

Mensch

Common Pleas Court on May 26. The newspaper was unsuccessful

in reaching Mensch or his attorney, Paul Richard Wagner, for comment Thursday.

Mensch was fined \$300 plus court costs by Berks County District Judge Andrea J. Book. He faced up to 90 days in jail, but the prosecutors did not recommend incarceration.

Mensch has maintained his innocence of the allegation made against him: that he brandished a handgun at another driver on I-78 on March 9.

According to state police, Mensch, of Red Hill, and Brian Salisbury, of Easton, were both eastbound on I-78 around 3 p.m. that day. Mensch told the newspaper he was returning to a meeting in his district, which spans Upper Bucks, northeastern Montgomery and parts of Lehigh and Northampton counties.

Salisbury, 55, who works in Harrisburg, testified Mensch was tailgating him and when the senator passed, he displayed a black handgun in his palm at about lap level. He called 911. State Trooper John Wenrich testified that after Mensch was pulled over leaving a gas station troopers saw a black pistol under a book on the passenger's seat and another in Mensch's glove compartment. Mensch has a concealed weapons permit to carry both guns. Mensch has said he never displayed the weapon and said he'd had it nearby after he and Salisbury both stopped at the same gas station.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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... on the county's list of properties to be preserved.

Rich Harvey, director of the

Intell 6/3/11

ship is spending \$1.7 million and the state \$122,000.

The Feeney property is the

the new farmers market guide, a 30-page publication of the county's 75 farmers markets.

Reward offered in bicyclist hit and run

By HILARY BENTMAN
STAFF WRITER

PLUMSTEAD — Area bicyclists have started a reward fund in hopes of getting information leading to the arrest of the pickup truck driver who struck and killed a New York bicyclist on Route 413 in Plumstead on Saturday.

John Chapman, 66, of Queens, N.Y., was riding with a group of about 15 members of a cycling club from Newark, N.J., to Quakertown when he stopped on the shoulder of Route 413 near Ridgeview Drive and was struck by a pickup. The driver never stopped, said police.

"I said to myself, my God, if that pickup truck doesn't move, it's going to hit him," fellow cyclist David Roycroft told the Fast & Fabulous Cycling Club. "And it did."

Chapman and Roycroft and other members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender cycling club were traveling together when Chapman was hit.

Doylestown attorney and bicyclist Terry Clemons is helping to collect money for the reward fund. About \$1,000

has been pledged to date, with the goal of raising \$5,000.

Clemons did not know Chapman, but said the cyclist community is a close-knit one.

The cycling club has posted an obituary for Chapman to its web site, www.fastnfab.org. Chapman wrote textbooks for English-as-a-second-language courses. Prior to moving to Queens, he'd lived with his wife and two daughters in Teaneck, N.J. One daughter is a Northwestern University graduate working in the retail industry in New York and the other is in a graduate program in clinical psychology in Chicago.

"I think everybody is just affected," said Clemons, who has been receiving donations from strangers. "We don't want this tragedy to drop off the map."

Individuals who wish to contribute to the fund may send checks to Terry W. Clemons, 107 E. Oakland Ave., Doylestown, PA 18901, with the notation "Reward Escrow." Checks will be deposited into the Clemons Richter & Reiss Trust Account and will be paid out

when the driver is convicted.

If no arrest is made within one year, the funds will be returned to the contributor.

Police believe Chapman was struck by either a GMC or Chevy pickup truck, possibly a model from between 2003 and 2006. The passenger side mirror was knocked off and there was damage to the passenger side of the vehicle, said police.

Clemons said he knows the stretch of road where Chapman was killed, having ridden in that area himself. Getting hit by a vehicle is "something in the back of every cyclist's mind," he said.

But some drivers take it a step further by not respecting the rules of the road or even taunting cyclists, Clemons said.

"Some drivers like to see how close they can ride to me as a prank," he said.

Staff writer Matt Coughlin contributed to this report.

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