

Butler County Farm Bureau

Affiliated with Pennsylvania Farm Bureau www.pfb.com LawrenceVoll, President

January, 2021 Clinton E. Champagne, Editor

County Achievements Celebrated

Butler County Farm Bureau took home the coveted Farm Bureau Premier County Award, the highest honor bestowed upon a county Farm Bureau.

Butler County Farm Bureau was also recognized for earning the Overall Achievement Award for county Farm Bureaus with 401 or more farmer members. The award salutes a county Farm Bureau for its outstanding performance in the six program areas evaluated by PFB. In addition, Butler Countywon two President's Awards in the areas of Leadership Development and Agriculture Education.

Also in the award category of 401 or more farmer members, Susquehanna County Farm Bureau finished in second place for the Overall Achievement Award and won a President's Award for Media Relations & Member Communications. Meanwhile, the Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau won two President's Awards, including County Board Organization and Policy Development & Implementation. Also in this category, the Wayne/Pike County Farm Bureau took home a President's Award for Services.

In the category of county Farm Bureaus with up to 400 farmer members, Clinton County Farm Bureau won three awards, including first place for the Overall Achievement Award and President's Awards for County Board Organization and Media Relations & Member Communications. Meanwhile, Clearfield

County Farm Bureau won two awards, including Second Place for Overall Achievement and President's Awards for Policy Development & Implementation.

Also in the category of up to 400 farmer members, President's Awards were earned by Columbia County Farm Bureau for Agriculture Education and Services, Cambria County Farm Bureau for Leadership Development.

Award Winners Recognized

William Thiele of Butler County won the Young Ag Professionals Discussion Meet competition, which invites contestants to analyze agricultural problems and decide on solutions. Rebekah Alstede of Delaware Valley University won the Collegiate Discussion Meet competition. Both will compete at the national level.

WINNERS AT BUTLER COUNTY

ANNUAL FALL MEETING.

Congratulations to:

Free 2021 Membership was won by **Zachary Speer** of Cabot, Pa.

\$100 Gas Card for paying dues by October 1, 2020 went to **John R. Rhodaberger** of Cabot, PA.

Thank you to all who attended our Annual Meeting during to Covid-19 pandemic.

Thank you for being a Farm Bureau member.

Stay Safe

Catch up on the excitement!

If you missed the virtual Annual Meeting, don't worry. Recordings of the livestreams, educational seminars and more can still be viewed in the virtual platform. Visit www.pfb.com/2020-annual-meeting-virtual-platform to access the virtual platform via your computer web browser or download the mobile apps for Apple or Android devices.

FARMERS AT WORK SIGNS BUTLER COUNTY FARM BUREAU



Members \$ 4.00 Non-Members \$ 8.00 each

NEW MEMBER SIGN UP: JOIN THE BUTLER COUNTY FARM BUREAU -\$72.00 RECEIVE ONE FARMERS AT WORK FREE

Additional signs - \$4.00.

MORE INFORMATION OR
TO PURCHASE SIGNS
Contact
Brittany Speer - 724-504-8327 or
Evelyn Minteer - 724-679-8169.

Thank you for being a Farmer Bureau Member

"FARM-tastic" Book Program

This year's "Book of the Year"

What's in the Garden?

By Marianne Berkes,

Illustrated by CrisArbo

Cost \$12.00 per book.

Purchase a book(s) for your elementaryschool library, Public libraries, your children, grandchildren, and friends.

Contact Evelyn Minteer at 724-283-6719

To order your books.

Additional Award Winners Annual PA Meeting

George Greig of Crawford County, the former Pennsylvania secretary of agriculture, was named the recipient of PFB's 2020 Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award. Greig was recognized for accomplishments as secretary such as exempting farm families from having to pay inheritance and realty transfer taxes and establishing the PA Preferred program. He also has a long history of leadership in Farm Bureau, including serving on PFB's state Board of Directors.

Ryan Brown of Cumberland County received PFB's Distinguished Local Affairs Leader Award for his efforts to advocate for farmers at the local level. Brown worked with leaders in his township to develop a program that would give farmers a credit off the township's new stormwater management fee to for their investments in conservation.

Amanda Balon of Elk County was named the 2020 Outstanding Woman in Agriculture by PFB's state Women's Leadership Committee. Balon is active in her community and Farm Bureau and operates a therapeutic riding center that serves children and adults with special needs.

BUTLERCOUNTY FARM BUREAU SAFETY CONTEST

THEME: "Be Safe, Don't Pass"

WINNERS:

SAFETY POSTERS:10 TO 12 OLD

1st. - \$50.**Dylan Thurber**Fenelton, PA

2nd. - \$30.**Julia Eckert** Butler, PA

SAFETY COLORING PAGE:

4 TO 6 YEARS OLD

1st. -\$50. Gift Card**Naomi Eckert**, Butler, PA

2nd. -\$25. Gift Card **Nolan Thurber**, Fenelton, PA

SPRING MEETING:

Butler County
Farm Bureau
Spring Meeting
will be held on?

Watch your mail for further details.

Ag Literacy Week

March 15-19, 2021

Chuck's Ice Cream Wish Tales of the Dairy Godmother Written by Viola Butler Art by Ward Jenkins

Interested in joining Women's Leadership Committee?

Contact Evelyn Minteer at 724-679-8169. Ladies we meet four times a year, planand do many projects to support ag promotion, legislation, education and our local county projects. (Men are welcome on our committee, too.)

MEMBERSHIP

Butler County Farm Bureau made their 2% goal and their 5% regular membership goal very early this year.Not only a great achievement, Butler County reached Regular members goal ON December 16th.

A very special thank you to Jim Boldy, membership chair and Evelyn Minteer, membership co-chair, all the membership workers and Al Weber ROD for their help. And to all our members, new and present. Thank you!

LIKE us on Facebook Butler County PA Farm Bureau

Dear Member Families

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic many of our programs were cancelled, postponed and reschedule in 2020. So we are sending this reminder that our programs and activities for the year 2021 will be depend on Coronavirus. We will make the announcements of these programs via e-mail blast, post card or our Facebook Butler County PA Farm Bureau site.

Butler County Nationwide Insurance Agents:

Richard W.Kotch Jr. 201 S. Duffy Road, Butler, PA 16001

Daniel Edward Conville Agency 522 N. Main St. Chicora, PA 16025

Daniel Edward Conville Agency 464 S. Washington Street, Eau Claire, PA 16030

Daniel Edward Conville Agency 237 E. Main Street, Evans City, PA 16033

Molter& Associates, Inc. 1074 Pittsburgh St., Valencia, PA 16059

Raisley Insurance, Inc. 1120 N. Main ST. Ext., Butler, PA 16001





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To redeem discounts, use the required codes, websites, and/or phone numbers found by logging into the Members Only website at www.pfbmembers.org.

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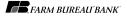
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AD&D Insurance: Group Accidental Death & Dismemberment policy for each qualified member in family. Immediate value \$1000. Annual increase \$300 for consecutive renewals before January 1 each year to maximum \$3100 value. *Subject to policy terms and conditions.



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5% off advertising rates in PFB publications. Contact advertising coordinator for details.



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Stories about farming, food and destinations





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Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

510 S. 31st Street P.O. Box 8736 Camp Hill, PA 17001-8736 717.761.2740 www.pfb.com



Butler County Young Ag Professionals

Learn more about the YAP Program (Farm Bureau members ages 18 – 40)

Zach Speer: 724-856-5346, speerhouse17@gmail.com

Brittany Speer: 724-504-8327, butlercountyyfr@gmail.com

ATTENTION

The YAPs invites EVERYONE to LIKE and follow the Butler County Farm Bureau PA Facebook Page.





2020 enlightened a new way for the agriculture community to interact with consumers. The PA YAP District 15 took the challenge by making their own "still farming" video to showcase that farmers are still farming and social distancing. District 15 video includes members of BUTLER and Mercer also a YAP member in Washington Co. joined in on this video. This video was showcased on the RFD-TV National TV several times. This video was the committee's #1 accomplishment for 2020. Producer/Editor: Brittany Speer.

District 15 Farming Friday Still Farming Video

April 3, 2020

Butler Co. Farm Bureau Facebook Stats

31,400+ Views 78,741+ People Reach 250+ Likes 623+ Shares

RFD-TV Facebook Stats

14,600+ 375+ Likes 216+ shares

Committee Members from beginning to end in video: Taylor Rickert, Stephanie Davis, Sydney Merten, Alan Davis, Katie Davis, William Thiele, Jessie Dressler, Nick Cranmer, Drew Ross, Zach Speer, Adam Davis, Devin Campbell, James Thiele, Sam Huff, & Brittany Speer.



The Butler County Young Ag Professionals also decided to make a "Dairy Promotion Video" since they had huge success with their "Still Farming Video." This video features our local dairy farmers and processors.

Producer/Editor: Brittany Speer.

Song credit: Peterson Farm Bros "We Will Milk Cows." We want to remind everyone to buy local, support small businesses, and thank a farmer!

Featuring processors includes Marburger Farm Dairy, Schneider's Dairy, Turner's Dairy, and United Dairy, Inc.

Visit https://www.pfb.com/county-fbs/county-fb-webpages/553-butler or the county farm bureau Facebook page for the latest news of what is happening in the county farm bureau or YAP program!

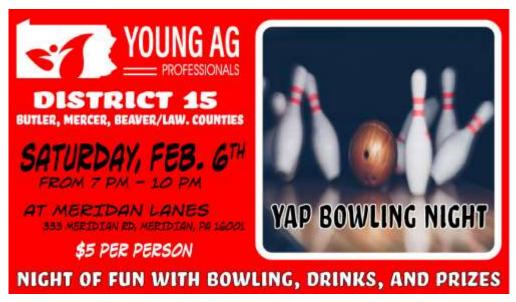
YAP State Leadership Conference: CANCELLED IN 2021

National Fusion Conference: March 12-15, 2021 – will be mostly be a virtual conference

YAP EVENTS TO ATTEND LOCALLY

District 15 FREE Bowling Event: Feb. 6, 2021 @ 7 – 10 pm at Merdian Lanes

Butler County YAP Conference: March 2021 – more details will be emailed



Inviting all Butler Co.
members to this 2021
Kick Off Bowling Event.
You and your family
(kid friendly) are invited
to bowl for \$5 per person
from 7 – 10pm on
February 6th
at Meridan Lanes.

Brittany Speer won County Volunteer in Pennsylvania in April 2020. Chairing Butler County YAP along with District 15 YAP – keeps her busy with events, promotion, and fundraising. She currently has an active committee of 14+ members. Want to join in on fellowship and learning with the YAP committee – contact Brittany: 724-504-8327 (call or text).

Brittany previous won the Pennsylvania Ag Promotional "Telling Your Story" in Nov. 2019. Her video features how her family farm brings their potatoes to your dinner plate.

Brittany continues to use the social media and multimedia platforms to promote agriculture. Please send any social media ideas to Butler County Farm Bureau Facebookb messenger or email butlercountyyfr@gmail.com





WILLIAM THIELE 2020 YAP Discussion Meet Winner – Interview

What intrigued me to do it?

I thought I'd try it because I've never done it and I thought it would be fun.

What advice for other competitors?

Study, Study! Also, not to get all your info from farm bureau sources. Get third party sources from USDA, AgWeb, and friends with knowledge in that field.

Virtual Nationally?

I liked doing it virtually for the most part. It was still cool to discuss with others from all over the U.S.

Favorite question?

How do we mitigate climate and weather risks? Because I have, a lot of personal experience with No till and cover crops etc. In addition, any questions involving tech for obvious reasons.

Other comments

It's something that everyone should try, because if I can do it, anyone can do it!

ALAN DAVIS – 2020 Social Media Award for PA Young Ag Professionals – Interview Check out Alan's winning social media video at his YouTube channel "Ag-Automation with Alan"

What made you think about entering the Pennsylvania social media YAP contest?

Being part of the most active group of YAP in the state - Butler County also had previous winners; once I started making videos, I knew I wanted to enter one of mine.

How did you choose which video to enter? Although the video I had used for the contest was nearly a year old, I recently started a YouTube Channel posting the video as my first. The channel is "Ag-automation with Alan". I chose the particular video to enter because it was a good overview of showing the barn and seeing the cows move through it. It was also good for both the audience for those in the dairy industry and the public.

What all videos do you have on your channel? Some of my videos are very detailed and technical to the Delaval VMS milking robot, like repairs and settings, but the more I make, the more I'm trying to target all in the ag-industry or even general public. I explain how technology is used to improve cow comfort, or labor efficiency. I try to just open the eyes of people to the amount of science that is used in agriculture; agriculture was the first science and still leads in advancement.

Where are videos taken, tell us about your farm? My first videos, including one that was entered, and a few others are from my home farm, my father's farm in Butler County PA, where my family milks about 150 cows mostly on 2 milking robots. The home farm also has automated alley-scrapers and curtains that open based on a thermostat. Most of my videos come from Alfred State College in Alfred New York where I am a herdsman and help with their Ag-automation degree they offer. Alfred milks 50-55 cows on a pasture/organic based system; they also have about a dozen each of goats, sheep, and beef cattle. The college has both a 2012 classic model of DeLaval milking robot and are installing a new v300 DeLaval robot that uses a live 3D camera attached to cows for a real time view. I have a few videos in a "coming soon" series of the new robot and will be making videos of the startup to come later in the spring.

Any advice for anyone else considering entering in YAP social media contest? If you are passionate about it, talk about it. Do not make a video or enter just to enter or win, find something that you like to talk about in groups without cameras, once you know what that is just talk about and show it on camera.



The District 15 bowling event held at Sherwood Lanes. This event was held on February 29, 2020. Nicholas Cranmer was the YAP Bowling Champion with highest score of the evening winning the custom-made bowling pin.







State leadership conference was held in Lancaster, PA and it was on February 14 and 15, 2020.
Attendees were Zach & Brittany Speer, William Thiele, James Thiele, Adam Davis, Alan & Katie Davis, and Sam Huff(Mercer).

Butler County Young Ag Professionals
Committee members gather at the 5th Annual
Harvest Dinner at Rickert Farm (owned by
Taylor Rickert & Stephanie Davis).
They discussed the impact of 2020 on their
farms/businesses. Also they started
planning for 2021 events, fundraisers, and
being more involved in their local
communities. Members also got a tour of the
Rickert Farm and their day-to-day operation
as well as future plans for the farm.



BUTLER COUNTY FARM BUREAU EVENTS



Jan. 22, 2020
Butler County
declaration of
achievement
award, for being
Premier County
Award in PA!



Farm Town Hall Meeting, Feb. 20, 2020
Thank you to Butler Co. Commissioners for hosting this event



Washington D.C. Legislation Trip Feb. 26, 2020 William Thiele along with other PFB members in Washington, D.C. to meet with officials from USDA, EPA, and others. Advocating for Pennsylvania agriculture!



Ag Promotion Conference March 7, 2020 Attendees: Donna Vogel (Ag Promotion), Evelyn Minteer (Women's Leadership), and Brittany Speer (YAP) Brittany also competed in the mock discussion meet.



Butler County Farm to Table Dinner held of March 2, 2020.

Above: William Thiele was a feature speaker talking about using drones on the farm.

Below: George Dean accepting the 2020 Bull Shipper Award.







FOOD & MILK DRIVE

Butler Co. Farm Bureau donated \$500 towards purchasing milk for the food & milk drive by Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank.

Butler Co. members Brittany Speer, James Thiele, William Thiele, Guy Daubenspeck, Teets Family, and Snow Family helped that day handing out boxes of food and gallons of milk to the Butler Co. residents in need.

April 28, 2020











Butler County Farm Bureau (BCFB) and YAP members want to thank the Butler County Dairy Promotion (DP) for their support in 2020. The Butler Co. DP & BCFB teamed up to support the Food Drive in April. The Butler Co. DP Lil' Dairy Misses and team also came to our fall meeting to help scoop out ice cream for the slices of pie served at the meeting. Thank you again to Butler Co. Dairy Promotion and remember to have your 3 servings of DAIRY every day!







March 8, 2020

Butler County YAP members Brittany and Zach Speer, along with Alan Davis attend the Home and Garden Show. They spent their afternoon showing the Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab to attendees. Jim Boldy & Evelyn Minteer also helped highlight the Mobile Ag Lab at the show. Butler Co. members helped educate about the Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab and promoting it to their school. Members also taught consumers about agriculture and the farm to table process.



March 12, 2020
Butler County Farm Bureau was a sponsor at the Western Regional Soil Health Conference.



Butler Co. Farm Bureau Fall Annual Meeting on Oct. 9, 2020



Legislative Tour on August 21, 2020 Heasley's Nurseries, Inc. hosted ou legislative tour where legislators came out to talk about the important issues that matter to farmers and agri-businesses.



BUTLER COUNTY FARM BUREAU: NEWS WORTHY -NEWSPAPER STORIES



Vogel receives positive update on Farm Bill



Feeding a Need - Milk Drive April 29, 2020



County to hear from farmers

County to hear from **Farmers** Feb. 13, 2020



Down on the Farm May 31, 2020

Farm Issues Focus on **Legislative Tour** Aug. 23, 2020



SRU Welcomes Expert Oct. 15, 2020



Lancaster Farming William Thiele **Video Meeting** Nov. 14, 2020



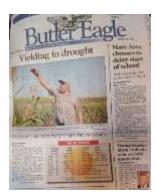
Bloomberg remarks offend **local Farmers** Feb. 19, 2020



Ladies Liberty July 13, 2020



Fair, Farm Show up in the Air April 19, 2020



Yielding to Drought Aug. 28, 2020



USDA: PA Leads Nation in Young Farmers Oct. 25, 2020



County Farm Bureau **Wins Again** Nov. 25, 2020

2021 PENNSYLVANIA FARM BUREAU

Women's Leadership Committee

SAFETY COLORING PAGE CONTEST

- 1. Theme: "Lightening Can Strike More Than Once"
 - A. Open to any youth 4 to 6 years old, and is not limited to children or grandchildren of Farm Bureau members.
 - B. Only the provided coloring page will be accepted.
 Download available at www.pfb.com/safetycontests.
 Entries will be judged on the following: Neatness, Appropriateness of coloring, Appearance, and Coloring within the lines.
 - C. County prize: 1st. \$50 Gift Card 2nd. \$25 Gift Card
 - D. DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES TO RECEIVE BY THE COUNTY IS June 1, 2021.

All entries <u>MUST</u> include the following information (on the back of coloring page): Child's name, Address, Phone Number, Home County & Submitting County, Age category, and Parent's Names(s).

Send Coloring Page to Evelyn Minteer, 362 North Road, Butler, PA 16001-8539. (Phone 724-283-6719 for more details)

COUNTY WINNING SAFETY COLORING PAGE SENT TO THE STATE PFB OFFICE:

- 2. Of the entries received in the PFB Office Two winners will be selected. A First and Second Prize will be selected.
- 3. First Prize winners will receive a \$25 Visa Gift Card. Second Prize winners will receive \$15 cash award. First Prize winners and their parents will be invited to the PFB Annual Meeting on Monday, November 16, 2021.
- 4. Winners will be announced in the Country Focus.
- Winning coloring pages will be displayed at Ag Progress Days and PFB Annual Meeting.
- 6. NOTE: Multiple entries will not be accepted.

Women's Leadership Committee -ightning can strike

2021 PENNSYLVANIA FARM BUREAU Women's Leadership Committee

SAFETY 3-D CONTEST

- 1. Theme of this year's Safety 3-D Contest is: "Lighting Can Strike More Than Once"
 - A. Open to any youth ages 7 to 12 years old, and is <u>not limited</u> to children or grandchildren of Farm Bureau members, but must be a Pennsylvania Resident.
 - B. Entries will be judged on the following: Dimensions: 12 in x 12 in x 12in, Material: Anything you choose, Slogan Ten words, or less, which address the theme, Originality: Be creative, Portability: Ability to display, Photos: 3 to 5 photos of different angles of the project so you can be judge.
 - C. County selects one winners in <u>each</u> of the following age categories:
 - * 7 through 9 years old
 - * 10 through 12 years old

County offers a cash prize: 1^{st} - \$50 2^{nd} - \$30 per each category and recognition at the county level for the winners.

(Note: multiple entries in same category will not be accepted!)

D. DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES TO BE RECEIVED BY THE COUNTY IS June 1, 2021.

All entries <u>Must include the following information with the project to be considered.</u> Child's Name, Address, Phone Number, Home County & Submitting County, Age category and Parent's Name (s).

Submission deadline to Evelyn Minteer, WLC, 362 North Road, Butler, PA 16001. (Phone 724-283-6719, for more details) Project should be physically brought to the county for judging.

COUNTY WINNING 3-D SENT TO THE STATE PFB OFFICE:

- Out of entries received in the PFB Office –A FIRST and SECOND prize winner will be selected for BOTH age categories..
- First Prize winners will receive a \$50 Visa Gift Card. Second Prize winners will receive \$25
 cash award. First Prize winners and their parents will be invited to the PFB Annual Meeting
 on MONDAY, November 16, 2021.
- 4. Winners will be announced in the Country Focus.
- 5. Winning posters will be displayed at Ag Progress Days and PFB Annual Meeting.
- 6, Entrants may only win one time in each age category.

2021

PENNSYLVANIA FARM BUREAU

Women's Leadership Committee

SAFETY VIDEO CONTEST

- 1. Theme: "Lightening Can Strike More Than Once"
 - A. The Safety Video Contest is open to any youth 13-18 years of age, and is not Limited to children or grandchildren of Farm Bureau members but must be a Pennsylvania Resident.
 - B. County will <u>select one</u> (1) first place winner and (1) second place winner from each of the following age categories:

13 through 15 years old 16 through 18 years old

- C. Winners will receive a prize of: 1st place \$50 and 2nd place \$25. for each age category. Entrants may only win one time in each age category.
- D. Video Contest Rules:

Length: 30-60 seconds long

Content: Educational information based on the theme Date: Must be taken within the last twelve months

Quality: Composition, clarity

E. DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES TO BE RECEIVE BY THE COUNTY IS June 1, 2021

All entries must include the following information with the project to be considered eligible: Entrant's Name, Address, Phone Number, Home County& Submitting County, Age and Parent's Name(s) and signed photo release. (Photo release attached).

Safety Video and video release to Evelyn Minteer, 362 North Road, Butler, PA. 16001. (Phone 724-283-6719, for more details.

COUNTY VIDEO WINNERS SENT TO THE STATE OFFICE.

- 2. Out of the entries submitted to the PFB Office a **First and Second Prize** will be selected from each age category
- First Prize winner will receive a \$100 Visa Gift Card. Second Prize winner will receive \$50 cash award. First Prize winners and their parents will be invited to the PFB Annual Meeting on Monday, November 16, 2021.
- Winners will be announced in the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau publication Country Focus and promoted at Ag Progress Days and PFB Annual Meeting.
- Entrants may only win one time in each category.

2021 Safety Video Contest Release form

I hereby grant employees or agents of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB), permission to use my likeness, name or images I have photographed, and submitted, for this photo contest, in print and/or electronically, without payment or any other consideration in perpetuity.

I agree that Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB) may use the submitted photograph of my likeness, name or images, with or without my name, and for any lawful purpose, including, for example, such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising, and web content that the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB) may determine to be appropriate and lawful. My photos may also be used for my personal or professional use.

I release the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB) and its affiliates, employees, agents and assigns of any and all liability related to the taking, creation, editing, handling or use of the photograph taken by me, digital, electronic or other productions or reproductions of me and/or individuals in the photograph, or my statements or actions for this contest.

I am 18 years of age or older, and am competent to contract in my own name. I have read this release before signing below, and I fully understand the contents, meaning, and impact of this release. If under the age of 18, I will have consent signed by my parent or guardian.

Signature of Photographer	Date
Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian	
Date	

Printed name of parent/legal guardian

Signature of parent/legal guardian is required if a photographer is under the age of 18.