

OBITUARIES

Elbie Creps

Elbie "Gar" Creps, 88, of Indiana, died Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2008, at Indiana Regional Medical Center.

Friends will be received at the Bence-Mihalcik Funeral Home in Indiana from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Monday at Zion Lutheran Church, Indiana.

His family requests memorial contributions be made to Zion Lutheran Church, Sixth and Church Sts., Indiana, PA 15701, or to Visiting Nurse Association Extended Care, 850 Hospital Road, Med Arts Building, Suite 3000, Indiana, PA 15701.

A full obituary will be published tomorrow.

Doris Gregor

Doris Jean (Wissinger) Gregor, 64, of Hickory, N.C., passed away Saturday, Aug. 9, 2008, at Palliative Care Center and Hospice of Catawba Valley.

Doris Jean was born Nov. 9, 1943, in Mahoning Township, Indiana County, to the late Harry and Martha Burkett Wissinger.

Doris Jean was a member of Hildebran United Methodist Church. She was an activity director certified and retired from Catawba Valley Living at Rock Barn, N.C.

Surviving are her husband, Donald E. Gregor; two sons, Robert Gregor, of Hickory, and Brian Gregor, of Gastonia, N.C.; two daughters and sons-in-law, Natalie and Robert Barnes, of Lincolnton, N.C., and Donna and Tommy Davidson, of Lenoir, N.C.; five grandchildren; three brothers: Carl Wissinger, Charlotte, N.C.; George Wissinger, Tulsa, Okla.; and Charles Wissinger, the Philippines; and two sisters, Mary Sue Brady, of Indiana, and Ruth Wissinger, of Brockway.

Memorial services were held at



Hildebran United Methodist Church with the Rev. Wade Ogle officiating.

Memorials may be made to Palliative Care Center and Hospice of Catawba Valley Inc., 3975 Robinson Road, Newton, NC 28658, or to Hildebran United Methodist Church, 110 South Center, Hildebran, NC 28637.

Lawrence Starry

Lawrence R. "Jeff" Starry, 95, of Indiana, died Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2008, at his home.

He was born in 1912 in Indiana County to James H. and Ada Lenore Cramer Starry.

Jeff was a member of the Grace United Methodist Church, Indiana and DAV 20, of Indiana.

He served in the U.S. Navy from 1931 to '34 and again during World War II.

Mr. Starry was employed by Indiana Borough as an assistant manager for 25 years before retiring in 1980. Jeff was also employed by PennDOT as a draftsman and for Western Union. For a time he was self-employed along with his brother as co-owners of a trucking company. He was a borough resident for his entire life.

He is survived by two daughters, Diana L. Grear and husband Robert, of Indiana, and Carol Ann Rescenate and husband Nick, of Indiana; 10 grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Betty Jane Stiffler Starry, in 1994; his son, Robert Starry, in 1999; his brother, Leonard, and sister, Helen Mullholland.



Friends will be received from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. today at the Bowser-Minich Funeral Home, Indiana, where a funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday with the Rev. Brad Lauster officiating. Interment will be in the Oakland Cemetery, Indiana.

Graveside military honors will be provided by the VFW Post 1989.

Memorial contributions may be made to the VNA, 850 Hospital Road, Suite 3000, Indiana, PA 15701.

www.bowserminich.com

TOMORROW'S FUNERALS

BRENDLINGER, Catherine A., 3 p.m., Kenneth A. Stuart Funeral Home, New Florence
STARRY, Lawrence R. "Jeff," 11 a.m., Bowser-Minich Funeral Home, Indiana

World's tallest woman dies at the age of 53

By DEANNA MARTIN
Associated Press Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — A woman who grew to be 7 feet, 7 inches tall and was recognized as the world's tallest female died Wednesday, a friend said. She was 53.

Sandy Allen, who used her height to inspire schoolchildren to accept those who are different, died at a nursing home in her hometown of Shelbyville, family friend Rita Rose said.

The cause of death was not yet known. Allen had been hospitalized in recent months as she suffered from a recurring blood infection, along with diabetes, breathing troubles and kidney failure, Rose said.

In London, Guinness World Records spokesman Damian Field confirmed Wednesday that Allen was still listed as the tallest woman. Some Web sites cite a 7-foot-9 woman from China.

Coincidentally, Allen lived in the same nursing home, Heritage House Convalescent Center, as 115-year-old Edna Parker, whom Guinness has recognized as the world's oldest person since August 2007.

Allen said a tumor caused her pituitary gland to produce too much growth hormone. She underwent an operation in 1977 to stop further growth.

But she was proud of her height, Rose said. "She embraced it," she said. "She used it as a tool to educate people."



JOE HARPRING/Associated Press
SANDY ALLEN, a 7-foot, 7-inch Indiana woman who was considered the world's tallest female, died Wednesday at the Shelbyville nursing home where she had lived for several years. She was 53.

shows and spoke to church and school groups to bring youngsters her message that it was all right to be different. After Allen was listed by Guinness as the world's tallest woman, she won a role in Federico Fellini's 1976 film "Casanova," appearing as "Angelina the Giantess." She was featured in the 1981 Canadian documentary "Being Different."

Allen weighed 6½ pounds when she was born in June 1955. By the age of 10 she had grown to be 6-foot-3, and by age 16 she was 7-1.

Historical district could spur growth

By ANDREW CARR
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Indiana Borough's Historical District could help bring in tourists and spur business development, a community preservationist said Wednesday.

The Elm Street Community Project and Downtown Indiana Inc. hosted a presentation discussing Indiana Borough's Historical District and what that means to the community.

Jeffrey Jones, manager of the project, introduced William Callahan, Western Pennsylvania Community Preservation coordinator for the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, at the Indiana Borough building Wednesday.

Callahan's goal is to help communities understand the districts as an economic asset.

"Understood and managed properly, this can have a huge impact," Callahan said.

He said that Indiana Borough has a historical district and that not many Indiana residents necessarily know about it.

"Indiana has a relatively large National Register Historical District," Callahan said.

The district is composed of six buildings that are listed in the National Register of Historical Places.

There are also an additional 92 contributing buildings in this



TOM PEEL/Gazette

WILLIAM CALLAHAN and Charles Cashdollar stopped Wednesday afternoon at the Heritage House during a walking tour through Indiana Borough's Historical District. In the rear, are Paula Cummings and Jeffrey Jones.

district, and 26 non-contributing buildings.

The district was listed in the

National Register in 1993, Jones said. Contributing buildings are those built before 1936, but do

Printing company founder dies at 88

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Gar Creps was studying for a career in medicine at the University of Pittsburgh when World War II began. He enlisted in the Navy following the attack on Pearl Harbor and became an aviator and flew Martin PBM Mariner seaplanes in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters.

Many of his flights over the Atlantic were to protect Allied convoys from German submarines. On one night mission he flew protective cover for a cruiser rocking and rolling across the waves. Creps later learned that he had been protecting President Franklin Roosevelt on his journey to the Yalta conference.

After the war, The Indiana Countian grew to be published two and then three times weekly. The Creps family presses also turned out The Homer City News and The Clymer Sun.

In 1950, publication of The Indiana Countian ended, and the Creps family began printing Penny Saver and Money Saver shopping guides. Also in 1950, Creps United Publications was launched with Gar Creps as one of the founding partners. The company expanded repeatedly and became a leader in the direct mail circular business.

As the company grew and more printing equipment was added, the business moved into

a building at 1163 Water St., and added an even larger commercial printing plant along West Philadelphia Street.

Creps United Publications is one of the largest producers of full-color advertising in the eastern United States. The company now prints more than 22 million advertising circulars each week, according to Jeanne Creps.

In 2002, Gar Creps received special recognition from the Indiana County Sports Hall of Fame, recognizing the printing company's sponsorship of Indiana Little League and Junior Legion baseball teams for more than 30 years.

John Kostas, a former teacher and businessman and current boxing trainer, bumped into Gar Creps one day decades ago on the street as Kostas was on his way to catch a bus to New York City. Creps talked him out of that trip, and convinced Kostas, who is an Indiana County Sports Hall of Fame member, to take a job as sports editor at The Indiana Countian.

"He was a great guy. He did everything he could to help you," Kostas said of his former employer. "He was one of the greatest guys I ever met."

The Bence-Mihalcik Funeral Home in Indiana is handling funeral arrangements.

U.S. aid rushed to Georgian capital

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Rice was meeting today with French President Nicolas Sarkozy, who has led the European pressure campaign on Russia, at his summer residence, Bregancon, near Toulon, France. From there she was going to Paris to meet with French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner and on Friday she plans to fly to Tbilisi. She had no plans to go to Moscow.

Ahead of the talks, Rice said that Russia's military action in Georgia is a throwback to darker Cold War times.

"The message is that Russia has perhaps not accepted that it is time to move on from the Cold War and it is time to move to a new era in which relations between states are on the basis of equality, and sovereignty and economic integration," Rice said Wednesday.

The Bush administration is reeling from the near collapse of its closest friend among the former Soviet republics, a strategic Black Sea nation that is an emerging pathway for undeveloped energy reserves and that has worn its zeal for America and the West as a badge of honor.

As the United States mustered humanitarian aid for Georgia, President Bush demanded that Russia end all military activity inside its neighbor and withdraw all troops sent in recent days onto Georgian territory.

Bush announced that U.S. military assets and personnel would be deploying into the conflict zone. Though they are going there only on a humanitarian mission, he made a point of noting that "we will use U.S. aircraft, as well as naval forces" to distribute supplies. He warned Russia not to impede relief efforts in any way.

All this appeared designed to answer criticism that Bush has not done enough to stand by his 2005 pledge, made from the center of Tbilisi before tens of thousands of citizens, to "stand with" the people of Georgia.

Amid some fear that Russian troops may be setting up for some type of medium-term occupation of parts of Georgia or even have intentions to press on to its capital of Tbilisi, Bush promised Wednesday to "rally the free world in the defense of a free Georgia."

Speaking in grave tones in the Rose Garden, Bush decried Moscow's apparent violation of a cease-fire agreement.

He demanded that Russia "keep its word and act to end this crisis."

"The United States stands with the democratically elected government of Georgia and insists that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia be respected," he said.

The president postponed today's planned start of a two-week Texas vacation for a couple of days to monitor developments.

A Russian military convoy defied a cease-fire agreement Wednesday and rolled through a strategically important city in Georgia, where officials claimed fresh looting and bombing by the Russians and their allies.

The Kremlin announced today that Russian President Dmitry Medvedev was meeting with the leaders of Georgia's two separatist provinces, South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

"One can forget about any talk about Georgia's territorial integrity because, I believe, it is impossible to persuade South Ossetia and Abkhazia to agree with the logic that they can be forced back into the Georgian state," Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said.

Russia and its small neighbor had agreed Tuesday to a French-brokered cease-fire to end the dispute that began over two pro-Russian breakaway territories.

The United States accuses Russia of pressing the war far beyond the initial conflict zone and threatening the democratically elected government in Georgia.

Council approves road work projects

By LAUREN DALEY
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CLYMER — The fourth phase of Clymer's road construction project is under way as council awarded a contract for more paving projects, including the construction of a parking lot and landing pad for medical helicopters at the fire department.

Council awarded the approximately \$224,000 contract to Force Inc. of Indiana at its regular meeting Tuesday.

Borough Manager Rob Barto said the parking area for the ball field on Sherman Street, several alleys in the business district and some road shoulders will be paved under the project.

Council also received notification from the Department of Community and Economic Development that the borough will receive a \$40,000 grant toward the paving project for the medical helicopter pad.

The funds were secured through the office of state Rep. Dave Reed, R-Indiana.

Barto estimated construction will start within the new few weeks.

In other construction news, the light signal upgrade at the intersection of Franklin Street

CLYMER BOROUGH

and Route 403 is almost complete. Barto said the borough is waiting on the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to deliver the control box to finish the project.

The new signal has several automated features that will monitor traffic coming in different directions and adjust the light's cycle to meet the traffic flow, including a siren-activation to change the light for emergency vehicles.

The borough received a grant through PennDOT through the Federal Highway Administration for the equipment and installation. The borough's share of the \$150,000 project is about \$18,000, Barto said.

In other business Tuesday, council:

■ Hired Troy Fritz as a part-time police officer at a rate of \$9.75 an hour.

■ Announced the tax collector's office will be closed the week of Aug. 25.

■ Received an additional \$4,000 from Cargill Corp. for money for playground equipment on Sherman Street. The borough received \$4,000 in July from Cargill for projects at the Sherman Street ballparks.

Museum to honor Fabian with Harvey Award

The Indiana Gazette

The board of directors of The Jimmy Stewart Museum has set a date for the latest Harvey Award dinner, which will honor entertainer Fabian Forte.

Rich Little will host the event Oct. 24 at Chestnut Ridge Resort in Burrell Township.

The museum had announced the presentation in July but had not set a date.

Forte, 65, who lives in Fayette County, starred with Stewart in

the 1962 film "Mr. Hobbs Takes a Vacation" and 1965's "Dear Brigitte."

A private reception will be held at 5 p.m. in the Crystal Room, and dinner will begin at 6 p.m.

Tickets are \$125 for the private event and dinner, and \$85 for just the dinner.

For reservations, call (724) 349-6112.

In May, the museum awarded a Harvey to the late actress Grace Kelly.