OCTOBER 2026

Back Mountain
Community News

Serving the Back Mountain & Surrounding Communities

Free!

Kiwanis Club of Dallas to Host its Annual Back Mountain Halloween Event

Hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Dallas, the annual Halloween Party and Parade for children - day care through middle school - will be held on Sunday, October 11, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm inside Back Mountain Regional Fire Station 121, located at 184 East Center Hill Road, Dallas, (across from the Little League Field at the intersection of East Center Hill Road and Church Street/Irem Road, Dallas). This is a rain or shine event. Registration, music, and entertainment by Charlie Hayes begin at 1:00 pm.

Once registered, children will be invited to participate in a variety of activities. Individuals and groups in costumes will be judged at 2:00 pm during the indoor Parade. Monetary prizes will be awarded to the top three winners in each of the six costume categories: Funniest, Most Original, Prettiest, Scariest, Miscellaneous, and Best Group. The Best Group category must have 3+ participants, which includes a child/children. Light refreshments will be available, as well as treat bags for the kids.

For over 70 years, Dallas Kiwanis Club has hosted this amazing, annual Halloween event in the Back Mountain. Plan now to bring your children and join the fun! We hope to see you there.

To obtain further information about becoming a Member or to sponsor any of the activities of the Kiwanis Club of Dallas, please contact Charlie Kishbaugh at (570) 675-8780 or Beverly Atherholt at (570) 675-7295.



Photo above used from a previous year.

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For more information or to place an advertisement, call Lisa Pretko at 570-674-7772.

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Back Mountain Ecumenical Men's Group Meeting

The Back Mountain Ecumenical Men's group meets every Tuesday from 8am to 9am for breakfast at Apple Tree Terrace at Newberry Estates.

The buffet cost is $13 per person plus $1 for the server's 'tip' and $1 for our 'mission projects'. If you are interested in checking us out or becoming a regular attender just show up. There is ample parking at both ends of Apple Tree Terrace. If you have questions call Phil Brown at (443) 605-7162 (Cell).

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96 Huntsville Road, Dallas, PA 18612
Contact the Library (570) 675-1182
Follow us on Facebook for current hours.
www.backmountainlibrary.org

Roast Beef Dinner Planned

The Northmoreland Volunteer Fire Company, located at 1618 Demunds Road, Centermoreland, PA (Next to Centermoreland Store) is having a Roast Beef Dinner on the 3rd Wednesday, November 18 from 4:30 – 6:30pm, (eat in or take out).

Dinner Includes: Roast Beef, Real Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Vegetable & Dessert. Please note: there will not be a dinner held in December! The first dinner in 2027 is planned for Wednesday, January 27th.

Holiday Bazaar Sale announced

The Dallas Eastern Star Building Association Hall, located on Foster Street in Dallas (behind CVs Drugstore) is planning a Holiday Bazaar / Vendor Sale. Get your reservations in for Saturday, November 21, from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Lunch and Welsh Cookies will be available to purchase.

Contact Dianne Corby – 570-675-4893 to reserve your space for this sale or the application form is on Facebook. Check us out on Facebook@Dallas Chapter Eastern Star Building Association.

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Deadline for the November 2026 issue of the Back Mountain Community News is Tuesday, October27th at 9:00 am.

Please note: Due to some email concerns with Comcast not always being reliable, if you send an email to: **communitynews123@comcast.net** and you receive a return message **undeliverable** - please forward to **lisapretko@icloud.com**

Back Mountain Community News FREE
Covering the Back Mountain & Surrounding Communities www.communitynewsonline.net

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Email: communitynews123@comcast.net
Mailing address: P.O. Box 430, Dallas, PA 18612

Lisa Pretko, Owner / Publisher
Mary Barbara Gilligan, Correspondent
Sandy Peoples, Contributor

Back Mountain Community News is locally owned and independently operated and not affiliated with any other publishing company.
It is the policy of the Back Mountain Community News to publish event notices free of charge ... if the event is free to the public and/or the proceeds are being donated to a non-profit organization.
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Members of the Dallas American Legion Auxiliary Unit 672 recently elected officers



Members of the Dallas American Legion Auxiliary Unit 672, recently elected officers for the 2026-2027 year. At the induction ceremony, from left are: Cindy Lomascolo, Sergeant-at-Arms; Donna Cupinski, Historian/ Public Relations; Patty Harrison, Treasurer; Denise DeLuca, Secretary; Patty Reed, Vice President; Charla Pilger, President and Norah Mae Rosencrans, District President and Inducting Officer. (Missing from photo are: Nancy Stolarick, Chaplain and Brenda Young, Membership Chairman)

Homemade Chicken and Biscuit Dinner, Back by Popular Demand



Trinity Presbyterian Church, Dallas is pleased to announce our Homemade Chicken and Biscuit Dinner on October 17th from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. Eat in or take out at 105 Irem Road, Dallas. Tickets in advance are recommended. Call (570) 675-3131 to reserve your tickets: Adults-$12.00; Children 4 to 12: $8.00; Children under 4: free. All proceeds benefit the projects and programs of the church. Committee members above, from left are: Art Peoples, Sandy Peoples, Karen Perzia, Barbara Rinker, Nancy Thomas, Dale Rinker, John Flesxhut. Kristina Coy was not available for the photo.



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NO Shredded paper or paper to-go containers (pizza boxes), waxed paper, waxed cardboard, or frozen drink/food containers;
NO Hazardous or medical waste; Please contact the office for options to dispose of medication.

We will not accept any items NOT indicated on the "accepted items" list at the recycling center or on our website.

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All Recyclables should be RINSED.
They must not contain any food, liquid, mold, or mildew.

Proper Ways to Prepare Items to be Recycled

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A quick rinse in most cases is adequate in removing food waste residue. However, if the container or material is heavily soiled with food waste residue or grease, and cannot be cleaned, it should be trashed.

Dry Recyclables.
After rinsing out containers, ensure all containers are free of excessive moisture. Moisture itself can contaminate the recycling stream as it greatly degrades the quality and recoverability of cardboard and other fiber-based materials.

Put in the Correct Recyclables.
Only include recyclables your program collects. Some material may potentially be recyclable; however, if your local recycling program does not collect the material, do not include it in your bin. Incorrect material causes contamination and good recyclable material can end up in a landfill.

Follow your Local Recycling Programs' Instructions.
Know what recyclables can be accepted by your local recycling program to reduce contamination in the recycling stream.

Questions? Want to recycling more items that your local recycling program doesn't take? For answers, visit Luzerne County Office of Solid Waste & Recycling Management for area programs at:
LuzerneCounty.org/324/Recycling-Department

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Walsh Seeks Service Photos for Veterans Recognition Event

State Rep. Jamie Walsh (R-Luzerne) will host a Veterans Recognition Event and Expo for Luzerne County veterans on Saturday, November 7, in partnership with Misericordia University. As part of the event, he is asking for service photos of those planning to attend. "I am very much looking forward to this event," said Walsh. "No one deserves our gratitude more than the men and women who have faithfully served this country. This event is one small way for us show our respect and support. Another way we would like to honor those in attendance is with display boards at the event showcasing photos of our veterans during their time in service. If you are attending and have a photo to share, please send an electronic copy or stop by my Dallas office to have it scanned."

The event will include a recognition ceremony along with dozens of vendors offering programs and services for veterans and their family members. Light refreshments will be served, and members of the United States Army Field Band will perform during the ceremony.

The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Lemmond Theater and Insalaco Hall, Misericordia University, 301 Lake St. in Dallas. Those who would like to provide a service photo to be displayed at this year's event are asked to email the photo to: CSweeney@PAHouseGOP.com, or bring the photo to the Dallas district office, at 2825 Memorial Highway in Dallas, or Sugarloaf district office, at 669 State Route 93, Suite 3, for scanning. Registration is required for this event; veterans can each bring one guest. Please RSVP by October 24 by calling 570-675-6000 or going online to www.RepWalsh.com.

Gate of Heaven Parish plans take-out Meatloaf dinner



Gate of Heaven Parish, 40 Machell Avenue, Dallas, is having a homemade (take out only), meatloaf dinner on Saturday, November 7th from 4pm to 7pm.

The cost is $15.00 and includes homemade meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, applesauce, green beans, dinner roll with butter and cake. Only 300 tickets will be sold. Call 570-675-2121 for more information.

Shown in photo are: Chairpersons, Renee and Paul Benedetti, Robert Manganella and Drew Reganlisa.

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St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Dallas, Offers labyrinth walks

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 474 Yalick Road, Dallas, is offering monthly indoor labyrinth walks free of charge to the public. The next walk opportunity will be Wednesday, October 21, from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Future labyrinth walks will be offered on the third Wednesday of every month from 3:00-6:00 p.m. No reservations are required.

St. Paul's has acquired a moveable labyrinth, which is set up in the church Narthex. Members of St. Paul's will be on hand during the walks to offer guidance and information about labyrinths. Shoes are not worn while walking the labyrinth; please wear or bring socks. Finger labyrinths are available for those with physical or visual disabilities. For more information contact St. Paul's Lutheran Church at stpaul@epix.net or call 570-675-3859.

Grief Share Support Group

There will be a new Grief Share support group starting at the Cross Creek Community Church located at 370 Carverton Road, Trucksville, PA 18708 (570) 696-0399. This grief support group will meet every Wednesday at 1pm to 3pm through November 11th, 2026. The support group is free and open to the public. Please register online at griefshare.org/findagroup

Grief Share is a Christian, Bible based, grief support group created over 25 years ago by licensed and certified professional Christian counselors and pastors to help people grieving the loss of a loved one. It is a 3 part program consisting of videos, discussions, and a guidebook, covering various aspects of the experience of grief during a course of 13 weekly meetings.

Grief Share is offered at various churches of all denominations around the world and you can find it by going online to griefshare.org/findagroup to find a host church and meeting time that's best for you.

The Back Mountain Memorial Library announces Memorial, Honor Books for September

In Memory of Wayne Williams, "The Westerners: myth-making and belonging on the American frontier" by Megan Kate Nelson, presented by Carl and Noreen Gladey.

In Memory of Genevieve Wisnieski, "The Secrets We Hide: a novel" by Karin Slaughter, presented by Mr. and Mrs. John Kashatus. In Memory of Tom Keiper, "The Book of Birds: a field guide to wonder and loss" by Robert MacFarlane, presented by Donald and Joyce Lloyd.

In Memory of Ruth C. Valick, "The Academy" by Elin Hilderbrand, presented by Jennie Valick-Kopacz. In Memory of Danny F. Long, "Mount Vernon Love Story: a novel of George and Martha Washington" by Mary Higgins Clark, presented by Jennie Valick-Kopacz.

Trucksville Methodist Church announces annual Flea Market

The Trucksville Methodist Church, 40 Knob Hill Road, Trucksville, PA, is planning their annual Flea Market. It will run Friday October 23, 3-8 pm and Saturday, October 24, 9am-1pm. Saturday will be half price and $5 Bag Day.

We have many departments including, Clothes, Linens, Jewelry, Kids, Antiques, Furniture, New Items, Bake Sale and a huge room of miscellaneous items. For more information, call 570-696-3897.

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36th Annual Arts at Hayfield Homespun Holiday Craft Show planned



The 36th Annual Arts at Hayfield Homespun Holiday Craft Show will be held November 1, from 10am to 4pm, in the Athletic Building and Student Commons Building on the campus of Penn State Wilkes-Barre. More than 100 crafters are scheduled to display and market their crafts, artwork, jewelry and more in this final show. There is a suggested donation of $3.00 per person at the door. Children under 18 and Penn Students with campus IDs are free. Since its founding in 1984, Arts at Hayfield members have pursued a mission of promoting the arts for all members of the community to experience and enjoy. The nonprofit organization strives to provide opportunities for local performers, musicians, crafters, artists and artisans and continues to form networks of individuals interested in helping promote the arts.

Arts at Hayfield regularly donates to public media resources and arts organizations such as WVIA, FM Kirby Center, NEPA Chamber Music Society, Back Mountain Memorial Library and the Penn State Wilkes-Barre Friedman Art Gallery, in addition to awarding annual scholarships to local Penn State Wilkes-Barre students who express interests in the arts. Arts at Hayfield extends its deepest gratitude for years of community support.

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IN HONOR OF OUR VETERANS

FREE Veterans Dinner

Thursday, Nov. 5, 2026

Daddow-Isaacs American Legion Post 672

730 Memorial Hwy., Dallas

The Dallas American Legion Auxiliary Unit 672 would like to invite any veteran and their guest for dinner on Thursday, November 5th from 5 to 7 PM.

- Please reserve at 570-675-6542 or 570-690-2920 or stop by the Legion and speak with a bartender.
- You do not need to be a member to attend. ALL veterans are welcome!
- Dinner includes: chicken, meatballs, 2 sides, roll and butter, a drink and dessert.



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Five Reasons Why You Might Need End-Of-Year Tax Planning Now



By Martin A. Federici, Jr., CEO of both MF Advisers, Inc. and MF Tax & Accounting, Inc.

Let's get right into the FIVE (5) reasons why end-of-year tax planning might make sense for you!

1. Changing Situations for The Current & Following Years: Personal situations can change from year to year; those same changes can affect your tax situation differently from year to year as well. Strategic acceleration of certain deductions can shift tax liability to years with lower marginal rates (ex: the IRS raised the SALT cap to $40,400 for tax years 2026 through 2029) helping you pay less in taxes.

2. Capital Loss Harvesting: Selling underperforming investments in your taxable brokerage accounts allows you to offset capital gains and deduct up to $3,000 of net losses against ordinary income, reducing your current year's tax bill. Is your advisor or financial team actively keeping an eye out for things like this for you? If not, contact us!

3. Retirement Contribution Maximization: Increasing contributions to 401(k)s , IRAs , or HSA accounts before year-end could lower taxable income, with catch-up contributions available for ages 50 & up. Roth IRA contributions wouldn't decrease your current year's income, but these can help grow a pot of tax-free money for later in retirement (and before that in certain circumstances).

4. Avoiding Unexpected Current Year Underpayments: Why do this in the later 3rd QTR/early 4th QTR of the current tax year? It's a great idea to make sure nothing unexpected happened in the current year that you didn't realize (imagine having NO federal taxes withheld all year on your W-2 income?! – seen this happen to more than a couple of people through the years).

5. Business Expenses and Depreciation Strategies: business owners can utilize 100% first-year bonus depreciation for qualifying assets and prepay expenses under the 12-month rule to reduce current taxable income, while avoiding depreciation recapture risks by timing asset sales. Big business purchases / sales before the end of the year / beginning of the next year might make sense depending on what's happened & is going to happen so make sure to plan accordingly.

It's a smart idea to plan & execute your financial strategy (with the guidance of your trusted tax / financial advisors) for the current and following year so you're in control of your financial situation. Not everyone needs to do it, but a simple check on some basic things like the ones mentioned above can make the difference between paying more in taxes than you need to (over your lifetime) & paying the least amount you should (no one wants to pay more in taxes than they should) ... you're welcome!

Do you have end-of-year tax questions? Let's tackle them together before time runs out. Book your tax planning session / financial review with us today! Find an experienced team who always operates in a fiduciary capacity for clients, doesn't work on commissions, and—most importantly—has the hearts and demeanors of a teacher, not salesmen. MF Advisers, Inc., is a fee-only RIA firm & fiduciary specializing in wealth management, investment advice, and financial planning for Dallas, PA, Jensen Beach, FL, and the surrounding areas. With 30+years of licensed experience and a commitment to improving your ongoing financial situation, MF Advisers, Inc., is the advisory firm to best serve YOU. MF Tax & Accounting, Inc., is a full-service tax preparation & accounting firm based in PA & FL specializing in tax preparation, tax planning & advice, and accounting services. With 20+ years of licensed experience, over 10 years of professional education, and an unwavering commitment to helping you improve yourtax situation, MF Tax & Accounting, Inc., is the tax & accounting firm to best serve YOU. For more information, please visit https://www.mfadvisers.com, https://www.mfftax.com, email marty@mfadvisers.com, marty@mftax.com, or call (570) 760-6524. **MF Advisers, Inc. - Facebook | X | LinkedIN**
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"Helping One Person May Not Change the World, But It Could Change the World for That One Person"



Shown above are: John J. Hudak Jr., CEC, AAC, Chapter President; Tom Williams, Treasurer; Jake Hizny, CEC, Past President; JR Kressler, Sergeant at Arms; and Paul Dombroski, Trustee.

The American Culinary Federation Professional Chefs of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Inc., are proud to announce their Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive is now underway. The Chefs are pleased to have several local churches and community organizations partnering with them to assist in reaching the goal of 22,500 pounds of food; with all donations supporting the Harvest Church Food Pantry in Trucksville, PA.

We are currently accepting a variety of canned or dry goods including, but not limited to: vegetables, fruits, puddings, rice, soups, gravy, peanut butter, tuna, condiments, etc. Once again, this year we are also accepting donations of frozen foods, especially turkeys, but also chicken, pork, beef, vegetables or any other frozen food. Anything to prepare a Thanksgiving meal and beyond is greatly appreciated. This pantry collects paper products such as toilet paper, diapers, paper towels, detergents, as well as food and treats for our four-legged family members too.

Our donation helps the food pantry ensure people can celebrate a Happy Thanksgiving and also provides the pantry with food moving into the New Year. I ask your help in assisting us achieve this year's goal of 22,500 pounds. Items will be collected until Wednesday, November 11, 2026. As the slogan at the top of this letter states: "Helping One Person May Not Change the World, But It Could Change the World for That One Person". Think about that statement for a few seconds and if you think you are not changing someone's world who does not have food ... Think Again!

I thank you in advance for your consideration to this worthwhile cause; Monetary donations if desired may be made payable to; ACF Professional Chefs of NEPA, Inc., and mailed to: ACF Professional Chefs of NEPA, Inc. 193 Huntsville Idetown Road, Dallas, PA 18612.

Great Cooking, John J. Hudak Jr., CEC, AAC, President ACF Professional Chefs of NEPA, Inc. ChefJohn21@comcast.net. Jake Hizny, CEC, Chairman of Board ACF Professional Chefs of NEPA, Inc. ChefHizny@aol.com.

Read the Back Mountain Community News Free of charge on Facebook.

Serving the Community for over 21 Years with All Good News ... Where Community Matters.

2026 Veterans Recognition Ceremony & Expo announced

Sen. Lisa Baker and Rep. Brenda Pugh are hosting a special ceremony recognizing the service and sacrifice of area veterans. The event will be October 24, 2026, starting at 10 a.m. at the JCC 613 SJ Strauss Lane , Kingston Pa 18704. The event will feature a veteran pinning ceremony to honor those who have served, followed by a veteran resource expo connecting attendees with representatives from government agencies and organizations dedicated to supporting veterans.

Attendees will be able to learn more about available programs, benefits and services. Lite Refreshments and giveaways will be provided. To sign up for the event please call Sen. Lisa Baker's office at 570-740-2432 or Rep. Brenda Pugh's office at 570-283-1001.

VFW Service Officer available to help veterans at Sen. Baker's offices

Sen. Lisa Baker, R-Lehman Township, invites veterans to schedule an appointment to meet with a VFW Service Officer at her Dallas and Nanticoke office locations. Appointments with a Service Officer are available at no charge on the second Friday of every month in Dallas and on the third Wednesday of every month in Nanticoke.

Sen. Baker encourages veterans of all ages and from all service eras to utilize the Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars Service Officer Network, to receive free information and assistance for government benefits. This assistance may include VA healthcare, compensation, pension, education and dependent benefits. Surviving spouses can also use these Service Officers at no charge to learn about their eligibility for VA benefits.

"Veterans are the heart and soul of America and we appreciate their many sacrifices to make this nation a beacon of freedom and hope," Sen. Baker said. "During challenging economic times, many veterans continue to need our assistance. I encourage any veteran or spouse with questions regarding benefits, to schedule a time to meet with a Service Officer."

Dallas office

On Friday, October 9th, the VFW Service Officer will be available for scheduled appointments at Sen. Baker's office, 22 Dallas Shopping Center, Memorial Highway, Dallas.

All veterans, not just VFW members, can request appointments between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. To schedule an appointment at this location, call 570-675-3931.

Nanticoke office

On Wednesday, October 21st, the VFW Service Officer will be available for scheduled appointments at Sen. Baker's office, 50 North Walnut St., Suite105, Nanticoke.

All veterans, not just VFW members, can request appointments between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. To schedule an appointment at this location, call 570-740-2432.

Sit-down Roast Beef Dinner planned

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 474 Yalick Road, Dallas, will offer its next delicious dine-in roast beef dinner on Saturday, November 7, from 4:00-6:30 p.m. Tickets are $16, $5 for children under 12, and will be sold at the door only. The dinner will include the most tender and flavorful roast beef with gravy, mashed potatoes, two vegetables, pepper hash, a dinner roll, beverages and dessert. Take-outs will begin at 3:30 p.m. For more information call the St. Paul's Church office at 570-675-3859.

All Day Bingo planned

The Northmoreland Volunteer Fire Company, located at 1618 Demunds Road (Centermoreland) PA, is planning an All Day Bingo on Sunday, October 4, 2026. Doors open at 12 noon. Call Norma for Reservation: 570-240-2044

Monday night BINGO Dates are planned for October 12 and 26, 2026, no reservation is needed for Monday Night Bingo at 6:30pm. Doors open at 5:00.



Wyoming Valley Woman's Club plans Fashion Show, Luncheon fund raiser to benefit Club's Scholarship Program



The Wyoming Valley Woman's Club Board members and models recently met at Hummus & Honey in Kingston, PA, to finalize plans for the upcoming fashion show. This event benefits the Wyoming Valley Woman's Club Annual Scholarship Program for local high schools' seniors, planning on attending higher education institutions.

The fashion show will be held on Sunday, October 18, 2026, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Wilkes-Barre, located off Route 115, 600 Wildflower Drive, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702. Pre-admission tickets are $30 and available for purchase. Cost includes a luncheon and fashion show. Last day for ticket sales is Tuesday, October 13, 2026.

Tickets will be sold for baskets of prizes, which were donated by area businesses and the women of the Wyoming Valley Woman's Club. Doors open at Noon, and lunch will be served at 1 PM. Buka in Shavertown, PA, My Sister's Closet and Rumor Has It, in Luzerne, PA, and Woman's Boutique and Consignment in Mountain Top, PA, will provide attire and accessories for the models.

If you are interested in purchasing a ticket, please call Cindy Mitchell at (570) 709-8635. Tickets must be purchased prior to the event and will not be available at the door.

Pictured above from left are the models for the fundraiser fashion show. Seated, Gayle Delano Slezak and Colleen Mattey. Standing, Cathy Beretski and Kathleen Handley.

Back Mountain Chamber presents Piandemonium

(Please note the intentional misspelling of Piandemonium)

No, your eyes aren't deceiving you. It's not total chaos — it's Piandemonium! It's the most fun you'll ever have with two pianos and two very funny, very talented pianists. Back by popular demand, the Back Mountain Chamber and its Cultural Committee are bringing back this unforgettable evening, with a new twist and a new vibe!

Join us on October 8, 2026, at The Greens at Irem Clubhouse, 64 Ridgway Drive, Dallas. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Admission is $55 and includes hors d'oeuvres, desserts, soft drinks, coffee, water and one drink coupon. A cash bar will also be available. This event is open to the public, 21 and older. Tickets must be purchased in advance at www.BackMountainChamber.net or by calling 570-675-9380.

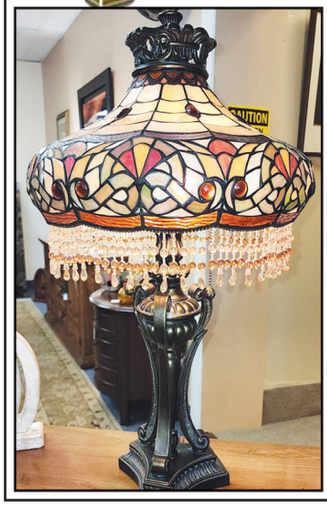
This year's event beneficiary is Little Theatre of Wilkes-Barre, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Wilkes-Barre, PA. The Dueling Pianos concept can be summed up in one word: FUN. This year features Bill and Matt — two sharp-witted, incredibly talented musicians, two grand pianos, one stage, and a roomful of people ready to have a good time. The result? Fast, funny, and unforgettable entertainment. Their repertoire runs from Classic Rock to Country, Hard Rock to R&B, and Show Tunes to Top 40. They turn the audience into the star of the show. Partygoers can request songs through donations to benefit Little Theatre of Wilkes-Barre — then sing along to favorites, banter with the performers and have the time of their lives!



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St. Paul's Lutheran Church to hold rummage, bake sale

The Dorcas Society of St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, 474 Yalick Road, Dallas, will sponsor a two-day rummage/bake sale, to be held Friday, October 2, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and 5:00-7:00 p.m.; and Saturday, October 3, 8:00 a.m.-12 noon (Bag Day all day). The sale is open to the public. For info., call the church at 570-675-3859 or visit www.stpaulsdallaspa.org.

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Dr. Albert Klein, DC and
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Back Mountain Chamber to Host Annual Federal Reserve Breakfast Featuring Regional Economic Advisor

The Back Mountain Chamber will host its Federal Reserve Breakfast on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, featuring Ryo Tashiro, Regional Economic Advisor with the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia.

The breakfast will take place at Apple Tree Terrace at Newberry, 4 Newberry Estate, Dallas, PA 18612. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m., with the presentation and breakfast beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Tashiro analyzes regional economic trends and provides insight into national economic conditions, monetary policy, and the work of the Federal Reserve. During the breakfast, he will review recent economic data and regional trends, providing attendees with an opportunity to better understand the economic environment affecting businesses and communities.

The event is designed to provide local business owners, professionals, community leaders, students, and residents with timely economic information and an opportunity to hear directly from a representative of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. "We are pleased to welcome Ryo Tashiro to the Back Mountain for this year's Federal Reserve Breakfast," said Sandy Race, President of the Back Mountain Chamber. "This event provides our business community with an opportunity to gain insight into current economic conditions and better understand the trends that may impact businesses locally and across the region." Federal Reserve Breakfast, Tuesday, October 13, 2026. 7:30 a.m. — Registration 8:00 a.m. — Presentation & Breakfast. Apple Tree Terrace at Newberry, 4 Newberry Estate, Dallas, PA 18612. Chamber Members: $20 and Non - Members: $25. College Students: $15. T o register, contact the Back Mountain Chamber at 570 - 675-9380 or email: Info@backmountainchamber.net. The Back Mountain Chamber extends its appreciation to Northwest Bank and Peoples Security Bank & Trust for serving as breakfast sponsors.



5 REASONS FOR END-OF-YEAR TAX PLANNING

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Back Mountain Bloomers planning Speaker's Luncheon

The Back Mountain Bloomers Garden Club will present their Fall luncheon featuring author, speaker, and gardening writer Pamela Hubbard on Thursday, October 8th at Lakeview Terrace, Camp Orchard Hill in Dallas, PA. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. and luncheon begins at noon with the author's program "The Contemporary Cottage Garden", book sales and signing to follow. There will be door prizes and basket raffles at the event. Advance registration is required with a payment of $50 per person. Deadline to register is September 21. For details, to print a registration form: backmountainbloomers.org. For information about our speaker, visit Pamsenglishgarden.com.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Dallas offers grief support group

A grief support group meeting at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 474 Yalick Road, Dallas, will hold its next gathering on Thursday, October 15, at 6:30 p.m. This group is a shared ministry of St. Paul's and Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, Dallas. Participation is free and open to everyone in the community who is in need of support due to a loss. No reservations are required.

Grief support groups provide emotional support, validation and education about grief. This support group is an on-going group and is not time limited. For more information contact St. Paul's Lutheran Church at stpaul@epix.net or call 570-675-3859.

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Proudly serving the Back Mountain & surrounding communities for over 21 years. Support our local business community by shopping local.

Kiwanis Club of Dallas participates in the Dallas Harvest Festival



Kiwanis Club of Dallas PA, along with other vendors, recently participated in the Dallas Harvest Festival. Vendors filled the Dallas High School parking lots. Food, raffles, crafts, activities, and performances on the main stage entertained attendees.

Thank you to the participants, vendors, sponsors, and attendees for this well-received community "rain or shine" event.

Members of Kiwanis Club raffled an abundant Fall-themed Basket of Cheer. The winning ticket was purchased by Alan Pugh. Congratulations! Shown above from left are: Members of the Kiwanis Club of Dallas PA, who volunteered at the event, Cathy Beretski and Melissa Youngblood.

Kiwanis Club of Dallas held a Ping Pong Ball Pitch at the Luzerne County Fair



Fair attendees and Vendors frequented the Kiwanis Club of Dallas PA booth at the 2026 Annual Luzerne County Fair. Fairgoers of all ages tried their skills to win goldfish by pitching ping pong balls into over 100 brightly colored empty water-filled glass fish bowls. Hundreds of goldfish swimming in the nearby tank was a popular attraction that raises funds for Kiwanis youth projects in the Back Mountain area.

For over 35 years, Kiwanis Club of Dallas PA has sponsored this unique game of chance. Onlookers shouted words of encouragement and shared their ball-tossing tips. As the balls scattered in various directions, some balls were lucky enough to reach the bowl and allow the player to win the coveted goldfish.

By their volunteer efforts of service, education, and fundraising, Members of Kiwanis Club of Dallas PA make a positive impact in our local communities in the Back Mountain area throughout the year. Some activities include a golf tournament, high school scholarships, road and fairground cleanup, and Halloween party. Working at the goldfish game are Kiwanis Club of Dallas PA Members - left to right: Mary Rodriguez, Bob Albee, Charlie Kishbaugh, and Cathy Beretski. To obtain further information about becoming a Member or to sponsor any of the Kiwanis Club's activities, please contact Charlie Kishbaugh at (570) 675-8780 or Beverly Atherholt at (570) 675-7295.



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Klein Chiropractic recently participated in the Luzerne County Fair

Doc Kleins' Chiropractice along with Integrative and Holistic Health Therapy recently participated together at the Luzerne County Fair.

Dr. Albert and Dr. Bobbie Klein offered complimentary adjustments and check-ups to many of the fair goers, along with Eliz Catanzariti offering organic therapy.







ACF members judged the Baking Competition Categories at the Luzerne County Fair



ACF members volunteered their time to judge the Baking Competition Categories at the Luzerne County Fair. In addition, the ACF Professional Chefs of NEPA, Inc., sponsored a first ever Whoopie Pie Contest where prizes of $100, $50 and $25 were awarded to the top 3 winners. Shown above in photo, from left are: Tom Williams, John J. Hudak, Jr., CEC, AAC, Jeff Huntzinger and Jake Hizny, CEC.

Walsh Releases Statement Regarding State's "Rain Tax"

State Rep. Jamie Walsh (R-Luzerne) today released the following statement regarding an executive order signed by President Donald Trump to reverse federal stormwater managements fees, known as the "Rain Tax":

President Trump reversed an Obama-era executive order responsible for the creation of onerous stormwater management fees – also known as the Rain Tax – that have burdened families and businesses in northeastern Pennsylvania since its enactment. President Trump's executive order eases the pain of a regulatory framework that has caused Luzerne County residents to pay exorbitant bills caused solely by the rain that falls on their houses and driveways. This executive order delivers long-awaited relief for our area, and I'm especially grateful to Congressmen Rob Bresnahan and Dan Meuser, who have led the fight to free northeastern Pennsylvania from the Rain Tax. This achievement is the result of their tireless efforts at the federal level.

"This action imparts an obligation to the Pennsylvania Legislature to codify this relief into state law by passing House Bill 2360, legislation written by Rep. Brenda Pugh that I have signed onto as a co-sponsor. This bill would replace the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit requirements with a more equitable, grant-funded formula.

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives and Senate have very few session days remaining before the end of the term. I urge my colleagues in both the House and Senate to act on this opportunity to lift the burden of the Rain Tax from our homeowners and municipalities."



What's Cooking with Chef John ...

As summer begins to fade and Autumn quietly approaches, September arrives as a month of transition, opportunity, and renewal. The long, sun-filled days of June, July, and August give way to cooler mornings, changing leaves, and a renewed sense of purpose. For many, September highlights high school football games, Fairs & the start of "Hoodie Season".

September holds a unique place on the calendar. It bridges two distinct seasons, carrying the warmth of summer while introducing the crisp promise of Fall. The changing landscape serves as a reminder that growth often comes through transition. Trees begin preparing for their vibrant Autumn display, fields reach harvest season, and communities return to familiar rhythms after vacations and summer adventures.

For students, September signals the start of a new academic year filled with possibilities. Classrooms come alive with fresh energy, new friendships, and the excitement of learning. For professionals, the month often marks a return to focused business activity, strategic planning, and the pursuit of goals before year-end approaches.

One of September's greatest gifts is its balance. The intense heat of summer softens into comfortable afternoons and refreshing evenings. Farmer's markets overflow with seasonal produce, including apples, pumpkins, squash, and late-summer vegetables. The air feels different, carrying hints of harvest, bonfires, and changing leaves.

September also marks the beginning of harvest celebrations in many communities. It is a time to appreciate the hard work of farmers, producers, chefs, and food professionals who help bring seasonal abundance to our tables. From apple orchards and pumpkin patches to food festivals and family gatherings, the harvest season reminds us of the importance of gratitude and shared experiences.

Menus begin to shift toward comforting flavors, featuring warm soups, roasted vegetables, slow-cooked dishes, and seasonal spices. These foods reflect the cozy atmosphere that Autumn naturally brings. One dish I think of during the Autumn season is Chili.



Chef John J. Hudak Jr., CEC, AAC

It's warm comforting aroma, flavor and texture make it the perfect tail gate treat or simply a family dinner.

Chili is one of the most versatile and beloved dishes in North America. Known for its rich flavors, hearty ingredients, and regional variations, chili has evolved into countless styles ranging from meat-heavy recipes to vegetable-forward interpretations.

What is Chili? At its core, chili is a stew-like dish typically made with chili peppers, meat, seasonings, and sometimes beans or vegetables. The defining ingredient is the chili pepper, which provides the signature heat and depth of flavor. From mild and smoky to fiery and bold, chili recipes can vary dramatically depending on region and personal preference.

Perhaps the most famous chili variety is Texas Chili, often referred to as Chili con Carne, meaning "Chili with Meat."Texans take their chili seriously, and so do Pennsylvanians! Traditional Texas chili emerged during the 1800s when cattle drives and frontier cooking required simple, hearty meals. The emphasis was on beef and chili peppers, creating a robust dish that showcased the state's ranching heritage.

In many Texas chili competitions, beans are considered a disqualifying ingredient. Purists argue that authentic Texas chili should highlight the flavor of the meat without distraction. Chili's enduring popularity stems from its adaptability and regional character.

When making this chili use the freshest and finest ingredients you can to develop the ultimate flavor profile. If you have never used San Marzano tomatoes this is a great recipe to use them in. Yes, they will cost a bit more, but the positive characteristics of San Marzano tomatoes include; a thicker tomato wall, less seeds and less acidity than other tomatoes, making them ideal not only for authentic Italian cuisine; Texas Chili also. Be sure your spices and aromatics have not been in your pantry forever as they tend to lose their flavor over time, especially if not tightly sealed and stored properly.

The spices are added early in the recipe and then simmered; which allows the flavors to flourish as the chili cooks. You can add more heat at the end of the cooking process when you do your final taste and seasoning by simply adding more cayenne and Tabasco. If you are looking for a spicy Chili; add your favorite pepper choice from jalapeno to ghost chili to elevate your heat level. Generally speaking, this Chili is on the milder side, but packed with flavor and sure to have everyone asking for more. Remember, you can always make it hotter, but it difficult to cool down, so add your "Heat" cautiously.

The American Culinary Federation Professional Chefs of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Inc. are proud to announce their Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive is now underway. The Chefs are pleased to have several local churches and community organizations partnering with them to assist in reaching the goal of 22,500 pounds of food; with all donations supporting the Harvest Church Food Pantry in Trucksville, PA. Our donation helps the food pantry ensure people can celebrate a Happy Thanksgiving and also provides the pantry with food moving into the New Year. I ask your help in assisting us achieve this year's goal of 22,500 pounds.

Items will be collected until Wednesday, November 11, 2026. Monetary donations if desired may be made payable to; ACF Professional Chefs of NEPA, Inc., and mailed to: ACF Professional Chefs of NEPA, Inc. 193 Huntsville Idetown Road, Dallas, PA 18612.

The slogan for this event is one of my personal favorites that states; "Helping One Person May Not Change the World, But It Could Change the World for That One Person". Think about that statement for a few seconds & if you think you are not changing someone's world who does not have food ... Think Again!

Chili con Carne

Yield: 6 Quarts

Ingredients

2 Tablespoons Corn Oil
1 Pound Onions, Small Dice
2 Tablespoons Garlic, Chopped
3 Pounds Ground Beef, 80/20
3 Each 29 oz. Can, San Marzano Tomatoes, Hand Crushed
1 Each 29 oz. Can Tomato Puree
16 Ounces Beef Broth (College Inn)
1 Tablespoon Kosher Salt
2 Teaspoons Chili Powder
1 Teaspoon Ground Cumin
1 Teaspoon Black Pepper, Table Grind
1 Teaspoon Paprika
½ Teaspoon Cayenne Pepper
1 Ounce Tabasco
1 Ounce Worcestershire Sauce

Method of Preparation

1) Heat corn oil in suitable pot
2) Saute onions, garlic & ground beef until ground beef is thoroughly cooked
3) Drain mixture in colander to remove all grease
4) Return ground beef mixture to pot; add seasoning, Tabasco & Worcestershire; cook for 1 minute
5) Add tomatoes, puree & beef broth; simmer 30-40 minutes
6) Taste; adjust seasoning as needed
7) Serve with Cornbread, Crackers, Hawaiian Rolls, Italian/French Bread or your favorite accompaniment
8) Garnish with shredded cheese and/or scallions if you would like

If you are able to support the Food Drive sponsored by the ACF Professional Chefs of NEPA, Inc., in any way; it would be greatly appreciated as we strive to raise 22,500 pounds of food to be donated within the Back Mountain. I look forward to providing another recipe along with culinary information in the next edition of the Back Mountain Community News.; so stay tuned to see "What's Cooking with Chef John".

Until next month, may You & Your Family have a wonderful month of October and remember this Food for Thought; "One day you will look back and realize that you worried too much about things that don't really matter".

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John J. Hudak Jr., CEC, AAC

Back Mountain Railroad Club News

Believe it or not it is almost time to start thinking of model trains under the Christmas Tree or adding to your collection. Our store has a lot of options for the beginners or collectors who want to add to their model railroad. Come check it out. Our clubhouse and store will be open on the second Saturday of each month from 10 AM to 2 PM.

Our club has an ongoing "How to Program" for children age 6 to 16 on the basics of model railroading and is scheduled on the second Saturday of each month from 10 AM to 11AM. A parent or legal guardian must be present with the child at all times. For more information contact Ray at ramancke@aol.com.

We will have an open house "Trick or Treat" for Halloween, on Saturday October 24 from 10 AM to 3 PM. Everyone welcome. We will be sponsoring a Community Historical Presentation "Evening of Trains and Transportation" by Harrison Wick and local artist Sue Hand on Friday evening November 20 at 7 PM at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Yalick Rd., Dallas. Come and get informed. FREE ADMISSION!! Everyone welcome. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit. Donations are appreciated.

We are building a new interactive travel display that we hope will be ready to be on display at the 415 True Value Hardware store on the highway in Dallas from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day. Santa, Mrs. Claus and the Grinch will also arrive at the hardware store on Saturday, December 5 at 12 noon. All are welcome. Bring your pets and camera or phone.

Our annual Christmas open house will also be held at the clubhouse "Tracks on the Hill" Education Building of Dallas United Methodist Church, 4 Parsonage St., Dallas, on Saturday, December 5 from 10 AM to 3 PM and Sunday December 6 from 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM. This is also FREE and welcome to everyone.

As always, anyone interested in Railroad History, Trains or Model building is always welcome to come to any of our work sessions, which are mainly held on Tuesday and Thursday from approximately 9 AM to 12 noon. Sessions can be scheduled for other days and times. For information on our club call Ray at 570-430-8639.

Pugh Resolution Would Recognize Fire Prevention Week in PA

State Rep. Brenda Pugh (R-Luzerne) has introduced House Resolution 601, recognizing Oct. 4-10, 2026, as Fire Prevention Week in Pennsylvania. Pugh's resolution coincides with the 2026 National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) official Fire Prevention Week. This year's theme, Charge into Fire Safety: Safe Charging is a Superpower, seeks to focus on the safe use of lithium-ion batteries and rechargeable devices such as cell phones, laptops, e-bikes and scooters.

"Technology has become part of nearly everything we do, but the batteries and chargers powering those devices need to be used safely," Pugh said. "Simple habits like using the proper charger, unplugging devices once they are fully charged and properly disposing of lithium-ion batteries can help prevent a tragedy." The issue has become increasingly important as lithium-ion batteries are used in more household products.

Pugh's resolution encourages residents, landlords and businesses to follow fire-prevention guidance and recognizes Pennsylvania's firefighters, first responders and others who work to prevent fires, educate the public and respond when emergencies occur.

"Our firefighters do much more than respond when the alarm sounds," Pugh said. "They spend countless hours educating families, visiting schools, checking equipment and teaching prevention. Fire Prevention Week is an opportunity to thank them while reminding every family that fire safety starts at home."

NFPA recommends using chargers supplied or approved by the device manufacturer, charging devices on hard surfaces, unplugging devices when fully charged and watching for warning signs such as excessive heat or damaged batteries.

The resolution has been referred to the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee.

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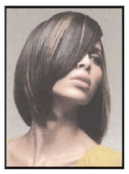
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