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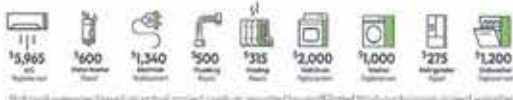


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Clearfield County child advocacy center gears up for Fall Festival

By Andy Stine
astine@altoonamirror.com

The Child Advocacy Center of Clearfield County will be holding its sixth annual Fall Festival from 10 a.m. To 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7 at the Copper Cork Event Center. The center was formerly the Knights of Columbus Hall.

The fall festival is the CAC's biggest fundraising event of the year, according to Kellie Jackson, who serves as the MDT coordinator (multi-disciplinary team) for the Child Advocacy Center.

"We have over 40 vendors, close to 50, and by the time we're done, we should be over 50," Jackson said. "That ranges from food vendors to crafts, people that are making home-made items, baked goods, candles, 3D print items."

In addition to the various vendors appearing at the event, there will also be five different food trucks outside of the Copper Cork Event Center. The organization will have a live band in Hardtack playing at the festival, and there will also be over 50 baskets to raffle off, as well as a couple 50-50s.

"It's just a nice way for people to get together, and to support us at the Child Advocacy Center of Clearfield County," Jackson said. "It's a nice way for people to start Christmas shopping. We get little tidbits here and there that make nice stocking stuffers, or it gives kids a reason to come out and get stuff. It's a nice family event."

The Child Advocacy Center serves as a mutual safe place where kids that may have been abused can come talk to interviewers.

"We have two interviewers that give them a place to talk," Jackson said. "We get referrals for potential child abuse, and it gives them a place to talk."

One of the best parts for children that visit the center, which is located at 530 Spruce Street in Clearfield, is the organization's therapy dog, Kirby. Kirby, who is a chocolate lab, was described as 'a good boy' by Jackson.

"If he's not there, people are like, 'Where's the dog?' Everyone looks forward to Kirby," Jackson said. "He's the hub of everything."

The fall festival is the CAC's biggest event of the year for fundraising. The organization relies heavily on grants and donations, but they also have people that donate throughout the year.

However, the fall festival is the event that generates the most money for the organization.

There are also a variety of prizes that are given away at the event.

"It seems to work out well," Jackson said. "We get stuff from Pittsburgh Zoo, we get golf tickets from Treasure Lake. We try to get a variety. We try to change it up a little bit."

Visit the organization on Facebook at Child Advocacy Center of Clearfield County.



— Courtesy photo



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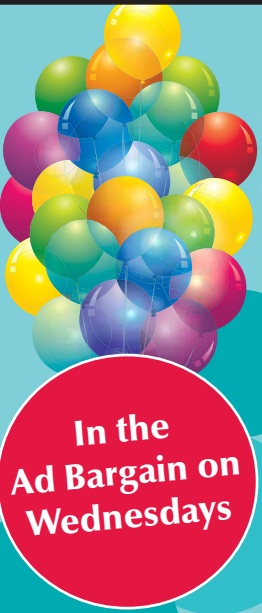
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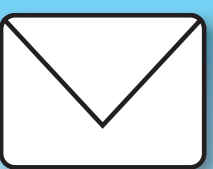


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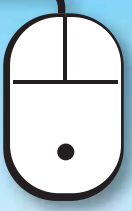
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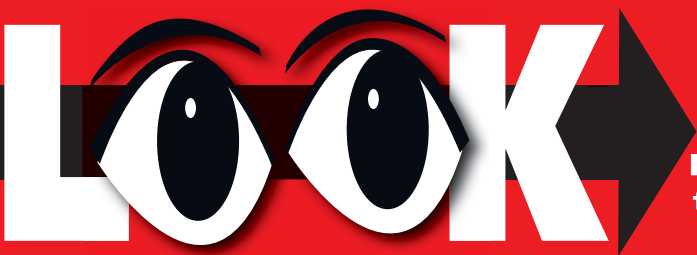
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SATURDAY OCTOBER 31, 2026 @ 9:30 A.M.
132 JONES LANE, CLEARFIELD PA 16830
ANDERSON ESTATE AUCTION

DIRECTIONS: FROM CLEARFIELD AT LIGHT ON 322 TURN ONTO RIVER ROAD GO 1/10 MILE TURN LEFT ONTO MT JOY ROAD GO 1.6 MILE TURN LEFT ONTO MORRISON ROAD GO .7 MILE TURN LEFT ONTO GUINEA HILL GO 4/10 MILE TURN ONTO JONES LANE 1/10 MILE KEEP RIGHT TO 132 JONES LANE.

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES: (Waterfall Dresser, Vanity & Night Stand), Victorian Style Settee, Platform Rocker, Singer & Franklin Treadle Sewing Machines, Framed To Shining Sea Eagle By Persis Weirs 145/750 Print, Asstd. Beer Steins, 1977-80 Clearfield Bison's Yearbooks, Lifeline Train Set, Signed Penn State Football Helmet & Soccer Ball, Joe Paterno Signed Nike Football, Tyco Rebound 44 & Formula 1 RC Car, Ravelle #3 Dale Earnhardt Model Kit, Dodge Viper Metal Die Cast Kit, 2003 Jesse Ray Wildlife Prints, Baby Dresses, Wolf Lane Miniature Cedar Box, Costume Jewelry Consisting of: (Rings, Bracelets, Necklaces & Ear Rings), (American Eagle & Aber Crombie & Finch Blue Jeans), Pittsburg Pirates T Shirts, Heath Miller Steelers Jersey, Terrible Towel, Block Quilt, Military Mess Kits & Canteen, Montgomery Ward #8, #10 No Name & Other Asstd. Cast Iron Skilleets, Speckled Blue Enamel Ware, Framed Horse Scene Velvet Wall Picture, Traffic Light, Maytag Square Tub Wringer Washer, (5)Woolrich Red Plaid Jackets & 1 Pr. of Pants, Small Ceramic Christmas Tree, 1970's Rock & Roll 8 Tracks, Ranger Cross Bow, Clearfield Bison's Football Helmet, Old Pal Minnow Bucket, 6 Pc. 18"-25" Tall Resin Nativity Scene.

TOYS: **New Brite** RC's Consisting of: (The Cub Turbo Cement Mixer Truck #2195, The Cat #290 Power Loader, The Cat Rock Truck #292 & The Cat Excavator #2193 in OB's), LEGO: (#6346 Flight, Lego System #6277, Lego Technic #8022 & #8816 & Lego Land Pirate #6285 in OB's), New Brite RC Rock Truck, Buddy L Big Bruiser Pressed Steel Rock Truck, Nylint Pressed Steel Coal Truck & Wrecker, Cabbage Patch Kids Doll in OB, (Chelsie & (2)Kelly Barbie's Baby Sister Doll Sets in OB), Tori Sweat Suit Set in OB, My Cuddly Baby in OB, Doll Case, (2)Barbie Dolls, (2)Furby & Furby Baby in OB's, Casey Cart Wheel Doll, Crazy Carols Doll, Generation Girls Doll in Ob, Wizard of Oz Set & Other Pez Dispensers, Paras Pokemon Card, Bachman N Scale Train Set, Lionel HO Gauge Engine #8042 Train Set, Asstd. Troll Dolls, Remco Real Steal Emergency Set, Legends TY Babies, Tyco Richard Petty Slot Car Race Set W/2 Cars, Echo 23 Pc. Action Play Set, Teddy Rupskins Doll, Dogz, Ertl Die Cast Miniature Construction Equipment, Asstd. Hot Wheels, Matchbox & Other Die Cast cars, Oopie Daisy Doll in OB, Little Golden & Other Children's Books, Asstd. Baby Dolls, (Tyco Crash Dummies Junkbut Wrecker, Crash Dummies Test Center & Crash Car), (2)Real Power Tool Shop, Bachmann HO Gauge Train Set, Casper Thermos, Creepie Crawlers, (Ertl Farm Country Farm, Farm Stead Set, Stable, & Deluxe Country Set), Steel Tech Harley Davidson Motorcycles, Daisey Toy Gun.

MODERN FURNITURE, APPLIANCES, ELECTRONICS: Heavy Pine Bedroom Suite Consisting of: (Queen/Full Size Bed, Dresser W/Hutch Top, Armoire & Night Stand), Oak Dinning Table W/2 Leaves & (8) Chairs, Oak China Hutch, Glass Top Kitchen Table W/4 Padded Chairs, Cedar Blanket Chest, Glass Top Coffee Table & 2 End Stands, Glass Top Duck Themed Stand, Child's Rocker, Oak Baby Cradle, (2)Swivel Bar Stools, 6' HD Picnic Table W/2 Benches, (2)Curio Cabinets, Oak Jewelry Armoire, Glass Top Patio Table W/3 Cement Benches, Combination Full Size Bed/Bunk Bed W/Storage, Tiger Oak Rocking Chair, Bathroom Vanity, Bag Chairs, 2 Door Metal Storage Cabinet, Small Book Shelf, Wall Mirror, 2 Drawer Oak File Cabinet, Twin Bed Frame W/Oak Headboard, Metal Shelving Units, 8' Banquet Table, D&A Key Wind Wall Clock, Kitchen Aid Counter Mixer, Asstd. Sm. Kitchen Appliances, Whirlpool Water Cooler, Samsung Mini Stereo, Box Fan, Asstd. Table & Floor Lamps, Samsung & Cannon Imager Printers, Bulova Wall Clock, Linden Shelf Clock, Shark Professional Upright Vacuum, Touch Lamp, GE VCR Player, Yamaha Keyboard, (2)Estes 1996 Star Wars Star Destroyer, Invisible Motor, Hurricane Lamp, Chefs Choice Electric Slicer, Cotton Candy Making Machine, S.S. Dehydrator, Roaster, BHG Has Grill, Asstd. Elec. Heaters, Asstd. Bricks & Pavers.

HUNTING & FISHING: Red Ryder, Crossman Powermaster 760 & 66 & 1 Other B.B. Gun, (2)Gun Cleaning Kits, (2)Holsters, Aim Point 5000, Leather Speed Loader, Tasco Binoculars, (6)Place Revolving Gun Cabinet, Arrow & Bow Case, Fenwick FF96-6 Fly Rod & Martin Reel, South Bend Fly Rod.

TOOLS: Wood Clamps, Lawn Mower Lift, Toro Vortex 163cc Self Propelled Push Mower, Rem. High Wheel Weed Trimmer, Tile Cutter, Long Handled Lawn & Garden Tools, Gas Mini Tiller, Stack On Toolbox W/Tools, Honda 4 Stroke Straight Shaft Weed Eater, DeWalt 20 Volt Pole Trimmer, Sears battery Charger, Jumper Cables, (Asstd. Hand Tools, Hammers, Screwdrivers, Pliers, Ect.), 2 ¼ Ton Jack Stands, (Craftsman Wrenches, ½" Socket Set, 3 Drawer Toolbox, Router, Radial Arm Saw, 3 HP 12 Gal. Air Compressor), Toolboxes, Master Mechanics Small Stacking Toolbox, Waterloo Lg. Top Toolbox, Roper Whitney #50 Angle Iron Notching Tool, Hand Truck, Weed Burner W/20# Propane Tank, Porter Cable Dovetail Cutter, 10' Ladder, 2 ½ Ton Floor Jack, Tippy Dump Lawn Pull Behind Cart, Tape Measures, Gray Mills Parts Washer, Nut & Bolt Organizers, 14 Gal. Shop Vac., (DeWalt: Router, (2)Hand Saws, Hammer Drill & Jig Saw), Paslode Nailer, Porter Cable Sawzall, Plunge Router & Sander, HD Screw Jacks **NIB**, HD Power Cords, Miter Meter, Dato Blade Set, Lifting Straps, **New** Saw Blades, Bauer Surface Conditioning Tool, Hilti Drill, Hilti Torex Screws.

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ESTATE AUCTION

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Contents: 10 AM - Real Estate: 12 Noon
Coburn PA - www.gilliganauctions.com
PA. House Cherry Furniture -
Mid-Century Modern Furniture - Shop Related Items
Fly Tying & Fishing Related Items -
Pyrex - Vintage Computers - Kitchen Items

Ron J. & Ron S. Gilligan & David C. Zentner will conduct a Public Real Estate Auction for The Stanley Gryczuk Estate located at 277 Tunnel Rd., Coburn, PA. 16832. From the mill in Coburn, continue on Tunnel Rd. & go 3/10 of a mile, then turn left onto Tunnel Rd. & go 1 mile to property on left (watch for signs starting at Paradise Rd. along Rt. 45).

Mid Century Modern 3 pc. bedroom suite, PA. House cherry dining room table w/ Queen Anne legs - leaves - & (8) chairs, PA. House cherry hutch, (2) PA. House cherry end tables, mid-century modern leather & wood lounge chair w/ ottoman, Kuehne mid-century modern black & chrome chair, brass hall tree, antique quarter-sans Oak round pedestal dining table, Cole metal map cabinet, antique oak map cabinet, pr. LXI & Fisher speakers, lk. new Whirlpool white refrigerator..... Rockwell/Delta fl. mod. bandsaw, Craftsman 12" radial arm saw, Craftsman fl. model table saw, large vintage industrial-size bandsaw – planer - & wood lathe, single-bottom plow, Shop VAC Pro 22-gal. wet/dry vac, Masters 60,000 BTU portable heater, vintage metal shop stool, many pipe & bar clamps, assorted hardware, miscellaneous hand tools...

Dunn's oak machinist's toolbox, vintage oak machinist's toolbox, nice drafting sets, lots of hackle & fly tying related items, fly tying books, PA. Game News magazines, vintage Piper jacket, Orvis & L.L. Bean jackets, PSU buttons, other PSU items, Commodore SP9000 SuperPET computer & dual floppy disk drive, other vintage Commodore computers, vintage Cordovox speaker cabinet, vintage EV 676 microphone & stand, Pyrex, Cutco, Rival 20-qt. roaster oven in box, Aroma roaster oven in box, crocks, Imperial snack set, set of Creative Manor china, Mikasa china, glass salts, Club Aluminium, stainless steel pots & pans, kitchen related items...

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'18 Chevy Equinox - 2.0L, AWD, 156K

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'16 GMC Acadia - 3.6L, AWD, 92K

'16 Chrysler T&C - 3.6L, FWD, 123K

'16 Honda Odyssey - 3.5L, FWD, 153K

'16 Hyundai Tucson - 2.0L, AWD, 127K

'16 Jeep Renegade - 2.4L, 4x4, 105K

'16 Honda Pilot - 3.5L, 4x4, 162K

'16 Chevy Silverado 1500 - 5.3L, 4x4, 74K

'16 Jeep Compass - 2.4L, 4x4, 102K

'15 Jeep Patriot - 2.4L, FWD, 125K

'15 Subaru Outback - 2.5L, AWD, 146K

'15 Ford Escape - 1.6L, 4x4, 131K

'15 Nissan Pathfinder - 3.5L, 4x4, 162K

'15 Ford F150 - 2.7L, 4x4, 139K

'14 Ford Edge - 3.5L, AWD, 140K

'14 Chevy Traverse - 3.6L, AWD, 157K

'14 Ford F150 - 3.5L, 4x4, 189K

'14 Honda CRV - 2.4L, AWD, 116K

'13 Dodge Durango - 3.6L, AWD, 140K

'13 Mazda CX5 - 2.0L, AWD, 143K

'13 Subaru Crosstrek - 2.5L, AWD, 77K

'13 Ford Escape - 2.0L, 4x4, 139K

'12 Honda CRV - 2.4L, AWD, 166K

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Crossword Puzzle

Solution on page 7

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10				
11						12						13	14	15
16						17				18				
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28							29					30		
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34	35	36	37											
39								40	41	42				
43							44						45	46
49														
53														
56														
60														

CLUES ACROSS

1. Nocturnal rodent

5. Requesting

11. Give temporarily

12. Frivolousness

16. Military arm

17. "Westworld" actor Harris

18. Persian Gulf port city

19. Air hostesses

24. Partner to "Pa"

25. Percussion instrument

26. Raincoats

27. Lower the light

28. Asian mountain range

29. Every one of two or more

30. Lack of difficulty

31. A public announcement of a proposed marriage

33. Reduces in size

34. Make an impact

38. Serviceman

39. A French river

40. Prehistoric people

43. Messenger ribonucleic acid

44. "Layla" singer Clapton

45. Ancient Greek sophist

49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)

50. "Top Gun: Maverick" actor Powell

51. A way to disentangle

53. Atomic #93

54. Manifesting approval

56. Indigo bush

58. Larry and Curly's pal

59. Off-Broadway theater award

60. Fencers

63. Masses of fish eggs

64. Passerine birds

65. Arrange systematically

CLUES DOWN

1. Colorless part of blood

2. Of a main artery

3. Photog's tool

4. Blues Traveler hit "But ___"

5. Grew older

6. Not the leader

7. ___ Lang: country singer

8. A driver's license is one

9. Nests of pheasants

10. Antelopes

13. One quintillion bytes

14. Japanese lute

15. A type of cat

20. It cools your home

21. Dorm official

22. Pouches

23. German trigraph

27. Form of Persian

29. ___ route

30. Upper body part

31. Bridge building degree

32. Indicates position

33. Political action committee

34. Edible nuts

35. Front part of a quadruped

36. Locate

37. Geological time

38. Of I

40. Northern Utah city

41. They work in the trenches

42. Hammer is one

44. Tall deciduous tree

45. Performers

46. Slang for mistake

47. More open

48. Most slick

50. Provokes

51. Home of the NCAA's Flyers

52. Sodium

54. Large fish of the mackerel family

55. Not one

57. ___ and behold

61. Atomic #21

62. "The Great Lakes State"

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325 Bassler St., Martinsburg \$250,000. J692

PENDING
2512-14 Beale Ave., Altoona \$170,000. J-690

PENDING
3000 Broad Ave., Altoona \$140,000. J-689

PENDING
C602 Blue Knob \$43,500 J693

190 Harshberger Dr., Hollidaysburg - Multi-level 4-bedroom 2-bath with nice hickory kitchen, newer roof & attached 2-car garage on .46 Acres located off Brush Mountain Dr. \$285,000. J-700

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

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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

PENDING
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

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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 - Affordable 2 BR, 2 bath fully-furnished 4-season mountain getaway. Enjoy indoor & outdoor pools, skiing & golf. \$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 \$69,900 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

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NEW LISTING



1013 Walnut Street, Hollidaysburg

This stucco beauty has been thoughtfully remodeled to preserve the home's original charm and character while incorporating modern updates that enhance comfort, function, and everyday living. Large living room with wood burning fireplace and hardwood floors. Spacious dining room with lots of natural light. Kitchen has granite countertops, tile backsplash, and walk in pantry. First floor laundry. Primary bedroom on the second floor has full bath, walk in closets, and adjoining nursery/bonus room, also with large closet. Two additional bedrooms and one full bath are featured on this level. Third floor was once a bedroom and that possibility remains. Relax on either of the covered front or back porches or soak up the sun on the pretty paver patio. Lovely perennial gardens surround the property and there is off street parking in the rear. **\$315,00 #81311**

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. **\$275,000 #80857**

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**

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PENDING



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. **\$275,000 #80897**

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**

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**

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. **\$177,000. #80607**

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Colonial Courtyard at Clearfield announces upcoming events

Colonial Courtyard at Clearfield, 1300 Leonard St., will host a series of community events throughout October, featuring food trucks, live entertainment and opportunities for socializing.

Food Truck Wednesdays will continue from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 21 with Eddie's Dirty Lil Snack Shack and Oct. 28 with K&J BBQ.

Ronin No Yatai food truck will visit the facility from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 23, followed by live entertainment by Zupe at 2 p.m. Community members are invited to attend the performance.

"We love bringing people together," said Kellie Strouse, sales and marketing director. "Whether it's enjoying a delicious meal from a local food truck, learning something new, or sharing a few laughs during a live performance, we want our community to know that our doors are open and there's always something fun happening here."



— Courtesy photo

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Obituaries

William Edward “KENO” Beezer

William Edward “KENO” Beezer, “The Legend” and hero of the Moshannon Valley area climbed the Golden Staircase on October 8, 2026, at 3:30am. He reached the pearly gates of Heaven and ran into the loving arms of his Lord and Savior to begin receiving all the rewards his earthly sacrifices made during his 86 years on earth.

A mere mortal man and a distinguished bachelor by all accounts, who spent nearly 47 years nurturing, teaching, disciplining and rewarding the youth of Philipsburg and the surrounding area. He kept them safe and he kept them active in the confines of the YMCA afterschool program. But more than all the accolades above he taught the kids about respect and he expected it in return. The lessons taught during those years would come back to him 10 fold when later in his life he suffered a medical issue and a hospital stay. Word got out and the community responded. Near and far they donated thousands of dollars, cleaned his house, cooked him meals and even put in a new kitchen for him and found some furniture to replace his old worn out couch. But more than anything, the letters that poured in telling stories about the impact he had made in their lives. A mere mortal man? Not to the thousands of youth that crossed his path or stepped foot into that YMCA gym or heard those words “NO! MISSED!” Come out of the most unique voice, off of a tall makeshift referee stand, and no one argued his call. Keno was born on August 4, 1940, in Philipsburg, Pa., a son of Walter E. Beezer and Myrna (Moore) Beezer. He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Margaret “Peggy” Beezer. He was a 1958 graduate of the Philipsburg High School and a 1961 graduate of the Altoona School of Commerce. He also attended Penn State University. He was a Life Member of the Philipsburg Elks Lodge and Country Club, Lodge No. 1173; and a social member of the Philipsburg VFW Post 3450. Keno had a love for Bull Terriers and was affiliated with the Bull Terrier Rescue Club where he adopted 5 Bull Terriers over the years. Rocky, Max, Bart, Bentley and Bear. He was hired as the first Executive Director of a newly formed Moshannon Valley YMCA in 1973. He retired in 2016 after 37 years. Prior to the YMCA, he worked at the Philipsburg State Hospital, Shain Industries and Lee Industries as an accountant. In 1970 he was hired as a Major League Baseball Scout and in 1977 he was hired by the Major League Scouting Bureau and continued that position for 35 years in Pennsylvania and Maryland. Another of his many talents served in coaching Philipsburg Teener League baseball for 20 years. In 1976 he coached his team to their first Pennsylvania State Championship. He also coached the Philipsburg American Legion Baseball Team for 4 years. He was elected to the Clearfield County Sports Hall of Fame in 1996 and in the same year he was elected to the Pennsylvania American Legion Hall of Fame and in 2021 wrapped it up by being elected to the Centre County Sports Hall of Fame. Keno received many awards over his lifetime including the Spirit Award from the Philipsburg Revitalization Corp in 2010, the Vocational Service Award from the Philipsburg Rotary Club in 1978, the American Red Cross Volunteer of the Year in 1989, the Centre County Chamber of Business and Industry Community Service award in 1997, the Philipsburg Heritage Days Award for Community Service in 2010 and the Moshannon Valley Economic Development Partnership for his service at the YMCA in 2000. He also served as the Philipsburg Area Chairman for the Centre County United Way in 1993 and was a member and officer of the Philipsburg Quarterback club for many years. Keno was associated with the Keno Beezer Wiffle Ball Tournament that benefited the Philipsburg Osceola School District Education Fundraiser held every year at the Elks Lodge in Philipsburg where he faithfully threw out the first ball and got the tournament started. On August 31, 2010, Keno retired from the YMCA executive director position. In honor of his long standing position to the youth, YMCA board members Bud O'Brien and Laura Bordas established an endowed scholarship in his name. The Keno Beezer Scholarship, available to support continuing education for graduating seniors at 3 of the local school districts: Philipsburg-Osceola, West Branch and Moshannon Valley. Since 2011, there have been over 160 students who have received \$1,000.00 scholarships. The entire community grieves his loss, sadly there will never be another man that gives his entire life to help raise and nurture the youth of this area. One can't imagine the thousands of lives he has touched. A celebration of Keno's life was held at the Moshannon Valley YMCA, 13 N. 14th St., Philipsburg, on October 18, 2026 with Rev. Eileen Weglarz, officiating. An Elks memorial service for Keno was held Sunday at the YMCA as part of the funeral service program. Off-street parking will be available at the YMCA, the lot adjacent to the football field and at Slabtown Park. Interment will be in Philipsburg Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Keno Beezer Scholarship Fund, Centre Foundation, 1388 Ridge Master Drive, State College, PA 16803 or the charity of your choice. The Beezer-Heath Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Philipsburg, is in charge of the arrangements. Online condolences and memories may be shared at <http://www.beezerheathfh.com>.

Connie E. Bullman

Connie E. Bullman, 80, of Philipsburg, PA, died on Thursday, October 15, 2026 at Penn Highlands DuBois.

Born on May 21, 1946, in Philipsburg, PA, Connie was the daughter of the late Zennia T. Moss. She was a member of the Osceola Mills United Methodist Church. Connie was a retired Tax Preparer. She was a 1964 graduate from the P.O. High School. In addition to her mother, Connie was preceded in death by a special grandson, Jon Young. She is survived by a daughter, Jade Bullman of State College, PA; a son Ernie Bullman, Jr. & his companion Rhonda Young of Smithmill, PA; three grandchildren, Hunter Bullman, Yeggar Young, and Sephia Dotts; and three great-grandchildren, Embry, Joey, and Theo. A funeral service was held on Tuesday, October 20, 2026 at the Heath Funeral Home & Cremation Services, LLC at 701 Lingle St. Osceola Mills, PA 16666. Pastor Chris Priestler officiating.. Interment will be at Umbria Cemetery in Osceola Mills, PA. To sign the online guestbook, go to www.heathfuneral.com

Michael Joseph Homyack

Michael Joseph Homyack, 59, of Houtzdale, PA and formerly of Williamsburg, PA, died on Thursday, October 15, 2026 at UPMC Altoona.

Born on September 24, 1967, in Altoona, PA, Michael was the son of the late Joseph Homyack & Martha (Elias) Homyack. Michael was a member of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church. In addition to his parent, Michael was preceded in death by an infant brother. He is survived by numerous cousins. A Burial Service will be held on Thursday, October 22, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the Nativity of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church in Osceola Mills, PA. Archimandrite Jacob Piruta will officate. Interment will be at the Nativity of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Cemetery in Osceola Mills, PA. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, October 21, 2026 from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Heath Funeral Home & Cremation Services, LLC, at 701 Lingle St. Osceola Mills, PA. Panikhida will be held on Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the funeral home. To sign the online guestbook, go to www.heathfuneral.com

Obituaries Courtesy of: Heath’s Funeral Home; Bennett & Houser Funeral Home, Inc
Kruise-Spewock Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc; McQuown Funeral;
Gibbons Funeral Homes; Beezer-Heath Funeral Home & Cremation Services

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Take a bite out of dental hygiene



Maintaining a healthy smile goes beyond a five-second brushing while running out the door for work or school. It involves being mindful of the often simple oral hygiene steps a person can take to avoid common oral health issues.

According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 47 percent of American adults age 30 or older suffer from some form of periodontal disease. More than 20 percent live with untreated tooth decay, according to the National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health. Despite these statistics, common oral health complaints are largely preventable. Incorporating the following daily habits can significantly reduce a person's risk of decay and facilitate lifelong dental health.

- Increase brushing time. The Academy of General Dentistry reports that the average person brushes for only 45 to 70 seconds per day. But the American Dental Association recommends brushing for two full minutes, twice daily. Setting a timer will help adults and children meet this goal.
- Use a fluoride toothpaste. Fluoride strengthens enamel and can reduce caries incidence by up to 31 percent, says the ADA. Ingestion of fluoride can be reduced by spitting out excess and teaching children the proper way to brush.
- Recognize that angle matters. Angling toothbrush bristles to 45 degrees toward the

gum line can sweep away plaque trapped at the perimeter. People should use short, gentle, circular strokes to clean teeth, rather than harsh back-and-forth scrubbing, which can erode enamel and lead to gum recession, says the American Diabetes Association.

- Use floss and water flossers. A standard toothbrush can reach only so much of the tooth's surface. The tight spaces between the teeth will remain untouched without interdental cleaning. Traditional string floss, interdental brushes, and water flossers will flush out food particles and bacteria.
- Invest in a tongue scraper. The tongue is a magnet for oral bacteria, which can contribute to bad breath and plaque buildup. People can use a tongue scraper to clean the tongue each morning.
- Use mouthwash. Finishing the dental routine with an alcohol-free antibacterial mouthwash will help neutralize any lingering bacteria without drying out delicate oral tissues. Some mouthwashes also are fortified

with fluoride for extra tooth protection.

- Get twice-annual cleanings. Visiting the dentist every six months treats the teeth and mouth to a thorough cleaning and inspections that can uncover issues before they escalate. Dedicating roughly five minutes per day to proper brushing and oral care can protect the teeth, gums, and overall health.



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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026

Altoona graduate helped US put Americans in space

By MATT CHURELLA
mchurella@altoonamirror.com

Sixty-nine years ago last Sunday, Oct. 4, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite to orbit the Earth, marking the start of the Space Age and the first significant milestone in the space race between Russia and the United States.

In 1958, the following year, McDonnell Aircraft Corp. was selected to design, build, test and launch a spacecraft for Project Mercury, with the goal of putting an American into space.

Since Russia had already put a satellite in space, putting an American in space became a high priority, according to Norman Beckel Jr., who was a communications engineer for McDonnell at the time.

Beckel traces his roots back to Altoona, having grown up in the city's Juniata neighborhood. He was a 1949 graduate of the Altoona Area School District.

After high school, Beckel joined the Navy and later earned an engineering degree from Penn State University in 1958. After college, he moved his family to St. Louis, Missouri, to work for McDonnell and has basically lived there ever since, with the exception of a few years he lived in Florida.

Beckel said McDonnell's crew worked on the Mercury spacecraft for about a year until 1960, when most of the crew was transferred to the Cape Kennedy area of Florida to launch the first mercury rocket.

First, they launched an unmanned rocket, but they later launched a chimpanzee named "Ham" into space, Beckel said, noting it was all done with a Redstone rocket off of pad five, which was controlled by a team from

The Beckel file

Name: Norman Beckel Jr.

Age: 95

Education: Altoona Area School District, Class of 1949; Penn State University, engineering degree, Class of 1958

Work: He was part of the team that worked for McDonnell Aircraft Corporation, which was contracted by NASA on Project Mercury to design, test, build and launch a vehicle capable of putting an American into space. He retired in 1994.

Residence: St. Louis, Missouri

Hobbies: He enjoyed golfing and cycling in his day. Attending church remains an active part of Beckel's life.

Huntsville, Alabama, he said.

Then, in May 1961, just weeks after Russians put the first human — Yuri Gagarin — in space, the United States launched astronaut Alan Shepard into space on a 15-minute suborbital ballistic flight that reached a peak altitude of about 116 miles.

"They recovered Alan and the spacecraft downrange several hundred miles," Beckel, 95, recalled.

According to NASA's website, the spacecraft landed safely in the Atlantic Ocean and was recovered by a Marine Corps recovery helicopter from a Naval aircraft carrier.

Then, in August, Beckel said they successfully launched the second astronaut in Project Mercury, Virgil "Gus" Grissom.

Unfortunately, Grissom's spacecraft was lost because valves were not shut to keep seawater out, Beckel said, noting the spacecraft filled with water and sank, but Grissom was recovered.

Then, in February 1962, their attention turned to launching the first astronaut on the Atlas booster rocket, John Glenn, Beckel said, noting the Atlas was a transcontinental missile adapted for carrying the Mercury spacecraft into orbit.

Glenn was launched successfully and completed three orbits around the Earth, making him the first American to go into orbit, Beckel said.

After that came a series of five more Mercury launches, with each one being a little more challenging than the last, Beckel said.

The final astronaut to fly in Project Mercury was Gordon Cooper, Beckel said, noting Cooper spent "just about a whole day in space." That took place in May 1963 — about six months prior to President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

Over his 34-hour flight, Cooper did 22 orbits, which was "really stretching it for a Mercury capsule," Beckel said, noting a Mercury capsule was "very unsophisticated," much like the Ford Model T was in the automobile industry, he added.

Gemini

McDonnell also got to partake in the Gemini project, NASA's second human spaceflight program that paved the way for the Apollo 11 moon landing in 1969, which then fulfilled Kennedy's challenge to NASA to land a man on the moon before the decade ended, Beckel said.

"Gemini was completely different," Beckel said, adding everything was

analog on Mercury, while everything was digital on Gemini, which was named after the constellation because the spacecraft used in Gemini, a Latin word for "twins," carried two astronauts instead of one.

The goal of Project Gemini, Beckel said, was to learn as much about human exploration in space as possible before taking that "one giant leap for mankind."

It included a lot of extra-vehicular activity — any work an astronaut performs outside of a spacecraft in the vacuum of space, Beckel said.

"One of the astronauts opened the doors in space, and one of the astronauts would get out and do some cursory work," Beckel said, adding they couldn't stay out very long on Gemini like they did later in space shuttles.

"On Gemini, what we were really trying to prove is that we could rendezvous two vehicles in space, meet them up, which would have to be done to recover people who went to the moon," Beckel said.

When Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the moon, they had to rendezvous with the Apollo spacecraft, which was something that was proven could be done on NASA's Gemini spacecraft, Beckel said.

None of the astronauts were killed on Mercury or Gemini, Beckel said. However, the first Apollo vehicle had a fire during testing that killed three of the astronauts, two of which were also part of Mercury and Gemini, he said.

McDonnell's role

The Mercury spacecraft was already well designed by the time McDonnell got the contract from NACA, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, which was the predecessor to NASA, Beckel said.

"Our job mostly was to build what we had proposed," Beckel said. "That was not a straight line because every day we learned something different."

As the communications engineer, Beckel's systems basically included all radio frequency systems, including UHF, or ultra high frequency voice communications.

"We had command receivers on there where the ground could command different functions to occur in the spacecraft, and we had C bands and S band radar beacons," Beckel said, adding they had kilometer transmitters, too.

"One of our big design projects once we got the

contract was to design test equipment that test the spacecraft," Beckel said. "So, I was intimately involved in designing the spacecraft and then when we launched, there would be a launch crew that we selected that would be in the blockhouse."

Beckel said he was McDonnell's capsule communicator for Alan Shepard's launch, the first American to travel into space. Then he transitioned over to the Atlas program, which aimed to put a man into orbit.

When they were working on the Mercury program, they didn't have time constraints and could launch the spacecraft at any time of the day, Beckel said.

"When we got to Gemini, we didn't have the freedom," Beckel said, noting the spacecraft could only launch at a certain time of the day because they had to launch two vehicles — the Agena and the Atlas — and do so in a way that they could rendezvous in space.

"To get those rendezvous, it was like an energy equation, so if you didn't launch at precisely the right time, you would burn an awful lot of fuel," he said.

The whole spacecraft program was like building blocks — each mission built on the previous one and became more sophisticated over time, he said.

Beckel retired in 1994, after about 37 years of service to McDonnell, which merged with the Douglas Aircraft Company in 1967 to form the McDonnell Douglas Corporation. McDonnell Douglas then merged with the Boeing Company in 1997.

Visit to Altoona

Beckel, who turns 96 in December, recently returned to the area for a wedding last month and visited the district's Neil Armstrong Planetarium, where he answered questions for a group of Juniata Elementary fifth graders and watched a sky show with them.

"They were bright and alert, and they asked very good questions," Beckel said, adding a lot of times when he talks with elementary children, they often ask him how astronauts used the toilet or what he ate for lunch.

The Juniata Elementary students were more interested in the Mercury program and the role he played in it, Beckel said. "They were quite active, and (James Krug, the planetarium's director) is quite a teacher — he had



Courtesy photo

Norman Beckel Jr. is part of the Altoona Area School District's Alumni in Astronomy wall inside the Neil Armstrong Planetarium. He worked for McDonnell Aircraft Corp., which was contracted by NASA on Project Mercury to design, build, test and launch a vehicle capable of putting an American into space.

those kids eating out of his hand. It was a good afternoon."

Beckel is immortalized with a plaque as part of an alumni in astronomy wall in the planetarium, according to a district Facebook post made about his visit with the students. Krug said that initiative began in 2017 when he met Nancy McClelland, Beckel's niece, and learned about his contributions to the country's space programs.

When Beckel visited the planetarium in September, it was he and Krug's first in-person meeting, Krug said, noting after the students left, he spent some time with Beckel while he waited for his family to bring their car around.

Krug showed Beckel special lithographs signed by NASA Mercury, Gemini and Apollo astronauts — something Beckel said he really appreciated seeing.

"Norman exudes the academic and career excellence embodied in many Altoona Area High School graduates," Krug said of Beckel. "He built an excellent foundation here in the late 1940s and used that platform to launch to heights most consider impossible."

Krug said he enjoyed learning personal stories from Beckel that history doesn't record, including that the United States could have beaten the Soviets and Sputnik 1 into space.

"It was so enjoyable to watch Mr. Beckel reminisce about a time in which American pride and achievement was so high, and he was a big part of it," Krug said.

While the 1960s was "a phenomenal decade," Beckel pointed out that at the same time as scientific advancements were

being made, there were several assassinations — including Kennedy; his brother, Robert F. Kennedy; and civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. — and a lot of rioting.

"It's hard to believe that at the same time we were working on all this and advancing mankind, we were also bitterly engaged in divisiveness," Beckel said. "Man is a complex animal."

In today's America, where there's a lot of news about political unrest and violent shootings seem to occur too often, progress carries on in the meantime, Beckel said, noting his iPhone reportedly has more computer power in it than what the people who went to the moon had in their spacecraft.

"When I was a youth, the schools taught me the state of the art at that time, and now that state of the art is pretty crude, and the cars we drive are nothing like the Model T," Beckel said, adding advancement is just part of "man's inquisitive nature to always wonder what's on the other side of the hill."

"Man is pretty good at inventing things, and if we have a solution with no problem, man will create a problem to use the solution," Beckel said, adding he's fascinated with the advancements in technology today.

Bob Beckel, Norman's cousin, said the Beckel family is "very proud of what Norman was able to do with his life."

"He was always in everybody's minds and hearts because of what he did," Bob Beckel said, adding, "I'm not a rocket scientist, but my cousin is."

Mirror Staff Writer Matt Churella is at 814-946-7520.



Neil Armstrong Planetarium Director Jim Krug showed Norman Beckel Jr. some special lithographs signed by NASA Mercury, Gemini and Apollo astronauts during Beckel's recent visit to the planetarium.

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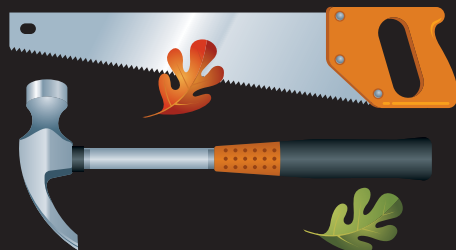
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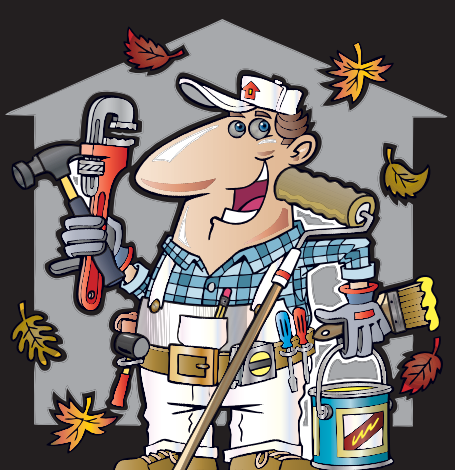
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