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Patriot Day Festival remembers 9/11, supports church

For the Ad Bargain

HOUTZDALE — A few decades ago, Christ the King Catholic Church held a Labor Day weekend festival that spanned three days. There was a long break, but then in 2022 parishioners decided to hold a Patriot Day festival.

The Patriot Day festival is held on a Sunday near Sept. 11 to honor the victims of that fateful day in 2001. Now, Christ the King is gearing up for their fifth annual Patriot Day festival slated to run from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 13.

Event organizer Michelle Stine said it was not feasible for the church

and the parishioners to hold a festival over three days during a holiday weekend. That turned into a look at the calendar for other ideas.

“The committee wanted to do something similar to the Labor Day festival, but we agreed we couldn’t manage a three-day event,” Stine said. “We found that Patriot Day is celebrated on Sept. 11 and we all liked the meaning of the day by honoring the people who lost their lives that day.”

It also added a little meaning for Christ the King, considering that one of the parishioners had a niece that passed away in the World Trade Center in New York on 9/11.

Christ the King held its first Patriot Day festival in 2022, and the second Sunday in September that year just happened to be on Sept. 11. Organizers said the festival is held to not just remember the tragedy, but also to remember the need for God, and to remember that there is no greater love than to give up one’s life for a friend.

The festival has been well-attended in its first four years of existence, Stine said, explaining the food is a big draw.

“By far, it has to be the homemade pierogies, halupki (pigs in a blanket) and haluski (cabbage and noodles),” Stine said.

This year, dinners will be available for eat in or



take out at \$12 dollars each for a roast beef dinner or a halupki dinner.

The popular band, The Moore Brothers, will play oldies music from 1 to 3 p.m. during the festival. The event, which is held rain or shine, will also have raffle baskets, a kids area, an ice cream truck, a coffee truck, a cake wheel and a beer booth.

There is also a big cash raffle, where tickets are sold for \$100 dollars with a grand prize total of \$10,000 dollars to one winner.

All proceeds go toward the repairs and upkeep of the Christ the King Parish Center.

For more information, visit Christ the King, Houtzdale & Immaculate Conception, Osceola Mills on Facebook.



— Photos courtesy of Christ the King.

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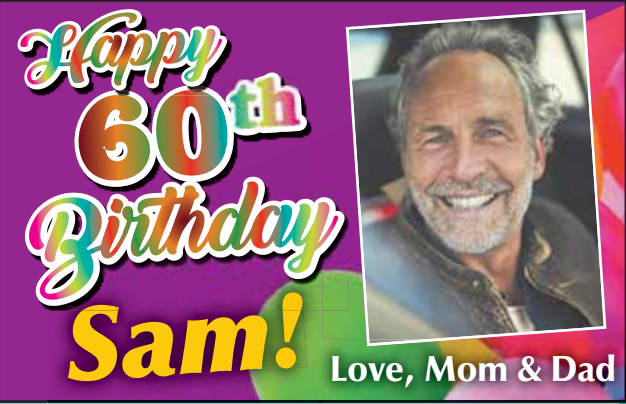
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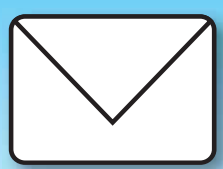
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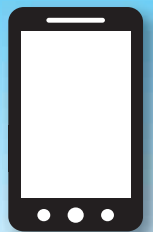
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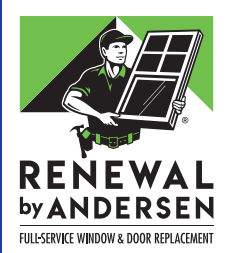
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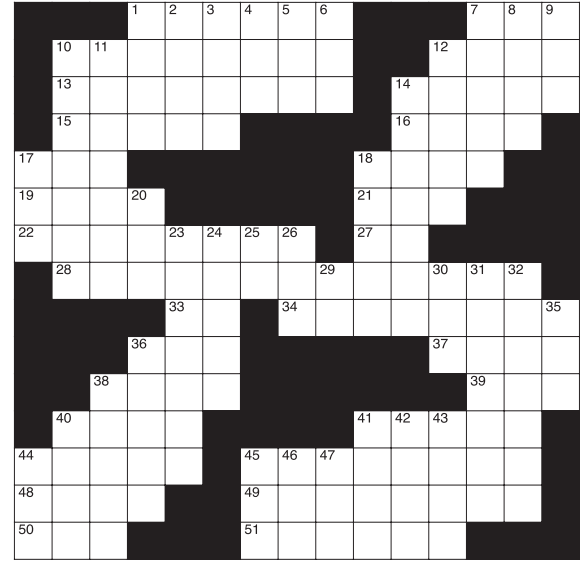
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Crossword Puzzle

Solution on page 5



CLUES ACROSS

1. A vast desert in Africa
7. Reciprocal of a sine
10. Type of phone
12. Biblical figure
13. One who renounces a religious
belief
14. Warren and Monroe are two
15. Wild ox
16. Dismounted a horse
17. Cave dweller
18. Where infants sleep
19. Popular type of shoe
21. Clumsy large person
22. Evil-like
27. Integrated circuit

28. Austin-based athlete
33. Postscript
34. Follows 18
36. People of Gambia
37. Popular actor Nicolas
38. Platform for a lecturer
39. Taxi
40. American songwriter Sammy
41. Iranian city
44. Heavy clubs
45. One who is expelled
48. In bed
49. Lifelessness
50. Former CIA
51. Most slick

CLUES DOWN

1. Slovenly person
2. In addition
3.hovels
4. Pie _ _ _ mode
5. Subway rodent
6. They _ _
7. Indigenous S. American people
8. Fine sand
9. Central nervous system
10. Nightclub entertainment
11. The perfect example of something
12. Supreme Islamic leader
14. Pain
17. Binary-coded decimal
18. Projecting corner of an angle
20. "Succession" actor Brian
23. Dinner table decor
24. Ancient settlement in modern
Turkey

25. You can call Paul Simon this
26. Opposite of a pro
29. Atomic #28
30. Type of drug (abbr.)
31. Arrives at
32. Nullifies
35. Bird's beak
36. Partner to "ooohd"
38. Ray-finned fishes
40. Taxis
41. Sat on and controlled
42. Sea eagles
43. Remain as-is
44. Chinese revolutionary
45. Tooth caregiver
46. Snakelike fish
47. Compensate

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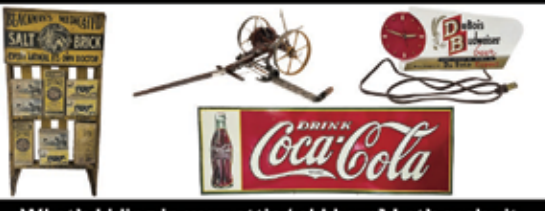
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Paws & Claws

FAQ about adopting a dog

The decision to bring a dog into a home
requires careful consideration. Dogs make
wonderful additions to a home, and adoption
is a popular means to finding a dog. According
to the ASPCA, approximately two million dogs
were adopted in 2025 in the United States, and
millions more are likely to be adopted in the
years to come.
People thinking of adding a furry friend
to their family may have some common
questions about pet adoption. Answering those
questions before bringing a dog home can help
prospective pet owners make the best decision
for themselves and the dog that might become
the newest addition to their families.
Are all dogs the same?

While all dogs need a loving home and regular
attention from their owners, different breeds
have different temperaments and character
traits. Dogs also have different energy levels
and sociability. Some dogs may be high energy
and enjoy the company of people and other
animals, while others may prefer less active
days spent exclusively with their families.
Before adopting a shelter dog, it's important
for prospective owners to consider which
temperament will best suit their household.
Compatibility is an important variable when
choosing a dog, so people considering
adoption should try to get a handle on a dog's
temperament prior to initiating an adoption.
Will the dog adapt immediately?
It can take awhile for a dog to adapt to a new
home. Preparing the home in advance to ensure

it is welcoming and dog-ready can increase the
chances the dog will adapt more quickly. But
even that is not a given. When picking a space
for the dog, experts advise choosing a secure
and quiet space, which can allow the dog to
gradually acclimate to its new home in a calm
setting.
Can I walk in and adopt a dog?
While each facility is different, hopeful dog
owners typically will be vetted by officials at a
local shelter before they are allowed to adopt.
It's the goal of shelter officials to place a dog
in a safe, loving and caring home, so officials
typically inquire about a prospective owner's
home and home life during the vetting process.
Some may even schedule a visit to a potential
owner's home to check if there are other pets
already living there, as some dogs are best

suited to homes without other animals. Officials
also may arrange a meet and greet between the
dog and all residents of the home where the
dog might end up. Compliance with the vetting
process is important, and non-compliance may
compromise the ability to adopt.



Rice is at home in salads, too

Rice is enjoyed in just about every corner of the globe. Rice can be a healthy component of a person's diet and it is especially beneficial for people who cannot enjoy other grains due to dietary intolerances. While many people might think of rice as a side dish to meat or fish, rice is the star of the show in this recipe for "Southwestern Rice Salad with Black Beans" from Line+Angles.

Southwestern Rice Salad With Black Beans

For 4 servings

- For the salad:**
- 1 cup white long-grain rice, rinsed
 - 3/4 cup canned sweet corn, drained
 - 1 1/4 cups canned black beans, drained
 - 2 cups grape tomatoes, rinsed and halved
 - 4 green onions, rinsed, trimmed and sliced
 - Kosher salt
 - Freshly ground black pepper

- For the dressing:**
- 1 lime, juiced
 - 4 tablespoon olive oil
 - 1 red chili pepper, trimmed, seeded and finely diced
 - 1 small handful fresh cilantro, chopped

To serve:

- 1 lime, sliced into wedges

1. For the salad: In a medium saucepan, bring 2 cups of lightly salted water to a boil; add rice.
2. Reduce heat to low, cover with a lid and cook for 15 to 20 minutes, or until water is absorbed and rice is tender to the bite. Remove from the heat and let cool, still covered, to one side.
3. Once the rice has cooled, rinse the sweet corn and black beans in cold water; drain thoroughly.
4. Fluff the rice with a fork before combining with the sweetcorn, black

- beans, tomatoes, and chopped green onions in a large serving bowl.
5. For the dressing: In a small bowl, whisk together lime juice, 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper until salt has dissolved.
 6. Whisk in olive oil in a slow, steady stream until incorporated. Stir in the diced chili pepper and chopped cilantro.
 7. To serve: Drizzle dressing over the salad and gently toss. Serve with lime wedges on the side for squeezing over.



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Obituaries

Letitia Ann “Tish” Johnson

Letitia Ann “Tish” Johnson of Houtzdale, PA, died on Friday, August 21, 2026 at Penn Highlands DuBois.

Born on September 20, 1962 in Philipsburg, PA, she was the daughter of the late Ernest C. Johnson & Barbara A. (Baughman) Johnson. Tish attended the Osceola Mills Presbyterian Church. She was a member of Madera LOOMoose #1172, Morann Citizens Club, Freeberg Social Club, and Croatian Club in Smoke Run. She was employed as a Medical Billing Specialist for Lincare and was a 1980 graduate of Moshannon Valley High School along with Clearfield County Vo-Tech for secretarial certificate. Tish was an organ donor to help others. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a grandchild. Tish is survived by her companion Alan J. Rodkey; a daughter Mikalyn A. Travis & her companion Tim Heath of Osceola Mills, PA; a sister Jennifer L. Johnson & her companion Tom Lombardi of Ramey, PA; and two cousins, Beth Kantoski and Lisa Kitko. The funeral service was held on Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at Health Funeral Home & Cremation Services, LLC, 701 Lingle St., Osceola Mills, PA. Rev. Todd Lewis will officiate. Burial will be at I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Brisbin, PA. A celebration of life will be held at a later time to be announced.

Merwin Roy Graham

Merwin Roy Graham, 83, of Wallaceton, passed away on Wednesday, August 12, 2026 at Knickerbocker Villa.

Born January 14, 1943, he was the son of the late George and Willetta (Steiner) Graham. Mr. Graham was the owner of Graham Bros. Lumber as well as Graham Bros. Coal. He last was employed as manager at Wallaceton Hardwoods from where he retired. He is survived by four children, Mark Graham and companion Shelly Reed of Wallaceton, Michael Graham and wife Pamela of Woodland, Merwin ‘Butch’ Graham and companion Barbara Conklin of Wallaceton, and Rosalie Day and husband Matt of Woodland; twelve grandchildren, Mark Jr., Christopher, Jaylin, Michael Jr., Mitchell, Mikella, Amanda, Jessica, Mindy, Candise, Cadence, and Zane; twelve great grandchildren; and two siblings, Darrel and Esther. Mr. Graham is preceded in death by his parents, and three brothers, Bruce, Edward, and Maynard. All services will be private. Burial will be in the Reidy Cemetery, Wallaceton.

Lynne Brubaker

Lynne Brubaker, 78, formerly of Clearfield and Tylersburg, PA, passed away on July 10, 2026 in South Carolina.

Born October 3, 1947 in Clearfield, she was the daughter of the late Ben and Laura (McDermott) Carr. Lynne is survived by her brother, Steve Carr and wife Faith; a sister, Kitty Keim; a step daughter, Heather Siegel and husband Jim; three step grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Brian Brubaker; a brother, Ben Carr Jr.; and a brother-in-law, Jim Keim. Lynne, along with her husband Brian, was employed at the Sawmill Center at Cooks Forest State Park. She was a lover of art and animals. Private burial will be held at the convenience of the family in the Calvary Cemetery, Clearfield.

Leona E. Franek

Leona E. Franek, 103, of Philipsburg, died Friday, August 7, 2026, at Heritage Ridge at Windy Hill Village, RD Philipsburg.

Leona was born on July 3, 1923, in Philipsburg, a daughter of the late Stephen and Julia (Thomas) Bilanich. She was married on May 4, 1940, to Joseph P. Franek. Joseph preceded her in death on August 6, 2006. She was also preceded in death by two sisters, Louise Medzie and Margaret Harvey, in addition to her parents and husband. Leona is survived by three daughters: Gail M. Ginter and her husband, Richard, of Littlestown, Pa., Marlene L. Clark and her husband, John, of Morrisdale and Jackie C. Vieard and her husband, Dan, of Morrisdale; two sons, Walter J. Franek, and his wife, Claudia, of Florida and Stephen L. Franek and his wife, Antoinette, of Morrisdale; ten grandchildren; twenty-one great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; a sister, Christine “Gale” Vance of DuBois, Pa.; and numerous other extended family members. Leona was a member of the SS. Peter & Paul Catholic Church, Philipsburg. She was a dedicated homemaker, an accomplished seamstress and she loved to bake. A Funeral Mass was celebrated at SS. Peter & Paul Catholic Church, Philipsburg, with Rev. Matthias Rendon, O.F.M., celebrant. Interment was in SS. Peter & Paul Catholic Cemetery, RD Philipsburg.

Linda S. Henry

Linda S. Henry, 76, of Madera, passed away Wednesday, August 19, 2026 at Ridgeview Healthcare and Rehabilitation, Curwensville.

She was born October 10, 1949 in Philipsburg, daughter of the late Edward and Eleanor (Richards) Webb. On June 27, 1972 she married Larry G. Henry. He preceded her in death in 2010. She was a caregiver for many years. She also worked at JBC sewing factory in Madera. Linda had a huge warm spot in her heart for animals of all kinds. Linda is survived by two children, Steven L. Henry and Jennifer A. Henry, both of Madera; and several nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Joseph N. Webb and Charles E. Webb; and a sister, Doris Robison. Services will be private and held at the convenience of the family.

Cynthia “Cindy” “Mouse” Lee Gorman

Cynthia “Cindy” “Mouse” Lee Gorman, 67 years old, of Flat Top, West Virginia passed away on Friday, August 14, 2026 at Bowers Hospice House in Beckley, WV.

Cindy fought a short but fierce battle with pancreatic cancer. Cindy was the daughter of Thomas E. and Patsy J. (Mulhollen) Gorman and the sister of Patsy A. (Gorman) Keith who all preceded her in death. She was also preceded in death by her niece, Angela Rebecca Keith. Cindy is survived by her “favorite and only” brother-in-law, Dennis “Jake” Keith. Her nieces and their families: Carrie Keith and her sons, Brannon (Jenna) and Gavin (Taylor); April (Gary) Frisco and their daughter Cash; and Sarah Keith. Cindy is survived by a special cousin, Brad (Rob Heim) Yeagle, who was more like a brother than a cousin and shared her love of Blackberry Slushies during their visits. Cindy will be missed dearly by her numerous cousins, aunts and uncles that share so many childhood memories with her. She also leaves behind a multitude of friends covering many states and countries that she made memories with over the years. She had such a support system these past few months and was grateful for this. Y.O.L.O (You Only Live Once) was the motto of Cindy’s life. On February 10, 1978, Cindy followed in her father’s footsteps and enlisted with the Army. After she graduated from Glendale Jr-Sr High School in June of 1978, she left small-town life for the unknown life of being in the military. Cindy was stationed in many different countries throughout her career in the Army to include Germany, and across the United States. She was trained as a Field Artillery Surveyor, NBC Specialist (Nuclear Biological Chemical), Armorer, Recruiter and Drill Sergeant. Her awards, citations, and decorations received during her military career included expert badge in rifle, expert badge in grenade, and expert driver, Army Accommodations with 3 oak leaves, Army Achievement with 2 oak leaves, Good Conduct Award with 3 oak leaves, Army Reserve Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon, Army Recruiter Badge with 3 gold stars, a Drill Sergeant Badge, and the Lance Missile badge and lanyard. After 20 years, 9 months Cindy retired from the Army on November 11, 1998. After working as a surveyor, a drafter with an engineering firm, and the only female mapper in the state of West Virginia, she finally retired from the County Clerk’s Office. This newfound freedom of being retired led to many adventures. She loved kayaking, woodworking, hiking, geocaching, going on cruises, and spending time helping local elderly. Cindy traveled the world even outside of the military. She volunteered to travel to Africa with a missionary group to help finish building schools, painting existing schools and drilling a well for water for the community. She also traveled to France, Italy, Crete, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Prague, Czech Republic, Mexico and most recently to Ireland where she kissed the Blarney stone. In Cindy’s own words, “It’s been a great ride! Live life to its fullest and always learn from your mistakes. YOLO!”. A graveside ash scattering ceremony was held at Hegarty Crossroad Cemetery, State Route 2002 Coalport, PA 16627 with Pastor Dean Dietrick officiating. Interment: Coalport VFW providing Military Rites.

Virginia Haggerty

Virginia Haggerty, 68, of Patton, and formerly of Fallentimber died Saturday, August 15, 2026, at Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center, Johnstown.

She was born December 26, 1957, in Altoona, a daughter of the late Roy H. and Mary J. (Bozik) Zimmerman. She married Leanard L. Haggerty on September 26, 2015, in Altoona. Leanard survives along with three children Stephanie Witherow of Altoona, Roy (Kathy) Price of Blandburg and Lindsey (Cody) Blackie of Utahville, seven grandchildren Ashley, Stephen, Cory, Justin, Ellie, Watson and Lakyn and two great-granddaughters Annalee and Kendyl. Also surviving is a sister Ruth Zimmerman of Altoona. In addition to her parents, Virginia was also preceded in death by a daughter-in-law Penny Price, two sisters Mary Salamone and Barbara Landis and three brothers Charles, Harold and George Zimmerman. Virginia had attended the Altoona Church of Christ. She enjoyed cooking, plastic canvas and being a grandma.

Robert “Mouse” Monahan

Robert “Mouse” Monahan, 78, of Coalport, died Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at UPMC Altoona.

He was born October 15, 1947, in Beaver Valley, a son of the late Melvin T. and Margaret E. (Sneath) Monahan. He married Nancy L. Kephart on February 25, 1970, in Winchester, VA. Nancy survives along with their son Robert C. (Michelle) Monahan, Jr. of Coalport, two grandchildren Justin and Jenna and two sisters Gloria Rainey of Westover and Helen Wilkinson of Coalport. He was also preceded in death by a daughter Tracy Monahan, a brother Melvin Monahan and six sisters Hazel Conrad, Arlene Leitao, Grace Gould, Betty Ulrich, Nancy Hickey and Dorothy Monahan. Bob was a 1965 graduate of B.C.I High School and served his country as a Specialist 5th Class in the Army during the Vietnam War. He had attended the former Beaver Valley United Methodist Church and held memberships in the Coalport VFW and Moose and the Patton American Legion. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, golfing, visiting casinos and playing bingo. He especially enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. A funeral service with Military Honors was held at McQuown Funeral Home, Glasgow. Pastor Bob Queen officiant. Burial: Beaver Valley Cemetery.

Obituaries Courtesy of:

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2026

Bishop Guilfoyle Academy’s athletic director retires

By COLETTE COSTLOW
ccostlow@altoonamirror.com

To Joe Landolfi, the summer of 1962 was when his family’s basketball hoop was installed in their backyard.

He remembers removing the grass while his mother packed down stones and pebbles before a few guys working at Leonard S. Fiore installed the blacktop, a pole with arms and a plywood backboard.

He used that hoop to practice basketball for Altoona Catholic High School — now known as Bishop Guilfoyle Academy — the same school he eventually became the athletic director of about 50 years later. He spent six years helping Bishop Guilfoyle student athletes achieve success on the

court and outside the classroom before officially retiring on July 31.

School pride runs deep for Landolfi, as he believes Bishop Guilfoyle gave him a great foundation as a child and something to build on as an adult.

“I always carry an affinity for the purple and gold,” he said.

Born and raised in the city, Landolfi quickly became the man of the house at 10 years old when his father passed away. After that, his mother raised Landolfi, his two brothers and his sister by herself.

As a family, they attended Catholic Mass together and shared an affinity for sports. Landolfi was mainly interested in baseball and basketball, but he

was a standout player in the latter.

While attending Altoona Catholic High School, he played on the boys’ basketball team, which took home a 1967 Catholic State Championship during his junior year.

Three years later, the team, with his brother, Bob, won the 1970 Catholic State Championship for Altoona Catholic High School again, making the Landolfi boys the only brothers in Blair County to win a state championship.

“We only played one year together in high school, but in the playground we always played together,” he said.

Traveling off the court

The University of Massachusetts Amherst recruited Landolfi for its boys basketball team, where he played alongside longtime Philadelphia 76ers player Julius Erving, also known as Dr. J.

Landolfi described Erving as one of the nicest and quietest young guys anyone could imagine.

During their first years of college together, Landolfi said that Erving

still had no idea what he could physically do, mentioning the peach fuzz on his face.

“As he physically matured and grew bigger and stronger, the rest of us were like, ‘Whoa, look out.’ Because he was just on a whole other level ... We literally watched him become Dr. J,” Landolfi said.

Playing guard for his college basketball team, Landolfi valued the camaraderie that came along with an organized sports team, especially because many of the players were from out of state.

The team “gives you a family when you’re far away from your own family,” he said.

Landolfi graduated from The University of Massachusetts Amherst with a bachelor’s degree in business administration and secured an insurance job for Kemper Insurance in the state.

He worked 25 years with the company, raising three children.

It was a while before Landolfi returned to Pennsylvania, as he moved around for new job opportunities within insurance companies: he lived in Boston, Massachusetts, for 17 years; Chicago, Illinois, for 12 years; Northern Wisconsin for three years and Atlanta, Georgia, for a year.

In 2002, Landolfi stopped in Altoona to visit his mother and brother, Guy, while traveling to Rochester, New York, for a new job opportunity in an internet-based platform.

While spending time with his family in Central Pennsylvania, he said, “My brother was like, ‘Why don’t you stay here?’”

And just like that, Landolfi worked from home, and he was back in Altoona for good.

Purple and Gold

Landolfi put his hat in the ring for Bishop Guilfoyle’s athletic director position and secured the job in the summer of 2020.

With years of administrative experience under his belt, an appreciation for the school and athletic experience, he felt confident about running its athletic department.

Bishop Guilfoyle Principal Michael Cacciotti said Landolfi bleeds purple and gold.

“He was a good fit for us because he loves the school and what it stands for, and he was so committed to us,” Cacciotti said.

For the next six years, Landolfi worked with administrators and coaches in pursuit of a better student-athletic experience, while maintaining positive relationships with the students

Landolfi is also credited with putting Blair County Hall of Fame nomination packages together for past BG athletes, Director of Advancement Lisa Georgiana said.

She said he went above and beyond to put these packages together, as it wasn’t a requirement as the athletic director.

“He didn’t have to take the time to gather information, but he knew it was the right thing to do,” she said.

Other noted accomplishments of his include expanding the Laurel Highlands Athletics Conference, building up their women’s basketball team, reviving their boosters club and instituting a culture where academics and character matter for student-athletes.

Landolfi said he retired knowing that student-athletes will “grow up to be better people for participating in athletics.”

“I grew up with the attitude that people should be better for me having been in their life,” he said. “If



Mirror photo by Colette Costlow

Bishop Guilfoyle Academy athletic director Joe Landolfi is pictured standing on the Bishop Guilfoyle basketball court, the same gym he played basketball in more than 50 years ago.

I haven’t made a positive impact on somebody, then I’m just taking up space.”

Walking through Bishop Guilfoyle’s halls with Landolfi on Friday morning, administrators, staff and students greeted him with hugs, high-fives and waves.

“We’re going to miss him, no question,” Cacciotti said.

His successor, AJ Labriola, worked side-by-side with Landolfi since January, preparing for Landolfi’s retirement by receiving in-house experience. As a kid, Labriola went to basketball clinics with Landolfi, so he was already familiar with his mentor.

Working with him over the past eight months, Labriola said he learned from Landolfi how to become a people person as an athletic director, which is something Labriola defined as the foundation of success.

“I can’t thank him enough,” Labriola said.

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



Landolfi shakes a football player’s hand inside the Bishop Guilfoyle Academy gym on Friday morning.

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