

Families and friends

We haven't seen the last of winter

By ROSE BALLARD

Hello again everyone!
As I start this column, I hope it is warmer in your area than here. After a few days of nice weather, Mother Nature says, "You haven't seen the last of winter!"
Oh well, as the saying goes, whatever will be, will be.

I will say this and quit complaining, it is much nicer when I don't have to get out of my house.
Once again, my thoughts return to the homeless. How in the world are they enduring the winter months? Especially the babies and small children, and the elderly, of course my heart goes out to everyone.

As I walk into the kitchen, the sun is just coming through the bathroom window. It is so bright it is blinding. I sure wish it would add warmth as it is in the teens, with wind chills at 9 degrees.

Thursday morning, we are expecting snow showers.

While I am complaining, I decided to make potato soup for Old Time Fiddlers. I found out one thing, I can peel the potatoes, but there's no way I can hold the potatoes in my hands anymore to cut them like French fries, then dice them. I had to improvise and cut them on a plate, as my hands are too weak.

Oh well, I may be an old chicken, I am still kicking, just not too high.

I plan to make a pone of cornbread. I will have to be careful not to add teardrops while I am fixing it. This is the first cornbread, I've attempted to make since the passing of my precious friend, Ann Calihan.

When I go to Kroger's, I try to avoid the produce department as I have to pass the floral section. Oh how Ann enjoyed receiving flowers.

I can still hear Ann say two things to me, She would say, "Honey, you sure have given me flowers while I am living." Another thing Ann would inform, "Rose, go to the mountains while you can as there will come a time when you aren't able to go." Then she would say, "Call me when you get there."

When I fix supper, I still catch myself reaching for a container to fix food for Johnny and Ann. Then when Johnny wasn't able to eat, I would fix potato soup especially for him and send Ann a container of whatever I fixed for supper.

I know you may get tired of me writing about Ann Calihan. For so many years

Johnny and Ann Calihan were more than family to me.

On to another subject, last week I forgot to mention a faithful reader, Novella Mullins, sent me a beautiful card, along with a self-addressed stamped envelope wanting the recipe for my old-fashioned goulash.

Southern Ohio

About the same time, I received a request from a friend for the recipe, so today I will be taking it to her.

I am sort of behind on things. Sure wish I had a magic formula to get me going in the right direction.

I've been trying for some time to get in touch with Barbara Pace, finally her daughter Tricia got in touch with me.

Barb kept my phone number along with her telephone directory in her purse. Somehow, she lost several things out of her purse, along with driver's license, and credit cards.

Barb said Ohio showed on her phone, not my number, and she was afraid to click on it.

I don't blame Barb for that, as I get so many telemarketer calls on my flip phone that I delete afterwards.

My sympathy goes to the family of Steve Frazier, Palm Bay, Florida.

Steve's parents were Kingdon and Rachael Frazier, Roxana, brothers Charles Kingdon and Kenneth Frazier.

I remember the family from growing up at Roxana

Charles Kingdon was older than me, Kenneth about my age. Steve was younger.

I was Facebook friends with Steve. The last message Steve sent me, he said he always reads The Mountain Eagle to keep informed about his homeplace of Roxana, and I always mentioned when I had been there. He wasn't too chatty, but I enjoyed getting messages from him.

This is the second person that has passed away, that I am aware of that I knew as a child. When I read the Obituary about Barbara Whitaker Fields, in The Mountain Eagle, seriously I had to read it three times before it really came a reality.

Barbara and I had been as close as sisters, until I quit school and moved away.

My ex-husband let me know that we were a bunch of cliques, because I still cared about those I knew from the mountains.

I replied, "Yes, and I was the ringleader."

If health issues and time allow each time I go to the mountains, I drive to Roxana and most of the time past Mill Branch where the school used to be.

Before it got cold weather, I gave Bernice Grubb a tour, which include a trip to Carcassonne Community Center and Campbells Branch Community Center.

If I recall right, Bernice and I sang a few words, of the song, "I've Been Everywhere, Man, I've Been Everywhere."

While conversing with

Bernice it seems I find out some delightful things. Bernice has a floral business. During our conversation, it never occurred to me, that Bernice would take classes to achieve the knowledge to make the floral business a success.

As we were talking, it brought back so many unpleasant memories. During my marriage, I had the long-ing since way back when, to go back to school, since I quit at such a young age. When I was 35 and a grandmother, I finally found the courage, to buck Jack. The local high school started an adult education program. You can bet your boots, I signed up. Someplace I have a certificate that says I have my GED, which is equal to a high school diploma.

That really didn't take away all the longing for more education. At the present time, I regret after our divorce I didn't continue my education.

For one thing I was cleaning house during the day, working at J.C. Penney Outlet, evenings and weekends. I paid my house off two years before the final payment was due.

When my bones are aching, if not hurting too bad, I have to smile, thinking I have abused my body all my life, all I've ever known is hard work. I didn't work outside my home, until the children were older, my first job was working as a teacher's assistant for Head Start when my daughter Angie was four years old. Since we were over the wage limit, Angie wasn't allowed to go.

I knew the teacher and when the school board advised her they were hiring someone to help her, Carol mentioned my name before she notified me. At the time, it wasn't worth it, besides we were alright financially. Yes, I have regretted my decision.

Several years later, after the children were in school, once again I worked for the school as a substitute cook. I did this two or three years.

I was petite back then. The regular cooks couldn't reach things, and I would climb on a ladder. When it came time to deep clean, one time the freezer needed cleaning. I climbed in the freezer and scrubbed it.

Finally, I wasn't being called enough so I gave my notice and started taking care of children in my home. Somehow I traded this for cleaning house, and then decided to clean during the day work at J.C Penney Outlet.

Back in the day, I was never aware if there was something called food stamps.

Thanks for all the nice compliments due to the video on KET of Carcassonne Community Center.

Sunday was Old Time Fiddlers. It was a wonderful time. We had 18 musicians, I think there were 30 people all told.

I did take potato soup, which disappeared, however I made a mistake lifting the crockpot, causing the fractured ribs to let me know they weren't healed.

Hello Mike and Marcia Caudill, I hate to miss the first

square dance that will be held March 8, due to the weather. If things are alright in April, maybe I will see you then.

Hello Buddy, Bernice, Chuck, Mike and Blaze Grubb.

Bernice informed me the flea market at Wise, Va. is open. Now that is enough to make me want to head for the mountains.

Hello Nina Craft, I hope you have your television fixed by now.

Hello Ronnie and Brenda Brown Cox, I have been meaning to call you.

Hello Will and Maggie Bowling, and Will's parents.

Will, I am really looking forward to seeing you and Maggie.

Hello Jim Haynes, it seems I forgot a couple of things. Jim is a veteran; I was right he helps anyone that needs help.

Hello Lenny Kuntz, thanks for all your help at O.T.F.

Time is catching up with me.

Until next time.

Rose Ballard, 9110 Lawrenceburg Rd., Harrison, Ohio 45030

Retired teachers to meet

The Letcher County Retired Teachers will meet Friday, March 7, at noon, at Pine Mountain Grill. This is the preparatory meeting prior to the state KRTA Conference held in Louisville in April. All retired teachers in Letcher

County are welcome to join in for lunch, fellowship, and information about legislation, healthcare, and discount programs.

For other information, text Marcia Caudill at 606-253-1722.

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NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE
Pursuant to Application Number 867-5370, Renewal

In accordance with KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given that INMET Mining, LLC, 144 East Market Place Blvd, Knoxville, TN, 37922 has applied for renewal of a permit for an underground coal mining operation located approximately 3.0 miles northeast of Partridge in Letcher Co. The operation disturbs 40.92 acres.

The operation is approximately 2.5 miles northeast from KY 3404's junction with US 119 and located on Roberts Branch.

The operation is located on the Roxanna and Whitesburg 7 ½ minute quadrangle maps. The surface area disturbed is owned by ACIN, LLC. The operation underlies land owned by ACIN, LLC.

The application has been filed for public inspection at the Department for Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's Hazard Regional Office, 556 Village Lane, Hazard KY 41702. Written comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Mine Permits, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

This is the final advertisement of the application. All comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be received within thirty (30) days of today's date.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE
Pursuant to Application Number 867-5368, Renewal

In accordance with KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given that INMET Mining, LLC, 144 East Market Place Blvd, Knoxville, TN, 37922 has applied for renewal of a permit for a surface coal mining operation located 1.10 miles southeast of Partridge in Letcher County. The operation disturbs 17.15 surface area mining acres and underlying an additional 1841.98 acres of underground area for a total of 1859.13 acres.

The operation is approximately 1.10 miles southeast from KY 3404's junction with US 119 and located approximately 0.80 miles southwest of Upper Colliers Creek..

The operation is located on the Benham, Roxanna, Whitesburg, and Appalachia 7 ½ minute quadrangle maps. The surface area disturbed is owned by ACIN, LLC. The operation underlies land owned by ACIN, LLC.

The application has been filed for public inspection at the Department for Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's Hazard Regional Office, 556 Village Lane, Hazard KY 41702. Written comments or objections must be filed with the Director, Division of Mine Permits, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.