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Highlighting Neighborhood News & Events

Volume 3, Edition 3, March 2026



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## Collaborative Autism Movement Seeks Community Support for Emergency Response Toolkits



The Collaborative Autism Movement, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Hazleton, is asking for community support to continue its Emergency Response Toolkit initiative serving the Greater Hazleton area.

CAM's mission is to collaborate with community partners to promote inclusion and understanding of individuals with Autism while providing meaningful resources that support their needs locally. The organization's vision is to change the conversation and perspective surrounding individuals with Autism so they feel respected, understood, and embraced within their community.

Recently, CAM created and donated

more than 100 Emergency Response Toolkits to first responders throughout Greater Hazleton and surrounding communities. These toolkits provide essential resources designed to help first responders safely support children and adults with Autism during times of crisis. The sensory bags are intended to assist when interacting with autistic, non verbal, and neurodivergent community members.

Each toolkit includes noise canceling headphones, weighted blankets, sunglasses, visual timers, fidget tools, non verbal communication boards, and a quick reference guide for first responders. These tools are thoughtfully designed to help

create calmer, safer, and more effective interactions during emergency situations.

The sensory bag initiative was funded through an Amazon ChangeX grant, enabling CAM to produce and distribute more than 100 bags to over 20 first responder agencies in the region. Each bag costs approximately 100 dollars to assemble.

"The grant funding has now been fully exhausted, and we only have a few bags remaining," said Krista DeAngelo, Founder of CAM. "It is clear the need is greater than we initially anticipated. As a nonprofit organization, we rely on donations, fundraising efforts, and grant funding to continue making an impact. We are asking individuals, businesses, and foundations to consider supporting this effort so we can continue providing these important resources."

To support the Emergency Response Toolkit initiative, donations can be made by visiting [www.collaborativeautismmovement.com](http://www.collaborativeautismmovement.com) and clicking Donate Now.

First responders interested in requesting sensory bags are encouraged to complete the official request form available on the website. Requests will be fulfilled in the order they are received.

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# The Anthracite Post

*Highlighting Neighborhood News & Events*

## Letter from the Editors

Hello everyone! It looks like Spring is finally on its way. It's been one cold, windy winter. Yesterday was 50° and it sure felt nice. I even cracked open a window at home to get some fresh air in the house. Today is quite the opposite. It is sunny, but windy and colder. Tonight is suppose to be in cold again. But, I did hear mention of hitting 60° this weekend.

Things are looking up with Spring on the way. There are flowers popping up in the yard outside at work and as I was driving across the Valley last weekend, I noticed that the grass is starting to turn that nice shade of Spring green.

Have you tried to go to the car wash lately? I was finally able to get my car washed by going there at 7:15 in the morning. There was no one there. It was like mud rinsing off my white car. The local car washes have been real busy with the temperature finally warming up.

As always, if you have any ideas, stories, recipes, photos, etc., that you would like to submit for *The Anthracite Post*, send us an email, text or give us a call.

*Lee Ann & Shari*

WRITTEN BY SHARI

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

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June 12	The Legends ( <i>playing Rock Oldies</i> )
June 19	Hazleton Philharmonic Orchestra
June 26	Jack James Vocalist
July 3	North of 40
July 10	Dave Matsinko ( <i>playing Folk and Americana</i> )
July 17	Tony Merker ( <i>playing Country</i> )
July 24	Southbound ( <i>Acoustic and Electric Classic Rock Duo</i> )
July 31	Just Us Polka Band
Aug. 7	Hazleton Liberty Band
Aug. 14	Richard and Maria Lutz ( <i>Vocal Duo</i> )
Aug. 21	Freeland St. Ann's Band
Aug. 28	Jack James Vocalist
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N I A V K R I J R V I P P Q M V I T E O  
V M T P T Y E J C G K B E U O C N A R B  
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## WORD LIST

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## Discussing Growth in the Hazleton Region with Mayor Cusat & Rep. Watro

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

I recently joined Hazleton Mayor Jeff Cusat and Rep. Dane Watro (R-116) for our regular update on the continued growth and momentum throughout the greater Hazleton region. These meetings provide an important opportunity to take stock of where we are and where we're headed as a community.

We discussed the many new businesses choosing to invest in Hazleton and the surrounding area, creating jobs and strengthening our local economy. Just as importantly, we talked about how we can continue supporting and improving education at every level — from early childhood learning to higher education — including Penn State Hazleton, which we successfully worked together to preserve this past year for our students and families.

Our conversation also focused on housing needs across the region, ensuring that growth is matched with safe, affordable places for families, seniors, and workers to live. In addition, we reviewed the continued expansion of community programs that improve quality of life, including the ongoing renovations and investment at the Hazleton YMCA.

These regular meetings highlight the strong collaboration between local and state leaders that is helping Hazleton move forward. And for those of you who know Mayor Cusat, you'll understand exactly why these discussions are productive, engaging — and NEVER boring!



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### **Working to Exempt Luzerne County from Enhanced Vehicle Emission Inspection, Maintenance Program**

*By State Rep. Jamie Walsh (R-Luzerne)*

To help alleviate an unnecessary financial burden for many residents, I recently announced I am introducing legislation to exempt Luzerne County from the enhanced vehicle emission inspection and maintenance program (I/M Program).

In 1990, Congress amended the Clean Air Act to include a requirement for an enhanced emission inspection program. By 1997, Pennsylvania initiated the I/M Program across the Commonwealth. The primary goal of the program was for Pennsylvania to meet the guidelines set forth by the federal government regarding air quality and air pollution.

Although it was created with good intentions, the program has become antiquated over time with the adoption of improved manufacturing standards and technological advancements that have led to more fuel-efficient and less pollutive vehicles. As such, it is unnecessary to subject residents to costs associated with inspection fees related to the program. For example, the minimum waiver expenditure for an emissions inspection can cost anywhere from \$150-\$450. This money could, and should, be used for essentials, such as housing or groceries, rather than fees to meet outdated criteria.

I look forward to officially introducing this commonsense legislation when the House returns to session.



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



Happy New Year from all of us at Troop N. In Pennsylvania, it's the law to move over when approaching an emergency response area, which means a Police Officer who has a car pulled over or is investigating a motor vehicle crash, with their emergency lights on. If you are approaching this, you must move over to an adjacent lane, if possible, or if not, slow down 20 MPH below the posted speed limit. This law is often called the "Steer Clear Law" or the "Move Over Law". Penalties can include: - \$500 fine for first offense, \$1,000 fine for a second offense and \$2,000 for a third or subsequent offense and a 90-day license suspension for a third or subsequent offense.

- New point system that imposes 2 points for failing to merge into adjacent lane.
- \$10,00 fine if an emergency service responder is injured or killed.

Please be aware of this law and the strict penalties. Always focus on the road while you are driving to allow safe travels for everyone on the road!

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### Cursive Legislation Becomes Law

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

My legislation to bring cursive instruction back to Pennsylvania schools is now law.

This ensures students learn a skill that boosts cognitive growth, fine motor skills and keeps our history alive.

Cursive is more than handwriting. It's a bridge. It connects us to our history, strengthens learning and deepens our understanding of the world.

From reading the Declaration of Independence to signing important documents, cursive remains practical and timeless. This new law helps preserve tradition while preparing students for success in school and beyond.

The provisions of the new law will take effect in mid-April.

### Supporting Our Local Fire, EMS Agencies

Twenty-eight fire and emergency medical services (EMS) companies in the 116th Legislative District were recently awarded more than \$446,000 in funding support through the 2025-26 Pennsylvania Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program.

I deeply appreciate the tireless efforts and commitment of our first responders. Their exceptional work ensures the safety of communities throughout the 116th District. This annual state initiative is so important because it provides a reliable source of funding that allows these dedicated teams to continue their crucial, life-saving duties. The funding amounts are contingent on the recipients filing their grant agreements with the Office of the State Fire Commissioner.

The local grants are as follows:

#### Luzerne County


- Borough of West Hazleton West Hazleton Fire Department – \$13,250.94.
- Diamond Engine Hose Hook and Ladder Company No. 2 – \$15,518.21.
- East End Engine and Hose Company No. 3 – \$13,869.28.
- Fourteenth Ward Fire Company – \$12,632.59.
- Harwood Fire Co. – \$12,838.71.
- Hazle Township Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company – \$16,136.55.
- Hazleton City Fire Department – \$16,136.55.
- Hazleton Heights Volunteer Fire Company – \$13,044.82.
- Hazleton Rescue Squad – \$13,457.05.
- Pioneer Fire Company No. 1 – \$14,075.40.
- West Hazleton Fire Hose Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 – \$13,457.05.

#### Schuylkill County

- Citizens Fire Company No. 2 – \$14,899.86.
- Columbia Hose and Steam Fire Company No. 1 – \$12,838.71.
- Defender Hose Company – \$12,014.25.
- Good American Hose Company No. 3 – \$12,426.48.
- Heights Fire Company No. 1 – \$12,426.48.
- Humane Fire Company No. 1 – \$12,014.25.
- McAdoo Fire Company Inc. – \$38,487.63.
- McAdoo Fire Company Inc. and Ambulance Association – \$15,000.
- Phoenix Fire Company No. 2 – \$12,838.71.
- Polish American Fire Company – \$12,426.48.
- Rescue Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 – \$14,487.63.
- Ringtown Valley Fire and Rescue Company – \$24,220.36.
- Shenandoah Community Ambulance Association – \$45,000.
- Shepton Oneida Volunteer Fire Company – \$12,426.48.
- Washington Hook and Ladder No. 1 – \$12,632.59.
- West End Fire and Rescue – \$14,281.52.
- William Penn Fire Company No. 1 – \$13,250.94.

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## Theresa Long Announces Plans to Retire as MMI Preparatory School's Head of School at the End of the 2026-27 School Year



Head of School Mrs. Theresa Long talking with MMI students

(Freeland, PA) – On February 25, 2026, Mrs. Theresa Long, MMI Preparatory School's Head of School, announced that she will retire at the conclusion of the 2026-2027 academic school year.

"While this chapter is ending for me, my love for this School will never fade. I will leave with immense pride in all we have accomplished together and with great confidence in the leadership and community that will carry the School forward. I am committed to seeing a smooth transition of leadership over the next year," Mrs. Long says.

Mrs. Long has served MMI with unwavering dedication, first as a member of the Board of Directors from 2017-2022, and then as Head of School since then. Her leadership has been marked by a deep belief in the power of education and by a genuine love for the people who make MMI what it is: the School's students, families, faculty, staff, alumni, and donors.

Attorney Richard A. DiLiberto Jr. '79, the Chair of MMI's Board of Directors, notes, "Theresa's ability to connect with others has shaped a school culture grounded in respect, warmth, and shared purpose. She has worked tirelessly to ensure that every student feels valued, every educator feels supported, and every family feels welcomed into the life of MMI. The sense of community and family so many of us feel at MMI today is a direct result of her leadership. Thanks to Theresa, MMI is not only stronger today, but better prepared for the future."

The responsibility of selecting MMI's next Head of School rests with the Board of Directors. The Board's Chair and Governance Committee will form a Search Committee to guide this process. They will conduct a thorough and inclusive search, considering both national and local candidates, with input from key voices within the MMI community. To ensure a smooth transition, the Board aims to have a successor in place before Mrs. Long's departure on June 30, 2027.

"While this may seem like a long way off, we appreciate Theresa giving us ample time to start the transition and to express our copious thanks for all she has done for all of us," said Atty. DiLiberto.

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# A Thousand Times a Day (Part 7)

Submitted by *Kenny Wenner*. If you have any information about people in this article, please call Ken at 570-401-4564 or email [kenwennersr@gmail.com](mailto:kenwennersr@gmail.com).

We will continue with our local soldiers that went MIA during war. Too often history repeats itself as is the case of **Pfc John Spock**: of 1129 Birkbeck St. MMI graduate of 1939, was 24 years of age when reported MIA March 4, 1945. John enlisted June 6th 1943, went to Europe with the 5th Inf Div. In December 44 his unit went into combat on Christmas Eve, and he was listed MIA but then later rejoined his unit. The 5th was in action for a month. His cousin **John Ondich** of upper Lehigh was KIA on Luzon, Philippines in Jan 1944.

**Sgt /Donald J. Megargel**: Of Jeddo, age 28, graduate of HHS 1935, was reported MIA over Guam since June 14, 1945. As a tail gunner on a B29 Superfortress with the 21st Bomber Command in the Marianas, Donald flew 20 missions over Tokyo and other targets in Japan. The day he went MIA, 520 B 29's dropped 3,000 tons of incendiaries on Osaka, a large Japanese Industrial city. Megargel Enlisted in Nov 1943, joined his B 29 crew in Pratt, Kansas, and flew to the Marianas in Feb 1944. His wife is Helene O'Donnell of 825 Walnut St.

**Pvt Thomas A. Kunrod**: 176 S. Washington St, was 20 years old when he went he enlisted while a senior at FHS. (Eckley) He went MIA as a Ball turret gunner on a B 17 of the 8th A.F. based in England on July 9th over France when his plane failed to return from a mission. Brother, **M Sgt Michael Kunrod Jr**, is a radio engineer with the 8th AF who returned home after two years in England. Cousin **T Sgt John Nemchick** (Eckley) is listed as MIA since Dec 29th, 1943 after a flight over Tarawa, in the Marshall Islands Group. John was a B 24 "Liberator" crew member that failed to return to base at Taroa. His plane sustained heavy damage and was headed southwest past Millie Island to Makin Island. All 10 crew members are listed MIA.

**Pfc Lindsay Rowland**: Age 32, of 626 Front St,

was a graduate of MMI and Lehigh University. He was listed MIA over Germany since Oct 4th, 1944 which is unusual for an infantry man. Because of his radio training he may have been an artillery observer in a light aircraft and either was shot down or had aircraft trouble. Rowland landed on D-Day and was wounded several days later. He recovered at an English hospital and rejoined his unit in mid-August. His close friend **Pfc Louis Bott** of Nuremberg was KIA in France Sept 17th. The two were together since enlisting in 1942. Rowland enlisted Apr. 27, 1942 and went to England in Aug of 1942.

**Pvt Steve Kanyock**: age 21, of Hollywood MIA since Nov. 21, 1944 was pronounced KIA. He had served in England, France, Belgium, and Germany. Brothers SSgt Andrew Kanyock, and Pvt Michael are serving in the US Army.

**Sgt Steven Husovich**: Age 27, of Walnut St, was a graduate of FHS and attended St Mary's school. Steven was listed a MIA in France since June 25th, 1944, then later as KIA. The 22nd Inf of the 4th Div took part in the D-Day invasion landing near St Mere Eglise on the right flank of the beach head. The 4th pushed toward the Cherbourg Peninsula and met stiff fighting at Montebourg. They then smashed forward to help capture and hold Cherbourg on Monday, June 26th. The 4th swept into Cherbourg on the right flank of the attack while the 79th and 9th Divs took center and left. The 4th was assigned to take the airport ½ mile east of town. Fighting raged for 3 days and it's quite possible Steven 's life ended during this operation.

**Lt. John Feeley**: Listed as MIA in France then KIA. Graduate HHS of 1938, and Penn State University. He was a glider officer and Adjutant of a Battalion of the 82nd Airborne. John participated in the Normandy invasion. He first went overseas Nov. 23, 1943 and served in Africa, Sicily, and Italy, before

going to England to prepare for D-Day.

**T-5 Michael Feno**: Age 29, of Eckley, attended St. Mary's Church. Was listed MIA then KIA in France June 17th 1944. His 4th Div landed D-Day near St Mere Eglise where they met Airbourne troops. Fought their way into Montbourg on June 17th. And then to Cherbourg. Other area soldiers in company where **Sgt George Banyas** of Hemlock St, **Pvt John Duda** of RD White Haven, and **Sgt Steven Husovich** Rd of White Haven. Banyas and Duda were wounded in June 8th, 1944, and Husovich was MIA June 25th. They had all gone overseas together in Jan 1943. Michael's brother, **Cpl George Feno Jr** is serving in England.

**Pvt Harold Krouse**: age 34, of Sandy Run was listed as MIA in France since Sept 30th. Harold entered the service Jan 7, 1944 and went overseas in July. His father was a mine official for M.S. Kemmerer Co. in Sandy Run.

**Pvt Albert Snyder**: age 22, of Japan Jeddo, served as a medical corpsman when he went MIA in France on June 16th with the 2nd Div. The 2nd followed the 1st Div ashore on D-Day near Trevieres on the left flank of the American beach head. Their unit was next to the British and Canadian units. He was last seen on a road between St Lo and Caen as his unit rushed to seal off the Cherbourg Peninsula. Albert entered the Army in the fall of 1942. His brother **Pfc Peter Snyder Jr** was among the first to establish airbases on Greenland. His uncle **Pfc Michael Fogash** of Drifton is a veteran of Tunisia and Sicily and returned stateside after being WIA.

This is in no way is a full listing of POW's and MIA's. During WWII, Freeland was a town of 7500 people plus all the surrounding villages. There were approx. 2500 service connected people at that time. I may have the accounts of 400 total. Remember them. Maybe not "A thousand Times a Day" but once as you read their names.

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# Health & Wellness Center Honors 2025 Patients of the Year



Front Row L to R: William DeNunzio and Lori Ann Cassano. Back Row L to R: Alyssa Kubeyka and Corinne Stone, clinical exercise physiologists; Yaqoob Mohyuddin, MD, Medical Director; Morgan Raskiewicz, RN; Amy Gentilesco, RN and Karen Nunez, cardiac technician. Missing from the photo is Crystal Zimmerman, clinical manager and MaryAnn Segilia, RN

Laurie Ann Cassano and William DeNunzio were recently honored as the 2025 Patients of the Year by the cardiac rehabilitation staff at Health & Wellness Center at Hazleton.

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

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

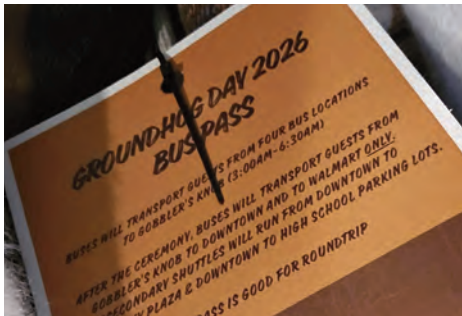
Cassano says, "The girls were extremely compassionate and understanding. They strived to know me and give me the confidence and education I needed on this journey. I got my A1C down and my bloodwork in my 50s is better than it was in my 30s!"

When his cardiologist suggested cardiac rehab, DeNunzio said, "I don't need that, I'll be okay." "My wife had other plans for me and 36 sessions later I felt stronger and more like myself, plus I lost 10 pounds."

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

## Freeland Girls Take Road Trip to See Punxsutawney Phil

Lisa Crawford (originally from Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania) and friend Crystal Dooley headed to Punxsutawney in the early hours of Groundhog Day 2026.





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March 29th  
1 til 3pm  
Easter Bunny Trail  
City View Park  
in Hazleton

March 28th at 11am  
Easter Egg Hunt  
Butler Township  
Recreation Center  
Drums

March 28<sup>h</sup> at 1pm  
Easter Egg Hunt  
Miller Park in Hometown

March 31st  
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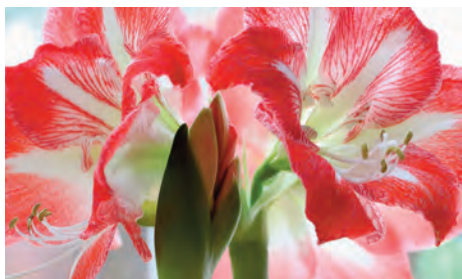
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# Amaryllis

By: Joan E. Banyas, Penn State Extension Master Gardener for Luzerne County



## Waxed Amaryllis Bulbs

As winter approaches, many gardeners look for a way to keep live flowers and plants as a part of their winter home décor. Nature helps us by providing hardy outdoor plants like evergreens and holly bushes. However, popular indoor winter plants often come from warmer regions of the globe. Potted poinsettias and Christmas cactuses are two familiar examples. Similarly, a third popular indoor plant is the amaryllis. A large bulb potted in planting medium and cared for with watering and sunlight sends forth a tall green stalk with stately lily-like flowers, usually in shades and patterns of red, pink, and white. However, another version of the amaryllis is becoming popular as an easy-to-grow, trendy alternative. This is the waxed bulb amaryllis, and it requires only sunlight to provide colorful, fresh blooms throughout the dark winter months.

### What's in a name?

The name "amaryllis" is derived from the Greek word amarysso, which means "to sparkle." However, the plants we commonly refer to as the amaryllis today are hybrids and aren't considered to be true amaryllis. They are part of the genus Hippeastrum, which is native to tropical areas of Central and South America. The true amaryllis (Amaryllis spp.) is native to Africa.

However, both Hippeastrum and Amaryllis are part of the amaryllis family.

### Traditional amaryllis plant

The amaryllis plant begins as a bulb, a specialized, self-contained underground structure with thick, fleshy scales serving as food reserves. The scales surround a flat, modified stem on the bottom of the bulb from which the roots grow. The bulb's center contains the buds for the leaves and flowers. Most amaryllis available from garden centers are planted in narrow pots. Only about 1 inch of space is left on each side of the bulb, as they like to be a bit root-bound. Additionally, 1/3 of the bulb sits above the soil line to prevent rotting, which could occur if it is planted too deeply. The pot is placed in bright indirect sunlight away from drafts, cold windows, or drying heat and watered sparingly, allowing the soil to dry slightly between waterings. If these care instructions are followed, blooms usually appear in approximately 6 to 8 weeks.

### Waxed amaryllis bulbs plants

In contrast, the waxed amaryllis plant is a popular twist to traditional planting and growing methods. Ease of care and decorative variety are two important reasons why many people opt for the waxed version. Instead of being prepared for planting, the bulb is trimmed to remove its roots, and a wire may be inserted into the bottom to allow it to stand on its own. The bulb is then coated in thick wax to seal it. The wax locks in the bulb's essential nutrients and moisture, allowing them to contribute to foliage and flower development rather than root development. Since the bulbs are sealed in wax, they don't have to be planted in soil, in a pot, or even watered. They can be displayed almost

anywhere as long as the spot is warm and has bright, indirect light. In addition, the waxy coating can be a design element, as many plants are festively colored, patterned, or decorated with beads or glitter.

Using the stored carbohydrates and water, bulbs will produce stalks with beautiful blooms in 4 to 6 weeks. There are usually two flowering stalks per bulb, lasting approximately 3 weeks. To keep the stalk growing straight, it is a good idea to turn the bulb every few days to give it even sunlight. Remove each flower stalk when the last blooms on it fades.

When choosing a waxed amaryllis for purchase, look it over carefully for any insect damage, signs of infection, or spent flower stalks. Also, avoid waxed bulbs that have already begun to bloom. They may not bloom properly at home or may have a reduced bloom time.

### Reblooming waxed amaryllis bulbs

Waxed bulb amaryllis are generally intended to be single-use plants and discarded when done blooming. The bulb can't grow without roots, and the wax coating and even glitter are not compostable. You can try to compost the bulb, but remove the wax first.

Some gardeners, however, have been successful in getting waxed amaryllis bulbs to rebloom. In order to do this, you must first gently remove the wax, which may come off in small pieces or as a large section that peels off easily. Try to avoid disturbing the brown outer layer of the bulb, leaving as much of it on as possible. You can start removing the wax from either end of the bulb, but if you begin at the base, cutting a "V" into the edge with a sharp knife may help in pulling off the wax more easily.

When the wax has been removed, take a sturdy, flat plastic container with sides, such as a coffee can lid, and fold a paper towel to at least double thickness to fit inside. Lightly dampen the towel and place the bulb on top, and put it in a sunny window. Check the bulb every day or two, and keep the paper towel evenly damp. Make sure there is no standing water in the tray, or conditions may be too wet for root formation.

In approximately 4 to 6 weeks, small white roots should begin to grow. Gradually increase the towel's dampness, but, again, don't leave standing water in the tray.

When the bulb forms four or five roots, each about 3 inches long, you can now place it in a small pot with drainage holes. As with the traditional amaryllis planting, the pot should be no more than 1 to 2 inches wider than the bulb on all sides. Regular potting soil should be used, and again, keep the top one-third of the bulb above the soil line and fully visible.

You may line the container with a standard coffee filter with sides to keep the soil from washing out. At this point, water your new planting sparingly and place it in bright, indirect light in a warm spot. Now you can follow instructions to care for the plant just as you would a traditional amaryllis bulb.

You can keep the vibrancy of living, growing plants and flowers in your home, even on the coldest, snowiest days of winter. With minimal care and maximum beauty, you can enjoy the waxed bulb amaryllis plant almost anywhere in your home until hints of spring start appearing!

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## Hazleton Rotary Makes Donation

By: Pat Korb

The Hazleton Rotary made a donation of Pet O2 Masks at their weekly meeting on Wednesday, March 11th at Booty's Café Italiano.

The club purchased 25 kits to be divided among the Hazleton City Fire Department and the Lehigh Valley Health Network Emergency Medical Services. Each kit contains three separate items. Items range from feline to canine—that means from a small cat to a large dog.

Pet oxygen masks and respirators are specialized devices designed to deliver supplemental oxygen to pets, especially during emergencies or when they are unable to breathe adequately on their own.

They are essential for pets rescued from fires, during transport, or in veterinary care to support recovery from illnesses or chronic conditions.

Oxygen therapy can significantly improve a pet's quality of life by enhancing oxygen delivery to tissues and organs, supporting respiratory function and reducing symptoms of hypoxia

"Many of our club members have pets and were more than happy to know this donation will help these two community organizations with emergencies and transportation issues when dealing with cats and dogs. We are always working to help the Greater Hazleton Community and its needs," observes Hazleton Rotary President Joan Buffington.



Rotarians Marc Ondishin and Joan Buffington, Deputy Chief Shawn Jones - Hazleton City Fire Department, Mike Pribilia, Jason Knight & Dennis Ganc - LVHN and Rotarian Paul Oswald.

## A Veterans Journal #108

By Joseph Barna • Freeland  
USMC, Korea 1952-1953



I wake up every morning, look in the mirror and ask the same question: Why doesn't God want me yet? 74 years ago, during a battle in Korea, he spared me, sending an Angel, a Navy Corpsman, to save me. So far, I have not heard from him. God must have shed a few tears over my name in his big book, blurring out the lettering.

There are so many of his angels in heaven waiting for me: All my Marine buddies, who I fought alongside in Korea, are probably asking "Where is that skinny guy who carried that heavy flamethrower?" All the boys I played baseball with are saying "When is Joe coming in to pitch, the bases are loaded and we need that last out." Down at the bowling alley, they're waiting for me to throw three strikes in the 10th frame. Our team will win by one pin. Maybe My Angel told the big guy "Let the Corporal stay on Earth a little bit longer so he can play with his two great-great grandsons.

Sometimes I feel so lonely. I miss that little blue-eyed blonde with the ponytail that I spent 68 years with. I remember the time I met her: At the movies, she was giggling and tossing peanuts at me from a few rows back. Outside the theater, we talked for the first time. From our two seeds, we created an orchard together, but now a daughter and a son are gone before me. Thank God for the grandkids. When I fire my rifle at a military funeral, I am saying farewell to another comrade. The list grows every year. My fishing buddy

for fifty years, has taken his boat to one of the lakes in the clouds. I hope the fish are biting for him. I always left him catch the big one.

Years ago, I heard a song with these words: "Where have all the flowers gone?" Now, I can put my own words in the line. "Where have all my buddies gone?" It's a very lonely life without them. I sometimes wish I did not outlive most of them. Those friendships have turned into beautiful memories. Gone are the laughing, crying, the good and bad times. Gone, but not forgotten.

Maybe I have to wait a little bit longer while my country gets straightened out and people learn how to get along instead of hating each other? Maybe I have lived so long because I always believed in friendship? The more true friends you have, the more strength you possess. It's all about the people you share your life with. Never try to keep to yourself. I always wanted to be part of something. If I have a gift I want to share it with others.

I have lived one hell of a life. I tried to do so many things. Many I was good at. A few, almost good. During my years growing up, through my military and wartime, through all my jobs and through my marriage with my wonderful wife, I learned many lessons, the most important is that we all need each other to be strong. Alone, all you find is weakness.

Looking in the mirror, I hope I earned the 96 years God has given me so far.

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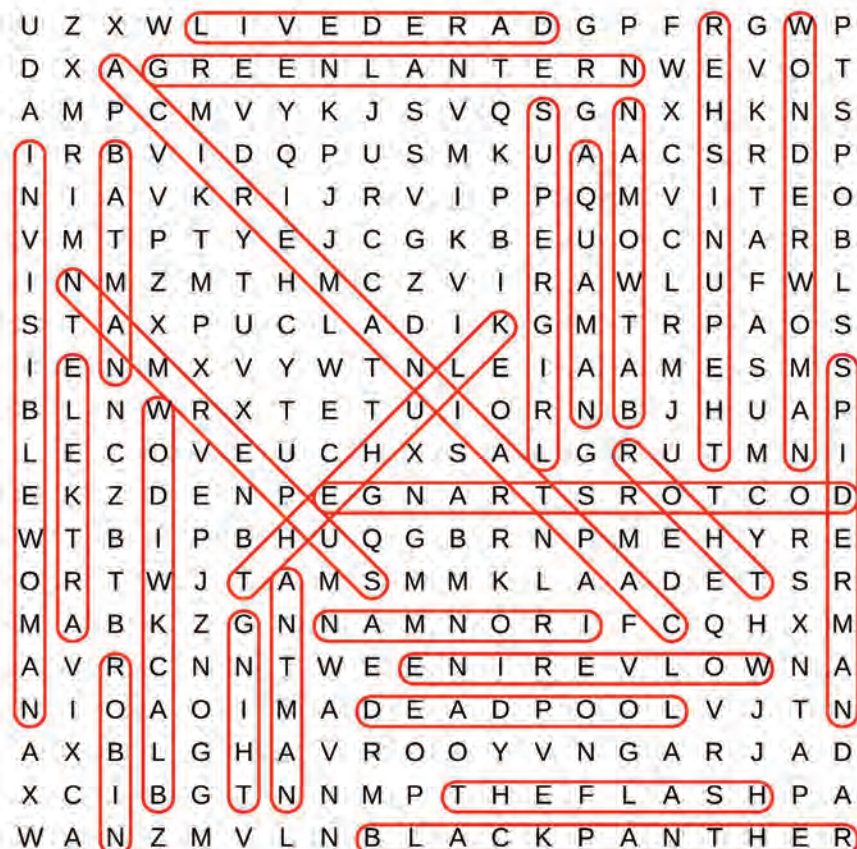
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## SUPERHEROES WORD SEARCH





# Sports Trivia Treats

By Ron Marchetti

## Retired Because He Was Afraid To Fly

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

## The Major League Pitcher Who Shot Himself

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

## Free Agent

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



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## Forgotten Apples: A Brief History of Cider

Long before craft beverages were a thing humans were accidentally inventing hard cider. It likely started when someone forgot apples in a basket, nature did that fermentation thing, and ancient people said, "Whoa! This makes everything just a bit more tolerable."

Yes, cider goes back thousands of years. The ancient Romans loved it, Vikings drank it and medieval Europeans treated it almost like a food group. Remember water wasn't always safe back then, but fermented apples were!

When settlers came to America, they planted apple trees like it was their job because it kind of was. Johnny Appleseed wasn't spreading apples just for pie, he was doing it for the cider business.

Then Prohibition showed up and ruined everything for a while, pushing cider into the dusty corner of history for a bit.

Today cider is back, it's cooler, more creative, and finally getting the modern respect it deserves. This proves once again that if you wait long enough, everything comes back in style.

-Jeff & Desiree Bonomo

Watch Jeff & Desiree talk about all things in the craft beverage world on Wine Hops and Road Stops on Service Electric Cable and Blue Ridge Cable or online at [www.youtube.com/@winehopsroadstops](http://www.youtube.com/@winehopsroadstops) and [facebook.com/winehopsandroadstops](http://facebook.com/winehopsandroadstops)



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