



The Anthracite Post

Highlighting Neighborhood News & Events

Volume 2, Edition 6, June 2025



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MMI Preparatory School Honors the Class of 2025 at 133rd Commencement Ceremony



See page 4 for article.

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The Anthracite Post

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Letter from the Editors

Hello All! Happy Summer! The hot, humid weather has arrived. It seems like the rain is still sticking around. I personally don't mind, I like a cool rainy day. But then, my favorite season is Autumn. I will have a special Fall announcement coming as soon as our committee nails down a few things.

Summer is a great time to get out and enjoy nature, take a road trip, hang out by a fire with friends and even take up a new hobby. I like to learn new things, so my latest venture is learning to belly dance. I love it. It is fun and also a workout. I've been using muscles I didn't know I have. I am just a beginner, but I hope to continue with it until I am good enough to perform with the group. It is also inspiring me to get back in shape.

It is so nice to see summer community events going on, amusement parks open, outdoor dining, festivals, outdoor sports, ice cream stands, farm stands and of course, campgrounds and state parks are in full swing.

Don't forget to keep an eye out for motorcycles and kids on bikes!

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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The Anthracite Post

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June 2025

BIZARRE & UNIQUE HOLIDAYS

- 1 Frozen Yogurt Day
Go Barefoot Day
- 2 National Rocky Road Day
- 3 National Egg Day
World Bicycle Day
- 4 Hug Your Cat Day
Old Maid's Day
- 5 Hot Air Balloon Day
Moonshine Day
- 6 D-Day, WWII
Yo-Yo Day
- 7 Chocolate Ice Cream Day
National Trails Day
- 8 Best Friends Day
World Ocean Day
- 9 International Omelet Day
- 10 Iced Tea Day
- 11 National Children's Day
National Corn on the Cob Day
- 12 National Jerky Day
Nursing Assistants Day
- 13 Friday the 13th
National Weed Your Garden Day
- 14 Flag Day
- 15 Father's Day
- 16 Cannoli Day
National Fudge Day
- 17 Eat Your Vegetables Day
National Root Beer Day
- 18 Go Fishing Day
International Picnic Day
- 19 Juneteenth
National Kissing Day
- 20 Summer Solstice
Take a Road Trip Day
- 21 Hollerin' Contest Day
- 22 National Onion Ring Day
World Rainforest Day
- 23 National Pink Day
- 24 International Fairy (or Faery) Day
- 25 Global Beatles Day
National Catfish Day
- 26 Beautician's Day
National Canoe Day
Forgiveness Day
- 27 National Food Truck Day
Sun Glasses Day
- 28 Insurance Awareness Day
- 29 Camera Day
International Mud Day
Waffle Iron Day
- 30 Meteor Day
Social Media Day

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FLAG DAY



Flag Day commemorates June 14, 1777, when the Continental Congress determined the composition of the nation's banner: "Resolved, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."



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MMI Preparatory School Honors the Class of 2025 at 133rd Commencement Ceremony

MMI Preparatory School honored the Class of 2025 during its 133rd commencement ceremony on Thursday, May 22.

This year's graduating class of 30 seniors were accepted at more than 80 percent of the colleges they applied to. At those colleges, the seniors were awarded over \$3,200,000 in academic merit scholarships and awards.

Students from the graduating class provided remarks about the occasion, highlighting their transformations during their time at MMI, and the support they received from their classmates and staff. "That's when I realized that I wasn't the same timid 6th grader I was when I first came to MMI." Kendall Orozco, 2025 Valedictorian, remarked regarding the beginning of her education. She would later comment on what helped her become more outgoing. "MMI brought me out of my shell, and what made the biggest difference in my life was meeting the students who go here."

Diane Kim, 2025 Class President, would echo this sentiment by saying, "The connections and relationships we have with one another today are only one example of how our class has grown and changed immensely throughout our time at MMI. Little did we know, all the after-school Garlic Knot and gas station runs, locker room pranks and lunch table conversations, awards ceremonies and spirit weeks, as well as so many other countless memories, would little by little shape us into the seniors and soon-to-be-graduates we are today."

The theme of transformation, one's roots and future, was shown in their class banner, as well as a tribute to the late Mr. Gerard Pierotti, an MMI Math teacher who passed away last summer. The banner, which was presented by Winni Zheng, represents years of change while leaning into the idea of space — a topic beloved by Mr. Pierotti. It features minecarts going into space, as an homage to MMI's beginnings and the graduating classes' future.

Keynote speaker, Dr. Jack Della Croce '73, owner and dentist at Della Croce Dental Care in Freeland, advised students that it's about the little decisions they make that will truly shape their future, or as he referred to them as, "micro-choices."

"These are small, seemingly insignificant decisions that actually shape the course of your life and ultimately determine your impact on the world. They are decisions that, in the moment, might not feel important, but when you look back, you'll realize that they made all the difference." Things like the people the students choose to hang out with, their study habits, and work ethic, will have an effect throughout their college career and life.

Members of MMI's Class of 2025, their parents, and their hometowns are as follows:

Chloe Ann Allen, child of Brian Allen of Freeland and Lynne Allen of Freeland; Willa Elle Bartholomew, child of Dean and Cheryl Bartholomew of Jim Thorpe; Xavier Jon Bleiler, child of Eric and Heather Bleiler of Mountain Top; Corey Tyler Buchman, child of Christopher Buchman of Freeland; Lydia Chen, child of Cui Min Gao of Freeland; Alexander Stephen Composto, child of Stephen and Nicole Composto of Freeland; Eve Mary Corazza, child of Albert and Jasmine Corazza of Sugarloaf; Dante Asher DeStefano, child of Richard and Helen DeStefano of Freeland; Daniel Katchur Griffith, child of James Griffith and Amy Katchur of Hazleton; Brayden Harleman, child of Drew Harleman of Jim Thorpe and Kristi Harleman of Hazleton; Joshua Moisey Hoover, child of Adam Hoover and Dr. Jennifer Moisey of Sugarloaf; Thomas James Horvat, child of Thomas and Lisa Horvat of Drums; Aiden Michael Hosier, child of Barry and Marcianna Hosier of West Pittston; Diane Dain Kim, child of Chun Kim and Sul Min of Frackville; Michael Patrick Kranyak, child of Michael and Anita Kranyak of

Hazle Township; Mary Katherine Kupsky, child of Colby Vonderheid and Lori Blue of Bear Creek Township; Gracie Madison Magula, child of Gerard and Dr. Sarah Magula of Hazleton; Joshua David Naugle, child of David and Linda Naugle of Hazle Township; Kendall Reese Orozco, child of Christopher and Tricia Orozco of Zion Grove; Kiyan Paknezhad, child of Dr. Hassan Paknezhad and Elham Naghdi Sedeh of Mountain Top; Nicholas Louis Pantages, child of Louis and Cynthia Pantages of Lake Harmony; Evan Charles Pedri, child of Atty. C. David and Holly Pedri of Drums; Isaiah Perez-Serrano, child of Isaias Perez Diaz and Josefina Serrano of Hazleton; Lucas Anthony Pesotine, child of Rebecca Bredbenner of Freeland and Anthony Pesotine of Hazleton; Jason Basil Roberts, child of Dale and Sharon Roberts of Freeland; Hayden Casper Schwabe, child of Marybeth Hayden of Hazle Township and Scott Schwabe of Hazleton; Lilli Amelya Warner-Senape, child of James Senape III '91 and Kimberly Warner-Senape of White Haven; Isabelle Grace Wells, child of Ricky Wells and Dolores Craig of Wapwallopen; Joshua William Witner, child of Michael and Kristi Witner of Freeland; Winni Zheng, child of Lili Lin of Jim Thorpe.



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Strong Community Support Defends Penn State Schuylkill and Hazleton

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

We recently calculated the final totals of our survey and it's abundantly clear that strong community support successfully defended Penn State Schuylkill and Penn State Hazleton.

Earlier this year, when Penn State first announced the possible closure of our local campuses in Hazleton and Schuylkill Haven, I asked my constituents a simple question: do you support closing Penn State Schuylkill and Penn State Hazleton? Since they opened their doors in 1934, these schools have served our communities faithfully, educating thousands of local students and providing them with life-changing opportunities.

The outpouring of support from our area was inspiring. Almost 5,500 people – 3,500 people from Schuylkill County and 1,100 people from Luzerne County – responded, with over 96% saying they do not support these closures.

Between this survey and the two well-attended public roundtables we held about these campuses, Penn State heard our collective message and witnessed how crucially important they are to our students, employers, and communities. The Board of Trustees voted to keep both campuses open.

Thank you to everyone who made their voices heard – now, we must all continue our support, to ensure these campuses remain for generations to come.



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MMI

CLASS OF 2025!

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Love,
 Aunt Shari





Representative Jamie Walsh

117th Legislative District

Pennsylvania House of Representatives

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Stay Safe Outdoors: Check for Ticks!

By State Rep. Jamie Walsh (R-Luzerne)

As the weather continues to warm up and you spend more time outdoors, it is important to check yourself, loved ones and pets for ticks and be aware of the symptoms of Lyme disease and other tick-related ailments.

The first line of defense against Lyme is to take precautions outdoors by treating clothing and gear with products containing 0.5% permethrin, using insect repellent, and avoiding wooded and brushy areas with high grass or leaf litter. When you return indoors, check your clothing, gear and pets for ticks; shower as soon as possible after being outdoors; and check your body for ticks, particularly in areas such as under the arms, in and around the ears, back of the knees and other similar areas.

If bitten, monitor the area for the appearance of a bull's eye rash, though the rash does not develop in all cases. Early symptoms of Lyme disease include fever, fatigue, headache and muscle aches. However, symptoms may progress to arthritic, neurologic and cardiac symptoms if not treated.

Lyme disease is caused by the bacteria *Borrelia burgdorferi* and is transmitted by the bite of a blacklegged tick or deer tick. If you pull a tick from yourself, a loved one or your pet, you may have it tested to determine if it carries Lyme or other tick-borne diseases. Look up East Stroudsburg University's Tick Lab program for more information about tick testing.

Luzerne County is home to some beautiful nature, scenery and outdoor recreation opportunities. Be vigilant while enjoying all it has to offer. Check for ticks!



Trooper Anthony Petroski III

Public Information Officer

Community Service Officer

Pennsylvania State Police

Troop N - Hazleton



Pennsylvania is now a hands-free state while driving, no, I don't mean no hands on the wheel, I mean no hands on your cell phone! Starting on June 5, it is now illegal, and a primary violation, for a driver to be on their cellphone, or just holding it, while the vehicle is engaged. This means while in motion and also stopped at a stop sign or traffic light. The exception is for Navigation and for dialing 911. If you need to utilize your phone, you must pull over and have the vehicle in PARK. This law is aimed at saving lives, as distracted driving affects everyone on the road. Use hands free / Bluetooth devices to be a responsible driver. Remember, put the phone down, and keep your eyes on the road!

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Refreshments will be available compliments of Heritage Hill.



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June is National Safety Month

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

Preventable injuries were the third leading cause of death in the United States, behind heart disease and cancer, according to the most recent data available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

With June recognized as National Safety Month, there's no better time to raise awareness and think about avoiding preventable injuries. The annual campaign, organized by the National Safety Council (NSC), seeks to make thinking about safety a daily habit, which will help to continue to reduce preventable injuries and deaths.

We often forget it during our hectic lives, but the time-tested mantra "safety first" can assist in that effort each day. It encourages us to give more thought to potential hazards and do something to reduce or eliminate those identified threats. It's about taking personal responsibility for our own safety – as well as our physical, mental, emotional and financial wellbeing – and helping to improve the safety of those around us.

The NSC effort focuses on a specific safety topic each week of June. For 2025, June 1-7 is about continuous improvement; June 8-14 spotlights workplace safety and the importance of employee engagement; June 15-21 is about roadway safety; and June 22-30 urges everyone to keep their own wellbeing in mind.

So, let's make June – and the rest of the year – safer for ourselves and others.

New Handheld Device Ban While Driving

A new Pennsylvania law banning the use of handheld devices while driving takes effect this month.

Starting on June 5, Paul Miller's Law limits the use of handheld cellphones or other communication devices while operating a motor vehicle. The law is named for a young man who was killed in a crash involving a distracted tractor-trailer driver in Monroe County, Pennsylvania, in 2010.

Under the law, driving while holding a mobile device is a primary violation, meaning police can pull over drivers solely for the violation. For the first 12 months, the penalty is a written warning. Effective in June 2026, the penalty is a summary offense, which carries a \$50 fine, plus court costs and other fees. If a driver is convicted of homicide by vehicle and driving while distracted, they may be sentenced up to an additional five years in prison.

Drivers can still use their phones if using hands-free technology, such as a docking station, Bluetooth or speaker technology. You may also use your phone to contact emergency responders.

According to PennDOT, more than 11,000 crashes were the result of distracted driving, leading to 65 deaths and 6,700 injuries in 2023. Pennsylvania joins 28 other states with hands-free laws.

Seeking to Increase Pension Payments for Disabled Veterans

Last month, the state House of Representatives unanimously approved my legislation seeking to increase pension payments for veterans who are blind and for veterans who have lost limbs or are



Representative Dane Watro
116th Legislative District
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
570-453-1344
RepWatro.com / Facebook.com/RepWatro



paralyzed due to their military service.

It's been 26 years since these pension payments made by our Commonwealth were adjusted, and it's long past due we make this change to support our disabled veterans.

House Bill 1144 would raise the pension amount from \$150 per month to \$200 per month for both the Blind Veterans Pension Program and the Amputee and Paralyzed Veterans Pension Program offered through the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

This \$50 increase per month is the first step in right-sizing these programs for the deserving veterans who have served and sacrificed for our country. I'd like to thank my colleagues, Rep. Dan Williams (D-Chester), Jared Solomon (D-Philadelphia) and Mark Gillen (R-Berks), for helping to get this bill through the House and to the Pennsylvania Senate. I hope the Senate acts quickly on this important legislation.

PSU Hazleton, PSU Schuylkill Campuses Safe

Late last month, the Pennsylvania State University decided to keep both the Penn State Hazleton and Penn State Schuylkill Commonwealth campuses open.

While I am saddened that seven of Penn State's Commonwealth campuses will be closed by the university, I am heartened the university recognized the incredible contributions made to higher education, as well as the communities and regions in which they are located, by Penn State

Hazleton and Penn State Schuylkill. The university's commitment to invest in these two institutions will build on the good work both campuses have been doing and help support their long-term success.

As the Republican chair of the House Education Committee's Subcommittee on Higher Education, I don't like to see reduced access to a college education or any type of post-secondary learning. My colleagues and I will continue to review Penn State's decision to determine what steps can be taken to mitigate the impact of the planned campus closures of Penn State DuBois, Penn State Fayette, Penn State Mont Alto, Penn State New Kensington, Penn State Shenango, Penn State Wilkes-Barre and Penn State York.

We have to keep our eyes on the ultimate goal of ensuring Pennsylvania has a quality, affordable and accessible higher education system that benefits its students and prepares them for future success in the workforce.

Hazleton City Police Department
Tipline: 570-450-2080 (call or text) • Email: tips@hazletonpd.org

Easy Fresh Strawberry Pie

A sweet taste of summer—made even better with local berries!

INGREDIENTS

- 1 refrigerated pie crust
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 cup water
- 1 package (3 ounces) strawberry gelatin
- 4 cups fresh strawberries, cleaned and hulled
- Whipped cream or whipped topping, optional

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Prepare the Crust

Preheat oven to 450°F. Unroll one sheet of refrigerated pie crust into a 9-inch pie plate and trim the edge. Line with a double layer of foil or parchment paper.

2. Bake the Crust

Bake for 8 minutes. Remove the foil and bake for 5 minutes more. Let the crust cool completely on a wire rack.

3. Make the Filling

In a saucepan, whisk together the sugar, cornstarch, and water until smooth. Bring to a boil and cook until thickened, about 2 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in the gelatin until dissolved. Refrigerate for 15–20 minutes to cool slightly.

4. Add the Strawberries (clean and dry of course)

While the gelatin mixture cools, arrange the fresh strawberries evenly in the baked crust.

5. Pour and Chill

Pour the gelatin mixture over the strawberries. Refrigerate the pie until fully set, about 4 hours.

6. Serve and Enjoy

Top with whipped cream if you'd like. Store leftovers in the refrigerator for up to 3 days.



Each year, we pick our strawberries fresh from Pumpkin Hill in Wapwallopen—but there are many wonderful local farms to choose from this time of year.

Do you have a favorite seasonal recipe?

We'd love to share it! Email your recipes to us at theanthracitepost@gmail.com and you might see yours featured in an upcoming issue.

Happy baking!



Watch WYLN TV for local news,
local sports and programming.

Freeland VFW Post 5010 Holds Memorial Benefit



The Freeland Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5010 recently conducted a memorial benefit gathering in honor of Janet Amentler. Janet was the beloved office and bar manager for many years at the Freeland Post. In her memory, \$3300 was donated to Our Lady of Immaculate Conception Church in Freeland. Reverend Michael Kloton accepted the check. In attendance for the check presentation were, from left to right: Ray Clymer, Beth Boyle, Father Mike Kloton, Tom Palko, Karlie Boyle, Debbie Breznitsky, Dr. John Amentler, Eileen Mack, Jodie Malkin, Eric Swiech and Laura Bayzick.

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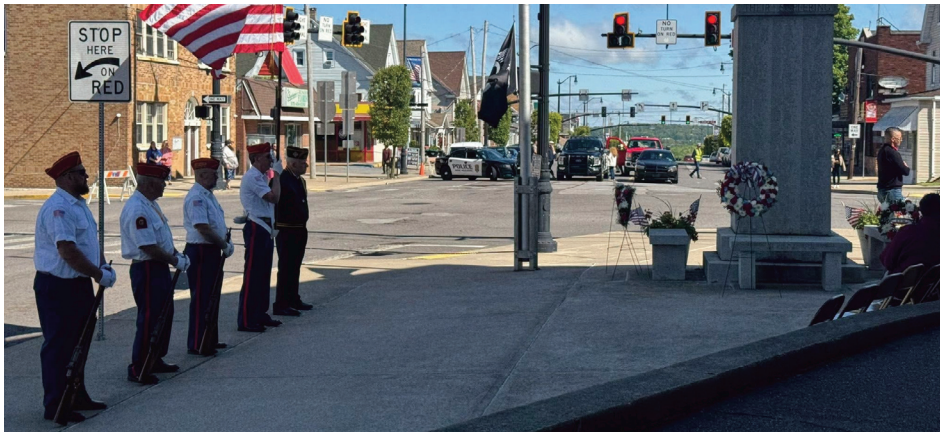
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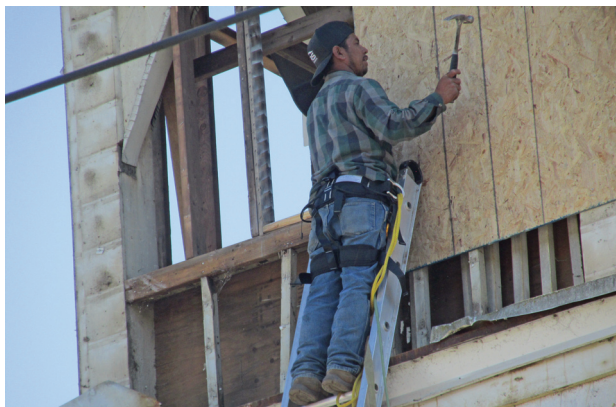
West Hazleton Memorial Day Ceremony 2025



A few amazing photos from the 2025 Flying Aces M.C. Rockport Fishing Derby. So many Parents, Grandparents and Flying Aces Members made this special day happen with many fishing derby memories .



Met these guys while delivering papers to the Boyers in McAdoo if you see them in your travels. say hello from The Anthracite Post!



RWB Roofing & Construction is replacing the vinyl siding on Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Nuremberg. A crew came today to work on our steeple before rain returns later this week. We wanted to share these photos we took with The Anthracite Post.

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A Thousand Times a Day

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.

"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.

Over the years, our neighbors, uncles, aunts, fathers and mothers had stories they told, or didn't tell, of meeting fellow Freelanders in faraway places. They were in places they never dreamt of going.

All of this forthcoming information was collected from public news articles or conversations with the families of soldiers and nurses. I thank Sgt. Stanley Balon for initiating my interest through his stories from Europe.

First we will meet the women who served - WW2 WOMEN IN UNIFORM



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2nd Lt. Ruth Boyle
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Lt. Beatrice Fritzinger
Ens. Martha Gabuzda



Lt. jg Frances Gallagher
Lt. jg Rose Gallagher
Capt. Jean Lorenzetti
Lt. Ann M'Elwee (McElwee)
Lt. Elsie Muffler (Kleckner)
Lt. Cecelia Ondeck
Lt. jg Agnes Ravina



Lt. Marie Rossi
2nd Lt. Frances Slanger (Boston)
See Cpl. George Ondeck Jr.
Mary Spock USMC Aux.
Sgt Susan Yuhas
Spar Frances Vetro
See Sgt. Michael Pelot

Lt. Mary Bereznock: no info

2nd Lt. Ruth Boyle: Army Nurses Corp, Stationed in England. FHS graduate and Temple Univ.

Lt. Mary Brogan: No info

Lt. Nellie Brogan: (Main St.) Enlisted Army Nurse Corp Dec 1, 1942. Promoted to Lt. at Pearl Harbor and stationed base Kaneohe Bay caring for Pacific theatre war casualties.

1st Lt. Marion Dvorshak: (Alvin St.) Only regional nurse to serve in European and Pacific theatres. Enlisted Army Nurses Corp in March 1942. Joined the 142nd General Hospital and went overseas to Fiji in May 42. She worked mostly with University of Maryland personnel in setting up the hospital in Fiji. Twice she was exposed to enemy fire when the Japanese bombed the hospital. She returned stateside due to illness in Oct 1943, after 17 months overseas and was reassigned to Cushing General Hospital at Framington, Mass.

In January 1944 she was picked for a second tour and joined the 135th Evac Hospital which worked with the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divs. An Evac Hospital is the 1st treatment after wounded are collected and removed from front line fighting. She experienced more battle action while working in the mobile unit. The hospital moved with the fighting troops to Dusseldorf, Wesel, Hamburg, and Bonn. As the war ended in Europe her unit reorganized in Marseilles, France for Pacific duty. The unit was enroute to the Pacific when Japan surrendered. The ship changed course and headed for home stateside. Brother T Sgt Jack Dvorshak was awaiting discharge after being a POW in Germany from Aug 1943 to April 30, 1945. He served as a B 17 crewmember before being shot down.

Brother Stephen is a Navy pharmacists mate in the Pacific Theatre and has made several beach head assaults with the US Marines.

1st Lt. Beatrice Fritzinger: Served two years in the Army Air Corp in the European theatre of operations. Married to Purple Heart recipient Pvt Wesley Fritzinger.

Ens. Marth Gabuzda: no info

Lt. jg Frances Gallagher: (N. Washington St) Graduate of St. Ann's class of 1939. Promoted from Ensign and assigned to Ledo Beach, Long Island. Brother Connell serving in Army in Germany.

Lt. jg Rose Gallagher: (S. Washington St) Graduate of St. Ann's, entered service Aug. 1, 1943 and first assigned to a Philadelphia hospital and then to Charleston Hospital.

Brother Ens. William Gallagher Jr is a Navy flyer listed as MIA since March 5th, 1943 while serving as a co-pilot aboard a Navy Liberator B 24 on a mission over Buin on Bouganville Island.

Brother Jack Gallagher is in the as a physical Navy Training Instructor stationed at Sampson Naval Training Station.

Capt. Jean Lorenzetti: Stationed in the pacific. See brothers Larry and Frank and brother in law Gene Nosal.

Lt. Ann McElwee: (Centre St) Graduate of St. Ann's class of 1940. Enlisted Army Nurses Corp March 1st, 1945 and enroute to South Pacific.

3 Brothers: S/Sgt Roger in England, Pfc Connie in Germany, and Sgt Huey wounded in Germany Dec. 14th, 1944.

Lt. Elsie Muffler: (Kleckner) Brother Eugene Muffler KIA

Lt. Cecelia Ondeck: With University of Pennsylvania Hospital in Ledo, India. Treated fellow north sider Mike Pelot after wounds received in Burma fighting with "Merrills Marauders". Article explains she served with two fellow northside nurses and the officer in charge of the hospital was a Nemchick from Eckley. Brother George Ondeck Jr. (see Lt. Frances Slanger)

Lt. jg Agnes Ravina: (Centre St) Graduate of FHS class of 1937 and Hazleton State Hospital Nursing School in 1940. Enlisted Aug 31, 1943 and stationed at Key West, Florida.

Ens. Marie Rossi: (Peace St) Graduate of HHS after winning the Rebecca Sherman Nursing Award. Joined the Naval Nursing Corp, sent to Philadelphia Hospital and Great Lakes for schooling then to Pearl Harbor and Guam.

2nd Lt. Frances Slanger: (Boston, Mass) included because as a nurse working an advance hospital in France she provided a much needed blood transfusion to save the life of north sider Cpl George Ondeck Jr. She was later KIA on Oct 21st, 44 being the first nurse to die on the western front.

Mary Spock: USMC Auxilliary

Sgt. Susan Yuhas: Joined the Women's Army Corp in March 1943 and was stationed at a base in Texas. Came home on furlough around Nov. 18, 1943. (Newspaper Article/ Plain Speaker) She became an art teacher at the Freeland DCM School for 32 years.

Spar Frances Vetro: no info



Sports Trivia Treats

By Ron Marchetti

70th Year Anniversary of Death at Indy - 500

In 1955 Auto Racing's 'Mad Russian', Bill Vuković, the foremost racing driver in the country, died in a dramatic five-car crash at the Indianapolis Speedway during the annual 500 mile race on Memorial Day. Vukovich, who had won the previous two Indy 500s was 36 years old. Leading after 140 miles in his bid for a record-breaking third consecutive victory, Vukovich approached a four car tangle on the back stretch and beard to pass, but an axle snapped on Roger Ward's car and suddenly there was a wreckage Flying everywhere. Vukovich's car, going 150 miles an hour, hit a car, did a flip in mid-air, bounced high again and landed upside down. As flames engulfed the car and the pinned Vukovich, patrol workers rushed to his aid, but they were too late to save the Russian. None of the other drivers involved in the accident were seriously injured. Most of the 175,000 fans lost their zest for the remainder of the race.

100th Anniversary of the First Indianapolis - 500

England's 'Dan Wheldon won the race after American J.R. Hildebrand's victory seemed almost certain, but he came into the front stretch high to avoid a slower car and collided with the wall. Without steering and on three wheels, Hildebrand's skidded toward the finish line. Wheldon passed him in the final 1,000 feet for the win by 2.1 seconds. Hildebrand finished second. That race took place on May 29, 2011. Wheldon also won the Indy-500 in 2005. Tragically, he will perish in a crash in Las Vegas at age 33 on October 16, 2011. Thanks for reading. Till next time, be a good sport and "Stay Loose".



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PUCKER UP! IT'S SOUR BEER TIME!

What is a sour beer? Think "Sour Patch Kids" blended with fresh fruit. It's low in bitterness, high in pucker, and perfect for the summer beer lovers who are looking for something different. The key difference between kettle sour beer and traditional sour beer lies in how they're soured and how long it takes.

TRADITIONAL SOUR

Souring happens during fermentation or aging using wild yeast and bacteria, often in barrels or open fermenters. It can take several months or more to be ready to drink.

KETTLE SOUR

The wort (unfermented beer) is soured in the brew kettle by adding Lactobacillus before it's boiled. This type is often ready in a few days to a couple weeks.

So whether you're sipping an aged to perfection traditional sour or a tangy kettle sour that tastes like a Jolly Rancher took a wrong turn and ended up in a brew kettle, one thing's for sure, your taste buds are in for one wild ride!

-Jeff & Desiree Bonomo

Watch Jeff & Desiree talk about all things in the craft beverage world on

Wine Hops and Road Stops on Service Electric Cable and Blue Ridge Cable or online at

www.youtube.com/@winehopsroadstops and facebook.com/winehopsandroadstops



Support Local Small Businesses!

American Cancer Society Honors Volunteers



Jane Dougherty and Paul Komishock were recognized for some of their ACS volunteer work by Kelly Parker, ACS.

This past week, the American Cancer Society held a small gathering to honor local volunteers Paul Komishock and Jane Dougherty. Paul and Jane, both long-time ACS volunteers, recently participated in the production of the “Change The Odds” campaign, a joint initiative of the American Cancer Society and Pfizer. “Change The Odds,” which aims to bring awareness to cancer disparities in rural communities, is a short, online video series hosted by actor Patrick Dempsey. Participants were selected to tell their stories and help shed light on barriers to cancer care often present in communities like their own. In addition to their contributions to “Change The Odds,” Paul and Jane are also active participants in other American Cancer Society initiatives including Relay For Life, Telethon, and Road To Recovery (a volunteer

transportation service). Learn more about these and other resources by visiting cancer.org.

Greater Hazleton Area cancer patients are reminded that the American Cancer Society Road to Recovery program for our area is in operation.

The American Cancer Society Road to Recovery program provides transportation to and from treatment for people with cancer who do not have a ride or who are unable to drive themselves. How does the program work?

Priority one, if you are a cancer patient looking for a ride to a cancer treatment appointment you must first register at cancer.org or call 570-459-1212.

Patients must be traveling to a cancer-related medical appointment. Other eligibility requirements may apply. For example, a caregiver may need to accompany a patient who cannot walk without help or is under the age of 18. It can take several business days to coordinate your ride, so please call 570-459-1212 well in advance of your appointment date.

Driving hours are flexible, and rides are typically provided Monday through Friday, between 7AM to 6PM. Drivers can restrict availability to only a certain day(s) of the week or every day or whatever amount of time they wish to provide.

The general geographic area covered by volunteer drivers is the Greater Hazleton Area. Drivers do not have to drive outside of Greater Hazleton if they don't want to. However, there are usually a few drivers who volunteer to drive the extra miles sometimes needed for treatment, such as Wilkes-Barre, Danville, Philadelphia and outlying areas, like into Carbon or Schuylkill Counties, too.

More available drivers are needed. Volunteering as a Road to Recovery driver will put



Special thanks to all our special ACS Road to Recovery Greater Hazleton drivers. Shown here are four-Bob Trishman, Paul Komishock, Terri Mezlo and Gary Williams.

you at the heart of the American Cancer Society's mission and fulfill a critical need for cancer patients. If you own or have regular access to a safe, reliable vehicle, then you're already on the road to volunteering. Volunteer drivers must be between the ages of 18 and 84, have a valid driver's license, pass a background check, show proof of COVID-19 vaccination, and have access to a safe, reliable car. To learn more about becoming a Road to Recovery volunteer, please visit our Road to Recovery volunteer page at cancer.org or call 570-459-1212.

Also, take a moment and mark Saturday, November 15, 2025 on your calendars and get ready for the 47th annual American Cancer Society telethon to take place at the Pennsylvania Theatre of Performing Arts.

Wreaths Across America Mobile Exhibit visited Hazle Township



On June 8th, the Wreaths Across America Mobile Education Exhibit stopped in Hazle Township at the Walmart parking lot. The travelling exhibit is not just an event, but a living tribute to the men and women who gave everything for our country. The exhibit also explains what the grass roots program of Wreaths Across America is, and the impact that is has had across the globe. The group's mission is to

Remember, Honor, and Teach. Started in 1992, the program pays respect to the men and women gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country. The Wreaths Across America mission is to place a wreath on every veteran's grave- no matter where it is located in the world.

The fact that they stopped at the Walmart parking lot in Hazle Township, drawing people from all walks of life for those five poignant hours, speaks volumes about its community impact. This is not only about remembering the fallen, but about fostering a deeper collective understanding of sacrifice and patriotism. This mobile exhibit, engaging both the public and Walmart employees alike, created a shared space for reflection, learning, and connection. It's a humbling reminder that our everyday

freedoms are secured by selflessness and courage.

Looking ahead, the journey of this exhibit travels through Pennsylvania in June and July, culminating in National Wreaths Across America Day on December 13, 2025. This program offers an ongoing invitation to get involved — whether through visiting the exhibits or volunteering time to support this noble cause. It's a call to join a national remembrance, keeping alive the stories of sacrifice and love for our country. Moments like this often inspire people to take action, participate more actively in their communities, or simply carry a deeper appreciation for the freedoms we enjoy. It is vital to support the people and families who have paved the way for all of us. Please check their website <https://wreathsasscrossamerica.org/>

Many Thanks to Joe Barna!

Between "The Freeland Progress" and the newly formed "The Anthracite Post" this is the 100th article Joe has contributed!

You are one special guy!

Shari Roberts & Lee Ann Davidovich

Hazleton Rotary Club Installs 105th President



Joan Buffington to be installed as Hazleton Rotary President 2025-2026

Joan Buffington will be installed as the 105th President of Hazleton Rotary at the annual President's Party to be held on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, 6:00 pm, Valley Country Club. This will be a cocktail reception in celebration of Ms. Buffington's swearing in as President along with the induction of board members and officers.

Joan has been a member of Hazleton Rotary Since January 6, 2016 and was sponsored for membership by fellow Rotarian, Kathie Oh.

Joan currently serves as President Elect of the board of directors, serves on Rotary Wine & Beer Festival Committee, was Chairperson of the annual Salvation Army Bell Ringing Project, been involved with the Thanksgiving food drives and many other Rotary projects.

Her goals for the year as President are to bring awareness of what Rotary stands for and expand opportunities for others to join and get very involved as a partner with other organizations to complete service projects benefitting the Greater Hazleton community.

Joan retired from M&T Bank as Manager of the Laurel Mall branch in Hazle Township along with her dual role as a Registered Securities Representative for LPL Financial.

She is a graduate of Bishop Hafey High School and resides in Hazle Township. She served in the United States Air Force from October, 1980 to June, 1986 and served two years in Germany. While there she attended Leadership School in Wiesbaden, Germany and graduated "Distinguished Graduate."

In addition to Joan, the following Rotarians will be sworn into office: President Elect-Paul Oswald, Vice-President-Attorney Stephen Seach., Secretary-Lani Drobnock, Treasurer -Pat Owens, Jr., Sergeant-at-Arms-Pat Ward, and 1st Immediate Past President-Alan Whitaker. .

Members of the Board will be Nina Bonus, Joe Cammisa, Neal DeAngelo, III, Rossanna Gabriel, Anna Gharghoury, Danielle Matarella, Mark Ondishin, and Jace Whitaker

Save the date, Saturday, August 23, 2025, 12 noon-6:00 pm for the annual Hazleton Rotary Wine & Beer Festival, Louis Schiavo City View Park, 600 South Poplar Street, Hazleton. Check out the Rotary Club website, www.hazletonrotary.org, and the Rotary Club of Hazleton Facebook page for updated information on Hazleton Rotary activities, as well as the local newspapers.

A Veterans Journal #100

By Joseph Barna • Freeland

USMC, Korea 1952-1953

Memorial Day Reflections



In August 1953, I walked down the gangplank of a ship in San Francisco, I stopped on the dock and looked back at that huge ship. It was named the USS General M. C. Meigs. 13 months before, I boarded this ship along with 4,000 other Marines. On this day, only 750 Marines disembarked. There's a song from years ago by the singing trio Peter, Paul and Mary, who sang "where have all the flowers gone?" Now I ask, where have all my brothers gone? I made it back home and I wondered how? I looked at my body and I still had two arms and two legs. I still had the same head, but it was full of memories.

To try to describe war is not easy. You have to live it, not read about it. You have to hear it, smell it, feel it. As I watched my buddies come down the gang plank, you could see the scars of the war. The scars came from bullets, shells, bayonets and the weather. There were other scars too. The scars you can't see. Scars in the minds of those who spent over a year in hell. They brought these demons home with them.

Combat is an ugly word and holds many memories for those who survive it. For a while you tell yourself you're okay. But then something triggers a memory and you are brought back to those moments as if they are happening again.

I also remember when I got onto the bus after leaving the ship. I looked back toward the dock. There were families there still waiting for someone to come off the ship. But their loved would never come home.

Do you know what Memorial Day is? It is not a day to celebrate, but to remember and to continue to give honor to all the Americans who fought and died for a country they believed in. Memorial Day should be about all our veterans and flags in our cemeteries. The flags show everyone where our heroes now sleep under a blanket of grass. In war, many young men, who are really just getting over being called a boy, will fight, and some will die. They will not get a chance to pick where he will fight nor will they get the chance to choose to how they may die. God will take many of them too soon.

We have fought many wars during my lifetime. I will speak of three of them. I was 11 years old when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor in December of 1941. I remember it was a Sunday morning and we heard on the radio that Japan had bombed Pearl Harbor. I was at my uncle's bowling alley. I did not know what these words meant, but I was soon to learn the full meaning. Over the next several years, I would see my town's young men, only a few years older than

I, come home in flag draped coffins. This war would last until 1945. In Washington D.C. there is a World War II monument. At the monument there is a wall that holds 4,048 gold stars. Each star represents 100 American dead. That adds up to 404,800 American lives.

The next war was in a country called Korea. This was my War. A war where our thousands fought over a million North Korean and Chinese soldiers. The Korean War lasted 3 years. Over 36,000 Americans died. In Washington D.C., 19 larger-than-life, sculpted figures of Soldiers, Marines and a Navy Corpsman endlessly patrol along side a dark, reflective marble wall. On the wall, are more images of the war. These haunting images are almost calling to the marching men. I can almost hear them.

During the 1960's, war started again in South East Asia. In Vietnam. Again young men were called to carry a weapon and to kill an enemy. Upon another long wall in Washington D.C., lies 58,000 names of service men and women who gave their lives. During a visit to Washington a few years ago, a friend of mine, a Marine, searched until he found a name on the wall. When he found the name, I saw him touch the name, and silently lower his head. I will never forget this sight. This friend was Commander Jerry Gaffney of the Freeland American Legion.

Commander Gaffney found the name he was looking for that day. When I visit a local cemetery, I stop and read many of the stones. On these is a birth date, a date of death and a name scribed in between. Think about it: Between the dates is the story of a life. This is what Memorial Day is.

I'd like to close by telling you a story about my 13-year-old great-granddaughter. She's 28 now, but when she was 13, she spoke at Memorial Day ceremony. She began by saying "I would I would not be standing here talking to you if my veteran, my great-grandfather, did not come home from his War alive. He gave me the greatest gift anyone could receive: The gift of Life. Now think of these words: how many never received this gift? He and my great grandmother gave life to 20 of my siblings, cousins, aunts and uncles, by starting his own family. He is still here. He gave me my body. Two arms to hold a baby. Two legs to run, dance and play sports. Two eyes to see the beautiful things in life. Two ears to hear these things. A mind to think. A brain to know right from wrong. How can ever repay him? With love care and understanding. I hope he just gave me part of his heart. I love you Pap Pap."

Upcoming Community Events

June 13th • 9:00 a.m.
GUIDED HIKE - HAWK FALLS

at Hickory Run State Park

A family-friendly 1 mile interpretive hike to learn about the park and how Leave no Trace principles can help protect the beauty and natural resources of this special place. All skill levels. Meet at the Hawk Falls Trailhead.

June 14th • 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

2nd ANNUAL BERRY FEST

at Pecora's Creamery, LLC.

99 Pecora Road, Drums

Food trucks, fresh lemonade, ice cream, homemade berry goodies, berry sundaes, canned jams & jellies, berries for sale, kids activities, local craft vendors.

June 14th • 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

NUREMBERG COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Good food can be found at Emmanuel United Church of Christ. Hot dogs, pork barbeque, drinks. Bake sale. Restrooms will be open to the public at the Church.

June 14th • 9:30 a.m.

VOLUNTEER CREW

at Hickory Run State Park

Give back to Hickory Run State Park by volunteering for a fun and rewarding volunteer project including a litter cleanup and social trail removal during the Hickory Run State Park Leave No Trace Spotlight. Volunteers will be introduced to Leave No Trace and learn more about stewardship while assisting with park improvements. Meet at Boulder Field.

June 14th • 7:00 p.m.

FAMILY TRIVIA NIGHT

at Hickory Run State Park

Love the outdoors and Hickory Run State Park? Then don't miss our Leave No Trace Family Trivia Night - an evening of fun and discovery for the whole family! Gather around the campfire to learn tips for protecting the park and all our favorite outdoor spaces while testing your nature know-how. Discover easy ways to help protect wildlife, keep our trails and waterways clean, and show kindness to

both nature and fellow adventurers as you compete for prizes. Meet at the Campground Amphitheater.

June 13th • 6:30 p.m.

FREELAND BRASS QUARTET

at the Freeland Public Park Pavilion

June 20th • 6:30 p.m.

HAZLETON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

at the Freeland Public Park Pavilion

June 21st & 22nd • 10:00 a.m.

PAINTED PONY INTERTRIBAL POW WOW

at Benton Rodeo Grounds

385 Mendenhall Lane, Benton, PA 17814

June 21st • 1:00 p.m.

WALKING MEDITATION

at Greater Hazleton Rails to Trails.

Hosted by the Hazleton Area Public Library.

Licensed meditation instructor Sheila Dignazio will guide us through various meditation exercises as we enjoy a relaxing walk on the trail. Meet at Broad St. entrance across from Dr. Sacco's office. Free for all adults to attend.

June 21st • 1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

HELPING HANDS SOCIETY ANNUAL TELETHON

at 695 South Poplar Street, Hazleton

(formerly Quality Beverage)

June 21st • 4:00 p.m.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

at Mount Zion Lutheran Church, Zion Grove, PA

Bring your family for a nice meal and visit with friends and family. DJ Music.

June 27th • 6:30 p.m.

JACK JAMES VOCALIST

at the Freeland Public Park Pavilion

June 28th • 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

BUTLER TOWNSHIP SUMMER KICKOFF FESTIVAL

at 76 Mill Mountain Road, Drums

July 11th • 5:00 p.m.

July 12th & 13th • 1:00 p.m.

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH SUMMER FESTIVAL

at 87 South Hunter Highway, Drums

July 25th • 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

July 26th & 13th • 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

JAM BELOW THE DAM

at Main Street, Wite Haven

July 26th • 2:00 p.m.

MRS. ROPER ROMP

at 635 Main Street, Pittston, PA 18640-3215

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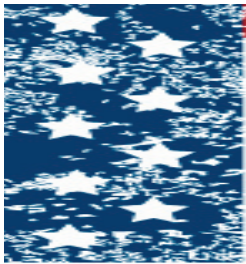
570-582-0981 or 570-401-1798.





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NATIONAL FLAG DAY - JUNE 14th



Vytl Plant Science Research

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, June 19, 2025
Time: 10.00 am.

Celebrate the Launch of the NASA STEM Bus &
NIST Biotechnology Lab



Location: Biotechnology Lab
2 E Broad St. Hazleton, PA 18201

Contact Us:
dminning@vpsresearch.org (570-578-4998)
Shobha@vpsresearch.org (717-425-9537)



VPSR's Two Major STEM initiatives

STEM Bus: NASA-funded mobile lab partnering with local schools &
empowering students in STEM Education

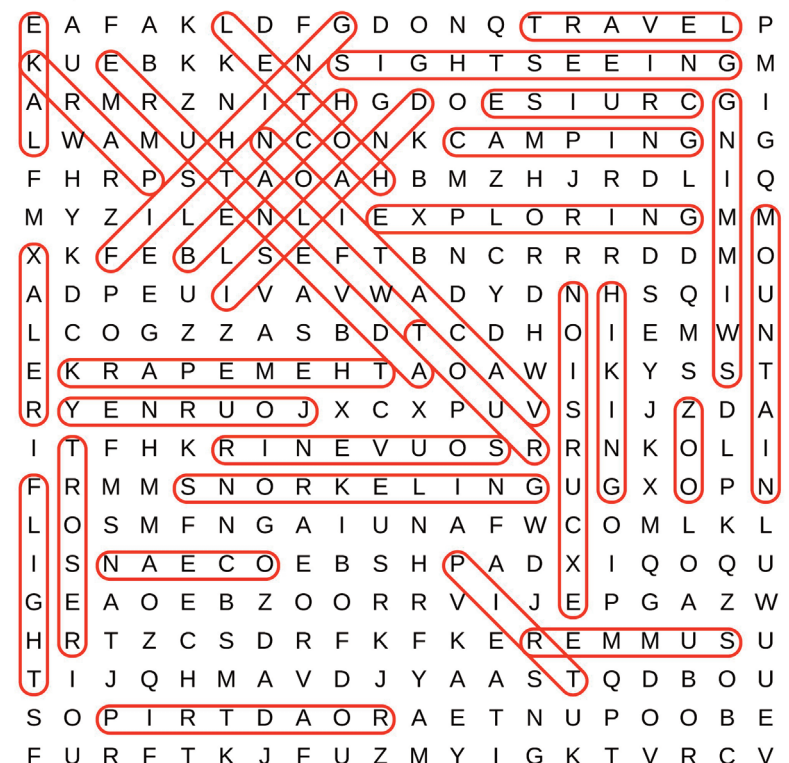
Biotechnology Lab: A NIST supported research space for real-world science
STEM Learning & Workforce Development



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279,842 Miles
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4WD

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79,073 Miles
2.5L 170 HP
4 speed shiftable
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2011 VOLVO XC60



171,664 miles
3.0 L Turbo AWD

\$6,995

2023 BOBCAT CT2035



\$26,195

2012 NISSAN MURANO



147,714 Miles
3.5 V6 260 HP
CVT AWD

\$7,095

2014 NISSAN ROGUE



153,087 Miles
2.5L 175 HP
CVT AWD

\$7,995

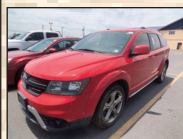
2015 Cadillac SRX



2015 Cadillac SRX
116,113 miles
3.6L V6 308 HP
AWD

\$11,295

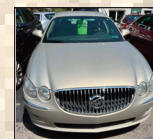
2017 DODGE JOURNEY



112,151 Miles
Pentastar 3.6L V6
6 speed shiftable
automatic
AWD

\$9,795

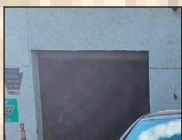
2008 BUICK LaCROSSE



66,000 Miles
3.8LV6 200hp
4 speed automatic
FWD

\$6,495

2014 CHEVROLET IMPALA



85,476 Miles
Ecotec 2.5L I4 195hp
6 speed shiftable
automatic with
overdrive
FWD

\$13,295

2012 Subaru Impreza



149,443 miles
2.0 L I4 148 HP
AWD

\$7,895

2012 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT



140,128 miles
2.5L I5 170hp
6 speed shiftable
automatic
FWD

\$6,895

2010 MAZDA MAZDA 3



114,000 miles
2.0L I4 148 hp
5 speed automatic
with sportshift
manual 5A
FWD

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1996 ISUZU NPR



133,445 miles
Isuzu 4HE1-XN 4.8L
I4 170h
RWD

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1979 Ford Ranchero



53,517 miles
5.7 LV8

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2003 FORD F-550 SUPER DUTY



146,771 miles
Power Stroke 6.0L
V8 325hp
RWD

\$7,995

2010 NISSAN MAXIMA



146,028 miles
3.5L V6 290hp
Xtronic CVT
FWD

\$6,295

2016 CHEVROLET MALIBU



124,914 miles
Ecotec 1.5L Turbo I4
160hp
6-Speed Shiftable
Automatic
FWD

\$9,195

2013 HYUNDAI ELANTRA



130,252 miles
1.8L I4 148hp
6-Speed Shiftable
Automatic
FWD

\$6,395

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