

Next Journal
will be published
March 17.
Deadline is
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570-443-9131
xt302 for info

THE JOURNAL

of the POCONO PLATEAU

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March 3-16, 2016



Bella Beautz's Dorothy is ready to face the Wizard of Oz at Tobyhanna Elementary Center drama club dress rehearsals.

JP: Hofbauer Strategies

They're off to see the Wizard at TEC

by Jeanine Hofbauer

Tobyhanna Elementary Center takes on the great and powerful Oz with a musical lineup of familiar characters, colorful costumes and a clever adaptation with shows scheduled for 7 p.m. March 8 and 9. Ninety-one students in grades four to six share scenes and songs from "Somewhere over the Rainbow" to "We're off to see the Wizard," adding sign language to the mix to enhance the visual experience.

The importance of roles, both on stage and behind the scenes is evident, as everyone from Bella Beautz's "Dorothy" and Gracie Hixon's "Wicked Witch of the West," to Kylie Kane's prop preparation and Felicia DiPiazza's sound

tech assistance echoes the importance of teamwork.

First time "Apple Tree" Lena Carty considers taking part in the performance "fun," admitting brothers Aiden and Jordan are sure to enjoy watching the show. While the fourth grader's show time responsi-

bility includes a sign reading "Stay away," her magnificent bright green wig and captivating smile pull viewers right in alongside an assortment of equally adorable classmates.

Drama Club director Deanne Ober and music teacher Daphne Cortez re-

port all 250 tickets for Tuesday, March 8, have been given out but there are still free tickets available for Wednesday's show March 9.

With limited space available, call TEC at 570-646-2721 for seats before they're all swept away!

PMSD fiscal findings & budget bindings

by Jeanine Hofbauer

Business Manager Diane Serfass presented Monroe County Technical Institute's proposed \$9.3 million budget during Pocono Mountains School District's February 3 meeting. As one of four sending district's PMSD's \$2,785,595.74 obligation fills

172 student slots. Serfass reported a 1.25% increase due to Pennsylvania Public School Employee Retirement System.

Colonial Intermediate Unit 20's \$3.3 million General Operating Budget for 2016-2017 was approved with a 2.9% increase also due to an increase in PSERs.

Carl Hogan of BBD LLP reported "No findings" in PMSD's 2015 audit. Only 15 districts in the state participated in the auditing process, "Probably because there's only 15 that are in the positive," according to school director Ricky Smith.

Road remedies for Tunkhannock Township

by Jeanine Hofbauer

Supervisors agreed road remedies are in the forecast for Tunkhannock Township during the February 10 meeting. Paving along with tar and chip is set for Edgewood, Beechwood and Stoney Hollow. It was agreed it may be cost effective to address their portion of Stoney Hollow the same time as Tobyhanna Township.

Stoltzfus Pocono Farm Market Land Development and Subdivision plans were approved. Randy Webster, site engineer for vendor Ruben Fisher, reviewed details, noting little improvements needed to bring lots along Route 115 together.

PPL Electric Utilities' conversion of 25 street lights will save \$30 a month. No out of pocket expense to the township is expected unless a unique light requires additional attention resulting in a charge.

Supervisors agreed to reimburse Pocono Mountain Regional Police Commission \$99 for Conditional Use fees for the range site in the township the Commission decided not to pursue due to wetland issues.

Voting for Primary and Presidential Elections will be held at the township building.

Please turn to page 2

Railroad crossing raises Coolbaugh concerns

by Jeanine Hofbauer

"It's our responsibility to make them [PA Northeast Railroad Authority] aware and we did," said supervisor Anthony Lamantia during the February 16 Coolbaugh meeting regarding drivers who disregard railroad crossing warnings in Pocono Summit.

Demanding township action, supervisor Alma Ruiz-Smith suggested gathering video evidence after witnessing cars ignoring blinking red lights.

"We have to give them an opportunity to respond to the letter," urged supervisor Juan Adams, asking why she did not take photos or video with her phone.

Supervisor Lynn Kelly added, "It's not our responsibility to determine their level of security."

Suggesting an adjustment in the signal trigger, audience member Ed Tutrone reported seeing the situation while railroad cars were being unloaded.

Announcing 136 signatures exceeding the 3% of Coolbaugh's 1268 voters from last election required, Pocono Mountain Public Library Director Anne Shincovich asked supervisors to recognize that "We've [PMPL] met our obligation to get our question on

the spring ballot." Allowing voters to decide on a one-third increase of the millage equaling \$85,000 to refinance the unsecured portion of a facility construction loan balance is the purpose of the proposal.

Audience member Brian Sanford asked if Mount Pocono has been approached regarding their potential \$11,000 increase to which Shincovich responded yes.

Audience member Michelle Fairservice asked why do this in the primary and not in November's election. Shincovich answered, "This gives us time to recoup if the answer is no at the primary voting."

An EAC letter said the off-the-leash dog park Eagle Scout project is on hold due to changes in the plan. Change orders were made prior to EAC review, and will be discussed prior to the committee revisiting the site.

Supervisors approved bill payments totaling \$408,583.66 with fund payments from the General Fund, \$387,382.54; Sewer Fund, \$20,500.17; Escrow Fund, \$700.95.

Supervisors Kelly, Ruiz-Smith, Adams and Lamantia were present along with administrative assistant Erin Masker and an audience of approximately 25.

next day were approved.

Supervisors Fran DePiano and Joe Warriner were present, with George Ewald participating by audio and video. Also present were solicitor Dan Lyons, secretary/treasurer Tina Kernan and an audience of approximately 10.

The township's next meeting is 7 p.m. March 9 at township offices on 1557 Long Pond Road in Long Pond.

Tunkhannock Twp... Continued from page 1

December's income reported was \$75,894.11 with \$230,283.90 expenses leaving \$768,544.76 in the General Fund. January's income was \$59,387.72 with expenses of \$245,537.28 taking the General Fund balance to \$585,153.66. Bills of \$210,994 plus \$107,765 to be paid the



Recognized for Outstanding Achievements in 2015



MAGGIE FLARTEY-KAMINSKI,
Broker/CEO of CENTURY 21

Select Group announced today that Century 21 Real Estate LLC recently recognized three of their eight offices located in Hazleton, Lake Harmony and Blakeslee with the CENTURY 21 Quality Service Pinnacle Award for 2015. "The Quality Service Pinnacle Award is an integral part of our company's commitment to excellence and recognizes CENTURY 21 Select Groups dedication to making each and every client interaction a positive one," said Rick Davidson, president and chief executive officer of Century 21 Real Estate LLC.



Donna Olson,
REALTOR® - Blakeslee,

has been recognized with the CENTURY 21 Quality Service Pinnacle Award for 2015. She has also been recognized as a top producer nationwide with the coveted CENTURY 21® Ruby Masters Award. Olson has been affiliated with the company since 1988. In her long career she has been honored with multiple Century 21 Centurian Awards. In addition to being a top notch real estate associate, Donna is a Yoga instructor.

\$4 Million Dollar Club Member



Daniel Seip,
Associate Broker - Blakeslee,

has been recognized with the CENTURY 21 Quality Service Pinnacle Award for 2015. He has also been recognized as a top producer nationwide with the coveted CENTURY 21® Ruby Masters Award. Daniel also received recognition at Select Groups annual awards luncheon for the Top Listing Agent within the company of 65 associates. Seip has been affiliated with the company since 2003.

\$3 Million Dollar Club Member



Dale Strzelec,
REALTOR® Lake Harmony,

has strong commitment to service earned him the 2015 Quality Service Pinnacle Award. Dale has been affiliated with the company since 2005. Dale has consistently received Quality Service recognition since 2011. He is a full time REALTOR® and is involved in many community activities and supports "Susan G. Komen for the Cure"

\$3 Million Dollar Club Member



Betty Grlica,
REALTOR® - Blakeslee,

because of her ongoing commitment to service, she has earned her 2015 Quality Service Pinnacle Award. Betty has been affiliated with the company since 1990. In addition to her position as a full time REALTOR®, she also acts as Office Coordinator for the office.

\$2 Million Dollar Club Member



Lucille Richmond,
Associate Broker/Manager - Lake Harmony

has been recognized with the CENTURY 21 Quality Service Pinnacle Award for 2015. Lucille has received the Pinnacle Award for the past 4 years, representing years of outstanding service. Lucille has been licensed since 1988. This past year she was instrumental in organizing a fund raise for Mary Ann Anderson - a sales associate in the company in need of a kidney transplant. A Miracle for MaryAnn raised more than \$10,000.

\$1 Million Dollar Club Member



Brian McCardle,
Associate Broker - Hazleton,

has been recognized as a top producer nationwide when he was awarded with the coveted CENTURY 21® Emerald Masters Award. Brian has 32 years of experience in the real estate industry and has been affiliated with the CENTURY 21 System for his entire career.

\$3 Million Dollar Club Member



Linnea Holdren,
REALTOR® - Hazleton,

has been recognized as a top producer nationwide when she was awarded with the coveted CENTURY 21® Emerald Masters Award. Emerald level status is awarded to a CENTURY 21 sales affiliate who has met minimum sales production of 43 closed transaction sales within a calendar year. In addition to the Emerald Award, Linnea's ongoing commitment to service earned her the 2015 Quality Service Pinnacle Award. Linnea works with the Hazleton Lions Club as the Club Photographer, Chamber Representative and a Lions National Global Leadership Trainee.

\$4 Million Dollar Club Member



Louise Gresh,
Associate Broker - Hazleton,

has been recognized as a top producer nationwide with the coveted CENTURY 21® Ruby Masters Award. Ruby level status is awarded to a CENTURY 21 sales affiliate who has met minimum sales production of 30 closed transaction sales within a calendar year. Her ongoing commitment to service earned her the 2015 Quality Service Pinnacle Award. Louise has also been recognized as a Goodwill Member by RRSA, the Institute of Real Estate Management, an International community of real estate managers dedicated to ethical business practices, maintaining the value of customer real estate, and providing superior management through education and information sharing.

\$3 Million Dollar Club Member



Jose Valerio,
REALTOR® - Hazleton,

has been recognized as a top producer nationwide with the coveted CENTURY 21® Ruby Masters Award. Jose focuses his business on helping the Hispanic population in the Greater Hazleton and Valley area. For many of his clients it is the first time purchasing a home. The advice and guidance he provides assures his clients of the best in honesty and integrity.

\$1 Million Dollar Club Member



Patricia Brooks,
Associate Broker - Hazleton,

ongoing commitment to service earned her the 2015 Quality Service Pinnacle Award. In addition Brooks has been selected by the Pennsylvania Association of REALTORS® Leadership Team to serve as Vice Chairman of the Diversity Committee and as a member of the Legislative Committee. It is through the dedicated efforts of volunteers like Patricia that make Pennsylvania Association of REALTORS® strong

\$1 Million Dollar Club Member



Andrea Gerhard,
REALTOR® - Blakeslee,

has been recognized with the CENTURY 21 Quality Service Pinnacle Award for 2015. Andrea completed the Certified Military Residential Specialist Training providing her the skills to handle with excellence the home purchase needs of active duty and former military clients. Andrea works closely with a 23 year Army Veteran in acquiring properties to be utilized as a place to help homeless veterans get back on their feet and start productive lives.

\$1 Million Dollar Club Member



Dolores McLaughlin,
Associate Broker - Blakeslee and
Kathleen Belanger,
REALTOR® - Blakeslee,

successfully completed Facebook for Business, offered through Northampton Community College. These associates walked away with the tools to use Facebook to help their clients receive maximum exposure for their properties.

\$1 Million Dollar Club Member

\$1 Million Dollar Producers (not pictured):
Carol Flynn, Team Van Hine and Mary Anne Kneuppel.

CENTURY 21 Select Group operates 8 offices throughout Northeast Pennsylvania. The company has been a part of the Century 21 family since 1978. "We build on the training, tools and systems provided by CENTURY 21. As we look to grow our business and create the best possible real estate experience for the home buyers, sellers, and investors these talented and experienced professionals are crucial to our overall success," said Flartey-Kaminski

PMSD probes propane potential

by Jeanine Hofbauer

Savings of over 40% in fuel costs and \$1,715 maintenance plus fuel per bus with potential for additional federal rebates had Pocono Mountain School directors considering a switch to propane power from diesel during their February 3 meeting.

Representatives from Blue Bird Corporation, Roush Cleantech and Rhoads Energy served up stats that not only proposed a return on investment of just over four

years but gave added attention toward environmental responsibility. Reporting over 800 propane-fueled PA buses in place and 8,000 across the nation, the group illustrated how 25 projected propane buses in PMSD's 168 fleet with 20,000 miles per year could propel the phrase "go green" to a whole new level for the district.

Comparing propane plus over diesel that included a quieter ride and better cold start along with quicker cab-

in heat to tackle the NEPA climate had directors asking about fuel tank installation and costs. A 30% federal rebate up to \$30,000 would reduce the \$135,000 price tag.

Director Ricky Smith reminded the board about a period during which PMSD buses were not routinely replaced creating a "catchup" of 25 buses to get back on track then going back to replacing 10 each year. The board will look into the issue for a future decision.

CPR device provides provider safety

by Jeanine Hofbauer

"This doesn't give up," stated Pocono Mountain Regional EMS's Denise Doremus February 8 about the Lucas automatic CPR device recently acquired through a donation by Tobyhanna Township. Thanking supervisors, the operations manager explained how \$15,000 serves as an investment not only in the community but also providers.

Explaining, "They [paramedics and EMTs] are able to concentrate on the medicines they need to give you," she later added, "Using the Lucas device to administer CPR on a patient also enables providers to be safely seat-belted during transport."

PMREMS is actively pursuing funds to purchase three additional devices, placing one in each ambulance of their fleet. While applications are underway for LSA and other grant funding, business and private contributions are welcome by calling 570-839-8485.

"I just want to make sure you all can go home and go to sleep," said supervisor John Holahan as residents let out a sigh of relief over concerns re-

garding sewer line extension and tie-ins.

"It's apparent the residential [properties] do not need this," stated supervisor Anne Lambertson adding, "We don't want to make that a forced issue."

Supervisors agreed to gauge interest among commercial property owners then obtain a feasibility analysis by engineering firm Rettew Associates. A current township ordinance requiring properties within 150 feet of the line to connect will be reviewed to accommodate any related changes.

"They signed a Developer's Agreement," explained supervisor John Kerrick following the decision to deny Kalahari's request for a \$75,361.50 refund of Township Engineer fees for Phase I development. The reimbursement of legal fees billed to the resort was also denied.

"An agreement's an agreement," said Holahan adding, "I don't see that anything has changed" in response to Kalahari asking for a return of \$73,040 being held until road seepage concerns along Kalahari Boulevard are satisfied.

Township engineer Bob McHale noted a report from Pennoni Associates received earlier in the evening asking for six months to monitor the situation, as the problem may be with a basin or the irrigation system.

Harry Forbes conveyed Kalahari's position that, "Original [punch list] conditions the money was put down for have been satisfied."

Discussion was tabled.

The municipality's bill pack of \$921,473.86 was approved with files kept at township offices for review.

Supervisors present included Lambertson, Holahan, Kerrick, Heidi Pickard and Don Moyer, township manager Phyllis Haase, zoning/sewer enforcement officer Maureen Minnick, solicitor Atty. Jonathan Reiss and an audience of approximately 40.

The next regular meeting is 7 p.m. March 14 in Tobyhanna Township's Municipal Building on Government Center Way in Pocono Pines.

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Dedicated to Jay Holder 1926-1997

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

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 February 2, 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 ARMORY LLC, with an address of 818 Interchange Road, Kresgeville, Pennsylvania

18333. 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

INVITATION TO BID

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the Penn Forest Township Office, 2010 State Road, Route 903, Jim Thorpe, PA 18229, until 3:00 P.M., prevailing time on March 7, 2016, for the second phase of the recreational park, which includes the construction of sporting fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, and additional walking trails.

Sealed bids will be opened at the Penn Forest Township's office at the above mentioned address and referred to the Board of Supervisors for final award/approval. Bidders and other interested parties may attend the bid opening, which will be held at 7:00 P.M. on March 7, 2016, at the monthly meeting.

Contract documents and drawings may be inspected and obtained at the office of the Engineer, Barry Isett & Associates, Inc., 100 West Broad Street, Suite 200, Hazleton, PA 18201, Phone: 570-455-2999 between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. Primary bidders may secure electronic contract documents at no cost or printed documents for \$25.00 per set, non-refundable, beginning at noon on February 9, 2016. The check for the bidding documents should be made payable to Barry Isett & Associates, Inc. The documents may be sent via FedEx, upon request, with a supplied FedEx account number or receipt of a separate, non-re-

fundable check, in the amount of \$25.00, made payable to Barry Isett & Associates, Inc., for shipping fees.

Bids must be accompanied by a certified check, cash, or a bid bond with a corporate surety authorized to do business in Pennsylvania in accordance with the project specifications in the amount of ten percent of the total bid amount. All bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes, plainly marked on the outside "Recreation Park Phase 2" and mailed or delivered to the Penn Forest Township Office before the hour and date above specified.

A pre-bid meeting will be held on February 18, 2016, at 2:00 P.M. prevailing time at the Project Site. All prospective bidders are encouraged to attend. Questions may be submitted, in writing, via fax (570-454-9979) or by email to Mr. Timothy Sisoock (tsisock@barryisett.com) at the engineer's office on or before February 29, 2016.

Penn Forest Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or portions or to waive any informalities in bidding and to withhold award for a period of sixty days.

On Behalf of Penn Forest Township:
Barry Isett & Associates, Inc.
100 West Broad Street
Suite 200
Hazleton, PA 18201

Area Funerals

David J. Dennis

David J. Dennis, 55, of Tobyhanna, PA 18466, died Friday, February 26, 2016, in Dunmore, after a courageous battle with Mesothelioma. He was the loving husband of Ellen (Barbieri) Dennis, with whom he shared 30 years of marriage.

Born in Kingston, he was the son of Clarence and the late Anne (Butwin) Dennis.

Dave was a 1979 graduate of Pocono Mountain High School, where he was a member of the "Marching 100." He traveled the country, working construction in Texas and Georgia before returning to Pennsylvania to raise his family. He was a member of Carpenters Local 600 and worked in the Allentown/Bethlehem area for 23 years. Dave enjoyed fishing and hunting, especially fly fishing for salmon. He loved classic rock music, and performed as a drummer for many local bands.

He is also survived by his daughters, Sarah and Hannah; his brothers, Michael and his wife Lori, Patrick and his wife Nina, and Thomas and his wife Michelle.

A visitation will be held from 6 to 8 pm Wednesday, March 2, at Bolock Funeral Home, 6148 Paradise Valley Road, Cresco.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Tobyhanna Conservation

Association, PO Box 808, Tobyhanna, PA 18466, or to the PMW Music Boosters Scholarship Fund, PO Box 458, Pocono Summit, PA 18346.

Private cremation has been entrusted to Bolock Funeral Home Crematory.

Florence Fitzsimmons

Florence (Moffitt) Fitzsimmons of Mount Pocono died Monday, February 15, 2016 in Scranton after a short illness.

Born in Scranton on September 7, 1927 she was the daughter of Frank and Theresa Moffitt.

She graduated from Marywood University (formerly Marywood College) in 1949 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Studies. On June 11, 1955, she married Walter B. Fitzsimmons, a dentist in Mount Pocono.

Florence was an active and long-term member of the former St. Mary of the Mount Catholic Church in Mount Pocono.

She was preceded in death by her son, Peter M. Fitzsimmons.

She is also survived by a son, Walter Fitzsimmons of Indianapolis and his wife, Yvonne Dutton; daughters, Noralie Williams and her husband, Ron, of Swoyersville, Claire Rittenhouse and her husband, Tod, of Chatham, New Jersey, Patricia Fitzsimmons (wife of Peter) of Long Branch; and five grandchildren.

Bolock Funeral Home, 6148 Paradise Valley Road, Cresco, was in charge of arrangements.

A Mass of Christian burial was held February 19 at 9 the Church of St. Ann, Tobyhanna. Entombment followed at St. Catherine's Cemetery, Main Street, Moscow.

Blakeslee UMC Lenten Cantata

The Blakeslee United Methodist Church Choir, under the direction of Julie Kerrick Geiser, invite you to witness their Lenten cantata – "A Journey to Hope" written by Joseph M. Martin.

The cantata is inspired by the great tradition of spirituals. These treasured songs of faith are incredible resources for beautiful melodies and powerful texts. The lyrics have been adapted by Joseph Martin to tell the story of Christ's ministry, passion, and resurrection, and they share the message of grace.

Stephanie Kerrick, Linda Wieben, and John Henry are the featured soloists. Joy Waltz will again provide the accompanying videography. Pastor Joseph M. Healey is



the minister of the congregation.

The Choir will offer the cantata on March 12 at 7 p.m. and March 13 at 10:30 a.m. at

the Blakeslee United Methodist Church on Route 115. All are welcome. Call 570- 646-7727 for more information.

All you can eat spaghetti dinner

McMichaels United Methodist Church, Rt. 715 & White Church Road, McMichaels, will host an all you can eat spaghetti dinner on April 9 from 4-7 p.m.

The meal includes pasta, meatballs, sauce, bread, salad, beverages, and homemade desserts.

Cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children 6 to 12, and children

five and under eat free.

This event is open to everyone, and is handicapped accessible.

All you can eat breakfast

McMichaels United Methodist Church, Rt. 715 and white Church Road, McMichaels, will hold an all you can eat breakfast on April 9 from 8-10:30 a.m.

This is a complete breakfast with pancakes and beverages. Donation only. Handicapped accessible. Open to everyone.

Call 570-629-1136 for more information.

Pizza sale

McMichaels United Methodist Church, Rt. 715 and White Church road, McMichaels, will hold a Pizza sale.

Cost is \$4 per pizza. Order by March 10, and pick up your pizzas on March 19 before 11 a.m.

To order, call 570-629-1136 and leave a message.

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Addition to Pocono Medical Center's Occupational Medicine Program

As Monroe County's third-largest employer with over 2,000 staff employees, Pocono Medical Center recognizes the importance of providing health and well-

ness access for employees. With the addition of Dr. Pete Obeng, Pocono Medical Center's Occupational Medicine Program serves as a true advocate of enriching the lives

of the working population of Monroe County.

"The Occupational Medicine Physician has the unique responsibility of restoring function to injured workers

and at the same time remaining vigilant against fraud and abuse of the workers compensation system. A great day at the office is when an injured employee or worker has been restored to full work capacity, the employer has maintained productivity, and my team and I have done our best to provide high quality and cost effective care. The Occupational Medicine Department is here to provide services that will positively impact the health and productivity of this community, and I am excited to play a small part in that goal," said Dr. Obeng.

Before joining Pocono Medical Center, Dr. Pete Obeng served as Medical Director of Occupational Medicine at U.S. Healthworks in Reading. He joins Pocono Medical Center backed by a wealth of professional experience while serving our nation's finest as a primary care provider for over 1,000 soldiers in the Battalion Surgeon, 82nd Airborne Division for the U.S. Army in Iraq as

well as a Quality Assurance Officer for the U.S. Army in Fort Gordon, Georgia.

Pocono Medical Center's Occupational Medicine Program is focused on providing access to health and wellness from pre-employment physicals and health screenings to work-injury treatment for all local employers to ensure quality care throughout the community. Currently, the Occupational Medicine Program oversees the health of over 350 local businesses, which results in over 1,900 employees. "With Dr. Obeng's addition, our Occupational Medicine Program offers a robust, comprehensive service to local employers with the potential to create a happier, healthier work environment for Monroe County," said Heidi Signore Primary Care Practice Administrator at Pocono Medical Center.

For more information or to learn more, visit poconohealthsystem.org and facebook.com/poconomedicalcenter.

PMC announce Dedicated Employee of the Month

Mary Alice Fatovic, an employee in Pocono Medical Center's registration department, has been named the Dedicated Employee of the Month for February, 2016. Mary Alice, a resident of Tobyhanna, was nominated for her compassion and dedication to a patient. Below is an excerpt of the nomination submitted on behalf of the patient:

"I took my 80+ years young mother to PMC for radiology and cardiac testing. The tests were scheduled at another facility, however, we wanted to come here. I did not have the orders since they went to the other facility, even though we scheduled them at PMC ourselves. Mary Alice was very helpful. We never felt like we were a burden. Many phone calls had to be made, (she contacted the other



Shown from left are Del Lynch, Director, Patient Financial Services; Mary Alice Fatovic, PRIDE Award Winner; Jennifer Dillon, Manager, Registration; Elizabeth Wise, Chief Operating Office & CNO, Bill Thoma Executive Director, Controller

departments) and we were supported throughout the ordeal. Orders were faxed to PMC and my mother had the testing she needed. We were offered to return another day, however, she made it possi-

ble to get it all done before we went out for a lovely lunch. I would like to thank Mary Alice for her sweet compassion and attention to details that made it all possible."

Improvement to customer service wins national award for PPL Electric

PPL Electric Utilities' proactive outage alerts, introduced last year to better inform customers and improve service, have been honored in a major industry awards competition.

POWERGRID International magazine has chosen PPL's outage alerts as its Customer Engagement Project of the Year. The utility received the award at the magazine's annual DistribuTECH conference in Orlando, Fla., the

electric industry's largest transmission and distribution conference in North America. The awards are open to utilities from across North America.

"Our proactive outage alerts have received a strong positive response from customers, and we appreciate this industry recognition as well," said Christopher Cardenas, Customer Services vice president. "We continue

to look for ways to improve our service, keep customers informed, and make doing business with PPL as convenient as possible."

Last April, the utility began proactively sending the alerts to residential customers whenever they have a power outage, to keep them up to date. The alerts tell customers the scope of their outage, and provide estimated restoration times and repair updates when available. Customers also receive an alert after the outage ends.

Customer survey data indicates that nearly 8 in 10 customers are satisfied with the

outage alerts, and roughly half say the alerts improved their opinion of PPL.

Customers can choose to receive the outage alerts via email, text message, phone, or a combination. They can also set "quiet hours" when they do not want to receive alerts, and can opt out of the program if desired. Alert preferences can be set and managed at ppllectric.com/alerts.

In related efforts to better serve customers, PPL Electric Utilities also revamped and improved its online outage map, as another way to share information on repair

progress and restoration estimates.

While the company is working harder to share outage information with customers, it's also significantly reducing the number of outages. System improvements such as tree trimming, installing smart grid technology, and upgrading poles and wires prevented about 410,000 outages last year. The average customer is experiencing 30 percent fewer outages than in 2007, and the utility is aiming for a further 15 percent improvement in the coming years.

For more information, visit www.ppllectric.com.

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Hours by appointment
New patients welcome

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.

Clymer Library announces programs for March and April

The Clymer Library, 115 Firehouse Road, Pocono Pines, announced their programs and events for March and April. For more information on any of these programs, contact the library at 570-646-0826 or stop by the circulation desk.

Kids' Programs

AWE Early Literacy Program

The Clymer Library is pleased to announce the addition of the AWE Early Literacy Station to its Children's area. The Early Literacy Station features learning activities in Math, Science, Social Studies, Reading, Art, Music, Writing, Computer Skills, and more. Kids are welcome to stop by anytime to use this new learning system. Parental supervision is required. For more information, contact Children's Technician Kristi Belcher at kbelcher@clymerlibrary.org, call the library, or stop by the circulation desk.

Children's Story Hour and Lap Sit

Throughout the month of March, the Clymer Library will hold several children's programs and events. The library's popular Story Hour for children ages 3-5 will be held on March 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 10:30 a.m. Lap Sit for kids ages two and under will be held on March 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 at 10:30 a.m. The Lap Sit on March 17 will feature Easter stories, songs, and crafts.

Sleepy Time Story Hour

Sleepy Time Story Hour, the Clymer Library's new program for young children, takes place on the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m., and kids can come dressed in their pajamas to hear stories before bedtime. There is no advance sign-up, but parental supervision is required. For more information, contact the library or email Children's Technician Kristi Belcher at kbelcher@clymerlibrary.org.

Celebrate Seuss at the Clymer

Celebrate the great Dr. Seuss's birthday with the Clymer on March 5 at 11 a.m. You'll read his books,

do fun activities, and Seuss-related crafts. Sign-up and parental supervision are required by calling the library or stopping by the circulation desk. Everyone ages 3 and up is welcome to attend.

Junior Book Club

The Clymer Library's Junior Book Club for grades 4-6 will meet on March 8 at 6 p.m. to discuss *Swindle* by Gordon Korman. The Book Club members choose a new book to read each month, and then meet to discuss their thoughts about the book. It's your chance to be a critic. For more information or to reserve a copy of the book, contact Children's Technician Miss Kristi at kbelcher@clymerlibrary.org. All book requests need to be made in advance because the Clymer borrows copies from other libraries.

DramaRama

Do you enjoy acting things out? If so, then this program on March 12 at noon is 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 by calling the library or stopping by the circulation desk. This program is for ages 5 and up.

Teen Advisory Board

The Clymer Library's Teen Advisory Board is looking for new members to come on board. The next meeting will be on March 1 at 6:30 p.m. This meeting will make up for last month's meeting, which was cancelled due to inclement weather. The TAB will also meet on March 15 at a special time of 5:30 p.m., and members will view a movie. TAB usually meets the third Tuesday of each month from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the library, and is open to students in grades seven through twelve who want to take an active role in their library.

TAB members plan library programs and events for teens, help select books and other library materials, and discuss books, movies, and more. The meetings are informal and fun, and snacks are

provided. No registration is necessary—just show up—as new members are always welcome. To sign up for the e-mail reminder list, send an e-mail tomteenlib@gmail.com and include your name, grade, and phone number.

Easter Party for Kids

On March 19 at 12 p.m., the library will throw an Easter party for kids. 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 by calling the library or stopping by the circulation desk. This event is for ages 3 and up.

Family Game Night

Join the Clymer for some family fun on March 22 at 6 p.m. The library will have games for all members of the family ages five and up to play together, or feel free to bring your own to share with others. The Clymer will also have the Wii video game console for you to use as well. Sign-up and parental supervision are required.

Adult and General Programs

Stress Relief Coloring Program

The Clymer Library's free stress relief coloring program for adults continues by popular demand. Patrons ages 18 and up are invited to stop by any time all month long to color on their own. The library will supply the coloring pages and colored pencils, or feel free to bring your own.

Join the group on March 24 from 2-3 p.m. for a relaxing group coloring session, complete with complimentary cookies, beverages, and soothing music. When you're done, be sure to leave your finished work of art to be displayed at the library. Sign-up is required for the session, so if you're interested, call the library or stop by the circulation desk.

Celebrate National Nutrition Month

The month of March is designated National Nutrition Month by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. With this in mind, all month long the Clymer is collecting pasta and canned tomato sauce for the Top of the Mountain Ecumenical Food Pantry, located right down the street from the library at the Five Loaf House.

Come fill the library's container and help members in your own community. The library will accept food donations during regular operating hours. Please, no expired food. Thank you for your generosity.

Foreign Film, The Dinner

On March 17 at 6 p.m., the Clymer will show the foreign film, *The Dinner*. In this 2014 film from Italy that's based on the New York Times bestselling novel by Herman Koch, *The Dinner* turns an ordinary meal among family into a taut morality play as the limits of polite society are tested and two brothers discover just how little they know about each other. The film is in Italian, with English subtitles. Popcorn will be provided, but be sure to bring a beverage. Sign-up is required.

Brown Bag Book Club

The library's Brown Bag Book Club will meet on March 23 at 12:30 p.m. to discuss *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk. The Book Club usually meets the fourth Wednesday of every month at the library and is always looking for new members. For more information on the book club, contact Melissa Lopez at the library at 570-646-0826. The club members hope you'll seriously consider joining them.

Tax Forms Available

Tax forms are available now for patrons of the Clymer Library

for the upcoming tax season. Get yours today, and remember, the deadline for filing your IRS tax return is April 18, 2016.

Leave a Legacy

With spring just around the corner, the Clymer Library Custom Paver Sponsor Program is now taking orders for sidewalk pavers. The Paver Program gives library supporters the unique opportunity to permanently engrave their names, symbols, or logos into a sidewalk paver for installation in the entranceway of the library. Pavers can also be engraved in remembrance or in honor of a loved one.

The program gives donors the opportunity to show their support for the library for many years to come. All donations from the paver program directly benefit the library, which serves the residents of Tobyhanna and Tunkhannock Townships.

To order a paver or to make a donation, visit www.polarengraving.com/clymerpavers, stop at the library's circulation desk, or call the library. All donations are tax deductible.



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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.

3/18 Kim Simmonds and
Savoy Brown - 50 Years
of Rocking the Blues
\$27, Show 8 p.m.

3/19 Cornmeal
\$18, Show 8 p.m.

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BREAKFAST

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8 a.m.-12 noon

American Legion
Post 413

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Serving eggs,
pancakes, waffles,
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Before the holidays the Pocono Lions Club donated cake and frosting mixes at the December food distribution at Five Loaf House in Pocono Pines. These items are not normally part of the food distribution but were the result of a request by the Top of the Mountain Ecumenical Food Pantry at the Five Loaf House to provide a supplemental tasty treat for the holidays. Lions Cub members demonstrated the Lions motto "We serve," by not only raising and donating funds but also delivering and distributing these items.

Waterways/Hiking Trails of PA presentation

As part of its popular Speakers' Series at the Penn State Hazleton Campus, Western Pocono Trout Unlimited will present a program on Waterways/Hiking Trails of PA on March 15 in the Kostos Classroom Building auditorium at 7 p.m.

Representatives of four hiking trail organizations with trails connected to rivers or waterways will present slide

programs highlighting the recreational, cultural, historic, scenic, economic, health, and environmental benefits of these trails.

Many trout water tributaries can be accessed from these trails that benefit fishermen, photographers, hikers, birders, boaters, and other outdoor enthusiasts.

The trail organizations represented are Susquehanna

Greenway Partnership, Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, Pocono Heritage Land Trust/Broadhead TU and Greater Hazleton Rails to Trails.

The public is invited free with no registration. Call 570-454-4862, 570-926-5750 or 570-233-0099 for more information.

Traditional Irish Dinner

On March 12 from 5:30-10 p.m., Msgr. McHugh School will host a Traditional Irish St. Patrick's Day Dinner. The event will take place at Most

Holy Trinity Parish, 212 Route 309, Cresco.

Tickets are \$10 each. Take outs will be available.

Art Opening: Will Daskal - "Woods and Waters"

An artistic tribute to the bucolic splendor of the Pocono Mountains, Will Daskal - "Woods and Waters", will take place at an art opening on March 5. Will's paintings are rooted in bits of reality, as well as his own personal existence, forming a springboard for situations he might observe or imagine. Free opening reception with refreshments will take place from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. The exhibit will run March 1-31.

For more information or to hear about other programs, call the E. E. Center at 570-629-3061 or visit our website at www.mcconservation.org Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and most Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Detour to Monroe County Conservation District/Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center:

Coming from areas North & West: Take Route 611 South and turn Right on Route 715 South (OR take I-80 East and

get off at the Tannersville exit [Exit 299], and make a Left at end of ramp onto Route 715 South). Follow Route 715 South for 4 miles, and make a Left on Neola Road. Continue on Neola Road for 2 miles, and turn Left on Running Valley Road. Follow Running Valley Road for 3.1 miles. Kettle Creek will be on the Right.

Coming from areas East:

Take I-80 West and get off at Exit 304 (Snydersville) to follow Route 209 South towards Snydersville. Travel 3.8 miles on Route 209 South, and make a Right onto Beaver Valley Road. At the stop sign make a Left onto Business Route 209 South. Go almost 1 mile and make a Right onto Rimrock Dr. Go 0.3 miles and make a slight Left onto Mutton Hollow Road Follow Mutton Hollow Rd for 1.8 miles and make a Right at the 'T' onto Running Valley Road Travel .5 miles and Kettle Creek will be on the Right.

Historical society to meet

The Pocono-Jackson Historical Society will meet at 7 p.m. on March 21 at St. Paul's Church, Fish Hill Road, Tannersville.

The business portion of the meeting will precede a presentation by Jim Werkheiser about The Evolution of Tannersville.

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Greater Pocono Home & Outdoor Living Show at Kalahari

For close to twenty years, the Pocono Builders Association has been presenting the Greater Pocono

Home & Outdoor Living Show. In an effort to increase the size of the show and offer vendors an expanded market, the show will take place at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center in Mt. Pocono.

This is the largest home show in the northeast region, featuring 132 vendor booths.

If you are looking to retire in place and update your home, do a whole house remodel to accommodate a growing

family, or build the custom home of your dreams, this the show is for you. Featured are landscape displays, pools and spas, sun rooms, flooring and lighting suppliers, windows and doors, heating and ventilation experts, and close to 30 builders, remodelers, and tradesmen. Bring your ideas, plans, or blueprints

and get expert advice on your projects.

Upon entering the show, visitors will receive the home and outdoor living show guide, compliments of Happenings Magazine. The Red Cross will be on hand to distribute consumer bags with emergency preparedness information. Consumers can

pick up the 2016 edition of the Pocono Builders Association's membership directory and buyers guide. This directory is a must-have compendium of qualified builders, remodelers, tradesmen, materials, and building product suppliers. The "How to Hire a Reputable Contractor" brochure will also be available.

The associations own "Bob the Builder" will be on hand to greet the kids. Parents are welcomed to take photos of Bob the Builder and their children to share in the excitement of the home and outdoor living show.

Show hours are 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. on March 19, and 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on March 20. Admission is only \$5, and children under 18 are free. Hourly door prizes will be awarded, and individual vendor raffles will also take place. Visitors are asked to bring canned food items for the benefit of the Pocono Mountain Ecumenical Hunger Ministry.

This year's show is brought to you by sponsors R F Ohl of Carbon County, ABC Supply Company, Univest Banking Insurance, Investments and the Red Cross of the Pocono Mountains.

For additional information, visit www.PoconoBuilderHomeShow.com or call 570-421-9009.

Nominate a remarkable woman

The General Federation of Women's Clubs Pennsylvania, a member of the international General Federation of Women's Clubs, the largest women's service organization in the world, is looking for

a very special woman.

This woman must be one who distinguishes herself by serving the community, state, country, and/or the world by her outreach activities. She must be someone who

goes above and beyond the requirements of her job description and her family obligations.

In order to qualify, the applicant must be a resident of Pennsylvania, at least twenty-one years of age, and someone who is not running for, nor holds public office. She may not be a member of GFWC.

The entry form, with instructions, can be obtained by going to www.GFWC-pennsylvania.org and clicking on "Form and Downloads". Entries must be postmarked by March 25. The winner will be recognized at the GFWC Pennsylvania Convention in May.

For more information, contact Judy Grace at 570-643-8742.

Music as Spirituality

On April 3 beginning at 1 p.m., "Music as Spirituality" comes to the Cecilia Cohen Recital Hall, located on Normal St. at the East Stroudsburg University. This musical program is presented by Opportunity Associates, an inter-faith based organization that has the mission "To develop a more just and humane society, increasing the appreciation of diversity and

creating opportunity for all."

On this first day of the ESU Global Week, the program will showcase gospel, Orthodox Christian, Jewish Heritage, Sufi Traditional, Native American, African, and Living Traditional music.

The community is invited. For more information, contact Bernard Hobson at 610-871-0443 or bhobson@ptd.net.



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SAT. 3/12 7:05PM vs BPORT SOUND TIGERS

SAT. 3/19 7:05PM vs HERSHEY BEARS

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WILKES-BARRE

Rhythm in the Night, the Irish Spectacular

Rhythm in the Night, a new Irish Dance Spectacular production, has turned the age-old form into an exciting per-

formance, which will take the stage at the F.M. Kirby Center on March 13 at 7 p.m.

Featuring some of the most

dynamic and accomplished Irish dancers in the world, the performance takes its audience on an exciting journey derived from a tale of good versus evil, where deception reigns and temptation rivals even the strongest of wills.

Called epic and "A New Kind of Irish," the dance spectacular is led by Justin Boros, a professional Irish dancer who created the show following years of touring the United States and Europe as a dancer with Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance. The self-taught dancer, who landed his spot with Lord of

the Dance before graduating high school, set-off to create a show unlike any that would appeal to people of all ages and for the entire family.

"I wanted to do something new with the story and soundtrack that would really catch people by surprise and be different from anything they've seen before," said Justin. "Unlike most traditional Irish dance stories, Rhythm in the Night, The Irish Dance Spectacular focuses on the villain and his struggle to return to goodness—which everyone can relate to and finds empowering."

Rhythm in the Night, The Irish Dance Spectacular unfolds during the dark ages when the land was ruled by the wicked sorceress Azura, whose spell has trapped the legendary hero Balor under her control as hope becomes lost for the entire kingdom. Balor is played by Boros, whose unique physical build

at 6'4" and 280 lbs. allows him to perform the lead role of villain in a way never before seen in dance productions.

Adding to the drama and excitement, Rhythm in the Night, The Irish Dance Spectacular, features an original soundtrack that delivers an orchestral atmosphere of amazing proportions. Breaking away from the traditional sounds of pipes and fiddles, the show's music resembles a film score, and was crafted specifically for the production's choreography which took nearly two years.

Tickets go on sale January 15 at 10 a.m. and will be available through the Kirby Center box office, online at www.kirbycenter.org, and charge by phone at 570-826-1100. Tickets cost \$20, \$25, and \$37.50, plus fees.

Spring Fling Family Dance

Join Stroud Region Open Space & Recreation Commission for a fun-filled night of music and dancing. All ages are welcome at this family friendly night out, where you will enjoy a warm spring theme, music, dancing, games, light refreshments, and a photo of your family.

The Spring Fling Family Dance will be held at Chip-

perfield Elementary School on March 19 from 5:30 - 8 p.m. If necessary, the snow date will be April 2.

Cost is \$15 per child, \$18 per adult, or \$60 family rate for two children and two adults.

For more information, contact the Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation Commission at 570-426-1512.

Enriching your life through gardening

Enriching Your Life through Gardening will be presented by Monroe and Pike County Master Gardeners on April 9 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Country Club of the Poconos Municipal Golf Course Club House, East Stroudsburg.

Participants will choose two of four workshops to attend. Session 1 includes topics such as The FUNDamentals of Gardening: Creating Gardens in Miniature, or Herbs and Everlastings from the Culinary to the Creative. Ses-

sion 2 includes topics such as Rain Gardens and Why They Are Important, or Developing a Community Garden 101.

Get inspired to garden as nature intended with their keynote speaker. A compost bin will be awarded to two lucky attendees.

The cost if pre-registered and paid by April 6 is \$20 per person. After the deadline, please contact Penn State Extension at 570-421-6430 for availability, and the cost will go up to \$25. Walk-ins

will be accepted as space allows for \$25, no credit cards accepted at the door, and handouts are not guaranteed. Cost includes choice of 2 workshops, keynote presentation, and informal table discussions with Master Gardeners.

Register online anytime (find the event at <http://extension.psu.edu/plants/gardening/events>) or by calling Penn State Extension Office at 570-421-6430, Monday-Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. There will be a full refund if the workshop is cancelled by the Master Gardeners.

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Featured entrees will include a 7 oz. NY Strip Steak, Pasta Dishes, Seafood Entrees and Chicken Marsala.

St. Patty's Day Party
Thursday, March 17 • Noon til 9 p.m.
at Robert Christians

Come one, Come all and enjoy the Gallagher's favorite day featuring their Famous Shepherds Pie, Corned Beef and Cabbage ALL FOR \$12

Make your Easter reservations for Sunday, March 27

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Route 940 in Pocono Lake, PA
For Reservations call 570.646.0433

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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.

Saturday, March 5—Celebrate Seuss!, 11 a.m., Clymer Library, registration required, 570-646-0826

Saturday, March 5—Woods and Waters art exhibit by Will Daskal opening, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center, 570-629-3061, www.mcconservation.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.stmaxkolbepoconos.org. Snow date: Friday, March 18.

Saturday, March 12—Traditional Irish St. Patrick's Day Dinner, 5:30-10 p.m., Most Holy Trinity Parish, Cresco, sponsored by Msgr. McHugh School

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

Saturday, March 12—Dramarama, noon, Clymer Library, Clymer Library, registration required, 570-646-0826

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 17—Foreign Film, The Dinner, 6 p.m., Clymer Library, 570-646-0826

Saturday, March 19—Easter Party, noon, Clymer Library, registration required, 570-646-0826

Saturday, March 19—Fly fishing workshop, 9 a.m.-noon, Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center, 570-629-3061, www.mcconservation.org

Saturday, March 19—Spring Fling Family Dance, 5:30-8 p.m., Chipperfield Elementary School, sponsored by Stroud Region Open Space & Recreation Commission, 570-426-1512

Tuesday, March 22—Family Game Night, 6 p.m., Clymer Library, registration required, 570-646-0826

Thursday, March 24—Adult Coloring, 2-3 p.m., Clymer Library, 570-646-0826

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

Saturday, April 2—Paint for the Puppies, 1-4 p.m., Chestnut-hill Park Bldg, sponsored by West End Park and Open Space Commission, 570-730-9887, www.ccreationscrafts.weebly.com

Sunday, April 3—Music as Spirituality concert, 1 p.m., Cecilia Cohen Recital Hall, East Stroudsburg University, 570-871-0443

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

Saturday, April 9—All-you-can-eat Breakfast, 8-10:30 a.m., donation only, McMichaels United Methodist Church, 570-629-1136

Saturday, April 9—All-you-can-eat Spaghetti Supper, 4-7 p.m., McMichaels United Methodist Church, 570-629-1136

Wednesday, April 27—Spotlight on Seniors Expo, sponsored by Prospect & Laurelwood Cem-

eteries, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Stroud Mall, 570-424-0970

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

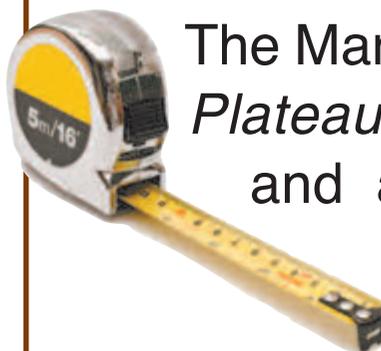
Saturday, May 14—All-you-can-eat Breakfast, 8-10:30 a.m., donation only, McMichaels United Methodist Church, 570-629-1136

Saturday, May 21—Chicken Tenders Dinner, 4-7 p.m., McMichaels United Methodist Church, 570-629-1136

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

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.

Home Show SPECIAL



The March 17 *Journal of the Pocono Plateau* will have extra circulation, and a special section of home improvement ads to highlight the Greater Pocono Home & Outdoor Living Show at Kalahari Resort March 19 & 20.

Bonus for Advertisers—place a quarter page or larger ad, and receive 6 weeks in the Service Directory FREE.

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e-mail omgkitcom@gmail.com

Seth's Sightings by Seth Isenberg

It was a fine weekend, especially for February. The spring-like warmth was a bonus and we used it to its max. Saturday afternoon when we had finished newspaper work for the day, I drove up toward Brady's Lake, then discovered that the Gamelands road just south of the lake was open to be driven upon. Having hiked this path, it was some kind of wonderful to drive along it and then continue on to areas we'd never been able to reach on foot. The farthest we've hiked is to the bridge on the old railroad tracks that crosses over Trout Run. We were able to drive nearly two miles more,

stopping at a couple of places to hike. Our English pointer Chess was bouncing with excitement as we took the slow ride up Brady's Lake Road. Her energy level jumped two notches as we turned onto the Gamelands Road. We were more than ready to let her out at our first stop.

We hiked up one path that was the rail spur to the Brady's Lake icehouse. The Game Commission was maintaining a field of browse beside the trail, so as we walked, Chess stopped from time to time to sniff out scents of was likely deer. Further along we all spotted coyote spoor and then probably spoor of a

small bear.

At the farthest point on the drivable road, we took another walk and found ourselves at another Gamelands-maintained field on a hilltop. The only sounds from there were the wind and the chirping of some small gray and white birds. It felt like we were the only people around for miles. (Though I knew were only a half a mile east from the northern corner of Arrowhead Lake.)

The winter thaw has spurred the bloom of snowdrops in White Haven, and at our house. Ruth also sighted an early blooming crocus. We'll see how these do with the return of winter later this week. The long term forecast has temperatures in the 60s over the next weekend.

For Sunday, we drove to Shamokin to pick up newspapers for a customer. On our way, we saw a sign for a small local restaurant that read: "Call ahead for a delicious meal." Ruth laughed, and quipped, "So what do you get if you don't call ahead?" After we picked up the job, we did stop for a good lunch, just not there. After lunch we wound our way back, with a detour to pass through Knoebels. There was not a lot of activity at the amusement park, only the promise of fun that will begin this year on April 30.

Staying off the highway, we drove past some active coal company properties on our way from Shamokin to Jim Thorpe. It was an odd coincidence that whatever railroad serves the coal mines and power plants had chosen to park excess petroleum tank cars on the unused rail lines

beside one huge property. We passed by the Lake-side Ballroom in Barnesville. There's a giant For Sale sign on the property's big sign, while underneath on a smaller sign were the words "Accepting Reservations."

Throughout the ride, especially given that temperatures were in the mid-50s, Ruth and I took turns spotting greenery. We both realize it's a tease. After all, it's still winter. Spring, however, starts March 21, and except for the biggest of snow piles, winter reminders were few and far between.

Sightings include a medium-sized red fox with a beautiful coat, spotted just off Route 940 in Kidder Township. We saw our first cardinal of the season on our drive, and are still looking

for the one that lives around our property to make his return with his family. Rita's Ice Cream in Hometown was open, and there was a small line when we passed.

We attended the 40-Story Radio Tower show at the Mauch Chunk Opera House on Sunday afternoon – again good fun. Their next show is March 20. There's WBS Penguins ice hockey the afternoon of March 6, and again Wednesday the 9th. Our team has been losing, and the Sunday game versus the Hershey Bears will be important.

Also, mark your calendars for the first big public show at the Kalahari Resort's convention center – the Pocono Builders' Home & Outdoor Living Show, March 19 and 20.

Paint for the puppies

The West End Park and Open Space Commission will host a "Paint for the Puppies" event at the Chestnuthill Park Building on April 2 from 1-4 p.m.

You'll get everything you need (including painting lessons) to create your very own masterpiece.

Light refreshments will be served, or bring your own. Cost is \$35, which benefits the future West End Regional Dog Park.

For more information, call 570-730-9887. Register online at www.ccreationscrafts.weebly.com

Habitat for Humanity Celebration Dinner

Enjoy an evening of entertainment and good food at The Monroe County Habitat for Humanity 7th Annual Celebration Dinner at Kalahari Resort and Conference Center in Pocono Manner on April 22 from 6-11 p.m.

This year, Monroe County Habitat for Humanity is focusing on Home Preservation,

which allows homeowners affected by age, low income, or disability to make necessary repairs to their home.

The organization urges you to become a sponsor. All sponsors will be listed in the event program, as well as on the website. To become a sponsor or purchase tickets, visit <http://www.habitatmc.org/annual-celebration-dinner>.

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Fly Fishing workshop

Monroe County Conservation District's Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center is sponsoring a Fly Fishing workshop on March 19 from 9 a.m. - noon.

Join several members of the Brodhead chapter of Trout Unlimited for an introductory program on fly fishing. Equipment, casting, strategy, fly-tying, basic trout stream macro-invertebrate entomology, and local fishing areas will be covered and demonstrated. A film, slide program, and raf-

files are included with admission.

Cost is \$8 for non-members, \$5 for EE Center members, and children under 12. Please call the EE Center to register by March 18. To pre-register for the program, call the EE Center at 570-629-3061, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and most Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information on other programs, visit mconconservation.org.

All ages music series in downtown Scranton

The Scranton Fringe Festival, a performing arts multi-venue/multi-day event, is set to return from September 29 to October 2. However, as it continues to expand its year round programming, it is thrilled to announce an all ages music series the first Saturday of each month at the AFA Gallery in downtown Scranton (starting March 5).

"It is incredibly exciting to have this be apart of our 2016 programming" said Fringe Festival co-founder and Executive Director Conor O'Brien. He noted the importance of providing an accessible platform for musicians to perform in front of audiences of all ages. "It is vital not just for the artists, but

for the cultural community of the greater Scranton area to have a wide variety of entertainment to engage with."

The music series is open for local, state, and national touring acts to submit to, which they may do by contacting festival leadership at ScrantonFringe@gmail.com.

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THEME: MARCH MADNESS

- ACROSS**
- 1. Kindergarten disrupters
 - 6. Lending letters
 - 9. Secondary school
 - 13. Balance in the sky
 - 14. Sheepish sound
 - 15. Darlings
 - 16. Continental divide
 - 17. Caustic soda
 - 18. Binary digits code
 - 19. *Require-ment to play in March Madness
 - 21. Unhitch
 - 23. Baseball bat
 - 24. Fail to mention
 - 25. Bad-mouth
 - 28. "____ and turn"
 - 30. Colonnade
 - 35. "Oh, my!"
 - 37. "____ good example"
 - 39. Socially

- acceptable behaviors
- 2. Puerto ____
- 3. Cain's victim
- 4. ____ - ____-la refrain
- 5. Least crazy
- 6. Up to the task
- 7. Foot the bill
- 8. Sleep in one's eye
- 9. Acapulco money
- 10. "____'em" in pool
- 11. Huron's neighbor
- 12. Tire measurement
- 15. *Occasional Cinderella team from OH
- 20. Uncredited author?
- 22. Not a thing
- 24. Emu relative
- 25. *March Madness, a.k.a. "The Big ____"
- 26. Homer's famous poem
- 27. Female principle, Hinduism
- 29. *1 or 16, e.g.
- 31. Lots
- 32. Response to pain
- 33. Candidate's concern
- 34. A useful part
- 36. Religious offshoot
- 38. Tolstoy's Karenina

- 42. Styluses
- 45. *Show off
- 49. Beluga yield
- 51. Equestrian gear
- 54. Annoy a bedfellow
- 56. Inhabit
- 57. *College athletes don't earn one
- 58. Singer "on the dock of the bay"
- 59. Sound on a farm
- 60. Fix
- 61. Archaic exclamation of surprise
- 62. Ditto
- 63. Ivan the Terrible, e.g.
- 64. Bachelor's dwelling
- 66. Like a dim star

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Police Beat by Seth Isenberg

Three people were arrested after they stole the purse of an 81 y/o Mt. Pocono woman on 2-16. The incident started just after 3:30 p.m. when a young woman approached the victim in the parking lot of a store near the 5-Points intersection asking for money for gas for her car. The woman gave a \$20. The victim then drove off to her destination on Knob Road in the borough. She was being followed by a small red car, out of which a young man and woman exited, approached and then reached into the victim's car and stole her purse. As the couple fled, the victim put her car back into gear and drove her car into the red car as it tried to flee (damaging both cars). She then followed the red car as it fled, watching as they threw the purse out a window. Pocono Mountain Regional Police were called and they located the red car with the new damage nearby. In the car were three people — 34 y/o William Hayhurst of Swiftwater and 30 y/o Erin

Vanmatre of Cresco — interviewed and arrested for the robbery; and a 34 y/o Pocono Summit man who was found to be wanted by the Monroe County Sheriff's Department — he was arrested on the warrant. The couple is charged with robbery, theft, receiving stolen property, tampering with evidence and criminal conspiracy.

2-20, PA State Police — Fern Ridge was involved in a ten-mile long chase of a motorcycle on westbound Interstate 80 starting just before 5 p.m. at mm282 in Kidder Township, and ending just west of White Haven. Pursuit speeds reached as much as 130 mph, and the driver drove off the berm of the road to complete some of his passes. The chase ended when the cyclist drove into the median and stalled out there. Luis Angel Pena Franco, 22, of Hazleton, was arrested and taken to the Carbon County jail after failing to post bail after being arraigned before District Judge Joe Homanko in Weatherly. Someone vandalized the mailbox at 179 Old Stagecoach Rd. in Gilbert overnight 2-20 to 21.

The Pocono Plateau is NOT HIGH Enough for some

PMRPD was called to a home on Chelsea Circle in Pocono Farms East, Coolbaugh Twp., on a report of a domestic incident at 4:25 a.m. on 2-1. When police arrived at

the home, they were told one of the people involved had left in a red Honda. Police saw a red Honda parked near the scene, at a home "it had no association with." Police went there and talked to the occupants. One of them, a 38 y/o Brooklyn, NY, man, was found holding a small plastic bag of marijuana. He was arrested for pot possession and taken to the Monroe County Booking Center. He was later released.

PSP-F responded to a crash of a car driven by a Lake Harmony man. He drove off Interstate 80 west at mm290.7 in Tunkhannock Twp. just after 10 p.m. on 2-9. He was unhurt, and arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol, then taken to the Monroe County DUI Center for processing. Charges will be filed depending on the results of blood chemical tests at District Judge Richard Claypool's office in Pocono Pines.

Keeping the Rubber Side Down ...

A Blakeslee woman was driving north on Route 903 just before 5 p.m. on 2-23 during the ice storm when she lost control of her '10 Nissan Murano SUV at a curve just south of Weiler Road in Albrightsville. The car slid off the road and rotated ~90 degrees before hitting a tree with the driver's side, trapping her inside. Albrightsville and Penn Forest Volunteer Fire Compa-

nies responded with PSP-F. The firefighters extricated her, and Leighton Ambulance transported her to GWV Hospital to care for leg and head injuries. PSP-F did send along a ticket for driving at an unsafe speed (for conditions).

PSP-Hazleton handled two tractor-trailer accidents during the storm on 2-22, both sending drivers to the hospital. One, in Sugarloaf Twp., closed the highway for over four hours. They also investigated a fatal car crash just after 7 a.m. on 2-23 on Route 924.

PSP-F was called to a crash off Interstate 80 in Tunkhannock Twp. at mm288.4, finding an '08 Honda Civic had rolled over and hit a tree at about 3:50 a.m. on 2-26. Everyone in the car was hurt as

no one was wearing seatbelts. The driver, 23, and front seat passenger, 20, were taken to Pocono Medical Center by Pocono EMS. The rear seat passenger, a 14 y/o, was dead at the scene. An investigation is underway.

PMRPD responded to a call about a car crash to Waterfront Drive in ACP, Coolbaugh Twp. just before 11 a.m. on 2-27. When officers arrived, police found a car in a ditch near the lake. The driver and her passenger were okay. Police ran a license and warrant check on both driver and passenger, and found the 22 y/o passenger had an active warrant out on him for a probation violation in Bucks County (for auto theft). He was arrested and taken to the county jail without incident.

Answers

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7	3	1	2	5	8	6	9	4
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3	1	8	6	2	4	5	7	9
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LIBRA	BAH	DEARS		
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CATCH	DINT	SAGE		
EDITOR	CAYS	NET		
	TOSH	LAD		
WOODEN	MIDWEST			
PATIO	OWE	DEGAS		
AGING	RAN	LLAMA		
DESK	END	ELDER		

Off the beaten path

Promised Land State Park in Pike County is one of 25 "must-see" state parks in Pennsylvania, but there are plenty of ways to get off the beaten path in this popular place. At 10 a.m. on March 26, the "Get Outdoors Poconos" hiking series will lead the way.

A 2.5-mile loop starts at the Snow Shanty Boat Mooring Area, off Pickerel Point near the park office. Meet at the parking area of Snow Shanty

Boat Mooring Area, off Pickerel Point Road, directly across Route 390 from the Promised Land State Park office. Restrooms and maps are available at the office. The program is free, but registration is required.

Call 570-839-1120 or 570-629-2727, or email info@brodheadwatershed.org (subject line "Promised Land hike"). Go to brodheadwatershed.org/gopoconos.

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PM West hosts Cops vs Students Basketball Fundraiser

The first-ever Together We Ball Cops vs Students basketball game is scheduled for Saturday, March 5, at the Pocono Mountain West High School gymnasium. Doors open at 3 p.m., and the game starts at 4.

This community event will feature police officers from the Pocono Mountain Regional Police Department and student athletes from Pocono Mountain West High School.

The following special half-time events are planned: 3 point shot, half-court shot, and slam dunk contest. A drawing will be held at half-time for a one-night stay at Kalahari, including water park access, for up to 4 people.

Tickets are \$3. All proceeds go to the PM West Booster Club.

The event is open to the public. Come out and show your support!

State Representative David Parker announces bid for re-election

After personally visiting nearly 1,000 homes in January and February, David Parker filed Nomination Petitions with over 800 signatures to place his name on the ballot for re-election in 2016.

"I want to thank all of the voters that had a chance to sign the Nomination Petitions. 16 months ago, we won the newly created 115th District seat with tremendous community support from Republicans, Democrats, and Independents.

Since then, working together with fellow legislators and Monroe County residents, we pushed House passage of the most significant property tax relief legislation in decades. In May, House Bill 504, with bi-partisan support, passed the House and is presently before the Senate Finance Committee. HB 504 would provide a 40% reduction in school property taxes for the average homeowner in the East Stroudsburg, Stroudsburg and Pocono Mountain School Districts."

Representative Parker has led efforts to enact and fund the new school funding formula recommended in June by the Bi-Partisan Basic Education Funding Commission. The new BEF Commission formula revealed that 180 school districts were underfunded by a total of \$937 million dollars. Pocono Mountain, Stroudsburg, and East Stroudsburg together make up 5.3% of that amount and are underfunded by \$50.2 million. "The one positive thing that has come out of passing

three budgets in one year, is each time I have offered amendments and legislation to speed the implementation of the new BEF Commission formula with growing statewide support. Through these amendments we are building a statewide coalition to reduce the 20-30 year implementation period to five years to greatly aid our schools and over-taxed taxpayers. So, we can't stop now and let this progress derail as 2016 and the next legislative term for 2017 and 2018 will be so important for Monroe County taxpayers. To finish these efforts, I am running for re-election to ensure that Monroe County's unique circumstances are addressed and the new funding formula gets quickly implemented."

Parker, a lifelong resident of Monroe County, resides in Stroud Township with his wife Amanda and five daughters.

Representative Parker's campaign website is www.DavidParker115.com. Visit to get information on upcoming events or to contact the candidate.

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