

Now on our
**SUMMER
 SCHEDULE**
 Next edition
 July 1

THE JOURNAL

of the POCONO PLATEAU

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Tobyhanna Township eliminates sign illumination illusions

by Jeanine Hofbauer

“We do not want to see digital signs up and down 940 or 115 for that matter,” vowed Tobyhanna Township supervisor Anne Lamberton as residents rallied against digital signage in Tobyhanna Township during the June 13 supervisors’ meeting.

Responding to an onslaught of emails over prospective illumination, supervisors took proactive measures to avoid a “project-driven ordinance” by gauging resident and business interest in forming an overlay committee. Explaining while progress is inevitable, enforcing ordinances and ensuring the integrity of the

region is paramount. There are only two commercial areas where potential postings could occur, at I-380 and Route 940, and at I-80 and Route 115.

“You have your ideas of how you’d like to see your community,” Lamberton said, adding, “We want your input.”

Agreeing professionals familiar with zoning and PennDOT rules should assist, Township Engineer Bob McHale, Zoning Officer Maureen Minnick and a member of the planning commission will assist the five to seven member committee.

Encouraging interested par-

Please turn to page 2



Pocono Pines property owner Jim Fee joins residents resisting digital sign pollution and pushing for orderly ordinance enforcement during the June 13 Tobyhanna Township Supervisors’ meeting.
 JP: Hofbauer Strategies

Police Foundation donor dollars makes sense

by Jeanine Hofbauer

Pocono Mountain Regional Police Commission solicitor Harry Coleman noted a businessman’s intentions to gift land to Pocono Mountain Regional Police Foundation, then buying it back for \$5,000, either for himself or another entity “passed the muster without question” during the June 14 Pocono Mountain Regional Police Commission meeting.

Calling the concept a feat of “financial gymnastics on his [the donor’s] side of the street,” the attorney applauded, “When the dust settles by extension the good men and women of this department are better.”

Not representing parties in the transaction, he explained the foundation, a nonprofit 501 (c) (3), is “separate and apart from this body [Pocono Mountain Regional Police

Department]” noting confidence in the professionals consulted.

Continuing to provide resources for equipment and programs not funded by the police commission, Chief Wagner called two electric bike purchases of \$2,400 each from the organization, “a fantastic tool for our bike unit officers.”

The chief reported “Last quarter did well,” with an in-

Please turn to page 3

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* 0 C 9 0 5 U S N E W *

Dog Park at HJP celebrates grand opening



PLAY PLACE FOR PETS: Canines and their companions came out to celebrate opening of the HJP Region Dog Park in Bartonsville on June 11.

JP: Ruth Isenberg



7-year-old Maura Mulherin poses by a sign at the chat circle named in her honor for raising \$2,000 toward construction of the park. Maura sewed pillowcases, raising \$750, then got donations including a matching grant from her father's firm to generate the dollars.

JP: Ruth Isenberg

Dogs of all sizes enjoyed a hike at the HJP Park on June 11, and people and their pets got a chance to see the completed dog park, open to pets with proper inoculations. For more information, visit www.hjpparks.org.

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Signs...

Continued from page 1

ties to contact township offices, supervisors extinguished outrage promised "both ends of the township...leave the rest alone."

Solicitor Jonathan Reiss affirmed a municipality's ability to regulate the number of ads in loops, time live, as well as brightness at nighttime with supervisor

John Holahan turning attention toward the condition of existing static signs, asking for strict enforcement of removal and citations for those in violation.

The \$425,386.76 bill pack was approved with an invita-

tion for public access to files kept at township offices.

Supervisors present included Lamberton, Holahan, Heidi Pickard, John Kerrick and Don Moyer, township manager Phyllis Haase, Zoning Officer Minnick, township

engineer McHale, Atty. Reiss and an audience of approximately 50.

The next regular meeting is 7 p.m. on July 12 in Tobyhanna Township's Municipal Building on Government Center Way in Pocono Pines.

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New books for PMSD elementary schools

by **Jeanine Hofbauer**

Director of English and Language Arts Stacy Kulics illustrated details during the June 15 meeting in suggesting that Pocono Mountain School District adopt McGraw Hill's "Reading Wonders" textbook for grades three to six in the coming school year. Noting the district elementary education program was due for the

change with students using books dating back as far as 2003, plus the need to align with PA Standards, she explained two piloted programs took place this past year, followed by teacher analysis that favored the change for 2017.

Directors voted to negotiate a book purchase with the publisher that will include online access in school, as well as

home and teacher training.

The 2016-2017 Final General Fund Budget of \$214,645,000 passed unanimously. It includes a two mill tax decrease.

Pocono Mountain School District Board of Directors next regular meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 20 at the Swiftwater campus administration building.

PMRPC...

Continued from page 1

crease of \$110,673 taking pension funds to just over \$17.9 million.

Steps to fill the department's 2016 hiring list are well underway with 64 applicants completing stage one, a written testing on June 11. Next is a July 9 physical test then first round of interviews for the top 10 selection.

Kris Vogt will fill a vacancy left by Operations Lieutenant Will Laverty's retirement at the end of the month, after a six month interim.

The bill pack totaling \$283,930.93 was approved, with funds to be distributed as follows:

- General Fund, \$270,536.75
- Prescription Plan, \$1,171.29
- Capital Projects Fund, \$12,222.89
- ESSA June Mortgage Payment, \$12,222.89
- Commission members

present at the meeting included Dave Moyer, Don Moyer and Anne Lambertson of Tobyhanna Township; Juan Adams and Dave Pope of Coolbaugh Township; Mayor Fred Courtright and Claudette Williams of Mount Pocono; Fran DePiano of Tunkhannock Township; and Ralph Megliola of Barrett Township.

PMRPC's next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. July 12 at headquarters located on Route 940 in Pocono Pines.

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

Not in God's Name

Two Rabbis, a Muslim, a Priest and a Minister invite you to an examination and discussion of Rabbi Jonathan Sack's new book, *Not In God's Name*, on Sunday, July 31 at 3 p.m. at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Pocono Pines.

Participants include Dr. Mahmoud Fahmy, Monsignor Vincent Grimalia, Rabbie Roger Lerner, Rabbi Larry Kaplan and the Rev. Dr. Robert Zanicky.

In the question and answer period, the panel will respond to the audience in an attempt to help people get to know the different religions better. The event's goal is to contribute to the promotion of constructive dialogue among the three Abrahamic religions, and set the foundation of changing landscapes of Jewish, Christian and Muslim relationship in today's world.

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Area Funerals

JAMES SMITH SR.

James Smith, Sr., age 83, of Pocono Summit, died Monday, June 20, 2016 at home with his family by his side.

Born on August 18, 1932, in Monroe County, he was the son of the late Clint and Blanch (Keiper) Smith. He was a life-long resident of the Poconos, and graduated from Tobyhanna Township High School in Pocono Pines.

He worked as an electrician at East Stroudsburg University for 25 years before retiring. He also worked at Tobyhanna Army Depot and Johnson's Electric. He was a founding (life) member of the Pocono Summit Volunteer Fire Company for 56+ years. He was also a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Loyal Order of Moose, and Mount Pocono United Methodist Church.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Kathryn J Smith and their son, James Smith Jr. and his wife Wendy of Pocono Summit; a daughter, Dolly Bonser and her husband William of Bushkill, and two other sons Carl Gottschall and his wife Marianne of Brussels, Belgium, and Earl Gottschall of East Stroudsburg; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; a sister, Esther Siewert of New Jersey, and several nieces, nephews, cousins, and many many friends.

He was preceded in death by his brothers Ed and Boyd Smith, and sisters Charlotte Wildrick and Francis Wheeler.

Private Services are being held at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations should be made in his honor to Pocono Summit Volunteer Fire Company at P.O. Box 400, Pocono Summit, PA 18346.

DAVID L. BLACK

David L. Black, 78, of Pocono Pines, died Friday June 17, 2016 at home. He was the husband of Barbara Ann (Ros-

sano) Black, with whom he shared 40 years of marriage.

Born in Manhattan, New York he was the son of the late Harold and Isabel (Bate) Black

A veteran, David served six years with the United States Army. After service, he became the director of the original Clairol Carousel, which he took cross-country. Following that he was vice-president of Parents Magazine's Film Division in New York City. After Parents Magazine, he formed his own company, Delby Associates, creating various educational interactive audio-cassettes. Later in life he worked in the supermarket industry as management training supervisor. Upon retirement he became actively involved in education and social issues, and was a volunteer tutor for North Hampton Community College.

He is also survived by his brother, Jasson Salganik of Coney Island, New York.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Compassionate Care Hospice Foundation, 237 E. Brown Street, E. Stroudsburg. Pa. 18301

Private cremation has been entrusted to Bolock Funeral Home Crematory.

LEON GUY JR.

Leon Guy Jr., 67, of Tobyhanna died Friday, June 17, 2016 at the Pocono Health Systems Hospice House, E. Stroudsburg. He was the husband of Nandi P. (Sibley) Guy. Born in Newark, New Jersey he was the son of the late Ds and Mary (Childs) Guy.

Leon was a resident of Tobyhanna for the past eight years. Earlier he lived in Passaic, New Jersey. He was employed as a warehouse supervisor for the Wesco Distribution Co. in Parsippany, New Jersey for 18 years.

He is also survived by a step-daughter, LaShondra R. Cherry, a daughter Dalana Guy and a son Nikko Guy.

Private services will be held at the convenience of the family with cremation to follow.

FLOYD WILDRICK

Floyd A. "Jim" Wildrick, 97, of Blakeslee died Thursday, June 16, 2016 in Pocono Health Systems Hospice House, East Stroudsburg.

A son of the late Johnson Jacob and Emma Starner Wildrick, he was born in Fern Ridge and was a graduate of Tobyhanna Township High School. He was a U.S. Army Air Corps veteran of World War

II and a member of American Legion Post 413 of Pocono Lake.

He was employed at the Francis E. Walter Dam for 37 years - 22 of them as head dam operator.

Surviving are his wife, the former Ruth Hawk (they would have observed their 60th anniversary today, June 23), daughter Sally Wildrick of California, sister Elsie Gower of

Gilbert.

The funeral was held Monday from Blakeslee United Methodist Church, with the Rev. Don DeGroat officiating. Burial was in Blakeslee Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to Blakeslee United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 142, Blakeslee, PA 18610.

American Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Maximilian Kolbe on July 3

Take a break from your 4th of July weekend celebrations and become a hero in our community by donating blood at the Red Cross blood drive on Sunday, July 3, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. The drive will be held at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, 5112 Pocono Crest Road, Pocono Pines, and is sponsored by their Social Concerns Committee. Whole blood and double reds can be donated at this collection site. Donors will receive a Limited Edition Red Cross Lunch Cooler while supplies last.

According to the American Red Cross, approximately 14,000 blood and platelet do-

nations must be collected every day for the patients in all of the hospitals and transfusion centers nationwide. These donations are needed to respond to patient emergencies, including accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or sickle cell disease. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients.

Individuals who are 17 years of age and older and are in generally good health may donate blood. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are re-

quired at check-in. If you wish to schedule an appointment to donate blood, view all donor guidelines, or for additional information, visit the American Red Cross website at redcross-blood.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Walk-ins are always welcome!

Please Note: The Red Cross is closely monitoring the Zika virus risk in order to maintain a safe blood supply. For more information on possible Zika virus exposure, speak to a staff person at the donor site or contact the Donor and Client Support Center at 866-236-3276. Donors who have visited areas where the Zika outbreak has occurred are asked to schedule their next donation 4 weeks after their last risk of exposure.

The blood drive will be held downstairs in Our Lady of the Lake Hall, which is handicap accessible. For directions to St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, call 570-646-6424 or visit their website at stmaxkolbe-poconos.org. Be an everyday hero, donate blood!

Vacation Bible School at Pocono Lake UMC

Pocono Lake UMC will hold its annual Vacation Bible School at the church on July 5-8 from 6-8 p.m.

This year's program is a beach-themed one where together you will catch the wave of God's amazing love. With the Surf Shack as its hub, kids are equipped and invited to plunge into the incredible experience of knowing God. They will encounter God's awesomeness through Bible stories of the amazing ways God has moved in the lives of others before embarking on the breathtaking adventure of participating in God's love.

Pocono Lake UMC will become an ocean of excitement as kids and leaders (Surfers and Lifeguards) enjoy beach themed music, crafts, Bible stories and more, becoming fully equipped to live out God's mission in their lives. The program ends on Friday night with an ice cream sundae celebration.

Registration is going on now. Please call the church to register or if you'd like to volunteer and with any questions you have at 570-646-2650. Or you can register online plumc01@epix.net.

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Tobyhanna expands capability to include software support

by **Jacqueline Boucher**
Tobyhanna Army Depot

It's no secret Tobyhanna Army Depot likes to push the envelope when it comes to reimagining its classic depot-level maintenance program to provide logistics support in line with the Army's future needs.

Operations around the world rely on a blend of software and hardware support to meet mission requirements. It used to be all about the hardware, which includes the Reset, repair, and overhaul of system components. Now, Team Tobyhanna is collaborating with the Software Engineering Center (SEC) to expand its scope of capability to include mitigating risks associated with cyber-attacks and various threats to military weapons systems. The SEC is part of the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command.

"Tobyhanna set the stage for the future a long time ago and now it's here," said John Howard, then chief of the Information Management Division. "To meet the needs of our customers, we needed to shift focus from just hardware repair to include software repair."

Anyone who operates Army automated information systems such as computers and servers is familiar with Information Assurance Vulnerability Alerts (IAVA) – notices from U.S. Cyber Command with actions to take regarding

potential risks to information technology systems. As cyber security concerns become more prevalent in the force, there's a renewed emphasis to attain a higher level of compliance. Personnel here are using innovative approaches to adapt software technology to safeguard the warfighter's information environment.

This new partnership opens the door for Tobyhanna to recruit employees and develop an organic capability to execute work associated with mitigating information security weaknesses that expose an organization to risk, according to Jefferson Township resident Dan Soderberg, IT specialist (policy and planning) in the Special Project Office for Software Sustainment. Tobyhanna started supporting the software mission late last year with two pilot systems – MIDAS (Multiplexer Integration and Digital Communications Satellite Subsystems Automation Systems) and GCCS-A (Global Command and Control System-Army). Fourteen systems are scheduled to arrive by the end of the fiscal year and there's potential for up to 40 more systems between now and 2022.

Quality Assurance Analyst Deborah Hussung (a resident of Lake Ariel) is looking forward to working with SEC to develop this new capability. "This is something totally new for the depot," she said. "We



From left, Information Technology Specialists Patrick Noel (a resident of Waymart), Stephen Washicosky (a resident of Larksville) and Brian Medwetz (a resident of Mountain Top) configure and test a software support pilot system with the latest Information Assurance Vulnerability Alert updates at Tobyhanna Army Depot.

U.S. Army photo by Steve Grzezdziński

have the opportunity to personalize the existing framework and guidelines to make the IAVA program our own."

Dozens of IT specialists, new hires, and depot employees have accepted positions to support the new mission. Work is distributed among four functional areas: security analysis, tester, configuration management, and quality assurance.

"I'm excited to be here," said Jermyn resident Mike Granville, quality assurance analyst. "Working with SEC has been great. Most of the software work is basically the same; the challenge is getting to know each system."

Vacancies in the Information Management Division are viewed as an opportunity to bring in fresh ideas and new talent – qualified people who will enhance the mission, according to Howard.

Tobyhanna believes in strong training programs that prepare personnel for opportunities that arise. To gain access to the C4ISR systems, personnel must possess industry standard certifications and then complete system specific training. Over time, technicians will be able to build on existing knowledge to apply their skills to different systems.

C4ISR stands for command, control, communications, comput-

ers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems used by the military.

"We're embedding Tobyhanna personnel with the current support teams so they can learn the systems," Soderberg said. "IT specialists here will validate an IAVA's applicability to the target system and then develop the modifications that will mitigate that risk."

Soderberg explained that personnel will be able to perform tasks using a physical replica or virtual facsimile of systems in the field. There are costs involved to bringing individual systems to NEPA. If systems can be emulated in a virtual environment, then Tobyhanna can reduce those costs becoming more efficient for the customer, he added. "We are trying to enhance the security posture of these systems as quickly as possible . . . to keep things secure while keeping them operational," he said.

Software repair packages will be tested at Tobyhanna then forwarded to SEC for acceptance and distribution to the forces in the field for installation. "Employees supporting the IAVA mission are immediately closer to the warfighter because they're repairing the tools needed in the field," Howard said. "Bringing the software repair in helps us grow and maintain our workforce strength far into the future. It makes us more viable for other organizations to seek us out in the future to do this type of work."

To meet logistical requirements, building space is being modernized to house the IAVA effort. Team members plan to move in next year.



Scavello bill defining three-wheeled "Autocycles" set to become law

Legislation sponsored by Senator Mario Scavello (R-40) to establish a legal definition for increasingly popular, three-wheeled "autocycles" received final legislative approval and is headed to the Governor to be signed into law.

Senate Bill 1108 will make clearer the distinction between these newly developed three-wheeled vehicles with two forward wheels and the more recognizable three-wheeled, trike-style motorcycles which have been around for many years. Models of the

newer vehicles include the Polaris "Slingshot" and the Tanom Motors "Invader."

Specifically, the legislation will define these vehicles as an autocycle and register and title them by creating a special designation under the existing motorcycle definition. However, individuals wishing to operate an autocycle will be permitted to do so with a Class "C" driver's license.

"This legislation will foster conformity with other states in the region that have already adopted

an autocycle definition," said Scavello. "The result will be more accurate crash reporting statistics, clarity for law enforcement and safer travel for motorists."

The legislation is the result of recommendations issued by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, an internationally respected group of motor vehicle administrators and law enforcement officials.

You can follow Senator Scavello on Twitter and Facebook.

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Game Commission burns to improve wildlife habitat

Pennsylvania Game Commission Northeast Region Director Daniel Figured announces nearly 1,600 acres of State Game Lands 141 in Carbon County are scheduled to be treated using prescribed fire during the week of May 9.

Prescribed fire is a habitat-enhancement tool that can be used effectively to promote oak forest regeneration by reducing competition from less desirable tree species (such as black birch and red maple) through a controlled and slow-moving fire. After fire moves through an area, more fire-tolerant oak trees and seedlings remain and become the dominant species as the forest matures. Oak acorns benefit a variety of wildlife because of their high nutritional value, and are sought after as a fall food source by several species of birds and mammals as they prepare for winter.

Of the 1,600 acres, 45 acres is owned by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of State Parks (Lehigh Gorge State Park). The two agencies will be working together on this habitat project.

A cooperative agreement with The Nature Conservancy has allowed the Commission to use TNC leadership and expertise in conducting prescribed fire operations. This agreement has helped improve thousands of acres wildlife habitat on game lands in Pennsylvania.

Throughout prescribed-fire operations, safety is the

primary consideration from planning through implementation. The entire operation is overseen by a "Burn Boss," who develops a detailed plan required to be approved by the Game Commission and other agencies. Timing of the burn is weather-dependent and takes into account the amount of moisture both in the ground and the growing vegetation. Access to the burn site is restricted to only highly trained prescribed fire personnel, and all necessary local fire and emergency personnel are notified in advance.

In the weeks prior to a burn, an 8-foot-wide fire break is established around the entire area. Just prior to initiating burn operations, a small and easily extinguished "test fire" burn is conducted to check



A Game Commission employee uses a drip torch during a prescribed burn.

fire behavior and smoke-dispersal patterns. If the Burn Boss approves the fire to proceed, an experienced crew made up of personnel from the Game Commission and other natural-resources agencies uses a regimented process to burn the site.

Work crews are assigned to various jobs including interior ignition, wind and temperature monitoring, and perimeter containment using specialized Utility Task Vehicles, water packs, and a variety of hand tools. As the fire begins to burn out, areas with flames near the perimeter are extinguished and those on the interior allowed to burn out gradually. The entire area is then closely monitored over the next few days.

"The Game Commission has been using prescribed fire to improve wildlife habitat for more than 10 years, with outstanding results," said Figured. "Areas treated with prescribed fire will not be a pretty sight initially. However,

in time, these operations will ultimately result in areas with excellent habitat that is beneficial to a variety of wildlife.



Prescribed burns stimulate growth of desirable tree species.

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Bureau of Forestry announces reward increase for info on Arson

The state Bureau of Forestry today announced an increase in the reward offered in its ongoing investigation of arson earlier this spring that scorched more than 8,000 acres of woodlands on the Monroe-Pike county line.

A reward totaling \$15,000 now is being offered by the bureau for information leading to arrests and convictions in what investigators say were two fires intentionally set. Labeled the 16 Mile and Beartown fires, the wildfires were discovered April 20 and burned through May 2 in Delaware State Forest.

"A private landowner affected by the 16 Mile Fire is increasing his reward to \$10,000, adding \$5,000 to his already offered reward,"

said Michael Kern, chief of the bureau's Division of Forest Fire Protection. "Coupled with DCNR's standing reward offer of \$5,000, we're hoping this increased anonymous donation will spur some new leads in our investigation."

"Circumstances in both fires led us to an early conclusion that they were the result of arson," Kern said. "Spanning almost two weeks and burning across about 8,700 acres, these fires put lives and property at major risk, which is of great concern to us."

Cost has been set at \$2 million for the wildfires in which more than 100 bureau personnel rotated in and out of fire scenes. They were assisted by federal, state

and local emergency and other personnel, as well as a Smokey Bear Hotshot fire-fighting team from New Mexico.

"Intentionally setting a wild-fire is arson and we take that very seriously. We are asking anyone who may have information to come forward," Kern said. "Any information offered on anyone or anything suspicious observed in that area will be treated with utmost importance and strictest confidence."

Information that could lead to the reward can be forwarded to bureau Special Investigator Terry Smith, 717-362-1472; terrsmith@pa.gov; or by calling 570-895-4000. Anonymous tips also will be accepted but do not qualify for the reward.

A Delaware State Forest cabin colony was evacuated and multiple state forest roads were closed during the fires, which burned two leased cabins, three seasonal homes and six outbuildings. One firefighter received

a minor injury.

Fighting the fire was complicated by rugged terrain, windy, dry weather, and dead trees left by gypsy moth infestations.

DCNR's Bureau of Forestry is responsible for protecting Pennsylvania's 17 million acres of public and private woodlands from damage by wildfire.

For more information on wildfire prevention, visit www.dcnr.pa.gov (select "Forestry" under "Quick Links" then "Wildland Fire").

Sunday walk in the Tannersville Bog

On June 26, join an Environmental Educator at 1pm at the Bog parking lot and take a 2 1/2 hour journey into the unique Tannersville Cranberry Bog.

Along the way, Environmental Educators will explain the Bog's formation, its interesting plant and animal life, and the role the local Preserve Committee and the Nature Conservancy play in its continued protection. Please

wear appropriate footwear.

Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/EE and Nature Conservancy members and children under 12. Pre-registration is required and limited.

Directions: Route 611, at the light at the Tannersville Inn turn onto Cherry Lane Rd. The bog parking lot is 1.9 miles from 611 on the right.

To pre-register for the program, please call the E. E. 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, visit www.mcconservation.org.

In the Shadow of History, the Story of John Summerfield Staples

For those who could afford it, paid substitutes for military service was not uncommon, especially in times of war. Reasons varied, but one of national importance occurred during the Civil War—the paid substitute for the President of the United States.

On Thursday, July 14 John Abel will present "In the Shadow of History, the Story of John Summerfield Staples." Summerfield Staples was a native of Stroudsburg and a Union soldier. He enlisted in the Union Army in 1862, was medically discharged and enlisted a second time in 1864. Both times he was a paid substitute for another man, once for President Abraham Lincoln. Abel's presentation covers Staples' birth, boyhood, both enlistments, life after the Civil War and events that occurred after he died.



John Summerfield Staples of Stroudsburg.

John Abel is currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Monroe County Historical Association, and chairs the History Committee. He is the coordinator of the annual Monroe County History Chal-

lenge, where high school juniors compete for scholarship dollars. John is a member of the Paradise Historical Society and HATT. He is retired from Sanofi Pasteur and lives in Swiftwater.

This presentation is in conjunction with the July meeting of the Historical Association of Tobyhanna Township on Thursday, July 14, at 5:30 p.m. at the Clymer Library, 115 Firehouse Road in Pocono Pines.

The meeting is open to the public and is free of charge. No advance reservation is required. If you have questions, call 570-580-5353, or write to hatthistory@msn.com. Further information about HATT can be viewed on its award-winning website at www.TobyhannaTwpHistory.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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Rep. Parker issues statement

Recently, two statewide organizations with missions pledged to support the highest ideals of Pennsylvania K-12 education took an opportunity to widely misrepresent my proposed legislation, House Bill 2111, and Equity First, a noble effort to help 900,000 children get fair Basic Education funding faster than 25 years from now.

It's deeply disappointing to learn these statewide organizations are spending time, energy and resources to prevent 900,000 students from receiving their fair share of the state's \$5.8 billion distribution of Basic Education Funding. Since 1991, too many

school districts have been severely underfunded by the most viciously harmful school funding formula in America. Now, PSBA and PASA want underfunded districts to wait another 25 years.

I'm shocked that these organizations are working against the most vulnerable, poor and underfunded children in Pennsylvania. Their harsh, punishing policy is rotten to the core! My plan would help the very school districts facing hard decisions, like closing high schools, eliminating kindergarten classes and/or raising school property taxes on already overtaxed homeowners.

The Basic Education Funding Commission Report confirms Pennsylvania state government has underfunded school districts since 1991, when poverty, ability to pay and enrollment were politically removed from the Basic Education Funding formula. Since the political adoption of the sinisterly titled, "hold-harmless" policy, the absence of billions of dollars in severely underfunded districts has decimated real estate markets and deprived schools, students and communities of vital resources. Foreclosure rates in some Pennsylvania counties are the highest in the nation. It's difficult to fully appreciate that we have statewide educational organizations working against these

900,000 children and thousands of struggling taxpayers.

Instead of punishing 900,000 students with another 25 years of underfunding, my legislation, House Bill 2111, speeds funding to underfunded districts. It's hard to believe PSBA and PASA have stated policies focused on forcing two more generations of kindergarten students to complete their educations receiving 50 percent to 200 percent less than the Basic Education Commission says is fair and reasonable. That's completely and utterly outrageous.

Accordingly, I call on taxpayers, students, parents and educators to call, tell, write and email their local school boards and superintendents and ask,

"Why are you supporting the Pennsylvania School Boards Association or the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators and their stated public policies to purposely underfund more than a million kindergarten students for another 25 years."

Finally, if these organizations believe their strong arm tactics will deter me, they're mistaken. I can guarantee I am standing with my students, parents, taxpayers and educators. We will not stop fighting for fair funding for East Stroudsburg, Pocono Mountain, Stroudsburg and other underfunded school districts until we receive what is fair and reasonable!

State Rep. David Parker

Property Tax Rebate offered to senior citizens in Pocono Mountain School District

by State Rep. Jack Rader
176th Legislative District

Senior citizens in the Pocono Mountain School District could get more money back for property tax relief, thanks to a resolution passed by the school board.

For years, the district has matched the state program established by the Pennsylvania Senior Citizens Property Rebate and Assistance Act, which allows eligible property owners age 68 and older, widows and widowers age 50 and

older and people with disabilities with qualifying incomes to receive up to a \$650 property tax rebate from the state and up to a \$650 rebate from the district.

In April, the Pocono Mountain School Board passed a

resolution in which qualifying property owners will receive their state rebate and an additional amount equal to 200 percent of the state rebate from the school district.

Guidelines for those who qualify for the rebate include: Owning and occupying the home as a primary residence during the school year for which the tax rebate is being requested; being at least 65 years old as of Dec. 31 of the previous year; was permanently disabled during all or part of the tax year; or was at least 18 years old or older during 2015 and was unable to work because of a permanent medically determined physical or mental disability. Total tax year household income, including a spouses, must

have been \$35,000 or less. School taxes must have been paid in full on the residence for the applicable school year by Dec. 31. Only one member of each household may file a claim.

Application to apply for a property tax rebate can be found on the district's website at www.pmsd.org under the Business Department, or individuals may call the district business office at 570-839-7121, ext. 10158 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for more information.

Our office can provide assistance with state Property Tax/Rent Rebate forms. Please give us a call at 570-643-7683 or 570-620-4341 or visit www.RepRader.com.

New Monroe County Republican Chairman elected

At their May monthly meeting, the Monroe County Republican Committee voted to reaffirm their support of presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump and the entire Republican Ticket, including: Pat Toomey for U.S. Senate, Tom Marino for Congress (PA-10), Matt Connolly for Congress (PA-17), John Rafferty for Attorney General, Otto Voit for Treasurer, John Brown for Auditor General and incumbent State Representatives David Parker (115th) Jack Rader (176th) and Rosemary Brown (189th). In a statement, Monroe County Republican Committee Chairman Thomas Whitehead said, "This has been an interesting election cycle. We have seen a large increase in Republican registrations in the county and in the state. And, we have had a lot more Republicans vote in this primary than in any past elections.

so, it was great for Pennsylvania Republicans to play a major role in that process. It has been exciting and educational. Now, it is time to capitalize on that enthusiasm and unify behind our ticket."

Also at the May meeting, Thomas C. Whitehead was elected to serve as Chairman of the Monroe County Republican Committee for the next two years after serving as interim Chairman for the past month following the resignation of former Chairman Tom Geffers. Whitehead, 37, has nearly 20 years of political experience. He served on the staffs of both Congressman

Lou Barletta (PA-11) and former Congressman Don Sherwood (PA-10). He also worked for State Representative Doyle Heffley, and has been previously employed by the Pennsylvania Republican State Committee during two separate presidential election cycles. He currently works for the Monroe County Recorder of Deeds Office. The Monroe County Republican Committee along with its affiliated clubs is the only organization solely dedicated to growing the Republican Party, and electing Republicans at the federal, state, county and local level in Monroe County.

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– Skip and Stacy Cassady of Stroudsburg
with daughter Emma



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Clymer Library House Tour & Brunch



are \$20. All proceeds benefit the Clymer Library.

Tickets and further details can be obtained at the Clymer Library Circulation Desk, 115 Firehouse Road, Pocono Pines, PA 18350, or phone 570-646-0826.

The Clymer Library offers

thousands of books, movies, e-books, audio books, magazines, audio CD's, as well as computer and internet access for patrons in Tobyhanna and Tunkhannock Townships. Each month the library offers many programs for patrons of all ages, like the popular,

weekly story hour for kids and movies and relaxing adult coloring sessions for adults.

For information on these and other programs at the library, call 570-646-0826 or visit the library's website at clymerlibrary.org and find us on Facebook.

This event has grown to become one of the most popular social events of the summer season. And, it is all for a very worthy cause. The Clymer Library presents its 2016 Fundraising House Tour and Brunch on August 3.

This year's tour will feature unique and elegant homes in Pinecrest Lake Golf & Country Club and Lake Naomi Club, including the Timber Trails community. Many different themes of design and fashion will be seen, from rustic mountain themes to

fashionable and informal residences. These homes will provide hundreds of decorating and renovation ideas for your next home décor project.

Spend a relaxing day with friends while touring these exceptional homes, each within a short distance of one another. Start the day with a Brunch Buffet at 10:30 a.m. at the Lake Naomi Club prior to the tours, which begin at Noon. Tickets for the Brunch and Tours are \$38; for just the House Tour tickets are \$18 and tickets for just the Brunch

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Robb Taylor shows support for Clymer Library

Film and Television personality Robb Taylor showed his support for local community events by bringing his band to the Clymer Library for a concert of songs from his *Hourglass* and *Dreamcatcher*

albums.

Joining him on stage was Artist Erica Ashlee on backup vocals along with Vandy Galvez and Diane Roldan, Gary Saint Manchester on bass, and Ken Meyer on

drums. Mr. Taylor, who is well known in the area and across the nation for concerts for Children's Organizations and Homeless Veterans, played to a packed house. Each song drew enthusiastic ap-



JULY 8, 9 & 10

Devon Allman
Nikki Hill
Carolyn Wonderland
John Primer
Victor Wainwright
Cedric Burnside
Alexis P Suter
Marcus King
Jimmy "Duck" Holmes
Lonnie Shields
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Anthony "Big A" Sherrod
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plause from the audience.

Erica Ashlee said "We have a home here in the Poconos, and love to support events

here on the mountain. Robb always will to do what he can for children's and veteran's organizations."

Any organization interested in having the band can contact him at Robbtaylor.com. Mr. Taylor and the band will be at the Clymer Library again on October 6 at 6 p.m.

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Mark your calendar for a musical event like no other—monsters making music. Elmo, Abby Cadabby, Big Bird and all their *Sesame Street* friends are taking to the stage to share their love of music in *Sesame Street Live* "Elmo Makes Music" at the Mohegan Sun Arena.

Jenny, an enthusiastic new music teacher, arrives on *Sesame Street* only to discover that her instruments are missing. Jenny's new Muppet friends quickly come to the rescue

and discover 'instruments' they never knew existed—rubber duckies, trash can lids, and even cookie jars. Elmo, Abby Cadabby and friends teach children that everyone can make and enjoy beautiful music together.

Like television's *Sesame Street*, each *Sesame Street Live* production features timeless lessons for all ages. Through the razzle-dazzle of this Broadway-quality musical production, children learn about patience, acceptance and teamwork. The

universal appeal of a *Sesame Street Live* production continues long after preschool.

Adults will appreciate the high-tech stagecraft, cleverly written scripts, and music they'll recognize and enjoy sharing with children, such as "The Hustle," "You Should Be Dancing" and "Rockin' Robin." "Elmo Makes Music" features nearly two dozen songs, including classics that children will love to sing along with such as "C Is for Cookie" and "The Alphabet Song."

Sesame Street Live "Elmo Makes Music" will take place on September 9 at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; September 10 at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. (Sunny Seats available for 2 p.m. show only; September 11 at 2 p.m.)

Tickets cost \$18 and \$25. A limited number of \$35 Gold Circle Seats and \$65 Sunny Seats are also available. The Sunny Seats package features premium show seating and a pre-show Meet & Greet with two *Sesame Street Live* friends, including Elmo.

Tickets are available online at www.ticketmaster.com. To charge by phone, call 800-745-

3000. For more information, visit www.sesamestreetlive.com.

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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 & Saturday, June 24 & 25—Weatherly Library Auction

Friday-Sunday, June 24 & 26—Celtic Fling



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6/25 Who's Next - Salute to the Who
\$20, Show 8 p.m.

7/2 KICK - the INXS Experience
\$20, Show 8 p.m.

7/8 Shokenaw Mountain Boys and the Bovine Social Club
\$20, Show 8 p.m.

7/9 Dancing Dream The ABBA Experience
\$24, Show 8 p.m.

7/15 Willy Porter & Carmen Nickerson
\$25, Show 8 p.m.

Check our website

Sunday, July 3—American Red Cross Blood Drive, 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, 5112 Pocono Crest Road, Pocono Pines.

Sunday, July 3—Shawnee Mountain Ski Area Fireworks Display, www.shawneemt.com

Sunday, July 3—Art Under the Big Top, sponsored by Pocono Mountain Art Council, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Blue Ridge Winery, Saylorsburg

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, July 8-10—Briggs Farm Bluesfest, Nescopeck

Sunday, July 10—Live Reptile & Amphibians, 7-8:30 p.m., Hauser Nature Center, The Nature Conservancy, Long Pond, 570-643-7922 xt310

Thursday, July 14—HATT presentation In the Shadow of History, the Story of John Summerfield Staples, 5:30 p.m., Clymer Library

Saturday & Sunday, July 16 & 17—Poconos Wurst Festival, Shawnee Mountain Ski Area, www.shawneemt.com

Friday, July 29 to Sunday, August 7—Buck Hill Skytop Music Festival, various locations, www.buckhillskytopfest.org

Friday & Saturday, August 5 & 6—Homecoming Bazaar, 5 p.m.-?, Our Lady of Victory Church, Tannersville, 570-629-4572

Saturday & Sunday, August 13 & 14—Sweet Corn & BBQ Festival, Shawnee Mountain Ski Area, www.shawneemt.com

Saturday & Sunday, September 3 & 4—Pocono Garlic Festival, Shawnee Mountain Ski Area, www.shawneemt.com

Sunday, September 18—Dave Fleetwood Memorial Trail Run/Walk, 9 a.m., West End Regional Park

Sunday, September 25—Colors of the Season New Fashion Show & Luncheon, sponsored by Western

Pocono Lioness Club, Hideawayhills Country Club, Kresgeville, 610-681-8138

Saturday & Sunday, October 8 & 9—Autumn Timber Festival, Shawnee Mountain Ski Area, www.shawneemt.com

Saturday & Sunday, October 15 & 16—Pocono Food Truck & Art Festival, Shawnee Mountain Ski Area, www.shawneemt.com

Offering Discounted amusement park tickets

The West End Park and Open Space Commission is offering discounted amusement park tickets.

Tickets are available at the Chestnuthill Park office for Dorney, Hershey, Knoebels,

Six Flags, Crayola Experience, Philadelphia Zoo, Adventure & Baltimore Aquariums.

For more information, call 570-992-9733 or e mail bkozen@ptd.net.

Summertime Greenery at Quiet Valley

Just because Summer has arrived doesn't mean all the flowers are finished blooming. Join Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center staff from 10 a.m. to noon on July

8 as they highlight the many interesting plant species that are found in the summer forests at Quiet Valley Farm.

Please dress to be outside. The walk will begin in front of the Gift Shop.

Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/EE Center or Quiet Valley members, children under 12 free.

To pre-register for the program, please call the Center at 570-629-3061, Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and most Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, visit mconconservation.org.

Summer Hours at Pocono Mountain Public Library

Pocono Mountain Public Library has extended its hours for the rest of the summer. PMPL will be open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 5

p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 12 to 4 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays through the rest of June, July, and August.

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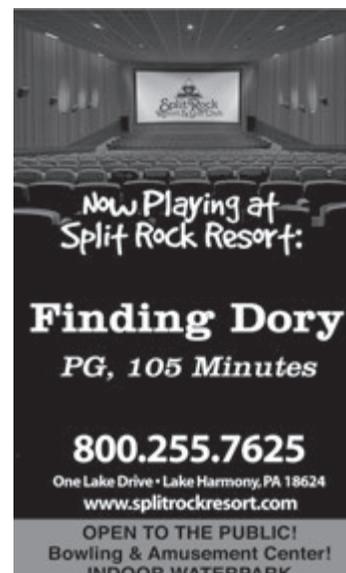
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Seth's Sightings by Seth Isenberg

The Blakeslee Rotary Club has taken some big strides toward getting a dog park in the Fern Ridge area built. As plans progress, the club held a park maintenance day this past Wednesday. Rotary volunteers mowed and trimmed the park property, cleaned up a couple of bags of trash, and did some measuring. The park is quite beautiful, with lots of flowers, including many that are attracting bees and butterflies. Volunteers mowed out in the direction of the hiking trails, though it wasn't clear

whether the path through the tall grass had been trodden by people or deer. One of the cool things was that mowing exposed some of the low strawberries. As we left, we saw birds make their first stops for some of these treats.

Saturday, after some newspaper work, Ruth and I took Chess on a hike into the state gamelands near the Francis Walter Dam. The path took us by a pond partly filled with lily pads, though that didn't stop Chess from taking a couple of cooling dips. Our hike was cut

a bit short by a thick swarm of gnats.

As we traveled this weekend, we saw areas that were affected by thick swarms of caterpillars. Along the PA Turnpike below the hilltop where Penn Forest Township meets the Mahoning Valley, there are vast areas of mostly eaten woods on both sides of the highway. At the crest where the Pocono Plateau begins, there's still nice lush foliage, but not for long. It's a shame, because it took so long for our area to green up

this year. But it looks like a bad gypsy moth summer.

Thank you to Rob Hill for the nice bear picture that we used last week. It's possible that bear was rummaging along the north end of the D&L bike trail in White Haven Borough; Ruth saw a bear of about that size on the path walking into the woods away from the river as she walked Chess. Other sightings include fox and turkey, and of course, deer.

Last Sunday Ruth, Clara and I were in the audience for a terrific performance of *West Side Story*, the opening show of this summer's PA Shakespeare Festival season. The matinee was sold out. This is a great cast, and they put on a great show. If you'd like to attend, call now, as tickets are getting scarce for this show. Excitement is building for the Festival's *Julius Caesar* featuring Keith Hamilton Cobb.

We'll be back in the audience that on Independence Day weekend.

This Friday both of us will be active in the Weatherly Area Community Library's annual tricky tray and art auction fundraiser. The "Auction" is the big event that has sustained the WACL. Both basket and art auctions wrap up early Saturday afternoon. Come visit us at Weatherly's Eurana Park.

Later Saturday our plans are to attend this weekend's annual Celtic Fling in at the PA Renaissance Faire "shire" in Lancaster County. We'll also be back on Sunday to enjoy performances by *Scythian*, the *Tartan Terrors*, and a dozen more wonderful bands and entertainers, as well as some of the Celtic foods. We also plan to check out the bagpipe bands and Celtic competitions.

Come say hello to snakes at Hauser Nature Center

The Nature Conservancy invites the public to get up close and personal with frogs, salamanders and snakes as naturalist Rick Koval brings Live Reptiles and Amphibians to the Hauser Nature Center in Long Pond on Sunday, July 10, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

This is a great program for kids and adults. Participants are welcome to bring a picnic dinner to enjoy at the Tunkhannock Township Park before the program begins. Be sure to bring a camera. Rick Koval, writer and extraordinary naturalist, will share cool facts and introduce live reptiles and amphibians com-

monly found in the Poconos.

Advance registration is required. Call The Nature Conservancy at 570-643-7922, ext. 310 to register and obtain directions to the Hauser Nature Center, as digital mapping may be unreliable.

The program is free but donations are 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.

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West End Republican Club to meet

The West End Republican Club meets regularly on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Cherry's Family Restaurant, located on Route 209 South, Kresgeville, Polk Township. Republican minded citizens are encouraged to join to socialize, listen, discuss,

and learn.

This month's meeting will be on June 28 at 7 p.m. For those wishing to eat prior to the meeting, arrive by 6 p.m.

For additional information and directions, visit the club's website at www.westendgop.com, or call 443-326-5100.

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School to Prom to Moving On



Family and friends join students for an evening of food, fun and dancing May 25 at Pocono Mountain East's School to Work prom.

by **Jeanine Hofbauer**

With graduation right around the corner, prom night proved just right for 21 School to Work Program students and their families to enjoy an evening filled with

food, fun and dancing alongside Pocono Mountain East High School faculty now considered friends on May 25.

The event, held 10 years running, continues to collect quite the crowd for an oppor-

tunity to celebrate another successful year introducing these young men and women to the workforce. A growing list of area businesses including Sanofi Pasteur, Paradise Stream Resort, The Inn at Pocono Manor and Giant Food Store have welcomed these students to learn skills in their establishments. From stocking shelves, food service and more each gains an appreciation of the importance of making a living.

Giant's Kurt Hoeflein agrees, "It's really a good thing." Commenting, "They

Graduates from Widener

Elizabeth Blatteau of Pocono Lake graduated from Widener University recently with a doctor of physical therapy.

Widener held commencement ceremonies on May 20 and 21 for graduate and

undergraduate students recognizing those who successfully completed their studies and all necessary requirements for graduation during the Summer 2015, Fall 2015, and Spring 2016 semesters.



Pocono Mountain East High School vice principals (from left) Brian Williams, Kim Kochanski and (far right) Mark Lemoncelli join hall duty friends Kamil Minorczyk with Randy Pryor walkie-talkie in hand for fun at this year's School to Work prom.

[STW student employees] become part of the family," the Bartonsville store manager admits, "It's sad to see them move on."

Embracing the responsibility of East hall monitors, graduating program participants Kamil Minorczyk and, walkie-talkie in hand, Randy Pryor assisted STW teacher Jerry Greeley in keeping order throughout the night.

Interacting with the dynamic duo on a daily basis vice principals Kim Kochanski and Mark Lemoncelli consider seeing the pair a wonderful way to start not only their day but communicating with the student population as a whole beneficial for all. "We make it a daily occurrence to see Kamil and Randy," smiles Lemoncelli.

Mingling and munching away on homemade goodies including salads and desserts served by student volunteers,

music filled the air and dancing the floor. The tireless group only paused for brief moments to simultaneously greet guests with hugs and hollers as they arrived while faculty returned embraces aware they would soon depart Pocono Mountain East High School for good.

Dean's List

Kutztown University

More than 1,650 students have been named to the Spring 2016 Dean's List at Kutztown University. Among them were John Spero of Pocono Lake, and Steven J. Walsh of Pocono Lake.

York College

Emily Rosado of Tobyhanna, a senior Mass Communications major, was named to the Dean's List at York College of PA.

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Amendment targets residential school property taxes via homestead exclusion

Senator Mario Scavella said Senate passage of a proposed Constitutional amendment marks a key step in eliminating residential school property taxes through homestead exclusion authority.

Currently, the Pennsylvania Constitution allows local

taxing authorities to exclude from taxation up to 50 percent of the median assessed value of homestead property within the taxing district. House Bill 147 would increase the allowable exclusion to 100 percent. If adopted, it would allow for the elimination of residential

school property taxes via the homestead exclusion.

"Passage of House Bill 147 takes the state constitution's existing property tax relief provision and builds on it to allow for the complete elimination of residential school property taxes through the homestead

exclusion. This legislation is an added tool to allow school property tax elimination to be directed at residential properties and protect individuals in danger of losing their homes," said Scavella.

"I will continue to fight and remain committed to the over-

all goal of full property tax elimination with passage of Senate Bill 76. However, after two unsuccessful votes, in the case that Senate Bill 76 does not continue to gain increased support we need to have other alternatives that provide relief

Please turn to page 17

Journal of the Pocono Plateau Classifieds

Deadline is 5 p.m. Monday. \$13/col. in. We accept Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express, as well as cash and checks. Call 570-443-9131 xt 304 to place your ad.

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School tax...

Continued from page 16

to owner occupied residential properties," Scavello said.

House Bill 147 was approved by the House of Representatives last year. As a Constitutional amendment, it must be passed in two consecutive legislative sessions and approved by voters to be enacted.

"We can all agree that any tax that would take a person's home after working their entire life to pay for it is wrong

and immoral. No individual should have to choose between paying for prescription medications, taking care of

their health and paying for property taxes," said Scavello. "People should be able to own their property and enactment

of this constitutional amendment will protect and safeguard that constitutional right."

Inducted into honor society for mathematics

Noah Riggerbach of Pocono Lake was among The University of Scranton students inducted into Pi Mu Epsilon, the national honor soci-

ety for mathematics majors. To be considered for induction, students must be in their junior or senior year, have an overall grade point

average of 3.33 and a grade point average of 3.5 or higher in mathematics. Eligible biomathematics majors can be nominated with an unsolicit-

ed recommendation from full-time mathematics faculty. Riggerbach is a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences at the Jesuit university.

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- Eurasian duck
- It made Danny DeVitto a star
- Word of mouth
- Paper plants
- The smallest, at the clothing store
- "Howdy, _____!"
- Pose a question
- Medieval oboe
- Make with needles
- Individual unit
- Flexible mineral
- "_____ but not heard"
- Like the States
- Nursemaids in India
- Battleship game success
- Oval
- *"Auld Lang Syne" poet
- "Round up the _____ suspects!"
- Yiddish shrew
- Garden _____

- Jason's vessel
- ABBA's "_____ Mia!"
- Not your grandmother's mail
- *"Divine Comedy" poet
- Like Mariana Trench

- Bad luck predictor
- *"Do I dare to eat a _____?"
- Like RMS Titanic
- Person of interest, acr.
- Honored with presence

- Chow down voraciously
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- Pakistani language
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- *"_____ & Psyche" by Robert Bridges
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Police Beat by Seth Isenberg

Pocono Mountain Regional Police detectives solved 13 burglaries after a two month investigation, leading to the arrest of Michael Joseph Benson, 18 and Unique Rainey, also 18, and three family members at their Beech Spring Drive, Lake Naomi, Pocono Pines home on June 14. Homeowners in the area had reported burglaries where electronics, jewelry, cash and alcohol were taken. Some of these items were found while conducting a search (with warrant) of this home. Police also found some personal pot and drug paraphernalia. The 18 year-olds are charged with criminal conspiracy, criminal trespass, theft and criminal mischief. Michael Joseph Benson is also charged with burglary, and possessing instruments of crime. His parents and a sibling were charged with pot possession.

Just after noon of 6-14, PM-RPD was called to the Cloud Crest apartments in Mt. Pocono because a woman was shooting a gun at an apartment there. Police arrived to find bullet casings, and a car in the parking lot with what looked to be a bullet hole in the gas tank area. Apartment 105 also had bullet holes in the siding and window. Police found the 911 caller — the resident of apt. 105, who said he saw a Mary Louise Check outside, firing a gun at him. He told police as the bullets started entering his apartment, he fled for cover into the bathroom. Police located Check, 54, of Mt. Pocono, and she was very drunk, and was yelling and swearing at the man — blaming him for numerous problems. Witnesses told police Check started by banging on the man's apartment door, calling for him to come out.

When he didn't, she went to her SUV, got a black handgun out, and shot the man's car, then fired shots into his apartment. She then waited for him to come out, and when he tried, she began shooting at him until she ran out of ammo. PMPRD detectives located a surveillance system nearby confirming witnesses accounts, showing Check driving into the lot, stumbling out of her SUV, appearing visibly intoxicated. The video shows her shooting at the man's car.

Police located the gun under a car in the parking lot. Check was arrested, but started to act up. She began to fight with police and spit on them as they attempted to restrain her. Search warrants were obtained for her SUV. A crack pipe, a gun holster, and evidence of a day-long drinking binge were found. Police at the scene also collected shell casings, and in the apartment, the bullets. Records indicated that she had her driving license suspended

due to DUI offenses, and also, that she had no permit to carry a handgun in PA. She was taken to the Monroe County jail, where she was booked, then arraigned before the on-duty Magistrate, who set bail at a million dollars. Check is charged with attempted homicide, risking a catastrophe, aggravated assault and related, terroristic threats, gun violations, reckless endangering, resisting arrest, public drunkenness, and more.

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Police Beat...

Continued from page 18

A Carbon County man identifying himself as John Large called PA State Police – Lehigh on 6-13 about 1 p.m. to talk with a Trooper regarding an incident that happened in Lansford between Large and his ex-wife over the weekend. Large started to become agitated, and threatened the Trooper and then all of the personnel at the barracks. He then hung up. At 7:49 p.m., Large called back, talking with another Trooper – asking for the first man, then making threats again before hanging up. Large called again at 8:25 p.m., talking with the second Trooper, telling him that he knew of multiple active warrants out for him, and that he was NOT going back to jail. He then stated he was going to do some kind of big attack. This led police to start a full search for Large, and then located his cell phone in Vermont. With the help of Vermont State Police, Large was found in Washington, VT, just outside Barre. He was arrested there without incident. Large was arraigned on 6-15, and had to be removed from the courtroom after he threatened the judge, and was disorderly outside the courtroom. PSP is working with Vermont authorities to extradite Large back to Carbon County. An investigation is ongoing.

PSP-L was called to a car crashed off Owl Hollow Drive in Ross Twp. outside Saylorsburg at 9:25 a.m. on

6-16. Police found that a 73 y/o Galetton, PA, driver had been speeding and missed a curve at the bottom of a hill, bouncing his '03 Buick off a guiderail and then spinning it into a tree. Police found the Buick rubber side up against a fence. The car was heavily damaged, the driver had a minor injury, and was taken by West End EMS to Pocono Medical Center for evaluation. PSP sent along a ticket for unsafe driving/speeding. PSP also did a check for warrants, and learned that the man is a Megan's Law offender, and had failed to register his vehicle per the rules of that law. He has been arraigned on this violation, and is awaiting a preliminary hearing.

On 6-10 between 10 and 11 p.m., a pilot doing nighttime takeoffs and landings at the Mount Pocono airport reported to 911 that someone was "spotlighting" his plane. The light was very bright, "blinding." The spotlifter tracked the plane through the air. PMRPD was called in, and police were able to identify the home at the northern edge of Stillwater Lakes – near the airport. Police arrived there and were able to identify the person doing the spotlighting, a 64 y/o man. The Federal Aviation Administration was contacted and they will investigate the incident, and determine if federal charges will be filed.

PSP-Fern Ridge and Lehigh on 6-13 about 1 p.m. to talk with a Trooper regarding an incident that happened in Lansford between Large and his ex-wife over the weekend. Large started to become agitated, and threatened the Trooper and then all of the personnel at the barracks. He then hung up. At 7:49 p.m., Large called back, talking with another Trooper – asking for the first man, then making threats again before hanging up. Large called again at 8:25 p.m., talking with the second Trooper, telling him that he knew of multiple active warrants out for him, and that he was NOT going back to jail. He then stated he was going to do some kind of big attack. This led police to start a full search for Large, and then located his cell phone in Vermont. With the help of Vermont State Police, Large was found in Washington, VT, just outside Barre. He was arrested there without incident. Large was arraigned on 6-15, and had to be removed from the courtroom after he threatened the judge, and was disorderly outside the courtroom. PSP is working with Vermont authorities to extradite Large back to Carbon County. An investigation is ongoing.

Keeping the Rubber Side Down ...

There were two fatal car crashes on the Pocono Plateau this past week.

At 7:47 p.m. on 6-20, 21 y/o James Miles of Coolbaugh Twp. died after his '98 Honda Civic was hit head-on by a 17 y/o Saylorsburg girl's '15 VW Jetta, when she swerved

it into the northbound lane of Route 196 near Renaissance Lane. Miles was rushed to Pocono Medical Center by PMR EMS but was pronounced dead there. The girl was taken to LVMC's trauma center for care. The crash closed Route 196 for several hours during the accident investigation. PMRPD would like to hear from any witnesses, or anyone with information. Call them at 570 895-2400 to help the investigation.

PSP-F responded to a crash off westbound Interstate 80 in Kidder Township at mm276.3 – just west of the exit for the PA Turnpike at about 9:47 a.m. on 6-18. The crash killed a 17 y/o passenger in an '08 Hyundai Tiburon. The driver lost control and went off the road, overturning and hitting a tree with its passenger side. The impact killed the teen. The driver, of Shamokin Dam, was taken to GMC for treatment. Both the driver and passenger were seat-belted. PSP is investigating the crash.

Other crashes include one caused when a 68 y/o Bangor, PA, driver dropped his cell phone in his truck at 3:49 p.m. on 6-20. He then reached to pick it up off the floor, and in doing so drove his '02 Silverado off Route 534 and into a large rock, then a tree stump. He wasn't hurt, but his truck was wrecked. He also earned a ticket for careless driving from PSP-L.

PSP-L also reports two rear-enders and another distracted driving crash.

The Pocono Plateau is NOT HIGH Enough for some

PSP-L arrested a 39 y/o Gouldsboro woman after she crashed her car off Route 903 in Penn Forest Twp. just before 4 p.m. on 6-16. She was sent for a blood test on suspicion of DUI / drugs, with charges to be filed per the results.

A 21 y/o Shamokin man was arrested by PSP after a traffic stop on Interstate 80

west in Tunkhannock Twp. at 11:30 p.m. on 6-15, after he was found to have a warrant out for him in Shamokin. A pat-down also found he had drugs and drug paraphernalia in his possession.

A 31 y/o Palmerton-area driver tried to flee a traffic stop PSP-L Troopers attempted on Long Run Rd. in Franklin Twp. at 12:45 p.m. on 6-4, but he didn't get far, crashing the '07 Kia Optima with NJ plates that he was driving. Police arrested him on suspicion of DUI, and for drug possession. When he was searched after being sent to the Carbon County jail by the on-duty Magistrate, jailers found a small bag of heroin in the man's rectum. This added a charge of attempting to bring contraband into the jail.

PSP-L made three other DUI arrests last week.

Stealin'

PMRPD sent units to a Kirby Court, Sierra View, Effort Mountain, Tunkhannock Twp. home after its automatic burglar alarm sounded just before 2 a.m. on 6-16. Arriving officers found a car parked in the road there, and saw a woman come from the home with items in her hand. The woman was identified as a neighbor, and denied being

inside, telling police she was checking on it. Items in plain view of officers inside her car were identified as being from inside the house – and once confronted with the evidence, she admitted to have broken in. She was arrested and taken to the county jail on burglary and related charges.

PSP-L reports a burglar of a bank-owned home on Covered Bridge Rd. in Lower Towamensing Twp. between 5-22 and 6-17, where thieves stole copper and radiators. A Winky Lane, Ross Twp. property owner lost some tools, a Honda generator, a DeWalt air compressor, extension cords and an 8' by 4' utility trailer when someone broke the lock of a storage building there between 8:30 and midnight on 6-14.

PSP-L also is investigating a car theft on 6-21 ('97 Jeep Grand Cherokee), and a forgery/theft from a Saylorsburg family.

Overnight 6-21 to 22, someone went onto the property of Pocono Auto Mart in Brodheads ville and stole four tires with aluminum wheels from a car parked there. Value of these is over \$1,000 – and PSP is seeking any witnesses or information. Call them at 570 646-2271 to help the investigation.

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