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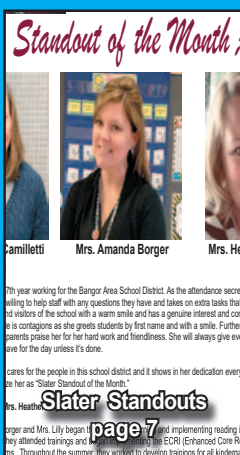
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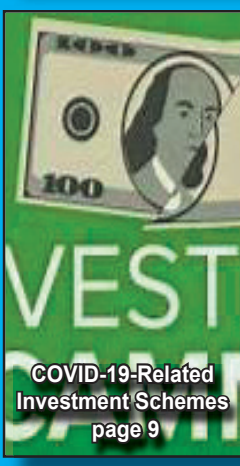
Wildfire Vigilance  
page 4



CARES Act for  
Nonprofits  
Page 6



Standout of the Month  
Mrs. Amanda Borger  
page 7



COVID-19-Related  
Investment Schemes  
page 9

## State Business Loan Program Reaches Maximum; New Loan Program Created to Help Businesses

By Michael Ortoski

BANGOR - The COVID-19 Working Capital Access Program created by the Commonwealth Financing Authority last week has reached its maximum level of funding and will no longer accept new applications. However, a new federal program will offer loans that can be forgiven to help affected small businesses and self-employed individuals cover operating costs during the pandemic.

The new Paycheck Protection Program will offer loans to cover payroll costs, mortgage interest, rent and utility costs over an eight-week period. No more than 25 percent of the loan may cover anything other than payroll costs, and loan payments will be deferred for six months for any amount that is not forgiven. Businesses must maintain their number of staff and level of payroll and quickly rehire any recently displaced employees in order to

### Paycheck Protection Program for SMALL BUSINESSES



## Senate Leaders Urge Governor to Classify Residential Construction As Essential

By Senator Scavello

Governor Wolf's order to close all non-essential businesses two weeks ago idled numerous construction projects throughout the state. Senate leaders wrote a letter to Governor Wolf this week encouraging him to reclassify residential construction activities as an essential business and allow these projects to resume – as long as social distancing protocols are followed to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security recently classified residential construction as an essential business. Pennsylvania is the only state to shut down all active public and private construction sites as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. New Jersey, California, Illinois and New York have issued shelter-in-place orders, but provide an

Continued on page 10

## PBMS Practice Prescription Drug Price Gouging During Pandemic

By Patricia A. Epple the CEO of the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association and a member of a new coalition, Your PA Community Pharmacies.

HARRISBURG - We want the public to know that Pennsylvania's independent pharmacists are doing all we can to make sure families in our local communities have the medicine they need while remaining at home and practicing social distancing.

We are following the practice of: Step Up — Pitch In — Limit Contact — Make Free Deliveries.

As you well know, Medicaid patients not only have numerous physical health care deficiencies, but also deal with a myriad of behavioral and social problems — psycho-social issues, literacy and poverty to name a few. Where would these individuals turn for help when their local independent pharmacy is no longer there? That's a real possibility due to the behavior of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) during this pandemic.

What are PBMs doing? At a time when independent pharmacists are going above and beyond the already superior service we provide, PBMs are slashing our reimbursements to line their own pockets. Their dramatic cuts in reimbursements are nothing less than a form

Continued on page 10



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to commercial sources.

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**Couple**  
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**Family**  
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# STIMULUS PAYMENTS

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### Economic Impact Checks

The majority of Americans will receive "economic impact" checks to help during these challenging times. Tax filers with adjusted gross income up to \$75,000 for individuals and up to \$150,000 for married couples filing joint returns will receive the full payment.

For filers with income above those amounts, the payment amount is reduced by \$5 for each \$100 above the \$75,000/\$150,000 thresholds. Single filers with income exceeding \$99,000 and \$198,000 for joint filers with no children are not eligible.

Most will need to take no action to receive the check. Please be aware of any scammers contacting you asking for Social Security or bank account information; do not provide such information.

More guidance from the IRS available here <https://www.irs.gov/.../economic-impact-payments-what-you-nee...>

## Gracedale Receives PPE Shipment from PEMA/PA DOH

By Becky Bartlett

On Thursday, April 2nd Gracedale Nursing Home received additional supplies of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from PEMA and the PA Department of Health which included 5,040 N95 masks, 330 surgical gowns, 96 face shields, 2,400 ear-loop facemasks, 2,000 medical gloves and 2,000 large gloves. "We're very happy to get this shipment from PEMA," says Lamont McClure. "It's very important that we are able to protect our residents and our staff during this pandemic and the gloves, masks and other equipment are the tools we need to accomplish that."



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