



**WESTMORELAND COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE CORONER**

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John F. Swartz
Chief Deputy

Kenneth A. Bacha
Coroner

Jeffrey D. Monzo
Solicitor

**PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 22, 2017**

<u>Nature of Release:</u> Motor Vehicle Fatality	<u>Date and Time of Incident:</u> May 22, 2017 8:52 AM
<u>Incident Location:</u> State Route 66 at Poke Run Church Road Washington Township	
Decedent: John E. Ghrist, 50 y/o male Address: Greensburg Road Washington Township Date and Time of Death: May 22, 2017 at 10:45 AM.	
<u>Incident Details:</u> Cause of Death: Pending Manner of Death: Pending <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Westmoreland County Coroner, Kenneth A. Bacha, has released the following information.▪ The decedent, John E. Ghrist, was the operator and lone occupant of a Toyota Corolla traveling south on State Route 66.▪ For an unknown reason, the decedent's vehicle was struck in the rear, which forced it into the northbound lane of State Route 66.▪ The decedent was struck on the passenger side by a vehicle traveling north on State Route 66.▪ Deputy Coroner John A. Ackerman pronounced the decedent dead at the scene.▪ The decedent was not utilizing a seat-belt.▪ Air bags deployed in the decedent's vehicle.▪ Cell phone use being a factor in the incident is unknown at this time.▪ An autopsy will be performed by Dr. Cyril H. Wecht and Pathology Associates on May 23, 2017.▪ Official cause and manner of death will be pending autopsy results.▪ Toxicology results will not be available for several weeks.▪ A funeral home has not been chosen at this time.▪ Washington Township Police and the Pennsylvania State Police also investigated.	
***** <u>No further information is available from this office at this time.</u> *****	