

OBITUARIES

Kathleen Allen

Kathleen Allen, 78, of Bolivar, died Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, at Miners Medical Center, Hastings. Born Jan. 13, 1930, in West Bolivar, she was the daughter of the late John T. and Regina (Lysinger) Long.

She retired as a licensed practical nurse from Torrance State Hospital. She was a member of the Church of God, New Florence, and former member of First Church of Christ, West Bolivar, New Florence Community Choir and Johnstown Symphony Choir.

She was survived by her children, Emily Rolley (Tom Bernatzky), Bolivar; Mike Allen (Jean Byrnes), York; Jeff Allen (Renee Gresh), Northern Cam-

bria; 10 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; brother, Ray E. Long, San Antonio, Texas, and John A. Long, New Florence.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Pete J. Allen, who died Oct. 29, 1996; a brother, William; and sisters, Anna Jane and Grace.

Friends will be received from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at Kenneth A. Stuart Funeral Home, New Florence, where services will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday. Bishop Lester Lohr will officiate. Interment will be in Fort Palmer Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Church of God, 13791 Route 259 Hwy, New Florence, PA 15944.

Sara Flick

Sara Jane Flick, 85, of Indiana, died Sunday, Feb. 10, 2008, at the Indiana Regional Medical Center.

The daughter of Sara Alice Rice, she was born Dec. 6, 1922, in Marion Center.

Sara had attended the Marion Center Presbyterian Church. She had been employed for more than 40 years with Rural Electric prior to retiring in 1994. She will be remembered as a loving mother and grandmother who enjoyed traveling with her daughter and dining out with her family and retired friends, whom she kept in touch with over the years.

As a hobby, Sara collected clown figures.

She is survived by her daughter, Shawna Mederer and husband Bob, Indiana; grandchildren, Olivia, Johnathan, Amber, and Michael, Indiana; nephews, Bob Flick, Saltsburg, and Gene Flick and family, of Rockville, Md.; a niece, Carol Williamson and her family, of North Huntingdon; several cousins, including LuAnn Greek and family,

Marion Center; Virginia "Ginny" Bell and family, of Homer City; Jim Rice, Indiana; Hazel Rice, Apollo; Twila Buchanan and family, of Homer City; Sally Everett, Nancy Stull, Barb Petrick and their families; Kathryn Madrzak and family, all of Ohio.

Preceding her in death were her parents; half brother, Arnold Flick and his wife Mary; half sister, Lillian Flick; uncles, "Bud," Frank, Harry and Mike Rice; cousins, Edna Moose, Mary Bell, Tete Rice, Dorothy Baer; and a special friend, Margaret Boucher.

Friends will be received from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. today at the John A. Lefdahl Funeral Home, Indiana. Funeral services will be conducted at 11 a.m. Wednesday in the Lefdahl Chapel with Pastor Mark Altrogge officiating.

A private interment will follow in the Marion Center Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to VNA/Family Hospice of Indiana County, Suite 3000, 850 Hospital Road, Indiana, PA 15701.

Edward Long

Edward A. Long, 89, of Blairsville, died Sunday, Feb. 10, 2008, at Excelsa Health Latrobe Area Hospital in Latrobe.

He was born July 28, 1918, in Xenia, Ohio, the son of Edward F. Long and Amy Viola (Gray) Long.

Edward was a member of Hopewell United Methodist Church. He loved to watch sports of all kinds, especially NASCAR.

He was retired from Torrance State Hospital, having worked at the Power House Plant for 32 years.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Lucille (Brown) Long, Blairsville; a daughter, Marilyn F. Long, Blairsville; two brothers: Lawrence V. Long, Monticello, Fla., and Kenneth Long, Shreveport, La.; a sister, Opal Louise Cowan, Sun City, Calif.; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

In keeping with Ed's wishes, there will be no visitation.

A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Hopewell United Methodist Church with the Rev. Jason L. McQueen officiat-



ing.

Memorial donations may be made to Hopewell Cemetery Association, c/o Ruth Smith, 300 Muddy Run Road, Blairsville, PA 15717.

The James F. Ferguson Funeral Home in Blairsville is handling arrangements.

www.jamesfergusonfuneralhome.com

Robert Walker

Robert C. Walker, 71, of Oklahoma Borough, died Sunday, Feb. 10, 2008, at his home.

Born March 22, 1936, in Apollo, he was the son of Willis and Thelma (Bowser) Walker.

He had lived in Oklahoma Borough since 1976 and before that in Columbus, Ohio.

Bob was the owner, with his wife, of Walker Catering in Oklahoma Borough. He was retired from R&P Coal Co.

He retired from the U.S. Air Force after 21 years of service.

He was a member of Faith Lutheran Church, Oklahoma Borough; Masonic Lodge 617, Vandergrift; Syria Shrine, Pittsburgh; Coudersport Consistory and Apollo Lions Club.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Doris M. (Jackson) Walker, Oklahoma Borough; a daughter, Tammy S. (Arlo) Wilmot, Kiski Township; three sons: James P. Walker, New Bethlehem; Timothy Walker, Freeport; and Terry Walker, Oklahoma Borough; seven grandchildren, Carrie Wilmot, Lindsay and Casey Walker, Megan Wilmot, Cody and Ashton Walker, and Savannah Walker; and siblings: Betty Ross, Pittsburgh; Gary Walker and wife

Elaine, Vandergrift; James Walker and wife Renee, North Apollo; Diane Kestner, Apollo; and Judy Ferguson and husband James, Oklahoma Borough.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by five brothers: Daniel, Carl, William, Dale and Richard Walker; four sisters, Mona Williamson, Christine Porter, Mary Smith and Sara Kennedy.

Friends will be received from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. today at Curran-Shaffer Funeral Home and Crematory Inc., Apollo, where services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday with the Revs. Keith Deckinger and Robert Shallenberger officiating. Interment will be in Riverview Cemetery, Apollo. Masonic services will be conducted in the funeral home at 7 p.m. today. Military honors will be conducted at the cemetery by the Armstrong County American Legion Honor Guard.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association, Pittsburgh office, 300 Penn Center Boulevard, Suite 602, Pittsburgh, PA 15235.

To send an online condolence, visit www.curranfuneralhome.com.

TOMORROW'S FUNERALS

DIXON, Lois Marie, 10 a.m., Curran Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Saltsburg

POTOCHNIAK, Paul, 11 a.m., C. Frederick Bowser Funeral Home, Homer City
WALKER, Robert C., 10 a.m., Curran-Shaffer Funeral Home and Crematory Inc., Apollo

FLICK, Sara Jane, 11 a.m., John A. Lefdahl Chapel

What's new at your school?
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GRAPE EXPECTATIONS



JIM WAKEFIELD/Gazette

DOWNTOWN INDIANA INC. will hold its seventh annual Wine Festival this month to help fund efforts in promoting, developing and enhancing the Main Street and Elm Street projects. The wine festival will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Feb. 29 at Heritage House on the corner of South Sixth and School streets. Standing clockwise, from bottom left: Cathy Reed, The Indiana Gazette, a member of Downtown Indiana and the wine festival committee; Levent Akbay, Romeo's Catering; Paula Cummings, proprietor of Heritage House Suites and a member of Downtown Indiana; Betsy Lauber, Downtown Indiana main street manager; Scott Valazak, president of the Downtown Indiana board of directors; and Pam Mytrysak, Downtown Indiana chairwoman of the wine festival committee. For tickets or more information, call (724) 463-6110.

GM reports record loss, plans another buyout

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT — General Motors Corp. reported a \$38.7 billion loss for 2007 today, the largest annual loss ever for an automotive company, and said it is making a new round of buyout offers to U.S. hourly workers in hopes of replacing some of them with lower-paid help.

The earnings report and buyout offer came as GM struggles to turn around its North American business as the economy weakens.

But GM Chairman and Chief Executive Rick Wagoner said the company made significant progress in 2007, reducing structural costs in North America, negotiating a historic labor agreement and growing in Latin America and Asia.

The Detroit-based automaker said it was offering a new round of buyouts to all 74,000 of its U.S. hourly workers who are represented by the United Auto Workers.

GM won't say how many workers it hopes to shed, but under its new contract with the UAW, it will be able to replace up to 16,000 workers doing non-assembly jobs with new

employees who will be paid half the old wage of \$28 per hour.

Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler LLC already have announced similar buyout offers.

GM's loss largely was due to a third-quarter charge related to unused tax credits.

The 2007 loss topped GM's previous record in 1992, when the company lost \$23.4 billion because of a change in health care accounting, according to Standard & Poor's Compustat.

Excluding the tax charge and other special items, GM lost \$23 million, or 4 cents per share, for the year, compared with a net income of \$2.2 billion in 2006, beating Wall Street's expectations. Analysts polled by Thomson Financial expected GM to post a full-year loss of 95 cents per share.

For the fourth quarter, GM posted a loss of \$722 million, or \$1.28 per share, in the fourth quarter, compared with a net income of \$950 million in the year-ago quarter. Fourth-quarter charges included \$622 million to Delphi Corp., GM's former parts division, for its restructuring efforts.

GM reported \$181 billion in revenues for the year, down

from \$206 billion in 2006. Its automotive business saw record automotive revenues of \$178 billion in 2007, up \$7 billion from a year ago thanks to growth in emerging markets and favorable exchange rates.

GM was profitable in every region outside North America. GM's Latin America, Middle East and Africa division reported a record \$1.3 billion in earnings, up 140 percent from 2006. GM's Asia Pacific division earned \$744 million, up from \$403 million in 2006, while GM Europe reported a profit of \$55 million, down from a profit of \$357 million in 2006.

But GM's North American division continued to struggle, posting a \$1.5 billion loss for the year, nearly identical to its \$1.6 billion loss in 2006. GM's North American division also reported a loss of \$1.1 billion in the fourth quarter, compared with a loss of \$129 million in the year-ago quarter.

Wagoner said the weak U.S. economy and high commodity prices hurt turnaround efforts in North America. He said GM's decision to reduce low-profit sales to daily rental companies by 110,000 in 2007 also affected U.S. sales.

Board intends to start pre-kindergarten program

By SAM KUSIC
Gazette Staff Writer

PURCHASE LINE SCHOOL DISTRICT

PURCHASE LINE — The Purchase Line school board has taken the first step toward setting up a pre-kindergarten program, giving administrators permission at a meeting Monday to notify the state that the district intends to ask for a grant to help pay for the program.

The district is in the earliest planning stages for the program, and the approval to notify the state was really the first step, said Superintendent Richard C. Makin.

Pre-kindergarten is designed for 3- and 4-year-old children. Makin said research shows it is one of the best educational investments a district can make. He also said the district is finding that its pupils are entering kindergarten not ready for it. A pre-kindergarten program would help get them prepared, he said.

Makin said he is unsure of how many 3- and 4-year-olds

live in the district. But he said he is sure that it will be an expensive undertaking, though the grant would pay for the lion's share of the cost, he said.

Also last night, a group of seven parents, worried about the state of the district's basketball program, asked the board to take a look at it.

The parents told the board they fear interest in and the quality of the boys and girls programs from elementary on up is declining. As an example, they point to the boys junior varsity team, which didn't play this year because there weren't enough players. They also pointed out that the varsity girls team went 3-20.

"We don't want to see the basketball program continue to decline," said Glenda Burba, one of the parents.

Burba and the parents said they aren't sure where the

problem is, though opinions vary.

She said they don't know whether students simply aren't interested in playing or if the district isn't doing enough to promote the sport, among other possibilities.

Another parent, Rebecca Hudak, said the board needs to find out why. "We want them to look at the overall program," she said.

Burba said they weren't trying to ruffle any feathers. She said they only wanted to call the board's attention to the situation.

In other matters, the board:

■ Accepted its fiscal 2007 audit, which found no significant problems.

■ Hired Tiffany Palmer as a special education teacher.

■ Granted tenure to high school foreign language teacher Jeffrey Dorsey.

■ Granted a leave of absence to high school math teacher Katie Brown. Her leave takes effect around May 27 and runs through the end of the year.

IUP food workers authorize strike

Continued from Page 1

Bargaining sessions between Aramark and the union are scheduled for Wednesday and on March 3 and 4.

"We hope to make significant progress, but it sort of depends on the company at this point," said Sam Williamson, western district director for the union's joint Pennsylvania board.

Sticking points have been wages, health insurance and pensions, according to the union.

But in a statement, the company said it believes it has a strong offer on the table. Its current offer includes fully paid health insurance and pension plan and a "considerable" wage increase, a company spokeswoman said.

"We are hopeful that it will not take many more meetings to resolve the few issues still outstanding," she said. "We know this matter is very much on our employees' minds, as it is on ours. We are eager to continue negotiations to come to a fair agreement."

UNITE HERE leaders and leaders from other labor unions within IUP had asked university administrators to step into negotiations to ensure that a fair deal is reached.

IUP officials, however, declined to do so, saying they wouldn't intervene because Aramark is an independent contractor.

However, the university has said the dining halls will remain open in the event of a strike.

Meanwhile, the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education and the union representing supervisors in administrative departments throughout the state-owned universities are continuing to seek a new labor contract.

The contract between the state and the State College and University Professional Association expired June 30. The last time the state and the union tried to negotiate a new labor deal, more than two years passed before they settled.

In November, the union's membership authorized its leadership to call a strike if they decide it's necessary. Frank DeStefano, the union's president, said that if a strike comes to pass, it won't be "telegraphed in advance." But he said the union is hoping to settle at the table.

No bargaining sessions currently are scheduled, but DeStefano and state system spokesman Kenn Marshall said the fact should not be taken as an indication that talks have broken down.

The union had sought fact-finding through the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board, but the state had opposed the request. The board sided with the state and in January denied the request for fact-finding.

Brush Valley supervisor appointed

The Indiana Gazette

The Brush Valley Township vacancy board appointed a new member to the board of supervisors at a special meeting Friday after supervisors failed to make an appointment at their last regular meeting on Feb. 4.

The board unanimously appointed Jimmy James after a motion by Glen Orner and a second by Sam Kerr.

James will serve the two remaining years of an unexpired term left vacant by the death of Geraldine "Gerry" Moore, who passed away Jan. 7.

Soup Day set for Friday

Soup Day will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday at the Chevy Chase Community Center, 640 N. Fifth St., Indiana.

The menu includes homemade soup, salad, bread and dessert. Eat in or take out. Deliveries will be made within a 10-mile radius.

For takeout, place orders no later than 10 a.m. Friday by calling (724) 463-0674. Donations benefit the center.

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