

Obituaries

Malinda Toppins Crawford of Wayne



Malinda Toppins Crawford, 87, of Wayne, WV, went home to be with the Lord on Friday, February 3, 2017 at Emogene Dolin Jones Hospice House, Huntington. Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. Monday, February 6, 2017 at Morris Funeral Home Chapel, Wayne with Elders Roger Maynard, Tommy Damron and Tony Clay officiating. Burial will follow at the Toppins Family Cemetery, Kiah Creek.

Malinda was born on September 6, 1929, in Wayne County to the late Frank Toppins and Dona Webb Toppins. She was a member of Philadelphia United Baptist Church.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Albert Crawford, sisters, Carrie Nelson Sutherland, Nora Maggard and infant Gladys Toppins. Survivors include her sisters, Zell Ison of Ashland, KY, Jane Jaro (Ronnie) of Waco, TX, Stella Cook (Darrell) of Wayne, Dottie Williamson (Monroe) of Ranger, and Pauline Kundera (Adam) of Bridgeton, NJ, five brothers; John Toppins (Juanita) of Parma Heights, Ohio, Walter Toppins (Linda) of Wayne, Everett Toppins (Shirley) of Huntington, Richard Toppins of North Carolina and Roger Toppins (Mary) of Genoa. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews. Visitation was held from 6 to 9 p.m. Sunday, February 5, 2017 at Morris Funeral Home Chapel, Wayne.

Daney Lee Marcum of Kermit



Daney Lee Marcum 57, of Kermit, West Virginia passed away on Saturday, February 4, 2017 in Jennies Creek, West Virginia. He was born in Mingo County, West Virginia on June 30, 1959 to the late Hubert and Bernice Brewer Marcum.

Daney is survived by his companion, Deno Hodge and his siblings, Chester Marcum, Dollie Marcum, Amanda Sue Marcum all of Columbus, Ohio, Hubert Marcum Jr. of Vinton, Ohio, Kenneth Marcum of Louisa, Kentucky, Nellie Mae Williams of Warfield, Kentucky, Wanda Ann Marcum, Jude Holland and Aaron Arnold Marcum all of Kermit, West Virginia along with several nieces and nephews.

There will be a private memorial service at a later date. Arrangements are under the direction of the Callahan Funeral Home, Inez, Kentucky.

Ruby Finley Maynard of Wayne



Ruby Finley Maynard, 93, of Wayne, WV, formerly of Kiahsville, WV, passed away on Sunday, February 5, 2017 at Wayne Nursing and Rehabilitation. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 8, 2017, at Morris Funeral Home Chapel, Wayne, with Elder Tommy Damron, Roger Maynard and Pastor Jack Marcum officiating. Burial will follow at Community Memorial Gardens, Wayne. She was born on March 11, 1923, in Kiahsville, WV, to the late John Finley and Virginia "Jenny" Counts Finley. Ruby was a member of the Salem United Baptist Church. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Harold Maynard, one son, Jerry Maynard, a daughter, Patricia Napier, three sisters; Lilly Marcum, Dicie Elliott and Pansy McCoy and a brother, Otto Counts. Survivors include her son Phillip Maynard (Clair), daughter, Linda Maynard (Wilford) all of Wayne, WV, son-in-law, Clifford Napier of East Lynn, WV, ten grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren and 7 great-great grandchildren. Visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m. until service time at 1:00 p.m. at the funeral home. The family would like to send a very special Thank You to their friends at Wayne Nursing Home.

Mary Ruth Dixon of Louisa



Mary Ruth Dixon, 45, of Louisa, KY passed away Friday, February 3, 2017 at Mountainview Nursing Home. Ms. Dixon was born November 1, 1971 in Williamson, KY to Carlos and Arizona (Jude) Kazee.

She is survived by her father Carlos and mother Arizona (Jude) Kazee, two daughters: Brittany Dixon of Louisa, KY and Savannah Spence of Wayne, WV, and three sons: William Henry Kazee of Louisa, KY, Michael Dixon of Louisa, KY and Jimmie Howell of Louisa, KY and one sister: Sarah Mae Mullins of Big Stone Gap, KY. She was a homemaker.

Funeral services were conducted at 1:00 on Monday, February 6 at New Beginning Church, with Rev. Kenneth Bailey officiating. Burial followed in Wellman Cemetery, Fort Gay, WV Friends called the family, Saturday, February 4 at New Beginning Church beginning at 5:00, and anytime on Sunday.

Care has been entrusted to Wilson Funeral Home.

Kathleen Sammons Doss of Fort Gay



Kathleen Sammons Doss, 67, of Fort Gay, WV passed away Monday, February 6, 2017 at the Emogene Dolin Jones Hospice House in Huntington, WV. Kathy was born February 1, 1950 in Webb, WV a daughter of the late Opie Clayton and Romaine Copley Sammons. She was a homemaker, and was a member of Big Hurricane Missionary Baptist Church.

In addition to her parents, Kathleen was preceded in death by her brother, Edward Clayton Sammons.

Kathleen leaves behind to cherish her memory, her loving husband, Timothy "Buzz" Doss of Fort Gay, WV.; daughter, Katrina K. (Stewart) Doss Porter of Fort Gay, WV.; son, Timothy Allan Doss Jr. of Fort Gay, WV.; four precious grandchildren, Austin Porter, Taylor Porter, Cody Holofchak and Autumn Doss; one brother, David (Megan) Sammons of Burlington, Ohio; four sisters, Loretta (Roger) Doss of Fort Gay, WV.; Marcella (Don) Harold of Prichard, WV.; Roberta (Joe) Wondolowski of Louisa, Ky.; Janet (Phillip) Bowns of Fort Gay, WV.; and a host of family and friends that will miss her dearly.

Funeral services will be conducted 11:00 am Thursday, February 9, 2017 at the Young Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Tony Perry officiating. Burial will follow at the Doss Cemetery, Fort Gay, WV.. Visitation will be 6:00 until 9:00 pm Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at the Young Funeral Home Chapel.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.youngfuneralhomeinc.com

Gary Dean Haynie of Kenova

Gary Dean Haynie, 70 of Kenova, WV passed away on February 4, 2017. He was born on August 27, 1946 in Boyd County, KY; a son of the late Arthur Haynie and Doris Chandler Haynie. He was a lifetime member of American Legion Post 93 in Kenova, WV and tended bar there for his buddies. He was also a member of the VFW. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy. He leaves behind to mourn his loss his beloved wife, Carla Haynie; a daughter, Ashley Lynn Haynie; a brother, Mike Haynie (Jean); and his precious fur baby, Macy Grace. Arrangements are incomplete at this time. Condolences may be expressed to the family at www.ceredo-kenovafuneralhome.com.

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FUTURE from Page 5A

a trained workforce here locally, and it would be great to be able to put those people to work."

Anne Blankenship, executive director of the West Virginia Oil and Natural Gas Association, said producers in the state are continuing operations, despite being in a low-price environment.

"This is largely because of efficiencies in new drilling and completion technologies, enabling operators to continue to deploy capital in the state while staying within cash flow," Blankenship said. "We still have a glut of natural gas, and producers need pipeline capacity and new utilization markets. We know the industry continues to be vital for our state, as counties have seen significant increases in property tax collections, and that revenue benefits local schools and communities. Oil and gas companies continue to make large investments in the state — like Antero's Clearwater Facility, representing a \$275 million investment in state-of-the-art water treatment and reuse technology, which will provide jobs and generate significant state and local tax revenues."

Charlie Burd, executive director of the Independent Oil and Gas Association, said the number of rigs running in the state has started to rise, though it is still low compared to a few years ago.

"Probably a year and a half or two years ago, we would have been at the 25 to 30 rig count," Burd said. "I think the latest count is at nine. So we're at about a third of the rig count that we were a year and a half or two years ago, but that's an improvement over the three or four rigs running a few months ago. You can say the rig count has doubled over the past four or five months, but it's still way down."

Burd said one of the reasons the number of rigs is down is because the wells being drilled are extremely prolific, producing tremendous volumes of natural gas.

"There's no other basin in the U.S. that supplies more natural gas than the Appalachian Basin," Burd said. "That's why these pipeline projects are so crucial to West Virginia. Projects like Dominion's Atlantic Coast Pipeline are designed to take natural gas from West Virginia to other parts of the country."

"They're vitally important to the state and to producers. West Virginia, on its own, only uses a fraction of the natural gas produced in the state, which is why markets outside West Virginia are so important to us," Burd added. "The gas being produced here will be taken to places where they need it, into the major markets in the Northeast."

Burd said markets outside the state are crucial to the success of oil and gas producers, and ultimately that success would equate to investments, jobs, severance taxes, payroll taxes, property taxes and royalty payments, all of which could help the state with its budget crisis.

"These are not small numbers," Burd said. "We're talking about a phenomenal amount of money."

Burd said West Virginia had a negative basis differential on gas being produced, meaning the commodity price is below what the New York Mercantile Exchange lists as the spot value for gas. This reduced pricing, caused by an abundance of gas and a diminished demand, has caused a lot of problems for both the industry and the state.

"In Fiscal Year 2014, the state collected almost \$187 million in severance taxes," Burd said. "And production of natural gas was around 832 billion cubic feet. In 2015, severance taxes collected decreased to \$147 million, even though production rose to 1.1 trillion cubic feet. Then in 2016, severance taxes plummeted to \$72 million, while production continued to rise to 1.3 trillion cubic feet. So while production is high, the decrease in the price of gas has caused severance tax collections to be more than halved. This has tremendously impacted the budget for West Virginia."

Burd said with access to new markets, the price of gas could increase, and severance taxes could help the state.

"As the nation crawls out of its recession, the natural gas prices will rebound to some degree," Burd said. "We're not going to see the numbers that we saw in 2014 for several years. These prices are not going to increase that dramatically or that quickly, so the state will need to be patient with these types of severance tax collections. It's not something that rebounds overnight."

DRUG MONEY from Page 5A

with another day to take their first step toward recovery.

Evidence-based prevention programs are teaching our children the importance of good decisions and the harmful effects of prescription drugs, alcohol, and other substance.

Treatment bed capacity has grown and individuals are now living in long-term recovery, reunited with their families, and serving as beacons of hope to others. Finally, a new state 24/7 hotline is active, connecting individuals and families with resources across the state. Still yet more must be done.

Nationally, only 1 in 10 people who need treatment receive it. West Virginia can do better. Although prevention is in many of the schools, there are still some without it and waiting until high school to educate about it is simply too late.

Waiting lists for treatment/recovery beds are still present and in some communities, are non-existent, forcing people to travel hundreds of miles to seek help. Our jails are full with individuals suffering from substance use disorders, and they are not receiving the tools to enter and sustain

recovery. The money that West Virginia is set to receive - if used prudently - will not bring back our brothers and sisters. Rather, it will let their families know that their passing was not in vain and that our state will work to provide a recovery pathway for a population that has been viewed as a moral failing for far too long.

A great opportunity is placed before our legislature to ensure that the money is used to support outcomes-based programs across the state, not filling a budget gap created by a myriad of issues.

I implore the 83rd legislature to be transparent in the use of the money received from these settlements. It is your duty to ensure it is used to honor the 615 individuals this great state lost in 2016 by investing in prevention, treatment and recovery across the state.

As a person in long-term recovery, I know the importance of having resources available when you take that first step and ask for help. It is invaluable. After all, you can't put a monetary value on life.

HANKINS from Page 5A

government. Two very important members of the National Security Council were removed (or allowed to attend if the topic is relevant to their area of expertise) and Stephen Bannon was added to the names of those who would be serving on the NSC.

Bannon, as my readers know, trucks with "alt-right" and white supremacist groups. He has no experience needed by the NSC!

But, there's more. Not all of Trump's cabinet appointees had been approved by the U.S. Senate. Since many of the top-

level government agencies' officials have resigned, gaping holes appear in various upper divisions of the bureaucracy.

Is all of this reflective of the executive level of government we want in the United States? I don't think so.

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Something To Think About
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PUTTING YOUR AFFAIRS IN ORDER

Even if you have preplanned your funeral and drawn up both a living will and a standard will, you still may want to create a "durable power of attorney for healthcare." This document enables you to assign a person to make important medical decisions for you if you are unable to do so for yourself. Also known as an "advanced healthcare directive," this legal form necessitates that you appoint an agent who shares your medical treatment philosophy and values. It may also be a good idea to appoint an alternate agent. Your preferences should be discussed with the person(s) whom you appoint to ensure that he or she is comfortable making medical decisions on your behalf.

We hope that you found this topic to be both interesting and informative. When planning ahead, consider preneed options. Predetermining your commemoration event alleviates those left behind from having to make those difficult decisions while grieving. *To learn more, contact us to schedule an initial, confidential consultation at our conveniently located facility where we have been serving Wayne County with pride since 1932.*

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"It is the secret of the world that all things subsist and do not die, but retire a little from sight and afterwards return again." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

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