

Local News: Classic Too rocks Tom Fairchild Jr. Park in Towanda, A3



LOCAL
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A3

STATE NEWS
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A11



139
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The Daily Review



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www.thedailyreview.com Bradford and Sullivan Counties — Towanda \$1.00

Bradford County up four positive cases compared to Tuesday

BY THE REVIEW

The Pennsylvania Department of Health reported Thursday that four additional Bradford County residents have tested posi-

tive for COVID-19, bringing the week's total to five and the number of positive cases to date for the county to 73. With this increase, there were no additional deaths or cases reported in connection with the county's

nursing homes and personal care facilities. The first positive for the week was reported Tuesday. The county is now up 19 confirmed cases compared to this time two weeks ago.

The county has also had nearly 5,000 negative tests to date. Statewide, Pennsylvania had 860 additional positive COVID-19 cases compared to Wednesday's reporting, along with 14 new deaths.

Federal help a top concern during Rep. Keller's COVID-19 town hall

BY MATT HICKS
Editor-in-Chief

As U.S. Rep. Fred Keller (R-12) took to the phone and livestream Thursday for a virtual COVID-19 town hall, many who were able to get through with questions wanted to know about the help that has come from the federal government and what the future might hold.

A restaurant owner from Sunbury inquired about what was next with the paycheck protection program, especially as she struggles to make ends meet with the state's updated orders limiting indoor dining capacity to 25%.

Keller said discussions are currently taking place in Congress about how best to help the hardest-hit business, which include a reduction in the revenue loss threshold and liability reform to protect these businesses.

Keller called the first PPP program a success, which averaged distributions of \$103,000 to help many small businesses.

"I'm hopeful we can get something done," said Keller.

Keller said discussions are also ongoing about the future of the unemployment supplement that has provided an extra \$600 per month to those out of work, but expires today.

When it came to the \$1,200 federal stimulus checks distributed earlier in the pandemic, one caller, identified as Jack from Bradford County, wondered why the federal government was "just throwing money at this problem," adding that he believed the government was spending the money irresponsibly.

"I have a neighbor whose deceased father — he's been deceased two years — got a check," he said. "My wife and I who have not lost any of our income in this process got a check. The in-laws who are on Social Security income and lost no income from their normal (level) got a check."

Although Keller noted that these stimulus payments were scaled back starting with those who made at least \$75,000 a year, he believed the final version of the legislation should have been better targeted to those more in need.

"At the beginning (of the COVID-19 pandemic) Congress didn't have a lot of time to get things done. We did everything where we could get the consensus of the members of



Submitted Photo

U.S. Rep. Fred Keller (R-12) testifies about the importance of safely reopening schools during a recent congressional hearing. The reopening of schools was one of several topics that were brought up during a virtual town hall meeting held by Keller Thursday.

Congress to get it done," Keller explained. "We're at another point now."

As debates over the next stimulus continue, Keller said he's pushing for measures that can help spur economic growth and get people back to work instead of placing additional debt on the shoulders of future generations, while also making sure previous allocations are being properly utilized.

"I'm more in favor of getting rid of some regulation and doing more things so businesses can reopen so that people have money, not just one time, but recurring revenue at a job," he said.

Not one state has spent the entirety of their Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funding yet, Keller noted. In Pennsylvania, \$1.3 billion of the \$3.9 billion the state was allocated remains unspent.

"This money, already allocated, can help reopen the economy and help students go back to school in the fall," he said.

For all states, he said this money should be fully utilized before Congress spends trillions of dollars more.

Back to school

Another caller, identified as Kim from Bradford County, wanted to know Keller's thoughts about kids going back to school.

Keller believed that schools can reopen safely, adding that the Education and Labor Committee — which he serves on — just had a hearing about schools safely reopening last week.

"One thing we look at is the American Academy of Pediatrics says we can do it, and they've actually laid out ways that it can be done," Keller explained. "I think it's important to make sure kids get back to learning, get back to what we need to be doing because every child deserves an education."

Around \$523 million so that elementary and secondary schools in Pennsylvania can reopen safely, Keller noted.

"I think we can do it," he said.

Implementation of statewide closures

Keller shared some criticism about Wolf's response to the COVID-19 pandemic in some areas, including the delayed reopening of some counties

where there were few cases.

The Department of Health had based its phased reopening not only based on the number of cases in a county, but also the county's proximity to other counties with more cases and access to health care, among other considerations.

"And now putting a one-size-fits-all mandate across the commonwealth when just over 40% of the cases are out of two counties (Allegheny and Philadelphia)," Keller said, regarding the limitations placed against businesses that restricted alcohol from being served unless it is with a meal, closed bars that couldn't serve food, and reduced the maximum capacity of dining establishments to 25%. "What can be done about that? That's why I'm very apprehensive of giving more money to the state, because I look at it as Gov. Wolf is going to use that as a political weapon against the citizens of the commonwealth."

These criticisms were sparked by a question regarding Keller's response to Wolf withholding \$13 million in CARES Act funding from

See **KELLER** Page A12

Ulster man arrested in alleged sexual assault of child

BY BRIANNE OSTRANDER
Staff Writer

Pennsylvania State Police have charged an Ulster man with two counts of indecent assault and corrupting the morals of a minor after he allegedly sexually assaulted a juvenile victim four times over the course of more than five years.

According to an affidavit of probable cause, Brett Eugene Allyn, 45, of Ulster was arrested after law enforcement was informed that he had touched a victim inappropriately and/or forced them to have sexual contact with him four times beginning when the victim was 6 years old.

Court records state that officers were informed that Allyn threatened the victim with consequences including on at least one occasion threatening to "hurt (the victim) really bad" if the victim "would not go along with the actions or told someone about what had happened."

Allyn was arrested with bail set at \$150,000 which he later posted.

A preliminary hearing is scheduled for Allyn on Aug. 5 before Magisterial District Judge Jonathan Wilcox.

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'You won't be safe,' Pence warns in Pennsylvania campaign

BY MARC LEVY
Associated Press

Vowing to bring "peace and security to cities across America," Vice President Mike Pence on Thursday carried the Trump campaign's message of law and order to exurban Pennsylvania, a battleground state where Pence warned of a descent into chaos in big cities should presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden be elected.

At a "cops for Trump" rally outside in Greensburg, Pence warned of rising violence in cities, castigated Democrats' calls to defund police and framed November's election as being about safety and security. The theme is emerging as a key Trump



PENCE

See **PENCE** Page A12

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82 59
Page A11

DEATHS
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QUOTE OF THE DAY
"Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much."
— Oscar Wilde

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