

## Highlighting Neighborhood News & Events

Volume 2, Edition 3, February 2025



Promoting Local Small Businesses & Events at an Affordable Price In -

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**The Great Hazleton Area YMCA Reopens** 

with New Early Learning Center

The Greater Hazleton YMCA has officially reopened, marking a major milestone for the community after being closed since 2019. The reopening kicked off with the completion of the first phase of the Mericle Family Center, featuring the Pasco L. Schiavo Early Learning Center. This new facility will provide childcare for up to 75 children, ages five and under, offering a much needed resource for local families. While this marks a significant step forward, the YMCA has even bigger plans ahead. Future phases will expand the early learning center to accommodate an additional 75 children and restore the facility's gym and pool. These upcoming additions aim to provide a wellrounded space for fitness, recreation, and educational programs.

Community members gathered to celebrate the reopening, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the occasion. The event highlighted the YMCA's commitment to serving Hazleton once again, offering programs and services designed to support families and promote wellness. The reopening of the YMCA is expected to bring lasting benefits to the area, from highquality child care to health and fitness opportunities. With its doors now open, the facility is set to become a central hub for learning, exercise, and community engagement.

As the YMCA moves forward with its plans for expansion, residents are eager to see what's next. What are your thoughts on the reopening? Let us know!

**SERVING LOCAL COMMUNITIES & SMALL BUSINESSES** 

To submit an article/event/ad/photo to "The Anthracite Post" please contact theanthracitepost@gmail.com

Lee Ann Davidovich Editor/Sales (570) 582-0981

Shari Roberts Editor/Graphic Artist (570) 401-1798

**Senator David Argall** Contributing Writer **Community Information** 

Frank Balon Contributing Writer Various Articles

Joan Banvas Contributing Writer Penn State Ext. Master Gardener

Joseph R. Barna Contributing Writer Veterans Journal

Jeff and Desiree Bonomo Contributing Writers Wine Hops & Road Stops

**Kimberly Eisenhower** Contributing Writer Psychic

Lisa Makara Contributing Writer Various Articles

**Ron Marchetti** Contributing Writer Sports Trivia Treats

**Trooper Anthony Petroski III** Contributing Writer **Community Information** 

Walt Shubilla Contributing Writer Feature Article

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

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

THE ANTHRACITE POST PAGE 2

# The Anthracite Post Highlighting Neighborhood News & Events

## Letter from the Editors

Well, it's February! According to the weatherman, its going to be a snowy/icy month. At least it is starting off that way. Let's hope that the fridgid temperatures are behind us for this year.

Have you noticed that it is staying lighter out later? It is no longer dark soon after I get home from work. I am not a fan of it getting dark early. It won't be long until the clocks change to Daylight Savings Time on March 9th. I can't wait! I sure wish they would just leave it in Daylight Savings Time already.

February, the month of love! I personally consider Valentine's Day the worst holiday of them all, especially for the guy. It's too much pressure to HAVE TO buy expensive gifts. I would prefer being gifted some flowers or going for a nice dinner any other time of the year than Valentine's Day, when people feel they have to do it instead if wanting to do it. It's a good time to be single, like myself, and Lee Ann, just in case there are any nice, employed, honest, responsible, loyal, single guys out there reading this. LOL!

Keep your chin up, February is a short month and Spring is on the way! 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

370 Maplewood Drive, Suite 105, Hazle Twp., PA 18202 (Humboldt) Mailing address: PO Box 7, Drums, PA 18222 570-582-0981 • (570) 401-1798 • TheAnthracitePost@gmail.com



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## February 2025 **BIZARRE & UNIQUE HOLIDAYS**

- 1 National Freedom Day
- 2 Ground Hog Day National Tater Tot Dav
- 3 Feed the Birds Day National Carrot Cake Dav
- 4 National Homemade Soup Day Thank a Mailman Day
- 5 National Weatherman's Day National Shower with a Friend Day
- 6 National Chopsticks Day
- 7 Bubble Gum Day Send a Card to a Friend Day
- 8 Boy Scout Day Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Dav Kite Flying Day
- 9 National Pizza Day Superbowl Sunday
- 10 National Flannel Day
- 11 Make a Friend Dav White T-Shirt Dav
- 12 Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
- 13 Get a Different Name Day National Wingman Day
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 15 Singles Awareness Day Susan B Anthony Day
- 16 Do a Grouch a Favor Day
- 17 President's Day Random Acts of Kindness Day
- 18 National Drink Wine Day
- 19 National Chocolate Mint Day
- 20 Cherry Pie Day
- Hoodie Hoo Day
- 21 Card Reading Day
- 22 George Washington's Birthday National Margarita Day
- 23 National Tootsie Roll Day Tennis Dav
- 24 National Tortilla Chip Day World Bartender Day
- 25 National Clam Chowder Day Pistol Patent Dav
- 26 Carnival Day Carpe Diem Day National Pistachio Day Tell a Fairy Tale Day
- 27 National Chili Day Paczki Day in Poland Polar Bear Day
- 28 Floral Design Day Public Sleeping Day National Tooth Fairy Day

#### PROVIDENCE PLACE SENIOR LIVING CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF SERVING PENNSYLVANIA SENIORS

HUMMELSTOWN, PA: Providence Place, a familyowned senior living company founded by former Pennsylvania governor George M. Leader, is celebrating 25 years of serving Pennsylvania seniors in 2024. Providence Place Senior Living of Pottsville, the company's first community, opened its doors to the public in August of 1999.

To celebrate this milestone, Providence Place of Pottsville hosted a 25th Anniversary Event for local community members, healthcare professionals and other friends of the company with an Open House on September 27th. We were honored to be joined by Jamie Barton (PA State Rep), David Argall (PA State Senator), Bob Allen (resident + former PA State Rep), John Reilly (resident + former Pottsville Mayor) and more local leaders.

"We are excited to mark this significant milestone for Providence Place. Throughout our company's growth and evolution, we have never forgotten the values we were founded on—caring service, authentic relationships, and a commitment to providing value.", said David Leader, President & CEO.

Providence Place is proud to serve nearly 1,000 seniors state-wide at seven communities in central

and eastern Pennsylvania and continues to be dedicated to offering quality care from a familyowned company. The organization has assisted living and memory care communities in Pottsville, Pine Grove, Drums (Hazleton), Lancaster, Dover (York), Chambersburg and Collegeville.

"We look forward to celebrating with everyone this fall. Our greater communities have built a foundation for our entire organization and aids in our commitment to providing Assisted Living and Memory Care at a reasonable price. As a familyowned and local organization, our roots in each community are the most important asset.", Director of Marketing, Laura Gifford said.

About Providence Place: Providence Place Senior Living of Pottsville is a licensed personal care and retirement community. The Leader Family owns and operates 17 communities in the state of Pennsylvania, with headquarters in the Hershey area. Providence Place operates 7 of those communities in central and eastern Pennsylvania and offers Independent Living, Personal Care, Assisted Living and Memory Support Services to almost 1,000 seniors company-wide.





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## **MMI Announces 2024-2025 Second Quarter Honor Roll List**

(Freeland, PA – January 30, 2025) – Mrs. Theresa Long, Head of School at MMI Preparatory School, has announced the names of students who achieved Honor Roll status during the second quarter of the 2024-2025 school year. For a student to achieve honor roll status, students must; have a cumulative

average in all subjects of 85.0, have attained an average of 75.0 or better in each course with no "incompletes", be enrolled in a complete schedule of courses, and have a satisfactory citizenship record for each school quarter.

Inclusion of the honor roll gets added to a student's permanent file. Students who achieved honor roll status are as follows:

- Sixth Grade: Charl
- Charles Rogers, Kingston; Elaina Seltzer, Mountain Top.

Seventh Grade: Paxton Bleiler, Mountain Top; Owen Farrell, Mountain Top;

	Jaxon Lyman, White Haven;
	Rian Patel, Mountain Top;
	Addison Potsko, Mountain Top.
Eighth Grade:	Neal DeAngelo, Mountain Top;
	Keirsi Mooney, Mountain Top;
	Momin Muhammad, Mountain
	Top; Thomas Rogers, Kingston.
Ninth Grade:	Kayleigh Erickson, Mountain Top;
	Jack Farrell, Mountain Top;
	Maia Laverty, Mountain Top;
	Shreeya Parikh, Mountain Top;
	Angel Reymunde Wittmer,
	Mountain Top; Xavier Reymunde
	Wittmer, Mountain Top;
	Madalynn Young, Mountain Top.
Tenth Grade:	Maximus Bleiler, Mountain Top;
	Gavyn Corchado, Mountain
	Top; Nicholas Erickson, Mountain
	Top; Arham Mehran, Mountain

Top; Ruhani Shah, Mountain Top; Amanda Stoffa, White Haven: Nicholas Swaditch, White Haven; Anna Zaroda, Mountain Top. Eleventh Grade: Hasan Arain, Bear Creek Township: Alexis Bleiler. Mountain Top; Jozef Dovicak, White Haven; Mehak Manzoor, Mountain Top; Cassidy McDermott, White Haven; Sharan Parikh, Mountain Top; Arushi Solgama, Mountain Top. Twelfth Grade: Xavier Bleiler, Mountain Top; Aiden Hosier, West Pittston; Mary Kate Kupsky, Bear Creek Township; Kiyan Paknezhad, Mountain Top.

Top; Angelina Seeba, Mountain



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#### WORD LIST

ADORATION AFFECTION ALLURING ARDOR BELOVED CUPID CUPID CUTIE DARLING DEAR LETTER DEVOTION LOVELY ENCHANTING LOVE STORY ENDEARMENT\ MISSIVE ENVELOPE MISS YOU FERVOR MOONSTRUCK FLIRT PEN HONEY SMOOCH STAMP SWEETHEART SWOONING TENDERNESS TOKEN YEARNING







Senator Dave Argall 29th District Pennsylvania Senate Toll Free Number: 877-327-4255 senatorargall.com/ facebook.com/SenatorArgall

# Transforming a Vacant Hazleton YMCA into a Childcare Center... with More to Come!

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

I recently joined local leaders to celebrate the restoration of the proud but long-vacant Hazleton YMCA building into the Mericle Family Center YMCA, an early education facility for 150 children.

Because of strong public-private partnerships, we've succeeded at bringing MANY new jobs to our region. A growing workforce brings with it a new issue for employees and employers – who will watch their children during the workday? This announcement helps to answer that question.

This is just the beginning of the plans for this location in downtown Hazleton – I hope to be back soon when the gymnasium and pool are open once again. My children learned how to swim at the Hazleton Y. So many of us have happy memories there. I am VERY pleased to see it reopen for a new generation to create happy memories of their own.

State Rep. Dane Watro, State Rep. Jamie Walsh, U.S. Congressman Rob Bresnahan Jr., Hazleton Major Jeff Cusat and City Council, Secretary Rick Siger of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, and other local leaders joined us to celebrate this long-sought goal.

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



If you know someone who needs a meal or if you would like to donate call **570-501-1700** Meals on Wheels of Greater Hazleton serving the area since 1972



# KADIMA Kadima N Ε

R

Healthcare Group Living Forward. Together.

## **KADIMA KARES**

Shown is a volunteer from The Heartwood Center in Hazleton, PA. The Heartwood Center is a day shelter/drop-in center for

individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk homelessness in the Greater Hazleton Area. The Heartwood Center is located at 100 South Wyoming Street in Hazleton. It is open 7 days a week from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

The staff of Kadima at Luzerne Skilled Nursing Facility in Drums collected coats to donate for their January "Kadima Kares" project. Each month the staff of Kadima donate to a different community organization to help those in need.

# fers Sym ope, Daffodils

## Why daffodils?

One of the first flowers of spring, the daffodil is a symbol of hope. To the American Cancer Society, this flower represents the hope we all share for a future where cancer is no longer a life-threatening disease.

Dollars raised through Daffodil Days campaigns help the American Cancer Society fund groundbreaking cancer research, provide up-to-date cancer information and education, advocate for public policies that benefit the community, and provide services to improve the quality of life for patients and their families.

The Greater Hazleton Area

American Cancer Society is pleased to announce that these Mini-Potted Daffodils can be ordered from now through Wednesday, February 19, 2025 and are available for \$10.00 each. Payment is due with the order and is payable to American Cancer Society.

Order from Jane at 570-947-3266 or dough@ptd.net.

Pots will be available for pick up on Friday, March 21st at: First Presbyterian Church

201 W. Broad Street, Hazleton From 2:00-4:00PM (delivery to your business is available).



## **12 Creative Ways to Upcycle Old China Teacups and Tea Pots**

Upcycling

With

Lisa

If you have old china teacups or tea pots that you no longer use, due to leaks or simply because they are gathering dust, here are 12 creative ideas to upcycle and repurpose them.

- 1. Charcuterie teacups: For special occasions like Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, bridal showers, baby showers, or casual gatherings with friends, teacups can turned into to small charcuterie displays holding your favorite ingredients. Adding a napkin in the handle like a bow creates a beautiful presentation, allowing each guest to have their own serving.
- 2. Sewing Room Accessories: Teacups and tea pots can be transformed into charming sewing room accessories. Create a pin cushion by adding batting and covering it with fabric, securing it with beads or lace. This makes a lovely teacup pin cushion to place by your sewing machine. You can also use a tea pot to make a pin cushion out of the lid and store items like tape measures, small scissors, and extra needles in the body of the pot.
- 3. Floral Arrangements: Old tea pots, teacups, creamers, sugar bowls, plates, and bowls can be used to create stunning floral arrangements. Stack china in any configuration you like, securing them with E6000 and/or Gorilla Super Glue. Place floral foam in the top vessel and add silk or fresh flowers. These arrangements can be elegant with matching colors or whimsical for a Mad Hatter-themed party. My colleagues and I are making tea towers for an Alice in Wonderland-themed volunteer recognition dinner, and it has been great fun putting them together. (picture is a tower in progress)
- 4. Three-Tiered Trays: Three-tiered trays are perfect for any gathering. To make these trays, you will need hardware that goes into the middle, china, and a drill with a ceramic bit. This is a fantastic way to use pieces you only have a few of or you can mix and match. You



can use three plates, two plates and a bowl, or teacup on the top tier to hold M&Ms or small candies. These trays can also be used as plant stands, with teacups holding small plants for a pretty display.

- 5. Chandelier Upcycle: An old chandelier can be upcycled by gluing teacups to the top replacing the candles. It can be used as a serving display to serve candy and/or condiments at parties. Alternative, hang the chandelier in trees with battery-operated tea lights inside the cups for a magical outdoor decoration.
- 6. **Birdfeeder:** Hang a glued together teacup and saucer in your garden to create a charming birdfeeder.
- 7. Candle Holder: Transform a teacup into a vessel for a candle. You can pour a new candle or simply add a purchased candle. Candles in teacups are perfect for adding a cozy touch to any room.
- 8. Holiday Scenes: Create special holiday scenes with decorations inside teacups.
- 9. Succulent or Gnome Garden: Use teacups or tea pots to create a succulent garden or a whimsical gnome garden. Remember to put some rocks in the bottom for drainage.
- 10. Planting Flowers or Herbs: Plant flowers or herbs in teacups or tea pots for a delightful addition to your kitchen windowsill or garden.
- 11. Teacup/plate Wreath: Make a unique wreath using teacups or luncheon plates for a beautiful and creative door decoration. For this you will need a wreath form, glue and plate display hangers and florals or other decorations.
- 12. Jewelry or Mosaic: If you have broken china, you can repurpose the pieces to make jewelry or create mosaic art.

There are countless ideas on how to create beautiful decor with old china. I hope this inspires you to make something fun out of the china you have or china you find at a thrift store.

# Solar Eclipse April 8, 2024

By: Frank Balon



For as long as scientists have been able to predict eclipses, so-called eclipse chasers, or "Umbraphiles," have been traveling the world to see them. But eclipse chasing doesn't always go as planned. More on that in a minute.

I have to ask myself the question: If you have seen two total solar eclipses in person, does that qualify you as an "Umbraphile"? My brother Danny and I traveled to Hopkinsville, Kentucky to see the total eclipse on August 21, 2017. As ridiculous as it may sound to travel over 800 miles to Kentucky, I have said that I would do it again. The spectacle of seeing the moon slowly slip over the bright afternoon sun and turn daylight into a weird and beautiful twilight from horizon to horizon is hard to describe.

In past times, such an event could and often would, terrify onlookers. You can certainly see why, as the sun becomes a black disc surrounded by a white halo of light. We know now that this halo is part of the sun's atmosphere that is called the Corona. The Corona is only visible from Earth during a total eclipse of the sun.

This past April 8, 2024, another solar eclipse would cross a wide portion of the United States. The path of totality would actually cross over Erie PA. Back in the summer of 2023, I started to plan. I made hotel reservations in Erie long before the hotels started any attempts to price gouge. More so, I picked a hotel that was in the outskirts of Erie that had ample open ground for viewing. On Sunday, April 7, my brother Danny, his girlfriend Lori and I set out on the cross-state 290-mile trek to Erie. On that spring day, the weather was beautiful. However the forecast for the following day was iffy at best with cloudy conditions a good possibility. The following morning, under cloud cover, we watched local forecasts. Some clearing was predicted for mid-afternoon, but it might come too late for the early afternoon period of totality. Then we saw the forecast for Cleveland Ohio. The morning and early afternoon were clear! We jumped in the car and set off on Interstate 90 and drove the 102 miles to Cleveland. Sure enough, 50 miles into the trip, we could see blue skies ahead. A few miles outside of Cleveland, we came to a rest stop that had long grassy areas that people were already set up with folding chairs, picnic spreads, solar-glasses and telescopes. There was plenty of room and we grabbed one of the tables for ourselves. All we had to do was wait out the 90 minutes for the celestial event to unfold. As the moment drew near, more people arrived. Speaking to them, we found that many were traveling to find the best viewing area they could. As things turned out, we did just fine. The eclipse was spectacular and awesome. That afternoon, returning to Erie, we learned that the clouds did infact clear in time for the eclipse. But just barely. The Erie news said that the clouds broke a mere 20 minutes before totality.

The next total solar eclipse visible from the United States will be on August 22, 2044. This eclipse will only shadow Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. I have some time to make my reservations.



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

#### Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period

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

The Pennsylvania Department of Aging (PDA) is reminding older adults that the annual Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period runs now through March 31. During this time, beneficiaries who currently have a Medicare Advantage plan can switch to a different plan or to original Medicare. Changes to their enrollment will take effect on the first of the month following the month in which they enroll.

Pennsylvania Medicare Education and Decision Insight (PA MEDI) – the Commonwealth's Medicare counseling program – is available through the 52 local Area Agencies on Aging to help beneficiaries with Medicare questions. Older adults can receive unbiased, no-cost Medicare assistance from trained PA MEDI counselors who can walk them through their options to assist in making informed health insurance decisions that optimize their cost savings and access to health care and benefits.

Medicare Advantage is a Medicare-approved plan from a private company that offers an alternative to original Medicare for health and drug coverage. These "bundled" plans include Part A Hospital Insurance, Part B Medical Insurance and usually Part D Drug Coverage.

PA MEDI counselors do not sell Medicare insurance products, nor do they endorse any insurance company, product or agent. Counselors will not recommend policies, companies or insurance agents but will provide free, confidential and unbiased personalized assistance.

Contact your local Area Agency on Aging to schedule a personalized counseling session. For more information, call the toll-free PA MEDI Helpline at 1-800-783-7067 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.



**Trooper Anthony Petroski III** *Public Information Officer Community Service Officer* Pennsylvania State Police Troop N - Hazleton



"Let's say you are driving and come upon a red traffic light. You are in the right lane and want to turn right. You activate your turn signal, but can you turn on red? You CAN if there is not a sign that reads "NO TURN ON RED", and you made a complete stop, then you can proceed if traffic allows you. If there is a sign that reads "NO TURN ON RED", then you must wait until your traffic light turns green. The same applies if you are on a one-way street and you are turning left onto a one-way street, then you may turn on red under the same conditions. As always, safe travels!"



## The Hazleton Art League Extends Partnership with Damenti's Ice Bar Through February 2025



The Hazleton Art League is excited to continue its partnership with Damenti's Restaurant in West Hazleton for the annual Ice Bar event, ICE4U2C, for the month of February. Running from January through March 2025, this unique winter attraction features breathtaking ice sculptures crafted by master carvers, along with artwork from local artists available for sale.

The Ice Bar tradition began in 1986 when Kevin McDonald built an ice castle for his daughter's third birthday. "Helen and I believe the Ice Bar is a true asset to our community," Kevin said. Proceeds from raffle and art sales will benefit the Hazleton Art League's programs and volunteers are welcome.

Visitors are also encouraged to explore Emociones y Memorias/ Immortal Splendor, the Art of Wander Matos and Gary Jones, at the Hazleton Art League. This dual art exhibition honors Black History Month and Dominican Independence. For more information, call 570-455-3333 or visit hazletonartleague.org.

## Junior Leadership Hazleton (JLH) Makes Allocation Recommendation to United Way Board of Directors



United Way Director Gary Perna Jr. and JLH class members Eli Lazala Gomez and Hiboni Balbuena Marte review the results of the JLH United Way allocation session.

Five Greater Hazleton United Way, Inc. partners made requests to Junior Leadership Hazleton (JLH) students for funds to complete certain projects needed by their agencies. Those making their presentations were Freeland YMCA, Helping Hands, HIP Center, Minsi Trails Scouts, and Domestic Violence SC. Following a spirited discussion, the JLH class reviewed support material and asked a lot of detailed questions before making their final decisions.

The final suggested financial decisions made by the JLH 2024-25 class were turned over to the United Way of Greater Hazleton Board for their approval. Students making that presentation to the Board were Hiboni Balbuena Marte and Eli Lazala Gomez, Hazleton Area Academy of Science students.

A very generous \$6,000 donation, sincerely appreciated, to cover this

special funding was made to The Greater Hazleton United Way, Inc. by the American Eagle Outfitters Foundation.

JLH Program Coordinator Michael Dougherty says, "This particular program provides our JLH classes with a rare and unique opportunity to allocate funds. It is not a surprise to me that they take this responsibility with all seriousness and thoroughly evaluate and discuss the information given to achieve a fair and equitable result. We are very proud of them for the effort they put into completing this task. The United Way Board accepted their recommendations."

Junior Leadership Hazleton is a program administered by Leadership Hazleton, an affiliate of the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce. Funding for the program, in part, is provided by the CAN DO Community Foundation.



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The Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce Women's Luncheon Held at The Pines Eatery & Spirits Guest Speaker: Alicia Hayden Gomba, Owner and Health & Wellness Coach from Dream Big Topic: Kick Off the New Year Right Set goals, manage stress and learn the 6 habits of health including a healthy mindset, hydration, healthy surroundings, healthy motion, weight management and sleep & energy!



Rev. Phil and Beverly Smith saw mirror images of frost on their windows during the frigid weather.



Fairway Subaru are proud to participate in the Subaru Loves to Help initiative to give back to our community. Through our partnership with Operation Warm, we're working with St. Joseph's Food Pantry to donate brand-new coats to children in urgent need. #SubaruLovesToHelp



Hazleton Rotary celebrated the holidays at a "Winter Party" held at Four Blooms, 668 N. Hunter Highway, Drums on January 24, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Thanks to Rotary Vice President Paul Oswald for planning the event, which was held to "celebrate the beauty of winter with the warmth of friendship", a memorable thought for this time of the year.





Hello Everyore, I would like to personally thank lack and everyone of you that helped put a smile on the Soldiers faces this holiday serson. With your support and help we were able to send out 53 holeday carde to the Soldiers at Sunter army air fueld in Sevennah Da. where my daughter Alessa is stational as a flight medic. I can't thank you all enough. along with this note is als a pricture of my doughter and her company that they would lete you to have and say much thanks you thenday of them. May God bless you all. My west of or you is to have a plappy and thealthy new year ! Stay safe.



Sincerely. Tammy Olitais

THE ANTHRACITE POST PAGE 10

PennState Extension

Presents

## Spring Into Gardening



Save the Date Saturday April 26th, 2024 9:30am - 1:30pm

> Penn State Wilkes-Barre **Bell Technology Center**

## **Topics Include:**

Keynote Speaker: John Levitsky from Luzerne Conservation District

- Indoor Plants
- Smart Gardening with Storm Water in Mind Gardening in a Changing Climate
- Woody Plants for all Seasons • Gardening for Birds

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## **Biggest Upset In Pro Football History Super Bowl III (January 12, 1969)**

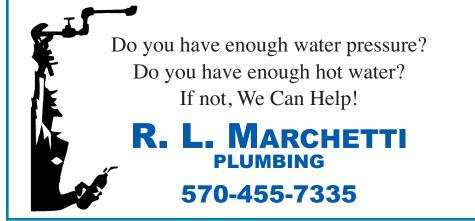
During the buildup leading into Super Bowl III, the New York Jets quarterback wasn't buying into the idea that his team would be steamrolled by the Baltimore Colts just because the Colts were from the National Football League. So the intrepid Joe Namath made the bold prediction that the Jets -18 point underdogs from the 'inferior' American Football League would defeat when the teams met in 1969 Super Bowl 9 for the 1968 season at Miami's Orange Bowl. Namath's prediction sounded ridiculous to the old guard NFL faction that believed the other league had no business being on the same field as an NFL team.



However, making predictions and backing them up are two matters. Even some of Namath's teammates were upset with their leader for voicing his opinion. After all, the AFL was 0 to 2 in the first two Super Bowls and the Colts had dominated the 1968 season. After the Colts lost their quarterback, Johnny Unitas, at the start of the season because of an elbow injury, Colts head coach Don Shula inserted veteran Earl Morall into the lineup to take his place. All Morall did was lead the Colts to a 13-1 record after throwing 2,909 yards and 26 touchdowns en-route to winning the NFL Most Valuable Player award. The Colts only record season loss was a 30 - 20 defeat to the Cleveland Browns. However, the Colts thrashed the Browns 34 - 0 in the NFC championship game which was then considered more important than the Super Bowl.

In the AFL, the Jets were 11-3 behind "Broadway Joe's" 3,142 yards passing, but he threw more interceptions (17) than touchdowns (12). With over 75,000 at the Orange Bowl and a national television audience watching on NBC, Lou Michaels missed two chip shot field goals and the Colts turned the ball over three times. Namath completed 17 of 28 passes for 206 yards to earn the game's MVP honors and the New York Jets had a 16 - 7 victory which is generally regarded as the biggest upset in Professional Football History. At least it was then. Now it might be debatable, but I don't think so.

Till next time, be a good sport and "Stay Loose".





# MLIKO BEER: ARE WE READY FOR A GLASS OF FOAM?

America has embraced plenty of European beer trends over the years, but one Czech tradition that is just now bubbling up all across the United States could be the strangest one in years! It is called Mlíko, a beer pour that's almost entirely foam.

Mlíko (which means "milk" in Czech) is a specialty pour that uses a side-pull tap to fill your glass with thick, creamy beer foam instead of liquid. Unlike the sad, disappearing bubbles atop your typical pint, mlíko foam is rich, velvety, and slightly sweet, capturing the smooth maltiness of the beer. Breweries equipped with Czech-style side-pull taps are now popping up across the United States offering alternative pour inspired by this Czech tradition.

I know all the beer lovers are asking, is it worth paying for a glass of foam?

Absolutely!

Whether you're a die-hard beer nerd or just someone who enjoys novelty, mlíko is worth the experiment. Just be prepared for some funny looks from your friends when you willingly order a full glass of foam.

Remember, drink it fast before it collapses!

-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



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## **MMI Sophomore Shines at PMEA District 9 Band Festival**



Sophomore Christina Chrin, daughter of Jeffrey and Dr. Tammy Chrin of Barnesville, represented MMI Preparatory School at the PMEA District 9 Band Festival at Mountain View High School from January 22-24. Tina completed a successful audition in November to secure her place in the 160-member ensemble, encompassing the best musicians from over 40 schools in Lackawanna, Luzerne, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming counties. District Band students worked under the baton of guest clinician Dr. Jason Worzbyt, Director of Bands at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, before presenting a public concert to conclude the festival.



Photo: Sophomore Christina Chrin represented MMI Preparatory School at the PMEA District 9 Band Festival at Mountain View High School.

Music Director Ms. Jennifer Gerhard said "I am so proud of Tina and all of her hard work and dedication to the MMI Music program! Tina serves as the clarinet section leader in our concert band, is a member of the Select Chorus, Black Diamond Chorale, and a member of the Prepper Playhouse. In addition to this performance, Tina has performed with the PA All-State Lions Band in 2024 representing our school. She will perform this May at the Lions All-State convention in Scranton. I can't wait to see what the future holds for this

It's that time of the year again!

passionate and motivated MMI musician!"

Head of School Theresa Long stated "Tina's achievement is a testament to her dedication and passion for music. Representing MMI at the District 9 Band Festival is a remarkable honor, and we are incredibly proud of her hard work and leadership. Her commitment to excellence, both in and out of the classroom, exemplifies the spirit of an MMI Prepper."



The PMEA District 9 Band Festival weekend concluded with a public performance.

## **Return of the Prom Dress Drive!**



The Hazleton Police Department is excited to announce they are starting their prom dress drive for the second year! It's the same thing but with a new name **on March 3**, just giving it the honor it deserves!

Starting Monday, February 10th through March 1st, the Hazleton Police Department will begin taking donations for new and used prom dresses. This year they are looking for newer style dresses that every girl would love to have. Preferably from the last two or three years to give the students a more current style and make it the prom of their dreams.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with Ptlm. Jessica Surkin at 570-459-4908 or email jsurkin@hazletonpd.org



## Cardiac Rehabilitation Patients Receive Award



*Front L-R:* Barbara Hunsinger, RN, Regional Director of non-invasive cardiology; Judy Yurcho; Jessica Polashenski (representing Dr. Edward Polashenski); *Rear L-R:* Clinical Exercise Physiologists Morgan Raskiewicz and Corinne Stone; Yaqoob Mohyuddin, MD, Associate Chief, Division of Cardiology, LVH–Hazleton; Maryann Segilia, RN and Joan Carrelli, RN. Missing from photo is Amy Gentilesco, RN and Randi Nochumson, RN.

Ms. Judith Yurcho and Dr. Edward Polashenski were recently honored as the 2024 Patients of the Year by the cardiac rehabilitation staff at the Health & Wellness Center at Hazleton.

The cardiac rehab staff identified Yurcho and Polashenski as having shown exemplary effort in achieving their cardiac goals by adopting lifestyle changes and proving to be very active in modifying their risk factors. They embraced smart eating and exercise programs, making those efforts part of their daily life. They also mentored fellow cardiac rehabilitation patients by offering encourage and

#### support.

The cardiac rehabilitation center, located at the Health & Wellness Center, 50 Moisey Drive, Hazleton, incorporates 20 education topics into weekly classes that include risk factors, medication, dining out, food labels and more. It has been proven that cardiac rehabilitation patients can feel better and live healthier lives when combining exercise, education and behavior modification.

All cardiac rehabilitation patients must be referred by a clinician. For more information, please contact the center at 570 -501-6953.

## A Veterans Journal #98

By Joseph Barna • Freeland USMC, Korea 1952-1953



### A Walk Down Memory Lane ... Centre St. Freeland in the 1940s and 1950s.

Continued from January 2025 2nd Edition

and a small sewing factory that was in the garage building that exists today. Also back in the alley was an early location of Carr's Soda Bottling Business.

People's Bank, is of course on the corner. We know this building today as the now closed PNC Bank. Dr. Joseph Della Croce had his dental office upstairs in the bank building. Before we continue down Centre Street.

Let's cross back over to the West side of Centre and start back at the upper corner of Walnut and Centre, opposite the PP&L Building. There we have the original Freeland American Legion Post 473 building. This was the starting point of every Memorial Day parade until the post was moved to the center of town sometime after 2000. Moving down the street from the old American Legion Building was Pete Sarosky's TV and Electronics shop. Also. here was the Barber Shop of Joe Rish. Moving to the corner of Front and Centre was Casimir's Paint Store. A few doors below the paint store was the store front to Sharpe's Bakery. The store was still open in the mid-1960s. Across the street and at the corner of Washington and Front was the A&P Grocery Store. I still remember that cold night in February 1974 that this building burned to the ground. Further down Front St, who can remember the Blacksmith's shop at the current site of Wood's Ice Cream and Laura's Restaurant? As a boy, I can remember the horses being brought in for shoes.

Going back to Centre St., we'll stay on the east side and start at the corner. Here we have Mulhern's Hardware and Plumbing Store. Above the store were the Bell Telephone Operators. This is how you made a phone call in those days: You would pick up your phone hand set and speak directly to one of the operators. You would ask for a number... I still remember that my Uncle's Pool Room number was 231M. If you didn't hear a click on the line, you could be sure that one of the operator girls was listening in. Further down the street was Charlie Coxe's Men's store. Coxe's story was operated by Charlie Coxe and his son Dick thru the 1980s. Above Coxe's store was Dr. Gallagher. Next door was Russell's Ice Cream and Soda Shop. Across the alley was Bellezza's Shoe store. They had two entrances... one for Lady's and Girl's shoes and the lower door for Men's and Boy's. Next was Dr. Lotzi Vercusky whose nurse was Mary Remak, next door was Stanley Vercusky's Drug Store. Continuing down the street was John and Anthony Dinovic's Shoe Repair and finally, Allen's Shoe Store on the corner of Centre and Main.

Let's go back up to the People's Bank on the west side corner of Center and Front Streets. Who can forget Woodies Restaurant? This was the place to go after a game at the Freeland YMCA. It seemed as though Carmaletta Ricotta was always a waitress at Woodies. In the 2000's, the restaurant was reopened as Noke's and featured much of the same interior. Now we have the rebirth of this Freeland landmark opened by Justin Blanyar. Above the restaurant was Dr. Herman Feissner's office. Next door was Feissner's Hardware and Feed Store. Frankie Balon remembers going into Feissner's store and buying bags of birdseed as a youngster. Next was Genetti's Grocery Store. Bordering the alley, was a small store that I can't guite remember what was there. Sometime in the 1960s, Genetti's expanded into it. This area became Genetti's produce section. Across the alley was the Citizen's Bank: Operating today as the Community Bank, but still a beautiful stone building. Who remembers the marble floors and walls inside?

(to be continued in 2nd Feb. edition)

# **Upcoming Community Events**

#### February 21 • 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

STRONG TOGETHER Stand up to Cancer Benefit Frankie Balon and Dave Matsinko will be playing separate sets at The Other Side in Freeland. Frankie will be playing pop, easy-listening, swing and dixie-land standards on the trumpet. David is a solo acoustic musician playing traditional & modern Americana music. Reservations suggested. (2 nights)

#### February 21 through 23 HEATHERS, THE MUSICAL St. Clair, Schuylkill County.

The Actor's Guild of Schuylkill County presents this musical over these dates. Tickets are \$20.00 and are available at the door. For more information, go to http://www.agosc.org/showseventstickets.html

#### February 21 through March 1 SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF PROFESSOR MORIARTY

at the Majestic Theater Pottsville, Schuylkill County. Theater Junction presents the third adventure in the Sherlock Holmes trilogy. Multiple dates and showtimes. Tickets are \$15.00. For more information go to www.majestictheater.net

#### February 22 • 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. WOMEN IN THE WILDS - SNOWSHOES at Hickory Run State Park, Day Use Pavilion

Many outdoor activities are traditionally seen as highly masculine spaces, which may make it harder for those who don't "fit in" to feel comfortable trying the activity themselves. To help ensure the outdoors are for everyone, we're hosting Women in the Wilds with a different topic each month! This month's focus is snowshoeing, from gear to technique, and a highlight of the hares that call our park home. We invite all women to join us for a friendly, non-competitive environment to learn a new skill! All program materials are included with \$10 materials fee, due upon registering.

#### February 22 at 11 a.m. SPECIAL EVENT AT FIGHTER'S HEAVEN Orwigsburg, Schuylkill County

A free event celebrating Black History Month will take place at Muhammad Ali's former training camp near Dear Lake, PA. For more information, go to https://www.schuylkill.org/event/special-event-atfighter%e2%80%99s-heaven/102/

#### February 22 • 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

STRONG TOGETHER Stand up to Cancer Benefit Frankie Balon and Dave Matsinko will be playing separate sets at The Other Side in Freeland. Frankie will be playing pop, easy-listening, swing and dixie-land standards on the trumpet. David is a solo acoustic musician playing traditional & modern Americana music. Reservations suggested.

#### February 22 and 23

#### SPECIAL THEME TRAIN: PA DUTCH DONUT TRAIN

The Reading and Northern Railroad is doing all day excursions from Pittston to Jim Thorpe and back. Enjoy a scenic winter ride. Prices vary based on station of departure. For more information go to https://www.rbmnrr-passenger.com/february-theme-trains

#### February 23 • 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. STRONG TOGETHER Stand up to Cancer Benefit at The Other Side in Freeland.

Tricky Trays, Custom Bead Creations, Colored Hair Extensions, Handmade Keychains by Kali, Bake Sale.

#### February 28 • 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. CHIRP AND CHAT

at Hickory Run State Park, Visitor Center Lobby Have a "chirp n' chat" with a park manager as we sit and watch the birds at the birdfeeders at the Hickory Run State Park visitor center. Learn some identification basics from a field guide and enjoy the winter views. Several pairs of binoculars will be available to use. Bring a hot beverage to enjoy if you choose.

#### February 28 and March 1 WINTERFEST AT MONTAGE MOUNTAIN IN MOOSIC, LACKAWANNA COUNTY

Enjoy events like the "Cardboard Classic" where people use their homemade cardboard sleds to fly down the mountain. If you are a Gen-X'er you can also take in the sights and sounds of the World's largest 80's party. The bands M-80, Better Than Ezra, and Tonic are scheduled to play over the weekend. For more information go to www.montagemountainresorts.com/mountainfest March • 1 p.m. - 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. MARDI GRAS PARTY at Immaculate Conception Church, Freeland Buffet, music, costumes optional. \$25 per person.

#### March 8 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. FLY FISHING BASICS

### at Hickory Run State Park, Visitor Center Classroom

Registration required. Space is limited. Join Allan Schrefler of the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission for a 4 hour fly fishing course. Fly fishing can be a fun way to fish for the first time or it can present a new experience for seasoned anglers. Anyone, ages 12 years and older with an interest in learning the basics of fly fishing equipment, knot tying, casting techniques and on the water skills is welcome. It is the perfect opportunity to learn fly fishing basics and meet other fly anglers. All equipment is provided. Those under age 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

NOTE: the fishing license requirement is waived during the program for participants age 16 and older.

#### March 13 • 10 a.m. - 10:45 p.m. FOR KIDS: STORY AND CRAFT TIME

at Hickory Run State Park, Visitor Center Classroom Join park staff for a short children's story and a craft. The story and craft are chosen with ages 4-9 in mind, but the whole family is welcome. Space is limited, so registration is required. Please register every person who will attend. Please meet in the classroom at the Visitor Center! *Planting a Rainbow* by Lois Ehlert.

#### March 14 • 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. CHIRP AND CHAT

beverage to enjoy if you choose.

at Hickory Run State Park, Visitor Center Lobby Have a "chirp n' chat" with a park manager as we sit and watch the birds at the birdfeeders at the Hickory Run State Park visitor center. Learn some identification basics from a field guide and enjoy the winter views. Several pairs of binoculars will be available to use. Bring a hot

If you would like your event listed free of charge to this page please email us at : theanthracitepost@gmail.com or call or text 570-582-0981 or 570-401-1798. If you would like your event to be include on this free event page, please contact us via email or telephone.



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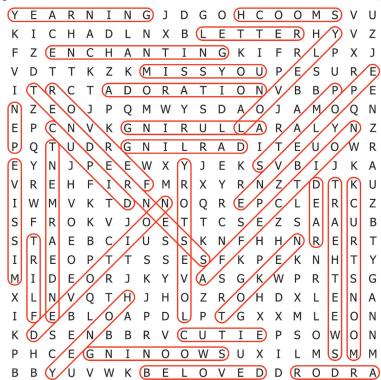
## HELPING HANDS SOUP SALE SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2025 Pickup 12-2pm \$9 quart St. John's Lutheran Church Hall 106 W. Main St., Ringtown 570-889-5203 ORDER DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 16

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