



Vice President Mike Pence (left photo) attended a "Cops for Trump" rally Thursday afternoon in downtown Greensburg. More than 400 people turned out for the event which was held at Mid Town Plaza near city hall and police station. Pence spoke for about 30 minutes on the importance of police across the nation.

PHOTOS BY ZACH D'AMICO



## '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 campaign message that plays on the violence that has cropped up alongside

demonstrations and unrest after the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

"When Democrats call for defunding police, remember what's at stake: law and order, safety and the peace of mind that you and your family and your children have every right to enjoy as citizens of the greatest nation on Earth," Pence told the crowd in southwestern Pennsylvania, about 24 miles (15 km) southeast of Pittsburgh.

Pence lauded President Donald Trump's "leadership" in sending federal law enforcement officers to cities, repeatedly touted the Trump administration's commitment to "back the blue" and ticked off figures of shootings and murders in cities from Philadelphia to Tulsa.

(See 'You won't be safe' on Page A3)



## Record economic plunge, bleak jobs numbers reveal virus toll

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER  
AND PAUL WISEMAN  
AP Economics Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The coronavirus pandemic sent the U.S. economy plunging by a record-shattering 32.9% annual rate last quarter and is still inflicting damage across the country, squeezing already struggling businesses and forcing a wave of layoffs that shows no sign of abating.

The economy's collapse in the April-June quarter, stunning in its speed and depth, came as a resurgence of the viral outbreak has pushed businesses to close for a second time in many areas. The government's estimate of the second-

quarter fall in the gross domestic product has no comparison since records began in 1947. The previous worst quarterly contraction — at 10%, less than a third of what was reported Thursday — occurred in 1958 during the Eisenhower administration.

Soon after the government issued the bleak economic data, President Donald Trump diverted attention by suggesting a "delay" in the Nov. 3 presidential election, based on his unsubstantiated allegations that widespread mail-in voting will result in fraud. The dates of presidential elections are enshrined in federal law and would require an act of Congress to change.

(See Record economic on Page B4)

## Derry Area approves school opening health, safety plan

BY NICK CAMMUSO  
Bulletin Staff Writer

Derry Area School District moved one step closer to in-person learning for the 2020-21 school year amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, as the school board approved the district's phased school opening health and safety plan during a special meeting Thursday.

Nearly 75 parents and community members were registered to attend Thursday's meeting, which was held in the middle school auditorium. To be in compliance with the state's current guidelines on social gatherings, some viewed the meeting from a classroom television while about

25 guests sat socially distanced in the auditorium.

The health and safety plan will be submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education and will be available for viewing on the district website at [www.dasd.us](http://www.dasd.us). The board expects to approve full instruction plans for the coming school year — including the district's intentions to be open for in-person learning five days per week starting Aug. 31 — at next Thursday's regular school board meeting.

Superintendent Eric Curry said the district's 57-page health and safety plan is largely in line with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

(See Derry Area approves on Page A3)

Alec Brisendine of Ligonier uses the newly established self-checkout station located to the left of the main circulation desk at the Ligonier Valley Library. The 12-year-old son of David and Jennifer Brisendine, he is going into seventh grade at Christ the Divine Teacher School in Latrobe.



PHOTO BY KATHY GIESEY

## Ligonier Valley Library adds self-checkout station

BY RITA GIESEY  
For The Bulletin

Early into the pandemic, the Ligonier Valley Library, working with the Westmoreland Library Network, arranged for the purchase of a self-checkout station.

The concept is to create a clean and quick way for patrons to check out library materials.

"Understanding, by directives from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and the PA Department of Health, that mitigating exposure between people is key to our health at this time, the introduction of the self-checkout station is well-timed," according to David Brisendine,

library director.

The addition of the self-checkout at the library was planned by former director Janet Hudson prior to her retirement with the assistance of Cherie Massimo, office manager.

"We were happy to take delivery of the system Thursday, July 23, and the system is up and running for patrons to use," Brisendine said.

The technology for the self-checkout system has been around for years, but the necessity presented itself with the COVID-19 restrictions. The station will allow library patrons to check out library

(See Ligonier on Page A3)

## Trump offers, Democrats reject fix for \$600 jobless benefit

BY ANDREW TAYLOR  
AND LISA MASCARO  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With aid expiring, the White House offered a short-term extension Thursday of a \$600 weekly unemployment benefit that has helped keep families and the economy afloat during the COVID-19 pandemic, but Democrats rejected it, saying President Donald Trump's team failed to grasp the severity of the crisis.

Democratic leaders panned the idea in late-night talks at the Capitol, opting to keep the pressure on for a more sweeping bill that would deliver aid to state and local governments, help for the poor and funding for schools and colleges to address the pandemic. Without action, the benefit runs out Friday.

"They want to do one small thing that won't solve the problem," said top Senate Democrat

Chuck Schumer after meeting with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and White House chief of staff Mark Meadows.

"We have to have a bill, but they just don't realize how big it has to be," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

Republicans have been fighting to trim back the \$600 jobless benefit in the next coronavirus package, but their resolve weakened with the looming expiration of the popular benefit — and as Trump indicated that he supports keeping the full \$600 benefit for now.

"We want a temporary extension of enhanced unemployment benefits," Trump said at the White House. "This will provide a critical bridge for Americans who lost their jobs to the pandemic through no fault of their own."

He added: "It has to be substantial."

(See Trump offers on Page A5)

## Latrobe man sentenced for 2017 knife attack

A Latrobe man was sentenced to serve up to 10 years in prison after pleading guilty to wounding his wife and stepdaughter during a knife attack nearly three years ago.

Scott A. Matuszky, 48, this week pleaded guilty to two counts each of aggravated assault and terroristic threats in connection with the Oct. 7, 2017 incident at his Latrobe home. As part of the plea deal, approved by Westmoreland

(See Latrobe man on Page A3)

## Pennsylvania reports 860 new virus cases, 14 new deaths

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Pennsylvania health officials on Thursday reported 860 additional cases of the coronavirus, and 14 new deaths.

Allegheny County reported an increase of 132 cases and Philadelphia reported 127 new cases.

More than 111,000 people in Pennsylvania have tested positive for the virus since the beginning of the pandemic, and 7,176 deaths have been attributed to COVID-19, most of them in nursing homes.

Daily case counts have risen nearly 70% since the beginning of July, driven primarily by increased spread in counties in the southern half of the state. The percentage of virus tests coming back positive has risen from a low of 3.3% in mid-June to over 6% now, according to the COVID Tracking Project.

The increasing infection rate prompted Gov. Tom Wolf to recently impose a new round of statewide pandemic restrictions on bars, restaurants and larger indoor gatherings.

(See Pennsylvania on Page A3)

**TODAY'S WEATHER**  
PM Showers  
HIGH **85°** LOW **65°**

Classified ..... B6  
Comics ..... B3  
Crossword/Sudoku ..... B3  
Entertainment ..... B4-B5  
Local Columns ..... A4  
Lifestyles ..... A8

Local News ..... A1, A3, A5  
Lottery Results ..... A3  
Obituaries ..... A2  
Sports ..... B1-B2  
TV ..... B4-B5  
Dear Abby ..... B3



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