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Eagles Ridge finishing up new restaurant, kitchen

Club house rebuilt after 2024 fire

By Andy Stine
astine@altoonamirror.com

In January 2024, James Skinner showed up in the morning for his usual offseason work at Eagles Ridge Golf Course. There were a couple contractors already doing some work on the inside of the clubhouse.

Skinner, who owns the golf course along with his wife, Teresa, noticed something unusual in the clubhouse. He still remembers the morning vividly.

"It snowed a little bit the night before and it was really miserable out," Skinner said. "I got inside, and (the contractor and I) looked at the same time and he said, 'What is that?' I said, 'It's on fire.'"

"We had scaffolding right underneath it. He jumped up there and I threw him a fire extinguisher. It looked like we got it."

After Skinner asked the contractor to pull a few boards down from the ceiling, that was when he realized the fire was much bigger than he realized.

"That was it. I had to call 911," Skinner said. "I could tell right there we weren't getting it out."

According to local news reports, the damage to the clubhouse totaled up to \$200,000.

The Skinners, who bought Eagles Ridge just on the outskirts of Curwensville in 2018, decided to completely tear down the building and start new. They opened up a new clubhouse last fall.

"The old building was just so outdated, and we wanted (the new building) as ours," Skinner said. "We opted to tear the whole thing down. Every-

Mother of slain man files lawsuit against store

By Phil Ray
pray@altoonamirror.com

The mother of a Clearfield County man who was murdered in 2024 has filed a civil rights complaint against the store that allegedly sold the firearm used to kill her son.

In addition, Jodi Lynn Parks of Clearfield County has named as a defendant the company that produced the .22-caliber handgun used to kill her son, Kodey Lee Parks, 33, on Feb. 24, 2024, in Morris Township, Clearfield County.

The lawsuit was filed in Clearfield County Court of Common Pleas in late March, but last week the complaint was moved to the U.S. District Court in Johnstown.

Philadelphia attorneys

thing was outdated. The wiring was messed up. They just added on and added on. We decided to rebuild the whole thing."

While the new clubhouse is open and in use for golf, the new restaurant and kitchen is still being worked on. Skinner was hoping to open the new restaurant by the end of May, but said it probably won't officially open until the middle of June.

Eagles Ridge, which is a public golf course, has new changes on the links



this year, as well. They built a new tee box on the course's third hole, which added about 50 yards onto the hole. There are also

new tee signs and tee markers coming.

"We're kind of giving everything a facelift," Skinner said.

For more information or to book a round at Eagles Ridge, visit the club's Facebook page or their website at eaglesridgegolf.com.

to Michaelis took place inside the store and that the gun was in Michaelis's possession when the couple left the store.

The next day the gun was used to kill Kodey Parks during a custody exchange at the home where Danielle Parks and Michaelis were living.

The couple initially contended that Kodey had attacked them and the shooting occurred in self-defense.

Also, Danielle at first indicated she had shot Kodey, but police in the aftermath concluded that Michaelis was the shooter and that the couple plotted to kill Kodey.

The two were charged with and convicted of first-degree murder and are serving life sentences.

In his closing argument of the Michaelis trial, it was reported that Clearfield County District Attorney Ryan Sayers argued, "This is not a justified killing. It was an execution."

The mother's lawsuit contends that Rural King, as the seller of the weapon, had, and has, a duty to prevent "straw purchases" of firearms.

A straw purchase occurs when a person eligible to buy a firearm does so on behalf of someone who is ineligible to possess a weapon — as occurred in this case.

The lawsuit charges: "At all relevant times, the Rural King defendants had a duty to prevent the dangerous and unsafe transfer of a purchased

gun, while still inside their stores, to a person prohibited from purchasing ... guns including the subject store in Clearfield, Pa."

RK Holdings of Mattoon, Illinois, did not address the alleged "duty" it had as stated in the lawsuit, only noting that the statement was a conclusion of law that has yet to be decided.

But, in its answer to the lawsuit, the company denies that Michaelis, who was forbidden to even possess a firearm, was present during the purchase, and denies he took possession of the gun and exited the store "with the gun in his hands," as was charged in the complaint.

The lawsuit also See **Lawsuit/Page 6**



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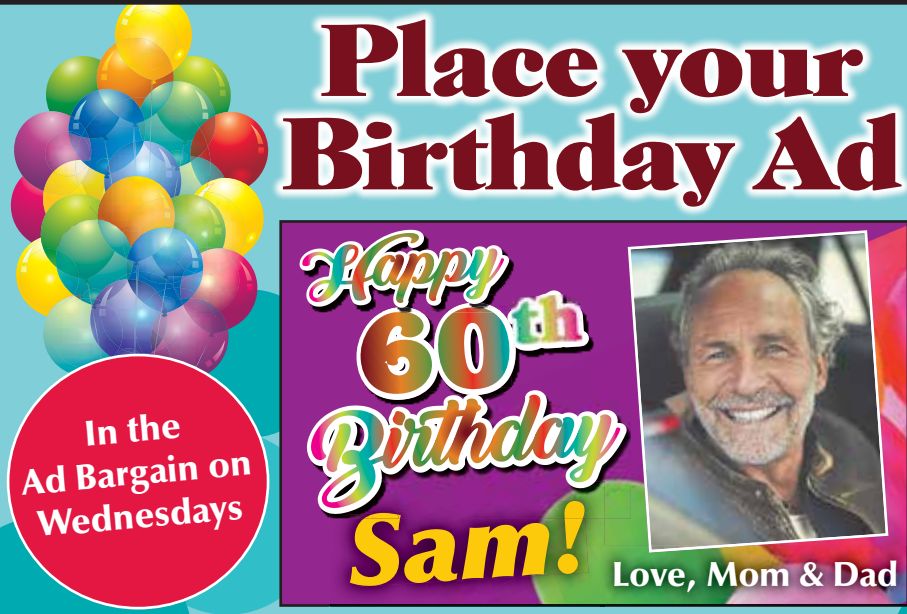
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Vintage "E-Z To Play" Adlee Co. 5¢ gumball machine w/ key & instructions, Cressman Counsellor 5¢ cigar gas later, brass train engine bell, (20) pieces of assorted 10 kt. - 12 kt. - & 14 kt. gold jewelry, sterling silver jewelry, many flats of costume jewelry, Native American headdress from Indian Caverns Spruce Creek, PA., G.L. Williams & Co., (2) Hamilton & Jones Greensboro, PA., Cowden & Wilcox Harrisburg, PA., James Hamilton & Co. Greensboro, PA., John Burger Rochester, N.Y., (2) Williams Greensboro, PA., (14) assorted beautiful quilts, Hudson Bay will blanket, Chief Joseph wool blanket, The A.W. Co. Braid wooden display box, nice Kenton cast-iron stove w/ accessories, rare Bradley & Hubbard cast-iron owl doorstop #7197, Irg. country store Dillsworth Coffee wooden box, vintage blue roadster pedal car, vintage Yellow Cab pedal car, vintage "Power Trac" pedal tractor, sterling silver cake server & parfaits, Griswold #12 small logo cast-iron skillet, Griswold foundry pump, copper kettle, "Concert Roller Organ" cylinder player, "Superior" roulette wheel, wooden washtub w/ red paint, Civil War-era leather wallet w/in types, Irg. Hohner Harmonicas advertising fees, Texaco "Fire Chief" curved porcelain sign, Victorian turned wood floor lamp, leather miner's helmet, Swamp Root dovetailed wooden box, Frank S. Siddall's wooden soapbox, salesman's sample gateleg table, salesman's sample "Case Kitchen Cabinets" display, salesman's sample child's dresser w/ mirror, Sullivan's peanut butter crock, vintage Christmas, J.R. Judd cello in case, electric mandolin w/ case, Sekova banjo in case, banquet lamps, Gone With the Wind lamps, cranberry hobnail dresser set, blue hobnail epergne, 8-Ball wooden crate, White House Vinegar wooden crate, White Horse Whiskey wooden crate, mid-century modern hanging orange spaghetti light, mid-century modern floor model ashtray, mid-century modern frosted glasses & pitcher set, 4' tall metal rooster, Irg. wooden a fork, starburst lamp, antique oak wall phone, stained & leaded glass lamps, vintage Michelin Man counter display, wooden rocking horse, Victorian photo album, butter bowls, Irg. Bell Telephone logo, cast-iron foundry frog, ant. smoker's cabinet w/ copper interior, assorted clocks, Buster Brown child's mesh 1st, many oil lamps & banquet lamps, cast-iron thanks, paper-mâché rabbit candy containers, diorama, wooden dasher butter churn, bamboo fishing rod, wooden comb cases, glass canes, ant. hatpins, sleigh bells, tin litho toys, Singer toy sewing machine, mocha crockery pig banks, Pyrex "French Daisy" nesting bowls, Pyrex refrigeratorware, Planter's Peanuts glass jar, vintage country collectibles & kitchen utensils, (2) Fenton roosters, brass school bells, Roseville & Weller pottery, Murano glass, apothecary scale, Altoona Speedway booklets & literature, Sunoco "Diamond" will can, powder horn, whirligigs, Bennington pcs., Egg baskets, old wooden "Antiques" sign, White Mountain ice cream maker....plus much more...please see Web Site for photos... 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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Vintage Garage & Service Station Items - Big & Small Engine Blocks
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Ron J. & Ron S. Gilligan & David C. Zentner will conduct a Public Estate Auction for The Dick "Wild Man" Forgas Estate of the former Forgy's Speed, Sports, and Pawn Shop that opened in 1972 located at 2814 Rte. 764 Duncansville, PA. 16635. This auction trying to finish out the 1-car garage & the back room with the good old motor accessories.

Curtis key cutting machine w/ backstock, Honda EZ3500 generator, 133-drawer steel floor model bolt bin, Blue Streak Standard Plus Ignition Service shop cabinet, vintage metal floor model Anco windshield wiper display, Marquette Model 1000 engine analyzer, Dee Blast sandblasting booth, Craftsman bench-top drill press, counter-top store watch display case w/ watches, (3) 4-bolt main Chevy blocks, big & small engine blocks, 010 blocks, big & small crankshafts, several sets of big block Chevy heads, bell housings, Richmond Gear ring & pinion sets in original boxes, Armlay Master Bond brake shoes in original boxes, assorted carburetors, vintage Honda motorcycle gas tank, DeWalt bench-top compound miter saw, oil filters in original boxes, motor oil & lubricants, NASCAR di-cast cars in boxes & collectibles, Lionel O gauge rolling stock, HO trains... This is a brief ad of a continuation of old speed shop items...No Internet, absentee, or phone bids will be accepted - no buyers' premiums. Terms: Cash or Check only by conclusion of auction. Food & Job Johnny Available day of auction - tents if needed. Auctioneers: Ron J. & Ron S. Gilligan & David C. Zentner, #AU339-L & #AU3430-L & #AU5442-L.

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PUBLIC AUCTION

TUESDAY, MAY 19 @ 4:00 PM

Located at Cross Keys Auction Center one mile North of Duncansville, PA 16635 - off route 764 onto Kuhn Lane. Doors open at 2:30 PM.

HOUSEHOLD - TOOLS - MOWERS

Will be selling a lot of household furniture, antiques, collector items, and a lot of hand tools from two local estates. Conducting two auctions. Selling at 5:00PM: Toro 2X5000 zero turn mower - good shape, Toro Wheel Horse XL238 riding mower, Craftsman upright air compressor, Sears shop vac, two stack tool boxes full of tools, metal shelving, power mowers, car ramps, and a lot of garage related items. Will also have local flowers to sell.

Watch Auctionzip.com ID #1220 for photos. Terms: cash, approved check, or credit card with a 5% fee. Announcements made on the day of the auction take precedence over any and all printed material.

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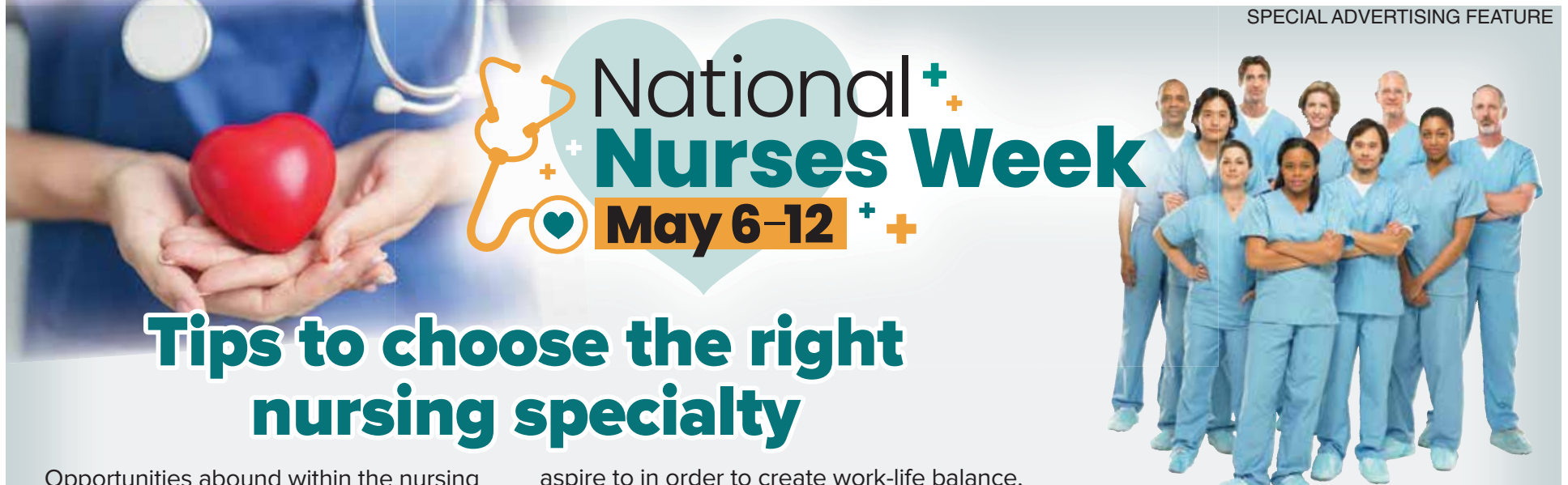
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Tips to choose the right nursing specialty

Opportunities abound within the nursing profession. Nursing shortages have stretched the profession thin in both the United States and Canada. For example, a report in fall of 2022 indicated a nursing shortage was directly responsible for the closure of 16 emergency departments in Ontario, Canada's largest province. Warnings regarding a potential nursing shortfall have been sounded for years in the United States as well, with estimates from the country's Bureau of Labor and Statistics projecting more than 200,000 job openings per year over a decade-long period beginning in 2021 and ending in 2031.

Though the Ontario closures illustrate how nursing shortages pose a public health problem, those shortages also present opportunities for individuals considering a career in nursing. Nursing is essentially an umbrella term for a career path includes an array of specialties, and aspiring nurses may need a little help choosing the right path within the field.

• **Consider your potential schedule.** The pandemic highlighted just how essential nurses are to public health, and many specialties within the field do not have a down season. If routine is something you

aspire to in order to create work-life balance, then certain specialties within nursing may be more appealing than others. For example, school nurses and nurses who work in doctor's offices generally work 9-to-5 shifts, which can afford such professionals the same work-life balance as other professions. If you thrive on a fast-paced environment where routine is less important, then a career as an emergency room nurse might merit consideration.

• **Identify why you want to be a nurse.** Opportunity for career growth and earning potential are good reasons to pursue any career, but those are not the factors that compel many people to initially consider a career in nursing. Many nurses were first inspired by a personal experience, such as helping an elderly relative. Others may have been inspired by a love of children and a desire to help kids recover from illnesses. When faced with the decision of which path to specialize in, aspiring nurses can benefit from identifying what compelled them to pursue nursing in the first place and then look for an opportunity that aligns with that inspiration.

• **Determine the educational requirements.**

Education requirements vary widely within the field of nursing. Some specialties require a two-year associate's degree while others may require considerably more formal education. For example, the American Association of Nurse Practitioners indicates a nurse practitioner must complete a master's or doctoral degree program and have advanced clinical training beyond their initial professional registered nurse preparation. Aspiring nurses can identify the educational requirements of various nursing specialties to help them decide how big a commitment they're willing to make.

• **Recognize you can pivot.** Aspiring nurses also should recognize they can pivot to a new specialty if they have a hard time identifying a career path when they begin their formal schooling. In fact, many nurses find that on-the-job experience is the best way to identify which specialties appeal to them and which don't.

Nursing is a vast field loaded with opportunities. Aspiring nurses can consider a host of factors as they try to identify which career path to take.



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National+ Nurses Week

May 6-12 + +



Nursing is a diverse field

Nursing is a wise career choice for people looking for a challenging yet rewarding profession. Significant nursing shortages continue to pose a challenge within the health care industry, as the United States was expected to have a deficit of around 295,800 nurses by the end of 2025.

Nurses work in many different facilities and can focus on an array of specialties. Nurses may be categorized by their levels of education. Each level has a different scope of practice and responsibility. Those considering nursing as a career, or patients preparing to see a nursing provider for care, can explore these types of nurses.

Licensed practical nurse (LPN)

LPNs are health care professionals responsible for basic patient care and comfort. They typically are a patient's primary point of contact and relay information to the rest of the care team. One can think of LPNs as entry-level nurses, although their responsibilities are no less important than other medical professionals. LPNs typically work under others' direct supervision and assist patients with eating, dressing and bathing. LPNs also take vital signs and administer medications. The American Nursing Association says becoming an LPN or a licensed vocational nurse requires

a high school diploma or GED and a vocational training course, and a passing grade on the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses is necessary.

Registered nurse (RN)

RNs require a higher level of education than LPNs and they can provide more complex and comprehensive care for patients. RNs often handle a wider range of patient services and take on more responsibilities than LPNs. The ANA says two college degree paths available to aspiring RNs are an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). A BSN requires a greater financial commitment and a four-year undergraduate program takes time to complete. Many employers zero in on candidates with a BSN.

Nurses who have advanced degrees are called Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. They have specialized training beyond that of a typical registered nurse and have broader scopes of practice. They may work with greater autonomy in certain specialties.

Certified nurse practitioner (CNP)

A CNP is a health partner of choice for many people. The American Association of Nurse Practitioners' says CNPs are clinicians that blend clinical expertise in diagnosing and

treating health conditions with an emphasis on disease prevention and health management. Advanced education, like a master's or doctoral degree, is required to become a CNP. He or she is able to prescribe medications, order diagnostic tests and manage chronic conditions.

Certified nurse-midwife (CNM)

CNMs provide gynecological and low-risk obstetrical care. These advance practice registered nurses focus their study and practices on gynecology, family planning, prenatal, labor, and postpartum care. In addition to an advanced degree, CNMs must complete an accredited midwifery education program and pass a national certification exam.

CRNAs have specialized training in anesthesia. The Cleveland Clinic notes CRNAs can administer anesthesia for procedures and surgeries. These professionals work with surgeons, anesthesiologists, dentists, podiatrists, and other providers. CRNAs often are the sole anesthesia providers in hospitals in rural areas and the U.S. armed forces.

Nursing is an extensive field with many opportunities for individuals to find their niche.

Long shifts are another example of nurses' commitment to quality care

Few likely forget scenes that emerged during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic when nurses working in hospitals overwhelmed with sick and dying patients were applauded by local residents. Such public expressions of appreciation were a testament to the sacrifices and risks nurses accepted as COVID claimed more and more lives. In those early days of the pandemic, nurses worked especially long hours, and even though the pandemic is over, nurses continue to work considerably longer workdays than the average profession. The American Nurses Association notes that 12-hour shifts are the standard for many nurses working in hospital

settings. The lengthy, often exhausting shifts worked by nurses are another example of their devotion to their patients, as the ANA notes one of the reasons nursing shifts are so long is to ensure better continuity of care for patients. With just two shift changes per day, hospitals reduce patient handoffs, and the ANA notes that decreases the risk for miscommunication or misunderstandings that could compromise patient care and health.

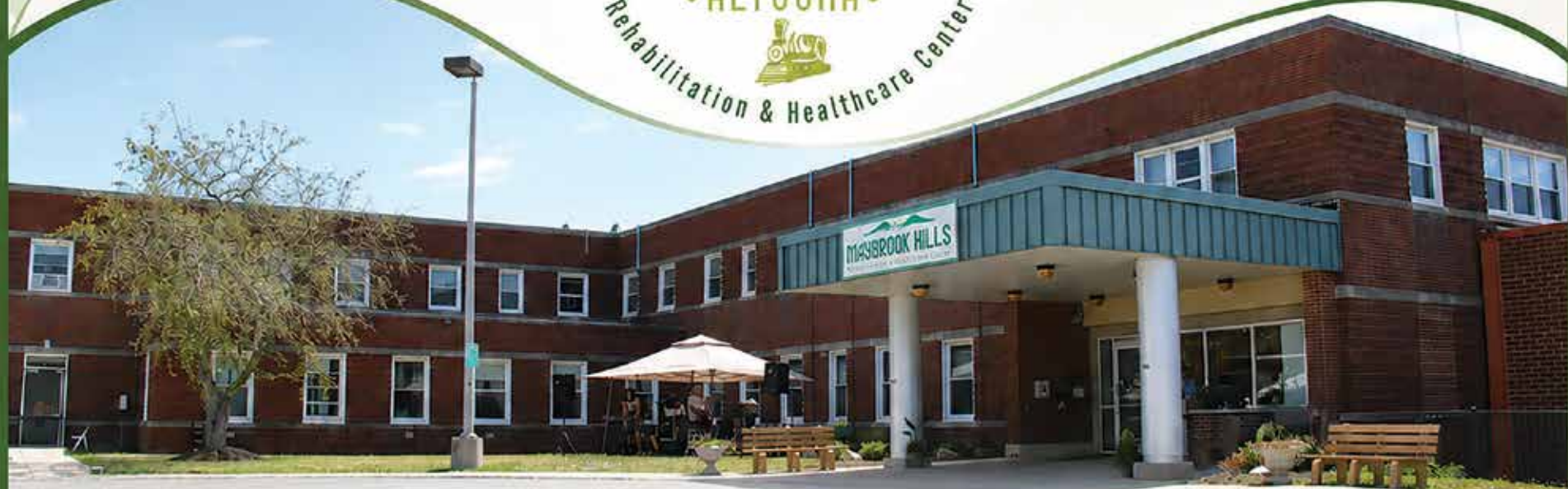
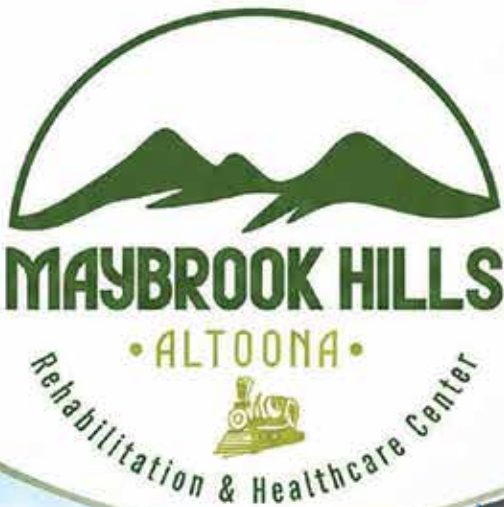
Though 12-hour shifts are the norm for nurses working in hospitals, the ANA notes that such schedules can have drawbacks, and those can adversely affect nurses. Fatigue from 12-hour shifts, which can and

often do last longer than 12 hours thanks to paperwork and additional tasks nurses may not be able to get to during ordinary working hours, can lead to burnout. In addition, nurses typically have limited downtime on workdays, which means they have few hours to spend with family and friends on days when they work. And nurses working 12-hour shifts may find they spend a significant portion of their time off recuperating from their long shifts, which can adversely affect their overall quality of life.

Twelve-hour shifts are another example of the selfless commitment exhibited by nurses working in hospital settings.

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100 Years Ago This Month: Historical events from May 1926



The month of May has been home to many historical events over the years. Here's a look at some that helped to shape the world in May 1926.

- The Ford Motor Company becomes the first major American company to introduce a 40-hour workweek and the two-day weekend on May 1. The reduction from 48 to 40 hours comes with no reduction in pay.
- A civil war breaks out in Nicaragua on May 2. The conflict begins when exiled members of the Partido Liberal political party land in the country with the intention of overthrowing the government.
- The Norge airship departs Gatchina near Leningrad on May 5. The Norge is bound for Vadsø, where it will be prepared to cross the North Pole.
- The first night landing of an airplane on the deck of a ship is accomplished in Britain on May 6. Royal Air Force pilot G.H. Boyce lands a Blackburn Dart on the deck of the HMS Furious.

- Russian inventor Leon Theremin demonstrates his experimental television system in the Soviet Union on May 7.
- English documentary producer and naturalist Sir David Attenborough is born in London on May 8.
- Explorers Richard E. Byrd and Floyd Bennett take off from Spitsbergen, Norway, in a monoplane on May 9. The men return nearly 16 hours later, claiming to have successfully completed a flight over the North Pole. However, a diary entry of Byrd's discovered in 1996 suggests the plane turned back 150 miles short of the North Pole due to an oil leak.
- On May 10, France becomes the first nation to ratify the 1925 Geneva Protocol. The protocol bans the use of poison gases and biological weapons in war.
- Hans Luther resigns as Chancellor of Germany after losing a vote of no confidence in the Reichstag on May 12.
- The New York Rangers, the Chicago Blackhawks and the Detroit Cou-

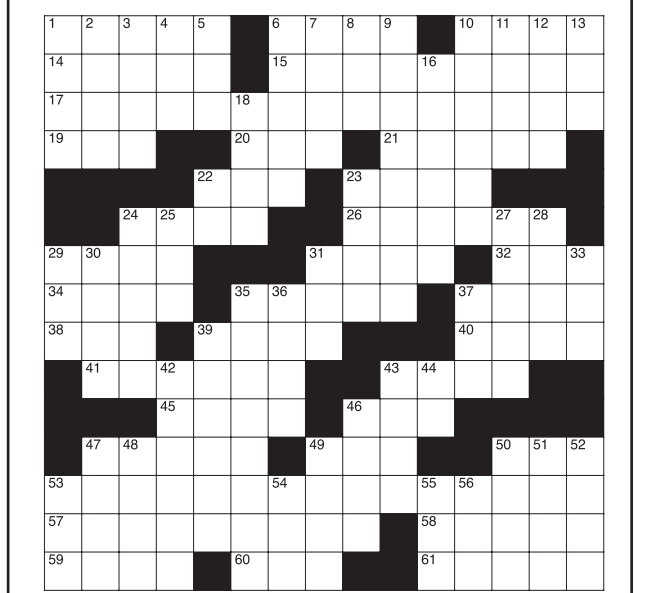
- gars are admitted to the National Hockey League on May 15.
- The Irish political party Fianna Fáil is founded on May 16. Eamon de Valera is the party's first president.
- Italian-born anarchist Severino Di Giovanni leads a group that bombs the United States Embassy in Argentina on May 16. The bombing is in response to the convictions of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, who were found guilty of murdering a guard and paymaster during an armed robbery of the Morill Shoe Company in Massachusetts in 1920.
- Christian evangelist and national celebrity Aimee Semple McPherson disappears on May 18. McPherson had last been seen swimming at Venice Beach, California, and initial speculation was that she had drowned. However, McPherson reappears in Mexico five weeks later.
- United States President Calvin Coolidge signs an act authorizing the creation of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on May 22.

- One hundred and forty people are killed when the Mount Tokachi volcano in Japan erupts on May 24.
- Ukrainian nationalist leader and former president of Ukraine Symon Petliura is assassinated on a Paris street on May 25. The assassin, Jewish anarchist poet Sholom Schwartzbard, who had lost his family in pogroms of Jews that occurred in the Ukrainian National Republic in 1919, held Petliura responsible for the anti-Semitic violence in Ukraine.
- Miles Dewey Davis III is born in Alton, Illinois, on May 26. Davis would become one of the most influential and acclaimed musicians of the twentieth century.
- The opening ceremonies of the Sesquicentennial Exposition are held in

Philadelphia on May 31. The exposition is a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the signing of the United States Declaration of Independence.

AD BARGAIN Crossword Puzzle

Solution on page 7



- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Notable casino destination
 6. Current units
 10. Roman military unit
 14. American lizard
 15. Fates
 17. The Yankees have lots of these
 19. Unhappy
 20. Mimic
 21. Remove from the record
 22. Where cargo ships dock (abbr.)
 23. A way to fight
 24. Turf
 26. Contract
 29. Country along the Arabian peninsula
 31. Tree species
 32. Pituitary gland secretion (abbr.)
 34. Perfect
 35. "Partner" to groans
 37. Jewish calendar month
 38. Where wrestlers work
 39. Egotistical
 40. Potted plants
 41. Containers
 43. Large, flightless birds
 45. Part of a book
 46. American spies
 47. Pancakes made of buckwheat flour
 49. Swiss river
 50. Disfigure
 53. Have surgery
 57. Formal withdrawal
 58. Early English council
 59. Area units
 60. 2,000 lbs.
 61. Siskel and __

- CLUES DOWN**
1. Animal jaws
 2. Small water buffalo
 3. An appliance has one
 4. Every
 5. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
 6. Very skilled
 7. No more than what is specified
 8. Tire measurement
 9. Towers
 10. Forward
 11. Jacob __, American journalist
 12. Vale
 13. Former CIA
 16. Middle Eastern nation
 18. Exhausts
 22. South Dakota
 23. The complete duration of something
 24. Kids love him
 25. Singular
 27. Cod genus
 28. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
 29. Resistance unit
 30. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
 31. Cast out
 33. 60-minute periods
 35. Most worn
 36. European river
 37. Atomic mass unit
 39. Items of food
 42. Body parts
 43. Ireland
 44. Partner to Pa
 46. Sammy __, songwriter
 47. Dutch settler
 48. Full-grown pike fish
 49. Sun or solar disk
 50. Minute arachnid
 51. From a distance
 52. A monthly expense
 53. Young women's association
 54. Brazilian state
 55. Air freight provider
 56. Pointed end of a pen

LAWSUIT: case moved to federal court

(Continued from Page 1) charges that Rural King had a duty to conduct "proper and adequate background and/criminal history checks of individuals both purchasing, and/or handling guns while inside their stores (Rural King has more than 100 stores), including the subject store in Clearfield."

The lawsuit continued, indicating that Rural King employees had the duty to "pick up on, and intervene on the suspicious activity of (Parks and Michaelis) while inside the store."

Rural King denied it had such a duty.

The other defendant in the lawsuit is KelTec CNC Industries, a Florida corporation. It manufactured the .22-caliber handgun that was sold by Rural King.

The lawsuit charges that KelTec also had the

duty to make sure the sellers of its products maintain adequate policies "protecting against the dangerous and unsafe sale of guns."

KelTec has yet to answer the Parks lawsuit. It has asked the deadline for its answer be extended until May 26, a request that was granted.

Danielle Parks, 39, is serving her life sentence at the State Correctional Institution Muncy.

Michaelis, 50, is incarcerated in SCI Fayette.

Jodi Parks, as the administratrix of her son's estate, is asking both compensatory and punitive damages of more than \$50,000 on multiple counts.

The victim in the murder, Koday Lee Parks, was the father of three children.

Rural King moved the case to federal court, noting there are signifi-

cant "federal questions" involved in the litigation.

U.S. District Judge Stephanie L. Haines will preside over the dispute.



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Paws & Claws

Attract winged friends with these bird feeders

Birds are beautiful creatures that can make a lawn and garden feel even more serene. Providing snacks to supplement what birds naturally find in the wild guarantees up close and personal interactions with the scores of species that call neighborhoods home.

Bird feeders are particularly important in colder climates and during wintertime when food may be scarce. Keeping birds well fed helps them survive over winter and continue to repopulate in the spring. Bird feeding isn't all for the birds, either. Ashley Dayer, an associate professor in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation at Virginia Tech, argues that feeding birds also is a benefit to humans because it stimulates compassion for the animals.

The type of bird feeder a person places in the yard determines which species may be drawn to the property. The following are various types of feeders to consider.

Suet feeders

Suet cakes are high-energy food sources that attract birds like woodpeckers and nuthatches. They are particularly beneficial in colder months or regions where birds need extra fat for energy. These cage-like feeders snap around the rectangular suet cake and hang from a pole or tree.

Ground feeder

Ground feeders are simple screen-bottomed trays that sit several inches off of the ground or on a deck to help keep seeds and grain from coming in contact with droppings. Ground feeders are a favorite of juncos, sparrows, goldfinches, and cardinals, among others.

Sugar water feeder

These feeders come in different shapes, from tubes to round dishes, and are magnets to hummingbirds. They typically have red coloring to be more attractive to those high-speed flyers.

Nyjer bird feeder

Small birds like goldfinches love to eat nyjer seeds, which are tiny, black thistle seeds. These feeders are tube-shaped mesh socks designed to hold this specific seed. The small feeding ports prevent seed waste and cater to the small beaks of finches.

Hopper bird feeder

These are the feeders many people think of when they envision bird feeders. Hopper bird feeders hold a large amount of seed and often have a roof or a design that mimics a house or barn. The covered design helps to keep seeds dry and

might be the best hanging feeder for people who live in areas with a lot of rain. Hoppers will attract blue jays, grackles, cardinals, and blackbirds.

Tube feeders

Tube feeders will attract an array of birds. They are cylindrical in shape with various ports to enable birds to perch and feed.

Window and smart bird feeders

These types of bird feeders attach to windows to allow homeowners to view the birds up close. Smart varieties have cameras on the feeders that will send a feed via an app to a smart phone or computer. Some even may identify the bird species on the feeder at any given point in time.

Bird feeders provide enjoyment for bird watchers and nutritious food various species.



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970 - Boats

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985 - Truck Parts

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- '15 Ford Escape - 1.6L, 4x4, 145K
- '15 Toyota Corolla - 1.8L, FWD, 168K
- '14 Jeep Gr. Cherokee - 3.2L, 4x4, 153K
- '14 Ford Escape - 1.6L, 4x4, 131K
- '13 Jeep Wrangler - 3.6L, 4x4, 158K
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Obituaries

Blaise Alexandria Benedek

Blaise Alexandria Benedek, 25, of Clearfield, passed away on Sunday, May 3, 2026 at Penn Highlands Clearfield after a year long battle with Congestive Heart Failure.

Born three and a half months prematurely on August 2, 2000 in Pittsburgh, she was a fighter from birth. She is survived by her loving parents, Kelley S. (Farrell) Benedek and Joseph Benedek IV. Blaise graduated from Clearfield High School in 2019 where she was involved with the Marching Band. She then attended Erie Technical Institute in the Veterinary Tech program and was a member of the Centre Grove United Methodist Church. She was currently employed at Mountain Laurel Nursing and Healthcare in the dietary department. She loved her job taking care of the elderly, and the folks at the home loved her. Blaise will be remembered for her contagious smile and her passion for life. She loved her birthday parties and to travel. There wasn't a beach she didn't like and a cruise that she didn't want to go on. She was born into a racing family and you could find her most Saturday nights at the dirt track. She also enjoyed soccer, playing from Pee-Wee through middle school. Blaise never let her Cerebral Palsy slow her down. She is survived by her parents, Joseph and Kelley Benedek; her two children, Kohen and Indee Benedek; a sister, Lydia Benedek; maternal grandparents, David and Diane "Dee" Farrell; paternal grandparents, Joseph III and Linda Benedek; and two uncles, Chris Farrell and his wife Holly and their children Taylor and Landree, and Matthew Benedek. Services for the family will be private and held at their convenience.

Diana L. Luzier

Diana L. Luzier, 80, of Clearfield, passed away on Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at Penn Highlands Clearfield.

Born February 15, 1946 in Clearfield, she was the daughter of the late Oscar and Anne (Krisco) Kitchen. Mrs. Luzier retired from the housekeeping department at Mountain Laurel Nursing and Rehabilitation, Clearfield after more than 50 years of employment. She was a member of the Kerr Addition United Methodist Church. In her spare time, she loved to play cards, cut her grass, tend to her garden, and other outside yardwork. She also loved her dog, Parker. Mrs. Luzier is survived by four children, Ritchie Kitchen of Clearfield, Dennis Bowman and wife Stacy of Edgewater, FL, Kelly Michaels of Clearfield, and Kimberly Luzier; eight grandchildren, Cassidy Bowman, Morgan Bowman, Brock Bowman, Tyler Martell, Haley Michaels, Courtney Michaels, Garrett Lind, and Ava Lind; ten great grandchildren; two brothers, Walt Kitchen and Dan Kitchen; and a sister, JoAnn Kitchen. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Jack "Yogi" Luzier on June 1, 2002; a granddaughter, Jasmine Martell; and two brothers, Bud and Ed Kitchen. There will be no services observed at this time.

June (Graffius) Franchock

June (Graffius) Franchock passed away peacefully at the age of 95.

June was born on June 24, 1930 to Ruth (Miller) and Chester Graffius of Beulah, Pennsylvania. June attended Madera High School but joined the workforce early to support the war effort in Ambridge, Pennsylvania. She later married George Franchock, on September 24, 1946, and the couple made their home in Glen Hope, Pennsylvania. June is predeceased by her husband of 63 years, George Franchock, by her daughter, Karla Ann Franchock and by her daughter-in-law, JoAnn (Spencer) Franchock. She is survived by daughter, Nina Lynn Bratton and John Belis of Harrisburg; son, Neal Jacob Franchock of Glen Hope; daughter, Karen (Franchock) Kay of Greenville, North Carolina; son, George Alan Franchock and daughter-in-law, Linda (Finch) of Port Matilda; eight grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren. June had a Radio 3 Class with Special Endorsement and worked for several years at a local radio station WTRN-WGMR as a salesperson and a live broadcaster. She broadcast at the opening of the Clearfield Mall in 1979, local parades, and was a broadcaster at the Clearfield County Fair for many years. After June saw a ceramic demonstration at the Clearfield County Fair, she took a 22-week study course in ceramics, read and studied everything available on ceramics, and attended a number of classes conducted by traveling instructors. She then turned a hobby into a fulltime, at-home business and taught weekly classes. She was invited by the National League of Ceramics to teach at the New York State Fair. June was the owner and manager of J. Franchock's, a women's apparel and accessory shop in Philipsburg. She and her husband, George, flew to the New York City garment district twice a year to order the latest in women's fashion. June served on several Boards and Committees. She served as a member of the Glen Hope Borough Council, Glen Hope Park Authority, Glen Hope Water Authority, Glen Hope Fire Company, and the Clearfield Area of Aging Agency governing board. Later in her life, June obtained certification and was a volunteer first responder with a local ambulance service. As the Glen Hope Emergency Management Coordinator, she completed a 21-hour workshop conducted by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency at the state fire academy in Lewistown. June lived at the Graystone Court Villas in Clearfield from 2016 to 2025. To the staff and residents of Graystone Court Villas, the family is deeply grateful for the friendship you offered June. She thoroughly enjoyed her time there. The family also wishes to thank the wonderful staff at Ridgeview Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center for the compassion and kindness you showed June. Knowing June was in such good hands brought a sense of peace to the family. A private, graveside memorial will be at a later date at the family cemetery.

Ira Lloyd

Ira Lloyd, 54, Fallentimber, died Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at his residence from an apparent heart attack.

He was born October 3, 1971 in Elizabeth, NJ. a son of the late Lloyd L. and Josephine P. (Gonzalez) Lloyd. He is survived by four children: Jessica A. Lloyd of Greensboro, NC. and her fiancé Ethan Folkman, Shelby N. Lloyd of Hernando, FL., Harley D. Matthew of Dysart and Britney L. Lloyd and her husband Robert in Florida, two grandsons Ryker Matthew and Asher Lloyd and three brothers Adam W. Lloyd of Glasgow, Sam R. Lloyd of West Virginia and Don M. Lloyd of Coalport. Ira was preceded in death by a son Damion, a brother Timothy Lloyd, a sister Christine Wagner and nephews Darek Lloyd, Sam Lloyd and Anthony Wagner. Ira had worked as a mechanic and in autobody repair. A Memorial Gathering was held at the McQuown Funeral Home, Glasgow.

Paul Hinkle, Sr.

Paul Hinkle, Sr., 85, of Altoona, died Thursday, April 30, 2026, at his residence.

He was born February 11, 1941, in Altoona, a son of the late Donald E. and Minerva E. (Marlin) Hinkle. On August 22, 1964, in Winchester, VA., he married Joyce E. Jackson who survives along with four children: Paul R. (Michelle) Hinkle, Jr. of Tyrone, Kimberly J. (Ron) Dalansky of Altoona, Donald B. (Lora) Hinkle and Todd A. Hinkle, both of Flinton. Also surviving are nine grandchildren: Sydney, Brianna, Danette, Alyssa, Lexi, Tanner, Spenser, Payton and Taylor, four great-grandchildren Jaxon, Lakyn, Yamiah and Rhiannon and a soon-to-be born great-grandchild James. Mr. Hinkle also is survived by two sisters: Minerva Hart of Pinellas Park, FL. and Barbara Hinkle of French Creek, WV. He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Donald and William and sisters Shirley, Ellen and Audrey. Paul was a 1958 graduate of Hollidaysburg High School after which he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, serving as a Corporal during the Vietnam War. Following his military discharge he graduated from the Washington, DC Police Academy and then was a police officer there with the Metropolitan Police Force. He went on to be a police officer for Hollidaysburg borough and the variously named railroads in Altoona, finally retiring in 2005 as a pipefitter for the railroad. He was an avid hunter, enjoyed fishing and gardening , showing his classic 1965 El Camino and, in his younger years, riding and racing his Bultaco motorcycles. He was a member of the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, Altoona, where a visitation will take place, with Minister Jim Quirin officiating.

Kenneth O. "60" Watt

Kenneth O. "60" Watt, 69, Ashville, passed away on May 3, 2026 at home surrounded by his loving family.

Born May 6, 1956 in Spangler, son of the late Fredrick and Alma (Blackstone) Watt. He was preceded in death by brothers, Bill, Fred, Jim, Herman, Bo, Rich, Don, and Dave Watt; and sisters, Flo Ehrhart and Kathy Wisilosky. He is survived by his loving wife, Kathie Watt; children, Jessica (John) Gorba, Timothy Watt, Adam Watt, and Sarah Watt; 7 grandchildren, Owen, Neveah, Bethany, Carlae, Alison, Brantley and Danika; siblings, Dot (Steve) Draper, Betty (Ray) Murray, Gloria Watt, and John (Edna) Watt; brother-in-law, Frank Wisilosky; sister-in-laws, Ellie, Sheryl, Cindy, and Louann; and numerous nieces and nephews. Ken "60" worked for Cresson Ridge Diesel Garage for 49 years. He enjoyed riding his trike and spending time with family. Per Ken's request there will be no viewing or service.

Obituaries Courtesy of:
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WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026

Hollidaysburg grad awarded prestigious internship

Shanafelt used her experience being heckled to pursue public policy at PSU

By COLETTE COSTLOW
ccostlow@altoonamirror.com

Penn State University junior Madeline Shanafelt said she learned a thing or two about education and public policy after speaking out at a Hollidaysburg Area School Board meeting in November 2022, which brought on backlash from attendees.

She spoke out because of her disappointment with how the board handled the fallout of a junior high teacher having the “Gender Queer” graphic novel in her classroom, according to a previous Mirror article.

Almost four years later, however, Shanafelt said she’s thankful for the experience, as it inspired her to double major in education and public policy along with political science in Penn State’s integrated undergraduate-graduate program.

“I’m happy it happened because it was the catalyst for what I’m doing,” she said.

She recently secured a highly competitive summer internship with MDRC, a nonpartisan organization focused on education and public policy. Living in New York City for eight weeks, she’s looking forward to learning more about the world of education and public policy.

“I hope it makes me a more successful researcher

and (gives me) more experience under my belt,” she said.

Shanafelt remembered gravitating toward politics as a middle school student attending Hollidaysburg Area School District during the 2016 presidential election.

Growing up in a Republican-dominated area challenged her political perspective, she said, which inspired her to want to make a change in the world.

“I really found an interest in what was going on in the world,” she said. “I wanted to take action.”

As a result, she was a part of Hollidaysburg’s student council throughout high school, where she was interested in organizing events and involving all students, according to her mother, Colleen Shanafelt.

Colleen sat beside her daughter when she spoke at the school board meeting in November 2022, and she watched attendees yell at her daughter in the auditorium.

“It was really difficult to watch as a parent,” Colleen said.

In the end, she said that experience lit a fire in Madeline, as her daughter saw the importance of her mission.

Shanafelt’s father, Mike, also said that speaking out at the board meeting helped her understand the world around her, develop an interest in education and public policy and begin working alongside representatives from previous generations.

“She’s trying to be involved in different ways to bridge that gap,” he said.

Education, public policy research

Looking to continue her education, Shanafelt applied for Penn State’s political science program and the highly selective Schreyer Honors College, where only 2% of Penn State students are Schreyer scholars.

But she said she wasn’t completely happy with only studying political science, so after an introductory course at the university, she took on the education and public policy major.

While studying, she is also the president of the College Democrats at Penn State, a research assistant in a political research lab, a keystone scholar in Penn State’s outreach program and a campus group fitness instructor.

David Gamson, Penn State University associate professor of education, said that Shanafelt is an excellent student who demonstrates a strong work ethic inside the classroom.

“She’s willing to push herself further; she does strong work,” he said.

She took two of Gamson’s classes last fall, where she learned more about education policies and the history of education.

Currently, Gamson and Shanafelt are collaborating on her undergraduate thesis, where she will study how curricula are being used inside classrooms. She will most likely complete her thesis by the end of her senior year.

He said one of Shanafelt’s strengths is her many interests in education, as she draws upon different disciplines and expands upon her work.

Gamson also wrote a recommendation letter for Shanafelt, which was submitted alongside her application for the MDRC internship. He said the internship selects a batch of students and gives them a great learning opportunity about education and public policy.

According to MDRC’s website, the undergraduate internship gives students an opportunity to be a part



Courtesy photo

Penn State junior and Hollidaysburg Area High School graduate Madeline Shanafelt is pictured speaking about the First Amendment at a State of State Conference.

of multidisciplinary teams developing research on current social and education policy issues. Interns can participate in meetings, training, talks and network to gain skills and knowledge in specific areas.

One of Shanafelt’s peers, junior student Dinaye Smith of Coatesville, was also selected for the MDRC internship and will learn alongside Shanafelt in NYC this summer.

Smith said she’s excited for the internship, as it will be a great opportunity to learn more about public policy and research. Likewise, Shanafelt is hoping for a big emphasis on networking to challenge her current knowledge of public policy.

Shanafelt said she looks forward to studying alongside Smith as they venture into the Big Apple.

“I’m excited to work with her,” Shanafelt said. “It’ll be nice that someone is coming from the same place.”

Future leader

Despite being unsure of the process, Shanafelt has hopes of becoming a professor in the future or an education analyst.

Currently, she’s considering a Ph.D. program at Columbia University, and she hopes to tour the cam-



Courtesy photo

Madeline Shanafelt had the opportunity to meet Gov. Josh Shapiro.

pus during her summer internship.

But she plans to stay involved with the Department of Education in the future, regardless of it currently being reworked under the Trump administration.

“Someone has to be there to rebuild it, and I hope to be there for that,” she said.

Looking at her previous accomplishments as a college student, she said she feels supported by her parents who continue to encourage her academic journey.

“I wanted to take action, and I think my parents are very supportive of that,” she said.

Her parents echoed Shanafelt’s statements, stating their wishes for their daughter to find success wherever her path leads.

“I just want her to be happy and fulfilled in her job,” Colleen said. “Enjoy what she’s doing and feel like she’s making a difference in the world.”

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

The Shanafelt file

Name: Madeline Shanafelt

Age: 22

Family: Parents, Mike and Colleen; siblings, Ethan and Andrew

Hometown: Hollidaysburg

Education: Hollidaysburg Area School District, Class of 2023; junior at Penn State University

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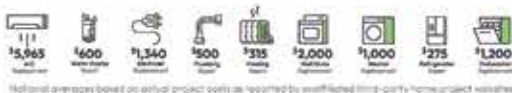
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