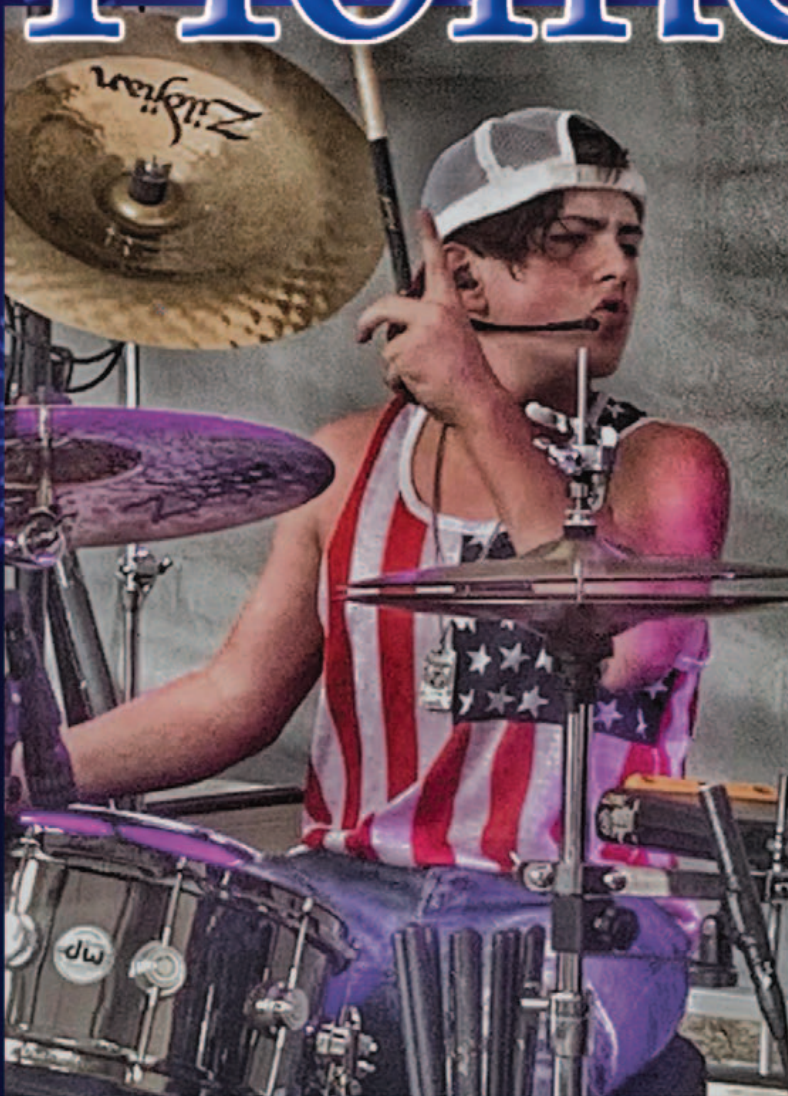


Punxsutawney Hometown



TWO WEEKS OF FUN

GROUNDHOG FESTIVAL

June 20-26

at Yoder's Antique Mall

FESTIVAL IN THE PARK

June 26 - July 3

at Barclay Square

ALEX SHUMAKER
HIS JOURNEY HAS BEGUN

- Festival Schedules inside
- Barclay Square - A Celebration of 200 Years in Punxsutawney
- Siblings in Service
- Couple Honors their Fathers
- Hometown's Pirates Baseball Contest



July 2021 - Issue Number 249

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Hometown Summer Festivals Guide 2021
 plus many other articles to read and enjoy

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Whether practicing, performing, recording original music or covers for his YouTube channel, Alex can be found in his natural habitat, behind a drum set. Submitted photo.

Alex Shumaker: His Journey Has Begun

By Melissa Salsgiver
 of Hometown magazine

While watching a YouTube video of Punxsutawney native Alex Shumaker playing the drums, I wondered, “Who is this boy who started playing drums at age five?”

As I watched some of his videos, posted as far back as 2013 through the present, I witnessed the progression of his musical skills. I noticed in his oldest videos he was a good drummer with lots of charisma, showmanship and a real passion for playing. Now, 10 years later, his drumming is spot on, totally surpassing just being “that little kid drummer.”



Alex playing his first drum set that his Nana and Papa got him in 2012. Submitted photo.

I recently had the opportunity to talk to Alex and his parents about his musical interests and path he has traveled. The main point that I took from our conversation was an overwhelming sense of family. His parents and grandparents are beyond supportive in helping Alex reach his goals. In addition, Alex has received tons of support from his bandmates in WILD CARD, his numerous music teachers, the Nashville music scene, the other local and national bands with whom he has played, plus the 500,000 fans he has online.

Alex’s passion for music was noticed by his parents when he was merely three years

old and would sing along with them to a Journey CD in their SUV. His mom, Brooke, explained that he soon traded his weekly Matchbox car purchases for weekly CD purchases instead. Alex collected all the Journey, Foreigner and Styx CDs that Punxsutawney stores had to offer. He discovered his love of drumming when he bought a Journey DVD featuring a live per-

formance in Manila. In short, Alex was hooked. Brooke took a video of Alex playing along with Journey’s drummer Deen Castronovo while watching the DVD. He was using kitchen utensils as sticks, all of which he broke, and an exercise ball for a drum. Alex’s Nana and Papa saw the video and got Alex his first drum set, to the temporary dismay of his parents.

Alex, who seems to be a natural at drumming, does take multiple music lessons. Since he plans to go into the music industry, he explained that it is good to know every aspect of the business. Improvisation and reading music are both good skills to have.

Since I have no experience with written drum music, I was curious what the sheet music actually looked like. Alex’s dad, Rob, explained that it’s similar to other music, but the different lines associated with notes like E, G, B, D and F are actually for the different parts of the drum set like bass, snare, etc.

Alex began drum lessons with local instructor Brian Rowan, who has a degree in music and who currently plays with the band Against the Grain. Matt Muckle from Pittsburgh also gives Alex drum lessons. Matt has toured with national acts like Dizzy Reed and Gilby Clarke (Guns N’ Roses), DJ Ashba (Sixx:A.M. and Guns N’ Roses), Buckcherry, Paul Gilbert (Mr. Big), Lynch Mob, L.A. Guns and John Waite, in addition to some Pittsburgh bands, too. Matt is the founder of the Los Angeles School of Performing Arts and Entertainment, and he currently plays with Bon Journey.

- Continued on next page

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Alex Shumaker

Continued from previous page

When Alex started to show interest in playing guitar at age six, he was disappointed that it didn't come as natural to him as playing the drums had. He set aside the mini Fender guitar he got for Christmas for a while but then started guitar lessons to learn that instrument as well. According to Alex, he has had to work harder to develop his guitar skills.

Alex took guitar lessons in the past from Garrett Rowan and then Kris Gruda. Currently, he receives instruction from Kenny Murdick and from Matt Barranti of Pittsburgh, who plays with his own band and is also a touring guitarist for Fog Hat. Alex

also takes vocal lessons from Barbara Moore.

Alex has played with several local and national acts throughout the years and was the drummer for the teen band 80 DeGreez from Monroeville. You may have seen 80 DeGreez perform at the annual Groundhog Day celebration in 2018.

Alex currently plays with a band called WILD CARD which was formed in 2019. The band plays anything from new country to rock. The audience never knows what it is going to hear next, which is where they get their name, WILD CARD. The band consists of adults who have been playing for years and who are all in other area bands. On vocals and rhythm guitar is Ken Gray from Northern Cambria, Kenny Murdick from Homer City is the lead guitarist,

bassist is Joe Lybarger, also from Homer City, Ian Kordish plays rhythm guitar and Alex is on drums.

Alex has gone to hundreds of concerts and has performed at many as well. Alex started playing with bands when he was just seven; his first big audience was for Groundhog Day at Rumors Tavern when he played with Lee Travis and the Bounty Hunters. His biggest audience to date was when he was invited, at age ten, to play with Jackyl during Bike Week in Sandusky, OH. He says it was "the best experience of my life!" You can see Alex's performance with Jackyl and many others on his YouTube channel.

In Nashville, he has played at multiple clubs on Broadway including Tootsies and Honkey Tonk. In addition to playing with

Jackyl, he has also played with Jasmine Cain & Wynonna Judd, and he has done sound checks with Jason Aldean, Florida Georgia Line, Fog Hat and Tesla. He was also on stage with Jefferson Starship.

Developing my own love for music in the '80s, I was most interested to hear that Alex has met Troy Lucketta of Tesla and Glen Sobel of Alice Cooper, not to mention that he got to meet his drum idol Deen Castronovo from Journey. Alex even owns one of Deen's drum sets which his Nana scored for him for Christmas in 2019. It was bought through a benefit to raise money for the California Wild Fires.

At present, Alex is hard at work on his first original album to be recorded in a new studio built at his home in Punxsutawney. Alex will be recording all of the tracks on the album, even trying his hand at bass guitar and vocals. He is also writing all the songs on the album with help from his bandmate Kenny Mirdick. COVID related delays in construction and equipment delivery aside, we should hear an album of original music all played by Alex later this year.



Alex applies his guitar skills on stage while performing with the band Octane at the Rayne Drop Inn II. Submitted photo.

Alex said he doesn't have a clear plan for his future that he can see, but I think many others see that his path will take him to the music industry. He is currently picking and choosing the right projects to get the necessary experience and contacts. It appears Alex will continue to rock the drum set and stage for decades to come.

When not immersed in music, Alex does find time for school sports. He plays baseball, basketball, football and golf and likes riding his side by side and spending time with friends.

Alex uploads videos every Sunday around noon to his YouTube channel, Alex Shumaker. He can also be found on Instagram @alexshudrums, on Twitter @alexshudrums1 and on Facebook @alexshudrums. His website is www.alexshumaker.com. You can listen to WILD CARD perform at this year's Punxsutawney Festival in the Park on Saturday, June 26, from 4:40-5:30 p.m. at Barclay Square.

The journey has already begun for Alex, but we will have to wait and watch where the adventure takes him. In 2013, a fan commented, "I knew him when," to a video post, foreshadowing the success Alex will have. Recently, a fan on Instagram answered the question: "What band would you drive five hours to see?" with: "Any band Alex is playing in!"

...



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Groundhog Festival Traditions Continue in New Location

By Danielle Merrow
for Hometown magazine

For 54 years, the Groundhog Festival has been a memorable part of summer in Punxsutawney. This year, the festivities will take place in a new venue - at Yoder's Antique Mall located at 14342 Rt. 36 - but the family-focused atmosphere and the fun will continue. The festival will run from June 20-26 in the field behind the antique mall building.



GROUNDHOG FESTIVAL
June 20-26
at Yoder's Antique Mall
14342 Rt. 36, Punx'y

Roger Steele says the spirit of the Groundhog Festival is in his name; he feels it's part of his legacy to carry on the traditions. "I'm the youngest of twelve kids," he explains, "and my mother named me after Roy Rogers, Jr, because she'd heard him play at the Groundhog Festival before I was born."

Steele served in the U.S. Army as an operations sergeant for 35 years, so planning and leading is an ingrained part of who he is. Upon joining the planning committee in the early '80s, Steele sought to build a committee of about a dozen volunteers, all the best at what they do in order to best serve community festival-goers. Current committee members include Kim Curtis, Lisa Wingard, Shawna

Saxton, Sheila Schrekengost and others.

Steele and his team work hard to ensure the acts who come to entertain at the festival are in keeping with the traditions of the past. This year's acts cover gospel, country, patriotic and 60s cover bands. Tribute bands of Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers as well as CCR and John Fogerty will also perform under the nostalgic big tent. The biggest reward, Steele says, is "standing offstage [from the bandstand] and seeing a couple holding hands while watching the music, or seeing a child pulling a grandparent by the hand" to an activity they want to participate in. That is the spirit of the Groundhog Festival.

Other entertainment will include kid-friendly events like, tricycle races, a diaper derby and tot trot, magic shows, a balloon artist and a dinosaur exhibit.

Steele says planning the event is a year-long endeavor for the committee. "We're taking notes during the festival," he explains. "We watch what works, we think of ways to streamline and make it better for the next year." After 35 years of planning, there are still always unexpected circumstances that require some extra attention. And, after the 2020 Groundhog Festival was cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the committee is looking forward to jumping back in this year. "We retained some of the plans from last year, but we're also always looking for new items," Steele says.

That committee is distinguished during festival days by wearing matching shirts with committee emblems. These volunteers are ready and able to help with any situation. REACT will also be on hand to help out as needed. They keep an eye on weather conditions and can give notice of potential threats if the need arises.

Steele says it is most important to note how very, very important sponsors are to this event. "It is so important to note how very appreciative we are of local sponsors."

A schedule of events can be found in this issue of Hometown, as well as on the Groundhog Festival Facebook page and on the group's website, punxsutawneygroundhogfestival.com.

...

Festival in the Park set to Kick off June 26

By Danielle Merrow
for Hometown magazine

Nothing says summertime in Punxsutawney like the Festival in the Park: tent after tent of local vendors and artisans, trailers serving some of the best food the town has to offer, squeals of joy as children dash from activity to activity, and the sounds of local bands echoing from the bandstand all coming together to bring childhood memories to the surface and to make new ones as well.

Chamber of Commerce president Katie Laska and board member and marketing specialist Mandi Perry, along with the rest of the volunteer-based chamber, begin planning the festival each year as the current one wraps up. Sponsors and vendors are booked and ideas for entertainment are discussed, all in preparation for another year of memory-making for Punxsutawney residents.

"Our primary goal," Perry explains, "is to support the town and provide a family-friendly atmosphere. We want the community to have the opportunity to participate in whatever activities appeal to them, so we try to provide a good variety of events."

On this year's schedule are a teddy bear picnic; diaper derby; tot trot; Exotic Adventures animal program; the Army Reserve rock wall; a car cruise in; the police department dunking booth and kids' bike rodeo (the proceeds of both events benefit the police department); the Pennsylvania Game Commission with activities for kids;

library day and book sale; Firemen's Day with BINGO; Firemen's parade; plenty of live music to keep the atmosphere festive and so much more.

Live music will start daily around 5 p.m. The lineup includes local bands and fan favorites from past years- nearly 20 bands in all should offer something for every taste.

The festival, according to Perry and Laska, could not happen without sponsors. "We could not do this without the sponsors," Perry and Laska emphasize. "We try to focus on the surrounding community, the Chamber members, and we reach out to the community." Laska goes on to explain that volunteers for the event are given a day during the festival when they are invited to wear t-shirts advertising their businesses, using the event to further encourage community support.

With some COVID restrictions still in place, precautions are still being taken to protect the community. Hand-washing stations will be set up throughout the park; kids' activities were selected to minimize contact; and games will be able to accommodate cleanliness guidelines. Still, there are plenty of activities planned that fit within safety guidelines, and, Laska and Perry note, "we are looking to add more for next year as guidelines allow."

The festival will run in Barclay Square with events daily from June 26 through July 3. The committee will present a fireworks display from Indiana Hill after sunset on the fourth of July.

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FESTIVAL IN THE PARK
June 26-July 3
at Barclay Square
Downtown Punxsutawney

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GROUNDHOG FESTIVAL Sun., June 20 through Sat., June 26
 AT YODER'S ANTIQUE MALL



SUNDAY, JUNE 20

FULLER FAMILY SINGERS
 10 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

The Fuller family of 10 including 8 children are from Mt. Pleasant Mills, PA. Their music is gospel with a bluegrass flare and consists of stringed instruments – typically, acoustic guitars, bass guitar, violin, ukulele, dobro, and sometimes a banjo.

THE BELLE TONES
 2 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.

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 7:30 p.m. & 9 p.m.

High energy, rockin', modern country!



MONDAY, JUNE 21

KID'S ACTIVITIES
 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

BIG WHEEL TRIKE RACE
 (age groupings 4-5, 6-7, 8-9)

...

BILLY HEH BALLOONS
 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
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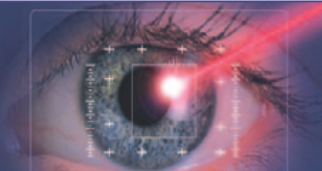
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GROUNDHOG FESTIVAL

Sun., June 20
through Sat., June 26

ATYODER'S
ANTIQUÉ MALL

TUESDAY, JUNE 22

KID'S ACTIVITIES 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.
SACK RACES (age groupings 4-6, 7-9, 10-12)
...

BILLY HEH BALLOONS 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
DINOSAUR EXHIBIT 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
BILLY HEH MAGIC 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
DINOSAUR EXHIBIT 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
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THURSDAY, JUNE 24

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HULA HOOP CONTEST (age groupings 4-8, 9-12)
...

BILLY HEH BALLOONS 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
DINOSAUR EXHIBIT 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
BILLY HEH MAGIC 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
DINOSAUR EXHIBIT 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23

KID'S ACTIVITIES 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.
DIAPER DERBY/TOT TROT (up to 18 months)
...

BILLY HEH BALLOONS 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
DINOSAUR EXHIBIT 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
BILLY HEH MAGIC 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
DINOSAUR EXHIBIT 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
JEFF KRIK, JR. 7 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.
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(all ages - competitors will be grouped by age)

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Honoring Their Fathers

By Coal Memorial Committee for Hometown magazine

Dominic "Mickey" Barilar and Mary Lou Koromaus Barilar have honored their fathers with a Tile at the Punxsutawney Area Coal Memorial. **Frederick B. Barilar**, Mickey's father, was a first generation American born in McCalmont Township in 1903. His parents, Antonio "Tony" Barilar and Rafaella Trunzo Barilar, were immigrants from Italy, having arrived in the United States in 1896 and 1899 respectively. The Barilars were living in Mc-

chased the coal rights on land in the Punxsutawney area and operated a local coal business. During the World War II, the federal government declared the coal industry as necessary to the war effort. They oversaw the production and regulation of the coal mines. The Indiana Gazette of February 20, 1943, reported on coal production in the Twelfth Mining District in Pennsylvania. The 1942 production figures showed the Barilar Coal Company was a relatively small company which produced 21,831 tons of coal. During that same year coal mine production at other area small mines included Neal and Blose Mines, 13,135 tons. Production at medium sized, locally owned mines in the area included at Rossiter, the Frances Mine, 50,613 tons and at Punxsutawney, Lindsey No. 8 mine, 173,354 tons. Coal was still being produced by large company mines: the Rochester & Pittsburgh Coal and Iron Company's Helvetia Mines, 678,008 tons and the Northwest Mining & Exchange's Kramer Mine, 936,193 tons.



Dominic "Mickey" Barilar and Mary Lou Koromaus Barilar are honoring their fathers with the installation of a Memorial Tile at the Punxsutawney Area Coal Memorial, September 5, 2021.

After the war, mine production declined. By 1951, only about a million tons of coal was produced in the Twelfth District. Barilar Coal Company was still operating and produced 11,673 tons; Lindsey Coal Mining Co., produced 29,430 tons; Northwest Mining Exchange (Kramer) produced 417,334 tons. A new small mine operation, the P&N Company, produced 69,999 tons.

In addition to maintaining the small country mining operations, Fred Barilar was a community minded citizen. He was interested in providing recreational activities in the community and was instrumental in creating the Anita Park. The Barilar Coal Company sponsored local basketball and baseball teams. The commitment to community has continued in the Barilar family down through the second generation, as they branched out into other areas. Fred Barilar was a founder of Barilar Motors, once located on South Gilpin Street and later operated by his son J. Edward "Doc" Barilar. "Mickey" Barilar, after having been drafted into military service and serving in Germany, returned and became an educator. He taught in the Punxsutawney Area Schools from 1957 to 1993 filling positions in English, social studies and guidance, as well as performing the duty of a principal and as a coach for the Chucks Football Team. Albert Barilar was also an educator and later became a company representative for several firms.

Calmont Township in 1900, where Antonio Barilar worked as a coal miner. By the time of the 1910 Census, the family owned a farm, and Tony listed his occupation as a farmer. At that time farmers were in demand. The local farmers provided much of the food for those living in the mining communities and towns. By 1920, there were nine Barilar children, eight sons and one daughter, in the family. The older sons were working: James as a laborer at the Round House at Rikers; John and Fred were teamsters in the draying (hauling) industry.

Fred Barilar went to Detroit, Michigan, where he worked as a gas station attendant in the 1920s. In 1929, he returned to McCalmont township to marry his sweetheart, Mary C. Felisky. They returned to Michigan where they lived until the early 1930s, when they returned to McCalmont Township to stay. In 1934, Fred purchased a beer license and a retail license and operated "The Stump," a tavern in Anita. As the 1940s approached, work at the McCalmont Township mines was declining. Two of Fred's brothers, James and John, who had been working in the local coal mines, took jobs at the Punxsutawney Beef and Provisions Company and Fred listed his occupation as a manager of a country mine.

As the mining continued to decline in the area, the Barilar Coal Company pur-

Michael J. Koromaus was also a first generation American. His parents, Joseph Koromaus and Mary Ferko Koromaus, immigrated to the United States from Austria in 1896 and 1899 respectively. They settled in McCalmont Township where Joseph was a coke puller at the Adrian Mines coke works. They were the parents of seven children, three sons and four daughters. The 1920 Census showed this family as workers. Susie, age 18, was a servant in a private home; Anna, age 17, and Elizabeth 15, were molders at a Glass Factory; and Mike,

- Continued on page 21

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continued from page 8
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Honoring Their Fathers

Continued from page 15

just 13 years old, was listed as a sticker at the Glass Factory. George, at 12 years of age, was at home, and Joseph, the eldest son, not listed with the family, was most likely in military service. By 1940, Joseph the father was no longer living. Joseph, the eldest son, was working as a coal miner and was married. His family was living with his mother Mary and brother George at Adrian. Mike had married Mary Tutsock and was working as a motorman at the coal mines. He and his wife had three children, Michael, Matilda and Mary Lou.

As the available work in the mines declined, Mike Koromaus went to work for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The family moved to Liberty Street in Punxsutawney in order for him to be closer to his workplace. In July of 1946 tragedy struck the Koromaus family when Matilda, on an outing with the Girl Scouts, was killed in an accident. The bicycle on which she was riding slammed into a tree. Mary Koromaus was devastated by the tragedy, she never recovered from her grief and died about a year later, leaving her husband as a single parent. Mike Koromaus moved his small family back to Adrian where his sister and her family were living. This provided support for Mike Koromaus, in that when he needed to be away from home on overnight duties with the railroad, his young children were under the care of loving and supportive family members.

The second generation of the Koromaus family became stalwart citizens of the community. Mike Koromaus, Jr. served in the Korean War and became a union construction worker. He continued to live in the Adrian Community for the rest of his life. Mary Lou Koromaus attended nursing school at Sharon, Pennsylvania, and, as an affiliate, she worked at Warren State Hospital. After her graduation as a registered nurse, she returned to Adrian and, in 1957, married Mickey Barilar. She remained in the community and worked at the Adrian Hospital for 10 years before returning to college to get her B.S. and M.Ed. degrees at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She then became school nurse at elementary schools in the Punxsutawney Area School Dis-

trict. In 1975, she advanced to become the nurse at the Punxsutawney Area High School where she established the Future Health Services Club. In her retirement she continued to put her nursing skills to work with a number of community organizations. In 2009 she was one of the first women recognized by the Punxsutawney Area Career Women's Club for their contributions to the community.

Descendants of those who came to the Punxsutawney area to work in the coal industry continue to honor their ancestors through their contribution to the community.

This article has been prepared by the Coal Memorial Committee of the Punxsutawney Area Historical & Genealogical Society. Resources used in preparing

*his article are from PAHGS, The Punxsutawney Spirit and Newspapers.com. Comments may be directed to PAHGS, P.O. Box 286, Punxsutawney, PA 15767. Individuals desiring to honor a coal or coal related industry worker in 2021 are encouraged to purchase their tile by **June 30, 2021**. A Coal Memorial tile may honor persons who worked in any aspect of the coal industry including railroads and ancillary services. Additional information and forms may be found online at www.punxsyhistory.org or may be requested by an email to: punxsyhistory@outlook.com, or calling 814-938-2555 and leaving a message. The 2021 tile dedication will take place Sunday, September 5, 2021.*

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With Barclay Square prepared for summer events, the 200 year history of the "Public Park" will be featured during the Festival of the Park by the Punxsutawney Area Historical & Genealogical Society. The 2021 view compares to a 1907 photo looking southeast, taken of the park after a 3-year professional landscaping project was completed to provide Punxsutawney a "city park" appearance. (color photo by S. Thomas Curry; B&W photo courtesy of Punxsutawney Historical & Genealogical Society)

Barclay Square - A Celebration of 200 Years in Punxsutawney

By S. Thomas Curry
of Hometown magazine

Because it is June in the year 2021, comfortably into the summer season, the Punxsutawney Area Historical & Genealogical Society (PAHGS) has planned a special event during the Festival in the Park. It has been 200 years since the Rev.



Compared to the 1821 original plan of Punxsutawney and Rev. David Barclay's plan of lots to be sold, two rare 1860s photographs show the growth of the village of Punxsutawney around the park. For many of the early years, the public park was used for baseball games, circuses, militia training and other outdoor activities. (c. 1860s photos from archives of PAHGS)

David Barclay took pen and ink to paper to lay out his plan of lots for a town on the site the Native Americans had called Punxsutawney along the Mahoning Creek.

With volunteers to participate as "re-enactors," the Society will celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the founding of Punxsutawney and the history of Barclay Square.

The prettiest feature in Punxsutawney, in the eyes of many people of the area and visitors to town, of course, is Barclay Square. With its location and pleasant open, green space, many community activities have been featured in Barclay Square during summer months. Among them are the Memorial Day ceremonies, Festival events, "music in the park" and leisure moments of strolling the walks or resting on benches.

Known for over a hundred years as "The Public Square," the "Town Park" or the "Public Park," the little piece of land was designated for "public use" in the plan for Punxsutawney in 1821 by the Rev. David Barclay, one of the settlers in the early 1800s.

With the park in the center of his plan for Punxsutawney, Rev. Barclay named the

streets that surrounded it. In the naming, there is evidence of his American patriotism which followed the years that included the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, when family members were fighting to form and defend the United States of America. The original map included names of Penn Street, Jefferson Street, Union Street and Liberty Street.

The "town park" was formally ordained as Barclay Square in early March of 1928 by borough council to honor the man who had settled the land in 1818 and had designated the little spot for "public use" in his plan of eight squares. The 1928 effort to recognize the "gift" of Rev. Barclay to the community stated the square "shall be so designated on all official maps of the Borough."

In 1979, a granite marker was placed in the park to present the proper name to townsfolk and visitors. In an appropriate ceremony by the Punxsutawney Area Historical and Genealogical Society, with descendants of the Barclay and Jenks family present, the marker was dedicated front and center in the park along East Mahoning Street.

The Early Years

As the center of community life for many years, businesses were established around

- Continued on page 15

Barclay Square History Walk

The Punxsutawney Area Historical and Genealogical Society will sponsor a special event, a History Walk, around Barclay Square during Festival Week, June 26-July 3. It will take about an hour and a half to complete the slow-paced walk around the square. **The Walk will begin at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, June 29, Thursday, July 1 and Saturday, July 3.**

The event will highlight men and women who inhabited the environs of the Public Square over the past 200 years. The characters will have stories that may amaze, amuse or astonish walk participants.

Tickets for the History Walk may be picked up at the Society's tent in Barclay Square. There will be three groups at scheduled times, with each group limited to 10 people.

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Barclay Square

Continued from page 13

the park. Early hotels were opened on corners facing the park. With a view of the park, settlers found the plots around or near it as ideal for homes.

In the early years of the park, the Presbyterians had built a log church for the congregation of Rev. Barclay. It was used as a school house and was shared with the Baptists and German Lutherans when their congregations were formed. In the 1860s, each of the congregations built more substantial churches in other locations near the park.

For over sixty years the land received no attention. However, the park had many uses - baseball games, circuses, traveling medicine shows, militia training, fireworks, growing hay, and cows, geese and pigs roaming the empty land from corner to corner. Monuments were also considered to honor young men who fought in the Civil War, but never accomplished.

In 1850, Punxsutawney was incorporated as a borough. There were 100 people as residents. By the late 1860s the population had reached a count of 553 people, with an additional 190 in neighboring Clayville and 1,700 in Young Township that surrounded it.

From news pages of the Punxsutawney Plaindealer between July 1868 and August 1871, one can learn about life and activity in the late 1860s. Business advertisements would pinpoint locations as "room on Public Square," "south of Public Square," "near the North East corner of Public Square" and "just east of the Public Square."

In the summer of 1869, with business interests of the town developing around the park, there arose a vision for the "Public Square" to be something more than an unsightly piece of land. A comment by the editor of the Punxsutawney Plaindealer in July 1869, was evidence of a higher standard to be set for the use of the land. He remarked, "Merry-go-rounds are set up to make a night hideous and rake in the nickels on the square."

The editor of the town's weekly newspaper shared his thoughts on the matter: "Nothing perhaps adds more to the beauty of a town than its Public Square. The Square in this borough is beautifully located, is ample, and could be made one of the most inviting spots in town if proper care was taken of it by those having the charge of these things. For instance, by abuse several roads are permitted through it, converting it into a mortar bed and subjecting to all the inconvenience of a highway, that which should be sacred to the men of the town. ... It is the evident intention of our borough ordinances that the Public Square should be set apart and kept free from all manner of nuisances or inconveniences, and should be beautified by the planting of trees or other public improvements. Will not our Town Fathers take the matter in hand, and by restraining the liberty of cattle, swine, and geese, and by stopping the travel, etc. discharge their duty to themselves and the people."

In 1894, a writer to the local weekly newspaper, The Punxsutawney Spirit, offered his memories of Punxsutawney's past: "A way back in the thirties, about fifty years ago." With the park as the center of his thoughts, he described the location of many residences and businesses within the boundary of Punxsutawney in the 1830s, between

Findley Street, Torrence Street, Liberty Street and the street to the east, fronting Mahoning Creek (later to be named Water Street and then Front Street).

For any building beyond the streets in Rev. Barclay's original plan, the writer explained them as "not regarded as in town." The resident also shared the following: "From the Pantall corner southward [toward Union Street] there were no houses, nor south of the Public Square."

Approaching the Twentieth Century

As the 20th century neared, the Borough of Punxsutawney was growing and the borough lines extended to include East End, Graffius Addition (Elk Run), the South Side (across Mahoning Creek) and Hospital Hill. In the minds of civic leaders, the little village was becoming a "city" with coal mines nearby, railroads, new industries, and multi-storied brick and stone buildings replacing the older frame structures of the past. The "public park" needed to be groomed and cared for in a fashion deserving of its place in the center of town.

In late June of 1885 The Punxsutawney Spirit put its stamp of approval on the site of the public park with its boast: "For the benefit of strangers coming to Punxsutawney on the Fourth to see our popular town, we will mention a few places of interest.... First and foremost is our Public Square. It is one of the most popular resorts we have...."

In the decade of the 1880s Punxsutawney's population grew from 675 in the 1880 census to nearly 2,700 by 1890. (Clayville was not incorporated into Punxsutawney until 1907, as Punxsutawney's West End.)

In the late 19th century, village improvement groups had a vision of a more landscaped space with planned walkways, trees and attractive shrubs and flowers. A community-wide effort was made to make improvements to the park. In early 1895, a call was made for "volunteers who wish to put in a day's work in getting the grounds ready for the picnic season."

In May 1897, interest and progress toward an improved public park was evident when a news item in the local newspaper reported that a permanent organization was formed to look after the proper care of the park and to make improvements. A new borough Park Commission became responsible for soliciting money to improve and layout the park. Part of its assignment was to also set up entertainment and festivals in the "City Park" (as it was now being called).

The land was filled with earth to the height of about one foot above the streets and curbed. The park was laid out in walks with hope then that the improvements would ready the park for a soldiers' monument that could be erected in the center.

By 1898 the planted trees along the park's edges had grown. Another local weekly newspaper, the Punxsutawney News, stated, "This is something that our people should be interested in. Here we have what many towns would be glad to possess - a park in the center of town." In the minds of the people another idea was offered - a statue of the Rev. David Barclay, to recognize his early plan for a public square in the center of town.

As the twentieth century arrived in 1900, the work had been completed, so it was thought. A proud statement appeared in the newspaper: "Gradually the public square as-

- Continued on page 17

FESTIVAL IN THE PARK JUNE 26 - JULY 3 BARCLAY SQUARE

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continued from page 14

MONDAY, JUNE 28

KID ZONE & CHARACTERS IN THE PARK DAILY

GAME COMMISSION INTERACTIVE DAILY

BALLOON ARTS 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

EXOTIC EDVENTURES LIVE ANIMAL SHOW

TWO SHOWS DAILY at 2 p.m. & 4 p.m.

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A Punxsutawney based rock band that covers a mixture of Classic Rock, Contemporary, and Funk.

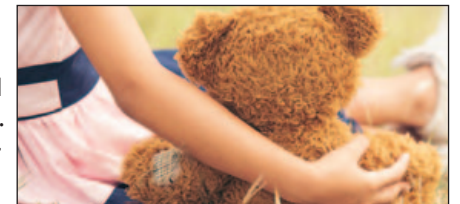
Each member has been playing publicly for more years than they will admit, but with that said, time has also given them an insight into what songs you enjoy hearing and they enjoy playing!

TUESDAY, JUNE 29

OPEN FOR LUNCH AT 11 A.M.

TEDDY BEAR PICNIC
11 a.m.

The popular Teddy Bear Parade and Picnic of teddy bears and their owners. Check social media for categories, registration and additional information.



KID ZONE & CHARACTERS IN THE PARK DAILY

WEATHER DISCOVERY INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES

BALLOON ARTS 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

EXOTIC EDVENTURES LIVE ANIMAL SHOW

TWO SHOWS DAILY at 2 p.m. & 4 p.m.

THE MOORE BROTHERS

5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Comprised of four brothers, Rick, Mike, Bill and John and also featuring Mike's wife Janie, their music reflects a wide variety of musical tastes. They are one of the few bands that can play it all - New Country, Traditional Country, Classic Rock, Big Band, and so much more.



AIN'T MISBEHAVIN' 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

continued on page 18



By the mid-1890s, village improvement groups were organized to make improvements to the park area, planning for walks, trees, shrubs and flowers for in the park. Evidence of that effort can be seen in the detail of the park area in the lithograph drawing of Punxsutawney from 1895.

Barclay Square

Continued from page 15

sumeth the appearance of being groomed. By next year the square would present a beautiful green.”

The 20th Century is Another History for the Public Square

In 1901, the Punxsutawney Iron Company had approval of borough council to take over the work of the Park Commission with an understanding it would hire a reputable landscape “gardener” to make major im-

provements to the park and “turn desert into an oasis” within three years.

Under the supervision of Shelby M. Noyes, who had designed the Pan-American Exposition grounds in Buffalo, the news was shared, “...the old Square is being literally turned inside out.... Estimated cost of the improvements is from \$10,000 to \$12,000.”

As the park was being prepared for its history as a beautiful park, discussions began about the plans and suggestions were being offered for what should be located in the center of the park. Some people suggested

that a statue of some kind should be erected to honor the founder of the town who deeded the land to the borough.

Another suggestion was for a soldiers’ monument there, inscribed with the names of Jefferson County soldiers who served in the Civil War and the Spanish-American War. Other people were in favor of an ornamental fountain. It was decided a selection would have to be made from either a flower bed, a rustic summer house or a fountain. None of the ideas for the center of the park were ever completed.

When the Iron Company completed its work by 1904, it turned the park back over to the borough for its care. It was accepted as an “ornament to the town, a pleasant place for a little ramble or rest, and the admiration of visitors.” (May 18, 1904, The Punxsutawney Spirit)

The years that followed through the 20th century saw the addition of a bandstand in 1911. However, that bandstand was a wooden, octagonal, gazebo-style one and

was placed in the northwest corner of the park near the Pantall Hotel.

In 1931, a movement was begun by the local Kiwanis Club to erect a “memorial band shell” in Barclay Square. A promising site for its location would be the center of the “oval” in the park. The familiar Memo-

- Continued on page 21

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continued from page 16

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30

OPEN FOR LUNCH AT 11 A.M.

FIREMEN'S DAY - Activities in the park

GAME COMMISSION INTERACTIVE DAILY

BALLOON ARTS 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

WEATHER DISCOVERY INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES

EXOTIC EDVENTURES LIVE ANIMAL SHOW

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THE AVENUE

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KIDZ ZONE & CHARACTERS IN THE PARK DAILY

GAME COMMISSION INTERACTIVE DAILY

BALLOON ARTS 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

EXOTIC EDVENTURES LIVE ANIMAL SHOW

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LANDSHARKS BEACH BOYS TRIBUTE
5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

...



LANDSHARKS JIMMY BUFFET TRIBUTE
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

...

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Years Later, I Eat a Hotdog with Dad on the Boardwalk

By Mary Ellen Pollock-Raneri for Hometown magazine

Typically, my folks and I always traveled to relatives' houses for the summer pilgrimage. My aunt and uncle lived in Michigan, Wheeling and Ohio, and typically we drove there for a week in the summertime. It was so much fun! My aunt, who was a cook, made me spaghetti and meatballs (my favorite food). She bought me a doll, and I got to



see the beach for the first time when I went to Saginaw, Michigan. I remember standing on the fringe of the lake, and I recall gazing out over water that seemed to stretch out forever.

Digging my toes into the soft sand on that overcast day, I managed to pry out a tiny conch-shaped seashell that I kept for such a long time and showed to all my friends. The shell remained in a special box in my drawer, and I pulled it out occasionally when I wanted to remember that day with my aunt and uncle and my mom and dad.

One summer, however, Dad saved up for the GIGANTIC vacation of all times – a trip to Atlantic City to the beach. I remember seeing the pride on my father's face as he showed Mom and me the

money he saved for the pilgrimage. "Mary! Lucy! Come on down here," my father shouted from the basement.

Curious, Mom and I looked at each other and shrugged our shoulders and sighed, hoping that Dad wasn't going to point out a bat that had managed to escape into the house via the chimney flue. He had kind of an urgent tone to his voice that prompted Mom to grab the tennis racket.

As soon as we got downstairs, Mom and I saw Dad standing at the end of the big bar that ran the length of the basement. A quart canning jar sat on the counter in front of him – filled with quarters. He had another jar, too, that was almost filled.

All in all, Daddy had hidden his quarters for a long time and had collected over 200 dollars for the vacation. Back then, in 1963, it was a lot of money! So, Mom and Dad planned the big summer vacation. I was seven years old, and it was the biggest trip I had ever taken.

It was the first time I had even seen the ocean. I didn't go out too far without my father; he usually held my hand and took me in to jump waves with him. I remember his aqua colored swimming trunks were almost ripped off of him from the strength of the ocean. As usual, my dad just laughed, cinched his shorts a little tighter, and we went into the water a little farther.

Most of the time, I sat near the edge of

- Continued on page 25

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Thursday, July 22 at 12:30 pm

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FRIDAY, JULY 2 OPEN FOR LUNCH AT 11 A.M.

TOT TROT 10:30 a.m.
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- GAME COMMISSION INTERACTIVE DAILY**
- KIDZ ZONE DAILY**
- BALLOON ARTS 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.**
- EXOTIC EDVENTURES LIVE ANIMAL SHOW**
TWO SHOWS DAILY at 2 p.m. & 4 p.m.



MAXIMUM VOLTAGE - AC/DC TRIBUTE 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

The ultimate tribute to AC/DC, from Pittsburgh, PA! Members are Lead Guitar - Mike Moscato/Angus; Lead Vocals - Monty Belpuliti/Bon and Brian; Bass/vocals - Ron Stone/Cliff; Rhythm Guitar/vocals - Troy Luketic/Malcolm and Drums/vocals - Rich Ponsonby/Phil.

YINZ N' ROSES
7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
 Steel City rockers pay homage to one of their favorite bands and musical inspirations, Guns N' Roses, with their tribute band, Yinz n' Roses!



SATURDAY, JULY 3 OPEN FOR LUNCH AT 11 A.M.

MOTORCYCLE CRUISE-IN DAY
starting at 11 a.m.
 Parking for bikes only on South Jefferson Street, Punxsutawney. Enter from East Mahoning Street. First 100 bikes will receive a pin.



- GAME COMMISSION INTERACTIVE DAILY**
- KIDZ ZONE DAILY**
- BALLOON ARTS 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.**

continued on page 22

Barclay Square

Continued from page 17

rial Bandstand of our time was built in 1932, financed by public subscriptions and the consolidation of several community funds.

Before it was built, regular Friday evening band concerts were performed in the center of the "oval" grass area of the park in a temporary structure built large enough to accommodate a band of 50 pieces.



The most recent major renovations to Barclay Square were between 1976 and 1979. The view from the top of Mahoning Towers shows the relocation of Civil War cannons and the Indian mill stone to a new Heritage Area, front and center of the park. The improvements included new park lights and sidewalks, as well as landscaping. (Hometown file photo)

There were some objections to the stone bandstand to be placed in the center of the park and marring that eye-filling, wide-open green space. The townsfolk were urged, again, to offer "kindly treatment" in their civic responsibility in using the park. "Prove that you appreciate what is being done by treating the grass and shrubbery with consideration." (October 27, 1932, The Punxsutawney Spirit)

It was on November 11, 1932 that the bandstand was officially dedicated as a Memorial Bandstand for all who lost lives in wars from American Revolutionary War up to and including World War I (the last war at that time). Today, the memorial bandstand is the focus of the park and the center of many activities and services.

In July 1936, an Indian mill stone was formally dedicated to a place in Barclay Square as a special event on the opening day of a huge Central Pennsylvania Fireman's convention. There for nearly 40 years, the huge stone sank below ground and was discovered by accident during a 1976 renovation of the park. It was relocated in 1979 to a spot near the Heritage Area, to speak for the rich Native American history of Punxsutawney - its name of "Indian origin."

Also, displayed in the Heritage Area are two Civil War cannons that were received in 1897 courtesy of Civil War veterans in the E.H. Little G.A.R. Post. Mounted originally on blocks of wood in the park and put aside during the 1901-1904 improvements, they were mounted on carriages and placed in the park in 1910 on the northeast and northwest corners, dedicated to "Peace."

The need for a new municipal building in Punxsutawney was met when the Mahoning East Civic Complex was completed and dedicated in 1974. The new complex of interconnected buildings was erected to combine diverse Punxsutawney civic functions into one site.

Plans for the new facility included the closing of that portion of South Penn Street between East Mahoning Street and East Union Street that separated Barclay Square from the houses and older business block that was to be cleared. The closed borough street became a "plaza" that visually and physically connects the new with the old. In the plan, the landscaping of the new site was to blend the new complex with the beautiful park with its green grass and trees and many community activities.

There is no spot in Punxsutawney that has such a long and interesting history as that of Punxsutawney's Barclay Square, to be recognized in 2021 for 200 years of existence. It has been protected by generations of Punxsutawney's proud citizens for what it was intended to be.

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continued from page 20

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Thur., July 8 • 7:10 p.m.

GIVEAWAY RULES

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- Guess the winning team and the total number of points you think will be scored in the **Pirates vs. Mets Game** and enter the guesses in the spaces provided on the coupon.
- Enter one of the participating advertisers on this page in the space provided to redeem your coupon should you be the contest winner.
- Clip and forward the coupon to: Penguins Hockey Contest, c/o Hometown magazine, 129 Aspen Road, Punxsutawney, PA 15767. **PLEASE MARK YOUR TEAM PICK & TOTAL POINTS ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE ENVELOPE.**
- All entries must be received by 4 p.m. **Tuesday, June 29.**
- No purchase necessary to participate. All entries must be original magazine coupon (no photocopies).
- In the event two or more contestants correctly pick the winning team and total number of points, one winner will be randomly selected and awarded the winning prize. In event two or more contestants tie for closest to the total score, one winner will be randomly selected to win the \$20 certificate. Each issue we will give one \$20 certificate.
- Hometown magazine retains the right to make any final decisions regarding the contest, and by submitting an entry, contestants agree to abide by the rules of the contest.

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Siblings In Service: An Adams Update

By Marty Armstrong
for Hometown magazine

Following the WWII service profile of Clair, Mervin and Boyd Adams in Hometown Issue # 244, the story of their sister, Doris Ruth Adams Smouse, came to light, thanks to her daughters Minnie and Jenny. Doris, who lives with her daughter Jenny, shared with her children much of what life during WWII was like for family members at home. Daughter Minnie provided the following information:

Doris, daughter of James Irvin and Florence Hawk Adams, born and raised in Dora just outside of Punxsutawney, remembers the changes for women during WWII. As the United States became involved in the war, many homes were left without fathers, husbands, brothers and sons.

Doris recalls shortages of everything. Because of the shortages she was taught to preserve every scrap of food. Her family canned everything from fruit and vegetables to meat. Most of the produce was grown in her family's own garden. She remembers huge pieces of linen being laid in the lawn and pieces of fruit laid upon it to dry. The family foraged for wild berries and herbs that they hung to dry for teas and medicines; her grandmother was the family pharmacist. Her family made most of their own clothing and bedding. Nothing went to waste. Any scrap tin or rubber was collected for government use in recycling to make war necessities.

She watched her father's trucking business struggle as his sons Clair, Mervin and Boyd, who worked for him, went to war. In addition to her brothers, her fiancé Merle Ward Smouse, who also worked for her father, enlisted in the Navy and left. Merle's brother Raymond Smouse came to help Doris's father during that time. Raymond was married and the government was not asking married men to enlist yet.

Prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor on De-

ember 7, 1941, women were mostly homemakers or employed in traditional jobs like nurses and teachers. With so many men being away from home and out of the workforce it left openings and opportunities for women in the workforce. They could now fill jobs previously held only by men. The war department supported campaigns to encourage women to fill these positions. The percentage of the female work force in the U.S. was nearly 37% between 1940 and 1945. Almost one in four married women were employed out of the home.

In a recent telephone conversation, Minnie related that her mother worked at the Sylvania plant in Brookville during the war. The plant, like many others, had switched to production of essential wartime items. In Sylvania's case, workers produced tubes for military radios. With many men in the service, the "Rosie the Riveter" phenomenon spread across the U.S.,



Doris Ruth Snyder and Merle Ward Smouse
The couple is pictured in their engagement photograph following Merle's enlistment in the U.S. Navy, March 20, 1944. Merle trained at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center and was stationed overseas at New Guinea and, later, the Admiralty Islands in the Pacific. During that time his submarine chaser ship was attacked and he and others were forced to jump from the ship. Severely wounded by shrapnel, Merle's location was unknown for a time before he was identified and treated. The couple were married July 3, 1948 at the church in Dora. Collection of Smouse family.

even in small Jefferson County communities.

The Sequel

Although most assumed the working women of WWII, when servicemen returned to civilian life, would themselves return to their traditional work at home—and many did—others saw futures for women in the workplace and in military service. My Lynn Smouse, the next generation, daughter of Doris Ruth and Merle Ward Smouse has served our country in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve during the late 1970s later transferring to a U.S. Army National Guard medical unit where she could practice her nursing profession. Merle Jacob Smouse, brother to Jenny and Minnie, served with the U.S. Army during the Vietnam era, following the path of father and uncles.

The next installment of "Siblings in Service" will feature five siblings, three men and two women, who served our country in the military during WWII.

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Years Later

Continued from page 19

the water and played with a shovel and a bucket. My swimming suit had enough sand in the bottom of it to fill a small sand box, but I didn't care. The sky was blue and dotted with kites. Transistor radios played music and the song "Sunny," by Bobby Helm, drifted from folks' summer compounds under big yellow beach umbrellas.

A guy on the beach yelled, "Git yer Fudgie-Wudgies!"

Naturally, my father got one for me. In fact, my father bought me every kind of snack or food imaginable from that long boardwalk. We spent so much time strolling up and down that stretch of old wooden planks. Shell shops and little stores sold brightly colored towels, and straw hats provided an escape from the heat. Funny tee-shirts flapped in the ocean breeze. Small shops were littered with Atlantic City trinkets, strands of baubles, beach bags and ashtrays made from seashells and pretty glass.

Sometimes, my folks and I stopped at the Mr. Peanut store where a guy dressed like the Planters Peanut Man would greet everyone. Other times, we watched a thin man with the most muscular arms I have ever seen at the fudge store. From the window, we could see him stir and cut the fudge as it lay on a big piece of white marble. His arms were like propellers as he twisted the fudge this way and that.

Yes, there were hamburger joints, french fry booths, pizza parlors and ice cream

stands. You could have anything you wanted! It was a kid's paradise. But my favorite place in paradise, just like my father's, was the little hot dog shop. I barely came up to the counter, but I sure knew what I wanted to eat. I always asked for the same thing: a hotdog with lots of ketchup. My father got one, too. I watched his big hands pull out some change from his pocket to pay the tired fast-food clerk. Then, Dad would squirt some ketchup on our hotdogs, and we would stroll up the boardwalk to find my mother, who was shopping, but not buying anything in particular.

One time, after many days of snacks and hotdogs, Dad posed the question to me, "Mary, wanna get a hotdog?"

I shook my head, "No," that day. I guess the all the vacation treats had finally caught up with me.

Laughing his big hearty laugh, my father just held my hand, and we kept walking up that long boardwalk with the sun and the seagulls, the smell of fried food, the music and the pretty colors everywhere.

Usually in the summertime, I smile and remember those warm vacation days from long ago, and I think of my father. I want to run to the place where we ate, to the same shop that was decorated with orange towels, dark glasses and summer hats. I want to hold my father's hand and stay close to him, so I don't get lost. I want to listen to crackling radios play from the beach blankets and listen to the barker sell balloons and ice cream. And, even though he is gone, I still eat a hotdog with my father on the boardwalk.

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PAH Announces Addition to General Surgery Team

Punxsutawney Area Hospital is excited to announce Dr. Olga Zhadan as the newest member to the General Surgery Team.

Dr. Zhadan completed the master of science program at the Dnipropetrovsk Medical Academy of Health Ministry of Ukraine. She obtained her medical degree from Dnipropetrovsk State Medical Academy, where she graduated first in a class of 161 students. She completed residencies at Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine in Boca Raton, FL, St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, NJ, Abington Memorial Hospital in Abington, PA, and Dnipropetrovsk State Medical Academy in Ukraine.

Dr. Zhadan is a member of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons and a member of the American College of Surgeons. She has received numerous awards from DSMA in General Surgery, Pathological Physiology, Biochemistry and Histology. She is certified in Robotic DaVinci Surgical System, Fundamentals of Endoscopic Skills and Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Skills. She has received the Outstanding Medical Knowledge Program Director's Award for ABSITE performance at Florida Atlantic University in 2019.



Dr. Olga Zhadan. Submitted photo.

Dr. Olga Zhadan has extensive research experience in breast reconstruction outcome improvements, gastroesophageal reflux disease in patients with pulmonary diseases, treatment of acute necrotizing pancreatitis and the analysis of normal and abnormal development of cardiovascular systems.

Dr. Zhadan is the author of various publications and abstracts, which include articles in the Handbook of Pediatric Surgery and the Ukrainian Scientific Medical Youth Journal.

Outside of the hospital Dr. Zhadan enjoys reading, listening to music and watching movies.

"Coming to Punxsutawney Area Hospital I was hoping to join the established practice with the opportunities to practice a wide range of General Surgery, including endoscopies.

The friendly PAH staff have exceeded all my expectations, and I immediately felt a part of a reliable, highly professional team. The beautiful town of Punxsutawney has impressed me with the colorful nature and pleasant people. I am happy to be a part and serve the community," stated Dr. Zhadan.

For more information about Dr. Olga Zhadan or to set up an appointment, contact the General Surgery office at the Punxsutawney Area Hospital by calling 814-938-7045.

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“From Our Past,” researched by S. Thomas Curry, features items of interest from past editions of Punxsutawney and area newspapers.

June 13, 1888 — A western paper notes with surprise that several hundred Hungarians have left Punxsutawney. It thinks the town’s name would have attracted them if nothing else. Thus does the outside world continue to advertise this town. (The Punxsutawney Spirit)

June 16, 1886 — A.B. Barr, proprietor of the St. Elmo Hotel, wishes us to state to the people of Punxsutawney and vicinity that there will be balloon ascensions and a grand display of fireworks from the hotel on the evening of July 3. (Valley News) [NOTE: Valley News was re-named as Punxsutawney News on June 8, 1887.]

June 17, 1885 — Punxsutawney is going to have a big, banging Fourth of July this year. What has developed in this line is a general Fourth of July demonstration on the public square on the evening of the approaching holiday. Seventy-five dollars worth of fire-works have been purchased by a number of wide-

awake uptown citizens and they propose making things rattle for a time in the evening. The display will embrace all the latest attractions in pyrotechnic art. It will be free as water - everybody can enjoy it. (The Punxsutawney Spirit)

June 23, 1870 — Our town is filled with melodious strains every few evenings, by the excellent music of the Cornet Band. It makes things appear lively and cheerful. The musicians have our thanks for an especial favor. (Punxsutawney Plaindealer)

June 30, 1897 — The newly organized fire company will celebrate American independence on Monday, July 5 with a usual program for amusements for the daytime and fireworks at night. (Punxsutawney News)

July 5, 1899 — A novel band from Eleanora helped to make the air blossom with melody here on the Fourth. It was composed of about twenty flutes and piccolos, together with a bass and a tenor drum. It produced very agreeable music. So far as we know it is the only band of its kind on earth. (The Punxsutawney Spirit)

...

Lattimer House Opens

The Punxsutawney Area Historical and Genealogical Society is pleased to announce the opening of the Lattimer House, at 400 West Mahoning Street, to the public beginning June 17, 2021. The Lattimer House services that will be available include the Gift Shop, the Groundhog History Exhibit and the Genealogy Service. The Lattimer House will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

The Society has restructured the services offered in the Tibby Library and the Winslow Genealogy Room. An index to the collection of obituaries has been placed on the Society’s web page, punxsyhistory.org, enabling researchers to determine if the information they

need is available prior to their visit. Researchers will find several of the Society’s information sources are now in digital format.

Due to limited space, the Tibby Library and the Winslow Genealogy Room will be reserved for individuals engaged in genealogy research. Advanced appointments are required for researchers. Appointments may be made by calling the Society at 814-938-2555 between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Thursday through Sunday beginning June 17.

The Punxsutawney Area Coal Memorial continues to be available to visitors from dawn to dusk at 404 West Mahoning Street.

The Society looks forward to opening the Bennis House, at 401 West Mahoning Street, later this year.

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Saturday, July 17

4 p.m. - Carcass Judging

Sunday, July 18

10 a.m. - Deadline for arrival of 4-H & vocational market animals
12 p.m. - Garden Tractor Pulls
12 p.m. - Deadline for arrival of all swine, sheep, goat, and horse entries
12-4 p.m. - Rabbit entries received
1 - 5 p.m. - Poultry cooping
1:30 p.m. - Opening Ceremonies
2:30 p.m. - Royalty Pageant

Monday, July 19

9 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Poultry cooping
9 a.m. - General exhibits judging
9 a.m. - Miniature horse timed & special
10 a.m. - Rabbit judging
12 p.m. - Deadline for arrival of all other livestock entries
5:45 p.m. - 4-H & vocational market sheep & goat & breeding sheep & goat shows; open to follow
6 p.m. - Special baking contest judging followed by sale of items: chocolate cakes and junior baking contest
7 p.m. - Truck & Tractor Pull

Tuesday, July 20

9 a.m. - Draft & mini horse show & performance horse halter show
10 a.m. - Poultry judging
5:45 pm - 4-H & vocational market swine shows & breeding swine; open to follow
6 p.m. - Special baking contest judging followed by sale of items: angel food cakes and apple pies contest
7 p.m. - Truck & Tractor Pull

Wednesday, July 21

Family Day \$5 Admission

10 a.m. - Performance horse riding show
10 a.m. - Dairy show for all breeds
5:45 p.m. - 4-H & vocational beef, dairy feeders & dairy beef, heifers
6 p.m. - Special recipe baking contest judging followed by sale of items
7 p.m. - Keystone Mini-Rod Tractor Pullers Association

Thursday, July 22

9:30 a.m. - Open horse games show
7 p.m. - 4H & vocational livestock sale
7 p.m. - Mud Bog, Trucks & Cars
7 p.m. - 4H/FFA Livestock Sale

Friday, July 23

10 a.m. - Youth/adult horse fun shows
7 p.m. - Premier showman contest
7 p.m. - Rawhide Rodeo

Saturday, July 24

10 a.m. - Memorial horse show - sign up at the fair
7 p.m. - Demo Derby

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All information subject to change
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*See rules on the Jefferson County Fair at website, www.jeffcofair.com



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LOCAL AREA FUNERAL NOTICES



Helen L. Frederick
of Litchfield Park, Arizona,
formerly of Punxsutawney
September 3, 1923 - May 16, 2021



Helen was a member of the Cloe United Methodist Church. She is survived by a son, Gary Frederick, a daughter, Gail (James) Rankin, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Oscar and Mary (Gould) Lydic, her husband, George Frederick and two brothers, Lauren "Brownie" Lydic and Ladell Lydic.

McCabe Funeral Home Inc.
www.mccabewaldronfh.com

Kathleen "Kathi" D. Cessna
of Punxsutawney
December 19, 1949 - May 20, 2021

Kathi graduated from Clarion University in 1971 with a Bachelor of Science in elementary education. She furthered her education in 1997



with an Associate in Science from Penn State University with a focus on human development and family studies. This degree was especially meaningful as she shared the graduation stage with her daughter, Keri.

Kathi taught and worked with children her entire life.

She attended the Punxsutawney Presbyterian Church where she was an active member for 50 years. She was a deacon, Sunday school teacher and head of Christian education. She was instrumental in preparing "flight bags" providing patients and loved ones comfort items while being transported between hospitals.

She was a loving and devoted wife, mother and grandmother who was happiest when surrounded by family. She loved baking and cooking. Kathi enjoyed her garden, her flowers, reading and relaxing with her husband, Richard and their four cats.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Richard B. Cessna; daughter, Keri (Matt) Isenberg; a son, James Cessna; four grandchildren, Kaitlyn Cessna, Olivia Isenberg, Kellan Cessna and Christian Cessna; a sister, Margaret (Rick) Underwood; a brother, John Dougherty; a mother-in-law, Betty Cessna; and numerous extended family members.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Augustus C. and Evelyn (Kramer) Dougherty, and her beloved Uncle John and Aunt Mady.

McCabe Funeral Home Inc.
www.mccabewaldronfh.com

Lawrence L. "Larry" Johnson
of Rochester Mills
December 21, 1951 - May 23, 2021

Larry was a graduate of Marion Center High School. He served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War from 1971 to 1975.



He enjoyed tinkering in his garage, working on his old cars and watching the Steelers and Penguins.

He worked for PennDOT and retired with them after twenty plus years.

He is survived by two children, daughter Linda (Mike) Snyder and son Bradley Johnson; a grandson, Brandon Snyder and Tessa Temchulla; his cousins "The Johnson Brothers" and a niece, Tara (Scott) Sarver.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Donna E. Smith, his parents, Betty Jane (McMillen) and Luther W. Johnson, and a sister, Cathy Thompson.

Deeley Funeral Home, Inc.
www.deeleyfuneralhome.com

Esther (Major) Myers Kovalyak
of Punxsutawney
November 16, 1916 - May 25, 2021

Esther married her husband, Joe Benda (whom she met at the Borden Ice Cream Factory in New York City). Together they raised one daughter, JoAnn Benda.

She was Catholic in faith. Esther was a wonderful storyteller and never left out a single detail as she told friends and caregivers many stories of her being raised in New York City. Up until the time of her death, Esther could recall addresses in New York City of places where she had lived, worked and went on dates with her husband.

She talked many times of surviving the 1918 influenza pandemic (Spanish Flu), and she said over and over, "I survived that pandemic, and I will survive this current one!"

Esther held many jobs over the years, including working at the Borden Ice Cream factory in New York City and serving as a caretaker for many people in the Punxsutawney area.

She is survived by her daughter, JoAnn Benda; her nieces, Betty and Janet; her nephews, David Myers and Ricky Major; as well as many special friends including Cindi Bochert McCrobie, Connie Geroskey and Laura Mesoraco. She also became close friends with many of her caretakers who all cared greatly for her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Karl (Major) Myers and Elizabeth (Fajvan) Myers; her first husband Joe Benda; her second husband Fred Kovalyak and her best friend Lelia Smith.

Richard L. Fait Funeral Home
www.faitfuneralhome.com

Robert Allen McQuown, Sr.
of Punxsutawney
April 27, 1959 - May 29, 2021

He was born to Blair A. and Monajeane (Hoover) McQuown in Punxsutawney.

Bob most recently was a greens keeper at the Punxsutawney Country Club; he formerly was



self-employed with Bob's Tree Removal. He enjoyed hunting, playing the drums, coin collecting and spending time with his children and great-grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife, Betty (Frampton) McQuown; two sons, Robert (Heather) A. McQuown, Jr. and Kevin (Angela) C. McQuown; six grandchildren, Samantha McQuown, Shawn McQuown, Brianna McQuown, Ashlyn Christian, Wyatt McQuown and Camille McQuown; three great-grandchildren; a brother, Denny (Patricia) McQuown; two sisters, Cindy Smith and Jackie Dybata.

McCabe Funeral Home Inc.
www.mccabewaldronfh.com

Mary Louise Bell of Punxsutawney
March 10, 1922 - June 2, 2021

Her Spirit is carried on by her five children, James (Sherri) Bell, Lee (Marsha) Bell, Patricia (Terry) Carl, John (Janice) Bell and Carol (Rick) Skillington, 13 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and three more on the way. She is also survived by her sister-in-law, Mary Ellen Sladden, as well as eight



nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband Blaine, she was preceded in death by her parents, Florence and Walter Lloyd, her brother William Lloyd, sister Betty Bell, brother-in-law Emory Bell, as well as sister-in-law Joy (Sam) States.

As a stay-at-home mom, she was always on the go. She gave in so many ways, whether helping an elderly neighbor, delivering Meals on Wheels or serving God in various roles at St. Peter's United Church. She was also Cub Scout leader, Girl Scout leader, Girl Scout Neighborhood chairperson, treasurer of the PAHGS and a member of PTA and AFS. She was recognized as Punxsutawney Woman of the Year in 1978.

Richard L. Fait Funeral Home
www.faitfuneralhome.com

Velma M. Snyder of Ringgold
June 8, 1929 - June 3, 2021

Velma was employed at Rolo Jensen and attended the Grange Church of God. She enjoyed flowers, crocheting, shopping, baking and going for Sunday afternoon rides.

Surviving relatives include a nephew, Carl (Bonnie) Shick; four nieces, Geraldine Graham, Ruth (Joe) Defelice, Linda (Bill) Doverspike and Bernice (Jim) Esposito; and special friends Vaughn and Donna Shoemaker and their son, Curtis.

In addition to her parents, Elsie Garnett (Brocius) and Carl C. Snyder, she was preceded in death by two sisters, Betty Snyder and Dorothy Shick and a brother, Byron C. "Poppy" Snyder.

Deeley Funeral Home, Inc.
www.deeleyfuneralhome.com

Dora Kay Beatty of Mahaffey
June 21, 1953 - June 6, 2021

She was born to Herman and Gloria (Starr) Crotsley in Huntingdon.

She attended Banner Ridge Church. She enjoyed many jobs over the years. She collected tea pots and metal lunch boxes and loved watching old western TV shows.

She is survived by her husband of 42 years, Richard M. Beatty of Mahaffey; two sons, Douglas R. Beatty and Timothy B. Beatty; a sister, Stella (Joe) Macey; a brother, Jerome Crotsley; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Waldron Funeral Home Inc.
www.mccabewaldronfh.com

Jacqueline D. Smith of Punxsutawney
February 19, 1947 - June 8, 2021

She enjoyed canning, horseback riding with her sister, her pets and talking on the phone with friends and family.

She was employed by Rolo Jensen and BFG Manufacturing in Punxsutawney.

She is survived by two children, daughter Kimberly (Shawn) D. Schaffron and son Brian (Shirl) E. Smith; two sisters, Lana (Russell) Bowser and Lauri Brillhart.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Betty J. (Limrick) Brillhart Russell and Thomas Russell.

Deeley Funeral Home, Inc.
www.deeleyfuneralhome.com

Rita Geist

November 4, 1931 - June 12, 2021

Rita married George Geist on June 6, 1953, and they lived on a small farm for 52 years. They both retired from Loree Footwear of Big Run. He preceded her in death July 2, 2005.



Rita was a devoted wife, mother, and 'NaNa' to her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She also was a loved Aunt to many nieces and nephews. In her later years she had developed a special bond with her niece, Joyce Voytus.

She is survived by her daughters: Georgann (Rodney) Reiter, Loree (Christopher) Danch, Her grandchildren: Eric (Jennifer) Reiter, Deandra (Patrick) Henahan and Derise (Preston) Anderson and great grandsons Daytin Anderson and Callan Henahan.

She is also survived by her sisters: Rose (Andrew) Metaerko and Jean (Thomas) Thompson, and her brothers: Ronald (Jenny) Strano and James (Peggy) Strano.

She was preceded in death by her parents Elizabeth and James Strano and sisters Deloris Rishel, Josephine Turner, Betty Lou Mallory, and Pauline Katus.

McCabe Funeral Home Inc.
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Joseph Smatlak of Punxsutawney
February 25, 1929 - June 14, 2021

Joseph graduated from Johnstown High School and worked at Bethlehem Steel. He was a medic during the Korean War. He graduated from California University of PA with a degree in Industrial Arts Education and from IUP with a master's degree in Guidance Counseling. He worked for the Punxsutawney School District as an Industrial Arts teacher and Guidance Counselor for thirty-five years.

He was involved in the Punxsutawney Church of God, serving on the Board of Trustees, Stewardship Secretary, Church Treasurer, Sunday School Teacher and Building Fund Chairman.

He is survived by his son Jim (Brenda) Smatlak; sisters Millie Shultis and Ruth (Mark) Walton; a brother Rev. Ken Smatlak and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his wife Betty (Nicholson) Smatlak and parents Anna (Payerchin) and John Smatlak, he was preceded in death by a daughter Carol, as well as siblings John, Paul, Mike and Edward Smatlak, Mary Durica, Anne Cole, Margaret Sipka, Dorothy Saltsman and Betty Smatlak.

Deeley Funeral Home, Inc.
www.deeleyfuneralhome.com

Please visit the website of the funeral homes listed to view complete obituary, sign their guestbook, plant a tree and offer your condolences.

If you have a loved one who has passed away and would like to publish it in Hometown Magazine, please contact us at hometown@punxsutawneymagazine.com or call 814-952-3668.

Hometown Community Happenings

By the staff of Hometown magazine

From the staff of Hometown magazine and the Community Calendar at Punxsutawney.com, here is a list of events coming up in our area:

At press time, places and events were opening due to the lifting of the Coronavirus restrictions. Please check with the host organization's website or Facebook page for up-to-date information.

■ The Punxsutawney Rotary Club's Multiphasic Testing will be July 10 and 17 at PAHS. Check www.punxsyrotary.com or the club's Facebook page for registration information.

■ Hometown Pirates baseball contest The Pirates were beaten by the Dodgers with a final score of 6 to 3. Heather Lellock won the tie breaker with an 8 point total points entry. Heather wishes to redeem her gift card at McDonald's.

■ The Punxsutawney Farmers Market will be open from 9 a.m. to noon every Friday through the summer on South Findley St., sponsored by Punxsutawney Chamber of Commerce.

■ Through Aug. 18: Summer Food Service program for children age 18 and under by Punxsutawney Area School District. Free breakfasts and lunches will be distributed at several locations in and around Punxsutawney. Contact the school district for times and locations.

■ The Weather Discovery Center was planning to open on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact the center for admission prices.

■ June 19: Coolspring Power Museum Expo & Flea Market, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., there is an admission charge.

■ June 20-26: Groundhog Festival at Yoder's Antique Mall with fun and entertainment for the whole family. Check the schedule in this edition of Hometown or punxsutawneygroundhogfestival.com or its Facebook page for more information.

■ June 24-27: Laurel Eye Monsters

Mega Rock Festival at Jefferson Co. Fairgrounds. Go to www.laurelconcert.com for information.

■ June 26: Girl Scout Space Science Day for Daisies, Brownies and Juniors at Weather Discovery Center, 10 a.m. to noon for Brownies and Juniors; 1 to 3 p.m. for Daisies. Cost \$15.

■ June 26-July 3: Festival in the Park at Barclay Square. Activities and entertainment for the whole family. Sponsored by the Punxsutawney Chamber of Commerce. See the schedule in this edition of Hometown for events.

■ June 26-July 3: Punxsutawney Memorial Library closed for staff training workshops.

■ June 27: Punxsutawney Lions Club Cruise In, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at CNB parking lot. \$10 donation. Benefits Punxsutawney Canine Unit.

■ July 2: Red Cross blood drive, noon to 6 p.m. at Punxsutawney VFW Community Social Hall, Maple Avenue, Punxsutawney. Donate Blood in memory of Joe Rougeux. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Punxy to schedule an appointment. Appointments are suggested, but walk-ins will be taken as well. Red Cross hats will be given away from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Benefits American Red Cross.

■ July 2 & 3: Grange's Helping Hands free clothing, Friday, noon to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Grange Church of God. Please wear a mask.

■ July 3 & 4: Hazen Flea Market, open at 7 a.m. at Warsaw Township Fire Co. grounds.

■ July 4: Independence Day! Celebrate the USA!

■ July 4: Fish for Free Day in PA, sponsored by the PA Fish & Boat Commission. No license needed for fishing today.

■ July 5-9: Camp Good News day camp, held by Child Evangelism Fellowship. \$45 for week. Call 814-938-9206 for registration information.

■ July 8: Music in the Park, 6:30-8:30 p.m., features Heather Olson, Patsy Cline tribute artist and The Silver Eagle Band, country, classic rock and oldies. Bring your lawn chair, snacks available. In case of inclement weather, shows will be at the Punxsutawney Area Community Center.

■ July 9 -10: Autism & Special Needs Fundraiser, sponsored by Pennsylvania Rural Artworks at Reynlow Park. Opens at 4 p.m. on Friday and 11 a.m. on Saturday.

■ July 10-11: Airshow at the Jimmy Stewart Airport, Indiana, opens 9 a.m. There is an admission charge.

■ July 12: Antlerless deer license sales begin. Check the PA Game Commission website for more information.

■ July 13: Blood drive, 1 to 6 p.m. at Reynoldsville Fire Department. Benefits American Red Cross.

■ July 17: History Day & The Antique Car, Truck & Tractor Show, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Coolspring Power Museum. There is an admission charge. See the museum's website for current information.

■ July 18: Coolspring Power Museum open, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is an admission charge.

■ July 18-24: Jefferson County Fair, Brookville. Fun, food and activities for the

whole family.

■ July 22: Blood Drive, noon to 5:30 p.m. at Sykesville Town Hall. Benefits American Red Cross.

■ July 22: Music in the Park, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Mikey Dee, all style, polka and variety music. Bring a lawn chair, snacks will be available. Shows will be at the Punxsutawney Area Community Center in case of bad weather.

■ July 23: Blood Drive, 2 to 7 p.m. at Cobblestone Hotel & Suites, Punxsutawney. Benefits American Red Cross.

■ July 29: Music in the Park, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Anything Goes Again, classic soft rock. Bring a lawn chair, snacks available. Shows will be at the Punxsutawney Area Community Center in case of bad weather.

■ Watch for Music in The Park events in August!

■ Fairs are returning! Sykesville Ag & Youth Fair in August; Dayton Fair, Aug. 15-21; Indiana County Fair, Aug. 29-Sept. 4.

■ The Punxsutawney Memorial Library has re-opened the book stacks. Contact the library or visit its Facebook page for more information on what services are available.

...



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September 11
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