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Volume 26
Number 27
July 17, 2026

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Adopt-a-Student begins, backpacks ready to be filled



Contributed photo
North East Lions Club members volunteer their time with Holy Cross Episcopal Church to stuff backpacks.

From staff reports

NORTH EAST — The North East community's Adopt-a-Student program is underway for its 19th year, providing school supplies and clothing to students in need as they prepare for the upcoming school year.

Since 2008, Holy Cross Episcopal Church has partnered with the North East Lions Club and North East Elementary School Principal Dina Hathaway to coordinate the annual program, which provides

students with a new backpack, one or two outfits, underwear and socks before classes begin.

Participating churches receive basic information about each student, including age, gender and clothing sizes, and purchase the needed items to help students start the school year prepared.

Organizers expect student information slips to be available to North

See Backpacks, page 9

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Last Minute Bits

- Large Rummage and Bake Sale at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 30 Clinton St., North East, Pa., on Friday, July 31 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 1 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (BagDay). There will be a wide variety of items and delicious baked goods.**
- ...
- Food Pantry Donation Day will be Thursday, July 23 from 2 to 4 p.m.** The requested need is for Progresso/Campbells Chunky Soups.
- ...
- 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.
- ...
- Gem City Flagship Steel Drum Band to host free performance, weather permitting, in the Harborcreek Presbyterian Church parking lot at 7 p.m.** Bring a lawn chair! Smiley's ice cream truck will be present for sweet treat purchases beginning at 6 p.m.

New monument unveiled in Heard Memorial Park

NORTH EAST — an unveiling of our new monument recognizing our Revolutionary War Soldiers who resided and died here in the North East area. The monument mentions their name and the cemetery where they

See Monument, page 3

NENJ, NEFD to Live Stream 79th Annual Cherry Festival Parade

From staff reports

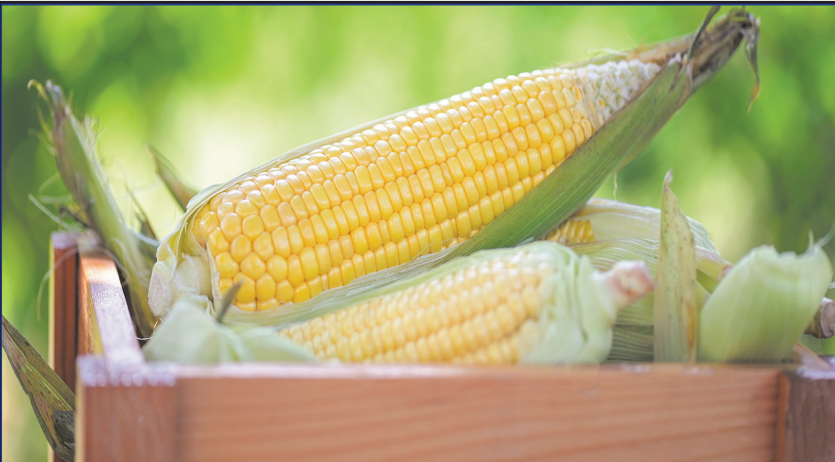
NORTH EAST — Those who can't make it to downtown North East for this year's Cherry Festival Parade won't have to miss the action.

The North East News-Journal, in cooperation with the North East Fire Department, will

livestream the 79th Annual Cherry Festival Parade beginning at 3 p.m. Saturday, allowing viewers to experience one of Pennsylvania's largest volunteer fire department parades in the area.

N e w s - J o u r n a l livestreamer John Yatsko

See Parade, page 5



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ERIE PHILHARMONIC SUMMER CONCERT SERIES IN GIBSON PARK

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Shop, sip, picnic and enjoy music
in beautiful Gibson Park.

ARRIVE AT
5 PM
TO ENJOY!

CONCERT DATES:
JULY 8
JULY 22
JULY 29

PICNIC IN THE PARK
Bring your blanket, grab a bite and enjoy the scenery!

TASTE & SIP
Enjoy wine tastings at Driftwood Wine Cellars and Yori Wine Cellars.

SHOP UNIQUE DOWNTOWN
Discover one-of-a-kind retailers, boutiques and local treasures.

RELAX & ENJOY THE MUSIC
Kick back in the park and enjoy a prelude of music from local North East musicians.

SHOP LOCAL. SUPPORT LOCAL. LOVE NORTH EAST.
See you in Gibson Park!

5 PM
JULY 22
GIBSON PARK
NORTH EAST

DAVID BLAETZ
BASS

LIZ SESLER-BECKMAN
PIANO

MATT FERGUSON
DRUMS

Resonance
a jazz trio

Abbi ELISE

5 PM
JULY 29
GIBSON PARK
NORTH EAST

ERIE PHILHARMONIC
est. 1913

Free Concerts
in Gibson Park

These concerts are free thanks to the North East Community Foundation and the following sponsors:

Family Favorites - July 22 at 7 pm
It's an animal extravaganza as Concertmaster Emeritus Ken Johnston leads the Octet in a howling good time! From Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf to a stampede of favorites from the animal kingdom sure to be a hit with the young and young at heart. Plus, hands-on fun with ExpERIENCE Children's Museum and Erie Zoo, Balloons by Nat, Face painting by Connie and more.

Brass Ensemble - July 29 at 7 pm
Erie Phil Principal Tuba and Brass Ensemble Director Ken Heinlein leads an all-American hit parade featuring classic patriotic marches, symphonic masterworks & dazzling pops selections.

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PennDOT accepting applications for seasonal employment

OIL CITY – The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) is currently accepting applications for its Winter Maintenance Program in the northwestern region.

PennDOT District 1, which serves Crawford, Erie, Forest, Mercer, Venango, and Warren counties, is offering opportunities for CDL operators, mechanics, clerical dispatchers, semi-skilled laborers, and tradesman helpers in the Seasonal Winter Maintenance Program for the 2026–2027 season, which runs from September to April.

Whether you are looking for extra income during the winter months or exploring a path toward a future permanent role, PennDOT offers meaningful opportunities to serve communities across Pennsylvania, according to a press release from PennDOT. Positions are filled based on operational needs, so availability may differ by county.

Additional information and statewide applications are available at www.employment.pa.gov for the following positions: winter CDL equipment operator, winter dispatcher, winter mechanics, winter trades (tradesman helper/semi-skilled laborer).

Some positions have licenses or experience requirements, which are listed within the position descriptions of the application postings.

Applicants can see all current available positions available by going online to www.employment.pa.gov and can send questions to statejobs@pa.gov.

**American Legion SAL Squadron 105
Family Golf Outing**

Open to the Public
18 hole Golf Tournament

Green Meadows Golf Course
2451 N Brickyard Rd., North East
SATURDAY
August 15, 2026 @ 9:00AM

Foursome cost \$400 (\$100 per person)
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SAL SQD 105
17 S. Mill Street, North East, PA 16428

MUST BE AT LEAST 21 TO ATTEND

Includes
• 18 holes of golf • Cart
• 6 pack to start the day • Sandwich during play
• Dinner afterwards at American Legion Lakeshore Post 105.

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Monument



Contributed photo
The Belnap Family Officers and Sherry Thomas- Schnarrs stand with the new monument after the unveiling.



Contributed photo
Sherry Thomas-Schnarrs, Regent of the Triangle Chapter, and Lee Ellsworth worked together to share the unveiling of the monument.

Classified start at \$6.50 per week.

footers for each patriot and placing a marker plaque in each cemetery.

This project was made possible by the many grants received by ECGRA, the North East Community Foundation, and the Hirtzel Foundation. The chapter was very grateful to have received and to be able to do this for our community.

Triangle Chapter, NSDAR (Daughters of the American Revolution), would like to thank everyone in the community who made this endeavor possible; it could not have been completed without your help.

A Dedication Ceremony will be announced later.



Contributed photo
Mayor Bobbi Jo Morey read the proclamation during the unveiling ceremony.

are buried. Members of the Belnap Family Organization were present and accepted a proclamation from Mayor Bobbi Jo Morey, declaring Saturday, June 27, 2026, as Jesse Belnap Day. This was the final phase of installing

Volunteers needed for Firefighter Challenge

Volunteers are needed for the U.S. National Firefighter Challenge Championship, which will take place in downtown Erie from Sept. 23-26. This premier event brings together elite athletes from across the country, and volunteers are essential to making it a first-class experience.

Whether you can lend a hand for a few hours or multiple days, there's a volunteer opportunity for everyone. Roles include athlete support, registration, hospitality, event operations, course assistance, and more. Previous experience is not required. An event exclusive T-shirt, training and instructions will be provided.

Anyone who would like to be part of this event, should sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go>.

Every volunteer helps create an unforgettable experience for the competitors, their families and the thousands of spectators who will visit Erie throughout championship week, according to a Firefighter Challenge press release.

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

“Big H” Verse of the Week

Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God.
May your gracious Spirit lead
me forward on a firm footing.
Psalms 143:10 NLT

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North East, PA 16428

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JES to host former First Lady Michelle Obama at Global Summit 2026

From staff reports

ERIE — The Jefferson Educational Society, the nonpartisan think tank headquartered in Erie, known for its signature fall speaker series, the Global Summit, has added the former First Lady Michelle Obama to its list of presenters this fall. “A Moderated Conversation with Michelle Obama” will take place on Monday, Oct. 12 at 6 p.m. at the Erie Insurance Arena.

“Each year, the Global Summit connects the region with some of the most influential voices of our time, which is why we are honored Mrs. Obama will be joining us in conversation” said JES President Dr. Ferki Ferati. “Last year’s summit demonstrated what is possible when a community commits to intellectual engagement at the highest level. Mrs. Obama continues that tradition, bringing a unique perspective



Former First Lady Michelle Obama

shaped by achievement across multiple fields and a career defined by innovation, leadership and impact, even in uncertain times.”

Pre-sale tickets for JES members are available now. Tickets went on sale to the public on Monday, July 13. If you are not a member and would like to become one, visit www.jeserie.org/membership to do so.

The 2026 Global Summit, in total, will feature an in-person series of 17 events

featuring 22 speakers. For more information, including how to register for tickets, visit the JES website, www.jeserie.org. If further assistance is needed, JES can be reached at 814-459-8000.

The Global Summit is hosted each year by JES in cooperation with several major community sponsors, including LECOM Health and Erie Insurance.

About the JES

The Jefferson Educational Society of Erie is a nonprofit and nonpartisan institution founded to promote civic enlightenment and community progress for the Erie region through study, research, and discussion. The Jefferson offers courses, seminars, and lectures that explain the central ideas that have formed the past, assist in exploring the present, and offer guidance to enhance the civic future of the Erie region.

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The Penn Stater Hotel & Conference Center

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Contributed photo
Leslie Fenton, Nancy Kay Schneider and Steven Valone gather for a photo.

NECHOF 2026 Inductees

Contributors Steven Valone, Nancy Kay Schneider, and Leslie Fenton

The North East Career Hall of Fame was founded as a community-based group that seeks to inspire our young people by highlighting the careers of established community members. Our motto is: “If you can dream it, you can be it.”

The 2026 inductees are Leslie H. Fenton and Nancy Kay Schneider. They were formally inducted into the NECHOF at the North East High School Convocation on June 3. The two inductees shared inspirational stories of how they found their ways to their careers.

Doc Fenton was inspired to become a medical doctor by a neighbor, Dr. Sam Adams. From there he described the importance of key people in directing him to the proper military and educational opportunities in attaining that dream. He emphasized the importance of two ingredients. One was the importance of facing failures and forging on despite them. The other was the helpfulness of being grateful for good things in one’s life, through a conscious act of focus each day. Each was instrumental to him.

Nancy Kay is the author of a number of popular novels including

The Deadly Series – Deadly Reflection, Deadly Revenge, Deadly Encounter and Deadly Obsession. Her published books also include Sweet Deception, Wine and Spirits, Shattered Sunset Promises, Return to Intermezzo, and Not Even a Moose. Early in life Nancy dreamed of becoming a writer and much later her career began to take shape when she attended an event at Erie’s Blasco Library presented by local published authors. Their guidance and her follow up by joining writing groups led to her attending several writing conferences, workshops and retreats to develop her skills. She began to learn the craft of writing and several of her accomplishments included first place in Cleveland Rocks Romance contest, second place in the Ohio Valley Romance Writer of America contest, and honorable mention in a Texas Library’s Scare the Dickens Out of You Contest. Her efforts led to a contract with a publisher and her career began.

The Board of the NECHOF expresses its appreciation for the support from our community, and the North

East school district, its administration, High School, and School Board. We thank the inductees for sharing their stories with us.

will provide coverage from the parade judging area, capturing the sights and sounds as hundreds of participants make their way along Main Street.

The parade begins at 3 p.m. on Saturday, so be sure to tune in live on any of the following platforms:

- The Corry Journal Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/thecorryjournal/>
- The Corry Journal YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@CorryJournalStreaming>
- The Corry Journal Website: https://www.thecorryjournal.com/live_stream/

Whether you're traveling, unable to make it downtown, or simply want the best seat in the house, join us live as we celebrate one of North East's most cherished summer traditions.

This year's parade features more than 65 entries, including fire departments from throughout northwestern Pennsylvania, marching bands, community organizations, floats, antique vehicles and local businesses.

Leading the parade will be American Legion Post 105 and its Honor Guard, followed by 2026 Grand Marshal Don Wilkinson, the 78th Cherry Queen and her court, and the North East Fire Department's apparatus, including the department's new Ladder 209. North East Mayor Bobbi Jo Morey will ride with the department.

Spectators also can expect performances by the North East High School, Harborcreek High School, McDowell High School, Erie High School and Girard High School marching bands, along with cheerleaders from North East and Erie High schools.

The lineup also includes numerous fire companies from across the region, including Harborcreek, Greenfield, Fairfield, Belle Valley, Brookside, West Ridge, McKean, Monaca, Wattsburg and Elk Run, as well as community organizations,

Parade

79th Annual
Cherry Festival Parade
will be **LIVE-STREAMED** in cooperation

North East
News-Journal

Saturday, July 18th starting at 3:00 pm

local businesses, antique automobiles, emergency service agencies and civic groups.

Special attractions include floats from the North East Historical Society, Celebrate 725 Day, America 250, the Erie County Fair, Ghost Lake Scream Park and the Warren County Fair Queen Court. The parade will also feature appearances by Congressman Mike Kelly, Pennsylvania Treasurer Stacy Garrity, Erie County Councilman Chris Drexel and local media outlets JET Action News, Erie News Now and WCTL Radio.

The parade's presenting sponsor is Wavepoint 3PL, with special sponsorship provided by National Fuel Gas.

Whether watching from home, traveling out

of town or looking for a close-up view of the festivities, viewers can tune in live as the parade celebrates one of North East's longest-running traditions.

Parade lineup begins at 11 a.m., with participants entering from Bank Street off North Pearl Street. Organizers ask motorists to avoid the lineup area to help ensure a safe and efficient staging process.

Editor's Note: This is a tentative lineup with the information provided at the time of publishing, and is subject to change until the start of the parade, based on needs for band gaps, lack of participation, weather, etc. Entries are still being accepted up until the start of the parade, however anyone entered after 10 p.m. on Friday, will likely be placed at the end of the parade.

July 17th, 18th, 19th
\$10-Adult • \$5-Child (7-11)

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Paul E. Bartlett, 83



his wife of 64 years, Sally. His brother, Michael (Bev) Nelson. His boys: Paul Bartlett, Jr. (Susan), Michal Bartlett (Susan), Jeffery Bartlett (Ann), Andrew Bartlett (Cheri), and Mark Bartlett (Julie). Paul is survived by 19 grandchildren, their spouses and 41 great-grandchildren and more coming. Sister-in-law: Ruth Mathers, Betty Moore, and Shirley Trayer. As well as many nieces and nephews.

Paul was a dedicated husband and father. He worked as an iron worker for 38 years at General Electric. He enjoyed hunting, farming, and playing cards with his family and friends. He was very knowledgeable and good with his hands laying many cement blocks and helping build houses, buildings and just about everything else.

The family would like to thank the nurses and staff of the North East Community Nurses Hospice Care.

Family and friends may call at the William D. Elkin Funeral Home, 65 South Lake Street, North East on Thursday, July 16 from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. and are invited to attend a Celebration of Life on Friday at 11 a.m. at the Greenfield Baptist Church, 9028 Williams Road, North East. Paul will be laid to rest at the Greenfield Baptist Cemetery. Memorials can be made to the North East Community Nurses, Hospice. Please send condolences to elkinfh.com.

Norman W. Miller, 73



knew him best will remember him as a true outdoorsman, an avid hunter, and a skilled fisherman who could always be found by the water or in the woods. His hands-on nature extended to everything he did. He built his home from the ground up, a testament to his craftsmanship, self-reliance, and patience.

Norman had a quiet connection to nature, spending his late winters tapping trees and boiling sap to make maple syrup-a tradition of patience and reward that he cherished "Norm's Sugar Shack." When he wasn't working on a project or out in the wild, you could find Norman on the open road. He loved the freedom and thrill of riding his motorcycle, feeling the wind and enjoying the ride. Norman will be sadly missed for his smile, wit, and quotes about life.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Phillip Frantz Miller, II; and brothers, Dennis, Wayne, and Jim Miller.

Norman is survived by his loving wife, Frances Rose (Motherwell) Miller whom he married July 7, 1973; children, Scott LeRoy Miller (Karen) of Brocton, NY and Rikki "LA" Miller (Kat) of Dublin, Ireland; sister, Laurie Miller; grandchildren, Dakota (Chloe), Hunter (Sage), Kayla, Alex, Keely (Jake), Seth, Julie, Niko, Jen, Harleigh, Ashley, Britannie, and Devin; 10 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Friends and family may call at the William D. Elkin Funeral Home, 65 South Lake Street, North East on Friday, July 10 from 3 p.m. until time of a remembrance service at 6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Please send condolences to elkinfh.com.

Sandra L. 'Sandy' (Saccamozzone) DiGello, 81



Sandra L. "Sandy" (Saccamozzone) DiGello, 81, formerly of Harborcreek, passed away on Tuesday, December 30, 2025, in Bradenton, Fla. True to her independent spirit, Sandy passed away on her own terms—playing online poker, drinking coffee, and smoking cigarettes.

Born on July 13, 1944, in Erie, Pa., Sandy was the daughter of the late Dominic Saccamozzone and Anna (Sanfrotello) Vella. She grew up in North East, Pa., surrounded by her large Italian family and lifelong friends, many of whom she graduated with from St. Gregory High School.

In addition to being a devoted wife and mother, Sandy spent many years working at Loblaws, first in North East and later in Harborcreek until the stores closed. She also spent many springs tying vines in the vineyards she and her husband, Tony, owned in Ripley, N.Y., and Harborcreek, Pa. After retiring full-time to Bradenton, Sandy embraced life in the Bayshore community.

She volunteered on community committees, participated in fundraising events, and enjoyed attending water aerobics classes.

Sandy's greatest joy was spending time with family and friends, most often around a card table or sharing a meal. She had a remarkable gift for finding the good in everyone and never met a stranger she couldn't befriend. Though small in stature, she had an outsized personality. She was entertaining without ever trying to be, bringing laughter and light simply by being herself. Her expressions, impeccable timing, unfiltered honesty, and genuine warmth made her unforgettable. Sandy had a way of making every gathering more memorable, and the stories about her—the funny ones, the heartfelt ones, and the ones that make you smile before they're even told—will be shared for generations. Whether she realized it or not, Sandy was often the main character in every story simply because of the joy she brought to those around her. She left an enduring mark on everyone fortunate enough to know her.

In addition to her parents, Sandy was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Anthony "Tony" DiGello; her brothers-in-law, James, William, and Edward DiGello; her sister-in-law, Denise DiGello; her nephew, Michael Saccamozzone; and her cherished "gumbadis," Hooks and June Triana.

Sandy is survived by her daughter, Michele (Eric) DiGello of Atlanta, Ga.; her son, Frank DiGello of Bradenton, Fla.; her brother, Michael (Nicky) Saccamozzone of Baton Rouge, La.; her sisters, Cynthia (Marshall) Tolley, Linda Saccamozzone, and Nancy (Dennis) Tobin, all of Erie, Pa.; her sisters-and brothers-in-law, Patricia (Dave) Piskorski of Newport News, Virginia, Dennis (Ginny) DiGello, Jeffrey (Vicki) DiGello, and Lisa DiGello, all of Erie; her wonderful Bradenton neighbors and friends, Mike and Jane Bengston of Bloomington, Ind.; as well as several nieces and nephews, many cousins, and countless dear friends in North East, Pa., and Bradenton, Fla.

Sandy's legacy lives on in the laughter she inspired, the friendships she cherished, and the love she gave so freely. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Friends may call at the William D. Elkin Funeral Home, 65 South Lake Street, on Friday, July 17, 2026, from 3 p.m. till 6 p.m. Private interment will be held at St. Gregory Cemetery.

Please send condolences to elkinfh.com.

James R. Baur, 80



Micro Systems, IBM, Cabletron and Skyhaven Airport in New England. He then moved to Spokane, Wash., where he became the first hardware engineer at F5Networks.

When he moved back to North East and into the family home, James enjoyed volunteering at the North East Railroad Museum and gathering with some of his former classmates.

His hobbies included hang gliding, skiing, bicycling, hiking, photography, flying, and electronics.

James is survived by his sisters, Marilyn Fenton (Leslie) and Susan R. Baur; brother, Bruce R. Baur (Angie); and nieces Alexandra and Abigail.

Private funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the William D. Elkin Funeral Home, 65 South Lake Street, North East. Memorials may be made to the McCord Memorial Library; North East Fire Department; Community Nurses of North East; or the Lake Shore Railroad Historical Society.

Please send condolences to elkinfh.com.

James R. Baur, 80, of North East, passed away on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at his residence. He was born on Dec. 17, 1945, to the late James W.R. and Florence D. (Lowes) Baur.

James graduated from North East High School in 1963 and enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1964.

Throughout his 20-year military career, James was stationed at Chanut Air Force Base where he worked in the missile silos. He was also stationed at various Air Force Bases where he performed precision calibration of aircraft maintenance and test equipment. These included Thailand, Griffith AFB, Guam, Spokane, Azores, Malmstrom AFB Montana, England and Plattsburgh, N.Y. He retired as a Master Sargent in May of 1984

Beyond his military career, James was employed by Vermont

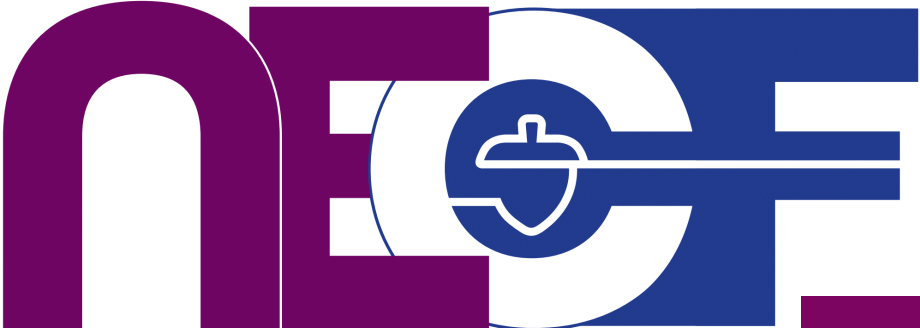
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Gem, mineral show set for this July

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.

Vintage Book Paper, Collectibles Show slated for August

JAMESTOWN, N.Y. — Many of the show attendees come from the Greater Erie, Pa., area. With that said, Aug. 1, 2026, marks the return of the Chautauqua Region Vintage Book Paper and Collectibles Show and Sale.

The show takes place on the first Saturday of August every year and is held at the Chautauqua Suites, 215 West Lake Road, (Route 394) Mayville, N.Y., from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 and children 12 and under free when accompanied by an adult.

It will provide over 30 dealers in primarily vintage books, paper collectibles, ephemera including postcards, photographs, prints, posters, historical items (both local and beyond), sports memorabilia, and the like, supplemented

with a variety of other antique collectibles to provide things of interest for most everyone.

Not only will there be antiquarian, first editions, local history books, but we have vendors that can help with family history, research, and authors of local and regional historical offerings including Ken Springirth, author of many railroad history related publications.

Proceeds from the show go into the Trolley no. 93 Fund with the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation for the preservation of what is pretty much the last of the hundreds of streetcars and trolley cars that serviced residents of Erie County, Pa., and Chautauqua County, N.Y.

For more info about the project and the show, visit jamestowntrolley.org.

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McCord Memorial Library to host educational summer programs for all ages

NORTH EAST – McCord Memorial Library will offer a series of free educational programs later this month and in early August, giving community members opportunities to explore bookmaking, archaeology and gardening.

The first program, "Books From Scratch: A Book Making Workshop," will be offered in two sessions at 10 a.m. July 20 and 4 p.m. July 21. No pre-registration is required.

Participants will learn the basics of bookmaking and apply their new skills by creating their own handmade book to take home.

On July 25 at 2 p.m., the library will present "Unearthing Ancient Civilizations," featuring Gannon University history and archaeology professor Suzanne Richard.

Richard will share her experiences participating in archaeological excavations in Jordan, discussing the discoveries made by her team and what they reveal about life in the ancient world. The presentation will offer attendees a firsthand look at one of the world's most historically significant regions and the work of modern archaeologists.

The series concludes Aug. 6 at 5:30 p.m. with "Unearthing Soil: Composting and Soil Testing Talk." The program will be led by a Penn State Extension Master Gardener, who will discuss the fundamentals of composting and soil testing. Attendees will learn how healthy soil supports successful gardens while gaining practical tips for improving their home landscapes and reducing their environmental impact.

All three programs are free and open to the public. Library officials encourage community members to attend and take advantage of the educational opportunities offered as part of the library's summer programming.

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Backpacks

East Council of Churches coordinators beginning July 20. Coordinators may pick up the information at Holy Cross Episcopal Church from July 21-23 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Those unable to pick up slips during those times may arrange to do so by calling Anne Bardol at 814-725-2910 or 814-323-3714.

Filled backpacks should be returned to Holy Cross Episcopal Church by Friday, Aug. 7. Distribution will take place Wednesday, Aug. 12, from 9 a.m. to noon.

In addition to the Adopt-a-Student program, the North East Lions Club's Back 2 School Success program is collecting school supplies, including notebooks, markers, crayons, scissors and pencils, along with hygiene items such as deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes. The donated supplies will be distributed with the backpacks.

Free haircuts also will be available to students

Contributed photo
Once North East Lions Club members and Holy Cross Episcopal Church finish the backpacks they will be taken to NESD to distribute to families in need.

during the distribution event to help them prepare for the start of the new school year.

Although the school year has recently ended, organizers said preparations for the fall are already underway and thanked the community for its continued support of the annual program. Additional information is available on the North East School District's Facebook page.

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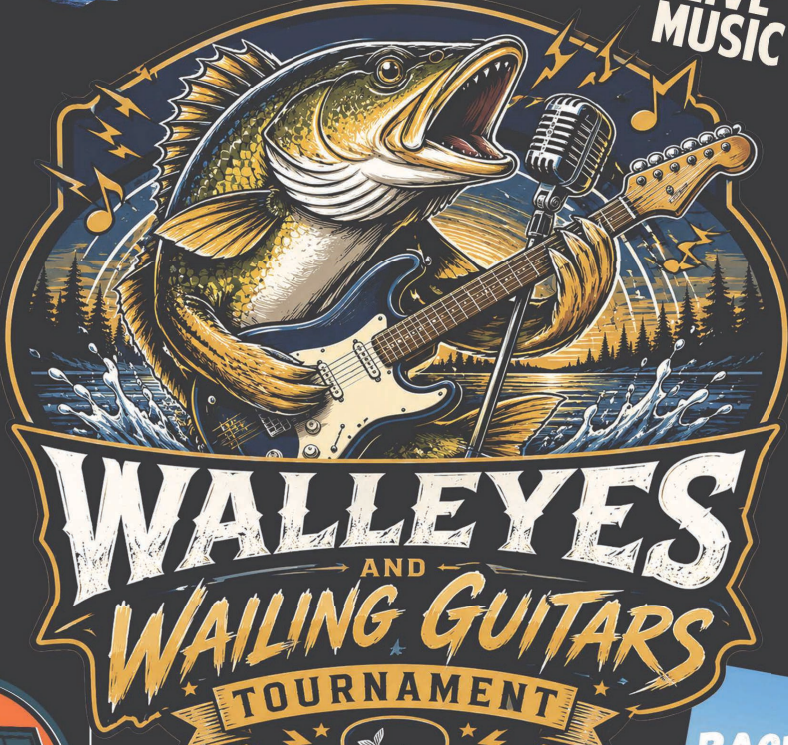
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Founders & Guardians



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.

Michael R. McGough

Alexander Hamilton

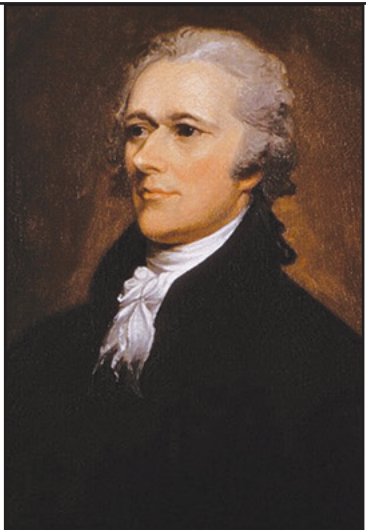
"There is a certain enthusiasm in liberty, that makes human nature rise above itself, in acts of bravery and heroism."

(Alexander Hamilton)

Alexander Hamilton was born on January 11th in either 1755 or 1757. He was born in the West Indies, to James Hamilton and Rachel Lavine. When James left his family in 1765, Alexander went to work for two merchants on the island of St. Croix. After his mother died three years later, Hamilton was cared for by her family.

Recognized for his abilities in business, his writing skills, and his engaging personable manner, a group of friends and supporters arranged for him to come to the New Jersey colony for a formal education. After a brief time at a preparatory school, he was admitted to King's College (Columbia University today), in 1773. As relations between the American colonies and Great Britain deteriorated, Hamilton published some anonymous writings in support of what would become the American Revolution. His life and work as a founder had begun.

In the spring of 1776, he was commissioned as an artillery officer in the Continental Army. His success as a leader won him the attention of George



In 1801, Hamilton founded the New York Evening Post (New York Post today), and made it the voice of his political thinking as a Federalist.

Washington, who enlisted him as his aide-de-camp, with the rank of lieutenant colonel. For the next several years, he played a major role as Washington's liaison with the French allies and the person responsible for much of Washington's correspondence.

In 1780, Hamilton married Elizabeth Schuyler. Together they had eight children. Well educated and talented, she was a strong supporter of Alexander, in each of the roles he played, in the founding and early establishment of the United States. For fifty years following his death in 1804, she was dedicated to preserving his legacy. She was a committed philanthropist who was also a respected voice as a social and political activist.

Hamilton requested a field command position in 1781. Washington initially

denied his request, but later that year approved Hamilton for command. In the final major engagement of the Revolutionary War at Yorktown, Hamilton led an assault on the British stronghold. That action helped force the surrender of General Cornwallis.

With the fighting of the war all but over, the Hamiltons moved to Albany, New York where Alexander studied law. In 1782, he was admitted to the bar and soon began practicing law in New York City. During this same time period, Hamilton became a recognized and committed voice for a stronger central government than was provided under the Articles of Confederation. In 1787, he represented New York at a convention in Annapolis, Maryland, to look at improving the commercial interests of the new nation. Based on his concerns well beyond commerce, Hamilton suggested another convention for the next year. It became the Constitutional Convention that met in Philadelphia, in May of 1787. Hamilton was a New York delegate to that convention.

Hamilton envisioned a constitution that would give considerably more power to a national government. Although not as powerful as Hamilton suggested, he quickly became a solid supporter of the US Constitution, as it was developed at the convention. Under the pseudonym, Publius, Hamilton wrote 51

of the 85 essays published and known collectively as the Federalist Papers. Along with James Madison and John Jay, Hamilton explained and defended the Constitution.

Alexander Hamilton became the first secretary of the treasury under President Washington, in 1789. He focused his attention on state and national debt, a national currency, a national bank, and a plan for taxes to support the new nation. He also served as a close personal advisor to President Washington. In 1795, he left the cabinet and returned to New York to practice law and tend to his personal life. However, he remained a close advisor to President Washington, even helping him draft his memorable farewell address.

In the election of 1800, Thomas Jefferson became the third president, and Aaron Burr became his vice-president. Because of some political and personal differences, Jefferson made it clear that Burr would not be on the ticket for the presidential election of 1804. Burr turned his attention to the governorship of New York. Hamilton, who politically disagreed with Burr, came out strongly against him.

Prompted by some alleged disparaging comments made by Hamilton about Burr in the spring of 1804, Burr believed that his honor had been questioned. He challenged Hamilton to a duel. They

met in Weehawken, New Jersey early on July 11th. Although accounts vary as to exact details, Hamilton's shot missed its mark, while Burr's hit his. After more than thirty hours of suffering, Alexander Hamilton died the following day.

Hamilton's legacy is rooted in his conviction that if the thirteen American colonies were to endure as a free nation, a stronger national government was essential. His American Dream was a national government powerful enough and supported by an economic system sound enough to sustain and continue its development. In both of these initiatives, Hamilton was a leader and a major foundational contributor.

Today, Hamilton is featured on the US \$10 bill, one of only two non-presidents so honored. The other is Benjamin Franklin. Although not above political rivalries and the oft contentious exchanges that shaped both his personal and political relationships, Hamilton was respected for his public integrity and commitment. His model of personal service over self-interest and the impact of his contributions have been refreshed in recent years by the Broadway musical Hamilton, by Lin-Manuel Miranda. From a challenging early life, Alexander Hamilton displayed the courage and boldness that he felt comes from "...a certain enthusiasm in liberty...!"

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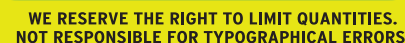
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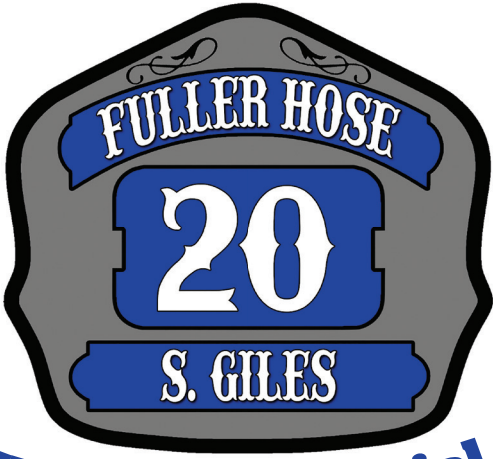


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Wellington Street Bridge closed for rehabilitation through early September

NORTH EAST — Motorists traveling through North East will need to plan for detours this summer as the Wellington Street Bridge over Sixteen Mile Creek undergoes a major rehabilitation project expected to continue through the first week of September.

The bridge has been closed to through traffic while contractors complete structural improvements designed to extend the life of the span and enhance safety for motorists and pedestrians. A posted detour remains in place for the duration of construction.

According to project documents released by North East Borough, the rehabilitation includes removing the existing paved wearing surface from the bridge's prestressed concrete box beams and constructing a new reinforced concrete deck. Crews also will replace the bridge railings with reinforced concrete barriers and install new sidewalks.

The rehabilitation project is the culmination of several years of planning. In 2023, the borough sought engineering firms to complete the bridge's design, construction administration and inspection services before moving the project out for bid earlier this year.

In addition to the bridge work, the borough is coordinating installation of a new water main crossing beneath the structure as part of the overall project.

Officials expect the bridge to reopen to traffic during the first week of September, weather permitting. Until then, drivers are encouraged to follow the signed detour and allow additional travel time when traveling through the area.

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Tickets on sale for NEAHOF of Fame Induction Ceremony

Tickets are now on sale for the North East Athletic Hall of Fame's Class of 2026 Induction Ceremony, scheduled for Aug. 1. The event is open to the public, and seating is limited.

The induction banquet will be held at the Mellon Heritage Foundation Outreach and Wellness Campus, formerly the Mercyhurst North East Tom Ridge Library. Doors will open at 5 p.m., with the ceremony beginning at 6 p.m.

Tickets are \$27.50 for adults and \$15 for children ages 10 to 15. Children younger than 5 will be admitted free. Tickets must be purchased by July 25 and will not be available at the door.

Tickets may be purchased through Dave Lanahan by calling 814-450-4508 or emailing lannylegends@yahoo.com. Tickets also may be picked up at his residence, 16 Pearl St., North East. Checks should be made payable to the North East

Athletic Hall of Fame.

Tickets also are available at the North East Chamber of Commerce, 44 W. Main St., from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The 2026 individual inductees are Ryan Smathers, Garrett Owens, Zac Kuchta, Jack Locke, Alex Svetz and Gregg Cook.

Teams to be inducted include the 1996 PIAA Class AA girls 3,200-meter relay state champions, the 2007 PIAA Class AA boys cross country state champions, the 2008 PIAA Class AA boys 3,200-meter relay state champions, and the 2006 and 2007 North East boys soccer teams.

Dinner will be catered by St. Joseph Church and will feature Super Bowl beef, baked chicken, pasta, buttered potatoes, green bean casserole, salad and dessert. A cash bar serving beer, wine and mixed drinks will open at 5 p.m.

For more information, contact Terry Frontino at 814-392-5656.



G. Christopher Orton , Esq.



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The North East Borough Council is accepting letters of interest from eligible candidates seeking to fill one (1) open position on the North East Community Marina Authority Board. The North East Borough Council is seeking qualified professionals with new ideas and subject matter expertise in marina operations, business, accounting, other related fields, or a combination of skills/experience. Eligible candidates for the North East Community Marina Authority must reside within the Borough or North East Township continuously for at least one (1) year immediately prior to the individual’s appointment. Letters of interest will be received by 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 30, 2026. Letters of interest must be submitted in writing: via email (info@northeastborough.com), the mail (received, not postmarked), or in person at Borough Hall, 31 West Main Street, North East, PA 16428. Letters of interest submitted after the deadline or by other means will not be accepted. For more information about the available position, please contact the Borough Office at 814-725-8611.



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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, July 8, 2026** and confirmed Nisi.

August 19, 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.

<u>2026</u>	<u>ESTATE</u>	<u>ACCOUNTANT</u>	<u>ATTORNEY</u>
00137	James M. Huber a/k/a James Mathew Huber	Nicole M. Frye Administratrix	Colleen R. Stumpf, Esq.
00143	Trelawny West a/k/a Trelawny B. West	Dean L. Main, Jr. Administrator	John A. Coming, Esq.
00146	Aseline Ratcliff a/k/a Aselien Ratcliff	James L. Ratcliff Administrator d.b.n.	Justin L. Magill, Esq.

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Penial Holiness Camp set to begin July 16

Penial Holiness Camp Meeting, Route 18, Conneautville, begins Thursday evening, July 16, with a concert at 7:30 p.m. introducing Jonathan White.

Camp continues until Sunday, July 26, with services at 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. There will be a concert series on Sunday, Jul 19, and Monday, July 20. Concerts begin at 7 p.m., followed by preaching service at 7:30 p.m.

The evangelists are the Rev. Gary Bond with the Church of the Nazarene, and Dr. Matt Friedman, chairman of Evangelism and Discipleship at Wesley Biblical Seminary. Song evangelists Vance and Jeannie Sharp from July 17 through July 21 and Don and Shirl Gessner from July 22 through July 26.

The youth evangelist will be the Rev. Adam Godbold, associate pastor of Due West Methodist Church in Marietta, Georgia.

Teens are invited to stay at camp for 10 days for \$125 if preregistered by Friday, July 10. Registration the day of camp is \$150. First-time teens will be able to come free this year. Larry and Leslie Tackett will be ministering to children each day at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Services for adults will be held in the main tabernacle.

Rooms, camping facilities and meals will be available.

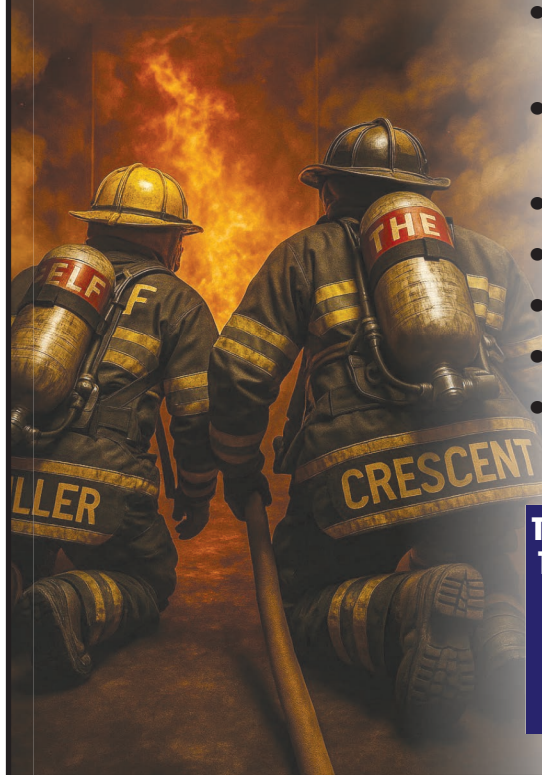
The camp is interdenominational and all are welcome. For more information, visit the Penial Holiness Camp website at www.penialholinesscamp.com.

**Have news to share?
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By Michael Stafford
Correspondent

“These beaches were fine during the warm weather months, but during the long, cold weather months, swimmers needed to go

Continuing on, Sturga then spoke about the Edinboro Sheraton Hotel, which was built atop Culbertson Hill in

While the Edinboro American Legion did not get a building upon restarting, they do have a swimming pool, and Glunt said that there are only three American Legion groups in the United States that have a public swimming pool. He explained that, in 2006,

“So we had plenty of room for the kids to drop off the wall and drop onto the water, and that’s how they got off the wall. You didn’t climb back

As to future plans, Glunt said that the legion is considering a permanent structure that would replace the current tents and avoid issues with them when it is windy. The pool was spoken about by another person involved with the legion's work and involvement.

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