



# The Anthracite Post

Highlighting Neighborhood News & Events

Volume 3, Edition 5, May 2026



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## Drums Lioness Lions Host Fundraising Tea



The Drums Lioness Lions held their second annual fundraising tea at Capriotti's, McAdoo on Sunday, May 3. With the theme of "Afternoon Tea at the Library", club members decorated tables in the style of their favorite books. Featured books included Cinderella, Swiss Family Robinson, Ann of Green Gables, Dr. Seuss stories, The Old Man and the Sea and many more. Several photo booths were available for group pictures.

Over two hundred guests enjoyed a four course tea and specially baked desserts as well as special door prizes and chances to win many tricky trays. Attendees were also asked to donate new children's books which were presented to the Child Life Centers at Geisinger Children's Hospital, Danville and Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital, Hershey.

The club would like to thank all who attended, and the many local businesses that donated monetary gifts and tricky tray prizes for this event. Proceeds will fund service awards given to local female students in eighth and twelfth grades as well as donations to local food pantries, Divine Providence Shelter, the Hazleton Animal Shelter, and VALOR. We sponsor the Luzerne County Head Start, Vine West Center, with monthly reading activities and book donations, and visit veterans at the VA Hospital in Wilkes-Barre, providing coffee and donuts.

Anyone interested in learning more about the club can visit the Drums Lioness-Lions facebook page or contact them via email: drumslionesslionsclub@gmail.com

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# The Anthracite Post

*Highlighting Neighborhood News & Events*

## Letter from the Editors

Hello everyone! It seems that the weather is finally starting to warm up, although I have to bring my flower baskets in tonight because of a possible frost. It's eventually going to warm up and stay that way. I think we're all ready for warmer weather after that long, cold winter and all of the rain we have been getting lately.

Memorial Day picnics will soon be upon us. Be sure to keep in mind the reason behind Memorial Day which is dedicated to honoring and mourning military personnel who died in the line of duty.

Lee Ann and I recently attended the Drums Lioness Club's Annual Tea Party. What an event!!!!!! There were over 80 Tricky Trays, a room full of homemade desserts and the themed decorated tables were amazing. You can check out some photos of the event on the front cover. We are both looking forward to attending it again next year.

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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# Hazleton Art League Community Art Party

Greater Hazleton is on the rise—growing, forward-looking, and proudly multiethnic. It's time to celebrate the new Hazleton, and the community is invited to join the party.

The Community Art Party (CAP) launches Friday evening, May 29, at the Hazleton Art League and continues Saturday afternoon, May 30, at the Hayden Family Center for the Arts, CAN DO Community Park, and surrounding downtown locations. CAP will feature the 15th annual Art Youth Expo (AYE15), the Art League's competitive exhibition for regional artists ages 13–30, along with music, poetry, dance, theater, street performers, food vendors, and hands-on creative activities for all ages.

CAP is a collaboration between the Hazleton Art League, the City of Hazleton, and many local organizations including the H1P Center, Penn State LaunchBox, Charis Academy, PTPA, the Greater Hazleton Area Concert Series, CAN DO, and the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce. All events are family-friendly and free. Free parking will be available Saturday at the Feeley Parking Plaza, 32 N. Wyoming Street.

For information or to participate, call 570-455-3333 or email [csf1@ptd.net](mailto:csf1@ptd.net).



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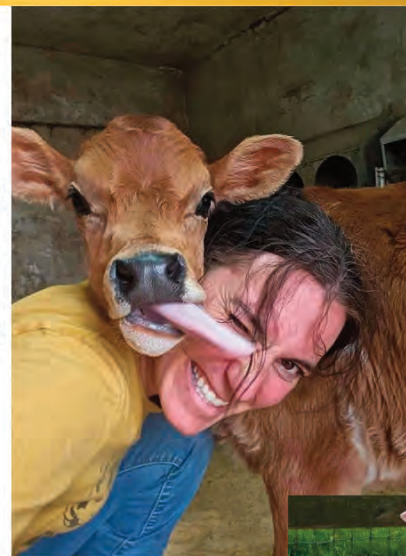
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## Argall, Watro to Host Damaged License Plate Replacement Event in Mahanoy Township

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

Is your license plate peeling, faded, or hard to read? You may be eligible for a free replacement, and we're making it easy!

Join me and Rep. Dane Watro on Thursday, May 28th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Mahanoy Township Building, 1010 West Centre Street, Mahanoy City. A Mahanoy Township police officer will be on-site to inspect your plate and determine if it qualifies for a no-cost replacement from PennDOT.

RSVPs are required for this event. Please call 570-794-4039 to reserve your spot.

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### **Drivers Violating Paul Miller's Law Will Face Fines Starting June 6, 2026**

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

A Pennsylvania law banning the use of handheld cell phones while driving has been in effect since last June, with violators being issued warnings. Starting June 6, violators will instead face fines.

Paul Miller's Law limits the use of handheld cellphones or other communication devices while operating a motor vehicle. The law is named for a young man who was killed in a crash involving a distracted tractor-trailer driver in Monroe County, Pennsylvania, in 2010. Under the law, driving while holding a mobile device is a primary violation, meaning police can pull over drivers solely for the violation.

Effective June 6, violators will be issued a summary offense, which carries a \$50 fine, plus court costs and other fees. If a driver is convicted of homicide by vehicle and driving while distracted, they may be sentenced up to an additional five years in prison.

Drivers can still use their phones if using hands-free technology, such as a docking station, Bluetooth or speaker technology. You may also use your phone to contact emergency responders. Pennsylvania joins 28 other states with hands-free laws.



**Trooper Anthony Petroski III**

**Public Information Officer**  
**Community Service Officer**

Pennsylvania State Police

Troop N - Hazleton



Scams, unfortunately, is a re-occurring problem that is not going away. The current scam that is affecting many people in our area is called the "Loved One" scam. Scammers will contact you by phone and explain that your loved one (typically grandchild), is in trouble and currently in jail, possibly even citing specific names. The scammers will often say "Don't talk to anyone about this, I'm sure it would be embarrassing to your family". They will then explain that in exchange for cash, their loved one will be released from jail. The scammers will then ask for an address where they can pick up the money. At this point, they will send a courier to pick up the cash, leaving you as a victim.

Here are some tips to help protect you and keep you from becoming a victim of a scam:

- Don't feel pressured to provide payment for something or to someone, do research into it first, run it by a friend or family member.
- Do not give out sensitive information over the phone. Example: social security number or bank account number.
- Do not give remote access to anyone for any of your devices.
- Never make a payment to someone with gift cards – it's a scam!
- Remember, just because someone says they are from a certain "company", it doesn't mean they actually are!
- If you feel a phone call might be a scam or you are being asked for sensitive information – hang up!

Scams can happen through e-mails also. If there are a lot of misspelled words, it might be a scam. Always look at the e-mail address it was sent from, if you don't recognize it, don't respond or open any attachments.

# 4th Annual White Haven Trout Fest

*Submitted By: Mike Gondell, Western Pocono Trout Unlimited*

The 4th Annual White Haven Trout Festival hosted by Western Pocono Trout Unlimited will be held at new location this year at St. Patrick's Church/Parish Center, 411 Allegheny St., White Haven, Pa. on Saturday, June 13, 2026 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Rain or shine. The public is invited to this free family friendly event that celebrates the Lehigh River trout fishery and all the waters of the Poconos and the many river related communities.

As the Lehigh River flows from its source near the towns of Gouldsboro, Thornhurst, Stoddartsville etc in the northern Poconos and then through the central river at White Haven and on to Jim Thorpe and the junction at Easton, wild trout can be found. White Haven is uniquely located in the middle portion of the river and has long been a focal point for river commerce, recreation, culture and history. WPTU is pleased to present this event in White Haven at St. Patrick's Parish Center due to

renovations at its previous events at the historic White Haven Library which is undergoing renovations this summer. The festival highlights the importance of conservation and promotes the great work that both public and private conservation groups and local businesses do in maintaining the special quality of the river's trout fishery that is so important to providing recreation and economic opportunities to White Haven and all communities in the Poconos. A variety of exhibitors will be showcasing their work including conservation organizations, TU chapters, Pa. Fish and Boat Commission, Pa. Game Commission, Hickory Run, Lehigh Gorge, and Nescopeck State Parks, Delaware and Lehigh Canal Heritage Corridor River Trail, DCNR, fly shops, river guides, artists, crafters, expert trout fishing speakers, and natural resource groups. Free kid's rods will be provided while available. Personal fly casting, fly tying demos for

veteran fishermen and novices alike will be given throughout the day.

Music all day. Spacious free parking. A smorgasbord of home cooked ethnic foods and desserts will be available from St. Patrick's volunteer catering services with proceeds going to St. Patrick's children's programs. The event will appeal to newcomers to the river and trout fishing veterans alike with the event allowing a reunion like gathering for all who have enjoyed the river and all the Poconos in the past and continue to appreciate its unique qualities into the future.

Call 570-454-4862, 570-926-2535 or 570-510-1189 for more info. The day long event is free rain or shine. Don't miss this wonderful kick off event to the river, the Poconos, White Haven, the trout and the summer season.

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### Prevent Lyme: Check for Ticks

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

Recent reports indicate emergency room visits for tick bites in Pennsylvania hit a 10-year high during the month of April, driven by early hot days during the spring and a snowy winter that boosted tick survival.

As you spend time outdoors, it is important to check yourself, loved ones and pets for ticks and be aware of the symptoms of Lyme disease and other tick-related ailments.

The first line of defense against Lyme is to take precautions outdoors by treating clothing and gear with products containing 0.5% permethrin, using insect repellent, and avoiding wooded and brushy areas with high grass or leaf litter. When you return indoors, check your clothing, gear and pets for ticks; shower as soon as possible after being outdoors; and check your body for ticks, particularly in areas such as under the arms, in and around the ears, back of the knees and other similar areas.

If bitten, an individual should monitor the area for the appearance of a bull's eye rash, though the rash does not develop in all cases. Early symptoms of Lyme disease include fever, fatigue, headache and muscle aches. However, symptoms may progress to arthritic, neurologic and cardiac symptoms if not treated.

Lyme disease is caused by the bacteria *Borrelia burgdorferi* and is transmitted by the bite of a blacklegged tick or deer tick. If you pull a tick from yourself, a loved one or your pet, you may have it tested to determine if it carries Lyme or other tick-borne diseases.

More information about how to get a tick tested at the East Stroudsburg University Tick Lab is available at [www.ticklab.org](http://www.ticklab.org).

More information about Lyme disease symptoms, treatment and prevention can be found on the Pennsylvania Department of Health's website, [www.pa.gov/agencies/health](http://www.pa.gov/agencies/health).

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# LUZERNE COUNTY HEAD START INC

Luzerne County Head Start, Inc., announces "recruitment" at area centers. Applications will be taken in Luzerne and Wyoming Counties for the 2026-2027 school year. Luzerne County Head Start offers a range of comprehensive programs for children from birth to age five and pregnant women, funded by a variety of sources, including federal and state, school district, United Way, community groups, organizations and individuals. Head Start works with low-income children and families to help them achieve their full potential and attain school readiness.

Preschool services for 3 and 4 year old children, which are free of charge, include education, health, family support, parent involvement, transportation on a limited basis, 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 2026-2027 school year begins in

the spring of 2026.

Luzerne County Head Start, Inc., also offers Pre-K Counts, a state-funded preschool program, in partnership with several school districts in Luzerne County. Services are similar to Head Start preschool services; however, income eligibility is set higher, and no transportation is provided for Pre-K Counts.

Luzerne County Head Start provides Early Head Start services in select areas of both Luzerne and Wyoming Counties. Early Head Start is a full year, home-based program providing child development and family support to pregnant women and children from birth to three.

To apply, or for more information on Head Start, Early Head Start, or Pre-K Counts, please call (570) 829-6231 or toll-free 1-800-551- 5829 or visit our website at [www.ltheadstart.org](http://www.ltheadstart.org). You can also learn more about Luzerne County Head Start on Facebook, search Luzerne County Head Start, Inc.



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## Baseball Trivia

*Submitted by: Walt Shubilla*



### Where Did Our Team Go?

Over the years a few Major League Baseball Teams abandoned the city they played in and moved to greener pastures. Here are the modern time teams which have done so. Name the city that the team moved to and its new nickname, if it was changed. *See page 14 for answers.*

#### National League

1. Boston Braves –(Played in Boston from 1876 to 1952)
2. New York Giants –(Played in New York from 1883 to 1957)
3. Brooklyn Dodgers –(Played in Brooklyn from 1890 to 1957)
4. Milwaukee Braves –(Played in Milwaukee from 1954 to 1965)
5. Montreal Expos –(Played in Montreal from 1969 to 2004)

#### American League

6. Washington Nationals later the Senators – (Played in Washington D.C. from 1901 to 1960)
7. Philadelphia Athletics –(Played in Philadelphia from 1901 to 1954)
8. St. Louis Browns –(Played in St. Louis from 1902 to 1953)
9. Kansas City Athletics – (Played in Kansas City from 1957 to 1967)
10. Washington Senators – (Played in Washington from 1961 to 1971)
11. Seattle Piolets – (Played in Seattle in 1969)

# A Thousand Times a Day (Part 9)

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).

Many families became wholly vested in the war. Pvt Eugene Muffler's sister enlisted in the Women's Army Corp and would marry Aaron Kleckner of Audenreid after the war. They would reside on Schwabe St. in Freeland.

**Pvt Eugene Muffler:** age 25, of 702 South St, and MMI graduate of 1938. Died Jan 10, 1945 from wounds while fighting in Belgium. Muffler served with the 87 Inf Div and was KIA during an advance on Chisogne, Belgium. The 87th was pressing from the south into the "Bulge" as part of Patton's 3rd Army. He is buried in Meuse, France. Muffler was in action less than 10 days. He enlisted on Sept 29, 1942, went to England in 1944 attached to an artillery unit, but was then attached to a replacement pool in France. His father served in the German Navy during WW, and then emigrated to America. His sister, **1st Lt. Elsie Muffler Kleckner**, graduate of Freeland HS, would serve in the WACs, Women's Army Corp with the 3rd Army Nurse Corp at Camp Meade and Fort Belvoir. Eugene's brother in law, **Sgt Norman "Whacky" Kleckner** would serve in Gen. Patton's 7th Armored Div. and fought to relieve the 101st at Bastogne, the Bulge". Nothing was ever said about the war from either parent to their son Ron. Any questions resulted in a subject change.



Pvt Eugene Muffler



1st Lt Muffler Kleckner



Norman Kleckner

**1st Lt John Lazo:** of 345 Adams St, was a pilot of a B-26 Maurader "Becky", with the 12th Tactical A.F. in the Mediterranean theatre of operations. His unit supported the break thru at Cassano as well as 50 combat missions from Sardinia. On one mission, the plane was so badly shot up even the parachutes were useless. He arrived in Sardinia mid 1944, and completed 25 missions from there. Some info suggests John was KIA over Germany. A **LT George Lazo** of Youngstown was an airman who died over Germany.

**Sgt Charles D. Harris Jr.:** age 19, from Jeddo, MMI graduate, was KIA in Burma Jan 25, 1945. He was a radio operator with a HQ Inf unit trying to open the Burma Road, from Ledo to Chungking. Charles was killed by artillery and is buried in Hosi, Burma.

**Sgt Charles Kushner Jr.:** age 20, worked communications with the "Yankee Div", was KIA in Germany March 18th, 1945 during the battle for Merzig. (western anchor of the Seigfried line on the north edge of the Saar Basin) His 26th Div spearheaded the western drive of the Saar while Patton with the 3rd came from the north.

**Sgt Raymond V. Shelly:** 37 Main St, Upper Lehigh, received the Bronze Star for action against the enemy in France on Dec 12th, 1944. He entered the service March 29th 1944 and went overseas in Sept with the 26th "Yankee" Inf Div. He was promoted to Sgt. When the 2nd Battalion was to be relieved at the front, Shelly was assigned as guide for the relief platoons to their positions. He led the relief units within 500 yards of enemy tank positions along a "safe route" while under mortar, artillery, and tank incoming fire. He succeeded with no casualties.

**Sgt Charles Domin:** of 1124 Schwabe St, was WIA on Saipan Island, in the Marianas in June 1945.

**S/Sgt Andrew Zamba: (Zambra),** of 130 Centre St, received the Bronze Star and promoted to S/Sgt with an Armored Inf unit in France on Nov. 11th, 1944 as he led a platoon overrunning German Troops. He suffered a fractured skull when he was shot by a German sniper. After he was hit his battalion drove thru a German ambush and set fire to 2 German tanks while in a life and death race to get Andrew to a n American Medical station. He was e'vac further back for an immediate operation and will carry a 6 inch scar on the side of his head and a metal plate beneath the wound. His unit was fighting to take Zerf on the road to Koblenz. Zamba was in charge of 5 tanks of the 702 "Red Devils" tank battalion. They were attached to the 80th Inf Div in Normandy and fought across France in the Metz-Nancy sector, at Bastogne in the Bulge, the Saar Basin, and then the breakout across the Rhine in Gen Patton's 3rd Army in March of "45". The day before being wounded, his unit took a part of Zerf but due to darkness they failed to clear the entire town. The surprised Germans counterattacked the next morning. Zamba's tank (a Sherman) was parked next to a wall under bazooka and grenade fire. The Germans were on the other side of the wall and Zamba had tossed 2 grenades over the wall from the turret of his tank. As the Germans ran they mowed them down. As he was throwing a third grenade the sniper hit him. His unit included other Freelanders **John Zedalis, Joe Opiary, Danny Durso, Fred Zahn, Leo Balas**, and several more. Zamba remembers the night they were ordered to move to relieve the 101st at Bastogne. Div after Div, bumper to bumper headlights on with the 8th Air Force flying cover. Zamba entered service in 1943 and went to England in 1944. His Div then went to Normandy Aug 6th. He was 21 years old.

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## Sunshine Season Is Here: Don't Forget Your Sunglasses

As the days grow longer and the sun shines brighter across Pennsylvania, many of us are eager to get outside, whether it's walking the dog, attending local events, or simply enjoying a warm afternoon. While we often remember sunscreen to protect our skin, one important habit is frequently overlooked: protecting our eyes.

Sunglasses are more than just a fashion accessory; they are essential for maintaining long-term eye health.

### Why Sunglasses Matter

Ultraviolet (UV) rays from the sun can cause damage to your eyes over time, even on cloudy days. Prolonged exposure has been linked to conditions such as cataracts, macular degeneration, and growths on the eye like pterygium. Just as skin can burn, the eyes can also suffer from "sunburn," known as photokeratitis, which can be painful and harmful.

In areas like Northeastern Pennsylvania, where we experience all four seasons, people often underestimate UV exposure, especially in the spring when temperatures feel mild. However, UV rays are just as strong, and reflective surfaces like water, sand, and even pavement can increase exposure.

### What to Look for in Sunglasses

- Not all sunglasses are created equal. When choosing a pair, look for:
- 100% UV protection (or UV400), which blocks both UVA and UVB rays
  - Polarized lenses, which reduce glare, are especially helpful when driving or near water
  - Wraparound styles, which offer added protection from side exposure

Darker lenses do not necessarily mean better protection. UV protection comes from the coating, not the tint.

### When Bright Light Becomes Uncomfortable

It's normal to squint on a bright day, but if sunlight feels unusually intense or uncomfortable, your eyes may be trying to tell you something.

Pay attention to symptoms such as:

- Frequent squinting or needing to shield your eyes
- Sensitivity to light (photophobia), even on moderately sunny days
- Eye strain, headaches, or fatigue after being outdoors
- Excess tearing or a burning sensation in bright light
- Difficulty adjusting when moving from indoors to outdoors

These symptoms can sometimes be linked to dry eye, early lens changes in the eye, or other underlying conditions. Even certain medications can increase light sensitivity.

If you notice that brightness interferes with your comfort or daily activities,

especially driving, it may be worth having your eyes evaluated. In many cases, proper sunglasses, polarized lenses, or updated eyewear can make a significant difference.



### Everyday Protection Habits

Make sunglasses part of your daily routine, just like grabbing your keys. Keep a pair in your car, your bag, or by the door. Children should also wear sunglasses, as their eyes are even more sensitive to UV exposure.

If you wear prescription glasses, consider prescription sunglasses or lenses with built-in UV protection.

### A Simple Step for Lifelong Vision

Taking a moment to put on sunglasses may seem small, but they play a big role in preserving your vision for years to come. As we head into brighter months, let this be your reminder: protecting your eyes is just as important as protecting your skin.

So, as you step outside to enjoy the sunshine, don't forget your shades!

*Donna Thornton is a physician liaison with a local ophthalmology group serving Northeastern Pennsylvania.*

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# A Regional Monument: The History and Legacy of the Francis E. Walter Dam

By William M. Dempsey

For local residents and visitors, the Francis E. Walter Dam is a landmark that stands out in our landscape. We know it as the gateway to the Lehigh Gorge, a base for whitewater rafting, and a popular destination for fishing. Yet, the dam was not built for recreation. It was born out of a disastrous need to control a river that threatened to wipe out the very towns along its banks.

## A Legacy Carved by Floodwaters

To understand the dam's existence, we need to look back to May of 1942. A massive storm front stalled over the region, dumping record rainfall onto the steep slopes throughout the Poconos and northeastern Pennsylvania. The Lehigh River transformed from a peaceful waterway into a destructive locomotive, tearing through bridges, homes, and railways. The "Flood of '42" caused millions of dollars in damage and proved that the industrial centers of White Haven, Jim Thorpe, and Bethlehem were dangerously vulnerable.

The federal government responded with the Flood Control Act of 1946. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers decided on a site just below the confluence of Bear Creek and the Lehigh River as the ideal location for a primary defense against future devastation. Construction on what was then called the "Bear Creek Dam" began in 1957. It was a massive undertaking of earthmoving and engineering, intended to hold back

billions of gallons of runoff during major storm events.



U.S. Representative Francis E. Walter (D-PA). (Official Congressional Portrait, Collection of the U.S. House of Representatives / Public Domain)

## The Man Behind the Name

The project was completed in 1961, but its identity evolved two years later. In 1963, the structure was renamed to honor Francis "Tad" Walter, an important figure in Pennsylvania politics. Walter, an Easton native and a veteran of both World Wars, served 15 terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. As chairman of the House Un-American Activities Committee and co-sponsor of the McCarran-Walter Act, he had considerable influence on the national scene, but his local legacy was defined by infrastructure. He passionately advocated for the Lehigh Valley and secured federal support to guarantee that the river would never

again devastate his constituents. Renaming the dam in his honor was recognition of his role in securing the region's safety and economic stability.

## The "Valve" of the Lehigh

Today, the Francis E. Walter Dam is often described as the "valve" that controls the flow of the Lehigh River. Flood control remains its primary mission, but the dam's operational impact on the local outdoor economy is unparalleled.

The dam operates on a bottom-release principle. Water is taken from the bottom of the lake and is very cold and highly oxygenated, even in the height of summer. This has created a unique tailwater fishery, supporting wild and stocked trout for miles downstream and making the Lehigh a destination for anglers from all over the Northeast.

In addition, the dam forms the foundation of the regional whitewater industry. Through a complicated water-management plan, the Army Corps coordinates "dam releases" during the summer months. These scheduled water releases provide the necessary flow required for rafting and kayaking through the Lehigh Gorge State Park, supporting dozens of local outfitters and drawing thousands of tourists to our area annually.

## A Premier Local Destination

The dam isn't just a technical achievement; it's a stunning destination in its own right. The reservoir covers about 770 acres at normal pool and has a distinct wilder-

ness-like feel. Unlike other regional lakes, there are no boat docks; instead, you find steep, wooded shorelines and quiet coves perfect for a kayak or a small fishing boat.

The top of the dam offers one of the most commanding views in the county. Standing on the breast, you can look north across the beautiful body of water or south into the deep cuts of the Lehigh Gorge. It is a place where human engineering meets the Pocono Mountains.

## Preserving the Balance

As we look toward the future, the Francis E. Walter Dam remains a subject of vital local interest.

It will be important to balance both the recreational and ecological conditions of the Lehigh River.

For those of us who write about and wander through the Pennsylvania outdoors, the dam is a reminder of our history and a foundation of our future. It stands as a memorial to a congressman's dedication and a shield that allows our local river towns to flourish. The next time you witness the thunder of a dam release or the peacefulness of a morning mist across the reservoir, remember that this local treasure is doing exactly what it was built to do: protecting the valley while offering us a place to explore and enjoy.

*(Dempsey is a member of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association. For more, follow on Instagram: @TheTrailScribe)*



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# Celebrate America's 250th Birthday at the Independence Day Festival Hosted by the Paul and Lisa DeAngelo Family Foundation



*Pictured is the DeAngelo Family. Standing on the left is Paul DeAngelo, Jr. on the right is Jarrod DeAngelo. Sitting is Paul D. DeAngelo, Sr. and Lisa DeAngelo.*

Hazleton, PA – The Paul and Lisa DeAngelo Family Foundation is proud to announce its 6th Annual Independence Day Festival, a full-day, 7:30 am to 5 pm, community celebration taking place in honor of America's 250th Birthday on Friday, July 3rd at City View Park, 700 S. Poplar Street in Hazleton. This highly anticipated event promises a fun-filled day of entertainment, activities, and community spirit, all while supporting meaningful causes.

The festival is free to attend, with complimentary admission and parking, making it accessible for families, friends, and community members of all ages.

The day will kick off with a variety of race events, registration begins at 7:30 am. The 5K Run/Walk and 10K Run begins at 8:30 am, the 1-Mile Youth Race begins at 10 am and the 1-Mile Family Walk begins at 11 am. An awards ceremony will follow each race event.

Entertainment begins early with a live DJ at 7:30 am, followed by live music from the band, Six Shots from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy the entertainment. Several area groups are also coming to perform beginning at 11 am and they include Melinda's Attitude School of Dance, Diamond Xtreme Athletics, Freeland Whippets Cheerleading, Drama in

Motion Performing Arts and Mountain Valley Family Martial Arts.

Attendees can enjoy a wide range of attractions throughout the day, all beginning at 9 am and ending at 5 pm. A variety of food trucks will be in attendance and include: Slims Café, Rockin Hoagies, Joe's Homemade Pierogies and Mini Doughnuts, Alta Presents Dante's Inferno, G's Dirty Dogs, Triple Squeeze, Taqueria Las Tres Coronas, Taste Our Balls, Whipped Sweete Shoppe and Wood's Ice Cream

Truck. In addition, there will be an adult beverage pavilion which will offer beer and ready to drink beverages.

A craft and vendor show will take place and to date includes: Christie's Color Watercolor World, Kay's Creations, Pamper Me by Tiffany, LilyBeans Bowtique, Carey's Cozy Crochet, Jen's Toy Den, AJ Bakery, Lexi's IV Hydration, Ethos Cares, Mountain Valley Family Martial Arts and more to come.

In addition, the DeAngelo Family exotic car and truck display will be there for your viewing pleasure, there will be tons of basket raffles, as well as a silent auction.

There will be tons of activities to enjoy including two photo booth fun stations, a bounce house, an obstacle course, tons of carnival games with prizes, a 250th birthday-themed activity with the Hazleton Art League, as well as an activity provided by the Miss Greater Hazleton Scholarship Organization, face painting, hair tinsel, a video game trailer featuring Xbox, Ps5, Nintendo Switch, flight and driving simulators, a bubble station experience and a foam party, which will run from 2 to 4 pm, so make sure to bring your swimsuit and towel! Beginning at 1:00 PM,

the first 250 children will receive a free 250th birthday cupcake, while supplies last. In addition a kid & teen watermelon eating contest will take place at 2 pm and a hot dog eating contest for 18 and older will take place at 3 pm. Registration is now open but limited so be sure to register early.

Most importantly, the event serves a greater purpose. 100% of the proceeds will be matched by the DeAngelo Family and donated through their family foundation to support youth sports, the local autism community, disabled veterans and curing cancer initiatives. Since its inception in 2021, the Independence Day Festival has donated over \$500,000 to the community.

"The Independence Day Festival is more than just a celebration, it's an opportunity to bring our community together while making a real impact," said Paul and Lisa DeAngelo. "We are proud to continue supporting causes that are so important to our family and the community." They added, "As the number of requests to our Foundation continues to grow, we remain committed to raising the funds needed to meet the increasing needs of our community so that we can continue to make a meaningful difference."

In addition to the festival, the Foundation also announced the upcoming DeAngelo Fall Classic Golf Tournament, scheduled for Friday, September 18 at Sugarloaf Golf Course. Businesses who sponsor both events will receive a 15% discount on select sponsorship opportunities.

Sponsor opportunities are also remaining for the Independence Day Festival. Please contact Leann Fallabel at (570) 436-7960 or lfalabel@sevenislescapital.com for sponsor opportunities, with questions or for more information. You may also visit the foundation's website <https://www.paulandlisadeangelifoundation.org>.

*About the Paul and Lisa DeAngelo Family Foundation: The Paul and Lisa DeAngelo Family Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the youth sports, the local autism community, disabled veterans and curing cancer initiatives.*

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## Swing Masters Polka Band to open the Freeland Concerts on Friday 22 May

By: Frank Balon

The popular Swing Masters will kick off the Freeland Concerts in the Pavilion at the Freeland Public Park. Concert will start at 6:30 PM and is part of the larger Memorial Day Weekend in Freeland.

The Swing Masters will feature such great tunes as Roll Out The Barrel, Old Time Rock and Roll, Kansas City, Mercy, Yakety Sax, Twist and Shout, Sweet Caroline, favorite Polkas and many more. Band members are Carl Simchena, Jim Pino, Dave Gonzolo, Ed Michalik and John Rabbitz.

The park is located on the 500 block of Front Street in Freeland. The Pavilion is an indoor venue with chair seating, so all Concerts are rain or shine. The concerts are free and the Freeland Rec Board will have the concession stand open.

The Freeland concert organizers are happy to announce the full schedule of Friday evening music:

May 29 - Danny Pope (Acoustic Guitar and Vocals), June 5 - The Tumbleweeds (playing Rock Covers and Originals), June 12 - The Legends (Playing Rock Oldies), June 19- The Hazleton Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, June 26- Jack James Vocalist. July 3 - North of 40, July 10 - Dave Matsinko (Playing Folk and Americana) , July 17- Tony Merker (Country Guitar and Vocals) July 24 - Southbound (Acoustic and Electric Classic Rock Duo), July 31 - Just Us Polka Band, August 7 - Hazleton Liberty Band, August 14 - Richard and Maria Lutz (Vocal Duo), August 21 - Freeland St. Ann's Band, August 28 - Jack James Vocalist, Sept 4 - Swing Dance with The Hazleton Philharmonic Big Band (6 to 8 PM).

Concert start time May 22 thru July 31 is 6:30 PM. Starting time August 7 thru September 4 is 6 PM. All concerts are free.

## A Veterans Journal #110

By Joseph Barna • Freeland  
USMC, Korea 1952-1953



### Memorial Day 2026

Memorial Day is not a holiday to celebrate, but a day to remember and give honor to every son, brother, father or grandfather, who fought and died for their country. They believed that there can be no greater love than to lay down their life for a friend. This is a vow a veteran makes going into combat.

Memorial Day is all about memories. It's about young boys who never would become old men. It's about love of a brother. It's about courage and sacrifice. To a living veteran, it's his day to reflect over the years when he wore combat boots and carried a weapon to kill and enemy. And to remember when a bullet or shell killed a brother, but somehow, he survived. A day he will never forget and will honor his brothers once more.

We will walk among the graves of the veterans no longer with us. Their new American Flags mark each spot. They have given out country everything. I feel so lucky because I have known so many veterans and indeed, honored to have stood with them battle. It is also an honor to have shared their final moments in life.

No one expects to die or expects to become a hero. No one wants to die. But it can happen suddenly, at any time, in a place thousands of miles away from your family and home. The serviceman may have had to walk from time to time through a battle field. It is like walking through a cemetery. But it is a cemetery where all of the bodies will be on top of the ground. Some of the bodies may still hold life, and those still alive will be pleading for

help.

War leaves everyone scarred. Some more than others. It takes courage to open up old wounds by sharing your memories. For some courageous Veterans, this is never possible, no matter how brave they are. Those who are able to share, truly believe we were spared, so we can tell the story of those who can't talk or tell the story in their own words. These souls will become a memory to those who were left behind. The veteran will never forget his comrade's face, he may forget the name, but never the face. My life was saved in a battle long ago by a Navy Corpsman. I will never forget his name or his face. His name was Jackie Kilmer. He thin, handsome face resembled a young Burt Lancaster. I met him in war, and that war took him away. 70 years passed, and I was invited to attend an annual military service held in his honor in San Antonio, Texas, where Jackie is buried. My trip, was paid for by a friend. Kneeling at Jackie's grave I spoke to him after 70 years. I truly believe he answered me. I will never forget him. He will never be forgotten. I was able to make the same trip to San Antonio a second time, last August. Our friendship goes on.

Veterans develop friendships upon entering the military. Friendship is a powerful feeling that you want to share with others. The feeling only ends in death. It's a memory that we must never forget.

We are not always right, but we are always real. It's who we are, what we did and how much we love each other.

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## Baseball Trivia Answers

1. Became the Milwaukee Braves
2. Became the NY Giants
3. Became the L.A. Dodgers
4. Became the Atlanta Braves
5. Became the Washington Nationals\*
6. Became the Minnesota Twins\*
7. Became the Kansas City Athletics
8. Became the Baltimore Orioles
9. Became the Oakland Athletics
10. Became the Texas Rangers (Arlington)\*
11. Became the Milwaukee Brewers



Note \* - In 1961 the A.L. Washington D.C. Senators moved to Minnesota becoming the Twins. That same year a new A.L. franchise was awarded to Washington D.C. and the nickname Senators was kept. The expansion Washington D.C. Senators team later moved to Texas in 1972.

## MEMORIAL DAY

### WORD SEARCH ANSWERS

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



# Sports Trivia Treats

By Ron Marchetti

## NCAA Greatest Game of All-Time

It happened at the Spectrum in Philadelphia on March 28, 1992. Duke's center, 'Christian Lattner' who holds the ESPN title of 'The Greatest College Basketball Player of All-Time', sank a last second shot to nip Kentucky 104-103 in the East Regional Final to cap the greatest game in NCAA basketball tournament history. With 2.1 seconds remaining in overtime Duke inbounded the ball under Kentucky's basket. Grant Hill threw a 75 foot pass to Lattner. Catching the ball cleanly near the foul line, Lattner dribbled once, turned and hit the jumper as time expired. The thrill of victory was never more for Duke and the agony of defeat was never more apologizing for Kentucky. Lattner was 10 for 10 from the field and 10 for 10 from the free throw line for a total of 31 points. He never missed a shot in that game.

## Highest Paid Player in Professional Football (1965)

It early January 1965 the Jets signed University of Alabama quarterback 'Joe Namath' to a \$427,000. contract over three years to become the highest paid player in Pro football (up to that point). New York picked Namath first overall in the NFL draft. Nicknamed 'Broadway Joe', he will become one of the best known athletes in the United States, notable not only for his performance on the gridiron, but also for his off-field exploits as a pop culture icon.

## The Day that the Iron Horse Lost a Home Run

It happened on April 26, 1931. Lou Gehrig lost a home run because of the boneheaded base running of a Yankee teammate while playing the Senators at Griffith Stadium in Washington. With two out and a runner on first, Gehrig belted a drive into the seats, but the ball bounced back into the glove of the center-fielder. The runner believed the ball was caught for the third out and headed for the dugout. Gehrig circled the bases but was called out for passing the runner. Gehrig finished that 1931 season with 46 home runs, tied with Babe Ruth for the American League lead.



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## THE ORIGINS OF THE BEER GROWLER

Before your favorite brewery filled up a fancy glass jug with your favorite brew, the beer growler was basically just a bucket.

Back in the late 1800s and early 1900s, most beer in America was served on draft, so people would send someone down to the local saloon to bring beer home for dinner. And yes, sometimes that "someone" was a child. Wow, parenting has come a long way since then hasn't it?

Usually these kids would carry the beer in a metal pail and beer would slosh around on the walk home. All that sloshing would cause carbon dioxide to escape under the lid making a rumbling, growling sound. That's the popular origin story for the name "growler."

Now there's no rock-solid proof that's definitely where the word came from, but it's a lot better than "because Dad growled when the kid spilled half of it crossing the street."

Eventually, the metal pail evolved into the glass jug we know today. Proof that bringing good beer home has always been one of humanity's greatest survival strategies.

-Jeff & Desiree Bonomo

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



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523 CENTRE STREET • FREELAND, PENNSYLVANIA 18224



*Remembering all of our fellow  
Brothers, Sisters and POW/MIA members  
who have passed away.*



## The members of the Freeland V.F.W. honor all past & present Veterans!



V.F.W. Post #5010 • 341 Centre Street • Freeland, PA 18224

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WE WELCOME ALL NEW MEMBERS - REGULAR • SOCIAL

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V.F.W. Home Association Post #5010

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V.F.W. Post #5010

Serving the Freeland Area Community  
Since 1946

Remembering & Honoring Military Personnel who died in service.

