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CAST gears up with 'Woman in Black' for Halloween

By Andy Stine
astine@altoonamirror.com

Clearfield Arts Studio Theatre (CAST) is getting in the Halloween spirit this year with a seasonal play in "The Woman in Black." The production will be held from Oct. 23-4 at 7 p.m.,

Oct. 25 at 3 p.m., and Oct. 29-31 at 7 p.m.

Mason Strouse, executive director of CAST, said the play's rights had not been available in the United States until recently.

"We've kind of been in line to do this for a couple years now," Strouse

said. "Not a ton of people are doing it (in the U.S.), but it's super popular in Europe. We are one of the first community theatres in the country to do it."

"The Woman in Black" started as a British novel before it was turned into a play, and then it was a movie starring Daniel Radcliffe. Strouse noted that the movie has a similar premise to the play, but a different story.

The ghost story centers around a lawyer named Arthur Kipps, who had something terrifying happen to him when he was younger. Years later, he hires an actor to help him re-create the story.

The two get sent to a house in the middle of the countryside, and crazy things happen with a ghost that they call the woman in black.

"It's kind of like a play within a play sort of thing," Strouse said. "They don't actually talk to her or anything, but she's just kind of there. It's a story of the two of them figuring out what (Kipps) experienced when he was younger."

CAST has also been using plenty of sound and lighting effects, and using technology in past performances this year.



— Courtesy photo

The cast and crew of the Clearfield Arts Studio Theatre is gearing up for Halloween with "The Woman in Black." The production will be held from Oct. 23-4 at 7 p.m., Oct. 25 at 3 p.m., and Oct. 29-31 at 7 p.m.

That will happen again with "The Woman in Black," where there will be a sound rush throughout the auditorium that will give the effect of the woman in black being around the crowd.

The audience is targeted for teens and adults.

"It's a great, spooky Halloween story," Strouse said.

CAST has not done a Halloween type of production every October, but Strouse said they are

looking into doing that in the future. The organization is looking into doing the Rocky Horror Picture Show next year.

The last play — "Picaso at the Lapin Agile" — did very well with good attendance, which has not been the norm since the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We used to sell out just about everything, especially musicals," Strouse said. "Now our musicals are very close to selling out. Plays we see

about 100 people a night, which is good for us."

CAST will have one more production in December in "Bug," which will be held at the theatre from Dec. 10-13. The Dance Company in Clearfield will also be putting on "The Nutcracker" in December before CAST moves on to the 2027 season with two musicals and three plays.

For more information and for tickets, visit clearfieldarts.org.

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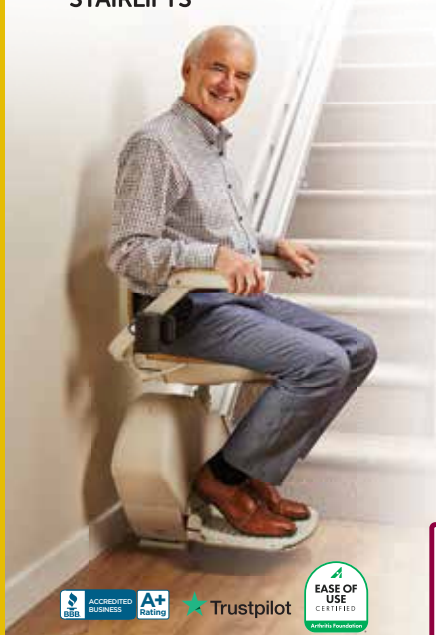
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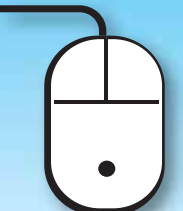
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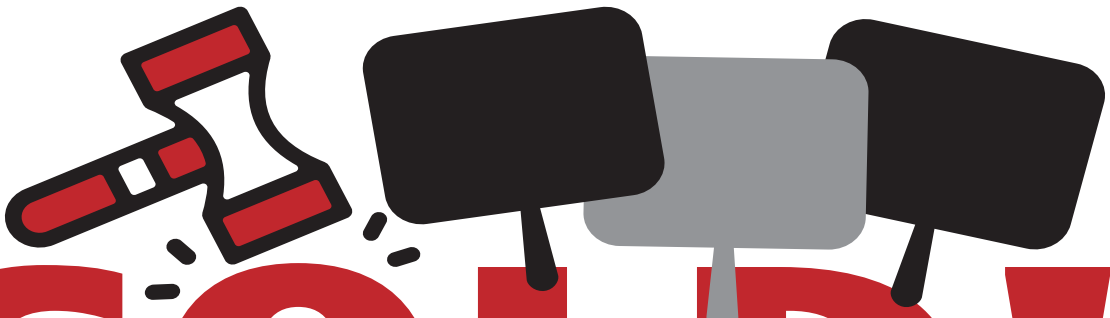
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Obituaries

Cora Elaine Owens

Cora Elaine Owens, 89, of Clearfield, passed away on Thursday, October 8, 2026 at her home.

Born May 4, 1937 in Clearfield, on the family farm, she was the daughter of the late Howard and Hollis Elaine (Richner) Owens. Cora graduated from Clearfield Area High School in 1955. Cora always knew she wanted to attend college. As a senior in high school, she began working for Harbison Walker Refractory Machine Shop from 1955-1956, saving her money to pay for her secondary education. She then attended Airline School, becoming a ticket counter agent for Eastern Airlines and a secretary for the Eastern Airlines manager at Cleveland Hopkins Airport, Cleveland, OH from 1957-1965. Her time with the airlines afforded her the opportunity to travel throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, and throughout Europe. She received her B.S. in Education from Thiel College in 1971 and began working for the Clearfield School System while obtaining her M.S. in Education from Indiana University in 1975. She was employed by the school system for 15 years. Cora was Christian by faith and participated in many missionary trips to Israel, India, South East Asia, Hong Kong, China, Haiti, Taiwan, Philippines, and Europe. She was a member of the Board of Directors for Shepherd's Lambs Trips to Haiti from 1971-1986. When Cora was not taking care of her parents or working, she enjoyed needlework and being outdoors to fish and hunt. Cora is survived by numerous nieces and nephews. She was the last of her generation and was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Daniel G. Owens and Stanley B. Owens; and two sisters, Nancy Helen Fletcher and Olive Marie Martell. Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Jukes Children's Research Hospital www.stjude.org or to any non-profit children organization. Bennett and Houser Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. To leave a note for the family, visit www.bennettandhouser.com

Janet D. Carns

Janet D. Carns, 90, of Glen Hope, passed away on Saturday, October 10, 2026 at Penn Highlands Dubois Hospital.

She was born October 19, 1935 in Glen Hope to the late Irvin and Myrtle (McGarvey) Baer. Janet graduated in 1953 from Moshannon Joint High School. She retired from Berg/FCI electronics in Clearfield in 2004. She was a charter member of the Glen Hope Fire Dep't Ladies Auxillary, a social member of the Coalport VFW, Curwensville Moose, and the Gold Panning Association. She is survived by son James (Lois) Carns of Grampian; daughter Rena (Randy) Haney of Coalport; daughter-in-law Terry Carns of Houtzdale; son-in-law Allen Guiher of Grampian; ten grandchildren, Edward (BJ) Carns, Jason (Bonnie) Carns, Frank (Rachael) Carns, Jeffrey (Jaimie) Carns, Jeremy (Chantelle) Carns, James (Amber) Carns, Jr., Daniel (Courtney) Carns, Janea (Zach) Shreckengost, Matthew Haney, and James Haney. She is also survived by fifteen great-grandchildren, Zane (Bryanna) Carns, Kendra (Garrett) Clark, Branyelle (Nick) Mielnick, Janalanna Carns, Vincent Carns, Olivia Carns, Mason Carns, Hayden Carns, Noelle Carns, Dominic Carns, Isabella Carns, Kelsey Carns, Cole Haney, Jaxon Haney, and Adriana Schreckengost; two great-great-grandchildren, Brantley Mielnick and Westin Beers; and numerous nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband James E. Carns in 1988; a son, Edward Carns; a daughter, Janice Guiher; a grandson, Ricky Carns; and five siblings, Mabel Dillen, William Baer, Phyllis Heverly, Gladys Ingram, and Thelma Francisco. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The American Heart Association at www.heart.org.

Jeannette A. Reed

Jeannette A. Reed, 80, of Clearfield Pa., passed peacefully at her home on Oct. 2, 2026, while being cared for by her family and the assistance of Medi Home Hospice.

She was born on September 6, 1946, in Clearfield; she was the daughter of the late James B. Wise and Veronica (Kosin). She was preceded in death by a sister, Jane Loretta Wise; a son, Albert C. Reed Jr. and her husband, Albert C. Reed Sr., in addition to her parents. She is survived by a daughter, Pamela Oliver (partner, Robb Simington), stepdaughter, Carla Maines (husband, Keith); and her three grandchildren: Brittany Oliver (husband, Patrick Rappciak), Kristyn Oliver (partner, Levi Delozier) and Arielle Maines (husband, Mason Seewald). Jeannette graduated from St. Francis High School in Clearfield. Over the years she worked as a paralegal and as a secretary at the Clearfield County Assistance Office from where she retired in 2007. During her life, she was involved in many activities and groups. Most recently, she served as Treasurer for the Goshen Township Sportsmen Association. For the last several years, she has enjoyed cooking for family and friends, playing pinochle with her group and attending bingo with friends. She recently celebrated her 80th. birthday with a large group of family and friends. It was her request, that in lieu of any celebration of life or services, memorial contributions may be made to the Goshen Township Sportsmen Association, P.O. Box 6, Shawville, PA 16873. Interment at Stoneville Cemetery, RD Clearfield, will be private and at the convenience of the immediate family. Arrangements are under the direction of the Beezer-Heath Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Philipsburg.

Gerald “Jerry” Thomas Mack

Mr. Mack, 75, Coalport, died Wednesday, October 7, 2026 at Cedarwood Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center, Tyrone where he had been a resident the past two years.

He was born September 10, 1951, in Lackawanna, NY., a son of the late Teresa Clapp. On May 6, 1978, in Coalport, he married Denise M. Mottern who survives along with a son Jeremiah J. Mack of Coalport. Also surviving are two sisters: Cindy Bowers of Ridgway and Susan Anastatia of Hamburg, NY. He was also preceded in death by a sister Patricia Chropowicki and five brothers: Robert, James, Bruce, Douglas and Dennis. Jerry was a 1971 graduate of Glendale High School and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Slippery Rock University. His work history included employments at Clearfield Cheese, Curwensville, TYK Refactory, Irvona, Boyer Candy, Altoona and substitute teaching in various area school districts. He enjoyed watching the Steelers. Friends and family were received at the McQuown Funeral Home, Glasgow. A funeral mass was held Monday, October 12, 2026, at St. Basil the Great Catholic Church, Coalport with Fr. Cory Pius officiating. Burial in the church cemetery.

Walter E. “Wally” Hofer Sr.

Walter E. “Wally” Hofer Sr., 70, Patton, passed away on October 9, 2026 at home surrounded by family.

Born July 4, 1956 in Spangler, son of Edward and Jean (Gibbons) Hofer. He is preceded in death by his parents; infant daughters, Melissa and Natalie; brother, David “bucky” Hofer; and brother-in-law, Walter Hawbaker. He is survived by sons, Henry, Walter Jr., and John Hofer; Grandchildren, Benjamin, Delila, Gavin, and Wyland; siblings, Charlotte (Dave) Weber, Sharon Hawbaker, Michael (Cindy) Hofer, and Donna (Mike) Ferrence; sister-in-law, Debbie Hofer; special friend, Dot; and numerous nieces and nephews. Wally was a U.S. Navy Veteran and was employed as a construction worker for 40 years. He enjoyed gardening, construction work, and spending time with family. At Wally's request there will be no viewing or services. Arrangements are under the care of Gibbons-Penksa Funeral Home, Ashville. Condolences can be made at www.gibbonspenksafuneralhome.com or at the Gibbons-Penksa Funeral Home Facebook Page.

IN MEMORIAM

Obituaries Courtesy of: Heath’s Funeral Home; Bennett & Houser Funeral Home, Inc
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Fall Fun & FAMILY

Plan the perfect fall hiking excursion

Fall is an ideal time to enjoy the great outdoors. With crisp air, vibrant foliage and trails that might be a little less crowded, fall is a great time to lace up the hiking boots and see the sights.

According to the Outdoor Industry Association, hiking participation has surged to a record 63.4 million Americans. “Core hikers” hit the trails more than 13 times a year, and fall is a prime time to hike. Travel research from sources like HomeToGo note that interest in travel rises each year in fall, when vacationers prioritize destinations near forests, foliage and trails.

Taking to the outdoors come fall involves some planning to ensure these excursions are successful.

Select the right timing. Foliage is characterized by peak and non-peak times of the year. Peak foliage will start at high elevations and northern latitudes before traveling southward. When planning hikes, scour tourism boards or national reports to sync trips with the prime windows to see amazing colors.

Choose the right trails. Hikers can prioritize trails with diverse tree canopy species. Hardwoods like sugar maples, oaks and birches yield deep reds, golds and oranges. Trails that loop around lakes will offer vivid reflections, while ridgelines can provide panoramic vistas.

Keep daylight in mind. There are fewer hours of sunlight come the fall, so hikers should plan accordingly. Everyone will want

to make it back to the trailhead before the sun sets and the temperature drops.

Dress for variable weather. Fall weather can be temperamental, shifting from frosty mornings to warm, sunny afternoons. Layering clothing is the best way to maintain comfort. The hiking experts at Bearfoot Theory suggest a base layer of wool fabric to wick sweat away from the skin. A middle layer of fleece or a lightweight down jacket will insulate without adding unnecessary bulk. Finally, a windproof, waterproof shell will guard against rain or high winds. Hikers should pack a warm hat, extra socks and gloves, even if the forecast predicts mild weather.

Be prepared with supplies. Certain gear can make hiking safer. A headlamp and extra batteries; trekking poles and slip-resistant boots; a portable power bank to charge a phone; and an insulated flask are some particularly useful items to bring along.

Bring a map of the trail. Fallen leaves can obscure trail markers and other landmarks. A downloaded offline map or a paper map will help hikers navigate even if they lose signal or get turned around on the trails.

Fall hikes are some of the most beautiful, and entire days can be built around hiking this time of year. Be mindful of wildlife and stick firmly to paths to protect the natural landscape.



Family friendly activities for fall

- Fall is a welcome season for many people. The cooler temperatures and still-ample sunlight mean there is plenty of time to enjoy the great outdoors even if summer has ended. Fall activities dot the calendar, with several different options for individuals and families to get involved.
- According to Acenda Integrated Health, incorporating family time into a schedule is crucial for a child’s development. It’s also key to have time to get a break from busy schedules. Fall is a great time to do just that with these activities.
- Apple-picking: Few things are more refreshing than taking a bite out of an apple fresh off the tree. Orchards are bursting with apples this time of year, and an afternoon spent picking apples is a great way to spend time together.
- Leaf treasure hunt: Everyone can head outdoors with a bag or basket to gather leaves. Look for the brightest color or the crunchiest leaf that can be found. The leaves can be pressed between wax paper to save them.
- Fall festivals: Outdoor festivals are ideal for families because they tend to feature crafts, food, music, and activities.
- Fall baking: Turn those plucked apples into pies or muffins, or use pumpkin and cinnamon to fill a home with delicious seasonal smells. Kids can help stir, pour and sprinkle ingredients.
- Corn maze: Corn mazes may be set up adjacent to pumpkin patches, so the family can pick out the perfect pumpkin to carve and then try to navigate the maze.
- Spooky walk: Halloween lands right in the heart of fall. Enjoy a walk through the neighborhood checking out people’s Halloween decorations. A night walk with flashlights to listen to the sounds of animals can be “scary” in its own right. Another idea is to go to a haunted house or walk sponsored by a school or amusement park.
- Football: Enjoy a pick-up game of flag or touch football. It’s a great way to enjoy time outdoors and expend some physical activity.
- Fall is a perfect time to enjoy family-friendly activities.

Facts about the autumnal equinox

Crisp autumn air will soon be rolling in and the leaves on trees will be trading their vivid green hues for shades of orange, red and purple. Fall begins on the autumnal equinox. Although people may see it as the official kickoff to bonfires and flannels, that’s not the only interesting part of this remarkable day.

It’s a moment and not a day. Despite what many people think, the autumnal equinox is not an entire day. In fact, the equinox is a precise astronomical event. It occurs at the exact moment the sun crosses the celestial equator, an imaginary line in the sky directly above the Earth’s equator.

It’s not “equal night.” Although the word equinox comes from the Latin word “aequus” (equal) and “nox” (night), we do not get exactly 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness on the equinox. This is because of how the Earth’s atmosphere refracts sunlight. The sun appears above the horizon even after it has technically set, according to the National Weather Service.

Northern lights can be seen. Those hoping to catch a glimpse of the aurora borealis will find the weeks surrounding the autumnal



equinox are the prime window to do so, according to NASA. Geomagnetic storms that trigger these stunning light displays occur twice as frequently around the fall and spring equinoxes compared to the summer and winter solstices.

It’s not always on the same day. The autumnal equinox does not fall on the same day each year. It usually lands on September 22 or 23, but it can occasionally occur on September 21 or 24 (in the northern hemisphere), indicates the U.S. Naval Observatory.

The autumnal equinox is a unique and often enjoyable day on the calendar.

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Know your osteoporosis risk

Bone is living, growing tissue that changes as a person ages. Although healthy bone can naturally diminish as a person gets older, seniors in particular are at elevated risk of osteoporosis, a bone disease marked by rapid bone deterioration. Osteoporosis occurs when bone mineral density and bone mass decrease, or when the strength and structure of bone changes, according to the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases. Bone is constantly being broken down and replaced. When a person has osteoporosis, creation of new bone cannot keep up with the loss of old bone. Osteoporosis can make bones so brittle that even a seemingly innocuous movement, such as coughing, bumping into something or bending over, can cause bones to break, says the Mayo Clinic. These breaks commonly occur in the spine, wrist or hip. Osteoporosis affects people of all genders, ages and races. However, white and Asian women, especially those past menopause, are at the highest risk. The Bone Health & Osteoporosis Foundation says that osteoporosis is known as a silent disease

because bone weakening is undetectable. Subtle signs, such as a stooped posture, a curved back or if someone seems to be getting shorter, may indicate osteoporosis. Breaking a bone is often the first sign of the disease. There may be ways to prevent osteoporosis or alleviate its symptoms. A nutritious diet and regular exercise are essential for keeping bones healthy throughout life. This includes getting enough calcium through foods and possibly supplementation. Individuals should work with their doctors to get the right amount of calcium, as too much from supplements may cause kidney stones. Vitamin D also works in concert with calcium to produce strong bones, and many people are deficient in vitamin D. Exercise also is needed for strong bones. Strength training with weight-bearing and balance exercises enjoyed regularly throughout life can help maintain healthy bones as one ages. Additional lifestyle issues can increase risk for osteoporosis. These include long-term use of certain medications like glucocorticoids and



adrenocorticotrophic hormones to treat various conditions. Proton pump inhibitors, cancer medications and antiepileptic medicines also may increase risk for osteoporosis. Heavy alcohol consumption and smoking also can contribute to osteoporosis. Osteoporosis is not something to take lightly. A bone-density test can indicate if bones are weakening and if intervention is necessary. However, measures should be taken early in life to prevent osteoporosis in the future.

Types of arthritis and what’s behind each

Arthritis affects people all over the world. Approximately 53.2 million adults in the United States have doctor-diagnosed arthritis, says the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But many more suffer in undiagnosed silence. Globally, nearly 300 million people may live with arthritis. Arthritis can range from mild to debilitating and stem from a variety of causes. Understanding what’s behind arthritis can help people get the treatment they need. Here are the major types of arthritis and their causes.

- **Osteoarthritis:** Osteoarthritis is the most common form of arthritis, says the Cleveland Clinic. It forms as the result of wear-and-tear on cartilage, which breaks down over time. Aging, repetitive movements or previous joint injuries can cause osteoarthritis.
- **Gout:** Gout is a metabolic condition caused by the buildup of uric acid crystals in the joints.

The Mayo Clinic says the buildup occurs when the kidneys cannot filter the uric acid effectively or when the body produces too much. Pain, swelling and tenderness can occur in the joints, often in the big toe.

- **Autoimmune:** Some forms of arthritis are autoimmune in nature, meaning that the immune system mistakenly attacks the joints. This occurs with rheumatoid arthritis and psoriatic arthritis, according to Penn Medicine.
- **Infection/injury:** Sometimes viral or bacterial infections or acute joint injuries can trigger arthritis, says the Cleveland Clinic. Certain risk factors elevate the chances of developing arthritis. Risk elevates as joints age and wear down, so older adults are more likely to experience arthritis. Carrying extra weight puts pressure on joints like the knees, so those who are overweight are more likely to



Osteoporosis prevention begins very early

get arthritis. Genetics can make a person more vulnerable to diseases like rheumatoid arthritis, and women are more likely to develop it. There are various treatments for arthritis, and anyone in pain can work with a doctor to make lifestyle changes that can alleviate symptoms and help them live fuller lives.

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FALL weddings

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An astonishing 98% of couples consider sustainability when planning their weddings and 78% of them say it's important, the Sustainable Wedding Alliance says.

The average wedding, Wedgewood Weddings and Events says, produces 400 pounds of garbage and 63 tons of CO2. But there are ways to limit your big day's big impact on the environment.

Take Advantage of Nature
When it comes to a fall wedding, don't fight nature; use it to your advantage. Let the gorgeous array of fall color provide a picture- perfect backdrop for your wedding. Plan the big day so it takes maximum advantage of available sunlight, cutting down on electricity usage.

Instead of shelling out for flowers imported at great cost to the budget

and the planet, opt for seasonal blooms. Work with your florist to select locally grown flowers for foam-free arrangements. Since it's fall and options may be limited in some areas, you can consider potted plants that can be replanted after the celebration or natural elements beyond flowers, such as branches or seasonal fruits and vegetables.

Something Old, Something Borrowed
When you can, choose vintage or secondhand gowns, suits and other attire. Also consider rental services or choose new garments that are sustainably sourced and ethically produced.

Jewelry can have lab-grown stones and recycled metals instead of mined stones.

Pick the Right Venue
The venue is an important part of keeping your wedding eco-conscious. Pick one that has your same values when it comes to the Earth. Look for:

- Energy-efficient lighting

and climate control.

- Offers recycling, composting or uses other sustainable waste management practices.
- Has buildings with sustainable features built in. LEED certification is a bonus.
- Practices good water management for your area, including recycling gray water, planting native landscaping and wastewater treatment.
- Allows for the use of recycled disposable paper products or offers reusable plates, silverware and other commonly disposed of items.

Invitations
Make your own contribution to saving the earth with eco-friendly wedding invitations. Digital invitations and RSVPs use no paper at all (and save on postage). Wedding websites can give out registry and other important information. You can also use recycled paper with soy-based inks, plantable seed paper or tree-free paper options.

Golden Hour Photos



The golden hour is the time of day, about an hour before sunset, when the light hits just right. Plan your wedding photos right and you can take advantage of the best lighting on your big day.

"That last hour of light is a total gift," photographer Stacey Ambrosio told The Knot. "It cools down, the light softens and it creates the most beautiful, relaxed setting for photos."

Talk to Your Photographer
Your wedding photographer, ideally, will be familiar with both the venue and with how the sun hits it. Talk to them about potential photo sites and times, and, if possible, walk the grounds with them to pick out possible sites for the best photos. You can even look up the exact sunset time for your date and venue location and plan from there.

Build it In
Good times to sneak out for some golden hour photos are during the cocktail hour, right after

the ceremony, or between the main course and dessert at a plated reception. Think about your golden hour photos as you plan the timeline of your wedding and leave room for a quick, half-hour photo session in any convenient gap you find. Don't forget to add time for adjustments to hair and makeup or even an outfit change.

Plan, Plan, Plan
Assign someone or ask the wedding planner or a photographer's assistant to help flag you down when it's time. Have hair and makeup help waiting, and meet at your planned location to start the shoots. Be willing to get creative with what's going on outside; nature can sometimes introduce surprises for even the most meticulously planned weddings.

Things to Keep in Mind

- Sunsets happen sooner in mountainous areas than at the beach or in other areas. Keep that in mind when you're planning your timeline.
- Have everything ready to go. The best golden hour light can last as little as 15 minutes, so be prepared when it's time to go.
- Communicate with the guests and the wedding party ahead of time so that everyone is on the same page when it comes to landing those stunning golden hour portraits.

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FALLweddings

The Veil: an Elegant Addition



Bridal veils have their roots in ancient Greece and Rome. They were originally brightly colored to hide the bride from evil spirits and jealous onlookers. Wearing a veil symbolized modesty and purity back then and, in arranged marriages, it ensured a

nervous groom couldn't back out if he didn't like how the bride looked. For many families, veils are treasured heirlooms that are passed down for generations, often standing in as the something borrowed or something old in her ceremony.

Length
In days gone by, veil length often correlated with the bride's social standing. Longer veils made of more expensive materials were a showy symbol of wealth. Today's veils can extend from the shoulder to the floor and beyond. Birdcage veils are a mere nine inches long, barely covering the bride's face.

Veils then move down to the shoulder, elbow, waist, hip and fingertip. Waltz veils are 60 inches long, followed by floor veils at 72 inches, chapel length veils at 90 inches and cathedral length veils that trail behind the bride at 114 inches long.

How to Choose a Veil
The veil should match the bride's dress silhouette and coordinate with the amount of detail on the dress. A simpler veil should go with detailed gowns and a more adorned veil can go with minimalist gowns. Veils are usually a shade lighter and should complement the dress's train. If you're planning on using a family member's veil, bring

it with you to the bridal shop for your appointment so the experts there can help you pick the perfect dress to go with your treasured veil.

Veil Etiquette
The veil is worn primarily for the ceremony and formal photos. If a blusher is worn, it should be delicately lifted by the groom or the father of the bride at the altar. The veil is removed before the reception for the bride's comfort. It can be swapped out for a shorter veil for dancing. For outdoor ceremonies, consider adding veil weights to keep it from flying around.

Rain, Rain Go Away

If the rain just won't come back another day, the smart bride will come prepared with a robust contingency plan.

Here's how to plan for a wedding that will stun even in the most inclement weather.

Outdoor Wedding, Indoor Backup
Should any part of your dream wedding be set in the great outdoors, have a pre-booked backup plan in place. This can be a building on site for a reception or the ceremony itself or a rented tent complete with sidewalls ready to go. Establish a firm deadline on when the decision to punt to the weather-friendly option will take place. That deadline should be 24-48 hours before the event and include a decision tree for informing the vendors of your decision.

Other Prep
Rain isn't your only concern for a fall wedding. In many areas of the country, weather can turn on a dime in fall, ranging from summer heat to wintry chill in less than a day. The wind might blow in, threatening hats, hairdos and floral arrangements.

- For heat: Offer non-alcoholic beverages and water as well as lots of shade, seating and even fans to keep guests cool. Have them arrive close to the start of the ceremony to keep them from waiting in the heat. Start the ceremony on time.
- For cold: Have warm beverage stations featuring tea, cocoa and coffee. Set up portable heaters near seating areas and set out large baskets or totes with lap blankets for guests to use.
- For wind: Weigh down flower arrangements to keep them stable and take down heavy hanging decor that the wind may rock. Talk to vendors about how they secure their tents and ensure they'll have staff on site to handle it on the day of, if needed.

from unforeseen conditions, such as weather, that can cause you to cancel or postpone the nuptials. You should purchase policies well in advance of the big day —

ideally as soon as you start paying deposits — and make sure you know exactly what it covers. Many policies will cover hurricanes, for instance, but not standard rain.





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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2026

Businesswoman honored among top CEOs in state

By WALT FRANK
wfrank@altounamirror.com

JOHNSTOWN — Amy Bradley has had many successes throughout her career and was recently recognized by Pennsylvania Business Central as one of the top women CEOs and leaders for 2026.

“It was very humbling, it is nice to be recognized. I spend my days and nights trying to make this a better community, it is nice that it is noticed,” said Bradley, 58, who is president/CEO of the Cambria Regional Chamber in Johnstown. “There are many women in leadership roles now but it is nice to be recognized for my leadership as a CEO.”

Bradley has been at the chamber since March 2018 after spending 18 years at Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center, most recently serving as director of marketing, communications and public affairs.

“I was ready for a change. I heard about the job, it sounded like a fun way to promote the area. It was a good opportunity to continue story telling to move the area forward and I love it. I enjoy walking in every morning, I have a good team to work with. I enjoyed Conemaugh but never knew the business community. I met a whole new group of people that has been beneficial,” Bradley said.

Bradley said Samuel Catanese, founder/CEO of the Catanese Financial Group, was helpful to her when she took over the chamber job.

“At the chamber, businesses were new to me. There were things I needed to learn and he was

always there to encourage me,” Bradley said.

Catanese said Bradley has made a big difference in the chamber and the community since she took over.

“Amy is a wonderful human being. She is a warm caring person, (and) everyone loves to be around her,” Catanese said. “She is a true professional in every way. I have never seen her angry and she takes every project to heart and if something is not going well, she will do everything in her power to fix it.”

Bradley grew up in the Pittsburgh area and graduated from Baldwin High School in 1985. She went on to Penn State and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in journalism in 1989. She later received a master’s degree in leadership from Saint Vincent College in 2015.

Growing up, Bradley said she was always interested in broadcasting.

“I had done musical theater, I liked to learn and study. I loved to write, that was something I wanted to do,” Bradley said.

Started in media

She got her first job in radio at WKOK-AM in Sunbury. She left that job in 1989 and moved to WRSC-AM in State College. While there, she worked for WJAC-TV as a Centre County reporter. She then moved to Johnstown in 1992.

Bradley was the 6 and 11 p.m. anchor for WJAC in Johnstown. She received the Tribune Democrat’s “Simply the Best TV News Personality” award six years in a row.

Longtime WJAC reporter/anchor Marty Radovanic called Bradley one

of his dearest friends. He said she was extremely genuine from the moment he met her and had been amazing to work with over the years.

“She is an absolute gem of a person. A huge heart filled with love and commitment to whatever she’s involved in. From the very first moment I met her, I knew Amy was the real deal. Nothing phony,” Radovanic said. “She is the perfect person to lead the chamber because of her commitment to the community and John (her husband) decided to settle in and raise their amazing family.”

Bradley enjoyed her time working in television. She said it laid the groundwork for her position today, as she was able to get to know local businesses and learn about the ins and outs of certain industries.

“I got to meet many people and got a front row seat of what was going on. I would go into a business and see what they are doing, something the average person would not get to do. Every day is different and interesting,” Bradley said.

Bradley also enjoyed her time at Conemaugh, where she served as producer, writer and anchor of a half-hour health television program, which received four Emmy nominations.

“It was a great use of my talents and promoted the hospital,” Bradley said.

Her position at the chamber enables her to continue to tell stories.

“I am determined to tell positive stories to attract people and businesses and enlighten the people who have lived here their entire lives. There has been a lot of negativity, (but) there is so much good here. Those stories need to be told,” Bradley said. “My strongest skills are my writing skills. We started a Good News Friday video that blends my news-gathering skills and my writing and broadcasting skills to share good things that are happening here every week.”

Johnstown Mayor Sylvia King said Bradley is a hands-on type of person.

“The Good News Friday segment has meant a lot to the business community by highlighting the various businesses. She is a good marketing individual and has helped individual

businesses and attracted other businesses because they know they will get the publicity that she offers,” King said. “She is a good, wholesome person and a good friend to me.”

Bradley said her mother, Jeanne Williams of Pittsburgh, is her biggest role model.

“She became vice president of Comsis in Pittsburgh. She was a strong worker and I learned from her. When I have tough days, I think how she would handle it,” Bradley said.

Bradley is well-respected in the community.

“Amy is a highly motivated business leader whose background in marketing has served her well in the chamber world. Her chamber members have benefited from her willingness to implement new and creative programs, programs that effectively reach all of Cambria County,” said Joe Hurd, retired president/CEO of the Blair County Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to involvement in a number of community organizations — including Ameriserv Financial, Vision Together, the Jacob Fend Foundation, and Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church — Bradley also works as an adjunct instructor teaching public relations at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

At her church, Bradley is a Eucharistic Minister and serves on the church board.

“Amy is one of the greatest public servants I have ever known. She is an encourager, a leader, a teacher and most of all a woman of faith. It is my privilege to know people like Amy who make the world a better place,” said the Rev. Mark Begly.

She is active with Vision Together, a community-based nonprofit organization in Johnstown dedicated to revitalizing the region and improving its quality of life.

“Amy is passionate about our area and sees it



Courtesy photo

Amy Bradley, president/CEO of the Cambria Regional Chamber in Johnstown, was recently recognized by Pennsylvania Business Central as one of the top women CEOs and leaders for 2026.

as her personal mission that we move forward in making the area a better place. I have seen Amy work tirelessly to help develop our area and she is always looking to help companies and individuals who want to make Johnstown their home,” said Executive Director Robert Forcey.

When not on the job, Bradley likes to spend time with her family. Her daughter, Lily Coleman, is a news anchor at WTAE-TV in Pittsburgh.

“I like to spend time with my family and work out at the gym a lot. My mom and dad are both alive and well, and I spend time in Pittsburgh with my parents and fam-

ily.” Bradley said.

As far as the future, Bradley doesn’t plan on retirement any time soon.

“I just finished my Institution of Organization Management Degree from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. I love learning, I see learning as part of my future. I am an adjunct professor at UPJ in public relations, that keeps me fresh and in touch with the younger generation. I don’t see retiring any time soon, I love what I do and there is a lot of work to be done. We’re positioned to have a very positive impact,” Bradley said.

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

The Bradley file

Name: Amy Bradley

Age: 58

Position: President/CEO of Cambria Regional Chamber

Education: 1985 graduate of Baldwin High School; 1989 graduate of Penn State with a bachelor’s degree in journalism; 2015 graduate of Saint Vincent College with a master’s degree in leadership.

Family: Husband, John; daughter, Lily Coleman; sons, Boston and Cole; one grandchild; parents, Dex and Jeanne Williams; sister, Ellen Jones.

Quote: “I want to see the area succeed. There are people that need help, not always help them financially, but I can volunteer and share my expertise. It makes the community stronger and is a good use of my time.”



Courtesy photo

Amy Bradley, president/CEO of Cambria Regional Chamber, (center) is seen with her granddaughter, Margot, and husband, John Bradley.

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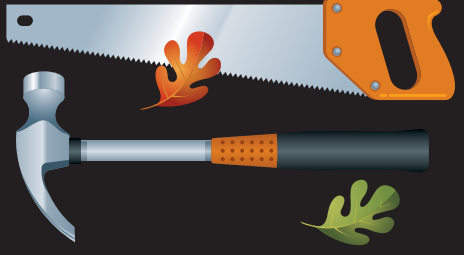
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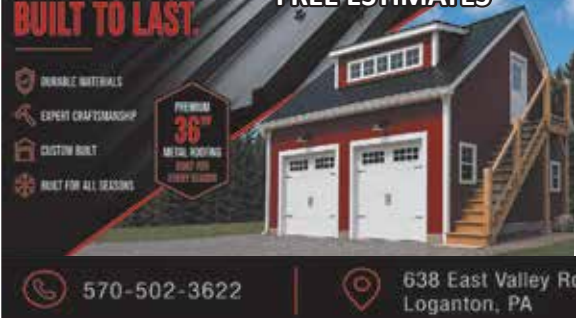
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