

North East Trap Team shoots for the stars



Jennifer Maas/North East News-Journal
Champion athletes from the North East Trap Team.

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Last Minute Bits

North East Township will have mulch available on Friday's from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$10/scoop. For any questions, can call the Township at 725-8606. The last day for getting mulch at the Township will be Friday, June 26.

Gibson Park Open Market will hold a Salute to Veterans Ceremony led by the American Legion Post 105 and VFW.

The Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Group meets the fourth Thursday of every month from 3 to 4 p.m. at Community Nursing Services of North East, 7 Park St. No registration necessary. All first-time attendees are required to sign a confidentiality statement. Questions, call 814-725-4300.

Powerful Pink Warriors (PPW) is having their monthly social get-together on Monday, June 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the NE Senior Center (aka NE Community Center).

This is not only for breast cancer survivors. All cancer survivors and thrivers are welcome. Come and meet others who are going through/ or have gone through the same journey. If you would like to attend or have any questions, please contact Pattie at 814-392-2683.

2026 Twice-weekly Borough garbage collection will run Monday, June 1 through Friday, September 25. Monday's garbage will also be collected on Thursdays; Tuesday's garbage will also be collected on Fridays, and vice versa.

Revolutionary War Veteran to be honored with new monument in NE

NORTH EAST — The Belnap Family Organization invites the public to celebrate the legacy of an unheralded Continental Army blacksmith, his wife Eunice Hall, and their contribution to American Independence at noon on Saturday, June 27 at Phillips Cemetery on Route 20.

Exactly one week before the United States celebrates its semi-quincentennial (250th) anniversary—the descendants of American Revolutionary War veteran Jesse Belnap (1760–1854) and his wife Eunice Hall (1762–1849) will gather to dedicate a new, five-foot-tall granite monument at their final resting places in Phillips Cemetery. More than 60 family representatives traveling from all over the United States will attend the historic commemoration, bridging generations of family history that today spans tens of thousands

of descendants across 11 generations. Joining the family in attendance will be prominent local community leaders alongside representatives and officers from national Revolutionary War lineage organizations.

The event stands as a positive milestone for the local community, closely aligned with national celebrations honoring the everyday patriots who forged the United States.

Jesse Belnap enlisted in the Continental Army in Hebron, Connecticut, in August 1777, just 25 days before his 17th birthday. Serving for three years as an "artificer" (blacksmith), Belnap provided critical logistical support to General George Washington's forces. Notably, he was stationed at New Windsor and West Point—known as "America's Gibraltar"—where he

See Monument, page 3

Open Market set to honor local veterans this Saturday

NORTH EAST — This week, the Gibson Park Open Market will hold a Salute to Veterans Ceremony led by the American Legion Post 105 and VFW. Join us at 11 a.m. to remember the bravery of our hometown heroes, as well as a display from the local color guard. Following the ceremony, enjoy a self-guided tour of the veteran banners around town.

The Open Market begins at 10 a.m. and will run until 2 p.m.

The market features a diverse range of craft vendors, artisans, sweet treats, and food options. Try out goat milk soaps and lotions produced by Foxglove Hill; discover your next favorite necklace or pair of earrings with Handmade by Hez; find the perfect

crochet gift crafted by Lakeside Crochet; browse strawberries, peaches, blueberries, and other locally grown goods from Burch Farms; and many more.

While making rounds in the park, don't forget to shop locally at Dog Gone Its, ReFoundry, Dragonfly Sweets, and more.

The Skunk & Goat Tavern will be in the park, providing customizable burgers on the flat top grill. Veterans will receive a FREE single burger as a thank you for their service.

Plus, live music by Jesse Smith.

The Open Market in Gibson Park is sponsored by Enjoy North East and brought to you by North East Athletic Club,

See Open Market, page 3

North East Public Safety Advisory Board

June 2026 Community Safety Report



Fireworks Safety: Celebrate Responsibly This Summer

As summer celebrations, holidays, and backyard gatherings ramp up across Pennsylvania, the North East Fire Department reminds residents that fireworks can be dangerous when not used responsibly.

Pennsylvania law allows adults 18 years of age and older to purchase and use consumer-grade fireworks, including items such as firecrackers, Roman candles, and bottle rockets. However, with that privilege comes the responsibility to use fireworks safely and legally.

Know the Law

Consumer fireworks may NOT be used:

- Within 150 feet of an occupied structure or vehicle
- On public or private property without permission from the property owner
- While under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Directed at another person, vehicle, or building
- From inside or toward a vehicle or structure

Many municipalities also restrict the use of fireworks during overnight hours, except during certain holidays such as Independence Day and New Year’s Eve.

Fireworks Safety Tips

Before lighting any fireworks:

- Read and follow all manufacturer instructions
- Keep a bucket of water or garden hose nearby
- Use fireworks outdoors in a clear, open area
- Keep spectators at a safe distance
- Light only one firework at a time
- Never allow young children to handle fireworks
- Never attempt to relight a malfunctioning firework
- Soak used fireworks in water before disposal

Protect Your Family, Pets, and Neighbors

Fireworks can cause serious burns, eye injuries, and structure fires. They can also create significant stress for pets, veterans, and individuals with sensory sensitivities.

Before setting off fireworks, consider notifying your neighbors and ensuring pets are secured indoors.

Leave the Big Shows to the Professionals

Public fireworks displays conducted by trained professionals provide a safer way to celebrate while reducing the risk of injuries and property damage.

This summer, help keep our community safe by using fireworks responsibly.

If an emergency occurs, call 9-1-1 immediately.



North East Police Department

May 2026 Call Report	Total
Alarms	8
Assist Fire/EMS	18
Assist PD	3
Assault/Harassment	2
Burglary	2
Citizen Assist	22
Disturbance/Trespassing	19
Driving Under the Influence	2
Drug Offenses	0
Fraud	1
Robbery	0
Suspicious Person/Vehicle/Circumstances	10
Theft	4
Traffic Stop/Traffic Hazard/Traffic or Parking Complaint/Crashes	149
TOTAL INCIDENTS	240

Crescent Hose Company

May 2026 Call Report	Total
EMS	96
Structure Fire	2
Alarms	-
Total	98

Fuller Hose Company

May 2026 Call Report	Total
Structure Fires	8
Vehicle Fires	4
Brush Fires	3
Vehicle Accidents	7
Water Rescue	1
Automatic Alarms	6
CO / Gas Emergencies	3
Weather-Related Incidents	8
EMS Assists	10
Other Incidents	4
Mutual Aid Responses:	14%
Total Calls for Service:	54

Any inquiries or comments go to publicsafetynortheast@gmail.com

Monument

actively helped construct and deploy the famous Great Chain across the Hudson River.

During the American Revolution, the Hudson River was considered the single most vital strategic asset outside of major coastal cities. Whoever controlled the river could either keep the American Colonies united or drive them into submission. West Point sat at a narrow, high-ground "S"-shaped bend, making it the perfect choke point. The 65-ton iron Great Chain was engineered to completely block British warships from sailing upriver. Had the British broken through, they could have successfully split the New England colonies from the rest of the country, potentially crushing the American war effort entirely. Because of the barrier, the British never even attempted to run the chain.

According to historical documents provided by the family, they explicitly credit

young Jesse with a daring, firsthand role in stretching this historic barrier across the water. The family account records that Jesse successfully swam across the treacherous currents of the Hudson River, pulling a thin string with him to the opposite bank. He then used the string to haul a much larger rope across, which the remaining soldiers held onto as they swam over. The team then tied the heavy iron chain to the rope and pulled until it was successfully stretched across the river and fastened to the trees on each side.

Thanks to funds raised by the non-profit Belnap Family Organization, a new, durable monument will be unveiled to ensure their sacrifices are preserved for centuries to come. In the spirit of the upcoming 250th American anniversary, and inspired by the Belnap ancestors who prioritized community building and frontier labor through military service,

the Belnap family extends a warm invitation to neighbors, community members, and distant relatives alike to take time this month to personally thank any active duty military or veteran who sacrificed for our freedom, or to perform an act of meaningful service within their own local communities.

"Our ancestors built new and firm foundations through everyday acts of hard work, military duty, and community solidarity," Larry Julian, President of the Belnap Family Organization said. "By inviting others to express gratitude to our modern service members and engage in local service, we hope to honor the collective spirit of sacrifice that created and continues to sustain this nation."

To learn more about the family history, review genealogical records, or access further details regarding the June 27 events, visit belnapfamily.org.

Open Market

Wavepoint, Bob Martin State Farm, ECGRA, Rossbacher Insurance, and North East Dental Arts. It runs weekly from 10-2 through Sept. 5th. Vendors interested in participating should

contact Enjoy North East at info@nechamber.org for an application.

There will be no market next week due to Fourth of July festivities. However, Bark in the Park will be back on July

11th, offering something for each furry member of the family. For a complete list of themes and weekly vendor updates, visit North East's Gibson Park Open Market on Facebook.

THIS WEEK FROM THE SMOKER!

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"Big H" Verse of the Week

For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD.

"They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11 NLT

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Seeds for Hope

By Jennifer Seigworth Life Coach/Counselor

Is multitasking a good thing?

In a world with continuous distraction, is multitasking really such a good thing? Some professionals say other than activities such as walking and talking at the same time, most activities that require attention and thought should be done singularly if they are to be of good quality.

Science suggests that if a task takes cognitive thinking to perform, then the likelihood of mistakes is higher when trying to perform two or more separate tasks at once. This means that instead of saving time, a person will end up taking more time to accomplish the tasks than if they did the one at a time efficiently.

This evidence can be seen in tasks such as texting and driving.

Can it be done? Yes.

But one or the other task will take the lead in the brain and the other will be distracted. It may alternate, but this could mean life and death in this situation. One moment of distraction when driving could end in an accident.

Not only is multitasking not all it is cracked up to be, as far as efficiency goes, but it can also lead to mental fatigue. This can further slow down the process and lead to even more mistakes.

Many people may think of themselves as great multitaskers, but what they

are actually doing is called “task switching” which is alternating rapidly between tasks. The brain simply cannot perform two tasks that need attention at the same time. Such as reading and listening to someone at the same time. It takes attention to one or the other to process the information. The brain cannot simultaneously process the information.

So, give your mind a break. Instead of trying to multitask, prioritize tasks. Start with what needs to be done first and tackle it. Then, move on to the next step. You will accomplish more, faster and more efficiently than if you try to do too much at once.

‘Turned Around’ VBS: Where Change Begins

Calling all kids ages five to 10, to come and get “Turned Around” as we learn and grow together during a mini Vacation Bible School hosted by the First Baptist Church and the Christian Missionary Alliance Church on July 6-8. Come and learn about who God is and His great love for you.

We will have multiple stations with games, crafts, music and fun. The event is free but registering in advance is important. We will start each evening at 5:30 p.m. and have our fun until 7:30 p.m. at the CMA Church (On the corner of Main and Blaine). Avoid summer boredom, come join the fun!



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SAMPLE NEWS-GROUP

Our Lady of Mercy Church to host three-day summer festival

HARBORCREEK — available.

Our Lady of Mercy Church will host its annual three-day Summer Festival from July 10-12 at the church, 837 Bartlett Road. The weekend event will feature food, entertainment and activities for all ages.

The festival begins Friday, July 10, with Food Truck Friday from 5 to 9 p.m. Live music will be provided by Key West Express. The evening will also include food trucks, adult beverages, raffles, a book sale, basket auction and a cornhole tournament.

Bingo will be held Saturday, July 11, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Harborcreek Fire Hall. Doors open at 5 p.m. Admission is \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Guests are welcome to bring their own beverages, and concessions will be

The weekend concludes Sunday, July 12, with a traditional barbecue chicken dinner from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Adult meals, which include a half chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, cole slaw, corn and dessert, are \$15. Children's meals for ages 12 and younger are \$9. Takeout meals will be available.

Additional activities throughout the weekend include a basket auction, children's tent, obstacle course, scavenger hunt, hay rides, putting green and a live DJ. Raffle tickets and a book sale will be available all three days.

For more information, contact Our Lady of Mercy Church at 814-899-5342 or email info@ourladyofmercychurch.org.

Erie Philharmonic to perform in North East this summer

From staff reports

As our nation celebrates America250 and the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence this summer, North East Borough is included in a free summer concert series, Patriotic Pops with Daniel Meyer and the Erie Philharmonic Orchestra.

This concert series will take place in July with a curated Americana program by Meyer, the music director for the Erie Philharmonic.

Audiences will celebrate the sounds of America with an evening of soaring music, familiar favorites and outdoor fun. The concerts are open to all.

The following is the schedule:

- July 4 – Bayview Park, Erie
- July 8 – Gibson Park, North East
- July 9 – City Park, Corry
- July 11 – Diamond Park – Melville

For more information or the full schedule, go to eriephil.org/summerconcerts26.

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Jennifer Maas/North East News-Journal

Dedicated coaches lead the North East Trap Team to victory.



Jennifer Maas/North East News-Journal

The North East Trap Team won first place in their conference this year.

practice and compete in all types of wind and weather. Athletes compete March thru May in the Clay Target League. Most of the athletes continue through the summer and fall months to practice by going to our open shoots at the North East Sportsman's Gun Club and joining the Erie Crawford and Ripley Trap Leagues. They learn to operate their equipment in all conditions.

Also braving these conditions are the multiple devoted coaches that lead the team. Alongside Coach Scott Hammer are Amy Baker, Rebecca Bunting, Logan Galloway, Mark Henry, Mark Holthouse, Morgan Lam, Vince Venitelli and Shelia Yokom.

Students in grades 8 through 12 are eligible to participate in the Trap Team as long as they maintain positive behavior

and achieve their academic requirements. Team members are able to letter in Trap Team as well as with other sports.

Currently, there are four students on the team in grade 8: Emery Brown, Cullen Ferruggia, Elijah Lican and Macey Skrekla. Four tenth graders: Alexander Belden, Jamin Bunting, Austin Lake and Mason Shunk. And ten eleventh graders: Noah Baker, Brayden Bemiss, Dante Duncan, Alex Funk, Luke Luke, Mason Neff, Max Orton, Trader Swabik, Trever Swabik and Colton Wittman.

The Trap Team offers an opportunity for family involvement in many ways. Parents and grandparents show up to support the team and help when needed. It also offers a pro-social activity for teens in the community.

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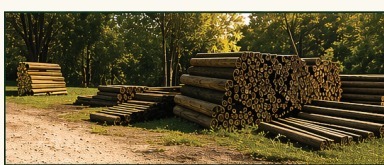
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OBITUARIES

Deborah Lee Pierce (Meyer), 58



Deborah Lee Pierce (Meyer), 58, passed away peacefully on June 18, 2026. Born in Tampa, Florida, on December 12, 1967, she eventually made her home in Lawrence Park, Pa., where she built a life centered around her family, her faith, and personal achievement.

Deborah was a woman of vibrant energy, focus, and determination. A high achiever from a young age, she earned a place on the Dean's List in high school, earned a black belt in Karate, and recently accomplished the proud milestone of receiving her bachelor's degree.

Deborah wasn't one to sit around much, but her

favorite way to pause was over a hot cup of coffee, enjoying long conversations with her husband and family. She loved her dogs deeply, found simple joy in playing cards with her loved ones, and, along with her mom, was the true heart of the holidays, beautifully hosting cherished Thanksgiving dinners and Christmas Eve parties that became the backdrop for countless family memories. She also fondly remembered the joy, comfort, and deep community she shared with her church group at Orchard Beach Assembly.

Above all, Deborah shared a deeply cherished and close bond with her daughter, Taylor, who was her absolute pride and joy.

Deborah leaves behind a family who will carry her spirit forward. She is survived by her mother, Charlotte Durrance; her husband, Dick Pierce; and her daughter, Taylor Davis. Her legacy also lives on through her children through marriage, Angela Mayer (Nerino), Jeff Pierce

(Angela), and Leah Ritter (Mike); and her beloved grandchildren, Jackson, Hana, Ethan, Brayden, and Luca.

She is also survived by her loving siblings, Kelly Flock, Chip/Lester Meyer (Julie), and Troy Durrance (Ann). She was preceded in death by her father, Lester Meyer.

Deborah will be deeply missed by her family, her friends, and all who knew her as a dedicated daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend.

Services were held at Dusckas Funeral & Cremation Services Harborcreek, 5151 Buffalo Road (at Hannon Road) on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, until the time of her memorial service. Following the service, a luncheon was held at Orchard Beach Assembly, 2025 Orchard Beach Rd., North East, PA 16428. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in honor of Deborah's commitment to her church to Orchard Beach Assembly.

Richard Lee Rohman, 86



Richard Lee Rohman, 86, of North East and Ripley, passed away on Thursday, June 18, 2026,

at UPMC Hamot.

He was born on January 8, 1940 in Ripley, N.Y., to the late William and Vivian (Beatty) Rohman.

Richard's life was defined by dedication, education, and steadfast public service.

He graduated from Sherman Central School before continuing his higher education at the University of Kentucky. He was employed as an auditor for Chautauqua County for several years.

A devoted public servant, he dedicated his time and leadership to local government, proudly serving as the Mayor of Ripley, New York. Outside of his official mayoral duties, he remained highly active and engaged in local politics and community development.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Rose Whitman.

He is survived by his brother, David Rohman; nieces, April Hamsard and Susan Whitman; and nephews, Alan, Brad, and Craig Rohman; and several cousins.

Friends may call at the William D. Elkin Funeral Home, 65 South Lake Street, North East on Saturday, June 27 from 2 p.m. until time of a funeral service at 6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Please send condolences to elkinfh.com.

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Joseph F. Bosta, 90



Joseph F. Bosta, longtime resident of North East, passed away on May 17, 2026, in Conroe, Texas at the age of 90. He was born on January 22, 1936, to Joseph J Bosta and Josephine G Streckel in Pittsburgh Pa.

Joe proudly served in the United States Army from 1955-1958. He graduated from Duquesne University with his Pharmacy Degree



in 1960. Joe owned and operated the Concord Pharmacy in North East in the 60s, 70s, and 80s and was very active in the community. He was an avid golfer, bicycle enthusiast, and a general sports fan. During the last two years of his life, he sang as a tenor in four choirs. More than anything else he loved his family and friends of which he had many.

Joe is survived by his children Mark Bosta (Jen), Margaret Green (Jason), Tom Ferrick (Cathi) and Shelley Cook (Terry) along with 10 Grandchildren, Nika and Aela Bosta; Madison, Elijah, and Josiah Green; Siena, Campbell, and Tommy Ferrick and Traci House (Harrison) and

Jennifer Cook-Schwartz (Matthew). Joe also had three great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife Betty Jean Hegedus, second wife June Elaine Valvo, parents Joe and Josephine Bosta, and his brother Lawrence Bosta.

Family and friends may call at the W. Tad Bowers Funeral Home, 92 S. Lake St., North East, Pa., on Friday, July 10, 2026, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. and are invited to attend a Mass of Christian Burial from St. Gregory Catholic Church at 11 a.m. Interment will follow in St. Gregory Catholic Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the charity of one's choice.

To send condolences, please visit www.bowersfuneralhome.com.

Cindy Lou Fisher, 66



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved aunt, Cindy Lou Fisher. She passed away peacefully early Monday morning at the age of 66. Cindy was a cherished member of her family and will be remembered for her warmth, kindness, and love of diamond painting. She brought joy and comfort to many and leaves behind countless memories that will be held close in the hearts of all who knew her.

Cindy was preceded in death by her parents, George Fisher and Mary Fisher, and her sister Sandra Stewart.

She is survived by her loving sister, Mary Jane Cady, her brother, Edward Fisher (Phyllis), as well as several nieces and nephews: Jennifer Ridilla, Jodie Williams (Bob), Bryan Fisher (Amber), Duane Fisher, Denise Pekelnicky (Peter), Melissa Washe, Robert Fisher (Larkin), and Michael Fisher (Jennifer). She also leaves behind many great-nieces and great-nephews, all of whom she loved deeply.

A celebration of life will be held at the William D Elkin Funeral Home, 65 South Lake St. North East, on Saturday, July 11, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Funeral to follow.

Condolences may be sent through to elkinfh.com.

Peggy Rose (Sharp) Blair, 67



Peggy Rose (Sharp) Blair, 67, of North East passed away on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at UPMC Hamot. She was born on November 15, 1958, in Liverpool, N.Y., to the late Floyd and Rose (Betts) Sharp.

Peggy graduated Bryant & Stratton College

earning a degree in medical transcription.

She was a wonderfully talented seamstress and creative person. Peggy had a passion for crafts, crocheting and creating beautiful traditional attire for Erie's lively Oktoberfest celebrations. Her love for others will never be forgotten.

Peggy was preceded in death by her husband Gary W. Blair and great-grandson, Elliott Blair.

She is survived by her husband, Jeff Stritzinger; son, Joshua Blair (Kimberly); step-children, Rebecca Stritzinger (Joe) and Benjamin Stritzinger (Carly); grandchildren, Ariel Parsell (Mike), Joseph Blair

(Alicia), Jacob Blair (Brandi), and Alex Blair (Kiersten); 13 great-grandchildren; three sisters; and several nieces and nephews.

Friends and family are invited to A Celebration of Peggy's Life on Saturday, July 11 at 2 p.m. at Fisherman's Beach, Route 5 and Riverside Drive, North East. Please bring a dish to pass.

Memorials may be made to the family in care of the funeral home. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the William D. Elkin Funeral Home, 65 South Lake Street, North East.

Please send condolences to elkinfh.com.

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North East Firemen's Cherry Festival

July 15 - 18, 2026

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Ride-A-Rama tickets can be purchased for \$25 pre-sale at the following North East locations:

- Sander's Market • Grape City Beer • North East Welch Federal Credit Union • Hair Doo's by Julie Davis • Valley Beer.

All advance sale ride tickets must be exchanged for an arm band at a ticket booth located on festival grounds.

Advance ride tickets will be on sale from June 22 - July 14

Ride-A-Ramas will be offered:

Wednesday through Friday, from 6-10 p.m. and 1-10 p.m. on Saturday.

Please be advised there are height restrictions for children on some rides. Restrictions will be clearly posted and are dictated by insurance and state regulations to ensure public safety

Midway Rides • Kiddie Land • Delicious Food • Games • Homemade Pies • Entertainment • Cash Giveaways

Wednesday - Friday, 5:30 p.m. - Firemen's closing
Saturday, 12:00 noon - Firemen's closing
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Look for the Cherry Festival logo!

All proceeds from designated vendors directly benefit the North East Fire Dept.

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MVOC looks to the community to help fill volunteer slots

NORTH EAST — Mellon Heritage Veteran's Outreach and Wellness Campus (MVOC) is asking for volunteers for the America 250 celebration on Thursday, July 2 and Friday, July 3, 2026, at the Campus. MVOC welcomes those in need of volunteer hours to join. This event will raise funds to support veterans, first responders, and their families through MVOC's wellness, community, and educational resources.

Volunteer times include Tuesday, June 30 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Wednesday, July 1, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Thursday, July 2 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; and Friday, July 3 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., at the Ridge Complex and throughout campus. All volunteers can stay for as little as two hours, or the full day. There will be tasks for most ability levels. RSVP is preferred but not required.

If any organizations wish to participate, tasks can be coordinated by group. Please email info@mellonheritagefoundationinc.org to get involved.

As the organization grows, MVOC is excited at the opportunity to connect with local organizations and individuals for ongoing support.

"We appreciate your support and volunteering with your time," MVOC Director of Operations, Sean Silman said. "Without your generous donation of time, we would not be able to give back to veterans and first responders."

For more information, please visit our website at [Mellon Heritage FoundationInc.org](http://MellonHeritageFoundationInc.org) or call 814-347-5270.

Want to spotlight a community member?Email nenjeditor@gmail.com or call 725-4831.

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- 2 YETI Tumblers
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July 7th, 2026

11AM-5PM

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Walk-ins Welcome
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- Weigh at least 110 pounds
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- Be in general good health and eat before donating
- PHOTO ID REQUIRED

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St. Gregory Parish School continues to beat the odds with academic excellence, growing enrollment

NORTH EAST — St. Gregory Parish School is proud to announce that our 2025-2026 student assessment scores overall are at the 70th percentile nationally in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. These outstanding results are a testament to the dedication of our students, families, faculty, and staff, who work together each day to foster academic excellence rooted in faith. As a small Catholic school, we remain committed to educating the whole child—developing not only strong academic skills, but also character, leadership, service, and a lifelong relationship with God.

At a time when many schools across the region are facing declining enrollment, consolidations, and even closures, St. Gregory Parish School continues to beat the odds. Our enrollment is growing, our programs are expanding, and more families are choosing a faith-based education that combines academic rigor with strong moral values. Our success extends beyond standardized testing. This year, 80% of our graduating eighth-grade class will continue their education in Catholic high schools, reflecting the strong educational and spiritual foundation built during their years at St. Gregory. Even more impressive, 80% of our graduates will enter high school enrolled in all Honors-level courses, demonstrating both their academic preparedness and their ability to excel in challenging environments. These achievements are particularly remarkable for a school of our size. They reflect the personalized attention, supportive learning environment, and high expectations that are hallmarks of a St. Gregory education. Every student is known, valued, and challenged to reach their fullest potential.

While many educational institutions are struggling to maintain enrollment and academic performance, St. Gregory Parish School continues to thrive. Families are recognizing the value of a school where faith and knowledge work hand in hand, where students receive individualized support, and where success is measured not only by test scores, but by the development of compassionate, responsible, and faith-filled young people.

"We are incredibly proud of our students, teachers, and families," said Stacey Randall, Director of Advancement. "These results demonstrate that when faith, family, and education come together, students flourish. Our growing enrollment and strong academic outcomes are proof that St. Gregory Parish School is not only succeeding today but is positioned for a bright future."

As we celebrate these accomplishments, we remain grateful for the support of our parish, alumni, donors, and community members who help make our mission possible. Together, we are preparing the next generation of leaders, scholars, and disciples.

At St. Gregory Parish School, where faith and knowledge meet, we are not simply maintaining excellence—we are growing, thriving, and leading the way.

DEADLINE TO PLACE AN AD IS TUESDAY BY 3 P.M.

Erie County Technical School awarded \$85,000 grant

ERIE – State Rep. Jake Banta, R-4th, has announced the Erie County Technical School (ECTS) will receive a grant from the Competitive Equipment Grants program, through the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), to help prepare students in the 4th District for in-demand jobs. ECTS will receive \$85,000 – the maximum amount awarded – to update or purchase equipment used in the training of students in approved career and technical education (CTE) programs.

“Investing in our students and giving them the education they need to succeed in the workforce is important now more than ever,” Banta said. “Career and technical programs do just that. This funding gives more students more opportunities to get hands-on experience in the classroom to help them stand out in the future.”

ECTS will be one of just 54 schools across the Commonwealth to receive this grant. To qualify, school districts and career and technical centers must have eight or more PDE-approved CTE programs.

Gem, mineral show set for July

A Gem and Mineral Show and Sale will be held at the Zem Zem Shriners Banquet and Conference Center, 2525 W. 38th St., Erie, on Saturday, July 18, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, July 19, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The show will feature crystals, minerals, fossils, geodes, jewelry and beads. The event will include activities for children and adults, including door prizes. There will be a concession stand where food and refreshments will be available to purchase. Admission is \$4 for adults (12 and older); children under age 12 will be admitted free of charge. Only cash will be accepted.

DEADLINE TO PLACE AN AD IS TUESDAY BY 3 P.M.



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Cheer-any boy or girl k-2 GRADE CURRENT

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Sen. Laughlin announces senate passage of student cellphone policy legislation

HARRISBURG – Senator Dan Laughlin (R-49) announced the Pennsylvania Senate has passed legislation requiring public schools across the commonwealth to adopt policies limiting student cellphone use during the school day. Senate Bill 1014 aims to reduce classroom distractions, improve academic performance, and address growing concerns surrounding student mental health and social development. “Over the past year, I’ve heard directly from educators and administrators across Erie County about how disruptive cellphones have become in the classroom,” Laughlin said. “At meetings with local school leaders, one message has been clear: schools need flexibility to develop policies that actually work for their students and communities. Given the wide range of school sizes and needs across our region, a one-size-fits-all mandate simply wouldn’t be effective.” The bill requires each school district to adopt a bell-to-bell cellphone policy that limits student access during the school day while following a consistent statewide standard. Importantly, districts retain local control over how those policies are enforced, allowing school leaders to choose the approach that best fits their communities. Senate Bill 1014 includes exceptions for students with medical needs, individualized education programs (IEPs) that require a communication

device, English-language learners using translation applications, and instructional use when permitted by a teacher. Schools, educators, and parents across Pennsylvania have increasingly raised concerns about the impact smartphones are having on student focus, mental health, and social development. Research shows a troubling rise in anxiety, depression, and cyberbullying among young people that coincides with the widespread adoption of smartphones. Since the early 2010s, teen depression rates have increased by approximately 150 percent, and suicide rates among children ages 10 to 14 tripled between 2007 and 2021, with the steepest increases among girls. Today, teens spend nearly eight hours per day on screens and receive an average of 237 notifications daily. Nearly half of U.S. teens report experiencing cyberbullying, and more than one-quarter say social media makes their lives worse. If enacted, Pennsylvania would join 27 states that have adopted student cellphone restrictions, including 18 states with bell-to-bell bans. “This legislation strikes the right balance,” Laughlin said. “It sets a clear expectation that classrooms should be places for learning, not constant digital distraction, while still respecting local control and the unique needs of each school district.”

The bill now heads to the House of Representatives for consideration.



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North East Youth Basketball Camp deemed success



Contributed photos
North East Basketball Coach Steve Righi acknowledges the hard work and fun the students put into the North East Youth Basketball Camp that recently wrapped up last week. “Another successful basketball camp conclude last week,” Righi said.

50th NEHS Class reunion announced

NORTH EAST — at Cellar '54, 9368 W Law Road, North East, Pa., from 2 to 5 p.m.
North East High School Class of 1976 50th Class Reunion is scheduled for Sunday, July 19, 2026. For any questions or concerns, contact 814-490 – 7418.
The event will take place

B & H WINDOWS

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Notices

AUDIT LIST NOTICE BY AUBREA HAGERTY-HAYNES Clerk of Records

Register of Wills and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Orphans’ Court Division, of the Court of Common Pleas of Erie County, Pennsylvania

The following Executors, Administrators, Guardians and Trustees have filed their Accounts in the Office of the Clerk of Records, Register of Wills and Orphans’ Court Division and the same will be presented to the Orphans’ Court of Erie County at the Court House, City of Erie, on **Wednesday, June 10, 2026** and confirmed Nisi.

July 22, 2026 is the last day on which Objections may be filed to any of these accounts.

Accounts in proper form and to which no Objections are filed will be audited and confirmed absolutely. A time will be fixed for auditing and taking of testimony where necessary in all other accounts.

2026 00119	ESTATE Teresa A. Scherrer-Lundell a/k/a Teresa A. Lundell a/k/a Teresa Ann Scherrer-Lundell a/k/a Teresa Ann Lundell	ACCOUNTANT Ronald Herman Executor	ATTORNEY Melissa L. Larese, Esq.
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AUBREA HAGERTY-HAYNES
Clerk of Records
Register of Wills & Orphans’ Court Division

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Auction will be held inside.

Farm machinery: 2 hay wagon gears one is a John Deere, PTO driven hay tedder, spring tooth, Farmall M tractor on steel wheels (needs a little work), antique breaking cart, Chicago sawdust blower with some pipe, short lumber rollers, new Franklin scaffolding on casters, staging scaffolding, stainless steel rain water tank.

Lots of chest tool boxes, and small tool boxes, lots of filing cabinets, Craftsman drill press, Craftsman table saw, lots of tools, wrenchers, Jamestown crescent wrench from 4" to 48", hammers, hatches, lots of sockets, and open end wrenches, some Craftsman and Snap On, drills, drill bits, nail pullers, vise crips, buzz saw blades, block and tackle, screw jacks, old hand crank corn sheller, live traps, coner brace drill, laser transit, handy man and other jacks, logging chains, cane hooks, bars, sledge hammers, small anvils, tarps, come alongs, Rubber Maid water troughs, chain saws 1 Husky 235, 1 Stihl chain saw, barrel stove, old milk cans, steel post, meat band saw, lawn mower with antique motor, gas cans, 35 plus sheets OSB.

Garden tools: shovels, 2 tine forks, sileage fork, old straw forks, rakes, hoes etc., 1 roll of goat and sheep fence.

Households: lots of dressers, (beds queen and double) night stands, book shelves, tables, chairs, porch chairs, old hickory rocking chairs, foot pedal sewing machine, sewing machine heads, oak seat toy box, cupboards with glass doors, wind up clocks, small chest freezer, stainless steel ice box.

Radio Flyer wagons, Radio Flyer kids wheel barrows, lots of small farm toy tractors, some balers, hay wagons etc.

Books: Uncle Toms Cabin, Ben Hur, Heidi, The Man In Bear Skin, Where The Red Fern Grows, Freckles Comes Home, and more.

Lots of items not listed

Lunch by Amish ladies, Porta John on site, off road parking.

The second hand store will be open all day.



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Assisting Auctioneer

Notices

Notices

Ananda Montessori offers summer playgroups

NORTHEAST – Ananda Montessori, located at 17 E. Main St., in North East, offers classes for parrents to come and play with their infant, toddler, or child(ren), ages 3 to 6 years old. “Each class is prepared just for you and your child to come explore and discover, through activities such as art, movement, music, language, and materials that are designed for exploration through play,” Pam Green, owner, said. “All within a space that is welcoming, nurturing, and where guidance is given to both children and adults. A place for learning alongside your child.”

Along with a full year of classes, this summer there are Drop-In Montessori Playgroups for ages 2.5 to 6 years old, each Friday morning from 9 a.m. to noon. Every Friday morning, Ananda Montessori will explore different themes such as nature, crafts, art, baking and cooking, music and more! These Playgroups run from May 29 to Aug. 28, and parents can choose the weeks they would prefer.

Class sizes are limited, and the Drop-in Playgroups are limited to 12 children and their parents or caregivers. All classes are guided by Green, a Montessori educator of over 40 years, and the owner of Ananda Montessori.

“If you are looking for a space for fun and learning this summer, come join us!” said Green.

For more information you can give Green a call at 814-440-4237, or go to the website, where you can click on Summer Term and Admissions. The link for the schedule and a listing of Friday events, and register is here: <https://www.anandamontessori.com/playgroups>.



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Founders & Guardians

Each article in this series will highlight founders who helped establish the American Dream or a notable guardian who helped preserve, protect, and defend it since 1776. The series is written by Michael R. McGough and explores the lives and contributions of many key individuals. These stories will be published in our newspaper in anticipation and excitement for our nation's 250th birthday on July 4, 2026.

250th AMERICA Anniversary

Michael R. McGough

Helen Keller

“Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it.”
(Helen Keller)

Helen Adams Keller was born on Sunday, June 27, 1880. She was born into the family of Kate and Arthur Keller, who lived comfortably in Tuscumbia, Alabama. At birth, Helen was a healthy child, but when she was nineteen months old, she became ill. A resulting fever left her both deaf and blind. Some sources mention rubella, while others suggest scarlet fever or meningitis as the cause. Regardless of what it was, Helen would never regain her hearing or her sight.

During her early childhood, Helen developed a series of hand signs and gestures to allow for basic communication. She also began demonstrating troubling behaviors including rage-driven tantrums which often became physical. Although well-intended, her family’s tolerant response enabled such behaviors to continue, which seriously compromised her personal development. Some family members and friends suggested that she be institutionalized, which Helen’s mother totally rejected.

Helen’s family consulted numerous specialists, including Alexander Graham



As a frequent visitor to Japan, she became familiar with the Akita dog breed. In 1937, she introduced that breed to the US.

Bell, the inventor of the first practical telephone system. He was well known for his work with deaf children. Bell suggested they contact the Perkin’s School for the Blind in Boston. Once there, they were introduced to a recent graduate of the institute, Anne Mansfield Sullivan.

Sullivan’s childhood and early teen years were difficult, complicated by poverty and poor medical care for her vision difficulties. As a ward of the state of Massachusetts, she had the opportunity to attend the Perkins School for the Blind. Following her graduation at age twenty, Anne Sullivan moved to Alabama and became Helen Keller’s teacher in 1887.

Anne and Helen moved to a cottage near the Keller house, where Anne introduced some needed discipline into Helen’s life. By manually signing on Helen’s hand, Sullivan began the process of building word

connections. Less than a month after she arrived, Sullivan spelled out the word “water” on Helen’s one hand, as she ran water from a hand pump over the other hand. By repeating the spelling back to Sullivan, Helen confirmed the connection. A door into Helen’s world had been opened!

Anne Sullivan was with Helen from 1887 until she died in 1936. After Sullivan’s death, Polly Thomson became Keller’s aide and companion. Thomson had joined Anne and Helen as a personal secretary in 1914.

Helen’s formal education began at the Perkins School for the Blind in 1888. Aided constantly by Sullivan, Keller continued her studies at other schools specifically geared toward the deaf and the blind, and at schools that focused on social development. Helen dreamed of developing her ability to speak. It was during this time that she met Mark Twain. They developed a friendship that led Twain to introduce her to Henry Huttleston Rogers, an oil company executive. Impressed with Keller’s determination and courage, Rogers and his wife offered to fund her continued education. In 1900, Keller entered Radcliffe College of Harvard University. With Anne Sullivan at her side, Keller graduated with honors in 1904, becoming the first deaf and blind person in the US to earn an undergraduate degree. She had found her voice, and she was determined to use it!

Keller’s writing career began in earnest with the serialization of her autobiography in Ladies’ Home Journal in 1902. It was published in book form as The Story of My Life, the following year. Over time it was translated into more than 40 languages. In addition to numerous magazine and newspaper articles, and essays, she published more than a dozen books. Keller was also a popular and highly regarded lecturer. Through her books and her speaking engagements, she became one of the most respected social advocates and political activists of the 20th century.

Along with her advocacy for individuals with disabilities, she championed civil rights, improved working conditions, women’s suffrage, and research into the causes, prevention, and treatment of blindness and deafness. In the early 1920s, she helped establish the American Civil Liberties Union, and she joined the American Foundation for the Blind.

In the decade following World War II, she traveled extensively, visiting more than 30 countries.

At the request of General Douglass McArthur, she served as a good will ambassador to Japan in 1948. She became friends with such world leaders as Prime Minister Winston Churchill of Great Britain and Prime Minister Golda Meir of Israel.

She met most US Presidents from Grover Cleveland through Lyndon Johnson. Her friends and supporters included the likes of Andrew Carnegie, Eleanor Roosevelt, Will Rogers, and Thomas Edison.

Helen Keller’s list of honors, awards, and recognitions is as remarkable for its breadth as it is for its length. Her last major appearance was in 1961. At a meeting of the Lions Club International Foundation, she received an award for her lifetime work and for inspiring programs of the Lions Club for the visually impaired. In 1964, President Johnson awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and she has been featured on US stamps and a coin. “America’s first lady of courage,” as a plaque at her birthplace refers to her, died as the result of a stroke on June 1, 1968.

When her American Dream, the ability to communicate, was realized, she became an agent of change who helped make the world more inclusive for all. During the first six decades of the 20th century, her impact on her country and the world was extraordinary. Her inspiring model demonstrates that suffering and adversity need not limit one’s access to their version of the American Dream. In 1999, Helen Adams Keller was named one of Time magazine’s hundred most important individuals of the 20th century.

Founders & Guardians SPONSOR

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Happy Independence Day

American Legion

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