

Next Journal
will be published
March 3.
Deadline is
Monday, Feb. 29.
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xt302 for info

THE JOURNAL

of the POCONO PLATEAU

POCONO MOUNTAIN REGIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

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A BIG GAP: The fire on the morning of February 3 destroyed the main section of the Blakeslee Inn on Route 940, and took with it a big part of the area's history. Fire companies from throughout the area responded to the fire, which closed Route 940 for most of the day.

JP: Hofbauer Strategies

PMRPD reviews prevention program

by Jeanine Hofbauer

"This program costs nothing," stated Bernard Fialkoff as representatives with Foundation for a Drug-Free World The Americas Chapter made a presentation at the end of the February 9 Pocono Mountain Regional Police Commission meeting.

The New York-based chapter shared materials used in their "Creating a Drug-Free World" campaign, reporting 2,000 New York City School Safety Police have been trained since its 2008 start.

The group hopes to aid local law enforcement to "prevent it [drug use] in the first place." Fialkoff addressed questions

including where money to operate comes from. Fialkoff said it comes from him.

The commission directed Chief Wagner to review details of the initiative further.

"We're well equipped to provide your services," said BBD LLP's Carl Hogan. BBD's "long partnership" with Pocono Mountain School District is what Chief Chris Wagner joined Fran DePiano in noting as a point in the decision to proceed with hiring the Philadelphia firm to perform the department's financial audit.

Reporting a drop in calls, Chief Wagner gave January's Police Report detailing each municipality's numbers with

hours to date. Tobyhanna and Barrett Townships are both under budget with 15 and 154 hours. Over budget are Mount Pocono Borough along with Tunkhannock and Coolbaugh Townships, with 88, 57 and 25 hours respectively.

"I applaud the chief; this policy is excellent," commented attorney Harry Coleman after reviewing Policy 8-6 Eyewitness IDing. Ten standards for Accreditation 2.9.1 including lineups and photographic arrays were addressed.

DePiano joins Dave Moyer, Peter Volpe, Ralph Megliola, Don Moyer and Mayor Fred Courtright on the 2016 bar-

Please turn to page 3

Coolbaugh stands firm on church zoning issue

by Jeanine Hofbauer

Members of New Life Faith Temple led by Reverend Antoine Thompson sought an explanation for a denial for public hearing regarding their request for a zoning change during the February 2 Coolbaugh Township supervisors' meeting. As the session drew to a close parishioners packed the room asking why the former Northampton Community College site could not be transformed into a house of worship with daycare facility.

Explaining that the industrial park property and only C2 zoned land in the municipali-

ty should remain unchanged, supervisor Lynn Kelly joined Juan Adams in noting other R1, R2, R3, C1 and C3 zoned areas in the township could accommodate the church.

Calling the facility "a plus to the community" Rev. Thompson stated the lengthy process should have been avoided with others asking why they were unaware of last month's township meeting decision.

Adams responded, "It's impossible for Mr. Brady [Township Zoning Officer Joe Brady] to know without bringing it [zoning change requests] be-

Please turn to page 2

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Spring ballot could leave library tax increase up to voters

by Jeanine Hofbauer

“Best put in the hands of the voters,” reasoned Mayor Fred Courtright as Pocono Mountain Public Library Director Ann Shincovich made Mount Pocono borough council aware of a petition for a question on this spring’s primary ballot for a library tax increase. While libraries are eligible to receive up to 3%, Shincovich noted they are seeking a one-

third increase to the borough’s existing one mill special library tax, explaining the temporary increase is “designed to pay off the [\$1.1 million] construction loan.”

At Mount Pocono’s February 1 meeting council president Karl Davis asked for comparisons of the number of borough residents using the library. Last year’s data reflects 1,684 of the 15,803

total users from the borough. Shincovich went on to explain that while neighboring contributor Coolbaugh Township and other non-contributing municipality residents use the facility, Mount Pocono families also frequent surrounding libraries.

She added, “By law we cannot ask other people in other municipalities for the tax,” reporting that additional fees are in place for outside users.

“The borough suffers if we have overflowing dumpsters,” explained Courtright as council reviewed J.P. Mascaro’s request for a contract addendum enabling the sanitation hauler to negotiate dumpster waste removal with condominium communities including Belmont Knoll and Knob Crest.

Pickups beyond Tuesdays, better service and one bill to the association for all units were proposed benefits of the action. Courtright said the borough sanitation committee would oversee the transition.

“We are here as a new council,” began Davis reporting president, vice-president and mayor communication is planned for “a continuity among the staff moving forward.”

“A year from now things are going to be different,” added Courtright calling the time a transitional period with plans to “Cast the net wide” to the community for interaction.

Council hopefuls were on hand for a brief comment regarding plans to fill the seat left vacant by last month’s resignation of John Finnerty. John Scalandre, Mike Oser, Tom Neville and Matt Hensel were directed to fill out a question-

naire to be mailed shortly with council review and appointment expected during a February 16 special meeting.

With no applications to date for a new zoning officer, council approved a \$23.70 hourly wage offer to present to former ZO Joe Brady in response to his letter of resignation. The vote of 4-2 with Keith Transue and Claudette Williams opposed would make the offer temporary until an acceptable candidate comes forward.

The evening’s meeting included Davis, Williams, Transue, Jeff Woehrl, Francis O’Boyle and Donna Casole, solicitor James Fareri, Mayor Courtright, secretary Lori Noonan and approximately 20 residents.

Mount Pocono’s next meeting is set for 7 p.m. Monday, March 7 at Municipal Offices located on Route 611 in the Borough.

Coolbaugh...

Continued from page 1

fore the board [as the deciding body].”

With routinely scheduled meetings the first and third Tuesday of each month, Alma Ruiz-Smith said while she was in favor of the proposal it is the responsibility of those with an ongoing matter to attend meetings to ensure they are abreast of any discussions that could arise regarding their situation.

Seeking help to end “party property” problems, members of the public asked supervisors to ensure proper ordinances are in place. Noting that disruptive instances as a police matter, the group

agreed rental unit compliance is a must to make sure taxes are paid.

Dangerous driving in the township was discussed. An anonymous letter sent to the Pocono Mountain Regional Police Commission alleging a Blue Dodge Neon traveling at an “unsafe speed” through Pocono Farms East had supervisors and police commission representatives assuring the matter would be looked into.

“You have a building that’s sucking up township money and you have three tenants in there,” stated Ruiz-Smith demanding action after reviewing the current bill packet.

“You’re talking about a complete engineering upgrade,” explained Kelly noting “an old antiquated boiler system” run-

ning thermostats installed according to prior tenant usage is resulting in monthly UGI Utilities payment of \$2,064.73.

Supervisors agreed to look at thermostats, then explored options including an offer by State Representative David Parker to call Strunk Albert Engineering to take a look.

Supervisors approved bill payments totaling \$336,682.05 with expenditures of:

General Fund	\$33,693.70
Sewer Fund	\$2,693.60
Escrow Fund	\$294.75

Supervisors Kelly, Ruiz-Smith, Adams and Anthony Lamantia were present along with administrative assistant Erin Masker and an audience of approximately 30.

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WELCOME TO THE LAKE reads the sign posted in the new offices of Dembinski Realty Company, and that's the message Clare Dembinski, right, is sharing. She's shown with son Michael Dembinski at the open house held January 30 to celebrate the opening of the office on the second floor of the Rinehimer Construction Building on Old Route 940 in Pocono Pines. Dembinski represents local buyers and sellers, especially in the Lake Naomi and Pinecrest developments.

JP: Seth Isenberg

Captain Kerr-r-r's class sails through virtual canoe race

by Jeanine Hofbauer

Brendan Kerr otherwise known as "Captain Kerr-r-r" demonstrated that 6th grade Swiftwater Elementary students stayed afloat quite nicely in a Virtual Canoe Race this year during a January 6 Pocono Mountain School Board meeting presentation. Pupils got their feet wet (minus the water), uncovering facts about the Delaware River and its watershed in this four week competition vesting second place out of 18 groups.

Sailing one mile for each correct answer, his team learned about protection and policies, as well as life that inhabits their area waterway. With plans to tackle the task again next year, Kerr

closed with a fishy question for the board. With a correct response that shad make a river return from the ocean to spawn, directors earned an impressive round of applause.

Students from Pocono Mountain East High School addressed directors with a petition containing 600 signatures to bend the school dress code, alleging the policy discriminates financially.

Responding, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Marybeth Gustafson noted the year-long process working alongside a committee comprised of administrators, parents and students that led to the policy, as well as revisions made this school year.

"We do listen to students,"

she said, turning attention to clothes closets at school buildings to assist eligible families in obtaining clothing, with an additional \$500 donated to East High School's collection and \$1,000 to West High School.

Superintendent Dr. Elizabeth Robison added concerns expressed by School Resource Officers over hoodies, as well as at statewide student safety seminars.

Dr. Robison thanked the nine elected officials who volunteered their time as Pocono Mountain School District directors. Calling the group "everyday heroes" she handed out recognition certificates as part of January's School Director Recognition month.

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Dedicated to Jay Holder 1926-1997

printed on part-recycled newspaper

The Journal of the Pocono Plateau—providing information and communication to build a better community.

Public Notices

NOTICE OF FORMATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Certificate of Organization-Domestic Limited Liability Company has been filed and approved by the Department of State, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on January 29, 2016 for the purpose of obtaining a Certificate of Organization pursuant to the provisions of 15 Pa.C.S. Sec. 8913 for the organization of a limited liability company to be known as YMW, LLC, with an address of 3304 Black Cherry Court, Long Pond, Pennsylvania 18334. The purpose of the limited liability company is that it shall have unlimited power to engage in and do any lawful act concerning any and all lawful business for which a limited liability company may be organized under the law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Joseph P. Hanyon, Esq.
Merwine, Hanyon & Kaspszyk, LLP
2642 Route 940
Pocono Summit, PA 18346

NOTICE OF FORMATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Certificate of Organization-Domestic Limited Liability Company has been filed and approved by the Department of State, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on January 14, 2016 for the purpose of obtaining a Certificate of Organization pursuant to the provisions of 15 Pa.C.S. Sec. 8913 for the organization of a limited liability company to be known as TADESCO, LLC, with an address of 5089 Milford Road, East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania 18301. The purpose of the limited liability company is that it shall have unlimited power to engage in and do any lawful act concerning any and all lawful business for which a limited liability company may be organized under the law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Joseph P. Hanyon, Esq.
Merwine, Hanyon & Kaspszyk, LLP
2642 Route 940
Pocono Summit, PA 18346

PMRPD...

Continued from page 1

gaining committee as they prepare to meet with Regional's Officers Association for contract negotiations.

Deciding to "table" table discussions was unanimous with direction for Chief Wagner to obtain more pricing on a com-

mission-sized table. Comparing two quotes, one from PA manufacturer Paul Downs for \$17,487 and the other Washington state builder Specialty Woods for \$27,741 had the group agreeing to research local craftsmen.

Problems with property wetland issues led to a vote to suspend the offer on the Tunkhannock Township shooting range site and look for a

more suitable property for the department firing range project.

Commissioners approved the bill pack totaling \$160,229.94 with funds to be expended as follows:

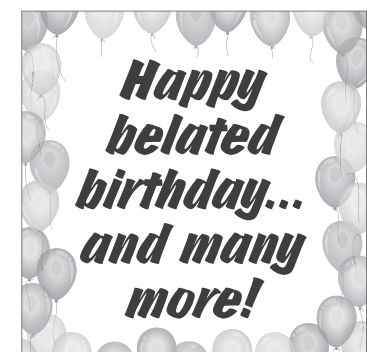
General Fund \$146,430.15
Prescription Plan \$1,576.90
Capital Projects \$12,222.89
ESSA Mortgage \$12,222.89

Commission members present at the meeting in-

cluded Moyer, Anne Lambertson and Don Moyer from Tobyhanna Township; Volpe, Juan Adams and Dave Pope from Coolbaugh Township; Courtright from Mount Pocono; DePiano and Brandon Igdalsky from Tunkhannock Township; and Megliola from Barrett Township.

PMRPC's next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. March

8 at Tobyhanna Township Municipal Offices in Pocono Pines.



Area Funerals

William D. McFadden
 William D. McFadden, Jr., 63, of Tobyhanna, died Sunday afternoon, February 14, 2016, at Easton Hospital. He was the husband of Sandra J. (Jacobsen) McFadden with whom he shared 30 years of marriage.

Born on February 19, 1952 in Flushing, New York, he was the son of the late William D. Sr. and Margaret (Figura) McFadden.

He was a self-employed commercial artist.

He is also survived by four children, William McFadden and his wife Kate of Boston, Massachusetts, Christina Serfass and her husband Michael of Mt. Pocono, Christopher McFadden and his wife Toni of Rehrersburg, and Jamie DeAngelo and her husband Adam of Philadelphia; seven grandchildren; and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a sister, Margaret Roccotagliata.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Friday, February 19, at St. Matthew's Roman Catholic Church, 200 Brodhead Ave., East Stroudsburg. Cremation was private and there will be no viewing.

In lieu of flowers, memorial remembrances may be made to Teen Challenge Training Center, P.O. Box 98, Rehrersburg, PA 19550 www.teenchallengetc.com or Animal Welfare Society of Monroe (AWSOM), P.O. Box 13, Stroudsburg, PA 18360.

Readers—want your organization's activities featured in these pages? Send news tips, press releases and photos to the editor at journal-ruth@pa.metrocast.net, or call 570-443-9131 xt304.

Join United Way's Citizens Review

With United Way of Monroe County's campaign ending February 29, there is still time to contribute to this year's campaign. It is also time to decide how to invest the funds raised through the campaign into community services across the county. United Way is now looking for volunteers to participate in this year's "Citizen's Review".

The annual Citizens' Review is a key component of the United Way of Monroe County. Volunteers come from all over our area and have diverse backgrounds, but share a common goal of improving the lives of Monroe

County residents, across four program areas: Helping Children Succeed, Meeting Basic Needs, Promoting Self-Sufficiency, and Engaging Youth.

In addition, a volunteer finance panel will review all financial documentation submitted by partner agencies as part of their requests for program funding. United Way is looking for volunteers to support these processes. This is the community's chance to make important decisions about how United Way of Monroe County should invest in community service efforts in the county.

The process will kick off

with a breakfast orientation for program volunteers on March 2 from 9-11 a.m. at East Stroudsburg University's Center for Innovation. The process then runs through early April. The total time commitment can range from 20 to 30 hours, with each panel setting up its own meeting schedule.

Over 40 volunteers throughout our community are needed for this critical, annual decision-making process. Volunteers who attend the kickoff will receive their panel information and meet fellow volunteers and representatives from United Way's

partner agencies. Throughout the process, volunteers will review aspects of the non-profit programs seeking funding and will make recommendations about grant requests. The process includes site visits to agencies and a review of outcomes/results in improving people's lives across the county.

For more information about the United Way of Monroe County or to invest in and support our community service efforts, visit www.unitedwaymonroe.org, call 570-629-5657 and ask for Monica Cravotta (campaign and fund distribution director), or e-mail monica@unitedwaymonroe.org. Deadline to register is February 19.

Damian A. Braga retires from Sanofi Pasteur



protecting and saving millions of lives around the world," said Braga. "I entered the company with eyes wide open — ready to learn and grow. Based on hard work, strong mentors, and being at the right place at the right time, my career expanded in ways I never thought possible, and I ultimately realized opportunities to evoke change in ways I never thought possible."

Braga joined the company as a financial analyst in 1988. His goal-oriented mindset, natural leadership abilities, and approachable management style enabled him to move quickly through a range of senior-level positions, becoming US CFO in 1996, president of the US in 2002 and head of the Americas organization in 2007.

Following his appointment as president of the U.S. Business Unit in January of 2002, revenues increased an average of 18% each year. During the same period, the company's U.S. workforce nearly tripled, and the Swiftwater site more than doubled in acreage.

In addition, the company successfully launched a new Pediatric combination vaccine, an adolescent and adult booster vaccine to protect against pertussis, tetanus, and diphtheria; a new meningococcal vaccine; and influenza vaccine formulations intended specifically for pediatric and elderly populations. These and other new product launches under his leadership resulted in approximately \$10 billion in cumulative additional sales in the Americas Business Unit.

In 2009, Under Braga's leadership, Sanofi Pasteur played a significant role in responding to the Influenza A (H1N1) pandemic. This was achieved by working with the United States Department of Health and Human Services,

the Pan American Health Organization, and government officials in Mexico and Brazil to provide 164 million doses of H1N1 to the United States and Latin America.

In his most recent role as Senior Vice President of Commercial Operations, Braga led the development and implementation of Sanofi Pasteur's commercial strategy to ensure sustainable and profitable growth through business units, countries, and support functions.

For more information, please visit www.sanofipasteur.com or www.sanofipasteur.us.

Sanofi Pasteur, the vaccines division of Sanofi, announced the retirement of president, Sanofi Pasteur US, and Senior Vice president of Commercial Operations, Damian A. Braga, who spent 27 years with the company, holding several key positions and contributing significantly to its accomplishments.

"I have taken great pride in the significant and continued evolution of our Sanofi Pasteur organization, and the impact of our products in pro-

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BREAST CANCER FUND RECEIVES DONATION: Big Pocono Ski Club collected \$1,025 from the holiday party raffle for Hope for Strength Breast Cancer Fund. Monies used to help male and female breast cancer patients with basic living expenses while going through treatments at the Dale and Frances Hughes Cancer Center, East Stroudsburg.

Complete the Monroe County Preparedness Survey

In an effort to understand how prepared the residents of Monroe County are for emergencies and disasters, the Monroe County Hazard Mitigation Planning Team are asking residents to complete the Monroe County Preparedness Survey.

This 26 question online survey, modeled after a similar survey conducted in the Lehigh Valley, can be accessed by going to the Monroe County Hazard Mitigation at www.monroecountypa.gov/hazmit.

The information gathered from the Preparedness Survey will give insight to county and municipal officials on how

residents are receiving emergency preparedness information, to what level are they prepared, and how willing are they to implement hazard mitigation actions in their homes.

This information will be included in the 2016 Monroe County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, which will be presented for public comment on March 9 at the 6 p.m. at the Hazard Mitigation Public Meeting, held at the Monroe County Public Safety Center.

Monroe County residents are asked to complete the survey no later than February 29.

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United Way of Monroe County launches website matching volunteers to local organizations in need

Want to get involved in your community? United Way of Monroe County has just launched a new website to link up volunteers with local organizations in need of assistance. Visit the site at www.VolunteerMonroe.org.

A leader in supporting the well-being of people in our community, the United Way of Monroe County's mission is to build partnerships to improve lives and provide solutions to those facing life's challenges. This new volunteer matching service does

just that by allowing anyone in the community to find and respond to volunteer opportunities posted by non-profits across the county all through a single easy-to-use website.

According to Michael Albert, president and CEO of the United Way of Monroe County, "We are super excited about this new site. It is really user friendly and offers an innovative social-media type interface for volunteers. It also provides great tools for non-profits to engage volunteers. Partner agencies such as the Salvation Army, Pocono Alliance, Meals on Wheels, the Red Cross, Women's Resources, and dozens of other local agencies have already posted

volunteer opportunities or events to get people connected with their community. We hope this site will make it easier for non-profits to find volunteers and for volunteers to find opportunities that they enjoy and find meaningful."

United Way has been facilitating volunteerism in the county for years through its annual Day of Caring - a day in September where hundreds of volunteers get together to support dozens of organizations. This new service offers non-profits and community members the chance to get connected throughout the year. Everyone deserves opportunities to have a good life, a quality education that leads to a stable job, enough income to support a family through retirement, and good health. By serving others, we can achieve lasting impact in our community.

For more information about the United Way of Monroe County, or to invest in and support our community service efforts, visit www.unitedwaymonroe.org or call 570-629-5657. To look for volunteer opportunities, visit www.volunteermunroe.org. To post a volunteer opportunity, simply click on "Learn How Get Connected Can do for you" on the site's home page.

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• PUBLIC NOTICE •

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF PENNSYLVANIA

The following are true and correct copies of joint resolutions of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania proposing two amendments to the Constitution of Pennsylvania. Consistent with the procedures prescribed by Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution, the General Assembly first proposed the amendments during the 2013 session and approved them for a second time during the 2015 session of the legislature. As required by Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution and statutory law, the Secretary of the Commonwealth has caused the proposed amendments to be published here.

Pursuant to law, the Secretary of the Commonwealth will submit the proposed amendments to the electors of Pennsylvania in the form of two ballot questions at the General Primary to be held on April 26, 2016. If a ballot question is approved by a majority of electors voting on it, the corresponding amendment becomes part of the Constitution.

Those parts of the joint resolutions that appear in **bold print** are the words of the Constitution that are proposed by the General Assembly for addition or deletion. If an amendment were approved, the words

underlined would be added to the Constitution and the words in brackets (e.g., [**Constitution**]) would be deleted. The unbolded words would remain unchanged in the Constitution.

Following the proposed amendments is the text of the questions that will be placed on the ballot. Below each question is a "Plain English Statement" prepared by the Office of Attorney General, and published as required by law, indicating the purpose, limitations and effects of the ballot question upon the people of this Commonwealth.

Anyone who needs help reading this advertisement or who needs the text of the proposed amendments in an alternative format may call or write the Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Commissions, Elections and Legislation, Room 210 North Office Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120, (717) 787-5280, R-BCEL@pa.gov.

Pedro A. Cortés, Secretary of the Commonwealth

JOINT RESOLUTION 2015-1

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further providing for compensation and retirement of justices, judges and justices of the peace.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby resolves as follows:

Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of Pennsylvania is proposed in accordance with Article XI:

That section 16(b) of Article V be amended to read:

§ 16. Compensation and retirement of justices, judges and justices of the peace.

(b) Justices, judges and justices of the peace shall be retired on the last day of the calendar year in which they attain the age of [70] **75** years. Former and retired

justices, judges and justices of the peace shall receive such compensation as shall be provided by law. Except as provided by law, no salary, retirement benefit or other compensation, present or deferred, shall be paid to any justice, judge or justice of the peace who, under section 18 or under Article VI, is suspended, removed or barred from holding judicial office for conviction of a felony or misconduct in office or conduct which prejudices the proper administration of justice or brings the judicial office into disrepute.

Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General Assembly of this proposed constitutional amendment, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of this proposed constitutional amendment.

(b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of this proposed constitutional amendment, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of this proposed constitutional amendment. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall submit this proposed constitutional amendment to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth at the first primary, general or municipal election which meets the requirements of and is in conformance with section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and which occurs at least three months after

the proposed constitutional amendment is passed by the General Assembly.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 1 AMENDING THE MANDATORY JUDICIAL RETIREMENT AGE

Ballot Question

Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to require that justices of the Supreme Court, judges and justices of the peace (known as magisterial district judges) be retired on the last day of the calendar year in which they attain the age of 75 years, instead of the current requirement that they be retired on the last day of the calendar year in which they attain the age of 70?

Plain English Statement of the Office of Attorney General

The purpose of the ballot question is to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to require that justices, judges and justices of the peace (known as magisterial district judges) be retired on the last day of the calendar year in which they attain the age of 75 years.

Presently, the Pennsylvania Constitution provides that justices, judges and justices of the peace be retired on the last day of the calendar year in which they attain the age of 70 years. Justices of the peace are currently referred to as magisterial district judges.

If the ballot question were to be approved, justices, judges and magisterial district judges would be retired on the last day of the calendar year in which they attain the age of 75 years rather than the last day of the calendar year in which they attain the age of 70 years.

This amendment to the mandatory retirement age would be applicable to all judges and justices in the Commonwealth, including the justices of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, judges of the Commonwealth Court, Superior Court, county courts of common pleas, community courts, municipal courts in the City of Philadelphia, and magisterial district judges.

The ballot question is limited in that it would not amend any other provisions of the Pennsylvania Constitution related to the qualification, election, tenure, or compensation of the justices, judges or magisterial district judges.

The effect of the ballot question would be to allow all justices, judges, and magisterial district judges to remain in office until the last day of the calendar year in which they attain the age of 75 years. This would permit all justices, judges, and magisterial district judges to serve an additional five years beyond the current required retirement age.

JOINT RESOLUTION 2015-2

Proposing integrated amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, eliminating the Traffic Court of Philadelphia.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby resolves as follows:

Section 1. The following integrated amendments to the Constitution of Pennsylvania are proposed in accordance with Article XI:

(1) That section 1 of Article V be amended to read:

§ 1. Unified judicial system.

The judicial power of the Commonwealth shall be vested in a unified judicial system consisting of the Supreme Court, the Superior Court, the Commonwealth Court, courts of common pleas, community courts, municipal [**and traffic**] courts in the City of Philadelphia, such other courts as may be provided by law and justices of the peace. All courts and justices of the peace and their jurisdiction shall be in this unified judicial system.

(2) That the heading and subsection (c) of section 6 of Article V be amended to read:

§ 6. Community courts; Philadelphia Municipal Court [**and Traffic Court**].

(c) In the City of Philadelphia there shall be a municipal court [**and a traffic court**]. The number of judges and the jurisdiction [**of each**] shall be as provided by law. [**These courts**] **This court** shall exist so long as a community court has not been established or in the event one has been discontinued under this section.

(3) That subsection (d) of section 10 of Article V be amended to read:

§ 10. Judicial administration.

(d) The Chief Justice and president judges of all courts with seven or less judges shall be the justice or judge longest in continuous service on their respective courts; and in the event of his resignation from this position the justice or judge next longest in continuous service shall be the Chief Justice or president judge. The president judges of all other courts shall be selected for five-year terms by the members of their respective courts, **except that the president judge of the traffic court in the City of Philadelphia shall be appointed by the Governor**. A Chief Justice or president judge may resign such position and remain a member of the court. In the event of a tie vote for office of president judge in a court which elects its president judge, the Supreme Court shall appoint as president judge one of the judges receiving the highest number of votes.

(4) That subsection (b) of section 12 of Article V be amended to read:

§ 12. Qualifications of justices, judges and justices of the peace.

(b) [**Judges of the traffic court in the City of Philadelphia and justices**] **Justices** of the peace shall be members of the bar of the Supreme Court or shall complete a course of training and instruction in the duties of their respective offices and pass an examination prior to assuming office. Such courses and examinations shall be as provided by law.

(5) That subsection (a) of section 15 of Article V be amended to read:

§ 15. Tenure of justices, judges and justices of the peace.

(a) The regular term of office of justices and judges shall be ten years and the regular term of office for judges of the municipal court [**and traffic court**] in the City of Philadelphia and of justices of the peace shall be six years. The tenure of any justice or judge shall not be affected by

changes in judicial districts or by reduction in the number of judges.

Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General Assembly of these proposed constitutional amendments, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of these proposed constitutional amendments.

(b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of these proposed constitutional amendments, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of these proposed constitutional amendments. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall submit the proposed constitutional amendments under section 1 of this resolution to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth as a single ballot question at the first primary, general or municipal election which meets the requirements of and is in conformance with section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and which occurs at least three months after the proposed constitutional amendments are passed by the General Assembly.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 2 ABOLITION OF THE PHILADELPHIA TRAFFIC COURT

Ballot Question

Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to abolish the Philadelphia Traffic Court?

Plain English Statement of the Office of Attorney General

The purpose of the ballot question is to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to abolish the Traffic Court in the City of Philadelphia.

Presently, the Pennsylvania Constitution provides for the Traffic Court in the City of Philadelphia as part of the unified judicial system. If the ballot question were to be approved, the Traffic Court in the City of Philadelphia would be abolished by removing all references to the Traffic Court and the judges of the Traffic Court in the City of Philadelphia from the Pennsylvania Constitution.

Legislation enacted in 2013 transferred the functions performed by the Traffic Court to the Philadelphia Municipal Court. As a result, violations of the Vehicle Code previously adjudicated by the Traffic Court are presently being adjudicated by the Philadelphia Municipal Court. The proposed amendment would officially abolish the Traffic Court by removing all references to the Traffic Court and its judges from the Pennsylvania Constitution.

This ballot question is limited to whether the Traffic Court in the City of Philadelphia should be abolished. The ballot question would not amend any other provisions of the Pennsylvania Constitution beyond the removal of all references to the Traffic Court and its judges.

The effect of the ballot question would be to abolish the Traffic Court in the City of Philadelphia. As discussed above, legislation enacted in 2013 transferred the functions of the Traffic Court to the Philadelphia Municipal Court. This amendment would officially abolish the Traffic Court by removing all references to the Traffic Court and its judges from the Pennsylvania Constitution.

Monroe Animal League to meet

The monthly meeting of the Monroe Animal League will take place on February 23 at 7 p.m. at the Eastern Monroe County Library, Rt. 611/N. 9th Street, Stroudsburg. All Monroe County animal lovers are encouraged to attend.

The Monroe County Animal League is a non-profit organization serving Monroe County since 1943. It aids in the prevention of animal cruelty. For more information, visit www.monroe-animals.org, or visit them on Facebook.

Pocono Garden Club to meet

The Pocono Garden Club will hold a general meeting on March 8 at 1 p.m. at the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center, Running Valley Road, Bartonsville.

Mr. Ed Flory, local arborist, will present a program on Pruning Ornamental Trees and Shrubs.

Members are encouraged to participate in the monthly design titled "March Hare". This is a horizontal oval design using fresh or artificial

flowers. Arrangements must include a timepiece.

The horticulture entry will be a forced flowering branch, such as forsythia, quince, or cherry. One stem sized in proportion to a clear container. The houseplant entry is a potted desert cactus or succulent.

Anyone interested in plants and gardening are welcome to attend. For more information, please email nonie0506@yahoo.com.

Bowl for Kids' Sake

On March 19, Big Brothers & Big Sisters will hold their annual Bowl for Kids' Sake fundraiser at Sky Lanes in East Stroudsburg from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

All monies raised are used to recruit, screen, and train prospective "Bigs" for Monroe

County children.

Teams are currently forming, so give some consideration to being part of the fun and excitement.

Call 570-421-2877 or visit www.bbbsnepa.com for more information.

Clothing Drive for Salvation Army

Pocono Lake United Methodist Church is hosting a clothing drive for the Salvation Army. Gather all the clothing you no longer need in a bag and bring it to Pocono Lake United Methodist Church by February 28. The office is open Monday through Friday

from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

You are invited to join them for worship on Sunday, February 28 at 10 a.m., when they will be filling the Salvation Army truck with all clothing collected.

All clothing donated is going to the Salvation Stores

in Pocono Summit and East Stroudsburg.

Pocono Lake United Methodist Church is located on Route 940 between Blakelee Corners and Pocono Pines. If you have questions, please call the church office 570-646-2650.

Words and Film presents "Suffragette"

Join the Eastern Monroe Public Library on March 6 at 2 p.m. for a viewing of the film "Suffragette."

In this galvanizing feminist drama, a working-class laundress (Carey Mulligan) in 19th century London becomes radicalized when

she meets a brave cadre of women organizing to obtain the vote. This film is directed by Sarah Gavron, and features Helena Bonham Carter and Meryl Streep.

The film will be introduced by retired attorney Anne Tiracchia.

Admission is free. Please note this film is rated PG-13.

The Eastern Monroe Public Library is located at 1002 North 9th Street, Stroudsburg. For further information on this event, please call 570-421-0800x317 or visit www.monroepl.org.

Kettle Creek EE Center plans members and friends dinner

The 32nd Annual Member and Friends of Conservation Dinner will take place on April 8 at the beautiful Trout Lake Retreat outside of Bartonsville in their new Lake View Dining Room. This event is one of the highlights of the year on the Monroe County Environmental Education Center's schedule. It will include good food, entertainment, and several award presentations.

The theme for the evening's entertainment is "Where in the World am I? Monroe County and Beyond."

The EE Center staff has spent the year photographing natural areas throughout the region. The audience will be tested on their ability to recognize these areas during a fun-filled game and prizes will be awarded.

The evening's schedule will feature bird watching on the outside patio beginning at 6 p.m., hors d'oeuvres, cocktails/cash bar at 6:15 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Cost for the dinner is \$24 for adults, \$12 for children under 12. Vegetarian options available.

For more information, please call the E. E. Center at 570-629-3061. For information on other programs, visit mconconservation.org.

Readers—want your organization's activities featured in these pages? Send news tips, press releases and photos to the editor at journalruth@pa.metrocast.net, or call 570-443-9131 xt304.



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WWE to visit Wilkes-Barre

On March 20 at 7 p.m., WWE LIVE comes through Mohegan Sun Arena on the ROAD TO WRESTLEMANIA. Anything can happen when Wrestlemania 32 looms near just two weeks away. This is your chance to see your favorite WWE Superstars live and in action.

See Roman Reigns, Demon Kane, WWE World Heavyweight Champion Sheamus, Dean Ambrose, Bray Wyatt, Dolph Ziggler, Intercontinental

Champion Kevin Owens, The Dudley Boyz, The Divas and many more! (Line-up is subject to change.)

WWE offers the best value in entertainment, with tickets starting at \$15. Tickets to WWE LIVE ROAD TO WRESTLEMANIA at Mohegan Sun Arena go on-sale December 12 at 10 a.m. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com, the NBT Bank Box Office, or charge-by-phone 1-800-745-3000.

MetroCast hosts “Giving Back” 5K event

MetroCast Communications, the video, internet and phone provider located in Berwick, will host its fifth “MetroCast Giving Back 5K Run/Walk” on April 9. The event will start at 9 a.m. at Summerhill Volunteer Fire Company, 422 Summerhill Road, Berwick.

Funds raised from the event are directed to local organizations that assist residents in need in the region. This year, the event is focusing on local Veterans enrolled in the Homeless Veterans Program through the Wilkes-Barre VA Hospital.

“The entire MetroCast team looks forward to bringing this event to the community each year. We are so fortunate to have so many volunteers that give of their time to plan and help on the day of the event, and are grateful for the members of this community who participate in the 5K,” said MetroCast General Manager Tom Carey.

Like last year, proceeds from the event will again support area Veterans. “This year the proceeds will go to the homeless Veterans program at the Wilkes-Barre VA Hospital, which provides transportation services, social service as-

sistance, rehabilitation equipment, recreation programs, activities, homeless Veteran’s services, holiday gifts, and more,” said MetroCast Marketing Manager, Chrissy Carey.

“We are grateful to the MetroCast Foundation and our many sponsors for the support they have given to this important cause,” she added.

Registration for the event will take place from 7:30-8:45 a.m., and the entry fee is \$25 prior to race day.

The course is challenging for experts, yet easy enough for walkers. All ages are invited to enter. Medals will be awarded for the top three men and women finishers in each of 14 age categories, and trophies will be awarded for the top three men and women overall. A complimentary hot breakfast will be served after the race.

Anyone registered by February 28 is guaranteed a “MetroCast Giving Back 5K Run/Walk” dry-fit t-shirt. Participants and sponsors interested in the “MetroCast Giving Back 5K” event should visit www.MetroCast.com/5K for more information, email ccarey@metrocast.com, or call 570-802-5660.

Get a little wild in Barrett Township

It’s just minutes from Mountainhome, but Zimmer Wildlife Sanctuary feels a little wild on a winter day, with no sound but the sighing wind.

On February 27 from 10-11:30 a.m., Darryl and Jackie Speicher will lead a hike to explore the 97-acre “neighborhood preserve” on Spruce Cabin Road in Barrett Township. This event is part of the Get Outdoors Poconos series.

Here once stood the Old Orchard Inn, which burned in 1928. Stone steps remain, cut into the hillside, providing access to Brodhead Creek. Visitors will see exhilarating views upstream and downstream of

this bend in the creek. Follow the red-blazed trail into stands of big, old rhododendrons; large patches of Christmas fern; white pines and hemlock; and very few invasive plants. Living boulders the size of small cars are carpeted in lichens and moss.

The Old Orchard Inn is long gone, and its open meadows and long views across the creek have changed to densely wooded land. But it’s easy to imagine how the clear-cut land looked back in the day, and be grateful for a winter walk – and a little wilderness – in Mountainhome’s backyard.

Registration is required. Call

570-839-1120 or email info@brodheadwatershed.org (subject line “Zimmer hike”). For more information, photos, and a trail map, visit brodheadwatershed.org/gopoconos. Other trails and hike events in the Get Outdoors Poconos series are listed there.

D&H Distance Run

Register early for the 9th Annual D&H Distance Run and 5K on the D&H Rail-Trail in Susquehanna County between February 22 and 29 and save \$5. A major fundraiser for the Rail-Trail Council of Northeastern PA, this year’s event will be held on September 11 at 9 a.m.

A discounted registration fee of \$35 (a savings of \$5) will be offered to runners who sign up online between February 22 and 29. After February 29, the fee will be \$40 through August 19. Register at dhdistance.com, GetMeRegistered.com, or www.nepa-rail-trails.org.

Now in its ninth year, the D&H Distance Run is a 13.1 mile “out and back” race on the D&H Rail-Trail from Forest City to Union Dale. Featuring

chip timing, this half marathon is great experience for runners training for the Steamtown Marathon, and those attempting to run longer distance runs. The terrain along the D&H Rail-Trail offers an optimal running experience on a path of finely-crushed stone.

Runners will enjoy a course that is primarily flat, with a slight upgrade heading north and a slight downgrade heading toward the finish line. They’ll also experience the beauty of the region in the fall as they make their way through the scenic trail in Wayne and Susquehanna counties.

Proceeds from the race benefit the continued development of the D&H Rail-Trail.

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Pocono Mountain East to host Jazz Festival

Pocono Mountain East High School will host the District 10 Jazz Festival on February 19 and 20. This festival will involve 23 kids from 14 schools including Reading, Kutztown, Muhlenburg, East Stroudsburg North, East Stroudsburg South, Stroudsburg, Delaware Valley, Oley Valley, Shenandoah Valley, Lehigh Valley Charter of the Performing Arts, Easton Area, Emmaus, Pocono Mountain West, and Pocono Mountain East High Schools. Guest conductor is Dr. Josh Davis, Director of Jazz Studies at Susquehanna University.

The students are selected by a panel of directors through an audition process.

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Students prepare the music requirements that are taken from the state level requirements, and record their audition onto a flash drive to submit for consideration to the ensemble. Some of the requirements are preparation of solos by jazz great Charlie Parker and composers such as Mike Carubia and Jim Snidero. Students must also demonstrate their knowledge of scales and solo improvisation skills over a Blues Progression.

Students chosen to participate in this festival represent a portion of District 10 which includes schools from Pike, Monroe, Northampton, Carbon, Lehigh, Schuylkill and Berks Counties.

The festival will close with a concert on February 20 at 2 p.m. in the Pocono Mountain East High School Auditorium. Admission is \$5.

Polar Plunge to benefit Camp Papillon

Eric German is organizing a Polar Plunge to help homeless animals, and bring awareness to animals who are chained out in the cold. Eric raised over \$5,000 to help homeless, neglected, and abused animals. Please support this worthwhile cause to raise much needed funds. Join Eric and friends at noon on February 27 at Camp Pa-

pillon Animal Shelter property.

Kat of Willow Tree Inn of Stroudsburg is graciously catering lunch at the Camp Volunteer Recreation Room. After a hot lunch, you will jump in the pond located on the property. All jumpers will need a sponsorship of \$100 (or more) to jump.

Please support Eric by donating to the Camp Papillon Polar Plunge. Checks may be mailed to Camp Papillon, 128 Brainerd Lane, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, or through their Paypal account at www.CampPapillon.org.

Visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/camppapillon/>

Tree pest and disease management program

Monroe County Conservation District's Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center will sponsor a Tree Pest and Disease Management program on February 20 at 10 a.m.

Invasive pests and tree diseases can have devastating ecological, economical, and

social impacts in our communities. Although several of the native PA tree species have already been affected, there is new hope for recovery on the horizon.

The Chestnut Blight, the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, the Emerald Ash Borer, and Dutch Elm Disease will be

discussed at the program. Participants will learn about actions scientists are taking to save native trees.

Cost is \$5 for non-members, \$3 for children under 12, and free for EE Center members.

Harpers Ferry bus trip

The Wyoming Valley Civil War Roundtable is sponsoring a bus trip to Harpers Ferry W. Va. Historical Park. A Martz bus will leave Wilkes-Barre Park and ride near McDonalds on Route 309 in Wilkes-Barre on April 30 at 7:30 a.m.

Upon arrival at approximately 11 a.m., a step on the

bus Park Guide will conduct a 2.5 hour tour. During the tour, you may eat a lunch that you brought, or wait until the tour is over at 1:45 p.m. The tour will include information about the John Brown Raid, the Civil War, Storer College, and the Niagara Movement.

Then, the group will have free time to explore Lower

Town until 3:45 p.m., when the group will depart for a buffet dinner at the historic Carriage House Inn in Emmitsburg, MD. Dinner is included with the price of the ticket.

Tickets are \$86 per person, and are due by March 20. A \$40 deposit is required to ensure a seat. Please send your money in care of the Wyoming Valley Civil War Roundtable, 39 Hemlock St., Dallas, Pa. 18612. For more information, email deborahhocko@aol.com or call 570-262-3723.

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Calendar of Events

Listings in the Calendar are free. E-mail to journalnews@pa.metrocast.net. To provide prices and additional details, consider placing a display ad. Prices start at \$10 for charitable organization. Call 570-443-9131 xt302.

Friday, February 19—Bingo, sponsored by West End Park and Open Space Commission, 5:30 p.m., Chestnuthill Township Park, 570-992-9733, bkozen@ptd.net

Saturday, February 20—Pine Cone Bird Feeder craft event, 10 a.m.-noon, Chestnuthill Township Park

Saturday, April 23—Earth Day Celebration, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Northampton Community College Monroe Campus, 570-629-3061, www.mcearthday.org

Friday, February 26—Lenten Buffet, 4:30 – 7 p.m., St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, 5112 Pocono Crest Rd., Pocono Pines, PA. 18350, 570-646-6424, www.stmaxkolbeconoos.org. Snow date: Friday, March 18.

Saturday, February 27—Polar Bear Plunge, noon, to benefit Camp Papillon, in their pond, www.camppapillon.org

Friday, March 11—Lenten Buffet, 4:30 – 7 p.m., St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, 5112 Pocono Crest Rd., Pocono Pines, PA. 18350, 570-646-6424, www.stmaxkolbeconoos.org. Snow date: Friday, March 18.

Saturday, March 12—Blakeslee United Methodist Church Choir's Lenten Cantata "A Journey To Hope," 7 p.m., Julie Kerrick Geiser directing, Blakeslee United Methodist Church, Route 115, Blakeslee, 570-646-7727

Sunday, March 13—Blakeslee United Methodist Church Choir's Lenten Cantata "A Journey To Hope," 10:30 a.m., Julie Kerrick Geiser directing, Blakeslee United Methodist Church, Route 115, Blakeslee, 570-646-7727

Thursday, March 31—50th Anniversary Gala for Pocono Services for Families and Children, 5:30 p.m., Terraview at Stroudsmoor Country Inn, 570-421-2711x238

Friday, April 8—Kettle Creek EE Center Member and Friends of Conservation Dinner, 6 p.m., Trout Lake Retreat, Bartonsville, 570-629-3061, mconconservation.org

Wednesday, April 27—Spotlight on Seniors Expo, sponsored by Prospect & Laurelwood Cemeteries, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Stroud Mall, 570-424-0970

Sunday, May 1—MS Walk, 10 a.m., Big Pocono State Park

Wednesday, June 22—Golf Tournament, sponsored by Blakeslee Rotary Club, Mountain Laurel Golf Course, 570-646-7337

Upcoming March Programs Kids

March 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 10:30 a.m. —Story Hour (ages 3-5) (Special Easter Story Hour on 3/14).

March 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 at 10:30 a.m.—Lap Sit (ages 2 & under) (Special Easter Lap Sit on 3/17).

March 1 at 6 p.m.—Sleepy Time Story Hour

Join Miss Kristi for a story hour before bedtime. You can even come dressed in your pajamas if you'd like. No advance sign-up is required, but parental supervision is required. Ages 0-6.

March 5 at 11 a.m.—Celebrate Seuss!

Celebrate the great Dr. Seuss's birthday with the Clymer. You'll read his books and do fun activities and Seuss-related crafts. Sign-up and parental supervision are required. Ages 3 and up.

March 8 at 6 p.m.—Junior Book Club

If you are in grades four through six, join the Clymer to discuss *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman. Book discussion is held on this date, so sign up today. All requests for a copy of the book must be made by February 16, so that each member has at least two weeks to read the book. If you have your own copy of the book, please feel free to

sign up for the discussion.

For more information, contact Children's Technician Kristi Belcher at kbelcher@clymerlibrary.org or by phone at 570-646-0826.

March 12 at 12 p.m.—DramaRama

Do you enjoy acting things out? If so, then this is the program for you. While a book is read aloud, you will be able to act out the actions of the characters. You will practice a few times, and then perform for parents and family members. Sign-up and parental supervision are required. Ages 5 and up.

March 19 at 12 p.m.—Easter Party

This will be an "egg" citing event that you won't want to miss. Join in the fun of an Easter Egg Hunt, crafts, books, and snacks. Sign-up and parental supervision are required. Ages 3 and up.

March 22 at 6 p.m.—Family Game Night

The library will have games for families to play together, or you can bring your own to share with others. The Wii video game console will be

provided to use as well. Sign-up and parental supervision are required. Ages 5 and up.

Adults

All month long during March and on March 24 (Group Session)—Adult Coloring Program

The Clymer Library's free stress relief coloring program for adults continues through March. Patrons ages 18 and up are invited to stop by the library anytime during the month to pick up a coloring sheet and borrow the colored pencils, or feel free to bring your own supplies. Then, join them on March 24 from 2 to 3 p.m. for a relaxing group coloring session, complete with complimentary cookies, beverages, and soothing music. Again, the library will provide the supplies.

March 23 at 12:30 p.m.—Brown Bag Book Club

March 17 at 6 p.m.—The Foreign Film *The Dinner*

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SAT. 3/12 7:05PM
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\$18, Show 8 p.m.

2/27 The Cream of Clapton - An All-Cream Musical Tribute
\$23, Show 8 p.m.

3/4 Jorma Kaukonen
\$32, Show 8 p.m.

3/5 Kashmir - Led Zeppelin Tribute
\$23, Show 8 p.m.

3/11 Jane Lee Hooker
\$18, Show 8 p.m.

3/12 Tartan Terrors St. Patty's Parade Weekend Celebration
\$30, Show 8 p.m.

Check our website

Seth's Sightings by Seth Isenberg

I wrote part of this column as the temperatures outside were dropping towards zero on Sunday. Ruth and I were inside, snug and warm. Chess, our English pointer, made short trips outside to do her business – none of her usual dawdling.

By Monday, the cold gave way to a beautiful snow. Tuesday was not so beautiful, rain over ice. At least with the cold and then the rain, it was short. Last year we endured a week and a half of icy cold at a stretch.

During the cold weekend, especially at night, we noticed how little traffic was out on the roads. Things were crisp and quiet – kind of nice. We usually hear a lot of road noise in our house.

We did go out on both days. Saturday, we did some newspaper work and rewarded ourselves with a stop at the Blakeslee Community Center's meatloaf dinner before driving to the WBS Penguins hockey game that night. Even the cool temperatures inside the Mohegan Sun Arena were warm that night. I wore some warm but ugly flannel-lined jeans, plus a lined shirt and an old-fashioned Long John top, plus heavy socks in winter boots – feeling a bit like a cross between a lumberjack and the Pillsbury Dough Boy. Ruth, who was equally bundled up in nicer looking clothes, tolerated the look, barely. I was warm enough but didn't linger long outside.

There were two Penguins games that weekend, both versus Portland, both lost

in overtime. We came, we cheered. On Sunday we hoped to have an early meal in Wilkes-Barre before seeing the afternoon hockey game. At 3:15 p.m., the Red Lobster had a huge line. We decided to try back after the game. Just after 7, we drove back to find an equally huge line of Valentine's Day diners. Ruth went in to the desk to see how long the wait was, returning to say she was told the wait would be an hour and a half. Ha – we drove away.

There were equally huge lines at a couple of other chains buildings nearby. Our favorite pizza palace looked available, but that's not what we wanted. Instead we rolled into Logan's, were told the wait was 15 minutes at the most, and then waited just 5 minutes for a table. We will not wait an hour and a half – we can always find an independent restaurant or come back another time.

Both of us are doing some heavy reading, mainly mysteries with a Harry Turtledove altered history novel thrown in for a change. We plan to go on a book run to re-stock some of the shelves. We've also started the Blue Bloods series via Netflix, having become tired of Justified. The new season of Dr. Who has arrived on Netflix, with Game of Thrones (last year's episodes) and the most recent season of New Tricks (a British police series we really enjoy) coming soon.

This weekend will include a trip to see my uncle in New Jersey – we'll dine out there, spending the savings we'll get

from tanking up.

The next Penguins game at home is this coming Tuesday – a must win match versus division rival Hershey, who are just two points behind in the standings. We'll find a way to be there. With no other home games until the first Sunday in March there's some extra free time for us to visit some museums on our list including America on Wheels in Allentown.

Western Pocono Lioness Club meeting and events schedule

The Western Pocono Lioness Club will have the first monthly meeting for 2016 on March 22 at the American Legion in Gilbert. Festivities will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a guest speaker, Sharon Kimmel, Past District 14 Governor of Lions.

The April 26 will host guest speaker, District Governor Ken Mims, at 6:30 p.m. The business meeting will follow. Final plans for the upcoming Holistic Fair will be worked out. Continuing will be final plans on other events for the year.

The Annual Holistic Fair at the Polk Fire Company in Kresgeville will take place on April 30 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. There will be foods available for purchase for a light breakfast or a light lunch. A few vendor spots are still available. Contact Lioness Georganna at 570-460-2334 for more information.

The first Princess Tea/Brunch at Cherry's in Kresgeville will be held on June 18 from 11 a.m. - noon. The event will include a special guest appearance. Admission is \$25, or you can get tickets in advance from a Western

Ruth's and my anniversary was last week. I'd planned to take Ruth to the Blakeslee Inn for fine meal. We've celebrated our anniversary there a number of times over our many years. It was a shock to hear of the fire - and it's still sad to drive by the burnt down remains of the restaurant. The two motel wings sit lonely without the connecting lobby which fronted the dining area. Here's hoping that the Blakeslee Inn restaurant returns, and our sympathy to the staff and owners.

We were excited to sight a male bald eagle dining on prey in a field north of White

Haven last Sunday. We think we startled it with our slow passage, and we watched as he flew up into a nearby tree. How majestic this was to see. He is a reminder that area is blessed with at least two mated pairs of these fine birds. (We knew it was a he because of his smallish size but with the spectacular white crown and white tail underfeathers.) A sad sideline—some idiot shot and killed a juvenile eagle near to Beltzville in Towamensing Township, Carbon County last week. The Game Commission is investigating.

Pocono Lioness. Contact Lioness Anne for additional information at 610-509-3519.

The Lioness' New Fashion Show and Luncheon, Colors for the Seasons, will be on September 25. It will take place at Hideaway Hills Golf and Country Club in Kresgeville. Three businesses (Dress Barn, Elegant Bridal, and Peebles) will be featured.

The show will introduce men's and women's fashions. Tickets, which cost \$28, will go on sale soon. Contact Lioness Carol for more information at 610-681-8138.

For additional information on Western Pocono Lioness, contact co-presidents, Lioness Cynthia 570-629-1505 or Lioness Georganna 570-620-2472.

Celebrate Earth Day

The Monroe County Conservation District and Monroe Campus Northampton Community College have announced a 2016 Earth Day Celebration, which will take place on April 23 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Organizations, businesses, and local agencies throughout Monroe County have organized this county-wide event to celebrate the conservation successes of the past 20 years in Monroe County.

A schedule of events for the day includes speakers John Wooding, Monroe County Planning Commission Director, Retired; Garrett Beers, Department of Conservation

and Natural Resources Forester; Kathy Uhler, Director, Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center, Geoff Mehl, founder of the Pennystone Project; Dave LaPointe, owner of Sarah Street Grille and a Keynote address by Larry Schweiger (Past president, National Wildlife Federation). Musical Entertainment will feature Christian Porter and Regina Sayles, Nancy/Spencer Reed, Mike Pilgermeyer and Katie Rubino.

There will be children's activities, Give and Take Day sponsored by Close the Loop, Electronics recycling, and tire amnesty sponsored by The Waste Management Authority. There will be exhibits, which will highlight local environmental business, organizations, and agencies.

For more information about Earth Day, visit <http://www.mcearthday.org> or call the E. Center at 570-629-3061. For more information on other programs, visit mconservations.org.

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ACROSS

- 1. Closet wood
- 6. Universal time
- 9. Baby's first word?
- 13. Courtyards
- 14. Galley equipment
- 15. Two-____ like Janus
- 16. To eat greedily
- 17. "Much ____ About Nothing"
- 18. Give a speech
- 19. *Tarantino's "The ____ Eight"
- 21. *Matt Damon's nominated role
- 23. Party bowlful
- 24. Larger-than-life
- 25. *Competitor to The

Oscars' 2016 broadcaster

- 28. Mt. Everest to Earth
- 30. Like meters and kilograms
- 35. Foot curve
- 37. World's Fair, e.g.
- 39. Get wool from sheep
- 40. Hard to find
- 41. Rekindled
- 43. "The Road Runner" corporation
- 44. Not hidden
- 46. Black Friday event
- 47. London subway
- 48. Moves down
- 50. Theories
- 52. Relieve from

- 53. *Oscar-winner De Niro in "Once ____ a Time in America"
- 55. Club on a card, e.g.
- 57. Barely adequate
- 61. *Seven-time nominee Kate
- 65. Like a lemon, taste-wise
- 66. *____ Cube outta Compton
- 68. Glittery stone
- 69. Place to throw shrimp on the barbie
- 70. *____ Heflin, Supporting Actor winner in 1942
- 71. With clear mind
- 72. Moore in "Arthur" and Belushi in "Animal House"
- 73. Paris in Tour de France, e.g.
- 74. *What the winner for Film Editing does

- 29. *The two leads in 1979's "Kramer vs. Kramer"
- 31. Not this
- 32. Happen again
- 33. More than one iamb
- 34. *It stars Stallone
- 36. This location
- 38. Great masters' medium, pl.
- 42. Allegro and lento, in

- music
- 45. *Blacklisted screenwriter
- 49. Baden-Baden, e.g.
- 51. *Firth, nominated for 2009's "A ____ Man"
- 54. EVOO source
- 56. Imposter
- 57. Rand McNally products
- 58. UN civil aviation agency, acr.

- 59. As opposed to gross
 - 60. *2001 Oscar-nominated movie starring #61
- Across
- 61. Direct one's way
 - 62. Sites
 - 63. Leave on the cutting room floor
 - 64. Kennedy and Turner
 - 67. Campbell's container

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DOWN

- 1. *Witherspoon won for starring in his biopic
- 2. Europe's highest volcano
- 3. "Doggone it!"
- 4. *ABC did it to 2015's Academy Awards show
- 5. Basket-making fiber
- 6. Orr's score
- 7. *Like Max
- 8. Walk heavy-footed
- 9. Marketplace
- 10. Palm tree berry
- 11. Of higher order
- 12. Port in Yemen
- 15. Military units
- 20. Ritalin, e.g.
- 22. Deadeye's forte
- 24. Make comprehensible
- 25. *Cate Blanchett's 2015 role
- 26. Audience's approval
- 27. Nut holder

CROSSWORD

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Police Beat by Seth Isenberg

Pocono Mountain Regional Police was called to a report of a fight on Glen Terrace in APCP, Coolbaugh Twp. at 9:42 p.m. on 2-4. While on their way, police were told of five or six shots fired there, and that two cars had fled the area. Police found five .38 bullet shell casings on the roadway. Witnesses saw two small red cars and one silver or champagne colored SUV involved — there was some kind of argument. No one was hurt in the neighborhood. No homes were struck by bullets. PMRPD asks for all witnesses to call in to HQ at 570 895-2400 to aid in the investigation.

PA State Police Deputy Fire Marshal Corporal Shawn Hilbert investigated the fire at the Blakeslee Inn that destroyed the offices and restaurant there in coordination with the PMRPD and insurance company investigators. It was determined that the fire originated inside an interior wall in the corner of the restaurant office — with a cause as an electrical

failure in a receptacle. The fire was called in at 8:25 a.m. after a fire alarm was activated. An employee on scene went back to check, and found smoke in the area of the kitchen and office. On exiting, fire was seen in the office. The fire spread into the ceiling and got into other portions of the building. Fire Companies from Monroe, Carbon, Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties turned out equipment and volunteers to aid the Tobyhanna Township Volunteer Fire Co. in fighting the blaze, and then to supply water tankers for the fire fight. The restaurant and offices are a total loss. Motel units on both sides of that were saved. No one was injured during the fire.

PMRPD was dispatched at 8:18 p.m. on 1-30 to a home in the 5100 block of Iroquois St. in Pocono Farms, Coolbaugh Twp. due to a fight. On arrival, police spoke to a male victim, who said the fight started over a board game. The victim was punched several times, and choked. The assailant, a 21 y/o man from Stillwater Lakes, Coolbaugh Twp., also stomped on the victim's purpose-built gaming computer, causing \$1,500 in damage. The man was arrested on simple assault, criminal mischief and harassment charges.

Stealin'
As staff at the Family Dollar store in the Carriage Square

Plaza in Coolbaugh Twp. was closing up to leave just before 10 p.m. on 2-3, two people wearing masks forced their way inside. The pair then tied the three employees with bungee cords and took cash from the safe. They then fled. Once the employees freed themselves, they called 911, and PMRPD was dispatched. Police are asking for the public's help — contact Detective Lucas Bray at 570 895-2400, or leave a tip at www.pmrpd.com/crimestopperstipform.html

PA State Police - Fern Ridge is investigating a burglary at a Gooseberry Dr., Effort, Chestnuthill Twp. home that happened between 9 and 11 a.m. on 1-31. Prescription drugs, jewelry, clothes and old cell phones were stolen. PSP-F asks for the public's help — call Trooper Gula at 570 646-2271.

Trooper Gula is also investigating a burglary at 451 Rinker Rd., Jackson Twp. during the day on 2-3 where thieves entered via a garage window. Items stolen include an X-box 1, jewelry and some cash.

PMRPD and State Police solved a burglary from May of 2010 of the First Family Realty building on Effort Mt. in Tunkhannock Twp. Copper pipe was stolen from the building. Police collected evidence including DNA, and sent it to the PSP Lab for testing. In

April of 2015, PMRPD was told that a lead had identified the DNA as belonging to 30 y/o Matthew Wollett, who was a resident in the 2000 block of Conestoga Drive in Sierra View, Effort Mtn. Wollett was located at a halfway house in Scranton. A warrant for his arrest was issued from District Judge Richard Claypool's office on 1-23, and Wollett was transferred to the PA prison in Dallas to await a hearing.

PSP-Lehighton is investigating a burglary that happened overnight 2-5 to 6 at a Spring Rd., Lower Towamensing Twp. home. The burglar(s) forced open a side basement door. The home was ransacked. Stolen were two high-end bicycles, a guitar, and a change jar with about \$60 in it. Anyone with information is asked to call PSP-L at 570 377-4270.

Discovered 2:30 a.m. 2-7, someone stole a DeWalt grinder (tool) from an unlocked pickup truck parked at a 400 block, Weir Mtn. Rd.,

Gilbert home, PSP-L. A gun and a cordless drill were stolen from the truck bed of a Bowmanstown man between 2-2 and 8, PSP-L.

PSP-F arrested a 32 y/o Brodheadsville man on 1-8 who tried to roll a cart filled with \$591 worth of groceries outside without paying. PSP took him to the Monroe County jail for processing.

A 54 y/o Kunkletown woman is charged with theft of services for installing an illegal switch behind her electric meter that caused the device to slow, or stop — discovered 2-2. The thefts go back to last October.

Between 1-1 and 25, someone set up a charge card account at Kohl's, Target and an ATT mobile account in Huntington Beach, CA, using the identity of a Lehighton man.

A Saylorsburg man's bank account had \$500 taken from it via an ATM in Philadelphia on 2-1. PSP-F is investigating.

Please turn to page 15

Answers

2	7	9	5	4	1	3	6	8
8	3	1	6	9	7	5	2	4
6	4	5	3	2	8	7	9	1
4	6	2	8	3	9	1	5	7
1	9	8	7	5	2	4	3	6
7	5	3	1	6	4	2	8	9
3	1	7	2	8	6	9	4	5
5	8	4	9	7	3	6	1	2
9	2	6	4	1	5	8	7	3

CEDAR	GMT	MAMA
ATRIA	OAR	FACED
SNARF	ADO	ORATE
HATEFUL	MARTIAN	
DIP	EPIC	
CBS	APEX	METRIC
RARCH	EXPO	SHEAR
RARE	RELIT	ACME
OVERT	SALE	TUBE
LOWERS	ISMS	RID
UPON	PIP	
MINIMAL	WINSLET	
ACERB	ICE	GEODE
PATIO	VAN	LUCID
SOTS	END	EDITS

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Police Beat...

Continued from page 14

The Pocono Plateau is NOT HIGH Enough for some

A 49 y/o Effort driver drove her '03 BMW west on Astolat Rd. when she missed a curve and went into the path of an oncoming '12 RAV4 driven by an Effort mom driving her daughter eastbound just after 6 p.m. on 1-29. The BMW driver was unhurt, but the mother and daughter were, though there was no ambulance transport. PSP-F arrived to investigate. The BMW's driver was arrested for DUI and taken to the county DUI center for processing. Both vehicles were towed.

PSP-L responded to a crash off Route 903 near Unionville Rd. just before 10 p.m. on 2-4. Police arrived to find a '99 Nissan sedan on its roof - rubber side up. The driver had left the scene. Police and EMS personnel looked for and located the driver, a 21 y/o Jim Thorpe-area local woman. She was hurt, and had been drinking prior to the crash. Lehigh-ton Ambulance took her to LVH-Cedar Crest for care and a blood draw. DUI charges will

be filed depending on the lab results.

At 11:24 p.m. on 2-5, PSP-L made a traffic stop on Maury Rd. near Long Run Rd. for a vehicle code violation and arrested a 40 y/o Macungie-area driver suspected to be DUI. Charges will be filed pending

the lab results.

Keeping the Rubber Side Down ...

Mainly snow and ice caused crashes due to driving too fast for conditions.

One report of an oil delivery truck backing into traffic and getting hit on 2-8.

Wolf budget again calls for massive tax hikes, unsustainable spending, no reform says Scavello

For the second year straight, Governor Tom Wolf has proposed a state budget with massive tax increases, unsustainable spending, and no reform of major cost-drivers, according to Senator Mario Scavello.

The Governor proposes \$3.6 billion in tax hikes to support his \$33.28 billion spending plan for 2016-17. The tax hikes include a 10.7% increase in the state Personal Income Tax, from a rate of 3.07% to 3.4%, an expansion of the state Sales Tax to include cable bills and other items, and a new tax on fire, property and casualty insurance.

Under the Governor's plan, the PIT increase would be retroactive to January 1, 2016, meaning taxpayers will owe an extra six months in back tax payments if the budget is enacted June 30.

"The Governor has doubled down on his failures to provide leadership on accomplishing

a bipartisan budget agreement by renewing his calls for even more taxpayer money. As a good friend of mine who represents two rural counties, Representative Mike Peifer has stated, the Governor needs to understand that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is a very diverse state that includes many rural areas in need of help," Scavello stated.

The Governor's budget proposal includes a 3.4% increase in Basic Education funding, but abandons efforts to reform the number-one cause of school cutbacks and school property tax increases: the public pension system.

The proposal includes restoration of the \$3.3 billion in aid to schools that Gov. Wolf slashed from the 2015-16 appropriation passed by the General Assembly in December, in a widely criticized bid to pressure lawmakers into approving his massive tax hikes.

Governor Wolf again threatened draconian cuts if the General Assembly does not approve his massive tax increases. If he continues to insist that there are only two ways to address the financial problems facing our Commonwealth, it raises serious questions about his understanding of the budget process and his willingness to consider any ideas other than his own.

A leader who can envision only extreme choices hasn't earned a following. "Leadership is based on your ability to compromise through negotiation and we look forward to the Governor joining us for a better Commonwealth. As for my colleagues and I, we will continue to lead by example." Scavello said.


Senator Scavello's full remarks can be viewed at www.marioscavello.com.

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