

Stoller remains involved despite cancer

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TIMES WEST VIRGINIAN



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PHOTO BY SHAWNEE MORAN

Marlene Sandy, a breast cancer survivor, stands with her dog in her front yard. Sandy was diagnosed 14 years ago and underwent multiple surgeries, chemotherapy and radiation therapy.



PHOTO BY SHAWNEE MORAN

Linda Lomicka, a breast cancer survivor, stands in front of her house. When diagnosed, Lomicka's cancer was about the size of a fingernail.

Oil and gas industry marked by struggles

BY DANIEL TYSON
FOR THE TIMES WEST VIRGINIAN

HUNDRED — The locals hang out at a restaurant called Sweet Melissa's, where on a recent weekday the conversation topic was the economy, specifically the long decline of the oil and gas industry.

The coffee at the roadside restaurant was strong and hot, but the underlying fear was hotter and stronger. Many wonder what happened and what the future holds. Others worry about income and family.

Mike Lamp sipped coffee and explained that the gas industry has been in decline for a year or more. First, he noticed the riggers were leaving, then the lack of large trucks on the road, and finally on Route 69, once filled with gas rigs, there was silence — the rigs just stopped pumping.

"It's daunting," he said. "We had two, three years of good jobs and income. Now, people are wondering if they can pay next month's electric bill."

Sitting in a corner booth, eating eggs and toast with grape jelly, Micky Thompson just looks at the menu written on a slab of coal. Thompson said he worked for an oil exploration company and was told he had a job for years to come, but in January he got the dreaded pink slip.

"I feel lied to. I was told the industry was going to be strong for at least 20 years," said the 34-year-old.

Now, he spends his day trying to find a job, spending time at the local library searching online and on Wednesday looking at the Help Wanted ads in the *Wetzel Chronicle*, the local paper.

Many here understand the country's oil and gas reserves are full, meaning there is no need for more supplies. However, what they don't understand is why last summer they were working 14 hours a day.

"If the gas companies knew the reserves were nearly full, why did we continue drilling? Look at the (mess) we are in now," said Roger Slider, an unemployed rigger.

Befuddlement is not limited to the morning coffee drinkers at Sweet Melissa's. Many in the industry are second-guessing the drill-baby-drill attitude of the past few years. The reserve capacity is now full at 4 trillion cubic feet. Now, energy companies are slashing their white-collar workforce, closing fields until further notice, and some frackers are headed to Chapter 11 protection.

It's rumored that three of the larger oil and gas cracker plants slated for central Appalachia are now in jeopardy. The latest is the \$5.7 billion plant originally slated for Belmont County, Ohio.

It's unclear what is going to happen to the \$1 billion-plus cracker facility being considered by

SEE **OIL**, PAGE 4A

The special touch

From diagnosis to treatment, breast cancer survivors find quality care at Fairmont Regional Medical Center

■ For video footage of the steps involved when getting a mammogram and other services at Fairmont Regional Medical Center, log on to timeswv.com.



■ Cancer is an incredibly cruel thief —Page 2A

■ Guest column: Early detection leads to better outcomes —Page 3A

■ Join the fight against breast cancer —Page 5A

BY SHAWNEE MORAN
TIMES WEST VIRGINIAN

FAIRMONT — Linda Lomicka knows cancer all too well.

Years ago, her daughter, Lori Smith, was diagnosed with Stage IV colon cancer.

The Fairmont resident said her daughter was always afraid of doctors and needles and as a result didn't go to the doctor.

Smith lived in Nashville, Tennessee, and never told her mother that she felt ill.

One day when Lomicka and her husband were vacationing in Florida, they got a phone call. One of Smith's friends called to tell them that Smith was in the hospital in critical

condition and they needed to come right away.

The next day, Lomicka and her husband caught a plane and found out about Smith's diagnosis. Surgeons operated and found she had a big tumor.

Smith said she didn't want any treatment. The doctor told Lomicka that even if she wanted treatment, she was too far gone.

Lomicka took care of her daughter for a couple months before she passed away two years ago.

As she grieved, Lomicka put everything on hold — including her yearly mammogram.

SEE **CARE**, PAGE 8A

Advancements in breast cancer treatment continue

BY ANGELEE WILEY
TIMES WEST VIRGINIAN

FAIRMONT — In the 31 years that Linda Carte has worked in cancer care, she's seen a lot of advancements in the treatment of breast cancer.

Carte, the director of cancer services at United Hospital Center, has worked at the hospital for 18 years and said she is amazed at how technology has changed things.

Early on, she said that all women had a mastectomy when they were diagnosed with breast cancer. Then they started having the lump removed. Then doctors started taking out as many lymph nodes from under a woman's arm as possible, and now women

SEE **TREATMENT**, PAGE 4A



PHOTO BY SHAWNEE MORAN

The Hologic Selenia Dimensions mammography system at Fairmont Regional Medical Center can enlarge pictures on a screen because it is digital. The American Cancer Society recommends women begin screenings at 40 years of age and continue annually.



This newspaper 'wears' pink with a purpose

That old newspaper joke — what's black and white and read all over? — just doesn't apply today.

This newspaper is pink. It was on purpose. It is pink with purpose.

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DEATHS
Larry Dooley
Paul Hall
Floyd Henderson
Carl Raber
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FACES OF OUR TOWN



The good fight
Although she is a breast cancer survivor herself, Shelia Favaloro's story starts with her sister.
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NATION

\$55 million debut
Opening just days after NASA announced findings showing water on Mars, "The Martian" soaked up moviegoers at the box office, making a robust \$55 million over the weekend.
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