

## Highlighting Neighborhood News & Events

Volume 2, Edition 5, May 2025



# Celebrate Their 120th Anniversary



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BARNESVILLE **BEAVER BROOK** BEAVER MEADOWS BERWICK BLACK CREEK BRANDONVILLE COAL DALE CONYNGHAM DELANO DORRANCE DRIFTON DRUMS EAST UNION TOWNSHIP FREELAND HARI FIGH HAZLE TOWNSHIP HAZLETON HOMETOWN JEANESVILLE JUNEDALE **KELAYRES KIDDER TOWNSHIP KLINE TOWNSHIP** LAKE HARMONY LANSFORD LATTIMER MAHANOY CITY MCADOO MOUNTAIN TOP NESCOPECK NESQUEHONING NUREMBERG ONEIDA PARDEESVILLE QUAKAKE RINGTOWN SHENANDOAH SHEPPTON SUGARLOAF SUMMIT HILL TAMAQUA TOMHICKEN TRESCKOW WAPWALLOPEN WFATHERI Y WEST HAZLETON WESTON WHITE HAVEN **ZION GROVE** 



**Pennsylvania State Police** 

May 2nd, 2025 marks the 120th year anniversary of the Pennsylvania State Police. Troops all over the Commonwealth honored Troopers, both past and present and especially the 105 members who were killed in the line of duty. The Pennsylvania State Police was the first, uniformed State Police Agency in the United States, and our goal is to serve the citizens of the Commonwealth in the most professional and courteous manner possible.



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

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#### THE ANTHRACITE POST PAGE 2

The Anthracite Post

## Highlighting Neighborhood News & Events

## Letter from the Editors

Hello All! We sure got a wet start to the month of May. I personally don't mind. I love hearing the rain come down. It's so relaxing. The only bad part is that the grass needs to be mowed already.

Now that the warmer weather is here there are more events happening. Check out Spooky Lou's Kitty Rescue's 3rd Annual Mother's Day Fundraiser at Hazleton American Legion Post 76, 305 East Diamond Avenue. Spooky Lou's is a 501c3 nonprofit in Freeland that works very hard saving and re-homing many cats/kittens. Check out their facebook page if you're in the market for a new fur baby or would like to make a donation or even foster some kittens.

Concerts at the Freeland Park Pavilion are back in full swing. See the schedule on page 4. The Swingmasters are playing on the 23rd and Frank Balon will be playing the Trumpet on the 30th.

Be sure to remember our veterans on Memorial Day, May 26th.

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.

## May 2025

#### **BIZARRE & UNIQUE HOLIDAYS**

- 1 May Day
- 2 Brothers and Sisters Day International Tuba Day
- 3 Garden Meditation Day Kentucky Derby Day
- 4 Bird Day Star Wars Day
- 5 Cinco de Mayo National Hoagie Day
- 6 Beverage Day National Nurses Day
- 7 Bike to School Day
- 8 No Socks Day V-E Day
  - 9 Military Spouses Day
  - 10 Birth Mother's Day National Train Day
  - 11 Eat What You Want Day Mother's Day
  - 12 Fatigue Syndrome Day Limerick Day
  - 13 Frog Jumping Day National Apple Pie Day
  - 14 Dance Like a Chicken Day National Buttermilk Biscuit Day
  - 15 National Chocolate Chip Day Police Officer's Memorial Day
  - 16 Love a Tree Day National Mimosa Day
  - 17 Armed Forces Day National Walnut Day
  - 18 International Museum Day World Baking Day
  - 19 World Plant a Vegetable Garden Day
  - 20 Amelia Earhart Day Pick Strawberries Day
- 21 Buy a Musical Instrument Day
- 23 Lucky Penny Day World Turtle Day
- 24 International Tiara Day
- 25 Brown Bag It Day Missing Children's Day
- 26 Memorial Day
- 27 Sun Screen Day
- 28 National Hamburger Day World Otter Day
- 29 Learn About Composting Day
- 30 Flip Flop Day International Jazz Day Water a Flower Day
- 31 National Macaroon Day World No Tobacco Day

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## MMI Board Chairman DiLiberto Honored With National ABA Muskie Award



(Washington, D.C. – April 8, 2025) – Richard A. DiLiberto, Jr., 79' Chair of MMI Preparatory School's Board of Directors, has been selected to receive the American Bar Association Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section's ("TIPS") Edmund S. Muskie Pro Bono Service Award. This award recognizes an

ABA member who exhibits the qualities attributed to the late Senator Muskie, who was secretary of state under President Jimmy Carter, and later a distinguished leader of TIPS, and his dedication to justice for all citizens, and public service.

The award will be presented on May 9, during the TIPS 10th Annual Section Conference in Washington, D.C. The annual conference brings together plaintiffs', defense, corporate and in-house counsel to discuss issues confronting the legal profession and advance the civil justice system. U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor will address the delegation.

Mr. DiLiberto 79' is a litigation partner in the Wilmington, Delaware law firm of Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP where he has been cochairman of the government relations committee, chairman of the paralegal committee, the personal injury litigation section, and the continuing legal education committee. Before joining the law firm in 1987, he was law clerk to Judge Vincent Bifferato of the Del. Superior Court. He regularly represents families whose loved ones have been injured or killed by another's negligence. Much of his work has been on behalf of abused children.

DiLiberto 79' served in the Del. State House of Representatives from 1992-2002, where he was a member of the Joint Finance, Judiciary, Public Safety, Corrections, Education, Health & Human Development, Substance Abuse and House Rules Committees. He was appointed to the Commission on Del. Courts 2000, the Del. Courts Planning Committee, the Supreme Court Task Force on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts, and the Del. Healthcare Commission's Diabetes Task Force.

DiLiberto is chairman of the Delaware Commission on Italian Heritage and Culture, and a trustee of UNICO Foundation, a charitable arm of the nation's largest Italian-American service organization, which provides grants for cancer research and prevention, food banks, homeless shelters, mental health, Cooley's anemia treatment, and university Italian studies. In 2023, UNICO awarded him its national Philip Mazzei Americanism Award, named for the Italian patriot who befriended Thomas Jefferson and first proposed the great phrase "All men are created equal" anchored in the Declaration of Independence in 1776. He received the Del. State Bar Association's Daniel L. Herrmann Professional Conduct Award in 2015, Christopher Columbus Monument Committee's "Man of the Year" Award in 2017; DSBA's Distinguished Legislative Service Award, and Widener University School of Law's Outstanding Alumni Service Award in 1999, the Bloomsburg University Young Alumnus of the Year Award in 2002, and the H. James Conaway, Jr. Pro Bono Award in 2010. (continued on next page)



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### National ABA Muskie Award (cont'd)

DiLiberto 79' is a past president of the Delaware Trial Lawyers Assn. He is also an adjunct faculty member for Delaware Law School's Intensive Trial Advocacy Program. DiLiberto 79', a Hazleton, PA native, and MMI Preparatory School alumnus, earned his J.D. (cum laude) from Delaware Law School, Widener University, where he served on the law review and was editor-inchief of the Del. Law Forum; and his B.S. in Education (cum laude) from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. Rick, and his wife, the former Faith Petrovich, reside in Newark, Del. They have three daughters, lawyers Amanda J. Buckworth, Esq., and Ashley B. DiLiberto, Esq.; and Aria M. DiLiberto, a teacher.

#### **About MMI Preparatory School:**

For 145 years, MMI Preparatory School has been providing dedicated area students with a comprehensive and inspiring sixth through twelfth-grade college preparatory program that maximizes each individual's academic, social, and character potential in preparation for success in college and beyond. The school is accredited by the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools (PAIS) and the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (M.S.A.-C.E.S.S.). MMI is a school where every student can reach their full potential: academically, ethically, and socially. For more information about MMI Preparatory School, visit www.mmiprep.org or call 570-636-1108.



### 2025 Friday Night Concert Schedule at The Freeland Public Park

May thru July 18 - 6:30 starts • July 25 thru August - 6 pm starts

	Frank Balon Trumpet Tony Merker Country Singer Freeland Brass Quartet Hazleton Philharmonic Orchestra Jack James Vocalist		
<i>•••••</i>	St Ann's Band	Hazleton Philharmonic	
-	North of 40	Big Band	
July 25	Danny Pope Folk	5	
Aug 1	Liberty Band		
Aug 8	Dave Matsinko Vocalist Americana		
Aug 15	Richard and Maria Lutz Vocal Duo		
Aug 22	Big Band Dance featuring Hazleton Philharmonic Big Band		
Aug 29	Jack James Vocalist		

#### The Edgar L. Dessen Junior Leadership Hazleton Program Graduates 2024-2025! Congratulations to a Great Group of Teens!



The 35th annual Junior Leadership Hazleton graduation was held on Sunday, April 6th at Capriotti's Catering in McAdoo, PA.

Joe Clark offered the welcome and a prayer. Mike Dougherty, Program Director provided program acknowledgements and thanks and Dr. Barbara Conway, Ted Sherrock and Jane Dougherty presented graduates with their diplomas. Jane offered a review of the year's activities and closing remarks and Pat Korb handled event publicity.

"It is really meaningful to me to review the activities that the graduates experienced over the past nine months." commented Mike Dougherty. "I really do enjoy seeing their reactions to people, places and things which are often new to them. I am a Hazleton native, but from a different generation and it's an eye-opening experience to see if their reactions to things are the same as mine would have been as a teenager."

He continues, "We really do appreciate all those area professionals who took the time to assist as presenters at the monthly sessions. It's a great opportunity for the class to actually meet the community leaders they hear about but may have little opportunity to connect with in person."

"Part of the goal for JLH has always been to introduce students to area facilities and programs that they have probably not seen or been aware of" he adds. "We want to thank those facility directors for opening their doors and helping us introduce Greater Hazleton to the JLH participants."

The following volunteers who helped keep the program in operation were also recognized: Ted Sherrock, Joe Clark-Past JLH Executive Director, Jane Dougherty-Leadership Hazleton Board Chair, Dr. Barbara Conway and Pat Korb-past JLH Executive Director.

Program Graduates are: Hazleton Area Academy of Science-Benjamin Assad, Hiboni Balbuena Marte, Mia Galbiati, Eliesel Lazala Gomez, Elainel Morel, Thomas Nowak, & Ariamdalys Ramos Alvarez; Hazleton Area Arts and Humanities Academy-Julia Papp; Hazleton Area Career Center- Camila Collado, Roosivelt Fernandez & Brenda Lopez; Hazleton Area High School-Yosmairi Arias, Shaniece Brown, Troy Gaydos Anahay Martes de Luna, Ryleigh Snyder, Noemi Taveras Garcia, Kimberly Tejada, & Natalie Verbonitz; Marian Catholic High School-Alena Lombardo, Darren Paulino Isabel Rista, Margaret Zeiler & Octavia Zito; MMI Preparatory School-Alexis Bleiler; Weatherly Area High School-Grace Portell, Kelly Reiner &, Abigail Weston.

Earl Berger, Vice President CAN DO Community Foundation presented The Edgar L. Dessen Service Awards to: Roosivelt Fernandez, Eliesel Lazala Gomez, Alena Lombardo, Alexis Bleiler, Shaniece Brown, Anahay Martes de Luna, Julia Papp, and Kelly Reiner.

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



XLNATUREWALKSGP RΜ URO X Y P H O T O G R A P H Y N I O R R E B G N I M M I W S H L M D I C A E MCS Н M L G J C Q A Y F Z N L S D N D T N C R С NNTADEXFLEJYIITS нот TINMPCISIOTERCRAFSG Т G G N U P Z A S F E P G L E F I E Y N F N N E H I V R D I S M C O K U P P I Q C Y D G N K N K C G W A C I N U H T F G H T R G G A O H L I H F G B R C Y K V N YAEKEOBEGZTKRTQLGOI S A G C Y R P A A T N D S A O O L I J X F BARIBSSNEXIWEYOTMEA CRRIMGDEINYDKOEADBGL T U C O N N B N N R M S I C I K T C E Т H N M M F I A A G I S E W A H R N I U R Е D F S G R G L B S K D V F J L I G N O ANXKFPGLPLANTINGGXLG JUGTSEPHGNIYLFET IKV Т U X F A R M E R S M A R K E T C Z R J I

#### WORD LIST

BASEBALL BIKE RIDING BIRD WATCHING CAMPING CLEANING EASTER EGG AND SPOON RACT EGG HUNT
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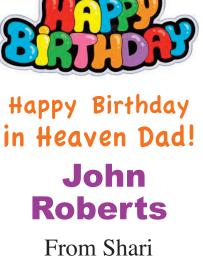
FARMERS MARKET FISHING FUN GARDENING GOLF HIKING KAYAKING KITE FLYING

RKET NATURE WALKS OUTDOOR GAMES PHOTOGRAPHY PICNIC PLANTING RELAXING ROAD TRIP

SIGHTSEEING SOCCER SPRING BREAK SWIMMING TENNIS TRACK AND FIELL VACATION

#### Good Luck!







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



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

Thank you to everyone who made our two roundtable discussions about the future of our local Penn State campuses in Schuylkill Haven and Hazleton and a success. The goal of these events was to provide as much information as possible to Penn State and demonstrate how strongly our communities feel about keeping these campuses open.

During our roundtable about the future of Penn State Schuylkill, Reps. Tim Twardzik, Jamie Barton, JoAnne Stehr, Dane Watro, and I struggled to understand how this campus ended up on the potential closure list. We heard data-driven arguments from students, educators, employers, and concerned citizens about why this campus should remain open. Among the highlights:

- Enrollment has increased by 11.7% in the past five years.
- Applications for the 2025 fall semester have increased by 37% to 946, putting the school on the path to 1,000 applicants for the first time EVER. 119 students have committed, a 28% increase from last year.
- 100% of students in the newly created nursing program are placed in jobs at local healthcare systems.
- 160 students work with 100 local employers thanks to the Penn State Schuylkill Co-Op.

More than 100 students, educators, employers, and concerned citizens filled the John E. Morgan Auditorium to share their strong opposition to closing this campus.

During our roundtable about the future of Penn State Hazleton, the discussion heavily focused on the Hazleton area's accelerating economic and demographic growth and how Penn State Hazleton is well-positioned to contribute to this economic resurgence.

Senator Lynda Culver, Rep. Dane Watro, Rep. Jamie Walsh and I heard from students, employers, educators, and Penn State Hazleton leadership about how this potential closure could hinder this growth. We again had more than 100 people join us at the Hazleton LaunchBox, sending a strong message to Penn State about the importance of this campus to the area.

As an alumnus (13 years of grad school at night!) and a former instructor at Penn State for decades, it tears my heart out that we are even having this discussion. I have voted for Penn State's annual state appropriation every year in the House and in the Senate. I cannot in good conscience continue to support their appropriation if Penn State's leadership closes our two local campuses.





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

### **Protecting Children from Abuse**

By State Rep. Jamie Walsh (R-Luzerne)

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to stand united for children nationwide, highlight issues impacting kids, and reaffirm our commitment to advocating for the most vulnerable in our communities. As a member of the House Children and Youth Committee, I remain dedicated to serving this constituency, whose voice is too often underrepresented.

While state laws have identified people, such as teachers, health care providers and clergy members, who are mandated to report suspected cases of abuse, we all have a role to play in protecting Pennsylvania's children.

Signs of potential physical, sexual or emotional abuse or neglect may include sudden changes in a child's behavior or school performance; being overly compliant, passive or withdrawn; always watchful, as though preparing for something bad to happen; and a reluctance to be around a particular person or to return home from school or activities. We should all be on the alert for any of these signs in the children we know and love.

If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, call PA ChildLine at 1-800-932-0313.



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The Hazleton Art League is proud to present "Michael Pyrdsa: Paintings Over the Years" at the Hayden Family Center for the Arts from May 2 through May 25. This solo exhibition highlights works from throughout Pyrdsa's career, including recent three-dimensional abstract paintings created during the pandemic. The gallery opening is Friday, May 2 from 5 to 8 p.m., with an artist's talk on Sunday, May 4 from 1 to 3 p.m. During the opening, attendees can also buy a chance to win a floral arrangement created by Hazleton Area Garden Club floral designer Barbara Grosso.

Additional May events include Acoustic Jam, featuring live music in the gallery on Sunday, May 25 from 1 to 3 p.m., and the 14th Annual Art Youth Expo (AYE 14), showcasing artists ages 13 to 30. AYE 14 opens Friday, May 30 from 5 to 8 p.m., followed by an Open Mic competition, and continues Saturday, May 31 with family activities from 3 to 8 p.m. downtown. The exhibition runs through June 22.

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, visit hazletonartleague.org or call 570-455-3333. The Hazleton Art League is located at the Hayden Family Center for the Arts, 31 W. Broad Street, Hazleton, PA 18201.





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



Just as Winter season leaves us, construction season steps right in. Driving through construction zones will be present most of the Summer & Fall, and it's always a hot topic. First, you must have your headlights on while traveling through construction zones, this helps to see and be seen. Also, be aware that at the beginning of every construction zone, the speed limit will be reduced from its original speed. Let's talk about merging - when approaching a construction zone that has a lane closure, PENNDOT recommends using the "zipper" method, meaning, utilize both lanes until the lane closure, then safely merging in. If we don't use this method, there will be a large backlog and create more congestion. Always use your turn signals and be courteous to let other drivers merge in. The safety of workers and fellow drivers is important while traveling, lets ensure safe travels for all!





741 Airport Rd. Hazleton,PA 18202 open 12 - 9 p.m. daily 570-459-2955



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



### Keeping the Pen Moving: Why Cursive Still Matters

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

It seems we talk about the state of education often, lamenting how standards have changed, test scores continue to decline, student achievement gaps keep growing and graduates are less prepared for the workforce and the wider world.

While I can't say my idea will fix all that, I believe it's more important than ever to require cursive handwriting to be taught in schools. Why?

First, let's talk about how cursive impacts the brain. Unlike typing or even printing, writing in cursive stimulates areas of the brain linked to memory, language and thinking. It's not just about forming letters — it's about enhancing how students process and retain information.

Cursive also supports fine motor development. The continuous flow of writing helps strengthen hand-eye coordination and dexterity, skills that benefit students beyond the classroom. And when it comes to memory, studies show that writing notes by hand, especially in cursive, improves learning and comprehension.

We can't overlook the cultural value. So many historical documents from the Declaration of Independence to your grandparents' letters — are written in cursive. Teaching this skill preserves our students' ability to read important historical sources and connect with our shared history, which is vital for an informed, engaged citizenry in the generations to come.

Cursive still plays a role in everyday life. Whether it's signing a check or a legal document, or even just adding a personal touch to a handwritten note, this skill remains relevant in both professional and personal settings.

My legislation, House Bill 17, is about more than nostalgia; it's about giving students another tool for learning, expression and success.

As we continue to integrate technology in the classroom, let's not lose sight of the benefits traditional skills like cursive can offer, since they better equip students for their future academic, professional and personal endeavors.

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





Walmart Employees in Hazle Township working outside to clean the area around the store on Earth Day 2025.



A great time was had by all at the Hazleton Owls Rod and Gun club kids fishing derby!

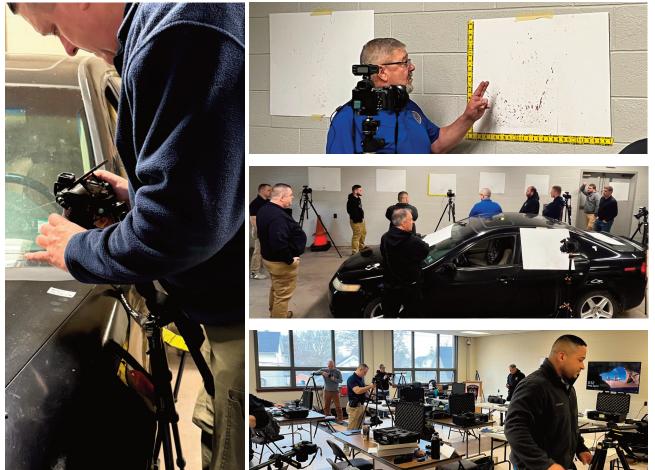


## Pennsyslvania Chiefs of Police Association Criminal Apprehension Technology (CAT) Training Program

The Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association (PCPA) has teamed up with the Courtdale Police Department to improve community safety. Several area police departments have been awarded a comprehensive digital camera kit valued at over \$5,000 to assist in crime scene processing and provided training in the equipment's use as part of The Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Criminal Apprehension Technology (CAT) Training program.

On April 9th, 10th and 11th, the Courtdale Police Department training center hosted an intensive three-day course teaching officers how to operate digital cameras for crime scene documentation. The subjects covered were fundamental and advanced topics, blood spatter documentation, Blue Star Ambient photography, laser track documentation, latent fingerprint imaging, and impression evidence collection. The program blends lectures with practical exercises for hands-on learning. **Officers from the following area departments** were trained:

Courtdale Police Department Freeland Police Department Hazleton Police Department Jessup Police Department Lehighton Police Department Muncy Police Department South Centre Township Police Department Wayne County District Attorney's Office West Hazleton Police Department



## **Criminal Apprehension Technology (CAT) Training**

The Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association (PCPA) has teamed up with 41 local police departments across the Commonwealth to improve community safety. With the support of a \$250,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, PCPA is leading the Criminal Apprehension Technology (CAT) Training program. As part of this initiative, 41 selected police departments have been awarded a comprehensive digital camera kit valued at over \$5,000 to assist in crime scene processing.

This grant also covers free training for two officers from each participating police department. The training consists of an intensive three-day course teaching officers how to operate digital cameras for crime scene documentation manually. At least seven training sessions will occur across the state, covering fundamental and advanced topics, including blood spatter documentation, Blue Star Ambient photography, laser track documentation, latent fingerprint imaging, and impression evidence collection. The program blends lectures with practical exercises for hands-on learning.

The CAT Training program is one of many initiatives led by the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association to foster a safer Pennsylvania.





## Sports Trivia Treats By Ron Marchetti

### The Forgotten Man



The Hazleton Area Sports Hall of Fame will induct its 20th class this coming September at Capriotti's Palazzo. One of the greatest all-time local athletes from Hazleton High School is still not a member of the elite group of 200+ Hazleton Area Sports Hall of Fame members. It is really nobody's fault that the name of Al Degatis fell through the cracks of time. Perhaps now is the time to correct that oversight. If he was still alive, he would be 100 years old, but he died about 30 years ago and long before the local sports Hall of Fame was born.

Al Degatis graduated from HHS in 1944 and

played on the same team as Carl "Red" Meinhold was on. The dynamic duo Meinhold (# 33 and Degatis # 31) were both all state players of the five that were selected in the state of Pennsylvania. In 1944 only five were picked for only one All State team. Now there is an All State 2nd and 3rd teams, so two of the five on one Allstate team is remarkable. The Mounts won back to back East Penn League and District 11 Championships in 1943 and 1944.

Red Meinhold was in the very first class of the Hazleton Area Sports Hall of Fame and he definitely should be. However, Al Delgatis, not being in after 19 years is a travesty. The reasons I feel this way are the facts don't lie. Meinhold is in the hall mainly for his high school career. Red scored a career total for HHS – 429 points (309 as a senior, 120 as a junior and zero as a sophomore). Degatis's total at HHS was 702 points (301 as a senior, 120 as a juniors and 86 as a sophmore) Degatis's scored 273 more points than Meinhold.

Adding two more positive to Degatis's résumé. He was the games high scorer in the 1944 State Championship game with 17 points when the Mountaineers lost to Duquesne 43 - 35. Meinhold did not play because he injured his leg the game before against lower Merion during the last minute of a 59 - 31 win when he should've been on the bench. Al Degatis was also the starting and outstanding quarterback of the 1942 and 1943 Hazleton football team. His name has to be added simply because he has 19 years overdue. It would be absurd not to end this travesty. Thanks for reading. Till next time, be a good sport and 'Stay Loose".

Road Stops

## Switzl, Stp, Surprisel How a \$10 Wine Might Be Outsmarting Your Taste Buds

You've probably seen those overly opinionated folks at wine tastings, the ones who live for the swirls, the sniffs, and the dramatic pauses. If you ask them about a budget friendly bottle, they'll scoff, insisting that wine must be expensive to be good.

Well... not according to some delightfully mischievous researchers. Time and time again, blind wine taste tests have crashed the wine snob party and the results are hilarious. Turns out, a cheap bottle often gets the last laugh.

When wine lovers are put to the test without labels or price tags, most can't reliably tell the difference between a \$10 grocery store special and a \$100 "estate-aged" vintage. In fact, some even prefer the boxed bargain stuff.

So, what does this mean for you? It means you can stroll into your next dinner party with a \$10 bottle and total confidence. If anyone does gives you the side eye, just say, "It won gold in a blind tasting." You most likely won't be lying, because somewhere, it probably did.

Drink what you like. Or at the very least, drink what doesn't bankrupt you.

-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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## **Hazleton Rotary RYLA Information**



Area young people selected for the RYLA class of 2024 joined together for a great time last June. If you are a current Sophomore, apply to become one of the members of the upcoming RYLA 2025 class that will be selected and sponsored by the Hazleton Rotary Club.

There is a wonderful summer leadership program that is returning in 2025, The Rotary Youth Leadership Award Conference (RYLA). This is the 13th year that Rotary District 7410 will host an impactful leadership program for our area youth This is a FREE program for students, who are sponsored by their local Rotary Club.

Sophomores from Hazleton Area School District, MMI Preparatory School, Marian Catholic High School, Immanuel Christian School and Weatherly Area High School are eligible for Hazleton Rotary Club sponsorship.

RYLA is held at Keystone College in LaPlume, PA. It is a 5-day, 4-night leadership program for high school sophomores who have shown leadership potential in their home, school, and community.

RYLA is a leadership training program for area young people, full of activities that engage students physically, mentally, and emotionally to strengthen their relationship skills, build their self-confidence and give them the tools to be leaders. It also provides an environment where participants may discuss and exchange their ideas with other tudents from NEPA.

RYLA Program Information- The program

consists of different components, including:

- TEAM PROJECTS: Each student will be a member of a team during the conference. Each team works on a project that is a hands-on experience with student planning, implementation and evaluation.

- SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES: Discussion groups are held to share and explore ideas which result from each day's programs.

- SOCIAL LIFE: There is time in the program for organized sports, dancing, and other activities to develop lasting friendships with other participants and staff.

Program dates and Location: RYLA will be held Sunday, June 15-Thursday, June 19, 2025 at Keystone College in La Plume, PA.

Cost: The only cost to attendees is transportation to/from the program.

Application Process: There is an application that will ask you to answer some short answer uestions. Applications are submitted online and due April 25, 2025. The link can be found at https://tinyurl.com/2025RYLAapp

On the application, all students should indicate The Hazleton Rotary Club as their sponsoring club.

The Hazleton Rotary Club will receive the applications, and they will select three area students to receive a full scholarship to attend RYLA.

The applicant must:

1. Be a current sophomore ready to enter his or her junior year in the fall.

2. Have shown leadership potential in home, school, and community.

3. Demonstrate qualities of a good student.

4. Submit a completed application.

5. Be selected and sponsored by the Hazleton Rotary Club (RYLA is 100% FREE to attendees-The only cost to attendees is transportation to/from the program.)

6. Be accepted by the District RYLA Committee Deadline to apply: April 25, 2025

If you are selected to attend, you will be emailed a medical form that must be signed by a doctor or school nurse and returned to the RYLA registrar. You will also then receive additional information regarding the conference.

Questions can be directed to Kim McNulty at Hazleton Rotary kmcnulty@mmiprep.org.

## Hazleton Rotary Honors Local Veterans







Over 80 local Veterans were honored and provided with a free meal, by Hazleton Rotary at a Veterans' Day luncheon held on Wednesday April 16, 2025 at Booty's Place, Hazleton. There were two seatings available at 12:00 and 1:30pm.

"It has been my privilege to plan and carry out this project, for a second time, that gives recognition to our local Veterans. It is so important that we remember these people who have done so much for all of us and give credit to them for their service," explains Kathie Oh, project chairwoman.

The Wilkes University Air Force ROTC Detachment 752, Arnold Air Society and Drill Team, contacted by Rotarian Jason Brenner, was also available to present the Colors and perform a POW/MIA ceremony prior to each seating.

A POW/MIA Table was placed in the dining area for a ceremony and memorial that is set up in military dining facilities of the United States Armed Forces and during official dining functions, in honor of fallen, missing, or imprisoned military service members. The table serves as the focal point of ceremonial remembrance, originally growing out of US concern of the Vietnam War POW/MIA issue.

The POW/MIA table may be a permanent display in dining facilities, and is also traditionally part of military dining-in ceremonies and service balls. The eremony may also be performed in conjunction with Veterans Day and Memorial Day services.

The elements are tradition, not prescribed. Individual displays may differ depending on the availability, practicality, and appropriateness of the various elements in a particular venue.

"It was indeed, a beautiful and touching event which the Veterans seemed to enjoy." declared President Alan Whitaker. "I am delighted that Hazleton Rotary was able to sponsor an event honoring our hometown heroes."

For information on future Hazleton Rotary activities, please scan the local newspaper, the Hazleton Rotary Website-www.hazletonrotary.org and/or the Hazleton Rotary Facebook Page.

### A Veterans Journal #99

By Joseph Barna • Freeland USMC, Korea 1952-1953



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

**Continued from April Edition** 

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 Martin's Square. Close by was Capice's store. Who remembers smelling the roasted peanuts? You couldn't go by there without buying a bag. There was another small store here also: Maybe a

Tailor? Next was Marchetti's Furniture Store and next door to them was Bonomo's Hardware. Then came the Eagles Club and next door was Carcia's Bar. Eventually, my brother Eddie would buy Carcia's and open Eddie's Bar. A few years later, he would buy the Eagles Building and expand his business into there. A few doors below was the original VFW building. The original Robert McNulty Funeral Home is also here.

Crossing back over Centre St. and starting up at the South St. Corner, we first pass Rocky Amentler's Bar. This is the current site of Sorrento's Pizzeria. Next door was Dr. Joseph Della Croce. Nearby was Tommy Bzdil's BBQ Restaurant. Also in this area was Jerry the Shoemaker. Schabbe's Woodworking was there also. And who can forget the food at Sophie's and Dot's Restaurants side-by-side. Close by was the Jurica Funeral Home. You can still see the stately looking columns the mark the front of this building today. Andy Rokopovich would hold court in his popular Barber Shop around here too. Below this. I remember Joe Crow's Bar. Below Luzerne St. I remember Jake Mattis's Bar with the dumb-waiter sending down turkey dinners from the upstairs kitchen. Who remembers the \$1.50 turkey platters on a Saturday night. These platters would come stacked high with steaming turkey, filling, mashed potatoes and gravy. Absolutely the best... To be continued next time.



## **Upcoming Community Events**

#### May 3 • pick-up between 1:00 -5:00 p.m. DRIVE-THRU TAKE-OUT SPRING SAUSAGE & PANCAKE SUPPER

#### at St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

**772 St. Johns Road, Saint Johns (Drums)** The dinner will feature our own special country sausage, pancakes, baked potato, green beans,applesauce, homemade coleslaw, and a cupcake for dessert! Yumm-yumm! Blessed with love and only \$13.00! Call for tickets: Jim 570-582-7193 or Don 570-788-3938 Church Office 570-788-2689 (9:00am - 1:00 pm)

#### 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 guestions! 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.

May 10 • 12 noon - 4:00 p.m. SPOOKY LOU'S KITTY RESCUE 3RD ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY FUNDRAISER at American Legion Post 76 305 E. Diamond Ave. (Rear),Hazleton

Tricky trays, bingo tickets,, 50/50 raffle, 500 dollar lottery board, live entertainment, face painting, children's stand, 7 amazing vendors, bake sale table and a phenomenal list of delicious homemade food options.

#### May 10th

## SHEPPTON/ONEIDA FOOD TRUCK AND CRAFT FESTIVAL

## at the Sheppton-Oneida Volunteer Fire Company, East Union Township.

Craft Vendors sought; spacs \$10 plus basket raffle donation. For information call 570-384-4746 or send a message to their facebook page.

#### May 12th • 1 p.m.

DRUMS GARDEN CLUB MEETING at Good Shepherd Church Basement in Drums New Members Welcome.

#### May 16th • 2pm til sold out ANNUAL SPRING FLOWER SALE FREELAND YWCA DRIVE THRU SALE on Sabol Street (alley next to the YMCA) Flowers \$8 or three for \$21; provided by Van Hoekelen Greenhouses Inc.

May 17th • 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. SPRING RUMMAGE SALE Good Shepherd Church in Drums

#### May 17th • 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. CONYNGHAM COMMUNITY YARD SALE All residents are invited to participate and set up tables at their home to sell items.

#### May 17th • 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. CHICKEN DRIVE THRU BARBECUE at Conyngham United Methodist Church 411 Main Street

Half Barbecue Chicken made with special sauce, baked potato, homemade coleslaw dinner roll and homemade cookies. cost \$12. For tickets, call 570-788-3960.

#### May 17 • 9 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. INDOOR/OUTDOOR COMMUNITY YARD SALE at St. Michael's Recreation Center 300 Fern Street. Freeland

Numerous vendors with new and old items and crafters will be selling their goods. A bake sale will be featured, along with tricky-tray chances and much more. Homemade foods will be available for eat-In or take-out. If new vendors are interested, please call 570-954-8795 for information.

This is a rain or shine event. No "early birds" will be accepted.

#### May 23 • 6:30 p.m. SWINGMASTERS CONCERT at the Freeland Public Park Pavilion

#### May 24 - 26 FREELAND AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND PUB RUN & CELEBRATION at Freeland Public Park Car show, pub run, cornhole tournament, food vendors

craft vendors, trickytrays, beer tent, live music

#### May 29 • 6:30 p.m.

SUMMER OUTDOOR CONCERT SERIES JEFF KRICK, SR. AS ELVIS at Heritage Hill Senior Community 800 6th Street, Weatherly, PA 18255

May 30 • 6:30 p.m. FRANK BALON TRUMPET CONCERT at the Freeland Public Park Pavilion

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.

Immaculate Conception Church Rummage Sale in the basement. Collecting 9-12 daily.



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

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## Happy 106th Birthday!



Katalin Czukrasz, residing currently at Providence Place in Drums, recently celebrated her 106th birthday. State Representatives Dane Watro and Jamie Walsh were also in attendance. Katalin was born on April 30, 1919, in Hungary.



#### **Paws and Purpose in Pardeesville**

What started as a simple effort to help a few stray cats has grown into a beloved local rescue known as Purrdeesville Paws Kitty Rescue. This volunteer-run initiative is dedicated to Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) services for the area's feral cats, while also rescuing, fostering, and rehoming kittens in need.

Purrdeesville Paws runs entirely through its Facebook page, where neighbors can scroll through photos of wide-eyed kittens and whiskered companions ready for adoption.

The rescue is fueled by love—and donations. Whether it's a bag of food, a warm blanket, or a few dollars sent via Venmo, every bit counts. Funds help cover vet bills, supplies, and the care needed to give each kitten a healthy start.

It's more than just a rescue. It's a reminder of what a tight-knit community can do when hearts and paws come together.

To see adoptable kittens or support their work, visit *Purrdees-ville Paws* on Facebook.



## Free Car Seat Check Event

In celebration of EMS WEEK 2025 and National **EMS for Children Day** we are hosting a free car seat check event. Bring in your vehicles and car seats to have a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician check your installation, help with a new installation, and receive valuable safety information to protect children. Come in to visit our station and meet our local EMS providers!

## Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital



#### WHERE

Lehigh Valley Health Network EMS 119 East Holly Street Hazleton

#### WHEN

Thursday May 22, 2025

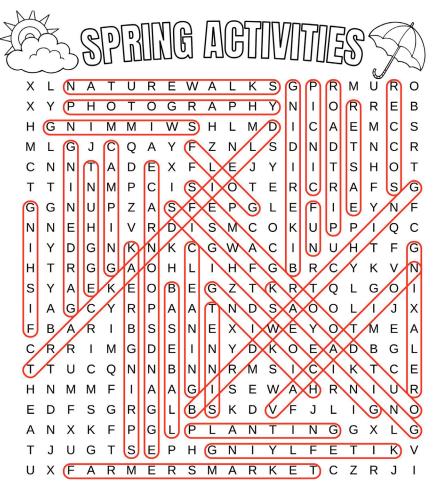
TIME

10 AM-12 NOON

CONTACT

Michael 570-501-7782 Dennis 570-501-7793







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