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Volume 44  
Number 33

Wednesday, January 21, 2026



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# Clearfield YMCA hosts WinterFest on Jan. 31

Events include  
a polar plunge,  
frozen salami swing

By Andy Stine  
[astine@altoonamirror.com](mailto:astine@altoonamirror.com)

CLEARFIELD — For those looking for a day to get outside and enjoy the winter weather, the Clearfield YMCA's annual WinterFest is slated for Saturday, Jan. 31, at Parker Dam State Park in Penfield.

The event, which has previously been held over a two-day weekend, is reduced to just one day this year.

The day's events kick off at 10 a.m. with the Freeze Your Gizzard 5K, a beloved Winterfest tradition that brings runners and walkers together to celebrate the season. There will be fun prizes for things like best costume, oldest runner, least amount of clothing, etc.

The course winds through scenic Parker Dam State Park and is geared toward participants of all ages and abilities. The race begins and ends at the Parker Dam beach house, where warm refreshments and Winterfest festivities await when those crossing the finish line.

Registration is \$20; the deadline to enter is Jan. 24. To register, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Penfield/FreezeYourGizzard5KRace>.

Ice skating, weather dependent, will be available, with ice skate rentals opening at 10 a.m. The ice skate swap begins at 10:30 a.m..

At noon, there will be an Arctic Blast Cornhole Tournament, which requires pre-registration with the YMCA.



The kid's Snow Box Derby starts at 1 p.m., while historic ice harvesting gets underway at 1:30 p.m., followed by the frozen salami swing at 2 p.m.

The day's events wrap up with the polar plunge at 4 p.m.

Those taking part in the polar plunge are asked to collect pledges for the feat, with the minimum total in pledges set at \$25 for adults and \$20 for those 12 to 21 years of age. Pledge forms are available on the YMCA's website at [clearfieldymca.org](http://clearfieldymca.org).

Other events throughout the day include a snowman building contest, ice bowling, ice putt-putt golf and ice skating. The ice events are weather dependent.

Representatives from Parker Dam will also be on hand with educational programming.

Check the event's Facebook page 'WinterFest 2026' for event updates and schedule changes as the event moves closer.

The Clearfield YMCA is a charitable, nonprofit organization that provides opportunities to all individuals and families in the community through programs, services and activities that build healthy spirit, mind and body.

The Y is at 21 N. Second St., Clearfield, and can be reached at 814-765-5521 or through its website and Facebook page.

The Y is open from 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday;

— Courtesy Parker Dam State Park Facebook page  
Photos from last year's event.



and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.  
Do you have a news tip or events happening in your com-

munity that you would like to share? Contact Andy Stine at [astine@altoonamirror.com](mailto:astine@altoonamirror.com).

## INSIDE THIS EDITION!

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**1321 Extrovert Blue Knob** - There's lots of room for you & your friends in this 3rd flr 2 BR, 2 BA, fully furnished condo w/ counter bar seating, sleeper sofa, washer & dryer, balcony, located across from the tennis court & outdoor pool. **\$95,000 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**



**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. **\$67,900. J-662**



**B202 Blue Knob** - Beautiful 2nd floor fully-furnished Studio w/ many upgrades: flooring, appliances, windows, sliding door, elec. FP, A/C unit + electronic ring camera, new patio furniture, kitchen counters, + 55" TV. HOA \$290/mo. **\$54,500. J-667**

*Happy*  
**NEW YEAR**



**563 Lock Mountain Rd., Martinsburg** - 1 story 3 BR 2.5 BA home w/attached 2-car garage, enclosed breezeway, spacious main floor great room, detached workshop/garage, barn, pond and great views on 3.9 Acres. **\$369,900 J-665**



**1198 W Loop Rd., Hollidaysburg** Great opportunity to live in the country in this updated 4 BR, 1.5 BA 1 sty vinyl-sided home with finished basement & back deck on .34 acres. **\$239,900 J-676**



**363 Ake Ln., Martinsburg** - Enjoy tranquil, scenic view of spacious pond from your kitchen table or side cov deck. Lg primary BR ensuite + 2 other BRs + another full BA. Big open kitchen w/nice wooden cabinets. Only 2 blks to Morrison Cove Memorial Park & Swimming Pool. **J-668**



**C602 Blue Knob** - Great studio for price. fully furnished. Sleeps 4, new Luxury vinyl tile flooring & elec FP. Located across from indoor pool, hottub & workout room. **J-675**

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## LAND

**11.99 ACRES**  
**Heverly Ave., Martinsburg** - Prime 11.99 acre country land on the outskirts of Martinsburg Boro in North Woodbury Twp, neighboring Homewood Retirement Center & Spring Manor Mobile Home Park w/ public water & sewer available & great view. **\$500,000. J-672**

**Lot 113R Michael's Dr., Hollidaysburg** - Beautiful .585 acre building lot in Old Town Village. Drill well & tap onto public sewer. **\$69,000 J-671**

**Lot 33 Granada Way Logan Twp, Altoona** - 2.03 acres. Beverly Hills. **\$34,900. J-511**

**NEW PRICE**  
**Lot 30 Ivyside Estates Ln., Altoona** - 3.57 ac wooded lot tap onto sewer & dig well. **\$29,900. J-618**

**NEW PRICE**  
**193L Ridge Rd., Blue Knob** - .28 Acre. Close to golf course. **\$12,500. J-585**

For interior photos and more info visit

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**#78143 -**  
Roaring Spring. Comfortable raised ranch on large lot with expansive views. 2 BR, 2 BA. Large 2-car detached garage. Appliances included. **\$204,900.**



**#78869 -** Upgraded 3 BR house in Garfield Area of Altoona. New steel roof, modern kitchen with appliances, and a first floor laundry room. Fenced backyard. Hot water heat. **\$87,900.**



**REDUCED**

**#77008 -** Altoona. Spacious 2 1/2 story features 4 bedrooms, upgraded kitchen, and bath. Gas hot water heat. First floor laundry. Off-street parking at rear of property. **\$64,900.**



**COMMERCIAL**

**#77524 -** One of Blair County's most popular restaurants. Triple net lease. Tenant pays expenses. Call for details.



**NEW COMMERCIAL PRICE**

**#78596 -** Duncansville Area. 3.89 acre commercial property featuring spacious stone residence converted to offices and apartments. Separate two-story building contains two floors of updated office space with two restrooms each. Interior or exterior access to allow for one or more tenants. **\$1,275,000.**



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**PLANK ROAD/PARKVIEW DRIVE**

**00 Parkview Dr., Altoona - 3.27** acres in the center of Blair County's retail shopping and dining district. Land is suitable for development of any type with township approval. Located in high traffic area just off the Plank Road/Parkview Drive intersection, this acreage is perfect for professional office, restaurant, or multi family residential such as townhouses, condominium, apartments. No zoning permits. The sky's the limit! Nearby businesses include Walmart, Sam's Club, Target, Sportsman's Warehouse, Petco, Chick Fil A, Outback, and Cracker Barrel. Nearby hotels are Hampton Inn, Courtyard by Marriott, and Holiday Inn Express. This location truly is in Blair County's hot spot with a traffic count at the intersection of over 30,000 cars per day. **\$359,000. #78681**



**NEW LISTING**



**354 Oak Knoll Rd., Hollidaysburg -** Situated in what could be considered the most desirable location in Hollidaysburg, this bi-level home, on a nearly half acre corner lot, is ready for a new family. 3 sizable bedrooms, 3 full baths, large living room/dining room with hardwood floors. Sunroom opens to beautiful composite deck. Modern kitchen with white shaker cabinets. Lower level family room with fireplace. Gas forced air heat with central air. Fenced area in yard for child and pet safety. Two car integral garage. **\$289,000. #79012**

**ALTOONA**



**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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Elementary school teachers are invited to have their students submit drawings for the Mirror's Kids Weather feature. The Mirror will send a copy of the form to teachers who email **news@altoonamirror.com** or call **946-7450.**

Include the student's first and last names, grade level, and school below the picture.

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# Auction

## CORNER

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Blizzard Date (Only If Roads Are Impassible): Sunday, January 25th

(51) Guns – 300 Boxes of Collector Ammo In Original Factory Boxes  
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www.rgilliganauctions.com Ron J. & Ron S. Gilligan & David C. Zentner will conduct a Public Estate Auction located at the Ferguson Township Lions Club 424 W. Pine Grove Rd. Pine Grove Mills, PA. 16868. From State College, take Rt. 45 West to Pine Grove Mills & continue 1 mile to auction on left.

Winchester mod. 1892 25-20 W.C.F. takedown lever act. rifle w/ 24" octagon barrel #777371, Winchester mod. 1892 44 W.C.F. lever act. rifle w/ 24" round barrel #37181, Winchester mod. 1892 44 W.C.F. lever act. rifle w/ 24" octagon barrel #216653, Winchester mod. 1894 32-40 lever act. rifle w/ 26" round barrel #283832, Winchester mod. 1885 32 Long lever act. rifle w/ 26" octagon barrel #25669, Winchester mod. 1894 32-40 lever act. rifle w/ octagon barrel #218860, Winchester mod. 42 410 ga. 3" modified choke pump shotgun #114017, Winchester mod. 70 pre-64 264 Win. Mag. bolt act. rifle #469260, Winchester mod. 94 30 W.C.F. Grade I Limited Edition Centennial lever act. rifle w/ 26" barrel (NIB) #CN04706, Winchester mod. 36 9mm rim fire single shot shotgun, Winchester mod. 94 "Bicentennial '76" 30-30 Win. lever act. carbine (NIB) #4629, Winchester mod. 94 30-30 Win. saddle ring carbine "The Wyoming Jubilee 75th Anniv. of Statehood 1890-1965" w/ box #WJ1334, Henry Golden Boy American Farmer 22 LR lever act. rifle (NIB), Henry Golden Boy 22 LR lever act. rifle (NIB) #GB495438, Ruger M77 338 cal. bolt act. rifle w/ checkered walnut stock (NIB), Browning Invector Gold 10 10 ga. 3 1/2" Field semi-auto shotgun w/ ventilated rib, Browning B-S/S 20 ga. 2 3/4 - 3" double barrel shotgun, Remington mod. 1100 410 ga. 3" semi-auto shotgun, Remington mod. 1100 16 ga. 2 3/4" modified choke semi-auto shotgun, Remington mod. 1100 LT-20 20 ga. 3" Magnum semi-auto shotgun, Remington mod. 870 Wingmaster 12 ga. 2 3/4" modified choke pump shotgun, Remington mod. 870LH 20 ga. pump shotgun, Remington mod. 3200 Deluxe w/ engraved lab 12 ga. 2 3/4" over under shotgun w/ ventilated rib, Remington mod. 760 Gamemaster BDL 243 Win. pump rifle w/ Weaver Classic V900 Variable scope, Remington mod. 760 left-handed Gamemaster BDL 270 Win. pump rifle w/ Redfield 3 x 9 4-Plex scope, Ten Point crossbow w/ Truglo scope...Vintage "Chesterfield Cigarettes Best For You" metal sign, vintage "Capital Bread" metal sign, vintage Lee metal tire sign, Structo hydraulic trailer dump truck w/ orig. box, 50 John Deere, Oliver, Int., & other collector toy tractors in orig. boxes...300 Full Boxes of Vintage Collector Ammo: Winchester 9 mm Long Shot in 2-pc. box, Winchester 14 mm (32 ga.) paper shotshells, 25-35 Win., 348 Win., 243 Win., 32-20 Win., 44-40 Win., 45-70 Gov't., 22 Short, 30-30 Win., 32 Rem., Rem. 22 Blanks, 32 Auto, 38-40 Win., 45 Auto Colt, 33 Win., 405 Win., 338 Win. Mag., 7MM Rem. Mag., 410 ga. Rifled Slugs, 32-40 Win., 300 Sav., 308 Win., 30-30 Win., 32 Win. Spl., 222 Rem., 30-06 Sprg., 264 Win. Mag., 8x57MM Mauser, 380 Auto, 220 Swift, 32 ga. (9mm), 12 ga., 16 ga., 28 ga., 20 ga., 410 ga.....Speer bullet display board, Scale Model Western Gun Collection by Gabby Hayes, Winchester flashlight, Winchester scales, Winchester roller skates, Winchester meat grinder, C.C.B. & Co. fishing lure in orig. box..... No Internet, absentee, or phone bids will be accepted - no buyers' premiums. Terms: Cash or Check only by conclusion of auction. Food & Restrooms Available day of auction - Auction will be held indoors - Chairs will be provided. Auctioneers: Ron J. & Ron S. Gilligan & David C. Zentner, #AU339-L & #AU3430-L & #AU5442-L.

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# All-time records from the NFL's biggest game of the year

At one point during the second quarter of Super Bowl LIX between the Kansas City Chiefs and the Philadelphia Eagles, a game that ended with the Eagles hoisting the Vince Lombardi Trophy for the second time since 2017, 138 million people were watching. Such viewership is a testament to the popularity of the National Football League and its championship game, which has become a cultural phenomenon that attracts diehard fans, casual enthusiasts and even those who don't know a first down from a facemask penalty.

The chance to win the biggest game of the year in professional football has inspired many teams and athletes to produce record-breaking performances. As fans gather for this year's big game, they can consider these records and see if any are broken this February.

- Most Super Bowl wins (player): 7, Tom Brady, New England Patriots (6) and Tampa Bay Buccaneers (1)
- Most Super Bowl wins (head coach): 6, Bill Belichick, New England Patriots
- Most Super Bowl losses (player): 5, Gale Gilbert, Buffalo Bills and San Diego Chargers; Cornelius Bennett, Buffalo Bills and Atlanta Falcons; and Glenn Parker, Buffalo Bills

and New York Giants

- Most Super Bowl losses (coach): 4, Don Shula, Baltimore Colts and Miami Dolphins; Bud Grant, Minnesota Vikings; Dan Reeves, Denver Broncos and Atlanta Falcons; and Marv Levy (Buffalo Bills)
- Most passing touchdowns (single game): 6, Steve Young, Super Bowl XXIX, January 29, 1995
- Most rushing touchdowns (single game): 3, Jalen Hurts, Super Bowl LVII, February 12, 2023, and Terrell Davis, Super Bowl XXXII, January 25, 1998

Super Bowl Sunday is a cultural phenomenon. Come the day of the big game, fans from all walks of life gather to enjoy food, friends and, of course, football. Game watch parties are arguably as anticipated as the game itself, and those hosting may look for ways to entertain guests prior to kickoff. Trivia can be a fun way to engage guests, and hosts can ask these questions and more to enjoy some lighthearted fun this Super Bowl Sunday.

1. Which team lost four consecutive Super Bowls in the early 1990s?



- Most receiving touchdowns (single game): 3, Jerry Rice (twice), San Francisco 49ers, Super Bowl XXIX, January 29, 1995, and Super Bowl XXIV, January 28, 1990
- Most sacks (in a single

game, player): 4, L.C. Greenwood\*, Pittsburgh Steelers, Super Bowl X, January 18, 1976.

\*Greenwood is not the official record-holder, as sacks did not become an official statistic until 1982.

Various players have recorded three official sacks in a Super Bowl since 1982.

- Field goals made (single game): 4, Harrison Butker, Kansas City Chiefs, Super Bowl LVIII, February 11, 2024, and Don Chan-

dler, Green Bay Packers, Super Bowl II, January 14, 1968

- Longest Super Bowl game (in game time): 74 minutes, 57 seconds, Super Bowl LVIII, Kansas City Chiefs vs. San Francisco 49ers, February 11, 2024

## Football trivia for your big game watch party

2. This Hall of Fame wide receiver, nicknamed "The Playmaker," caught two touchdowns in an 18-second span in Super Bowl XXVII on January 31, 1993.
  - A. Jerry Rice
  - B. Andre Reed
  - C. Randy Moss
  - D. Michael Irvin
3. True or False: No rookie quarterback has ever started for his team in the Super Bowl.
4. This Hall of Fame

- A. The Detroit Lions
- B. The Denver Broncos
- C. The Buffalo Bills
- D. The Chicago Bears

quarterback out of Stanford University lost three Super Bowls before finally winning his first one on January 25, 1998.

5. Which New York Giants wide receiver helped his team win Super Bowl XLII after making a miraculous catch in which he pressed the ball against his helmet to secure possession while falling to the ground?
  - A. David Tyree
  - B. Plaxico Burress

6. This famous coach led his team to victory in Super Bowl I and Super Bowl II.
  - A. Bill Parcells
  - B. John Madden
  - C. Vince Lombardi
  - D. Bill Belichick
7. Which of these Hall of Fame quarterbacks never won a Super Bowl?
  - A. Terry Bradshaw
  - B. Dan Marino
  - C. Troy Aikman
  - D. Peyton Manning
8. This stylish quarterback famously guaranteed his team would win the Super

Bowl, even though the team was a heavy underdog.

- A. Tom Brady
- B. Jim McMahon
- C. Joe Namath
- D. Drew Brees

Answers:

1. C
2. D
3. True. Rookie sensation Jayden Daniels of the Washington Commanders came close in the 2024-25 season, but his team ultimately fell one game short of making the Super Bowl.
4. B
5. A
6. C
7. B
8. C

# LAST CHANCE



## Altoona Mirror Season of Sharing



Mirror photos by Patrick Waksunski  
 Top: Riders experience riding outside. Bottom: Aiden Andrews, 10, of Duncansville hangs a ring as part of an activity while riding Romeo JAC.

**HISTORY:** The Altoona Mirror Season of Sharing is a holiday fundraiser that aims to combine the power of the local newspaper, the expertise of the Central Pennsylvania Community Foundation and the generosity of our central Pennsylvania readers.

Season of Sharing has become a holiday tradition, and the money raised benefits a specific charity or charities each year.

Over the past 20 years, Season of Sharing has raised more than \$468,512 for local charities, with last year's total of \$74,244 to the Central PA Humane Society.

**PAST RECIPIENTS:**

- 2005 U.S. Armed Forces Mothers
- 2006 Brian Morden Foundation
- 2007 Shriners Hospitals for Children
- 2008 Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation
- 2009 Food for Families Soup Kitchen
- 2010 Zack Hinich Foundation
- 2011 Big Brothers Big Sisters of Blair County
- 2012 Home Nursing Agency's Healing Patch
- 2013 Miracle League of Blair County
- 2014 Mountain Lion Backpack Program
- 2015 Family Services Teen Center & Shelter
- 2016 Salvation Army Emergency

**Disaster Services**

- 2017 Hurricane Relief (Florida Keys, Houston, Puerto Rico)
- 2018 Blair County Suicide Prevention Task Force
- 2019 Skills Of Central PA
- 2020 Altoona Food Bank
- 2021 Blair County Library System
- 2022 St. Vincent De Paul Assumption Chapel Food Pantry
- 2023 Sweat For Vets
- 2024 Central PA Humane Society

**THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENT:** Dreams Go On provides therapeutic horseback riding sessions to adults and children who are physically challenged, receive mental health, behavioral health or family therapy services. Certified instructors and dedicated volunteers teach responsibility, trust, rules, patience, compassion, self-confidence, teamwork, and safety.

To a child or adult with a physical, developmental or emotional challenge, life can look a lot brighter on horseback. The power and warmth of the horse strengthens and tones muscles, improves balance, head control and coordination, builds self-esteem, and offers a sense of freedom and equality.

Horseback riding also helps those with mental difficulties. The unique relationship that forms between horse and rider can lead to an increase in confidence, patience and self-esteem.

**HOW TO DONATE:** The first and easiest way is to fill out the coupon below and mail it along with an envelope to the address listed below.

You can also drop off the coupon and your contribution at the Altoona Mirror, 301 Cayuga Ave., Altoona PA 16602. The funds raised through the Season of Sharing will be administered by the Central Pennsylvania Community Foundation. 100% of the donations to the Season of Sharing will go directly to that year's charity. Of course, donations to the Season of Sharing are tax deductible. Deadline for donations is Jan. 31.

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All donations are tax deductible

Deadline for donations is January 31



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**705 - Bargain Counter**

2 single stage snowblowers Not running. Need carburetor to work. \$20 for both 814-232-5757

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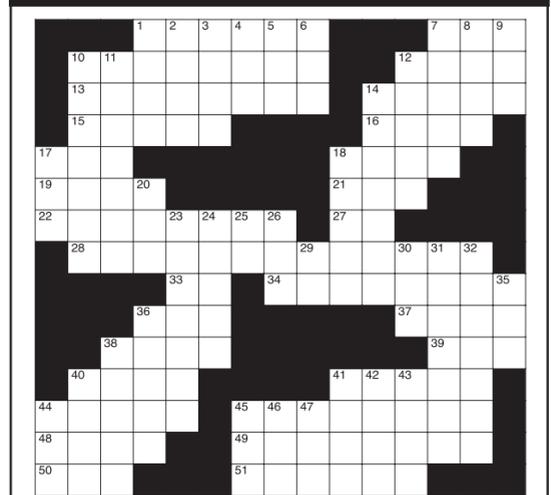
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**AD BARGAIN Crossword Puzzle**  
Solution on page 6



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Mechanical lever
  - 7. Rocky peak
  - 10. Leave a country
  - 12. Discount
  - 13. D.C. ballplayer
  - 14. Partner to "ooohed"
  - 15. Engine sound
  - 16. Japanese ornamental box
  - 17. Fido is one
  - 18. Amounts of time
  - 19. DiFranco and Phyo are two
  - 21. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
  - 22. Make secret plans
  - 27. "Tiny Bubbles" singer
  - 28. "His Ainess"
  - 33. Morning
  - 34. Perfected
  - 36. Winger guitarist Beach
  - 37. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
  - 38. Self-immolation by fire ritual
  - 39. A way to save money
  - 40. Pulpit
  - 41. Make ecstatically happy
  - 44. Once more
  - 45. Works on
  - 48. Nocturnal S. American rodent
  - 49. State again
  - 50. Expression of disappointment
  - 51. Type of door

- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Yugoslavian communist leader
  - 2. Exchange rate
  - 3. High school dance
  - 4. Peter's last name
  - 5. When you anticipate arriving
  - 6. Israeli city \_\_ Aviv
  - 7. Goat-like mammals
  - 8. Margarine
  - 9. End-of-the-spectrum color
  - 10. Make poisonous
  - 11. Popular beverage
  - 12. Actress Lathan
  - 14. Where planes land and depart
  - 17. Political fundraising entity
  - 18. The distinctive spirit of a people or an era
  - 20. Buffer used in microbiology
  - 23. Light, open carriage
  - 24. Metrical feet
  - 25. Email subject line feature
  - 26. A street with lots of nightmares
  - 29. Rapper Rule
  - 30. River in Scotland
  - 31. One who settles a dispute
  - 32. Most chummy
  - 35. We all have our own
  - 36. Arab tribe
  - 38. Slap
  - 40. Ottoman military commanders
  - 41. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language
  - 42. Emit coherent radiation
  - 43. Sun or solar disk (Egyptian mythology)
  - 44. Inclined to
  - 45. Olfactory reference syndrome
  - 46. Chest muscle (slang)
  - 47. Body part

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- '16 Ford Explorer - 3.5L, 4x4, 3rd Row, 162K
- '16 Jeep Patriot - 2.4L, 4x4, 103K
- '16 Nissan Rogue - 2.5L, FWD, 155K
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- '15 Chevy Tahoe - 5.3L, 4x4, 116K
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**Paws & Claws**

**Issues affecting pet dental health**

Pet owners want to provide love and care to their companion animals. While they may spend extra on quality foods and superior veterinary care, oral care is generally lacking. In fact, dental disease often is called the "silent killer" of companion animals.

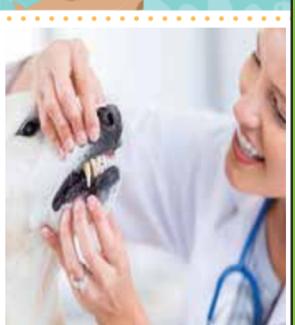
The American Veterinary Dental College says periodontal disease is the most frequent clinical condition in adult dogs and cats. By the age of three, most dogs and cats show some evidence of periodontal disease, underscoring the need for proactive dental care.

Before discussing which issues can contribute to poor oral hygiene in dogs and cats, it's important to point out that the dangers of dental issues extend beyond the mouth. Anaerobic bacteria thriving in gum pockets can cause the gums to become inflamed and tissue to deteriorate. As a result, bacteria can gain direct access to the pet's bloodstream through damaged tissues, says the AVDC. Data consistently shows a correlation between oral bacteria and changes in the heart, liver and kidneys. For example, chronic infection contributes to atherosclerosis, increasing the risk of cardiac issues in dogs.

Certain factors can contribute to poor pet dental health. It is best to discuss concerns with a veterinarian before making any changes to pet care. However, these factors may accelerate dental deterioration.

- Diet: A diet that is soft, canned or moisture-rich can provide less abrasive action to help clean the pet's teeth. Opting for harder foods can naturally clean the teeth during eating, and vets may suggest a specialized dental kibble to help even more.
- Breed: Certain breeds are prone to various health issues. Small breeds like Yorkshire Terriers, Poodles, Pomeranians, and Maltese are genetically predisposed to dental crowding and premature periodontal diseases because their mouths are small, advises PetMD. Their teeth often are full-sized, leading to crowding, misalignment and trapping of food debris and bacteria.
- Brushing: A lack of home care is the single biggest factor in the deterioration of pets' dental health. Pets may not have their teeth brushed daily, leading to the rapid calcification of plaque. Various veterinary studies point to brushing a pet's teeth each day as an effective way to prevent plaque buildup. Furthermore, because it must be done under anesthesia, which can be costly, some pet owners do not have their pets' teeth professionally cleaned by a vet.

Pet dental care is an important component of pet ownership. Dental diseases can develop and affect the mouth and other areas of the body.



# Decadent three-cheese lasagna

Cold outside? Cooking and sharing this delicious lasagna will warm you right up.

### Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 6 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 2 onions, finely diced
- 3 ½ pounds ground beef
- 3 carrots, peeled and finely diced
- 3 stalks celery, finely diced
- 1 green pepper, finely diced
- 6 mushrooms, finely chopped
- 1 can diced tomatoes
- 1 can tomato juice
- 1 can tomato paste
- 1 can tomato puree
- 2 tablespoons fresh rosemary, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons fresh parsley, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons fresh thyme, finely chopped
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 12 lasagna sheets, cooked according to package instructions
- 3 cups grated mozzarella cheese
- ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 4 balls Bocconcini cheese, thinly sliced

- A few sprigs fresh thyme, for garnish
- Directions**
- Heat the olive oil in a large pot, then sautee the garlic and onions until translucent. Add the beef and cook until browned and fully cooked through. Add the vegetables and continue cooking for about five minutes. Season with salt and pepper at each stage.
- Add the tomato juice, diced tomatoes, tomato paste, tomato puree and spices. Adjust the seasoning as needed. Bring to a boil, then reduce the

heat and simmer for one hour.

- Preheat the oven to 350 F. Cover the bottom of a rectangular baking dish with a ladleful of sauce. Place three lasagna sheets on top of the sauce. Pour another ladleful of sauce over the pasta. Spread a quarter of the mozzarella, Parmesan and Bocconcini over the top. Repeat this step to make four layers.
- Bake uncovered for 30 minutes. You can finish cooking it under the grill if desired. Let stand for 15 minutes. Garnish with fresh thyme and serve.

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## Obituaries

### Edward L. Southard

Edward L. Southard, 79, of Philipsburg, PA, died on Monday, January 12, 2026 at his home.

Born on September 28, 1946, in Johnstown, PA, Edward was the son of the late William Grant & Edith (Swartz) Southard. He married Diana J. (Myers) Southard in Philipsburg, PA on February 22, 1964. Diana survives at home. Edward was of the Catholic Faith. He was a member of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles #812 in Clearfield, PA and was a member of the Holt Library in Philipsburg, PA. He was the Owner Operator of E.L.S. Transport. Edward was a 1964 graduate from the P.O. High School. In addition to his parents, Edward was preceded in death by a son, John Southard. In addition to his wife, Diana, Edward is survived by two daughters, Theresa Patrick & her husband James of Osceola Mills, PA, and Terri Shiflett & her husband Mark of Winburne, PA; a sister, Susan Pase & her husband Galin of Morrisdale, PA; a brother, William Southard & his companion, Cathy McCoy of Cresson, PA; four grandchildren, Mark Shiflett, David Southard, Kristin Woodring, and Matthew Patrick; and five great-grandchildren, Willow Woodring, Harlow Woodring, Nathan Patrick, Aiden Southard, and Liam Southard. Services were held at the Heath Funeral Home & Cremation Services, LLC, Osceola Mills, PA. Rev. Matthias Rendon, O.F.M., with officiating. Interment: Umbria Cemetery in Osceola Mills, PA.

### Kandi Louise Williams Fleck

Kandi Louise Williams Fleck, 45, of Madera, Pa. passed away January 13, 2026 at Mount Nittany Hospital after a valiant battle with cancer with her loving family by her side.

Kandi was born in Philipsburg, Pa. on the 28th of August, 1980 and was the daughter of Tamie Williams of Clearfield and the late Ottis Williams, Jr. of West Decatur. Kandi married the love of her life, Raymond Fleck, Jr. on September 19, 2000 and had two children: Jacob who resides in Pittsburgh and Kalie who resides in St. Mary's. Kandi was preceded in death by her father, Ottis, Jr., her maternal grandfather Gerald Knepp of Curwensville, and her paternal grandparents, Ottis and Elda Williams of West Decatur. Kandi is survived by her husband and two children. She is also survived by three siblings: Ottis Williams, III and his wife Desiree of Ramey, Stephen Williams of Clearfield, and her twin sister Krystal and her husband Nathan Gardener of Smithmill. She has six surviving beautiful nieces: Haley, Jaley, Chloe, Sierra, Onna, and Zoey; one surviving maternal grandmother, Nancy Knepp of Curwensville; her mother's husband, Rev. Henry Williams; and her God Parents Ivan and Naomi Smeal of Gearhartsville, Pa. Kandi graduated from Mo-Valley High School in 1999, and served in the Army Reserves. Her career was in retail management. She was an avid music lover and enjoyed playing the piano and drums, and hanging out with her dog, Shadow. The main love of her life was her family. Heath's Funeral Home of Osceola Mills will handle her death wishes, and as per Kandi's request, there will be no viewing or funeral service. There will be a private release of her ashes with immediate family, and A Celebration of Life for her will be held at a later date.

### Alex J. Ambuski

Alex J. Ambuski, 67, of Clearfield, passed away Saturday, January 10, 2026, at his home.

Born October 15, 1958, in Buffalo, NY, the son of Casmere and Florence (Prevorice) Ambuski. He was a United States Army Veteran. Mr. Ambuski was Baptist by Faith. He was a member of the Clearfield Veterans of Foreign Wars F. Michael Sicks Post No. 1785 and was an avid Buffalo Bills and Sabres fan. Alex is survived by his six children: Rosemary Ziehm (Robert) of Lockport, NY, Timothy Ambuski (Sherrie) of Tonawanda, NY, Joseph Ambuski (Kimberly) of Colorado Springs, CO, Samantha Murphy of Scott AFB, IL, Melissa Root of Clearfield and Lisa Smith (Khorey) of Belle Vernon, PA, fourteen grandchildren, a sister, Bernadette and his significant other, Sharen Armstrong of Clearfield. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Jacquelyn Ambuski, two sisters: Cathy Smith and Pauline Robinson and two brothers: Edward and Richard Ambuski. Honoring Alex's wishes there was no public visitation or service.

### Bruce Stephen Yeckley

Bruce Stephen Yeckley, 64, of Woodland, PA passed away at home on Tuesday, January 13, 2026.

Born November 14, 1961, in Spangler, PA the son of Lewis J. and Clara E. (Krotendofer) Yeckley. He was Roman Catholic by Faith. Bruce was a graduate of Cambria Heights High School, Patton, PA. Upon completion of driving school, he worked as a truck driver for various companies throughout his career and eventually became a CDL instructor for Clearfield County Career and Technical Center (CCCTC) and most recently drove for Pennsylvania Grain Products from which he retired 6 years ago. Bruce liked to ride his Can-Am Spider and ATV. He had a passion for flying model airplanes and belonged to the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA). He was president of the Balsa Busters flying club of Reynoldsville, PA. In his spare time, he was an avid bird watcher, nature lover and lifelong member of Fireside Hunting Camp. Mr. Yeckley is survived by his companion, Malia Cummings, a sister, Rose Ann Subich of Johnstown, PA two brothers; Donald Yeckley (Carol) of South Fork, PA and Dale Yeckley (Leila) of Greensburg, PA. He is also survived by brothers-in-law, Michael Mond (Jeanie), Robert Fitzpatrick, and several nieces and nephews who knew him as the "Fun Uncle." Bruce was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Marcia (Rhine) Yeckley (September 9, 2000), two sisters: Clara Fitzpatrick and Joyce Mond and a brother, Edwin Yeckley. Mass of Christian Burial was said at St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church, Clearfield, PA by Fr. Robert Horgas as Celebrant. Interment: St. Agnes Catholic Cemetery, Lock Haven, PA.

### James V. Bertocchi

James V. Bertocchi, 99, a longtime resident of Gallitzin died on Jan. 11, 2026 at Presbyterian Village in Hollidaysburg.

He was born in Angolo, Italy, son of the late Giovanni and Emilla (Dovina) Bertocchi. On May 15, 1954, he married Josephine M. Fucina at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church in Coupon. She preceded him in death on December 10, 2020. Surviving are three sons: Joe (Patty) of Morris Plains NJ, Jim of Raleigh NC, and Dave of State College; one daughter: Renee (Bruce) Grace of Lexington KY; four grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Also surviving is one sister: Maria Hanlon of DuBois and one brother: John (Mary) of Johnstown. He was preceded in death by a son: John and daughter-in-law Candi, a sister: Ann Julian, and a brother: Adolpho. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, hiking in the woods, reading, and was a member of the Gallitzin American Legion. James was a WWII veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving on the USS Shaula. He retired from Conrail in 1988 and was a member of Saint Demetrius Catholic Church in Gallitzin. Our family would like to thank the staff of Presbyterian Village Hollidaysburg for the care they provided to our dad. A Funeral Mass was held at St. Demetrius Catholic Church, Gallitzin, Fr. Albert Ledoux Celebrant. Interment: St. Patrick Cemetery, Gallitzin.

### Duane Gates

Duane Gates, 57, of Beaver Valley, died Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at his residence.

He was born December 28, 1968 in Coalport, a son of the late Gene L. and Elaine A. "Polly" (Lewis) Gates. He is survived by four siblings Richard G. "Rick" Gates and his wife Cherie of Flinton, Brian L. Gates and his significant other Chantel and Kevin L. Gates and his wife Samantha, both of Hollidaysburg and Debra E. "Deb" Beatty and her husband Wayne "Skip", of Flinton, with whom he resided and was his loving caregiver. Also surviving are numerous nieces and nephews. Duane adored his nieces and nephews, loved riding his Harley and had been an avid hunter. He had been employed as a flooring installer at Weston's Floor Covering in Altoona. He was someone whose presence could fill a room and whose kindness left a lasting mark on everyone he met. Known for his love of Harley-Davidson motorcycles and the open road, he lived life fully, embracing freedom, and the simple joy of a good ride. He had a deep love for dogs, found happiness in socializing and sharing laughs with friends, and cherished his family above all else. His warmth, loyalty and love were felt deeply by those lucky enough to know him.

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

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026

## Local author documents history of region's furnaces

**Smail preparing to release third book in his series on area's iron industry**

By COLETTE COSTLOW  
ccostlow@altoonamirror.com

When visiting the Eliza Furnace Historic Site in Indiana County, local author Byron Smail became enamored with the furnace's history, questioning how it functioned during the Industrial Revolution.

His interest quickly snowballed into an in-depth research project, entailing three self-published books about Blair County's impact on the iron industry during the 19th century.

Rather than relying on a college education, Smail learned about the area's rich history through community members, knocking on doors and recording stories passed down from generations.

This year, Smail, 44, will release his final book in the series, "The Iron Ore and Clay Mining around Morrison's Cove," to focus on his family and landscaping business.

The book series "means the world to me," he said, adding that he feels like a student once again.

### History buff

Self-described as a "blue collar historian," Smail said he didn't pay attention to lessons while attending Hollidaysburg Area School District during the 1990s.

He did, however, enjoy visiting state parks and museums across the region with his brother, Jason, and sister, Laura.

"We grew up doing that, and we had a lot of fun," Smail said.

Graduating from vocational technical school for masonry and television video in 2001, Smail eventually began his own self-named landscaping business while growing a family of his own in Roaring Spring.

It wasn't until a few years ago that Smail reignited his interest in history, taking his three sons, Lucas, 9, Levi, 8, and Nathaniel, 4, along to see area sites and museums, such as the Eliza Furnace Historic Site.

Smail became curious about the area's iron furnaces, as he has "respect for the men and women who built America." He started jotting down notes about acquired information.

In 2023, Smail gained motivation from Kevin Stiver, a local teenager and author of "Glen White, Pa.," a book about the forgotten town in the Allegheny Mountains.

Writing a book sounded like a good idea to Smail because he was writing information down, but he

was unsure what to do with it at the time.

Smail said he "owes a lot of inspiration" to Stiver.

Before publication, Blair County Historical Society President Jim Lowe remembers watching Smail present his research on iron furnaces around Morrisons Cove.

Lowe said he enjoyed "seeing someone so passionate about preserving local history," which eventually sparked a friendship between the two historians.

### Revealing the past

In November 2023, Smail released his first book, "The Iron Furnaces of the Cove!," which is shy of 100 pages and filled with many pictures plus four illustrations completed by his cousin's daughter, Emma Zacherl.

The collection includes background information on the nine iron furnaces in the Morrisons Cove area, while telling the "story of hard work, determination, and the American dream in the Cove in the early years," Smail stated in a Facebook post.

"The ore rock found in the Cove was some of the best in the nation at the time," he wrote. "The iron industry boomed in the Cove."

Aside from using online sources, a large portion of the book's information stemmed from 19th-century genealogical society books compiled by Blair County Genealogical Society President Jim Snyder Jr.

Snyder collected newspaper clippings and history books, while he said Smail "did the legwork" by knocking on doors around the Morrisons Cove area, conversing with property owners about a previous iron ore mine existing in their backyards.

Sometimes, there are property owners who know a lot about its history, and "there are a lot who had no idea," Smail said.

"There is so much history around here that isn't written down where people can find it," Snyder said.

Smail considered his first book to be filled with minimal writing, which improved in his next book, "Blair County Iron," after receiving editorial help from former Northern Bedford School District Principal Sam Dean.

While Smail "does the footwork" like writing and researching, Dean organized information, changed language and tinkered with the flow.

Being a local history fan himself, Dean enjoys Smail's subject matter, and he likes helping "document that history for future generations."

As a follow-up, Smail wrote about the remaining iron furnaces in Blair County, such as Sarah Furnace in Claysburg and Chimney Rocks Furnace in Hollidaysburg, spanning

over 200 pages and featuring 100 pictures.

Then, he placed another byline under "Blair County Limestone and Ganister," a 200-page book uncovering the limestone and ganister industry that helped build skyscrapers, ships and planes.

Finishing his four-book series with the 2026 release of "The Iron Ore and Clay Mining around Morrison's Cove!," Smail said he's looking forward to marketing his work while continuing to give local presentations.

"I'd love to preserve this history over the next 40 years," he said. "That'd be an honor."

### Area accomplishments

Since Smail's first publication in 2023, he's garnered a massive amount of community support.

Throughout the years, his self-published books have been sold at many local businesses in Morrisons Cove, and copies remain available at the Historical Society and the Genealogical Society buildings.

They are also available online at [https://www.lulu.com/search?sortBy=RELEVANCE&page=1&q=Byron+Smail&pageSize=10&adult\\_audience\\_rating=00](https://www.lulu.com/search?sortBy=RELEVANCE&page=1&q=Byron+Smail&pageSize=10&adult_audience_rating=00).

This extensive research project has done "a lot of good things for my mind," he said, mentioning that he feels personally fulfilled by his accomplishments.

Outside of writing, Smail frequently presents his research at various places, including the Genealogical Society, the Williamsburg Historical Society and the Blair County Historical Society for their "History Speaks" lecture series.

In 2024, Smail also received the Historical Society's Heritage Hall of Fame award for "The Iron Furnaces of the Cove!"

Smail deserves more than one award for his work, Lowe said, as Smail continues researching the region's impact on the 19th-century iron industry.

"I think it goes back to the passion he has for his subject," Lowe said. "He's posting pictures of historic sites on the internet, he's climbing on the side of a mountain to take pictures of something that may have been an iron furnace in this area."

Social media is no stranger to Smail, as he frequently uploads Facebook posts and YouTube videos about area history and current geological findings on his personal profiles.

Some places that Smail explores "haven't been seen for years," he said. So, he tries to bring history "back to life" by making posts and videos while "showing people what I'm fascinated with."

Under one of his recent YouTube videos titled,



Courtesy photo

Local author Byron Smail poses with his three sons, Nathaniel, 4, Levi, 8, and Lucas, 9, as they hold copies of "The Iron Furnaces of the Cove!" and "Blair County Iron."

"iron mining on tussey mtn," @RichBice commented, "Thank you, Byron. Another great job documenting the area's iron ore history."

Smail described himself as a quiet person, so this book series not only gave him a feeling of accom-

plishment but a renewed sense of curiosity.

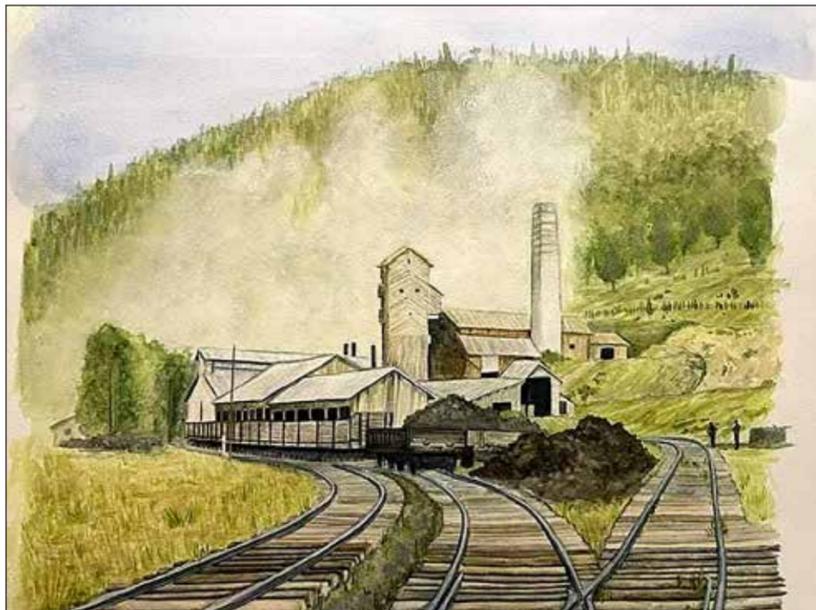
"As an adult, I feel like a student again," he said, adding that this "special project will always be near and dear to my heart."

While remaining proud of his family and personal

landscaping business, he learned that he's interested in a couple of topics.

"You can have a couple of things you enjoy and put your heart in," he said. "And I'm proud of it."

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



Courtesy photos

Illustrated by Emma Zacherl, the Martha Furnace was operated by Peter Shoenerberger from 1838 to 1890.

**215 - Apartments for Rent**

2-bedroom apartment, first floor, just remodeled. Gallitzin, PA \$650. (814) 215-9230

3 Bedroom 1,800 sq. ft. apartment with all appliances, 2 Bath, Washer & Dryer, Central Air & Gas Heat, Garbage, Sewer & Water Included. Duncansville Area, Available 2/1/26 (814) 932-4558

Second floor, two bedrooms, offstreet parking, \$675/mo. plus gas and electric. NO PETS. Call Sandra at Coldwell Banker 814-946-4343.

**705 - Bargain Counter**

Cocker Spaniel puppies, Vet checked & vaccinated. \$150. (814) 793-4230

**750 - Pets For Sale**

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**810 - Help Wanted**



**CALL TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR HELP WANTED SPECIALS!**

**814-946-7422**

**810 - Help Wanted**

### ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICER

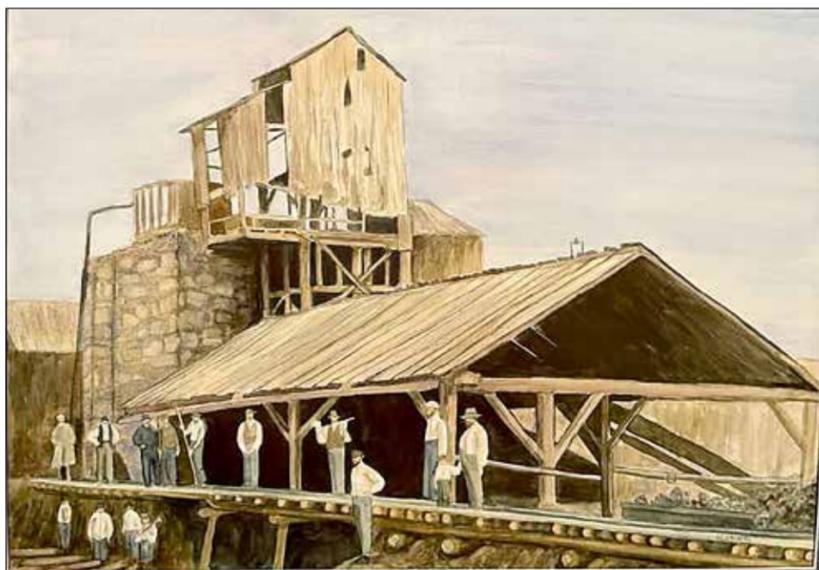
The City of Altoona is now accepting applications for Entry Level Police Officers.

Information and applications are available online at [www.altoonapa.gov](http://www.altoonapa.gov) and in the Human Resources Department of City Hall at 1301 12th Street, Suite 400, Altoona, PA.

Applications and applicable supporting documentation must be submitted to the Human Resources Department by **Noon on Friday, February 20, 2026.**

The City of Altoona is an Equal Opportunity Employer

**810 - Help Wanted**



Illustrated by Emma Zacherl, the Juniata Iron Furnace in Williamsburg was operated by John Neff from 1856 to 1876.



Check out our **PETS FOR SALE** section in the Altoona Mirror Classifieds

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# LOCAL Business & Service

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