



# The Anthracite Post

Highlighting Neighborhood News & Events

Volume 2, Edition 9, September 2025



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## The Anthracite Post Celebrates One Year and Announces New Office in Freeland

This September marks a special milestone for **The Anthracite Post**, which is celebrating its first anniversary. Founded by lifelong friends Lee Ann Davidovich and Shari Roberts, the monthly newspaper has quickly become a place where community members, local businesses, and nonprofit organizations can share their good news, event information, announcements and photos, along with informative updates from local and state government officials, local state police barracks, veterans, sports experts, drink experts, outdoor enthusiasts and more. Each issue also includes fun features and a variety of stories that reflect the spirit of the Anthracite region.

Davidovich and Roberts have been friends since meeting in kindergarten at Drums Elementary. With decades of combined experience in printing and advertising, they decided to join forces and bring their skills together to create a publication to celebrate the people, places, and great things happening in our community.

"Our first year has been truly rewarding," said the founders. "The support from readers, contributors, and advertisers has been overwhelming, and the encourage-

ment we continue to receive inspires us to keep growing."

Both founders continue to work full time day jobs, yet still manage every aspect of the newspaper themselves. They write and



edit content, design and sell advertisements, prepare each edition for print, pick it up from the printer, and personally deliver it to 65 locations across Luzerne, Carbon, Columbia and Schuylkill Counties.

The response has been remarkable.

Letters arrive at the post office for columnists, phone calls come in with requests for additional distribution, and readers regularly share their excitement about having a publication that highlights good news, informative content, and community voices.

Looking ahead, there is even more to celebrate. Beginning in October, **The Anthracite Post** will open a new office on Centre Street in Freeland. While Davidovich and Roberts will continue with their day jobs, the office will serve as an evening and weekend hub for producing the paper and supporting future growth along with Shari's full service printing business, **KnightTime Media**.

"Our vision is to expand with more pages, more columns, and more stories," they shared. "This paper is truly a community effort, and we are deeply grateful to everyone who reads, contributes, and supports us. We could not do this without you." THANK YOU TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS!!

For more information about **The Anthracite Post**, including advertising opportunities and distribution locations, please contact [theanthracitepost@gmail.com](mailto:theanthracitepost@gmail.com).

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**Rev. Phil Smith**  
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 All! I hope you are all enjoying this extended summer. As I am writing this it is Sept. 15th, the sun is shining bright and the high today is 80°. I am betting that will change with Bloomsburg Fair week coming.

So, I have been mentioning some exciting news on the way. It is final. As of October 1st, **The Anthracite Post** and **KnightTime Media** will have a storefront located at 538 Centre Street in Freeland. We are very excited about this accomplishment. We are currently moving in. Special Thanks to my brother Dale Roberts and Frank Balon for helping us move.

As you know, we both work full-time jobs so we will be in the office when time allows (mostly evenings). If the sign says open, someone is there. Stop and say hello, drop off any articles/photos for **The Anthracite Post**, or see one of us for your printing needs. We look forward to serving Freeland and the surrounding communities!

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.*

## SEPTEMBER 2025

### BIZARRE & UNIQUE HOLIDAYS

- 1 Labor Day  
National Cherry Popover Day
- 2 Pierce Your Ears Day  
VJ Day, WWII
- 3 Skyscraper Day
- 4 Bring Your Manners to Work Day  
Newspaper Carrier Day
- 5 Be Late for Something Day  
Cheese Pizza Day
- 6 National Tailgating Day  
Read a Book Day
- 7 Grandparent's Day  
National Salami Day
- 8 Star Trek Day  
Pardon Day
- 9 International Sudoku Day
- 10 National TV Dinner Day  
Swap Ideas Day
- 11 911 Remembrance
- 12 Chocolate Milk Shake Day  
National Video Games Day
- 13 Fortune Cookie Day  
Positive Thinking Day
- 14 National Eat a Hoagie Day
- 15 Make a Hat Day  
National Creme de Menthe Day
- 16 American Legion Day  
Working Parents Day
- 17 Constitution Day  
National Apple Dumpling Day
- 18 National Cheeseburger Day  
National First Love Day
- 19 International Talk Like A Pirate Day
- 20 Fried Rice Day  
National Dance Day
- 21 International Peace Day  
Wife Appreciation Day
- 22 Autumn Equinox  
Rosh Hashanah
- 23 Checkers Day
- 24 National Cherries Jubilee Day  
National Punctuation Day
- 25 National Comic Book Day  
National Quesadilla Day
- 26 Native American Day
- 27 Breakfast in Bed Day  
Hunting and Fishing Day  
National Chocolate Milk Day
- 28 National Good Neighbor Day  
National Public Lands Day
- 29 Confucius Day
- 30 Ask a Stupid Question Day  
National Mud Pack Day





## TROOP N CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY



The Pennsylvania State Police, Troop N Community Services Unit will be hosting a FREE Citizen's Police Academy (CPA) at Penn State Hazleton Campus. The program will expand citizen's knowledge and understanding of the law and explore police procedure from the perspective of the Pennsylvania State Police. The Citizen's Police Academy involves approximately 20 hours of instruction taught in two-hour segments. The program is scheduled to begin October 7<sup>th</sup> and end December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Participants meet each **Tuesday** night for ten weeks from 6:00pm - 8:00pm. Students must attend 75 percent or more of the scheduled classes to be eligible to graduate and receive a certificate.

Class size is limited to 30 community participants to allow greater interaction between students and instructors. Participants are selected from interested applicants. Applicants must be 18 years of age to apply and be a resident of Troop N's coverage area which consists of Lower Luzerne County, Columbia County, Carbon County & Monroe County, Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania State Police will also conduct a brief background investigation on interested applicants.

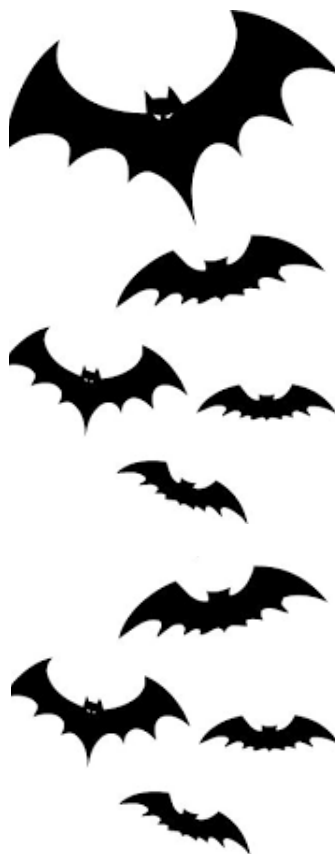
Individuals can request an application to be mailed or an electronic application can be e-mailed. Contact Tpr. Anthony Petroski for an application - 570-459-3900, ext: 216 or [anpetroski@pa.gov](mailto:anpetroski@pa.gov).

Deadline for application submission will be October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

Questions can be directed to Tpr. Anthony Petroski, 570-459-3900 ext: 216, [anpetroski@pa.gov](mailto:anpetroski@pa.gov).



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## Penn State Hazleton Roundtable Calls for Expanded Community Outreach, New Programs

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

More dual enrollment classes for high school students, additional course offerings, and partnerships with local employers were all promoted at a recent legislative roundtable on the future of Penn State Hazleton.

Sen. Lynda Schlegel Culver, Rep. Dane Watro, Rep. Jamie Walsh, and I organized the discussion to focus on the growth of the local campus after it was saved from closure earlier this year.

Just a few months ago, the Hazleton community united to save this campus. But our work is not done – far from it. Our discussion helped build a roadmap for how Penn State Hazleton can thrive and benefit students and employers for decades to come.

Alex Neyhart, a student at Penn State Hazleton, discussed that expanding degrees in high-demand fields would encourage more students to attend the campus. He cited the serious need for more teachers, nurses, and tradesmen. He also shared how the student body has reacted to the upheaval, stating that many breathed a “sigh of relief” when the campus was saved, and welcomed new students from Penn State Wilkes Barre to the Hazleton community.

Dr. Brian Uplinger, the superintendent of schools for Hazleton Area School District, discussed how the district is one of the fastest growing in the state. He called for the creation of an early college academy, a dual enrollment program that would allow students to graduate with 30 college credits. He also shared the need for creating pathways to guide students towards degrees in teaching, cybersecurity, health sciences, engineering, and business.

Dr. Anthony Conston, the principal of Hazleton Area High School, emphasized the importance of community outreach to share details of scholarships and other financial aid options for families considering higher education.

Mary Malone, the president of the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, pointed to the need for Penn State Hazleton faculty and staff to engage in a deeper way with the wider community. She noted that 15,000 people come to work in the Hazleton area and that employers are always looking for future employees, creating opportunities for internships and other collaborations.

Bob Curry, the founding president of the Hazleton Integration Project, discussed a plan to develop nursing degrees at Penn State Hazleton to address the healthcare shortages affecting communities across the region.

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### Back to School Safety Reminders

By State Rep. Jamie Walsh (R-Luzerne)

With schools now back in session, it's important to remind students, parents, teachers and community members about the Safe2Say Something program, which was established to offer an anonymous resource to report behavior perceived to be threatening to an individual or a school entity.

In addition to potential threats, the program has also received reports of issues such as students dealing with bullying, anxiety, depression and suicidal thoughts.

For more information or to submit a report, call 1-844-Saf2Say or visit [www.safe2saypa.org](http://www.safe2saypa.org). You can also download the "SafeToSay Something PA" app.

Furthermore, with school buses back on our roads, motorists, parents and children are encouraged to refresh their memories about how to share the road safely.

Pennsylvania law requires motorists to stop at least 10 feet away from school buses when their red lights are flashing and their stop arm is activated. This applies to motorists when they are behind or traveling alongside a school bus, as well as when meeting the bus or approaching an intersection where a bus has stopped.

Vehicles should remain stopped until the red lights have stopped flashing and the stop arm is withdrawn. Do not proceed until all the children have reached a place of safety.

If physical barriers such as grassy medians, guide rails or concrete median barriers separate oncoming traffic from the bus, motorists in the opposing lanes may proceed without stopping.

Penalties for failure to obey school bus safety laws can result in a \$250 fine, five points on a driving record and a 60-day license suspension. Violators will also be assessed a \$35 surcharge to be deposited into the School Bus Safety Grant Program Account. State law also permits school entities to install and operate a side stop signal arm enforcement system. These civil violations include a \$300 fine but would not assess points or impact insurance ratings.

Parents are also reminded to ensure their children are at the bus stop early to avoid rushing. Students should stay where the bus driver can see them while boarding or exiting the bus.



### Trooper Anthony Petroski III

Public Information Officer

Community Service Officer

Pennsylvania State Police

Troop N - Hazleton



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## Are You 1 in 10?

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

The Pennsylvania Treasury estimates one in every 10 Pennsylvanians is owed unclaimed property by the state. You can easily find out if you are one of those citizens by visiting Treasury's FREE unclaimed property database at <http://www.patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property>.

Unclaimed property can include dormant bank accounts, abandoned stocks, uncashed checks and more. Property is always available for the rightful owner to claim. Tangible property may be auctioned after three years, but proceeds remain available to claim in perpetuity.

Under a state law adopted last year, the Pennsylvania MoneyMatch program allows Treasury to automatically return unclaimed property valued at \$500 or less and belonging to a single owner. But with the average claim of unclaimed property exceeding \$1,000, residents are encouraged to check the database as well.

Military decorations and memorabilia – often turned over to Treasury from abandoned or forgotten safe deposit boxes – are never auctioned and remain in the vault for safekeeping until a veteran or their family is found. If you are a veteran or family member of a veteran, you can check the database of unclaimed military items at <http://www.patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property/medals>.

You NEVER have to pay anyone to be reunited with your unclaimed property. If you find property that belongs to you, you may claim it through Treasury's website or contact my offices at 570-453-1344 (Hazleton) or 833-933-3679 (Mahanoy City) for assistance. You do not need to hire anyone to help you make your claim.

## Elk Cam Fires Back Up!

It's September, which means it's the peak of Pennsylvania's elk rut. You can get a jumpstart on viewing some of those bugling bulls through the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Elk Cam.

The camera is in the heart of Pennsylvania's elk range, an area totaling over 220,000 acres including State Game Lands 311 and Elk State Forest. Video and sound from the camera will be livestreamed at <https://hdontap.com/stream/228253/pennsylvania-elk-live-webcam/>. Viewers can expect not only to see elk, but also turkeys, deer and other wildlife. The best time to view elk on camera is late in the afternoon.

If you'd like to see the bugling season in person, the Game Commission reminds visitors to always be "Elk Smart." Give elk space, never feed elk and do your part to ensure the welfare of the herd. You can learn more at <https://www.pgc.pa.gov/Wildlife/WildlifeSpecies/Elk/Pages/ELKSMART.aspx>



# Junior Leadership Hazleton 2025-26 Holds Orientation Session

Submitted by Pat Korb



Junior Leadership Hazleton students gathered at the Penn State Hazleton Graham Lobby and listened to presentations from breakout groups on challenging social issues of the day.

JLH Program Coordinator Michael Dougherty welcomed the JLH class of 2025-26 to the Penn State Hazleton Campus on August 19th and reviewed the day's agenda with them. Dougherty says "I welcome the opportunity to meet our new class members each year. It is always a great experience to see the class grow and change throughout the JLH year. JLH is always a learning experience for the team as we watch these teens abilities and knowledge increase about this area that we all now call home."

Dr. Barbara Conway, adjunct faculty at Kings College and Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit, started the day with a lively game of Bingo assisted by Dr. Keith "Jake" Boyer,

retired school superintendent. She then provided students with Team Building Strategies that she explained "Are essential for the participants who are arriving together from different schools and different backgrounds to learn and use team building. To accomplish goals, they must learn to work together." Assisting throughout the presentations was Dr. Jim Caggiano.

"Seeking Success: A Guide for College and Beyond" was discussed by Sabrina Tomaskovic, Associate Director, Admissions, Penn State Hazleton Campus. She provided the class with a lot of useful information as they begin to prepare for the trip from high school to college or other destinations.

Jane Dougherty, Junior Leadership team, provided the students with an overview of volunteering and its importance to the community.

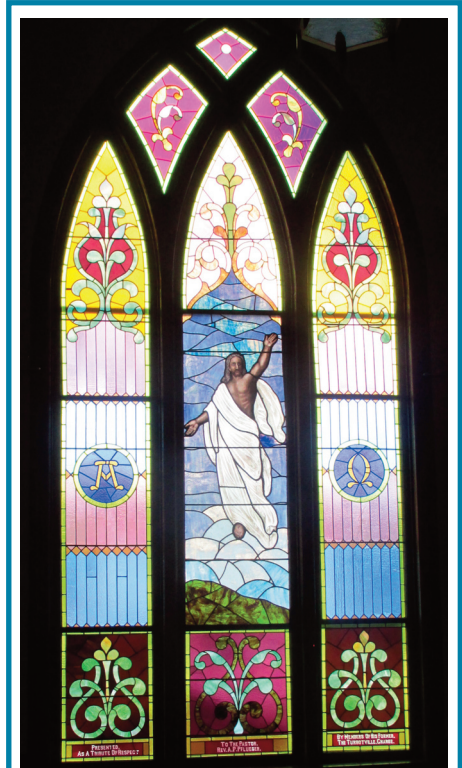
Members of the 2025-26 class of JLH are: Hazleton Area Academy of Science; Abigail Bachman, Viarys Dominguez, Jareyvi Elich Santiago, Raphael Hernandez, Yevhenii Hradil, Julia Kintzel, Gregory Kupsho, Eva Pasca, Luca Pasca Kimberly Ramirez & Jaelys Rivas-Mateo. Hazleton Area Career Center; Nashla Alvarado Grullon, Santino DeLorenzo, Rose Guzman & Jessica Tatis; Hazleton Area Arts and Humanities Academy; Taryn Leonard, Xavier Perez & Destiny Rodriguez Diaz. Hazleton Area High School; Yolianny Dominguez. Marian Catholic High School; Elyse Barletta, Maddison Malloy & Griaahny Santos-Urena. Weatherly Area High School; Ben Kropp, Mary Portell & Chance Stauffer and MMI Preparatory School; Christina Chrin, Alexa Fazio & Ruhani Shah.

Assisting the Program Coordinator were students from the JLH class of 2024-25 Kim Tejada, Kelly Reiner, Rose Fernandez, and Hiboni Balbuena-Marte. Additional Junior Leadership Hazleton team members are Joe Clark, Barbara Conway, Jane Dougherty, Pat Korb and Ted Sherrock.

The next session is slated for Tuesday, September 23rd and focuses on "The History of Hazleton".


Junior Leadership Hazleton is

dedicated to Dr. L. Edgar Dessen, founder of CAN DO. It is a program administered by Leadership Hazleton an affiliate of the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce. Funding for the program is provided, in part, by the CAN DO Community Foundation.



Cumberland Stained Glass, Mechanicsburg, PA, repaired and installed our big window in time for our 150th Anniversary on September 14 - Holy Cross Day at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Nuremberg.

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Pastor Phil is shown blessing the bikes before a Poker Run held along with the 25th Annual Nuremberg Community Labor Day Celebration on August 30th.



Sarah Brobst of White Haven, and her Mom Beverly, took advantage of the beautiful late summer weather by spending the afternoon fishing at Mauch Chunk Lake.

### Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Nuremberg Celebrates 150th Anniversary!



Floral Array south of Nuremberg made a beautiful arrangement of Martin Luther's Rose / Martin Luther's Seal.



Luther's Rose / Luther's Seal.



Painting of Luther's Rose by our Organist and Artist-In-Residence, Lisa Kamerzel.

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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. In the third issue we heard of LT Bob Seitzinger being liberated from Stalag 7 in Meusberg Germany near the wars end. September is POW/MIA month and we will focus on those men in this issue. In Bobs words please enjoy the following:***

I graduated from flying school on the seventh of January, 1944. After I had short time at home, I got trained in the B-17. In June of 1944, I reported to Newport News, Virginia, where I got on a Banana Boat and went to North Africa and then to Foggia, Italy. I wasn't in Italy very long. I flew in one mission to Avisio viaduct in northern Italy.

The second one was on a trip to Memmingen, Germany. There was a Focke-Wolfe plant where they made these fighter aircraft. This was the eighteenth of July, 1944. We had a terrible flight there, in fact, the wing I was in was ordered to go back to the field, but our Colonel decided that he was going to go to Memmingen. So we went up there and, of course, we got assaulted by the Focke-Wulfs, and they shot out an engine and a half. We decided to go to the Adriatic and ditch in the Adriatic Sea and hope that we would get rescued by the boats that we had in there, who would pick up down flyers.

Anyhow, we got as far as what I think was Innsbruck, Austria, on our way to the Adriatic. We flew over a city and we got a lot of flak, which is shelling from the ground, and they would send up shells that would burst in the air and be full of pieces of shrapnel that would really destroy anything that was close. I bailed out of the airplane, because we couldn't get across the mountains after the flak attack. I went down to get out of the airplane and there was a guy sitting there in the hatch, and I tried to get him out of the road—to jump out of the airplane—because we had other people behind me that were trying to get down there to get out of the airplane. But he wouldn't jump, so I told him to get out of the way and I stood up, and I just jumped through and out.

When I got out there, I pulled the rip cord too quick. I was really anxious, you know, but I should have waited at least ten seconds so I would have fallen further away from the aircraft. But it didn't matter; I pulled it, and the chute opened up, and I looked up and there was a big hole up there. I thought, “What in the name of Sam Hill's going on?” But that was a way for the air to escape, so the parachute will stay expanded. I landed in a tree on the side of

a mountain, and I could hear people passing along the road down below me. The first thing they told us about jumping out of an airplane and landing—the first thing you should do—is hide your parachute. Well, I spent a lot of time getting out of the tree and getting that parachute down and hiding it. Just about the time I was ready to move on to someplace away from where I thought they would be looking for me, this guy pokes a cannon through the brush at me and he said, “For you the war is over.”

So, I was captured. The tail gunner had been killed in the airplane, and the other nine of us got out. While we were at this little village that they took me to, here were all these people with machine guns and rifles and stuff, and they lined us up against the wall; and I thought, “Oh hell, we're going to get shot.” But, what they did was take our picture. Unfortunately, I don't have a picture of that.

The next thing they did was put us in the back of this truck and go bent for leather down the mountain to Balogna, Italy, where they put us in a prison where we stayed, and were supposed to be interrogated, for about two weeks. But they knew more about where I came from: they knew what outfit we were in; they knew everything about us. I was only there in Italy for, say, six weeks, and I didn't know anything about sizes of forces or how many people were there; but they did. They told me who my commander was, who this was, who that was.

Anyhow, they put us on a train, and we went to Prague, Czechoslovakia. They put us in the jail overnight; we had, I think, five or six guards with us that accompanied us on the train. The next morning, they took us out to the railroad station. While we were there, this woman started yelling and screaming, “American soldiers! Bad!” She called us all kinds of gangsters and names, and she was really carrying on. The people were getting all excited; there was a crowd around us. But this sergeant that was with us turned around and let out a great big burp. The lady shut up, and the crowd dispersed; and we got on the train and went on our way.

We got to our main camp, which was Stalag Luft III, and, of course, I met people in there that I had known before. I was

assigned to the West camp. There were four camps: South, North, East, and West. The North camp was the one that the picture of the Great Escape was made about—the British that engineered these three tunnels: Tom, Dick, and Harry. About seventy or eighty prisoners of war escaped through a tunnel. They really upset the Germans, because it took about two divisions of the military to capture the seventy or eighty. When they did, Hitler put out an edict —“Kill them all.” They didn't kill them all; they killed fifty of them. We stayed there in the first camp at Sagan until January. In January, we marched out of the camp. The whole camp was evacuated, because the Russians were coming.

We had a fifteen-man room: we had three bunks, one on top of the other, and five sets of them. They had bed boards that were about three quarters of an inch thick, and there were five or six bed boards under what the French call a “palias”, which was a thin mattress of burlap filled with straw. The Escape Committee that was building tunnels took those wide boards and cut them smaller, so that we had just as many boards, but we didn't have as much support. Those boards, instead of being a foot wide, were like five or six inches; and, of course, you could see the bumps all underneath when you were laying on it.

We did get parcels from Switzerland and Sweden by the Red Cross. It was a twenty pound parcel that we were supposed to get weekly, and it got down to where we were getting a tenth of a parcel, so we'd get a parcel and a half for the fifteen of us instead of fifteen parcels. We were on a pretty minimum diet, but they did give us some potatoes. I remember one time we had honey. They brought in these big combs of honey that was very welcome. We got coffee, which was made out of sawdust, I think, along with the bread. We used to get a loaf of bread. Walter was the bread server. He had a specially sharpened knife that he cut these loaves of black bread that weighed about two pounds, and he would slice them thin, thin, thin. They were maybe a little less than a quarter of an inch thick. We would get to select which piece of bread we wanted, after we got the bread in fifteen

slices. We were in a rotation, you know, this guy got it today, and his turn came again the next fifteen times. You got to select it, then the second guy and the third guy. They had blood sausage that was about regular; I'd say it was about four inches in diameter, and they'd bring it in. It was terrible looking stuff. It just oozed all over the place, and it had these funny looking things in it. I could never ever think of eating blood sausage, but some of the guys ate it, and they liked it, I don't know why – just hungry?? We did get sauerkraut once in a while. Sometimes they had crackers, like our Saltines, but they were made out of corn rather than flour

The camp was ruled under the Luftwaffe, and we had what we called “gooks” that came around and were constantly with us to make sure we didn't do anything toward upsetting the camp or anything. These guys would go around with long metal poles and stick them in the sandy soil trying to find if we were digging any tunnels. Most of them were retreads from the First World War—old guys. Here were all of us, twenty-three, twenty-four years old, and these guys were sixty and carrying around these rifles, you know. It was really funny. They had us in this compound where they had towers manned with machine guns and guys in rifle out there. They had a death wire that ran all around your compound, which was a line you couldn't go across that was about twenty or thirty feet from the main fence. If you crossed that line, they shot you; and they did shoot a couple people. People would go crazy after, you know, they were in there for a long time and would go out and just want to escape and run across the wire and get shot.

We stayed there until January, when the Russians chased us out. We went out in the middle of a snow storm. We walked from Sagan to our first town that we stopped at and was called Moskau. The first night we had slept out in the open in the snow. A lot of people drifted off to one side and were placed in barns, but my group didn't get that. When we got to Moskau, I got to go into a pottery factory that was heated and was warm, and I slept for twenty-four hours in there.

*(continued on page 12)*





# Sports Trivia Treats

By Ron Marchetti

## WEST HAZLETON'S GREATEST GRID TEAM (1954)

Expectations were high in the borough of West Hazleton when the Wildcats opened their 1954 season with a shutout win at home over St. Michael's of Hoban Heights 26-0. Game - 2 also at Harman Geist, wasn't exactly a walk in the park, but the Wildcats led all the way before posting a 21-7 win over Kulpmont. "Gassy Horn's" gang then traveled to Coal Dale where they won handily behind Sudock's Engineering 43-6, and just like that, West Hazleton was the area's only unbeaten team. The Hazleton Mountaineers opened their season with a 32-0 win over McAdoo and an 8-0 victory over Allentown Central Catholic, but in between, the Mounts took a 25-12 spanking from the Shippers of Hazle Township. Then it was back to Harman Geist Memorial Field on a Saturday night. Bob Sudock, Donny Leonard, Corra and Moran powered the offense as the Cats defeated the McAdoo Maroons 25-6. One week later under the lights at the same site, West Hazleton defeated a stubborn Hazle Township Pplatoon 32-7. The Wildcats made it 6-0 after walloping Lansford 60-7 on the night after HHS got clobbered 41-0 at West Scranton. At this point in time, West Hazleton became the local team to watch. The Wildcats had outscored their first six opponents 207-33. More local fans were taking notice and the largest crowd of the season, at that time, appeared at Harman Geist to see West Hazleton take on the Minersville Miners, who they had lost to five straight times.

Arguably, one of the better games ever played in Hazleton, even though the result was not. Minersville overcame a seven point halftime deficit to win for their sixth straight year over the Cats in a real barn-burner 33-27. It would turn out to be West Hazleton's only loss of the season. The Blue and Gold rebounded well with two easy wins on the road by the same score (33-6 over Nesquehoning and Berwick). Then the Wildcats scored 33 for the 3rd straight week while trampling Tamaqua 33-12 at home.

The Thanksgiving day contest was set. HHS came in at 5-4, WHHS at 9-1. Still, many non-believers even local forecaster "Major Hoople" predicted an HHS victory. On a gorgeous sunny and very pleasant day, with Hazleton leading late in the fourth quarter by a touchdown – Hazleton quarterback, Richie Monks fired a potential tying touchdown pass into the end zone. I remember exactly where I was sitting (2nd row at the 5 yard line on the north side of the field). With at least half of 11,000 people on their feet, Art Leonard intercepted the pass eight yards deep in the end zone and streaked down the sideline 108 yards under a brilliant sun that bounced off his glittering gold helmet, to clinch a West Hazleton Turkey Day victory 19-6. West Hazleton finish that season 10-1 which was the best record in Wildcats football history while outscoring their opposition 351 to 97. Those were the days, my friends. Thanks for the reading. Till next time, be a good sport and 'Stay Loose'.



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## Wine Hops & Road Stops



## WHAT IS AN OKTOBERFEST BEER?

Oktoberfest beers are brewed in the Märzen style and are smooth, malty lagers, amber to golden in color, medium bodied, with rich notes of bread & caramel.

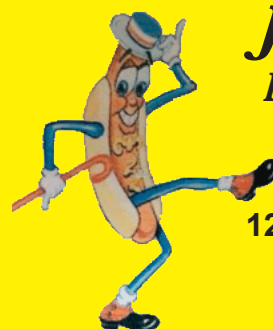
The style of beer is tied directly to the origins of Oktoberfest itself. The first Oktoberfest festival was held in Munich in 1810 to celebrate the wedding of Crown Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese. Locals loved the party so much it became an annual tradition, with beer taking center stage. By the late 19th century, Munich's breweries were supplying special Märzen beers for the event, and the style became synonymous with the celebration.

Today, "Oktoberfest" beers brewed in Munich must follow strict German purity laws, while American craft breweries put their own spin on the style, often sweeter and a little hoppier than their German counterparts. Either way, the style remains a fall favorite. It is perfect for raising a stein, singing along to Bavarian tunes, and toasting "Prost!" with friends.

-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](http://www.youtube.com/@winehopsroadstops) and [facebook.com/winehopsandroadstops](https://facebook.com/winehopsandroadstops)

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## A Thousand Times a Day (Continued)

The day after I woke up, we were on the road again to Spremburg. We went walking for a while, and the weather changed and we had to carry all of our stuff with us. We got to Spremburg, which was a big tank camp. They fed us soup at the train station from big kettles, and I guess it was horse meat and potatoes and carrots or whatever they had, but that was the best soup I ate in a long time. We had as much as we could eat, and it was really good.

There they put us on a train. We were in these railroad cars they called "Forty-and-Eights". It was supposed to be for forty men and eight horses; but I think we had eighty men, and we didn't have any horses. It was a very bad trip, and we went through, I remember, Dresden, and I think to Nuremburg. In Nuremburg we were put in a camp that had been filled with civilian prisoners. They had been very badly treated, and they had fleas; and we got fleas. The fleas were terrible; they would bite you. We had big welts and puss and everything; they were really bad. They also gave us at that time, a bar of soap that was like Fels Naptha. We took that Fels Naptha and put it over the mattresses, and that kept the bugs away. We didn't have any more flea bites once we used that Fels Naptha.

They eventually got around to shipping us out to Munich. We got on the train towards Munich. We got about halfway down there, and we stopped in between two hills. While we were there, we were strafed by American P-51s. They came in, and they thought we were Germans, and, of course, people that were stupid stood up and waved and got shot; but Robert L. was on the bottom of a pile in the ditch. I wasn't standing up there waving, trying to get them to stop; but they only made one pass.

We got to Munich, and on the road there the train stopped at Dachau. It was one of their concentration camps, and alongside the railroad by our car was a car of the prisoners that were the Jewish people, or whoever they were, that were going into Dachau to get killed. Some of

the people threw them food from our train to their train, and the Germans got all upset and everything like that. When the piece of food got to the other guys in the other train, of course, they fought for it, and so it wasn't a good idea to throw them the food.

Fortunately, we didn't stay there too long; we got to Munich and were taken to our new camp where we lived in horrible conditions outside in sheds. They had no supplies for us, but we had our supplies that we had in the barracks bag. We needed fire to cook them, so those sheds that we were in, we tore the walls out and the sides off. The Germans, of course, didn't like that. We burnt most of the camp. We were there until the twenty-ninth of April, when George Patton was on his way to Hitler's retreat, which was in the mountains near Austria. In Patton's troops that came through was my classmate at MMI, Stanley Balon, from Freeland. He was a sergeant in supply. When he told me after the war that he had gone through my camp and threw out supplies to the troops, I always told him, "Why didn't you stop and see me, Stanley? I would have loved to see you."

I was liberated on the twenty-ninth of April, 1944. By some reason I was one of the first to get flown out to Camp Lucky Stripe in France, put on a Swedish hospital ship, and went across the pond. While I was on this ship—I was a lieutenant and was free from all scheduled duties—I was walking around the ship, and I saw this guy standing in the doorway. He was on guard with a rifle, a young soldier. I walked over to him, and I said, "Hey, I think I know you." It turned out to be one of the Dinovic's that lived across the street from my daddy's store and ran the shoe shop. He actually lived right next to the bank 3 buildings up the street from the drug store.

If you go to Freeland, and see the statue in the park, look down and you will see my name—they forgot all about me—on the little ledge at the bottom of the thing. It says, "Robert L. Seitzinger" down there.

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12 p.m. (noon)**

## Scouting America Summer Camp



Troop 473 B and G along with 3 White Haven Troop girls attended weeklong summer camp at Camp Minsi in Mt. Pocono. 5 adult leaders, 9 girls and 8 boys spent the week in school for archery, rifle shooting, nature, swimming, sail boarding, fishing, citizenship, first aid, rocketry, astronomy, camping, and basic skills courses. The troops meet at 6:30 on Tuesday at their sponsors post, the American Legion on Centre St., Freeland.

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# Commemoration and Celebration Reclaiming September 11th

By Bobby Maso



For the past 24 years, the occasion of September 11th has been particularly bittersweet in Freeland. Just like the citizens of every other town and city in America, we mourn the lives that were tragically taken in the 9/11 Terror Attacks, as well as in their aftermath, and grieve for the senseless destruction caused that day.

But long before the dark moments of that fateful Tuesday in 2001, the date was a celebratory one in Freeland, as it marks our town's birthday each year. This is why many may find it so bittersweet an observance now. How do we manage to feel festive with such an ominous reminder looming over our community's most special day?

This year, the Freeland 150th Celebration Committee sought to reclaim a bit of the celebratory nature of September 11th, while also commemorating the solemnity it marks on the calendar. Our committee decided to observe the borough's 149th birthday by delivering free coffee and donuts to First Responders in town, including the Freeland Police Department, Freeland Fire Department, and Northside Community Ambulance.

The cooler temperature, soft white clouds, and bright blue sky overhead were very reminiscent of the same calm, picturesque day 24 years earlier. We began at the borough building on Fern Street, where Police Chief Rob Maholik greeted us just inside the entrance to the police station. Aside from me, fellow 150th committee members Tara Richvalksy and James Lucas were on hand to present the items from Dunkin' Donuts. The chief joked about the stereotype of policemen enjoying donuts, and happily picked one out of the box, while also sharing reflections from the

infamous 2001 date.

The brave and dedicated members of the Freeland Fire Department on Centre Street were next on our route, where we were joined by 150th Committee treasurer, Crystal Dooley. Here, we were met by engineer, Cal Herring, Lieutenant James Darville, and firefighter, Joey Karosa. Stories, laughs and appreciations were shared, making it a terrific, poignant visit.

Last, but certainly not least, we stopped by the Freeland Northside Community Ambulance at their newly renamed Joseph L. Palko Jr. Memorial Building on Johnson Street. Committee member Mary Lloyd joined us here, where we were greeted by Supervisor Frank Kislan, assistant supervisors Ashley Long and Robert Segaria, paramedic Eric Rivera, and EMT Andrew Druckenmiller.

Much like at our other locations, this visit filled us with pride and reminded us of the great fortune our town has with such a dedicated, able-bodied crew to serve in times of imminent need.

In the end, our committee felt most honored to have had the opportunity to show each of these respective institutions a modicum of appreciation for all they do each and every day that falls on the calendar. This made it seem that our hope of September 11th commemoration as well as celebration was a success, further cementing our goal of reclaiming the positivity of this special day for Freeland. We hope it sets the stage for the much larger celebrations we are planning for the entire next year as we approach our sesquicentennial. In the meantime, remember to always appreciate our courageous First Responders.

Happy 149th Birthday, Freeland!

## A Veterans Journal #103

By Joseph Barna • Freeland  
USMC, Korea 1952-1953



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 same 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.

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.



# Escape to the Outdoors

## Out of the Ashes: How Nature Returned and Recreation Followed

By William M. Dempsey

In the late 1800s, the natural areas that now provide hiking and camping opportunities around Hazleton and Tamaqua frequently burned with wildfires during the dry seasons of the year. The flames spread across mountainsides for weeks at a time. The origin of these fires was often sparks cast from coal-fired trains or dry brush cut and discarded by mining operations, which took little to ignite. The lack of organized fire companies and the modern equipment we possess today made battling fires in the often rough terrain a near impossibility. The aftermath of these fires left behind wasted hillsides that were nearly devoid of trees and vegetation. The exploitive timbering practices of the past were not solely responsible for the devastation of our forests.

Fast forward to today, nature has healed itself. These charred hillsides have now recovered, no longer barren; they are now covered in hardwoods and pines and packed with numerous recreational activities for residents and visitors to our area.

According to the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, the 19th century was characterized by massive wildfires that became almost a regular part of life in the anthracite region. The conditions present allowed the fires to spread unchecked across our local mountains and forests.

During the 1880s, Hazleton newspapers often reported on the mountain fires that swept across areas such as Laurel Run and Butler Township. The consistency of the fires prevented nature from having any meaningful chance of recovery. In one report, the Hazleton Plain Speaker reported on "Flames consumed young growth before help could be summoned." Even with the best intentions, the volunteer bucket brigades didn't stand a chance against fires that jumped



*Today, the Lehigh Gorge, viewed from Mt. Pisgah, welcomes hikers, bikers, and rafters to landscapes once scarred by fire and industrial activity.*

*William M. Dempsey/Photographer*

hollows or ridgelines.

Carbon County suffered a similar fate. The forests around Summit Hill and Weatherly were burned, and some ignited underground coal seams that served as fuel, eventually smoldering to the surface and reigniting the vegetation. An 1894 editorial from a Weatherly newspaper said, "Our mountains, once all green, now stand gaunt and blackened." Even the Lehigh Gorge, which is now a state park. Prized for its natural beauty and one of the most frequented outdoor destinations in the region, it bears evidence of the fires, with the lofty hemlocks replaced by a second-growth of hickory and oak.

In northern Schuylkill, historical sources report that people said every spring the hills appeared to smoke. Culm banks would catch fire and burn for decades, and the flames would feed into the adjacent woods. A 1902

Pennsylvania Forestry report stated, "The fires have so altered the mountain lands that the soil is impoverished and young growth is scant." The sheer volume of destruction is staggering. By the early twentieth century, the majority of the anthracite landscape was devoid of vegetation and sporadically covered in burned tree stumps. However, nature is a powerful force. With time, recovery began to take shape. Young oak, birch, and maple took the place of the hemlocks and pines. Fire-adapted scrub oak, pitch pine, and mountain laurel spread thickly over ridges. These scrub oaks are now a common sight along the area's mountainsides, strategically placed there by nature. Wildlife, including deer, bears, and turkeys, moved back in as the young forests could now provide the cover and food they needed.

Forestry experts at Penn State Extension estimate that most of the woods we see today in Pennsylvania are "second growth," established as a result of this period of recovery. When you stand in the forests around Hazleton, Jim Thorpe, and Tamaqua, they may seem timeless, but they are far younger and less diverse than they once were. However, they came back. And in coming back, they provided a launch pad for another era of natural abundance and opportunity: the opportunities for outdoor experiences we have come to enjoy today. The remarkable rise of our local environment is a history lesson worth learning.

This rebound is an example of how opportunities can arise from ashes. Things have changed. Today, locals and vacationers are dropping their kayaks into Mauch Chunk Lake, families are camping and pitching tents under the pines of Locust Lake State Park, and my friend can walk his dog, Belle, along the beautiful 4-mile Rails-to-Trails near

Hazleton. The very same mountains that would smoke for weeks on end now are lush, tree-covered, and offer serene views in the summer and vibrant colors in the fall.

The U.S. Forest Service indicates that today, Pennsylvania actually has more forested acreage than it did at the turn of the last century, which is an impressive recovery given the devastation in the 1800s. That recovery has allowed places like the Lehigh Gorge to support the bald eagles that can be found along the river, and attract people to excellent trails like the D&L, who come looking for fresh air and to be immersed in history and culture.

Ultimately, the escapes we enjoy exist because the land was able to recover. The mines and fires wiped the slate clean, and over generations, the hills very quietly found cover over the devastation of their experience.

Each time we hike on the Broad Mountain, picnic at Nescopeck State Park, or bike the Gorge, we are experiencing landscapes that we nearly lost forever. It is especially worth pausing to realize that these woods were not always here; they were present and then they were gone. They were turned to wastelands, scorched and scarred over generations, decades, and lifetimes by the industries and fires that ravaged them.

That they survived is both a testament to the tenacity of nature to recover and a reminder that the outdoors cannot be taken for granted. The forests of Hazleton, Carbon, and Schuylkill are living witnesses to fire, loss, and renewal. And the simple fact that we get to walk, paddle, and take a sigh of relief among them today is nothing short of a miracle.

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# Hazleton Library Happenings

**Book Signing – “The Smurl Haunting” by local author Maxim Furek**  
The Hazleton Area Public Library will be hosting local author Maxim Furek on Saturday, September 27th at 11am in the Community Room (Green St entrance). Mr. Furek will be discussing his newest release, "The Smurl Haunting", which explores Ed and Lorraine Warren's paranormal investigation in West Pittston, Pennsylvania that inspired The Conjuring: Last Rites. It is free to attend and signed copies of the book will be available for \$20. Please register by calling the Reference Desk at 570-454-2961.

**Walking Meditation at Greater Hazleton Rails to Trails (Rescheduled)**  
Licensed meditation guide Sheila Dignazio will be leading a walking meditation program at Greater Hazleton Rails to Trails on Saturday, October 4th from 1 to 2pm. It is free for all adults to attend. We will meet at the Broad St entrance to Rails to Trails in the parking lot. Please dress comfortably and register in advance by calling the Reference Desk at 570-454-2961.

**Book Sale!**  
The Hazleton Area Public Library will be holding its annual Book Sale on Saturday, October 11th from 10am to 2pm. It will be held in the Community Room, Green Street entrance. It is cash only. Hardcover are .50, Paperbacks are .25, DVD's are \$1.00, Puzzles are \$2.00 and Audiobooks are \$5.00.

**Guided Meditation with Sheila Dignazio**  
The library is hosting licensed meditation guide Sheila Dignazio on Wednesday, October 15th from 6pm to 7pm in the Community Room. She will be conducting a beginner-friendly guided meditation class, where participants will learn mindfulness techniques to implement in their daily lives to reduce stress and anxiety.

It is free for all adults to attend. Please register by calling the Reference Desk at 570-454-2961.

**“Getting Unstuck” with Karen Holcomb, L.S.W.**  
Licensed therapist Karen Holcomb will be hosting an informational mental health program on Saturday, October 18th from 2-3pm in the library's Community Room. We will discuss how to get mentally “unstuck” when life gets challenging. It is free for all adults to attend. Please register by calling the Reference Desk at 570-454-2961.

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# WOODLAND WORDSEARCH

P	W	W	U	M	Q	G	T	T	U	R	K	E	Y	X	M	P	S	Y	R	Y
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- 2025 SEASON -

# LOCAL TEAMS FOOTBALL SCHEDULE



## Hazleton Area

8/22 @ Nazareth Area  
8/29 @ Williamsport  
9/5 vs. West Scranton  
9/12 vs. Berwick  
9/19 @ WWV  
9/26 @ Wilkes Barre  
10/3 vs. Crestwood  
10/10 @Pittston  
10/17 vs. Dallas  
10/24 vs. Abington Heights



## Berwick

8/22 @ Lake Lehman  
8/29 vs. Mid Valley  
9/5 vs. Lackawanna Trail  
9/12 @ Hazleton Area  
9/19 @ Hanover Area  
9/26 vs. Wyoming Area  
10/3 @Greater Nanticoke Area  
10/10 vs. Williamsport  
10/17 vs. vs. Selinsgrove  
10/24 @Tunkhannock



## Crestwood

8/22 @Wyoming Area  
8/29 vs. Valley View  
9/5 vs. Tunkhannock  
9/12 @Western Wayne  
9/19 vs. Greater Nanticoke  
9/26 vs. Pittston  
10/3 @ Hazleton Area  
10/10 @Dallas  
10/17 vs. Wilkes Barre Area  
10/24 vs. WWV



## Tamaqua

8/22 vs. Pen Argyl  
8/29 @ North Schuylkill  
9/5 vs. Pottsville  
9/11 @Jim Thorpe  
9/19 vs. Salisbury Township  
9/26 @ Bangor  
10/3 vs. Southern Lehigh  
10/10 vs. Lehigh  
10/17 @ NW Lehigh  
10/24 @Blue Mountain



## Shenandoah Valley

8/22 vs. Columbia Montour VT  
8/29 vs. Minersville  
9/5 @Schuylkill Haven  
9/12 vs. Marian  
9/19 @Pine Grove  
9/26 @ Nativity BVM  
10/3 vs. Tri-Valley  
10/10 Panther Valley  
10/17 @Williams Valley  
10/24@Mahanoy Area



## Marian Catholic

8/22 @Hanover Area  
8/29 @ Tri-Valley  
9/5 vs. Panther Valley  
9/12 @Shenandoah Valley  
9/19 Vs. Mahanoy Area  
9/27 @ Minersville  
10/3 vs. Schuylkill Haven  
10/10 @ Williams Valley  
10/17 vs. Pine Grove  
10/23 @Nativity BVM



## Mahanoy Area

8/22 vs. Catasauqua  
8/29 @Williams Valley  
9/5 @Minersville  
9/12 vs. Schuylkill Haven  
9/19 @Marian Catholic  
9/26 vs. Pine Grove  
10/3 vs. Nativity BVM  
10/10 vs. Tri-Valley  
10/17 @Panther Valley  
10/24 vs. Shenandoah Valley



## Panther Valley

8/22 vs. Salisbury Township  
8/29 @Schuylkill Haven  
9/5 @Marian Catholic  
9/13 vs. Pine Grove  
9/19 vs. Nativity BVM  
9/26 @Tri-Valley  
10/3 @Williams Valley  
10/10 @ Shenandoah Valley  
10/17 vs. Mahanoy Area  
10/24 vs. Minersville

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