



Butler Eagle

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Funds for housing are decreasing

Vouchers drop by 105

This is the first of a two-part report about housing for low income families in Butler County.

By **KELLY B. GARRETT**
Eagle Staff Writer

Housing authorities across the nation are having to tell more and more people who need shelter there isn't help for them.

While the federal government isn't making budget "cuts" in housing funds, it has changed the system so fewer people qualify for either public housing or, what is commonly referred to as Section 8 Housing, a federal rent voucher program overseen by local agencies.

The Butler County Housing Authority is working to help meet low- to moderate-income housing needs, but the agency

is starting to feel the financial pinch as well.

This year between the demand for housing and the amount of federal funds the authority receives for rents and utilities, 100 fewer vouchers will be issued, meaning 100 fewer families and individuals can be helped.

But the number of people who need housing help is growing as the amount of money available to help them is shrinking.

"We have more than 700 families on the waiting list for Section 8 housing and another 300 disabled individuals who need subsidized housing," said Perry O'Malley, the housing authority executive director.

"But now we are facing cut-backs every year, so the problem will only grow worse," he said.

Cuts by any other name

O'Malley said as costs of the war in Iraq and natural disasters

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Public Housing Floor Plan

The Butler County Housing Authority, under the direction of executive director Perry O'Malley, has more than 450 housing units for low-income seniors, people with disabilities and families. Most units are in eight senior and disabled-resident apartment buildings throughout the county.

Apartments

- ✓ Terrace Apartments, 111 S. Cliff St., Butler, 160 units
- ✓ Cliffside Apartments, 325 S. McKean St., Butler, 82 units
- ✓ Presidents Square Apartments, 200 Jefferson St., Evans City, 52 units
- ✓ Maple Court Apartments, 214 S. High St., Zelienople, 75 units
- ✓ Graystone Manor, 204 E. Water St., Slippery Rock, 50 units
- ✓ Historic Lafayette Apartments, 302 S. Main St., Butler, 62 units
- ✓ Chicora Commons Apartments, 118 Kittanning St., Chicora, 27 units
- ✓ Rolling Road Regency, 100 Rolling Road, Cranberry Township, 50 units
- ✓ Under Our Wing Apartments, 124 W. Cunningham St., Butler, 24 units

Family complexes

The authority runs five family complexes, all in Butler.

- ✓ Shore Street Apartments, Shore Street, 16 units
- ✓ Wick Street Apartments, Wick Street, 12 units
- ✓ Diamond Street Apartments, Diamond Street, five units
- ✓ Franklin Court Apartments, Kaufman Drive, 23 units
- ✓ Scattered duplexes and individual sites throughout the West End

Homeless shelter

The authority also offers shelter for homeless residents at the **Deshon Place** on the campus of Butler Veterans Affairs Medical Center on New Castle Road in Butler Township. The two-year program that moves residents to self-sufficiency, employment and a home has room for 22 participants, but is expanding.



Rolling Road Regency in Cranberry Township



Family housing scattered throughout the city's West End



Senior housing downtown in the Historic Lafayette Apartments

Embers ignite house

Cranberry home heavily damaged

By **JIM SMITH**
Eagle Staff Writer

CRANBERRY TWP — Smoldering embers from a fire pit accidentally ignited a shed Saturday afternoon that in turn spread to a two-story home at the Blue Ridge housing plan, according to one of the owners.

Flames devoured the roof and caused between \$200,000 and \$250,000 damage to the 113 Blue Ridge Drive house.

Homeowners Mike and Laurie Quail were gone about 25 minutes when the fire broke out, Laurie Quail said this morning.

The Quails used the fire pit Friday night and thought the ashes were cool, she said.

A neighbor apparently noticed the fire at the shed around 3:10 p.m. and called 911.

Bill Spiegel, assistant chief for the Cranberry Volunteer Fire Company, was at the house within several minutes of the initial call.

"The rear of the house was fully involved when I got there," he said, "and the roof was starting to go."

About 50 firefighters from five departments joined in battling the blaze.

The shed, attached to the rear of the house, was soon on the ground and the flames had gone up the back of the house and into the eaves of the roof.

Firefighters had the blaze under control in about 30 minutes, and the family showed up as firefighters waged their battle to extinguish the flames.

Laurie Quail said while the house was on fire a neighbor, Chris Panos, went into the house and saved the Quail's 3-year-old dog, Maddie.

Mike Quail thanked all their neighbors, who have given the family clothes and gift certificates. The Quails stayed with a neighbor Saturday night, but are now in a hotel.

The Quails, who have four children, have lived there for 12 years.

The property is insured, officials said.

Assisting the Cranberry fire company were firefighters from Marshall Township, Mars, Valencia and Middlesex Township.

Eagle staff writer Matt Smith contributed to this report.

2 officers injured in traffic stop

By **JIM SMITH**
Eagle Staff Writer

Two city police officers were injured early Sunday morning when a Pittsburgh man found with crack cocaine tried unsuccessfully to take one of the officer's holstered pistol, authorities said.

The struggle about 1 a.m. came after David Battle Jr., 23, tried to run away following a traffic stop on Washington Street.

Battle is accused of assaulting the officers and grabbing a patrolman's gun. The officer, however, was able to retain control of the pistol, which remained in its holster, police said.

Lt. Ronald Fierst and Sgt. Sylvan Giger both suffered knee injuries and will be off duty indefinitely according to Police Chief Tim Fennell pending further medical examination. Both were treated at Butler Memorial Hospital and released.

District Judge Clifford Woessner

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British invade Butler

Austin attracts auto aficionados

By **JEFF ANDRASOVSKY**
Eagle Staff Writer

A mini-British invasion will arrive on the East Coast at the end of the month. But no red-coats will be among them, nor any mop-top lads.

About a dozen Britons are bringing five of their antique Austin Seven automobiles, which they plan to drive to California along remaining sections of the fabled Route 66.

They will stop in Butler Aug. 28 and 29 to see where the American version of the tiny cars were built.

Then, it's on to Chicago, where they will start their cross-country trek, and get their kicks as they travel the "Mother Road" through Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California, where "America's Main Street" ends in Santa Monica.

They also plan side trips to the Grand Canyon and Las Vegas along the way.

The Austin Seven got its name from its horsepower.

"The Austin Seven's rating comes from an old system of



SUBMITTED PHOTO

George and Joy Mooney of Bournemouth, Great Britain, pose with the 1934 Austin Cambridge Special they will drive on the Route 66 trip in early September. This photograph was taken last year during the British 750 Motor Club's excursion from Buenos Aires, Argentina, to Santiago, Chile.

classification which only takes into account the piston area," said Ken Cooke of Hertfordshire, one of the participants.

"The actual horsepower produced is a massive 10.5 for the early cars and 12.5 for the later ones," Cooke said. "Some of the cars, like mine are near standard, but others do have some mods — and a lightweight special body making them a little more sprightly."

They have a top speed of 50 mph and cruise at 45 mph, he said.

The Austin Motor Co. was founded by Lord Herbert Austin, and produced the cars from 1922 to 1939 at the factory in Longbridge, near Birmingham.

In the late 1920s, Elias Ritts,

a Butler banker, and businessman Carl Cheeseman met Austin in New York and got his approval to build an American version of the Austin. They were built in Butler from 1930 to 1935. After the Butler company hit the skids, it was reorganized by Miami businessman Roy Evans and produced the Bantam from 1938 to 1940.

Participating in the Route 66 trip are:

- Richard and Marlies Bishop of Exeter, Great Britain, in their 1938 Sports
- Ken and Eileen Cooke of Hertfordshire, Great Britain, in their 1930 Tourer
- Vince Leek of Warminster,

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Expensive treatments save lives

But benefits may not be worth high price

By **ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Dying of lung cancer, Carolyn Hobbs tried a new biotechnology drug that produced an unanticipated side effect: acute sticker shock.

She was waiting for her second treatment in a hospital near Denver less than two years ago, when someone from the business office marched in to warn that her share would cost more than \$18,000, since the drug wasn't insured for her type of cancer.

How to decide?

In her six decades, she had shared in a long marriage, raised three children, worked in a nursing home, painted as a hobby — and wasn't ready to leave it all behind. But she was also a careful spender who sometimes returned new clothes to the store, deciding she didn't really need them.

Maybe this new drug, Erbitux, could extend her life by a small fraction, but she wouldn't be cured. "She was just very frugal, and she said it wasn't worth it," her husband Larry remembers.

So she refused the treatment.

More patients are confronting this wrenching decision, as the latest generation of pricier cancer drugs and heart implants stretches out the final months of advanced disease. Is the chance for several more months of life — maybe a year or more with luck — precious enough to spend a small for-

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DEATHS

- Jesse A. Calhoun, Mansfield
- Irvin E. Kirschmann, Grove City
- Alyssa M. McDeavitt, Butler
- Linda J. Salsgiver, Renfrew
- Gladys P. Truver, Middlesex Township
- Esther I. Young, Sarver



For a complete weather forecast see **Page 2**.

Coupons and Values in Today's
Butler Eagle
August 14, 2006
Rite Aid Insert

Today's Total **\$319.25**
Total
This Year **\$35,193.02**

