

CASTOR

ELIZABETHTOWN — Howard Ganser Castor, 100, of Elizabethtown, Pa., died Monday, Nov. 27, 2023. He is survived by his wife, LaRene K. (Bice) Castor. Graveside services at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20, in Forest Hills Memorial Park, 391 W Neversink Road, Reading, Pa.

MICKLO

FORTY FORT — Jeanne Micklo, 93, of Forty Fort, died Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023. A memorial service will be 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, in the Pittston United Methodist Church, Broad and Church Streets, Pittston. Arrangements entrusted to the Daniel J. Hughes Funeral & Cremation Service, Wilkes-Barre.

CHIMOCK

SWOYERSVILLE — Rosemary Chimock, 85, of Swoyersville, died Saturday, Nov. 25, 2023. A private funeral service will be held, with a Mass of Christian Burial, in St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Swoyersville. Arrangements are entrusted to Wroblewski Funeral Home, Inc., 1442 Wyoming Ave., Forty Fort.

LIPKO

WILKES-BARRE — Michael M. Lipko, 66, of Wilkes-Barre, died Saturday, Nov. 25, 2023. Funeral services will be held privately, at the convenience of his family. Arrangements are under the direction of the Richard H. Disque Funeral Home, 2940 Memorial Highway, Dallas.

COMING FUNERALS

BRUNGES — Donald Leland "Lee" III, visitation 9 to 10 a.m. Saturday, in the Back Mountain Harvest Assembly Church, Trucksville. Services begin at 10 a.m.

CHAIRGE — Samuel Joseph, Sr., visitation 8:15 to 9:30 a.m. Friday, in St. Joseph Marelo Parish, Pittston. A Mass of Christian Burial at 9:30 a.m.

DEWESE — Maureen J., funeral service 1 p.m., Saturday, at Edwards & Russin Funeral and Cremation Services Inc., Edwarsville, with visitation beginning at 12:30 p.m.

FISCH — Donald L. (Don), Mass of Christian Burial 8:30 a.m. Saturday, at the Church of St. Gregory, Clarks Green. Visitation 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, at the Kevin K. Kearney Funeral Home, Inc., Scranton.

JAMES — Paul, friends are invited to funeral service Friday, at 10 a.m., from the Sheldon-Kukuchka Funeral Home, Tunkhannock.

JOHNSON — Beverly, funeral service 11 a.m. Saturday, from the Andrew Strish Funeral Home, Larksville. Visitation 9 a.m. until time of service.

KILCULLEN — William E., graveside service 11 a.m. Friday in Maple Hill Cemetery, Hanover Township.

KOBAL — Barbara, funeral 9:30 a.m. Friday, from the Hugh B. Hughes & Son, Inc., Funeral Home, Forty Fort. Mass of Christian Burial, 10 a.m. in Saint Ignatius of Loyola Church, Kingston. Visitation at the funeral home from 8:30 a.m. until service time.

KOPEC — Robert, visitation from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday, at Wroblewski Funeral Home, Inc., Forty Fort.

LOFTUS — Timothy, memorial service 5:30 p.m. Sunday, at Kiesinger Funeral Services Inc., Duryea. Visitation

RANDOLPH

LAKE TWP. — Gloria Ann Randolph, age 83, of Lake Township, died Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements are by the Curtis L. Swanson Funeral Home, Inc., corner of Routes 29 and 118, Pikes Creek.

MORREALE

PITTSTON — Kathleen "Katie" Dillon Morreale died Nov. 23, 2023, at the age of 84. Visitation from 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, in Adonizio Funeral Home, LLC, 251 William St., Pittston. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 4, in St. Joseph Marelo Parish, 237 William St., Pittston.

HANDZELEK

EXETER — Gloria Ann (Denoy) Handzelek, 90, of Exeter (formerly of Mocanaqua), died, Nov. 28, 2023. Visitation will be from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. Monday, Dec. 4, at the Mayo Funeral Home, Inc., 77 N. Main St., Shickshinny. A Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 11 a.m. at Holy Spirit Parish, 150 Main St., Mocanaqua. Arrangements under the direction of the Mayo Funeral Home, Inc., Shickshinny.

FOR INFORMATION ON PLACING AN IN MEMORIAM AD, CONTACT LINDA BYRNES AT 570-704-3975 OR LBYRNES@TIMESLEADER.COM

MOUNTAIN TOP — Andrew Yurkanin, 98, of Mountain Top entered into eternal rest after a brief illness on Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023, at Allied Services Hospice Center in Wilkes-Barre.

Born in Tresckow, Pa., on Feb. 9, 1925, he was the son of the late George and Gustina (Gonda) Yurkanin. Andrew was a World War II veteran, serving in the Air Force. He attended the University of Scranton, and received a Master's Degree in social work from Columbia University in New York City. He worked as a social worker for the Veterans Administration until the early 1960s.

He married the love of his life, Jane Marie McDonough, on Sept. 16, 1950, and they enjoyed 63

WILKES-BARRE TWP. — John Paul (JP) Yuknavich, 60, of Wilkes-Barre Township, passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023, at home, surrounded by his loving family and many dear friends, after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

He was born in Wilkes-Barre, a son of the late Frank and Mary Giampa Yuknavich. JP was a graduate of Coughlin High School, class of 1982. He was the owner/operator of Yuknavich Trucking, and he was previously employed by the Wilkes-Barre Township DPW/Fire Department.

JP is survived by his companion of 20 years, Dorothy Maloney; and by his children: Stacey

ANDREW YURKANIN



years of marriage, until Jane's passing in 2013. Together they started the Mountain View, a newspaper, and then a printing company, in Mountain Top in the early 1960s.

Andrew enjoyed playing golf and the many friends he made at the Wyoming Valley Country Club. He also enjoyed working with his hands, designing and making things, and was always looking to see what he

could "invent" next.

Preceding him in death, in addition to his parents and his wife, are his siblings: Mary, John, George, Helen, Joseph, August, Michael, Dorothy, Peter and Catherine.

Surviving are daughters: Maryellen and husband Rick Aton, of Mountain Top; Jane and husband Jerold Wagner, of Drums; and son, Robert, of Mountain Top; grandchildren: Keith (Jen) Wagner, Jerold (Kim) Wagner, Ryan (Alana) Yurkanin and Chris (Luz) Yurkanin. He is also survived by twelve great-grandchildren; brother, Thomas Yurkanin, Levittown; sister, Irene Lazarsky, Sugarloaf; sister, Anna Mae Yurkanin, Lafayette Hill; and many nieces and nephews. He is also sur-

vived by his companion, Miriam Sabol.

Friends may call at McCune Funeral Home, 80 South Mountain Blvd., Mountain Top on Sunday, Dec. 3, from 4 to 6 p.m.

A celebration of Andrew's life will be held on Monday, Dec. 4 at 10 a.m. in the funeral home. Interment will be private at Calvary Cemetery in Drums.

The family would like to extend appreciation to Dr. Raymond Joseph and the staff at Fresenius Kidney Care, and also to the staff at Allied Health Hospice Center.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Andrew's favorite charity: Smile Train, P.O. Box 96231, Washington, DC 20090-6231.

JOHN PAUL YUKNAVICH



Yuknavich and her companion Shawn Ebert, of Swoyersville; Lacey Yuknavich, and John Paul Yuknavich, Jr. at home; and grandson, Dalano Yuknavich, of Swoyersville. He is also survived by his sister, Mary Joy Allen and her husband, William (Butch); by his brother, Francis Jerome

(Jerry) Yuknavich; brother-in-law, Ron (Michelle) Maloney; sisters-in-law: Sally (EJ) Murphy and Molly (Jesse) Gosart; and by nieces, nephews, cousins and many dear friends.

JP was a former member/fire chief the Wilkes-Barre Township Volunteer Fire Department for many years, he was a founding member and president of the Wilkes-Barre Township Rod and Gun Club, member of the Sons of the American Legion, Post 815, Wilkes-Barre Township.

JP also enjoyed spending time with his children, family and so many of his great friends that were like his family. He also enjoyed spending time

and taking rides with his beloved dog, Dexter.

A celebration of John Paul's life will begin with a visitation for family and friends on Sunday, Dec. 3, from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Nat Gawlas Jordan Funeral Home, 89 Park Ave., Wilkes-Barre.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Monday at 10 a.m. in Our Lady of Hope Parish, 40 Park Ave., Wilkes-Barre. Family and friends are asked to go directly to the church on Monday. Private interment will be in Holy Trinity Cemetery, Bear Creek, at the convenience of the family.

Condolences may be sent by visiting John Paul's obituary at www.natandgawlas.com.

OBITUARY POLICY

- The Times Leader publishes limited obituaries for free.
- Paid obituaries may

- include full history and photo.
- Please send obituaries as a word document or regular email and photos in jpg format.
- Obituaries for children age 12 or younger are free of

- charge.
- Private parties must include funeral home, cremation place, or death certificate information.
- Send information to obits@timesleader.com or fax to 570-829-5537.

- An obituary clerk will confirm receipt to sender via email or phone.
- If you don't receive a confirmation, please call 570-991-6119.
- **Deadline:** 7:30 p.m. for next day publication.

Newport Twp. dedicates statue honoring area coal miners

By Bill O'Boyle
boboyl@timesleader.com

NEWPORT TWP. — The Newport Township community gathered last weekend to commemorate the determined spirit and tireless dedication of the region's anthracite coal miners with a new statue in their honor.

The event, hosted by Newport United and Newport Township, was attended by elected officials, community leaders, and dozens of residents. And the speakers shared a dual message with the crowd.

On one hand, they underscored the sacrifices of the miners and of the arduous conditions they faced, not only to provide for their families, but also to power the nation.

On the other hand, they spoke of the miners' resiliency and hope for a better future — a point that was emphasized to be an inspiration for the community going forward.

It was a message that resonated deeply.

Sen. Lisa Baker, R-Lehman Tower, asked attendees who were descendants of coal mining families to identify themselves — most in the audience raised a hand.

"A total of 250 years of responsible local governance is a remarkable milestone, worthy of rec-



Submitted photo
Officials/speakers in attendance at the dedication of the Newport Township coal miner statue: front, from left: Joe Hillan, Newport Township; John Zyla, Newport Township/Newport United. Back row, from left: Terry Ostrowski, Earth Conservancy; Joe Frank, Earth Conservancy; Rep. Alec Ryncavage; Sen. Lisa Baker; Rev. Louis Kaminski; Paul Czapracki, Newport Township; John Telencho, City of Nanticoke; Michael Marcella, City of Nanticoke; Mike Shay, Office of U.S. Rep. Dan Meuser; Stephen Phillips, Newport Township Community Organization; Jack Vishnefski, Newport Township; Peter Wanchisen, Newport Township.

ognition and celebration," Baker said. "This record reflects a lengthy honor roll of families, workers, business owners, and leaders who established and sustained Newport Township. It is fitting to pay tribute to the generations of coal miners who were the economic backbone of the community and region. We can look forward to additional community achievements in the years to come."

Opening remarks at the dedication were offered by Newport Township Manager Joe Hillan, followed by the singing of the national anthem by

Karen and Kyra Phair, and a blessing of the statue by Rev. Louis Kaminski. John Zyla, Newport Township Councilman and Chairman of Newport United; and Newport Township Councilman Paul Czapracki then took the podium.

They were followed in turn by Mike Shay on behalf of U.S. Rep. Dan Meuser's office, Sen. Baker, and Rep. Alec Ryncavage, with each presenting a proclamation to the township, emphasizing the significance of the event. Additional remarks were given by Terry Ostrowski, President/CEO of Earth Conservancy.

Closing the program was Stephen Phillips, President of the Newport Township Community Organization, who outlined future endeavors and underscored the path ahead for regional development.

Crafted by Frank Grontkowski Monuments, the granite statue stands in front of the Newport Township municipal building.

In addition to many community donations, it was supported by major gifts by Earth Conservancy and Newport Aggregate.

Celebrating The Life Of A Loved One
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Cabbage Patch Kids film to be shown at R/C Wilkes-Barre Movies 14

By Margaret Roarty
mroarty@timesleader.com

WILKES-BARRE — This year's Black Friday marked the 40th anniversary of the infamous 'Zayre's Cabbage Patch Riot' and for those looking to relive the retail pandemonium, a new documentary film chronicling the rise and fall of the Cabbage Patch Kids dolls — featuring one local resident's firsthand experience of the riot — will be shown downtown this month.

"Billion Dollar Babies: The True Story of the Cabbage Patch Kids" will be screened at R/C Wilkes-Barre Movies 14 on Dec. 8, 9 and 10.

Showtimes are: 4:35, 7:05 and 9:20 p.m. on Dec. 8, 2:00, 4:35, 7:05 and 9:20 p.m. on Dec. 9, and 2:00, 4:25 and 7:05 p.m. on Dec. 10.

"We are excited to be able to offer this film that has such a special connection to Wilkes-Barre at our beloved theatre in downtown Wilkes-Barre. We hope people embrace the film and are entertained and enlightened by it," R/C Theatres CEO Scott R. Cohen said in a press release.

The new documentary film tells the story of the Cabbage Patch doll craze of 1983, from the design and production of the dolls to the riots, and the eventual legal dispute over who exactly came up with the idea for the dolls in the first place.

Included in the film is a segment on the riot that took place on Nov. 27, 1983 at Zayre's Department Store on Spring Street in Wilkes-Barre, one of several that occurred that year across the country after supply



Shoppers hoping to get lucky at Zayre's
File photo
Zayre's Department Store is seen on Nov. 27, 1983 during the Cabbage Patch incident. Photo published in the Times Leader, Nov. 28, 1983.

for the Cabbage Patch Kids dolls could not keep up with buyers' demand.

An estimated crowd of 1,000 stood outside the department store that morning, some having camped out since midnight. The ensuing riot led to five women being injured, including a Kingston woman who suffered three broken ribs and a broken right leg, and had to spend several weeks in a wheelchair.

The Wilkes-Barre segment of the film features an interview with Executive Director of Visit Luzerne County and longtime newspaper columnist, Alan K. Stout, who was 16 at the time. Stout accompanied his mother to Zayre's that day in hopes of getting one of the dolls for his younger sister for Christmas.

Fifteen years later, Stout wrote a Black Friday column for The Times Leader detailing his experience. Producers for the documentary found the article online and approached Stout in 2021 about sharing his story in the film.

"I've seen the film, and it's really well done," Stout

said in a press release. "It also features a lot of cool, '80s-era music and pop culture and it does a great job detailing the entire 'Cabbage Patch' phenomenon. Wilkes-Barre is only in the film for a few minutes, but we're there. They even have old news clips and video of Zayre's in the film. If you were there that morning, it's not something you'll ever forget."

Following the 7 p.m. screening on Dec. 8, Stout will host a Q&A session with those in attendance where he will share his story of the Cabbage Patch Riot and how he ended up in the documentary. Those who also witnessed the riot are welcome to share their stories as well.

Narrated by Emmy Award winning actor Neil Patrick Harris, the film also includes news clips of several prominent journalists and commentators of the time including Tom Brokaw, Ted Koppel and Dan Rather.

For tickets visit rctheatre.com.

More information about the documentary can be www.cabbagepatchfilm.com.

Statue

From page 4A

A full list of donors is available on the Township's website — <https://www.newporttownship.org/>

The statute also is part of the Newport Township's ongoing celebration of its 250th anniversary.

As a token of remembrance, all attendees received a souvenir commemorating the event.

Comments

• U.S. Rep. Dan Meuser, R-Dallas: "As Newport Township celebrates its 250th Anniversary, I wish the community my sincere congratulations and offer my best wishes for a bright future. The Coal Miner Statue dedicated this weekend perfectly honors the rich history of the region, which is steeped in mining roots. I commend the Newport Township Commissioners, the Newport Township Community Organization, Earth Conservancy, and everyone else who made it possible to honor the industry that has played such an important role in the lives of residents for the past two and a half centuries."

• Rep. Alec Ryncavage, R-Plymouth: "As I attended Newport Township's Miner Statue Dedication it struck me how crucial it is for each generation to pause and reflect on our roots, particularly as we grow farther from immediate family members who worked in the mines. The coal mined in Northeast Pennsylvania, including from communities like Newport Township, played a vital role in fueling our nation through two world wars, symbolizing the enduring strength of our



On Sunday the Newport Township community gathered to commemorate the determined spirit and tireless dedication of the region's anthracite coal miners with a new statue in their honor.

Submitted photo

community and country."

• Paul Czapracki, President, Newport Township Commissioners: "I was very pleased with the turnout of the residents to honor the remembrance of our forefathers. The statue will always be a testament of the hard work and labor they endured over the years."

• John Zyla, Vice-President, Newport Township Commissioners and Chairman, NewportUnited: "A great turnout and very grateful for everyone who donated to help make the project possible. It was very heartwarming to read the letters and notes that were sent in by residents about their fathers and grandfathers."

• Stephen Phillips, President, Newport Township Community Organization: "The histories of mining and Newport Township have been intertwined for more than a century. While we honor and appreciate the achievements of local miners, we recognize the need to move beyond our industrial past. Working together, especially

with partners like Earth Conservancy, will help us diversify and strengthen our economic foundation and enhance our community's quality of life."

• Terry Ostrowski, President/CEO, Earth Conservancy: "The board and staff of Earth Conservancy were unhesitating in wanting to support this project. Newport Township has been a strong and valued partner of ours since the beginning. This statue serves as a reminder of the people who helped build the region, as well as an inspiration for the community moving forward."

• John Oliver, Vice-President Sales/Operations, Newport Aggregate: "We are proud and pleased to provide support in order to honor miners and their families who formed the backbone Newport Township Press Release: Newport Township Coal Miner Statue of our community.

"This coal miner stands as a symbol of all of the dedicated, industrious, and persevering people who tirelessly worked to make this country great."

Police arrest Hazle Twp. man on child pornography charges

By Hannah Simerson
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HAZLE TWP. — A Hazle Twp. man is facing charges related to the possession of child pornography, police say.

Gregory Yorker, of 4011 Hollywood Blvd., was arraigned by MDJ James M. Dixon on Thursday after an investigation revealed the 52-year-old had been viewing images and videos depicting toddlers and prepubescent children performing lewd acts.

According to the affidavit, Luzerne County District Attorney's Office Detectives Richard Naporava and Charles Balogh received a CyberTip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) in regards to a file of apparent child sexual abuse material uploaded to a Google Drive account under Yorker's name.

On Thursday, Detectives Naporava and Balogh, along with members of the Pennsylvania Internet Crimes Against Children's Task Force and Pennsylvania State Police — Northeast Computer Crime Task Force (NECCTF), executed a search warrant at the residence, in which they encountered Yorker inside.

Yorker was interviewed inside the home, where he advised investigators that he was recently notified by Google that his account was closed but couldn't recall the language Google used in the notification.

Investigators asked if Yorker had ever seen child pornography on the internet and he stated that he had not within the past 20 years. Yorker also related that he was aware that child pornography existed but that he would never use the word "teen" when searching for pornography.

Inside the residence, investigators located several electronic devices, which Yorker related were his and that he was the only person to use them.

Members of the Pennsylvania State Police — Northeast Computer Crime Task Force performed forensic previews on the electronic devices and located several video files containing child sexual abuse material.

Yorker faces six felony counts of sexual abuse of children and two felony counts of criminal use of a communication facility.

His bail is set at \$150,000 and a preliminary hearing is scheduled for Dec. 14 at 10 a.m. inside the Luzerne County Courthouse.

Holiday Memories

Those we love don't go away
They walk beside us everyday
Unseen, unheard, but always near
Still loved, still missed and very dear

1x3" \$30
Actual Size

Danny Naylor
October 19, 1997
We miss you always.
Love, Your sisters,
Janet and Beth

2x3" \$55
Actual Size

Claire Butelli
January 27, 2009
We miss you so much and wish you were here to spend the holidays with us. Everyday we think of you and know you are with us in our hearts.
Merry Christmas!
Love,
Your children & grand children

Publishing: Sunday, Christmas Eve, December 24, 2023
Deadline: Wednesday, December 20, 2023

Drop off or return this completed form with your photo and payment to Times Leader Holiday Memories, 90 East Market St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope to have your photo returned or pick it up at our office after January 1, 2024. Please include their name and your mailing address on back of photo. All submissions must include phone number. Please use a separate sheet of paper for more space. Alternatively, you can email your photo and the information below to classifieds@timesleader.com.

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