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Small business loans went to big firms
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CORONAVIRUS

Chesco gets 3.5 million face masks

Equipment for frontline workers provided through relationships in China

MediaNews Group

SOUTH COATESVILLE » Working hand-in-hand with Chester County government officials, the Chester County Economic Development Council is attaining more than 3.5 million face masks for the county's Department of Emergency Services, as well as emergency services teams in Delaware County and Berks County.

"Chester County has long been home to many companies that conduct business internationally, and we've been pleased over the years to work with the Chester County Economic Development Council to develop relationships in China that bring lasting benefits to our local businesses and residents. We could not have predicted that those carefully cultivated relationships would result

in this incredible outcome," says Chester County Commissioners' Chair Marian Moskowitz.

CCEDC was first approached by Chester County government officials to assist in vetting and securing an overseas supplier of Personal Protective Equipment at the end of March, after requests for assistance at the local, state and federal levels resulted in low

MASKS » PAGE 3



Gary Smith and Beau Crowding unload masks that will be distributed to frontline workers battling coronavirus.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

RACE AGAINST EXTINCTION

EARTH DAY: EVERYONE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Species continue to decline worldwide at alarming rate as ecosystems are destroyed for 'rare' resources



COURTESY PHOTO BY ROSEMARY ALLES OF MARCH FOR ELEPHANTS AND RHINOS

A wild African elephant in South Africa walks in water.

By Jen Samuel

jsamuel@dailylocal.com
@jenpoetess on Twitter

WEST CHESTER » Extinction threatens to destroy life on earth at an alarming rate. At least, in 2020, if you are an elephant or a butterfly.

Then again, fear of a new extinction-level event, the COVID-19 pandemic, is worrisome for most humans.

"The current rate of species extinction is far higher than the average during the past 10 million years," said Kristen Pope on March 24 in an investigative report started by The Yale Center for Environmental Communication and Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

Today is Earth Day. With unprecedented worldwide,

national and statewide lockdowns, 2020 has been quite noteworthy thus far. And where there are less humans, or at least, less invasive acts of destruction upon ecological habitats, wildlife in places like Venice, Italy have again begun to thrive.

"The first Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 1970 and I was a senior at Downingtown High School," said state Rep. Carolyn Comitta, D-156th, of West Chester. "Our first Earth Day project was to walk to school while picking up trash along the roads. There was an energy that day — a determination and pride that we were all environmental champions, and we were going to change the world, just like our young people today."

EARTH DAY » PAGE 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO - SARAH DITOMASSO

Recently, Delco resident Sarah DiTomasso took her son and daughter to Gillespie Park on Sycamore Avenue in Clifton Heights. Being surrounded by nature was an especially wonderful moment for her son, Giovanni, 8. "It was our first time outside after weeks in quarantine, and he literally was loving the rock and laid there for about 10 minutes relishing in nature," she said.

CORONAVIRUS

Cases at long-term care facilities tracked

By Fran Maye

fmaye@21st-centurymedia.com
@dailylocal on Twitter

WEST CHESTER » The Chester County Health Department is now tracking coronavirus cases at licensed long-term care facilities and personal care homes in Chester and Delaware counties through a new web portal.

The new data can be accessed on Chester County's COVID-19 web page, chesco.org/coronavirus.

"Given the congregate nature of long-term care facilities and personal care homes, and the fact that they serve older adults who often have underlying chronic medical conditions, they are at the highest risk of being affected by COVID-19," said Chester County

FACILITIES » PAGE 3

WEST CHESTER

Pandemic interrupts 44 West construction

By Bill Rettew

bretrew@21st-centurymedia.com
@wcdailylocal on Twitter

WEST CHESTER » Builder Eli Kahn noted that tenants would have likely already moved in to the mixed use building, 44 West, if construction hadn't been halted by the coronavirus pandemic.

With a brick façade, the 55,000 square foot and 60-foot tall structure stands mostly completed at Church and Gay streets.

"We would have been done by now," Kahn said during a Monday afternoon phone interview. "We're all trying to figure this out at the same time."

44 WEST » PAGE 3

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

There's no stopping 'Talking Sopranos'

Michael Imperioli and Steve Schirripa are providing insight into the show on a new podcast during the pandemic. **PAGE A2**



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Pa. businesses get more than \$10 million

The first loan allocations from the COVID-19 Working Capital Access Program go to 126 companies. **PAGE A4**

OPINION

Make the most of Earth Day

Though the big 50th anniversary celebration is out, we can adapt practices like saving energy and cleaning up. **PAGE A7**

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Michelle Obama launches online reading series for kids

NEW YORK » Michelle Obama launched a series of online video readings for kids with the classic picture book “The Gruffalo,” which the former first lady called the story of a mouse who uses his “wit and imagination” to get the best of a fox and other would-be predators. “Mondays With Michelle Obama” is part of the PBS KIDS Read-Along series and will continue through May 11. It can be seen at noon on the Facebook and YouTube pages of PBS KIDS and the Facebook page of Obama's publisher, Penguin Random House.

The livestream of Obama reading “The Gruffalo” quickly received tens of thousands of likes on Facebook. Other celebrities who have given readings during the coronavirus pandemic include Jimmy Fallon, Jennifer Garner and Demi Lovato, who also read “The Gruffalo.”

Warner Bros. delays releases, including ‘The Batman’

LOS ANGELES » Warner Bros. is delaying a batch of theatrical releases including “The Batman” and “The Sopranos” prequel “The Many Saints of Newark.” The studio said Monday that “The Sopranos” film will be pushed from September 2020 to a March 2021 release, while “The Batman,” starring Robert Pattinson, will be delayed four months to October 2021.

Many studios have shuffled release dates due to both shuttered productions and the closure of movie theaters to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

This year also lost the Will Smith drama “King Richard,” which has been moved back a year to November 2021, and a biographical drama about Black Panthers activist Fred Hampton set for August, which now has no release date.

Baz Luhrmann's yet-to-be-titled Elvis film that Tom Hanks was shooting in Australia when he and Rita Wilson tested positive for COVID-19 was delayed a month to November 2021.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Photos and text from The Associated Press

Pandemic couldn't derail new 'Talking Sopranos' podcast



COURTESY OF HBO

Cast members of the hit series “The Sopranos,” from left, Tony Sirico, Steve Van Zandt, James Gandolfini, Michael Imperioli and Vincent Pastore.

NEW YORK » The coronavirus pandemic almost upended a new podcast about the hit TV series “The Sopranos” before it even started. But hosts and series actors Michael Imperioli and Steve Schirripa said fans pleaded with them to find a way to do it.

They did, and watchers of the award-winning HBO series will be overjoyed that the two “Sopranos” stars are providing insight into the show while listeners are stuck in their homes.

Imperioli said fans had been watching the show during shelter-in-place orders and were hungry for the podcasts.

“So Steve and I had a long talk and we thought about it, and we found a way to do it remotely,” Imperioli said.

Even a series regular like Schirripa is also learning things about the series.

“Michael tells me things that I never even knew,” he said. “So it's pretty amazing.”

One thing listeners have discovered is that there were three final actors vying for the role for Tony Soprano. One was Bruce Springsteen collaborator Steven Van Zandt. Obviously, James Gandolfini got the part, but show creator David Chase found a spot for Van Zandt.

“They wrote in that character, Silvio, for him,” Imperioli said. “There was no Silvio in the original script.”

And what about the third actor? “Michael Rispoli was the third finalist, and he played Jackie Aprile Sr.,” Imperioli said.

New episodes of “Talking Sopranos” are available every Monday on various podcast apps or at Simplecast.

Earth Day

FROM PAGE 1

Recently, Delco resident Sarah DiTomasso took her son and daughter to walk along a trail after a nearly six-week hiatus due to the governor's ongoing stay-at-home order.

She took her children to Gillespie Park on Sycamore Avenue in Clifton Heights.

Being surrounded by nature again was an especially wonderful moment for her son, Giovanni DiTomasso, 8.

“It was our first time outside after weeks in quarantine and he literally was loving the rock and laid there for about 10 minutes relishing in nature..” she said.

Back at Yale, in her research, Pope found the current rate of species extinction is far higher than the average during the past 10 million years. One million of about 8 million animal and plant species worldwide are threatened with extinction, she said, citing the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services based in Bonn, Germany.

Pope's journalism shed light on a National Audubon Society finding which, after studying 140 million birds across myriad species, determined changes to the environment are imperiling two-thirds of North American avian species closer to crossing the brink of extinction.

Millions of people around the world are working to save their favorite species from extinction. And for

Adams Cassinga, founding director of Conserv Congo in the DRC, it equates to a simple matter of life or death. Right or wrong. Truth or fallacy.

Cassinga is a Mandela Washington fellow and works with game changers at the University of Delaware in Newark, close to Landenberg in southern Chester County. He's traveled across the Atlantic on a few trips to study in America and fight to make a difference.

As a former journalist and African ranger, Earth Day holds special significance to Cassinga.

“Earth Day reminds me of the many favors Mother Earth has done for us as humans, irrespective of our irresponsibility toward her, and that we, in return, should feel the need to return at least one of those favors,” Cassinga said. “It does not have to be a major thing. Something as simple as planting a tree.”

At the London Grove Friends Meeting House near Unionville in Chester County stands the oldest known white oak tree in Pennsylvania. Its roots run deep and date to the society of the Lenni-Lenape, the Native Americans who once lived here and migrated along the Delaware River spanning New York and Maryland to the Chesapeake Bay.

Back in Africa, elephants are in peril. Two hundred years ago, 20 million African elephants roamed the continent. By 1910, there were 10 million left at best. In 2013, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

said more than 30,000 elephants were poached annually, and 300,000 were left alive on the planet. It is estimated that 100 elephants are poached per day. Sometimes, fewer are killed in a given area as the herds eventually are wiped out.

Some elephants flee along ancient migratory routes from places like Zimbabwe and Tanzania to Botswana, where recently “trophy” kills have resumed. At an average of \$30,000 per permit, Americans typically pay for this service over most other nationalities.

Cassinga said of the ongoing “ivory wars” in the Congo: “It is alarming, critical and maybe even revolting. In the last two years, the trend of ivory seizures made across the globe from the Democratic Republic of the Congo is overwhelming.”

He said most of these seizures — more than 95% — of the total volume of seized ivory and pangolin scales; products linked to the DRC stem from major trafficking instances, half of which occurred between 2017 and 2019.

Indeed, in 2017, the University of Utah found that most ivory seized at international ports — more than 90 percent — derived from elephants killed less than four years ago in Africa.

Said Cassinga, the size and frequency of ivory and pangolin scales shipments originating from the DRC suggests that this wildlife trade is characterized by industrial-scale trafficking run by organized syndicates.

As for what people can do to make a difference and help stop acts of extinction, there are options.

“People have got to get involved, even in the smallest ways such as addressing the issue of wildlife trafficking as a global issue and not just as an African problem,” Cassinga said. “Creating awareness by informing your close ones and of course supporting grassroots level organizations fighting this scourge.”

He said good people around the world can advocate for decent and acceptable laws in favor of wildlife and wild places.

“These uncertain times are a reminder of our responsibility to be good stewards of our natural resources,” said state Sen. Thomas Killian, R-9th, of Middletown. “Protecting and preserving our environment has always been an important priority of mine and I'm proud of my 100 percent rating from the Pennsylvania League of Conservation Voters in their most recent legislative scorecard.”

“Earth Day is taking on a special meaning this year,” said state Sen. Andy Dinniman, D-19th, of West Whiteland. “We must take our impact on the Earth and our environment seriously because it can and does have a direct bearing on our health, safety, and prosperity.”

U.S. Rep. Chrissy Houlihan, D-6th, of Easttown, said, “We have one planet Earth that we call home. That's it. Earth Day is about both celebrating that home and recommitting to its protection and preservation.” “As the state remains gripped in uncertainty surrounding the pandemic, two things remain clear,” said Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, “Pennsylvanians are appreciating peace and solitude of our state parks and forestlands, our trails and local parks in unprecedented numbers; and, often as family units, discovering the natural world around them as close as their backyards. Both are so important as we mark the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

“While daily gratitude and action is the best way to honor our home,” said Ellen Ferretti, director of the Brandywine Conservancy. “Earth Day challenges all of us to focus our attention on our environment together on one day for local, regional and global impact.”

LOTTERY

PENNSYLVANIA

Pick 2 (April 21): 7-1

(Day: 6-4)

Pick 3 (April 21): 8-3-5

(Day: 4-2-1)

Pick 4 (April 21): 6-5-4-5

(Day: 6-9-1-1)

Pick 5 (April 21): 7-7-1-7-1

(Day: 4-3-1-6-1)

Treasure Hunt (April 21): 1-9-21-24-26

Cash 5 (April 21): 3-21-22-26-31

Match 6 (April 21): 16-19-29-33-36-38

Powerball (April 18): 4-44-46-56-63

Powerball: 19

Power Play: 2

Mega Millions (April 21): 13-35-39-46-55

Mega Ball: 14

Megaplier: 4

All numbers unofficial until validated.

DELAWARE

Online: Check out the lottery Master's blog

[HTTPS://KARLSLOTTERYBLOG.BLOGSPOT.COM](https://karlslotteryblog.blogspot.com)

Play 3 (April 21): 3-2-7

(Day: 1-3-9)

Play 4 (April 21): 8-2-1-6

(Day: 4-2-6-3)

Lucky for Life (April 20): 1-3-6-34-45

Lucky Ball: 12

Lotto America (April 18): 2-15-18-41-48

Star Ball: 6

Multi-Win Lotto (April 20): 2-4-9-16-21-29

NEW JERSEY

Pick 3 (April 21): 2-7-0

(Day: 2-7-0)

Pick 4 (April 21): 2-6-5-9

(Day: 3-7-5-9)

Jersey Cash 5 (April 21): 2-16-20-34-40 Xtra: 3

Pick 6 (April 20): 1-23-28-37-48-49 Xtra: 2

Cash 4 Life (April 21): 8-14-43-51-59

TODAY IN HISTORY

1864

Congress authorized the use of the phrase “In God We Trust” on U.S. coins.

1898

With the United States and Spain on the verge of war, the U.S. Navy began blockading Cuban ports.

1954

The publicly televised sessions of the Senate Army-McCarthy hearings began.

1964

President Lyndon B. Johnson opened the New York World's Fair.

1970

Millions of Americans concerned about the environment observed the first Earth Day.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Actor Jack Nicholson is 83. Singer Mel Carter is 81. Author Janet Evanovich is 77. Movie director John Waters is 74. Singer Peter Frampton is 70. Actress Amber Heard is 34.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

“Demasiada cordura puede ser la peor de las locuras, ver la vida como es y no como deberia de ser.” (Too much sanity may be the worst folly, see life as it is and not as it should be.)

— Miguel de Cervantes (1547-1616)

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Masks

FROM PAGE 1

fulfillment due to global shortages. At the same time, CCEDC was receiving PPE assistance requests from its vast network of regional health care leaders.

“That’s when we turned to CCEDC’s Global Business Advisors board, a partnership of more than 30 international business experts that we regularly convene from our region with fluency in 17 languages and cross-industry experience in 35 countries,” says CCEDC Chief Operating Officer Michael Grigalonis. “Our goal was to quickly identify and conduct due diligence on overseas suppliers, as well as facilitate transactions to get these products from China to Chester County.”

Grigalonis says that while CCEDC received numerous offers to source masks, they found many suppliers were unable to deliver the promised quantity and quality of products. Chester Springs resident James Zhang proved to be the exception. The president of the Sino-American Business and Travel Association, he regularly conducts business in China and has developed a reputation as a trusted resource. Working with his contacts in China, Zhang agreed to receive the masks from a vetted supplier and manage delivery to Chester County for purchase, with his services uncompensated.

“Mr. Zhang remained dedicated to assisting us as a public service, even as we far exceeded our initial requests for supplies. We are greatly appreciative of

his contributions at a time when such supplies are at critically low levels for first responders and other health care workers on the front lines of this pandemic,” says Gary W. Smith, CCEDC President and CEO.

So far Chester County has received 400,000 masks, with the remaining supplies in transit, including N95 masks, also known as respirators, and disposable medical masks. The PPE has been distributed to fulfill all critical needs requests in Chester County.

“CCEDC and its Global Business Advisors did such a good job of finding quality PPE at a fair price, that we are able to assist our neighboring counties as well,” says Chester County Department of Emergency Services Director Mike Murphy. Chester County is beginning to fulfill requests from Delaware County and Berks County, which both counties will reimburse.

Recipients of the face masks are first responders as well as health care providers whose agencies submitted unmet needs requests through their municipality’s Emergency Management Coordinator.

Those requests are forwarded to the county level and prioritized as “critical” or “routine” based on a formula that assesses current mask supply at a particular facility in relation to how many masks are being used daily. Critical needs are fulfilled that day or the following day; routine needs require a few days or up to a week.

“It has not solved the problem, but it has certainly filled an immediate needs gap. In the meantime, we continue to work

with state and federal government to increase medical supplies for the health care workers who are putting their lives on the line to serve Chester County residents,” says Moskowitz.

CCEDC’s Global Business Advisors team has deep expertise in global markets and supply chain management, has access to government agencies, and possesses banking, financing and legal expertise. In addition, they have hosted more than 30 foreign delegations from European and Asian countries including Ireland, Taiwan, China, Lithuania, Japan and Scotland.

The Global Business Advisors board includes business and government leaders from Siemens, Cerner, UPS, Fox Rothschild, Fulton Bank, World Trade Center of Greater Philadelphia, Mid-Atlantic Eurasia Business Council, Department of Commerce/International Trade Administration, Villanova University, West Chester University and more.

The Chester County Economic Development Council is a private, nonprofit economic development organization promoting smart growth in Chester County and the surrounding region for 60 years.

The CCEDC provides proven financing solutions, cultivates workforce talent, leverages business partnerships, and fosters entrepreneurial collaboration. With the support of the private and public sectors, CCEDC initiates, implements and innovates programs that improve the business community and enhance the quality of life in Chester County. For more information, visit <https://ccedcpa.com/>.

Facilities

FROM PAGE 1

Health Department Director Jeanne Casner.

There are 75 licensed long-term care and personal care homes in Chester County, and 19 of those facilities have an outbreak of one or more cases. In Delaware County, three are 61 licensed long-term care facilities, and 37 of those have a coronavirus outbreak.

To date, 28 residents of licensed long-term care facilities in Chester County have died as a result of coronavirus, 17 of whom were male. In Delaware County, 68 residents of long-term care facilities have died.

Of those Chester County deaths, 14 were between the ages of 80 and 89 and nine between the ages of 90 and 99. There were no deaths of anyone under the age of 60. Of those Delaware County deaths, 20 were between the ages of 80 and 89 and 20 between the ages of 90 and 99.

“The data that we are publishing helps to give context to our overall case numbers and is a snapshot of the challenges that our

long-term care facilities and personal care homes are facing,” Casner said. “Our definition of ‘outbreak’ begins with just one case in a congregate care setting, so the data we are reporting reflects that.”

Nursing home populations are at the highest risk of being affected by COVID-19, according to the Centers for Disease Control. COVID-19 cases have now been reported in all 50 states and D.C.; with many areas having widespread community transmission. The CDC is urging all nursing home facilities to take immediate action to protect residents, families, and healthcare personnel.

One of the key roles of the Chester County Health Department as it relates to COVID-19 is the assistance to long-term care facilities and personal care homes in identifying cases, reviewing practices and managing the spread of the coronavirus. In addition to this support, many of the facilities have reached a point where staff, residents and families of residents also need emotional and mental health support.

“Staff of long-term care facilities and personal care homes are understandably

feeling worn out and at times helpless,” said Casner. “Residents are fearful and families are not feeling as connected to their loved ones. All of this takes its toll, so we are also working with staff in our human services department, department of aging and department of mental health services, to provide holistic wellness support for everyone affected – staff, residents and families.”

In nursing and personal care homes in Pennsylvania, there are 5,026 resident cases of COVID-19, and 572 cases among employees, for a total of 5,598 at 396 distinct facilities in 38 counties, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Out of our total deaths, 796 have occurred in residents from nursing or personal care facilities.

Long-term care facilities and personal care homes are licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health or Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. The Chester County Health Department does not provide details of COVID-19 cases or deaths to specifically named long-term care facilities or personal care homes.

44 West

FROM PAGE 1

“I hope we can get through it. There is not a whole lot you can do. Let’s get it done so the tenants can move in.”

Two restaurants and offices will occupy the four-story tall building, at the site of the former Mosteller building department store where Scouts shopped for uniforms after riding an elevator controlled by a human operator.

The building had turned into an eyesore after Chester County vacated and moved county offices to the Justice Center and the county’s administration building at 313 W. Market Street during 2008 and 2011. Borough Council had originally balked while considering the size and type of building, with the permitting process lasting several years.

Kahn said that a year-round fountain, with heated water, along with some inside work, might take a month or two once



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Mosteller building has been replaced by 44 West.

construction is allowed.

Office space is 90 percent leased with a Sedona Tap-house restaurant planned for the first floor. A second restaurant tenant has not yet been announced.

Sedona Tap-house also has a Phoenixville location and specializes in craft beers. The dinner menu features truffle fries, pasta, wood grilled steaks, smoky beef BBQ short ribs and glazed salmon. Brunch is served in Phoenixville on Saturdays and Sundays and

the eatery caters for events and parties.

Kahn and staffers are interviewing artists and choosing art works to hang.

In other news, Kahn is also preparing to build 160, efficiency, one- and two-bedroom affordable housing apartments at the Salvation Army and Rubenstein’s site on Market Street.

Kahn said he is working on engineering and design and will submit something to the borough in a couple of months.

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- Create a “no mow zone” and install a pollinator meadow
- Plant native trees in your yard and next to streams
- Clean up after your pets and clean septic systems every 3 years
- Pick up litter in your neighborhood or local stream

Brandywine Red Clay Alliance

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<http://www.brandywineredclay.org/watershed-conservation/property-tips/>

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