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Statewide Stay-at-Home Order Extended Until May 8

Governor Tom Wolf and Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine announced that the statewide stay-at-home orders issued on April 1 to protect Pennsylvanians and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 will be extended until Friday, May 8 at 12:01 AM. The initial order was set to expire on April 30.

"It is clear that our early and aggressive efforts to mitigate this spread of this highly contagious and deadly virus are working. While we begin to seek ways to move forward, it's imperative that we continue to take strong precautions to protect Pennsylvanians and ensure that our health care system is not overwhelmed," Wolf said. "I am so proud of this commonwealth and the resilience of my fellow Pennsylvanians, and I urge you to continue to stay calm and stay home so that we can all stay safe."

"We are starting to see a downward trend in the number of positive cases throughout the state, which is definitely encouraging," Dr. Levine said. "We need to proceed carefully to make sure the strides we've made in combatting this virus continue to move forward. Extending our statewide order until May 8 will ensure that we don't overwhelm our health system, while helping our economy to recover."

Non-life-sustaining physical business closures remain in effect and all life-sustaining businesses and state services will continue.

Individuals are permitted to leave their residences for tasks essential to maintaining health and safety.

Wolf recommended that Pennsylvanians continue to wear masks when leaving the house for life-sustaining reasons. Dr. Levine recently signed an order directing protections for critical workers who are employed at businesses that are authorized to maintain in-person operations during the COVID-19 disaster emergency.

At this time, law enforcement will continue to focus on ensuring that residents are aware of the order and informing the public of social distancing practices rather than enforcement.

For the most up-to-date information on COVID-19, Pennsylvanians should visit: <https://www.pa.gov/guides/responding-to-covid-19/>.

Face Mask Effort To Keep Community Safe

By Kay Poeth



Ron Mapes and his wife Susan are part of the community volunteers making face masks for Evangelical Community Hospital, area nursing homes, and the general public. Ron is pictured here at the sewing machine.



Diane Hoover and other Hoover's BERNINA Sew employees cut fabric and elastic to be placed into face mask kits. Hoover's BERNINA Sew is donating the fabric and materials to help the community during this crisis.

Hoover's BERNINA Sew in Mifflinburg is part of the family owned-BERNINA company. It has long provided top-quality service to area residents by offering BERNINA sewing machines, software, and accessories, and also provides a variety of classes for people of all skill levels. They make their customers feel like part of the family.

Hoover's BERNINA Sew is now reaching out to serve the community during this time of crisis. The employees are busy making face mask kits that include pattern cut fabric and elastic. Community members-at-large are busily sewing the kits. While most are being distributed to Evangelical Community Hospital and area nursing homes; others are for local residents.

"Last week, we cut out over 2000 kits," said Leon Hoover, owner of Hoover's BERNINA Sew. "We are part of helping the community to stay safe."

The project got underway after Evangelical sent out an urgent request for face masks. Laverne and Priscilla Zeiset have spearheaded the effort. Priscilla delivers kits to various volunteers willing to help, picks up the completed masks, and then delivers them to Evan and other area nursing homes.

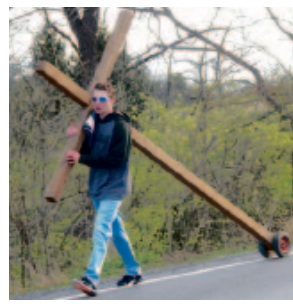
"We deeply appreciate the donation of these masks. By providing cloth masks that people who are not involved in direct care or not in a health-care area can wear, we preserve our supply of surgical masks and, when needed, N-95-type masks, for direct caregivers. That makes the donation even more important," says William Swanger, spokesperson for Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries, which operates Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village. Evangelical Community Hospital is also appreciative of the community efforts. "We have truly been touched by the outpouring of support of the Hospital. Every corner of the community has played a part in contributing to our efforts to care for our patients. We have been collaborating with several partners, including members of the Mennonite and Amish community with whom we have a strong relationship, to make homemade masks that will be used to add to our stockpile of supplies for the COVID-19 response," stated Kendra Aucker, President and CEO of Evangelical Community Hospital. "Using these handmade masks for patients and staff not involved in direct patient care allows us to conserve our supply of hospital-grade masks for the personnel who require a more intense level of protection."

Face masks are more in demand for personal use in the effort to safe. According to Leon Hoover, "Community members have also been stopping to pick up kits and materials to make their own." Hoover's BERNINA Sew has been supplying all the fabric and elastic for the kits. For safety reasons, the business is operating on curbside pick-up and free shipping over \$50. Customers call in their order. The Hoovers are still servicing machines as well with the call ahead and drop off method.

Hoover's BERNINA Sew is located at 2282 Beaver Road in Mifflinburg. Follow the signs to the store. For more information, call 570-966-3822.

Good Friday Cross Walk

By Kay Poeth



Trevor Bishop carries a wooden cross down the Paxtonville Road to remind people to keep Christ at the heart of the Easter celebration.

On Good Friday, April 10, a group of men and youth from western Snyder County participated in a "Cross Walk" in remembrance of what Christ did for mankind over 2,000 years ago. It represents Christ's journey to Calvary and reminds Christians of his

journey to crucifixion.

The men carried a full size 12 foot by 6 foot wooden cross. This year's walk started at the Middleburg VFW along the Paxtonville Road and concluded at the Beaver Springs Fairgrounds.

The goal of the Cross Walk was to keep Jesus Christ and his sacrifice as the focal point of the Easter celebration.

Unemployment Assistance Available Now for Self-Employed

A new system is available to provide unemployment assistance to individuals who are self-employed, contractors, gig workers and others who do not traditionally qualify for Unemployment Compensation, according to Senator John R. Gordner (R-27).

The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program provides benefits ranging from \$195 to \$572 for up to 39 weeks to qualifying individuals who are unable to work due to COVID-19. Payments will be backdated to January 27 or the first week the individual was unable to work due to COVID-19.

Claims can be filed online at <https://pua.benefits.uc.pa.gov/vosnet/Default.aspx>.

Individuals collecting PUA benefits will also be eligible for the extra \$600 per week from the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program.

To file a claim, individuals will need to provide proof of employment or self-employment, as well as information to show previous income. Acceptable documentation includes copies of recent paycheck stubs, bank receipts showing deposits, tax returns and 1099 tax forms, bill notices to customers, statements from recent customers, business licenses, contracts, invoices and building leases.

The new PUA system is separate from the regular Unemployment Compensation system. Claimants for PUA should only apply through the PUA Portal.

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Selinsgrove Speedway Cancels April 26, May 2 Races

The Ray Tilley Classic for the Modern Heritage 410 sprint cars as part of the Slivinski Law Offices Super 7 Series at Selinsgrove Speedway slated for this Sunday, April 26, has been cancelled due to continued restrictions stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The same restrictions have also forced cancellation of the ASCS Battle of the Groves event at Selinsgrove Speedway that was slated for May 2.

The April 26 Tilley Classic was slated to be the first 410 sprint show of the year at the track after the March 29 race also fell victim to health regulations.

Selinsgrove Speedway hopes to reschedule the Tilley Classic as part of one of its five remaining 410 sprints shows on the 2020 schedule.

The Modern Heritage 410 sprints return to Selinsgrove Speedway for the Pennsylvania Speedweek Jan Opperman/Dick Bogar Memorial on June 28 as part of the Slivinski Law Offices Super 7 Series.

Additional super sprint shows include a Summer Championship on July 25, the Summer Send-off on August 29, the National Open Qualifier on September 6 and the Jim Nace Memorial 38th annual National Open on September 26.

May was slated to open at Selinsgrove Speedway with the Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series battling the URC Sprints in the 2020 Battle of the Groves presented by Eleven Oaks Farm on May 2.

Selinsgrove and ASCS officials are currently evaluating the possibility of a make-up date coming up later this season.

Focus now shifts to May 9 at Selinsgrove Speedway and a potential season opener when the track will feature A & A Auto Stores Family Night offering reduced adult general admission and FREE general admission for students ages 12 - 17.

Family Night will feature exciting racing action for the Apache Tree Service IMCA/PASS 305 sprints in what will be the 305s season debut at the track with an additional six shows slated during the season.

Also racing on May 9 will be limited late models, the A & A Auto Stores roadrunners and the Mid-Atlantic Modifieds.

It continues to be the mission of Selinsgrove Speedway to begin its 2020 racing season as soon as possible while also adhering to the most recent guidance and directives available regarding the current COVID-19 health crisis.

For a complete 2020 schedule, visit the speedway's official website at www.selinsgrovespeedway.com or follow the track on Twitter and Facebook.



This is Jackson Ritter, 8 years old from Middleburg. Caught on opening day of trout season

IT'S TIME TO FISH

Email your photos along with a brief description and watch for your catch to appear in the Snyder County Times or Union County Times.

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Governor Wolf Grants Extension For License To Carry Permits

Permits that expired March 19 or after will now have until May 30 to renew.

Based on direction from Governor Wolf's office, the Pennsylvania State Police released the following information about expired or expiring license to carry firearms permits:

- Permits that expired on March 19, 2020 or later have been extended to May 30, 2020.
- In Pennsylvania, an individual 21-years-old or older may apply for a license to carry firearms by submitting a completed application to the Sheriff of the county in which they reside or, if a resident of a city of the first class, with the chief of police of that city. The Sheriff has 45 days to investigate and determine an individual's eligibility to be issued a license, which is valid for five years.
- A license to carry firearms is required to carry a firearm concealed on one's person or in a vehicle. Any person who carries a firearm concealed on or about his person except in his place of abode or fixed place of business without a valid and lawfully issued license commits a felony of the third degree.

"This is very good news for all 67 Pennsylvania county Sheriff's offices," said PA Sheriffs' Association President, Timothy Chamberlain. "Sheriffs have been trying to balance the need of protecting Pennsylvanians from this coronavirus and the rights of gun owners. This extension will help everyone affected."

Chamberlain, also the Sheriff of Columbia County, said that some counties have suspended license renewals, while others have gone to appointments or mail-in options. Anyone wishing to renew their permit should check their county Sheriff's office social media pages. Most of them have information on their current policies listed there.

"I applaud the Sheriffs of Pennsylvania who have made some really tough decisions in these challenging times," said Tom Maioli, Jr., PA Sheriffs' Association Executive Director. "I think I speak for everyone that we are all anxious to get back to business as usual."

The Pennsylvania Sheriffs' Association is dedicated to preserving the time-honored Office of Sheriff in Pennsylvania. We are dedicated to assisting our sixty-seven County Sheriffs in acquiring the education and training required for law enforcement officers.

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