



**DuBois
defeats
Corry,
4-3**

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SERVING CLARION, CLEARFIELD, ELK, FOREST AND JEFFERSON COUNTIES

MAY 10, 2015

**Sunday
\$181⁰⁰
Savings**

Year to date
savings: \$3,436



Curb appeal, financing home improvements, getting rid of grubs and lawn pests and more is included in the third of a trio of Spring Home Improvement magazines.

Prescribed fire plan goes well

PENFIELD — More than 75 wildland fire personnel assembled Monday morning at a site just off “The Governor’s Road” in Rush Township, Centre County, as a 345-acre prescribed fire on Moshannon State Forest lands and adjacent State Game Lands 103 was finally reaching the action stage after more than two years of planning.

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\$1.75



Peanut Patch Early Learning Center employees Cynthia Copenhaver, right, and Tina Johnston dedicate each day to taking care of the toddlers and babies at the facility. Center owner Judi Kemp (not pictured) said if the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013 were to pass, her small New Bethlehem business would be greatly affected. (Photo by Evanne Gareis)

Minimum wage increase sees opposition

Business owners say a raise in wages may cause some businesses to close

By Evanne Gareis

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As federal and state officials are liberating a potential increase in the federal minimum wage, local business owners are concerned about what an increase in wages would do to their own bottom lines.

With the support of President Barack Obama, the Fair Minimum Wage Act was introduced to Congress in 2013. The Act would gradually raise the current federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour to \$10.10 per hour over a two-and-a-half year period to adjust for inflation.

The President’s proposed plan also includes increasing the minimum wage for tipped workers, who have been working at the current rate of \$2.13 per hour for more than 20 years to 70 percent of the full minimum wage.

However, Republicans blocked the debate on the issue in the Senate ear-

“It would force me to shut down my lower volume stores and decrease staffing at my other locations, thus decreasing my employment levels.”

— Tim Murray
Super Subways Inc. president

lier this year and refused the vote.

But, Congressional Republicans are not the only ones to voice concern about an increase in minimum wage.

In fact, a survey of local business owners and politicians yielded more negative than positive responses to the proposal.

“(Generally,) it is not entirely a bad thing to raise the minimum wage,” Clarion County Commissioner Greg Faller said, noting that there is also a downside to increasing minimum

wage. “The raise will affect the entry level positions lowering the number of individuals hired to perform those jobs.”

Many business owners believe that increasing the minimum wage would slow growth in small businesses, decrease the margin between entry level employees and managers and ultimately cost consumers more.

When it comes to slowing small business growth, business owners said that effects would range from the need to decrease the number of employees to actually having to close the business.

“It would force me to shut down my lower volume stores and decrease staffing at my other locations, thus decreasing my employment levels,” Super Subways Inc. president Tim Murray said.

Judi Kemp, owner of the Peanut Patch Early Learning Center in New

See Wage, A8

Firefighting family-style

Zents family ready to don gear to help those in need

By Randy Bartley

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BROOKVILLE — When you hear the name Kennedy, you think of politics. When you hear the name Trump you think of high finance. In Jefferson County when you hear the name Zents, you think of smoke.

There are four members of the Zents family active with the Brookville Volunteer Fire Company, Tracy and Valerie and their children, Katie and Kyle.

Valerie has been involved with emergency services since 1980 when she joined the Warsaw Township Volunteer Fire Company Auxiliary at the age of 14. She became a firefighter and first responder four years later. In 1990 she joined the Sigel Volunteer Fire Company and in 2000 she went to Corsica Volunteers Fire Company. She joined Brookville in 2009 and serves as the safety officer, accountability officer and chaplain at the Brookville Volunteer Fire Company. She

“When I was 11 or 12 years old I was getting ready for bed one evening and I happened to look out the door and the sawmill that was on our property was on fire. I sat and watched the fire company put out the fire.”

— Valerie Zents

became an emergency medical technician in 1984.

She works with MCM Consulting of MacMurray, a consulting company that does exercises, training, program management for emergency management and hospitals.

You could almost say firefighting was inevitable for Valerie Zents. Her parents and her grandparents were members of the Warsaw fire company. Her grandfather, Milton Lindemuth, was a charter member of Warsaw.

“When I was 11 or 12 years old, I was getting ready for bed one evening and I happened to look out the door and the sawmill that was on our property was

on fire. I sat and watched the fire company put out the fire,” she said.

Tracy Zents became involved in firefighting in 1987 when he turned 18. He started with the Pine Creek Volunteer Fire Company and moved to Brookville VFC, Corsica and back to Brookville where he serves as the first assistant chief. He is employed as the Jefferson County Emergency Services coordinator.

“I had no real intention of joining a fire company but a good friend of mine talked me into it,” he said. His brother Alan was a firefighter when

See Firefighting, A4



The Zents family – parents, Tracy and Valerie, stand behind their children, Kyle and Katie, during a recent drill. (Photo by Randy Bartley)

Study eyes closing of elementary schools

By Elaine Haskins

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DuBOIS — Jerry Bankovich of KTH Architects Inc. presented the results of a district-wide feasibility study to the DuBois Area School Board at Thursday’s work session.

The study provides a summary of four possible options for the board to consider – renovate existing buildings, close Penfield Elementary and relocate students to Juniata Elementary, close Luthersburg and relocate students to C.G. Johnson Elementary, or close both Penfield and Luthersburg schools.

“This feasibility study is a starting point. It’s a first step,” Bankovich said. “If and when you do choose an option, I would recommend that you do a more detailed study of those options.”

Over the last year, the district has been discussing its options concerning outlying elementary schools in addition to renovations that may need to be done on buildings.

The total cost of renovating existing buildings in the district is \$17,967,718, according to the study. There are no costs associated with the options of closing the two schools, Bankovich said.

According to statistics from the state Department of Education and included in the study, enrollments in the district are projected to decline over the next seven

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I am going to the
Kids' Carnival!
See you there!

Don't miss the Treasure Lake Community Yard Sale and Kids' Carnival!

**Saturday, May 16th
from 10:00am-2:00pm
at the New Providence Beach!**

The Fun Starts
at 10 am

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