The Anthracite Post ag Neighborhood News & Events Volume 2, Edition 4, April 2025

ighlighting Neighborhood News & Events

Volume 2, Edition 4, April 2025



Promoting Local Small

Businesses & Events at

an Affordable Price In -

EAST UNION TOWNSHIP

HAZLE TOWNSHIP

KIDDER TOWNSHIP

KLINE TOWNSHIP

LAKE HARMONY LANSFORD

MOUNTAIN TOP

NESCOPECK NESQUEHONING

NUREMBERG ONEIDA

QUAKAKE

RINGTOWN SHENANDOAH

SHEPPTON

SUGARLOAF

SUMMIT HILL

TAMAQUA TOMHICKEN

TRESCKOW WAPWALLOPEN

WEATHERI Y WEST HAZLETON WESTON WHITE HAVEN

ZION GROVE

PARDEESVILLE

AUDENRIED

BARNESVILLE

BEAVER BROOK

BLACK CREEK

COAL DALE

DELANO

DRIFTON

DRUMS

CONYNGHAM

DORRANCE

FREELAND

HAZLETON HOMETOWN

JUNEDALE KELAYRES

LATTIMER MAHANOY CITY

MCADOO

JEANESVILLE

HARI FIGH

BRANDONVILLE

BEAVER MEADOWS BERWICK

Local Communities Join Together for the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup

In an effort to recognize the community service activities of volunteers in the upcoming Great Pennsylvania Cleanup. our local boroughs, municipalities, township and city will continue to support the cleanup efforts throughout Greater Hazleton which will take place on Friday, Saturday or Sunday, April 25th. 26th. 27th .

According to Leann Fallabel. Vice President of Marketing for the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce and the cleanup coordinator, "without their support, the cleanup efforts would not be able to be done on such a large scale. Our

group is one of the largest cleanup efforts in the state of Pennsylvania and everyone involved is to be recognized". Fallabel continues, "Black Creek, Butler, Sugarloaf, Foster and Hazle Townships, the City of Hazleton, and the Boroughs of Conyngham, West Hazleton and White Haven, provide their street crews to assist PennDOT in the removal of bags that the volunteers fill during their cleanup efforts. We thank them for their assistance in working cooperatively



Sitting from left: Charlie Pedri, Hazleton City: Linda Szoke, White Haven; Liz Tolan, Sugarloaf Twp.; Joe Yannuzzi, MCOG; Cal Herring, MCOG; John Klem, White Haven; and Alan Kost, Butler Twp. Standing from left: Joe Pollakusky, Hazleton City; Heather Donish, Freeland: Lynn Falatko, Convgham: Brittany Majewski, Foster Twp.: Wendy Zubick, Foster Twp.; Dr. Frank Polidora, Butler Twp.; Ted Sherrock, Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority; Bill Kuklis, Freeland Municipal Authority; and Chuck Krone, Hazle Twp.

to rid our area of litter and debris."

Volunteer groups can gather their groups to cleanup on either on Friday the 25th. Saturday the 26th or Sunday the 27th. Groups are asked to leave bags along the cleanup route and PennDOT and local municipatlies will pick up the bags on Monday, April 28th. Garbage bags, safety vests and gloves are provided to all the volunteer groups and can be picked up at the The HUB, the week of April 21st to the

25th from 10 am to 5 pm at 15 W. Broad Street, Hazleton, PA 18201 (across the street from the Chamber office). Targeted areas include entrances into the Greater Hazleton Area. playgrounds and greenspaces.

Participants can, if they choose, select any specific area that they feel is in need. Gather vour family, friends, employees, or volunteer group, and cleanup an area, roadway, a city block or playground and help us to cleanup Greater Hazleton.

This year's cleanup marks the 41st year that the Chamber is coordinating the event in Greater Hazleton. The Greater Hazleton Mountain Council of

Governments has been also assisting in the coordination efforts for the past several years as well.

Anyone interested in forming a group to volunteering for the one-day cleanup effort may still do so by contacting Leann Fallabel at the Chamber office at 455-1509 or Ifallabel@hazletonchamber.org or simply download, complete and return the registration form from the Chamber's website at hazletonchamber.org.



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

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Kimberly Eisenhower Contributing Writer Psychic

Lisa Makara Contributing Writer Various Articles

Ron Marchetti *Contributing Writer* Sports Trivia Treats

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Walt Shubilla Contributing Writer Various Articles

Rev. Phil Smith *Contributing Writer* Various Articles

Jamie Walsh, State Representative Contributing Writer Community Information

Dane Watro, State Representative *Contributing Writer* Community Information

THE ANTHRACITE POST PAGE 2

The Anthracite Post

Highlighting Neighborhood News & Events

Letter from the Editors

April showers bring May flowers! As I write this, the temperature is in the 70's. A bit warmer than usual for this time of year, but according to the weather report, the rain is coming. I like when it rains. It sounds so relaxing and everything gets washed off. Speaking of washing off, my car sure needs a good hand washing and vacuuming to get rid of the winter dirt and dust.

We should have nice weather for Easter this year since it is later, on Sunday the 20th. I can't wait to have some kielbasi and pierogies. I may attempt making pierogies again. I sure miss the homemade ones from St. Mary's Church in Freeland. They were so good! See page 10 to find an Easter Egg hunt near you.

I am so glad the weather is breaking. Those heating bills are not kind. I started working on spring cleaning. I recently had to put my beloved dog Sarge to sleep and I need to keep busy. The heartbreak is real.

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 SHAR

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You Think It ... We Ink It!



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

April 2025

BIZARRE & UNIQUE HOLIDAYS

- 1 April Fool's Day International Fun at Work Day
- 2 National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day
- 3 National Burrito Day World Party Day
- 4 School Librarian Day
- 5 Deep Dish Pizza Day Go for Broke Day
- 6 National Tartan Day New Beer's Eve
- 7 International Beaver Day National Beer Day
- 8 Zoo Lover's Day
- 9 Bookmobile Day
- 10 Golfer's Day National Siblings Day
- 11 Barbershop Quartet Day National Pet Day
- 12 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day Walk on Your Wild Side Day
- 13 National Peach Cobbler Day Palm Sunday
- 14 Look up at the Sky Day National Dolphin Day
- 15 Income Taxes Due World Art Day
- 16 Mushroom Day National Orchid Day
- 17 Bat Appreciation Day National Cheeseball Day
- 18 Good Friday International Juggler's Day
- 19 Husband Appreciation Day
- 20 Easter Sunday
- 21 Patriot's Day
- 22 Earth Day
- National Jelly Bean Day
- 23 Administrative Professionals Day National Picnic Day
- 24 Pig in a Blanket Day Take Your Daughter to Work
- 25 Arbor Day
- World Penguin Day 26 National Pretzel Day
- 26 National Pretzei Day 27 Babe Ruth Dav
- National Prime Rib Day
- 28 International Astronomy Day Kiss Your Mate Day
- 29 International Dance Day National Zipper Day
- 30 Hairstyle Appreciation Day International Jazz Day

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Master Gardener



PennState Extension

Spring into Gardening

A home gardener educational event and plant sale

April 26, 2025 • Penn State Wilkes-Barre Bell Technology Center • Reg. Fee \$25 • Sale 9-1

Spring into Gardening

9:00 - 9:30 a.m. - Check In / Plant Sale Opens

Enjoy coffee and refreshments. Visit the Penn State Master Gardener Plant Sale and Information Tables!

9:30 - 10:15 a.m. - Gardening with Stormwater in Mind

John Levitsky Luzerne Conservation District Watershed Specialist

10:30 - 11:15 a.m. (choose one)

Friend or Foe, Beneficials and Pests in the Garden Mary Pat Appel, Certified Arborist

Garden Smarter

Shelly Neifert, *Penn State Master Gardener*, will share tips and tricks to get the most out of your garden.

Tree Planting & Pruning Demonstration

Penn State Master Gardeners will demonstrate best practices for planting and pruning woody ornamentals.

11:30 - 12:15 p.m. (choose one) The Amazing World of Indoor Plants

Marietta Garr, Penn State Master Gardener

Shrubs for All Seasons Sandy Visintainer, Penn State Master Gardener

Tree Planting & Pruning Demonstration Penn State Master Gardeners

12:30 - 1:15 p.m. (choose one)

Gardening in a Changing Climate Jason Kilgore, *Penn State Master Gardener*, will discuss garden strategy with a changing climate in mind.

Gardening for Birds Laura Jackson, *Juniata Valley Audobon Society*

Tree Planting & Pruning Demonstrtation Penn State Master Gardeners Learn best practices for planting and pruning woody ornamentals.

Registration Deadline

April 24, 2025

To Register by phone call 877-345-0691

If payment by check is your only means of payment, please contact Extension Registration Support to register by phone and request check payment processing Toll-Free at 1-877-345-0691

SEATING IS LIMITED! Walk-Ins will be accepted if seating is available.

Plant Sale 9:00-1:00 Annuals, Perennials, Indoor Plants, Flea Market Garden

Accessories



Welcoming New Residents call today for a tour!

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Kielbasa An Easter Tradition

By: Lee Ann Davidovich

Kielbasa, a traditional Polish sausage, has been a staple in Northeast Pennsylvania for over a century. Brought to the region by Polish immigrants who came to work in the coal mines in the late 1800s and early 1900s, kielbasa quickly became a favorite in local households. These immigrants not only brought their strong work ethic but also their rich food traditions, which have been passed down through generations. Today, kielbasa remains a symbol of heritage and comfort, enjoyed during holidays, family gatherings, and community celebrations.

Many families still follow old family recipes, carefully seasoning and smoking their kielbasa to perfection. Around Easter and Christmas, It's common to see long lines at local markets, with people eager to buy fresh or smoked kielbasa for their holiday meals. This enduring tradition reflects the deep-rooted pride and cultural ties that Polish families have maintained for generations.

There's no shortage of places to find quality kielbasa in the area. In a recent question I posted in the Hazleton Area Foodie Group located on the social platform Facebook.I found that



most popular spots are Tarone's Market located on Alter Street in Hazleton, of course Kowalonek's Kielbasy Shop and Lucky's Kielbasa Shop, in Shenandoah. Other mentions were Burger Brand Meats found at various locations, Hazle Park, Fierro's in Lattimer, The Cheese Store in Hazleton, which carries Murazzi products from the Scranton area, Jerry & Sons Market, Tarnowsi's in Nanticoke. Marlin Meats in Lehighton. Komensky's in Duryea, Schiffs Market in Scranton and Forty Fort and Dietrichs market in Krumsville Missed by many of the respondents is Greenview Meats who has retired some say that Malacari's in Wilkes Barre is close to Greenview. All these shops continue the tradition of producing high-quality kielbasa using time-honored methods.

In Northeast Pennsylvania, kielbasa is more than just a delicious sausage, it's a connection to the past and a celebration of heritage. Whether bought from a beloved local shop, enjoyed at a festival, or served at a family table, kielbasa continues to bring people together, honoring the traditions that have shaped the region for generations.





2025 Friday Night Concert Schedule at The Freeland Public Park

Thursday, July 18 - 6:30 starts • Starting July 25 - 6 pm starts

- May 23 Swingmasters May 30 Frank Balon Trumpet June 6 Tony Merker Country Singer June 13 Freeland Brass Quartet June 20 Hazleton Philharmonic Orchestra June 27 Jack James Vocalist July 11 St Ann's Band Hazleton Philharmonic July 18 North of 40 Big Band July 25 Danny Pope Folk Aug 1 Liberty Band Dave Matsinko Vocalist Americana Aug 8 Aug 15 Richard and Maria Lutz Vocal Duo Aug 22 Jack James Vocalist
- Aug 29 Big Band Dance featuring Hazleton Philharmonic Big Band



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 Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/clchazleton YouTube: @clchazletonlive9812



| CEASTER WORDSEARCH (F) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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WORD LIST

ANGEL BIBLE BLESSINGS CELEBRATE CHRIST CHURCH CROSS DECORATE

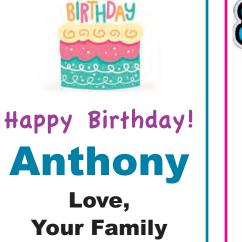
EASTER SUNDAY FORGIVENESS GLORY GOOD FRIDAY GOSPEL HEAVEN

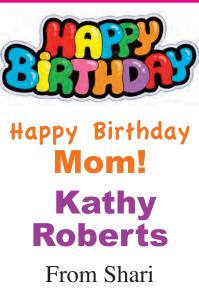
FAITH

GOD

HOLY RELIGIOUS RESURRECTION JESUS LAMB RISEN MIRACLE SACRIFICE PALM SAVIOR PASSION TRADITION PRAYER

WORSHIP Good Luck!







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



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

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

Penn State announced that they are considering closing 12 of their local campuses including their Schuylkill and Hazleton campuses. This news hit our area like a shockwave, without any warning. Their final decision will be made before May 9th.

These campuses have provided local opportunities to earn a college degree to thousands of people, changing so many lives for the better. Closing them now would jeopardize local jobs, harm the regional economy, and make it much harder to earn a college degree in northeast Pennsylvania

I created a one-question survey on my website with our local state legislators asking a simple question: Do you support closing Penn State Schuylkill and Penn State Hazleton? In just over a month, more than 5,300 people have responded. More than 96% DO NOT support these closures.

I have been asked by many people what I will do if the worst happens, and Penn State Schuylkill and Penn State Hazleton are closed. I have voted for Penn State's annual state appropriation each and every year, during my years in the House and in the Senate, but I will no longer do so if our campuses are shuttered.

As an alumnus (13 years of grad school at night!) and a former instructor at Penn State for decades, I understand the value of these two campuses. It tears my heart out that we are even having this discussion, but I cannot in good conscience support their appropriation if Penn State's leadership closes our two local campuses.

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



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



Representative Jamie Walsh 117th Legislative District Pennsylvania House of Representatives 717-260-6474 RepWalsh.com / Facebook.com/RepJamieWalsh

Application Deadline Approaching for 2025 Pennsylvania House Scholarship

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

High school seniors interested in receiving financial assistance to help pay for college still have time to apply for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives' Scholarship. The deadline is May1.

Each year the program awards a four-year scholarship to two students preparing for post-secondary education. It is open to graduating high school seniors who are Pennsylvania residents with plans to attend a Pennsylvania college, university or career school as a full-time student.

To qualify, students must have attained a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average in high school. Other factors taken into consideration for the awards are a student's commitment to community, leadership gualities, extracurricular activities and financial need.

The scholarship program is administered through the Foundation for Enhancing Communities. More information and an application are available on the foundation's website, www.tfec.org.

The scholarship is privately funded by individual and corporate donors; no tax or other public funds are used. Scholarships are awarded through an independent panel of judges chosen by the foundation.



Made in the 570: All things made and
manufactured in NEPABy: Lee Ann Davidovich

ADE 570

"Victoria's Candies: A Sweet Tradition Passed Down Through Generations"

For generations, Victoria's Candies has been a treasured part of Easter traditions in homes across the Hazleton area. Many children have woken up on Easter morning to find a Victoria's chocolate bunny in their baskets, bringing smiles and lasting memories. My grandmother especially looked forward to her favorite treat each year, a Victoria's coconut cream egg. These sweet treats aren't just candy; they're a cherished part of family traditions that add joy to every holiday.

I remember visiting Victoria's Candies in downtown Hazleton on the Saturday before Easter, eager to see all the chocolates and candies beautifully displayed in the glass cases and on the shelves. I couldn't wait to discover what the Easter Bunny would leave in my basket. As a child, I didn't realize my grandmother had a little tradition of her own. She would send me to one side of the store while she carefully selected those special Easter treats and checked out before I could see. Of course, she always let me pick a small treat for myself before we left, making those visits even more special.

I recently came across the history of Victoria's Candies on their website and wanted to share it. Victoria's Candies has been an important part of Hazleton's story since 1934. It all began when George Esposito returned home to Hazleton, Pennsylvania, after perfecting his chocolate-making skills in New York and Philadelphia. Using just one stove and a copper kettle, George crafted delicious chocolates for friends and colleagues. His confections quickly became a local favorite, prompting him to open a small shop named "Victoria's Homemade Candies," in honor of his wife.

As demand grew, George moved the business to a larger location at 51 N. Laurel Street in 1944, where the store remains today. His five brothers and two sisters joined the company, helping to preserve the family tradition. After George's sudden passing in 1956, his brothers took over, ensuring that his dedication to quality and craftsmanship continued.

In 1969, George's nephew, Paul Esposito, joined the family business. A decade later, in 1979, Paul purchased the company from his father and uncles, continuing the legacy of producing fine chocolates using the same original recipes and techniques. Today, Victoria's Candies is known across Northeastern Pennsylvania, especially for its signature buttercreams made with real butter and cream.

Paul Esposito's unwavering commitment to quality is reflected in the company's enduring motto:

"Giving quality without compromise since 1934."

Over the years, the Esposito family has earned a strong reputation in the confectionery industry for maintaining the highest standards in chocolate making and customer service. Today, this legacy is proudly carried on by Paul Esposito Jr. and his family, ensuring that the same time-honored recipes continue to delight customers after more than 80 years.



Pennsylvania Theatre of Performing Arts Center 212 West Broad Street Hazleton, PA 18201 Games Begin 2PM ~ Doors Open 1:00 PM Prizes ~ Gift Cards ~ 20 Regular Games 4 Specials Tickets ~ \$25 Advance ~ \$30 @ the door Door Prizes ~ Tricky Trays ~ 50/50 ~ Refreshments



Proceeds Benefit United Way of Greater Hazleton, Inc Annual Campaign



The United Way of Greater Hazleton will host a Bingo Bonanza on Sunday, April 27, 2025 at the Pennsylvania Theatre of Performing Arts, 212 West Broad Street, Hazleton.

The games are scheduled to begin at 2:00 p.m. and the doors will be open at 1:00 p.m. - please join us for some bingo fun.

Prizes will be gift cards from a variety of businesses and other resources and there will be 20 regular games and four specials.

Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$25.00 or \$30.00 at the door on the day of event. Advance tickets can be purchased online using the QR Code on our social media, by direct link https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bingobonanza-tickets-

1269659568949?aff=oddtdtcreator or through our website, www.unitedwayhazleton.org

We strongly encourage you, your business or workplace, to consider the following sponsorship opportunities:

BINGO Bonanza Event Sponsor

- \$1,000 - Full page ad in Program Booklet, four tickets-reserved seating and 2 reserved parking space.

Platinum Sponsor - \$500.00 – Half page ad in Program Booklet, two tickets-reserved seating and 1 reserved parking space.

Gold Sponsor – \$250 – Quarter page ad in Program Booklet and 1 ticket – reserved seating.

Silver Sponsor - \$100 - Eighth page ad in Program Booklet

If you have questions about sponsorship, please contact Sheryl at 570-455-9515 x. 205.

Proceeds from this event will benefit the United Way of Greater Hazleton, Inc. Annual Campaign.

Your United Way still needs you, more than ever! If you have donated in the past, please do so again and if possible, add a bit more to it. If you have never given before, now is the time to start. And, please think about this--if you have benefited in the past with United Way help and things are better now, please consider a donation you can easily afford.



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

Use Your State Tax Return to Support PA's Military Members

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

Pennsylvanians filing their 2024 state income taxes can support military personnel, veterans and their families by donating to the Military Family Relief Assistance Program (MFRAP) and/or Veterans' Trust Fund (VTF). Both programs, administered by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA), provide crucial resources to those in need.

To donate, refer to the 2024 PA Personal Income Tax Return Instructions (PA-40 IN).

The MFRAP offers financial help to service members and their families facing unexpected financial hardship due to circumstances beyond their control. Since 2006, over \$2.23 million has been donated, with more than \$1.05 million granted to support those in need.

The VTF funds grants for charitable organizations assisting veterans and their families, awarding \$8.17 million since 2013.

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



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! "









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





The Railroad in Art and Image at the Hazleton Art League

This April, the Hazleton Art League presents Muscle, Iron, and Steam: The Railroad in Art and Image, an exhibition celebrating the power and nostalgia of the railroad. The show opens Friday, April 4, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., featuring a special art activity for children.

The exhibit highlights striking railroad photography by Oren Helbok, alongside paintings by the late James Moran and other artists. Helbok, a longtime railroad enthusiast and key figure in the regional arts scene, captures the grandeur of steam locomotives through his lens. Moran's paintings offer a nostalgic glimpse of Hazleton's industrial past, reflecting life in the region's coal mining towns.

An artist talk with Helbok will be held on Saturday, April 12, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. instead of taking place the Sunday after the opening, as is customary.

The Hazleton Art League also offers spring classes in painting, drawing, and even a parent-child cooking course. Summer Art Camp for children ages 6-14 is now open for registration.

Muscle, Iron, and Steam runs April 4–27 at the Hayden Family Center for the Arts, 31 W. Broad St., Hazleton. For more information, call 570-455-3333 or visit

www.hazletonartleague.org.







State Representative Dane Watro's office was happy to join other local organizations for a recent food distribution to the 400 families served by the Hazleton Integration Project (HIP Community Center).



OF SAL MEROLA BENEFIT PARDEESVILLE PLAYGROUND SATURDAY MARCH 29th 11:00 - 4:00 RAIN OR SHINE



Tricky Tray Baskets donated to Friends of Sal Merola Benefit held at Pardeesville playground.



The colorful Easter Egg Tree at Kadima at Luzerne Skilled Nursing Home in Drums.



The 5 year anniversary of "The Two of Us" Live Saturday Night Crew Live Stream was held recently at the The Otherside in Freeland.



EASTER EVENTS AROUND THE AREA

APRIL 6TH 1 TIL 3PM MEET THE EASTER BUNNY HAZLE TOWNSHIP COMMONS BUILDING HOSTED BY HAZLETON UNICO

> APRIL 12TH 11AM FREELAND EASTER EGG HUNT FREELAND PARK PAVILLION

APRIL 12TH 11AM EASTER EGG HUNT MARIAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL OPEN TO ALL PARTNER SCHOOL STUDENTS APRIL 12™ 1PM WHITE HAVEN ANNUAL EGG HUNT LEHIGH PARK

APRIL 12TH AT 12 NOON EASTER EGG HUNT HAZLE TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY PARK

> APRIL 13TH 1 TIL 3PM Easter Bunny Trail CITY VIEW PARK HAZLETON

APRIL 13TH 12 TIL 2PM EASTER EGG TRUNK OR TREAT VALLEY REGIONAL AUXILARY & COMMUNITY 14 WEST BUTLER DRIVE DRUMS

APRIL 13™ 2PM PECORA'S CREAMERY 99 PECORA ROAD DRUMS

APRIL 13TH 2PM FREELAND WHIPPETS EASTER EGG HUNT AT THE FOOTBALL FIELD 439 SCHWABE STREET FREELAND

FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION VISIT THE EVENTS PAGES ON FACEBOOK







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Sports Trivia Treats By Ron Marchetti

35th ANNIVERSARY YEAR February 22, 1980

From their invasion of Afghanistan, to their threats at military action against countries outside the communist bloc, the Soviet Union cast a long shadow over the world until 1980. Heading into the 1980 Winter Olympics at Lake Placid, the Soviet National hockey team held a similar aura. The Soviets had cruised in a dominating fashion while taking the 1979 World Championship and they defeated the NHL All-Stars in a challenge series, claiming the game with a 6–0 rout, dotting the Soviet roster with veterans in their primes.

On the other side of the coin was the USA hockey team. Herb Brooks was the man whose task was to coach the U.S. Team. Brooks had been the last player cut from the gold medal winning U.S. team at the 1960 Olympics and he became the head coach at the University of Minnesota, leading the Gophers to three NCAA titles. Brooks made the decision that his team would be the best conditioned team in the 1980 games. They would have to be even to compete with the best hockey team in the world. Only a few months leading up to Lake Placid, in a prep Olympic exhibition the U.S. team lost to the Soviets 10 - 3. So notions that team U.S.A. might win a gold medal at Lake Placid were dispelled.

Team USA goalie 'Jim Craig' kept his team in the game while the Soviet peppered him with shots on the goal. The score was 2 - 2 after the first period. The Soviet led 3 - 2 after the second period. Then team USA's young legs took over in the final period. They tied it 3 - 3 with 10 minutes to go. Then no longer after the Americans captain 'Mike Eurzione' found himself alone with the puck in the high slot and let loose with a 25 foot wrist shot that found the net! The crowd went wild celebrating USA's 4 - 3 lead but could they hold on? When the clock went all the way down to five seconds, veteran sportscaster Al Michaels made the now famous quote "Do you believe in miracles"? Yes!

After the game ended, an enormous celebration erupted on the ice, as the Soviet players watched with stunned expressions on their faces. Two days after that unbelievable upset, team USA defeated Finland to win the Gold medal that completed the miracle on ice, which many people feel is the single greatest accomplishment in American sports history.

Until Next Time, 'Stay Loose'.



Mezzel VB. Tequille: A Tale of Two Agaves

Tequila and Mezcal are similar but different. Like cousins, but not twins. The main differences between tequila and mezcal come down to the type of agave, where it is made, and how it is produced.

Agave- The Plant Behind the Panty

Tequila is made only from Blue Weber agave, while Mezcal is made from any of the 30+ agave species.

Cooking Methods-Oven vs The Pits

Tequila's agave hearts (piñas) are steamed in industrial ovens. Mezcal's agave hearts are roasted in underground pits, like they're being offered to a fire god.

Taste Test-Clean vs Campfine

Tequila is smooth, more herbal or citrusy. Mezcal? It's bold, smoky, earthy, often more complex and rustic. Both have flavors that almost whisper, "Let's go dancing... in the desert!"

The Worm Thing

Fun fact: Neither drink needs a worm, but Mezcal gets the blame thanks to clever marketing in the mid-20th century.

-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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LUZERNE COUNTY HEAD STARTING Pre- K Counts Offered at Crestwood School District

Luzerne County Head Start, Inc. offers Pre-K Counts, a state-funded preschool program, in partnership with the Crestwood School District. Services for 3-and 4-year-old children, which are free of charge, included education, health and family support, parent involvement, and opportunities for children with disabilities. Families must meet specific criteria, including age and income eligibility, to qualify. Parents/guardians are encouraged to apply early as selection for the 2025-2026 school year begins in the spring of 2025.

To apply, or for more information please call (570) 829-6231 or toll-free 1-800-551-5829 or visit our website at www.lcheadstart.org Home - Luzerne County Head Start www.lcheadstart.org.

You can also learn more about Luzerne County Head Start on Facebook and Instagram, search Luzerne County Head Start, Inc.



United Way of Greater Hazleton Flower Box Sale

The United Way of Greater Hazleton is eagerly offering a Drive-Thru Easter Flower Box Sale.

The event will take place April 11-18, 2025, Noon-5:30PM, at the Catholic Social Services Parking Lot, Church & Chapel Streets, Hazleton.

Various Easter plants will be available and sold by the box, 8 plants per box.

This is a \$60 value for \$30. Sale is

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by cash only.

Van HOEKELEN GREEN-HOUSES, INC. is teaming up with the United Way of Greater Hazleton Inc. and the proceeds will benefit the programs and services of the United Way.

Please support this sale and help us help our Greater Hazleton Area residents in need!



Arthur and Eileen Whitaker Memorial Trade Scholarship Application Now Available

Applications for The 2025 Arthur and Eileen Whitaker Memorial Trade Scholarship can now be found on the Hazleton Rotary Website at www.hazletonrotary.org, Hazleton Rotary Facebook Page, local Guidance Offices, and local financial aid offices. This scholarship was previously known as The Hazleton Rotary Technical Scholarship but was re-named following a generous donation from Rotarian Alan Whitaker in memory of his late parents.

This scholarship is a one-time award of \$2,000, which was established in 2023 to further area students' formal training and education in a bona fide trade school or similar training/educational program, including but not limited to, plumbing, welding, electrical, HVAC, masonry, truck and automotive maintenance. automotive repair, CDL licensure, beauty school, barber school, massage therapy, and licensed practical nurse programs, but excluding education and training for which a baccalaureate or higher degree may be awarded.

The following criteria will be used in the screening of applications for this scholarship.

- Candidates must reside in the boundaries of the Hazleton Area School District.
- Candidates must be under the age of 30 years old.

 Applications will be judged specifically on the following criteria: Academic Information, Essay, Employment-Activities & Service, and Financial Need.

Dependents of members of Hazleton Rotary are Not eligible. "Many people in the Greater

Hazleton Area are still seeking quality jobs, yet employers often struggle to find candidates with the technical skills they need." said Kim McNulty. Chair of the Scholarship Committee. "Programs like these offer education with a clear purpose. They provide hands-on learning and are taught by instructors who are skilled, experienced, and well-connected in their fields. Unfortunately, some local students overlook technical education, missing out on valuable career opportunities. We hope this scholarship will encourage more learners to consider technical careers."

"It's encouraging to know that there are plenty of career opportunities in the Greater Hazleton Area for individuals who pursue these fields of study after completing their education." stated Rotary President Alan Whitaker, "As a result, students can seize valuable opportunities, and employers can benefit from a strong pool of technically skilled workers. My parents would be very happy to see that this scholarship is playing an important role in helping to address that issue."

Completed applications are due no later than Wednesday, April 23, 2025.

Please contact Kim McNulty at kmcnulty@mmiprep.org or 570-636-1108 x138 with any questions. Completed applications should be emailed to

kmcnulty@mmiprep.org or mailed to: 2025 Arthur and Eileen Whitaker Memorial Trade Scholarship c/o Kim McNulty MMI Preparatory School 154 Centre Street Freeland, PA 18224



2025 Hazleton Rotary Memorial Scholarships

Applications for three 2025 Hazleton Rotary Memorial Scholarships are now available for seniors graduating this spring/summer. Applications can be found at the Hazleton Rotary Website at www.hazletonrotary.org, Hazleton Rotary Facebook Page, and the Guidance Offices of all applicable schools.

"We are proud to announce that there are three Hazleton Rotary Scholarships available for 2025. The first award will be \$4,000.00 annually for four years for a total scholarship of \$16,000. The second award will be \$3,000 annually (\$12,000 scholarship total) while the third award will be \$1,500 annually (\$6,000 scholarship total)." reports Scholarship Committee Chair Kim McNulty.

Eligible applicants must reside within the geographic boundaries of the Hazleton Area School District (please note this is an update for 2025-applicants must live in the area, not attend a school in the area), must be in good academic standing and must achieve a grade point average of 2.75 or equivalent average each semester in their post-secondary studies in order to renew the scholarship.

An additional eligibility requirement is that the recipient must attend at least one meeting of Hazleton Rotary each year to give a report and update to Rotarians.

Dependents of members of Hazleton Rotary are not eligible.

The selection of the three scholarship recipients shall be based on the following criteria:

- · Academic Performance
- · Employment, Activities, and Civic

Involvement

 An essay explaining how volunteering makes a difference in our world

"We are delighted that for the tenth consecutive year we will, once again, be able to provide scholarships to three deserving area students." explains Rotary President Alan Whitaker. "Hazleton Rotary always looks forward to helping members of the Greater Hazleton community, especially our young people and their families. Club members work hard to raise the money for our various service projects, such as these annual scholarship opportunities. Our first scholarship, for \$1,000 was awarded in 1989, and as you can see, we have been able to dramatically increase the number of scholarships and their value thanks to the efforts of our Hazleton Rotarians and area donors."

Each applicant shall be required to submit the application which includes an essay, official transcript, and one letter of recommendation from a teacher, administrator, guidance counselor or a responsible community person who knows the applicant. This application packet is due no later than Wednesday, April 23, 2025. Please contact Kim McNulty at kmcnulty@mmiprep.org or 570-636-1108x138 with any questions. Completed applications should be emailed to kmcnulty@mmiprep.org or mailed to:

2025 Hazleton Rotary Memorial Scholarships c/o Kim McNulty MMI Preparatory School 154 Centre Street Freeland, PA 18224

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 3story 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 staring 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

April 4-27 MUSCLE, IRON AND STEAM EXHIBIT at Hayden Family Center for the Arts 31 W. Broad Street, Hazleton

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 4 • 8 a.m. - 12 noon HERITAGE HILL SENIOR HEALTH FAIR at The Laurel Mall Free health screenings available.

April 25, 26, 27 GREATER HAZLETON CLEAN-UP Local boroughs, municipalities, townships and city

April 26 • 9 a.m. PENN STATE EXTENTION SPRING INTO GARDENING at Penn State Wilkes-Barre Bell Technology Center

April 27 • 1 p.m. United Way Bingo Bonanza at PTPA Center 212 West Broad Street, Hazleton 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 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 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.



to all Area Basketball Teams on a winning season!

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Freeland Community Choir Easter Concerts



The Freeland Community Choir will be presenting the Easter Musical "From Silence to Song" on Sunday April 13 at St. John's Reformed UCC, 829 Washington St. Freeland and on Sunday April 27 at Faith UCC, 21 Faith Drive, Hazle Twp. Both performances are at 3 PM.

The Freeland Community Choir is a 35 member choir from the communities of Freeland, Hazleton, Drums and Weatherly Pa. The choir is directed by Mrs. Sheila Butkiewicz and accompanied by Mrs. Janet Hartman. Narrating the musical will be Bobby Maso and Melanie Skuba. In addition the musical, the choir will be performing the anthems "O Love" and "Amen, Amen". Nelson Berger will accompany the choir on Cello for the beautiful "O Love."

MMI Sophomore Shines at PMEA District 9 Band Festival

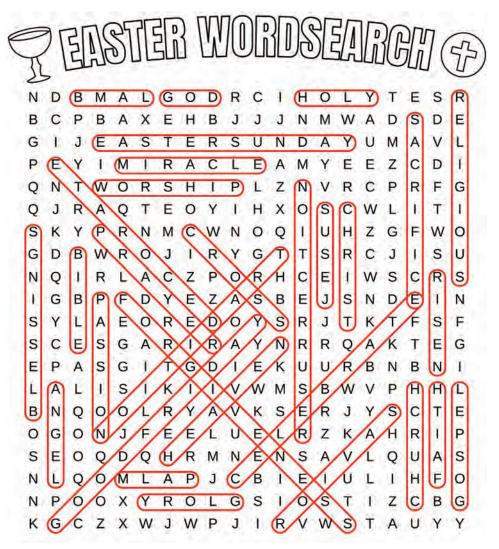


Sophomore Christina Chrin, daughter of Jeffrey and Dr. Tammy Chrin of Barnesville, represented MMI Preparatory School at the PMEA District 9 Band Festival at Mountain View High School from January 22-24. Tina completed a successful audition in November to secure her place in the 160-member ensemble, 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.

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 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."





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