIES

✓ Allegheny: 1,816 confirmed cases; 27,412 negative test results; and 160 deaths

✓ Armstrong: 59 confirmed; 1,128 negative; and 3 deaths

✓ Beaver: 570 confirmed; 3,413 negative; and 72 deaths

✓ Clarion: 29 confirmed; 651 negative; and 2 deaths

✓ Lawrence: 74 confirmed; 1,173 negative; and 8 deaths

✓ Mercer: 105 confirmed; 1,417 negative; and 4 deaths

✓ Venango: 8 confirmed and 476 negative

✓ Westmoreland: 442 confirmed; 8,587 negative; and 38 deaths

■ The total number of cases includes confirmed and probable cases.

■ The total deaths and new deaths include only confirmed deaths, which is a person who tested positive for the virus before their death.

duced substantially based on experience with similar diseases," he said.

Aldewereld said parents who see these types of symptoms should contact their child's health care provider immediately. He said it's important for parents to be aware of the condition, but they should find some comfort in the fact that it is rare.

"I think this is one of the most important points for parents to know, that it appears to be very rare, and we expect this to hold true over time," he said.

Coronavirus in children is rare, and even fewer develop MIS-C. Levine said COVID-19 has mostly affected people older than 25, and children who have contracted the virus commonly show mild symptoms.

Last week, the first death of a child in Pennsylvania was reported as caused directly by COVID-19. It was also noted that the child was not a resident of the state.

While the state plans to continue monitoring MIS-C, both Wolf and Levine reported positive trends in the state's COVID-19 numbers.

"Regionally, we are seeing some fluctuation of case counts, but overall they continue to trend downward," Levine said. "Statewide,

we are now estimating that 61 percent with COVID-19 have recovered."

Both Wolf and Levine were asked about plans to move counties from yellow to green phases in the reopening of the state.

"We're able to make this progress toward safely reopening our economy only because people like you are taking precautions," Wolf said. "So, I thank each and every one of you for doing your part."

Starting Friday, 17 counties will move to green. Wolf reiterated Tuesday that all remaining red counties will likely move to the yellow phase by June 5.

As the state considers more phase changes, Levine said the state's increased testing capacities have made the 50 positive cases per 100,000 population metric "less useful."

She said officials will instead focus more on models and projections, which are available on the Department of Health's website. Levine also explained that it would take for a county to move from yellow to green.

"Those counties need to have a continually decreasing rate of COVID-19 while they were yellow," she said. "If they have a continued decreased rate of infection, then they'll be considered to go green."

## Trust

From Page 1

most of us to live in kairos time. There are so many unknowns, and we do not have the control that we so enjoy.

Kairos time, truly, is God's time.

As Jesus reminds us in Matthew's Gospel, "no-body knows when that day or hour will come, not the heavenly angels and not the Son. Only the Father knows." 24:36, CEB

When we're talking about the second coming of Christ, this sentiment may be a bit more palatable. When it comes to our very lives here and now, it's a harder pill to swallow.

Friends, we don't know

when COVID-19 will stop dictating our lives. We don't know when a vaccine will be available, when kids will go back to school, or when it will be safe to gather in large groups again.

Only God knows.

Our call, as people of faith, is to trust God. We are to believe that God is working, and that God is already there, preparing the way for us.

In these hours, days, weeks, and months of wishing and waiting, may we remember the call of the Psalmist: "Be still and know that I am God."

The Rev. Leigh Benish is pastor of Hill United Presbyterian Church, 501 Second St. in Butler.

# County wrapping up mail-in, absentee ballot applications

By Steve Ferris  
Eagle Staff Writer

The county election bureau has processed more than 24,000 applications for mail-in and absentee ballots as of Tuesday, the deadline for both applications.

Applications submitted last week were taken to the post office for delivery, and the bureau is busy processing the last batch of applications.

"They had 24,236 applications processed so far. They've been keeping up with the volume," Tom Victoria, county spokesman,

said about the bureau staff.

Victoria did not have a breakdown of how many applications were for mail-in ballots and how many were for absentee ballots. Voters were allowed to submit the applications online, to the bureau in person or by mail.

If someone applied for and didn't receive a ballot, they might not have updated their address, Victoria said. If the address isn't updated, the ballot will be sent to the address on file, he said.

Applications received last week were processed, and those ballots were delivered to the post office for

delivery Tuesday, said Leslie Osche, county commissioner chairwoman.

The rest of the applications will be processed as quickly as possible.

"Anything that came in over the weekend or today (Tuesday), they will turn around as quickly as they can," Osche said. "I don't know how you can make the process any faster."

The bureau processed more than 2,000 applications a day last week through a tedious process, she said.

Applications are sorted by precincts first, by party

second and then alphabetically. After being processed, the ballots are matched to the printed mailing labels before all the material is stuffed in envelopes.

Online applications go to the Pennsylvania Department of State and applicants' voter registrations are checked automatically, but bureau staff verifies voter registrations for applications submitted by mail, she said.

"It's a tedious and long process — time consuming. It's not an easy thing. That department is doing a yeoman's job," she said.

## Butler Eagle

Founded 1869

Ronald Vodenichar  
President /  
Publisher

Tammy Schuey  
General Manager

Keith Graham  
Vice President  
of Advertising

Alice Lunn  
Circulation Director

Andie Hannon  
Managing Editor

Joel Christy  
Press Foreman

Laurinda Klutinoty  
Controller

Deanna Gerstner  
Composing Foreman

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## TOWN AND COUNTY

Items for Town & County should be submitted on weekdays no later than 4 p.m. the day before requested publication.

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Here's how to get information to the Eagle on the Internet:

news@butlereagle.com for general news

community@butlereagle.com for the community section

sports@butlereagle.com for sports section

classified@butlereagle.com to place an ad

## CHUCKLE

Would dog still be man's best friend if dog wasn't getting free room and board?

## BIBLE VERSE

Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today." — Luke 5:26



# IN MANY WAYS, WE'VE BEEN TRAINING FOR THIS FOR **106** YEARS.

When this invisible enemy attacked and the world shut down,  
essential workers everywhere stayed on the job.

At MSA, it's our mission to help protect the world's workforce and ensure  
that they, their families and communities live in health and safety.

So we stayed on the job, too.

**THANK YOU** to our associates. We're proud of you, and know  
you'll rise to any challenge the next 106 years might bring.



## Today, we salute Butler County's essential workers

In today's paper, readers will find stories about people in their community who have been diligently — often courageously — serving others these past few months.

Most of these people haven't engaged in extraordinary feats, but rather gone about their daily schedule. They've merely been doing their jobs.

But in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, doing so comes at great risk.

Today's Blue Edition — a Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association initiative — recognizes those considered essential workers during this crisis.

This includes everyone from those who keep us safe — firefighters, EMS and police officers — to people responsible for Butler County residents having food on the table — grocery store employees and farmers.

In our section, we profile people on the front line of COVID-19, such as hospital staff, but also those dealing with the public every day — including bus drivers.

One of our profiles is of Pat Kelly, a paramedic and crew chief with Mars' Quality EMS. The 66-year-old paramedic — whose age puts her in a high-risk category — said her family and friends were concerned about her working during the pandemic.

"It was important to me to help people who give back to the community where I live — I have a lot of family and friends

in the service area and I wanted to help them," she said.

In another story, readers will meet Gary Brill, a Butler Transit Authority bus driver who decided to continue working despite the dangers involved.

"There's a lot of people (who) had to get to work, and if I wasn't there driving they would have to get there another way," he said.

Upon realizing that some riders couldn't afford or find available masks, he began carrying some with him to hand out for free.

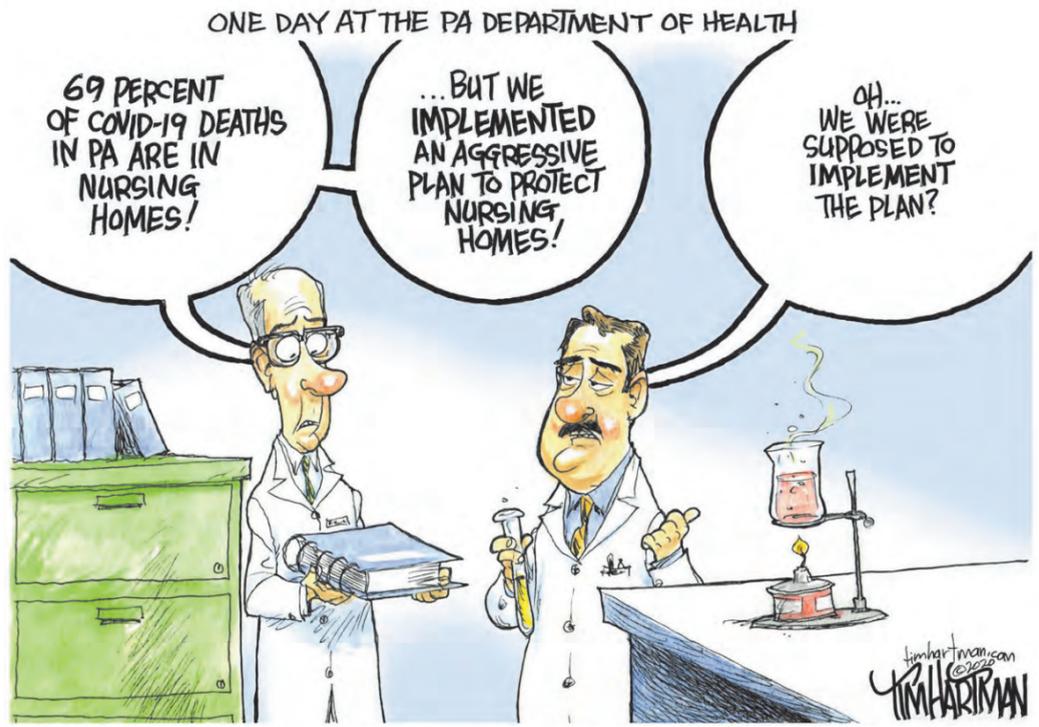
And Rick Douglas, a member of Butler Memorial Hospital's environmental services department, told the Eagle he has safeguarded against contamination for years.

Douglas — who picks up everything from dirty linen and trash to biohazard waste — works daily in a building that is the county's COVID-19 epicenter, although he said less trash is being produced there during the pandemic.

There are many others profiled in our Blue Edition who have been doing their jobs amid a dangerous outbreak, while others are more safely sheltering at home.

We thank our county's essential workers — without whose efforts and bravery many necessary and life-saving services would not be available during this extraordinary time in our nation's history.

— NCD



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### An open letter to my brother in faith

My friend, I honor the work you have done in building the church, in feeding the hungry, in serving the poor, in comforting the prisoner, and in many other ways.

But I have to confront you as a faithful brother in your recent public criticism — and therefore, apparent condemnation — of church leaders who have prayerfully chosen to protect their congregations by physical methods along with their prayers for these members.

There are biblical instances of chosen isolation, especially among the prophets, and especially in times of significant physical danger.

And in my reading of the hierarchy of commandments, loving God and loving our neighbor are superior to the Hebrews 11:25 admonition that appears to have been contextual.

It is my firm belief that we honor God best by obeying God's commandments, including showing sacrificial love to our neighbors. I think you and I agree there.

Today, among my acts of sacrificial love is that of giving up for a time the joy of mutual hugs, the exultation of congregational singing, the happiness of physi-

cal connections — so that this disease that somehow affected the just and the unjust may not be further spread by my all-too-human actions.

But I will continue to make use of God's gift of technological means to encourage one another, to stir ourselves up to sacrificial love and good deeds, and I give thanks for the God-given opportunity to do so even more broadly than physically possible.

In shared confidence in Christ our Lord,

Allen Kitchen, Butler

### When out in public, wear a mask, please

I want to be free to breathe air that is not contaminated with the breath and germs of people who are not wearing masks.

Researchers say 25 percent to 50 percent of people with COVID-19 are unaware they have the virus.

These carriers without symptoms allow the novel coronavirus to spread more rapidly throughout a community.

Experts say it is therefore even more important for people to wear face masks in public.

I am in the high-risk group over 60 with high blood pressure, overweight and pre-

diabetic. I have been staying home since early March trying to avoid COVID-19 germs that would probably kill me. I have my groceries delivered or use curbside pickup. Wearing a mask and gloves I have gone to the grocery store twice and three or four times to the post office to send out masks that I make to family members. Each time I go out, I worry.

I don't like wearing a mask either, but I don't want to make anyone else sick with my germs or be exposed to COVID-19 droplets in the air from someone not wearing a mask. Exposure to COVID-19 from people not wearing masks could be a death sentence to me or your family and friends.

Sue Mraz, Slippery Rock

### Rep., staff helpful in solving problems

I want to thank state Rep. Marci Mustello and her staff for helping me with my problems that have occurred lately.

She made phone calls for information to the right people. She also followed up to make sure the problems were solved.

Her doors are always open to help those who need.

Jack Povlick, Butler

## Adams

From Page 1

The protection from abuse order request was made by a man who brought the case against his wife, according to court documents. The man's lawyer, Jennifer Pullar, subpoenaed the Adams Township Police Department to request an officer testify at the hearing, which was scheduled for May 19.

In her subpoena, Pullar requested Adams Township Sgt. Edward Lenz to "attend and testify" at the hearing.

The Butler-based family attorney said she never encountered resistance for this type of request.

"We need the officer to establish the evidence," Pullar said. "The incident report in itself is hearsay, and he needs to be there to authenticate it. Typically, police officers don't put the full details in the incident report, so there are many details left out that are crucial to the prosecution or defense of a PFA that are important."

But Gallagher disagreed.

"The Butler County Court has for years made decisions in PFA cases without police testimony, and the police should not be the willy-nilly instruments of attorneys," Gallagher writes in the court filing.

Gallagher went on to argue in his filing that scheduling police officers and their time off already is a difficult task for administrators without being compounded by subpoenas to appear in court.

"Calling officers into court willy-nilly for domestic relations matters, at the beck and call of attorneys, creates a gap in public safety," Gallagher wrote. "Which far outweighs any purported need by an attorney to subpoena a police officer."

In an interview with the Butler Eagle, Gallagher described the subpoena for a hearing like this to be rare.

Pullar said oral arguments on the matter were held May 18 before Robinson during a phone conference that included her, Gallagher and the judge. Pullar noted an eviden-

tiary hearing will be held in the near future before the judge makes a final ruling about the subpoena request.

"They argued that I already have the incident report, but they have to authenticate it by going (to court)," Pullar said. "They argued that they will not come to court and testify about victims of domestic violence."

Pullar said that in resisting the subpoena, the authorities were shirking their duties, adding that community members look to police officers to protect and serve the public.

"If they're unwilling to protect or serve by coming into court and assisting a victim of domestic violence, then it has a huge chilling effect that the victim would ever call the police going forward knowing they would not be there to protect them outside of that emergent response," Pullar said. "There's no follow-through. Why would they report domestic violence if they know police won't follow through with it."

Pullar further argued the case isn't just a private matter.

"It's not just a civil matter over husband and wife arguing over who stole the toaster. There's a much larger implication in this matter. It's not just civil. This could have a chilling effect on people reporting abuse," Pullar said.

The court matter is to establish whether a permanent protection from abuse order is needed. Gallagher noted that if this was a violation of a protection from abuse order, it would make sense to have police testify.

Robinson ordered a hearing to decide if the subpoena should be removed.

Gallagher said it is "pretty rare" for a lawyer to subpoena an officer in a routine PFA hearing. More common, he said, would be for an officer to attend a violation hearing. He said that if that were the case, he wouldn't ask for the subpoena to be removed.

"Legislation for PFA made it very simplified — you don't need police officers to be there to testify. It's supposed to be a streamlined procedure," he said.

In Gallagher's filing against the subpoena, he cites a 2006 Allegheny County case in which a Ross Township police officer was subpoenaed to testify at a custody hearing in his role as a police officer. He quotes the judge saying: "The police have important work to do in communities and should not be dragged willy-nilly into custody disputes."

"The same standard should be applied to PFA cases (but not PFA violation cases)," Gallagher writes, adding that "The subpoena for Sergeant Lenz is annoying, oppressive, burdensome and places unreasonable expense upon the police and the taxpayers of Adams Township. Police officers cannot serve at the beck and call of lawyers for private matters."

But Pullar countered that this type of situation is exactly what police officers are for.

"I understand there's an economic side to it, but you've taken an oath," Pullar said. "It's a pretty routine request."

## Return

From Page 1

No money comes directly from the diocese, according to Michelle Peduto, director of Catholic schools in the Pittsburgh Diocese.

Between school events being canceled and parishes being closed, Catholic schools are facing many challenges.

"It's difficult," Peduto said. "We don't know what to expect." Locally, Butler Catholic might face financial shortages on more than one front.

"Our parish subsidies have gone way down," Mulhern said. "We're trying to figure that out."

Butler Catholic celebrated its 50th anniversary this school year and is the oldest consolidated school in the Pittsburgh Diocese. With five parishes in the city

contributing to the school's enrollment, it educates about 270 students in preschool through eighth grade. Mulhern aims to keep Butler Catholic's 17 full-time and five part-time teachers on staff for next year.

Next year's budget is still being worked through, Mulhern said. She said Butler Catholic traditionally tries to follow the Pennsylvania Department of Education's June 30 deadline for passing general fund budgets.

### Coping with funding shortages

As in public districts, Butler Catholic officials are attempting to fill in the blanks about potential funding shortages.

This year's budget was \$1.6 million. Mulhern said at the moment, next year's total isn't as

clear.

"A lot of our budget (this next year) is based on speculation," Mulhern said. "We don't know what we have."

Mulhern said parents have been "faithful" when it comes to making their tuition payments, even in the wake of COVID-19.

"We know finances are going to be tight," Mulhern said. "But we're going to ... have to be good stewards of the bank account."

Next year might be a time for "taking risks" and expanding horizons, Mulhern said. She specifically discussed the fact that students began online instruction March 16, shortly after the state mandated school closures.

Mulhern said providing one Chromebook for each student is important for students to have

a solid education. So is being fluent in web-based platforms, such as Google Classrooms.

"Our students are comfortable with their ability to navigate it," Mulhern said.

When it comes to the future, Mulhern is gleaming hope from a Catholic saying: "Providence did provide; Providence can provide; Providence will provide."

Peduto said the diocese has a task force in place to review educational "scenarios" for its 37 schools for next year.

The diocese announced plans earlier this year for a four-school consolidation in another county. Peduto said other consolidations are part of the larger discussion for the diocese.

"We're looking at every op-

tion," Peduto said, "with the goal of being sustainable and accessible."

Mulhern wants students to return to a brick-and-mortar setting in the fall.

Whether it's a long lost "rich uncle" or a familiar face in the community, Mulhern believes God will call forth someone — or many someones — to assist financially with the future of Catholic education in Butler County.

"He'll speak to somebody's heart," Mulhern said.

Mulhern said school officials need to be hopeful, above all else. Giving in to doubt and worry can be detrimental to a child's education.

"It's the kids who suffer," Mulhern said. "You have to keep a positive attitude."

# Driver

From Page 1

had to get to work, and if I wasn't there driving they would have to get there another way, but here I am getting them there."

### Shuttling riders safely

In mid-March, the authority implemented various precautions and bus drivers like Brill enacted those measures. His routes, he said, consist of shuttling commuters between Pittsburgh and Butler and the local city route. All fares were waived and passengers were directed to use the back of the bus and to remain behind the white line to protect drivers from a possible virus exposure.

The beginning of the month is always the busiest for his routes because, he said, that is when most people get money from social welfare programs, allowing them to shop for goods.

"One big problem was trying to keep that six-foot distance, especially Saturdays. They were the worst," he said. "People who don't have a car get on the bus and go to Walmart to do their shopping. When this all started we cut down the number of riders per bus."

The solution, Brill said, was to have a second bus shadow the first and pick up passengers.

At first, Brill noticed that some people couldn't afford masks or they couldn't find available masks.

"It was hard to remember for them to have a mask in the first place. On top of that, people were hoarding, so there weren't many masks out there so people were taking the bus up to the hospital to get a mask," he said.

Brill began carrying masks with him on the bus and would hand them for free to anyone who needed them.

"People were having to get used to wearing the mask and being cognizant of their surroundings and other people. It really made people question how it used to be compared to now," he said. "It took about two weeks and then everybody got into the groove."

### Connecting with commuters

Brill has been driving commercially since 1985 and for 22 years he shuttled inmates between prison and court appearances and work-sites for the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

"As law enforcement, you look at things that could go wrong or sideways. Now, when they get on the bus, I look at it like they're my family and I have to protect them. It's a different mindset," Brill said. "It allows me to be more personable with the riders and talk to them in a different manner, different light."

But other parts of law enforcement have helped him, he said.

"I learned verbal judo as a cop and I use that skill now," Brill said. "Everybody has their own little world, and getting on the bus you have 25 little worlds colliding."

And sometimes, he said, those worlds collide and create trouble between the passengers, especially with the heightened anxiety he's noticed. "Once in a while you have somebody who is having a bad morning," Brill said. "It's life. That's what happens. As the bus driver, I have to resolve everything that split second so that nothing escalates. It comes in handy. I enjoy talking with the people."

A lot of his job, he said, is just listening while driving.

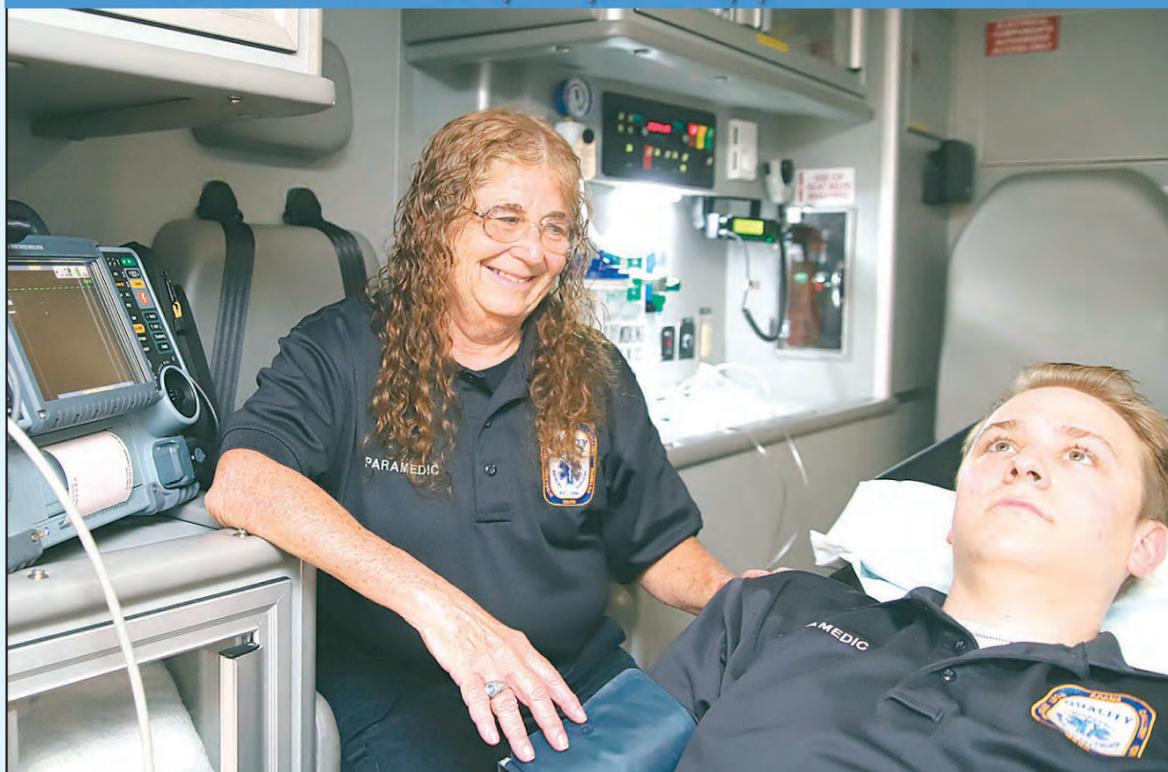
"I have my regulars that ride and I have the new riders who need directions. You become a bus counselor and a tour guide while driving," Brill said. "You really hear everybody's problems. I listen. It's just background noise. It doesn't bother me to have somebody sit down and unload their problems on me. If it helps them have a better day, so be it. When I get home, I enjoy myself and it doesn't hurt me."

He continued, "I'll be more than happy to give you answers. You may not like my answers. That's what I like. I like being able to be on the receiving end of talking to people instead of the other way around."

Brill retired from The Orange County Sheriff's department in Southern California in 2014 and he said he took the bus job for health insurance. But he also wanted to find something that would keep him engaged.

"I want to do something that I enjoy. And I enjoy driving the bus and riding with the public. I like that so this is something for me to do," Brill said. "Every day is different. Some days, I want to pull out what little hair I have left. But other days you are giggling with these characters and their stories. I get these little episodes of what happened in Butler and their life."

## Essential Employee Appreciation



Pat Kelly, a paramedic and crew chief with Quality EMS, simulates taking a blood pressure measurement from fellow paramedic Eric Hacker.

SEB FOLTZ/BUTLER EAGLE

# First Responder

## Quality EMS paramedic continues to help others

By Steve Ferris Eagle Staff Writer

Pat Kelly of Adams Township always knew she wanted a career that would allow her to help other people. And she found it.

Kelly, a paramedic and crew chief with Quality EMS in Mars, has worked as a first responder for 24 years.

"I have a very strong faith in God and I think that really helps me do my job. It's helped me to be able to help a lot of people over the years," Kelly said.

The 66-year-old found that running ambulance crews during the coronavirus pandemic changed the dynamic of her work — calls declined drastically, but those needing help waited until they were very ill, and the risk of contracting COVID-19 was ever-present.

"My kids were very worried and they wanted me to retire," Kelly said. "They still worry."

Erica Corso, Quality EMS director, said Quality EMS saw a 55 percent drop in emergency calls since mid-to-late-March and five nonemergency wheelchair van drivers have been laid off.

People were putting off calling 911 for help, she said.

"We were finding sicker patients, because they were waiting longer to call 911," Corso said. "They were still having medical emergencies, but they were afraid to call 911 because they didn't want to go to the hospital out of fear of getting the virus."

Fear didn't keep Kelly from her work. But she and her husband, Tim, had to deal with a COVID-19 reality.

"My husband was worried at first. I came in contact with one person who was infected. Me and my husband had to quarantine for two weeks," Kelly said. "He knows the risk involved, but he also knows I love my job."

### Path to a career

Kelly didn't start out planning to ride an ambulance into emergency

**'M**y husband was worried at first. I came in contact with one person who was infected. Me and my husband had to quarantine for two weeks. He knows the risk involved, but he also knows I love my job.'

Pat Kelly, paramedic and crew chief with Quality EMS in Mars

situations.

She graduated from Clarion University with a bachelor of arts degree in psychology in 1975, but couldn't find a job in the field.

So, she worked as a waitress and eventually as a manager at the Howard Johnson's in the Zelienople Plaza of the Pennsylvania Turnpike until 1983, when she and her husband had Erin, the first of their three children.

"I just wanted to help people," Kelly said about pursuing her degree, "I applied for jobs, but there weren't many for a (person with a) bachelor's."

After the couple had their other children, Scott and Cliff, she began working as a volunteer emergency medical technician for the Mars Volunteer Fire Department in 1991.

A few years later, Kelly was among a group of about 20 people who founded Quality EMS in Mars and she started working for the new service in 1994 as a volunteer EMT.

She became a paramedic in 1996 and got a full-time job with Cranberry Township EMS two years later while working part time for Quality EMS. She left Cranberry Township EMS after becoming full time with Quality EMS in 2007 and is now a crew chief.

"I stayed with Quality because I live in the service area and I care about the people in the service area," Kelly said.

One of her neighbors who was involved in starting Quality EMS was her inspiration to help the effort.

"I just loved it and I still love it today," she said.

### A friend, leader

Kelly is someone others look up to. "She's a great paramedic. She's a great friend and she's a great leader," Corso said.

Kelly helps new hires prepare to deal with whatever they might encounter when responding to an emergency call.

"She pulls her wings around them. She has a mom effect. She helps prepare them to respond. She's a good worker," Corso said.

It's all about taking care of each other, Kelly said.

"It was important to me to help people who give back to the community where I live," Kelly said. "I have a lot of family and friends in the service area and I wanted to help them."

Many businesses and residents have turned out to help Quality EMS during the pandemic by donating cleaning supplies, masks and money.

"The support from the community has just been awesome," Kelly said.

She said she considered stepping down last year.

"I thought about retiring last year, but didn't. I can't imagine what I would do if I wasn't working," she said. "One day I will."

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# Essential Employee Appreciation



Butler Eagle  
Cranberry Eagle

## New 'normal' puts space between officers, public

By Jim Smith, Eagle Staff Writer

Social distancing has always been a foreign concept to Penn Township police Sgt. Jack Ripper.

Always ready and willing to help, he's a people person. He's friendly. Approachable. Sociable.

The long-time officer is a fixture in the township. To know him is to like him.

Policing in the age of the coronavirus pandemic has cramped Ripper's style.

"Yeah, I'm a personable guy," he acknowledged. "It's tough not being able to socialize with people like I'm used to."

Keeping one's distance to six feet, when possible, might as well be six miles for Ripper.

"That's one of the biggest changes, trying to minimize as much close personal contact as you can," he said, "unless you have to."

It's something that always on his mind, he admitted. He recalled responding to a call for a broken down motorist, and being aware not to get up close and personal.

There are other changes, too, that are still taking time to get used to, like new "equipment" required of the job.

"We got to carry extra sanitary wipes now, hand cleaner, masks and goggles, stuff like that," he said. He dons his mask, for example, whenever he goes into a business or home.

When outside, he "plays it by ear," whether to "mask up" or not.

"Government orders," he noted. "You should follow that."

Part of his job, he said, is to "make my presence known" around the community including at businesses. That aspect of his work has become a bit complicated.

"It's different," he said. "You used to be able to stop and walk into a business and talk to the people. But we can't now because they're closed or you're limited in what you can do."

For the past several weeks, he noted, the call volume has been noticeably down, a result of the Gov. Tom Wolf's statewide stay-at-home order issued April 1.

Wolf on May 8 lifted that order for Butler and a number of other counties, and gave permission to certain stores and businesses to reopen.

On March 19, as part of his administration's COVID-19 mitigation efforts, he ordered any "business in the Commonwealth that is not a life-sustaining business" to close.

In the first week or so of that order, Ripper said, police received complaints about some businesses — including golf courses — not being in compliance.

**I**t's different. You used to be able to stop and walk into a business and talk to the people. But we can't now because they're closed or you're limited in what you can do.

**Sgt. Jack Ripper,**  
Penn Township Police Department

Police paid those businesses a visit.

"We went up and talked to them and said, 'Hey, we got to follow government rules and right now you're not allowed to be open,'" Ripper recalled. "We asked them to close and they did."

Traffic calls were drastically reduced immediately after the COVID-19 outbreak, not surprisingly, as fewer people have been out driving. But that doesn't mean there hasn't been enforcement.

"I still pull people over," Ripper said. "I stopped two kids for going damned close to 100 mph. You got to pull them over. They got tickets. You still got a job to do."

But since the county moved from the red to yellow phase in Wolf's reopening plan, Ripper said he's seen an increase in traffic on township roads.

He said he has not seen an increase in domestic calls, something he thought he might after the business closure and stay-at-home orders.

Support of the public has risen since the COVID-19 impact.

"We've had several people donating hand-sanitizing gel and making sure that we get the Clorox wipes and stuff like that," he said. "It's awesome."

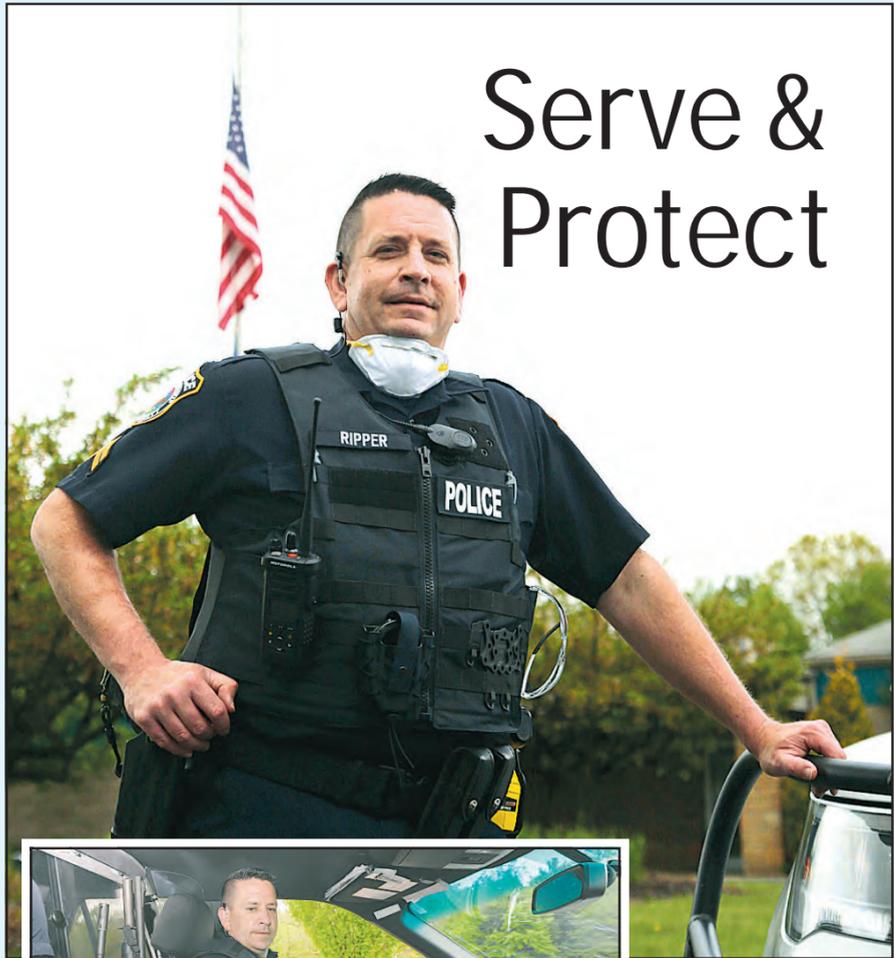
Getting back to social distancing, Ripper believes it's not going away anytime soon, like it or not.

"It's weird," he said. "It's definitely a new thing and I think it's going to be a standard for a while. Like no shaking hands. It's one of the things you got to adapt to and go with the flow."

**C**COVID-19 has altered the challenging job of the police officer. Masks, gloves, disinfecting wipes and bottles of hand sanitizers have become tools of the trade.

For some it's a hassle. But for

## Serve & Protect



Sgt. Jack Ripper of the Penn Township Police Department has more protective gear and equipment on the job since the coronavirus pandemic started in mid-March.

PHOTOGRAPHY  
BY SEB FOLTZ/  
BUTLER EAGLE

Butler Patrolman Marc Howard, it's just part of the job now.

"You got to adapt," he said.

And in keeping with his good-natured character, Howard has even found a way to smile through the unexpected change to policing.

When masks became a statewide mandate, "it took a while to get used to," Howard admitted. But he and some of his fellow officers made the best of it.

Patrolman Jacob May's mother-in-law put her talents to work and made several masks for the officers, including Howard.

It wasn't long before they headed out together to answer a burglar alarm at a house on Fourth Street. They got there and "masked up," a new term in the police vernacular.

"They were actually dark blue, like our uniforms," Howard said of the masks. "It was kind of cool 'cause we all matched."

Since that shift a while ago, wearing the face covering has become just part of the routine. And like their other standard issue equipment, the officers' masks are always within reach when called upon to use.

"Some of the guys throw them around their vests," Howard said. "I put it around my Taser handle so every time I look down, it's there. It reminds me to

put my mask on."

In dealing with the pandemic, he practices a go-with-the-flow, roll-with-the-punches mentality.

"When this all came about," Howard recalled, "we took everything as seriously as we could. We actually all came together and decided to make sure that station is thoroughly wiped down after shift to ensure everything is clean."

That goes for the patrol cars, too.

Dealing with the public — and vice versa, for that matter — has also been affected by the pandemic. Personal protection equipment and social distancing directives have created new dimensions to policing.

Prior to COVID-19, it was fairly routine for officers to go into homes or businesses to speak to individuals as part of a call or investigation, Howard said. It's not as routine now.

"People have always been so inviting, 'Come on in, I'll talk to you,'" he said. "They're kind of not used to us telling them, 'No, we really have to talk (outside).'"

It's all about social distancing, Howard said.

"I think we do pretty good at it," he said, referring to the officers in his department. "It's not just for our safety, but

See **Officers**, Page 10

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# Essential Employee Appreciation



Butler Patrolman Marc Howard must deal with personal protection equipment and social distancing directives while on the job during the COVID-19 pandemic. ANDIE HANNON/BUTLER EAGLE

**‘W**hen this all came about, we took everything as seriously as we could. We actually all came together and decided to make sure that station is thoroughly wiped down after shift to ensure everything is clean.’

**Patrolman Marc Howard**, Butler City Police Department

## Officers

From Page 7

for the public, too.”

But adhering to the social distancing protocol can be difficult.

Howard cited a recent DUI stop he made on Brady Street. Eventually, he had to administer field sobriety tests.

“I kept as much distance as I could,” he said. “But I kept in mind that I had to do my job.”

Two of the tests — the walk-and-turn and the one-leg stand — posed no problem. But the horizontal gaze nystagmus test was another matter.

The HGN test requires the officer to observe the involuntary “jerkiness” of the eyeball in determining if a driver may be impaired.

“I felt I was at a safe enough

distance,” Howard said, “but we were still close face to face. It was somewhat difficult. Obviously, he didn’t have a mask on.”

Having had his mask on throughout, Howard put on protective gloves when it was time to arrest the suspect.

Adjusting to the new reality of COVID-19 hasn’t been seamless, the officer admitted, but it hasn’t been too difficult either — all things considered.

“We’re taking it one day at a time,” Howard said. “We help each other out and that makes it really easy. We got a great chief. Right off the bat he was 100 percent for the guys as far as telling us how to take precautions, how to handle ourselves in the street.”

“It was a pretty easy process other than just weird with the mask and putting gloves on.”

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From, Good Samaritan Leadership



**Kasie Williams**  
CHEMO-CLINIC, SEATTLE, WA  
NURSE

Thanks for all you do. We are so proud of you.

Love Grams & Pap Weleski



**Tammi Crawford**  
CONCORDIA VISITING NURSES  
RN

Tammi is a caring nurse to her patients, family and neighbors.

Love and prayers,  
Don, Jaydon,  
Mom Russo and  
Mom Crawford



**Sarah Berberich**  
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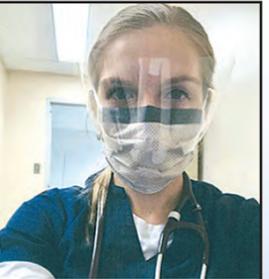
From, Gram Summerville



**Tammy May**  
BUTLER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
RN NURSE

Thanks so much for all you do. We are so proud of you.

Love Mom & Dad Weleski



**Katie Studeny**  
BUTLER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
PA-C

Voluntarily moved from surgery to infectious disease control during the pandemic. She also goes on missions to Haiti to provide care to the under-served using her own funds and vacation time.  
From, Dad



**Katy Weleski**  
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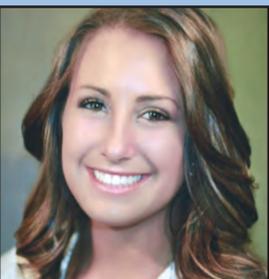
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BUTLER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
RN

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From, Nicole, Luca and Emma



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Thanks Michael for all you do. We are so proud of you.

Love Mom & Dad Weleski



**Kaitlyn Patton-Lominski**  
BHS - 7 TOWER  
RN

We are so proud of you! You are a wonderful and caring nurse with such a bright future! We love you!

From, Uncle Kevin and Aunt Jenny



**Jennifer Patton**  
BHS - 7 TOWER  
RN, BSN

You’ve come a long way in 23 years and touched so many lives. I’m so proud of the nurse you’ve become.

I love you, Kevin

# Essential Employee Appreciation



Peter Record, produce manager for Butler Farm Market, is among workers filling a variety of jobs to get groceries to customers during the COVID-19 pandemic.



At left, Melanie Losser, of the Butler Farm Market, fills an order for a customer waiting in the parking lot of the store. Below left, Amy Stivison takes an order as customers drive up to the entrance of the market. Below, Peter Record takes an order to someone's car.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY HAROLD AUGHTON/ BUTLER EAGLE

## Made to Order Workers shift roles to fill customers' grocery lists

**By Eric Freehling,** Eagle Community Editor

The COVID-19 pandemic has rippled through every area of society changing the way we work, connect and shop.

For example, the Butler Farm Market, 901 Evans City Road in Renfrew, had been filling shoppers' orders since the end of March with delivery to their customers' cars in the parking lot, keeping people out of the store and away from the staff.

The store began re-admitting customers May 15 but delivery to cars is still a feature of the store's operations.

"We set up a 20-by-20 tent," said Butler Farm Market owner Eric Shiever. "They drive through the tent, someone writes their order down and takes their

credit card."

Shoppers fill the customers' orders in the store, run the credit card, print a receipt and gloved and masked employees take the orders and the receipts to the customers' vehicles.

It was a whole new world for Peter Record, the produce manager at Butler Farm Market for more than two years.

"Before the pandemic, I controlled the stocking of all the produce and the pricing, I was in charge of all the department — the people, the counters — and I dealt with the restaurants that bought wholesale products," Record said.

"Since the pandemic, I do almost everything possible, I shop, I run the

registers, I run things out to the cars, I take orders," he said. "I'm not worried about infecting people because we are doing things in a very clean way."

He said he doesn't feel threatened by the COVID-19 virus at work and employees are gloved and masked even when there are no shoppers in the store.

Record said although the store began admitting masked customers May 15, it still has its delivery system in place, if slightly modified.

"We're still doing curbside service, but it's for call-in orders," he said. "You call your order in and we will have it ready by 10 a.m. the next day."

Record says he thinks the market

is conducting its business in the right way. He's just worried it will be business as usual too soon.

"I know people get very upset, but I just worry we might get back into it too quickly," he said. "We might get tired of doing what we are doing and go back too quick."

The pandemic has changed some buying habits.

"We sold a lot more things that you have to prep for like squash, pineapples and such. My thinking is that people have more time to do the prep work on that," he said.

Record said he hasn't seen any dis

See **Workers**, Page 12

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EMS, Clarion

# Time to Suit Up BMH employee expert at cleanup

By Eric Freehling, Eagle Community Editor

Some people are used to guarding against contamination.

The COVID-19 restrictions just meant one more layer of protection for Rick Douglas, a member of the environmental services department at Butler Memorial Hospital.

Douglas fills a housekeeper one position at the hospital. As such, it brings Douglas into contact with some oozy and possibly infectious materials.

"I pick up trash and dirty linen and biohazard trash. I pick up at the chutes several times a day," Douglas said. "I get rid of it."

Douglas was already outfitted with gloves and a hat when he moves his cart between the four trash chutes he empties on the hospital's second floor near the emergency room and cafeteria.

Dirty linens go to the hospital laundry, regular garbage goes to the hospital trash compactor and biohazards, packed in bright yellow or red bags, are weighed, boxed, entered into a log and taken from the hospital by an outside contractor.

Douglas said biohazard waste is sterilized and incinerated.

With the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic, Douglas added a face mask to his ensemble and continued to go about making his trash pickups.

When the hospital went on lock down and canceled elective surgery, Douglas' work load got a bit lighter.

"The pandemic hasn't affected me too much. You pick it up and you take it down and get rid of it," he said.

"It's cut into the trash produced," he said of the recently relaxed hospital lock down. "More patients means more

trash. Our loads were cut down a lot during that time. They are starting to pick up now."

Douglas picks up dirty linen and trash from chutes on the second floor and hazardous waste from the third, fourth, fifth and sixth floors of the hospital.

"On a good day, if you stay on the ball, you should be able to pick up the chutes once an hour and keep the biohazard trash picked up," Douglas said. "You want to leave it, so the afternoon guy is not buried."

"I've got a routine I follow every day, the routes that work best for me," he said.

He estimated he walks seven to nine miles each day, pushing the cart he loads with trash during his shift, which runs from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

But he considers himself more than just his housekeeper title. He thinks he's also an ambassador for the hospital.

Because he's often on the second floor, the location of the emergency room and the cafeteria, he often finds himself dealing with the public, explaining the hospital rules and directing visitors to their destinations.

If anyone knows the hospital, it's Douglas.

"I've been with the hospital for 43 years," he said. "I started in the laundry in 1977. I did that for 11 and a half years. Then, I was a computer operator for 25 years. My job got eliminated there."

"I needed a job and took the job in housekeeping," he said, adding he figures he will have to work another five or six years because of "the way Social Security and other stuff is going."

## Essential Employee Appreciation



Rick Douglas, a housekeeper at Butler Memorial Hospital, is used to taking precautions on the job while handling biohazard waste.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Workers

From Page 11

ruptions in the food supply chain such as those that have left some stores limiting meat sales.

"We are doing pretty OK. The prices of tomatoes are way up because Mexico and California aren't shipping for some

reason," Record said.

"There hasn't been any really crazy buying of produce because produce goes bad and you can't really stock up on it," he said.

Shiever said milk, meat and produce sales are up since the car-side delivery went into operation.

"The deli's doing fine, and I've sold more yeast in the last month and a half than I have in the last decade," Shiever said.

Candy sales and other impulse buys have taken a hit, he added.

He's had hired more high school and college students to run groceries to

cars.

"We have a lot of older people shop here and a lot of them appreciate what we are doing," Record said.

"They would prefer to shop here, and they are happy at what we are doing because it keeps people safe," he said.



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# Essential Employee Appreciation



**Butler Eagle**  
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## Spilt Milk



Farmer must adjust production to demand in COVID-19 economy

**By Eric Freehling**

Eagle Community Editor

**T**he COVID-19 pandemic is an unwelcome complication in the life of a third-generation dairy farmer.

Leroy Bergbigler is the owner of the 300-acre Bergbigler Farm on 263 Game Reserve Road in Clearfield Township. He took over the dairy farm from his parents, who succeeded his grandparents.

Bergbigler has spent the past 40 years tending to his 200 heads of Holstein and Holstein/Jersey hybrids.

He said 100 cows make up his milking herd, which have to be milked twice a day — at 6 a.m. and again at 5 p.m.

He joked the stay-at-home orders haven't really affected his family because the cows still need to be tended and milked.

"They have to be milked twice a

day, that takes around 90 minutes to two hours," said Bergbigler. "And there's prep work to get ready to milk and then you have to clean up afterward."

"It takes about an hour to get the cows ready for milking — groom the stalls and scrape up the aisles — so I'm getting up at 4:30 a.m. But it's only seven days a week," he joked.

He's helped by his wife, Mary, who does most of the actual milking and his daughter, Marybeth, who feeds the cattle and works the crops. Marybeth's daughter, Mercedes, helps on the farm when she isn't trying to keep up with her schoolwork in the farm's office.

"We grow corn, hay, oats. Our main focus is on the crops the cows can eat," he said.

The nature of the farming work keeps him and his family fairly

See **Farmer**, Page 14



Leroy Bergbigler hands his cows some fresh grass from the other side of the electric fence at Bergbigler Farm in Clearfield Township.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SEB FOLTZ/BUTLER EAGLE

## Many Thanks to the Healthcare Providers and First Responders.



**Timothy Sechler**  
Certified Elder Law Attorney

Heroes are made during our most challenging times. The image of the hero prevailing through crises shapes the memory of those times. At Pearl Harbor, my mental picture of the hero is the sailors and soldiers who shot back. The Great Depression brings images of every day workers standing in line for food or work, just trying to make ends meet. My mental image of the height of the civil rights movement, is of protestors standing up to the many wrongs. On September 11, it was the first responders who ran toward the problem while others ran away.

Health care workers and first responders, YOU are our heroes during this pandemic. You go to work and care for our sick family members, even though you know you are putting yourself and your families at risk. You expose yourselves to this wretched virus while most of us stay safe at home. It brings the rest of us comfort that should we get sick, you will be there for us.

When the history books recount this time, the image in that book should perhaps be that of a nurse caring for a sick senior. Or perhaps a clerk at a grocery store who goes to work despite the risks. The image could be that of an EMT caring for a sick patient or a scientist working on a vaccine. When I tell my grandkids about this time several decades from now, you will all play prominent roles in that story.

For your efforts, we at the Sechler Law Firm are grateful. Because of our long-term care planning practice, we have many friends in the local healthcare community. We want to say thank you and we look forward to seeing you again.

Until then, we'd like to support you in any way we can. We too are open and working hard. We have had to greatly modify our services, but we're getting the job done. If we can help you or any of your patients with legal documents, let us know. We'll figure it out together.

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**I**t's a struggle, that's for sure. It seems a bit more extreme because of the virus effect. But we've still got to get up to prep the cows, milk them, take care of them, clean them. That hasn't changed.'

**Leroy Bergbiger**, dairy farmer

## Farmer

From Page 13

close to home.

But the pandemic has made itself felt in other ways. Bergbiger sells his milk to Schneider's Dairy in Pittsburgh. A truck comes every other day and picks up 14,000 pounds of milk to take to be processed.

"Two weeks ago, we had to dump 14,000 pounds of milk in the fields," Bergbiger said. "The dairy said they just didn't have any use for it because the pandemic had reduced demand."

"We put it on the fields. It was worth \$1,500," he said.

He noted it's probably happened to other farms.

"There's no program yet to compensate us for this. Maybe there will be in the future, I don't know. So far, we are out of luck," Bergbiger said.

He's worked to cut his milk production by culling the herd, selling some cows and cutting down on the feed for the milking animals.

But he worries he will be caught

short if demand surges with the end of the pandemic.

Production can be brought down fairly easily, he said, but it's a struggle to get it to increase.

And even if future demand increases, Bergbiger said he's been told Schneider's will cut the price it will pay for his milk later this summer.

"The dairy said there is less demand for milk," he said. "Not as much demand means a price drop."

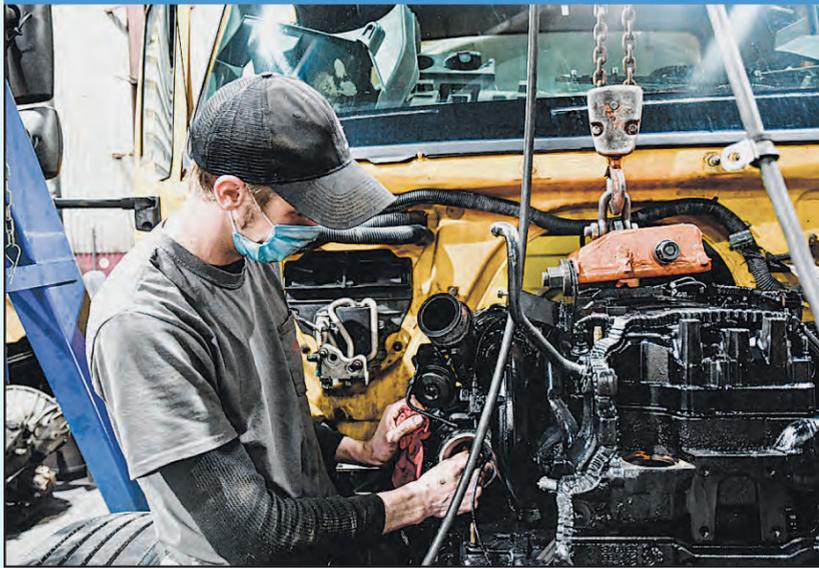
He said he was getting paid \$18 per hundredweight (a hundred-weight roughly equals 12 gallons) in January, and believes he will be paid \$15 per hundredweight or less in June and July, a 30 percent cut in the price he gets for his milk.

"It's a struggle, that's for sure. It seems a bit more extreme because of the virus effect," Bergbiger said.

"But we've still got to get up to prep the cows, milk them, take care of them, clean them. That hasn't changed."

At least, he noted, "The veterinarians say you can't get corona from cows."

## Essential Employee Appreciation



Workers at Butler-based Hunter Truck have been able to service trucks still on the road.

## Team Effort Staff keeps truckers on road

By **Kim Paskorz**, Business Matters Editor

The onset of construction and road-work season is usually the busiest time of year at Butler-based Hunter Truck.

This year should be no exception. But like most industries, "there will be a new normal," said owner Nancy Hunter Mycka.

"We eliminated all face-to-face contact," said Tom Butts, Hunter Truck's safety director. "We were able to continue our operation normally and provide the best service we can. We just removed the face-to-face contact."

Hunter Truck has been able to service trucks — still on the road for cargo, medical supply, garbage pickup and food deliveries — all along.

Officials at Hunter Truck believe the usual uptick for construction and road work will occur as crews rush to make up time they lost while under pandemic restrictions.

In the interim, the company revamped policy and procedures so customers may place orders and make appointments by phone or computer. Customers' vehicles are sanitized before and after service. And electronic sign-off allows owners to retrieve their vehicles without entering the showroom, which is closed under pandemic

restrictions.

The company created a video explaining the changes and made it available on its Facebook page.

"I'm super proud of my team," Mycka said. "We are still running pretty good. People still need things delivered."

Mycka noted Hunter Truck employs more than 1,000 people in its 20 locations, and none were ever put on furlough.

One site, in Buffalo, N.Y., potentially was exposed to a person carrying the virus. It was closed, sanitized and reopened five days later.

Mycka said, as circumstances are unprecedented, Hunter Truck has leaned on guidance from its parent company, Peterbilt, owned by PACCAR.

Mycka said the one thing that has been most "nerve-racking" to her employees is being sidelined in recovery efforts.

"Our people are generally the type who race in to an emergency whether it's a hurricane, snow, ice storms ... they go into it. We never put thought into our role during a disease," she said. "You just have to be brave, be smart in the way you live and move forward."



These calves are in the nursery area of the 300-acre Bergbiger Farm. Leroy Bergbiger and his wife, Mary, tend the farm with the help of their daughter, Marybeth, and granddaughter, Mercedes.

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SUPPORTING ESSENTIAL WORKERS

# Service clubs step up efforts in pandemic

By Eric Freehling, Eagle Community Editor

Butler County service clubs are emphasizing community service as they put their skills and resources into supporting front-line health care workers and first responders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It's in line with a move by Kiwanis International, Lions Clubs International, Optimist International, and Rotary International joining together to maintain connections with each other to cope with and overcome the effects of COVID-19.

The service organizations are leveraging the strength of their combined networks of 3.2 million members to provide comfort to those feeling the effects of isolation and fear.

And they are focusing their collective skills and resources to support front-line health workers and first responders battling this disease.

On a local level, whether providing meals for emergency room workers or children, making masks or providing hand sanitizer, Rotarians, Kiwanis and Lions Club members are finding ways to help their communities.

In some cases, this is literally their first order of business.

The Satellite Rotary Group of Boyers & Harrisville, an extension of the Slippery Rock Rotary Club, has only been in existence since May 7, but its 11 members are already buying and donating hand sanitizer, according to chairwoman Michelle Marlowe.

"We're new, but we made an impact by distributing letters of encouragement to police and fire departments, funeral homes and nursing home personnel," she said.

Her group also presented the Autumn Grove Care Center in Harrisville recently with 36 bottles of Aloe-based hand sanitizer that had been shipped from Texas at the expense of the Satellite Rotary Group.

"This was done to accommodate the ongoing needs of hand sanitizer in our care facilities topped with limited quantities in this area," she said.

Vic Nieto, president of the Butler Rotary Club, said the club is also working to protect front-line workers in the pandemic.

"We donated \$1,000 to Butler Memorial



From left, Satellite Rotary Group of Boyers and Harrisville members Gary Hughes, John Press, Allison Dematteis and chairwoman Michelle Marlowe present a donation of hand sanitizer to Autumn Grove director Scott Jordan and Alan Heller of the Harrisville Police Department.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Hospital to buy protective equipment for their workers. We're planning to make donations to Lifesteps for equipment they need to protect their workers," Nieto said.

Butler Lions Club members haven't been able to hold a meeting since March 3, but its 70 members have been keeping busy making and distributing masks and continuing to be involved in the Thursday community meals at St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 201 W. Jefferson St.

Mike Winkler, club secretary, said Janet Flecken, club president, has put together a mask project.

"She's got a group of 20 individuals cutting out patterns," he said.

Some members are sewing the masks while others have been distributing

them at the Blind Association of Butler and Armstrong and handing them out with the food at the weekly Katie's Kitchen meals, which are all to-go these days.

Winkler said the Lions have also donated 100 masks to the Visiting Nurses Association.

While the group's 70 members haven't met physically since March, Winkler said its 18-member board of directors scheduled a meeting Tuesday at the Blind Association.

"It's not going to be open to members because we are trying to keep it below the 25-person limit," he said.

"We don't know how long we're going to be in the yellow phase obviously," he added, but Lions Club members are planning to resume their adopt-a-high-

way program June 13.

Members are planning to clean the two-mile stretch of Route 8 from Trinity Church south to North Cemetery, even if they have to continue practicing social distancing.

"That's probably going to be our first project that puts us back on a regular schedule," Winkler said.

The Freeport Kiwanis hope to get back to a regular meeting schedule in June, but until then its 16 members are fulfilling the club's commitment to children by helping the Feed Freeport program.

Club secretary Carol Hale said the program was set up when the area schools closed due to the pandemic. Geared to families using the schools'

See Clubs, Page 16

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# Clubs

From Page 15

free lunch program, Feed Freeport serves 350 lunches Monday through Friday at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 323 Fifth St.

"Two of our members have spent hundreds of hours helping cook the meals 5 days a week for many weeks now," Hale said.

"One of our members has baked cookies a couple times a week for the program since it began, and our club made a \$450 donation to the program," she said.

Another Kiwanis member has made 170 face masks so far which are offered free on the club's Facebook page.

The six Rotary clubs in Butler County have also been active during the pandemic.

According to Lee Dyer, a member of the Evans City Rotary Club and past district governor for Rotary District 7280, which covers 43 clubs from Cranberry Township to Erie, all area clubs have been involved in feeding Butler Memorial Hospital emergency room staff, post office personnel and fire departments.

"They've made and donated masks, and we've donated food, money and volunteer time at food cupboards in the county," Dyer said.

"We have a high school program called Interact for future Rotarians. These students have volunteered baby-sitting services for emergency workers," he said.

Ken Bonus, president of the Butler AM Rotary Club, said his 50-member group has been keeping up its 7 a.m. Tuesday meetings in a virtual setting as well as raising money to create masks.

"We've also given money for food for those impacted by the pandemic, and we've created a Go Fund Me page to raise money for corona(virus) relief efforts," he said.

Rotary club efforts during the pandemic are an example of the group's motto, "Service Above Self."

"I am so proud of Rotary and their efforts. None of our people are paid. We have paid employees but we are basically a volunteer organization," Dyer said. "We are doing what we've done for 105 years, simply taking care of people."

"That's what the Lions Clubs do, that's what Kiwanis does, we are taking care of people," Dyer said.



From left, Lions Club members Carolyn and Mike Winkler and Justine Brown, manager of the Katie's Kitchen community meal, sport masks made by the Lions Club. Club members also help passing out the weekly Thursday evening community meal.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

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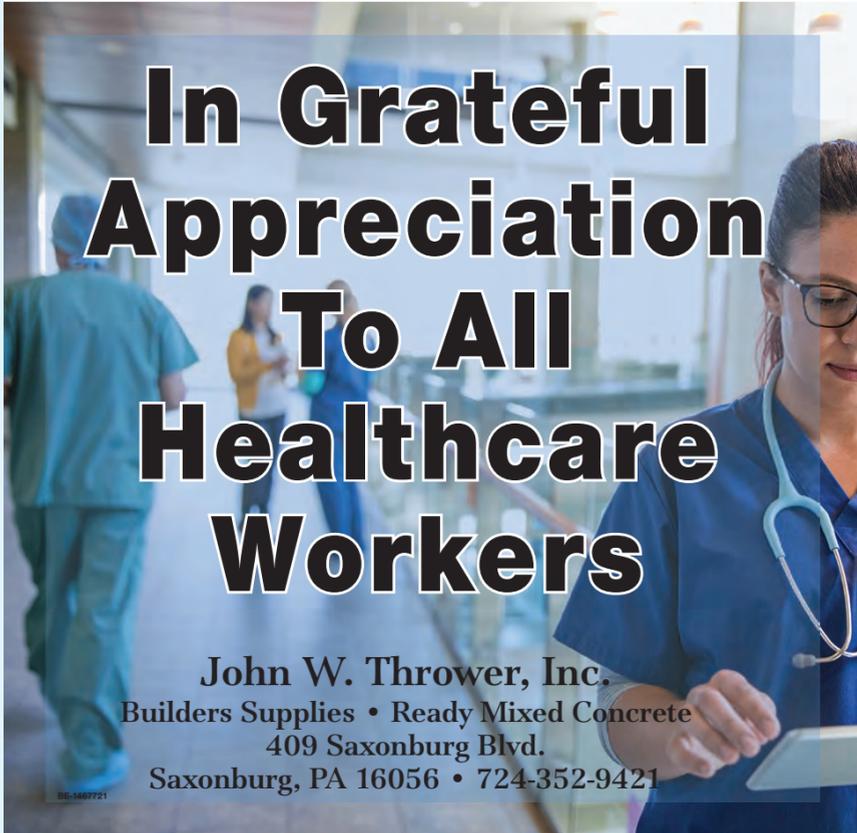
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# Park facilities open; summer program slated

By Steve Ferris  
Eagle Staff Writer

The skate park, basketball courts and athletic fields at the City of Butler's parks are open under COVID-19 restrictions, and the city's summer youth recreation program is set to begin June 15.

Playgrounds remain closed except for groups in summer programs.

"People have been really good, for the most part, about sticking to the new rules and I'm glad we're able to do more," said Councilman Jeff Smith, director of parks, recreation and public property. "I would expect in the next week or so we'll have some additional changes. Hopefully, we'll be able to open up the playgrounds."

The city opened its parks, tennis courts and picnic shelters on May 15 when the county moved to the yellow reopening phase under the state's color-coded system.

Gov. Tom Wolf and the Department of Health issued guidelines for opening summer recreation programs, camps and swimming pools on May 22.

The Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society, a nonprofit organization that works with municipal and state parks, recreation facilities and recreation therapists, sent the guidelines to the city, Smith said.

He said he was surprised the skate park at Father Marinaro Park initially wasn't allowed to open in the yellow phase, but the new guidance permits the city to open it.

"Since this opened it up a little more, we were glad to update our park rules," Smith said.

All city parks have basketball courts. Father Marinaro Park, Whippo Avenue playground and Memorial Park have softball and football fields.

Organized games at basketball courts and softball and football fields are not permitted, but small groups and families can use them casually. Up to 10 people can practice shooting on the courts and families can use the fields.

"You can't really have a game, but you can shoot around. Same with softball. Nothing organized can happen," Smith said.

No more than 25 people can skate at the skate park.

Camp organizers that use the playgrounds are expect-

ed to clean and disinfect the equipment, he said.

The 10-week summer recreation program held at Rotary Park, Institute Hill Playground, Memorial Park and Father Marinaro Park for school-aged children runs from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. It is once again being run by the Grace Youth and Family Foundation of Butler, which places two staff members at each park.

The program includes recreational activities, games, arts and crafts, and education.

Meals will not be served.

Instead, the Butler Area School District will continue providing meals through a food service waiver it received from the state Department of Education. Parents pick up meals at schools and take them home.

"The number of families that are being fed by the school district isn't going to change. The school will continue to provide those meals throughout the summer so there is no reason to interrupt that," said Bill Halle, founder and CEO of Grace Youth and Family Foundation and a school board member.

An enhanced educational component from the district is being added to the program.

"We're working with the district to provide additional education opportunities to give them a leg up on the next school year," Halle said.

Games and other active learning activities will be used to teach math and books will be available for students who want to read over the summer, he said.

The foundation is trying to raise money to pay for buses to take kids from the parks to the Alameda Park swimming pool again this year, he said.

About 250 children participate in the program every year, but Halle said it is not a day care program.

"We're so thankful for the city in tight budget times to make this happen. We're so grateful to the school district for providing education opportunities for kids," Halle said. "Kids need activities this summer after being closed in for months."

He said people wishing to donate to the foundation to help run the program should mail checks to the foundation at 100 Center Ave., Butler PA, 16001 and write "summer program" on memo line.

## BIKING TOGETHER



Gil Gilson of Portersville and his partner, Linda Peifer of Butler, take Gilson's great-nephew Noah Cunningham, 6, of Fredericksburg, Va., on a bike ride Tuesday at Moraine State Park. HAROLD AUGHTON/BUTLER EAGLE

## STATE

### Pa. preps short-term budget amid virus uncertainty

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania state government is preparing a temporary non-tax budget plan that maintains current spending levels while budget makers watch to see how badly tax collections are damaged by coronavirus-related shutdowns and whether the federal government sends another aid package to states.

Officials in the House and Senate Republican majorities said Tuesday that they expected to wrap up votes on a roughly \$25 billion package this week.

The spending legislation has yet to be unveiled, and is expected to be accompanied by legislation that distributes approximately \$2 billion in federal coronavirus emergency aid to nursing homes, agricultural programs, counties and more.

By Associated Press

# Cranberry plans to open water park

By Alex J. Weidenhof  
Eagle Staff Writer

With the easing of some state-mandated restrictions on pool openings, Cranberry Township plans to make a splash with its water park sooner rather than later.

While the township planned on opening by July 1 if the county was moved to the state's green phase of reopening, it now expects to open by then — or earlier — regardless, now that Gov. Tom Wolf said pools can be open in counties in the yellow phase.

"We are running as fast as we can to get it open as soon as we can, certainly no later than July 1," township manager Jerry Andree said. "We're fairly confident we can beat that date."

Early in April, the township surveyed water park season ticket holders as to whether they would attend during the pandemic, seeking guidance on whether Cranberry should invest in reopening the pool for a shorter season. While the results were mixed, Andree said, this week's sudden warmup could likely send some people in search of a place to cool off.

"That was taken two months ago, in the height of COVID," he said. "I think what you'll see is people's attitudes are changing, especially with the weather changing. Beautiful weather, hot weather, the COVID cases have leveled off or

dropped. The curve was flattened. People want to get out."

The township's job is to help people get out "safely," he said. That includes encouraging social distancing and sanitizing the pool's facilities more frequently.

"That may be marking the ground, being aware how

people flow through the facility," he said. "We will not be opening the sand playground, nor the sand volleyball areas. That is not feasible under the (state and CDC) regulations."

Although other communities in Butler County, such as nearby Seven Fields and Evans City, are concerned

about finding workers, such as lifeguards, that's not the case in Cranberry, Andree said. The township was keeping its pool workers apprised of the situation, he said.

"The vast majority of employees were anxious to come back to work," Andree said.

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