

## No tax increase for Penn Forest Township

### by Seth Isenberg

Penn Forest Township property owners will enjoy another year of no new taxes, as their supervisors passed a 2016 budget where revenues are far more than planned expenditures. This was passed at the December 7 final regular meeting on a vote of 4-1, with supervisor Judy Knappenberger opposed.

The 2016 budget shows \$1.246,180 in revenue and \$737,154 in expenses in the general fund; \$254,474 in liquid fuels revenue with \$108,952 to be spent; and in sanitation, \$250,720 in revenue to \$293,065 in expenses (meaning about \$43,000 will be drawn from the fund balance in the sanitation fund of \$792.300 to balance that account). Also, plans are to spend \$175,000 from the capital reserve fund out of a balance of \$472,480.

In other business at this final regular meeting of 2015, supervisors chairman and roadmaster Butch Reiner was pleased to report that no winter roads work has been needed – no plowing, no cindering. Last year by this time, the crews were out to plow twice, and cinder three times. Anthony Jaccobacci was added to the plowing/winter crew and Paul Gallagher-Sabo taken off the list, on a vote of 4-1, Knappenberger opposed.

Reiner had more news to be pleased about in that the repair work on the Penn Forest Park playground, including filling a sinkhole, was finished. They did "a real nice job," he noted.

In other news about the Park, engineer Dan Wilusz of Barry Isett & Associates (BIA) explained a meeting they held with excavating contractors Papillon and Moyer (P&M) about the drainage pond that wasn't draining. After digging "3 or 4" test pits, it was learned the soils don't drain there. BIA and P&M will meet to work up a solution.

Wilusz also reported that BIA had approached the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection to get guidance on a re-do of the park's phase II plans which raises the elevations of three fields to reduce the amount of soils needed to be removed, saving big on the park costs. BIA is waiting on DEP's response. Reiner announced that PPL has finally scheduled the installation of the electricity service to the park. The work was slated to be done in mid-December.

During the public comments, Maria Walker spoke out about the danger on Behrens Road that has killed three people in car accidents within the past 5 months. Speaking on behalf of her friend Richard Biscardi, and his family, she asked that safety measures be improved. Biscardi, 45, died in a crash on Nov. 13. She asked for new signs on the curve, and possibly reflectors in the road.

Alison and Bruce Carter, who live on the curve, agree that the road needs to be safer. They noted the stretch is dark and people are speeding – mainly locals. They told of responding to crashes "many times." They suggest signs – perhaps even a stop sign at the fork. They are willing to erect a light near the road, they said, closing with a comment that with the crashes, they don't see any skid marks, and that this last crash "was the worst."



RE-ELECTED SUPERVISORS Judy Knappenberger and Butch Reinerare ready for 2016. JPK: Seth Isenberg

Reiner, as roadmaster, promised to take an engineer out to look at the road and especially in the area near to the Carters and the site of the recent crash, then come to supervisors with recommendations.

The oath of office was given to newly elected township auditors Bob Serafini and Bob Boyle, as well as re-elected supervisors Reiner and Knappenberger.

Supervisors voted 3-0-2, Knappenberger and Phil She-

daker, to approve minutes of the November 16 special meeting that was held when work on the 2016 budget was completed. The abstentions were because neither supervisor attended the special meeting. Also to be noted is that the supervisors did not hold an executive session at this meeting.

A discussion about Waste Management's bills started with an announcement that Please turn to page 2

### Penn Forest...

Continued from page 1

they offered to discontinue recycling services to the township. There was a go-around about the bills not being "right" over pull charges for the materials, and then another over the old way of recycling being better (working with Solomon Container Systems). Township Secretary Susan Gibiser was directed to contact Solomon, and got a quote of \$300 a month, far less than what Waste Management was charging. Solomon is not taking glass as recycling either.

After more discussion, it was agreed to modify the contract so Solomon Container would provide recycling again for the next three years - on a unanimous vote - effective December 1

The transfer station collected \$529 for bulk items in November. Sales of garbage permits for 2015-16 are \$229.965.

In the other business, Attorney Anthony Roberti approached supervisors to get their okay to fix an omission from 1999. His clients. Clarence and Kathy Hoffman own two lots in Towamensing Trails. They did the work to join them into one in 1999, but that paper-

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work was never filed at the Carbon County courthouse. Atty. Roberti was given unanimous approval to complete the paperwork to get this filed properly.

Zoning officer Kathryn Forry of BIA, in her reports from November's work, issued 19 zoning, 14 building (5 new homes), and 4 septic permits; and plus 10 zoning and 10 building certificates of occupancy; plus did 28 zoning, 77 UCC and 33 septic inspections. There were two zoning complaints to investigate.

There were 17 right-toknow requests last month: and 12 septic, escrow and perc requests.

The transfer station collected \$2.415 for bulk items in October. Sales of garbage permits for 2015-16 are \$228,871.

From the treasurer's report, there is \$2,282,392 in

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the general fund, \$772,507 in sanitation, \$239,334 in septic, \$164,220 in capital reserve, \$105,942 in Liguid Fuels, \$7,878 in payroll, and the \$9,209 in SAL-DO, plus \$666,880 in Park/ Recreation, for a total of \$4,248,364. There's still \$2,539,670 in the PLGIT accounts, and \$307,753 in the JTNB CDs.

Bills last month totaled \$74,633—the largest are \$30,000 to PFTVFD #2, \$16,193 sent to the Park/Rec Fund. and \$6.839 in three bills to Barry Isett & Assoc. The rest are \$3,119 to DGK for township insurances, \$2,181 AND \$2,145 to the US Treasury, \$2,776 to Blue Cross, \$2,500 to Kirk, Summa CPAs, \$1,872 to Millennium Computer Services, \$902 to Nanovic Law Office, \$799 to Blue Tarp Financial for small

tools/minor equipment, \$856 in two checks to WB Mason for office supplies, transfers of \$700 and \$600 into the sewer fund. \$630 to Berkheimer tax services, \$622 for fuel to WEX Bank, \$606 for uniforms, \$552 went to the PA Dept. of Revenue for EIT tax (payroll), \$540 for PPL for electricity, and there were also 31 smaller checks.

The Transfer Station is closed Thursdays 12-24 and 31, and both holidays. The township office will be closed for business on Christmas and New Years days.

Fourteen citizens, four staff and two press joined supervisors at this meeting.

The reorganization meeting of Penn Forest supervisors is Monday, January 4 at 6 p.m. with the regular meeting to follow at 7 p.m. at the township building on Route 903.



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## Honoring our Veterans plates now available for motorcycles

Pennsylvania motorcyclists can now show their support for veterans by purchasing newly authorized "Honoring Our Veterans" special fund registration plates for motorcycles.

The plate, authorized by Act 17 of 2015, features the standard registration plate design in blue, white, and yellow with an image of the American Flag and a Bald Eagle with the words "Honoring Our Veterans" at the bottom of the plate.

"By adding these new motorcycle plates to our extensive registration-plate options, we now give motorcycle enthusiasts the opportunity to support Pennsylvania's veterans and donate to a worthy cause," said PennDOT Secretary Leslie S. Richards. "You don't need to be a veteran to get one of these plates."

The plate is available at a cost of \$35. Fifteen dollars from the sale of each license plate goes to the Veterans' Trust Fund administered by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The fund supports and assists PA Veterans and their families through grants to Veterans service organizations and other charitable organizations.

"The Honoring Our Veterans license plate for passenger cars and light trucks has been around since 2012, but it is only now that patriotic-minded motorcyclists have the opportunity to pay tribute to veterans as well," said Brig. Gen. Jerry Beck, deputy adjutant general for Veterans Affairs with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. "The money that we receive from each plate allows us to fund improved assistance and support for Pennsylvania's nearly one million veterans and their families."

Motorcycle owners can apply for a plate by completing and submitting Form MV-914, "Application for Honoring Our Veterans Special Fund Registration Plate," found on the Penn-DOT website at www.dmv. pa.gov by choosing "Registration Plates" in the "Vehicle Services" section, and then clicking on the "Special Fund" tab.



or call 570-215-4105 for more information.

### Passport to Your National Parks offers Centennial Cancellation Stamps

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016, the popular Passport To Your National Parks® program will offer special centennial Passport cancellation stamps at national parks throughout the country.

Developed by the National Park Service's longtime nonprofit educational partner, Eastern National, the special stamp will print a round cancellation graphic with the name of the individual park around the top of the circle and "NPS Centennial" around the bottom. A middle line will read, "1916 – 2016." The special stamps will be available starting on January 1 until the end of 2016. Visitors can view a sample of the stamp imprint on the Passport program webpage http:// easternnational.org/ what-we-do/passport/.

"These centennial Passport stamps are a great way for

## Grief Share group to begin meeting

Fat\_Drink

elebrate...

St. John's Lutheran Church of Mahoning is hosting "Grief-Share," a free weekly grief support group and seminar, on Mondays at 6:30pm, starting January 11, 2016 through April 4th, 2016 "GriefShare" features video from prominent Christian experts on grieving, and caring conversation with people who understand your thoughts and feelings, whether your loss is recent or long ago. St. John's has been offering these groups since 2010. This latest cycle features allnew videos, updated just this past summer 2014. To find out more, call St. John's at <u>570-</u> <u>386-9960</u>. visitors to join in the National Park Service's birthday celebration," said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. "We hope that visitors will use the special cancellation stamps to help them rediscover their favorite parks in 2016 and explore some new parks as well."

Since its inception in 1986, the Passport program has introduced millions of visitors to the national park system. The program consists of a Passport guidebook, an annual series of commemorative sticker-style stamps, a companion mobile app, and the famous ink cancellation stamps.

Nearly all 409 national parks participate in the Passport program, as well as some national trails and scenic rivers and certain park and program offices. A list of participating parks and programs is available at http://www.eparks.com/store/ content/863/Passport-Cancellation-Locations/. "Eastern National is pleased to provide the NPS Centennial Passport to Your National Parks stampers to the national parks," said Eastern National president Kevin C. Kissling. "We're happy to be part of this special anniversary as the National Park Service commemorates a century of conservation and preservation."

Centennial cancellation stamps will also be available at various events associated

with the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade, where the National Park Service will feature a pop-up national park. Visitors can get their Passports stamped at the NPS Mobile Visitor Center at Decorating Places (December 27–31) and Post Parade (January 1–3). Stamps will also be available at Live on Green, a family festival also held in Pasadena, from December 29 to 31.



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Joe Brown, Director of Technology from Jim Thorpe Area School District presenting two Apple desktops and several Macbooks to the Penn-Kidder Library Center earlier this month. Shown from left are Library board members Mary Farnschlader, Kathy Saxon, Barbara Smith, and Donna Martino, Joe Brown, Director of Technology from JTASD; and board member Charles Trovato. The computers will be made available to the public for use at the facility. The library board expressed its gratitude for the generous donation.



12/26 BStreet Band \$23, Show 8 p.m.

- 12/31 New Year's Eve Dance Party \$10, Doors Open 9 p.m.
- 1/2 Iconic Songs of the 70s \$20, Show 8 p.m.
- 1/9 Eric Mintel Quartet Does TV \$18, Show 8 p.m.
- 1/15 Steve Forbert \$23, Show 8 p.m.
- 1/16 New West Guitar Group w/Vocalist Sara Gazarek \$18, Show 8 p.m.
- 1/22 Taarka \$15, Show 6:30 p.m.
- 1/23 Dirty Bourbon River Show \$18, Show 8 p.m. Check our website



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# Seth's Sightings by Seth Isenberg

Thursday was our date with The Force. Ruth and I claimed our seats early before the late showing of the new Star Wars movie at Split Rock Resort's movie theater. The film was great fun-lots of good guys and some new bad guysold heroes and new. The new digital projector at Split Rock made the images sharp and with a bucket of fresh-popped popcorn, it was as good viewing as anywhere. Park close by, there are no lines with the theater right at the north en-



trance to the Galleria.

Our only chance to see hockey this week was on Friday, when the WBS Penguins took on the top team in the AHL, the Toronto Marlies. This game we enjoyed in the company of friends. All of us saw the locals jump out to a 3-goal lead, and then the visiors claw back to even things up. The game ended tied. The overtime period ended tied. In the end. Toronto won it on the last shot of a shootout. The next home games are on Sunday the 27th at 4 p.m., New Year's eve at 5 p.m., Jan. 2 at the normal 7 p.m. and the 3rd at 3 p.m., then a rare Tuesday night game on the 5th. So Christmas week is light, but the Penns get rocking into the new year.

Cold temperatures over the weekend had local snowmaking crews furiously building a base on limited ski terrain. It's our hope that the snow made will hold up through Christmas week. Our area has been very quiet without the families who come up to ski. It's been odd to have golfing but not skiing in mid-December.

The lack of snow has also affected our hunters. Without the hunters, our area would have been very empty these last two weeks.

Saturday's weather was too good to not go out for a brisk walk with Chess, our English pointer. We again took her into the heart of Hickory Run State Park to keep safe from hunters – the Sand Springs day area is a no hunting zone, with the added bonus of a year 'round running water bathroom if needed. Chess took herself into the water as far as her hairless tummy when she decided the water



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was too cold to swim in.

On Sunday we headed into New Jersey to visit my Uncle Slater. Our visit was highlighted with a good meal, and buying gas at \$1.71.9/gallon. On our way, we enjoyed sighting Santas on the fire truck touring their communities, first in White Haven as we were leaving, and then in Budd Lake, New Jersey as we arrived at my uncle's (there, a big Santa Claus on a big aerial ladder truck).

I am pleased about the Patriots earning a playoff bye. I didn't bother to follow the game - too easy. The Steelers helped out by beating the Broncos. The Panthers beating the Giants was a super game. Things will be hot-hot when it comes to earning the Wild Card spots. As for the Eagles - not too good of a game versus a much better opponent, but if they beat the Redskins this coming week. and then the Giants, it is their division - something that will earn them one game into this year's playoffs before they finally pack it in.

I'm not sure that the Sixers can be considered an NBA team at this point. Good luck to the new additions to the management and coaching staff, though Mike D'Antoni is a very good coach and can help if the team can add some talent.

We are still not sure of our New Year's plans - Split Rock's party or the one at the Mauch Chunk Opera House are possibles. And I made a typo last week about the PA Farm Show's opening day it's the 9th. More on that in the comina weeks.

It's great to see the Pennsylvania gas prices going down. I'd like to see them go down even more, because in January, Pennsylvania drivers will see another gas tax increase of 7¢/gallon, and our state will have one of the highest gas taxes in the country.

On Monday as I wrote parts of this column, UConn's Lady Huskies were playing at home without their all-star senior. Breanna Stewart. The short-handed team was able to double up on a decent LSU team, 86 to 40. Next Monday, the undefeated and ranked #6 Maryland Terps are their opponent in a game at Madison Square Garden.

Seth's Sightings appear weekly in The Journal-Herald and in every issue of The Journal of the Pocono Plateau.

Deadline for the next edition of The Journal of Penn-Kidder is Friday, January 15

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KH400, SUZUKI--GS400, GT380, HONDA--CB750K(1969-1976),

CBX1000(1979.80)

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# **Journal Puzzles**

### THEME: FINISH THE LYRICS

urday night, every-

#### ACROSS

1. Southern cuisine pie 6. French lake 9. H or O in H2O, e.g. 13. \*"Tell \_\_\_\_\_ I love her" 14. \*"A long, long time I can still

remember how that music..." 15. Cast somebody there 16. Misbehave 17. St. Louis player

18. First American-born saint, Elizabeth Ann 19. \*"Blue jean baby, L.A. lady, seam-

stress for \_\_\_\_\_ " 21. \*"On a dark desert

in \_\_\_\_\_'

24. \$10,000, to a

25. \*"You \_\_\_\_ again"

what I am today"

28. \*"You \_\_\_\_ me

30. Inventor's right

37. Color of a bruise

up the nation"

41. "Get \_\_\_\_" (1965-

Isn't it a shame"

44. What a taster does

46. 41st or 43rd pres-

47. 1970s hairdo

50. One-pot meal

52. \*"I wanna be loved

48. Fireplace

40. Bumpkin

43. \*"lsn't it a \_

1970)

ident

is a sound

salvation... cleaning

35. Burden

39. \*"

judge, e.g.

23. Draft pick

#### highway, cool wind

- 2. Apiece
  - Caribbean
  - 5. "I love the smell of
  - ciation
  - series 9. Between ports
  - 10. South American monkev
  - 11. Carbon monoxide doesn't have this
  - Hallelujah" 15. Finely cut masonry
  - 20. Certain tides
  - 22. Chihuahua's cry
  - feel like happiness
- by you, just 53. \*"May the road

\_ with you" 55. Use a Singer 57. \*"Get this party started on a Sat-

body's waiting for me to 60. \*"Just a city boy born and raised in South " 64. Killed, as in dragon

- 65. Go a-courting 67. Dome-shaped
- dessert 68. \*"I'm sitting here, doing nothing but
- 69. Another word for Tokvo
- 70. Did not go out to eat
- 71. Radio genre 72. "Losing My Religion" band
- 73. Tears violently

### DOWN

- 1. Surveyor's creation
- 3. Pleasingly pretty
- 4. Dutch island in the
- in the morning"
- 6. Porcine fat 7. American Gas Asso-
- 8. Found in written

- 12. \*"It's raining
- - block
- 24. \*"Clap along if you
- is the truth, \_\_\_\_ I'm happy"
  - 25. \*"'Cause, baby, you're a firework, come on, show'em what you're \_\_\_\_'

26. Accustom 27. Historic region in northeastern Africa 29. \*"Your lips are movin', tell me do you think I'm 31. Spanish snack 32. Enlighten 33. TV's "\_\_\_\_ Circus" 34. \*"'Cause uptown funk gon' give it

- on a 49. Charlie Sheen's diagnosis sity 54. Waste water pipe
- 51. Man cave's neces-
- 56. What did Jessica

- - 66. "\_\_\_\_\_ to Joy"

57. Aquarium organism

58. "Iron horse" track

60. Accompanied by

"gloom"?

61. Bad sign

reference

test

59. Yamaguchi's court

62. Used when citing a

63. Two equal a twenty

64. Scholastic aptitude



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Fletcher do?

36. Tiresias in "Oedipus Rex", e.g. 38. Formerly, formerly 42. \*"So take \_ broken wings" 45. \*"I've got the world

### PAGE 10—EARLY WINTER 2015, THE JOURNAL OF PENN-KIDDER

## Police Beat by Seth Isenberg

On 12-18 at 10:49 a.m., Kidder Township Police were called to the Penn/Kidder Campus of the Jim Thorpe Area School District about a note written on the wall of a second floor bathroom describing that a bomb would go off. Students were evacuated by bus to a safe location. The school was secured and PA State Police's bomb sniffing K9 team was called in. The K9 searched the school and did not locate any device.

School officials and police spoke with possible suspects. A 13 y/o boy admitted to writing the note. He will be charged in juvenile court with Felony Terroristic Threats, and misdemeanor charges of Reckless Endangering, False Alarms to agencies of public safety.

PA State Police – Lehighton arrested a woman who pointed a loaded gun at a Hollyberry Rd., Sunrise Ridge homeowner at 6:43 p.m. on 11-29. The gun's owner, an area woman (here-on "the victim"), was able to wrestle the gun away. The perp fled outside, then grabbed a small grill and damaged the victim's vehicle with it. Police arrived, and called for EMS. EMS took the attacker away, getting her admitted into Gnaden Huetten for a psych evaluation. Arraignment was pending her release from the hospital.

PSP-L was called to a Martha Lane, Penn Forest Twp. home at 3:30 p.m. on 11-30 because a 55 y/o local woman had come onto her property holding a garden hoe, screaming that she was going to kill her and her entire family. The homeowner was arriving home with her daughter and was just getting out of her car to go into her home. She made a video of the incident. Police arrived. In reviewing the video, they also saw the suspect moon the mother and daughter, all the while swearing at them. The Carbon County District Attorney approved all criminal charges, beginning with

PSP-L is charging two Camp Adams residents, 17 and 19, with simple assault after an argument became a fight on 11-22. Both were taken by Lehighton Ambulance to LVMC to treat injuries.

terroristic threats.

PSP-L made a traffic stop of a car on Route 903 near Hatchery Rd. at 6 p.m. on 11-20 and found the driver was wanted out of New

(570) 646-6958

Jersey for procurement of prostitution. The 31 y/o Bronx man was taken to the Carbon County jail to await extradition.

PSP-Fern Ridge was out to the Youth Forestry Camp in Hickory Run State Park, Kidder Twp. at 9:10 p.m. on 12-9 due to a 20 y/o resident beating up a 30 y/o employee. The victim had minor injuries. The 20 y/o gained a change of residence, the Carbon County jail.

A 42 y/o Penn Forest Streams man is charged with assault for going after two employees of a car repo company who were attempting to take his car at 9:30 p.m. on 12-4. PSP-F is investigating further.

PSP-F investigated mailbox vandalism on Danner Rd. 11-15 in the a.m.

### Stealin'

Overnight 11-13 to 14, someone entered a Deer View Dr., Penn Forest Twp. home and removed several items, PSP-L.

Someone broke into Reiley's Pub on Route 903 overnight 11-20 to 21 and stole two moneybags. PSP-F seeks any information – call them at 570 646-2271.

Thieves stole an air conditioning unit and an awning



BBB

PA007612

from the Country Place Motel in Penn Forest Twp., PSP-L.

Between 11-14 and 21, someone removed three well caps and damaged some PVC pipe at the well of a Wyandot Way, Pleasant Valley West home.

PSP-F is also looking at a theft from a car parked at a home in the 1700 block of Route 534 (near Holiday Pocono) in Albrightsville between 5 and 5:05 a.m. on 12-1, where a Galaxy cell phone and phone charger were stolen.

An address sign was stolen from an Algonkin Trail, Mt. Pocahontas home on 12-1.

A 48 y/o Jim Thorpe-area woman borrowed a white '98 Subaru sedan from a Deerview Dr., Penn Forest Twp. man on 11-30. Last week, he asked that she return the car. As of 12-17, it was not and he reported it stolen to PSP-L.

A 40 y/o Albrightsville woman and her 14 y/o daughter were caught stealing nearly \$600 worth of items from the Lehighton WalMart at 4:36 p.m. on 12-17. PSP-L arrested them both. An Albrightsville woman was caught shoplifting at the Kinsley's ShopRite at 3:35 p.m. on 12-5.

PSP-F has a black and yellow Magna Blade F2 BMX bike that was left in the bushes beside Old Stage Road in Albrightsville on 11-29. Call PSP at 570 646-2271 if you have information on its owner.

A 29 y/o Reeders man tried to purchase a painting from a seller in Cameroon via e-mail. The seller wanted \$1,000 sent via Western Union on 11-24. After the money was sent, the seller contacted the man again asking for anoth-

Please turn to page 11



### Police Beat...

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er \$1,000 for shipping and insurance. At this point, our local became suspicious and discovered he had been scammed. PSP-F.

### Keeping the Rubber Side Down

A 35 y/o Penn Forest local lost control of her '01 GMC SUV just after 5 p.m. on 11-18 on Route 903 near Fawn Rd. after her gas pedal became stuck. She went off

the road and hit a chain link fence, then continued on – at this point, she jumped from the vehicle. It drove on until it hit the metal pole holding the Shell sign, bounced off that and came to a stop in a wooden fence nearby. She then went over and turned the SUV off. PSP-L arrived and determined the vehicle malfunctioned. Police did find that the SUV had an expired inspection. The SUV was towed. The driver was not injured - she is charged with the crash.

A 73 y/o Albrightsville driver was trying to set her cruise control on her '15 Buick Regal while driving on McKuen Way within Towamensing Trails when she drifted the car off the right side of the road and it struck several trees, stopping in a roadside ditch. She was hurt, and sent to LVMC by Lehighton Ambulance. The car was towed. 11-24, 9:50 a.m., PSP-F.

A Jim Thorpe area 32 y/o drove her '12 Jeep Grand Cherokee off Hawthorne Drive in Indian Mtn. Lakes and into two trees at 8:45 p.m. on 11-26. She then got out and fled. PSP-L looked for her to determine if she was hurt.



She was charged with leaving the scene of an accident.

An Albrightsville driver attempting a turn onto Sugar Hollow Road had her Toyota rear-ended by a red GM SUV at 2:40 p.m. on 12-2. The other driver would not exchange information, instead driving away north, PSP-F.

12-10, PSP handled a rearender on Old Stage Rd. in Penn Forest Twp. No injuries.

A 53 y/o Nesquehoning driver turned her '11 Dodge Caliber off Route 903 to go south onto the Turnpike at the new intersection in Penn Forest Twp. at 5:15 p.m. on 12-11. She turned right into the path of an oncoming '97 Ford Crown Vic being driven by a local. The crash disabled both vehicles. and hurt everyone. Lehighton Ambulance and Penn Forest Volunteer Fire Co. responded with PSP. Everyone was taken to Gnaden Huetten Hospital for care. The driver of the Dodge was sent with a ticket for causing the crash.

Brandon Thompson of Albrightsville, 50, died in a crash at 4:19 a.m. on 12-13 of his '00 Chevy Trailblazer off Route 115 in "the Gap" south of Russell Court on Effort Mountain. His northbound SUV drove across all lanes and hit a guide rail, which sent it airborne and it landed on the embankment. Emergency responders found him dead at the scene. PSP-F reports he was wearing a seatbelt.

Penn Forest and Kidder Townships are NOT HIGH Enough for some

PSP-F attempted a vehicle stop on Interstate 80 west in Kidder Twp. at 2:09 a.m. on 11-25. In running the plates, Troopers learned the car was stolen. As more Troopers responded, the vehicle drove off. A pursuit began, with speeds on the interstate exceeding 120 mph. The driver exited onto Route 309 in Drums, adding Butler Twp. Police into the chase, which continued at high speed. The car drove into West Hazleton, then Hazleton where it crashed into a house at 16th St. while trying to turn right. By this time, Hazleton City Police and West Hazleton Police were also involved, so when the two men in the car got out to run, the foot chase was a short one. Found in the car were 580 packets of heroin packaged for sale, and a small amount of marijuana. The pair was taken by ambulance to the hospital where they were treated, then released to PSP-F. Charges include the drugs and drug dealing, DUI, receiving stolen property (car theft), fleeing, and more.

PSP-L was active with DUI enforcement over the Thanksgiving weekend. Enforcement on Maury Road on 11-25 arrested two drivers for DUI/ drugs and one passenger for drug possession, plus a driver on 11-26 at the Route 903 truck pull-off was arrested for DUI/drugs plus pot possession. The following day, they arrested another driver on

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a.m. on 11-21. Indicators of

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Route 903 for DUI/drugs plus possession. PSP-L made over a dozen other DUI arrests in the last month. PSP-F added several DUIs and some drug arrests to the total.

PSP-F made a traffic stop of a car for traffic violations on westbound Interstate 80 in East Side Borough at 2:20 criminal activity were seen. A request for consent to search was denied. A PSP drug dog was sent. It alerted to the presence of drugs from the exterior of the car. A search then located one pound of marijuana. A passenger, Peter Rodriguez of Yonkers, NY, claimed the pot as his. He faces possession with intent to deliver charges. Pocono Mountain Regional Police Dept. was called to investigate a car that had crashed through the fence around the Camelot Forest development's (Blakeslee) tennis courts at 12:42 a.m. on 12-8. When police arrived, the driver had left the car and fled on foot. Investigation determined a 36 y/o Penn Forest Twp. man had been at the wheel. He has a DUI suspended license. The car was also not insured, or currently inspected or registered. The man is also wanted on three active warrants for prior incidents. Charges are filed with District Judge Richard Claypool's office.

PSP Troop N wants area motorists to travel safely during the Christmas and New Year's holiday weeks. They encourage drivers to take plenty of time for trips, wear your seatbelts, drive appropriately for road conditions, keep a safe distance between vehicles, and keep calm when driving.

Remember, turn your headlights on in rain or snow.

When celebrating, don't drink and drive – use a designated driver.

PSP will increase patrols during the holidays, looking for DUIs, aggressive drivers and seatbelt violations – keeping motorists safe.

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