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HELPING OUT THE LITTLE ALL STARS



Ivalisse Eufracio-Childs of Little All Stars Care Center at 30-32 W. Broad St. in West Hazleton works with Aaryen Peguero on counting and math on Wednesday. **PHOTOS BY JOHN HAEGER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

ENGINEERS: COAL MINE TOUR FUN BUT COSTLY TO OPEN

Experts doubtful money can be secured to create attraction

By Kent Jackson
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Justin Emershaw mentioned some of the sights that he would like tourists to see in a coal mine beneath Hazleton.

In a mine that slopes 884 feet below ground, Emershaw, a mining engineer, has seen photos and videos of cathedral ceilings, a hospital, stable, repair shop, electric substation and foreman's office.

"Visitors will be able to do a tour ... and understand what these guys did and how they went to work," Emershaw said.

He and other volunteers in a nonprofit group Underground Miners have teamed with Hazleton Mayor Jeff Cusat to explore the idea of reopening a mine for public tours near Hazleton Shopping Center on West Broad Street. In addition, they would like to build a replica coal breaker, restaurant and brewery and museum.

Northeast Pennsylvania currently has four mines open for tours, generally from April to November each year. Two are in Scranton and the others are in Ashland and Lansford.

"What makes this mine very different from all the other tours," Emershaw said, "is this would be by far one of the largest to open."

Hazle Mines Colliery that the group wants to reopen first shipped coal in 1838 and was

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Local schools prep with year-round daylight saving time on the horizon

By Christopher Doyle
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If the sun never sets on daylight saving time, how will it affect the school day?

The U.S. House of Representatives voted on July 14 to adopt a bill that would abolish standard time and make daylight saving time permanent year round. President Donald Trump has expressed support for the bill, formally titled the Sunshine Protection Act, though its fate in the Senate is uncertain.

School districts in Northeastern Pennsylvania are approaching the possible change — and its impact on students — with caution.

Greater Nanticoke Area Superintendent Ronald Grevera issued a statement July 22 saying he believed there were costs and benefits to year-round daylight savings. He said that late sunrises in the wintertime could create safety concerns for students on their

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Daycare owner provides crucial service to Hazleton families

By Martin Repetto
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Every year, the Hazleton Area School District accepts hundreds of new students into its kindergarten program, where they learn basic grammar, math and social skills. Child psychologists generally agree that the first 2,000 days of a child's life are the most important for their development, which leads many families to seek preschool services to help their children get ahead.

Ivalisse Eufracio-Childs' Little All Stars Care Center on 30 E Broad St. in West Hazleton is one such service.

"I started Little All Stars because I'd heard from several families in the past that they struggled with finding bilingual childcare in Hazleton, which made me realize that I could fill that need for them," Eufracio-Childs said. "It's my firm intention to help keep families together through day and night childcare, freeing parents to take the shifts they need to provide for their children."

Eufracio-Childs grew up in Santiago, Dominican Republic, before permanently immigrating to the United States with her two children in 2004.

She lived in New York for eight years, working as an assistant kindergarten and first-grade teacher, where she developed the childcare skills she'd later use at Little All Stars.

In 2012, she visited family members already living in Hazleton, which



Eufracio-Childs of Little All Stars Care Center.

It's my firm intention to help keep families together through day and night childcare, freeing parents to take the shifts they need to provide for their children.

— IVALISSE EUFRACIO-CHILDS, Little All Stars Care Center

**VOICES OF HAZLETON:
BRIDGING CULTURES,
BUILDING COMMUNITY**

The Standard-Speaker is profiling leaders in the Hispanic community. Today, we profile Ivalisse Eufracio-Childs, who owns Little All Stars Care Center in West Hazleton.

inspired her to move here.
"Living in New York, I started to miss

having nature all around me. Coming here, seeing the beautiful environment and the wonderful community, I knew that I wanted to make a home here," she said.

After moving, Eufracio-Childs tried to continue teaching as a paraprofessional, but found the pay and benefits weren't enough to provide for herself

See **DAYCARE** on Page C7

Diocese of Scranton parishes see opportunities to collaborate

By Christine Lee
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When Donald Healey's home parish in Olyphant consolidated with a Throop parish, he gained new friends and traditions.

St. Carlo Acutis Parish formed about a year ago from Holy Cross and Blessed Sacrament. Consolidation of the two formerly linked parishes has created more opportunities for collaboration between members while keeping traditions alive. The united parish

took the name of a newly canonized saint, which has also attracted interest.

It's one of many the Diocese of Scranton has merged under Vision 2030, its Pastoral Planning Process that addresses changing realities across its 11 counties. The plan calls for linkages and consolidations as parishes confront financial, infrastructure and membership challenges and as retiring priests outpace new ones.

Two linkages between parishes in North Pocono and in Susquehanna County and three new consolidated

parishes were formed in July. The diocese has linked 21 parishes since 2021 and consolidated nine since 2022.

Leaders and members of linked or consolidated parishes say coming together resulted in shared ministries and councils that bring new ideas and perspectives. Healey, who lives in Olyphant, said the consolidated St. Carlo Acutis Parish brings the best traditions of the former parishes together while creating new ones. He has made friends since the consolidation.

"It's a larger parish commu-

nity now, more points of view, more perspectives, more ideas, and I think it's built more relationships," he said. "I think that's been the biggest benefit so far."

Joseph Butash of Dickson City said consolidation has brought more participation, particularly from youth. Parish events such as the yearly family festival, a Throop event that started in 2007, and the chicken barbecue, which originated at the Olyphant parish, have more potential customers, he said.

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Rev. Scott Sterowski distributes communion to parishioners during the morning Mass at St. Carlo Acutis Parish in Olyphant on Friday. **SEAN MCKEAG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

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