



THE JOURNAL of the POCONO PLATEAU

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We stand united in doing our part to protect the health and well-being of our family, our friends and our community. You can depend on your newspaper to bring you the most trusted up-to-date information and advice to help keep everyone safe.

We are committed to helping one another. During these challenging times, you can rely on your newspaper to provide details about any resources that may be available to assist those who are vulnerable and in-need.

We celebrate our every day heroes. From the healthcare workers who are working tirelessly to care for the infirmed to the grocery store clerks who are filling the shelves so we have the supplies that we need, your newspaper is highlighting the good works that are being done for our community.

We count our blessings. No one knows what the next days, weeks or months will bring, but during this time of uncertainty, your newspaper is even more grateful for the opportunity to disseminate quality and credible journalism to our local community and loyal readers.

We look forward to brighter days ahead. Your newspaper remains committed to serving the needs of a stronger, tighter and more connected community.

Local landscape changes as Covid-19 continues



by Ruth Isenberg

As the rest of the state joins Monroe County under stay-at-home orders, the Plateau is seeing reduced traffic and shuttered businesses, like the 52 year-old Jubilee in Pocono Pines. As owner Bill Van Gilder explained in his press release, “Over the past few weeks, we have all had to make many difficult decisions concerning our everyday lives and activities. Here at the Jubilee, the safety of our customers, staff, families, friends, neighbors, and com-

munity has been at the forefront of every decision. We believe it is the best interest of our staff to temporarily close the Jubilee to allow them to remain healthy and safe. We could not bear one of our team members getting ill for the sake of making some chicken wings. Our staff is our family.”

He went on to note that the restaurant will hold online trivia events and music events, and will also stay active in the community with fund-raising and meal support.

The Jubilee is not alone in
See COVID-19 CHANGES, page 3

EMS facing facts on funding operations and concerns



by **Jeanine Hofbauer**

A disturbingly large population assumes Emergency Medical Responders [EMS] operations are supported as a

whole by government subsidies and health insurance reimbursement for vehicles, equipment, medication and EMT/Paramedic costs that are all initially absorbed by the

EMS. These costs are not. Pocono Mountain Regional EMS Director of Operations Denise Doremus shares a breakdown of cost analysis, explaining “It costs PMREMS approximately \$400 to run a call.” Under current reimbursement, Medicaid pays \$300 for an ALS (Advanced Life Support), and \$180 for a BLS (Basic Life Support). Medicare pays \$350 - \$500. Many private insurance firms send payment to the patient instead of directly to PMREMS. “They [patients] keep their check and we never see payment, and there is nothing we can do about it, no legal action. They get sent to collections but often times we will never see that money,” she



adds.

Facing critical times amidst the current pandemic crisis where supplemental revenue resources such as their annual subscription drive, the

nonprofit’s largest means of fundraising, numbers dwindle PMREMS turns to local officials to aid in relief. Expressing appreciation to member

See EMS Funding, page 5



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Neighbors Helping Neighbors

by Jeanine Hofbauer

Faced with the need to ensure proper disinfecting of essential operation locations such as Pocono Mountain Regional EMS headquarters during the COVID-19 crisis, the local ambulance nonprofit turned to Pocono Mountain School District. Immediate response resulted in providing EMS with borrowed use of the district's Halo disinfecting room fogger.

PMREMS Business Manager Nick DeWitt stated, "Understanding the importance of sustaining our local EMS from donations, to stepping up like the school district with lending vital equipment such as the fogger is important—that's what a community is all about everyone helping where they can."



PMREMS' Mark Lemley prepares fogger operations to disinfect headquarters, thanks to a loan from Pocono Mountain School District. JP: Jeanine Hofbauer

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printed on part-recycled newspaper

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

Covid-19 Changes...

Continued from page 1

facing changes in operation. The IHOP at the Route 534 Exxon Travel Plaza truckstop is temporarily closed, as is its sister restaurant at Lake Ariel.

Other spots are still open, but with shortened hours and limited menus.

Dentists, doctors and other professionals are offering information via e-mail and online, but office visits are limited. Hospitals have curtailed visiting hours and limited elective procedures.

Pocono Mountain School District is providing resources for online learning in the Home Learning Resources Center at pmsd.org. As the school closure goes forward, Chromebooks are available for students without computers at home. Requests for ChromeBooks for students who do not have a computer/device at home to use for educational purposes should be sent by email to school principals. ChromeBooks are not required. Any computer will work. Blue Ridge Cable in providing free internet service for unserved customers for a trial period.

Families running out of food, unable to provide meals for their children, and with no means available to pick up the free student meals should call the new PMSD Emergency Student Meals Hotline at 570-839-7121, ext. 10165 and leave a message.

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Area Funerals

FRANK W. PIERI

Frank W. Pieri (Sharkey), 76, of Lake Harmony, passed away on March 26, 2020 in East Stroudsburg, after bravely battling cancer.

He was born on June 20, 1943 to the late Francis W. and Adele M. (nee Lynch) Pieri of Mahanoy City. His father was a Captain in the Armored Engineer Battalion in World War II and after he lost his life in the war, Frank was raised by his devoted mother. He was also predeceased by his former wife, Susan M. McGrorty.

Frank grew up in Mahanoy City where he attended St. Canicus School and graduated from Mahanoy Area High School in 1961. He furthered his education and graduated from Thaddeus Stevens Trade School in Lancaster.

Frank was a long-time resident of Lake Harmony, a

place he truly loved. For years he worked as a salesman and printer for Printing Craftsmen. His passion for the community extended to his work as a Kidder Township Supervisor, a member of the Planning Commission, and other local boards and committees. He was also founder of, and a former co-owner of the *Lake News*.

“Sharkey,” as he was affectionately known, treated everyone like family and loved spending time with his close-knit group of friends in the area. He enjoyed being outdoors and was an avid hunter, fisherman, and ski instructor, and fond of sailing and traveling.

Frank will always be remembered for his kindness and his outgoing manner which he extended to all who crossed paths with him. He will be greatly missed by his family and his many friends. A service to celebrate Frank’s life will be scheduled at a later date.

ROBERT D. SHERWOOD

Robert D. Sherwood, 79, of Blakeslee, died Monday, March 30, 2020 at his home.

He was the son of Howard and Beatrice Owen Sherwood. He graduated from Landsdowne High School. He worked as a finishing carpenter building cabinets for Collingdale Mill Work in Collingdale. He enjoyed building and fixing things, loved his cats, hockey and country music.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Dolores D. Taft Sherwood.

He is survived by his son, Matthew R. Sherwood and wife, Ruth, of British Columbia; his distraught daughter, Rena Jean Sherwood of Clifton Heights, who states “He was my White Knight;” and two grandchildren.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Lehman Family Funeral Service, Inc., White Haven.

Stay informed—sign up for e-blast

The *Journal of the Pocono Plateau* is collecting e-mail addresses to help communicate essential information during the COVID-19 situation and

Julia E. Vurlumis, 84, of Pocono Lake, died Monday, March 30, 2020 at St. Luke’s Hospital in Bethlehem. She was the wife of George Vurlumis, with whom she shared 60 years of marriage.

Born March 18, 1936 in Brooklyn, NY, she was a daughter of the late Chris and Bertha (Argyropoulos) Ectoras and lived in Monroe County since 1999. She was a member of the Holy Cross Greek Ortho-

dox Church in Stroudsburg.

Also surviving are a son, Anthony Vurlumis and wife Zoe of Freehold, NJ; a brother, Louis Ectoras and wife Evelyn of Long Island, NY; a sister, Catherine Handrinos of New Port Richey, FL and many nieces and nephews.

Due to current health concerns, services and burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorial remembrances may be made to the church.

MARGARITA ANAYA-SALALA

Margarita Anaya-Salala, 77, of Tobyhanna, died on Friday March 27, 2020. She was born in El Salvador and had been residing in Tobyhanna for the past 15 years. She worked as a

pharmacist for many years and was of the Catholic faith.

She is survived by a daughter Sandra Irizarry of Tobyhanna, and two other children in El Salvador.

PATRICIA IEROVANTE

Patricia Ierovante, 62, of Mount Pocono, died Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at home, surrounded by family. She was the loving wife of Nicholas Ierovante Sr., with whom she shared 37 years of marriage.

Born in Bronx, New York, she was a daughter of Patricia (Greene) Killian of Poughkeepsie, New York and the late

Henry Killian.

Patricia formerly worked as a travel agent and tended bar at Burke’s Tavern in Mount Pocono and Cherry Valley Golf Course in Cherry Valley.

In addition to her husband, and mother, she is survived by her children, Nicholas Ierovante Jr. and his wife, Michelle of Pocono Summit, Joseph Ierovante and his companion, Kate of Pocono Summit, and Ben Ierovante and his fiancée, Shannan of Mountain-home; brother, James Killian of Poughkeepsie, New York; sisters, Christine Dunham and her husband, David of Pocono Pines, Mary Lou Killian of Poughkeepsie, New York, and Ginger Milbury and her husband, Mike of Needham, Massachusetts; and several nieces and nephews.

There will be a private Mass of Christian Burial, with interment to follow at St. Paul’s Cemetery in Swiftwater.

Bolock Funeral Home, Cresco, was in charge of arrangements.



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EMS Funding...

Continued from page 2

municipalities Barrett, Coolbaugh, Paradise, Tobyhanna, and Tunkhannock townships, along with Mt Pocono Borough for contributions.

Pocono Mountain Regional EMS is a nonprofit, governed by a board of directors that oversees fiscal responsibility, while working hard at generating funds to sustain this valuable community resource. Measures to responsibly manage costs were in place well before any crisis. In the vast expanse Poconos coverage areas, emergency response consolidation not only serves as a unified means of providing better response time and care for the community, it also alleviates overwhelming cost overhead. On the other hand, it also creates higher call volume,

wear-and-tear on vehicles, and fuel expenses.

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives “fast-tracked” Act 10 legislation authorizing \$50 million in state funding to purchase critically needed medical equipment and supplies for hospitals, nursing facilities and emergency medical services in response to the COVID-19 crisis, local Pennsylvania Representatives Jack Rader and Rosemary Brown and Senator Mario Scavello noted intent to ensure monies are properly spent.

176th Legislative District State Representative Rader comments, “We’re still waiting to hear from the governor’s budget office on how and when the money from Act 10 will be distributed to the dedicated and hard-working professionals on the front lines of the pandemic.”

Senator Mario Scavello concluded with a vow, “I will research that [Act 10 funding], as a piece of that should go to EMS.”

A response for comment from 115th Legislative District Representative Maureen Maden was not received at the time of publication.



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Seth's Sightings

by Seth Isenberg

Two weeks ago, I was writing about having our activities and meetings cancelled and postponed. After being cooped up over this time, I’m beginning to settle in to a routine which is more relaxed than my previous way of getting through my work and day. There are newspapers to get out, as with this issue. Our efforts here at the Journal are in rounding up the news and support to try to print on a regular schedule.

We are asking for readers’ e-mails so that we might be able to keep you informed with mini-Journals. Please send yours to journalruth@gmail.com.

As Press, we still are getting out. Covid-19 is a serious disease so we keep our distances. With the weather warming up, and spring flowers starting to bloom, it’s getting pretty out here. It’s also so very, very quiet.

With weather warmer lately, I’m planning to start some spring yardwork. Spring flowers are starting to bloom around our home. Our forsythia has started along with south-facing daffodils and some violets. I’m watching the magnolia tree in White Haven in the hopes it won’t bloom early. I’m still fearing frost.

Still, it’s nice to see the green.

A coincidence — this fall — I was given a history article to consider as a judge for a newspapers association’s annual excellence in newspapering contest. It was about one Colorado county’s response to the Spanish Flu epidemic 100 years ago. Officials there shut off the entire county from everyone from the outside, and kept most of the population safe. The photo that remains with me is one where officials had stopped the railroad at the county line.

I am hoping that this shelter at home action buys our health services the time our medical infrastructure needs to ramp up with medicines and equipment, and care facilities. The daily tallies in newspapers and on the web list our losses from the Covid-19 virus. It got closer to home for me when country singer Joe Diffie died from the virus last week. He’s been part of my You Tube musical choices through this past year. As a tribute, I have been playing a series of his hits and some of his performance videos. Of special note is one from the late 1990s at the Grand Ole Opry. I got to thinking — Diffie’s funeral hearse would have to have been a pickup

truck... and might his friends have propped him up beside the jukebox? (To those not familiar with Diffie, these refer to some of his big hit songs).

I have added to my mix of videos on You Tube — from old time comedy, and new stand-up, to adventures, more rock and country videos, puppies and dog vids, and more. I have at least six books to read, plus some that Ruth has put aside for me. With warmer weather, there will be yardwork, and some inside the house and office cleaning ... here’s to being both healthy and busy.

Ruth and I celebrated my uncle Slater’s birthday as he started his 95th year the last Sunday in March. We shared a meal from a nearby take-out BBQ place, and some cake. Relatives from all along the east coast called in to congratulate him on his day. My cousin said they were already planning a big celebration for when my aunt Joan — who is a few months older than Slater, and aunt Sunny — a few months older than Joan, turn 100.

Our limited driving has also limited our sightings of critters — but today as I write this, we had a squirrel climb up the rhododendron beside our bedroom window as we watched. He/she fled when he saw he had an audience. Later, into that same bush came a small flock of grackles, rummaging around our yard for their breakfast. Some of these flew into the same rhododendron bush — none noticed their audience.

Please, make some time to check-on shut-ins around here — and elsewhere.

Best and healthy wishes to all our readers — ‘til our next issue.

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Scams galore

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 your money goes.

Now there are Census scams, tax scams such as one where they say you own money and won't get your federal supplement checks (from the recent legislation), and more. Any tax-related phone call that comes out of the blue is likely a fraud. Tax people will mail first, then call.

To us directly, last month, we got a message that someone had captured Ruth's information, photos and the like and will hold one of our computers hostage unless paid \$900 in Bitcoin. To me today, I got this with a Navy Federal Credit Union logo on it: Dear Member. You have just received a new payment on your Navy Federal checking account. For security reasons, The incoming transaction has been placed on hold while validation of your account is required. Then there is a click here button – which is where the scam damage would start. I am NOT a member. The site looks near perfect, but it's a phishing fraud.

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.

Yesterday, Ronnie Chan of "one of the largest foundations in the world" says he plans to "give it all away" to aid in the fight against COVID-19, and offers a news link about his philanthropy through Brandenburg University in Germany's web address system.

FROM OUR FRIENDS AT TUNDRA COMICS:



THEME: COFFEE AND TEA

ACROSS

1. Bookie's number
5. Parents org.
8. Slang for microwave
11. Time distortion
12. One with biggest share?
13. Like a case of appendicitis, possibly
15. Decanter
16. Knowing about
17. Mister in Madrid
18. *Usually served on ice, 2 words
20. Barber's sound
21. Accepted truth
22. Took a load off
23. Artist's office
26. Excites passions, 2 words
30. Comic book cry of horror
31. Rude or sarcastic
34. Chips, perhaps
35. Roleplay
37. Chinese "way"
38. Ice floaters
39. 100 centavos
40. Merry
42. Table scrap
43. Breastbone
45. *Double shot of espresso
47. Feather's partner
48. Not here
50. Nickname for Putin?
52. *Revolutionary event
55. **"Tea is the only simple pleasure left to us," he wrote
56. Research facil.
57. Typically used in the fairway
59. Goodbye to amiga
60. Plenty
61. Why not
62. *Black tea, in China
63. Bard's "before"
64. Pay close attention

DOWN

1. Be in the red
2. Crows' cousins
3. Actress Barrymore
4. More like rumors
5. '70s Ford model
6. Native American emblem
7. Dwarf buffalo
8. Pueblo tribesman
9. On top
10. For each
12. Cosmetic cabinet staple

13. Allegro ____ in music, Italian
14. * ____ Perk from "Friends"
19. Exit plus s
22. Eye infection
23. Oozes
24. Article of faith
25. Romanov's edict
26. *A ____ of tea, in U.K.
27. Prowl around
28. Embryo cradles
29. Green pasta sauce
32. One on the list
33. Faux one
36. *Equal parts espresso and warm milk
38. Fauna's partner
40. Hudson's Bay Company original ware
41. Experts
44. Nose channels
46. Kick the bucket
48. Between counter-tenor and baritone
49. Make this, not waste
50. Affected by the moon
51. Went down a slippery slope
52. Kitchen flooring choice
53. Tried follower
54. Bygone era
55. *The Revolutionary one followed #52 Across
58. The Simpsons's neighbor

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Journal Police Beat by Seth Isenberg

At 4:24 p.m. on March 30, the Pocono Mountain Regional Police got a dispatch about a vehicle that was gone from a residence on Lake Road in Coolbaugh Twp., reportedly taken by the victim's 49 year-old son. Police searched but failed to locate the vehicle at the time. The vehicle was later listed as stolen.

At 9:41 p.m., the PMRPD was dispatched to a domestic incident at the victim's house. The son had returned, drunk, but left quickly in the same stolen vehicle. PMRPD officers spread out and located the vehicle on Route 611 in Mount Pocono. Officers then attempted to conduct a traffic stop. The driver ignored the flashing lights of the following cruiser and continued driving onto Route 196, going north. He stopped briefly, then drove off again north into Coolbaugh Twp. He then started to weave, crossing the center line into the southbound lane multiple times.

North of Echo Lake Road, he caused a collision with the pursuing police vehicle. After this, he turned around and began to drive south, still on Route 196. He entered the northbound lane to pass another vehicle and forced a responding PMRPD cruiser off the road near Renaissance Lane. Officers were able to bring his vehicle to a stop, but not prior to him hitting another vehicle that was traveling north.

The driver was arrested, then transported to LVH-Pocono for treatment of injuries. He's charged with fleeing and eluding police, driving under the influence, aggravated assault, recklessly endangering another person, unauthorized use of a vehicle, resisting arrest, and traffic violations. No PMRPD officers were hurt. Two cruisers sustained damage, one requiring service.

PA State Police -Fern Ridge made a traffic stop just after 1:30 p.m. on 3-24 of a car westbound on Interstate 80 at mm 288.8. The driver, a 30 y/o Patterson, NJ, man, had a suspended license. His actions during the stop gave probable cause to search the car. Police found 3 bricks of heroin (148 little bags), plus some personal pot. The driver was arrested for drug dealing. His 22 y/o passenger was found to have an active warrant for drug dealing from the Passaic Co. Sheriff's office. He was arrested too. Both are housed in the Monroe County jail.

A vacant home in Robin Hood Lake Estates near Jonas went up in flames early in the morning of 3-11. PSP-Lehighton 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.

Stealin'

Burglaries are reported of vacant homes on Pawnee Trail in Mt. Pocahontas on 3-10, and on Starry Lane in Effort, 3-16, and 3-26 on Running Valley Rd., Jackson Twp. 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. Investigators at PSP-Hazleton are working to determine 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.

PSP also reports various shoplifting incidents in the Brodheadsville area.

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.

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