

Area Obituaries

Robert Fitzsimmons Forest City

Robert Fitzsimmons, 79, of Forest City, died Monday, Feb. 20, 2017, at home. His wife is the former Ruth Ann Zedar.

Born in July 10, 1937, Forest City, son of the late Francis and Alice Walsh Fitzsimmons, he was raised by his late aunt, Agnes Burns. Bob was a member of Ascension Parish, a graduate of St. Rose High School and a Navy veteran. He was a super basketball player at St. Rose High School, where he played on the Class "A" State Championship team in 1955. While in the Navy, Bob played against Armed Forces teams based throughout the Mediterranean Sea. After discharge he played ball on several local area amateur basketball teams.

Prior to retirement, Bob worked for Ames Shower Curtain Factory. He was an avid Penn State fan.

Also surviving are three children Robert, Forest City; Colleen, Forest City; and Erin, MD; three grandchildren, Ryan, Kevin, and Callie; a brother James, Forest City; a sister Carol Flynn and husband Patrick, Pleasant Mount; sisters in law, Dorothy Fitzsimmons, NY and Beverly Fitzsimmons, Brown Dale; several nieces and nephews.

Also preceded in death by brothers Joseph, Edward, and Thomas; and sisters Ann Turner, Rosemary Novak, and Alice Kulick.

A Mass of Christian burial was held Feb. 22 in St. Joseph's Church, Forest City. Interment, St. Agnes Cemetery.

Funeral arrangements by the Kevin M. Lesjack Funeral Home, Forest City.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice of the Sacred Heart.

Condolences: www.lesjackfuneralhome.com.

Joanne Yurchak Peckville

Joanne Yurchak, 78, died Saturday, Jan. 28, 2017, at Mid-Valley Health Care Center, Peckville.

Born in Carbondale, she was the daughter of the late Constantine and Mary Sokalsky Yurchak. She was a legal secretary at Howrey and Simon and Arent, Fox, Kintner, Plotkin and Kahn in Washington, D.C., before retirement.

Joanne was a member of St. Michael's Orthodox Church, Jermyn, and formerly of St. Mark's Orthodox Church, Bethesda, Md.

Joanne was a loving and devoted godmother to Nicholas DiEugenio, concert violinist and professor of violin at UNC-Chapel Hill; Justin Peck, resident choreographer and dancer of the New York City Ballet; and Jennifer Buckley, of Macedon, NY, teacher of English as a foreign language.

Joanne is survived by Martha Solitsky, aunt; and cousins, including Arlene Kutch and Linda Cucura, of Jermyn; Eileen Ciance, of Rochester, N.Y.; and John Jubinski, of Honolulu, Hawaii.

The funeral was held Feb. 2 in St. Michael's Orthodox Church, Jermyn, with the Very Rev John Kowalczyk officiating. Interment, St. Michael's Orthodox Cemetery, Jermyn. Arrangements, Battenberg Rinal Home, Jermyn.

Memorial contributions may be sent to St. Michael's Orthodox Church.



Rena L. Wellicka
Loyalsock Twp.

Rena L. Wellicka, 54 of Loyalsock Twp., passed away unexpectedly Monday, February 20, 2017 at UPMC Susquehanna's Williamsport Regional Medical Center.

Rena was born May 22, 1962, and was the daughter of the late Bernard D. and Irene R. (Kowalewski) Wellicka.

Rena was a graduate Forest City High School, where she was a standout basketball player. She then graduated from the University of Scranton with a bachelor's degree in accounting and worked for the Navy and Geisinger System Services. She continued her education, receiving a master's degree in business education from Bloomsburg University. She previously taught in the Sullivan County and Loyalsock Twp. school districts.

Rena is survived by her husband of 25 years, David B. Houseknecht; her three children, Christopher D., Jarrod D., and daughter, Marissa L. Wellicka Houseknecht, all at home. Her children were the center of her attention and her true pride and joy. She cherished time with each of them. Rena is also survived by a brother, Bernard D. Wellicka Jr.

Rena was currently a member of St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church, Williamsport, and previously a member of the Church of the Resurrection, Muncy. Rena was an avid knitter and skilled seamstress, two hobbies which became great passions. She also enjoyed reading. Rena was a caring and compassionate person who made anybody in her presence feel welcomed.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Friday, February 24, at the Church of the Resurrection, 75 Musser Lane, Muncy, with Rev. Glenn McCreary officiating.

Arrangements by the McCarty-Thomas Funeral Home, 557 E. Water St., Hughesville. Interment was in Resurrection Cemetery, Montoursville.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be made to the Lycoming County SPCA, 2805 Reach Road, Williamsport, PA 17701; or the Church of the Resurrection, 75 Musser Lane, Muncy, PA 17756.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family at www.mccartythomas.com.



Bernard B. "Gazda" Burnett Simpson

Bernard B. "Gazda" Burnett, 91, of Simpson, died Monday, February 20, 2017 at home.

Born in Simpson, son of the late George and Mary Fendrock Burnett, he attended Fell Twp. Schools and was a Navy veteran of World War II. He owned and operated B & B Casket Hardware Co., Dickson City.

He was a life member of VFW Post 4712, Simpson, and Carbondale Chapter 98 of the DAV. Bernard was a manager and trustee of the VFW post in Simpson. In addition to being a hardworking man, he loved spending time at Elk Lake with family and friends, sitting around the fire and singing old songs. He spent many hours in his boat enjoying his passion for fishing.

Surviving are a son, Thomas, Kennewick, Wash.; two daughters, Karen Ann and husband, John White II, Clifford; and Bernadette Lombardi, Waymart; four grandchildren, Melanie, Jessie, Matthew and Mariah; and three great-grandchildren, Brianna, Nathan and Bentley; and a brother, Paul Burnett, Eynon.

He was also preceded in death by three brothers, Andrew, George and Joseph; and four sisters, Mary Bakes, Ann Rogowski, Rose Gawron and Sophie Zukowski.

The funeral was Saturday, February 25 with Mass of Christian Burial in St. Michael's Church, 46 Midland St., Simpson. Interment with military honors at Indian-town Gap National Cemetery, Annville.

Arrangements are by the Joseph W. Scotchlas Funeral Home Inc., 621 Main St., Simpson. For condolences, visit www.scotchlasfuneralhome.com

FCAES cabbage/noodle/soup sale

Forest City Area Emergency Services is taking orders for Cabbage & Noodles for the following dates: Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 & Apr. 7. The cost is \$ 6 quart. Orders for Fridays must be placed by the Wed. afternoon before to guarantee availability. Call 570-785-5025 or 570-785-3226 to place order. Orders may be picked up between 11:30 am & 3:30 p.m.

They will also hold a Lenten soup sale of Manhattan Clam Chowder. The cost for a pint - \$3.50 and a quart is \$7. Call 570-785-5025 or 570-785-3226

Soup is available on March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 & April. 7 Pre-orders appreciated.



Margaret Malinski
Lakewood

Margaret Malinski, 82, of Lakewood, died Tuesday afternoon, February 21, 2017 at Wayne Woodlands Manor, Waymart. Her husband Walter Malinski died in 1989.

Born October 27, 1934 in Pleasant Mount, she was the daughter of the late Floyd and Minnie Wolfe Dunning. She was a graduate of Preston High School and a member of St. Juliana's Church. She was an avid reader and liked playing BINGO and word searches. She also enjoyed going to the Lakewood Senior Center.

The family would like to extend a sincere thank you to the staff at Wayne Woodlands Manor for the kind and compassionate care given to Margaret.

Surviving are five children Michelle Malinski, Sayre; Lorri Edwards, Rochester, NY; Frank Malinski, Lakewood, Lisbeth Chaffin, Montclair, VA; and Walter Malinski, Jr., Carbondale; three grandchildren, Ryan and Tyler Edwards, and Patrick Chaffin, three great grandchildren Killian, Kendall, and Kaedyn, nieces and nephews.

Also preceded in death by sisters Betty Evanitsky and Jean Kulesza

A Mass of Christian burial was held on February 24 in St. Juliana's Church, Rock Lake. Interment followed in St. Juliana's Cemetery.

Funeral arrangements by the Kevin M. Lesjack Funeral Home, Forest City.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to American Cancer Society or St. Juliana's Church.

Condolences: www.lesjackfuneralhome.com.



Leonard Dechnik Simpson

Leonard Dechnik, 86, formerly of Simpson died Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at the Forest City Nursing Center.

Born in Simpson, he was the son of the late John & Catharine Dechnik. He attended Fell Township Schools and had been employed by Simpson Casting Co. for many years. A fixture on the streets of Simpson, he was willing to help anyone in need.

Leonard was a member of St. Rose Parish, St. Michael's Church, Simpson. The family would like to thank the Forest City Assisted Living and Forest City Nursing Home Staffs, Dr. Tamra Bekele and Compassionate Care Hospice for their excellent care of Leonard. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by nieces and nephews including his caregivers, Matthew Urbas and Lenore McGowan.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Joseph & Chester and five sisters, Stasia, Josephine, Lenore, Amelia and Tillie.

The funeral was Saturday, February 25 from the Joseph W. Scotchlas Funeral Home, Inc., 621 Main St., Simpson, with Mass of Christian Burial in St. Michael's Church, 46 Midland St., Simpson. Interment in St. Michael's Cemetery.

For condolences visit: www.scotchlasfuneralhome.com.



William "Cy" Gillis
Forest City

William "Cy" Gillis, 96, of Forest City died Monday, Feb. 20, 2017, at the Forest City Nursing and Rehab Center. His loving wife of 61 years is the former Helen Romanczyk.

Born May 5, 1920 in Tommaqua, he was the son of the late William and Catherine Andrews Gillis. He was a member of Ascension Parish, a member of the Knights of Columbus and a 4th Degree Knight Council #1520, Carbondale. He was also an Army veteran having served with the 511 Army Parachute Infantry Regiment 11th Airborne Division. He participated in the occupation of Japan after the end of WWII.

Cy was a graduate of Pleasant Mount High School and the University of Scranton. He was a retired microbiologist and also received his certification as a Registered Medical Technologist (ASCP) from the Williamsport Hospital School of Medical Technology, which at that time was affiliated with Lycoming College. He did advance studies in microbiology at the Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, GA.

He was employed in the capacity of microbiologist for the Veterans Administration at Syracuse, Bath, and Castle Point, NY. He later transferred to the Department of Army where he was employed as Chief of Microbiology. While on the staff of Valley Forge he served as guest lecturer for career night at several high schools in the area. He participated in the Intensive Research Program of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. He presented papers in the field of Microbiology at seminars held by the Department of Army. Several of these papers were published in the Army Medical Journals.

While at Valley Forge, Cy was the recipient of the Department of Army Meritorious Civilian Service Award for his "achievements and in recognition of his extraordinary and noteworthy contributions to the field of microbiology." Upon closing of Valley Forge Medical Center he transferred to Ft. Belvoir De Witt Army Hospital, where he served as Chief of Chemistry. His last position before retirement was at supervising position at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington D.C.

He was a man of many interests and talents who traveled extensively with his wife. He was especially proud of his beautiful flower gardens and perfect lawn. He had a great interest in fishing and hunting. Cy especially loved to golf. He actively golfed at Memorial Links in the Red Schoolhouse Golf League until his 95th birthday. He was a former member of Elkview Country Club and a retired member of the Forest City Lions Club.

Cy was a great amateur photographer. During the late 1980's he received a top award in the summer snapshot contest sponsored by the Scranton Times. He went on to compete in the Kodak International Newspaper Snapshot Awards competition where his winning work went on display in New York, Boston, Detroit, Rochester and Pittsburgh. His exhibit was included in works of selected finalists from 181 newspapers from the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. From the prizewinning photos, his entry was selected by Kodak to be used in their advertising brochures.

In addition to his wife, Cy is survived by his son, Mark

at home; a sister-in-law, Anne Woodward, Greene, NY; nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews, great-great-nieces and nephews, and a great-great-nephew, and his beloved Westie's, Alvin and Payge. He also leaves behind his extended family, the David Thomas family whom he loved dearly. Although he had no grandchildren, Seth, Ben, and Vincent Thomas were loved as his grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by an infant son, Kevin Joseph, a sister, Eleanor Biancone, and brothers Albert, Nick, Edward, and Rev. Leonard L. Gillis.

Special thanks is extended to the staff at the Forest City Personal Care, Forest City Nursing and Rehab Center, caregivers of America, and especially Dr. David Tomazic for their compassionate care.

Private funeral services will be held at the convenience of the family. Arrangements are through the Kevin M. Lesjack Funeral Home, 513 Main Street, Forest City.

Condolences visit www.lesjackfuneralhome.com.

Photography class held in area

Photographer Sherry Sparks will offer a beginner/intermediate photography class March 20 to April 24, six Mondays, or March 19 to April 30, six Sundays, from 6 to 8 p.m. Mondays classes will be held at the Forest City Area Historical Society and you can bring your own refreshments, snacks and relax. Sundays will be held at The Summit, New Milford. Enjoy a drink, dinner or an appetizer during class if you choose and relax. The cost of classes is \$35.

You will learn how to use your camera, take better photos, editing, printing, showing and selling your work. Bring your camera and computer and questions!

For more information or to sign up contact Sherry Sparks at 570-442-1546 or email: endless@nep.net or message her on Facebook.

Chicken BBQ In B'dale Sun., April 2

The Brown Dale Fire Company will conduct its annual Spring Chicken BBQ on Sunday, April 2, 2017 at the Brown Dale Fire Station located on Route 247, 620 Marion Street, Brown Dale. The menu includes half a Chicken, Baked Potato, Brown Dale Green Beans, Home Made Cole Slaw, Roll & Butter and Dessert. The "drive through only" hours for serving are from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM.

Tickets are \$9.00 and are available from any member or at Tobacco Road, 607 Main St., Forest City (570-785-2123); Franceski Lumber Yard 900 Main St., Forest City (570-785-3516); Red Cross Pharmacy, 420 Main St., Forest City (570-785-5400); NAPA Auto Parts, 429 Main St., Forest City (570-785-9000) or by calling the fire station at 570-785-5300 and leave a message, visit our web site at www.43fire.com or our Facebook page.

Tickets are advance sales only or until sold out. Proceeds from the BBQ to benefit Brown Dale Fire Company.

PET OF THE WEEK

If you think your pet is something special then why not submit his or her photo to our Pet of the Week feature.

Anyone who would like to have their pet showcased is asked to send a picture by email to fcnews@nep.net; by CD; or by mail to The Forest City News, 636 Main St., Forest City, PA 18421. We also have a drop slot in the front door where you can drop it in after hours. It may be a few weeks before you see your pet in print. We put them in the order we receive them.

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570-785-3800

Forest City Library
Forest City PA, 18421
570-785-5590
fax: 570-785-4822
email: fcilib@nep.net
Open Monday-Wednesday
9am-1pm & 2pm-5pm
Thursday
9am-1pm & 2pm-6pm
Friday, 9am-1pm

Jones & Brennan Funeral Home
430 Main Street, Forest City, PA 18421
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www.lesjackfuneralhome.com

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In Loving Memory of
Mary Debevec
our Dear Mother and
Grandmother.
Sleep peacefully Mama,
Mary Ann, Jim and Ian

Feb. 27, 1929 - Oct. 5, 2016