



Community
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Sports
Wiltrout remembers record-breaking throw. **B1**

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Confident in care

Uniontown Hospital set to resume elective procedures

BY THE HERALD-STANDARD

As the number of new COVID-19 cases begins to slow, the state has given hospitals the go ahead to resume elective surgical procedures.

Uniontown Hospital will begin outpatient procedures on Monday, and inpatient elective surgical procedures on May 18.



Handy

“While we are continuing to monitor and adapt to the challenges presented by COVID-19, we are confident in the care we can provide to our patients, maintaining their safety, and ensuring their best health by resuming these types of services,” Uniontown Hospital CEO Steve Handy said.

With an expected increase in foot traffic, Director of Community Relations Josh Krysak said the hospital has protocols in place, including strict screenings and increased cleaning procedures, to ensure patients’ health and safety.

He said the hospital has a backlog of hundreds of elective procedures, put on hold in mid-March as hospitals across the state and country braced for a surge of COVID-19 patients.

Fayette County is among those counties that never



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Members of the Surgical Services team at Uniontown Hospital are pictured in a post-operative bay at the hospital Wednesday. Hospital officials announced they will resume elective surgical procedures beginning Monday.

experienced a surge in cases in the way many eastern counties did. As of Wednesday, there were 84 cases in Fayette, according to the state Department of Health.

Krysak said the hospital has a sufficient supply of personal protective equipment to safely resume the nonemergency surgeries, while ensuring they

are prepared should case numbers begin to rise.

Those who had a procedure delayed should reach out to the physician who ordered it so it can be rescheduled, Krysak said.

Under the hospital’s protocols, most patients will have to undergo a pre-operative COVID-19 test between 72 and 96 hours prior to their procedure, and then

remain in isolation until the scheduled date. Any who test positive will not be scheduled for surgery.

Those patients who are getting a local anesthetic or spinal anesthetic will not have to undergo virus testing.

As the hospital resumes elective procedures, Krysak said a remote testing site at the former Kmart in South

Union Township and a triage trailer outside of the emergency department will remain operational.

And although the hospital continues to be closed to all visitors and has been since mid-March, Krysak said officials review that policy often.

“We are watching closely, and when we feel it is appropriate it will be something we bring back,” he said.

Bus company sends message to AG seniors

BY MARK HOFMANN
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The bus company for the Albert Gallatin Area School District sent a special message to seniors this week to let them know that they’re being thought of while they finish school at home.

Last week, dispatchers Hannah Reynolds and Tammy Cole with Student Transportation of America Inc. were approached by Albert Gallatin Area High School Principal Jason Hutchinson, who told them about a news story he’d seen – a bus company arranged its vehicles to give seniors some well wishes.

“We thought that was a wonderful idea, and we were more than willing to help out,” Cole said.

So, in the course of the day, Reynolds, Cole and volunteers with the company organized and positioned 35 smaller and regular-sized



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Student Transportation of America Inc. moved some buses around in their parking lot to send a message of support to Albert Gallatin Area High School seniors.

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Wolf proposes civilian corps to increase virus testing

BY THE HERALD-STANDARD



Gov. Tom Wolf

With Pennsylvanians out of work and residents eager to move forward with a sense of normalcy, Gov. Tom Wolf said he hopes to form a Commonwealth

Civilian Coronavirus Corps.

The public service initiative would support efforts in the fall to increase virus testing, conduct contact tracing and provide new job opportunities in the public health sector.

“We do not want to spend the next few months or next year cloistered inside our homes,” Wolf said, noting

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Pierotti, Peter P., Perryopolis
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Today
High: 61
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