

# Observer-Reporter

2021 print media kit | [observer-reporter.com](http://observer-reporter.com)

## CIRCULATION PRINT & DIGITAL

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22,368 Sunday | Readership: 55,920

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**GAME ON?:** Steelers and Ravens set to finally meet... maybe **PAGE C1**

# Observer-Reporter

OUR 213TH YEAR, WASHINGTON, PA

WEDNESDAY DEC. 2, 2020

[www.observer-reporter.com](http://www.observer-reporter.com)

## Ohiopyle's busy year expected to continue on

By Mike Dixon  
Staff Writer

**OHIOPYLE** - A busy year at Ohiopyle State Park is expected to continue through the winter even as flu and COVID-19 cases rise. The park's attendance is expected to be about 40% higher than most years and was up 73% in the summer months as people left their homes and flocked to the outdoors in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. Ken Bisbee, park manager, said they've had 1.2 million visitors through Oct. 31, which is already higher than the nearly 900,000 people who came to Ohiopyle last year. But even as snow blankets the Laurel Highlands, Bisbee doesn't think attendance will drop off as much as it usually does during the winter months. "We expect that to continue with everyone trapped indoors," Bisbee said. "We expect it not to drop off. People are continuing to enjoy the outdoors."

Bisbee said they have averaged about 1 million visitors annually over the past decade, so the months of November and December will only add to this year's impressive total. "We are significantly up from the averages," Bisbee said. He noted this past week saw a much larger than usual crowd for Thanksgiving weekend thanks to unusually warm weather. Many sandwich shops and stores have already closed for the season, although the Falls Market Restaurant & Inn on Route 361 remains open. A few inches of snow fell at the state park Tuesday, drawing some tourists who normally visit during the summer, but wanted to view the picturesque scenery blanketed in white. Diane and John Jezorski of Baldwin spent a few minutes at the Cucumber Falls overlook before traveling to Fallingwater for an afternoon tour of the Frank Lloyd Wright house. "We didn't want to stay inside," she said. Her husband marveled at the chilly spray emanating from the pool of the falls in water from Cucumber Run made its way to the nearby Youghiogheny River. "That mist is freezing on a 90-degree day in the summer," he said. "I can't even imagine what it's like now."

Another couple, Michael and Rachel, arrived a few minutes earlier and took in the scenery after spending a couple days vacationing in the area. The Pittsburgh couple, who declined to give their last names, went hiking in the rain Monday, so they welcomed the snowfall Tuesday before heading home. "We're just getting in the last bit of sight-seeing," Michael said. "This is one of the nation's best kept secrets."

See Busy, Page A2



Rachael Gavlik in her Peters Township home, in front of some of the 600 blankets she made to donate to the Peters Township Meals on Wheels and Washington County shelters.

## A warm feeling

Peters Township senior donating fleece blankets to those in need

By KAREN MANSFIELD  
Staff Writer

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Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, 18-year-old Rachael Gavlik has been busy making blankets - a lot of blankets - to warm people's bodies and their souls. The Peters Township High School senior has crafted more than 600 knitted fleece blankets that she will donate this week to the Peters Township Meals on Wheels and Washington County shelters to distribute to men, women and children who need them. Each blanket comes with a handwritten note neatly printed on a tag. "Hand-knitted with love and prayers! May this bring you comfort and joy!" Gavlik wrote on one tag, adding a little more: "I will let recipients know that somebody cares about them. Gavlik hopes the blankets - a tangible bit of love - will let recipients know that somebody cares about them. Gavlik hopes the blankets - a tangible bit of love - will let recipients know that somebody cares about them. Gavlik hopes the blankets - a tangible bit of love - will let recipients know that somebody cares about them."



Rachael Gavlik, a Peters Township High School senior, has made blankets and cards, and has hand-drawn art on brown bags and place mats for Peters Township Meals on Wheels and other organizations.

If you don't know who they are, that can make a difference in your life," said Gavlik. "Especially when you're going through a tough time, it's good to know that someone does care." Gavlik spent as many as 12 to 14 hours on some weekends making the blankets for the project, which she dubbed 1 Million Knits. Any time she found a spare moment, she'd work on a blanket. "We'll be in the car and she'd bring blankets and the knits," said Gavlik's mother, Tammi. The pair became regulars at JoAnn Fabric, where they made trips to purchase the fleece. "We've just getting in the last bit of sight-seeing," Michael said. "This is one of the nation's best kept secrets."

See Blankets, Page A2



Home cooking  
Filing comfort foods the whole family can agree upon Page B1



### COVID-19 by the numbers

COUNTY	POSITIVE	DEATHS
Washington	4,721	71
Greene	762	5
Allegheny	25,507	518
Fayette	2,250	22
Westmoreland	5,100	22

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health  
\*Cases are current as of 11 p.m. Tuesday

### State forms testing strike teams

Officials to deploy new tool to fight virus

By SCOTT BURKHORST  
Staff Writer

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Pennsylvania will deploy COVID-19 testing strike teams to counties in problem areas without health department resources in another effort to curtail the virus. Washington, Greene and Fayette counties were not among the first areas to be assigned one of the strike teams that will work over the next 12 weeks.

"The virus is still in charge," Gov. Tom Wolf said Tuesday when he announced the new program. The testing sites will be both indoors and outdoors and will be at no cost to those who are tested. The teams that will work over the next 12 weeks.

See Strike, Page A2

**HIGH 40 • LOW 24**  
Weather, PAGE B4

Business.....A4    Horoscope.....D4  
Comics.....D2    Living.....A5  
Entertainment.....C6    Lottery.....A2

OBITUARIES.....B2,3  
OPINION.....A5  
SPORTS.....C1-5

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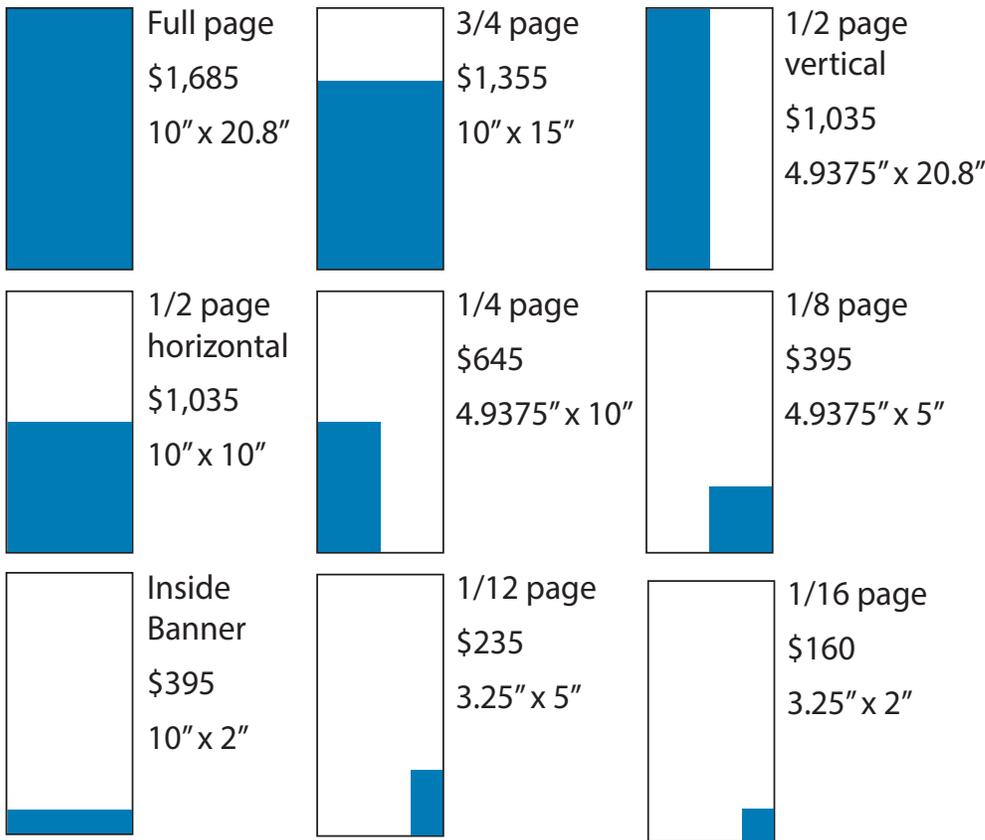
Dupeix in quiet neighborhood. Great potential for income investment property. Located on a nearly flat, grass covered lot, 2 car detached garage and ample off-street parking. Each side includes 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, with additional storage space, and covered porches. 3-minute drive to Ten Mile Creek Park and the Monongahela River

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12 times	10%	Full color:	\$200 per ad
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Open Rate \$38.00

Frequency discounts apply to ads run within a 12-month period. A discount of 20% will be extended to non-profit, charitable/civic organizations and churches. All other sizes priced per column inch (see below). Modular rates are per publication date and include our digital fee of \$20 for ads 10 inches and larger and \$10 for ads smaller than 10 inches.

Frequency discounts: 2X 10% / 3X 20% / 4X 30% / 5X+ 40%

Frequency discounts apply to ads that run without change within 7 days of initial publication. Rates are per column inch net and do not include our digital fee of \$20 for ads 10 inches and larger and \$10 for ads smaller than 10 inches.

## 2021 DEADLINES

Publishing Day	Space Reservation	Ad Finalized
Monday	Friday at 10 AM	Friday at NOON
Tuesday	Friday at NOON	Friday at 4 PM
Wednesday	Monday at NOON	Monday at 4 PM
Thursday	Tuesday at NOON	Tuesday at 4 PM
Friday	Wednesday at NOON	Wednesday at 4 PM
Sunday	Thursday at NOON	Thursday at 4 PM

## 2021 NICHE PUBLICATIONS



**Living In Washington County**  
**Bi-monthly**  
February  
April  
June  
August  
October  
December



**Mon Valley Magazine**  
**Bi-monthly**  
January  
March  
May  
July  
September  
November



**Greene County Living**  
**Quarterly**  
March  
June  
September  
December



**Southwestern PA Business Journal**  
**Quarterly**  
March  
June  
September  
December



**Canonsburg Magazine**  
**Bi-monthly**  
February  
April  
June  
August  
October  
December

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