

# EVERYDAY WORKERS FACE COVID-19 RISK TO KEEP SERVICES RUNNING

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 Cranberry Eagle Blue Edition brought to you by:



INSIDE TODAY; PAGES 2 & 7-14

## SPECIAL EDITION

# The Cranberry Eagle



Newsstand price 25¢

Cranberry Area Hometown Newspaper

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

### Essential Employee Appreciation



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

SEB FOLTZ/CRANBERRY EAGLE

## First Responder

### Quality EMS paramedic continues to help others

By Steve Ferris, Eagle Staff Writer

**P**at 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 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 situations.

She graduated from Clarion Univer-

sity 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.

See Paramedic, Page 2

## Shoppers turn out as retail sites reopen

By Samantha Beal

Eagle Staff Writer

CRANBERRY TWP — As Butler County moved to the yellow phase May 15, residents moved outside.

Amid temperatures in the 70s and blustery winds, many Pennsylvanians celebrated the state moving toward a grand reopening in one particular way: shopping.

"Thank you, Jesus," said Michelle Skal of Lyndora, who stopped by her favorite store in Cranberry Township on May 15.

Skal had ordered a sweater and tops from Versona days ago. She arrived in front of the shop at 11:30 a.m. to be one of the first 10 customers allowed inside at the same time.

Her ultimate goal was to pick up her order. "Then do a little bit of retail therapy," Skal said. "The people (who) work in there are delightful."

Cranberry Township resident Steve Parks also took advantage of the county moving from red to yellow by doing some general shopping.

See Shoppers, Page 4

## Mars hires school chief

By Samantha Beal

Eagle Staff Writer

Months of searching for a superintendent for Mars Area School District ended with the appointment of Mark Gross, the current assistant superintendent for secondary education at Hempfield Area School District in Westmoreland County, May 19.

Gross, who was approved for a five-year contract with a base salary of \$172,000, will replace Wesley Shipley beginning July 1.

Shipley was originally hired in April 2015 under a four-year contract. The board extended Shipley's contract for a year in 2019. In January, it decided not to renew it beyond June 30.

In a virtual board meeting Tuesday night, board President John Kennedy said the process for selecting a new superintendent included input from district administration, teachers, staff and families. Tom Templeton, of the consulting firm Templeton Advantage, was hired by the school board in January to officially lead the search.

"We all had a day where (community members) could all meet with Tom Templeton," Kennedy said. "Put their input in with him."

See Mars, Page 4

## Fatal crash investigation continues

By Jim Smith

Eagle Staff Writer

The accident reconstruction investigation continued last week into the crash in Middlesex Township that killed two women when the car they were riding in slammed into the front of a convenience store on Route 8.

Middlesex Township police officer Conrad Pfeifer said he also is preparing a search warrant that would allow police to inspect the car, a 2008 Kia Optima, for any mechanical problems that could have contributed to the wreck about 12:10 a.m. May 17 at CoGo's.

Police said they have the car impounded at their station, and hoped to inspect the vehicle last Thursday.

See Crash, Page 2

COUNTLESS OPTIONS.  
ONE PERFECT SOLUTION.  
CUSTOM WOOD, FIBERGLASS, AND VINYL  
WINDOW REPLACEMENT.

Schedule a free, no-obligation appointment today  
Call: 844-993-1595 Visit: [PellaPittsburgh.com](http://PellaPittsburgh.com)

PELLA  
NOW  
---  
PAY  
LATER



BE-1466893

## Crash

**From Page 1**

Kimberly Young, 39, and Patricia Collins, 36, both of Middlesex Township died of injuries sustained in the crash. Both women were passengers in the car.

Young was pronounced dead at the scene. Collins was pronounced dead shortly before 3 p.m. May 17 at UPMC Presbyterian hospital in Pittsburgh.

The driver, Diane Read, 37, of Middlesex Township, was hospitalized at UPMC Mercy in Pittsburgh with moderate injuries. Authorities said she suffered a neck injury, broken leg bones and a punctured lung.

All three women were neighbors on Dwellington Drive, just one-quarter mile from where the crash happened. They had just left the neighborhood. Police suspect alcohol and speed were factors in the crash.

Investigators had not spoken to Read, adding that she retained an attorney.

Township police assisted state police accident reconstruction specialists during the on-scene investigation, which included the use of an electronic, optical instrument known as a "total station."

The device is an advanced imaging and measurement system investigators use to produce accurate measurements and data for three-dimensional animations or mappings.

Pfeifer noted it will take weeks before the report is completed. After that time, police would decide if criminal charges would be filed.

Police said they also plan to seek a search warrant for Read's medical records, including toxicology reports.

Additionally, Pfeifer said police secured the store's video surveillance system as part of their investigation. He acknowledged he has not yet accessed the video and "we don't know what it shows."

Middlesex Township police Sgt. Randy Davison, the department's officer in charge, also noted last week that police plan to seek a search warrant for the video footage.

The store, which was closed at the time of the crash, sustained severe damage and remains closed.

A telephone message left for the owner was not immediately returned.

## Paramedic

**From Page 1**

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."

### A friend, leader

Kelly is someone others look 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."

# Power Outages SOLVED!

# GENERAC®

**Don't Be Left In The Dark Or Let Your Basement Flood!**  
**24/7 PROTECTION**  
**Automatic Home Standby Generators**  
**FREE ESTIMATES**  
**GRAVATT GENERATORS**  
**SALES • SERVICE • MAINTENANCE**  
**814-404-3946** [GravattGenerators.com](http://GravattGenerators.com)

**FREE**  
**7 Year Extended Warranty**

PA #31506  
 WV & PA Licensed



BE-1467869

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

SEB FOLTZ/CRANBERRY EAGLE



## In the Driver's Seat

**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-defined 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, who is 56 years old. "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 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 City 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 like Brill 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 remaining 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 much of his working career was in law enforcement.

"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 mind set," 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."



# 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.







# SUNNYVIEW NURSING AND REHABILITATION CENTER

## Thank You to Our Community

We are grateful for your continued love and support as we work to provide quality care and services to our residents.

We are truly honored to be considered an essential part of your lives.



Tricia Kradel, NHA  
Nursing Home Administrator  
and the Employees of  
Sunnyview Nursing and  
Rehabilitation Center

Carrie Lee Ace  
Tracy L. Albert  
Jessica Allshouse  
Isabella Alvarez-Meximilien  
Nyetia Bailey  
Paul Baker  
Terry L. Baker  
Karrie Barrett  
Peggy Barron  
Sharon B. Bartmas  
Bidhya Basnet  
Apryl Bello  
Kaitlyn Benedek  
Jessica Benedict  
Sandra L. Bergbigler  
Louis Bernard  
Alfredo P. Borja  
Jessica Mae Bossinger  
Mia Bossler  
Bernadette Brockman  
Heather Brown  
Rachelle Lee Brown  
Shaquelle Brown  
Heather Nicole Browning  
Linda K. Burk  
Margaret K. Burk  
Eric J. Callihan  
Latoya Carter  
Bridget A. Cassidy  
Vasile Chitu  
Vicky R. Chitu  
Abby Christy  
Darlene Christy  
Amanda K. Coester  
Brooke C. Collins  
Timothy R. Conner  
Emily Conroy  
Kenneth E. Cook  
Rhonda Coroian  
Heidi A. Coyle  
Olivia Rae Coyle  
Rita Cravener  
Liam Crowley  
Susan Marie Curcio  
Leeann Dancik  
Mary A. Daniels  
Julie M. Davis  
Olivia Rose Davis  
Naomi Weltha Day  
Shye Dennis  
Christine Douglas  
Stephanie Douglass  
Lisa M. Dowling  
Cheryl M. Downing  
Brenden Dreher  
Wendy Early  
Erin E. Ecklund  
Rachel Ellenberger  
Debra D. Elliott  
Tiffany Lynn English  
Robert Etale  
Donna Everly  
Leeann Fair

Brandy Michelle Fallecker  
Stephanie Farneth  
Cheryl Fennell  
Charmaine Fetterman  
Dorothy Fiedler  
Kimberly A Fisher  
Ashlie N. Fitzpatrick  
Makensie Fitzpatrick  
Mary R. Fleeger  
Bennington Ford  
Adam Frantz  
Jacob Frantz  
Lorie Frederick  
Samantha Frederick  
Darlene L. Freshwater  
David Friel  
Ezriel C. Frischman  
Kevin L. Gallagher  
Tina Gallagher  
Allyson Brooke Gavel  
Cheryl L. Gilliland  
Tyler Gillis  
Mary B. Goerlich  
Darian Gold  
Amy Nicole Gordon  
Traci Graham  
Jeffery David Gray  
Janet L. Gregg  
Virginia Grossbauer  
Bhavana Gundala  
Alisha Haight  
Tyler Haight  
Kayla Marie Hamilton  
Tia Hamilton  
Dr. Abeer Hanna  
Ashley Marie Hartle  
Kathryn Hartzell  
Emma Herold  
Mary A. Hilliard  
Karlee Lynn Hinderliter  
Lucia Christie Hindman  
Dora M. Holbein  
Kenneth B. Holland  
Taylor Hollobough  
Diana Holmes  
Linda Huffmyer  
Kristine Hulihan  
Debra L. Hustak  
Jaedyn Jankovich  
Mariah Jenkins  
Vernon Johns  
Rachel Johnson  
Alisia Jones  
Jordan Kauffman  
Wanda J. Kennedy  
William Kepple  
Marcie Kerner  
Madison Kildoo  
Aaron King  
Caroline Klosowski  
Patti L. Knoll  
Kayla Marie Knox  
Joy Nicole Kochman

Shawna L. Kougher  
Aliegh Rose Kradel  
Tricia Kradel  
Pamela Sue Krauchak  
Angel Krchelich  
Tonya J. Krchelich  
Kelly Kuczynski  
Sandra L. Kudelaw  
Virginia L. Laidlaw  
Kayla Alene Lamison  
Trysta Marie Lee  
Cherilyn Rebollos Leonberg  
Helen Lewis  
Kevin D. Lindsay  
Aden Llewellyn  
Ian Matthew Llewellyn  
Rachelle C. Llewellyn  
Charlotte A. Lokhaiser  
Tammy Ludolff  
Raphaela T. Lukagfnay  
Marissa Lyles  
Jennifer N. Maley  
Michele L. Mangieri  
Michelle Mariotti  
Sharon L. McAnallen  
Paula McCaw  
Misty McCullough  
Stephen McGregor, Jr.  
Margaret McKinney  
Tamera McKivigan  
Carrieanne McKnight  
Anna Michalek  
Daniel Miller  
Patrick S. Miller  
Maciah Marie Miranda  
Melissa A. Mitchell  
Tabetha Sue Mitchell  
Diane Monteleone  
Saydie Moore  
Jean C. Morrow  
Theresa Nation  
Mary Jo Neal  
Debra S. Negley  
Susan I. Nickle  
Susan Marie Notareschi  
Hollie Oesterling  
Edward Opalko  
Alesa M. Osche  
Kimberly A. Pakutz  
Kayla Panchik  
Carey Paone  
Shane P. Parsell  
Becky Jean Quinn  
Mackenzie Raible  
Gayle L. Rankin  
Marguerite Rattigan  
Dominick Recupero  
Angellie Rees  
Jennifer A. Reith  
Cheryl A. Rensel  
Chelsea Lynn Rimer  
Kelsey Robinson  
Mallory Robinson

Dr. John Rocchi  
Julie R. Rodgers  
Marie Rodgers  
Mychal Ross  
Madeline Rossi  
Billie Rumbarger  
Rebekah Sample  
Christine Savolskis  
Emily Scherer  
Dr. Jerome Scherer  
Travis Michael Schroeder  
Judith D. Shelton  
Suzanne Sherman  
Lynnndee Shields  
Mary B. Sikora  
Shannon Sims  
Katie Smerecky  
Heather Snow  
Thomas Snow  
Joni Marie Snyder  
Patricia Lee Snyder  
Jennifer Lynn Solla  
Katie Spare  
Robert William Specht  
Tara L. Stahlman  
Adrienne Staples  
Emily Stefanik  
Ashlee N. Stiefel  
Abigail Suhoney  
Monica S. Summerville  
Rachel Summerville  
Rebecca Swartzentruber  
Bernadette M. Swierkowski  
Leetta C. Swigart  
Tiffany Switzer  
Victoria Thompson  
Allison Thurnburg  
Patricia Thurston  
Michele R. Tomsik  
Diana Toogood  
Marsha L. Toy  
Leesa Uba  
Jacob R. Walchesky  
Allysa M. Walker  
George Walsh  
Stephen A. Walsh  
Stephanie Weber  
Megan Weimer  
Gregory Lee Weitzel  
Amy J. Welton  
Heaven Cathleen Whipkey  
Sarah Wick  
Diane C. Wideman  
Cindy Jean Williams  
Cindy L. Williams  
Judith A. Wilson  
Ann Marie Wise  
Emily Wolcott-Hasson  
Iolanda Zacherl  
Joshua Alan Zacherl  
Emily Victoria Zang  
Lisa Zielinski



107 Sunnyview Circle • Butler, PA 16001 • 724-282-1800

[www.sunnyviewcenter.com](http://www.sunnyviewcenter.com)

# BUTLER TIRES FOR LESS

# KENDA

TIRES

**Lowest prices in Western PA**

**Largest Selection of all Major  
Brand Tires in Western PA**

**Fastest  
Tire  
Service  
in Town**

**Alignments  
as low as  
\$69<sup>95</sup>**

**We will  
meet or beat  
any prices!**

**Largest tire  
inventory in  
the area**

**Serving Butler Since 1957 With Low Prices & High Quality  
ALL LOCAL EMPLOYEES!**

**Butler**  
**TIRES for LESS**

**724-283-8473  
8 Pittsburgh Rd.,  
Butler, PA**



**Butler Eagle**  
Cranberry Eagle

# Essential Employee Appreciation



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

By Jim Smith, Eagle Staff Writer

**S**ocial 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 re-opening 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**OVID-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.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SEB FOLTZ/CRANBERRY 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 8

# Thank You to the Difference Makers

To Mars Bank Staff, Essential Workers and Critical Volunteers

Mars Bank thanks our dedicated staff for stepping up during this crisis to continue serving our customers and community.

We also applaud healthcare, first responders, food service, charities and others who are doing their part to keep our communities protected and operating.

CHECKING | LOANS | ONLINE BANKING | MOBILE

**Mars Bank**

YOUR ONE TRUE COMMUNITY BANK

[www.MarsBank.com](http://www.MarsBank.com)



NMLS#594084



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/CRANBERRY 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."



# Thank You

## Essential Workers

### For Taking Care of Us

**MARTIN FUNERAL HOME**  
Cherishing Life...Honoring Memories

A. Ross Martin, F.D., Supervisor  
Thomas E. Martin, F.D.  
724.287.4073 • www.martinfh.net • 429 Center Avenue, Butler

**PENN FENCING INC.**

18 Month INTEREST FREE Payment Solutions

**Serving the Area Since 1977**

American Made Products

Professional Installation

Lifetime Warranty

Contractors # PA 000843

Free Estimates/Consultation

647 Pittsburgh Rd. (Rt. 8), Butler 724-586-7906  
pennfence.com

Toll Free 888-728-4695

BE-1467729

BE-1467595

**Thank You**

We are abundantly grateful for all you have done for our community!

# Essential Employee Appreciation





**Susan McLafferty**  
GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPICE LPN

Sue is the "go to" person when it comes to serving patients, families and facility staff who need love and compassion at the end of the life. Sue always volunteers to stay with patients and families for long periods or in the middle of the night. Sue is an angel to patients and families.  
From, Good Samaritan Leadership



**Kacie 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



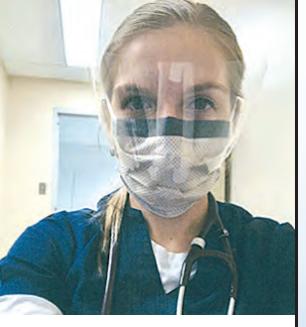
**Sarah Berberich**  
SAXONBURG AMBULANCE PARAMEDIC

For fifteen years, Sarah has been responding to emergencies. Always there with love and caring in her daily job aspects.  
From, Gram Summerville



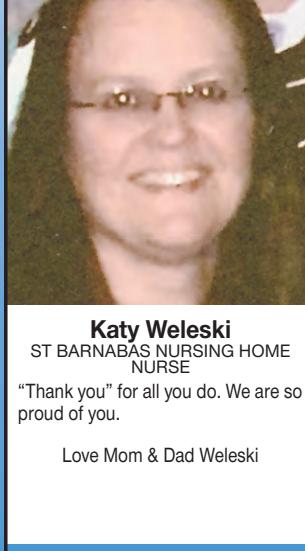
**Tammy May**  
BUTLER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL RN NURSE

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



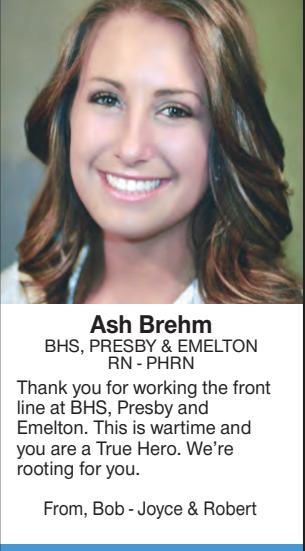
**Katy Weleski**  
ST BARNABAS NURSING HOME NURSE

"Thank you" for all you do. We are so proud of you.  
Love Mom & Dad Weleski



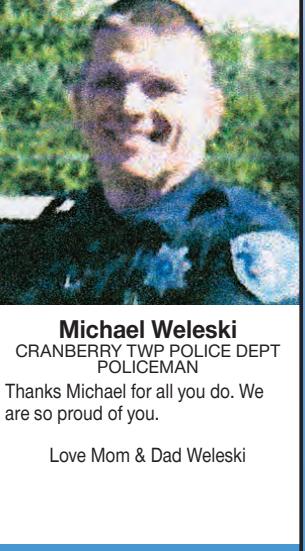
**Brandon Curzi**  
BUTLER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL RN

Brandon is a very thoughtful, compassionate and caring RN. He continuously strives to meet his patient's needs as well as holding their best interests at heart.  
From, Nicole, Luca and Emma



**Ash Brehm**  
BHS, PRESBY & EMLTON RN-PHRN

Thank you for working the front line at BHS, Presby and Emlton. This is wartime and you are a True Hero. We're rooting for you.  
From, Bob - Joyce & Robert



**Michael Weleski**  
CRANBERRY TWP POLICE DEPT POLICEMAN

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.



PHOTOGRAPH BY HAROLD AUGHTON/CRANBERRY 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 curb-side 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 10

**HEROES  
DO WEAR  
MASKS**



**BUTLER HEALTH SYSTEM**

**WE ARE  
ALL IN THIS  
TOGETHER**

**"The men and women of EMS: They are always there when we need them. They are heroes in an emergency. They are the foundation of care in the community. We count on them 100%. And we thank them."**

Ken DeFurio, President & CEO

**Firefighter Jeff Scott, Firefighter Sean Sokolowski, Captain Kevin McAfee, Lieutenant Mike Huey**  
Butler City Fire Department, Butler

**Aaron Natali, Supervisor/Paramedic, Andy Freehling, Paramedic, Michele Kiess, Advanced EMT, Steve Martin, EMT, Robert Evans, Director of CQI**  
Butler Ambulance Service, Butler

**Terri Raisley, EMT, Alyssa McKee, Paramedic, Mike McKee, Paramedic**  
Harmony EMS, Harmony

**Saxonburg Volunteer Fire Department Ambulance, Saxonburg**

**Wendy Dixon, Paramedic, Don Hosey, Paramedic**  
Clarion Hospital EMS, Clarion

**Steven Cox, Fire Chief, Zachary Wojcik, Firefighter, Brandon Stockdale, Firefighter, Jeremy Simcheck, Captain, Nathan Fitzwater, Lieutenant**  
Veterans Affairs Butler Fire & Emergency Services, Butler

**Cole Miller, EMT**  
Clarion Hospital EMS, Clarion

**Trista Beary, EMT, Ron Hammerly, Paramedic**  
Knox Area Ambulance Service, Knox

**Roy, Flo, Hope, Larry, Pat and Helen**  
Slippery Rock Volunteer Fire Company & Rescue Team, Slippery Rock

**Heather Nulph, Paramedic**  
Clarion Hospital EMS, Clarion

**Christina Kopnitsky, EMT**  
Clarion Hospital EMS, Clarion

**Ashley Dehner, EMT, Mitchell Meagher, EMT**  
Clarion Hospital EMS, Clarion

**Jayne McCaffery, Paramedic, Caylin Rosfeld, Paramedic**  
Shippensburg Ambulance, Shippensburg

**Brandon Makin, EMT, Tyler Gray, EMT, Pat Kelly, Paramedic, Erica Corso, Director/Paramedic**  
Quality EMS, Mars

**David Elder, Paramedic**  
Clarion Hospital EMS, Clarion

**Nathan Smith, EMT, Virginia Vorndran, EMT**  
East Butler Ambulance, East Butler

**Dan McDonald, Paramedic**  
Clarion Hospital EMS, Clarion

**Zach Blair, Firefighter, Jen Blair, EMT, Greg Acre, Firefighter, Keirstin King, EMT, Justin King, EMT**  
Bruin Volunteer Fire Department EMS, Bruin

**Mitch Wadas, EMT, Peyton Khun, EMT, Ryan Mann, Paramedic, Jeremy Nickl, Paramedic, Ted Fessides, Chief/Director**  
Cranberry Township EMS, Cranberry Township

**Superior Ambulance, Grove City**

**Josh Schlick, Paramedic**  
Clarion Hospital EMS, Clarion

**Mitchell Meagher, EMT, Shyanne Lackey, EMT**  
Clarion Hospital 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 9**

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.



## A Very Special Thank You!

### To Our Staff...

who have continued to provide direct care and those supporting positions who have helped to ensure that Lifesteps could continue to serve.

### From All of Us at Lifesteps...

Thank you — first responders, healthcare professionals and the many other essential workers who have kept our community going during COVID-19.

Lifesteps...  
a Trusted provider since 1923

724-283-1010  
[www.lifesteps.net](http://www.lifesteps.net)

BE-1467727

**Thank You**

We can't thank you enough for all that you have done for our community.

**BENNETT ASSOCIATES WEALTH MANAGEMENT**  
122 S. Washington Street, Butler, PA 16001  
724-602-0075 • [www.bennettawm.com](http://www.bennettawm.com)

**Grateful for great grads!**

Thank you to all the frontline workers and first responders serving our community.

BC3 is proud to offer programs and training for these exceptional individuals.

**BUTLER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
[bc3.edu](http://bc3.edu)

**5X #1 PA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

PENNSYLVANIA  
BEST COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
[www.pabestcc.com](http://www.pabestcc.com)

PA  
BEST  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE

# 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 Memo-



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

rial 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-highway 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' free lunch program, Feed Freeport serves 350 lunches Monday through Friday at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran

See Clubs, Page 12

## 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.

Here's a few ways we're trying to help:

- Free Advance Medical Directives on our website to anyone who needs one.
- 30% Discount on wills and trusts for healthcare professionals and first responders (offer valid through 6/30/2020).
- Free Legal Educational Courses on our website
- Free Medicaid Spend Down Training on our site
- Free Lunch and Learns to Long Term Care Facilities
- Free Video Conferences and modified Signing Meetings For Our Clients.

Let Us Know How Else We Can Help.



Sechler Law Firm, LLC  
Wills, Trusts & Elder Law

183 Scharberry Lane, Mars, PA 16046  
**724-841-1393 • www.sechlerlawfirm.com**

\*Certified as an Elder Law Attorney by the National Elder Law Foundation as accredited by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court

# Thank you to our Drivers and Support Staff. Transit Never Closed

From the Board of Directors, Butler Transit Authority

**Ride The Bus. Enjoy Our Services.**



Local Service • Commuter Service

**Commuter Bus Service**

- between Butler & Pittsburgh
- between the 528 Park 'n Ride & Pittsburgh

**Comfy Coach Seats • Free WiFi  
Real Time Bus Tracking • Free Park 'n Ride Lots**

For more info on all services, go to [www.butlertransit.com](http://www.butlertransit.com)

*Seniors  
ride free  
all day  
every day!*

**thebus**  
Butler Transit Authority

## Clubs

**From Page 11**

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 babysitting 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.

## Bent Out Of Shape?



At Mike Kelly Automotive Collision Center we focus on quality repairs fixed right the first time. We repair ALL makes and models and manage the entire claim process for all insurance companies.

**We are your collision solution!**  
Free Estimates • I-Car Certified Technicians  
Waterborne Refinishes • Bake Booth • Rentals



252 Pittsburgh Road • Rt. 8 South • Butler • 724-287-2701



*Individual commitment to a group effort—that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.*

—Vince Lombardi

*Thank you, Essential Workers, for your commitment to serve and protect our community.*



**DILLON McCANDLESS  
KING COULTER & GRAHAM, LLP  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW**

Thomas W. King III • James P. Coulter • Donald P. Graham • Michael D. Hnath • Matthew F. Marshall • Thomas E. Breth  
Ronald T. Elliott • Mary Jo Dillon • Andrea C. Parenti • Robert W. Galbraith • Patrick V. Hammonds • Elizabeth A. Gribik  
John J. Bench • Thomas J. May • Dillon A. Meeder • Jordan P. Shuber • Anthony W. Cosgrove

BUTLER OFFICE  
128 West Cunningham Street • Butler  
724-283-2200

CRANBERRY OFFICE  
600 Cranberry Woods Drive, Suite 175 • Cranberry Township  
724-776-6644

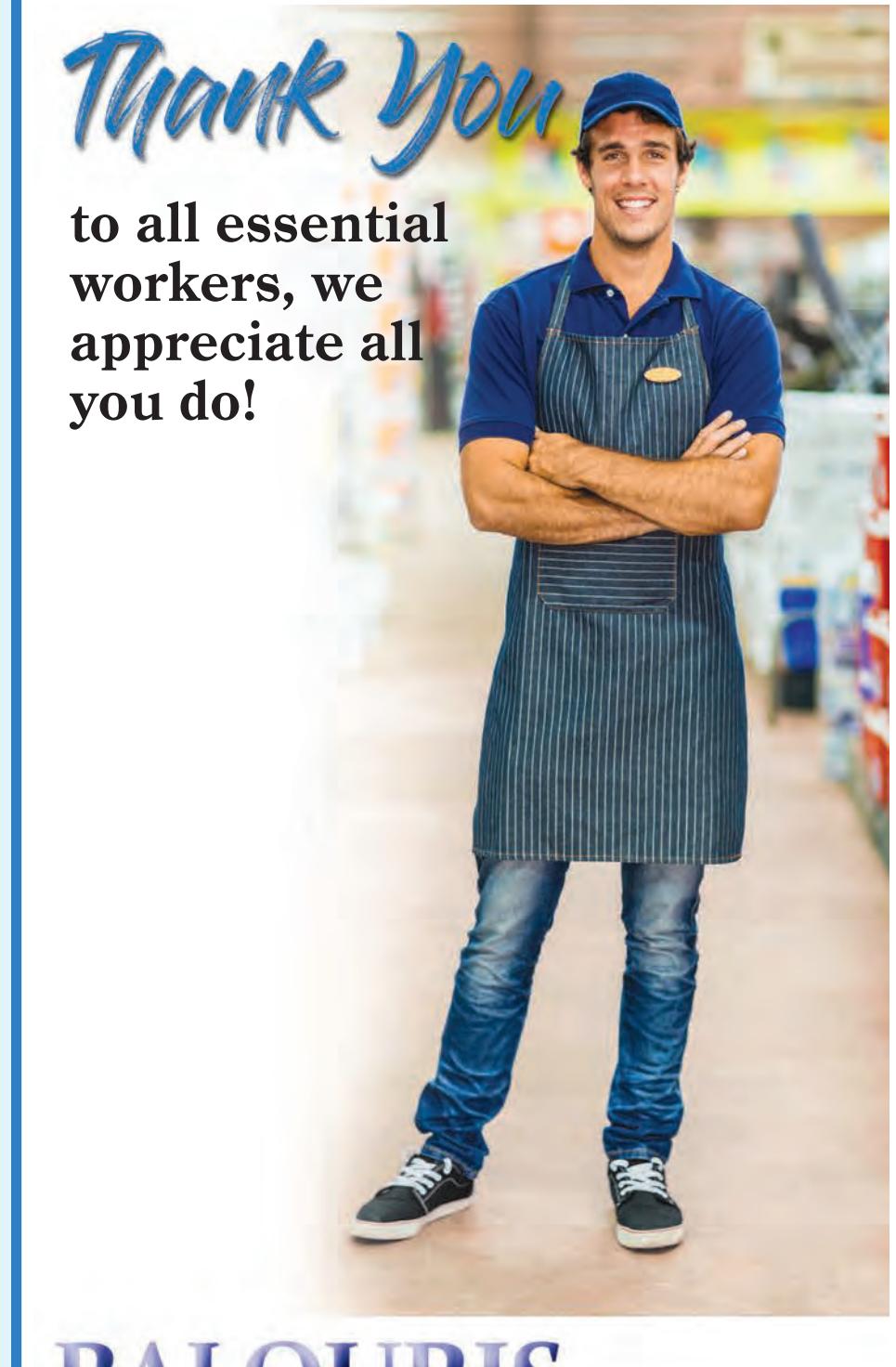


From left, Lions Club members Carolyn and Mike Winkler and Justine Brown, manager of the Katie's Kitchen community meal, sport masks made by the Lions Club. Club members also help passing out the weekly Thursday evening community meal.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## In Grateful Appreciation To All Healthcare Workers

John W. Thrower, Inc.  
Builders Supplies • Ready Mixed Concrete  
409 Saxonburg Blvd.  
Saxonburg, PA 16056 • 724-352-9421



**BALOURIS  
EYE CENTER, PC**



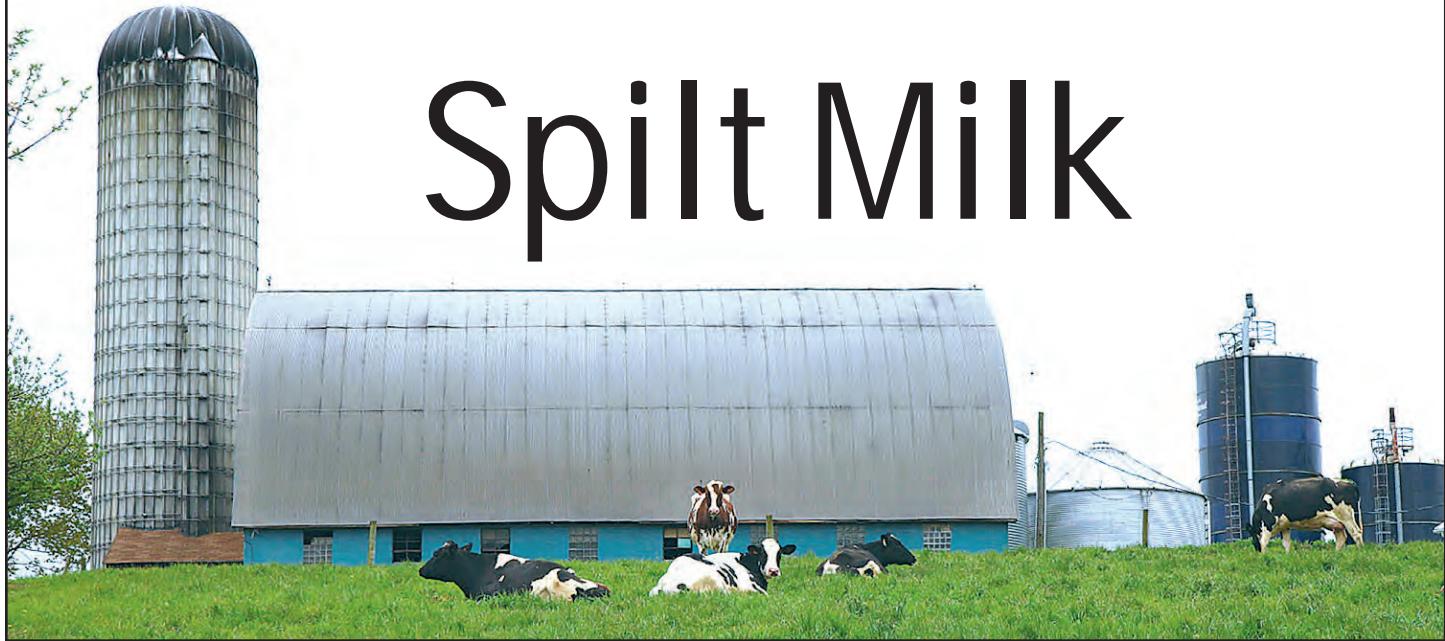


**Butler Eagle**  
Cranberry Eagle

# Essential Employee Appreciation



## Spilt Milk



**By Eric Freehling**

Eagle Community Editor

The 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/CRANBERRY EAGLE

## Bylers Roofing LLC



AMISH OWNED & OPERATED  
Certified  
Roofing Specialist  
**30 YEAR WARRANTY**

**440.636.2884**

PA #144160



**Robert STEPHENS CUSTOM JEWELERS**

VOTED BUTLER'S BEST

**Thank You**

to all Essential Workers for your hard work and dedication to our community.

MON-THUR 9:30-5 • FRI 9:30-7  
SAT 9:30-2

Stephen Goslaw  
Your jeweler since 1988

141 North Main St. • Butler • 724.285.9006 • rstephensjewelers.com

**★ VOTE TUESDAY, JUNE 2 ★**

**Butler County Republican Committee  
Endorses These Candidates**

**Primary Election Endorsed  
Republican Candidates**

**U.S. President**  
Donald J. Trump/Michael R. Pence

**PA State**  
Heather Heidelbaugh, Attorney General  
Tim Defoor, Auditor General  
Stacy Garrity, State Treasurer

**U.S. Congress**  
G.T. Thompson, 15th District  
Mike Kelly, 16th District  
Sean Parnell, 17th District

**PA State Senate**  
Scott Hutchinson, 21st District  
Joe Pittman, 41st District  
Elder Vogel, 47th District

**PA State House**  
Tim Bonner, 8th District  
Aaron Bernstine, 10th District  
Marci Mustello, 11th District  
Daryl Metcalfe, 12th District  
Jim Marshall, 14th District  
Jeff Pyle, 60th District  
R. Lee James, 64th District

All polls will be open on June 2.

**Thanks For Your Support!**

**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 Bergbigler**, dairy farmer

## Farmer

From Page 13

close to home.

But the pandemic has made itself felt in other ways. Bergbigler 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," Bergbigler 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," Bergbigler 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, Bergbigler 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," Bergbigler 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."

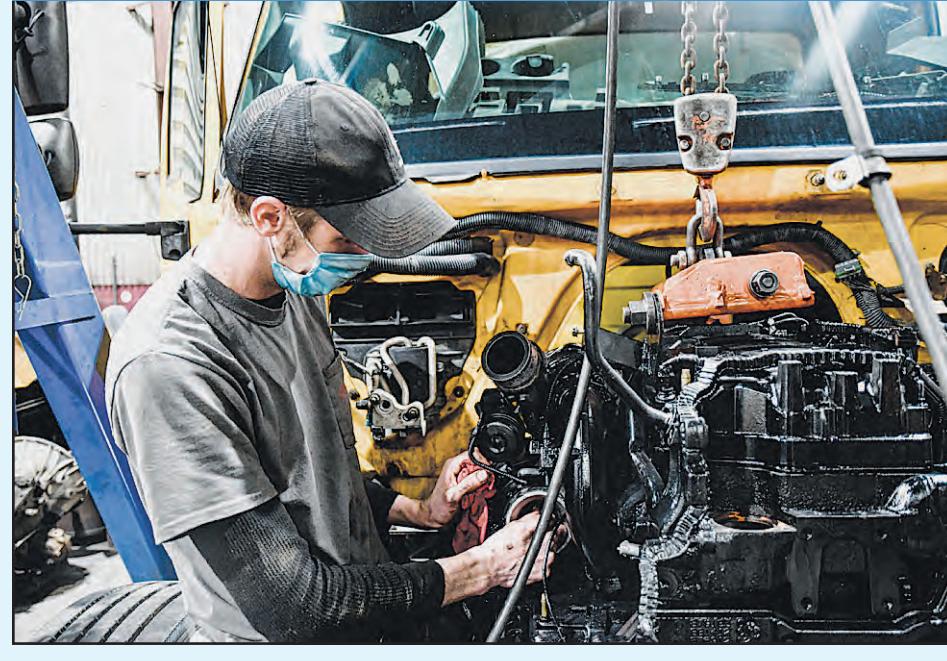
At least, he noted, "The veterinarians say you can't get corona from cows."



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

SEB FOLTZ/CRANBERRY EAGLE

## 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-wracking" 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."

**SAXON CANYON**  
PUBLIC GOLF COURSE

**Thank You**  
for your dedication to our community!

839 Ekastown Road • Saxon  
724-353-2130

**THANK YOU TO FRONTLINE & ESSENTIAL WORKERS**

**KM** Trusted Choice

KENNEDY-MEEDER INSURANCE, INC.  
Bill Kennedy, Jr. Owner • Dorie Guenther, CSA  
130 South Main St. • Zelienople, PA, 16063  
724-452-6190 • www.km-insurance.com

**Thank You Essential Workers**

**Deer Creek**  
Animal Hospital

388 Saxonburg Rd,  
Butler, PA 16002  
724-282-0006

**Hutchinson's DRY CLEANERS**

BUTLER 724-285-4755  
331 Negley Avenue  
MARS 724-687-0453  
1803 Three Degree Road  
SAXONBURG 724-496-8015  
105 N. Rebecca Street

**Major Rental Center Plus Hardware**

CONTRACTORS • PARTIES  
HOMEOWNERS

- High Quality Equipment Rentals
- Power Equipment Sales And Hardware
- One-Stop Party Rentals Store

MajorRentalCenter.com  
724-481-1244  
365 Pittsburgh Rd. • majorrentalcenter@zoominternet.net

Thanks To All!

**Forever Grateful**

May God rejuvenate your heart, mind and body.

A cheerful heart is good medicine—Proverbs 17:22

THE CHURCH OF GOD CONNOQUENESSING  
1247 Evans City Rd, Connoquenessing  
724-789-0084 • cogatconnoq.org

**Thank You Essential Workers**

**Hutchinson's DRY CLEANERS**

BUTLER 724-285-4755  
331 Negley Avenue  
MARS 724-687-0453  
1803 Three Degree Road  
SAXONBURG 724-496-8015  
105 N. Rebecca Street

**MON-D-AID & CLEANIT CO.**

A big THANK You to all first responders and essential workers!

**Celebrating 50+ Years of Excellence**

**Kennihan** Since 1969

PLUMBING • HEATING AIR CONDITIONING

**THANK YOU, ESSENTIAL WORKERS**

**Any Service or Repair Call**

**\$87** Regular Price  
**\$125**

**Call Today to Schedule!**

\*Only valid during regular hours. Not valid with other offers or prior services.  
Offer Expires June 19, 2020.

**MON-D-AID & CLEANIT CO.**

Complete Janitorial Supplies & Equipment

Large Inventory of All Major Industrial Brands

- Floor Machines
- Floor Care Products
- Ice Melters
- Cleaning Chemicals
- Mopping Equipment
- Paper Products
- Can Liners

148 Mercer St. Butler PA  
724-282-8422

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED

**We treat your home like it's our Grandma's home!**

**www.kennihans.com • 724.602.0844**

**WE SERVICE WHAT WE SELL**

MON-FRI 8-4:30PM  
Public Welcome

143 Mercer Street, Butler, PA  
mondaid@zoominternet.net  
724-282-8422 Fax 724-282-9291 [www.mondaids.com](http://www.mondaids.com)

**WE SERVICE WHAT WE SELL**

MON-FRI 8-4:30PM  
Public Welcome

143 Mercer Street, Butler, PA  
mondaid@zoominternet.net  
724-282-8422 Fax 724-282-9291 [www.mondaids.com](http://www.mondaids.com)