



# The Anthracite Post

Highlighting Neighborhood News & Events

Volume 3, Edition 6, June 2026



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## Registration Now Open for Ferrwood Arts and Music Camp – Season 2026



Ferrwood Music Camp, educating young musicians since the 1960s, is now accepting registrations for the 2026 season. Two weeklong sessions will be offered. Participants range from 3rd grade through Senior year; The Arts program is advanced and limited to grades 9-12. Find the option that's right for you!

- Sunday, July 12 – Friday, July 17
- Sunday, July 19 – Friday, July 24

### Day Camp Option – \$300

Campers may attend 8:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m. and enjoy:

- Music education classes and rehearsals
- Daytime and evening activities
- Lunch and dinner

Students who have **finished 4th grade** are eligible for Day Camp.

### Overnight Camp Option – \$350

Overnight campers remain on site and

receive everything included in Day Camp, plus breakfast.

Students who have **finished 5th grade** and up are eligible for Overnight Camp.

### Emerging Musicians Program

This introductory program welcomes students who have finished 2nd or 3rd grade (entering 3rd or 4th) and focuses on rhythm, note reading, and early musician-ship using the recorder. Students begin preparing for entry into fourth grade music programs. Participants attend **8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.** and receive:

- Camp T-shirt
- Flutophone
- Music book



### Friday Night Concerts

All campers showcase their skills and growing confidence during a Friday Night

Concert, open to family, friends, and the community.

- Concerts are free and open to the public.
- Dinner and refreshments are available for purchase.

Rain or shine, the show goes on — bring a chair or blanket, settle in, and enjoy an evening of music under the summer sky. Concerts begin at 6 p.m.

- Art projects will be on display and available for purchase.

### About Ferrwood

Founded in 1927, Ferrwood Music Camp is a rustic and historic landmark nestled at 257 Middle Road in Drums, PA. Under the stewardship of the CAN DO Community Foundation, Ferrwood proudly holds a place on the U.S. Department of the Interior's National Register of Historic Places. Since the 1960s, the camp has welcomed generations of youth to programs in music, art, health and wellness, and good old-fashioned summer fun.

Visit [Ferrwood.org](http://Ferrwood.org) and follow us on Facebook at [Ferrwood Music Camp](https://www.facebook.com/FerrwoodMusicCamp)



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Contributing Writer  
Various Articles

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Contributing Writer  
Community Information

**Dane Watro, State Representative**  
Contributing Writer  
Community Information

# The Anthracite Post

Highlighting Neighborhood News & Events

## Letter from the Editors

Hello everyone! I hope you all are enjoying the nice weather. It is so nice to have the windows open, letting in the fresh air.

If you are in Freeland, we will soon be installing an outdoor newspaper dispenser outside the office at 538 Centre Street. If you are walking by, you will be able to grab a free paper in front of the office. Many Thanks to Frank Balon for helping us get it ready! Next up - a bench, so you can sit outside and read the paper. As they say - "Rome wasn't built in a day" and "Money doesn't grow on trees" - we're working on it.

I am sad to say that one our writer/contributors has passed away. Sports enthusiast Ron Marchetti wrote for "The Freeland Progress" for 8 years and then for "The Anthracite Post" since its inception in September 2024. Ron was a great friend who will be missed by so many people in the community.

As always, if you have any ideas, stories, recipes, photos, etc., that you would like to submit for *The Anthracite Post*, send us an email, text or give us a call.

*Lee Ann & Shari*

WRITTEN BY SHARI

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Articles that appear in, or are submitted to *The Anthracite Post* are not a reflection of the opinion of *The Anthracite Post*.



## West Hazleton Lions Club

### 6th ANNUAL GARY FOOSE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT SCRAMBLE

Sunday, June 21, 2026

at

**Sugarloaf Golf Club**

7:30 a.m. Registration

8:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

#### Fees

\$95 per individual

\$340 per foursome

includes

golf, cart and a buffet dinner

There will also be

**Tricky Trays**

and a

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open to all for purchase.

*Proceeds benefit public safety, including the police and fire departments health and community initiatives youth activities, scholarships eyeglasses for those who cannot afford them.*

**Advanced sign up is highly encouraged**

day-of registration is permitted at the course.

For more information visit [westhazletonlions.weebly.com/golf](http://westhazletonlions.weebly.com/golf) or Nancy Stasko at 570-956-1646



# FERRWOOD MUSIC AND ART CAMP 2026

## REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!



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OF MUSIC, ART, AND  
FUN!**

**JULY 12-17 OR  
19-24**

**REGISTER AT  
FERRWOOD.ORG**

# Luzerne County Arts Alliance

## New Arts Alliance Launches Comprehensive Survey to Map Today's Art Scene



Luzerne County, PA-May 26, 2026 - A newly formed alliance of artists, curators, supporters of the arts, and art organizations today announced the launch of a comprehensive study designed to assess and document the current state of the art scene in Luzerne County.

Members of the Alliance include Hazleton Art League - Carl Frankel and Mark Peterson, In Concert with the Arts - Michele Millington, Opaline Arts Committee - Judy Minsavage, Wyoming Valley Art League - Margie Bryant, Artists - Mary Lou Steinberg, Supporters of the Arts - Brian Gill, Bill Rolland, Frank Mariano, and Pittston City - Mary Kroptavich. Instrumental in the establishment of the alliance was the recently deceased, Howard Grossman, a longtime supporter of the arts.

The group, operating under the name of the Luzerne County Arts Alliance was established in response to growing calls within the creative community for stronger collaboration, better resource alignment, and data-informed advocacy. The survey will be on-line and open to all residents of Luzerne County.

Results from the survey will be compiled into a publicly accessible report later this year. The findings will inform future programming, partnerships, and policy recommendations aimed at strengthening the arts in Luzerne County.

Any resident of Luzerne County can complete the survey and express their opinion on the state of the Arts in Luzerne County. You may find a link to the survey at: <https://forms.gle/uhHcDHftjbRNGtDUA> or you can visit our Facebook Page: Luzerne County Arts Alliance for a link to the survey.

Community members interested in supporting the initiative are encouraged to contact the Alliance directly at: [LCArtsAlliance@outlook.com](mailto:LCArtsAlliance@outlook.com).



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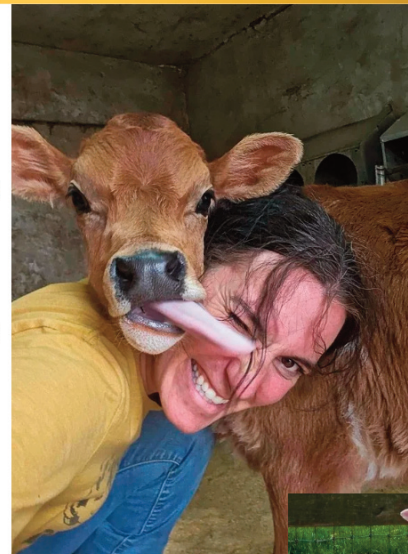
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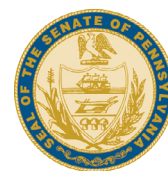


# FATHER'S DAY WORD SEARCH

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 F N C H Q Y E N C O U R A G I N G A Y K  
 H I E L E A H V M O R S V Q I I R C J M  
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 O L A P P R E C I A T E U I N H G I C I  
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## WORD LIST

APPRECIATE	FAMILY	HANDY	ENCOURAGING
BARBECUE	FATHER	HARDWORKING	SLEEP IN
BASEBALL	FUNNY	HERO	SPORTS
CARD	GRANDFATHER	PICNIC	STRONG
CARS	GRATEFUL	PRESENT	TOOLS
COACHING	HANDSOME	PROVIDER	UNDERSTANDING
DAD			



**Senator Dave Argall**  
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 Toll Free Number: 877-327-4255  
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 Schuylkill, Carbon and Luzerne counties



## Addressing Local Leaders at Greater Hazleton Chamber Breakfast

By State Sen. Dave Argall (R-Schuylkill/Carbon/Luzerne)

I was recently invited to serve as the keynote speaker for the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce's Breakfast.

During the event, I highlighted the continuing growth of the Hazleton region, from jobs, to housing development, and blight remediation—including the downtown Altamont Apartments and the Hazle Township Airport Beltway's new 300 housing units, in part thanks to state grants Rep. Dane Watro and I secured, in addition to state funding for the demolition of the blighted Matuella's Dairy.

I also discussed funding for the Hazleton Area School District, the sixth largest school district and one of the fastest growing districts in PA and our efforts to save Penn State Hazleton, a vital economic development and workforce engine for the Greater Hazleton region. Over 5,400 people submitted responses to our legislative survey last year, with more than 96% responding in support of our local Penn State campuses. I look forward to continuing this important work with Rep. Watro and local leaders.

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**Working to Make Childcare More Affordable in PA**

*By State Rep. Jamie Walsh (R-Luzerne)*

Childcare has become unaffordable for most Pennsylvania families. As a father and as a member of the House Children and Youth Committee, I understand both the need for childcare and the stress of finding and paying for care. That's why I have recently signed on as a co-sponsor to a legislative package designed to address the childcare crisis in Pennsylvania through a multi-pronged approach.

According to recent estimates, the cost of having two kids in childcare in Pennsylvania can cost more than one year of in-state college tuition. That's more than most families can afford. Part of what is driving up these costs is the onerous regulations childcare providers and facilities must deal with.

According to a 2026 Archbridge Institute study, Pennsylvania is the third most regulated state in the nation for childcare.

Our first priority is always the safety of our children; however, we need to strike an appropriate balance before excessive regulatory burdens drive PA childcare facilities out of business due to the high costs to operate.

Legislation in the package would seek to do the following:

- Establish a state-funded grant program for start-up childcare providers.
- Establish a state-funded low-interest/forgivable loan program for expansion of childcare facilities.
- Create uniformity on requirements for van or bus drivers for childcare providers.
- Require the Department of Human Services (DHS) to accept electronic signatures from parents on all mandatory enrollment and health documents in any generally accepted electronic format the provider uses.
- Define the necessary requirements for water safety and adjust some of the burdens related to additional staffing at water activities.
- Exempt programs that are part-day, instruction only, in nonpublic, private or parochial/religious nursery schools from certain DHS licensing requirements.
- Conduct a comprehensive study of all childcare regulations in the Human Services Code and make recommendations for reducing burdensome and redundant regulations.
- Prioritize experience by modifying the educational qualifications, professional development, and ongoing credentialing needed for all staff; shifting focus to relevant skills, equivalent work experience, on-the-job experience and revising the continuing education requirements.
- Define the qualifications for a volunteer, to include a requirement that the DHS accept PA Department of Education clearances from educators.
- Create an exception for providers who provide school-age childcare on school property in a before/after school program.
- Create statutory guidelines for training and consistency among DHS licensing inspectors.
- Create guidelines for DHS licensing inspection requirements.
- Establish a formula for the issuance and length of provisional licenses.
- Create a public board for the Office of Child Development and Early Learning made up of providers and parents from each Early Learning Resource Center region across the state.



**Trooper Anthony Petroski III**

**Public Information Officer**  
**Community Service Officer**

Pennsylvania State Police

Troop N - Hazleton



On Saturday, June 6th, 2026, the new "Paul Millers Law" officially went into full enforcement mode. Pennsylvania is now a hands-free state while driving, meaning it is ILLEGAL to use and hold your phone while in operation of a motor vehicle, even at a stop sign and/or red light. This is a primary violation so you can be pulled over solely for this act. You can still use your phone while using blue tooth technology (hands free), but not while physically holding it. If you must use your phone without hands free, you must pull over and place the vehicle in park. This citation has a \$50 fine plus court costs – remember, it can wait, maintaining eyes on the road while driving keeps everyone safe!

**The Anthracite Heritage Foundation and King's College Dedication of the Carnegie Heroes Monument on June 27, 2026**



Andrew Carnegie, the Scottish immigrant, industrialist and philanthropist, established the Carnegie Heroes Fund Commission in 1905 in Pittsburgh. His motive was to award the Carnegie Medal to individuals who had engaged in extraordinary acts of courage.

Over 10,000 medals have since been conferred on persons from throughout the U.S. and Canada. Forty of them have been bestowed on persons whose heroism occurred within the anthracite coal industry of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

On June 27, 2026, at 1:00 pm, the Anthracite Heritage Foundation (AHF), in conjunction with King's College, will dedicate a marble monument containing the names of the forty anthracite medalists. The list includes the late miner Amadeo Pancotti of Pittston, hero of the Knox Mine Disaster of 1959.

The dedication program will take place in the auditorium of The Alley Center at King's College on Public Square in downtown Wilkes-Barre, followed by the monument's unveiling and blessing in The Miners Park at the front of The Alley Center.

The program speakers will include Fr. Thomas Looney, President of King's College; George Brown Mayor of Wilkes-Barre; Jewels Phraner of the Carnegie Heroes Commission; Thomas Lowther Bell, great grandson of John Tennant Brown, who was awarded the Carnegie Medal for saving four men after an explosion on January 10, 1911, at Hoyt Shaft, near Pittston; and Professor Robert P. Wolensky of the AHF and King's College. Tony Brooks of the AHF and the Wilkes-Barre Preservation Society will serve as the Master of Ceremonies.

We hope you can join us for this important local event commemorating a group of heroic anthracite mineworkers. The proceedings will be open to the public, and refreshments will be served.

Parking will be available in the street, and on the high-rise ramp at the rear of The Alley Center, with the entrance on North Main Street.

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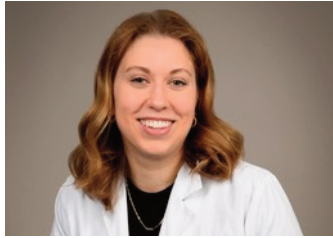
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### House Approves Alicia's Law to Protect Kids from Online Predators

*By State Rep. Dane Watro (R-Luzerne/Schuylkill)*

I was pleased to join in the unanimous state House of Representatives approval of legislation that would create a state grant program to help law enforcement find, investigate and prosecute internet predators who target children.

Alicia's Law is named for Alicia Kozak, a Pittsburgh-area girl who was abducted in 2002 at the age of 13 by a man she met online. It was one of the first documented cases of its kind in the country. Alicia survived and has spent years advocating for stronger protections so other children don't go through what she did.

House Bill 1098 would establish the Investigation and Prosecution of Internet Crimes Against Children Program within the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). The program creates a state-level funding structure to fund law enforcement task forces made up of state and local prosecutors dedicated to investigating and prosecuting online crimes against minors; supplement federal funding for task forces combating child sexual exploitation online; and train task force members on the latest techniques for detecting, investigating and prosecuting these crimes.

The bill is now pending consideration in the Senate.

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## Dry Eye Disease: More Than Just an Annoyance

By: Donna Thornton

Most people have experienced dry, irritated eyes at some point. Perhaps it happened after a long day working at a computer, spending time outdoors on a windy day, or reading for several hours. For many, the discomfort passes quickly. But for millions of Americans, dry eye disease is a chronic condition that affects their daily lives and can even impact their vision.

Dry eye disease occurs when the eyes do not produce enough quality tears to keep the surface of the eye properly lubricated. While tears are often associated with emotions, they serve a much more important purpose. Tears help protect the eyes, wash away debris, and provide a smooth surface necessary for clear vision. When the tear film becomes unstable, the eyes can become inflamed, irritated, and uncomfortable.

One of the most surprising aspects of dry eye disease is that symptoms can vary widely from person to person. Some individuals describe a burning or stinging sensation, while others report feeling as though there is sand or grit in their eyes. Redness, fluctuating vision, sensitivity to light, and eye fatigue are also common complaints. Ironically, excessive tearing can sometimes be a sign of dry eye disease. When the eyes become irritated, they may produce a flood of poor-quality tears that fail to adequately lubricate the eye.

Dry eye disease becomes more common as we age, particularly among women. Hormonal changes, certain medications, autoimmune conditions, contact lens use, and environmental factors can all contribute to symptoms. In recent years, eye care professionals have also seen an increase in dry eye complaints associated with prolonged screen use. When we focus on digital devices, we tend to blink less frequently, which can accelerate tear evaporation

and leave the eyes feeling dry and strained.

Patients undergoing cancer treatment may face an even greater risk. Chemotherapy, radiation therapy, immunotherapy, and targeted cancer treatments can affect tear production and the health of the ocular surface. As cancer survival rates continue to improve, attention is increasingly being paid to quality-of-life issues such as dry eye disease that can persist during and after treatment.

While over-the-counter artificial tears can provide temporary relief, persistent symptoms should not be ignored. Individuals who experience ongoing irritation, blurred vision, redness, or discomfort should consider scheduling a comprehensive eye examination. What may seem like a minor annoyance can sometimes indicate a more significant underlying problem.

The good news is that treatment options for dry eye disease have advanced considerably in recent years. Eye care specialists now have access to a variety of therapies that can address the root causes of the condition. Depending on the patient's needs, treatment may include prescription medications, procedures designed to conserve natural tears, therapies that improve the function of the oil glands in the eyelids, and other advanced approaches aimed at restoring the health of the eye's surface.

Many patients are surprised to learn that they do not have to simply live with dry eye symptoms. With proper diagnosis and treatment, significant improvement is often possible. Early intervention can help prevent ongoing inflammation and improve both comfort and vision.

If your eyes frequently feel irritated, tired, watery, or uncomfortable, it may be worth discussing your symptoms with your eye care professional. What many people dismiss as a normal part of aging may actually be a treatable medical condition. Recognizing the signs of dry eye disease is the first step toward finding lasting relief and protecting your long-term eye health.

*Donna Thornton is a Physician Liaison with Eye Care Specialists and Northeastern Eye Institute, where she works with community physicians and optometrists to improve access to specialty eye care throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania."*

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# A Thousand Times a Day (Part 10)

Submitted by *Kenny Wenner*. If you have any information about people in this article, please call Ken at 570-401-4564 or email [kenwennersr@gmail.com](mailto:kenwennersr@gmail.com).

"To you my son, my thoughts go a thousand times a day", was written by a mother of a 101st Airborne soldier Manning Haney who was KIA October 9, 1944 during Operation Market Garden.

It's too easy to forget the past and those that served, paid dearly, and died so we may enjoy our lives. This project has a goal that we may read their names aloud, even if its once more, that they aren't forgotten. I hope you can enjoy some of their situations as well as the heartaches that paid for our country.

As we remembered our veterans this past 30th of May, we remembered that they served, died, were wounded, were prisoners of war POW, or never came back, Missing in Action, MIA.



Yet, few people are aware that there are three graves on private property on the west end of Freeland. Two graves are nothing more than shallow depressions in the earth, but one is identified as **Jack Skorin**. Jack was a (PVT) private in the Illinois 16th Infantry, 9th Division and died January 8, 1936. That unit served three years in the Civil War and mustered May 24, 1861 to 1864. How Jack ended up in Freeland and is buried outside of a cemetery is anyone's guess.

This month I will go thru the list I have and identify veterans I knew, and have not previously reported.

**PFC Nicholas Masley**: age 20, was WIA in Germany April 5th with shrapnel to both arms and back. His vehicle had struck a German mine. He served in the 3rd "Spearhead" Armored Division, and was in the first tank ashore at Normandy. He was wounded while fighting in the Hessian Gap of Central Germany. His brother, **George Masley** is an aviation mechanic serving in the Marianas as an aviation mechanic with B-29s in the 21st Bomber Command.

**2nd Lt. Andrew McClovich**: Age 28, 408 Cedar St, is one of six brothers serving in the military. He was seriously wounded, WIA in action in Italy April 17th, 1945 and suffered a perforating wound of the left chest, kidney, and back. His unit, the "Blue Devils" 88th Division, was fighting to end Germany's presence in Italy in the Po Valley near Fercoli located in the Appenines. He required multiple transfusions and oxygen for 18 days.

Andrew was returned to the states where he was treated by a Freeland nurse, **Lt. Mary Bereznock**.

Andrew had served 3 years in Hawaii, returned home and was drafted into the Army. He then went to Africa in April 1943 with an AAA unit until joining an infantry unit in April 1944. His brother **John McClovich** was wounded WIA in Germany in February, 1945.

Brother **Pfc Michael** is stationed in Texas. **Cpl Steven** is in Germany with the 26th "Yankee" Division, a Field Artillery Battalion. **1st CI Seaman Paul McClovich**, formerly in the Merchant Marine, is in the Navy attached to the 77th Infantry Division invading the Kerama Islands off Okinawa. **AEM 3CI Peter** is stationed in Florida.

**PFC Andy O'Donnell Jr.**: Graduate of St Ann's Parochial School. Received the Purple Heart for shrapnel wounds to his legs while in action in Belgium, Sept 5, 1944 with the 38th Cavalry Recon Squadron. Andy was among the first thru Paris, captured and held bridges over the Seine during the Germany "Bulge" offensive. For 3 days they repelled the Volks Grenadier Division as they attempted a break thru to Monschau. Fighting took place along a 9000 yard front along the road to Eupen and Liege, holding off five attacks by 2 German Infantry Regiments supported by Artillery and rocket fire. He was in combat 142 days.

**Pvt George Teliho**: 823 South St, Lost his right arm after being wounded February 6th, 1945 in Germany. He was a D Day veteran, pushed across France and defended Belgium during the "Bulge" His injury by a 60 mm mortar shell explosion sent shrapnel into his right side and back. His arm was broken in 8 places and removed. It happened at the Seigfried Line outside the town of Schlaffen. While his unit was dug in for the night, they were shelled. George was evacuated by train to a Paris hospital and was stateside by March 3rd. On D Day he landed with the 1st Division, fought into Cherbourg, St Lo breakout, to Brittany peninsula and to Brest.

**Pvt Edward Carter Jr.**: age 24 of 610 Chestnut St. A paratrooper with the 101st Airborne, 517 Regimental Combat Team was wounded October 17th in Alsace-Lorraine where his unit was fighting in the 7th Army. Edward was leading a patrol of 14 men when his buddy took over and tripped a mine and was killed. Edward was 10 feet away and suffered shrapnel to the face, scalp and stomach. He was taken to a field hospital, but after 4 days went AWOL to rejoin his unit. By December, the 101st responded with Patton's 3rd Army to the German break thru at the "Bulge" and arrived December 27th fighting day and night to halt the offensive. Here he suffered trench foot. He captured a German soldier, "a 15 year old kid with red hair". The young German also had trench foot so he surrendered to get care. Edward entered service February 15, 1941, went to North Africa as an engineer in August 1943, invaded Salerno, Italy in September, went to Italy in December 1943, and joined the paratroopers in April 1944. He then jumped into southern France with fellow Freelanders, **Edward Yuris** of Park St, who was WIA, and **Frank Dalias** of North St.

**MT Sgt Emil Dovan**: "Stretch", of 1128 Schwabe St, spent 19 months in the South Pacific with a Marine Airgroup assigned to recon work. His unit was the first use Corsairs resulting in many dogfight wins. Emil enlisted in the US Marine Corp in June 1942. Under General Patch he served in Guadalcanal in January 1943 and Bougainville.

**Sgt Huey W. McElwee**: MMI graduate. Entered service September 30, 1942 and went overseas to Ireland in October. His brother **Roger McElwee** is in England, and brother **Connie McElwee** is in Mississippi.

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# Adopt A Flag

The Flags are flying once again in the Borough of McAdoo and in Kline Township due to the McAdoo Lions Club project and those who have purchased a flag in honor of their loved ones. The flags will be up until Sept. 11.

Club officials thank Joe Madochick, John Shigo for installing them and Jerry Notaro, Stephanie Kaye, Anne Marie Fogarty, Anne Berlitz, Beverly Ogrodnick and Vince Damiano for putting the flags and poles together.

Red, White & Blue Bows decorated the parking meters, cars in the parade and the McAdoo fire company. These bows were donated and made by Renee Forte and installed by Stephanie Kaye, Beverly Ogrodnick, Anne Marie Fogarty and Lisa Yanoshik, Berdie Bumbulsky and Mary Labert, volunteers from the McAdoo Lions Club. 2026 Adopt A Flag Program

- *In Honor of Paul Haraida Serving presently in US Army*  
Requested by Parents Michelle & Michael Haraida
- *In Memory of Peter Bumbulsky*  
Requested by wife Berdie Bumbulsky
- *In Memory of Edward & Dottie Bumbulsky*  
Requested by mother Berdie Bumbulsky
- *In Memory of Vince & Tommy Labert*  
Requested by wife & mother Mary Labert
- *In Memory of Stephen & Natalie Elko*  
Requested by wife and mother Jacqueline Elko
- *In Memory of David Ogrodnick*  
Requested by parents Bev & Jerome Ogrodnick
- *In Memory of John Ford (Killed in Action)*  
Requested by son James Skipper Ford
- *In Memory of Santa & Joseph Notaro*  
Requested by son Jerry Notaro & Notaro Family
- *In Memory of Pensock Family*  
Requested by Anne Berlitz
- *In Memory of Pop Pop Smithy*  
Requested by Smith Family
- *In Memory of William Green*  
Requested by Lisa Yanoshik

- *In Memory of August Jake Yanoshik*  
Requested by Lisa Yanoshik
- *In Memory of James G. Sabatella*  
Requested by Renee, Richard & Dimitri Forte
- *In Memory of Cor vanHoekelen*  
Requested by vanHoekelen Family
- *In Memory of Greet vanHoekelen*  
Requested by vanHoekelen Family
- *In Memory of Casey vanHoekelen*  
Requested by vanHoekelen Family
- *In Memory of Floyd Petterson*  
Requested by vanHoekelen Family
- *In Memory of Mary & Patrick McFadden*  
Requested by Pat & Bruce Yourechko
- *In Memory of George Pennington*  
Requested by wife Mary Ann Pennington
- *In Memory of Stephen Labuda*  
Requested by niece Mary Ann Pennington
- *In Memory of Postupack & Borchick Families*  
Requested by Georgine, Duane & Danny Borchick
- *In Memory of Joseph E. Kelley Jr.*  
Requested by wife Diane Kelley
- *In Memory of Edward T. Burgess*  
Requested by wife Arlene Burgess
- *In Memory of Uncle Joseph Yurechko*  
Requested by niece Arlene Burgess
- *In Memory of Chappelli & Romaniscon Family*  
Requested by Stephanie Kaye
- *In Memory of Robert Hinkle*  
Requested by wife Darlyne Hinkle
- *In Memory of Joseph Colecio Sr.*  
Requested by Roseann, Cal & Santino Gabos
- *In Memory of August J. Rouse*  
Requested by the Rouse Family
- *In Memory of Joseph Lulla World War II Veteran*  
Requested by Children Kathy & Mike
- *In Memory of Frank Zoba Jr.*  
Requested by Jeff & Regina Zoba
- *In Memory of Mitt, Emil, Joseph, Jacob & Harry Postupack*  
Requested by sister Catherie Postupack

- *In Memory of Robert J. Bobeck*  
Requested by mother Patricia Bobeck
- *In Memory of Frank Treskolosky*  
Requested by wife Diane Treskolosky
- *In Memory of Jim Jackson*  
Requested by sister, Diane Treskolosky
- *In Memory of Paul Haraida*  
Requested by Michelle & Michael Haraida
- *In Memory of Philip R. Smith USN*  
Requested by Betty & Jim Smith
- *In Memory of Captain Richard Garrahab USN*  
Requested by Betty & Jim Smith
- *In Memory of Mike, Anna, Nick, Mary, Emil & Mark*  
Requested by MaryAnn & Robert Pituck
- *In Memory of Sandy Rizzo*  
Requested by sister, Rose
- *In Memory of Joseph Muscavitch*  
Requested by Marie Muscavitch
- *In Memory of Joseph Kollesar*  
Requested by Marie Muscavitch
- *In Memory of Bruno Sposato*  
Requested by Marie Muscavitch
- *In Memory of Sam Sposato*  
Requested by Marie Muscavitch
- *In Memory of Ace Misitski*  
Requested by wife Shirley & Family
- *In Memory of Joseph D. Magda*  
Requested by wife Mary Anne & Family
- *In Memory of Bonnie Shigo*  
Requested by John Shigo & Family
- *In Memory of Stephen Meyers*  
Requested by sister Sandra & Stephen Saxon
- *In Memory of John Gaughan*  
Requested by his children
- *In Memory of Joseph Baranko*  
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# Mountain Laurel: Pennsylvania's State Flower

By William M. Dempsey



Pennsylvania's state flower, mountain laurel, begins to bloom along the wooded ridges of northeastern Pennsylvania. The native evergreen shrub transforms local forests into a display of soft pink and white each spring. — Photo by William M. Dempsey

Every year, sometime between late May and the middle of June, Pennsylvania's forests begin to display vivid blooms. Along hilltops, shaded mountain slopes, old logging and firetower roads, and trails shared by hikers and wildlife, clusters of pale pink and white blossoms pop up from glossy evergreen leaves. For a few short weeks, mountain laurel turns our forests into colorful gardens.

For many Pennsylvanians, the arrival of mountain laurel season is one of the definitive signs that summer is near.

The mountain laurel became Pennsylvania's official state flower in 1933 after a statewide campaign involving school children, civic organizations, botanists, and lawmakers. Several flowers were considered, but mountain laurel stood out because it was native to Pennsylvania and already deeply connected to the state's forests and mountain landscapes. Governor Gifford Pinchot officially signed the legislation on May 5, 1933, thereby permanently linking the flower to the Commonwealth's identity.

Nearly a century later, it remains one of the most recognizable native plants in

Pennsylvania.

Locally, mountain laurel thrives throughout the rugged ridges and forests located in our region. Some of the finest displays I encounter can be found along Broad Mountain near Packer Township and Nesquehoning, where acidic soils, rocky terrain, and mixed hardwood forests offer ideal growing conditions. During peak bloom, soft pink and white blossoms cover entire hillsides.

The bloom season itself can vary depending on elevation and each year's weather conditions. Lower elevations often begin flowering in late May, while higher ridges may be slower to bloom, but the flowers can remain well into mid or even late June during cooler years.

Mountain laurel is often confused with rhododendron, another evergreen shrub commonly found throughout Pennsylvania. While the two plants are closely related and sometimes grow side by side, there are important differences. Rhododendron generally prefers moist stream valleys and shaded spaces, producing larger trumpet-shaped flowers and broader leaves. Mountain laurel typically grows on drier ridges and rocky slopes, with smaller cup-shaped blossoms decorated with pink markings.

One of the most interesting aspects of mountain laurel is something most hikers never notice. Hidden inside each blossom are tiny spring-loaded stamens tucked into pockets within the petals. When a bee or other pollinator lands on the flower, the stamens suddenly release pollen, covering the insect. It is one of nature's most impressive pollination systems and a reminder that even familiar plants hold hidden wonders.

The flower also plays an essential role in Pennsylvania's ecosystem. Dense stands of mountain laurel provide shelter for birds and small mammals year-round, while their blooms support native bees, butterflies, and other pollinators.

Although honey bees will occasionally visit mountain laurel blossoms, beekeepers generally do not consider it a

major nectar source for honey production. In fact, there are historical accounts surrounding so-called "mad honey," a rare type of honey produced when bees gather large amounts of nectar from plants in the laurel family, including mountain laurel and rhododendron. The plant contains compounds known as grayanotoxins, which can be toxic at high concentrations. Consuming the honey can produce

Such cases, however, are extremely rare today, especially in Pennsylvania, where bees have a wide variety of nectar sources throughout the season. Still, many beekeepers view mountain laurel as more valuable to other native pollinators and forest biodiversity than as an important source for producing honey.

Mountain laurel also carries historical and cultural importance. Native Americans reportedly used the hard wood to craft tools and utensils, giving rise to the nickname "spoonwood." Early settlers to our area admired the blooms for their beauty, and generations of Pennsylvanians came to associate the flower with the rugged woods.

The blossoms themselves can vary in color. Wild mountain laurel in Pennsylvania is most commonly white or pale pink with darker pink markings, though deeper rose-colored blooms occasionally occur naturally. Cultivated varieties include bright pinks, reds, and nearly pure white flowers.

Mountain laurel grows across much of Pennsylvania, particularly throughout the mountainous areas, such as the Pocono region, and the heavily forested terrain of central and northern Pennsylvania. Beyond the Commonwealth, its native range extends south from Maine along the Appalachian Mountains into parts of Florida, Alabama, and Louisiana. Pennsylvania, however, remains one of the states most closely associated with the plant.

For all these years, I have believed a common myth repeated throughout Pennsylvania that picking mountain laurel is illegal because it is the state flower. But the truth is, the flower itself does not

receive special legal protection simply because of its designation. However, mountain laurel growing on state parks, state forests, game lands, and other public lands generally may not be picked, damaged, or removed without authorization. Likewise, plants on private property should never be disturbed.

Whether it is legal or not, the best approach is simple: leave the blooms where they grow. Mountain laurel grows slowly and can be challenging to transplant successfully. It is far more valuable to cover a mountainside than to sit briefly in a vase in your home. Removing wild plants also negatively impacts fragile ecosystems and deprives everyone the opportunity to experience these incredible displays in the future.

Pennsylvania honors the flower through events such as the Pennsylvania State Laurel Festival in Wellsboro, which dates back to 1942. The festival celebrates both the beauty of the flower and the history of Pennsylvania's mountain communities.

Closer to home, some of the best places I've found to experience mountain laurel blooms include:

- Broad Mountain near Packer Township and Nesquehoning
- Hickory Run State Park
- Lehigh Gorge State Park
- Locust Lake State Park
- Nescopeck State Park

During peak bloom, these destinations offer some of the finest mountain laurel displays in northeastern Pennsylvania.

If you have never experienced mountain laurel season by actually walking through a grove in bloom, now is the time. Find a trail, experience the outdoors, and spend some time admiring the Commonwealth's most beloved flower. You will see why generations of Pennsylvanians have treasured it for nearly a century.

(William M. Dempsey is an outdoor writer, photographer, and member of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association.)




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# Hazleton Rotary Selects 2026 Memorial Scholarship Winners

By: Pat Korb

"It is an honor, as Rotary President, to announce the following students; Mateo Feola, Ava Genetti, Benjamin Assad and Shaniece Brown have been selected as the 2026 Hazleton Rotary Memorial Scholarship winners." declares Joan Buffington.

"Mateo will receive a scholarship of \$6,000 per year for a total of \$24,000 for four years; Ava will receive \$3,500 per year for a total of \$14,000; Benjamin will receive \$2,000 per year for a total of \$8,000 and Shaniece \$1,000 annually for a four-year total of \$4,000." Buffington explains.

The four winners will be graduates of the following schools; Hazleton Area High School-Shaniece and Mateo, Hazleton Area Academy of Sciences-Ben and MMI Preparatory School-Ava.



Mateo, the son of Lynn and Frank Feola, Hazle Township has been involved in the following; Future Business Leaders President who coordinated the Smiles for Abby Collection, Cards of Empathy Program and Fidgets For the Future. He was a member of the

Junior Council Advisory for the Hazleton City Council, selected to represent HAHS in the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Program, 2026 Executive Council, Student Council and Spirit Club. He was Team Captain and Varsity Letter Winner of the Tennis Team and Varsity Letter Winner of the Golf Team, was in the Varsity Division of the United States History Bee and participated in the televised team trivia competition, Scholastic Scrimmage.

In a few comments from his essay on volunteering, Mateo said, "One volunteer initiative I have played an active role in was "Fidgets for the Future," as part of my Future Business Leaders of America Chapter. This project was designed as a collection

drive to donate sensory toys to all 38 autistic support classrooms in the Hazleton Area School District. Through our hard work and communication and thanks to our community, we received over 2,000 items, as well as fidget toys designed by students in our Exploring Business Class. From the planning phase in October to the delivery in February, as well as the meetings with administrators and appearances in the media, this project became my passion. This project taught me the importance of teamwork and communication, as well as the importance of striving to make a difference and to make someone smile. Being able to spearhead this project was an absolute honor and a joy and I will forever be grateful for the lessons I have learned from it."



The daughter of Dana and Alan Genetti, Ava is employed in Sugarloaf at CareGivers of America. She has been very active serving as a Drama Club cast member, winning speaker at FBLA competitions, member of Junior Academy of Science and Envirothon, and Co-Chair, CAN DO Student Action Committee. Ava was also Secretary of the National Honor Society, Vice President of the Chinese National Honor Society and member of Science National Honor and Math National Honor Societies. She was also a recipient of the Wilkes Colonial Leadership award and Team Captain of MMI Varsity tennis Team.

Ava notes, "At the start of 11th grade, I joined the CAN DO Student Action Committee I was able to see a different perspective on life through helping other people. I realized that helping other people and being committed to the community is when we finally become successful. Through impacting the community in a positive way, I finally understand

what Service above Self truly means."



Benjamin is the son of Susanne and Michael Assad, White Haven and he is employed by the Westmoreland Club in Wilkes Barre.

Ben was a 2025-26 HASD Homecoming Court Member, February 2026 HASD FBLA Member of the Month, member of the National Honors, Math Honors and Spanish Honors Societies and a participant in FBLA, Math-History-Workout and Ecology Clubs.

Regarding volunteerism, Benjamin remarks, "In the winter of 2024, I experienced one of the most heartwarming experiences of my life. I was asked to volunteer at Heritage Hill Senior Community as a member of the Junior Leadership Hazleton Class of 2024-2025. My group members and I planned the event, and I was tasked with assuming the role of Santa Clause. As soon as I stepped out in the costume and saw the joy on everyone's face, I knew, even just for a few hours, that I was more than just a kid in a silly costume."

"Taking this opportunity allowed me to assist the seniors who were combatting loneliness. When I sat down and took pictures with the individuals, I had about 4 or 5 seniors tell me stories about their childhood Christmas moments which I could tell they hadn't thought of in a very long time. It was beautiful."

"When I stepped through the Heritage Hill doors that day, I wanted to leave my ego at the door. I wanted to make a difference. If there ever was a moment that was perfect, it was this one. I was surrounded by love, and it's in those moments, where love prevails, that I think the "Service above Self" idea shines brightest."

*(continued on next page)*

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Shaniece Brown, who completed 50 hours of community service for The Valor Clinic Foundation, is the daughter of Selina Brown, Hazleton. She was on the Honor Roll, September 2024 Student of the Month, National Honor Society member, earned 3rd place Best Attorney in Mock trial and was the 2025 winner of the 2025 National Sojourners Award.

Shaniece was Assistant Coach for Girls Middle School Track & Field and Assistant Coach, Elementary Wrestling team.

A 2024-25 graduate of Junior Leadership Hazleton, she is a 2024 graduate of the Elmer C Hafer Pennsylvania American Legion Station Police National Guard Youth Camp, three-time Varsity Letterman in Women's Wrestling and a 2024-26 graduate of the Army JROTC

"A volunteer service where I played a meaningful and active role is the JROTC Beautification Project which took place in a huge overgrown area outside the Hazleton Area JROTC room. I have always been creative with many ideas, so I took the initiative to clean this area by myself."

"When I started this volunteer project by myself, I realized that I would not be able to do it my myself. So, I gave the idea to make this a Community Service cleanup so everyone that helps gets a ribbon and tab. Since I was the one that started this project, I had to lead, which I learned was somewhat of a struggle."

"What would have taken me weeks by myself only took 3 days with the help of others. I was the type of person that would prefer working alone than in a group or finishing my projects by myself. This project is what opened my eyes to teamwork and adversity. I chose this project because it not only helped me learn what I need to be better at but helped me and my classmate's bond. When I started this project, I was not expecting much from it. Looking back at it, I never saw how much it shaped my character and values. I learned that being able to meet the needs and understand the diversity of the group no matter what project is, is what is most important."

Mateo will be seeking a Political Science degree from Villanova University or University of Pennsylvania leading to a Master's degree; Ava-Bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Pittsburgh, Benjamin-Bachelor's in Business Management from Moravian University and Shaniece has committed to Wilkes University and will major in Business with a minor in non-profit management and has enlisted in the Army National Guard.

Rotary Scholarship Project Chair Kim McNulty comments, "It is really just so incredible to be able to offer these wonderful opportunities to our scholarship winners to further their education. Hazleton Rotary heartily congratulates them on all their outstanding achievements. and extends wishes for futures filled with success to each one."

The winners will be introduced to the Hazleton Rotary membership this summer.

## A Veterans Journal #111

By Joseph Barna • Freeland  
USMC, Korea 1952-1953



**Flag Day:** I would like to tell the story of one American Flag. In World War II, on the island of Iwo Jima, on top of Mount Suribachi, there was a proud American Flag raised by five Marines and a Navy Corpsman. They paid for this flag with the blood of many young men on this small island. But because of America taking this island would lead to the eventual defeat of Japan. The Marines who survived this battle began to come down off the mountain. As they headed for another island to fight and die on, they walked thru a cemetery filled with small white crosses. All of these crosses were the final resting places of American heroes who died

defending this flag. Our flag. As these tired and worn out boys and men walked thru this cemetery, they came upon a piece of a ration box nailed to one of the crosses. On this paper-board someone had written the words: "When you go home, tell them, for all of us, we gave you your tomorrows by what we did today. As they left the island to head into the unknown, they turned to face that flag and gave one last salute.

I was honored to have known two of these men who saw that flag raised that day. Honor and respect our flag. It is part of what we still have left. To respect our flag, you respect all those who fought and died for it.

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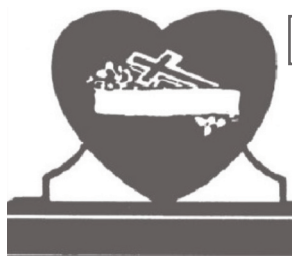
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## FATHER'S DAY WORD SEARCH

ANSWERS

E	S	U	K	U	N	D	E	R	S	T	A	N	D	I	N	G	N	B	L
F	N	C	H	Q	Y	E	N	C	O	U	R	A	G	I	N	G	A	Y	K
H	I	E	L	E	A	H	V	M	O	R	S	V	Q	I	I	R	C	J	M
U	P	X	I	F	R	F	Z	Y	U	R	C	F	Q	W	B	I	I	Q	C
Q	E	Q	S	T	R	O	P	S	A	J	R	I	A	E	X	F	N	U	G
P	E	Q	P	T	L	M	J	C	D	A	D	S	C	T	U	A	C	M	N
O	L	A	P	P	R	E	C	I	A	T	E	U	I	N	H	G	I	C	I
J	S	Y	J	Y	S	T	R	O	N	G	E	W	N	Q	R	E	P	R	K
T	G	R	H	G	L	O	G	P	M	X	L	Y	T	A	K	T	R	U	R
D	Z	B	D	D	R	T	Q	Q	F	E	P	N	G	C	A	R	D	O	
U	T	S	E	J	A	B	V	D	X	R	R	D	D	N	X	P	Y	F	W
Y	S	L	N	T	I	C	I	F	B	O	F	P	I	I	K	E	D	F	D
B	A	S	E	B	A	L	L	S	V	A	M	K	Y	H	K	U	N	T	R
Y	I	F	B	Y	H	F	X	I	T	Z	O	D	M	C	U	C	A	O	A
A	U	Z	I	O	Y	V	D	H	M	K	E	Y	C	A	Y	W	H	O	H
L	L	Y	S	P	A	E	E	A	Z	K	L	A	W	O	L	W	D	L	C
F	O	V	Y	U	R	R	N	H	P	I	Y	B	G	C	X	O	I	S	W
D	H	A	N	D	S	O	M	E	M	E	C	G	N	S	K	I	F	R	V
W	D	M	X	Z	E	A	U	A	D	A	C	I	P	R	E	S	E	N	T
L	Y	Z	K	J	D	K	F	P	Z	O	Q	X	B	A	Y	D	V	G	G



## Sports Trivia Treats

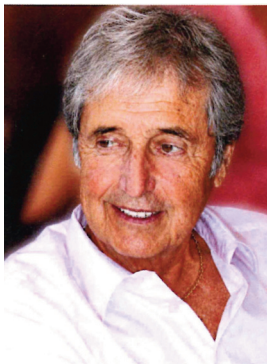
### In Memory of Ron Marchetti

Ron Marchetti passed away on May 30th. Ron was a huge sports enthusiast and he will be missed by so many people in the community. I met Ron while working at International Printing in Hazleton. We printed the Hazleton High School football program and then the Hazleton Area High School program for the Hazleton Quarterback Club, which I now print with my own business, KnightTime Media.

Ron wrote his monthly "Sports Trivia Treats" for my magazine, "The Freeland Progress" for eight years and has continued to write his article for "The Anthracite Post" which Lee Ann and I started in Sept. 2024.

I always enjoyed when Ron would stop at the office to drop off his article and chat or I'd see him working at the Quarterback Club stand during a home football game. He was such a nice man and so full of life. He once opened up the Hazleton Historical Society just to give me a personal tour for an article I was writing for "The Progress".

Ron, you will surely be missed - "Stay Loose". ~ Shari.



### *Life is but a stopping place*

Life is but a stopping place, a pause in what's to be,  
a resting place along the road to sweet eternity.

We all have different journeys, different paths along the way,  
we all were meant to learn some things, but never meant to stay.

Our destination is a place far greater than we know,  
for some, the journey's quicker, for some the journey's slow.

And when the journey finally ends, we'll claim a great reward,  
and find an everlasting peace, together with the Lord.



Do you have enough water pressure?  
Do you have enough hot water?  
If not, We Can Help!

**R. L. MARCHETTI**  
**PLUMBING**

**570-455-7335**



## ARE READY-TO-DRINK COCKTAILS SUMMER'S BEST SHORTCUT?

Summer is supposed to be about relaxing, not standing in the kitchen measuring booze and doing what we call, "cocktail math."

That's where ready-to-drink cocktails come in.

These can be a huge time saver because there is no shaking, muddling, squeezing, or straining. You open, pour, and move on with your life. They're also consistent, which is great when you want every margarita, mojito, or canned vodka drink to taste the same instead of having one perfect drink followed by five that taste like straight tequila with just a splash of lime juice.

And honestly, a lot of them are pretty good now. The category has come a long way, with better ingredients, real spirits, and flavors that don't taste like feet.

But that doesn't mean the homemade cocktail is dead. Some drinks still need fresh citrus, herbs, foam, balance, and a little effort. Ready-to-drink cocktails are perfect when convenience matters most. But when the drink is the event, make it fresh.

-Jeff & Desiree Bonomo

Watch Jeff & Desiree talk about all things in the craft beverage world on Wine, Hops & Road Stops online at [www.youtube.com/@winehopsroadstops](http://www.youtube.com/@winehopsroadstops) and [facebook.com/winehopsandroadstops](http://facebook.com/winehopsandroadstops)



**EASY TO FIND ON ROUTE 940**

412 Erie Street, White Haven, PA

**Monday-Saturday: 11am-7pm**

**Sunday 11am-5pm**

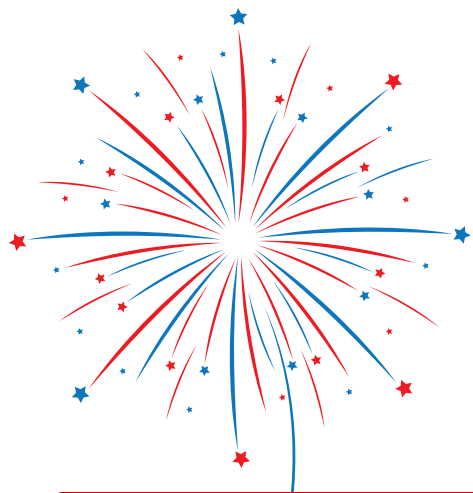
**(570) 215-0022**

**From Classics to Crafts**

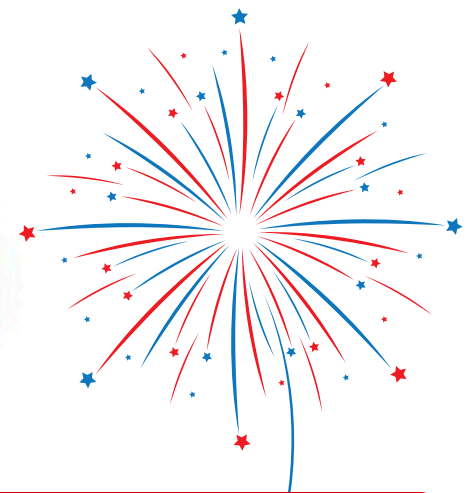
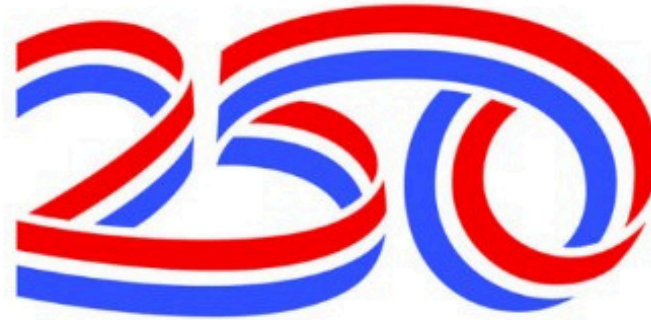
**We Got Your Beer Here!**

Home, Restaurant and Bar Delivery Available

[www.facebook.com/BogosBeer](http://www.facebook.com/BogosBeer)



# AMERICA



## Local Celebrations in our Area!

### **JUNE 15-30 | BIG BOY REUNION**

Steamtown National Historic Site, Scranton. Timed entry 9AM-3PM. Union Pacific Big Boy No. 4014 reunites with Big Boy No. 4012.

### **JUNE 20 | DRUMS**

Hometown Freedom Festival. 4PM-10PM. Presented by Butler Township Recreation Board at Freedom Park. Food, Fun & Fireworks!

### **JUNE 20 | LADY A WITH EN VOGUE**

Kirby Park, Wilkes-Barre. Doors 5PM, Concert 7PM. Free! America250PA Commonwealth Concert Series with Carson Kressley.

### **JUNE 20 | NUREMBERG**

3PM til fireworks. 285 Mahanoy, Zions Grove.

### **JUNE 28 | SUGARLOAF WORSHIP**

4PM. Outdoor service of gratitude and prayer for America's 250th at Historic Brainerd Church, Sugarloaf with The Hazleton Liberty Band

### **JUNE 28 | SUGARLOAF TOWNSHIP**

12PM til fireworks. 250th Americas Celebration at Sugarloaf Township Municipal Building. Food, Family Fun & Fireworks!

### **JUNE 28 | BEAVER MEADOWS**

12PM-8PM. America 250 Celebration at Memorial Park, Church Street, Beaver Meadows.

### **JULY 3 | FRACKVILLE**

250 Years of America at the Little League Complex. Fireworks!

### **JULY 3 | HAZLETON CITY VIEW PARK**

6th Annual Independence Day Festival by Paul & Lisa DeAngelo Family Foundation at City View Park. 5k Run/Walk! Food! Crafters! Kids Activities! Car Show!

### **JULY 3-12 | HAZLETON PTPA**

PTPA presents 1776 at 212 West Broad St, Hazleton. Various days and times.

### **JULY 4 | TAMAQUA**

Beginning at 10AM at Tamaqua Liberty Park.

### **JULY 4 | BERWICK**

8PM at the Jackson Mansion.

### **CELEBRATING 250 AMERICA!**

Join your community in honoring our nation's 250th anniversary of independence!

**Check your community's social media pages for more information!**