

The Patriot-News

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Craft brewers adapt amid uncertain future



Michael Lindgren and Lindgren Craft Brewery are brewing beer at a farm in Penn Township, Perry County. Dan Gleiter, PennLive

As coronavirus changes where people buy beer, industry shifts toward cans

Sue Gleiter sgleiter@pennlive.com

2020 was supposed to be a banner year for Lindgren Craft Brewery.

In January, owners and father and son, Clifford and Michael Lindgren, announced they had purchased the former PNC Bank building at 5 N. Market St. in Duncannon and were moving operations from their Perry County family farm.

The new building offers ample space to expand production from a two-barrel to a 15-barrel system with additional room for a taproom and possible restaurant. They anticipated an end-of-summer opening.

But weeks later, the Lindgrens' expansion plans were delayed when the coronavirus pandemic hit in March.

"It was a stumbling point at the beginning of the pandemic," Michael Lindgren said. "I would say the hardest part has been not necessarily knowing what comes next, the uncertainty."

Across the nation, the craft beer industry is being drained by the pandemic.

Brewers have faced shutdowns and lockdowns, dining restrictions and lower sales.

More than 1 in 5 of all craft brewers, or about 22%, said in a Brewers Association survey they don't think they'll still be operating by the end of 2021, according to The Motley Fool, a financial site.

In central Pennsylvania, at least two craft brewers — River Bend Hop Farm & Brewery in Miller Township, Perry County, and Miscreation Brewing Co. in Hanover, York County — have announced permanent closures related to COVID-19.

"It seems people are very passionate about getting out and supporting local businesses. I pray no others close because I hate writing those articles, but undoubtedly I think it's inevitable," said Matt Kozar, co-owner of Breweries in PA, a digital company that promotes the state's beer industry.

The next couple of months will be **SEE BREW, A2**

Hospitalizations continue to fall

New infections and hospitalizations related to the coronavirus are continuing to fall. The recent levels of new infections — about 4,000 on Monday — mean Pennsylvania has likely avoided a repeat of the surge that came a few weeks after Thanksgiving, when daily new infections surpassed 12,000.

Positive test rate drops again

The state's positive test rate for the coronavirus fell to 10.5% during the week of Jan. 15-21, down from 12.7% during the previous week. The positive test rate has now dropped for six consecutive weeks after reaching a high of 16.2% in December. Health officials have said a positive test rate of 5% is a troubling sign of community spread.

TRAVEL

PennDOT plans to add tolls at major bridges

Truckers and lawmakers hope to put on brakes

Jan Murphy jmurphy@pennlive.com

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation is moving forward with its controversial plan to consider charging tolls — possibly \$1 or \$2 — on as many as 10 major bridges in the state.

PennDOT Secretary Yassmin Gramian told a Senate panel on Monday the list of potential bridge candidates to be tolled will be announced in mid-February.

The bridges will be spread across the state and will only involve ones located on interstates.

Once the list is finalized, the department is obligated to conduct public outreach for each of the bridge candidates. Special emphasis is being placed on identifying the economic impacts to under-

served populations as well as direct and indirect impacts as a result of traffic trying to avoid the tolls, she said.

The revenue generated from the tolls paid by users, including those from out-of-state, is estimated to be upwards of \$1.8 billion. The tolls collected on a bridge would be used to pay for its rehabilitation or replacement and ongoing maintenance. Any money left over would be directed to other projects in the same transportation district, she said.

This idea, approved in November by the Public Private Transportation Partnership board, requires no legislative approval since the Legislature set up the board to **SEE TOLLS, A20**



Toll lanes on major bridges on Pennsylvania interstates are being eyed as a way to fund repairs or replacements to these aging bridges with any leftover money going to pay for other transportation projects. Delaware River Port Authority

Best places to warm up with a cup of soup. B3

Records reveal details leading to deputy's arrest. A3

WASHINGTON

Impeachment goes to Senate, testing Trump's sway over GOP

Lisa Mascaro and Mary Clare Jalonick *Associated Press*

House Democrats delivered the impeachment case against Donald Trump to the Senate late Monday for the start of his historic trial, but Republican senators were easing off their criticism of the former president and shunning calls to convict him over the deadly siege at the U.S. Capitol.

It's an early sign of Trump's enduring sway over the party.

The nine House prosecutors carried the sole impeachment charge of "incitement of insurrection" across the Capitol, making a solemn and ceremonial march to the Senate along the same halls the rioters ransacked just weeks ago. But Republican denunciations of Trump have cooled since the Jan. 6 riot. Instead Republicans are presenting a tangle of legal arguments against the legitimacy of the trial and questions whether Trump's repeated demands to overturn Joe Biden's election really amounted to incitement.

What seemed for some Democrats like an open-shut case that played out for the world on live television, as Trump encouraged a rally mob to "fight like hell" for his presidency, is running into a Republican Party that feels very differently. Not only are there legal concerns, but senators are wary of crossing the former president and his legions of followers who are their voters. Security remains tight at the Capitol.

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said if Congress starts holding impeachment trials **SEE IMPEACHMENT, A11**

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Perry defends his actions in election talks

Charles Thompson cthompson@pennlive.com

U.S. Rep. Scott Perry, often a lightning rod, caught another bolt this weekend when he appeared as a central character in a series of New York Times reports about an 11th-hour effort by former President Donald J. Trump to weaponize the federal Department of Justice in his bid to invalidate President Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s election win.

In the days since, a number of Perry's political foes — all Democrats — have called for Perry's resignation from Congress.

On Monday, the Justice Department's inspector general, Michael Horowitz, said that he is launching an investigation to examine whether any former or current department officials "engaged in an improper attempt" to overturn the results of the presidential election.

Perry is alleged to have introduced Trump to a senior attorney in the Justice Department who, according to the Times, was more open than the department's top leaders to pressing the president's thus far unfounded claims that **SEE PERRY, A11**

