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**The Journal of  
 Penn-Kidder**  
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 and check out  
*pocononewspapers.com*  
 for in-between-issue  
 news

# THE JOURNAL OF PENN - KIDDER

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VOLUME 9, NUMBER 3

MID-SUMMER, 2016

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## Park progress pleasing in Penn Forest

by Seth Isenberg

July's Penn Forest Township supervisors' meeting was quick and quiet – a good start for the summer. Only a dozen citizens joined supervisors on July 11, with the meeting shifted a week due to the holiday.

To start, there were speak-



These windmills in Schuylkill County are about half the size of those proposed for Penn Forest Township.

JPK: Seth Isenberg

ers about the proposed windmills and about the plans submitted for monitoring towers in 2013. Concerns were shared about noise, fires in the windmill units and fire safety, ice, helicopters used for maintenance, and more. Concerns were also about how the hall at Penn Forest Township Fire Co. #1 is too small for all the people who want to attend the hearing – the location of the meeting is a Zoning Hearing Board decision.

The Zoning Hearing Board meeting about the proposed Bethlehem Water Authority windmills project (Atlantic Winds) was continued – with the next session to be at the Penn Forest Twp. Volunteer Fire Co. hall on August 25 – starting at 6 p.m.

Newest supervisor Roger Meckes was added to the authorized signature list for township accounts. Meckes will also attend this month's meeting of the Park & Recreation Committee. It was agreed to alternate supervisors through those meetings in the future.

Work on the township park is going along just fine and is

set to be completed on time (weather permitting). Supervisors will also meet with Pocono Fence about a fencing in the park when the grading is done. There was discussion about a possible grant being available for the township to put up a building at the park. Plans for the building exist already.

Roadmaster and supervisors chairman Butch Reiner reported that the line painting of township roads is nearly done. Tar and chip and paving will be completed in July.

The roads crew is doing brush trimming to cut back growth away from roads, and clean-up of litter where time permits (the crew is down to two).

In code officer Kathryn Forry's report, she issued 19 zoning, 7 building (3 new homes) and 5 septic permits, as well as 8 zoning certificates of occupancy plus 6 for buildings. Inspections were 25 for zoning, 50 UCC and 57 septic inspections. Two special exception applications were heard, and granted approval. Her office also attended the Atlantic

Wind special exception hearings about the windmill farm on June 23 and July 14.

Garbage permits from the 2015-16 year totaled \$237,489. The new permits season started in July, already collecting \$133,320. The Transfer Station collected \$1,393 in June for bulk items.

There's \$2,754,610 in the general fund and \$1,021,740 in the PLGIT fund. The total of all monies on deposit is \$7,308,896.

Bills in June were \$51,561

**Please turn to page 2**



Work continues at the Penn Forest Township Park.

JPK: Seth Isenberg



## Penn Forest...

Continued from page 1

from the general fund. \$13,705 was payment #1 to the State Workers Insurance. Other bills of note are \$921, \$3,984, and \$5,335 to Barry Isett & Assoc. (BIA) for engineering

and professional services, \$4,170 for June and \$3,946 for May to Nanovic Law Offices, \$2,835 and \$2,549 to US Treasury for payroll taxes, EIT commission to Berkheimer of \$2,358, \$2,005 to Capital One for the charge card (bought two flagpoles), \$1,796 to Carbon County for 911 services,

\$1,702 for staff's health and vision insurance to Highmark, Rapa Law Office was paid \$1,633, \$865 for three months of Millennium Computer services, \$476 to WEX Bank for vehicle fuel, plus 23 smaller bills.

BIA also earned \$3,607 for SEO inspection work from the septic fund, and there was a \$8,890 refund from the septic escrow fund to Glenn Keller. The Times News was paid \$1,123 for advertising the paving bids, and Five Star Equipment did \$1,114 worth of maintenance to the John Deere backhoe – from the Liquid Fuels/roads fund.

From Sanitation, payroll was \$9,250 in May and

11,208 in June, \$11,159 was paid to Waste Management for garbage hauling, \$1,702 to Highmark for health and vision, \$373 to PPL, \$468 to Solomon Container, and \$300 was spent for six other small bills.

Custom Contracting was paid \$105,930 for payment #2 of their park work, \$1,747 was paid to the township general fund for two flagpoles, and \$343 in smaller bills.

Supervisors approved a \$50 donation for the Albrightsville Fire Co. horse show and a \$45 ad in the program book for the Carbon County Townships annual meeting.

It cost \$210 to shred 27 boxes of old township records. Of-

fice staff will be sent for Quickbooks training at \$79 each, plus mileage.

There were 17 right to know requests submitted – and 19 responded to, as well as 24 zoning & septic information requests – all responded to.

Supervisors okayed a joining of two Bear Creek Lake lots for Mason, a change to the Indian Mountain Lakes boundary line, and an approval to the Goldman lot line submission for their property on Meadowrock Dr.

There were 16 right-to-know requests last month, with 19 completed. There were also 25 zoning and septic info requests taken care of.

Two press members and five staff joined supervisors Reiner, Meckes, Chris Fazio, Scott Lignore, and Judy Knappenberger at this meeting.

The next regular meeting of Penn Forest supervisors is Monday, August 1 at 6 p.m. for the work session, with the regular meeting to follow at 7 p.m. at the township building on Route 903.

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# Broadening business in Kidder

by Jeanine Hofbauer

Carbon County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corporation representatives detailed doors open to broadening business in Kidder Township at the July 21 supervisors' meeting. Chamber Executive Director Marlyn Kissner joined Carbon County Director of Economic Development Kathy Henderson explaining initiatives geared toward educating entrepreneurs and connecting employers with employees as a means of strengthening the overall economic growth in the county.

Kissner said a partnership with the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber "brings strength" further creating business opportunities with enhanced networking and marketing efforts.

Henderson, shown at right, reported a need in the area for jobs in technical professions including welding, electrical and engineering fields, while creating innovative ideas for future planning such as transportation highways and bridges.

Supervisor Thomas LaFond asked about the township's eligibility to join the organiza-



tion. Kissner said many participate.

"[Perhaps there are] different avenues within the Chamber a township would benefit from," he suggested.

"The Chamber is something for everyone but something different to everyone," she stated regarding a question about Homeowners Association participation.

Calling Kidder a "borderline township in Carbon County," supervisor Barbara Franzosa concluded "This crew has done so much to bring events up here to us."

Please turn to page 4



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## Kidder Twp....

Continued from page 3

An woman addressed supervisors emotionally pleading for township intervention in the ongoing investigation involving an altercation at a local restaurant.

Expressing frustration over the time it has taken to investigate a May 2015 parking lot incident that included her then fiancé and friends with another group that left her now hus-

band recovering from physical disabilities including visual impairment, she asked for "followup" assistance with Kidder Police Department.

LaFond urged her to leave a copy of the letter detailing the concerns for board review and discussion with Police Chief Matt Kuzma, who was absent from the meeting. He added that no comment would be made regarding the ongoing investigation.

Bills totaling \$175,629.12, that included \$50,000 to Albrightsville Volunteer Fire

Company for airbags, were approved for payment.

Supervisors LaFond, Bruce Berger, Thomas Bradley, Franzosa, and Frank Pieri, along with business manager Lisa Klem, secretary/treasurer Suzanne Brooks, solicitor Dan Miscavige and approximately 30 members of the public were present.

Kidder Township's next regular meeting is planned for 7 p.m. August 18 at the Township Municipal Building on State Route 1003 in Lake Harmony.

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at

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6:30 p.m.

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**Friday, September 16**  
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Potluck dinner, followed  
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# Calling all pets! It's picture day

To all pets- have your owners bring you to the next Pet Picture Day. This is a free event open to all pets in the Albrightsville area and surrounding communities. This event is sponsored by the Al-

brightsville Lost and Found Group on Facebook.

Contact information will be taken along with a picture of your pet. Should your pet get lost, the group will try to reunite you with your

pet through networking. They have a 97% record of bringing pets back home.

Pet picture day will take place outside of the Penn Forest #2 fire hall on Rte. 534 across from Indian Mtn. Lake, on August 13, 20, & 27 from 12-3 p.m. In case of rain, the event will moved to the back of the fire hall in the pavilion.



## Graduates from Ithaca

Mary Slack of Albrightsville graduated from Ithaca College's School of Communications with a degree in Journalism. The degree was awarded in May 2016.

## Dog of the month

by Stephanie Grega

Yoyo is a 6 year old male Terrier Mix who is very friendly and up to date on all shots. To give Yoyo a loving home, call the Carbon County Animal Shelter at 570-325-4828.

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## VBS dives into fun

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 70 Old Stage Rd., Albrightsville, will hold Vacation Bible School August 1-5 from 9:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Dive into our Deep Sea Discovery program open to all children in our community who are preschool-6th grade. Plunge into bible stories, music, fun games and crafts, while learning about God's love and awesome sea creatures.

Call (570) 325-3340 to register.



## Seth's Sightings by Seth Isenberg

If these are summertime's dog days, they are hot dog days. With temperatures around 90°, they've been hot everything days. I'm not best in a constant air conditioned environment, except when it's this hot and humid like this. Now I'd rather be inside, than out.

Ruth and I still tried to be outside where possible. On Tuesday after The Journal-Herald was sent to press we had a light meal outdoors on the patio of the Mountain Laurel Golf Course. Our timing allowed us to watch the full moon rise as we finished.

Thursday night we were at the Linda Creed Lake Timber Trails Breast Cancer Rally wrap-up dinner at the Lake Naomi Club. The event features various auctions and raffles for a stylish, fun end to what is a big fundraising effort for a serious, worthwhile cause. Money raised goes to help local women with their expenses during treatments for breast cancer. It looks like this year was the best yet.

We were outside again on Friday evening to enjoy the White Haven Fire Company Bazaar, and then moved into a good spot to enjoy the annu-



**Penn Forest Township Volunteer Fire Company Number 2 took part in the parade that kicked off White Haven Volunteer Fire Company's Bazaar over the weekend. JPK: Ruth Isenberg**

al big parade of fire trucks, almost 50, including a set from Tunkhannock Township's Volunteer Fire Department, Penn Forest VFD#2, and Albrightsville #s 1 and 2.

Saturday both of us volunteered at the Night at the Races held at the Tunkhannock Township VFD's building in Long Pond, hosted by the Blakeslee Rotary Club and

the TTVFD. It was a fun night.

On Sunday we did our best to keep cool, staying inside our house except for some newspaper errands. That night, however, we went to one of the opening performances of *Blithe Spirit* by Noel Coward at the PA Shakespeare Festival at DeSales

University. It's fun, it's funny, and the performances are pretty much spot on, definitely worth the trip and good tickets are available (and it's nicely air conditioned).

Sightings this week included a rather fast moving bear that rushed across Route 940 in Pocono Pines between the TEC fields and the woods on the south side of the road. On another trip, this one between Blakeslee and White Haven in the area of Jack Frost National, I was driving west as darkness set in when we came upon a good-sized buck standing in the middle of Route 940. He didn't move as I approached, so I opened up my window and put my arm out, then yelled and waved at him. I don't think I impressed

**Please turn to page 7**



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## Sightings...

Continued from page 6

him any, but it was enough to get him to move off the road.

This week is NASCAR's at Pocono International Raceway. We'll be at the track Friday evening for the ARCA race, Saturday afternoon for the Craftsman Truck race and Sunday afternoon for the big

NASCAR Sprint Cup race. Admission to Pocono for Friday's race and a walk around the Fan Fair is only \$10. For Saturday, seats start in the mid-grandstand are just \$35 – again a true bargain for a national sporting event. Come out and join us.

So, with seeing the races, we also plan see many of the Buck Hill/Skytop Music Fest events. We'll attend the open-

ing night Broadway review at Pocono Mountain East High School in Swiftwater, and on Saturday the Opera and Chorale event at the same theater. Both start at 7:30 p.m. (Friday's going to be a tight fit for us with the race that night...) Plenty of tickets are available for these opening shows, general admission is just \$33 for these national entertainers, and students only \$10. Reserve tickets if you can, or just come by this Friday or Saturday. Parking at the High School is easy and most of it close by.

As of early this week, there are still good seats available for the Cabaret show at indoors at Skytop next Sunday,

August 7. Ruth and I really enjoyed this show last year, and are looking forward to it again. Do call soon for tickets to this

show – I predict it to be sold out.

So, enjoy the heat – and keep cool.

## Named to honor society for natural sciences and math

Amanda Petrin of Albrightsville was named a member of the Beta Kappa Chi Honor Society in spring 2016, while studying Biology at Alvernia University. Petrin is a graduate of Jim Thorpe Senior High School.

Beta Kappa Chi - Natural Sciences & Mathematics - has the purpose of encouraging the advancement of scien-

tific education through original investigations, the dissemination of scientific knowledge, and the stimulation of high scholarship in the pure and applied sciences.

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# Free Pocono Mountain Summer Concert Series at Faith Lutheran Church in Blakeslee

The 2016 Free Pocono Mountain Summer Concert Series at Faith Lutheran Church, Blakeslee, is proud to present Kelly Planer and the Perks as they bring their multi-talented show to the Pocono Plateau on July 24 at 7 p.m.

Bluegrass barely scratches the surface of the music they perform. Alt-bluegrass, American Roots Music comes closer, yet they prefer to keep their options open. With Dave Coin's sly banjo, Kelly's vocals and Dave Imhof's solid bass, you never know what the

Perks will come up with next. From the Beatles and Nirvana to traditional bluegrass, every Perks show is full of unmistakable style and family friendly fun.

Don't miss the remaining 2016 Pocono Mountain Free Summer Concerts with mountain music provided by Wayfarers and Company on August 28 at 7 p.m., and the gospel sounds of Donna Godshall on September 11 at 7 p.m.

The Sunday evening shows are held rain or shine in the church sanctuary at 7 p.m.

The free general admission performances are supported through sponsorships and free will offerings. The church wishes to thank their concert series patrons and sponsors for their generous support this season, and invite area musicians to contact them for 2017 performance opportunities.

Faith Lutheran Church is located at 550 Route 940 Blakeslee PA, one mile east of Blakeslee Corner and six miles west of Pocono Pines next to Matirko Hardware. If using your gps, use the address 550 Route 940 Pocono Lake, PA. The venue is air conditioned, and accessible to persons with disabilities. For more information about our concert series, call 570-646-0309 or visit [faithlutheran-blakeslee.org](http://faithlutheran-blakeslee.org). Like them on

Facebook at Faith Lutheran Church Blakeslee PA.



**7/8 Shockenaw Mountain Boys & Bovine Social Club**  
\$15, Show 8 p.m.

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

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

**7/16 Incendio**  
\$15, Show 8 p.m.

**7/21 Ruf's Blues Caravan Blue Sisters**  
\$20, Show 8 p.m.

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\$24, Show 8 p.m.

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## Our Father Cantata presented

The cantata "Our Father," a Journey through the Lord's Prayer, written by Pepper Choplin, will be sung by the Blakeslee United Methodist Church Choir July 30 at 7 p.m. and on the 31 at their 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship service. Julie Kerrick Geiser directs the choir. All are welcome.

"Our Father" is a creative cantata, which will take both choir and congregation on a musical, visual, and spiritual journey through the Lord's Prayer. With original music, accompanying pictures, and thoughtful narration, the musical presentation provides a teachable moment for sing-

ers and listeners alike. "Our Father" is an innovative new work that delivers both artistry and ministry.

Stephanie Kerrick, Barbara Snyder, Chung Wang, and Linda Wieben will be the featured soloists. Joy Waltz will again provide the powerful videography, and Marlies and Al Kerrick will narrate.

Pepper Choplin, the composer, is a full time composer, conductor, and humorist. He has gained a reputation as one of the most creative writers of church music today. He incorporates varied styles such as folk, Gospel, classical, and jazz in his music.

Members of the Blakeslee United Methodist Church Choir have travelled annually to Carnegie Hall in New York City to join with the invitation-only mass choir there, singing celebrated works of contemporary composers such as Pepper Choplin and Joseph M. Martin.

The Blakeslee Church is located on Route 115 in Blakeslee, across Route 115 from the Blakeslee Shopping Center. The Rev. Joseph M. Healey is pastor of the congregation. Please call 570-646-7727 for more information.

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PA007612



# New regional hospitality skills training program debuts

The Pocono Counties Workforce Development Board, Luzerne/Schuylkill Workforce Development Board, Northampton Community College, and Luzerne County Community College have been awarded a Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry grant to offer the Bridge to Employment in the Hospitality Industry Program (START) to residents in Carbon, Monroe, Pike, Wayne, Luzerne, and Schuylkill Counties.

Northampton Community College and Luzerne County Community College will provide the Skills, Tasks, and Results Training program, which provides students with the opportunity to earn a total of five industry recognized credentials. The 300 hour program is designed to provide:

• 200 hours of instruction covering all aspects of hotel operations.

• Development of skills necessary to enter four distinct career pathways - front desk representative, guestroom attendant, maintenance employee, and restaurant server.

• 45 hours of academic support.

• 55 hours of field experience at a hotel, resort or restaurant.

Gregg Marzano, an adjunct faculty member at Northampton Community College with

25 years of hospitality experience, has been hired as program coordinator and will oversee the day-to-day operations of the program and coordinate the field experience with participating resorts and restaurants in Pike, Wayne, Monroe, and Luzerne Counties.

The program is expected to serve 120 participants with a goal of providing a pathway to employment in the hospitality industry and/or the background needed to enroll in a credit-bearing hospitality program at Northampton Community College, Luzerne Community College, or East Stroudsburg University.

Classes are at the Monroe Campus of NCC in Tannersville and on site at the Pike/Wayne Workforce Alliance. For additional information to

register for the training or to participate as a partner hotel, resort, or restaurant contact Gregg Marzano at 570-369-1947.

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# Deck Party on the Lake at Split Rock Resort

The Carbon Chamber & Economic Development Corporation and the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce have scheduled a deck party/after hours network-

ing event at the Lake View Tavern in Lake Harmony on Thursday, August 18 from 5 to 7 p.m. Join the CCEDC and GLVCC for a fun night of music and cocktails while enjoy-

ing beautiful lakeside views.

Neil Nicastro will be performing live music, and guests will enjoy tasty light appetizers and one complimentary drink as they spend an evening with

local business owners and professionals at Split Rock Resort. Stay for dinner and receive 10% off your meal.

There will be door prizes and surprises.

The event is free for Chamber members, and \$10 for prospective members. Register via email at: [www.carboncountychamber.org](http://www.carboncountychamber.org) or via phone at 610-751-4932.

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

## THEME: SUMMER OLYMPICS

## ACROSS

1. Mexican cuisine staple
6. Pres. Obama, formerly
9. Notebook place holders
13. Spy name
14. Princess' cause of insomnia
15. Chocolate source
16. British peers
17. Also known as
18. Pine or long
19. \*Rugby \_\_\_\_
21. \*Olympic sport on both track and road
23. Miner's bounty
24. October birthstone
25. Masseuse's office
28. Seaside bird
30. Jazz subculture
35. Three-\_\_\_\_ sloth
37. Actress Cameron
39. Aussie's petrol station
40. Additional
41. European finch
43. Malicious look
44. Garlic mayo
46. Mischievous Scandinavian god
47. Cleopatra's necklace
48. \*Reason for Olympic banning
50. Mary's little one
52. To the \_\_\_\_ degree
53. Alexander Hamilton - Aaron Burr incident
55. Women's undergarment
57. \*Dressage, Eventing and \_\_\_\_
61. Broadband predecessor
64. Abraham's sacrifice
65. "\_\_\_\_ Goo Dolls" rock band
67. Relating to zones
69. 1.067 km, in Russia
70. As opposed to rent
71. Not mainstream art
72. Formerly
73. Clinton \_\_\_\_
- Rodham
74. "Spaghetti Western" director Sergio

## DOWN

1. Sigma Alpha Epsilon
2. "Oh, my!"
3. \*Spent at the 1960 Summer Olympics

4. Sound of battle
5. Declare with confidence
6. Plural of #25 Across
7. Cry of horror, in comics
8. Civil rights org.
9. 1.3 ounces, in Asia
10. Antioxidants-rich berry
11. Owl's hangout
12. Price for something very cheap?
15. Hertz = \_\_\_\_ / second
20. Must-haves
22. Kum Ba \_\_\_\_
24. Having a streak of good luck

25. Lieu
26. Paralyzing disease
27. "The Tortoise and the Hare" author
29. Cambodian currency
31. Trapper's prize
32. Oedipus' successor
33. Deflect
34. \*Official Olympics starter
36. Sub station
38. \*Health concern in Rio
42. Nimbus, pl.
45. Charge with crime
49. \*Shooter's Olympic tool

51. \*2016 Summer Olympics travel destination
54. Incite
56. Solo
57. "Born to Hand \_\_\_\_," from "Grease"
58. \_\_\_\_-friendly
59. Matt Damon's landing spot, 2015
60. Ghost of Christmas \_\_\_\_
61. Fully cooked
62. Ctrl + Z
63. Sacrifice for gain
66. Be in the red
68. \*1968 gold winner Evans

**CROSSWORD**

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13						14				15				
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72							73				74			

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# Police Beat by Seth Isenberg

PA State Police – Lehigh- ton and other PSP barracks conducted stationary and roving DUI patrols on week- ends last month as part of the STEAD-D anti-drunk driving campaign. A Sobriety Check- point was set up on Route 903 in Penn Forest Twp. just south of Bear Creek Lakes from 9 p.m. on 7-2 to 3 a.m. on 7-3. Police arrested five drivers for DUI, gave Field Sobriety Tests to seven more – who passed, caught three people for un- derage drinking, and arrested five others for misdemean- ors. One wanted person was caught. One driver was arrest- ed for drug possession. Troop- ers also issued 30 tickets.

Over the last month. PSP-L made over 24 DUI arrests and PSP-F made several more.

A 26 y/o Penn Forest Twp. man is charged with trespass after he arrived at a Unionville

Rd. Penn Forest Twp. property at 4:30 a.m. on 6-18 – where “he was not privileged to do so” – PSP-L

A known local individual gave false information while trying to buy a gun at a local gun shop. Charges are pend- ing, PSP-L.

## Keeping the Rubber Side Down ...

A 15 y/o driver crashed an ATV off Mountain View Drive in southern Penn Forest Twp. at 9:38 a.m. on 6-30. He and his 15 y/o passenger were hurt – both were taken to the hospital. Neither rider was wearing a helmet, PSP-L.

On 7-10 at 7:46 p.m., Po- cono Mountain Regional Po- lice was called out to a car/ motorcycle crash at Routes 903 at 115. A 20 y/o Blakeslee biker hit the front end of a Hyundai driven by a 72 y/o Blakeslee man. The biker was

treated by Pocono Mountain Regional EMS before being loaded into a helicopter am- bulance and flown to GWV Hospital for treatment. The car’s driver and a passenger were treated at the scene, then taken by PMR EMS to Pocono Medical Center for care. Police were assisted at the scene by Tunkhannock Twp. Volunteer Fire Co. re- sponders.

PSP-Fern Ridge was called to a crash off Route 903 at 11:36 a.m. on 7-17 when a lo- cal driver didn’t see the cars

in front of him stop so had to swerve to avoid rear-ender and crashed his Jeep into a tree. His spouse, who was a front seat passenger, was hurt and needed a Lehigh- ton Am- bulance ride to GWV Hospital for care. No ticket was issued.

Just before 8:30 a.m. on 7-18, PSP-F was called to a three car crash on Route 209 at Camellia Drive east of Brodheads-ville. A 22 y/o Al- brightsville driver rear-ended the Chevy Cobalt in front of her that stopped because an SUV in front of that car was

making a turn. The crash sent the Cobalt into the rear of the SUV. The Cobalt’s driver may have been hurt, but refused an ambulance.

## Stealin’

Someone stole a mountain bike from outside a Kipling Ln., Towamensing Trails, Penn Forest Twp. home overnight 6-17 to 18. Someone stole a weed whacker and a chain- saw from a Maury Rd., Penn Forest Twp. home between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. on 6-25. Someone stole a gun from a

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## Police Beat...

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Deer Foot Lane, Penn Forest Twp. home between late April and June 3 – all PSP-Fern Ridge.

A 24 y/o Albrightsville man is accused of stealing \$3,000 from his mother, then taking her car at about 7 a.m. on 7-12. PSP-F located the car with him driving after a short search. He was arrested, and the car and money was recovered. He is charged with theft and “unauthorized use” of the car.

PSP is investigating various identity theft and fraud

incidents affecting area people including unknown people setting up bank accounts in locals’ names, someone using the victim’s e-Bay account to buy things, a local whose identity was used to set up a Verizon Wireless account he didn’t authorize, and a woman whose identity was used to open a PayPal credit account. Between 4-1 and 7-10, a 36 y/o Penn Forest Twp. man’s identity was used to open several accounts he didn’t authorize at Frederick Maryland area stores including Target and Verizon.

## Heffley, House leaders announce Opioid Task Force recommendations

In a bipartisan effort to address Pennsylvania’s devastating opioid crisis, Rep. Doyle Heffley recently announced the completion of the recommendations from the House Resolution 659 Task Force and Advisory Committee on Opioid Prescription Drug Proliferation by the Joint State Government Commission.

Gov. Tom Wolf, Speaker Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny), Majority Leader Dave Reed (R-Indiana), Rep. Harry Read-

shaw (D-Allegheny) and Rep. Stephen Kinsey (D-Philadelphia) joined Heffley and more than 100 House members to call for continued work on the opioid issue in Pennsylvania.

Opioids are a class of drugs derived from or pharmacologically similar to opiates. These analgesics carry a significant risk of addiction. Some data suggest that 60 percent of prescription opioid deaths occur in patients with no history of substance abuse and who are only prescribed an opioid by one health care practitioner.

The recommendations include five pieces of legislation passed by the House:

House Bill 1737 (John Ma-

her, R-Allegheny)—Provides for the proper disposal of unused prescriptions. The measure passed the House unanimously May 16, 2016.

House Resolution 590 (Stephen Kinsey, D-Philadelphia)—Directs the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs to establish and administer a task force on access to addiction treatment through health plans. The measure passed the House unanimously May 16, 2016.

House Bill 1698 (Doyle Heffley, R-Carbon)—Provides coverage of abuse deterrent opioids. The measure passed the House on June 23, 2016.

House Bill 1699 (Rosemary

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## Opioids...

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Brown, R-Monroe/Pike)—Sets a seven-day limit on the prescription of opioids in emergency departments. The measure passed the House on June 23, 2016.

House Bill 1805 (Kurt Masser, R-Northumberland/Columbia/Montour)—Requires prescribers and dispensers to undergo continuing education in pain management, addiction and prescribing practices. The measure passed the House on June 23, 2016.

“Opioid abuse is the No. 1 health crisis in our state. It is taking the lives of far too many Pennsylvanians, and my colleagues and I are determined to find solutions to this complicated issue. We passed five bills based on the recommendations from the Opioid Prescription Drug Proliferation Task Force and these are substantial first steps toward curbing opioid abuse in our Commonwealth,” said Hefley. “This crisis is far from over and there is much work to be done. But I am encouraged by our progress and the spirit of bipartisanship surrounding this issue.”

Speaker of the House Mike Turzai and House Majority Leader Dave Reed encouraged Gov. Tom Wolf to call a special session of the General Assembly to continue the bipartisan effort to proactively and effectively combat the opioid crisis.

“Opioid overdoses and deaths cut across all age groups, economic sectors and racial demographics,” said Turzai. “This isn’t a partisan issue, as we have been fighting it for years in the House, and we are respectfully requesting the governor call a special session so we

can best protect our children, families and communities.”

Under Article IV, Section 12 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, the governor can con-

vene the General Assembly “on extraordinary occasions” by proclamation. Its members can only consider legislation on those subjects designated

in the governor’s proclamation. “Extraordinary circumstances require extraordinary response and the opioid crisis in the Commonwealth is such

an occasion,” said Reed. “A special session will allow us laser focus in putting measures in place to defeat the problem.”

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