



# The Anthracite Post

Highlighting Neighborhood News & Events

Volume 2, Edition 4, March 2025



## FREE

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

AUDENRIED  
BARNESVILLE  
BEAVER BROOK  
BEAVER MEADOWS  
BERWICK  
BLACK CREEK  
BRANDONVILLE  
COALDALE  
CONYNGBAM  
DELANO  
DORRANCE  
DRIFTON  
DRUMS  
EAST UNION TOWNSHIP  
FREELAND  
HARLEIGH  
HAZLE TOWNSHIP  
HAZLETON  
HOMETOWN  
JEANESVILLE  
JUNEDALE  
KELAYRES  
KIDDER TOWNSHIP  
KLINE TOWNSHIP  
LAKE HARMONY  
LANSFORD  
LATTIMER  
MAHANAY CITY  
MCADOO  
MOUNTAIN TOP  
NESCOPECK  
NESQUEHONING  
NUREMBERG  
ONEIDA  
PARDEESVILLE  
QUAKAKE  
RINGTOWN  
SHENANDOAH  
SHEPPTON  
SUGARLOAF  
SUMMIT HILL  
TAMAQUA  
TOMHICKEN  
TRESCKOW  
WAPWALLOPEN  
WEATHERLY  
WEST HAZLETON  
WESTON  
WHITE HAVEN  
ZION GROVE

## Prom Dress Boutique Named In Memory of *Stacy Marino-Walton*



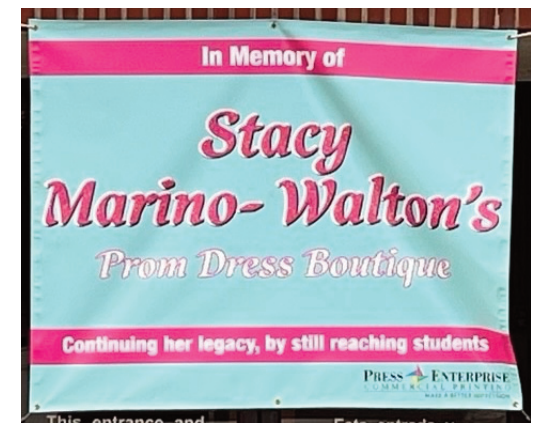
The Hazleton City Police Department is proud to announce the official opening of the Stacy Marino-Walton Prom Dress Boutique, now named in memory of a beautiful and compassionate soul ensuring that her legacy continues to shine through this initiative.

The boutique, which provides dresses to students in need for prom, recently celebrated its official opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Hazleton City

Police Department. After a successful trial run last year, it became clear that the drive deserved a name with deeper meaning — and this choice could not be more fitting.

Stacy Marino-Walton, a graduate and educator in the Hazleton Area School District, dedicated many years to teaching and serving the community. Her life was tragically taken in December 2012 due to a domestic incident, but her lasting impact on the community remains unforgettable. She was known for her unwavering kindness and generosity, touching the lives of countless students and colleagues. Her compassion and sparkle extended beyond the classroom, bringing warmth and care to her family, friends, and the entire community.

Although the boutique is no longer accepting donations, it is now



open to the public, offering approximately 300 dresses in a variety of sizes, colors, and styles.

To schedule an appointment, individuals can contact Officer Jessica Surkin at [jsurkin@hazletonpd.org](mailto:jsurkin@hazletonpd.org). All visitors must be accompanied by a friend or adult. This boutique serves as a lasting tribute, allowing Stacy's spirit of giving to continue making a positive impact.

## Stacy Marino-Walton Prom Dress Boutique

INSIDE THE HAZLETON CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT - DRESSES ARE FREE

TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT CONTACT PTLM. JESSICA SURKIN

570-459-4908 OR EMAIL: [JSURKIN@HAZLETONPD.ORG](mailto:JSURKIN@HAZLETONPD.ORG)

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

**Lee Ann Davidovich**

Editor/Sales  
(570) 582-0981  
theanthracitepost@gmail.com

**Shari Roberts**

Editor/Graphic Artist  
(570) 401-1798  
shari@anthracitepost.com

**Senator David Argall**

Contributing Writer  
Community Information

**Frank Balon**

Contributing Writer  
Various Articles

**Joan Banyas**

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  
Various Articles

**Rev. Phil Smith**

Contributing Writer  
Various Articles

**Dane Watro, State Representative**

Contributing Writer  
Community Information

# The Anthracite Post

*Highlighting Neighborhood News & Events*

## Letter from the Editors

Spring is in the air!!!!!! I believe it is safe to say that our furry friend from Punxsutawney, PA (Phil) got it wrong this year. The temperature has been above normal, in the 50s and 60s the past two weeks. As I write this, the temperature is in the 60s and its super windy and raining.

I for one am glad that cold, bitter winter is behind us. Its just to darn expensive to heat the house all winter. I treated myself to an electric blanket this past winter and let me tell you, I was cuddled up under it every night.

Another sure sign of Spring - I hear Woods Ice Cream is open. I've been craving a soft ice cream and will surely be stopping by. I also saw on facebook that Rita's is open. I must get there soon for my favorite Swedish Fish Gelati.

Let's cross our fingers that the warmer weather is here to stay and we soon see trees budding and flowers blooming.

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



**KnightTime**  
MEDIA, LLC



### FULL SERVICE PRINTING

Raffle Tickets • Business Cards • Invoices • Envelopes • Letterheadss • Newsletters  
Rubber Stamps • Flyers • Doorhangers • Outdoor Signs • Labels • Menus

**CALL (570) 401-1798**

Email: [shari@knighttimemedia.com](mailto:shari@knighttimemedia.com)

370 Maplewood Drive, Suite 105, Hazle Twp., PA 18202

*You Think It ... We Ink It!*



**Find Us On Facebook:**

## The Anthracite Post

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

March 2025

### BIZARRE & UNIQUE HOLIDAYS

- 1 National Pig Day  
Plan a Solo Vacation Day
- 2 Oscar Night  
Reuben Grill Day
- 3 Caregiver Appreciation Day  
National Anthem Day
- 4 Mardi Gras / Fat Tuesday  
National Snack Day
- 5 Ash Wednesday  
National Cheese Doodle Day
- 6 Dentist's Day  
National Oreo Cookie Day
- 7 Employee Appreciation Day  
World Day of Prayer
- 8 Be Nasty Day  
International Fanny Pack Day
- 9 Daylight Savings begins  
Barbie Day
- 10 Middle Name Pride Day
- 11 Johnny Appleseed Day  
Worship of Tools Day
- 12 Girl Scouts Day  
Plant a Flower Day
- 13 Jewel Day  
Popcorn Lover's Day
- 14 Learn about Butterflies Day  
National Potato Chip Day
- 15 Buzzards Day  
Corn Dog Day
- 16 Everything You Do is Right Day
- 17 Corned Beef and Cabbage Day  
Saint Patrick's Day
- 18 Awkward Moments Day  
Tea for Two Tuesday
- 19 Let's Laugh Day  
Poultry Day
- 20 Earth Day  
Spring (Vernal) Equinox
- 21 Fragrance Day  
World Poetry Day
- 22 As Young As You Feel Day  
National Goof Off Day
- 23 Chip and Dip Day  
National Puppy Day
- 24 National Cheesesteak Day
- 25 Pecan Day  
International Waffle Day
- 26 Live Long and Prosper Day
- 27 National "Joe" Day
- 28 Something on a Stick Day
- 29 World Piano Day
- 30 Take a Walk in the Park Day
- 31 National Crayon Day



# Highland 1 Wins the Freeland Pool League Championship!



Front Row from Left: Lee Kulsa and Jim Sabatella. Back Row from Left: Rodrigo Rosario, Tom ("Match") Machella, Phil Dion, Joe Burns, Joe DeBalso, Lenny DiPasqual and Keith Kulsa.




## Ham and Dandelion

*Dinner*

### BLACK CREEK UMC

158 GOLF COURSE ROAD, SUGARLOAF PA 18249

**Meal Includes:**  
 Ham, Dandelion with Hot Bacon Dressing, Potatoes, Gravy, Vegetable, Pickled Beets, Applesauce, Dessert, and Drink

**April 12, 2025: 1 - 6 PM**

For Tickets: Call 570-384-4087 or 570-751-3426  
 or email [blackcreekumc158@gmail.com](mailto:blackcreekumc158@gmail.com)  
 or buy online using this QR Code:



Please Note: Due to high demand, tickets will not be sold at the door.

**\$15 PER ADULT**

**\$7 CHILDREN UNDER 10**



*Welcoming New Residents - call today for a tour!*

**DRUMS (Hazleton): (570) 788-7555**  
**POTTSVILLE: (570) 628-6950**  
**PINE GROVE: (570) 345-4999**

# Redefining Home...

- ✦ INDEPENDENT LIVING
- ✦ ASSISTED LIVING & PERSONAL CARE
- ✦ EARLY-STAGE MEMORY SUPPORT
- ✦ LATE-STAGE MEMORY CARE
- ✦ RESTORATIVE CARE

Standard Speaker  
**Readers' Choice Awards**  
 2024



## Providence Place

SENIOR LIVING

[www.Providence-Place.com](http://www.Providence-Place.com)



## MMI Preparatory School Partners with Carbon Career & Technical Institute to Create Tri-M Music Honor Society Banner



Pictured from left to right: Mrs. Maritza Reinbold, Ms. Jennifer Gerhard, Mrs. Theresa Long, and Ms. Marissa Blasko.

MMI Preparatory School's Music Department and Carbon Career and Technical Institute's (CCTI) Graphic Design Studio recently partnered to design

and produce a banner for MMI's inaugural Tri-M Music Honor Society chapter. This collaboration highlights the emphasis on the Creative and Performing Arts at MMI, as well as the School's commitment to recognizing outstanding student musicians. The initial costs of creating the Tri-M Music Honor Society at MMI were funded by The Barbara L. Sowers and Joseph A. Turri '45 Music, Drama, and Fine Arts Endowed Fund of The Luzerne Foundation.

The banner was designed by Marissa Blasko, CCTI Class of '25, under the guidance of graphic design advisor Mrs. Maritza Reinbold. To celebrate the project's completion, CCTI Principal Mrs. Michelle Allen

welcomed MMI Head of School Mrs. Theresa Long and MMI Music Director Ms. Jennifer Gerhard for a tour of the graphic design studio, where they

learned more about the program's curriculum and mission.

"We are incredibly proud to launch MMI's first-ever chapter of the Tri-M Music Honor Society as a way to honor our exceptional student musicians," said Mrs. Theresa Long, Head of School. "Partnering with CCTI on this project has been a fantastic opportunity to celebrate both the visual and performing arts while showcasing the talent of students like Marissa. This collaboration reflects the power of arts education and the meaningful connections it can create between schools and programs."

The Tri-M Music Honor Society is a national organization that recognizes high-achieving student musicians in both vocal and instrumental music. Students selected for membership not only demonstrate musical excellence but also strong character, leadership, and a dedication to using music as a tool for service in their communities. The completed banner will be displayed at MMI as a lasting symbol of both the school's commitment to music education and the creative partnership between MMI and CCTI.





**MMI**  
Preparatory School  
*Forging Diamond Students Since 1879*

# Discover MMI Night

**March 26, 2025 6-8 PM**

 **Tuition Assistance is Available**  
Ask us for details!

Register Today: [www.mmiprep.org](http://www.mmiprep.org) 570-636-1108 154 Centre Street, Freeland, PA



# SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

## Wordsearch

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

### WORD LIST

CABBAGE  
 CELEBRATE  
 CELTIC  
 CLOVER  
 COINS  
 DANCE  
 FIDDLE  
 FOLKLORE

GOLD  
 GREEN  
 HARP  
 HOLIDAY  
 HORSESHOE  
 IRELAND  
 IRISH FLAG  
 LEPRECHAUN

LIMERICK  
 LUCK  
 MARCH  
 MISCHIEF  
 PARADE  
 PRAYER  
 RAINBOW

SAINT PATRICK  
 SHAMROCK  
 SNAKE  
 SODA BREAD  
 TRADITION  
 TREASURE  
 TRINITY

Good Luck!



Happy Birthday!  
 Florence 97 yrs.  
 &  
 Juliana 98 yrs.

From Shari

## Hazleton City Police Department

Tipline:  
 570-450-2080  
 (call or text)

Email:  
[tips@hazletonpd.org](mailto:tips@hazletonpd.org)



Senator Dave Argall

29th District

Pennsylvania Senate

Toll Free Number: 877-327-4255

[senatorargall.com/](http://senatorargall.com/) [facebook.com/SenatorArgall](https://facebook.com/SenatorArgall)



## Do You Support Closing Penn State Hazleton and Penn State Schuylkill?

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

Thank you to the more than 4,200 people who filled out our survey about the potential closures of Penn State Schuylkill and Penn State Hazleton. This overwhelming response shows how impactful these campuses have been for so many people in our region and beyond.

Since the survey first went out, I've spent a lot of time reading through the stories people shared with me about how their experiences at these Penn State campuses shaped their lives. Here are a few that stuck with me:

"As a former student, I can say that Penn State Hazleton played a critical role in my education and my life. The proximity to my home, local access to some of the best educators in the Commonwealth, and a facility that provided top notch experiences made earning a degree from an outstanding university a dream come true for me and so many of my friends and colleagues. I am a proud graduate of Penn State Hazleton and deeply understand the need for this campus to continue to provide experiences like it did for me." – Neal D.

"PSU Hazleton has been integral to my success as an individual and in my career. This campus means the world to me and so many others. Closing it would negatively impact the community, students, alumni, the local economy and so much more." – Zena L.

"I know that had it not been for the accessibility of the Schuylkill Campus of PSU, I very likely would not have ended up where I am today, and that is a story I am certain many of my fellow alumni share. I hope that we might just be able to save the campuses so that future generations of alumni can go on to give back to their communities just as I have." – Steve A.

"If it wasn't for this campus existing, I probably wouldn't have been able to attend college at all. I loved my time at Penn State Schuylkill, in part because of the smaller classes and the community feel. It gave me the foundation I needed to continue and graduate from Penn State Harrisburg with two bachelor's degrees. Perhaps college wasn't your path or Penn State wasn't your college of choice. But for so many of us, and so many within Schuylkill County, this was our chance at a much sought-after higher education." – Lora G.

"Penn State Schuylkill provided me with opportunities of a lifetime, from studying abroad to working full time in Washington, D.C., to now being in law school. The professors there changed my life. The school gave me opportunities that most students my age who went to other state schools never received." – Corinne E.

THIS is why our local state representatives and I are fighting to save these campuses. They have changed so many lives for the better. Closing them now would deprive thousands of people of the same opportunity, and our communities will suffer because of it.

If you haven't yet completed our one-question survey, please consider doing so at [www.senatorargall.com/legislative-survey](http://www.senatorargall.com/legislative-survey).

# *Friends of* **SAL MEROLA** Benefit

**Pardeesville Playground**  
**Saturday, March 29th**  
**(11:00 - 4:00) rain or shine**

Sal Merola, a lifelong resident of Pardeesville took ill in early winter of 2024. After two bouts suffering from pneumonia and several doctors' visits, along with further testing he was eventually diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer only days after New Year's 2025. He then suffered from a stroke days later.

Sal was the proprietor of Sal's Septic Service which was started by his late father. He also ran Merola's garage in Pardeesville, repairing trucks and cars for several years.

Unlike most of us when we are sick, we call off work and still get paid. Unfortunately for Sal being the owner of his own business, when he didn't work, he didn't get paid or have any money coming in to his household. To make matters even worse, due to lack of insurance his medical treatments were delayed at times. Sal succumbed to his health issues on March 3rd. He was well known in the community because of his business and for helping those in need. Now it's our turn to give back to help Sal's family. All proceeds from this benefit will go to Sal's family to help them sustain funeral and medical expenses.



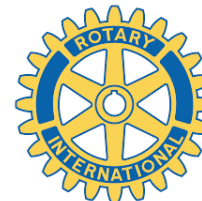
**Tricky Tray Raffle Baskets, Gift Cards, Gift Certificates**  
**a 50/50 raffle and food will be served by the**  
**Pardeesville Playground Association.**

All the same foods served during the Haunted Trail Event.

**To donate to this event, please contact:**

**Joyce (570) 956-6354, Dolores (570) 233-5249**  
**or Janine (570) 578-8505**

**DONATED ITEMS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER**  
**THAN FRIDAY, MARCH 28th IN ORDER TO**  
**SET-UP FOR EVENT ACCORDINGLY.**



## **Hazleton Rotary Club and Rotary** **District 7410 Essay Contest**

Human progress has long depended on our ability to understand one another, communicate effectively, and work together. Whether in businesses, communities, or other group efforts, the principles of teamwork and accountability form the foundation of meaningful problem-solving and goal achievement. Rotary's Four-Way Test, particularly the question "Is it fair to all concerned?" challenges us to approach difficult situations with fairness and consideration for others. This essay explores the principles of teamwork, inclusion, empathy, acceptance, belonging, and accountability, demonstrating how they contribute to solving problems effectively and achieving one's goals.

One of the most powerful forces in problem-solving is teamwork. A strong team brings together individuals with diverse skills, perspectives, and experiences, making it possible to tackle complex situations more effectively than any one person could alone. Within a team, members contribute their strengths while compensating for each other's weaknesses. For example, one person may excel in technology and problem-solving, while another may be skilled in organizing events and public speaking. By harnessing each individual's unique talents, a team can successfully achieve its objectives. Teamwork also fosters innovation. Many of history's greatest achievements, from technological advancements to medical breakthroughs, have resulted from interdisciplinary collaboration. When individuals with different areas of expertise come together, they challenge each other's ideas, ultimately leading to creative solutions. Furthermore, teamwork builds resilience, especially during difficult times. A strong team provides support, motivation, and a sense of solidarity, helping individuals persevere through challenges.

Teamwork naturally transitions into inclusion: the principle that everyone, regardless of background or identity, should have a seat at the table. A diverse group brings a broader range of experiences, leading to more well-rounded decision-making. In problem-solving, the exclusion of perspectives limits creativity, whereas inclusion fosters a culture where all voices are heard and valued. In professional environments, inclusive teams consistently outperform homogeneous ones because they can draw from a wider variety of viewpoints. Research shows that diverse teams have an 87% higher success rate in decision-making than teams that lack diversity. This principle applies across all areas of life, creating a positive impact on any initiative. A strong example of inclusion is seen in education. When schools ensure that students from all backgrounds, including those with disabilities, feel included, they create an environment where learning is maximized for everyone. Inclusive education recognizes that different students have different learning needs and adapts to support them. Similarly, in the workplace, inclusive policies ensure that all individuals, regardless of gender, race, or socioeconomic background, have equal opportunities to contribute and succeed.

For a team to function effectively, it must foster empathy: the ability to understand and share the feelings of others. Empathy enables individuals to see the world from multiple perspectives, making it a crucial component of collaboration and problem-solving. Without empathy, conflicts arise, and miscommunication persists. However, when people take the time to understand each other's experiences and emotions, they can overcome differences and work toward solutions that meet the needs of all involved. Empathy plays a crucial role in conflict resolution. Whether in international diplomacy, workplace disagreements, or



family disputes, understanding the other party's perspective is key to finding fair and lasting solutions. For example, when negotiating a peace treaty, diplomats must consider historical grievances, cultural values, and the aspirations of both sides to craft an agreement that benefits everyone. Beyond conflict resolution, empathy is a driving force behind social progress. Many humanitarian efforts, such as poverty alleviation and disaster relief programs, stem from people's ability to feel compassion for others. When individuals recognize the struggles faced by others, they become more motivated to take action and address injustices.

Closely tied to empathy, acceptance is the willingness to acknowledge and respect differences. In a world where problem-solving is essential, acceptance means recognizing that others may approach situations differently based on their beliefs, experiences, or cultural backgrounds. Rather than rejecting alternative viewpoints, an accepting mindset encourages individuals to learn from one another. Acceptance is particularly crucial when addressing global challenges such as climate change, poverty, and healthcare disparities. Solutions to these issues must take into account the needs and circumstances of diverse communities. A policy that works well in one region may not be suitable elsewhere, and true progress comes from accepting multiple perspectives and adapting solutions accordingly.

When individuals feel accepted, they also experience a sense of belonging—a fundamental human need that fosters engagement and motivation. The feeling of belonging and knowing that one's contributions are valued is essential for success in teamwork. Organizations, whether businesses, nonprofits, or social movements, thrive when members feel connected to one another and to a shared mission. A sense of belonging enhances both productivity and teamwork. In schools, students who feel included perform better academically and are more likely to contribute positively to their communities. In workplaces, employees who feel valued are more productive and less likely to leave their jobs. Studies have shown that a strong sense of belonging can increase job performance by 56% and reduce employee turnover by 50%.

Finally, accountability ensures that individuals and teams take responsibility for their actions and commitments, reinforcing trust, reliability, and long-term success. Without accountability, goals remain unfulfilled, and problems persist, leading to inefficiency, frustration, and a lack of progress. Whether in government, business, or personal relationships, accountability fosters a culture of integrity where individuals hold themselves and others to high ethical standards. Accountable leaders set the standard for ethical behavior by demonstrating transparency, honesty, and a willingness to take responsibility for their decisions. A leader who admits their mistakes, learns from them, and follows through on commitments earns the trust and respect of their team, fostering a culture of shared responsibility. Similarly, individuals and teams that adhere to deadlines, maintain quality standards, and take ownership of both successes and failures are far more likely to achieve their goals. Accountability transforms aspirations into tangible results, ensuring that objectives are met with consistency and excellence.

Solving problems and accomplishing objectives require teamwork, inclusion, empathy, acceptance, belonging, and accountability. These principles enable individuals and organizations to collaborate effectively, embrace diverse perspectives, and drive meaningful change. Rotary's Four-Way Test highlights the significance of these values in all aspects of life, particularly

through the question, "Is it fair to all concerned?" By cultivating empathy, embracing inclusivity, and taking responsibility for our actions, we can develop solutions that are not only effective but also fair and just for everyone. Whether in business, community service, or personal endeavors, the ability to work together, understand others, and remain accountable ensures lasting success. The most effective solutions take into account the needs of everyone involved, demonstrating that empathy, fairness, and teamwork are not just ideals but essential elements of meaningful progress.



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



## Be Aware of Tax Season Scams

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

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is again warning taxpayers about tax season scams. They've identified the "dirty dozen" most common scams for individuals, businesses and tax professionals.

One of the most common scams seen by the IRS are by email and text. Taxpayers and tax professionals should be alert to fake communications from entities posing as legitimate organizations in the tax and financial community, including the IRS, state tax agencies and tax software companies. These messages arrive in the form of unsolicited texts or emails to lure unsuspecting victims into providing valuable personal and financial information that can lead to identity theft.

Other "dirty dozen" scams include bad social media tax advice, fake IRS individual online account help, fake charities, false fuel tax credit claims, credits for sick leave and family leave that are no longer available, bogus self-employment tax credits and ghost tax return preparers, among others. To learn more, visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

Remember, the IRS will never contact you using social media or a text message. The first contact from the IRS usually comes in the mail. Taxpayers who are unsure whether they owe money to the IRS can view their tax account information at the same website listed above.



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



"Earbuds are extremely popular and often used, but what about when driving? In Pennsylvania, it is **ILLEGAL** to operate your vehicle while wearing one or more earbuds. There is an exception, you can wear a headset / one earbud while driving as long as it's used for hands free communication in conjunction with your cell phone. This is important to follow because wearing two earbuds or headphones while driving will prohibit you from hearing emergency vehicles utilizing their sirens in accordance with their job functions. As always – safe travels! "

## HOAGIE SALE

at

### Mt. Zion Lutheran Church

37 Faux Hill Road, Zion Grove, PA 17985

TO ASSIST GAIL LINN, ZION GROVE  
WITH MEDICAL EXPENSES OF HER  
CANCER TREATMENT



Regular or Turkey Hoagies are \$5 each.  
*Lettuce, tomatoes, onions and mayo are packaged  
in separate plastic bags.*

**To order call 570-889-5401 by March 23rd.**  
***Pick up Hoagies after 1:00 PM on Sunday, March 30th.***  
Please support our sale! Thanks!

## Immaculate Conception Church

898 Centre Street • Freeland

### ~ Easter Schedule ~

#### **PALM SUNDAY WEEKEND**

April 12 - 4 p.m. • April 13 - 7:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

#### **HOLY THURSDAY**

April 17 - 7 p.m.

#### **GOOD FRIDAY**

April 18 - 1 p.m.

#### **HOLY SATURDAY MASS OF THE EASTER VIGIL**

April 19 - 8 p.m.

#### **EASTER SUNDAY**

April 20 - 7:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

*There will be no 4 p.m. Mass on Saturday, April 19.*



You might think that Easter is all about a bunny.

But it's not - it's about God's love for us.

God gives His Son for us so that we  
might have new life.

Join us at Christ Lutheran Church, Hazleton for a wonderful

Easter Service at 10:30AM on April 20th.

We are liturgical but relaxed. Accepting of people wherever they are on  
their faith journey. Relevant for today's world.

We are located at 210 West Green Street in Hazleton. Park in our lot behind  
the church or at City Hall. Enter by the front door.

Forget the bunny. Celebrate Easter with us at 10:30AM. Jesus' resurrection  
is what matters!



Check us out: Website: [clchazleton.org](http://clchazleton.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/clchazleton>

YouTube: [@clchazletonlive9812](https://www.youtube.com/clchazletonlive9812)



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

# MOORE

& Associates, PC  
Accounting • Tax • Advisory

751 North Church Street • Hazleton, PA 18201  
P: 570-455-9408 • F: 570-455-3413 • E: [tax@moore.cpa](mailto:tax@moore.cpa)





Freeland's St. Ann's Band playing in the 2025 Sons of Erin St. Patrick's Day parade.



The Freeland Chicken Pluckers marched in the Sons of Erin St. Patrick's Day parade.



From left: Frank Balon is with Joe Barna of Freeland who recently celebrated his 95th Birthday!!!!



Rep. Dane Watro and Rep. Jamie Walsh attend the grand opening of Jersey Mike's in Sugarloaf Twp.



Rep. Dane Watro speaks to student government members at Penn State Hazleton.



Frank Balon stopped by Kadima at Luzerne Nursing Home in Drums to play some Dixieland Music on his trumpet for the Mardi Gras social.



**RAFFLE TICKETS • BASKET RAFFLE TICKETS • ADMISSION TICKETS**

BY APPOINTMENT  
 370 Maplewood Drive  
 Suite 105  
 Hazle Twp., PA 18202

**PROGRAM BOOKS • BROCHURES • FORMS • PLACEMATS • CARDS**

**KnightTime**  
**MEDIA, LLC**

**FULL SERVICE PRINTING**

Email:  
[shari@knighttimemedia.com](mailto:shari@knighttimemedia.com)

Text or Call  
**CALL (570) 401-1798**

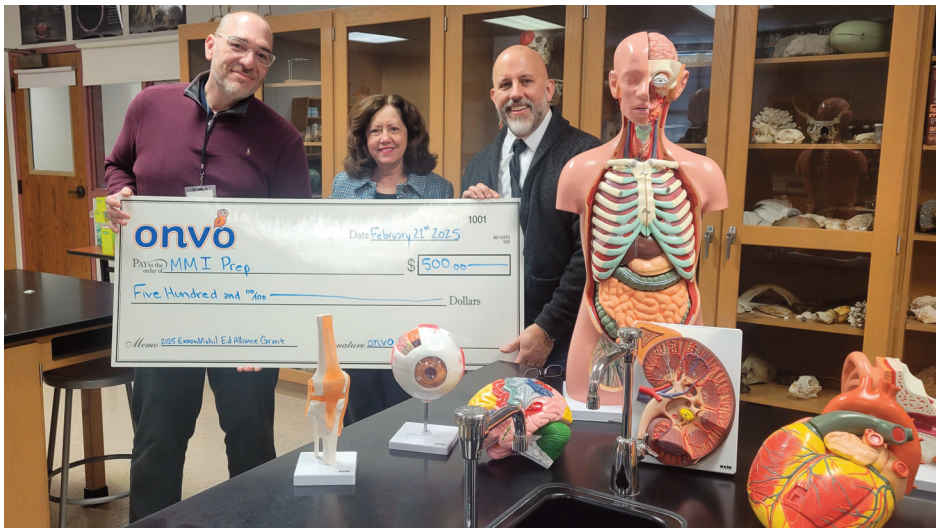


# MMI Receives ExxonMobil Grant to Purchase Anatomical Models

Head of School Mrs. Theresa Long announced that MMI Preparatory School recently received a \$500 Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance Grant from Onvo. The School combined the grant funds with a donation from the McGraw Family, made in memory of Dr. Thomas McGraw '52, and purchased seven new anatomical models for the biology lab. The models purchased included: a life-size torso with removable organs and an open back; a human knee joint with functional ligaments; a human brain; a human eye; a human heart; a human ear; and a human kidney with an adrenal gland.

Mrs. Long commented, "We are incredibly grateful to Onvo for their continued support of MMI through the ExxonMobil Educational Alliance Grant. For more than 12 years, their generosity—totaling over \$8,000—has helped enhance our math and science programs, providing our students with valuable resources to support hands-on learning."

She added, "The McGraw Family has been equally committed to our science program and has helped facilitate the purchase of a number of pieces of equipment for our lab. Partnerships like these allow us to continue offering a top-tier education in STEM, and we deeply appreciate the commitment to our students."



*Pictured (left to right): Onvo District Manager Tomas Castillo, MMI Head of School Theresa Long, and Science Department Chair Michael Mele stand with the anatomical models made possible by the ExxonMobil Educational Alliance Grant.*

Mr. Michael Mele, Associate Dean and Science Department Chair, said, "These anatomical models will provide our students with a more interactive and detailed understanding of human biology. Being able to examine and manipulate these models in the classroom helps reinforce complex anatomical concepts in ways that textbooks alone cannot. This addition will provide students with a more immersive learning experience and we are grateful."

Harman Aulakh, Vice President of Marketing at Onvo, said, "At Onvo, we believe that investing in STEM education helps build a stronger future for our communities. We are proud to continue our partnership with MMI and to support their efforts in providing students with hands-on learning experiences that inspire curiosity and innovation. It's an honor to help provide resources that enhance science education and empower the next generation of learners."

Founded in 1988, Onvo—formerly known as Liberty—is a family business

with its roots in Northeast Pennsylvania. The Onvo story began over 35 years ago with the development of the first truck stop in Tunkhannock, PA. Since then, the Onvo team has built a network of travel plazas, convenience stores, and restaurants dedicated to serving their travelers. As of 2025, the Onvo family of businesses includes 40 travel plazas and gas stations, 24 quick-service and full-service restaurants, petroleum distribution, and six hotels in Pennsylvania and Upstate New York.

ExxonMobil is fueling young minds through the Educational Alliance. Over \$40 million has been committed since the program's inception, which funds math and science programs at schools. It's a part of their ongoing effort to support science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education within the communities they serve.



**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

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

This publication is available on alternative media on request.  
Penn State is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, and is committed to providing employment opportunities to all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or protected veteran status.  
Image credit: ??? Penn State Master Gardener





## Sports Trivia Treats

By Ron Marchetti

### Retired Because He Was Afraid To Fly

Boston Red Sox outfielder 'Jackie Jensen' won the American league MVP award after hitting 35 home runs and driving in 122 runs during the 1968 season. Despite the achievement, he announced his retirement on January 25, 1960 at the age of 32, because he had a fear of flying. Air travel was a relatively new practice in baseball. After sitting out the 1960 season, Jensen returned to play for the Red Sox in 1961 but missed several games because he refused to step on an airplane. He permanently retired after the 1961 season.

### The Major League Pitcher Who Shot Himself

Chicago White Sox pitcher 'Monty Stratton' had his right leg amputated at the knee following a sporting mishap on November 27, 1938. While hunting rabbits near his farm in Greenville, Texas Stratton accidentally shot himself with a 32 caliber pistol. The 26 year-old pitcher had compiled a 30 - 14 record over the previous two seasons. Fitted with an artificial leg, Stratton taught himself to pitch again, and was 18-8 with Sherman twins in the east Texas league in 1946. The Stratton Story, a 1949 film based on his life starring 'James Stewart', won an Oscar for best original screenplay. Actress June Allyson was his co-star. I remember seeing that movie at age 9 in the Feeley Theater on North Wyoming Street in Hazleton.

### Free Agent

A few days after Thanksgiving in 1976, the Yankees signed 'Reggie Jackson' to a contract that earned him Three million for five years. This was the first off-season in which players with six years in the major leagues could declare themselves free agents. Jackson was the biggest prize in that year's free agent class. The Yankees, who had not won a World Series since 1962, went onto win the fall classic in 1977 and 1978 with Jackson's help. Those are the two years that Reggie Jackson was known as " Mr. October". Till next time, be a good sport and "Stay Loose".



## AN EASY ALCOHOL INFUSION

Alcohol infusions are a fun and creative way to enhance your favorite spirits with new flavors. They typically require just a clean mason jar, a strainer and a few quality ingredients. Here is an easy one to get you started.

### BLACK TEA-INFUSED GIN

Ingredients: Gin and 2-3 "Black Tea" bags.

Method: Infuse the gin 2 hours ahead of time in an airtight mason jar, shaking occasionally. Combine the infused gin, lemon juice, and a splash of tonic in a glass with ice.

*This infusion accentuates the gin's botanical notes with a subtle, black tea twist. CHEERS!*

-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](http://facebook.com/winehopsandroadstops)



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

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

**570-455-7335**



**Support Local  
Small Businesses!**

SERVING THE FREELAND AREA  
FOR 30+ YEARS!

**North Penn  
Realty**

*Real Estate Brokerage*

606 East Butler Drive • Freeland, PA 18224

**(570) 636-0459**

George W. Lacey, III - Real Estate Broker  
John M. Maso - Real Estate Salesperson



# Discover What's Happening at the Hazleton Art League This Spring



The Hazleton Art League (HAL) is welcoming the season with a fantastic lineup of events, exhibitions, and classes at the Hayden Family Center for the Arts.

The Members' Exhibition, running February 28 – March 23, showcases a variety of artwork from HAL members. The opening reception on Friday, February 28, from 5-8 PM, features a floral arrangement raffle by Theresa Evans of the Hazleton Area Garden Club. On Sunday, March 2, from 1-3 PM, participating artists will discuss their work during an Artists' Talk. The exhibition concludes with Acoustic Jam on Sunday, March 23, from 1-3 PM, featuring live music by local musicians.

On Thursday, February 20, from 6-8 PM, Smith Floral will host a flower arrangement workshop, offering a perfect way to welcome spring with creativity

and fresh blooms.

For a hands-on creative experience, join the "Paint and Be a Dreamcatcher" Paint & Sip Workshop with Michelle Lee on Saturday, March 22, from 12:30-3:30 PM.

The Hazleton Academy of Arts and Humanities Student Exhibition will run March 28-30, highlighting the work of talented senior students. The opening reception takes place Friday, March 28, from 5-8 PM.

Spring classes are now open for registration, and an annual membership is just \$30. Visit [www.hazletonartleague.org](http://www.hazletonartleague.org), call 570-455-3333, or stop by 31 W. Broad Street, Hazleton, PA 18201 for details. Follow HAL on Facebook, Instagram, and BlueSky for updates.

## Hazleton Rotary and Rotary District 7410 Essay Contest



Kim McNulty, Chair-2025 Hazleton Rotary Essay Contest, announced that Sharan Parikh, a junior at MMI Preparatory School will receive the \$100 prize from Hazleton Rotary for his

winning entry in the Hazleton Rotary Essay Contest

His essay has been forwarded to Rotary District 7410 (Northeast PA) for the opportunity to win the essay prizes of \$1,000 for first place, \$500 for

second place and \$250 for third place.

The District Committee will begin judging essays at the end of the month and will be in touch with the local essay winners as the process unfolds. The three larger prizes will be awarded at the District Conference.

The essay topic was "Is it fair to all concerned?" which is related to Rotary's Four Way Tests which guides all Rotary projects. The contest was open to High School Juniors and Seniors.

Hazleton Rotary President Alan Whitaker remarks, "We congratulate Sharan on winning our local contest and wish him success as his essay proceeds to the District Contest. Hazleton Rotary is very proud of you!"



## EMMANUEL LUTHERAN SPAGHETTI DINNER at Nuremberg-Weston Fire Hall

**March 22 • 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**

Dinner includes  
*spaghetti, homemade meatballs and  
sauce, salad, Italian bread, beverage  
and homemade dessert*

Adults \$15, Kids 5-12 \$6  
Kids 0-4 Free.

For more info call  
**570-384-2221 or 570-384-3518**  
on the day of the dinner

Handicap Accessible



## Senator David Argall PA 29th District TO SPEAK on March 28th RED CARPET Breakfast



1 Banks Ave, McAdoo, PA 18237

The program will begin at 7:45 a.m. and conclude at 9:00 a.m. A full breakfast will be served at the upcoming program for a \$28 fee for chamber members and a \$32 fee for non-chamber members. Chamber members and guests who would like to attend should contact the chamber office at 570-455-1509, ext. 101 or register online at hazletonchamber.org no later than Monday, March 24th.

"There are many key projects in our area, from the support campaign for the PSU Hazleton Campus to the Senator's work the importance on the sale and repurposing of White Haven Center property" noted Mary Malone, President of the Hazleton Chamber. "We are also in the hearing process of the Commonwealth's Budget process and this is great opportunity to have discussion about Governor's budget", Malone said. The Red Carpet programs are conducted monthly by the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce as a way of providing information to the local business community and offers new and expanded business networking opportunities. Those in attendance will also be hear and update from Alana Roberts of PPL who is the event sponsor. Attendees are encouraged to participate in the business card drop for a chance to win a free breakfast to be used at a future Red Carpet event.

The Greater Hazleton Chamber is announcing the next program in our Red Carpet series for 2025 on Friday, March 28th. Senator Dave Argall, from Pennsylvania 29th District will update the business community on important projects he has been working on including support of PSU Hazleton & Schuylkill Campuses and the work on sale of the state's White Haven Center property. Attendees will also have the opportunity for a question and answer session at the end of his presentation. The breakfast program will take place at Capriotti's at



## 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 February Edition*

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? Next was the Army Navy Surplus Store. This store operated thru the 1980's. Further down the street was another small bakery and shop and then Seitzinger's Drugstore. This is a vacant lot today. Next is the 3-story KC Building. I recall Western Auto Store on the ground floor. Frankie Balon says growing up, he recalls calling this "The Besbris Building".

Staying on the West side of Centre St., we'll cross over Main Street. First, we would pass Bertha's Dress Shop. Next, we come to the Balon Bar Building. On the upper side was Old Pop Frank Balon's "Side Room" and the lower door was Balon's Bar. The middle door was access to a doctor's office and a lawyer's office thru the years. Frankie's Mom Marie also ran a beauty shop there in the 1960's. The landmark "Balon's Bar" was run by old Frank Balon starting in 1913 and then by his Son Stanley Balon from the 1950s until it's closing in 1999. Below Balon's Bar was J.J. Newberry's Store. Newberry's had everything: Including a second floor decorated for Christmas for the kids. Next was Pecora's Tailor and below that was the 3-story Pittman's Furniture Store. Across the alley was Grant's Household Store. Below Grant's was the Brazina and Meyers Pool Room and Bowling Alley. This Brazina was my Uncle Bucky. There were 4 pool tables, 4 bowling lanes and an upstairs room for card games. I remember picking up pins as a youngster for 3 pennies a game. On a league night, I could make 45 cents. I also remember that Uncle Bucky sold cigarettes for a penny apiece. I remember the story of a card game upstairs where one man got so mad, that he threw his dog out a back window. Next door was Edgar Horne's TV Repair

shop. Although many of us remember Nocchi's Pharmacy and variety store on the corner, I believe that Nocchi's may have been on the other side of the Street for a time. Maybe somebody else remembers better than I do. At any rate, Behind Nocchi's was the Rialto Theatre. The Rialto would close in 1957. I met me wife-to-be at the Rialto. I had pitched a baseball game earlier that day at the Jeddo Stars Field. That night, I went to the movie at the Rialto. There behind me, my Eleanor and a girlfriend were throwing peanuts at me. Afterwards, we talked. I knew then that she was the one for me.

Moving back up to Centre and Main, but on the East side of the Street was the landmark Refowich Theatre Building. Within the corner stall of the "Ref" was the Sugar Bowl Restaurant I think. This was an ice cream and snack shop run by Pat Sweeney. Then we had the lighted entrance and movie signs to the Refowich. Next door was a dress shop run by the Paris sisters. Next door was the Coffee Pot. I remember owner Gus Spiel's 10 cent hotdogs: they may have been sitting on the stove since the day before, but they were still the best. Next door was Cozel's Bar. This is on the spot of the current American Legion parking lot. Racussin's clothing store was the next door. I can still remember seeing the sharp looking clothes on the manikins in the front display windows. Below the alley was Ferry's Drug Store. Next door was Emil Deddy's Men's Store and the Center Restaurant. Next was Veraldi's Tailor Shop. The next door was Petrilli's Barber shop. Further down the street was Louie Nassan's Men's Store and on the corner was the ACME Grocery Store. Thru the 60s, this was a Laundromat run by the Yagalla Family. Crossing South St. and staying on the East side, was Toots Pollack's Atlantic Gas Station on the site of today's

*(to be continued in next edition)*

# Upcoming Community Events

**March 22 • 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**

## **EMMANUEL LUTHERAN SPAGHETTI DINNER at Nuremberg-Weston Fire Hall**

Dinner includes: spaghetti, homemade meatballs and sauce, salad, Italian bread, beverage and homemade dessert. Adults \$15, Kids 5-12 \$6, Kids 0-4 Free. For more info call 570-384-2221 or 570-384-3518 on the day of the dinner. Handicap Accessible.

**March 26 • 7 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.**

## **FULL TUMBLING TIMBERDOODLES at Nescopeck State Park**

This program is FULL. Please use the registration link online to be added to the wait list.

Every spring the elusive American woodcock, also known as the timberdoodle and bog sucker among other names, returns to the park to perform what Aldo Leopold referred to as the "Sky Dance." Don't miss seeing - and hearing - this incredible game bird take to the sky in its annual courtship ritual. There is minimal walking for this program, making it one that folks of all ages can attend and enjoy. This program takes place inside and outdoors; please dress for the conditions. Free. Registration is required.

**March 27**

## **DCNR Hiking Series: Hike #1 at Game Commission parking lot 400 Behrens Road, Jim Thorpe**

Join us for the first hike to a favorite scenic vista, Tank Hollow. This is a relatively easy hike, with more than half of the trail consisting of a dirt road. There is one hill on the dirt road. During spring, a portion of the trail may be muddy and wet, so please plan footwear according to recent weather patterns. The overlook is high above the Lehigh River and looks into Lehigh Gorge State Park.

**March 30**

## **HOAGIE SALE TO BENEFIT GAIL LINN at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church**

Regular or Turkey Hoagies \$5 each. Call 570-889-5401 by Sunday, March 23rd to place order.

**March 30 • 1 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.**

## **SOUND BATH and HEALING MEDITATION at Tree of Life Shoppe, Ringtown**

In a sound bath, specially tuned sound frequencies help to move energy through the body in a way that can help to

gently release energetic blocks that may be causing dis-ease. Reserve spot now! 570-741-3574

**April 6 • Doors Open 12:15 p.m.**

## **ALL CASH EASTER BINGO at Immaculate Conception Church - Freeland Parish Center 898 Centre Street**

Early Birds start at 12:30 p.m., Regular Bingo at 1:00 p.m. 15 regular games - payout \$35, 4 specials - payout \$50 Last special - payout \$100 Tricky Trays - Homemade Food

**April 11**

## **HOMEMADE HALUSKI SALE at VFW Post 5010 Auxiliary, Freeland**

Sold by pint or quart size. Pre-order. Pick-up Only!

**April 12 • 11 a.m.**

## **FREELAND EASTER EGG HUNT at Freeland Public Park Pavilion**

Freeland residents only! Must pre-register. Age groups 0-3, 4-7, 8-12

**April 13 • 3 p.m.**

## **FREELAND COMMUNITY CHOIR EASTER MUSICAL at St. John's Reformed UCC 829 Washington St., Freeland**

**April 27 • 3 p.m.**

## **FREELAND COMMUNITY CHOIR EASTER MUSICAL at Faith UCC, 21 Faith Drive, Hazle Twp.**

**May 3 • 10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

## **INAUGURAL APPLE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL at Hellers Orchards, Wapwallopen**

Craft vendors, food vendors, wineries and breweries. The orchard market will be open with fruit, honey, syrup, jams, candies & more. Come enjoy the beautiful scenery of the fruit trees in bloom.

**May 10 • 9 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

## **WOMEN IN THE WILDS - WILDFLOWER ID at Nescopeck State Park**

Registration is required. 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! We invite all women and non-binary folks to join us for a friendly, non-competitive environment to learn a new skill! This session will focus on the basics of wildflower ID, deciphering guide books, and technology to help! Participants should dress for the weather, wear proper footwear, and bring some water. All program materials are included with \$10 materials fee, due upon registering. Not sure if this is the right program for you? Contact [alweber@pa.gov](mailto:alweber@pa.gov) with any questions! In the event of rain, this program will go on as scheduled. In the event of a thunderstorm, canceled. If you need an accommodation to participate in park activities due to a disability, please contact our office at (570) 403-2006.

*If you would like your event listed free of charge to this page please email us at : [theanthracitepost@gmail.com](mailto: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.*

## SAINT PATRICK'S DAY Wordsearch

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



**STORAGE UNITS ALL SIZES  
All Size Vehicle Parking  
Trucks ~ Cars ~ RV's  
ANY SIZE VEHICLE**

**HILLTOP SELF STORAGE  
870 Main Street in Sugarloaf  
Call Jeff 570-233-5659 • Call Joe 570-956-2815**





# MMI Preparatory School Students Earn Top Honors at Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science Competition



*Pictured: First Row: Mrs. Shannon Falcheck, Advisor, Callie Mason, Marissa Yamulla, Shreeya Parikh, Siya Patel, Arianny Nieves, and Ms. Michele Tyburski, Advisor. Second Row: Mr. Michael Mele, Advisor, Diane Kim, Winni Zheng, Madelyn Young, Yeleiny Paniagua, Gabrielle Carsia, Arushi Solgama, and Yoreimy Aponte Third Row: Ava Genetti, Megan Yamulla, Riley Mason, Sharon Zhuang, Alexis Bleiler, Yaslin Tejeda, and Katherine Arias. Fourth Row: Philip Benyo, Samantha Gatts, Cedrah Abdulrahman, Alexa Fazio, Christina Chrin, Madalynn Young, and Anna Zaroda. Fifth Row: Andrew Pedri, Gavin Serock, Jackson Moore, Zachary Naugle, Ian Composto, Gavyn Corchado, and Cassidy McDermott. Sixth Row: David Yamulla, Joseph Mayernik, Sharon Parikh, Rishi Patel, Gabriel Horvath, and Kiyan Paknezhad. Absent from Photo: Georgia Washko, Kenedy Lutz, Olivia Moore, and Angelina Seeba*

(Freeland, PA – March 1, 2025) – Head of School Mrs. Theresa Long is proud to announce that MMI Preparatory School students had an outstanding showing at the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) competition held on Saturday, March 1 at Wilkes University. MMI's 44 participating students earned an impressive 34 first-place awards, 11 second-place awards, and one third-place award, with several students achieving top honors.

Among the first-place award recipients, six students earned perfect scores: Cedrah Abdulrahman '26, Philip Benyo '27, Shreeya Parikh '28, Arushi Solgama '26, Winni Zheng '25, and Sharon Zhuang '27. Additionally, three students received Excellence Awards, a prestigious recognition given to only 12 upper school and 12 middle school students for demonstrating the highest level of project performance: Rishi Patel '26 (Biochemistry), Shreeya Parikh '28 (Chemistry), and Kiyan Paknezhad '25 (Engineering). Perseverance Awards were earned by Diane Kim '25 for three years of PJAS projects and Kiyan Paknezhad '25 for four years of competition. Kiyan also earned a Wilkes University Scholarship, one of only two students selected through an extensive application and interview process.

All first-place award winners will advance to the state-level competition at Pennsylvania State University's main campus in May. The following students earned first-place awards and have advanced to the state-level competition: Cedrah Abdulrahman '26 (Botany), Philip Benyo '27 (Microbiology), Alexis Bleiler '26 (Biochemistry), Gabriella Carsia '28 (Earth Space), Christina Chrin '27 (Biology), Ian Composto '27 (Biochemistry), Alexa Fazio '27 (Biology), Ava

Genetti '26 (Microbiology), Diane Kim '25 (Biology), Calli Mason '28 (Biochemistry), Riley Mason '30 (Ecology), Joseph Mayernik '26 (Biochemistry), Cassidy McDermott '26 (Biochemistry), Olivia Moore '28 (Microbiology), Zachary Naugle '28 (Math), Arianny Nieves '28 (Biology), Kiyan Paknezhad '25 (two first-place projects in Engineering), Yeleiny Paniagua '26 (Biology), Shreeya Parikh '28 (Chemistry), Sharan Parikh '26 (Math), Rishi Patel '26 (Biochemistry), Gavin Serock '28 (Physics), Ruhani Shah '27 (Biochemistry), Arushi Solgama '26 (Ecology), David Yamulla '26 (Biology), Megan Yamulla '30 (Chemistry), Marissa Yamulla '28 (Ecology), Madelyn Young '26 (Biochemistry), Madalynn Young '28 (Ecology), Anna Zaroda '27 (Math), Winni Zheng '25 (Microbiology and Behavioral), and Sharon Zhuang '27 (Biology).

Second-place awards were earned by: Yoreimy Aponte '27 (Behavioral), Katherine Arias '27 (Biochemistry), Samantha Gatts '26 (Biology), Gabriel Horvath '26 (Biochemistry), Kenedy Lutz '27 (Biochemistry), Jackson Moore '28 (Biology), Siya Patel '28 (Microbiology), Andrew Pedri '28 (Ecology), Angelina Seeba '27 (Behavioral), Yaselin Tejeda Nivar '29 (Biochemistry), and Georgia Washko '26 (Biology).

The third-place award was given to Gavyn Corchado '27 (Computer Science).

MMI's PJAS program is led by Advisor Mr. Michael Mele, who emphasized the critical thinking and communication skills students develop through this experience. "PJAS challenges students to design and conduct independent research, analyze data, and present their findings in a professional setting," said Mr. Mele. "These skills -problem-solving, scientific inquiry, and public speaking - are essential not only in STEM fields but in any future career."

"The level of success our students achieved at PJAS is remarkable," said Mrs. Theresa Long, Head of School. "To have 44 students competing out of the 506 total participants speaks volumes about the strength of our science program and the dedication of our faculty and students. I could not be prouder of their hard work and accomplishments. A special thank you to Mr. Michael Mele for his incredible commitment as PJAS advisor. His dedication and countless hours of mentoring and preparation make this success possible."

MMI faculty members Mrs. Shannon Falcheck, Ms. Michele Tyburski, Dr. Heather Grimm, Dr. Tammy Chrin, Mr. Tony Bianco, and Mrs. Melissa Zaroda provided lab support, project reviews, and mentorship throughout the research process, ensuring students were well-prepared for the competition. In addition, Mrs. Shannon Falcheck, Ms. Michele Tyburski, and Dr. Tammy Chrin served as volunteer judges at the event, evaluating student presentations and providing expert feedback.

With a strong presence at PJAS and continued success at the regional and state levels, MMI Preparatory School remains committed to fostering excellence in STEM education and research. To learn more about academics at MMI, visit <https://www.mmiprep.org/academics/>.

**SHOP LOCAL. EAT LOCAL.  
SPEND LOCAL. ENJOY LOCAL.**

**IT TAKES YOU TO START THE TREND!**

*Support the local businesses who support the area where you  
live, work, and play.*





Rt. 940, Harleigh  
(570) 454-7571



## AUTOMOTIVE REPAIRS & SERVICE

### SAFETY & EMISSION INSPECTIONS

**\$60.00**

with this coupon Expires December 31, 2025

### OIL CHANGE SPECIAL

Includes 5 Quarts of Non Synthetic Oil

**\$35.95**

with this coupon Expires December 31, 2025

### FRONT END ALIGNMENT

**\$69.95**

with this coupon Expires December 31, 2025

Call Ahead to Make an Appointment for  
**Safety & Emission Inspections**

\*Alignments \*Computer Diagnostics \*Motors & Transmissions Installed \*Struts  
\*Oil Changes \*Tune Ups \*Ball Joints \*Tie Rod Ends \*Brakes \*Wheel Bearings \*Axles  
\*U-Joints \*Fuel Pumps \*Tires \*Brake & Fuel Lines \*Electric Window Motors  
\*Transmission Flushes \*Power Steering Racks \*Transfer Cases \*Exhaust Manifolds &  
Gaskets \*Radiators \*Gas Tanks \*Clutches \*Heater Cores \*Power Steering Pumps  
\*Timing Belts \*Head Gaskets \*Rear Ends

**We offer a great selection of  
quality pre-owned vehicles!**

**NOW OFFERING  
IN-HOUSE FINANCING!**



a division of Barbush Automotive  
**Used Car & Truck Sales**   
Rt. 940, Harleigh • (570) 454-7571

#### 1996 PONTIAC FIREBIRD



21,996 Miles  
5.7L V8 285 HP  
4 Speed Automatic  
Rear Wheel Drive

**\$22,395**

#### 2008 FORD RANGER



279,842 Miles  
4.0L V6 207 HP  
5 speed Automatic  
4WD

**Call for price.**

#### 2010 SUBARU FORESTER



79,073 Miles  
2.5L 170 HP  
4 speed shiftable  
Automatic  
AWD

**Call for price.**

#### 2011 VOLVO XC60



171,664 miles  
3.0 L Turbo AWD

**\$6,995**

#### 2023 BOBCAT CT2035



**\$26,195**

#### 2012 NISSAN MURANO



147,714 Miles  
3.5 V6 260 HP  
CVT AWD

**\$7,095**

#### 2014 NISSAN ROGUE



153,087 Miles  
2.5L 175 HP  
CVT AWD

**\$7,995**

#### 2015 Cadillac SRX



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

**\$11,295**

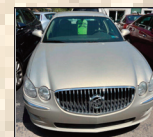
#### 2017 DODGE JOURNEY



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

**\$9,795**

#### 2008 BUICK LaCROSSE



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

**\$6,495**

#### 2014 CHEVROLET IMPALA



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

**\$13,295**

#### 2012 Subaru Impreza



149,443 miles  
2.0 L I4 148 HP  
AWD

**\$7,895**

#### 2012 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT



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

**\$6,895**

#### 2010 MAZDA MAZDA 3



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

**\$5,895**

#### 1996 ISUZU NPR



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

**\$7,595**

#### 1979 Ford Ranchero



53,517 miles  
5.7 LV8

**\$9,995**

#### 2003 FORD F-550 SUPER DUTY



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

**\$7,995**

#### 2010 NISSAN MAXIMA



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

**\$6,295**

#### 2016 CHEVROLET MALIBU



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

**\$9,195**

#### 2013 HYUNDAI ELANTRA



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

**\$6,395**

**For more information check us out on [www.barbushauto.com](http://www.barbushauto.com)**