



THE JOURNAL of PENN-KIDDER

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MARCH-APRIL 2020



IF YOU'RE PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING, there are plenty of spots like this one in Hickory Run State Park where you can get some exercise, see people without getting too close, and be soothed by the beauty of nature. Be advised, however, that the bathrooms, and office, are closed.

JPK: Ruth Isenberg

Kidder Supers declare disaster emergency, complete police business

by Seth Isenberg

Kidder Township supervisors conducted their March 19 regular monthly meeting in front of a small audience, all carefully separated by social distance, and with supervisors also carefully distanced, plus one by telephone. The meet-

ing was short and packed with business, starting with a declaration of disaster emergency due to the Covid-19 public health emergency and actions of the Pennsylvania state government, effective immediately. The declaration authorizes the township to act to meet the emergency – in buying needed

supplies and materials, adding temporary staff if needed, entering into contracts for public work to meet the emergency, and the like.

In relation to the emergency declaration, supervisors' chairman Thomas Bradley made note that the township will

See KIDDER, page 3

PFT going gaga for Eagle Scout project

by Seth Isenberg

Eagle Scout candidate Timothy Loftus of Troop 555 presented a proposal to the Penn Forest Township supervisors at their March 2 meeting. For his Eagle Scout project, he wants to build a 'gaga ball' court to be added to the Penn Forest Park amenities.

The 25 foot diameter wood-framed 'pit' has eight corners, connected by ten-foot walls – all 30" tall. The court will have a disability-friendly door for access. A sign with the rules will be posted near the entrance.

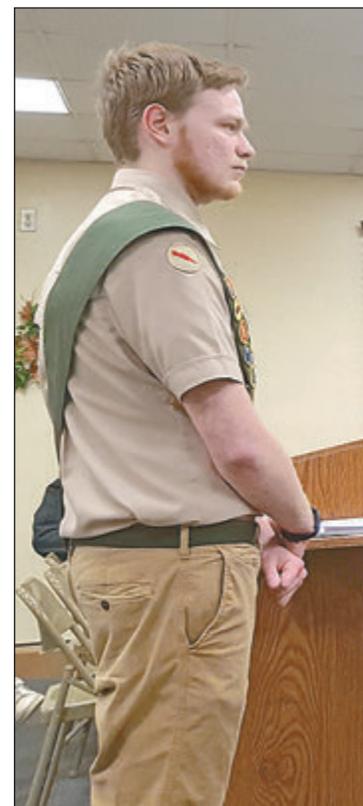
He explained how the game works – a soft rubber inflated ball is slapped or pushed at the legs of opponents in the pit. If the ball hits legs, that opponent is out. The winner is the last person remaining.

Supervisors suggested a soft cover for the top of the walls, and discussed whether the floor should be grass, carpet, or something else. Where to place it was discussed, as was needing to make a call to the insurance carrier. Supervisors, engaged by Loftus' enthusiasm, gave him unanimous support and approved his project.

Pipeline presence

At the prompting of Linda Christman of Save Carbon County, the township will register with F.E.R.C. – the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, as an intervenor to the modified Penn-East Pipeline project. This gives the township a more prominent say when speaking about pipeline matters during the process of establishing a route, and

See PENN FOREST, page 2



Eagle Scout candidate Timothy Loftus tells supervisors about Gaga Ball.

JPK: Seth Isenberg

Penn Forest

Continued from page 1

with other pipeline matters.

Fire Company aid

Supervisors were unanimous in approving a letter of intent agreeing to make annual payments of \$72,587 and \$79,942 towards Penn Forest Township Fire Co. #2's tanker, and #1's pumper. The intent is to budget this over the next ten years, allowing the companies to proceed in buying these two needed fire protection vehicles.

On a side note, David Michael III, an Assistant Chief of PFTVFD#2, attended to ask the supervisors to pass an ordinance requiring insurance companies to pay "fair and reasonable costs" for a fire company response. No action was taken at this meeting.

A discussion started when Bill English of the planning commission asked if members were covered if the PC was sued. The answer was that there is liability and other insurance coverage, but a full answer will be researched and provided at an upcoming meeting.

In other business, it was agreed to complete the donations to the Penn-Kidder Library and Dimmick Memorial — for \$5,000 and \$1,000. Dimmick officials sent a note thanking the township for the \$2,000 that had already been sent.

The resolution establishing a procedure to fill vacancies was passed unanimously.

Supervisors approved entering a judgement of \$12,000 to enforce a clean-up order for a property that has a variety of junk, car items, tires, a trailer, etc. upon it.

Roy Christman's efforts to get the township to approve a resolution asking for fair legislative districts in the state was

rewarded with a unanimous vote in favor.

The meeting started a bit after 7, as an executive session for personnel matters went long.

Finances

The treasurer's report shows \$3,356,476 in the general fund, \$3,054,150 in the Mauch Chunk Trust CDs, and \$310,075 in the JTNB CDs. Bills of just over \$50,000 were approved to be paid from the general fund. Of note were \$10,868 for state worker's insurance audit premium plus another \$2,218 in the regular installment. Barry Isett had fees of \$6,929 for zoning and right to know, \$5,087 for zoning services and \$1,237 for engineering work. Highmark Blue Shield had a combined April premium of \$9,256.

There were \$26,849 in bills from the roads / liquid fuels funds, with winter roads maintenance of \$11,132 for Shiffer's work, \$9,451 for five loads from American Rock Salt being most of that.

Supervisor Christian Bartulovich was approved to redesign and update the township website.

Roads

Roadmaster / supervisor Roger Meckes reported

his road crew is all back and healthy. Last month had a few ice storms, so not as many hours of winter roads maintenance as budgeted. The new backhoe has arrived and is in use. The new utility truck was to arrive in early March, and the new dump truck to arrive mid-month.

Stony Creek Road

Design services to prepare a bid package and then monitor the Stony Creek Road drainage project came in about \$13,000, which led to a discussion over overall cost, and engineers' cost. After a spirited discussion, supervisors split on a 3-1-1 vote in favor of proceeding. Opposing was Judy Knappenberger, abstaining with strong questions over the cost was Scott Lignore, and in favor were Cross, Bartulovich and Meckes.

Supervisors approved buying a 62" flail mower attachment for \$5,240 through co-stars. It was decided to buy the unit with the blade that can cut small saplings and brush. It was then decided to also buy, again via co-stars pricing, a zero-turn mower for the park. The 60" cut unit will cost \$11,706.

It was agreed to make another try for a Greenways grant from the PA DCED for new

playground equipment. It was also agreed to host the Carbon Amateur Radio Club again this year for their weekly tests on Wednesday evenings, and one larger meeting which will need to be scheduled.

Adding security cameras into the Penn Forest Park was discussed, and tabled for more information.

Supervisors approved the Graves family's combination of two lots in Hickory Run Forest — adding a vacant lot to one with a house on it.

Code Enforcement

Code officer Kathryn Forry's report shows 9 building permits including 5 for new homes, 14 zoning permits, and 8 septic permits issued. There were 98 zoning and 10 building certificates of occupancy issued; 113 zoning, 32 septic and 28 UCC inspections done.

There were also two new zoning complaint investigations opened.

Homeowners in Towamensing Trails are exempt from the township's garbage permit fees for the 2020-21 season, as that P.O.A. has its own garbage compactor and pickup.

The transfer station reported \$919 in bulk fees. Permits paid for included 3 from '18-'19, and ten for this year including 5 pro-rated.

There were 19 administrative and 16 zoning & septic right-to-know requests.

The next regular meeting is Monday, April 6 with a 7 p.m. start. As of press time, the supervisors were leaning toward having a meeting with a mix of social distancing and phone-ins. Monitor the township website, pennforesttownship.org, for the most up-to-date information.



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Kidder Township Police Dept. issues Covid-19 statement

Kidder Township Police Chief Matthew Kuzma issued the following statement during the township supervisors meeting on March 19:

“The Kidder Township Police is here to protect and serve the community, but in order to do that we need to protect the officers of the KTPD. In

order to do this, we are modifying our patrol procedures to include taking reports over the phone that do not require an on-scene investigation. We will respond to crimes of violence or against other people, and reportable accidents.

“Please continue to call 911 for KTPD and we will assess

the situation, and respond as appropriate.

“During this time of the Covid-19 pandemic, if any senior citizens in Kidder Township need assistance, please call 570-722-0192. We will attempt to help you in any way we can.”

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Richard More, Sales

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The Journal of Penn-Kidder—providing information and communication to build a better community.

Kidder...

Continued from page 1

need to review and update its emergency preparedness plan.

Kidder Police Chief Mat-

thew Kuzma issued a statement about changes in police procedure to protect the KTPD officers. He also reached out to township senior citizens to offer what help his department can provide. Supervisors ap-

proved hiring part/time police officer Vince Morrow as a full timer. Morrow steps up to cover for an officer recovering from an injury. The department is waiting for the arrival of its new police vehicle, and

was able to sell the vehicle that was retired for a higher price than the dealership offered for its trade-in. Walker Township near Tamaqua will buy the unit, stripped of its radio and computer, as is, for \$5,750.

Bills to be paid total \$107,232 the month. Taxes, insurances, pensions, electric and phone costs were \$50,907. Garbage pickup cost was \$26,919. Regular bills added up to \$24,413 (\$11,228 of that in engineering costs). The rest of the items include \$1,151 for traffic lights (PPL), and \$3,841 for the fire companies and ambulance.

With the improving weather, roadmaster Bruce Berger will meet with the township engineer ARRO Consulting to look at the roads, and to contract ARRO to prepare specs for paving projects for this

year. Plans are to get stormwater issues on Kirk Street and Kresge Lane resolved before any paving.

The meeting between Lake Harmony Estates and Lake Harmony Fire Co. Chief Ralph Lennon to site a new dry hydrant was delayed by LHE. Chief Lennon remarked he expects to meet with them soon.

In other business, supervisors approved the lot jointure of two lots in Holiday Pocono for Ronald and Jeanette Smith, and they added a property back onto the tax rolls from the tax claim repository. Police, fire, EMS, codes, sewage, zoning and planning reports were accepted.

The next regular meeting is planned for April 16 at 6:30 p.m., potentially on-line depending on the Covid-19 dictates.

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Penn Forest Twp. announcements

As of press time, the format of Penn Forest Township's regular supervisors meeting on April 6 has not been decided. Whatever the format, this newspaper will find a way to report on it.

Payments and applications should be mailed in. Use e-mail for all your questions to pftsec@ptd.net. Phone messages will be checked daily.

For more information, also go to the township website: penn-foresttownship.org.

At the Transfer station, staff will no longer be assisting in the removal of trash from personal vehicles, or assisting in loading it into the compactors. Please plan accordingly.

Transfer station hours remain the same.

Taxes should be MAILED to Josiah Behrens III at 263 Behrens Road, Jim Thorpe, 18229 as he will not be available at the Township building.



Walker Twp. Police buy used police Interceptor from Kidder Twp.

by Seth Isenberg

Walker Township in Schuylkill County is getting a gently used 2013 Ford Interceptor with a police package, including police markings and the police light bar. The vehicle was to be a trade-in by Kidder Township towards a new police vehicle. Instead, it's going to Walker Twp., which

made an offer for \$5,750 for the seven year-old unit with just over 136,000 miles on it.

Kidder Township receives a better price for their used vehicle, and Walker Twp. gets a well-maintained one-owner police unit. It will replace the 1998 Ford Crown Victoria that the Walker Twp. Police have been using.

Editorial

What we can control

by Ruth Isenberg

One of the most frustrating aspects of the current situation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic is the confusion. We want to know what will happen next, whether containment measures will work, what the future holds. Unfortunately, this is a new disease, and answers to those questions will be learned only over time. Meanwhile, we hear and read conflicting reports, see empty store shelves, and worry about loved ones. We feel helpless and out of control.

Let's concentrate on what we can control. We can limit our consumption of news outlets that use a breathless tone to convey information, and instead turn to trusted sources like the Center for Disease Control or the World Health Organization. It's important to stay abreast of what's happening globally and locally, but it's also important to turn the TV off at a certain point.

We can make sure we wash our hands, and keep at appropriate social distance from one another. But that doesn't mean we need to hide inside. Go for a walk. Make use of the trails and state gamelands. Be in touch with your neighbors, and see if they need your help. Collect food for the food bank, and deliver it.

Read a book. Play a game with your kids, and introduce them to some of the excellent online learning resources that are out there. Tackle some home improvements you've been putting off.

Most of all, let's learn from this experience. This isn't the first global illness, and it won't be the last. Let's figure out what we need to do to keep everyone healthier and safer.

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Seth's Sightings by Seth Isenberg

There's so much different with our corner of the Poconos slowly contracting inward. It is always important to do all that we can to keep ourselves healthy. With serious illness lurking in and around New York City and Philadelphia, our vacation home owners are coming to their second homes to self-quarantine here, we'll need to be vigilant to keep ourselves healthy, but also extra helpful and hospitable.

The Penn Forest and Kidder corridor will shine during this challenge.

Normally, sightings would be about spending to month at events hereabouts. Ruth and I did get out for some Penguins hockey games in Wilkes-Barre,

and mid-month, a Saint Patrick's weekend concert at the Mauch Chunk Opera House — but two days later most everything was getting shut down.

That weekend was also our last dining out for some weeks to come. It was a dinner with the soon to be 95 year-old Slater Isenberg. His birthday weekend is at the end of March, and we have a small party planned, then, like the Olympics, we'll postpone the real event. (In May, we hope to hold a party for him and a neighbor who turns 95 herself that month.)

We have started to get take-out dinners, in support of the local restaurants.

I'm grateful that this time of keeping close to home comes as the weather moves into spring, and we have the extra daylight courtesy of the change to Daylight Savings. This allows all of us more afternoon for things like a walk in the woods. Ruth has been encouraging me to exercise more (I spend too much time at a desk in front of a computer, or in the car). We're planning remote walks on trails with no one but ourselves — there are hundreds of trails in Carbon and Luzerne Counties — we can nearly always find one with no car parked at the trailhead.

To kick things off, we took a couple of short hikes in Hickory Run State Park last Sunday — down into the

hollow of Hickory Run Lake, and then along a lightly used part of the Old Stage Trail not far from the Turnpike — passing people at the Lake, and all by ourselves on Old Stage. On the walk back to our car on that trail — we slowly gained a small group of birds who flitted along the trail ahead of us, then around us, and then behind. It was a treat.

The state park was busy. We stayed in our car in the busiest areas. We drove to the bathroom near Boulder Field to find it locked up... There were well over 100 people on and around, with no bathroom. Visitors were social distancing, but had to run off into to woods to go. How's that healthy?

I'm hoping that we get some leeway in what businesses can remain open during the crisis. Thinking about Penn-Kidder, I was hoping that the outdoor recreation businesses would catch a break. It's too late for the ski areas, but now that days are warmer, what about bike rentals and maybe paintball — with social distancing?

And I want to get this in — Pennsylvania's closing of its liquor stores has the rest of the country amazed, and not in a good way. The staff at those stores are smart and can work a plan to stay safe — perhaps curb service like the restaurants?

Ruth and I were already stocking up slowly on items for any long shelter stay at the house — heating oil, foods, books, a T.V. subscription... (we had t.p. and sanitizer). This month other than the hikes and grocery trips, we'll be at home. To pass some of the time, I've started a science fiction series. When I get to reading, I leave Earth and the virus behind for adventures on distant planets and space with aliens and humans working together, sometimes competing... Ruth prefers period mysteries in the 1800s. So time travel the other direction ...

I'm hoping for warmer weather and only light frost because our forsythia bushes may begin a spectacular early bloom, along with some of our daffodils.

And before I wrap up, we sighted a golden eagle south of Weatherly early in March. I'm hoping it has a nest somewhere in the Lehigh Gorge.

So, to all of you — germ-free best wishes of good health through at least the next month. This virus crisis is likely to be a bumpy ride.

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Carbon County property transfers complete through March 8

Kidder Township

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to Karen K. Gee, 41 Beaver Boulevard, White Haven, lots 51 and 52, Pocono Mountain Lakes, \$1,000.

Stephen P. McLaughlin to Edward G. Seitz, P.O. Box 454, Lake Harmony, Lot 711, Section B, Lake Harmony Estates, \$180,000.

Robert J. Kelly to Anupreet Chhina, East Windsor, New Jersey, property at 77 Longview Drive, Lake Harmony, \$360,000.

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to Amanda Stump, Maple Shade, New Jersey, Lot 706, Section C, Holiday Poconos, \$957.

Hernan A. Cortes to Andrey Aviles, Pennsbrook Pines, Florida, property at 31-F Tanglewood Drive, Albrightsville, \$30,000.

Patrick J. Lawn to William W. Young, Langhorne, property at 120 Moseywood Road, Lake Harmony, \$227,500.

Jennifer A. McGinley Byrne to Jennifer McGinley, King of Prussia, property at 150 S. Lake Drive, Lake Harmony, \$1.

Jennifer A. McLaughlin to Stephen P. McLaughlin, Downingtown, property at 70 S. Lake Drive, Lake Harmony, \$525,000.

Joseph Michael Kistler to Lake Harmony Properties, LLC, P.O. Box 546, Lake Harmony, property at 67 Harmony Ave., Lake Harmony, \$126,000.

Frederick Asbrock to Kevin Franks, Perkasio, property at 1407 Upper Laurel Creek Road, Albrightsville, \$12,500.

Jeannie L. Metzinger to Patricia McNally, Bayside, New York, Lot 2, Section H, Split Rock, \$40,000.

Blue Ridge Real Estate Company to Boulder Lake Village Condominium Association,

Box 164, Lake Harmony, parcel No. 20-21-A1.10, Big Boulder Drive, Lake Harmony, \$1.

Daniel McDonald to Chad McNelis, Harrisburg, property at 150 Hartung St., Lake Harmony, \$60,000.

Penn Forest Township

Gisela K. Rex to Gisela K. Rex, 44 Midway Drive, Jim Thorpe, property at 44 Midway Drive, \$1.

Guy T. Powell to Gregory S. Martini, Trevoise, Lot V290, Section V, Towamensing Trails, \$5,000.

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to Land Trustings, LLC, Clarks Summit, Lot 2446, Section Mountain View, Holiday Poconos, \$767.

Frank Maatje to D & L King Rental, LLC, Mohnton, property at 39 Eliot Lane, Albrightsville, \$350,000.

Waldemar Wojcicki to David Keller, 1933 State Ret. 903, Jim Thorpe, Lot 238, Section B, Lake Drive, Beltzville Lakes,

\$1.

Mary E. Jamison to Mary E. Jamison, Mullica Hill, New Jersey, property at 73 Wylie Circle, Albrightsville, \$45,472.50.

Lawrence Benjamin to Michael A. Willey, Seaford, Delaware, property at 131 Buckhill Road, Albrightsville, \$133,500.

Joseph P. Michauskas to Nicole Stevens, 117 Yellow Run Road, Jim Thorpe, property at 117 Yellow Run Road, \$138,000.

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to Great Pocono Homes, LLC, 1787 State Rt. 903, Jim Thorpe, eight transactions as follows: lots 657 and 656, both in Section F of Pleasant Valley West, \$701 each; and Lot V-1631, \$802, Lot V-1806, \$675, Lot V-1118, \$701, Lot V-1493, \$815, Lot V-1468, \$815, and Lot V-1397, \$815, all in Towamensing Trails.

Harry M. Cooley to T & B Ventures, LLC, Allentown,

property at 632 Old Stage Road, Albrightsville, \$45,000.

Motus Moves, LLC, to Jessica Warnkin, 229 Unionville Road, Jim Thorpe, property at 229 Unionville Road, \$139,900.

Bobby Roberson to Lisa Ashby, Macon, Georgia, Lot 246, Section B, Pleasant Valley West, \$1.

Fannie Mae to Michael Jentsch, Shamong, New Jersey, property at 13 Shenandoah Road, Albrightsville, \$53,000.

JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A., to JP Homes, Inc., Maple Glen, property at 81 Pautuxent Trail, Albrightsville, \$69,800.

L & M Custom Homes, Inc., to Kevin Eugene Tiemann, Fleetwood, property at 20 Cocopah Circle, Jim Thorpe, \$188,000.

Barbara J. Povalac to Jill A. Brown, Edison, New Jersey, Towamensing Trails Lot 142, Section I, \$1.

Robert T. Miller to Robert T. Miller, East Stroudsburg, four lots in Marty QAxman development, \$1.

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to Richard Scott, Beverly, New Jersey, two transactions, two lots on Bearview Drive, Bear Creek Dairy, \$750.50 each.

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to Joseph E. Laschenski III, Harleysville, Towamensing Trails Lot V-147, Section E-V, \$664.

Jeannette Beers to Troy A. Hoffman, 7 Miami Trail, Albrightsville, property at 7 Miami Trail, \$165,000.

Dongjie Liu to Sophia Pelul-

See TRANSFERS, page 7

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Transfers...

Continued from page 6

lo, Southampton, property at 50 Buckhill Road, Albrightsville, \$90,000.

Steohen E. Wojtuniak to Thomas E. Weisse Sr., Kings

Park, New York, property at 12 Butternut Road, \$89,838.

Arthur J. McDonald to Michael A. Grant Sr., Philadelphia, property at 37 Ash Drive, \$190,000.

Marc A. Kimball to Andriy Zarvovskiy, Brooklyn, New York, property at 21 Mountain View Drive, \$147,000.

Christopher R. Raymond to Allison Lee Pearce, Philadelphia, property at 263 Towamensing Trail, Albrightsville, \$105,000.

Christopher G. Harding to Robert J. Miller, Glenside, Lot 1246, Section III, Towamensing Trails, \$146,150.

Maksim Kordysh to Olga

Peskovskaia, Staten Island, New York, property at 160 Sassafras Road, Albrightsville, \$1.

Rajesh G. Goudar to Kenneth J. Oberholtzer, Langhorne, property at 29 Crane Road, Albrightsville, \$290,000.

Jacek Wasielek to Deborah Moser, Stewartsville, New Jersey, Lot V-1047 Section E-V, Towamensing Trails, \$265,000.

Joan Solano to Joan Solano, Westbry, New York, property at 133 Sekani Trail, Albrightsville, \$1.

Irene Drozd to Napiela Nelson, 404 Patten Circle, Albrightsville, property at 404 Patten Circle, \$215,000.

Ricky Laduca to Walter F. Veit, P.O. Box 1526, Albrightsville,

ville, Lot 801, Section II, Towamensing Trails, \$8,500.

David Keller to Evan Linder-muth, P.O. Box 855, Albrightsville, property at 211 Keats Lane, Albrightsville, \$75,000.

Theodore J. Stocklin to Theodore J. Stocklin, Toms River, New Jersey, Lot V1437, Section V, Towamensing Trails, \$1.

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to Paul Donnelly, Mickleton, New Jersey, Lot 245, Section A, Sparrow Lane, Marty Axman Development, \$705.

Vincent J. Lepera to Vincent J. Lepera, Cinnaminson, New Jersey, Lot 520, Section II, Towamensing Trails, \$1.

James Reppert to Patrick Miller, Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey, property at 223 Smith Road and Red Oak Drive and Smith Road, \$29,500.

Taga Properties, LLC, to Joseph Hill, Gettysburg, property at 195 Keats Lane, Albrightsville, \$300,900.

Danee A. Elliott to Matthew T. Ranken, 70 E. Creek Road, Leighton, property at 70 E. Creek Road, \$170,000.

Stefan Kumor to Fred Morales, Brooklyn, New York, Lot 214, Section L, Indian Mountain Lakes, \$5,289.

Orlando Alegria to BMR Management Group, LLC, Hatboro, property at 126 Buckhill Road, Albrightsville, \$35,000.

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Police Beat

by Seth Isenberg

In the time of the Corona virus, there are a handful of scams going around to be aware of. There's one that offers a virus testing kit — you just provide your personal information...

There's vitamin supplement kits, unknown checks arriving by mail, and even a copper nose swab for sale (these are cons vs. scams). With the unknown checks, the victim ends up providing their bank account and perhaps a signature, and away their money goes.

To us directly, last week, we got a message that someone had captured information, photos and the like and will hold one of our computers hostage unless paid \$900 in Bitcoin.

Also this week, we received an e-mail communication from an official at one of the leading banks in Africa, asking that we consider a business transaction where we would be compensated "40% at the final conclusion." The official then invites us to reply for more details.

A vacant home in Robin Hood Lake Estates went up in flames early in the morning of 3-11. PA State Police-Lehigh-ton responded to the scene, and has called in the arson investigator from Troop N. Anyone with information about this fire is asked to call the Fire Marshall at 570 459-3890.

About 3:15 p.m. on 3-7, a man was walking his two

dogs along Dryden Drive in Towamensing Trails, Penn Forest Twp., when another dog approached from a nearby property and attacked his two dogs. The attacking dog's owner and the man tried to separate the dogs, in the process, the man fell over. He repeatedly told the woman he would have to shoot her dog, then drew a pistol and shot it once. The dog then retreated, ran away, and died. PSP-Fern Ridge investigated the incident, and determined the shooting of the dog was justified and no charges will be filed against either party.

Stealin'

Investigators at PSP-Hazleton are working to deter-

mine who set up a credit card account using a White Haven area woman's identity, then charging \$1,387 through the fall until this February.

Tools and other items were stolen from a weekend home on Eastbrook Rd. in Chestnut-hill Twp. between 2-6 and 3-6. PSP-F.

Burglaries are reported of vacant homes on Pawnee Trail in Mt. Pocahontas on 3-10, and on Starry Lane in Effort, 3-16. With the Mt. Pocahontas break-in, PSP-F were sent to investigate a suspicious vehicle at the house, and found a black Mercedes abandoned there.

The car, with a Georgia registration, had been seen driving slowly through the neighborhood earlier.

Someone stole a U-Haul van from Argot's Hardware in Effort overnight 3-20 to 21.

PSP also reports various shoplifting incidents in the Brodheadsville area.

Penn-Kidder is not HIGH enough for some

A 57 y/o Blakeslee-area man was arrested for DUI at 12:38 a.m. on 2-29 while driving on Allegheny Dr. in the Sierra View development. Notes

See POLICE BEAT, page 11

CORONAVIRUS HELPFUL TIPS FROM THE CDC



clean your hands

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least **20 seconds** especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

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Police Beat

Continued from page 10

show he resisted arrest. PSP-F
PSP was dispatched to a crash on Interstate 80 at 4:16 a.m. on 3-13 of a car into a tractor-trailer. On arrival and meeting the driver, Troopers found that the 22 y/o Brooklyn, NY, man was driving while under the influence of drugs when he hit the truck. He was taken for a blood draw. No one

is reported hurt.

Keeping the Rubber Side down

At 6:10 a.m. on 3-19, PSP-Lehighton was dispatched to a serious crash on Route 903 and Church Road. On arrival, police found a heavily damaged Saturn L-100 sedan that had hit a Mack commercial vehicle near head-on. The car then flipped onto its driver's side. Its driver, a 50 y/o Jim Thorpe-area local,

was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver of the Mack was transported to St. Luke's GH hospital in Lehighton for treatment. PSP continues its investigation.

A truck driver, eastbound on I-80 at 3:38 a.m. on 3-21, lost control of his rig and drifted into a parked truck at mm280, sideswiping it before overturning. This truck then caught on fire. Police and emergency responders converged, and shut the highway down. I-80

east stayed shut until 2 p.m. Both of the drivers were taken by the Lake Harmony Rescue Squad ambulance for treatment of injuries. PSP-F sent the driver who caused this crash, a 30 y/o Californian, a ticket.

PSP is investigating a crash where the tractor-trailer driver driving I-80 east just after 5 p.m. on 3-23 claims he was cut off by another driver, and lost control of his rig in the maneuver to avoid a crash...

but due to icy road conditions crashed off the highway and into the woods. He was injured and taken to GWV hospital for care, with a ticket sent along from PSP.

PSPs in Fern Ridge and Lehighton this month posted a long list of accidents on the Interstates, several serious. Without major snows, the list was shorter than previous years.

Dean's List Roster

Albright College

Christopher Asbrock of Albrightsville, a graduate of Jim Thorpe Area High School majored in Computer Science during the fall semester.

Emerson College

Christopher Williams, a native of Albrightsville, is majoring in Journalism and is a member of the Class of 2022.

Kutztown University

Eric Fischer of Albrightsville, Ruina G Gentile of Jim Thorpe, Takumi Alexander Hawes of Albrightsville, Zachary M Searfoss of Jim Thorpe, Jeffrey Colin Tews of Albrightsville, Rachel Nicole Walck of Albrightsville.

Lehigh Carbon Community College

Albrightsville: Grace Aguirre, Tasya Brown, Ashley Cole, Makayla Davison, Victoria Defazio, Maille Galvin,

Andrew Gilliar, Alexander Gretzinger, Mason Gyarmati, Nicole Huddleston, Kaylyn Joseph, Carol Keefer, Dylan Letcher, Thomas Monbousin, Anastasia Nieves, Kaitlyn O'Neil, Raymond O'neil and Janel Schafer.

Jim Thorpe: Samantha Ahner, Grace Baldassano, Kristy Berger, Makena Boger, Cody Buchanan, Taylor Craigie, Brian DeMarco, George Dugan, Kylee Dulski, Diane Feller, Christian Gould, Amanda Green, Jake Hukka, Payton Kovac, Carly Kuzan, Dominic Madera, John McCabe, Katherine McElroy, Shannon McHugh, Amanda McMahon, Kenneth Melber, Jr., Olivia Peterson, Juliette Pfeiffer, Nolan Rehrig, Emily Rohlfing, Mackenzie Rosenberger, William Schwartz, Anna Shigo, Holly Skrimcovsky, Noah Snisky, Sean Soden, Morgan Steigerwalt, Samantha Sterner, Shannon Streff and Angelo Testa.

Muhlenberg College

Christopher Brazezick of Albrightsville, Emily Layden of Jim Thorpe, Ryan Malarkey of Jim Thorpe, Erin Shigo of Jim Thorpe, Tim Whitehouse of Jim Thorpe, Emily Layden of Jim Thorpe.

Northampton Community College

Michael Baus of Albrightsville, Season Bryant of Albrightsville, Cynthia Wood of Albrightsville, Deborah Travers of Albrightsville, Alexandra Uzar of Albrightsville, Angelica Uzar of Albrightsville, Caroline Snerr of Jim Thorpe, Nicholas Jafraty of Albrightsville, Ivan Plante of Albrightsville, Sarah MacNeill of Jim Thorpe, Sara Javorka of Albrightsville, Deirdre Hannan of Albrightsville, Cody Dominie of Albrightsville, Sabrina Kelly of Albrightsville, Ameen Ali of Albrightsville, Rashawna Chambers of Albrightsville, Anthony Zangara of Albrightsville

Rochester Institute of Technology

Christopher Widdicombe of Albrightsville is in the electrical engineering technology program.

Susquehanna University

Ava Lowin of Albrightsville

is a Biology (BS) major of the Class of 2020 and a graduate of Jim Thorpe Sr High School. Rhiannon Malarkey of Jim Thorpe is a Comm: Digital Multimedia-Sports Media (BA) major of the Class of 2023 and a graduate of Marian Catholic High School. Leanne Van Essendelft of Albrightsville is an International Business (BS) major of the Class of 2023 and a graduate of Jim

Thorpe Sr High School.

University of Scranton

Ian P. MacDonald of Albrightsville, a senior accounting major in the University's Kania School of Management.

Wilkes University

Dominick Bierman of Jim Thorpe; Emma Dunbar of Jim Thorpe; Alexa Romanchik of Jim Thorpe.

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By Rick Burke,
Navy Office
of Community Outreach

PORT HUENEME, Calif. - “We Build, We Fight” has been the motto of the U. S. Navy’s Construction Force, known as the “Seabees,” for more than seven decades. The Navy Seabees are an elite group of personnel trained in both combat and the craft skills of the construction industry.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Merle Burger, a native of Albrightsville, plays a key role in supporting those who build and fight around the world as a member of a naval construction battalion center located in Port Hueneme, California.

Burger is serving as a Navy electronics technician, who is responsible for preventive and corrective maintenance on communications equipment and training and equipping different battalions with mission-essential gear for deployments.

Building in austere environments can be a challenge. Fighting in harsh conditions can also be a challenge. Building in austere environments while fighting in harsh conditions takes a special kind of person with a great deal of perseverance and determination, according to officials with the U.S. Navy History and Heritage Command. These are the kinds of people being trained at Port Hueneme, to provide crucial support to Seabee units deployed around the world.

The jobs of some of the Seabees today have remained unchanged since World War II, when the Seabees paved the 10,000-mile road to victory for the allies in the Pacific and in Europe, said Lara Godbille, director of the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum.



Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Bradley Gee

“I learned a lot about what they call ‘green gear,’ which is mostly mobile communication systems,” Burger said. “It’s broadening my trade skills in the equipment that I work with.”

Seabees have served in all American conflicts for nearly 80 years. They have also supported humanitarian efforts using their construction skills to help communities around the world following earthquakes, hurricanes and other natural disasters.

Burger is a 2014 Jim Thorpe Area High School graduate. According to Burger, the values required to succeed in the Navy are similar to those found in Albrightsville.

“Growing up with my father and mother who both served in the military, I learned a great sense of discipline and respect for others,” Burger said. “This made my transition into the Navy lifestyle easier than most.”

Port Hueneme is the West Coast homeport of the Navy’s Seabees. It’s one of five learning sites in the Center for

Seabees and Facilities Engineering domain. They train and develop sailors, soldiers, airman, and Marines in construction trades and military skills for Department of Defense operating forces to accomplish contingency and peacetime construction, chemical, biological, and radiological operations, and humanitarian assistance missions worldwide.

Port Hueneme and the men and women who serve there play a key role in the Navy’s broader mission of protecting American interests on the

world’s oceans.

According to Navy officials, maintaining maritime superiority is a vital part of a Navy that is present today and prepared for tomorrow. The impact affects Americans and their interests around the world, as more than 70 percent of the Earth is covered by water and 90 percent of all trade travels by sea.

The foundation of the Navy the nation needs includes a focus on warfighting, warfighters and the future of the fighting force.

“I am confident that we will maximize the Navy we have today while delivering the Navy that our nation will rely upon tomorrow,” said Adm. Mike Gilday, Chief of Naval Operations. “We will do so with urgency. Our fleet will be a potent, formidable force that competes around the world every day, deterring those who would challenge us while reassuring our allies and partners.”

Though there are many ways for sailors to earn distinction in their command, community and career, Burger is

most proud of receiving his first Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

“My first NAM showed me that what I was doing was appreciated by my leadership,” Burger said. “I was working with navigation and ship steering systems and managed to repair critical component failure along with repairing some remote stations for navigation data.”

Serving in the Navy is a continuing tradition of military service for Burger, who has military ties with family members who have previously served. Burger is honored to carry on the family tradition.

“My grandfather on my father’s side served in the Navy and my father, mother, and uncle, Jesus, all served in the Marine Corps,” Burger said. “My twin brother is currently

serving in the Navy, my brother-in-law served in the Army and my stepbrother is currently in the Army. It’s an honor to not only continue the tradition but to know that I am serving a great cause just as they did, is both rewarding and fulfilling.”

As a member of the U.S. Navy, Burger, as well as other sailors, know they are a part of a service tradition providing unforgettable experiences through leadership development, world affairs and humanitarian assistance. Their efforts will have a lasting effect around the globe and for generations of sailors who will follow.

“It’s an honor to serve with the Seabees because of their history and it definitely broadens my horizons in regards to Naval tradition,” Burger said.



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