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**SELINGROVE BLANKS SHAMOKIN, 33-0**  
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# THE NEWS-ITEM

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Shamokin, Pa.

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

\$1.00

## Medical investigator testifies about numerous prescriptions for narcotics issued by Kraynak

**BY MARK GILGER**  
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**KRAYNAK**

U.S. Middle District Judge Matthew William Brann.

Boothe spent 90 minutes on the

investigator with Anthem Insurance, was among four witnesses to testify during the second week of Kraynak's scheduled four-week jury trial before Chief

witness stand in Courtroom No. 1 at the U.S. Federal Courthouse talking about the extremely large amounts of prescriptions issued by the defendant, including opioids such as oxycodone and hydrocodone.

Boothe said 80% of Kraynak's top 10 prescribed medications were narcotics.

Kraynak, 64, was indicted in December 2017 on 12 counts of unlawful distribution and dispensing of a controlled sub-

stance, five counts of unlawful distribution and dispensing of a controlled substance resulting in death and two counts of maintaining locations at 28 E. Fifth St., Mount Carmel, and 235 W. Spruce St., Shamokin, for the purpose of unlawfully distributing controlled substances.

Federal prosecutors have accused Kraynak of operating a "pill mill" in Mount Carmel.

The indictment states Kraynak allegedly prescribed

more than six million opioids, such as Oxycotin, Vicodin and fentanyl, between May 2012 and July 2017. Prosecutors seek to hold him responsible for the overdose deaths of five patients that occurred between October 2013 and May 2015.

No doctor in all of Pennsylvania prescribed more doses of opioids in the 19 months leading into July 2017 than Kraynak's

*Kraynak, Page A6*

**WILLIAMSPORT** — A medical review nurse investigator testified Monday that 39% of 54,820 prescriptions covered by Anthem Insurance and issued by Dr. Raymond Kraynak to his patients between January 2012 and November 2014 were controlled substances.

Lorraine Boothe, a special



LARRY DEKLINSKI/STAFF PHOTO

**Dressed in his firefighting gear, Shamokin Mayor John Brown prays next to two pieces of World Trade Center steel, donated to Coal Township and Shamokin by the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, during a 9/11 ceremony at Claude Kehler Community Park in Shamokin. Anthony Tomesheski, a retired New York City firefighter, served as guest speaker.**

## REMEMBERING 9/11

Monuments crafted from steel of WTC donated to Shamokin, Coal Twp. during emotional 9/11 service

**BY LARRY DEKLINSKI**  
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**SHAMOKIN** — Monuments crafted with steel from the Twin Towers that were destroyed 20 years ago were donated by the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation to Coal Township and the City of Shamokin during a memorial service at Claude Community Park.

The monuments, measuring about 2 feet high and engraved with the words "WTC, 9/11, Never

Forget," were unveiled by long-time city firefighter and former councilman R. Craig Rhoades and retired New York City firefighter Anthony Tomesheski, both of whom now work for the foundation.

Wearing his firefighting gear, Shamokin Mayor John Brown told the story of Siller, an off-duty Brooklyn firefighter who was last seen running through the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel on his way to the World Trade Center.

"Determine to carry out his duty, Stephen donned his gear and

began to race on foot through the tunnel towards the towers. That's why I wore my gear today," Brown explained. "Stephen gave his life at the towers saving others."

Brown said Siller's heroic death is a reminder for all to live life to the fullest. The noble feat, the mayor continued, lives on through the work of the foundation.

Tomesheski was among thousands of first responders in the months following 9/11 who

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## State commits \$250K to MCACC

**BY ERIKA KAPUSHINSKI**  
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**MOUNT CARMEL** — On Saturday morning a check for \$250,000 was presented to Cathy Besser, Mount Carmel Area Community Center (MCACC) board president, by state Sen. John Gordner and state Rep. Kurt Masser on Saturday morn-

ing following the Phillips Phun 5K Run benefit held for the center.

The run, a 3.1 mile course, took competitors around the new building's construction site. Gordner, one of the 50 participants involved, said the run provided an excellent view of the building site.

"The purpose of the

*MCACC, Page A6*



LARRY DEKLINSKI/STAFF PHOTO

**State Sen. John Gordner and state Rep. Kurt Masser present a ceremonial check in the amount of \$250,000 to Cathy Besser, board president of the Mount Carmel Area Community Center Inc., following the Phillips Phun 5k Run that concluded Saturday morning at the Mount Carmel Area High School.**

## New art studio to host classes through fall

**BY ERIKA KAPUSHINSKI**  
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**TREVORTON** — For those seeking new passions, local artist Phoebe Heath debuted her personal working art studio, Anthracite Creative Works, on Saturday and plans to offer classes to the public.

Located on 321 W. Shamokin St., the studio occupies a 1930s auto

garage, which has been transformed into her art workshop.

Heath earned her Master of Fine Arts at Kutztown University and certification in art education at Millersville University. She was an art instructor at Palmyra Area High School for six years before deciding to pursue her own endeavors during the COVID-19 outbreak.

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## City of Shamokin allocates 2021 CDBG funding

**BY LARRY DEKLINSKI**  
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**SHAMOKIN** — Council approved the city's allocation of 2021 Community Development Block Grant funds.

The city is set to receive \$316,934, less \$53,700 for administration costs, next

year. Council allocated \$78,900 for demolition, \$169,334 for street reconstruction, \$10,000 for the Sunbury Street Community Garden and \$5,000 for code enforcement.

Council received correspondence from Shamokin Fire Bureau Chief Steve Jeffery, who advised that the bureau will be transi-

tioning into an all-tone style of dispatch for most calls to expedite the response of requested apparatus.

Jeffery stated in a letter addressed to council that the bureau continues to struggle to respond effectively to calls. The bureau, he continued, has taken steps to address the issue, such as cross training and

recruiting new members.

Councilman Scott Rough-ton, a long-time firefighter, explained that during certain calls only nearby units are dispatched. Now, all units will be dispatched for calls in and outside the city, except for requests for fire police and the quick

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**WEATHER**  
Clouds and sun  
85° / 69°  
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