

## TRUST from A1

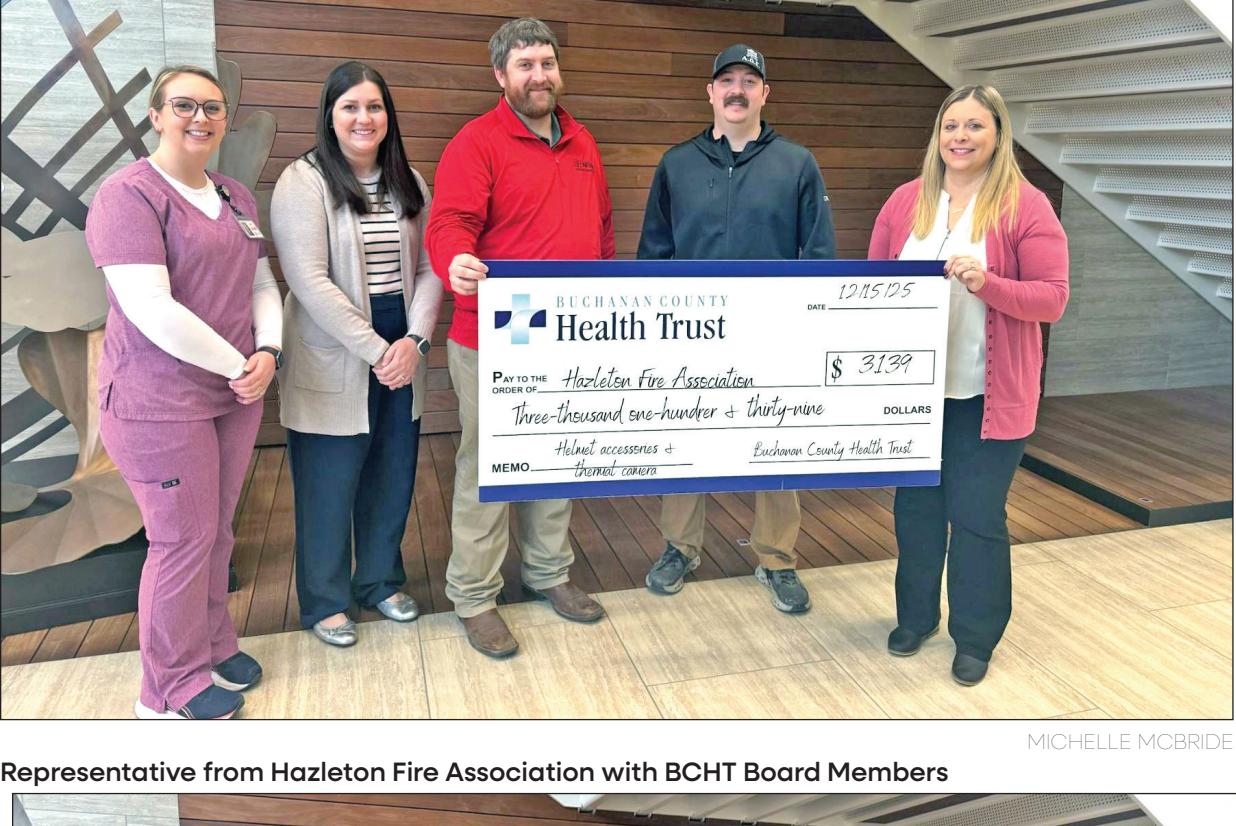
- \$1,250 to Immanuel Lutheran Church for nursing program training and equipment
- \$12,500 to Jesup Fire Department for new SCBAs (self-contained breathing apparatus)
- \$6,919 to Buchanan County Emergency Management for AEDs and trauma bags
- \$3,139 to Hazleton Fire Association for helmet accessories and a thermal camera

- \$15,000 to the City of Independence for AEDs
- \$5,320 to Buchanan County EMS Association for first responder carbon monoxide detectors
- \$2,730 to Kids Corner for an AED, LifeVac, and CPR/First Aid training

The Buchanan County Health Trust is a nonprofit organization dedicated to charitable, educational, and scientific purposes that support the health and

well-being of residents in Buchanan County. Since its founding in 1989, the Health Trust has awarded over \$1.2 million to local non-profit organizations.

The next grant application deadline is June 15, 2026. Applications are available at BuchananHealthTrust.com. Stay informed on the latest news and announcements by following the Buchanan County Health Trust on Facebook or visiting the website.



MICHELLE MCBRIDE

Representative from Hazleton Fire Association with BCHT Board Members



MICHELLE MCBRIDE

Representative from Buchanan County Emergency Management with BCHT Board Members



Representative from  
Kids Corner with BCHT  
Board Members

## BOOK from A1

Anyone can pick up a copy of To Catch a Storm at the library, The Brick Kitchen, Em's Coffee Co., Falcon Civic Center, Gedney Bakery & Coffeehouse, S&K Gifts and Decor, and any of the eight Little Free Libraries scattered throughout Independence. It's not necessary to have a library card — just grab an available copy at any of these locations. When you're done reading, please initial the label on the inside cover. Then feel free to pass the book on to another reader or return it to the library or a satellite book spot. Our goal is to make it easy for everyone To Catch a Storm!

Stay updated by visiting the library's website at [www.independenceia.gov/library](http://www.independenceia.gov/library), following social media pages, or contact us via email at [iprprograms@independenceia.gov](mailto:iprprograms@independenceia.gov) or call 319-334-2470.

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## LACES from A1

LACES has provided over 80 fine arts programs to the area including notable artists such as Independence native and Boston Symphony member Chester Schmitz, renowned artist P. Buckley Moss, Independence alum and well-known author Janet Dailey, state poet laureate Mary Swander, Iowa native and renowned opera singer Simon Estes, and the United States Navy Sea Chanters. LACES has also sponsored several years of the Second Saturday Series of live music at the Independence Farmers Market.

In 2022, a Little Free Art House was installed at the Independence Community School District (ICSD) Administration Building honoring former elementary art instructor Connie Sorg. Based on the popular Little Free Libraries, this Little Free Art House has basic art supplies for the community members of all ages to use, share, or replenish. In 2023, a new Little Free Art House and Gallery was built by Lanny Buls and painted by ICSD Art Teacher Allison Anderson. Supplies have been funded by generous donations from the Mustang Foundation and community members.

LACES invites you to become part of our evolving and vibrant organization by joining our mission or contributing to our growth. As a 501c(3) nonprofit organization, LACES relies solely on donations from community and volunteer support. LACES currently meets at 5 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Independence Area Chamber of Commerce office. Thank you for considering a financial donation. For more information, please attend one of our next meetings or call 563-920-2106. We believe the arts are transformative and an essential component of our thriving community.

## TOURISM from A1

Buchanan County Tourism utilized grant funding to launch a new tourism website and execute a digital marketing campaign. The new website significantly improved the visibility and accessibility of Buchanan County's attractions and visitor information.

The accompanying digital marketing campaign ran on Meta platforms throughout November and December and encouraged visitors to explore Buchanan County during the winter months.

That campaign reached nearly 67,000 accounts, generated close to 170,000 impressions, and resulted in approximately 60% growth in Buchanan County Tourism's social media following.

These marketing efforts come during a period of sustained visitor growth in Buchanan County. While many surrounding counties saw decreases, Buchanan County held steady at \$17.6 million in visitor spending, demonstrating the durability of its tourism economy.

For 2026, Buchanan County Tourism will allocate a larger portion of this grant funding toward an expanded digital media campaign running from spring through summer. The campaign will focus on attracting visitors during greenhouse season and promoting the county's full slate of summer events, with the goal of attracting out-of-state visitors during peak travel months.

For more information, contact: Isabel Thurn, Buchanan County Tourism director@travelbuchanan.com, 319-334-3439

## LEGION from A1

crosses are needed for all the veterans laid to rest in Quasky.

Adjutant Orlan Love painted the crosses, while second vice commander Jimmy Doug Franck carefully put new poppies on and commander of arms Rex Ladeburg repaired any structural issues. Fellow Post 434 members Doranice Kirby, Dennis Crawford, Dave Mueller, and Sons of American Legion member Dave Cook also came to help with the labor of love.

"It's been overdue, we've been trying to get them done," Ohrt said. "You can see how faded some of them are," Love agreed.

The crosses will go out to the cemetery just before Memorial Day to honor the veterans buried in Liberty Township for their service and sacrifice.

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