

Obituaries

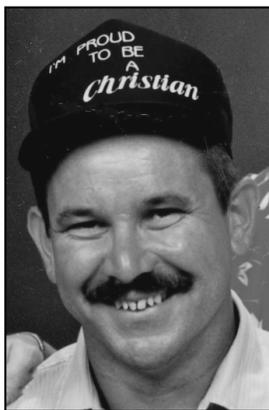
Narie Jane Runyon of Huntington

Narie Jane Runyon, 85, of Huntington, W.Va., died November 30, 2017, at Emogene Dolin Jones Hospice House in Huntington, W.Va. Funeral services will be 1 p.m. Sunday, December 3, 2017, at Morris Funeral Home Chapel, Wayne, W.Va., by Rev. Oscar Perry. Burial will follow at Community Memorial Gardens, Wayne, W.Va. She was born May 30, 1932, in Kiahsville, W.Va., a daughter of the late Ralph Copley and Miriam Jones Clark. Narie was retired from Stone & Thomas, where she worked in gift wrapping and as a shipping clerk. Her husband, Henry Harrison Runyon, also preceded her in death, along with a daughter, Linda Runyon. Survivors include five daughters, Peggy Ledsome (Paul) of Clayton, N.C., Karen Caldwell of Princeton, N.C., Sally Spencer (Russell) of Lavalette, W.Va., Annette McKee of Chesapeake, Ohio, Brenda Runyon of Huntington, W.Va.; two sisters, Orpha Keller of Iowa and Arlene Copley of Phoenix, Ariz.; nine grandchildren, Amy Steffins, George Bradshaw, Judy Miller, Johnny Mills, Brandi Spencer, Chris Spencer, Sarah Gad, Sherry Kepley and Keith McKee; and 20 great-grandchildren. Friends may call from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday at Morris Funeral Home, Wayne, W.Va. The family would like to express their gratitude to the doctors and staff at St. Mary's Medical Center, as well as the staff at Emogene Dolin Jones Hospice House.



Randall Frasher of Fort Gay

Mr. Randall Frasher, 68, of Ft. Gay, WV passed away Thursday, November 30, 2017 at Three Rivers Medical Center. Mr. Frasher was born April 22, 1949 to the late Lucian and Elizabeth (Bartram) Frasher. He is survived by his wife Betty Frasher; children Tammy (Robert) Branham and Jamie (Becky) Frasher; and grandchildren Kaitlyn Branham and Jacob Branham. Graveside funeral services will be conducted Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 1:00 PM at Frasher Cemetery. Visitation will be Saturday, December 2, 2017 beginning at Noon in the Young Funeral Home Chapel. Young Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements. Online condolences may be expressed to the family at www.youngfuneralhomeinc.com



Joann Spence of Wayne

Joann Spence, 77, of Wayne, W.Va., passed away Sunday, November 26, 2017, at her residence. Funeral services were 2 p.m. Friday, December 1, 2017, at Morris Funeral Home Chapel, Wayne, W.Va., with Brother Jack Marcum officiating. Burial followed at Community Memorial Gardens, Wayne. She was born January 12, 1940, at Kiahsville, W.Va., a daughter of the late Ira and Pansy Lee Counts McCoy. Joann was a retired teacher for the Wayne County Board of Education. She was also preceded in death by two brothers, Jack McCoy and Ronnie McCoy; a sister, Jewell Boffo; and sister-in-law "Sis" McCoy. Survivors include her daughter, Johnna Lee Spence of Richmond, Va.; her son, Carlos Jeffrey Spence of Wayne, W.Va.; a brother, Jim McCoy of Louisville, Ky.; a sister-in-law, Sharon McCoy of Huntington, W.Va.; a granddaughter, Samantha Lee Johnson; and was loved by a host of cousins, nieces and nephews.



Rev. Emmett Blankenship, Sr. of Pomeroy, Ohio

Rev. Emmett Blankenship, Sr., 77, of Pomeroy, Ohio, passed away Wednesday, November 29, 2017 at the Arbors of Pomeroy. Funeral service will be conducted 1:00 P.M. Saturday, December 2, 2017 at Rollins Funeral Home in Kenova with Pastor Jim Williams officiating. Interment will follow in Ceredo Crescent Hill Cemetery. He was born July 4, 1940 in Holden, WV, a son of the late Richard and Rachel Ramey Blankenship. Emmett enjoyed hunting, fishing and keeping bees. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his beloved wife Pearl Staton Blankenship; daughter Joana Lynn Blankenship and four brothers Aubrey, Audley, Curtis and Kermit. Survivors include his four children Emmett Blankenship, Jr. (Kay) of Crown City, OH., Michael Blankenship (Sherry) of Kenova, WV., Rosa Lee Hale of Kenova, WV., and Joshua Blankenship (Sarah) of Cheshire, OH.; 10 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Friends may call from 11:00 A.M.- 1:00 P.M. Saturday December 2, 2017 at Rollins Funeral Home in Kenova. Online condolences may be expressed at www.rollinsfh.com.



Jessie James Newton of Huntington

Jessie James Newton, 47, of Huntington, W.Va., passed away on November 21, 2017. He was born April 2, 1969, in Huntington, W.Va., a son of Donald Newton and Mary Endicott Newton. He is survived by his parents; his son, Trevor Newton (Jessica); and his siblings, Ben Delbert Newton, Donnie Ray Newton, Emil Newton (Mariella), Matthew Newton (Amy) and Connie Sue Frazee (Billy). Also surviving are a host of nieces, nephews, other family members and friends. Graveside service for Jessie was noon, Friday, December 1, 2017, at Perdue Cemetery, Huntington, W.Va. Condolences may be expressed at www.ceredo-kenovafuneralhome.com.

LOWRY from Page 5A

had consequences, and, if nothing else, they are a dismaying window into his state of mind.

The firing of James Comey was a product of the kind of grievance Trump displays on Twitter, and he's going to pay a price for it for a long time. Trump's missives obsessively attacking CNN have created a pall over the Department of Justice's suit to block the AT&T-Time Warner merger. The specter of the confrontation with North Korea playing out in insults over Twitter is unsettling, to say the least.

But the tweets don't constitute the sum total of the administration. It's possible that Trump sees Twitter -- and his other provocations -- as a way to stir the pot, entertain himself, stoke his base, flog his enemies and vent his frustrations separate and distinct from decisions of government, undertaken under the influence of, by and large, impressive, well-meaning advisers.

Trump's presidency is much better than his Twitter feed. Although he stands ready and willing to convince you otherwise, 280 characters at a time.

ROBINSON from Page 5A

Cordray resigned last Friday and, as specified by law, appointed an acting director — Leandra English, who had been Cordray's chief of staff. But Trump, relying on a different federal statute, appointed his own acting director, Mick Mulvaney.

You'd think Mulvaney already had enough to do, since he serves as White House budget director. But perhaps he relishes the extra work, since he was harshly critical of the agency when he was in Congress. In any event, he dutifully showed up at CFPB headquarters Monday morning with a bag full of doughnuts for "his" staff. English, meanwhile, has filed suit in federal court claiming it's really "her" staff. And the bureau, with two masters, is paralyzed.

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, by contrast, has no master. In its 41-year history — it was founded during the Gerald Ford administration — the office established to advise presidents on scientific matters has never gone so long without a leader. From 135 staffers under Obama, it has been slashed to 45. Perhaps this sort of thing was to be expected from Trump, who has described climate change as a Chinese hoax. The thing is, however, refusing to believe in science doesn't make you immune from its effects. Anyone with doubts about the law of gravity should think twice before jumping out of a second-story window.

Meanwhile, China is racing ahead and has already become the world's leader in clean energy. A functioning science office, staffed with qualified scientists, would tell the president he is wrong to focus on coal, the fuel of the Victorian era, while ignoring the renewable energy sources that will power the rest of the 21st century. But Trump hates being told he's wrong. He chose an Environmental Protection Agency director, Scott Pruitt, who perhaps has even less regard for what science tells us about greenhouse gases and atmospheric warming. The result has been to make the world's most powerful nation mute and irrelevant in the global conversation about climate change.

Even more alarming is the way our diplomatic corps is being decimated by Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. This is a bipartisan issue: Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., added his name to a letter complaining that U.S. diplomatic power "is being weakened internally as complex, global crises are growing externally."

Tillerson, who once reportedly referred to Trump as a "moron," is both sane and intelligent, unlike so many other Trump appointees. But he has approached the State Department as if he were an ambitious mid-level corporate executive tasked with downsizing an overstuffed branch office. He has forced out a host of senior diplomats, hired consulting firms to advise him on a reorganization, agreed to slash the department's budget by 31 percent and refused to fill jobs that his predecessors considered vital.

But Tillerson's main job isn't management, it's diplomacy. With every career ambassador or senior officer who is elbowed out the door, a lifetime's worth of contacts and expertise depart as well. The administration will sorely miss that wisdom in a crisis.

Future presidents will have to restore what Trump and his team are casually destroying. Ignorance and petulance, rather than reason, now reign.

Eugene Robinson is a syndicated columnist. His email address is eugenorobinson@washpost.com.

MILBANK from Page 5A

compared with the Democrats' treatment of Azar.

"Your resume reads like a how-to manual for profiting from government service," said Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., noting the \$3.5 million payout Azar got last year from Eli Lilly. "I think the American people have a right to know that the person running HHS is looking out for them and not for their own bank account or for the profitability of their former and maybe future employers."

Azar offered little beyond an acknowledgment that "drug prices are too high." When it came to reducing prices, he tossed out the usual objections offered by the pharmaceutical lobby — for example, that we can't re-import drugs from the European Union, where prices are lower, because the medicines wouldn't be "reliable and safe."

"It's a canard," Paul said. "That's B.S., and the American people think it's B.S."

If the "forgotten" man and woman were thinking Trump was really going to lower their drug prices — well, they can forget about it.

They certainly shouldn't be surprised. They've already seen Trump stock his administration with corporate titans and billionaires and begin to dismantle the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Nor should they be shocked to discover that they aren't getting that big, beautiful tax cut Trump promised. The Tax Policy Center projects that under the "cut," the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans will get 62 percent of the benefit in 2027, while the bottom 95 percent will see no real change.

Tax distribution analysis is hard to understand. Putting a drug executive in charge of drug pricing is easy. Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., chairman of the committee holding Wednesday's hearing, tried to inoculate Azar against the inevitable accusations of plutocracy. "What do you say to the skeptics," he asked at the start, "who question the increase in insulin prices while you were a leader at Eli Lilly?"

Azar explained that his knowledge of "how the money flows" would be an asset — in much the way Trump said that his experience gaming the tax system qualified him to fix it.

Paul asked him to acknowledge Big Pharma's role in manipulating patents. Azar repeated that there are abuses "in the system."

Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., asked Azar how he would explain the tripling of insulin prices during his tenure at Eli Lilly to a father of diabetics.

Azar explained, once more, that "the problem is that system." "The system?" Baldwin asked. "So I should just tell them it's the system?"

Warren asked Azar whether the \$515 million criminal fine Lilly paid in 2009 was "adequate accountability" — even though the company made billions from the illegal marketing. Azar said it was. Asked whether Lilly's CEO should have been held personally responsible, Azar merely replied, "I'm satisfied with our discussion."

The plutocrat was not helping matters. Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., tossed Azar a lifeline. Would he do some "homework" and "come back to us in six months" with recommendations to end the "gaming of the system"?

"Absolutely. Absolutely. Yeah," the nominee replied. How reassuring.

Dana Milbank is a syndicated columnist. You can follow him on Twitter, @Milbank.

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PARKER from Page 5A

ists do. As opposed to what pseudo-journalists — also known as typists — claim they do. With a little footwork, Post reporters were able to trace Phillips to Project Veritas and demonstrated that her story was a fraud.

It was — you may now cue the horn section — FAKE NEWS.

Thanks to O'Keefe, the Post also showed a skeptical public just how different real journalism is from the effluvia produced by Project Veritas. Perhaps there's a place for him at Pravda.

Moore, meanwhile, might have hoped to discredit all his accusers, though O'Keefe refused to respond to questions Monday regarding his relationship to Moore. If one woman would lie, however, wouldn't it be possible to suggest the others were lying as well? In a lesser-case scenario, if the Post had run with the story without confirming it, O'Keefe could prove that the Post was biased against Moore for publishing a fake story.

Again, none of this happened.

The lie was outed by the truth, while O'Keefe's own obvious agenda was revealed. Hating the media these days is good business and good politics among a certain constituency. If anyone should feel betrayed by O'Keefe, however, it would be all those people who have been duped into believing that the mainstream media are the bad guys. Let's be very clear. The bad guys are the ones who knowingly lie.

Recall that it was Trump who popularized the phrase "fake news" whenever he didn't like some story written about him. Not that covering Trump requires embellishment or fakery. Originally the term was used in real news stories about fake stories being promulgated through social media. But Trump's marketing savvy — and his appreciation for the fact that people tend to believe what they want to believe — prompted him to make "fake news" the battle cry of the conservative right.

Excuse the echo, but this bears repeating: Those who would purposely mislead or seek to confuse others are bad people. Worse, they are evil.

Conspiracy theorists will always be among us, and the credulous are in no danger of extinction. However, that a million people — or 60 million — believe something doesn't make it true. Nor does crying "fake news" alter what is. The proof is anyone's for the asking.

Kathleen Parker is a syndicated columnist. Her email address is kathleenparker@washpost.com.

Something To Think About

D.C. Morris, Lic.



THE VALUE OF RESILIENCE

Life is formed by events and the way in which we respond to them. While some people are laid low by losses, others remain undaunted by misfortune. One quality that differentiates the former type of people from the latter is resilience, which is the ability to recover from an adverse change. Although some people seem to be innately better at coping than others, this trait is not established at birth. It can be enhanced or eroded as life progresses. In this respect, experience can be a great teacher. Those who recover from one setback often find that it is easier to come back from the next. For this reason, resilience is a trait that should be cultivated.

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"A dying man needs to die, as a sleepy man needs to sleep, and there comes a time when it is wrong, as well as useless, to resist." - Stewart Alsop

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