

Death record

NADOLSKY , Donald ‘Don’ J., 61, Cresson
RITCHEY , Bets L. (Hart), 76, Blue Knob
SHROCK , David L., 82, Chesterfield
SWOPE , Jill V. (Holman), 80, Altoona
YINGLING , Cheryl D., 76, Hollidaysburg

Donald ‘Don’ J. Nadolsky

Dec. 31, 1961 – June 9, 2023
Donald “Don” James Nadolsky, 61, Cresson, passed away peacefully on Friday in Pittsburgh, surrounded by his loving family. Born proudly on New Year’s Eve in 1961 in Altoona, he was the son of the late Francis S. and Mary Ruth (Byrnes) Nadolsky.



Nadolsky

Surviving are his son, Ross, of East Haven, Conn.; daughters, Kiana and Kiera of Cresson; siblings, Beverly, Gary (Monica), Kathy (David) Perrin, Lisa (Ray) Degol and Lynne (Bruce) Eberhart; brother-in-law, Bill Santell; many nieces and nephews; and his best friends, Phil Davis and former wife, Cathy (Barlick) Nadolsky.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Joyce Santell and sister-in-law, Mariann Nadolsky.

Don retired on disability as an electrician from The Farfield Company. He enjoyed playing pool and cranking music with his buddies and kids. Don was the captain of his Cresson League Pool team (Shovelhead 2) and a son of the Cresson American Legion. He was an avid fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers and Pirates. Don’s last coherent moment was at a Pirates game, with some of his closest of friends singing along during the seventh inning stretch. The family has comfort knowing that he left them enjoying his last moments despite his long battle with his debilitating disease, inclusion body myositis.

Friends will be received from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at **Anderson Family Funeral Home & Cremation Services**, 233 Keystone Ave., Cresson, where a funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, June 14, 2023, with Pastor Gary Shingler, officiant.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Anderson Family Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Cresson. Condolences may be made at AndersonFamilyFuneralHomes.com

Bets L. Ritchey

Dec. 12, 1946 – June 10, 2023
Bets L. (Hart) Ritchey, 76, of Blue Knob, passed away Saturday at her residence



Ritchey

after an extended illness, surrounded by her family. She was born in Hollidaysburg, daughter of the late Daniel and Helen (McGregor) Hart. She married Gary Ritchey in 1965.

Surviving are: her husband of 58 years; a daughter, Lori Ritchey-Fox of Blue Knob; a son, Michael and wife, Jessica of Altoona; two grandchildren: Noah and Cami; a sister, Edith Berkheimer; and brothers: Daniel and Robert Hart.

Bets graduated from Hollidaysburg High School in 1964 and Pruonto’s Beauty School.

She was proprietor of the family restaurant, “Keystone Restaurant and Truck Stop” in Munster.

Bets enjoyed watching Penguins hockey, working, and spending time with her grandchildren.

Friends will be received from 1 to 3 p.m. Friday, June 16, 2023, at **Sorge Funeral Home and Crematory Inc.**, Hollidaysburg, where a memorial service will immediately follow at 3 p.m. with Pastor Gary Shingler officiating. sorgefuneralhome.com

Obituary options

The Mirror offers options for obituaries appearing in the newspaper and online at www.altoonamirror.com. All obituaries will also be included in the Mirror’s In Memory section to be published the second weekend of each month.

A basic obituary of up to 27 lines is available for \$29. There are restrictions on what can be included.

Obituaries longer than 27 lines have few restrictions on what can be included.

Jill V. Swope

July 28, 1942 – June 8, 2023
Jill V. Swope, 80, Altoona, a loving mother, devoted wife and faithful friend, went to be with the Lord on Thursday at Cedarwood Health and Rehabilitation Center in Tyrone. She was the daughter of the late Charles C. and Phyllis L. (Ickes) Holman.



Swope

She was a beloved mother to her children: Richard Porter of Bedford, Va.; Debra Porter of Lynchburg, Va.; and Laurie Goss, married to Bill, of Tyrone.

In addition to her children, Jill is survived by her sister, Terry Ott; sister-in-law, Cindy Holman; and her nephews and niece: Chuck Nolan, Kenny Ott, Randy Holman, Jeff Porter, Rob Porter, Sean Porter and Toni Davis, along with their families. Jill’s family was incredibly important to her, and she cherished the time spent with her children.

Along with her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Millard W. Swope, as well as her brother, Jack C. Holman, and her first-born son, William R. Porter, Jr.

She was a 1960 graduate of Hollidaysburg High School.

Jill had a few simple pleasures in life that brought her great joy. She enjoyed spending her time reading, challenging her mind with shows like Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune, and caring for her beloved cat, “Pepper.” However, her greatest source of fulfillment came from her involvement in local ministry and her commitment to her faith.

Over the past forty years, Jill actively participated in several churches. She was a member of the former Bell Ave. Baptist Church in Altoona, Puzzletown Road Bible Church in Newry, and Altoona Bible Church. Within these communities, she found purpose and served in various capacities, including women’s ministries, the adult choir and children’s vacation Bible school.

A private funeral service will be held to honor Jill’s life, respecting the wishes of the family, at 11 a.m. Tuesday, June 13, 2023, with Pastor Ken Beichler officiating. She will be laid to rest at Alto Reste Park in Altoona. The arrangements are entrusted to **The Good Funeral Home Inc.**, in Altoona.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Purrfect Paws and Pals, c/o Patricia Griffith, 1003 Jefferson Ave., Tyrone PA 16686 or to the Central PA Humane Society, 1837 E. Pleasant Valley Blvd., Altoona, PA 16602.

Cheryl D. Yingling

Aug. 7, 1946 - June 10, 2023
Cheryl D. Yingling, 76, of Hollidaysburg, passed away Saturday at UPMC Altoona. She was born in Altoona, daughter of the late Robert and Marina Yingling.

Surviving are: her partner of 24 years, Linda Hurliman; sisters: Debra Tornatore and Vicki Wyatt; brothers: Robert Yingling and Michael Yingling, all of Altoona; and a special friend, Charlotte Deeters. She was preceded in death by a sister, Georgia Yon.

Cheryl graduated from Altoona High School in 1966 and retired from Quality Corrections and Inspections.

All services are private at **Sorge Funeral Home and Crematory Inc.**, Hollidaysburg.

sorgefuneralhome.com

Obituary deadline

The deadline for submitting obituaries is 4:30 p.m. the day prior to publication. Obituaries can be submitted online at vnr.altoonamirror.com, faxed to 814-946-7540 or emailed to obituaries@altoonamirror.com.

David L. Shrock

April 1, 1940 – Dec. 22, 2022
David Leslie Shrock, 82, died unexpectedly on Dec. 22, 2022 at his home in Chesterfield. He was born in Utahville, the son of Doris Evelyn (Green) and Thomas Leo Shrock Sr. He graduated from BCI High School in 1958.



Shrock

He is survived by his wife, Frances Gail (Schmid) Shrock, whom he married on June 18, 1966; a son, Jesse Shrock of Chesterfield; a daughter, Sarah (John) Yarger, and their children: Wesley, Samuel, Lewis and Leah, all of Coalport. He is also survived by his five siblings: Tom (Toots) Shrock, Kathy (Robert) Phillips, Gaye Scott, Gloria Arkwright and Robin (Denise) Shrock.

After serving in the Army, David moved to Chicago to work and attend DeVry Technical Institute. From 1963 until 1965, he attended classes at Penn State Altoona, where he initially studied engineering and psychology until he decided to follow his passion for art. He graduated from Penn State University with a bachelor’s degree in fine arts in 1968. David worked at University Park as an instructor in ceramic arts at PSU in 1969 before continuing his graduate studies. In 1970, he returned to working full-time with his father and brother at Shrock Body Shop in Coalport. He and his co-owner, David Repsher, opened Chesterfield Pottery, where David created beautiful pots from 1970 to 1976.

In 1985, David and Tom began to transition their business to making reproduction Studebaker parts. That year, they formed Shrock Bros. Toys and began the production of miniature model cars and trucks which were modeled by David, cast by Tom and painted and assembled by David and Frances. David estimated that he prototyped over 200 different Studebaker body styles. Many of the miniatures were one-of-a-kind or limited production.

David’s hobbies included fabricating elegant solutions to difficult problems. He also enjoyed swimming, running, cycling, sailing, photography, drawing, painting, playing the harmonica, flea marketing, fixing and repurposing things, planting trees, creating beauty and spending time with his family. He supported the March of Dimes, which helped his parents when he and two of his siblings had polio in 1953. He was a member of the Glen Hope United Methodist Church. If you are so moved, donations to the March of Dimes or the Glen Hope UMC in his name will carry his legacy forward.

A celebration of life will be held at the Glen Hope United Methodist Church, 5985 Glen Hope Blvd., Glen Hope, on Saturday, June 17, 2023. Friends and family will be received at 1 p.m. with a service at 2 p.m. Fellowship and food will follow the service at the Glen Hope Volunteer Fire Company, 48 Pine St., Glen Hope. Casual dress is requested. David was most comfortable in denim.

Search Mirror archives

People researching obituaries and other stories that appeared in the Altoona Mirror and hundreds of other publications now can search archives online at <http://altoona.newspaperarchive.com>.

The cost is \$22.99 a month. People sign up and pay online. Once signed up, usernames and passwords will be issued.

Adobe Acrobat Reader, a free program, is required to view the newspaper pages.



Courtesy photo

A motorcyclist drives past Falls Market in Ohio on May 19.

PARK: Infrastructure is costly

(Continued from Page A1)

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy purchased the parkland and sold it to the state in the mid-1960s. It was dedicated in 1971 and completely surrounds Ohio pyle Borough.

With 20,633 acres, Ohio pyle State Park is the largest in Pennsylvania in terms of acreage, said Ken Bisbee, who is in his 10th year managing 40 employees who oversee its unique topography highlighted by the iconic Falls steps from the visitor center.

Even with all that space to roam, visitors typically spend their time in the borough, at the water’s edge and exploring Ferncliff Peninsula, though a new mountain bike trail system off Sugarloaf Road has pushed some out of town.

“This is a challenging park to manage both because of the resource and the congestion of people in that 1-square-mile area,” Bisbee said.

Among its recreational opportunities and examples of natural beauty, Ohio pyle is known particularly for several things: world-class whitewater river rafting and kayaking; a stop on the 150-mile Great Allegheny Passage trail between Pittsburgh and Cumberland, Md.; a trailhead of the 70-mile Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail; Cucumber Falls; and natural rock slides.

DCNR director of outdoor recreation Nathan Reigner said the seamless transition from public lands to community “allows the park to have an oversized impact” on the town.

It’s a perfect destination for families, and the businesses — vendors of food, alcohol, ice cream, clothing and trinkets, as well as outfitters — add to a visit, he said.

“I think we can take inspiration from that and try to build similar experiences” in state parks and forests, Reigner said. “Not every place can be Ohio pyle ... but it can be an inspirational model.”

Under state law, the department contributes annual payments in lieu of taxes to taxing bodies where public land exists, including Ohio pyle Borough. The

\$6-per-acre payment is split among the municipality, school district and county, with each getting \$1.20 per acre, said spokesperson Wesley Robinson. An additional 80 cents per acre for each taxing body is contributed from gambling revenue. Ohio pyle receives \$224 for 112 acres.

“We just try to support the borough as much as we can,” Bisbee said, noting that staff helped in recent years with a park and playground.

In 2020, PennDOT completed a \$12.4 million project in Ohio pyle that redesigned Sugarloaf Road, added parking and pedestrian safety elements, replaced the Route 381 bridge and created an underpass from a new parking lot to the visitor center and water access point.

There are plenty of projects planned for upcoming years, Bisbee said, including an additional campground with full hookups, a redesign of the parking lot near Ferncliff Peninsula and the addition of solar panels to provide electricity. A boathouse in

the Sugarloaf lot is under construction.

‘Gorgeous’ destination

There’s no denying the beauty of Ohio pyle.

People are drawn from all over to experience it.

“It’s kind of a one-stop, really fun day for people,” Bisbee said.

Sandy Earle, 73, from Washington state bicycled on the Great Allegheny Passage through Ohio pyle recently on a trip from Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C. John Davis of Scott Township, near Pittsburgh, was on a much shorter route — 9 miles from Confluence to Ohio pyle and back. He regularly stays at Hanna House Bed & Breakfast in Confluence to get exercise and a respite from city life. Davis has been visiting the area for about 20 years.

“I work out of my office in the woods,” he said while taking a break from pedaling.

Debbie McKinstry of Salt Lake City and her black Lab Maisie waited recently in her truck camper for husband Mark and their son Scott, who lives in Pittsburgh, to finish their second journey on the Yough River in as many days. The couple has visited Ohio pyle four times and completed the 150-mile section of the Great Allegheny Passage twice, she said.

“I like it. It’s a nice little town, and it’s pretty comfortable,” she said. “The people are pretty easy-going.”

It’s a much different view from the beginning of the couple’s road trip, which took them through New Mexico and Texas.

“It’s just gorgeous,” she said.

Evolving over decades

Locals know they have it good, though some remain perplexed why people from around the world come to their little town.

Becky Broadwater visited Stewart on the Green Community Park, a couple of blocks from the main drag, one day this month with her grandchildren and friends Jodi Victor and

Cari Kessler, who are sisters. All three women live within a few miles of Ohio pyle and said they visit year-round, but only on weekdays or the off-season to

avoid crowds.

On busy weekends, it’s a madhouse.

“You can’t find a parking space,” Broadwater said.

“You have to be careful driving because people are crossing roads,” Victor added.

Michele Solarchick-Akins’ childhood home no longer stands in Ohio pyle, the town where she grew up, met her husband and married him in 1998.

“In the summer, it was busy and fun,” she said. “Especially as teenagers, you had summer friends.”

Solarchick-Akins worked for a couple of rafting outfitters and sometimes helped guide trips during high water, a role that led her to her husband, who also worked as a guide.

Back then, there weren’t many places to stay, and Ohio pyle was a dry town. Now, there are lots of vacation rentals and, on busy

days, rocks at the shoreline are littered with beach towels and sunbathers.

In October, she bought Oddly Enough boutique on Sherman Street, and she is regularly drawn to town for recreation.

“I think it’s changed with the times but still trying to keep the small-town feel,” Solarchick-Akins said.

Costly infrastructure

The borough’s sewage system is “hydraulically overloaded,” meaning there is more wastewater than it can handle, said Lauren Camarda, spokesperson for the Department of Environmental Protection’s Southwest Regional Office.

“DEP will continue to engage with Ohio pyle as they determine how to address the overload and future system needs,” she said.

The borough is under a 2019 consent order with the agency, which fined it \$10,000 over issues with untreated sewage escaping the system and flowing into Meadow Run. That problem has been remedied, Camarda said.

The borough has “unique challenges,” and it is expensive to maintain infrastructure such as the sewage plant, McCarty said. He has been mayor of Ohio pyle since the mid-1980s and more recently became a council member after another resident expressed a desire to be mayor. McCarty, president of Laurel Highlands River Tours and Outdoor Center, in the past few weeks resumed mayoral duties after that resident moved out of town.

He suggested the amount the state pays in lieu of taxes for the park land should be increased.

“For as many people that come here, we don’t get any tax revenue from (them),” said Kruse, who operates Falls Market, a coffee shop and vacation rentals with a partner in addition to her duties on council.

Joseph, the fire chief who runs Paddler’s Pizza and Ohio pyle Bakery & Sandwich Shoppe, suggested a countywide tax, similar to a sales tax, be tacked on to purchases to assist the borough and fire department, which had more than 100 medical calls in 2022, about half of its total annual call volume.

The callers behind those sprained ankles and snake bites don’t realize the firefighters coming to their rescue are volunteers, he said. The department’s budget comes solely from fundraisers, including a popular annual buckwheat/pancake event that pays expenses for the year. Posters with a QR code hung in local businesses meant to help visitors easily donate to the department haven’t been as lucrative as hoped, said Joseph, whose three sons are firefighters.

“All of the funding comes on our own,” he said.

The volunteers get great help from neighboring fire companies, Joseph said, but can’t always return the favor if Ohio pyle is having a busy day or there are few firefighters available.

“We’re grateful for the opportunity to have a holiday weekend the fire whistle does not blow,” Joseph said.

Renatta Signorini is a Tribune-Review staff writer. You can contact Renatta by email at rsignorini@triblive.com or via Twitter.