

Health: New mothers face new challenges amid outbreak/E1



Volunteers replace flags on veterans' graves on Memorial Day/B1

# The Daily Item

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Low clouds, some sun HI 84 / LO 61 Weather, B4

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

dailyitem.com

## LIFE'S PURPOSE: SAVING LIVES

### Health care called to medic raised as Amish-Mennonite



Jay Peachey is a paramedic with Evangelical Community Hospital.

Robert Inglis/The Daily Item

### Peachey: 'Something was missing' from other jobs

By Marcia Moore  
mmoore@dailyitem.com

**HUMMELS WHARF** — Jay Peachey worked as a mason, a real estate agent and owned a landscaping business before finding his life's purpose as a paramedic.

"I look forward to going to work every day," the 41-year-old father of four said.

Raised in the Amish-Mennonite community, Peachey started working in construction after completing his eighth-grade



To show support for front-line workers such as doctors, nurses, EMTs, grocery store employees, pharmacists, truck drivers, delivery personnel, restaurant workers, etc., the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association is celebrating Go Blue during the week of May 25. Newspapers across Pennsylvania are printing blue pages and stories in blue boxes to support and celebrate vital personnel who are making sure the needs of the community are being met during the coronavirus pandemic.

education.

"I thought I would do that for the rest of my life, but after 15 years my body was just exhausted," he said.

Peachey left construction and started his own landscaping company, specializ-

ing in erosion and sediment control. He employed eight when the economy took a dive in 2008, which led him to eventually close down.

His next endeavor was in real estate, which he enjoyed for three years.

"But something was missing," he said.

Peachey learned what that was four years ago when he joined the Milton Fire Department and within

See **MEDIC**, Page A2

## 473 new cases in state, least in 2 months

### 4 more positives for Northumberland County

From staff and wire reports

The state Department of Health announced 473 new COVID-19 cases across Pennsylvania on Monday, the first time in two months fewer than 475 new cases were confirmed in one day.

Monday's total increases the statewide total to 68,186. Of that total, the DOH says 61 percent of patients have already recovered from the novel coronavirus.

The increase of 473 cases is the smallest since state health officials announced 276 cases on March 25. There were 60 consecutive days of at least 531 new cases until Monday.

There were another five cases announced locally, four in Northumberland County and one in Union.

There were no new COVID-19-related deaths locally in Monday's data release. There

#### CASES

	Monday	Total
State	473	68,186
Montour	0	50
North'land	4	174
Snyder	0	38
Union	1	54

#### DEATHS

	Monday	Total
State	15	5,139
Montour	0	0
North'land	0	3
Snyder	0	1
Union	0	1

SOURCE: STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

were 15 deaths statewide Sunday.

Monday's release marked the 15th consecutive day with fewer than 1,000 new cases.

According to the DOH, 61

See **CASES**, Page A2

## Snyder, Union to use school buildings for jury selection

By Marcia Moore  
mmoore@dailyitem.com

Jury selection for trials in Snyder and Union counties will be held in school buildings in July to allow for more social distancing during the coronavirus pandemic.

Prospective Snyder County jurors will be selected July 13 and 14 in the Mid-West High School auditorium in Middleburg, and Union County jury selection will be held July 20 and 21 in the Lewisburg High School gymnasium. President Judge Michael T. Hudock said.

"Normally we get 100 to 110 prospective jurors and we can't socially distance in the courtroom," he said of the lim-



**Michael T. Hudock**  
President judge

ited space in both county's courtrooms in Middleburg and Lewisburg. All will be required to wear masks, he said.

Trials are scheduled to begin in July and will be

held in the courtrooms, with jurors scattered throughout the gallery instead of sitting side by side in the jury box; sidebars will be conducted in the jury room and jury deliberations in

See **JURY**, Page A2

## More colleges planning to reopen in fall

By John Finnerty  
jfinnerty@cnhi.com

More colleges are starting to roll out their strategies for offering classes in the fall while trying to protect students, faculty and staff from exposure to coronavirus.

"I think colleges and uni-

versities are facing the same question that public schools, primary and secondary, are facing, what can they do to make sure their educators are safe, their teachers are safe, their students are safe," Gov. Tom Wolf said during a video press conference last week. "In my conversations

with educators, all of them, as they look to the fall, are looking to create a very different educational experience than preceded this pandemic."

Earlier in May, the California State university system announced that its campuses

See **FALL**, Page A2

#### INSIDE

- Pandemic brings subdued Memorial Day observances/A3
- WHO temporarily removing anti-malarial drug from COVID-19 testing/A3

#### OBITUARIES A5

**ADAMS**, Shirley Jane (Clark), 81, Middleburg  
**BREAUX**, Margaret Bingaman, 78, Camden, N.C.

**COOK**, Peggy L., 79, Northumberland  
**DALY**, James Stuart Lyon, 59, Sunbury  
**LATSHA**, Arlo W., 90, Trevorton  
**SARACENO**,

Domenic, Burbank, Calif.  
**SHOWALTER**, Delight D., 88, Millmont  
**WHITE**, Marjorie R., 97, Millersburg

#### STOCKS

U.S. stock markets were closed Monday for Memorial Day

#### INDEX

Advice  
Calendar  
Comics  
Crossword  
Nation  
Opinion  
State  
World

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# The Daily Item

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Humid, not as warm HI 79 / LO 66 Weather, B4

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

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## Mall to open Friday, but not all shops

### Some stores need to update merchandise

By Marcia Moore  
[mmoore@dailyitem.com](mailto:mmoore@dailyitem.com)

**SELINGROVE** — The Susquehanna Valley Mall will open Friday at 11 a.m., but not all the shops will be doing business right away.

“Our concern is that people will be disappointed that everything isn’t open,” said mall General Manager Margie Deppen.

Several shops simply don’t have merchandise available after being

shut down by COVID-19 since March 17.

The factory that supplies Gertrude Hawk Chocolates is still closed, and stores like The Children’s Place have to restock shelves with summer merchandise.

“Yankee Candle still has its Easter display up,” said Deppen.

Stores that will be open include Garfield’s and Villa Teresa restaurants, JoAnn Stores, Cricket Wireless, the Barbershop and Golden

Nails. Hair and nail salons are open by appointment only.

“People should check out our website Thursday night to see what stores will be open,” said mall Marketing Director Sharon Leonard. Visit the site at [www.susquehannavallemall.com](http://www.susquehannavallemall.com).

At least one store, Books-A-Million, closed permanently during the shutdown.

Deppen and Leonard are look-

See **MALL**, Page A2



Marcia Moore/The Daily Item  
**Designated entrances and exits are marked on the doors of the Susquehanna Valley Mall.**

#### INSIDE

- Wolf: State preparing to shed light on life in green phase/A2
- Pa. lawmakers teeing up \$25 billion partial-year budget/D3
- Stocks rise as U.S. braces for 100K deaths/D2
- MLB players disappointed with owners’ offer/C1

## KEEPING PATIENTS, WORKERS SAFE Radiology tech reassigned to prevent virus contamination



Robert Inglis/The Daily Item

Tonyia Williams works as a certified nuclear medicine technologist for Geisinger in Danville.

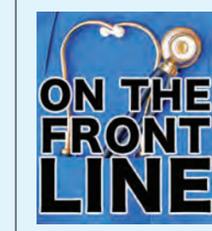
### Worker moved to emergency department

By Rick Dandes  
[rdandes@dailyitem.com](mailto:rdandes@dailyitem.com)

**DANVILLE** — Trained as a nuclear medicine technologist, with 15 years of experience in the Geisinger health system, Tonyia Williams, 43, was suddenly reassigned as a site manager in the emergency department in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Well, it was certainly different, and not part of my education in becoming a med tech,” she said.

Nuclear medicine technologists work in the radiol-



To show support for frontline workers such as doctors, nurses, EMTs, grocery store employees, pharmacists, truck drivers, delivery personnel, restaurant workers, etc., the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association is celebrating Go Blue during the week of May 25. Newspapers across Pennsylvania are printing blue pages and stories in blue boxes to support and celebrate vital personnel who are making sure the needs of the community are being met during the coronavirus pandemic.

ogy division. “We have our own department at GMC (Geisinger Medical Center),” she said. “We inject radioactive isotopes into patients for diagnosis and treatment.”

Site managers followed

new protocols to keep staff and patients safe, and the infection rate down, Williams said.

Geisinger trained those in the newly-created positions

See **VIRUS**, Page A2

#### INSIDE

- Environmental services vital at Evangelical amid outbreak/B1

## Snyder County urged to stay vigilant during green phase

By Justin Strawser  
[jstrawser@dailyitem.com](mailto:jstrawser@dailyitem.com)

Snyder County Commissioner Joe Kantz is encouraging all business owners and residents to be vigilant as the county enters the green phase of reopening during the COVID-19 crisis.

Kantz spoke on Tuesday to members of the Selingsrove Area Chamber of Commerce via a Zoom conference meeting. Snyder and Montour counties will be among the first 18 counties that will be shifting



Joe Kantz  
Commissioner

into Gov. Tom Wolf’s green phase on Friday. Wolf announced 17 counties on Friday, then added Centre County to the list on Tuesday.

“You got to be diligent,” said Kantz. “We’ve got good numbers but we want to continue to see good numbers.”

See **GREEN**, Page A2

## State confirms 451 new COVID-19 cases

From staff and wire reports

Pennsylvania Department of Health officials confirmed 451 new cases of COVID-19 on Tuesday, the 16th consecutive day with fewer than 1,000 cases statewide.

The 13 deaths confirmed Tuesday were the fewest since April 26, when the state also announced 13 fatalities related to the novel coronavirus. There are 5,152 total Pennsylvania deaths attributed to COVID-19, including deaths announced Tuesday.

There were another five new cases announced locally, three in

See **CASES**, Page A2

#### CASES

	Tuesday	Total
State	451	68,637
Montour	0	50
Northland	3	177
Snyder	0	38
Union	2	56

#### DEATHS

	Tuesday	Total
State	13	5,152
Montour	0	0
Northland	0	3
Snyder	0	1
Union	0	1

SOURCE: STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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#### OBITUARIES A3

**BICKEL**, Reba A., 79, Selingsrove  
**KISSINGER**, Roy C., 79, Pitman  
**PAULSEN**, Fredrik B. Jr., 78, Lewisburg

**SNYDER LEWIS**, Margaret A., 89, Sunbury  
**STROHECKER**, Lillian J., 83, Dalmatia  
**WALTER**, Gary L. Sr., 75, New Columbia

#### STOCKS B4

Dow Jones Industrials	529.95	24,995.11
Nasdaq composite	15.63	9,340.22
Standard & Poor's 500	36.32	2,991.77

#### INDEX

Advice  
Calendar  
Comics  
Crossword  
Nation  
Opinion  
State  
World

C4  
D3  
C3  
D1  
A3, D2  
B3  
D3  
D2

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## Scammers hit Coal Twp. couple for \$5,250

### DA: Caller returned to gloat about fraud

By Justin Strawser  
jstrawser@dailyitem.com

SUNBURY — An elderly couple from Coal Township was tricked into wiring \$5,250 toward a fake bail bond for

someone claiming to be their grandson, according to the Northumberland County District Attorney's office.

The scammer then called the couple back the next day to gloat over convincing them

to give up their money, according to District Attorney Tony Matulewicz.

The man and his wife, who are both in their 70s, received a telephone call from someone on May 20 claiming to be their grandson. The DA's office did not identify the couple.

The caller claimed to have been in a traffic accident in New York, got in a physical altercation with another driver

and was now in jail, the DA said.

The couple asked why his voice sounded different, and the caller said he had injuries to his lip and a broken nose. A second person who identified himself as Ryan or Brian Hart spoke on behalf of the first caller and is believed to have spoken another language, the DA said.

Hart convinced the couple to wire \$5,250 to post bond.

The couple tried to reach their grandson by phone with no success and theorized that their grandson would not have his phone if he was incarcerated, the DA said.

A banking official at BB&T Bank advised them that it appeared to be a scam. The couple claimed the second man was very polite, appeared genuinely concerned and managed to earn their trust as the conversation

evolved, the DA said.

After the money was wired, the couple learned their grandson was working locally and was not in New York, the DA said.

The following day, the couple received 25 additional calls from the scammer in a two-hour period. They didn't pick up any of the calls, but he left one mes-

See SCAM, Page B2

## Key city crossroad to close 2 days for line work

### Intersection at Fourth, Reagan streets impacted

By Francis Scarcella  
fscarcella@dailyitem.com

SUNBURY — A busy intersection in Sunbury will be closed for 48 hours next week for a scheduled water line replacement.

Starting at 6 a.m. on June 1 the intersection of 4th and Reagan streets will be closed to all traffic as the Sunbury Municipal Authority replaces a water line, City Clerk Jolynn Barner said.

Barner said there are other repairs taking place at the intersection that can't be done with live traffic conditions. The work is expected to be completed late Tuesday.

"A detour will be in effect for North 4th Street traffic that will re-route to North 5th or North 3rd Street," Barner said. "Please avoid this area as much as possible. Parking will be restricted on the east side of North 5th Street only, from Packer to Reagan and Line Street from 4th to 5th to accommodate detoured traffic."

Police Chief Brad Hare asked residents and travelers to please avoid the affected areas.



Editor's Note: This is part of an ongoing series of ideas highlighting activities available to children and families during the shutdown of Valley schools.

If your kids are into sports and where their favorite team plays, check out ballparks.com. The detailed website offers deep looks at professional baseball stadiums, basketball/hockey arenas and even Olympic stadiums. The site includes everything from the cost to build the arena to retired jerseys hanging in the rafters.

https://ballparks.com/

## KEEPING COVID ROOMS CLEAN AT HOSPITAL

# Environmental services critical at Evangelical



Mikala Blackwell is required to wear protective gear as part of the environmental services team tasked to clean the COVID patient rooms at Evangelical Community Hospital.

## Middleburg woman, sisters taking extra precautions

By Eric Scicchitano  
escicchitano@dailyitem.com

Mikala Blackwell changes clothes before leaving her job at Evangelical Community Hospital and when she gets home, she changes clothes again.

Blackwell is an essential hospital employee in a role that may get overlooked: Environmental services, or housekeeping. She lives in Middleburg with her parents and three siblings, two of whom

also are essential workers in grocery and retail.

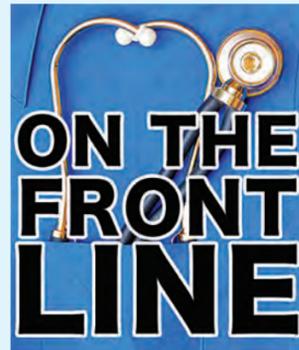
Just as she does while working, Blackwell focuses on protecting herself and those around her from the spread of COVID-19 amid the novel coronavirus pandemic. She changes clothes and showers immediately when returning from work, frequently washes her hands and had been self-isolating.

Blackwell said her sisters do the same. They have to. Their mother has terminal breast cancer.

"There was a lot of fear," Blackwell said of initially working in the pandemic. "All of us, my sisters and I, are taking every possible precaution we can to protect each other."

Housekeeping at the hospital shifted with everything else when the coronavirus began to spread in the United States. COVID-19 patients are segregated from the rest of the patient population. Access

See CRITICAL, Page B2



## Short parade honors seniors

By Francis Scarcella  
fscarcella@dailyitem.com

SUNBURY — Five fire departments, along with city police and dozens of community members honored two Shikellamy softball players during a parade past the John O. Long Field Tuesday night.

Seniors Kayleigh Lenner and Kierston Long were honored Tuesday night after missing their senior year on the field due to COVID-19.

"It's a shame and we wanted to do

something nice for them," head coach Eric Long said. "This was great of everyone to want to be involved."

"It's like a heartbreak to not have been able to play this year," Kierston Long said. "But tonight is very special to us."

"This is awesome but it is very sad we were not able to play this year," Lenner said. "But we are so thankful to be honored by all of these people here."

"I am happy the department was able to lead the parade for the seniors," Sunbury Police Chief Brad Hare said.



Francis Scarcella/The Daily Item

Shikellamy senior softball players Kayleigh Lenner and Kierston Long wait with coach Eric Long for a parade of firefighters, police and community members to pass by the field to show their support to the two girls who missed their senior seasons.



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Showers, a p.m. t-storm HI 78 / LO 70 Weather, B4

Thursday, May 28, 2020

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## Parts of Valley prepare to go green

**Green guidance: Gatherings of 250 or fewer allowed; bar, eatery customers must sit**

By John Finnerty  
jfinnerty@cnhi.com

HARRISBURG — Under new “green” phase guidance updated on Wednesday, gatherings of more than 250 people will be prohibited and customers in bars and restaurants must be seated and follow social distancing guidelines.

Gov. Tom Wolf elaborated on the reopening process for green

phase counties and guidance on outdoor dining in yellow counties, dining in green counties, and professional sports in yellow counties on Wednesday.

Wolf said restaurants in yellow phase counties will be allowed to begin serving patrons in outside dining areas on June 5, as the state makes its final preparations to loosen

See **GREEN**, Page A3



Marcia Moore/The Daily Item  
**Duane Dewire shows off the equipment and personal sanitizers he keeps in his First Class Male barber shop in downtown Selinsgrove.**

**Susquehanna Valley Mall, stores making changes to increase sanitization, safety**

By Marcia Moore  
mmoore@dailyitem.com

Ron Mohr has been employed as a custodian for 41 years and says the coronavirus pandemic is keeping him on his toes.

“We are sterilizing everything,” he said as he cleaned a light fixture at the Susquehanna Valley Mall in preparation for the shopping complex’s reopening Friday morning after more

### INSIDE

■ Montour County shops reopening say they’ll follow rules/A3

than two months.

Mohr and his eight colleagues will wipe down door handles, benches and other sur-

See **MALL**, Page A3

## WELL-WISHES, GIFTS WELCOME Emergency doc: Kind words invigorate hospital staff

**Brocious feared bringing virus home**

By Eric Scicchitano  
escicchitano@dailyitem.com

A sign hung on a retaining wall at Geisinger’s main access road in Danville reads: “Heroes Work Here.”

Dr. Bradley Brocious, an emergency medicine physician, said similar signs are hung along a walkway to the Emergency Department. The words of encouragement during the coronavirus pandemic aren’t ignored by medical providers, Brocious said.

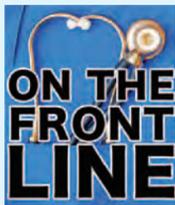
“It’s making me feel very encouraged how the community has rallied,” Brocious said of the well-wishes and gifts like free lunch sent by individuals and businesses to frontline medical workers. “I know personally for myself and my colleagues it’s been very invigorating.”

Central Pennsylvania fared well, so far, in the pandemic compared to more densely populated parts of the state. Brocious feared the health system could be overrun by virus cases when the pandemic first began to take hold in the U.S.



Photo provided by Geisinger

**Dr. Bradley Brocious works in the Geisinger Emergency Department.**



To show support for frontline workers such as doctors, nurses, EMTs, grocery store employees, pharmacists, truck drivers, delivery personnel, restaurant workers, etc., the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association is celebrating Go Blue during the week of May 25. Newspapers across Pennsylvania are printing blue pages and stories in blue boxes to support and celebrate vital personnel who are making sure the needs of the community are being met during the coronavirus pandemic.

Hospitals in greater Philadelphia and New York City were inundated. He worried protections to prevent the spread from patient to patient would falter. He feared exposure could result in him spreading the virus to his

wife and two young children at home in Lewisburg, especially considering its potential spread by the asymptomatic.

“I’m more comfortable

See **STAFF**, Page A2

### INSIDE

■ Shamokin grad thrives in hospital special care unit/B1

## Pa. lawmaker tests positive for virus; Weis extends hours

From staff and wire reports

A Pennsylvania state lawmaker said Wednesday he tested positive for COVID-19 and spent the past two weeks in isolation. Rep. Andrew Lewis, R-Dauphin, said in a statement that other members and staff he was in contact with also self-isolated.

Also on Wednesday, Pennsylvania saw increases in both new cases and deaths while Weis Markets officials announced

### INSIDE

■ U.S. virus death toll surpasses 100,000/A5  
■ Poll: Only about half of Americans say they would get COVID-19 vaccine if available/A2

extended hours, the reopening of delis and the resumption of immunization services at store pharmacies.

Lewis said he kept his positive test a secret out of consideration for his family and others who may have been exposed.

See **TESTS**, Page A2

## Some Snyder County poll workers cite virus, won't work Tuesday

By Marcia Moore  
mmoore@dailyitem.com

Concern over COVID-19 has prompted a few Snyder County poll workers to drop out of working at Tuesday’s primary election.

Joe Kantz, the chairman of the county board, said Wednesday he’s heard of four or five people who have chosen not to work the polls as scheduled.

“A few people are concerned

for their health,” said Snyder County Elections Director Debbie Bilger.

The county is taking precautions at the polls, including providing masks and gloves to all election workers, hand sanitizers and giving out pens to every voter who shows up between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Kantz said the county purchased 11,000 new pens for

See **POLL**, Page A2

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### OBITUARIES A5

**BOYER**, Emogene L., 87, Lewisburg  
**FRYE**, William L., 84, Beaver Springs  
**HUNSICKER**, Brenda S., 55, Rehersburg

**KLINE**, Mark A., 60, New Berlin  
**MENGEL**, Woodrow A., 84, Selinsgrove  
**STUMP**, Helen M., 74, Lewisburg

### STOCKS B4

Dow Jones industrials 553.16  
25,548.27  
Nasdaq composite 72.14  
9,412.36  
Standard & Poor's 500 44.36  
3,036.13

### INDEX

Advice  
Calendar  
Comics  
Crossword  
Nation A4, A5, C4-C5  
Opinion  
State  
World

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