ATA has new, more accessible buses

By KATE DAY SAGER Era Reporter kdsager@bradfordera.com  4 hrs ago

Bill Keesler, ATA North Division Manager in Bradford, stands near a new ATA Bus 554 at the bus garage on Rutherford Run. The new buses are part of a national campaign that feature the “Every Ride Counts” theme along with a different color pattern and better wheelchair accommodations.
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Some area residents may have seen the new ATA Bus 554 that is now traveling through Bradford and other communities in McKean County, but may be unaware the buses are part of the “Every Ride Counts” national campaign of 2019.

The bus, which sports a different color pattern, also provides a more comfortable ride for people in wheelchairs, said Bill Keesler, ATA North Division Manager in Bradford.

Keesler said one of the new buses was used for transport beginning this week in Bradford, as well as in other communities and counties served by the Area Transportation Authority.

“We’re always trying to improve transportation in the communities that we serve,” Keesler said.

He noted the new buses were designed to offer more comfort to people with disabilities.
“You’ll note that the position of the wheelchair lift is up further and toward the front of the bus,” Keesler explained. “Where the wheelchair sits in the bus is much closer to the front (and behind the driver) which I think is a plus because it provides a more comfortable ride.”

He explained that the older ATA buses have wheelchair lifts at the back of the bus, which don’t offer as smooth a ride for the person with the disability.

Keesler said there are approximately 10 new ATA 554 buses currently housed in Johnsonburg, with more expected to be sent to Bradford.

“We’re also in the process of acquiring some new Ford Transit vans,” he added. “They’ll be a little bit smaller, but maneuverability (will be better) ... they’re going to be used in some of the six counties we’re in.”

He noted the smaller vans will better serve rural, outlying areas in McKean County, as well as Potter County.

“They’re smaller and easier to get around, and more economical on the fuel,” he said of the vans which will also accommodate wheelchairs. “Our goal has always been that we want all of our vehicles to be wheelchair-accessible.”

John Lacny, ATA director of marketing and communications and Kelli Surra, also of the marketing department, said the “Every Ride Counts” theme is part of a nationwide awareness program promoted by the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center.
He said the program was launched in December along with the release of a comprehensive transportation survey of older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers. ATA participated in the launch of the “Every Ride Counts” campaign during a news conference held at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. on Dec. 7.

Lacny said the new ATA bus was featured on a national Facebook and Twitter feed by the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC) in Washington.

“When we sent this image to NADTC we wanted to make sure they were aware that we had placed their national campaign theme (Every Ride Counts) on our bus,” Lacny said “We didn’t expect the posting, but there it is.”

He further noted the NADTC offers training and support to service providers and transportation agencies such as the ATA. The mission of NADTC is to assure that older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers are aware of how local transportation options can help them get where they need to go.

Lacny said the ATA has already distributed nearly 1,000 copies of a publication from NADTC called “Before You Give Up the Keys,” and has made this “planner” booklet available free of charge.
ATA, a six-county regional transportation authority with headquarters in Johnsonburg, supports facilities in Bradford and DuBois and transit centers operating in St. Marys and Punxsutawney.
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Era Reporter
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(See ATA, Page A-12)
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The more stressed you are, the longer a common cold can last. It doesn’t lead to a cold if you get overheated. Weather. And don’t worry you’ve been out in the cold you get sick because viruses, the most common part of the rhinovirus. Sneezing is the most common reflex. Maybe it’s a bit gross, but it seems like a minor infection caused by the cold itself. Sneezing is quite a rebooting. Researchers say that people don’t sneeze in their sleep, as some people believe. Researchers from the University of Pennsylvania reported on why we sneeze, concluding that we need to restock our nasal cavities every few hours. A sneeze is an automatic reflex. It’s important to cover your mouth with your elbow when you sneeze: the spray can travel five feet when you sneeze. The cold is actually a minor infection caused by 200 different viruses, the most common one in the U.S. each year. It’s important to cover your mouth with your elbow when you sneeze: the spray can travel five feet when you sneeze. Sneezing is your body’s way of saying something is wrong. Researchers say that the position of the chair lift is up forward and toward the front of the bus. Keker said, “When the wheelchair is in the bus is much closer to the front (and behind the driver) which I think is a plus.” Sneezing is quite a common cold you get out of your nose, the throat, chest, diaphragm and abdomen. The clock tower of Old City Hall, at the intersection of Boylston and Kennedy avenues, stands tall before sunset on Tuesday. A weekend at the movies with the Southern Tier Symphony. By KATEY SAGER

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**WEATHER**

Forecast for Friday, January 25, 2019

**BRADFORD READINGS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 a.m.</td>
<td>-40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 a.m.</td>
<td>-36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>-32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 p.m.</td>
<td>-28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
<td>-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 p.m.</td>
<td>-16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LOW**

Today will be cloudy with snow showers likely, a high near 30, and a low near 19 with a high of 15.

Extended Forecast

Tonight will be mostly cloudy with a near 20 degree chance of snow. Saturday night will be mostly cloudy with a chance of a snow shower, a low around 20 degrees. Sunday will be mostly cloudy with a chance of a snow shower and a high near 30 degrees.

**Lotteries**

- **Pa. Cash 4 Life**: (1/24) 18-22-27-34
- **Pa. Treasure Hunt**: (1/24) 7-10-14-21
- **Pa. Pick 2**: (1/24) 4-2
- **Pa. Pick 4**: (1/24) 2-4-4-1
- **N.Y. Numbers**: (1/24) 3-6-17-20
- **N.Y. Win Four**: (1/24) 3-6-7-4
- **Tropical Pick 2**: (1/24) 2-4
- **Tropical Pick 4**: (1/24) 4-6-7-9
- **Tropical Pick 5**: (1/24) 2-4-7-8-9

**Sympathy**

*Also sprach Zarathustra,* composed in 1896, and famously featured in Stanley Kubrick’s *A Space Odyssey.*

*Ode to Joy,* in *Sinfonia* G minor, by Johannes Brahms, completed in 1879. The most famous of the four movements is its final movement, the Adagio, in which the full orchestra is accompanied by a choir singing the words of the *Ode to Joy,* a poem by Friedrich Schiller.

*La Mer,* in *Phantasmagoria,* by Claude Debussy, composed in 1905. The piece is often performed as a suite of five movements, each of which is based on a different color:

1. *Raging Sea,* in red:
2. *Furioso,* in dark blue:
3. *Revolution in Salt Water,* in green:
4. *Preludes,* in white:
5. *Rain,* in light blue:

*Adagio for Strings,* by Ottorino Respighi, composed in 1917. The piece is often performed as a suite of five movements, each of which is based on a different color:

1. *Raging Sea,* in red:
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*Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1,* by Edward Elgar, composed in 1901. The piece is often performed as a suite of five movements, each of which is based on a different color:

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