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BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

‘YOUR HEALTH IS EVERYTHING’

Dallas woman shares breast cancer recovery story



Susan Ruotolo, a breast cancer survivor, on Oct. 2. JASON ARDAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

By Martin Repetto
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When Susan Ruotolo felt a pain she'd never experienced before in her chest shortly after giving birth, breast cancer was the last thing on her mind.

Now, as October marks Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the 41-year-old teacher from Dallas is sharing her story so that other women can learn from it.

"I've always been very mindful of breast cancer, and when I was younger I was checking myself for lumps at least once every month; but back in 2025, I was pregnant with my second child and let down my guard for a while. One day, after I'd given birth to my daughter, I got bumped in the chest and felt an almost indescribable level of pain," Ruotolo said. "It was loud, sharp, deep and throbbing. I knew right away something was wrong with me and so I scheduled an appointment with LVHN the same day."

The National Cancer Institute reports that 1 in 8 women in the U.S. will develop breast cancer sometime in their lives, with over 320,000 new cases of breast cancer expected in 2026 alone, along with more than 42,000 breast cancer-related deaths.

"Awareness saves lives; screening saves lives. At LVHN, we see over 50 women for breast cancer screenings every day and more than a thousand every month. For most of the women we serve, the info that they're cancer-free is a comfort; for some, though, it's a life saver," said Deborah Brown, a



Mammography technician and breast navigator Debbie Brown of Lehigh Valley Health Network-Jefferson Health on Thursday, Oct. 1, 2026. JOHN HAEGER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

mammographer and breast navigator at the Lehigh Valley Health & Wellness Center in Hazleton.

LEARNING HER DIAGNOSIS

During her visit, Ruotolo met with a nurse practitioner who identified a mass in her breasts pressed right up against

her sternum, but reassured her that it was most likely benign.

Still, she recommended a follow-up appointment with a radiologist at the Saxton Pavilion breast clinic in Kingston.

See **CANCER** on Page A8

Hanover Twp. to consider data center overlay district

Would be on former coal mining land between Nanticoke and Warrior Run

By Bob Kalinowski
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Hanover Twp. is looking to amend its zoning ordinance to address data centers and officials have proposed a 250-acre data center overlay district on former coal mining land owned by Earth Conservancy between the Hanover section of Nanticoke and Warrior Run.

The township's planning commission on Tuesday recommended approval of the proposal, which the township commissioners would have to vote to approve.

Hanover Twp. officials scheduled a public hearing on the topic for Dec. 9 at 5:30 p.m.

The land in question is four parcels owned by Earth Conservancy, from the Nanticoke City border on Front Street across from the former Concrete City miners' village to near the Warrior Run border.

Jack Varaly, the township's zoning consultant who drafted the ordinance, said he was approached by township leadership to come up with a data center ordinance because the township's existing ordinance did not address the facilities.

He said it was a "pro-active" approach to address the emerging development of data centers.

Varaly said township officials suggested the Earth Conservancy site to him and he thought it was an appropriate location because it's "primarily undeveloped" and is "isolated as much as possible" from Hanover Twp. residents.

See **OVERLAY** on Page A8

8TH DISTRICT AD WATCH Council critics say Cognetti hasn't acted on her data- center rhetoric

Editor's note: We are publishing a series of fact-checks of advertisements in the Pennsylvania 8th Congressional District race between incumbent Republican Congressman Rob Bresnahan of Dallas Twp. and Democratic challenger, Scranton Mayor Paige Cognetti. The election is key for both major parties' hopes of holding a House majority the next two years.

By Donnie Collins
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This 30-second ad was paid for by Paige For PA, Cognetti's official campaign committee, and was approved by the candidate.

READ MORE

House speaker stumps for Bresnahan in Hazleton. **Page A3**

It begins with Cognetti standing in what appears to be a machine shop, holding an open laptop computer in her hands. Drone footage shot over a culm bank appears on the laptop's screen, which zooms in to a full-screen look with several news headlines — one reading "Pa. Coal plants keep closing. Does the state

See **AD** on Page A8

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