

# The Anthracite Post

Highlighting Neighborhood News & Events

Volume 1, Edition 7, November 2024



## FREE

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# Freeland VFW Hosts Record-Breaking Toys for Tots Fundraiser!





The Freeland VFW Post 5010 transformed into a hub of joy, generosity, and community spirit this past weekend during the largest annual Luzerne County Toys for Tots fundraiser. With music, food, raffles, and surprises, the event brought locals together for a night to remember—all in the name of helping children.

The night featured electrifying performances by The Legends and Kartune, alongside delicious food and exciting raffle prizes. Families and friends filled the hall, united by a shared purpose: bringing smiles to kids' faces this holiday season.

This event's success stems from the tireless efforts of its "core group" of dedicated volunteers: Laura, Stan, Jennell,

Joey, Kristen (TC), Jason (T-Bone), Dave, Ronny, Ginzo, Todd, Frank, Terri, Mike, Karen, Mary, Lou, Wally, Liz, Carli, Jodie, Josh, Chrissy, and Mary. Year after year, they pour their hearts into making this fundraiser a shining example of community solidarity.

Gratitude also goes to the officers and members of Freeland VFW Post 5010 and its Home Association for hosting the event and ensuring its continued success.

The community's efforts delivered record-breaking results:

\$13,903 raised

1,289 toys collected

Event organizer Chris Bayzick shared that "These totals exceeded last year's

achievements, proving that the spirit of giving in Luzerne County is stronger than ever" and wants to share a Heartfelt Thank You to everyone who purchased tickets, donated items, or simply showed up with a toy in hand—this night wouldn't have been possible without you.

Your kindness will light up the holidays for countless children in need."

As Toys for Tots wraps up another phenomenal year, one thing is clear: this community knows how to give back in spectacular fashion.

Thank you for showing that together, we can make a difference!

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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

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## **The Anthracite Post**

Highlighting Neighborhood News & Events

## Letter from the Editors

Hello everyone! Wow! What a differences since our last issue. We went from 60° weather to our first snowfall yesterday. I am here at the office working on this issue while listening to one of my favorite bands "Old Crow Medicine Show" and I just can't get warm.

I can't believe Christmas is just around the corner. I hate the stress of shopping for just the right gifts for friends and family. Luckily the surrounding areas have many craft shows and bazaars where you can find uniquely crafted gifts and homemade treats.

I see a lot of homes with Christmas lights already. If you're in Freeland, the Annual Tree Lighting at Martin's Square is on December 1st at 5 pm; the Hazleton Mayor's Tree Lighting at City Hall is December 4th at 5 pm; the Can Do Community Park Tree Lighting is December 6th at 4:30 pm; and in Nuremberg, stop by Nuremberg Park on December 8th at 5 p.m. And we sure can't forget Christmas Boulevard in Berwick which begins December 7th thru January 1st - 6-10 pm.

Do you know any good Christmas cookie recipes you'd like to share in the next issue? Email it to The AnthracitePost@gmail.com.

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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## December 2024

## BIZARRE & UNIQUE HOLIDAYS

- 1 Advent Begins National Cookie Cutter Day
- 2 Cyber Monday National Fritters Day
- 3 Make a Gift Day
- 4 National Cookie Day Santa's' List Day
- 5 Bathtub Party Day Repeal Day – The 21st Amendment ends Prohibition.
- 6 St. Nicholas Day Mitten Tree Day
- 7 International Civil Aviation Day Pearl Harbor Day
- 8 International Children's Day
- 9 Christmas Card Day National Llama Day
- 10 Human Rights Day Nobel Prize Day
- 11 National App Day National Noodle Ring Day
- 12 Gingerbread House Day Poinsettia Day
- 13 Friday the 13th National Cocoa Day
- 14 Roast Chestnuts Day
- 15 Bill of Rights Day National Lemon Cupcake Day
- 16 National Chocolate Covered Anything Day
- 17 National Maple Syrup Day
- 18 Bake Cookies Day
- 19 Look for an Evergreen Day National Regifting Day
- 20 Go Caroling Day
- 21 Humbug Day Winter Solstice
- 22 National Date Nut Bread Day
- 23 Festivus for the rest of us
- 24 National Chocolate Day National Egg Nog Day
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 Kwanzaa National Candy Cane Day
- 27 Make Cut Out Snowflakes Day National Fruitcake Day
- 28 Card Playing Day Lego Build Day
- 29 Pepper Pot Day
- 30 Bacon Day
- 31 Make Up Your Mind Day New Year's Eve



## **Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship**

Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, 37 Faux Hill Road Zion Grove, PA 17985 7:30 PM

### **Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

260 Mahanoy Street Nuremberg, PA 18241 10:30 PM

## Christmas Masses for Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception RCC

898 CENTRE STREET, FREELAND

December 24 - 4 PM and 10 PM December 25 - 7:30 AM and 11 AM

### Christmas Masses at Good Shepherd RCC

87 S. HUNTER HIGHWAY, DRUMS

December 24 - 4 PM and 8 PM December 25 - 8:30 AM and 9:30 AM





## Freeland St. Ann's Band Christmas Concert Dec 7 at MMI

By: Frank Balon



On Saturday December 7 at 1 PM, the famed Freeland St. Ann's Band will present its Christmas Concert at the MMI Preparatory School at 154 Centre St. in Freeland. The concert is free and there is plenty of parking at MMI. Under Director Joseph Rosato, the band has prepared a wonderful concert of both popular and traditional holiday selections. Listen for "Do You Hear What I Hear", "Still, Still, Still", "All I Want For Christmas Is You", "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas", "Go Tell It on the Mountain", "The 3-Minute Nutcracker", "Christmas Baby Please Come Home" and more. The concert is free. Members of the band:

Flute: Barb McMahon, Gina Bertucci, Tami Osmansk, Gisselle Pena

Saige Kleyman

Clarinet: Jim Pino, Jude Stefanik, Judy Lagana, Kelly Fenstermacher

Mary Ann Ondrey, Sue Falvello, Alex Harris, Callum Dormer

Trumpet: Frank Balon, Marty Delehanty, John Rabbitz, Gene Hunsinger

Saxophone: Frank Seratch, Jack Belovesick, Tori Dibble

Horn: Manny Beauchamp

Euphonium: Susan Ryan, Mike Berger

Trombone: Ken Wenner Sr., Paula Holoviak, Nelson Berger

Tuba: Bob Lagana
Percussion: Jerry Panecek
Narrator: Bobby Maso

# Holiday Quilts & Crafts Show

The Holiday Quilts and Craft Show will be held in 2 locations: The White Haven Area Community Library - 121 Towanda Street, White Haven and at The Victorian Connection - 231 Wilkes Barre St., White Haven on Saturday, December 7th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Beautiful and unique quilts will be displayed throughout the two locations in White Haven: the White Haven Area Community Library and the Victorian Connection, which is a restored Victorian era home built in the 1800s. Featured with the quilts are unique, original art, photography, pottery, holiday dorations, fabric art, soaps and more! A large selection of gift baskets will be part of a raffle and home baked breads and desserts will also be a part of the show. Tickets are \$5 with all proceeds benefitting the library.

## **Wreaths Across America**





Wreaths Across America is a nationwide effort that brings communities together to honor and remember the sacrifices made by our veterans. Each December, volunteers lay wreaths on the graves of veterans to ensure their legacy is never forgotten. This act of remembrance is not just about placing a wreath; it's about coming together as a community to reflect on the freedoms we enjoy and the cost at which they were secured.

The theme for 2024, 'Live with Purpose,' encourages everyone to reflect on how they can make a positive impact in their communities, just as our veterans did through their service. By participating in Wreaths Across America, you are not only honoring those who have served but also teaching future generations about the importance of remembering our history and those who have shaped it.

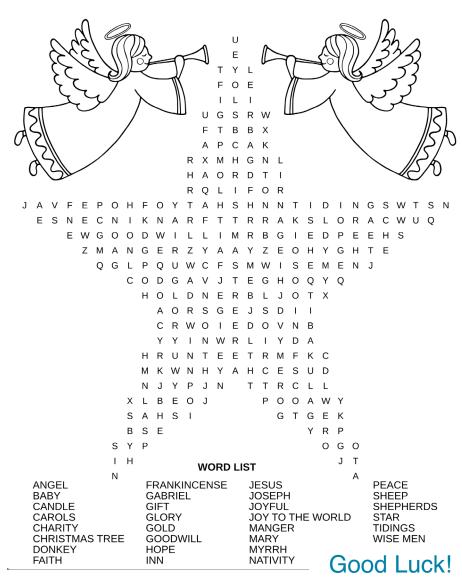
The Sky View Memorial Park in Tamaqua is one of the many locations participating in this heartfelt event with a ceremony to be held on December 14th at 12pm. The park aims to honor all the 3,762 veterans laid to rest there, by placing a wreath on each headstone. This goal requires the support of the community through donations and volunteer efforts. By sponsoring a wreath, you are ensuring that a veteran's sacrifice is remembered and honored.

The deadline for wreath sponsorship is Tuesday December 3rd , and your contribution can make a significant difference. Whether you choose to sponsor a wreath, volunteer your time, or simply spread the word, your involvement is crucial. Together, we can ensure that the legacy of our heroes' lives on and that their stories continue to inspire future generations.

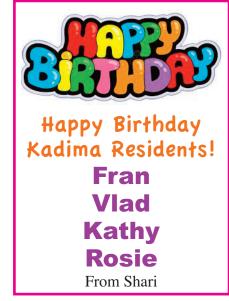
For more information on how to get involved, visit the Wreaths Across America website or sponsor a wreath visit their website http://wreathsacross-america.org/PA0524. Let's come together to honor our heroes and ensure they are never forgotten.



## Christmas Wordsearch









# Senator Dave Argall 29th District Pennsylvania Senate Toll Free Number: 877-327-4255

senatorargall.com/ facebook.com/SenatorArgall



## Demolishing Blighted Eyesores, Creating Green Spaces in Downtown Tamaqua

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

Three blighted and decaying buildings will be demolished on Railroad Street in Tamaqua – just across from the historic 1874 Tamaqua Railroad Station – to build a new park showcasing a Liberty Tree.

When I was growing up in a "half a double" on Arlington Street, I never would have imagined the new life that we now see in Tamaqua. This honor doesn't just bring attention to the rich local history of the borough – it also creates a new green space in the midst of downtown and will allow railroad station visitors to walk through the park to Stoker's Brewing Company, the Tamaqua Arts Center, and beyond.

Funding to tear down these decaying buildings came from the Schuylkill County demolition fund. We've worked to secure millions of dollars in state grants and successfully written new laws to provide much-needed dollars to this fund, so we can repair some old buildings for new housing needs and tear down others to breathe new life into older neighborhoods.

As we approach the 250th anniversary of our nation in 2026, Liberty Trees are being planted across the country as symbols of our enduring freedoms. The final tree was located at Saint John's University in Maryland, until it was destroyed by a hurricane in 1999. Now, new Liberty Trees are being planted from the remains of this final tree at locations of note across our nation. One tree will be planted in each county in Pennsylvania.

## **Eckley Miners' Village Receives American Eagle Outfitters Grant**



Thank you to American Eagle for donating \$15,000 toward Eckley's preservation and revitalization!

This pivotal grant puts Eckley over its match goal for a \$48,000 National Endowment for the Humanities grant to create a STEAM learning center and overnight lodging, returning two historic buildings to public use for the first time in the museum's 50-year history. Stay tuned for more info on the exciting work to come.

The American Eagle Outfitters Foundation supports positive change by awarding Community Grants to nonprofit organizations

at a grassroots level in communities like Hazleton, where AEO's distribution center just celebrated its 10th anniversary.

# **Ethan Yanac Completes Eagle Scout Project**





Life Scout Ethan Yanac recently completed his Eagle project by rebuilding, cleaning, and lighting the three welcome to Freeland signs. Ethan invested 86 hours in this project.

The 940 west sign and the East Butler road required major deforestation as brush and trees obscured the signage.

The 940 east sign required rebuilding and replacement of lattice and supports.

All 3 signs were improved with solar lighting and some signs for organizations are being replaced.

Ethan is the son of Erica and Ed Yanac of Schwabe Street, Freeland.

#### Bob McCormick - Reclamation: From Coal Dust to Hope



Photo is of artist Bob McCorminck and the painting Pat Stood on Slag, taken at the Art of the State 2024 exhibition at the State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg. The Hazleton Art League's December/January art exhibition, Bob McCormick *Reclamation: From Coal Dust to Hope* opens with a reception Friday, December 6 from 5-8 pm at the Hayden Family Center for the Arts. Born in Big Mine Run, PA in 1952, McCormick experienced the decline of Pennsylvania's Anthracite Era first-hand. His paintings and writings articulate memories, concerns, and musings regarding the history of coal in Pennsylvania, its lasting impact, and the state of our nation.

The gallery opening coincides

with Wassail fest, the CAN DO Community Park tree lighting, pictures with Santa and more. It is fun for the whole family! *Coffee Talk*, a discussion with the artist about his work, takes place from 1-3 pm Sunday, December 8. Admission is free, and light refreshments are served. Acoustic Jam with live music in the Gallery is Sunday, December 22 from 1-3 pm.

From Coal Dust to Hope art exhibition runs from December 6 - January 26. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 am - 5 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 1 - 4 pm, closed Mondays and holidays. For up-to-date information on classes, programs, and other events follow us on Facebook, Instagram (hazletonsartleague), and "X" (HALfortheArts). The Hazleton Art League, Hayden Family Center for the Arts, 31 W. Broad Street, Hazleton, PA 18201 www.hazletonartleague.org 570-455-3333.



# Upcycling With Lisa



## It's Hot Chocolate Season!

As the winter chill sets in, there's nothing quite like a warm cup of hot chocolate to bring comfort and joy. Let's dive into creating a festive hot chocolate bar using thrift store items to make your next holiday party or cozy movie night with family and friends extra special.

The best part about creating a hot chocolate bar is the customization. Start by collecting cute Christmas and holiday mugs or vintage dishes from your local thrift store. Whether you prefer vintage charm or modern elegance, choose mugs and vessels that fit your style and theme. For pajama-wearing family movie nights, use festive mugs, wooden crates, and colorful spoons, adding popcorn and cookies for a fun touch. For a more sophisticated gathering, opt for elegant displays with crystal dishes, candles, and silverware alongside desserts.

A visually appealing hot chocolate bar is key. Add layers to your setup by using risers under your tablecloth to elevate bowls, glasses, cake plates. and containers. Depending on your theme, you can use candles in crystal holders for a unique perspective or fluffy Santas for a playful touch. Vintage glassware adds height and sparkle, perfect for holding sprinkles, chocolate chips, and M&Ms. Larger apothecary jars can hold marshmallows, while crystal ice buckets are great for candy canes and chocolatecovered spoons. Once you place your mugs, dishes, and serving utensils, add festive touches with holiday napkins, colorful spoons, or elegant silverware if you're hosting a fancy party.

Create a Hot Chocolate Bar sign—dollar stores often have cute holiday signs that you can customize with a Cricut or hand-paint for a personal touch.

Supplies Needed for a Festive Hot Chocolate Bar - You can include as many or as few toppings as you like. Here are some ideas: M&M's, Mini chocolate chips, Sprinkles, Crushed peppermints, White chocolate pieces, Chocolate covered spoons, Candy canes, Cinnamon sticks, Flavored whipped cream, Chocolate syrup, small and large marshmallows, Salted caramel, Toffee bits, Coarse Sea salt, Peanut butter cups, Milk chocolate truffles, Cookies, Dark chocolate syrup, Caramel syrup

Other Supplies - Festive tablecloths, Festive mugs, Utensils and/or scoops for the toppings, Spoons and stirrers, Insulated carafe or soup tureen, Festive napkins, Chalkboard or signs and other labels (optional), Wooden crates, dishes, and vessels to help with setup.

With these tips and supplies, your hot chocolate bar will be the highlight of your holiday festivities.

Enjoy the warmth and sweetness of the season!





## **Christmas Show and Dinner at Woodies December 7**

By: Frank Balon





Vocalist Jack James will provide an evening of Christmas Music at Woodies Luncheonette in Freeland on Saturday December 7 - 5 to 8 PM. Tickets are required and include a full dinner and dessert for \$30. Entree and Dessert choices must be made in advance with selections of Stuffed Chicken Breast, Roast Beef, Baked Ham or Stuffed Flounder. Dessert choices are Apple Pie or Rice Pudding. Mr. James is happy to return to Woodies with a wonderful Christmas Show that will include favorite holiday tunes that have truly survived the test of time. Joining Jack will be trumpeter Frank Balon who is excited to be playing along with Jack and to be featured in several solo selections as well. Call Woodies for reservations and tickets at 570-636-3333.



## Hazleton Rotary Selling Lottery Tickets

Submitted By: Pat Korb

There were many happy winners in the Hazleton Rotary's Lottery Ticket Sales in former years and we are happy to say "We're Back" with more tickets available this year. Buy a few tickets for yourself and those you care about and sport your own winner's smile this year! Keep in mind, it would make a super Christmas gift!!

Drawings will take place daily, January 1, 2025-December 31, 2025.

If the number on the bottom of your ticket is selected as the Straight Winning Number for that day, at the 7:00 PM PICK3 drawing only, then you will win whatever amount of money is listed as the winning amount for that day.

Rotary will track winners and mail out winning checks weekly.

Deadline for all returns is December 20, 2024.

Each ticket costs \$20.00. A bargain for 365 chances to win!

Tickets can be purchased from any Rotary Club Member or contact Linda at 570-455-9500.



#### **Representative Dane Watro**

116th Legislative District Pennsylvania House of Representatives 570-453-1344

RepWatro.com / Facebook.com/RepWatro



### **Heating Assistance Program Now Open**

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

With cold weather knocking at the door, residents who struggle with their home heating bills are reminded they can now apply for assistance from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

LIHEAP is a federally funded program that helps individuals and families pay their heating bills through home heating energy assistance grants of up to \$1,000. It also provides crisis grants to help in the event of an emergency or if a resident is in danger of losing his or her heat due to broken equipment, lack of fuel or termination of utility service.

The income eligibility guidelines for LIHEAP are set at 150% of the federal poverty income level. For example, the gross income limit for an individual is \$22,590 and for a family of four it is \$46,800.

Residents may apply for LIHEAP online at www.compass.state.pa.us, by phone at 1-866-550-4355 or by contacting the County Assistance Office in their county of residence. The program runs through April 4, 2025.

Learn more at www.pa.gov/en/agencies/dhs or contact one of my district offices.



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



## **Safe Shopping Tips**

"With the Holidays upon us, we will all be doing some shopping in the near future. While shopping at stores, remember to not promote the items you have already purchased while shopping. Do not leave items out in the open in your vehicles, cover them with a blanket or put them in the trunk/cargo area of your vehicle. More importantly, remember to lock your vehicle doors while shopping. Unfortunately, criminals will be looking for unlocked doors in parking lots and will take any items within that vehicle. Always lock your doors, cover your purchased items and if you see anything suspicious while shopping, either tell a worker or call the Police. Stay safe while shopping this Holiday season!"

## The Freeland Community Choir Christmas Cantata

By: Frank Balon



The Freeland Community Choir will present its Christmas cantata Sunday, December 8, at 3 p.m. at St. John's Reformed UCC, 829 Washington Street, Freeland. Bobby Maso will narrate the performance. An encore performance is scheduled for Sunday, December 15, at Faith United Church of Christ, 21 Faith Drive, Hazle Township, narrated by Millini Skuba.

This year's cantata, "Invitation To A Miracle," was written by Joseph M. Martin. This cantata journeys from the miracle of prophesy to the glorious proclamation of Jesus' birth.

The cantata begins with accompanist Janet Hartman playing "Invitation To A Miracle – Overture." The choir will then sing the following songs from the cantata:

"A Processional of Hope," followed by "Joy Arising," "Your Light Has Come," "My Soul Rejoices in the Lord" featuring Maria Lutz as soloist, and "A Celtic Cradle Carol," featuring Denise Wetzel as soloist. The cantata continues with, "Alleluia! Christ Is Born!" "Would I Miss the Miracle?" and the final number, "A Gloria Gathering," featuring Jeanette Irwin, Louise Tomtishen, Darlene Trovitch and Darlene Wolfe.

Trumpeter Frank Balon will lend his talents on select numbers within the cantata. During the offering, Balon will play "See Amid the Winter Snow" by Edward Caswell, accompanied by Janet Hartman on the piano.

Joe Racho and Woody Zimmerman will join in singing "The Little Drummer Boy/Peace on Earth." The program will end with the choir singing "Hope Is Dawning on the World" by composer Larry Shackley, featuring Les Shupp as soloist. The audience and choir will join in singing "Joy to the World."

The choir is under the direction of Sheila Butkiewicz.

Members of the choir include:
Soprano Mary Beth Billig, Barbara Deaton
Maryann Hines, Dawn Hydock

Jeanette Irwin, Maria Lutz
Karen Prussock, Kate Rusnock
Elsie Schultz, Louise Tomtishen
Robyn Trexler, Darlene Trovitch
Denise Wetzel, Darlene Wolfe.
Donna Cassarella, Roseanne Denior

Alto Donna Cassarella, Roseanne Denion Carol Eskin, Carol Jones Mary Lou Keck, Karen Lingenfelter Marie Marencin, Sandra Meier Georgia Rusnock, Marla Sardo

> Linda Tier Frank Balon, Jackie Berger, Brian Hart Dottie Mattey, Bruce Pedriani

Marilyn Stanton.

Tenor

Bass Dick Drukker, David Mumaw, Joe Racho Robert Rushalk, Les Shupp

Woody Zimmerman.

The program is open to the public. A free-will offering will be taken for the purchase of music for future programs by the choir.



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





Congratulations to Penn State Schuylkill on its 90th anniversary! Dane Watro joined other local lawmakers at the school's Schuylkill Haven campus for Wednesday's celebration, which included remarks by Penn State President Dr. Neeli Bendapudi.



Governor Shapiro Visits Major Hazle Township Development Project to Announce PA Permit Fast Track Program.



Dane Watro stopped by Hazleton Elementary/ Middle School this week to check out YES! (Your Economic Success) Day, sponsored by Junior Achievement of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Eighth graders learned all about the importance career and financial decisions will play in their lives as young adults. It's a great program that helps to prepare them for a brighter future.







The 46th Annual American Cancer Society Telethon recently held at the Pennsylvania Theater of Performing Arts in Hazleton.



# Ring in the season with festive community events during 'Hazleton for the Holidays'

# Hazleton Holidays

The holiday season in Hazleton kicks off with a series of joyful happenings, all part of the annual Hazleton for the Holidays celebration – a partnership between the City of Hazleton, CAN DO, the Downtown Hazleton Alliance for Progress (DHAP), the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, the Hazleton Art League, the Hazleton Public Library, and the Hazleton LaunchBox Supported by Pasco L Schiavo.

This year's family-friendly events, which span throughout the month of December, include Mayor Cusat's City Hall Tree Lighting, Sunday Christmas Village events, and Sunday Santa Parades; CAN DO's Community Christmas and CAN DO Community Park Tree Lighting; the Hazleton Public Library's Character Story time Reading; the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce's Downtown Hazleton Holiday Mixer; the Hazleton Art League's December Art Exhibition; DHAP's Wassailfest & Downtown Hazleton Night Market; and many more.

The first event in this year's festivities is the Hazleton Holiday Celebration, which includes the Mayor's City Hall Tree Lighting and the 31st Annual CAN DO Community Christmas, both set for Wednesday, December 4, from 5 to 9 PM. The Mayor's tree lighting, which begins promptly at 5 PM, kicks off the holiday season at City Hall, located at 40 North Church Street. While participating in the Mayor's tree lighting, attendees are encouraged to grab a complimentary hot chocolate, served by students from Immanuel Christian School. Additionally, the Hazleton Public Library, located across the street at 55 North Church Street, will be holding a Character Meet and Greet, featuring Frosty the Snowman.

Immediately following the tree lighting ceremony, the CAN DO Student Action Committee will host its annual CAN DO Community Christmas program at Christ Lutheran Church, located next to City Hall at 210 West Green Street. The event will feature musical performances from students across the Greater Hazleton Area including the Hazleton Area High School Jazz Ensemble, McAdoo Kelayres Elementary Middle School Chorus, Hazleton Area Cougar Crooners Vocal Jazz Ensemble, MMI Black Diamond Chorale, and Heights-Terrace 3rd Grade Choir. After the concert, attendees can have a picture taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus and leave with refreshments donated by

Keystone Job Corps and Niagara Bottling.

On Thursday, December 5, the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce invites its members, as well as their employees, co-workers, and guests, to attend the Annual Downtown Holiday Mixer. The event will be held from 5 to 7 PM at the Hazleton Art League, located at 31 West Broad Street. Attendees will have an opportunity to tour the facility, celebrate the holidays with other local businesses, and receive an advance viewing of the December Art Exhibition - 'Reclamation: From Coal Dust to Hope' by Robert McCormick. While the event is free to attend, reservations must be made on the Chamber's website.

The festivities continue on Friday, December 6, with the 4th Annual CAN DO Community Park Tree Lighting. The evening begins at 4:30 PM at CAN DO Community Park, located at the corner of North

can be purchased in advance by visiting Hazleton-fortheholidays.com.

Businesses and artisanal vendors are encouraged to participate in the Wassailfest & Downtown Hazleton Night Market to showcase their products and offer unique beverages for the Wassailfest tasting. Interested businesses can contact CAN DO's Economic Development Assistant, Ana Perez, at aperez@hazletoncando.com for more information on how to participate.

Additionally, the City of Hazleton will be hosting its Annual Santa Parades and Sunday Christmas Village on December 8, 15, and 22. On these days, Santa and Mrs. Claus will be traveling along the streets of Hazleton and end their parade at CAN DO Community Park, where local vendors and artisans will be selling unique holiday gifts from 3 to 7 PM. Photos with Santa will also be available each day



Top Row from left: Nico Makuta (CAN DO, Inc.), Ana Perez (CAN DO, Inc.), Mary Jordan (Hazleton Public Library), Christine Galuska (City of Hazleton), Chris Pavlick (City of Hazleton), Jeff Roberts (City of Hazleton). Bottom Row: Miguel Polanco (CAN DO, Inc.), Jocelyn Sterenchock (CAN DO, Inc.), Mayor Jeff Cusat (City of Hazleton), Leann Fallabel (Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce)

Broad and Laurel streets in Downtown Hazleton. Guests can pay tribute to a living Nativity scene, hosted by Holy Annunciation Parish; enjoy a complimentary hot chocolate bar, served by the CAN DO Student Action Committee; listen to carolers and other festive music; and watch as Downtown Hazleton's majestic 22-foot Christmas tree is lit aglow.

Also taking place that night is the opening of the Hazleton Art League's December Art Exhibition, scheduled from 5 to 8 PM, free photos with Santa at the Hazleton LaunchBox, sponsored by Amazon AVP1 and Pennsylvania State Police, and DHAP's Annual Wassailfest & Downtown Hazleton Night Market, from 4:30 to 8 PM. A beloved tradition, Wassailfest aims to bring people together to celebrate the holiday season with old-fashioned charm and promote local businesses, artisans, and their items for sale. Attendees can purchase a collectible mug for \$10 that serves as their ticket to complimentary tastings of unique beverages at participating businesses along Broad Street. Mugs

starting at 5 PM.

In celebration of the season, the Pennsylvania Theatre of Performing Arts, presented by the DM Performing Arts Studio, will also have showings of 'The Nutcracker Ballet' on December 6, 7, and 8, followed by its annual holiday variety show, 'Season's Greetings From: PTPA', on Sunday, December 15 starting at 3:30 PM. Additional information can be found by visiting ptpashows.org.

For more information on the City of Hazleton's or Downtown Hazleton holiday events, please contact Hazleton Parks and Recreation's Recreation Director, Ali McKittrick, at amckittrick@cityofhazleton.org or CAN DO's Marketing Communications Specialist, Miguel Polanco, at mpolanco@hazletoncando.com.

With a variety of activities, Hazleton for the Holidays promises to be a magical and joyous experience for all. Visit HazletonForTheHolidays.com, which will be a hub for all things holidays happening in the city this season.



# Sports Trivia Treats

By Ron Marchetti

## "Retired Because He was Afraid to Fly"

BOSTON RED SOX OUT-FIELDER '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 age of 32, because he had a fear of flying. Air travel was a relatively new practice in baseball. When Jensen joined the majors with the Yankees in 1950, teams traveled almost exclusively by train. 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 Statton' 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 with

the Sherman Twins in the East Texas League in 1946. "The Stratton Story", 1949 and was 18-8 with the 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 the 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 on to win the Fall Classic in 1977 and 1978 with Jackson's help. Those were the two years that Reggie Jackson was known as "Mister October". Till next time, be a good sport and "Stay Loose".



## Choosing The Right Red Wine

Look at red wines like guests at a party. The light bodied ones are charming introverts, subtle, easygoing. The medium bodied ones are the conversationalists who are just bold enough to hold your attention. The full bodied reds are the life of the party, demanding all your attention... and probably a nap afterward.

Light Bodied Red Wines (Pinot Noir)

Light-bodied reds are typically lighter in color and texture, offering fruity, bright, and often delicate flavors. They usually have lower tannins, making them smooth and easy to drink.

Medium Bodied Red Wines (Merlot)

Medium bodied wines strike a balance between light and full bodied options. They often display red fruit flavors and mild spice, with moderate tannins and acidity.

Full Bodied Red Wines (Malbec)

Full bodied reds are rich, bold, and have a higher tannin content and alcohol level. These wines usually have dark fruit flavors, like black-berries or plums, and can include spice or earthy notes.

-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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## **2024 Pardeesville Cruise Night Proceed Distributions**



Front Row from left: Dave Digon, Janine Malloy, Eden Triano (Secretary), Susan Wilkinson, Joyce Semon, Matt Manganelli. Back Row from left: John Beltrami (ACS), Ron Semon (President), Trevor Wilkinson, Kenny Wilkinson (Vice President), Kevin Zilker, Cindy Digon, Nino Cimino (ACS).



Front row from left: Dolores Clatch, Janine Malloy, Eden Triano (Secretary) Back Row from left: Matt Manganelli, Joe Clatch, Ron Semon (President), Tammy Torres (LVHN - Hazleton President), Trevor Wilkinson, Joyce Semon, Joe Mope.

The third annual Pardeesville Cruise Night event was held on Saturday August 17th at the Pardeesville Playground in Hazle Township. Despite the misty rain conditions off and on all day, the event went on as planned and was once again very successful.

The event featured two local live bands which played back to back the entire day, a total of 185 tricky tray raffle baskets, 32 awards and the groups very popular 16 mile rolling cruise. New features this year included a sand art vendor and balloon art for the kids. Also new this year, was the Steve Clark's "Pennies from Heaven" campaign that allowed participants to donate their loose change, in an attempt to "fill the bottle" for additional revenue towards the groups two causes: Cancer Patient

Assistance Programs and Suicide Awareness / Prevention Programs in the Greater Hazleton Area.

The event also featured a wide array of food choices provided by 10 different food vendors from the area, in addition to event merchandise including shirts with all the sponsors listed for the event.

New for 2024, the group also held a "Spinoff Cruise" event the following month on Saturday September 14th at the Hazle Township Baseball Complex, with proceeds from that event going towards Domestic Violence Awareness / Prevention Programs.

This year marked a new milestone for the group, with total proceeds reaching \$50,000 given back to the community since forming in 2022. The group consists of only 16 members who are all

friends with each other and relies on the help of additional friends and family members the day of the event to pull it all off.

The group would like to extend a special "thank you" to all their sponsors, tricky tray donors and volunteers that helped make the event possible. Without your support, we would never be able to provide such an event for the community.

#### Totals:

ACS Telethon \$7,639.80 LVHN Hazleton \$2,000.00 Friends of Rachel Club \$9,639.80 Domestic Violence Service Center \$1,000.00



Front row from left: Janine Malloy, Ron Semon (President). Middle row from left: Joe Clatch, Dolores Clatch, Lilly Merenda, Layla Merenda, Corrine Gerhart (Club Advisor), Megan Darraugh, Eden Triano (Secretary). Back row from left: Joe Mope, Matt Manganelli, Savannah Johnson, Giada Mariano, Trevor Wilkinson



Front row from left: Janine Malloy, Matt Manganelli, Susan Wilkinson, Kenny Wilkinson (Vice President), Marsha Pigga (Exec. Director DVSC), Eden Triano (Secretary), Trevor Wilkinson, Joe Clatch. Back row from left: is Cindy Digon, Ron Semon (President), John Evancho (Treasurer), Kevin Zilker.

## **Heritage Hill Upcoming Events:**

### Caribbean Jeff's Christmas Show

Beach-loving Caribbean Jeff returns to Heritage Hill Senior Community, chasing those winter blues away with a performance of your favorite Christmas tunes to warm and uplift your spirits. Enjoy his Christmas show with us on Monday, Dec. 16, at 2 p.m., at 800 Sixth St. RSVP by Dec. 13 to Rachael or Matthew by calling 570-427-4500 or emailing rtimm@heritagehillsenior.com.

## Hill's Angels Helping and Healing Caregiver Support Group

Are you caring for an aging loved one at home? You are not alone. Join us at Heritage Hill Senior Community, 800 Sixth St., for a free and confidential support group and light refreshments on Thursday, Dec. 19, at 2 p.m. Bring your caregiving questions for an informative, open discussion with our senior care experts; learn more about senior health and managing caregiver stress; or share your experiences with the group. RSVP by Nov. 19 by calling Rachael or Matthew at 570-427-4500 or rtimm@heritagehill-senior.com.

Follow Heritage Hill Senior Community on Facebook for the latest community news and events, including rain date announcements.



## A Veterans Journal #94

By Joseph Barna • Freeland *USMC*, *Korea* 1952-1953



Mr. Barna is a 5-time National Gold Medal Winning Author in the Annual Veteran's Administration Creative Arts Festival. In the competition, he is judged against thousands of entries from the 140 V.A. Facilities nationwide. Follows is his Gold-Medal winner from 2019, "Tears".

#### Tears

I would like to talk about something that all people possess. However, some people lose the ability to make them from time to time. I speak of tears. "Tear": it's such a beautiful, simple word that shows love, compassion, remembrance and yes, sometimes pain. My first tear came the day I was born. I imagine I was lying in my mother's arms; maybe I was looking up at my father or the old-time doctor who delivered me. This day would be the first of many tearful days in my young life. Growing up, when I did something wrong or fell while playing, I am sure there were many tears. Then, thru my teen years, as with most boys, we kept the tears inside mostly. I guess this is when you start saving them for later in life. The tears would appear on other faces as I graduated from high school, entered the military, and at the wedding with my beautiful wife.

While I was at war, I know my mother must have shed many tears while I was away. My family told me that when I was wounded, mom received a letter from the War Department. She wouldn't open it, fearing that it would tell her that I had been killed. When she finally read it, she cried tears of joy learning that I was only wounded.

In Korea, I watched young boys fight and die. Although the tears didn't come out, I know they were there inside me. I remember seeing South Korean people: men, women, children, even old people walking among the wounded and dead on a battlefield. They would carry the bodies, each taking an arm or leg. They would take the bodies down the mountain to the aid station. I would also see these same people going thru garbage piles, looking for something to eat. Seeing this, I pictured my family in the same positions and I felt the tears well up in my eyes.

After a while, and thru many battles, I lost the urge to cry. Maybe God only gave me a certain amount of tears and I had used my allotment up? After I came home from Korea, I had the same body that I went in with. But something was different. I had a mind full of the hell I lived thru. Something inside me was different and it was tearing me apart. As the years went by, I lost my grandmother, father, and youngest brother. Then I lost one of my daughters. God knows I wanted to cry but I couldn't. I begged for one tear to fall, but none came.

Then, a few years ago, I was at the V.A. Hospital for a doctor appointment. As I sat in the crowded waiting room, an African-American man was brought in on a wheelchair. He was wearing a Marine cap and was covered in a blanket. I went over to talk to him. He looked like he was near my age and I asked if he was in Korea, which he was. I was then called into my appointment. When I came out, I went to say good-bye to my new found comrade. The blanket was off and I saw that he was missing an arm and a leg. I began to feel a little funny and sad because I had all of my limbs. As I was leaving him, he grabbed my hand and said to me "Thank God you came home in one piece". I knelt down beside him and I pictured myself in that wheel chair. It was there and then that I filled with tears and started to cry. He did also, along with most of the people in that waiting room. It took a long time, but maybe it was written in heaven this way. I finally found out how beautiful it was to once again cry.

I found out then that you should not be ashamed to shed a tear. When you do, it means you are human and have feelings toward others. It is hard for me to tell you how it feels to not be able to cry. For anyone who is going thru the agonizing time of not being able to shed tears, don't give up. It took a long time for me to find that special key to the vault that held my tears. Once I was able to cry, my life began to be what I wanted it to be. As I said earlier, tears mean love, caring and compassion. These things we should all share.

Joe is the author of "God Makes Angels and Navy Corpsmen: A Korean War Veteran's Memories of the War and Life". The book can be purchased on Amazon.com or directly from the author.

## **Upcoming Community Events**

December 1 pm - 5 pm
Freeland Christmas Tree Lighting at Martin's Square followed by the Christmas Give-a-Way with Santa at the Freeland Borough Building. Hot Chocolate.

December 4 - 5 pm til 9 pm Mayor's City Hall Tree Lighting & CANDO Community Christmas

December 5 - 5 pm til 7 pm Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce's Downtown Holiday Mixer

December 6 - 4:30 pm til 8 pm Cando Community Park Tree Lighting

December 6 - 4:30 pm til 8 pm Wassailfest & Downtown Hazleton's Holiday Night Market

at Cando Community Park, Broad Street in Hazleton. Get ready for an evening filled with winter magic, festive fun and community spirit. For more information check out the event listing on facebook.

December 7th - 9 am til 12 pm Holidays Naturally at the Nescopeck State Park

Get ready for your favorite winter holidays by crafting some new decorations. We'll have our stock of traditional, holiday, and natural craft materials available for you to create special decor and ornaments. Please bring your creativity and a box for your creations!

Registration is required, please register all who will attend. Free. http://eventsreg.dcnr.pa.gov/Reg.../

Create/48063936126023

December 7 - 10:00 am til 3 pm Holiday Quilts & Crafts Show

at the White Haven Area Community Library - 121 Towanda Street, White Haven and at The Victorian Connection 231 Wilkes Barre St., White Haven. Tickets \$5 at show. Tickets can be purchased at the Library or at The Victorian Connection, White Haven.

December 7th - 10 am til 2 pm St. Peter's Episcopal Church Holiday Bazaar

46 South Laurel Street in Hazleton. Tricky Trays, Vendors/ Crafters, Kitchen, Create Your Own Cookie Tray for the Holidays Santa Claus will also make an appearance. December 7th - 10 am til 4 pm Eckley Christmas Craft Show

Come out to Eckley Miners Village Museum for lots of craft vendors, food, historical homes, and more. Walk or drive and stop at various buildings for a quick history of the area and some shopping, then see Santa!

December 7th - 11 am - 4 pm Christmas in Conyngham, CVCO - Conyngham Valley Civic Organization

at Whispering Willows Park. Join us for Christmas in Conyngham 2024! Festival 11-4. Parade at Noon! It's holiday fun for everyone!

December 7th - 12:30 pm til 8 pm
The Santa Express at the Pardeesville Playground

Santa and his team will begin his route through Hollywood and Pardeesvile in Hazle Twp Pa starting at 12:30 pm. Winter festival fundraiser will be held at the Pardeesville playground beginning at 2 pm. This fundraiser will benefit Bianca Gray. For further information or if you want to donate you can visit: santaexpressllc.org Email: santaexpressllc@gmail.com or Call 570-599-0161. We look forward to seeing all of you!

December 7 - 1:00 pm Freeland St. Ann's Band Christmas Concert at MMI. - Free.

December 7th and Dec 8th - 5 pm Drive - thru living Nativity at Christ

Lutheran Church 467 Main Street Conyngham features 12 scenes and live animals. for information call 570-788-1572.

December 7 - 5:00 til 8 pm Christmas Music by Vocalist Jack James and Trumpeter Frank Balon

at Woodies Luncheonette in Freeland. Tickets required. \$30 pp includes dinner and dessert. Call Woodies for reservations & tickets 570-636-3333.

December 8 - 3:00 pm Freeland Community Choir Christmas Cantata at St. John's Reformed UCC. 829 Washington St., Freeland December 8th - 5 pm til 8pm The Butler Township Tree Lighting

at the Butler Township Community Center in Drums. Join us for our annual tree lighting! Our new addition outdoor tree will be lit up by Santa!! Stop by to make some reindeer food and to see some of our local dancers spreading holiday cheer!

December 11th - 5pm til 7pm

Visit with Santa at the Hazleton Area Public Library
Santa will be at the Hazleton Library on December 11th
to spread some holiday cheer. Kids of all ages, along with
their parents and caregivers, will have the opportunity to
meet Santa one-on-one for pictures, play festive games,
and complete a fun craft.

Registration is required and begins on December 2nd. To sign up, please call the Youth Services Department at 570-454-296

December 14 - 3:00 pm Schuylkill Choral Society Ensemble Christmas Concert at St. John's Lutheran Church.

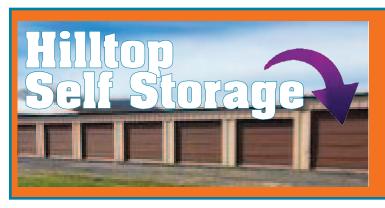
at St. John's Lutneran Church. 106 W. Main St., Ringtown. Free will offering.

December 15th - 12 pm til 6 pm
Hazleton Punk Rock Wicked Winter Flea Market
at 601 South Poplar Street the Hazleton Punk Rock
Market December edition. This is a market of handmade
items, Original art, and Vintage sellers!!! Come check out
some of the unique wares and make some new friends!
As always entry is FREE! There is also an Arrade a

As always entry is FREE! There is also an Arcade, a restaurant and a bar all on site. This venue also features free off street parking andis handicapped accessible.

December 15 - 3:00 pm
Freeland Community Choir Christmas Cantata
at Faith United Church of Christ.
21 Faith Drive, Hazle Township

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.



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# Junior Leadership Hazleton Is Introduced to Business and Economic Development

Submitted by" Pat Korb



JLH teens participated in a mock Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce "Ribbon Cutting" at the close of their Business & Economic Development" session.

Junior Leadership Hazleton (JLH) held its fourth session, "Business & Economic Development" on Tuesday, November 19 at MUZO, Valmont Industrial Park, West Hazleton.

Jordan Darosh, Facilities Manager, welcomed everyone to the furniture company which produces flexible classroom learning and office solution furniture. The business is originally from the United Kingdom, but its global head-

quarters is now located in Valmont.

Jordan gave students an extensive tour of the 74,000 square foot facility which currently distributes to forty-one countries. He said "MUZO combines the best in British Design with the best in American engineering and manufacturing. Quality and sustainability are our favorite words."

Joe Clifford, CAN DO Director at Large, talked to the group about the challenges in pushing forward business expansion projects and all the related infrastructure impact. He talked to them about the need for young future leadership in the area and cautioned them that if they want to be a leader, they must do their homework, be prepared, and LISTEN. He told them they need to have a vision, be inspiring, know what they are talking about, look for solutions and be sincere.

Representatives from CAN DO, Inc. spoke about that organization's important role in promoting business opportunities, its history, its expansive reach, its operations, and their individual roles in the non-profit. The students were fortunate to hear directly from an enthusiastic team of young professionals: Niko Makuta, Business Financing Specialist; Miguel Polanco, Marketing Communications Specialist and Ana Perez, Economic Development Assistant.

Mary Malone, President of the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, handed out Chamber Directories, talked to students about the information that can be found at the Chamber and their community activities like networking mixers. She told them her main role is "connecting" and helping those in the community touch base and learn more about each other. In closing, she had them participate in a mock "ribbon cutting," a popular Chamber activity for a new business, which has been in focus for many years.

"MUZO offered all of us the unique opportunity of touring a local business and learning how it works, and it was a wonderful experience for all. We are very grateful to its Founder and CEO Darren Buttle for giving us the rare opportunity to actually be inside a working facility" said Mike Dougherty, JLH Program Coordinator. "We also feel it's important that teens be aware of organizations, like CAN DO and The Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, which help to propel the city and local job opportunities."

The next session of Junior Leadership Hazleton is Tuesday, December 10th at the Butler Township Municipal Building, Drums.

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

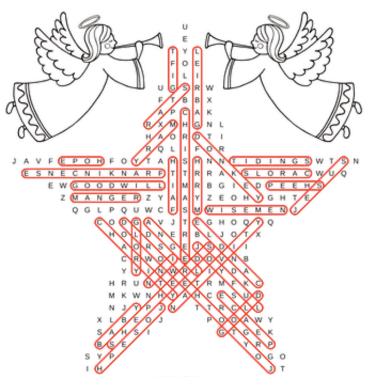
## MMI's Mary Kate Kupsky Signs With Tulane University



Front row left to right: Lori Blue, Mary Kate's mother and MMI swim coach, and Mary Kate Kupsky. Back row, left to right: Marci Hosier, Assistant Head of School, and Joseph Flanagan, MMI's Athletic Director.

MMI Preparatory School senior Mary Kate Kupsky will continue her academic and athletic career in swimming at Tulane University as a member of the Green Wave.

Mary Kate has been an outstanding athlete at MMI, winning the silver medal in the 500m Freestyle and the 200m IM in the District 2 Championships in 2024. At the PIAA State Championships, Mary Kate was 5th in the 500 Free and 8th in the 200 IM en route to being named a Wyoming Valley Conference First-Team All-Star. Last season, she broke the Hazleton Area High School pool record in the 500m Freestyle with a time of 5:10:83. Mary Kate also participates in cross-country at MMI, took home a bronze at the District Championships, and placed 36th out of 247 runners at this year's PIAA Class 1A State Championship in Hershey.





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