Back Mountain
Community News
NOVEMBER 2026
Serving the Back Mountain & Surrounding Communities
Free!

Harveys Lake Legion Honor Guard honors local veterans



Harveys Lake American Legion Honor Guard members visited our local veterans in several care facilities in the Back Mountain, to show their respect and appreciation to those who served our country. Members included: Sharon Austin, Barbara Goode, and Kathy Finsterbusch.

Submitted photos



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Dear Back Mountain Community News Advertisers and Friends,

After 20 years of dedication to her beloved newspaper, Lisa Pretko is handing over the reins of Back Mountain Community News to the Times Leader Media Group. We are honored to carry forward the publication she has nurtured and warmly welcome it into our family of publications.

This transition holds special meaning because Lisa worked for the Times Leader for many years before starting her own newspaper. Her commitment to local businesses, neighbors and community stories has built a foundation we look forward to continuing.

The Back Mountain is an important part of our community, and Community News is the perfect place to share the good news about its events, businesses and people.

Our first edition is out as of November 20, 2026! We look forward to helping you connect with local readers during this busy season and throughout the year. Our December edition will run the 18th. We will be back on schedule first week of the month, January 2027.

Please feel free to reach out to any of us:

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Jennifer Taylor, Back Mountain Media & Digital Consultant • jtaylor@timesleader.com • 570-704-3957

We welcome your questions, ideas and community news. Please send news tips and press releases to bmcn@timesleader.com.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of Back Mountain Community News. We are grateful to Lisa for entrusting us with its future and look forward to writing its next chapter with you.

Deadline for the December 2026 issue of the Back Mountain Community News is Tuesday, December 15th.

Back Mountain Community News
Serving the Back Mountain & Surrounding Communities Free!

DON'T MISS AN ISSUE!

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Back Mountain Community News is locally operated by the Times Leader Media Group. It's 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. Advertising rates apply to all business advertising.

For advertising rates, publication dates and deadlines please email dmcgee@timesleader.com.

Back Mountain Community News is published monthly and delivered to 90 locations throughout the Back Mountain & surrounding areas. No portion of the Back Mountain Community News can be copied and re-printed without prior written permission from the publisher.

It's All Good News … Where Community Matters

St. Paul's Lutheran Church News

Grief Support Group to Meet Dec. 17

A grief support group sponsored by St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Prince of Peace Episcopal Church will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 474 Yalick Road, Dallas.

The group is free and open to anyone in the community coping with the loss of a loved one. No reservations are required.

The ongoing support group provides emotional support, education and opportunities for participants to share experiences related to grief and loss.

For more information, email stpaul@epix.net or call 570-675-3859.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Offers Monthly Labyrinth Walks

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 474 Yalick Road, Dallas, is offering free monthly indoor labyrinth walks for the public.

The next walk will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16. Future labyrinth walks will take place on the third Wednesday of each month during the same hours. No reservations are required.

The church's movable labyrinth is set up in the narthex, where church members will be available to answer questions and provide guidance. Participants should wear or bring socks, as shoes are not permitted on the labyrinth. Finger labyrinths will be available for individuals with physical or visual disabilities.

For more information, email stpaul@epix.net or call 570-675-3859.

Tammy Hoyt Exhibit opens at Back Mountain Memorial Library



Tammy Hoyt

Back Mountain native Tammy Hoyt is exhibiting her artwork on the Art Wall at the Back Mountain Memorial Library during November and December.

A graduate of the Lake-Lehman School District and Kutztown University, where she earned a degree in communication design, Hoyt worked for the Don Bennett Advertising Agency for 12 years before beginning a freelance art career.

The exhibit features watercolors, acrylics and oil paintings depicting local landscapes and animals. Hoyt also works in a variety of fine arts and crafts, including silver jewelry, beaded jewelry, sculpture, woodworking and needle felting. She is known for her interior design and decorating work, as well as commissioned pet portraits.

Hoyt and her husband, Kris, are the parents of three sons and grandparents of three grandchildren, with another grandchild expected. Although the couple were classmates in elementary school, they reconnected years later at a tractor pull and eventually married.

Last spring, the Hoyts traveled to the Netherlands, where Kris Hoyt was invited to participate as a guest exhibitor at "Europe's Ultimate Pulling Experience." Tammy Hoyt designed the logo for his tractor, appropriately named "Nut Case."

The public is invited to view the exhibit during regular library hours through the end of December.

Endless Mountains Christmas brochure provides guide to holiday events

The Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau (EMVB) has partnered with the Bradford County Tourism Promotion Agency to create "An Endless Mountains Christmas," a brochure of holiday events and activities across the region.

This year's brochure features over 50 local events, from light shows to hometown festivals to holiday concerts. It also includes special deals from local businesses, a list of tree farms, and locations to send letters to Santa.

Now in its seventh year, the Endless Mountains Christmas campaign distributes 10,000 copies of the brochure annually.

"The brochure is a resource for both tourists and residents looking for holiday fun," said Jill Robinson, executive director of EMVB. "It started as a way to promote small businesses after the pandemic and has since grown into a Christmas tradition. As early as August, we're getting phone calls from people asking when the new version will be ready."

The brochure is delivered to over 100 local businesses and a mailing list of over 1,800 visitors. EMVB will set up special holiday displays at the Keystone Welcome Centers on I-81 in Great Bend, I-84 in Matamoras, and Route 15 in Tioga, and brochures will be sent to additional welcome centers throughout the state.

"When you see all of the holiday events on paper, you realize that our area is full of Christmas spirit," said Robinson. "The Endless Mountains have that small-town charm that rarely exists outside of Hallmark movies. It's incredible."

You can request a free copy of the brochure by calling 570-836-5431 or visiting endlessmountains.org/information-request/. You can also pick up a copy at the Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau at 5405 SR 6 in Tunkhannock. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. An outdoor kiosk is available 24/7.

The Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau is the designated tourism promotion agency for Sullivan and Wyoming counties. Since 1962, this non-profit organization has marketed the region through regional, state, and national publications; newspapers; broadcast media; trade shows; online publications; and more. To learn more, visit endlessmountains.org or follow PA Endless Mountains on Facebook and Instagram.

Pennsylvania Game Commission Northeast Region Office open Friday, November 27

Pennsylvania Game Commission Northeast Region Director Michael Beahm announced that the Northeast Region Office will be open from 8 a.m. to noon on Friday, Nov. 27, to accommodate hunters wishing to purchase hunting licenses.

"There is typically an annual rush to purchase general hunting licenses just ahead of the regular firearms deer season, particularly with many state offices closed that Friday," Beahm said. "We encourage hunters to plan ahead and purchase their licenses early to avoid the last-minute rush. To help accommodate the demand, we are offering additional office hours for license sales."

The Northeast Region Office's regular business hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The office is located at 3917 Memorial Highway in Dallas.

Keeping Christ in Christmas program set for Dec. 3

The public is invited to attend the 18th annual Keeping Christ in Christmas program on Thursday, Dec. 3, at the Nativity display on the Luzerne County Courthouse lawn.

The event will begin at 4:30 p.m. and will feature the singing of traditional Christmas hymns and carols by candlelight. The program will precede the county's Christmas tree lighting ceremony, which is scheduled for 5 p.m. inside the courthouse rotunda.

In the event of inclement weather, participants will gather inside the courthouse.

For more information, contact Nancy at 570-239-3363.

Read online at backmountainnews.com

Back Mountain Ecumenical Men's Group meets Tuesdays

The Back Mountain Ecumenical Men's Group meets every Tuesday from 8 to 9 a.m. for breakfast at Apple Tree Terrace at Newberry Estate.

The breakfast buffet costs $13 per person, plus $1 for the server's tip and $1 to support the group's mission projects.

Men interested in attending or becoming regular members are welcome to join the group at any meeting. Ample parking is available at both ends of Apple Tree Terrace.

The group is also seeking guest speakers for future meetings. For more information, contact Phil Brown at 443-605-7162.

The group's mission is to provide faith, fellowship and fun.

Couples Christmas Dinner Planned Dec. 8

The Back Mountain Ecumenical Men's Group will host its annual Couples Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, Dec. 8, at Apple Tree Terrace at Newberry Estate.

The event will begin at 4:30 p.m. and will feature a program, dinner, music and Christmas carols. The evening will conclude with a rendition of "God Bless America."

Reservations are required by Nov. 30.

For more information, contact Phil Brown at 443-605-7162.

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Annual Thanksgiving student art exhibit planned

The public is invited to attend the 50th Annual Thanksgiving Student Art Exhibit at Sue Hand's Imagery, 35 Main St., Dallas, during Thanksgiving week.

The annual exhibit began in November 1976, shortly after Sue Hand opened her studio for art classes, and has become a longstanding local tradition showcasing student artwork. Former students often return to visit the exhibit and share how their art education has influenced their careers.

The exhibit features artwork by students of all ages, including children and grandchildren of former students. Works on display will include impressionistic and realistic pieces created in a variety of drawing and painting media. Subject matter includes landscapes, seascapes, still lifes, portraits, figures, animals and floral compositions.

Students participating in the exhibit range in age from 8 to their early 90s. Award-winning artist and instructor Sue Hand will be available during the exhibit to greet visitors, discuss the artwork and demonstrate some of her current drawing and painting projects.

Exhibit hours are noon to 9 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23, and Tuesday, Nov. 24; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 25, and Friday, Nov. 27; and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28. The exhibit will be closed Thanksgiving Day.

For more information, call 570-675-5094.

Monday Night Bingo planned at Northmoreland Volunteer Fire Company

The Northmoreland Volunteer Fire Company, 1618 Demunds Road, Centermoreland, will host Monday Night Bingo on Nov. 23.

No reservations are required. Doors open at 5 p.m., and bingo begins at 6:30 p.m.

Proceeds will benefit the Northmoreland Volunteer Fire Company and its community services.

'Surviving the Holidays' seminar planned Nov. 21

Cross Creek Community Church will host a GriefShare "Surviving the Holidays" seminar at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 21, at the church, 370 Carverton Road, Trucksville.

The free seminar is designed to help individuals navigate the holiday season after the loss of a loved one. The program features video interviews with counselors, grief experts and others who have experienced grief during the holidays and offers practical suggestions and encouragement.

Topics will include coping with difficult emotions, managing holiday traditions, handling social gatherings, and finding comfort and strength during the grieving process.

Participants will receive a "Survival Guide" containing practical tips, journaling ideas, encouraging messages and exercises to help throughout the holiday season.

The seminar is free and open to the public, but advance registration is required at griefshare.org/holidays.

For more information, call Cross Creek Community Church at 570-696-0399 or email info@crosscreekcc.org.

Back Mountain Railroad Club announces programs, events and holiday activities

The Back Mountain Railroad Club is inviting area residents to participate in a variety of educational programs, community events and holiday activities throughout the season.

The club's clubhouse and store are open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month. The store offers a selection of model railroad items for beginners and experienced collectors.

The club also sponsors a continuing "How to Program" class for children ages 6 to 16 interested in learning the basics of model railroading. Classes are held from 10 to 11 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month. A parent or legal guardian must accompany participants.

The club will sponsor a free community presentation, "An Evening of Trains and Transportation," at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Yalick Road, Dallas. Author and photographer Harrison Wick and local artist Sue Hand will be featured speakers. Admission is free, and donations will be accepted.

Raffle tickets are available for the club's Christmas drawing, which will award 10 prizes. The top five prizes include train sets, locomotives or cash options. The remaining prizes are gift cards to local restaurants.

Club members are also building an interactive travel display expected to be exhibited at Route 415 True Value Hardware in Dallas from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day.

Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus and the Grinch are scheduled to appear at the hardware store at noon on Saturday, Dec. 5. Visitors are encouraged to bring cameras and pets for photos.

The club's annual Christmas Open House will be held at "Tracks on the Hill," located in the educational building of Dallas United Methodist Church, 4 Parsonage St., Dallas. The open house will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, and from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6. Admission is free.

Individuals interested in railroad history, trains or model building are welcome to attend the club's work sessions, which are generally held from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For more information, contact Ray Mancke at 570-430-8639 or email ramancke@aol.com.





SPCA of Luzerne County recognizes Dallas Rotary Club's support

The SPCA of Luzerne County recently recognized the Rotary Club of Dallas for its support of the organization's mission and programs benefiting animals in need.

SPCA officials said the club's generosity and community involvement help the organization continue providing compassionate care, shelter and services for animals throughout Luzerne County.

The organization also expressed appreciation for the opportunity to share its mission and highlight the efforts of its staff and volunteers, whose work helps provide animals with care and opportunities for adoption.



Submitted photo

Boy Scouts celebrate Halloween at Camp Acahela



Submitted photo

Boy Scouts and leaders from Troop 281, Dallas, recently participated in Halloween-themed activities at Camp Acahela. Shown are, first row, from left, Nathan Welby, Lucas Finch, Sam Morales and James Hogan; second row, Braden Tomalis, Drue Paden and Andrew Lanfrank; and third row, Ben Finch, Isaac Davis and Rocco Pericich.

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Back Mountain Chamber urges local shopping for Small Business Saturday

Small Business Saturday is more than a shopping day. It's an opportunity to invest in the businesses that support our local economy, create jobs, sponsor community events, and help make the Back Mountain a great place to live and work.

As you make your holiday shopping plans, consider supporting local retailers, restaurants, service providers, and small businesses throughout our community. Every purchase made locally helps strengthen the businesses that are the backbone of the Back Mountain.

Looking for local businesses? Visit our online Chamber Member Directory at www.backmountainchamber.net to discover the many businesses serving our community.

Shop Small. Support Local. Strengthen Back Mountain.

Back Mountain Chamber
570-675-9380
info@backmountainchamber.net
www.backmountainchamber.net

This Small Business Saturday, your support makes a difference. Shop local and help our community thrive.



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Dallas High School first quarter marking period honor roll

Mr. Daniel Natitus, Dallas High School Principal, announces the first quarter honor roll.

The honor roll is determined by the following: Honors with Distinction: 98-100, no C's, D's, or F's. First Honors: 93-97, no D's or F's. Second Honors: 88-92, no D's or F's.

Honors with Distinction

Seniors: Elijah Badami, Alexa Berecin, Jack Berti, Lily Boger, Patrick Bradshaw, Ethan Burns, Nico Cella, Emily Ceron, David Colburn, Gracie Coyne, Gerald Daney, Kate Dautrich, Aurora Deem, Jason Dyrli, Brady Ecenrode, Emma Eick, Catlin Finn, Patrick Flanagan, Robert Gallagher, Madelyn Gonzales, Adalyn Gutierrez, Aidan Hilburt, Lily Horsefield, Cadence Hudgins, Gabriella Iorio, Jacob Kachinko, Sutton Kern, Gracie Kimsey, Kinsey Kizis, Ireland Klikus, Mayah Kolinovsky, Kayden Kopiak, Jenna Krispin, Andrew Lisman, Faith Lorince, Taylor Lucas, Neah Lukose, Angel Mackay, Brady McCann, John McGuire, Caitlyn Mizzer, Isabella Moeckl, Keegan Mulcahy, Julia Natitus, Merryn Novicki, Kevin Osipower, Emma Pitcavage, Hunter Pitcavage, Grace Pranger, Ava Pugliese, Ava Puskar, Robert Robbins, III, Lauren Roberts, Matthew Sevenski, Lukas Sheare, Jordyn Shedlock, Ainsley Slacktish, Tyler Spaciano, Sophia Strazdus, Haylie Symeon, Luke Tellis, Anna Vincelli, Nina Webb, Owen Wielgosz, Abigail Worth, Jenna Young, Brady Youngblood, James Youngblood

Juniors: Alanna Acuff, Nathan Bogdan, Max Bryk, Angelina Burdge, Justin Camoni, Chase Comiskey, Gregory Confletti, John Connolly, Ava Demark, Emily Evans, Chase Glahn, Luke Grove, Sydney Haydu, Gianna Hoover, Logan Jacobs, Luke Kostick, Kaiden Kulp, Eric Kuzma, Kristen Lucas, Mitchell Martin, Ethan Muckey, Grace Niebauer, Joseph Nocito, Teagan Orrson, Gianna Richardson, Caden Sakulich, Havyn Schaffer, Emma Sgarlat, Mcauley Somers, Zoey Sutzko, Brynlee Tabor, Alyssa Traver, Braden Vallach, Lacey Youngblood

Sophomores: Jesse Berlew, Alexandra Bruno, Olivia Clark, Callie Comstock, Mollie Coyne, Makayla Cronin, Logan Dalton, Jeffrey Dickson, Joshua Gillette, Luke Gillette, Olivia Hall, Skylar Haydu, Aiden Hickman, Carley Knorr, Nikisha Lukose, Sofia Makukova, Mercedes Maye, Ryan Ricardo, Dominic Smacchi, Macie Stauffer, Marina Susko, Aubrey Templeton, Orleana Templeton, Prasais Townes, Michael Viglone, Luke Waskevich, Riley Withrow, Lorenzo Zangardi, Rita Zangardi

Freshmen: Jovie Alunni, Audrey Banks, Norah Banks, Nick Barrouk, Brian Bolesta, Stone Boyko, Vivienne Bross, Eleanor Caleb, Gabriel Caleb, Jacob Chiapuzzi, Emily Chrobak, Deena Connors, Harper Coursen, Brynnley Cyprich, Elijah Evans, Nicholas Federici, Joseph Garito, Matthew Gibbons, Alyse Gutierrez, Owen Herman, Emma Kachinko, Gemma Kishbaugh, Mary Knight, Drew Kostick, Mckenzie Kutch, Addison Larson, Hardy Lin, Molly Loftus, Gabrielle Mill, Emily Miller, Benjamin Neher, Elin Puskar, Emily Ratchford, Douglas Roberts, III, Arianna Rogowski, Camryn Rossick, Cora Roszel, Joshua Salvaterra, Jr., Abigail Schuckers, Joscelyn Schweizer, Riley Sheehan, Aubrey Stackhouse, Jamie Thomas, Liliana Walsh, Madison West, Spencer Williams, Lily Wujcik

First Honors

Seniors: Alyssa Aguilar, Alexis Angelovic, Nicholas Bednar, Nicholas Belfino, Brooke Bisulca, Brianna Casey, Dylan Chapman, Elijah Close, David Da Silva, Tyler Daniels, Erin Duffy, Olivia Dunbar, Aidan Dyer, Ian English, Harrison Farina, Ella Feeney, Jonathan Ference, Liam Finney, Christopher Flanagan, Ian Frey, Keira Gierszal, Lillie Harbester-Bokrosh, Chase Harris, Fiona Johnson-Fallon, Ava Knorr, Cameron Kraynack, Steven Leo-Adolphe, Angela Loftus, Riley Lynch, Jack McLaughlin, Lily Milazzo, Brandon Miller, Dylan Miller, Paige Navestad, Cecilia Nguyen, Nyiiyah Norman, Payton Panaway, Sadie Pockevich, Connor Provow, Sadie Quinn, Regan Quinn, Abby Radginski, Lily Ratchford, Tyler Richards, Mason Rinehimer, Ryan Roman, Bryden Rosencrans, Charlie Rother, Carolina Sabatini, Brooke Schwerdtman, Kevin Seidel, Isabela Silverstein, Chase Specht, Adelynn Sromovski, Heidi Tlatenchi, Juliana Torres-Barriera, Juliana Tosi, Tessa Travinski, Julian Wallace, Robert West, David Worth, Arabella Woznikaitis

Juniors: Ava Adams, Kelsey Archer, Andrew Avila, Cody Bartos, Nathan Bilwin, Hunter Bisulca, Sara Bonomo, Charles Bransford, Lucy Brunn, Max Casey, Myer Casey Williams, Griffin Clark, Lucas Dalton, Alexandra Delayo, Zane Drezek, Nicholas Dudick, Maddux Frost, Andrew Garcia, Grant Gauntlett,Talan Geskey, James Gibbons, Sophia Golanoski, Layla Gover, Benjamin Graham, Christopher Harding, Evan Hensley, Robert Hernandez, Sarah Herstek, Cailynn Hivish, David Hoover, Levi Horsefield, Riley Ickes, Connor Johns, Jackson Johns, Cecily Johnston, Zachary Jones, Olivia Keller, Landen Kemper, Lily Khater, Drew Klinetob, Chloe Kotulski, Chase Kresge, Arcadia Kutz-Marks, Elayna Labar, Kylie Landi, Cole Langdon, Alexis Lefkoski, Amanda Lewis, Tyce Mason, Thomas Matinas, Jr., Casey Matus, Julie Matus, Madelyn McNab, Clayton Morris, Gabriella Nieves, Jonah Pasquini, Calee Perrego, Luca Pietraccini,Taylor Pritchard, Sophie Roberts, Ryan Rogowski, Hayden Romeo, Max Scatton, Madeline Scranta, Gianna Senese, Malaysia Shaw, Brady Sherman, Emily Shook, Ayden Sidorek, Charlotte Sitler, Trevor Slavinski, Emily Smith, Katherine Straka, Peyton Strobel, Lyndsey Swire, Ella Sypniewski, Jay Traver, Swara Walhekar, Alivia Wall, Calder Watkins, Cameron Williams, Charlotte Williams, Sierra Yefko, Blake Ziomkowski

Sophomores: Elizabeth Amoah, Locklynn Bienkowski, Oliver Black, Aaron Bruch, II, Eugene Burke, Jr., Kolbie Burkhardt-Baird, Marian Clare, Rowan Cotter, Trever Cunningham, Justin Dale, Shailagh Devlin, Camryn Ecenrode, Ethan Eckels, Noah Evans, Bella Fagan, Connor Ferik, Thomas Fostock, Julia Gavlick, Lucy Gibson, Alexandra Harrington, Brynlee Herron, Benjamin Hodne, Rocco Hozempa-Mahlstadt, Jett Jarden, Clara Kemmerer, Braydon Kerpovich, Kierstyn Lee, Rocco Luongo, Christian Maier, Kinsley Marinelli,Vayda Massaker, Jake Matysik, Marley Mazur, Lily McBroom, Kayla Morris, Montgomery Morris, Mckinley Morris, Vi Nguyen, Analise Osipower, Melania Pieczynski, Carter Posten, James Rakos, Jayden Razawich, Greyson Reitz, Dylan Rinehimer, Amelia Robinson, Brooklyn Rogaski, Jacie Rollins, Gio Ruggere, Gianna Saitta, Caroline Sears, Jackson Sitkowski, Braden Sromovski, Wyatt Teetsel, Sofia Testa Sanchez, Jaylene Tlatenchi, Garrett Underwood,

Honor Roll continued on page 9



Back Mountain Memorial Library plans holiday activities and programs

The Back Mountain Memorial Library is inviting community members to enjoy a variety of holiday-themed books, activities and displays throughout the season.

Visitors can browse Christmas-themed novels, movies, decorating guides, craft books and holiday cookbooks. A gingerbread village is on display in the Children's Room, and a seasonal jigsaw puzzle is available for those looking for a festive activity.

The Children's Room is again sponsoring its annual Living Tree raffle. Each visit to the Children's Room during December earns an entry for a chance to win a live evergreen tree that can be planted now or in the spring.

Following the success of last year's event, the library is bringing back its No-Bake Gingerbread Challenge. Children can pick up kits containing basic supplies after Thanksgiving, decorate their creations at home and return them to be displayed as part of the holiday village in the Children's Room throughout December.

The library's 3D printer also continues to be a popular attraction. Children can print predesigned objects, bring their own designs or modify existing projects while learning basic STEM skills. Appointments are recommended.

The library will be closed Dec. 24 – 25 for Christmas and Dec. 31 – Jan. 1 for New Year's.

The Children's Room continues to accept donations for its Book Nook. Children's and young adult books are available for purchase for 25 cents each, with proceeds supporting library programs and the Summer Reading Program.

For more information, call 570-675-1182 or visit the library's website.

Honor Roll continued from page 8

Sawyer Valkenburg, Lillie May Verrill, Maci Waitkus, Liam Walter, Amelka Walton, Alyssa Weeks, Camryn Wilson, Wayne Yang, Avery Zielnicki

Freshmen: Nini Abashidze, Blake Berryman, Bryce Berryman, Brooklyn Brdaric, Logan Brown, Hunter Carpenter, Tayla Carroll, Owen Casey Williams, Alexis Cawley, Abbigail Clare, Robbi Clark, Matthew Coslett, Colbi Cox, Kyler Cromer, Cassidy Daniels, Kellan DeFalco, Kyleigh Devlin, Liam Dieffenbacher, Dominic Drago, Lindzay Dziak, Francis Eick, Roman Elbattah, Vayda Evans, Zoe Evans, Emma Falchetti, Aiden Faulkner, Katherine Ference, Lucas Finch, Kelly Frazier, Juliana Frey, Kamryn Gierszal, Samuel Gomelko, Sophia Greco, Grayson Greig, Cole Hampel, Brendan Hayes, Quinn Healey, Kira Hogan, Ryane Hook, Sophie Hoover, Ah'liyah James, Kaylin Johnson, Edward Johnson, Kyler Kopiak, Kylie Kowalczyk, Taylor Kujat, Grace Lehane, Sylas Loftipour, Elizabeth Makara, Nadia Malkemes, Broghan Mann, Andrew McDermott, Roman McLaughlin, Jordan Medrano, Jacob Moran, Blake Nilsson, Riley Nolan, Lilly O'Donnell, Lily Olson, Olivia Ostroskie, Yashvi Patel, Chloe Pippin, Riley Pitcavage, Mylee Powers, Joshua Psolka, Taylor Radginski, Jacob Ratuszny, Henry Raub, Jassa Rogers, Benjamin Rother, Jaxon Saitta, Carter Samanas, Olivia Samson, Jack Sanders, Lillian Scatena, Samuel Sgarlat, Aidan Somers, Blake Spencer, Avery Spurlin, Cameron Sromovski, Eliana Stein, Logan Tanner, Elliott Van Tassel, Logan VanValkenburg, Charles Waller, Mackenzie Wascavage, Maeve Watkins, Nathan Welby, Anthony Whilden, Alivia Wujcik, Audrey Yeager, Jaxon Yefko, Francesca Zarlengo, Fiona Zinck

Second Honors

Seniors: Silin Abdo, Jaydin Benscoter, Yedalis Cirne, Emily Davidson, Khary Douglas, Isabella Evans, Alexander Ferik, Abraham Hobson-Tomascik, Karly Kovitch, Samantha Kuniskas, Nevaeh Leonard, Kenneth Martin, Jaelyn Palmer, Michael Scanlon, Chase Sromovski, Garrett Voitek, Ryleigh Williams

Juniors: Nicholas Dalessandro, Jacob Doherty, Nathan Eyet, Aleah Gronkowski, Connor Herman, Stephen Hoegen, Nevaeh Jeschke, Caroline Keenich, Kyra Kivler, Allison Maddox, Aubrielle O'Brien, Owen Richardson, Aiden Schaper, Leif Swanson, Benjamin Thomas, Josiah VanDunk, Lorenzo Vitale, Brian Welby, Gabrielle Zagata

Sophomores: Robert Aumick, III, Gavin Bayer, James Brady, Colbie Brdaric, Dylan Cummings, Sophia Davidson, Brody Dube, Mia Ellis, Dylan Hadsall, Chance Harvey, Gavin Hayes, Christian Jones, Callum Kezman, Maxton Laule, Demaya Lias-Lewis, Sarah Lomerson, Dominic Marianacci, Lucas Martin, Sophia McCarter, Elliot Rigol, Laney Rodrigues, Avalynne Waller, Casey Yoder, Jeremy Youngblood, Hannah Yu

Freshmen: Brock Bolton, Dominic (Nico) Cookus-Gnoinski, Benjamin Daniels, Marcella Gardjulis, Hunter Green, Liam Harbester-Bokrosh, Ava-Lynn Hess, Matthew Lapidus, Aria Lispi, Connor Orrson, Cadden Riley, Kaidence Rodriguez, Skylee Simon, Gavin Smith, Hudson Stoodley, Markus Truax, Aiden Turel, Michael Ulichney, Etinosa Usoh, Elizabeth Williams, Derek Yang

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Strong fall season for Dallas sports

Staff Report

The fall postseason has been a good one for Dallas, with two District 2 titles earned by the Mountaineers — and a potential third to be decided on Friday night.

The Dallas football team will look to capture the District 2 Class 4A championship at home against North Pocono to cap off a remarkable season.

The Mountaineers finished the regular season 10-0 and then picked up playoff wins over Hanover Area and Wallenpaupack to reach the finals.

They'll look to join the Dallas girls volleyball and boys soccer teams in the District 2 champions club, both of those teams winning district gold and advancing to the PIAA tournament in their respective sports.

For the boys soccer team, it was a second district title in three years. For the volleyball team, it was the first district title in program history.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

50 years of waiting finally gave way for Dallas in the District 2 Class 5A championship match, as the Mountaineers outlasted Berwick in five sets to win the program's first-ever district title on Nov. 3.

It was a rematch of Dallas' only loss in the regular season, but the Mountaineers were able to flip the script with the district title on the line.

The two teams traded sets to force the fifth and decisive set to 15. Berwick led the fifth set 11-10, but Dallas scored the final five points on the strength of Gianna Senese's service game to knock off the Bulldogs.

It was only the second five-setter of the year for the Mountaineers; the first came five days earlier in the district semis, where Dallas defeated Abington Heights.

A week after winning the district title, Dallas played in its first-ever state playoff game against District 1 runner-up Gwynedd Mercy.

The Mountaineers fell in four sets to bring their historic season to a close.

When the Wyoming Valley Conference coaches released their All-Star teams, Ava Adams was chosen as a first-teamer for the Mountaineers.

Aurora Deem made the second team, while Natalie Hinsdale and Brynlee Herron received honorable mentions.

BOYS SOCCER

The Mountaineers had a big hurdle to climb if they wanted to capture the District 2 Class 3A championship: Abington Heights was not only the reigning district champ, but the Comets had aims on defending their PIAA Class 3A championship as well.

Dallas was up to the challenge, defeating Abington Heights 1-0 at home on Nov. 7 to win the district championship.



John Erzar | Back Mountain Community News

The Dallas girls volleyball team poses with its District 2 Class 5A championship plaque after defeating Berwick 3-2.

Abe Hobson-Tomascik scored the game's only goal with 5:50 remaining off a restart from about 40 yards away by David Da Silva. Players from both teams battled for possession near the goal, but Hobson-Tomascik was able to flick the ball in with his right shoulder.

Brandon Miller made six saves and ultimately

Dallas Sports continued on page 11

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Dallas Sports continued from page 10

posted a shutout for Dallas.

It was the second District 2 title win in three years for the Mountaineers, winning in 2024 but losing to Abington Heights in the 2025 title game.

Dallas was next in action on Nov. 10 in the first round of the PIAA Class 3A tournament, hosting District 1 runner-up Springfield Township.

The Mountaineers were on the wrong end of a shutout this time, falling to Springfield Township 3-0 to bring the season to a close.

Hobson-Tomascik would later go on to be named the WVC's Player of the Year for his efforts in leading Dallas to division and district titles.

Da Silva and Miller were named to the Division 1 first team along with Hobson-Tomascik and teammates Chase Harris, Nate Bilwin and Myer Casey Williams.

FOOTBALL

For the second straight season, Dallas and North Pocono are on a collision course with the District 2 Class 4A title hanging in the balance.

The two top seeds in the eight-team D2-4A playoffs will meet at Mountaineer Stadium on Friday night to determine who will win the district championship and go on to represent the district in the PIAA Class 4A tournament.

After completing an undefeated regular season on Oct. 30 with a win at Berwick, Dallas earned the top overall seed and home field advantage throughout the playoffs.

The Mountaineers kept rolling on with a 48-14 win over Hanover Area in the quarterfinals on Nov. 6.



Fred Adams | For Back Mountain Community News

Dallas receiver Jim Youngblood runs after catching a pass in the second quarter as Wallenpaupack defensive back Jayden Kozarac gives chase.

Seven different players scored touchdowns for Dallas, including a fumble return for a score by Brady McCann. Talan Geskey ran for a touchdown and threw for another to Tyce Mason.

Things were tougher the following week, but the Mountaineers held off Wallenpaupack 14-6 in the District 2 Class 4A semifinals on Nov. 13.

Special teams and defense carried the day for Dallas: the Mountaineers got a partial block on a punt, blocked a Wallenpaupack extra point and recovered an onside kick to start the second half.

Marc Saracinaj scored both Dallas touchdowns, one rushing and one receiving, and finished with 105 total yards.

The Mountaineers will meet North Pocono, the defending D2-4A champ, in the finals on Friday night at Mountaineer Stadium.

North Pocono defeated Dallas in last year's district final by a 38-6 final score.

BEST OF THE REST

The Dallas field hockey team also played for a District 2 championship, but the Mountaineers were unable to take out Crestwood in the D2-2A finals on Nov. 3.

Crestwood won a seventh straight District 2 Class 2A title with a 3-0 win over Dallas.

It was the third straight year that the two schools met for the district title, with Crestwood having Dallas's number in all three meetings.

The Dallas girls soccer team was also eliminated from title contention by Crestwood, this time in the semifinals of the District 2 Class 3A playoffs.

Crestwood defeated the Mountaineers 4-1 in the semis and would go on to win the District 2 title and advance all the way to the state quarterfinals.

Rylie Samanas and Ava Puskar were named to the girls soccer Division 1 first team All-Stars by the WVC coaches.

In cross country, Chase Comiskey was the lone Mountaineer to qualify for the PIAA Class 2A boys meet on Nov. 7 at Big Spring High School.

Comiskey finished the course in a time of 17:21, finishing 80th out of 249 competitors.

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Follow your Local Recycling Programs' Instructions.
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LuzerneCounty.org/324/Recycling-Department

Lake-Lehman soccer teams win District 2 titles

It was a clean sweep for Lake-Lehman in the District 2 Class 2A soccer scene, as both the boys and girls' soccer teams won the District 2 Class 2A championships to lead the Black Knights in the fall.

The Black Knights also had a District 2 silver medalist in field hockey and an individual silver medalist in the District 2 boys cross country championship, along with a few other state qualifiers, to cap off a strong fall season.



Kevin Carroll | Back Mountain Community News

The Lake-Lehman boys soccer team won the District 2 Class 2A championship for the second straight year, defeating Dunmore 3-2 on Saturday to repeat as champs.

BOYS SOCCER

Lake-Lehman repeated as District 2 Class 2A champions with a 3-2 win over Dunmore on Nov. 7.

Landon James scored twice from the penalty spot, including what ultimately ended up as the game-winner with just over four minutes left to play against the Bucks.

A handball in the box called on Dunmore sent James to the spot to try and win the game. He did just that, firing one past Dunmore goalie Diego Chavez as the Black Knights were able to run out the rest of the clock.

Kolby Shook added a goal for the Black Knights, who shook off a sluggish start that included a Dunmore goal scored within the first 30 seconds of action. Kason Wojnarski assisted on Shook's goal.

Lake-Lehman advanced to the PIAA Class 2A playoffs, where a rematch from last year's state playoffs was in store with defending state champ Lewisburg.

The match went all the way through regulation, two extra periods and into penalty kicks. Lewisburg emerged the victor at the end of the shootout.



Tom Robinson | For Back Mountain Community News

Eventual ninth-place finisher Betsy Digiovanni (202) from Lake-Lehman is among the runners battling for position early in the Class 2A girls race at the District 2 Championships.

The Black Knights had five first-teamers when the WVC coaches All-Star teams were released.

Shook, James and Wojnarski and were among them, along with Brady Windsor and Miller Mattie.

GIRLS SOCCER

While the boys' team was busy defending a district title, Lake-Lehman's girls team was fighting their way back to the top of District 2.

The Black Knights defeated Mid Valley 3-2 in the District 2 Class 2A championship on the same day that their schoolmates on the boys' side defeated Dunmore.

Lake-Lehman trailed 2-1 at the half against top-seeded Mid Valley, but rallied to take the lead and take the title.

Adyson Zabriski, Kinley Purdy and Ava Blazes all scored for the Black Knights in the title game.

Before reaching the final, the Black Knights got a personal bit of payback in the semis with a 4-3 win over Wyoming Area.

It was the fourth meeting between the two teams this year, with a tie and two Warrior wins in the first three games.

Lexi Peiffer scored three times and Purdy added a goal to get Lake-Lehman past the Warriors into the finals.

After defeating Mid Valley to win the gold, the Black Knights advanced to take on Central Columbia in the PIAA Class 2A opening round on Nov. 10.

The Black Knights' season came to an end with a 9-2 defeat. Purdy and Blazes scored the goals for Lake-Lehman.

Purdy earned an All-Star nod from the

Lake Lehman continued on page 15





Lake Lehman continued from page 14

WVC coaches when All-Stars were announced. Blazes, Peiffer, Betsy DiGiovanni and Grace Martin all joined her on the Division 2 first team.

BEST OF THE REST

A week before he and his teammates captured the District 2 boys soccer title, Bodhi Cronin earned himself a silver medal at the District 2 Cross Country championships at the Wyoming Valley Fairground on Oct. 28.

Cronin was the best WVC finisher in either of the boys' races, and one of two Black Knights to earn a medal along with his brother Finn Cronin.

Ava Jones finished in fifth place in the Class 2A girls' race, with Betsy DiGiovanni also earning a medal with a ninth-place finish.

Jones would go on to finish 22nd at the state championship meet.

The Lake-Lehman field hockey team entered the District 2 Class A tournament as the fifth seed, but knocked off two higher seeds before falling in the district championship game.

The Black Knights first went to Nanticoke Area and defeated the Trojanettes 2-0, then shocked top-seeded Wyoming Seminary for a 1-0 win to advance to the final.

In the championship, Wyoming Area's defense proved too much for Lake-Lehman to handle as the Black Knights fell 2-0.

In girls volleyball, Abriella Fugok was named WVC Defensive Player of the Year for the Black Knights, who were defeated in the District 2 Class 2A quarterfinals by Montrose.

Alexandra Patla also made the WVC first team when All-Stars were announced.

Savers get more room in 401(k)s for 2027; IRA limits hold steady

Martin A. Federici, Jr.,
CEO of MF Advisers, Inc.



Submitted photo
Federici

With a new year right around the corner, the IRS has released the 2027 contribution and benefit limits for retirement plans. Workers saving for retirement will be able to put more into their workplace plans, while IRA limits stay the same. Here are the changes from 2026 to 2027.

Retirement plan and benefit limits

- 401(k), 403(b) and 457 elective deferral limit: $25,500, up from $24,500
- Catch-up contribution, age 50 and older: $8,500, up from $8,000
- Catch-up contribution, ages 60 to 63: $11,750, up from $11,250
- Defined contribution plan annual limit: lesser of $75,000 or 100% of compensation, up from $72,000
- Traditional IRA contribution limit: unchanged at the lesser of $7,500 or 100% of compensation
- Roth IRA contribution limit: unchanged at the lesser of $7,500 or 100% of compensation; income and phase-out limits apply depending on filing status
- IRA catch-up contribution, age 50 and older (traditional and Roth): unchanged at $1,100
- Health Savings Account limit: $4,500 for self-only and $9,000 for family coverage, up from $4,400 and $8,750; those 55 and older can contribute an additional $1,000
- SIMPLE elective deferral limit: $17,500, up from $17,000
- SIMPLE 401(k) or SIMPLE IRA catch-up, age 50 and older: unchanged at $5,250, or $4,000 under the regular catch-up limit
- Defined benefit plan annual limit (Section 415): $300,000, up from $290,000
- Income subject to Social Security tax: $192,300, up from $184,500
- Highly compensated employee threshold: $170,000, up from $160,000
- Key employee/officer in a top-heavy plan: $245,000, up from $235,000
- Annual allowable compensation limit: $375,000, up from $360,000

Standard deduction

- Single: $16,600, up from $16,100
- Married filing jointly: $33,200, up from $32,200
- Head of household: $24,925, up from $24,150

Tax brackets for single filers (taxable income)

- 10%: $12,800 or less, up from $12,400 or less
- 12%: over $12,800, up from over $12,400
- 22%: over $52,025, up from over $50,400
- 24%: over $109,125, up from over $105,700
- 32%: over $208,325, up from over $201,775
- 35%: over $264,550, up from over $256,225
- 37%: over $661,375, up from over $640,600

Tax brackets for married couples filing jointly (taxable income)

- 10%: $25,600 or less, up from $24,800 or less
- 12%: over $25,600, up from over $24,800
- 22%: over $104,050, up from over $100,800
- 24%: over $218,250, up from over $211,400
- 32%: over $416,650, up from over $403,550
- 35%: over $529,100, up from over $512,450
- 37%: over $793,650, up from over $768,700

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