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THE JOURNAL OF PENN - KIDDER

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VOLUME 8, NUMBER 9

WINTER, 2016

NOVEMBER
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TAKE ONE**



ICY BEAUTY could be found earlier this month in Hickory Run State Park. This frozen waterfall was created by the water coming off the back of the CCC dam off the upper part of the Shades of Death trail through the park.

JPK: Ruth Isenberg

Penn Forest starts year on firm financial footing

by Seth Isenberg

Penn Forest Township supervisors used their first meeting of 2016, held January 4, to reorganize as well as do regular business. This meeting was held right after the annual reorganization meeting.

From treasurer Tammy McMahon's submitted report, at the end of the year there was \$2,330,762 in the general fund, \$758,903 in sanitation, \$240,940 in septic, \$164,256 in capital reserve, \$104,145 in Liquid Fuels, \$15,787 in payroll, and the \$9,209 in SALDO, plus \$663,466 in Park/Recreation, for a total of \$4,287,458. There's also \$2,529,551 in the PLGIT accounts, and \$307,753 in the JTNB CDs.

Supervisors approved the treasurer's report. After that, they approved the end of December bills of \$32,497 from the general fund. Bills of note are \$7,200 to auditing company Kirk Summa, \$5,292 in three bills to Barry Isett & Assoc. for engineering and professional services, \$4,802 to the IRS for various payroll

taxes, \$3,907 to the PA Workers Insurance Fund, \$2,838 for staff's health and vision insurance to Highmark, \$1,796 to Carbon County for 911 services, \$1,618 to Berkheimer to pay their commission on taxes collected, plus 28 other bills.

In other business, supervisors unanimously reappointed Kirk Summa LLC to perform the audit of the township of its 2015 books, renewed the license and maintenance agreement for the CSG Permit Manager software at a cost of \$1,850, and approved treasurer McMahon to become a regular employee after her probationary period ends on January 16.

Chairman and roadmaster Butch Reiner has kept the roads crew busy cleaning littering from township roads, noting they have been out nearly "every other day" cleaning up. The crew will be ready for winter weather once it arrives.

Engineer Dan Wilusz of Barry Isett & Associates (BIA)

Please turn to page 3

Kidder part-time officers to see pay increase

by Jeanine Hofbauer

Reevaluating part-time officer pay rates during the January 21 Kidder Township meeting resulted in a 70¢ hourly increase for the force. Chief Matthew Kuzma reported surrounding areas pay up to \$18 per hour. Supervisor Thomas LaFond explained population played a part in proposing the \$16 per hour rate.

Philip Shedaker was appointed the department's newest part-time officer to fill in the void left by Brian Dalesandro's resignation. In December, Michael Chica was appointed as a full-time police officer.

An effort to save money resulted in supervisors admitting the company hired to perform garbage bill bulk mailing "goofed it up." With many residents

left holding the bag on when to send payments, it was agreed a March 15 extension was in order.

White Haven Area Library's request for donation was met with supervisors uncertain over budget designation. Former supervisor Larry Polansky noted a \$250 donation was discussed, "based on the large population in the Golden Oaks area who use that library." A 3-2 vote with Thomas Bradley and newly elected supervisor Bruce Berger opposed approved the donation.

Bradley remains chairperson, elected at the January 4 reorganization, with LaFond vice-chair, as well as police chair. Berger was named Roadmaster.

Supervisors Bradley, LaFond, Berger, Frank Pieri and Barbara Franzosa,



Kidder Township holds its January regular meeting, the first for new supervisors. From left are Bruce Berger, Thomas LaFond, Thomas Bradley, Frank Pieri, and Barbara Franzosa.

JPK: Hofbauer Strategies

business manager Lisa Klem, secretary/treasurer Suzanne Brooks, solicitor Dan Miscavige and approximately 30 members of the public attended.

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

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Penn Forest...

Continued from page 1

told supervisors that the application for the Township Park's revised erosion and sedimentation plan was sent to the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection.

Supervisors voted 4-1, Judy Knappenberger opposed, to amend Waste Management's trash hauling contract at the transfer station to remove recyclables from their deal. Solomon Container has returned to provide recycling.

The transfer station collect-

ed \$727 for bulk items in December, ending the year with a total of \$11,969. Sales of garbage permits for 2015-16 are \$229,990.

Zoning officer Kathryn Forry of BIA was engaged in an idea session by supervisors over how to clear the majority of the remaining open code-related permits – 241 in total. Over the past few years, BIA has cleared another 586, so these that remain are the "tough" ones.

Various ideas were shared, with township attorney Thom Nanovic agreeing to get involved in the ones left that look to be most promising to get resolved. Others from the list, from properties involved in bankruptcies and the like, will be looked at to see how they can be removed from the list, where possible.

In Forry's reports, she gave a year's report noting 30 for new homes included in 149 building permits, 198 new

certificates of occupancy, 290 zoning permits, and nearly 1,500 inspections UCC, Septic and Zoning. Her December work has 13 zoning, 14 building (4 new homes), 24 zoning certificates of occupancy, 6 building COs and 2 septic permits issued; plus did 25 zoning, 57 UCC and 28 septic inspections. There were also two zoning complaints to investigate.

There were 13 right-to-know requests and 7 septic, escrow and perc requests in December.

Seven citizens, four staff and this reporter joined supervisors Reiner, Knappenberger, Phil Shedaker, Chris Fazio and Scott Lignore at this meeting.

Public comment was held at the end of the meeting. Maria Walker was back about the danger of Behrens Road—hoping to learn what the township's plans are for the killer curve there. Roadmaster Reiner told her and others with her that he and the township engineer did inspect the area. The plan proposed is to put up signs, and lights. Walker and Alison and Bruce Carter, who live on the curve, asked the township to consider installing guide rail as well.

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

Deadline for the next issue is February 16. Send information to journalnews@pa.metrocast.net or call 570-443-9131 xt304.

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Penn Forest Twp. reorganizes for 2016

by Seth Isenberg

The first Monday of each year, Penn Forest Township supervisors hold their reorganization meeting to elect this year's officers, set salaries,

Here is a quick review of the 2016 meeting, held before the regular supervisors meeting on January 4:

The 2016 budget sets tax rates for real estate at 0. There

is a \$% per capita tax. Transfer tax and earned income tax is ½ of 1%, split with the Jim Thorpe School District. There is also a 2.5% amusement tax.

Butch Reiner was nominated and confirmed as chairman, and Phil Shedaker as vice chair. Christine Fazio is the supervisor in charge of personnel, Reiner is roadmaster at \$425 per month, plus \$25 for each driveway permit reviewed, and Scott Lignore is assistant roadmaster at \$15 per hour, and both are reimbursed at 54¢ per mile, the Federal rate (this is

the reimbursement rate for all mileage for township travel). Fazio is the township's representative on the county tax committee, with Shedaker as alternate. All of this was approved 5-0.

Susan Gibiser was appointed township secretary and the assistant treasurer, at \$15.61 per hour, approved 4-1, Judy Knappenberger voting no. Gibiser is bonded for \$4 million, which costs \$7,022 – okayed 5-0.

Fazio is the township representative and voting delegate to the PA Association of

Please turn to page 5



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2/12 Tusk - Fleetwood Mac Tribute
\$26, Show 8 p.m.

2/13 Tusk - Fleetwood Mac Tribute
\$26, Show 8 p.m.

Check our website

Editorial

Two years is too short

by Seth Isenberg

It's January. It finally has snowed a little. The college football season has crowned its champion, and the pro football season is nearly done, too.

Here in Pennsylvania, it is time for re-election campaigns for the PA House of Representatives. With a two-year term, we just get the representatives into office and settled when it is time for them to run again. Our state system means we have a House that is, by design, of politicians (always running for office) versus true representatives, who have time to legislate.

Now, when our Representatives will be needing to focus on the PA budget, part of their attention will be devoted to getting themselves re-elected.

This should change, but then it would require the agreement of House, Senate and Governor. So, welcome to the return of PA political season. Voting is on the same election day as the Presidential primary in April.

Election coverage notes

by Ruth Isenberg

Regarding the upcoming election cycle, the Journal has already begun printing announcements of candidates. We will continue to accept announcements of a reasonable length through March. After the March issue, only political advertisements will be accepted.

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Penn Forest Reorganizes...

Continued from page 4

Township Supervisors conference in April. She will be reimbursed her mileage, lodging and meals. Gibiser is also authorized to attend with the same reimbursement.

Salaries of township supervisors are \$2,500 as listed in the PA Township Codes, paid in 12 payments through the year.

Mauch Chunk Trust is the township depository.

Thom Nanovic is township solicitor, unanimously. Barry Isett & Associates, Inc. was also unanimously named as

building code official, building inspector, commercial building inspector, third party building inspector, zoning officer and assistant z.o., code enforcement officer, sewage enforcement officer and water enforcement officer – all for 2016. BIA is also named to supply the township engineer, and the planning commission engineer for 2016.

Katrina White is the planning commission secretary, as needed. Carl Fazio is the township vacancy board, okayed 4-0 with spouse Chris Fazio abstaining.

Richard Walck sent a letter resigning as emergency management coordinator. Supervisors accepted the resignation 5-0. William Gibson had sent a letter of interest in the position and he was approved 5-0, vacating his position as assistant E.M.C. Jerry Dotter sent a letter of interest for the assistant EMC position, and he was okayed for that.

William English has offered to serve another 3-year term on the township planning commission with members Chris Rau, whose term ends next January, and Bill Miller,

whose term ends 1-1-2018. Businessman Patrick Walsh has offered to serve another term on the zoning hearing board, for a term to 1-1-2018, with members businessman Paul Fogal, whose term ends next January, and Audrey Wargo (1-18); Businessman Shawn Kresge is the alternate member. Board and commission members, and auditors, receive \$10 per meeting. Auditors also get mileage.

The park recreation board through 2016 is Robin McGeehan, Jennifer Bevilacqua, Sherry Meckes, an appointee from the Jim Thorpe School District, and Richard Strack, whose term ends 12-31-2016. Richard Tweed is the alternate.

Laborers pay will be \$14.04 per hour, for Keith and Sherry Knappenberger, Richard Beers and Gerald Enck. Part timers Paul Gallagher Saba and Shannon Meckes get \$13.01 per hour. Administrative assistants Heather Saba and Katrina White get \$13.53/hr.

Office hours at the township building are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., excluding holidays. Employees' hours are until 4:30. Supervisors meetings will be the first Monday of each month except where there is a holiday—then the meeting is Tuesday. Meetings start at 7 p.m.

(Thank you to the PFT office staff for their help with this – Seth)

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Seth's Sightings by Seth Isenberg

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We had our first measurable snow covering the entire Journal area. This doesn't count the plow-able snow that was only in the Mount Pocono area early last week. Our full coverage got between an inch and three inches, enough to shovel and in some cases plow on Tuesday. During the divisional football playoffs on Sunday, our area got maybe another quarter inch, enough to pretty up the woods. By Saturday, it looks like we'll be digging out from under our first snowstorm of the '15-'16 winter if the predictions come true. This will finally get our ski areas open.

Ruth and I had been indoors last Sunday, and got a chance to be out just as the snows began. We made the most of the pretty weather by walking into the site of the old

CCC Camp at Hickory Run State Park. This walk meant starting in the middle of the Shades of Death trail, then walking over the CCC dam up toward the edge of the main campground. The site is now a wide field, and there are places you can see the old pathways and even a foundation. Our English pointer, Chess, had a chance to stroll in the stream. The CCC lake had a thin layer of ice upon it, enhanced by the thin layer of snow. We decided for the sake of all of us that we'd put Chess on leash so she didn't decide to stroll out onto ice that wouldn't support her weight. We enjoyed the hike – and the extended daylight of a crisp January day.

Saturday evening, we stopped at the Crossings outlet mall to get boots for

Ruth and other clothes. For a Saturday night on a holiday weekend, shoppers were few. The Bass store showed that it had seen heavy traffic earlier. While in Tannersville, we took advantage of earned points to buy gasoline at under \$2 a gallon. At local stations, gas prices are lower nearly every day. We sighted the new Tesla charging station at the Crossings – no gas needed for them.

As we made our way around the Poconos last weekend, we listened as the Patriots beat the Chiefs. So this week, it's off to Denver to beat the Broncos. I had hoped that the Steelers would win though. Congrats to Carolina and Arizona on their wins. Congrats also to the L.A. Rams, who are going back to where they belong.

Please turn to page 7

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Sightings...

Continued from page 6

It looks like some of the key changes to the 76ers – a trade, and more coaching, are working. The team actually blew out an opponent this past week for their 5th win.

UConn's Lady Huskies just keep rolling along. It's encouraging to see some new names in the box scores with double-digit games. These

new scorers will be needed when the going gets tougher. The away game versus South Carolina is coming up in early February.

The WBS Penguins have split some road games. They'll be back home on Jan. 27 and 30 – we'll be there.

The last two debates were held prior to the first states to vote or caucus for candidates for president. Bernie Sanders, who is 74, is very sharp, and he held up well versus the 6

years younger Hillary Clinton. There are several sharp candidates on the Republican side, too. None of them on either side has earned my loyalty yet. The reality – we need

smarts and a stable personality for our leader. That person needs to see the threats to our country's security clearly now – and I'm not sure that any of them do.

Drive safely with the weekend snows, and stay warm.

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

Beat Cabin Fever at annual dance

Lehigh Area Pool Pals have scheduled their annual Cabin Fever dance on February 27, at the Orioles Pavilion, Orioles Drive, Lehigh. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. The

fundraiser will support the Baer Memorial Swimming Pool.

Music will be provided by DJ Layne Roberts, "The Doctor," from 7 to 11 p.m.

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Miscellaneous

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10 A.M. CONTENTS CONSIST of Household Goods and Antiques - 2005 Dodge Grand Caravan, must see - plus more. For complete list call John Kintner AU1274L 570-421-0949

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Journal Puzzles

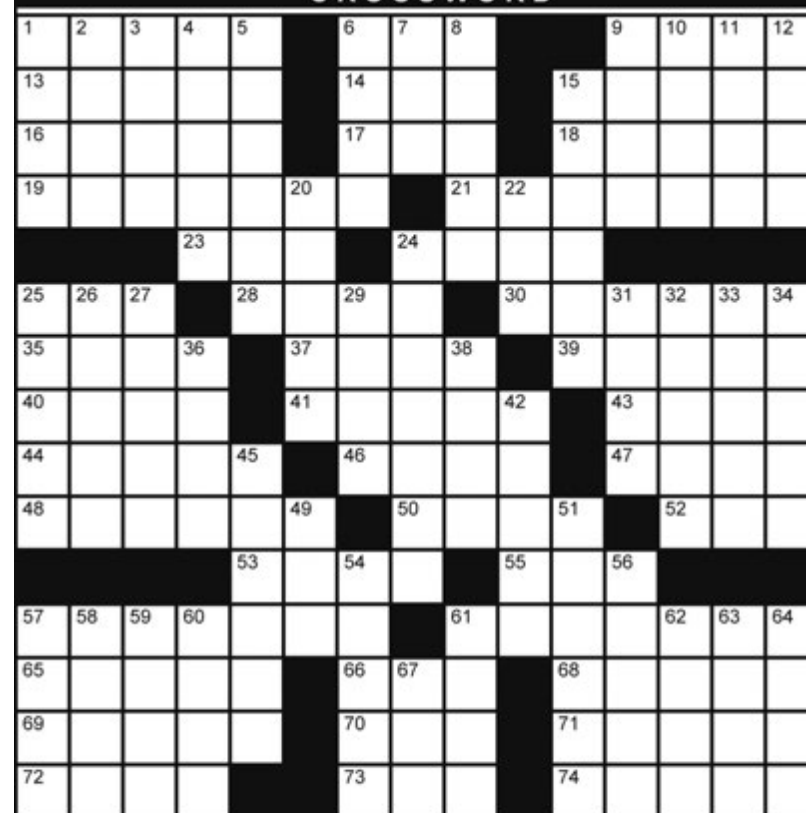
THEME: SUPER BOWL

ACROSS

1. October stones
6. "The ____ bone's connected to the back bone"
9. Show appreciation
13. Set to zero
14. Down Under bird
15. James Blunt's "____ Beautiful"
16. Actor Owen
17. Credit card rate
18. Bone-chilling
19. To begin with
21. *NFL Comission-er
23. Doh, re, mi, fa, ____, la, ti, doh
24. Beacon light
25. Actors' group
28. First name in jeans
30. Russian grand-master
35. Heidi's shoe
37. Bulgarian money
39. Actress Watts
40. Indian music
41. 100 centimes
43. *Teams have an offensive and defensive one for the game

44. Frenchman's love
46. Charlie "Bird" Parker's sax
47. Pop group "N ____"
48. *Like Super Bowl 50
50. Virginia Institute of Marine Science
52. Epitome of easiness
53. Margarita fruit
55. Throw one under it?
57. *Expensive big game purchase
61. *Three-time Super Bowl MVP
65. Some are bright
66. Chain letters
68. Defier
69. Mr. Ed's remark
70. Young newt
71. Do like phoenix
72. Sunbathes
73. High or low card
74. "The Second Coming" poet
15. Beefeater
20. Elf perch
22. Acorn producer
24. Mollusks with two shells hinged together
25. Scrawny one
26. Remember this battle
27. "Taras Bulba" author
29. Wang or Bradley
31. *Walter Payton does it in "The Super Bowl Shuffle"
32. Tissue growth
33. Yemeni neighbor
34. *Given name of man the trophy is named after
36. Cheap trinket
38. Not in favor
42. Fast food option
45. Dog stand staple
49. Jodie Foster's '08 movie "____'s Island"
51. *Game day
54. Mythological princess of Colchis
56. Fixed look
57. Not a word?
58. One of #65 Across
59. Bit attachment
60. Links to a posted photo
61. First one on a ship
62. Pavarotti's song
63. Hitler's Eagle's ____
64. Aphrodite's lover
67. *Represented last year by Seahawks

CROSSWORD



DOWN

1. Black and white "killer"
2. Fox coat, e.g.
3. "Clueless" catch phrase
4. *Played this year at ____ Stadium
5. End of "cholesterol"
6. Asia's "____ of the Moment"
7. Rascal
8. Rid of impurities
9. Like most U.S. campuses
10. A siren's song, e.g.
11. Seed cover
12. Banana skin

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Police Beat by Seth Isenberg

PA State Police – Fern Ridge, responded to the Country Place Motel in Kidder Twp. at 1:07 p.m. 1-15 due to a disorderly male. Police arrived to meet the victim, and the accused who had gotten angry because he was asked to leave. The accused instead followed the victim around and pushed him – asking what he was “gonna to do about it.” Police arrested 24 y/o Jonathan Haughley of New York on simple assault charges. A pat down at the Carbon County

jail found a Xanax bar, which added drug charges. When Haughley’s information was run through the NCIC, he was also found to have a felony warrant out for his arrest in New Jersey for receiving stolen property.

PSP-Lehighton is looking for a man who tried to rob the Jim Thorpe Neighborhood Bank on Route 903 in Penn Forest Twp. about 10:20 a.m. on 1-16. He wore a navy blue hooded jacket, blue jeans, and black gloves, and was carrying

an umbrella. The bank’s metal detector system locked the inner doors and he couldn’t get inside. He then fled the bank into the nearby woods. Anyone with information is asked to call PSP-L Trooper Flynn at 610 681-1850.

PSP-L arrested a 40 y/o Jim Thorpe area man who was found to be DUI after a traffic stop on Route 209 in Franklin Twp. just after midnight on 1-17. He also had drugs in his possession. DUI charges are

Please turn to page 11



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Police Beat...

Continued from page 10

pending blood test results.

The Pocono Mountain Regional Police have been making drug dealing arrests

during this past month. The department's investigators broke up a major dealer with a raid in Tobyhanna on 1-15.

With winter weather now here, and cold nights causing ice on some roadways, there were crashes caused

by drivers going too fast for conditions, fortunately with no injuries as of the crashes reported by 1-21.

PSP-L was active with DUI enforcement through the Christmas and New Years holidays. PSP increased patrols looking for DUIs, aggressive drivers and seatbelt violations. **Stealin'**

A 53 y/o Katu Trail, Indian Mtn. Lakes homeowner reports that his Taurus .357 #66 revolver was stolen from his home on 12-22, PSP-F.

There are reports of two sliding glass doors damaged

at a home on Towamensing Trail (in that development), Albrightsville. overnight 12-23 to 24. Nothing appears to have been stolen, PSP-F. Another smashed sliding glass door on a Burnshaw Lane, Towamensing Trails vacation home was discovered on 12-26. Again, nothing seems to have been taken.

PSP-F is investigating the burglary of two locked sheds at a Petrarch Trail, Towamensing Trails, vacation home between 1-10 and 16. Tools were stolen.



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Carbon County Commissioners Wayne E. Nothstein, left, with wife Donna; Tom J. Gerhard, third from right, with wife Susie; and William J. O'Gurek, right with wife Siobhan, take their oaths of office during the annual swearing-in ceremony at the Carbon County Courthouse on January 4.

Photo courtesy The Times News

Craig Thatcher Band's Tribute to Cream at Opera House

Lehigh Valley-based bluesman and noted guitarist Craig Thatcher, along with bassist/vocalist Wayde Leonard and drummer Don Plowman, has put together an explosive Cream tribute show that will be at the Mauch Chunk Opera House on February 27 at 8 p.m.

It includes all of Cream's greatest hits like "Sunshine of Your Love," "White Room," "Crossroads," and "Badge."

The band also plays Cream's jams "Spoonful" "I'm So Glad" and "Toad."

Tickets are \$23 and available 24/7 on the Opera House website, www.mcoht.com.

The show begins at 8 p.m. The box office is open noon to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at 570-325-0249. The facility is open from noon until 5 p.m. on show days, and tickets are available for most shows at the door at show time.

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