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Vietnam Memorial Wall replica coming to Mo Valley

By Andy Stine
astine@altoonamirror.com

The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall measures six feet tall and nearly 300 feet long. While the regular Vietnam Memorial Wall resides in Washington, D.C., the traveling wall was made for those who can't physically make the trip to Washington to pay respects.

The traveling wall will be making an appearance at the Moshannon Valley School District as part of its Veterans Day celebration from Nov. 5-9.

The wall coming to the small school in Houtzdale was largely made possible from the effort of Laura Mihalko, the school district's librarian, who also plans family engagement events for the district.

"It is so exciting that this event is finally coming to fruition and quickly approaching," Mihalko said.

Brandy O'Hare, superintendent of Moshannon Valley, said the planning of this event started well before she came to Mo Valley a year ago. Before her arrival, there was a 20-page application for the school to host the wall.

"There's a lot of responsibility with hosting it," O'Hare said. "I believe we're the only school dis-



— Courtesy photo

The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall is shown in Excelsior Spring, Missouri, in this photo taken from Facebook.

trict in all of Pennsylvania to host it."

Part of those responsibilities is being able to guard the wall around the clock 24 hours a day for the five days it will be at Mo Valley. There's also parameters on how to install the wall in its arrival, which involved the school's facilities director and maintenance crew.

"It is a school-wide project to be able to host it," O'Hare said.

The wall will also be escorted through the town of Houtzdale from St. Barbara's National Polish Catholic Church on Emery Street to the school on the first day by local police, fire companies, and military organizations.

The wall will be set up

inside CNB Bank Stadium in order to be ADA compliant. On the first day, the wall will be open to Moshannon Valley students and other students from local districts from until 2:30 p.m. It will then be open to the public until 6 p.m. It will also be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Nov. 6-8 before coming down on Nov. 9 at 9 a.m.

O'Hare is hoping that by bringing the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall to Moshannon Valley that it will not only be a family engagement activity, but also for the community.

"It takes a rural school district in Clearfield County and it puts us on the map to be able to host something that we've never done before, and

I don't think any other district has around here," O'Hare said. "It shines a light on our community, and I would say how proud we are for a very small school district and a small community. There's a lot of pride in our veterans and our military, and we really make an effort to teach our kids about history."

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325 Bassler St Martinsburg - Beautiful 2009 maintenance-free Brick/Neillite & vinyl-sided 3-bedroom 3-bath home with Family room. 100x148 lot. **\$250,000 J-692**

PENDING



3000 Broad Ave., Altoona
2-unit duplex
\$125,000 J-689

PENDING



2512-14 Beale Ave., Altoona
4-unit apartment building
\$125,000 J-690

SOLD



8150 Summit Way 6B Pine Cone - Great Location. Beautifully remodeled Blue Knob 2 bedroom condo w/vaulted ceiling, new bath & kitchen with granite counters, air conditioned mini-split, & washer/dryer combo unit. **\$110,500 J-684**

SOLD



7B Pine Cone, Blue Knob - Enjoy 4 seasons. Beautiful 2nd floor 2 bedroom furnished condo. Modern kitchen & bath, Dining area w/table + bar area, washer & dryer + spacious open loft. **\$110,000 J-688**

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1127 Deer Run, Blue Knob - 1st floor fully furnished 2 BR, 2 BA condo. Many upgrades through out: Kitchen, baths, walk-in shower, flooring & new Electrolux washer/dryer. **\$145,900. J-691**



1321 Extrovert Blue Knob - Lots of room, fully-furnished updated 2 BR 2 BA, new counter bar seating, washer/dryer. Across from outdoor pool & tennis ct. **\$89,000 J-677**



1312 Stembogan, Blue Knob - 2 BR, 2 BA w/remote control a/c, washed/dryer combo, webcam & alarm, balcony overlooks woods & located across from hot tub building, electric fireplace. **\$77,500. J-659**



7A Pine Cone, Blue Knob - Updated fully furnished 1st floor 1 bedroom condo great for relaxation & outdoor recreation & nice place for friends to gather. Modern Kitchen & bath **\$85,000 J-687**



1308 Mambo Blue Knob - No other 1 bedroom condo like it! Redesigned new galley kitchen, enclosed balcony, updated new bath & separate bedroom, located across from tennis court. **\$65,000. J-662**



C602 Blue Knob - Great studio for price... fully-furnished 2nd floor condo. Sleeps 4, newer Luxury vinyl Tile flooring & newer electric fireplace. Beautiful interior. **\$43,500 J-693**

LAND

PENDING



Heverly Ave., Martinsburg - 11.99 acres. North Woodbury Twp, neighboring Homewood Retirement Center & Spring Manor Park w/ public water & sewer available & great view. **\$200,000. J-672**



Longview Dr., Duncansville - .5 Acre vacant lot with view. Country setting in Hollidaysburg School District. **\$59,900 J-681**



401 S. Market St., Martinsburg - .219 Acre corner lot (bordering S Market St and E Spring St) 2 blocks from Morrison Cove Memorial Park. **\$39,500 J-680**



193L Ridge Rd., Blue Knob - .28 Acre. Close to golf course. **\$10,500. J-585**



304 W. Penn St. Ext., Martinsburg - Well kept 2004 3 BR 2 BA Marlette, nice front porch, ramp access, metal roof, 2 sheds, primary BR ensuite, kitchen & dining area open floor plan. **\$62,900 J-694**

For interior photos and more info visit

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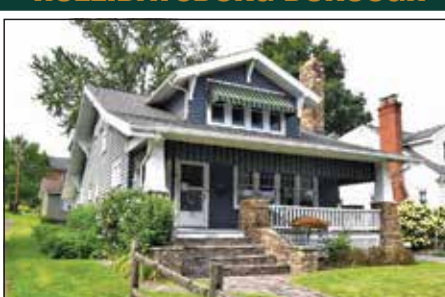


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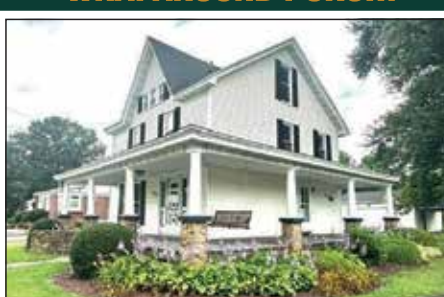


HOLLIDAYSBURG BOROUGH


1201 Allegheny St., Hollidaysburg - This unique home offers the possibility of being either a duplex, or a single family home. Second floor is easily accessed from first floor or can be shut off for rental or extended family living. The living space on the second floor with kitchenette and screened porch could be an awesome primary suite or teenager's dream bedroom. Total of 4 Bedrooms, two full baths. Storage galore! Kitchen with Corian countertops and cute breakfast nook. Living room with wood burning fireplace. Lots of natural light is provided by large windows throughout. The location is walkable to all of the fun things Hollidaysburg Borough has to offer. **\$295,000 #80857**

ONE-OF-A-KIND!


804 Gordon Ln., Duncansville - Situated on a beautifully treed corner lot with winding stone pathways and lush landscaping, this one-of-a-kind home offers a distinctive rustic interior featuring exposed beams and extensive wood detailing. Whether you appreciate its lodge-like inspired character or envision updating it to your own style, the setting and craftsmanship provide an exceptional foundation. Lower level features family room, half bath, laundry, utility, and two car garage. Main level features kitchen, living room, dining room, 3 bedrooms including primary suite with bath and hall bath. Absolutely lovely neighborhood. **\$299,000 #80897**

WRAPAROUND PORCH!


246 Kissell Ave., Altoona - You're going to love this property! 4 BR, 1 BA. Gas fireplace in living room. 4th bedroom on third floor would make a great home office or teenager's dream bedroom. Central Air. Wraparound porch. Circular driveway. Large two car garage and picnic pavilion. Huge level yard just begging for an inground pool, pickle ball court, basketball court, whatever! New roofs on home and garage in 2023. New sewer line 2023. **\$219,900 #80694**

PENDING


1008 Poplar Ave., Hollidaysburg. - Adorable one story home in one of the Borough's most walkable neighborhoods. Living room with gas fireplace. Cute eat-in kitchen. Basement features additional living space and attic is easily finished for third bedroom or office. Off street parking for the whole extended family for family get togethers. Downsizing or starting out, this one is perfect. **\$230,000.**

ROARING SPRING


94 June Dr., Roaring Spring - Building for sale and space for lease. Formerly the Rite Aid Pharmacy and DaVita Dialysis Center. Total of 12,928 sq. ft. Situated on 3.22 acres. Located within 150 yards of Conemaugh Nason Medical Center. Perfect location for medical offices, retail, or general offices. **\$1,600,000. #78946**

OFFICE SPACE


96 June Dr., Roaring Spring - Spacious office perfect for large medical practice near Conemaugh Nason Hospital. Many other possibilities including retail, educational use, PT, etc. **\$74,277. #74914**

INCOME PRODUCING


2119 8th Ave Altoona
Great income producing property. 4 one bedroom, one bath, efficiency apartments. Off street parking. Coin operated laundry. Lot beside is included. Fully occupied. **\$125,000. #81057**

MOVE IN READY


137 Wertz Ave., Altoona - Almost like new construction. Just about everything is brand spankin new!!! Large eat in kitchen with all new stainless steel appliances. En-suite main bedroom, nice size second bedroom and hall bath. Large laundry room has enough space to double as a hobby room, small office, or even a tv room with pull out sofa for guests. Two new covered porches to enjoy the outdoors. Plenty of off street parking in front, and in the driveway with carport. This is truly a house that you can just move in and enjoy immediately. - **\$184,000. #80607**

BRAND NEW


203 Tulane Ln., Altoona - Beautiful brand new singlewide mobile home with three bedrooms, two bathrooms. Stainless steel appliances. Primary bedroom suite has large closet and private bath. Nice front and rear decks. Must make application at park office for approval to purchase. Lot rent \$448. per month includes water, sewer, trash removal. Pet policy allows one dog (or cat) under 30 pounds. **\$92,500. #80488**

DUPLEX


1600-02 1st Avenue Altoona
Nice vinyl sided duplex in the city that has been well maintained by the seller. Both units are occupied. Separate utilities. **\$95,000. #81056**

7.3 ACRES


1788 Carson Valley Rd., Duncansville - If you have always wanted to live in the country with some land to spread out, this Handy Man's Special is the property for you. Sturdy two car detached garage with electricity. Beautiful ground with so many possibilities. **\$159,900. #80349**

RENTAL PROPERTY


1528 19th Avenue Altoona
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Will be selling from several estates. Partial listing: Bedroom and living room furniture, cupboards, Eden-Pure heater, GE electric stove and microwave, roll top desk, barbeque grill, glassware and china, left-handed golf clubs, a lot of hand tools, wheelbarrow, electric and battery powered tools, and many more additional items.

Lumber and building material at 5:00PM– Skids of framing lumber, OS&B board, windows, glass sliding doors, new Seimens electric panel boxes and breakers, and a lot of related items. Conducting two auctions. Watch Auctionzip.com ID #1220 for photos. Terms: cash, approved check, or credit card with a 5% fee. Announcements made on the day of the auction take precedence over any and all printed material.

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LIQUIDATION AUCTION
Former Northern Cambria High School
Saturday October 3, 2026 – 9AM
813 35th Street - Northern Cambria, PA 15714

The Northern Cambria School District is liquidating excess equipment and fixtures from its former high school building. This will be the second of 2 auctions with this sale featuring Kitchen and Cafeteria Equipment and Furniture, classroom fixtures and cabinets, technology items, and any remaining fixtures in the building. Sale to be held indoors. Bring your truck and trailer.

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Crossword Puzzle

Solution on page 8

		1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9
10	11									12	
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50								51			

CLUES ACROSS

1. A place for worship

7. Referee declaration

10. Torsos

12. Used to introduce something

13. Healing method

14. Takes to the sea

15. Make law

16. French coastal city

17. Hawaiian dish

18. Young of domestic cattle

19. Women's undergarments

21. 60-minute intervals (abbr.)

22. One after another

27. It's a hot topic these days

28. Folk band frontman

33. They precede C

34. Heavenly

36. Fiddler crabs

37. Major Hindu deity

38. Hebrew given name

39. Cost per mile

40. __ Romeo, car

41. Rural municipality in Manitoba

44. Narratives

45. "A tragedy had __ him"

48. Iranian city

49. Praises publicly

50. Founding Father Franklin

51. Herbal tea

CLUES DOWN

1. Indian unit of mass

2. "Tears in Heaven" singer Clapton

3. Part of a sailing vessel

4. Part of (abbr.)

5. Polynesian garland of flowers

6. Keyboard key

7. One who steals

8. Large oven

9. Former CIA

10. Idea

11. Solomon Islands capital

12. Afrikaans

14. Remove thatch

17. Television network

18. Jalen Brunson is one

20. Title of respect

23. Flowering trees

24. Occurring in a tube

25. Exists

26. Woman (French)

29. Expression of doubt

30. NHL legend Bobby

31. Accomplished

32. Makes slightly wet

35. National Assn. of Manufacturers

36. Not sated

38. Poe's middle name

40. Swiss river

41. Rhythmic pattern in Indian music

42. "Shane" actor Ladd

43. Popular whodunit board game

44. Bar bill

45. Ballplayer's tool

46. Indicates near

47. Feet per second

1

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Paws & Claws

FAQ about pet health insurance

Through the years veterinary medicine has become more technologically advanced and that has led to longer life expectancies for beloved pets. But as care offerings expand, the cost of such care increases. Pet health insurance is designed to offset many of the costs of keeping a pet happy and healthy.

Pet insurance wasn't always as readily available as it is today. The first insured pet in the United States was Lassie, the famous television collie, who was insured back in 1982, according to the Insurance Information Institute (III). Today, there are 5.36 million insured pets in the U.S., according to Forbes, with 80 percent of them being dogs. The North American Pet Health Insurance Association

says there was a 12.7 percent increase in the total number of insured pets from 2023 to 2024.

WHAT DOES PET INSURANCE DO?

Pet insurance reimburses a person for a percentage of veterinary expenses relating to a pet's illness or injury. While pet insurance isn't required, it provides peace of mind to owners in case their companion animals need expensive treatment or routine care.

WHAT IS COVERED?

Policies vary regarding pet insurance. Some cover accidents and illnesses, others accidents only, and others will include wellness, which reimburses owners for routine and preventative care. Wellness plans typically are add-ons to other coverage, but increasingly they are becoming standalone policies, says U.S. News and World Report.

WHAT IS THE COST?

Cost of coverage is based on the animal's age, health profile and the level of care chosen. Older animals usually cost more to cover, and some companies place age limits on their policies, says the III. That being said, Forbes reports the average monthly premium for accident and illness pet insurance in the U.S. is about \$53 per month for dogs and about \$32 per month for cats. The North America Pet Health Insurance Association State of the Industry Report 2022 and 2023 indicated the top paid medical-related pet insurance claim for dogs was \$60,882.

ARE THERE EXCLUSIONS?

It is important to thoroughly research potential pet insurers before purchasing an insurance plan. Some may exclude preexisting conditions, including any disease and conditions the pet has now or has had in the past, advises the American Veterinary Medical Association. Pet owners are urged to learn how each

provider defines preexisting conditions. Also, in some cases providers will not insure a specific pet or breed of pet, or they may limit the number of pets one can insure, if the pets are considered "high risk." Individuals should make sure that they can choose their own veterinarians for pet care and that there isn't a required provider.

HOW DO YOU GET PAID?

Most pet insurance plans are reimbursement plans. That means the pet owner pays the bills up front and then is reimbursed by the insurance provider. The timeframe for reimbursement varies by provider. It's best to know about the average time to process and pay out claims.

Pet insurance can offer peace of mind to pet owners. While it isn't a mandatory purchase, new pet parents may want to consider it to help manage the rising cost of pet care.

Fall activities to squeeze in before winter

Winter has its share of devotees, but warmer times of year like, spring, summer and fall tend to entice people to spend more time outdoors than they might spend once temperatures dip below 40°F. As fall winds down and winter draws closer, people who love to spend time outdoors can look to these quintessential autumn activities to engage their love of the outdoors before temperatures drop.

Farm-based fun

Late fall may no longer qualify as picking season for people who love to pick their own fruits, but come late October and November there's still plenty of fun to be had down on the farm. Farms run the gamut from apple-picking paradises to spots tailor-made for wine enthusiasts, and these spots tend to feature lots of entertainment throughout fall. Hayrides, live music, tours of the grounds, and food and wine tastings are just some examples of farm-based fun that make for great ways to enjoy the welcoming weather of mid- to late-fall.

Hiking

There may be no more beautiful time of year than fall to spend a day hiking through the woods. The color palette come fall is loaded with bright reds, seasonal orange and splashes of yellow. The



lower temperatures of fall invite scores of outdoor enthusiasts to don their hiking boots and spend a day snaking their way through wooded areas that range from simple and kid-friendly trails to more challenging hikes designed for seasoned hikers. Trails may be covered in snow in just a few short weeks, making mid- to late-fall an ideal time to soak in these stunning sights before the leaves fall.

Festivals

Fall is festival season in many areas, with scores of locales hosting seasonal events like days celebrating a town and Oktoberfest gatherings. Days devoted to towns often feature local vendors like restaurants, wineries and breweries and plen-

ty of kid-friendly fun like bounce houses and sports clinics. As the season progresses, keep an eye out for popular Oktoberfest events that celebrate Bavarian culture and offer locals a chance to cut a rug and enjoy some hearty cuisine. As October draws to a close, Halloween festivals can make for a fun and costumed day out.

Football

Sports fans know football season kicks into high gear come October, when high school, college and professional teams all take

to the gridiron each weekend. Those with no intention of spending a day combatting winter winds in the bleachers can take in a football game each mid- to late-fall before the mercury drops. Be sure to up the entertainment value by tailgating with friends and fellow fans prior to kickoff. Mid- to late-fall is a great time to enjoy the great outdoors. A little fresh air before the mercury dips below freezing is a great way to spend weekend afternoons.

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Obituaries

Joan Marie (Keller) Hughes

Joan Marie (Keller) Hughes of Osceola Mills, PA passed away September 16, 2026 at Knickerbocker Villa in Clearfield at the age of 86.

Born January 9, 1940 in Philipsburg, PA she was the daughter of the late Albert L. Keller and Mary (McQueeney) Keller. Joan grew up in Philipsburg and graduated from Philipsburg-Osceola Area High school in 1957. Joan graduated from Mount Aloysius Junior College in 1959. After college Joan worked at 1 st National Bank in Philipsburg. When she moved to Virginia Beach she worked at Merchant Bank. While supporting her husband's career in the Navy, she served as a Navy Ombudsman from 1975-1979. Upon moving back to the Philipsburg area Joan served as the Philipsburg Borough Assistant Secretary. Joan retired from the Harbor Inn as the Front Desk Clerk in 2005. In her retirement years she enjoyed going to Penn State games, going to Submarine reunions with her husband and traveling. Joan was proceeded in death by her parents and her husband, James Lee Hughes (February 7, 2026) whom she wed on September 30, 1962. Left to cherish her memory are her children, Dana (Dennis Myers) and Duane (Hope); six grandchildren: Kristen Natalie (Jamie), Allison Myers (Justin Shive), Mikayla Hughes (Zach Wisor), Dennis Myers, Jr., Brianna Hughes (Brandon Ballard) & amp; Samantha Hughes (Eric Anderson); five great-grandchildren: Ella Natalie, Carson Cook, Henry Natalie, Marie Rose Natalie, Kolby Shive and one on the way. A graveside service at the Centre Cemetery will be announced at a later date. Heath Funeral Home & Cremation Services LLC, Osceola Mills, PA is in charge of arrangements.

Agatha M. Flood

Agatha M. Flood, 98, of Woodland, passed away Saturday, September 19, 2026, at Mt. Laurel Nursing & Rehabilitation Center.

Born May 14, 1928, in Dale, PA, the daughter of Emerson Wayne and Ada Alice (English) Maines. She was a graduate of Clearfield High School. Agatha had worked in the Bigler Elementary School Cafeteria for 27 years and had also been a crossing guard. She was a member of the Dale United Methodist Church where she was very active serving in many ways. She had also been a leader in Girl Scouts and 4H and was an excellent seamstress, teaching many how to sew. Agatha is survived by her four children: Margaret E. Doran and her husband Robert, Deborah A. Fisch, Roy H. Flood and Cynthia J. Graham and her husband Randy, all of Woodland, nine grandchildren, sixteen great grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, J. Harry Flood, a brother, Hile Maines and a sister, Hilda Bush. In lieu of flowers the family suggests that memorial contributions be made to Dale United Methodist Church, c/o Christine Amon, 2069 Shiloh Road, Woodland, PA 16881. The Bennett and Houser Funeral Home, Inc., Clearfield is overseeing the arrangements.

Betty Jane Hartshorne

Betty J. Hartshorne, 98, of Clearfield, passed away Friday, September 18, 2026, at Mountain Laurel Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center.

Born May 5, 1928, in New Castle, PA, the daughter of Ralph H. Sr. and Alma (Dwyer) Blewitt. Betty was a graduate of New Castle High School. She had been employed as Executive Director of the American Heart Association for 22 counties. Betty was a member of Mt. Joy United Methodist Church where she held various offices. She was also a member of Eagles Ridge Golf Course, Coterie and various bridge clubs and had volunteered at the Clearfield Hospital for many years. Betty is survived by three children: Donald S. Hartshorne, Jr. and his wife Cheryl of West Sunbury, Jeffrey D. Hartshorne and his wife Celestine "Sally" of Shippensburg and Beth H. Helsel and her husband Rick of Clearfield, six grandchildren, eleven great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. She was the last member of her generation having been preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Donald S. Hartshorne, Sr. whom she married April 29, 1950, and who passed away, September 12, 2015, and two brothers: Harold and Robert Blewitt. The family suggests that memorial contributions be made to Mt. Joy Cemetery Association, c/o Denny Shaffner, 4843 Spruce Hill Circle, Rockton, PA 15856 or a charity of the donor's choice. The family would like to thank the staff of Mt. Laurel for their care and compassion. The Bennett and Houser Funeral Home, Inc., Clearfield is overseeing the arrangements.

Laura Mae (Coover) Osewalt

Laura Mae (Coover) Osewalt, 66, of Philipsburg, passed away on September 15, 2026.

Born February 21, 1960 in Philipsburg, PA. Laura was the daughter of the late Elmer and Viola (Brower) Coover. Laura is survived by her daughter, Amanda "Mandy" Coover, who was not only her daughter, but her best friend, constant companion, and devoted caregiver until the very end. She is also survived by two sisters, Brenda Ball and her husband, John, of Sandy Ridge, and Rita Carter and her husband, Terry, of Tennessee; a brother, Elmer Coover of Osceola Mills; as well as a large and loving extended family. In addition to her parents, Laura was preceded in death by her sister, Dorothy Ammerman; and her brothers, Dennis E. Coover and Charles Coover. Laura's Life & Legacy To simply list Laura's relatives could never tell the whole story of the family she created during her lifetime. Laura was "Momma" to far more people than those connected to her by blood. At the very center of Laura's world was her daughter, Mandy. Their relationship was so much more than mother and daughter. It was a lifetime friendship built from countless moments and memories—laughter, music, hard times, good times, and simply doing life together. Laura was incredibly proud of her daughter, and perhaps never more so than in the way Mandy loved and cared for her until the very end. Mandy became her caregiver, advocate, companion, and strength through some of the most difficult days of Laura's life. Laura knew the sacrifices her daughter made for her. She saw them, she appreciated them, and she was so incredibly proud of her. But their story was about so much more than those final days. They shared a lifetime. Sometimes that meant Mandy making Laura sit through yet another horror movie. Other times, it was Laura pulling Mandy into one of her beloved Lifetime crime-show binges. It was music, laughter, family dinners, late nights, and sometimes simply sitting beside one another. Laura rarely missed one of Mandy's shows, and when her daughter was performing, the pride on Laura's face said everything. Laura's home was the kind of place where people gathered. She loved playing cards and dice, and countless memories were made around her table—coffee brewing late into the night, cards being dealt, dice rolling across the table, music playing, and laughter filling the house. Her door was open to far more than just family. Throughout her life, Laura welcomed so many who needed a friend, some motherly love, or simply a safe place to land. If someone needed loving, Laura made room. One of those special relationships was with Thomas Raab, who from a young age was welcomed into Laura's home and heart. Over the years, he became like a son to Laura and a brother to Mandy—another beautiful example of the family Laura created through love. Helping people was simply who Laura was. She could often be found at benefits, fundraisers, and charity events offering whatever help she could. Laura also loved freedom—the feeling of the wind blowing through her hair on a motorcycle ride, or an afternoon "woods ride" with her favorite people, the music turned up, and laughter and joy filling the air. And then there were her beloved babies, Precious and Chi Chi. They weren't simply Laura's dogs; they were family. She spoiled them absolutely rotten, loved them like children, and never wanted to be far from them. They, too, are feeling her absence. The treats are still plentiful, but the sadness of missing their momma can be felt. Laura's favorite saying captured her spirit perfectly: "Let the good times roll." And she did. She loved fiercely. She laughed. She played cards and rolled the dice. She turned the music up. She spoiled her pups. She helped people who needed her and opened her home to those who needed somewhere to belong. Most of all, she loved and celebrated her daughter. Laura had a way of making family bigger simply by loving people—and there are many people in this world who are better for having been loved by her. Let the good times roll, Laura. A Celebration of Life is being planned to honor Laura, the life she lived, and the many people she loved along the way. Additional details will be announced once arrangements have been finalized. Memorial contributions may be made to the Heath Funeral Home & Cremation Services, LLC, 701 Lingle St. P.O. Box 157, Osceola Mills, PA 16666

Thomas Roy Gearhart

Thomas Roy Gearhart, 79, of Mineral Springs, PA, died on Sunday, September 13, 2026 at Penn Highlands DuBois.

Born on January 23, 1947, in Clearfield, PA, Thomas was the son of the late Thomas Clark Gearhart & Margaret Hazel (Patton) Gearhart. He married Lorri L. (Walk) Gearhart on October 6, 1973 in Bigler, PA. Lorri survives at home. Thomas was a member of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles in Clearfield, PA as well as being a member of LooMoose in Clearfield, PA. He was a retired Heavy Equipment Operator for Al Hamilton, Modern Landfill, Gearhart Brothers, & Bigler Boyz. Thomas was a 1965 graduate from the Clearfield High School. In addition to his parents, Thomas was preceded in death by a sister, Linda Gearhart. In addition to his wife, Thomas is survived by a daughter, Angela Dawn Gearhart of Mineral Springs, PA; a sister, Connie Gockley of Lititz, PA; two brothers, Charles "Chip" Gearhart & his wife Gayle of Manheim, PA, and Pat Gearhart & his wife Tammy of Spring Boro, OH; a granddaughter, Cassandra Jean Cupp; and a great-granddaughter, Rozalyn Wise. Services will be at the convenience of the family. Interment is at Bigler Cemetery in Bigler, PA. Heath Funeral Home & Cremation Services, LLC, Osceola Mills, PA is in charge of the arrangements. To sign the online guestbook, go to www.heathfuneral.com

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

Shirley’s Cookies CEO honored for business excellence

Shaw earns lifetime achievement award for efforts growing Claysburg company

By WALT FRANK
wfrank@altoonamirror.com

CLAYSBURG — Patty Shaw had a simple goal in life.

“I was going to be a secretary,” Shaw said. “I married Bryan Shaw, my goal in life was to be a secretary, (and) that’s what I was going to do.” Shaw well exceeded her goal.

Today, she is CEO of Shirley’s Cookies in Claysburg and has been named the recipient of the 2026 Lifetime Achievement for Business Excellence Award by the Blair County Chamber of Commerce. She will be honored Sept. 22 at the Blair County Convention Center.

Shaw is a worthy recipient of the award, said Mathew Fox, Altoona Blair County Development Corp. vice president of retention and expansion and event spokesperson.

“Patty Shaw’s leadership is a wonderful example of what it means to put people first. She has grown Shirley’s Cookies with tremendous care and purpose, always treating her employees like family and understanding that the success of a family-owned business is measured not only by how much it grows, but by how it cares for the people who help make that growth possible,” Fox said.

He added that the Lifetime Achievement Award is a fitting recognition for a leader of Shaw’s reputation, as she has shown her dedication to her fam-

ily, her employees and her community and has made a lasting impact on Blair County.

Shaw was surprised to be selected for the award. “It was very humbling. I may have been embarrassed,” Shaw said. “I keep a low profile.”

Shaw grew up in Freedom Township and graduated from Central High School in 1983.

She got married in 1983 and she and her husband moved to Marietta, Ga., where he got a job in construction.

While there, she worked as a teller at a bank and as an office manager at Humana Hospital.

She and Bryan moved back to the area in 1986 and she held jobs at Raystown Office Equipment and Montgomery Chevrolet. She then went to New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co. as a program-

mer in the IT department and spent two years there. In September 1989, she “retired” from her job to stay home with her son, Tyler.

She also worked with her father, Zane Feathers, who had purchased a small bakery, and she joined her father in the business in 1990.

Shaw said it was her idea to start the cookie company.

“I got the idea to start a cookie company and dad was interested. It was my goal to get cookies in every mouth in Blair County,” Shaw said.

Started with a raisin

Together, they established the new corporation known as Shirley’s Cookies. At the beginning, they just sold their now-famous raisin-filled cookies.

Shaw continued to work alongside her father, changing the retail concept from a finished cookie to manufacturing a frozen product ready for in-store bakeries and food service companies. Upon the retirement of her father in 2018, Shaw stepped into the role of



Shirley’s Cookies CEO Patty Shaw (right) stands with (from left) Tyler Shaw, Garrett Shaw, Brenton Weyant, Rich Weyant and Bryan Shaw at the IDDBA Trade Show.

CEO. From raisin-filled cookies, they branched out to making chocolate and peanut butter no-bakes. “They are now our bread and butter,” said Tyler Shaw, sales executive.

“We are the official dessert of the Altoona Curve. We have a night each year where we give away whoopie pies,” Tyler Shaw said. “The top sellers are the no-bakes. It is the product that took us across the country and it still is.”

Shirley’s Cookies is also well known for whoopie pies and soft sugar cookies.

Shirley’s Cookies products are sold nationally and are found in grocery and convenience stores under private labels.

The company has had steady growth over the years.

“My dad always cautioned from the very beginning to take your time and grow the right way and we did,” Patty Shaw said.

Today, Shirley’s sells about 500 million cookies a year.

“This year will be our biggest year for sales,” Tyler Shaw said.

Tyler said his mother is deserving of the award. “She would never say it is well deserved, but we know that it is,” Tyler Shaw said.

“I am not a big savvy sales person. I am a mom that sold cookies,” Patty Shaw said.

She said her father was her role model.

“My dad was my best friend ... (and) the best teacher I ever had. He was the smartest man I

ever knew,” Shaw said. “He would be so proud. If he was living, this would probably be his award. I’m accepting the award on behalf of both of us.”

Jeffrey Boldizar, director of the Saint Francis University Small Business Development Center, said Shaw is very deserving of the award.

“The SBDC worked with Patty and her father when they were operating the donut shop on Route 764,” Boldizar said.

Boldizar said early on, Shaw would pack up their products and bring them to local businesses to sell them. She was determined to make Shirley’s work and would talk to anyone who would listen about the businesses and their cookies.

“Even great products do not sell themselves. They need a great spokesperson, and Patty is that for Shirley’s Cookies,” Boldizar said.

Model citizen, leader

Shaw is well respected in the local business community.

“Patty Shaw is the consummate ‘under the radar’ business leader. She has overseen the growth of Shirley’s Cookies without calling attention to the dynamic role that she has played in that growth,” said Joe Hurd, retired president/CEO of the Blair County Chamber of Commerce. “Her longevity makes her an ideal honoree for the Lifetime Achievement Award.”

Sherri Steward, director of human resources at NPC Inc., has known Shaw personally and professionally for many years.

“I have come to know her as a fellow business leader in the Claysburg

community and someone I greatly respect. As local employers, we have worked together and supported one another in attracting and retaining talent in our community. I have always found her to be approachable, knowledgeable and genuinely interested in the success of local businesses,” Steward said.

Micheal Macionsky, vice president of commercial banking at First National Bank, said the award is well deserved.

“Patty is a genuine person who truly cares about others. She has positively impacted our community not only through business but also from a philanthropic standpoint,” Macionsky said. “The contributions she has made, and will continue to make, are good examples of what it means to be a leader and pillar of our community.”

Shaw has been a dedicated supporter and friend of Blair County Christian School since her oldest son began attending the school in the mid-1990s. She helped create the school’s largest annual fundraiser, the BCCS Auction.

“Under her leadership, the event has grown into a much-anticipated tradition and an important source of support for the school,” said elementary Principal Patricia Ludolph. “Although Patty has since passed the management of the auction on to others, she has continued to faithfully support Blair County Christian School and participate in school functions whenever she can.”

Shaw and Shirley’s Cookies have been big supporters of the Easter for Eli foundation.

“Nineteen years ago, I was running a foundation out of my basement

and borrowed enclosed trailers. They didn’t even know me personally but believed in my foundation and offered me a key to their storage facility to use as I needed. They never batted an eye at helping and supporting EFE,” President Martin Garrett said.

Shaw is also well-respected by her employees.

“Patty has a very strong faith. I believe this is what makes her who and what she is. She is one of the most thoughtful and caring people I know. Although owning, growing and maintaining a business is very time consuming, she is constantly doing (things) for others and volunteering her time to help where she can,” said quality assurance manager Bruce Woodring Jr. “When I heard about Patty winning this, it made me very happy and proud. She would never ask to be recognized for anything, but I can not think of anyone more deserving in our community.”

Warehouse manager Don Wagner said Shaw treats her employees as family.

“Her door is always open to talk, not only about work, but about personal issues as well. Even though she expects quality, she is not intimidating in how she goes about business,” Wagner said. “Starting out peddling raisin-filled cookies from a station wagon to sending cookies all over the country shows what dedication and determination can accomplish.”

Shaw, 62, has no immediate plans to retire. “My job is still too much fun. I enjoy coming here,” she said.

Mirror Staff Writer Walt Frank is at 814-946-7467.

The Shaw file

Name: Patty Shaw

Age: 62

Position: CEO of Shirley’s Cookies

Education: 1983 graduate of Central High School

Family: Husband, Bryan; sons, Garrett and Tyler; nine grandchildren

Quote: “There is not a lot of ‘I’ in team. I am an employee just like everyone else.”

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