

OBITUARIES

ALLAN - Donna Sekera, died Monday, December 27, 2010, at the Hospice Community Care Unit of Geisinger South, Wilkes-Barre, due to complications relating to her battle with cancer.

She was a graduate of Dallas High School, class of 1970, and was formerly employed by Merle Norman Wilkes-Barre, M.E. Moore Realty and presently LeWith & Freeman Realty, Kingston.

She was a member of the Back Mountain Harvest Assembly, was a licensed real estate agent in the state of Pennsylvania, and a member of the Board of Realtors. She was also a former member of the Junior League of Wilkes-Barre.

Surviving are her fiancée, Tony Morrash; her children, Lori Bonomo and Brittney Allan; her mother, Mary Sordoni Sekera; her sisters, Toni Rizzo of Dallas; and Roxanne Santey, of Trucksville; a brother, Joseph Sekera, of Blue Ridge, Ga.; three nieces, two great-nieces, step-children, Morgan and Tony Morrash Jr.

Memorial donations to Sloan-Kettering, Leiomyosarcoma Research Foundation/302900, PO Box 5028, Hagerstown, MD 21741-5028.

BAER - John R. Jr., 60, of Hunlock Creek, died on Monday, January 3, 2011, from complications of liver transplant surgery.

He was born in Wilkes-Barre and was a graduate of Northwest Area High School and Bloomsburg and Wilkes Universities. He worked at the United Methodist Home for Children in Mechanicsburg and also taught school for most of his life at Northwest Area High School, retiring in 2005.

He was a member of the Twin Cities Lions Club and the Hunlock Creek United Methodist Church.

Surviving are his mother, Dolores Smith Baer, Hunlock Creek; his wife, the former Susan Molinaro, Hunlock Creek; son, Shawn, Lancaster; brother, Barry, Hunlock Creek; nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter, 225 City Line Ave., Suite #104, Bala Cynwyd (Philadelphia), PA 19004, or Northwest Area Education Association Scholarship Fund, 243 Thorne Hill Road, Shickshinny, PA 18655.

BROWN - Doris M., 88, of 7295 SR 6W, Tunkhannock, formerly of Black Walnut, died at the Mercy Tyler Hospital in Tunkhannock on Sunday, January 2, 2011.

She was born in Chemung, N.Y., on November 8, 1922. Growing up in Laceyville, she attended the Laceyville High School. She worked and later volunteered at the Tyler Memorial Hospital in Tunkhannock for a total of 34 years, retiring from there at 80 years of age. She was very active with the Lower Wyoming County Mercy Tyler Auxiliary.

Surviving are six daughters, Mrs. Connie Williams Lipner, Towanda and Lakeland Fla.; Mrs. Rebecca Smith, Dallas; Diana Schoonover, Black Walnut; Mrs. Laura Lee Baker, Wyalusing; Mary Lou Smith, Meshoppen; and Karen Russick, East Rush; her three sons, Alden, Clapper Hill; Floyd (Tim) III, Auburn Center; and Dennis, Wyalusing; 29 grandchildren; 64 great-grandchildren; nine great-great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations to Mercy Tyler Hospital, 880 SR 6W, Tunkhannock, PA. 18657.

COSTIGAN - Robert W. "Buddy," 62, of Lake Township, died Wednesday, December 29, 2010, at the Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

He was born on December 28, 1948, in Philadelphia, was a graduate of Lake-Lehman High School, class of 1967, and attended King's College. He was the owner of many local karate schools and was a well-known power-lifting champion.

He was a highly-decorated Vietnam War veteran, serving as a combat medic and a member of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, Green Beret Special Forces. He was a recipient of two Purple Hearts and a bronze star. He was also a member of the American Legion Post 967 at Harveys

Lake.

Surviving are his fiancée, Amber Murphy, and her son, Jason, of Lake Township; former wives, Vera Jane Smith, of Harveys Lake; and Karen Davis Costigan, of Wilkes-Barre; daughters, Shannon, of Pittston; Brienne Costigan Winston, of Wilkes-Barre; and Carrie Anne, of Wilkes-Barre; six grandchildren.

COVERT - Alma A., 95, of Hunlock Creek, died Sunday, January 2, 2011, at Bonham's Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Stillwater.

She was born July 31, 1915, in Kingston and resided in the Sweet Valley area all of her life. She graduated from Laketon High School in 1934 and was employed as a seamstress for the garment industry.

She was a member of the Bloomingdale United Methodist Church and served as secretary of the Bloomingdale Grange for over 30 years.

Surviving are children, Sandra Mitchell, Nanticoke; Judith Williams, Hunlock Creek; and Alan, Hunlock Creek; five grandsons; and nine great-grandchildren.

Memorial donations to the Bloomingdale United Methodist Church, 5059 Main Rd., Hunlock Creek, PA 18621.

CRAKE - Barbara, 68, of Shavertown, died Wednesday, December 29, 2010, at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville.

She was born on March 26, 1942, in Kingston, was raised in Swyersville and was a graduate of the former Swyersville High School, class of 1960. She was a member of Saint Therese Roman Catholic Church of Shavertown.

Surviving are her husband, Albert, with whom she celebrated her 42nd wedding anniversary on April 27, 2010; her son, David, of Newark, Del.; her brothers, William Sincavage Jr. and Joseph Sincavage, both of Swyersville; her sister, Alice Brek, of Swyersville; nieces and nephews.

CRAWFORD - Gloria Pinola, of Dallas, died Saturday, January 1, 2011, following a brief stay at the Meadows Center, Dallas.

She was born June 28, 1925, in Wilkes-Barre and graduated from Wyoming Seminary Preparatory School. She went on to become an alumna of Cornell University where she majored in Sociology.

She and her late husband, Harry, created a successful magic act, performing professionally as stage illusionists for more than 25 years. Known on stage as Crawford and Gloria, they performed on the East Coast from Boston, Mass. to Miami, Fla., including highlights such as the Kennedy Center Concert Hall in Washington, D.C. G

She was an active life member of the Harry Crawford Society of American Magicians, Assembly 160, and a longtime member of Magic Gals International.

Her service to organizations also included many years in support of King's College, continuing the work of her father, Judge Frank Pinola, who helped secure the charter for the col-

lege; the Junior League of Wilkes-Barre, becoming an emeritus member; the Wyoming Seminary Alumni Association; and service on the Board of Luzerne County Girl Scouts. She was a member of Gate of Heaven Church, Dallas.

Surviving are her daughter, Dr. Carol G. Crawford, Dallas; several cousins.

DORANG - Gerald L., of Harveys Lake, died Friday, December 31, 2010, in the Heritage House, Wilkes-Barre.

He was born June 18, 1924, in Wilkes-Barre and was a graduate of Meyers High School, class of 1942. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II.

He was a member of our Lady of Victory Church, Harveys Lake, the American Legion Post 967 Harveys Lake and also Plasterers and Cement Masons International Association Local 592 where he worked for 50 years. He was a foreman at the Berwick Power Plant until his retirement.

Surviving are nieces, nephews and extended family.

Memorial donations to Muscular Dystrophy Association or Our Lady of Victory Church.

ELSTON - Wayne R. "Baldy," 84, of Dallas, died Monday, January 3, 2011, at The Village of Greenbriar, Dallas.

He was born in Kunkle, Dallas Township, and attended the Dallas Township schools. Before retiring, he was a truck driver for Branch and Roadway trucking companies.

He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II and was a member of the Back Mountain Harvest Assembly Church, Trucksville.

Surviving are his wife of 62 years, Joan Sutton Elston; sons, the Rev. Wayne R. Jr., Scotia, N.Y.; and David, Sweet Valley; daughter, Larree Brown, Lake Township; nine grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Memorial donations to Believers Fellowship Center, 304 Swagertown Rd., Scotia, NY 12302.

JURISTA - Lillian M., of Jurista Drive, Tunkhannock, died Saturday, January 1, 2011, in Mercy Tyler Hospital, Tunkhannock, after a brief battle with cancer.

She was born in South Gibson, Pa., on May 29, 1929, and was a 1947 graduate of Hartford High School. She was a member of the Church of The Nativity B.V.M., Tunkhannock, and its Altar and Rosary Society.

For over 50 years, she sold Stanley Home Products. She was a member of American Legion Post 457 Ladies Auxiliary. She crocheted over 300 afghans that she presented to the newborn nursery at Barnes Kasson Hospital to be taken home with the parents and the newborn babies.

Surviving are her husband of 18 years, George; sons, Michael Goldsmith, Jenningsville; Patrick Goldsmith, Sherburne, N.Y.; and Edward Goldsmith, Montrose; stepsons, George Jurista Jr., Tunkhannock; and Gary Jurista, Tunkhannock; daughters, Linda Buffington, Susquehanna; Anne Marie Homza, Simpson; and Sharon Weidow, Hop Bottom; stepdaughter, Patricia Bar-

tron, Mesa, Ariz.; brothers, Ernest and Wesley Wilbur, both of Hop Bottom; sisters, Doris Hayes and Alyce Pratt, both of Hallstead; and Mary Jenkins, Elmira, N.Y.; 21 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

KNAPKA - Helen, 97, of 204 Old County Road, Benton, died Saturday, December 25, 2010, at the Birchwood Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Nanticoke, where she was a patient since August 20, 2010.

She was born in Pittston on November 4, 1913, was a 1931 graduate of GAR High School, Wilkes-Barre, and resided in Fairmount Springs since 1939.

She was last employed by the former Leslie Fay Inc., Wilkes-Barre, retiring in 1972. She also had been employed earlier in Philadelphia and Newark, N.J.

Surviving are four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; a niece; several cousins.

Memorial donations to the National Audubon Society, 225 Varick St., New York, NY 10014.

LUKETIC - Joseph J., 82, of Noxen, died Friday, December 31, 2010, at Hospice Community Care Inpatient Unit, Geisinger South Wilkes-Barre.

He was born June 12, 1928, in Pittsburgh and had resided in Noxen for the last 60 years. He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War.

He retired as a driver for the Auto Transport and Car Shipping Co., Mawah, N.J., after many years of service. He was a member of St. Luke's Reformation Lutheran Church, Noxen, and as a 32nd degree mason, was a member of the George M. Dallas Lodge No. 531 F. & A.M., and the Caldwell Consistory, Bloomsburg.

Surviving are his wife of 59 years, the former Mariea Traver; children, Dawn Shook, Noxen; Kathy Saba, Kingston; Gayle Patla, Sweet Valley; Joseph Jr., Noxen; Lynette Stonier, Hunlock Creek; and Wallace, Noxen; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; brothers, Thomas, Utah; and George, Falls; sister, Ann Chizmar, Pittsburgh.

Memorial donations to St. Luke's Reformation Lutheran Church, 196 Main St., Noxen, PA 18636.

MATUCH - Lillian E., 97, formerly of Idetown, died Friday, December 24, 2010, in Palm Harbor, Fla.

She was born in Union City, N.J. and was a graduate of Weehawken, N.J., High School. She was a member of the Lutheran Church of the Palms, Palm Harbor.

Surviving are two nieces.

RADICI - Carol, of Shavertown, died Monday, January 3, 2011, at home.

She was born December 25,

1950, in Hanover Township, attended Hanover Township schools and was a graduate of Hanover Township Memorial High School.

She was employed by Luzerne Optical for nearly 20 years and was a lifelong member of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Church, Buttonwood, Hanover Township.

Surviving are her mother, Louise (Kules) Cuprzynski; her husband of 41 years, Thomas; sisters, Louise Rakowski, Nanticoke; and Barbara Kelechawa, Courtdale; brother, Frank, Korn Krest; nieces and nephews. Memorial donations to the American Cancer Society.

ROBERTS - Jean, 86, of Shavertown, formerly of Kingston, died Sunday morning, January 2, 2011, at the Keystone Garden Estates, Larksville.

She was born in Larksville and graduated from Larksville High School.

Surviving are a son, Ronald, Shavertown; eight grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; a sister, Clara J. Sylvester, Wilkes-Barre; nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations to the Hospice of the Sacred Heart, 800 Baltimore Dr., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702.

SEMAN - Marguerite, of Harris Hill Road, Trucksville, died Thursday, December 30, 2010, at the Hospice Community Care Inpatient Unit, Wilkes-Barre.

She was born in Wilkes-Barre and was a member of St. Theresa's Church, Shavertown. She was also very active in the church with the Social Service Ministry, assisting with the CCD classes and also cooking for the homebound of the parish.

She was a graduate of GAR High School, class of 1961. She was also a 1964 graduate of the Wyoming Valley Hospital School of Nursing, which was the last graduating class for that school. She was employed at the Wyoming Valley Hospital for many years as well.

Surviving are her husband, Stephen; a daughter, Kelly Ann; sisters, Catherine Rutkowski and Jean Marie Berneski, both of Kingston; nieces and nephews.

SHEFLER - George S. Sr., 72, of Noxen, died Tuesday, December 28, 2010, at his home after a courageous battle with cancer.

He was born on September 28, 1938, in Beaumont, and attended the Beaumont schools. He was employed by Rothstein Construction for many years prior to his retirement.

Surviving are his daughters, Nancy Zawatski, Sugar Notch; and Martha Davenport, Noxen; sons, George Jr.; John, all of Noxen; four grandsons; a great-granddaughter; two brothers, Kenneth, Noxen; and Henry,

Florida; nieces and nephews.

SQUIER - Arthur M., of Vosburg Road, Tunkhannock, died Saturday, January 1, 2011, in the Golden Living Center in Tunkhannock.

He was born in Russell Hill, Wyoming County, April 20, 1929, was a 1947 graduate of Tunkhannock High School and was a member of the Farmers of America. He lived and worked on the family farm all of his life.

He was also a member of the Pennsylvania Holstein Association and National Holstein Association.

Surviving are a brother, Kenneth B., Sugar Run; sister, Clara Mattocks, Tunkhannock; nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

Memorial donations to the Meshoppen Fire Co., P.O. Box 118, Meshoppen, PA 18630.

ZOTTE - Joseph A., 65, of Sweet Valley Road, Hunlock Creek, died Monday, January 3, 2011, in the VA Medical Center, New York, N.Y.

He was born March 30, 1945, in Summit, N.J., and served in the U.S. Marine Corps in the Vietnam era. He was a certified residential and commercial electrician, having made the dean's list at Luzerne County Community College.

Surviving are his wife, the former Bonnie Edwards; daughter, Gina Theresa; son, Michael, both of Hunlock Creek; one grandson.

CHURCH BRIEFS

Jews for Jesus will meet today

Jews For Jesus will present Christ in the Feast of Tabernacles with Shaun Buchhalter at 10:30 a.m. today, Jan. 9 at River Of Life Fellowship Ministries, 22 Outlet Rd., Lehman. Call 675-8109 for more information. Admission is free.

Ham supper planned

A ham supper will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 29 at the Benton United Methodist Church, Main Street, Benton.

The menu includes ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, string bean casserole, pickled cabbage, jello salad, pie or cake, iced team, lemonade, hot tea or coffee.

Cost is \$8.50 for adults and \$4.50 for children ages 6 to 12. Children age 5 and under are free. Take-outs are available.

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