

# Business

Wednesday, July 26, 2017 | The Berkshire Eagle | BerkshireEagle.com

C8

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### BERKSHIRES

#### Unemployment drops slightly

Despite a hefty monthly increase of 1,900 jobs in the Pittsfield metropolitan area, the Berkshire County unemployment rate only dropped slightly in June to 4.8 percent, according to state figures released on Tuesday. It was the first decline in the local jobless rate in two months as local unemployment remained at 4.9 percent in both April and May. Berkshire unemployment was 4.4 percent in June 2016.

The monthly increase in jobs in the Pittsfield metropolitan area, which includes the area surrounding the city of Pittsfield, was 4.5 percent, the second highest among seven similar areas that are tracked by the state, behind only Barnstable County at 8 percent. The county's total labor force in June, 66,942, is the highest in at least 13 months. The number of employed residents, 63,711, is the county's highest since July 2016. The number of county residents collecting jobless benefits in June, 3,231, is the highest since March.

Unemployment dropped slightly in the Pittsfield and Great Barrington labor market areas last month, but increased from 5.6 percent to 5.8 percent in North Adams. The state and national unemployment rates are both 4.4 percent.

Tuesday's figures are not seasonally adjusted, which means they take into account jobs seasonal construction jobs and positions in the travel and tourism industry.