

OBITUARIES

GLENN DARRELL "BROWN" ROBERTS

Glen Darrell "Brown" Roberts, 92, of Big Springs, WV, away December 10, 2023, at Genesis Health Care-Glenville Cener. He was born in Calhoun County to the late Jesse and Violet Grimm Roberts.



He was married to Ireta Beck Kight Roberts for 67 years.

He was a resident of Nobe, WV, a member of United Brethren of Trace Fork, WV, and attended Black Horse Baptist in Ravenna, Ohio. He lived and worked in Kent, Ohio for many years.

Surviving are his two sisters Theda (Gerald) of Ohio and Nancy (Bob) of Nobe, WV, one brother John (Roberta) of Ohio, and his best friends Earl and Sheila Adwell of Nobe. He had several nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was loved by all.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his wife Iretta, four brothers Loren, Lorous, Charles (Chink), and Eursel (Sam), and one sister Marjorie.

A funeral service will be held on Friday, December 15, 2023, at 11:00 a.m., at Stump Funeral Home & Cremation, Inc., Grantsville, WV, with Rev. Ronzel Roberts officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service. Interment will be in Kight Cemetery. Online condolences may be expressed at www.stumpfuneralhomes.com

DAVID "DAVE" OLIN BARROWS

David "Dave" Olin Barrows, age 78, of Camp Hill, passed away at Claremont Nursing and Rehabilitation Center on Saturday, December 2, 2023. Dave was born in Bluefield, WV, to the late Olin James Barrows and Mary Ann (Meyer) Barrows.

Dave's survivors include his wife of 51 years, Pamela W. (Wilson) Barrows; his daughter: Elizabeth Grace Barrows Elliott and husband, Robert "Bob", and their children; Stephen Wilson Elliott and Martin Jamison Elliott, of Charleroi.

Dave graduated from Calhoun County High school as part of the class of 1963. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Charleston, his master's degree from Marshall University, and his doctorate degree from The University of Nebraska. Dave taught at Marshall University for eight years

before accepting employment from Electronic Data Systems in North Carolina. He then moved to Camp Hill, where he worked as a computer programmer on Defense Department contracts for Electronic Data Systems and Hewlett-Packard. Dave retired in July, 2010 after 27 years of service. He proudly served in the US Army in Korea from 1968 to 1970. Dave enjoyed distance running and was a former member of the York Road Runners Club. He was an amateur radio operator and was a member of the Central Pennsylvania Repeater Association. Dave also belonged to the Seven Mountains Bluegrass Association and enjoyed going to a variety of live music performances. He was also a friend of the Unitarian Universalists of the Cumberland Valley.

All are welcome to join Dave's family at his greeting of guests on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. until time of service at 2:00 p.m. at Buhrig Funeral & Cremation, 37 East Main Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055. Cremation was private.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, P.O. Box 5014, Hagerstown, MD 21741, or online at michaelfox.org

Dave's family has entrusted his care to Buhrig Funeral & Cremation in Mechanicsburg, (717) 766-3421. Read Dave's full obituary, offer condolences and sympathy, share stories and memories, upload photographs and videos, light a candle and sign his official guest book by visiting Buhrig.com.

(Pleasant Hill PSD continued from Page 1)

employee handbook. Using Grantsville's handbook for a guide, she had applied, removed or added things to make it work for Pleasant Hill and as a board they would determine the final edits. Identification badges will be given to all employees for wear when working for the system for added security.

Another matter for the board to consider is covering the cost of Hepatitis B and Tetanus shots for the PSD staff that come into contact with water in the system. Tammy will speak to Minnie Hamilton regarding the cost and scheduling.

The Board entered into executive session to discuss matters of personnel. An unofficial discussion outside the board meeting time with Jim Hildreth, engineer for the Norman Ridge Project and PSD staff had insightful information as well as expressed concerns.

Currently there are 22 signatures in the Annamoriah area, including Joker Road. Tony Arthur said that he believed the water system numbers would continue to expand once water was offered in that area. "It's beautiful land," he said, "but it's hard to live without water."

One staff member shared their concern that they had been told that there would be boots on the ground for the project in the coming year, but now were being told 2025. Jim Hildreth responded by saying that the previous board at Pleasant Hill kept no records and wouldn't get an audit causing the delays.

Grantsville Town Council December meeting

By Emma Howell

Grantsville's Town Council met for their December Council meeting with only four members present in person. Councilman William Villers had been absent for three consecutive meetings causing the council to seek a replacement. Members present were Mayor Robert Petrovsky, Recorder Judy Powell, Council Members, Linda Staton, Emilee Morgan, Cheryl Sturms and Kimberly Sweat.

Mayors communications: Mayor Petrovsky addressed the vacancy of Councilman William Villers stating that an ad/article would be put in the news seeking interested persons for the position. A councilperson must be a resident of the Town of Grantsville.

The Mayor announced that the City would now pursue a water rate increase due to the fact that they are currently way below, Mt. Zion and Pleasant Hill Rates. He requested the council's blessing to move forward with the necessary steps to the increase telling them that they could no longer sustain the cost of running the water department with the current rate. Mt. Zion PSD's base rate is above \$44 for 2000 gallons, while Grantsville's base rate is \$18.18 for 1500 gallons. The ordinance adoption may begin in January.

The second story of the city building was rented last month and it was discovered that the furnace in that are is now needing replaced. Last serviced in 2017, the 1983 model will roughly cost \$2,700 for a replacement. Nathan James will be providing the work.

Emily Robinson informed the Mayor that she had found three grants to cover three different pieces of equipment for the Town and needs documentation to help her fill out the grant applications. They grants total a request amount of 150,000 and an additional grant in the amount of \$50,000 for playground equipment for the park which will have handicapped accessibility. The grant decision will come around May of 2024. The grants required match but the match can be volunteer hours and other in kind contributions.

The Mayor reported that the playground equipment purchased with a Sisters grant should be here this week. Rubberized mulch will be placed around the equipment for safety.

The fence around the park will cost \$1,750 and they are still waiting on the "fence people."

John Canterbury, OIT for Grantsville Water plant passed his Class I operators and will now work toward getting the hours for certification.

Committees Reports: The taco lunch fundraiser by the park committee netted \$249 and there was a total of \$220.00 in cash collected in November from donations. Councilwoman Linda Staton said that they hoped to do lunch fundraisers every other Friday in Town to continue to raise funds for the park.

Mayor Petrovsky has began the process of pursuing B&O taxes for. They are one of the few towns in the state that do not have it. He is waiting for a call from the State Tax commissioner for further instruction.

There has been no update on the dilapidated housing issues in Grantsville. Mayor Petrovsky told the council that they need to move ahead and create a Building Authority so that when the doors open for funding they'll have that in place.

The owner of the Red Devil Inn has been notified to get rid of the garbage behind the establishment and to notify the city of their intentions within 10 days. If not a fine of \$1000 and a fee of \$1,200 will be assessed by the city for removal.

The Town continues to try to employ a Law enforcement officer but have been unable to find a certified individual. As an incentive for a certified officer, room and board will be provided free for a successful candidate hired.

Caroline Stewart of the MOVRC is the newest project coordinator and introduced herself to the council. Mayor Petrovsky said that the city felt abandoned by Luke Peters and we're glad to Ms. Stewart on board.

A bank account will be set up to accept Opioid funds from the Opioid Settlement recently announced. Those funds must be used to fight the opioid. The next council meeting will be January 8th, 2024 at 6 p.m.

(County Commission Meeting Continued Page 1)

fully believe Calhoun has a lot to offer. The matter will return on January's agenda.

Under Old Business the Commission discussed the previous request for funding by the Grantsville Lions Club. Commissioners Arthur and Propst had met with the Lions Club to see first hand what was happening with their building and discuss funding possibilities. It was determined that once the Commission seen an effort on the part of the Lions Club to raise funds for the building repairs, the Commission would respond with a contribution as well. The cost of repairs on the Lions Club building was estimated at \$18,973.

The Commission asked Prosecuting Attorney Michael Hicks for a legal opinion on the giving of donations to 501c3 agencies. Hicks recommendation was in favor of an agency such as the Lions Club, but was not in favor of giving to a private business.

Ridgeview News Publisher Shari Johnson asked if the Commission had addressed the issue of providing sound equipment to aid in hearing the meetings better through social media and in the room. Commissioner Propst said that he had spoken with Jim Sullivan for advice and they were looking into quality equipment suitable for the space.

Following the resignation of Jeff Starcher from the Calhoun Civil Service Board the Commission is taking recommendations/applications from a legal/law enforcement affiliated person to fill the role. Submit names to Clerk, Jean Simers.

A final appointment for the Animal Shelter Board was applicant Alice Holmes.

Next regular meeting will be January 8, 2024.

WV Mineral Owners

By Melissa West

On December 2, 2023, Nate Cain, a Republican Congressional Candidate along with Scott Sanda and John Leonetti held "Digging into Your Mineral Rights Seminar" at the Tyler County Senior Citizens Center. There were over 67 people in attendance. I spoke with the group after the seminar by phone. You may wonder why this is so important, if you are WV Mineral Rights Owner you may have legitimate concerns as well. Nate Cain is attempting to expose the very shocking royalty plunge. He discusses the unexplained royalty calculation practices and demands for an urgent investigation. Cain is calling on the WV State Legislature to investigate the root cause of why the severance tax from oil, coal and natural gas has been reduced by 60.5% for this fiscal year.

When concerns from mineral owners to the operators why this was happening, they were often told "gas prices are much lower than last year." That much was true. In April of 2022, the Henry Hub Natural Gas Spot Price (considered "Market Price") per MMBtu was \$6.60. In April of 2023, that same Spot Price was \$2.16. However, that is not the entire story. Cain spoke with some very observant mineral owners. These owners showed him statements where operators paid them \$1.59 per MMBtu in April 2023, even though their lease said they were to be paid the market value of the gas, which was \$2.16 per MMBtu. That is approximately a 26% underpayment in royalties from market value. Many mineral owners depend on these royalties for subsistence. There was no explanation given to them as to what was causing this dramatic drop per MMBtu below market value. The stories they told Cain across West Virginia ranged from "This is very unusual" to "Me and my neighbors have never seen anything like this before." It also appears that multiple operators in WV are paying this way.

Cain is hoping that more legislation will be passed to create more penalties on companies who fail to pay the mineral owners what they are owed. Why is no one discussing SB 694, legislation that is an advantage for producers, not mineral right owners. No one has a problem with operators making money; they just want their fair and equitable share out of the sale of their minerals, according to their contracts. The calculation of royalty payments must be transparent. Mineral Owners and all West Virginians who benefit from the severance tax need clarification of the calculation practices that have led to the significant plunge of their royalties. According to Cain and colleagues, WV is losing about \$1 Billion out of \$4 billion Severance tax loss. Elected officials need an accounting as to why there is a loss in revenue to the State of West Virginia so they can find solutions equitable to mineral owners and operators alike. Look for updates from Cain.

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