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County fairs bring business to communities

Clearfield event
kicks off the
season July
17-25

By Walt Frank
wfrank@altoonamir-
ror.com

County and local fair season is nearly upon us and they remain big business as grandstand shows, livestock competitions, musical entertainment, games, rides and vendors draw crowds to celebrate summer.

A 2024 survey ordered by the state Department of Agriculture found that Pennsylvania's 107 county and local fairs contribute \$1.14 billion to the state's economy annually. A seasonal backbone of the state's \$76 billion tourism industry, Pennsylvania fairs support more than 10,700 full-time jobs, and four million annual fair visitors spend \$673 million in the largely rural communities where fairs are held.

For every dollar invested by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture in the state's county and local agricultural fairs, the Commonwealth sees \$286 in economic impact and \$5 in state fiscal returns. This investment drives significant benefits,

showcasing the immense value of these events to Pennsylvania's economy and communities, according to the survey.

Fairs in Pennsylvania serve as economic engines that generate revenue, create jobs, and promote regional development across the state. The fairs attract thousands of visitors, boosting local tourism and generating revenue for nearby businesses such as hotels, restaurants, and shops. Fairs create temporary employment opportunities for local residents, from event staff to vendors and performers. Farmers and agricultural producers benefit from the chance to showcase and sell their products directly to consumers, while also competing for prizes that can enhance their reputation and market value, the survey said.

"America was born in Pennsylvania 250 years ago. Agriculture continues to provide its promise and prosperity. Fairs are our chance to experience our heritage and learn how agriculture continues to shape Pennsylvania's prosperous present and bright future," said Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding.

"Our nation was born right here in Pennsylvania

from courage, hard work, and determination. Our farmers continue to 'Grow A Nation' even 250 years later. I was proud to kick off 2026 at the Pennsylvania Farm Show — Pennsylvania's State Fair, and to proudly celebrate the hard-working farmers growing our nation, community by community," Governor Josh Shapiro said.

Clearfield County Fair, July 17-25

The 165th Clearfield County Fair kicks off the local fair season and runs July 17-25.

Powers & Thomas Midway Entertainment, the carnival provider since 2024, will return to the fair.

Entertainment highlights this year include platinum selling country artist Gavin Adcock on July 19; Bull Ride Mania on July 22; truck and tractor pulls on July 23 and Everclear, an American rock band formed in Portland, Oregon, in 1992, with Sister Hazel on July 25.

Bedford County Fair, July 26-Aug. 1

The 152nd Bedford County Fair will be held July 26-Aug. 1.

Highlights include demolition derbies on Sunday and Thursday; Military Appreciation Day and a voice contest on Monday; Bull Ride



— Courtesy photo

Kathryn Yingling and sons Jackson, 3, and Oliver, 20 months, all of Bedford, ride the kids' coaster at the Bedford County Fair in 2023.

Mania on Tuesday and Wednesday; auto racing on Friday and truck and tractor pulls on Saturday.

The fair will have some America250 related activities, said Bill Hoover, fair president.

"We are working with the chamber of commerce on a liberty bell to display at Jordan Hall.

Our junior fair board will have 15 plus kids wear costumes that are America 250 related. They will walk around the fair grounds, the midway and grandstands areas," Hoover said.

The fair plans to reinstate the Cavalcade of

Livestock and Antique Tractor Parade at 5 p.m. Thursday after the demolition derby.

"Years ago we did a parade of animals, we will do that around the track. We hope that it will become a tradition again," Hoover said.

Hoover said the fair is best known for its livestock.

"What sets us apart is our livestock, we consider it second to none. The Saturday livestock sale is big, last year it brought in nearly \$600,000. We have over 800 farm animals," Hoover said.

The fair will have about 50 food and merchandise

vendors on the ground and another 20 inside Jordan Hall, Hoover said.

Huntingdon County Fair, Aug. 9-15

The Huntingdon County Fair will be held Aug. 9-15.

Entertainment highlights include mini tractor pulls and Honky Tonk Twins, classic country and rockabilly music on Sunday; Richie and the High Street Rockers and a demolition derby on Monday; the Mack Berry Band on Tuesday; Wednesday will be Senior Citizens Day and Veterans Day

See **FAIR**/Page 6

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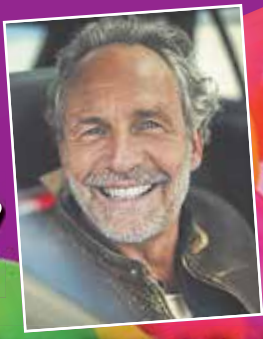
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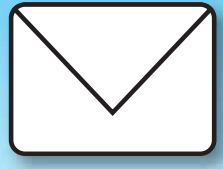


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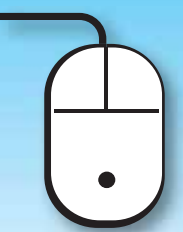
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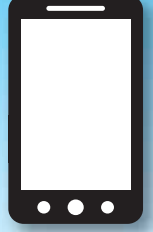
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1983 Mercedes Benz,380 SL Convertible Hardtop, Polaris Ranger 4 X 4, John Deere B-Jr., Farmall F-20, Cadet 60, Power King1217 Hyd. Drive, Power King 1626, Ward Electric Start Transaxle, Mow N Machine R2048 O Turn, Farmall Snow Blower, Plows, Tiller, Disk, Sickle Bar, Trailer 5 X 10, 2006, 2 Early Boat Motors, Sattleg Montgomery Ward Co. # 60226 Hit & Miss Motor, Lawn Cart, Maytag Motor, 2 Early Hand Crank Generators, Lavson Motor. SHOP TOOLS: Shop Task Mod. 1720 TM TC lave, mill & drill, 2 Rockwell Drill Presses, 12" Band Saw, Router & Table, Metal Band Saw, Sander, Dupi-Carver, 2 Cutoff Saws, Craftman Table Saw XR 2412, Jig Saw, Power Craft Radial Arm Saw, Dust Collector, 12 ½" Craftman Plainer, Grinder, Welder, 2 Vises, Tool Boxes, Kohler Power Plant, 5 hp Campbell Air Compressor, Power Washer, & a lot more. MINIATURE ENGINES & TOYS: 1895 Mery Morrison-Martin Engine, Steam Tractors, Steam & Gas Toys, HO Train Lay Out, Hand made items, Scales, Stove, & Antique Items.

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Prepare for a family day at the fair

County fairs, state fairs and country fairs dot the landscape in late spring, summer and fall, offering fairgoers plenty of attractions and rides to fill warm days and evenings. Families who plan ahead for the festivities may be able to improve their experiences.

■ **Purchase passes in advance.** Some fairs enable visitors to purchase entry tickets, parking passes and even game vouchers online. There are advantages to doing so, such as bundling discounts. Buying tickets in advance also cuts down on time spent waiting in line.

■ **Devise a basic plan.** Look over the list of attractions and activities to gauge what you want to get out of the fair. Some fairs post their calendars online. With kids in tow, you'll likely want to check out any children's rides or animal exhibits and interactions. Create a generalized plan, but be flexible, especially when going with other families.

■ **Think about safety.** Fairs attract thousands of people and that can lead to confusion if children become separated from their parents. Write your mobile phone number down and put it in your child's pocket or bag, so he or she doesn't have to memorize it. Consider finding the tallest attraction at the fair (perhaps the ferris wheel), and make that the meeting point if anyone becomes lost. Snap a photo of youngsters when you arrive so that you'll have a recent image and know exactly what they are wearing if you need to engage law enforcement. Some parents tell their children to find another parent and ask them to help them contact security.

■ **Time your visit.** If the fair runs during the week and into the weekend, weekdays are likely to be much less crowded. Also, while not ideal, a cool day or one with a slight drizzle will cut down on crowds and improve the ability to see more things and get on more rides.

■ **Factor in food.** Fair food is an indulgence to enjoy when fairs come around. Rather than go overboard, pick one meal or item that the family will enjoy. Bring a backpack, if permitted, and fill it with bottled water and other light snacks so that you can tame hunger pangs and not bust the budget at the food court.

■ **Understand game odds.** Fair games are largely designed to earn the event money and not to cash out prizes to all participants. The chances of winning the grand prize, which may be a giant stuffed giraffe, usually are low, so it's best if children do not become overly concerned with winning a prize. Play the games for fun and memories and not to walk away with the biggest prizes.

In addition to these suggestions, parents can make sure they bring insect repellent and sunscreen to the fair. Dress for comfort and not fashion. These strategies can help families make the most of the county fair this year.



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'17 Nissan Rogue - 2.5L, AWD, 139K	'13 Chevy Silverado - 5.3L, 4x4, 213K
'17 Nissan Pathfinder - 3.5L, 4x4, 146K	'12 Wrangler - 3.6L, 6 spd/man., 4x4, 143K
'17 Jeep Renegade - 2.4L, 4x4, 150K	'11 Chevy Traverse - 3.6L, AWD, 96K
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cream is always reminiscent of sunshine and vacation. Enjoy a cone as you window-shop on a sunny day or take a leisurely stroll in the cool evening air. You can also savor it served in a bowl, as a sandwich, in a cake, in a coffee or as a milkshake. The possibilities are endless.

Those with a sweet tooth can satisfy their cravings with generously topped sundaes, banana splits or decadent cones adorned with crunchy nuts, colorful candies or seasonal fruits, to name a few possibilities. And don't forget the

many dips—whether you choose chocolate, hazelnut, praline or some other tasty confection, it'll tantalize your taste buds from the very first bite.

Wherever you go, ice cream shops are an essential—and tasty—part of the summer landscape. Every city, town and village has its favorite spots and signature flavors. Celebrate this delicious day by visiting a neighborhood ice cream parlor or by hitting the grocery store to pick up a tub or two of a variety made close to home. Enjoy!



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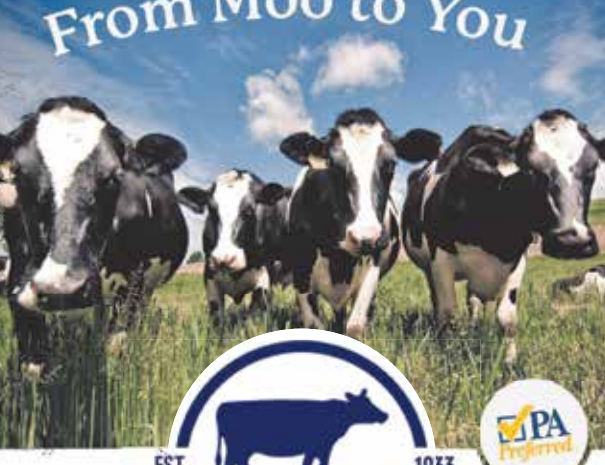


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AD BARGAIN Crossword Puzzle

Solution on page 6

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Tire pressure measurement
4. Request
7. Clairvoyance
10. 007's creator
11. Adult male
12. God of battle (Scandinavian)
13. Cloths spread over a coffin
15. Breeze through
16. Ladyfish genus
19. We all take them
21. Earl's jurisdiction
23. Members of U.S. Navy
24. Rummy-like card game
25. Affected by injury
26. Member of a Semitic people
27. Withdrew from a union
30. Woman's cloak
34. Spanish river
35. Prohibit
36. Something you can take
41. Dish soap brand
45. Ottoman military commanders
46. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
47. Makes somber
50. Discuss again
54. A tool to inject
55. Support
56. Informal term for money
57. Catch doing something wrong
59. Prehistoric people
60. Large African antelope
61. Vehicle
62. Georgia rockers
63. High resolution microscope
64. Pitching statistic
65. Attempt

- CLUES DOWN
1. Indoor plant
2. Marketable
3. Rather
4. Collected
5. A bag-like structure in a plant or animal
6. Irish hip-hop trio
7. Ageless
8. Course requirements
9. Pokes at
13. TV channel
14. They ____
17. Cooking material
18. Investment account
20. Iron-containing compound
22. Swiss river
27. Small coin (French)
28. Electronic countermeasures
29. Taxi
31. Helps little firms
32. Unhappy
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. Glowing
38. Item to be addressed
39. An informal body of friends
40. Intrinsic nature of something
41. Neural structures
42. Brews
43. A place for ships
44. One who sings holiday songs
47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
48. Scottish town
49. The most worthless parts
51. Sticky
52. Put to work
53. Precursor to the EU
58. Retrospective analysis (abbr.)

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Paws & Claws

Signs your dog may be dehydrated

Water is essential for mammals' bodies to operate at peak capacity. The American Kennel Club says water is necessary to lubricate joints, facilitate digestion, regulate body temperature, and cushion internal organs, among many other functions. Similar to humans, pets that fail to consume enough water can face dire consequences.

Dehydration is a medical term for when the body has lost more fluid than it has taken in. Dehydration can occur at any time, but it is even more common during the warm weather months. Dogs quickly can become very sick from dehydration. That is why every pet owner should learn how to recognize the symptoms of dehydration in their dogs.

The Veterinary Emergency Group says symptoms of mild dehydration can include:

Dry nose, although this also can be a signal of other problems, like fever.

Excessive drooling occurs as the dog tries to cool down its body.

A dehydrated dog can exhibit signs of fatigue, including a reluctance to move around much.

Sticky gums

As the dog becomes more dehydrated, the following symptoms can develop:

Loss of elasticity of the skin.

Loss of appetite.

Thickening of the dog's saliva.

Gums may go from sticky to dry.

Excessive panting may begin.

Vomiting or diarrhea also may occur.

Dehydration causes the body to redistribute fluid lost, and fluid may be pulled from the eyes, causing the eyes to appear sunken.

If a dog appears to be dehydrated, you can start offering small amounts of water to slowly rehydrate the animal, says Northeast Veterinary Referral Hospital. It's important to call the veterinarian and get further advice regarding how to address dehydration.

Some vets may suggest offering an electrolyte-enhanced fluid like Pedialyte so electrolyte loss does not affect organs. The vet may want you to come into the office so the dog can receive intravenous fluids, says the American Kennel Club.

The best way to treat dehydration is to prevent it in the first place. Provide dogs with a constant supply of clean, clear water at all times. The amount of water needs to increase if the dog is spending time outdoors in hot weather or exercising.

Cats also are prone to dehydration and can exhibit the same symptoms as dogs. So cat owners also must be diligent in checking for dehydration symptoms in their pets.

FAIR: people can create anything patriotic

(Continued from Page 1)

with entertainment by Dave and Galla, Heather Olson with a tribute to Patsy Cline, an antique tractor pull and a talent show; Uptown Band featuring Erich Cawalla and a truck and tractor pull on Thursday; truck pulls and music by Make Mine Country and the Malpass Brothers on Friday; a pedal tractor pull and demolition derby and music by Celebration of the America Musical, the Big Band Sound and Chris Woodward and Shindiggin on Saturday.

The fair has events planned in conjunction with America250, said Debbie Bigelow, fair board secretary.

“We will have extra red, white and blue decorations, there will be a time capsule in the farm museum where people can write notes. Extra things at the farm museum centered around 250 years are on display,” Bigelow said.

Last year’s attendance was above and beyond, we expect the same if the weather holds out, Bigelow said.

“We have close to 1,000 animals on the grounds thanks to FFA, 4H and open class entries. Fair food is always a highlight. We have a couple hundred food and merchandise vendors, some inside the building. Our amusement rides are safe and clean. For our area we have a lot packed on the grounds,” Bigelow said.

Grange Fair, Aug. 21-19

The 152nd Centre County Grange Fair, the only renaming encampment in the United States, will be held Aug. 21-19. The fair is a home away

from home to families in 1,000 tents and 1,500 RVs.

Event highlights include a truck pull on Friday; farm tractor pull and tractor pull on Saturday; garden tractor pull on Sunday; interstate tractor pull on Monday; Grange Fair Rodeo on Tuesday; pedal tractor pull and side by side drag racing on Wednesday; light farm tractor pull on Thursday; and two day spectacular Atlantic Pro Pulling League National Event on Friday and Saturday.

Free concerts include Collin Raye on Friday; John Foster on Saturday; Shenandoah on Monday; Gloryway on Tuesday; Emily Ann Roberts on Wednesday; Invasion on Thursday; Leanna Crawford on Friday and Richie and the High Street Rockers on Saturday.

Cambria County fair, Sept. 6-12

The Cambria County American Legion Fair will be held Sept. 6-12.

Highlights include Bull Ride Mania on Sunday; Darryl Worley and Andy Griggs on Monday; semi tractor trailer truck pull on Tuesday; quad and 4x4 drag racing on Wednesday; compact demolition derby on Thursday and large car demolition derby on Friday.

Community fairs also planned

Blair County is home to five smaller community fairs — Morrisons Cove Dairy Show, Williamsburg Community Farm Show, Claysburg Farm Show, Sinking Valley Fair and Hollidaysburg Community Fair.

The Morrisons Cove Dairy Show will be held Aug. 3-7.

“This year marks our 75th year, that is import-

ant to us. Wednesday will be the highlight of the show, the pie and ice cream festival with milk provided by Ritchey’s Dairy,” President Jason Bechtel said. “We have had about 165 animals the last three years registered for the show, there is potential to have more this year. We have a good quality show, a really good class of cows to be exhibited and shown. The Cove has a foundation of dairy farms, that makes the judging more complicated, we have a well run show and hope to keep the historic value.”

The Williamsburg Community Farm Show will be held Aug.23-28.

The highlights are all the new events we are bringing in this year.

“Attendance was up last year, we are hopeful that the attendance is up again this year. We have a number of new events to get the public involved in the farm show — Figure 8 Races, UTV pulls and Zero Turn mower rodeo,” President Jeff Walason said.

The show will feature about 6,000 exhibits and in conjunction with America250 some special contests are all red white and blue themed, Walason said.

The 95th Claysburg Farm Show will be held Sept. 8-12 at a new location, according to Aaron Hileman, president of the Claysburg Farm Show.

“We have moved to the Greenfield Township Community Center near the school. One of our people is a teacher, we hope to have students become more involved,” Hileman said.

The show had been held at the former Queen grade school in Queen since the late 1990s.



— Courtesy photo

Adrianna Wilkinson, 17, of Gallitzin grooms her 2023 American Legion County Fair Grand Champion 4-H Dairy Beef “Bandit” in the cattle barn in this July 2023 file photo.

Hileman said the show is best known for its craft room.

“We have a lot of talented people who make quilts and blankets,” Hileman said.

He also said the show also has an antique room.

“I didn’t realize how special it is, not many others do it, people find that interesting,” Hileman said.

The show is planning a patriotic contest in conjunction with America250.

“People can create anything patriotic, cakes, aprons, quilts, maybe a patriotic vegetable or fruit display. Anything is eligible,” Hileman said.

The Sinking Valley Fair will be held Sept. 15-19.

“We will have a sexy tractor contest. People will take an 8 by 10 picture of a tractor and fix it up, the winner will get \$25. We will have a garden tractor pulling contest Saturday afternoon. We are bringing back the Bucket of Junk, it went

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Obituaries

Mary L. Hayward

Mary L. Hayward, 65, of Brisbin, PA, died on Sunday, July 5, 2026 at UPMC Altoona.

Born on August 1, 1960, in Philipsburg, PA, Mary was the daughter of the late Thomas Hayward & Marian (Finch) Hayward. She married Donald R. Hayward on November 3, 1978 in Coalport, PA. He survives at home. Mary was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star in Hollidaysburg, PA. She was a retired Caregiver and had also worked at the Harbor Inn in Philipsburg, PA and the Super 8 in Clearfield, PA. In addition to her parents, Mary was preceded in death by a sister, Diane Lefebvre; and a daughter-in-law, Ginger Hayward. In addition to her husband, Mary is survived by a son, Donald L. Hayward of Brisbin, PA; a sister, Theresa Hayward of Houtzdale, PA; two brothers, Tommy Hayward & his wife Renee of Hyde, PA, and David Hayward & his wife Gertrude of Osceola Mills, PA; and a brother-in-law, William Lefebvre. A funeral service took place at the Heath Funeral Home & Cremation Services, LLC, at 701 Lingle Street Osceola Mills, PA 16666. Pastor Joseph Phillips officiating. Interment: I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Brisbin, PA.

Irene M. Jordan

Irene M. Jordan, 73, formerly of Clearfield, passed away on Wednesday, July 1, 2026 at Mount Nittany Medical Center, State College.

Born January 1, 1953 in Renovo, she was the daughter of the late Frances Coder. Along with her mother Frances, she was also raised by her grandparents. Irene graduated from the Clearfield Area High School and enjoyed reading and being outside. When she was able, she enjoyed walking and taking in all things nature. Irene is survived by her daughter, Valerie Jordan and husband Zack of Pleasant Gap. In addition to her mother and grandparents, Irene is preceded in death by a sister, Debbie. In honor of Irene’s wishes, there will be no public services.

Gary D. Shaw

Gary D. Shaw, 76, of Shawville, passed away after a brief illness on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, at Ava Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, Curwensville.

Born April 6, 1950, in Clearfield, the son of L. Dean and A. Faye (Graham) Shaw. He was a graduate of Clearfield Area High School and Williamsport Technical Institute. Mr. Shaw was an engineer and had retired from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation as a Bridge Designer. He was a member of the Shawville United Methodist Church and the Jury Mill Camp. He loved to hunt and fish and more recently enjoyed learning how to make maple syrup. Gary is survived by his wife, Leslie G. (Baughman) Shaw whom he married on April 29, 1997; a son, Josh Shaw and his wife Natasha of Perryville, MD; two grandchildren: Logan and Liana Shaw; a stepson, Benjamin L. Schuckers and his wife Jena of Texas; two siblings: Tim Shaw (Dawn) previously of Goshen and Connie Magana (Paul) of Herminston, OR; a nephew, John Magana and dear friends, Deb and Dave Schoening and the Covert family. He was preceded in death by his parents. A Celebration of Life was held at the Bennett and Houser Funeral Home, Inc., Clearfield with Rev. Stephen D. Shields officiating. Interment: Historic Crown Crest Cemetery..

David T. “Boo” Byron

David T. “Boo” Byron, 67, of Philipsburg, passed away on Saturday, June 27, 2026, at Hershey Medical Center.

Born on February 27, 1959, in Philipsburg, David was the son of the late Robert Lee and Joann (Thompson) Byron. He graduated from Philipsburg-Osceola Area High School in 1977; and later attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Following in his father’s footsteps, David built a successful career in the insurance business. He spent many years as a Nationwide Insurance agent before opening his own independent insurance agency, where he enjoyed serving his clients and the community. David is survived by his “better half,” Cynthia L. “Cindy” Dunsmore, of Philipsburg; his daughter, Breanna M. Weitoish and her husband, Derick J., of Philipsburg; his son, Cody T. Byron and his wife, Destiney R., of Osceola Mills; his three beloved grandchildren, Natalie and Emma Weitoish and Leo Byron, with another grandchild expected to join the family soon; his faithful Portuguese Water Dogs, Bella and Bailey; and many extended family members and friends who will miss him dearly. David was a longtime member of the Philipsburg B.P.O. Elks Lodge and Country Club #1173, the Osceola Mills Moose Lodge #154, and a social member of Sand Springs Camp. When he wasn’t working, David was happiest with a fly rod in his hand. An avid fly fisherman, he enjoyed tying his own flies and building custom rods, and Kettle Creek always held a special place in his heart. He also loved spending time on the golf course and could often be found enjoying good company, sharing laughs, and reminiscing about his “glory days” with friends at the Philipsburg Elks. But as much as he loved the outdoors and time with friends, nothing brought him more joy than being “BooBoo.” He rarely missed an opportunity to cheer on his granddaughters, Natalie and Emma, from the sidelines at their softball games. Whether at the ballfield, spending time with family, or eagerly awaiting the arrival of another grandchild, David treasured every moment he shared with those he loved—especially Wednesday afternoons spent with his grandson, Leo.

Eugene Francis Robertson

Eugene Francis Robertson, 69, of Houtzdale, passed away at home on

Sunday, July 5, 2026, surrounded by family.

He was born December 5, 1956 in Philipsburg, son of the late Jack and Eleanor (Takach) Robertson. He was a graduate of Moshannon Valley High School, and was a member of Christ the King Catholic Church in Houtzdale. He was a truck driver for Glenn O. Hawbaker for twenty-eight years. On June 16, 2017, he married Lori Bacher in Clearfield. She survives at home. He enjoyed watching Nascar races, riding his Harley-Davidson, and relaxing with classic TV shows, especially Gunsmoke. Above all else, his greatest joy was watching his grandchildren grow and be a part of their lives. In addition to his wife, he is survived by three daughters, Jordan (Steve) Sedgwick, Jeana (Brian) Mitterling, and Emily (Scott) Yetko; three grandchildren, Milly and Maxwell Sedgwick, and Adeley Yetko; one brother, William (Collette) Robertson; and three sisters, Karen (Jack) Wilkinson, Donna Shawver, and Patti (Joel) Albert. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Jacqueline Shimmel. Friends were received 6-8pm Thursday at Kruise-Spewock Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc., Ramey, Mass of Christian Burial was at Christ the King Church, Houtzdale. Rev. Cory Pius, celebrant. Interment: Beulah Cemetery, Ramey.

Dr. Maxine A. Enderlein

It is with profound love and deep sadness that the family of Dr. Maxine A. Enderlein (Fabbri) announce her peaceful passing on Sunday, July 5, at the age of 83, leaving behind a legacy of education, generosity, and kindness. Born July 20, 1942, she was raised in Gallitzin, PA, by her late parents, Mary (Perry) and Guido Fabbri. Maxine was a woman who believed strongly in education, service, and giving back to her community. She attended Greater Gallitzin High School, graduating in 1960, and went on to Pennsylvania State University, where she earned bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees in education. Her teaching career began at Penn State University and continued at Virginia Tech’s Graduate Center, where she received an award for teaching excellence. Her academic achievements were recognized with induction into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. In 1984, she joined Shippensburg University, where she continued to teach until her retirement in 2006. During her 37-year teaching career, she was a mentor to her students and believed deeply in their potential. Over the course of her career, she authored and published numerous papers, monographs, and studies. She took pride in cultivating a supportive learning environment and found joy in watching her students grow, thrive, and graduate. Throughout her career, she was known not only for her dedication to students but also for introducing them to emerging technologies. She was so highly regarded that many former students remained in contact long after graduation, keeping her informed of their professional accomplishments. In her personal time, she enjoyed sewing, reading, cooking, baking, and spending time with her family. Her hobbies carried purpose beyond leisure: As a member of her church sewing group, she sewed clothing and kitchen items for young children in underserved communities, contributing to church donation drives. Maxine also regularly donated school supplies for children in need, believing that preparation mattered both in the classroom and in life. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Dr. Thomas Enderlein; her sons, Scott and Dr. Thomas Enderlein Jr.; Scott’s wife, Amy (Stephenson); and her brother, Bernardo Fabbri, and his wife, Toni (Maruca). Those who knew her will miss her ready smile and her endless kindness. She was a devoted mother to her children, the center of her family, and instilled in them the values of curiosity, compassion, and perseverance. A gathering of family and friends was held at the Gibbons-Houser Funeral Home Inc., 301 Church Str. Gallitzin, with Vicar Jenn Bobolsky-Sherbine, officiating. Interment: St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Cresson.

Gerald Srock

Gerald Srock, 84, a resident of Haida Healthcare and Rehab, Hastings, and formerly of Coalport died Wednesday, July 8, 2026, at Haida.

He was born October 7, 1941, in Coalport, a son of the late Henry H. and Ruth Ann (Stephens) Srock. He married JoAnne Skupine on May 23, 1964 in Coalport. JoAnne survives along with two sons Gerald R. Srock, Jr. of Ephrata and William J. Srock of Stevens, two grandchildren Billy and Kristen, several great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. The last surviving member of his immediate family, he was preceded in death by nine siblings: Daniel, Charles, Richard, Calvin, Fred and Rodger, Doretta Egler, Cordelia Wilson and Sara “Sally” Glass. He had been employed as a coalminer for Barnes & Tucker Mine 20, Ebensburg and then was a maintenance worker for Antis Twp. for five years. He had attended the Coalport Christian and Missionary Alliance Church and was a member of the UMWA. Funeral Services were held at the McQuown Funeral Home, Glasgow, with Pastor Mike Dorich officiating. Burial: Utahville Cemetery..

Jaye Spanik

After a sudden onset and a brief but valiant battle with melanoma, Mrs. Jaye Spanik, 76, of Blandburg, lost that battle on Friday, July 3, 2026 at UPMC Presbyterian, Pittsburgh.

She was born in Altoona, a daughter of the late Jay B. and Lillian M. (Thomas) McClellan. On August 11, 1973, at St. Richard’s Catholic Church in Blandburg, she married her high school sweetheart Tony Spanik. Surviving is her husband, three children Jason A. (Nikki) Spanik, Aaron C. (Stacey) Spanik and Jennifer R. (Jason) Skebeck, all of Blandburg, her five cherished grandchildren Olivia Spanik, Emma Spanik, Madilyn Skebeck, Delaney Skebeck and Wade Spanik, who were her pride and joy, and two siblings Renee Gates of Blandburg and Jeffrey (Shir) McClellan of Tyrone. Also surviving are beloved nieces and nephews and extended family. She also preceded in death by an infant brother Joel McClellan. Jaye was a 1968 graduate of Glendale High School and had attended the Blandburg United Methodist Church. She was a member of the Coalport Moose and a social member of the Coalport and Smithmill VFW’s. Memorial services were held at McQuown Funeral Home, Glasgow, with Pastor Ben Warfel officiating.

Altoona Mirror

plus!

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2026

DC author draws on Bedford roots in writing novels

Award-winner Campbell still has home in county

By COLETTE COSTLOW
ccostlow@altoonamirror.com

Washington, D.C., resident Ellen Prentiss Campbell was only a teenager when her parents purchased a perfect weekend getaway home in 1968, located in Manns Choice.

The rural home eventually grew on Campbell when she inherited it after her parents passed away, becoming her personal writer's retreat to work through grief and tap into her love of writing.

Inspired by the local landscape, including the Omni Bedford Springs Resort & Spa, Campbell published her debut novel "The Bowl with Gold Seams" in 2016, which received the National Indie Excellence Award. Her short story collection "Contents Under Pressure," also published in 2016, was nominated for the National Book Award.

With two novels and short story collections under her belt, Campbell recently released her latest historical fiction book, "Vanishing Point," which follows several voices from Pittsburgh-based artist George Hetzel's family over three generations at their final home in Somerset.

"Pennsylvania is very deep in my roots, and I really feel like I owe my writing life to Pennsylvania and Somerset," she said. "It's so important to me."

Campbell's statement tracks, as she was born in Bryn Mawr before her family eventually moved to the suburbs of Rockville, Md., for her father's job opportunity.

As a child, her parents fostered her love of reading and writing by asking her about the best and worst things that happened each day after she listened to a bedtime story. They penned her responses in a red spiral notebook before reading them back to her.

"It was very powerful for me because it gave me the feeling that you can hold onto experiences and deal with experiences by putting

them on the page," she said.

That love for writing followed Campbell into middle school, where her sixth grade teacher read Campbell's palm and predicted that she'd become an author one day. That teacher also chose Campbell's short story for illustration by a real artist at a book fair.

She graduated from Sandy Spring Friends School in 1971 before attending Smith College for a bachelor's degree in English. For a college paper, she also interviewed poet Joseph Brodsky.

After college, she worked as a paralegal in various places during the late 1970s and met her future husband and attorney, Harry Pskowski, at a friend's birthday party. Sparks flew, and they were married in 1980.

She considered going back to law school for a while, but decided that law wasn't for her, so she applied to Simmons College for a master's degree in social work instead.

From there, Campbell practiced psychotherapy for about 30 years while raising three children with Pskowski in Maryland, leaving little time for Campbell to tap back into creative writing.

"Busy, absorbing years went by," she wrote on her website. "I never completely shelved the aspiration to become a writer; I would do it 'later.'"

In the early 2000s, 9/11 shook the nation and Campbell's personal life, having roots in both Washington, D.C., and Bedford County.

"It was a profound event for all of us," she said. "It was a game changer."

Meanwhile, both of her parents passed away around that time, leaving the Bedford home to Campbell and her family. She worked through the grieving process by writing in their home on the weekends. And it was there when she began to shift her career path into writing full time.

Flowing with history

With a master's degree in writing from Bennington College, Campbell started

drafting her first historical fiction novel, "The Bowl with Gold Seams" (2016), set during World War II at the Omni Bedford Springs Resort & Spa.

Being a short walk from her home in Bedford, she frequently embarked on adventures around and inside the abandoned hotel before it was reconstructed in 2007.

She quickly became engrossed in the facility and began to conduct research at the Bedford Historical Society, finding out that the resort housed captured Japanese diplomats posted to Germany during World War II.

She said it was an unusual history for a resort hotel, but it dovetailed with the papers and letters she found in her parents' attic while her father served in World War II.

"I'm also intrigued by history and events beyond our control, and art helps us get through difficult times, and that's true for all of my novels," she said.

Dorothy Reno, classic-book columnist for the Washington Independent Review of Books, said "The Bowl with Gold Seams" struck a new chord, as it follows a young woman working with the Japanese at the end of World War II inside Bedford Springs.

"It's a beautiful book about love, sacrifice and trauma," she said.

Readers can also tell how much Campbell cherishes rural Pennsylvania throughout her works, Reno said, writing about its captivating environment while paying homage to the people through their dialogue and energy.

"She cherishes the smaller towns," she said.

Attorney and writer Jake Oresick also included Campbell's novel for its regional elements in his bibliography, "The Pittsburgh Novel: Western Pennsylvania in Fiction and Drama, 1792-2022."

Campbell makes her Western Pennsylvania settings feel real and lived in, he said. "She writes the places she knows and does so expertly."

A new subject

While going through the publication process of "The Bowl with Gold Seams," Campbell travelled to the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art location in Loretto to see artwork created by Bedford native Kevin Kutz.

While viewing the artwork, she stumbled upon a 19th-century landscape by Pittsburgh-based artist George Hetzel, who also founded the Scalp Level School of painting.

"I loved the idea of a colony of artists in this beautiful area, and it perked my interest," she said, adding that she frequently participated

in writers' retreats and residencies at the time.

But she didn't begin writing "Vanishing Point" until the COVID-19 pandemic, when she conducted research about Hetzel's life, also uncovering the compelling lives of his children and grandchildren, especially Hetzel's daughter, Lila, who studied art in Pittsburgh against Hetzel's wishes, and his granddaughter, Dorothy Kantner, who was a writer.

"I became intrigued by Lila and why she never achieved the level of fame that her father had, and then I became equally, if not more, drawn to Lila's daughter," she said.

To capture the novel's setting, Campbell traveled to the Somerset home that originally belonged to the Hetzel family after Kantner died in 1977 and developed a relationship with the new homeowners, who shared their wealth of knowledge about the Hetzels with Campbell.

At the end of May, she released her third historical fiction novel, "Vanishing Point," through the Apprentice House Press.

"Ellen is a gifted writer, whose works are both authentic and novel," Oresick said.

"I consume a lot of fiction and see the same dozen plots reproduced in different flavors — but not with Ellen."

Home place

There is no question in Campbell's mind that she will write more fiction inspired by Bedford and the surrounding areas.

While she's not writing anything at the moment, she's having fun with book promotions and events. She also writes blog posts for the Washington Independent Review of Books under her column, "Girl Writing."

She and her husband con-



Courtesy photo

Ellen Prentiss Campbell (right) listens to a reader while attending a book-signing event. Campbell lives in Washington, D.C., but has a home in Manns Choice and has strong ties to Bedford County.

tinue to visit their Bedford residence for weekends or getaways. She particularly enjoys purchasing flowers from the Posie Patch at Bedford's summertime farmers markets.

"It's been my home place since 1968," she said.

As someone with deep ties to Bedford County, she said it's important for residents to understand the region's local history, whether it be through fictional novels or research.

"Just like people, every person has a backstory, and if we know and understand our moment in time, we need to know what has

happened here," she said.

Reno said that Campbell has a tenderness in her stories, even when writing more difficult characters, which is what makes her so successful as a writer.

And even though Campbell started her writing career later in life, Reno said that doesn't hinder Campbell's ability to captivate readers with her lines.

"I don't see her as someone who wouldn't have a second act, and she was probably a writer all along," Reno said.

Mirror Staff Writer Colette Costlow is at 814-946-7414.

The Campbell file

Name: Ellen Prentiss Campbell

Age: 73

Family: Husband, Harold Pskowski; children: Rebecca, Timothy and Martha

Residence: Washington, D.C.

Education: Green Acres School, Sandy Spring Friends School (1971), bachelor's degree in English from Smith College (1975), master's degree in social work from Simmons College (1982) and master of fine arts degree in writing from Bennington College (2009)

Works: "Contents Under Pressure" (2016), "The Bowl with Gold Seams" (2016), "Known By Heart: Collected Stories" (2020), "Frieda's Song" (2021) and "Vanishing Point" (2026)



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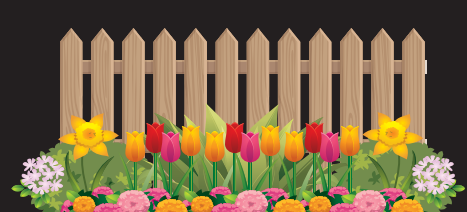
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