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# THE JOURNAL OF PENN - KIDDER

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VOLUME 8, NUMBER 10

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## Phase II Penn Forest park bidding documents ready

by Seth Isenberg

Penn Forest Township supervisors were given an explanation of the new township park phase II construction plans at their February 1 meeting. Township engineer Greg Pavlik showed that the huge cost of removing soils would be cut by 99%. The old plans had removal of 22,258 cubic yards of soil, while the new has just 279 yards to take away.

The park will still have the two baseball fields, the soccer/football field and the small soccer field built, but will cut back from three basketball courts to two, and two tennis courts to one. Room will be left to build those later. All construction will be using the lower gate, so as to not disturb regular park users. There will be a construction fence erected.

Bid packages are available online and at the township. Bids are due to the township by March 7 so that they can be opened that night at the March supervisors meeting. Plans are that with acceptable

bids, work on phase II would begin as early as April 1, and be done some time in August. Pavlik hopes to have at least one growing season this year for the grass.

Supervisors voted to advertise the bids in more places including in this newspaper and its sisters, *The Journal-Herald* and *Journal of the Pocono Plateau*.

Please turn to page 2



## CC Animal Shelter teaches how to care for dogs

Cub Scout Pack 007 visited the Carbon County Animal Shelter to learn about caring for dogs during February, Love a Dog for Life month. Carbon County Dog Warden Tom Connors presented the program in the shelter's Education Room.

Scouts learned about the shelter, dog behavior, types of dogs, and how to give them the best care possible. Connors shared pictures and stories of dogs who have been in the shelter and were adopted.

After a tour of the kennel area and meeting each dog

housed in the shelter, Connors brought a very special guest to the Education Room. A recently rescued 5 year old male Chihuahua named Leo brightened everyone's day when he arrived to meet the scouts.

Connors made sure the scouts remembered what they learned about greeting a new dog while they met and petted Leo.

For more information about the shelter, to volunteer, or to give a dog a loving home, call the Carbon County Animal Shelter at 570-325-4828 or visit them on Facebook.

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## Penn Forest...

Continued from page 1

Allison Carter of Behrens Road thanked supervisors for their action to make the dangerous road safer. Roadmaster and supervisors' chairman Butch Reiner shared that the

township has asked PPL to install two lights on the curve – which should be installed by month's end. There will also be signs with arrows on the approaches to the curve, plus more speed limit signs. Guide rails are not in the plans.

Treasurer Tammy McMahon's report was read. It

shows \$2,348,944 in the general fund, \$735,173 in sanitation, \$241,869 in septic, \$164,291 in capital reserve, \$86,222 in Liquid Fuels, \$14,632 in payroll, \$9,209 in SALDO, plus \$591,705 in Park/Recreation, for a total of \$4,192,046. There's \$2,529,552 in the PLGIT and \$308,065 in the JTNC CDs. Supervisors approved the treasurer's report. Supervisors then agreed to close the small PLGIT account that had been set up to receive direct payments for garbage, and put the balance of \$10,213 in the Sanitation Fund.

After that, they approved January bills of \$97,740 from the general fund. Bills of note are

\$19,448 to DGK Insurance for property/ liability / crime / contract equipment / auto / and liability insurances, \$13,750 each to PFTVFC#1 and #2 for 4th quarter, \$5,805 for six bills to Barry Isett & Assoc. for engineering and professional services, \$4,000 to Leighton Ambulance for their annual donation, \$4,933 to the IRS for two sets of various payroll taxes, \$3,907 to the PA Workers Insurance Fund, \$3,000 to the Penn-Kidder Library and \$2,000 to the Dimmick Library, \$2,934 from two bills to Nanovic Law Offices, \$3,540 to Pine Ridge Services for winter roads snow removal work, \$3,030 for bonding to H.A. Thompson Co., \$1,935 to PSATS for dues,

\$1,850 to CS-GRAPHX for the Permit Manager software, \$1,796 to Carbon County for 911 services, \$1,702 for staff's health and vision insurance to Highmark, \$1,647 W.B. Mason for office supplies, \$1,268 to the Carbon County Animal Shelter for the annual donation, \$1,085 to Berkheimer to pay their commission on taxes collected, \$797 to ALLTEK Business Systems, plus 29 other smaller bills.

The Sanitation fund shows \$14,205 to Waste Management for bulk waste, and \$910 for recycling, \$9,917 for payroll, \$3,700 for insurances, \$1,008 for insu-

Please turn to page 3

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## Penn Forest...

Continued from page 2

lation, \$727 to Blue Ridge Communications, and 4 other bills. BIA was paid \$3,589 for septic

work out of the Septic Fund. From the Parks Fund, Papillon & Moyer received \$69,238 for excavating, WB Electric \$4,750 to install 200 amp service to the park, BIA \$2,458 for engineering work, plus three small bills.

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All bills were approved unanimously.

Tax collector Josiah Behrens got a great quote from TouchPoint Customer Communications on printing the 2016 tax bills, saving about \$2,000. A unanimous vote approved the switch for 2016.

In other business, a discussion of joining the Carbon County Council of Governments ended with a unanimous no vote.

Supervisors okayed permitting fire police from the township's fire companies to help with traffic control at the Black Bear Triathlon on

May 15 at Beltzville State Park.

Roadmaster Butch Reinher, in his report, said a State of Emergency in PA was declared during the big snowstorm in January, so the township will file forms to get some reimbursement of costs from FEMA. He said that the township crews were out 59 hours for winter roads work, and that Pine Ridge Services were called out for 29.5 hours. Township supplies of salt and anti-skid are "good."

The transfer station collected \$788 for bulk items in January. Sales of garbage permits

for 2015-16 are \$238,207. Fees for 2016-17 will stay the same. It was decided to put labels with names and lot numbers on the garbage permit cards to help transfer station staff.

There were 18 right-to-know requests and 22 septic, escrow and perc requests in January.

In code officer Kathryn Forry's report on permit activity, issued were 6 zoning and 4 building permits, 30 zoning and 18 building certificates of occupancy. There were 25 zoning, and 46 UCC inspections, plus one zoning complaint to investigate. The Fiedor setback variance was okayed at a Jan. 7 zoning hearing board meeting.

Eleven citizens, four staff and two press joined supervisors Reiner, Knappenberger, Chris Fazio and Scott Lignore at this meeting. Phil Shedaker was absent.

The next meeting is Monday, March 7 at 6 p.m. for the work session, with the regular meeting to follow at 7 p.m. at the township building on Route 903.



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## Seth's Sightings by Seth Isenberg

We enjoyed a little spring this past weekend. The beautiful weather was a welcome change from the icy cold of not long ago, but we still have more winter to go. The heavy rains early last week cleared off most of the snow from our woods, even melting some of the big piles that were along our roadsides. This wasn't good for our ski areas.

Temperatures returned to normal by Sunday night, in time to get some snowmaking in ahead of the next weather system. As of this writing, it's sleeting, but the main storm is expected to bring more rain. If this and last week's storms had encountered colder temperatures, we might be up to our chins in snow, especial-

ly with the harsh winds that would have caused big drifts.

We are only a couple of weeks from the return to Daylight Savings. The first day with more light hours into the evening will be March 13. We can celebrate St. Patrick's Day while enjoying a later sunset.

We can celebrate March Madness basketball, and the return of NASCAR too. I've decided to try to ignore baseball's spring training this year, in favor of following the political primaries – sports of another sort. I'm stunned over the amount of money Jeb Bush spent to accomplish nothing – those consultants he paid should be in jail.

We have a chance that there will still be important

decisions to be made about the presidential races by the time the Pennsylvania primary rolls around. We'll also be voting on seats in the state house, and U.S. senate and congress. Look for the political signs to start blooming before the early spring flowers.

Ruth and I sighted the large hawk on the power lines north of Weatherly again this week. The hawk seems to like our area, with little problem finding food. The on and off winter has thrown the local wildlife off their habits it seems, all we are seeing lately is deer. We are hearing more bird songs – some early birds...

Saturday afternoon Ruth and I took Chess, our English Pointer, for a medium-length hike into the Thomas Darling Preserve in Tobyhanna Township. It was warm and pleasant, but the damp seemed to bother my knees, and I couldn't go the distance I wanted. Our goal is to do the full loop. It's on our list now,

and we'll try again soon, especially if we don't get a lot of snow in the next few weeks. It was peaceful along the path, disturbed only by an airplane flyover, and several loud motorcycles that passed by on nearby Route 115.

On Sunday we were in New Jersey. My Uncle Slater took us to Madison's Museum of Early Trades-Crafts. The community re-purposed its beauti-

ful late-1800s library building, with its ornate rooms and old book stacks. Now, it's a small but well-curated collection of tools and trades gear, along with household items that date back into the late 1700s. There's a rather complete set of barrel-making implements, and one of the earliest printing presses in the colonies for example. There's also a spe-

Please turn to page 5



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# Sightings...

Continued from page 4

cial exhibit through June on ladies' hat making, The Miller's Tale. There are samples from the 1700s to the 1960s on display, and modern versions of the same were even available for sale. It's terrific.

Tuesday, we were able to catch the sole WBS Penguins against the archrival Hershey Bears. Our team has a lot of road games right now. Their

next home game is Sunday, March 6, again versus Hershey. Lehigh Valley comes in that Wednesday.

I'm spending some free time trying to be helpful to my dad and step-mom Shirley who live north of Sacramento. They are facing various challenges due to age.

This coming Sunday, Feb. 28, there's a 40 Story Radio Tower show at the Mauch Chunk Opera House. There will be plenty of seats – look it up on the web, listen to the Podcast, or better, come and see the show.

Read Sightings in every issue of *The Journal of the Pocono Plateau* and *The Journal-Herald*.

# Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Last week, PennDOT announced it was moving forward with plans to phase out vehicle registration stickers in lieu of "smart plate" automated license plate technology. PennDOT estimates that this changeover will save \$3.1 million.

While cost savings for PennDOT are very important, we must also discuss its impact on municipalities and local police departments. I'm concerned with the fact that, in order for law enforcement to utilize the "smart plate" technology, each police cruiser must be equipped with an \$18,000 plate reader.

This additional expense will place an undue burden on Pennsylvania police departments. There are over 1,200 police departments in Pennsylvania, and the majority have more than one cruiser. This will present a significant financial burden especially for those in rural areas.

PennDOT has expressed a willingness to offer grants to assist departments in purchasing of the new equipment. However, it is unrealistic to expect that the agency will be able to provide enough funds for all police departments. The projected savings from the elimination of registration stickers would not cover the cost of new equipment for all police cruisers.

I believe that this money would be better spent arming police forces with tools to combat the opioid epidemic and prevent overdose deaths.

Earlier this year, the House, in a bipartisan vote, passed House Bill 1154 which would repeal PennDOT's elimination of vehicle registration stickers. I am optimistic the Senate will pass House Bill 1154 and send it to the governor. This bill is supported by the Pennsylvania Fraternal Order of Police.

Cost savings must always be considered, but the implementation of PennDOT's plan, on its current schedule, is hasty and will have unintended consequences.

State Representative  
Doyle Heffley



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**2/28 40 Story Radio Tower**  
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**Dog of the month:** Snoopy is a friendly, energetic, and playful 3 year old male neutered Pitt Bull Mix. He is up to date on all shots and is looking for a good home. To adopt Snoopy, call the Carbon County Animal Shelter at 570-325-4828.

JPK: Stephanie Grega

## Game Commission seeks info on dead Eagle

The Northeast Region Office of the Pennsylvania Game Commission is seeking anyone who may have information on an immature bald eagle found dead in Towamensing Township, Carbon County. Wildlife Conservation Officer Cory Bentzoni reports that the eagle was shot and killed with a firearm, likely before January 23. The eagle was discovered on January 31 in a wooded area near the intersection of Trachsville Hill Road and Po-hopoco Drive.

The bald eagle is federally and state protected.

"These majestic birds can-



not protect themselves from people intent on doing them

harm," said Bentzoni. "We are hopeful that someone will step forward with information concerning this senseless act."

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact the NE Region of the PA Game Commission at 570-675-1143.

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## INVITATION TO BID

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the Penn Forest Township Office, 2010 State Road, Route 903, Jim Thorpe, PA 18229, until 3:00 P.M., prevailing time on March 7, 2016, for the second phase of the recreational park, which includes the construction of sporting fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, and additional walking trails.

Sealed bids will be opened at the Penn Forest Township's office at the above mentioned address and referred to the Board of Supervisors for final award/approval. Bidders and other interested parties may attend the bid opening, which will be held at

7:00 P.M. on March 7, 2016, at the monthly meeting.

Contract documents and drawings may be inspected and obtained at the office of the Engineer, Barry Isett & Associates, Inc., 100 West Broad Street, Suite 200, Hazleton, PA 18201, Phone: 570-455-2999 between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. Primary bidders may secure electronic contract documents at no cost or printed documents for \$25.00 per set, non-refundable, beginning at noon on February 9, 2016. The check for the bidding documents should be made payable to Barry Isett & Associates, Inc. The documents may be sent via FedEx, upon request,

with a supplied FedEx account number or receipt of a separate, non-refundable check, in the amount of \$25.00, made payable to Barry Isett & Associates, Inc., for shipping fees.

Bids must be accompanied by a certified check, cash, or a bid bond with a corporate surety authorized to do business in Pennsylvania in accordance with the project specifications in the amount of ten percent of the total bid amount. All bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes, plainly marked on the outside "Recreation Park Phase 2" and mailed or delivered to the Penn Forest Township Office before the hour and date above specified.

A pre-bid meeting will be held

on February 18, 2016, at 2:00 P.M. prevailing time at the Project Site. All prospective bidders are encouraged to attend. Questions may be submitted, in writing, via fax (570-454-9979) or by email to Mr. Timothy Sisock (tsisock@barryisett.com) at the engineer's office on or before February 29, 2016.

Penn Forest Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or portions or to waive any informalities in bidding and to withhold award for a period of sixty days.

On Behalf of Penn Forest Township:

**Barry Isett & Associates, Inc.**  
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## Widener winner

Bailey Wright of Albrightsville, a junior at Carbon Career and Technical Institute, is one of 159 winners of the Widener University High School Leadership Award, for her role as a volunteer firefighter and EMT.

Winners are invited to a program at the National Constitution Center March 23, and a leadership conference this fall. Winners receive a scholarship of \$20,000 over four years if they enroll at Widener for undergraduate studies.

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# Kidder funds center, library

by Jeanine Hofbauer

"It's a building we needed a use for," explained Thomas Bradley, responding to a question about Schoolhouse Central funding during the Kidder Township's February 18 meeting. Art classes, a drama club, and senior luncheons fill the community center's calendar and keep the building busy. Noting a \$250 donation is in the budget, supervisors approved the non-profit's request for support.

Supervisor Barbara Franzosa cited tax revenue Penn-Kidder Library Center provides as a result of use of computers for online job testing and applications. Reporting 400 new library

cards issued last year, board of trustees president Mary Farnschlager thanked supervisors for approving a \$1,000 contribution, adding that continuous fundraisers aid the volunteer run organization in subsidizing costs.

Supervisors advanced a lump sum of \$60,000 in response to Lake Harmony Rescue Squad's request for \$75,000, in anticipation of 2016 tax revenues coming in. The Rescue Squad needs the funds to meet payroll obligations after the department waived doing the annual subscription and membership program after the general election ballot question approving a .5 mill Ambulance Tax for the Lake Harmony Rescue Squad and Ambulance Corps, in order to maintain 24 hours a day, 7 days a week ambulance service

passed. "When the tax money comes in we take the \$60,000 back," said supervisor Thomas LaFond.

Stuffing envelopes was in store for township administration after an agreement with the company the township had hired to mail out trash invoices fell through. An April 15 extension for payments was granted with bills expected out before the end of the month.

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

Kidder Township's next regular meeting is 7 p.m. March 17 at the Township Municipal Building on Lake Drive in Lake Harmony.

## Split Rock is new CC Expo location

The Carbon County Home Business and Outdoor Expo will be held April 23-24 in the spacious convention center at Split Rock Lodge in Lake Harmony. Split Rock's new owners and management have eliminated the entrance toll and have freshened up the facility.

This year's Expo is actually a "show within a show," bring-

ing vendors, businesses, home builders and remodelers together with Dr. Lori's Antiques Appraisal Show. Expo attendees can watch Dr. Lori's Show for free. Attendees who wish to have items appraised may purchase an appraisal for \$25. For information on exhibiting, contact the Carbon Builders Association at 610-379-1099.

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# Police Beat by Seth Isenberg

Investigating the fire at the Blakeslee Inn on February 3 that destroyed the local landmark, PA State Police Deputy Fire Marshal Corporal Shawn Hilbert, in coordination with the PMRPD and insurance company investigators, determined that the fire originated inside an interior wall in the corner of the restaurant office – with a cause as an electrical failure in a receptacle. The fire was called in at 8:25 a.m. after a fire alarm was activated. An employee on scene went back to check, and found smoke in the area of the kitchen and of-

fice. On exiting, fire was seen in the office. The fire spread into the ceiling and got into other portions of the building. Fire Companies from Monroe, Carbon, Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties turned out equipment and volunteers to aid the Tobyhanna Township Volunteer Fire Co. in fighting the blaze, and then to supply water tankers for the firefight. The Blakeslee Inn's restaurant and offices are a total loss. Motel units on both sides of that were saved. No one was injured during the fire.

Three people were arrested

after they stole the purse of an 81 y/o Mt. Pocono woman. The incident started just after 3:30 p.m. on 2-16 when a young woman approached the victim in the parking lot of a store near the 5-Points intersection asking for money for gas for her car. The woman gave a \$20. The victim then drove off to her destination on Knob Road in the borough. She was being followed by a small red car, out of which a young man and woman exited, approached and then reached into the victim's car and stole her purse. As the couple fled, the victim put her car back into gear and drove her car into the red car as it tried to flee (damaging both cars). She then followed the red car as it fled, watching

as they threw the purse out a window. Pocono Mountain Regional Police were called and they located the red car with the new damage nearby. In the car were three people – 34 y/o

William Hayhurst of Swiftwater and 30 y/o Erin Vanmatre of Cresco – interviewed and arrested for the robbery; and a 34 y/o Pocono Summit man

Please turn to page 11

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## Police Beat...

Continued from page 10

who was found to be wanted by the Monroe County Sheriff's Department – he was arrested on the warrant. The couple is charged with robbery, theft, receiving stolen property, tampering with evidence and criminal conspiracy.

2-20, PA State Police – Fern Ridge was involved in a ten-mile long chase of a motorcycle on westbound Interstate 80 starting just before 5 p.m. at mm282 in Kidder Township, and ending just west of White Haven. Pursuit speeds

reached as much as 130 mph, and the driver drove off the berm of the road to complete some of his passes. The chase ended when the cyclist drove into the median and stalled out there. Luis Angel Pena Franco, 22, of Hazleton, was arrested and taken to the Carbon County jail after failing to post bail after being arraigned before District Judge Joe Homanko in Weatherly.

Between 1-1 and 25, someone set up a charge card account at Kohl's, Target and an ATT mobile account in Huntington Beach, CA, using the identity of a Lehighon man.

**The Penn-Kidder Area is NOT HIGH Enough for some**  
PSP-Lehighon responded

to a crash off Route 903 near Unionville Rd. just before 10 p.m. on 2-4. Police arrived to find a '99 Nissan sedan on its roof - rubber side up. The driver had left the scene. Police and EMS personnel looked for and located the driver, a 21 y/o Jim Thorpe-area local woman. She was hurt, and had been drinking prior to the crash. Lehighon Ambulance took her to LVH-Cedar Crest for care and a blood draw. DUI charges will be filed depending on the lab results.

At 11:24 p.m. on 2-5, PSP-L made a traffic stop on Maury Rd. near Long Run Rd. for a vehicle code violation and arrested a 40 y/o Macungie-ar-

Please turn to page 12

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## Police Beat...

Continued from page 11

gie-area driver suspected to be DUI. Charges will be filed pending the lab results.

PSP-F responded to a crash of a car driven by a Lake Harmony man. He drove off Interstate 80 west at mm290.7 in Tunkhannock Twp. just after 10 p.m. on 2-9. He was unhurt, and arrested

for driving under the influence of alcohol, then taken to the Monroe County DUI Center for processing. Charges will be filed depending on the results of blood chemical tests at District Judge Richard Claypool's office in Pocono Pines.

PSP-L made 11 DUI arrests in their coverage area early in the month.

### Keeping the Rubber Side Down ...

A Blakeslee woman was

driving north on Route 903 just before 5 p.m. on 2-23 during the ice storm when she lost control of her '10 Nissan Murano SUV at a curve just south of Weiler Road in Albrightsville. The car slid off the road and rotated ~90 degrees before hitting a tree with the driver's side, trapping her inside. Albrightsville and Penn Forest Volunteer Fire Companies responded with PSP-F. The firefighters extricated her, and Leighton

Ambulance transported her to GWV Hospital to care for leg and head injuries. PSP-F did send along a ticket for driving at an unsafe speed (for conditions).

There were several other snowstorm-related crashes in the big storm early in the month – most of these were fender-benders.

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