

# Altoona Mirror



**SPORTS / B1**  
Win propels U.S. to next round of World Cup

\$2.50 Vol. 142 - No. 17 of our 152nd year

**THURSDAY**

July 2, 2026

## Sewer project delay stirs criticism

Reservoir Road residents push authority about status of improvements

By **WILLIAM KIBLER**  
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Several Reservoir Road residents lambasted Blair Township Water and Sewer Authority engineer Dave Cunningham of Keller Engineers at an authority meeting Wednesday over issues with a sewer project, including a missed deadline that will keep the authority from using a \$2.5 million American Rescue Plan Act grant as initially intended, while putting at risk another \$3.8 million Community Development Block Grant for a second phase.

The residents demanded an audit of approximately \$600,000 the authority has spent on engineering for the project and called for the authority to fire Keller and to proceed under a new engineering firm.

After that criticism, the board adjourned into an executive session, following which Chairman Jacob Wible declined to discuss what was decided — although the authority can still do the two-phase project while forfeiting only about \$500,000 to \$700,000 of the ARPA grant and none of the CDBG grant, provided a significant percentage of residents provide free property easements for the work, in contrast to a lack of cooperation with easements so far, according to Cunningham.

The problem with the ARPA deadline for spending the money by Sept. 30 snuck up on the authority largely because Cunningham assumed until about six months ago that it could be extended, as it had been funneled through the state Department of Community and Economic Development, which had always been willing to extend, he has said previously.

Cunningham learned subsequently that it would take an act of Congress to extend the deadline, and despite the efforts of U.S. Rep. John Joyce, no such act was to be forthcoming.

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Mirror photo by Patrick Waksmunski  
**Waylon Luther, 9, of Duncansville cools off on the slide at Hershberger Memorial Pool in Martinsburg on Wednesday.**

## Some like it hot

Extraordinary Northeast heat arrives to clash with Fourth of July revelry

From Mirror staff, wire reports

**M**ultiday warnings of extreme heat landed in New York, Boston and Philadelphia on Wednesday as sultry weather pushed east just ahead of Fourth of July celebrations in a region that revels in its role as a historic hub of U.S. independence.

Temperatures in the high 90s Fahrenheit were forecast for the Northeast; Philadelphia and Boston could top 100 by Thursday. Throw in humidity, and the real-feel heat index will be even higher at times, the National Weather Service said.

### Local impact

Bedford County and surrounding areas will be under a heat advisory until 8 p.m. Friday, according to a release from the Bedford County Department of Emergency Services.

Resources for cooling centers are on standby. To request these resources, contact the Bedford County non-emergency line at 814-623-1105.

Certain groups of people, such as the elderly or very young, are “especially susceptible to extreme heat events” and should take extra precautions. The release states that heat exhaustion, heat stroke, general hyperthermia and sun burn are risks associated with heat waves.

Signs of these conditions include hot, dry skin; clammy skin; excessive sweating; difficulty breathing; nausea and vomiting; increased heart rate; headaches; confusion; and muscle cramps. The release advised individuals to seek out cool, shaded locations; wear lighter clothing; drink water frequently; stay indoors in cool, air conditioned areas; and to not leave children or pets in vehicles, even for a short amount of time.

The National Weather Service stated that high temperatures in Blair County and surrounding areas will approach 100 degrees, with humidity “making it feel closer to 110.”

The hot and humid air mass will bring

chances for scattered thunderstorms, while mild and muggy nights will limit overnight heat relief. The National Weather Service warned that potential storms could be severe and damaging winds would be the primary threat.

In Blair County, the Altoona Salvation Army Church, 1813 Sixth Ave., is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through today, July 2, as a community cooling center. The Blair Regional YMCA is also open as a cooling and hydration station to the community during regular business hours. No membership is required.

### Far reach

A heat dome — high-pressure systems above a region that trap heat and humidity — has been smothering parts of the U.S., from the Midwest to the East Coast. It will add much discomfort amid 250th anniversary parades, ship flotillas, outdoor concerts and, in Boston, a popular public reading of the Declaration of Independence from a historic balcony Saturday.

See **Heat**/Page **A2**

## Region celebrates America250

Communities plan events to mark nation's anniversary

From Mirror staff reports

If you're looking for something fun to do this Independence Day, check out a few local events happening in the area this weekend.

### Main Line Mania

The Railroaders Memorial Museum is hosting Main Line Mania on July 3, when guests can listen to live music, eat wings by area vendors and watch a fireworks display to kick off their Independence Day weekend.

The parking lot opens at 3:30 p.m., gates open at 4 p.m. and live musical performances are from 5 to 10 p.m. Fireworks will begin



available for purchase throughout the evening.  
Kids can also take part in a petting zoo, ax throwing with Slingers Throw House, a dunk tank, a large bounce house, face painting, custom T-shirts made on the spot and yard games.

Walk-ins are \$5 per person, general parking is \$10 per car and VIP parking is \$15 per car. Tickets can be bought in person at the gate or online at: <https://www.zeffy.com/main-line-maina>.

about 10 p.m.  
Live performances include The Voice finalist Josh Gallagher, K4 Kountry and 7th Virtue.

Guests are invited to sample the best wings in the area, vote for their favorite vendor and help crown the Wing King of Altoona. Wing categories include original/buffalo, creative spicy, creative sweet and unique/exotic.

A variety of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages will be

available for purchase throughout the evening.

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### Ebensburg events

A celebratory parade will be traveling through downtown Ebensburg at 10 a.m. July 4, featuring a ceremony and live musical performance by the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra Brass Ensemble.

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## Beach flight earns high marks for convenience

Contour Airlines debuts route to Myrtle Beach

By **MATT CHURELLA**  
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**MARTINSBURG** — Jackie Ivock of Johnstown didn't realize she was part of history Wednesday when she boarded Contour Airlines' first flight from the Altoona-Blair County Airport to Myrtle Beach to celebrate her 60th birthday there.

Ivock, alongside her relative Maggie Ivock, originally intended to fly out of the Arnold Palmer Regional Airport near

**On the Net**  
See more about this story at <https://tinyurl.com/mrxsym6> or scan the QR code at right.

Latrobe but had to change plans whenever Spirit Airlines ceased its operations. The two then considered flying from the Pittsburgh International Airport but opted to book with Contour at the Martinsburg-based airport instead.

See **Flight**/Page **A5**

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Then, head downstairs to **The Brick on Front** for excellent food and drinks.  
814-408-2344 Tavern hours that day, July 11th 8am-10pm

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