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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2014

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MORE INSIDE

3 DAYS UNTIL

100th ANNIVERSARY
1914 - 2014 CELEBRATION

Park will become home

A park which never came to be will soon become a home in Curwensville. **A2**

No tie-breaker

The abrupt retirement of a Pennsylvania Supreme Court justice caught up in a government pornographic email scandal is likely to leave the high court without a tie-breaking vote for the rest of the year as the panel is set to undergo significant change. **A3**

Missing fan

Relatives of a Bronco fan who went missing during last week's game are wondering how a man with no known health or personal problems could vanish without a trace. **A5**

Obituaries
A9

- William M. Carlson, 79
- Ruthann Cochran, 86
- Donna J. Emerick, 86
- Mark T. Jolley, 61
- John R. Schneider, 79
- Florence Shaffer, 98
- Robert Lee Wesiliski, 63

Tomorrow's Forecast

Mostly cloudy. Much cooler with highs in the mid-50s.

Full report, A2

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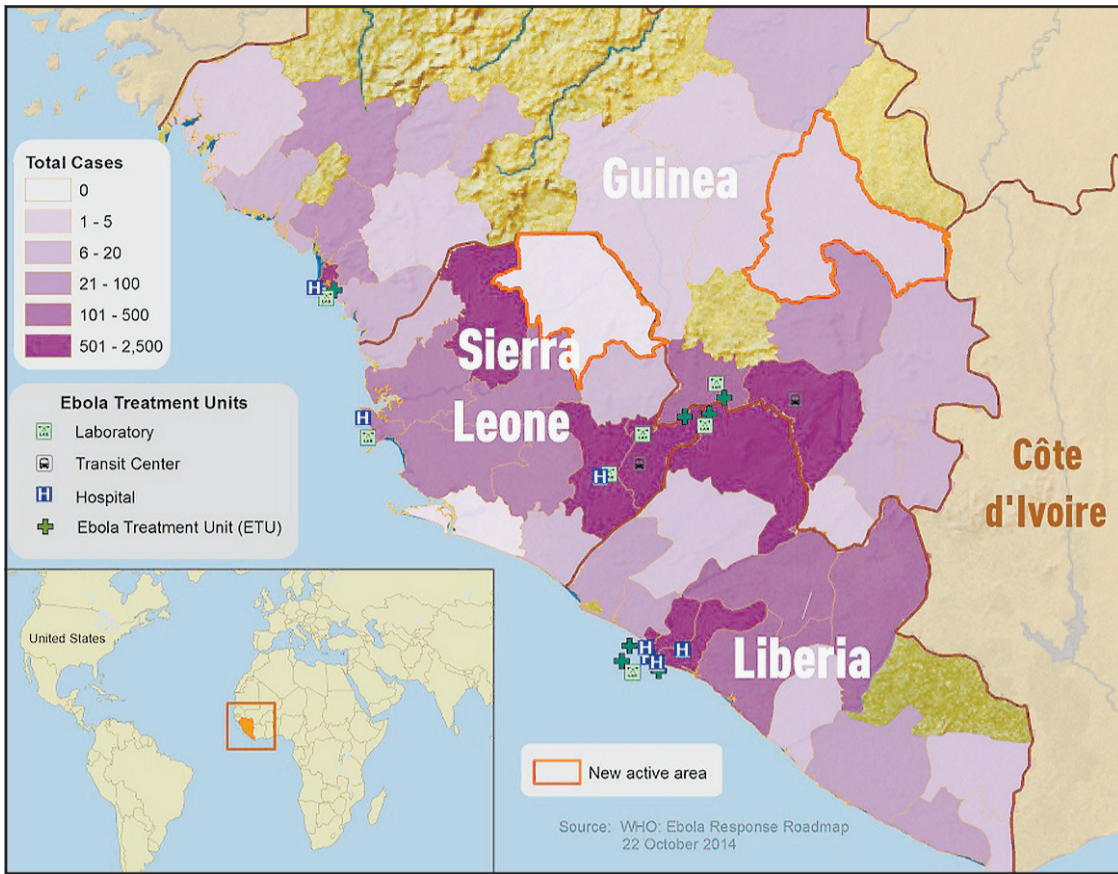
Courier-Express

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75 Cents



As of Friday, the WHO estimates there are a total of 10,141 cases of Ebola with 5,692 confirmed by laboratory tests. The death toll has risen to 4,922. (Graphic courtesy of the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention)

WEST AFRICA Ebola Outbreak

Likely host = bats

1 in 2 people who get Ebola in this outbreak have died.

The 2014 Ebola epidemic is the largest in history and is affecting multiple countries.

Graphic from CDC

Local hospitals have preparedness plans for Ebola

By Katie Weidenboerner
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As the Ebola death toll in West Africa continues to rise, and four cases of the disease have been reported on U.S. soil, local hospitals have preparedness plans in place for the rare event the disease is contracted in the Tri-County area.

"This is a rare disease," said Dr. Gary DuGan, chief medical officer, Penn Highlands Healthcare. "It's not easy to contract this, and the best situation for the public is that if you are ill and if you've been traveling to that area of the world you should be seeking attention."

Penn Highlands has a systemwide readiness plan in place in its facilities in DuBois, Brookville, Clearfield and St. Marys.

One of the main focuses of the preparedness plan is to educate the staff, especially its registration staff, to ask patients with flu-like symptoms if they have traveled to any of the West African countries which have become a hotbed for the hemorrhagic fever. Most hospitals across the region have instituted these early identification measures.

Widespread transmission of Ebola has been reported in the West African countries of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. The severe acute viral illness is often

characterized by the sudden onset of fever, intense weakness, muscle pain, headache, nausea and sore throat. This is followed by vomiting, diarrhea, impaired kidney and liver function, and, in some cases, both external and internal bleeding.

If a patient is flagged as a potential Ebola carrier, he would be secluded in a quarantine area which has been designated at each of the Penn Highlands facilities in St. Marys, DuBois, Clearfield and Brookville.

"I think it's certainly normal human nature for any medical provider to be concerned about this," DuGan said. "What we're focusing on at each facility is having a response team, so that if a patient would present, we have staff that have been properly trained on what to do, how to put the equipment on safely and how to remove it safely."

On Oct. 21, the CDC issued new guidance to health care workers for the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in caring for patients with the Ebola virus. The guidance is based on the recent experiences of Emory University Hospital, Nebraska Medical Center and the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center in treating patients with Ebola. This PPE includes the highest protection available and consists of fluid-imper-

meable full body suits, respirators, face shields, booties and gloves, said Kathy Lemmon, director of Infection Prevention and Disease Control at PH DuBois.

While medical staff are trained to use PPE equipment, it is very rarely used.

"Reeducation of staff is critical, but we have a large number of staff throughout the system. It would be very difficult to effectively train everyone to do it correctly, so

Penn Highlands has a systemwide readiness plan in place in its facilities in DuBois, Brookville, Clearfield and St. Marys.

our focus is really on defining a small number of staff who would be responsible," DuGan said.

Punxsutawney Area Hospital has issued a press release stating it is also diligently working to educate and train its staff about Ebola.

"Punxsutawney Area Hospital is in full compliance with the Ebola recommendations from The Centers for Disease Control," said Daniel Blough,

CEO of Punxsutawney Area Hospital. "We are following the CDC guidelines to ensure we are prepared to respond safely and appropriately to any situation relating to the presentation of any patient with symptoms that could indicate Ebola

or any infectious disease. Throughout the hospital, staff are being trained and retrained on personal protective equipment and safety protocols."

The World Health Organization says fruit bats may be the natural host of the Ebola virus in Africa, passing on the virus to other animals. Humans contract Ebola through contact with the bodily fluids of infected animals.

According to the WHO, Ebola later spreads from human-to-human via contact with bodily fluids containing the virus. The virus can be spread through contact with an object contaminated with infected secretions. Direct contact with the corpses of Ebola victims can also result in infection.

Ebola is not spread through casual contact; therefore, the risk of an outbreak in the U.S. is very low, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

To stop Ebola's further spread, cases are thoroughly researched, ill people are isolated, those exposed to the sick person are contacted and further isolation occurs if any of the contacts develop symptoms.

DuGan said, luckily, Penn Highlands hasn't been inundated with patients concerned they may have symptoms of the virus.

The average person can safeguard against Ebola by limiting travel to Ebola endemic countries in Africa and by practicing good hygiene such as hand washing, covering a cough and staying home if sick.

"This disease is very specific to endemic areas of the world and potential spread is only seen in those persons that have contacted someone with documented virus or who traveled to areas with known disease. For that reason, it is very important to realize that although concern is high, seeking care/testing for this is not recommended unless you meet those stipulations and have symptoms," Dr. Joseph Clark, regional medical director of Emergency Medicine at PHH said. "There is not rapid test for this disease, and the testing can't

be done locally. Because the care of these patients requires a high level of decontamination, use of protective equipment and isolation protocols, it is taken very seriously. Those people that do not have legitimate symptoms will be evaluated and discharged."

The U.S. public health and medical systems have

See Ebola, Page A9

Streetscape, street sweeper and leaves on council agenda

By Elaine Haskins
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DuBOIS — Leaf pickup is expected to begin in the City of DuBois in about two weeks.

City Manager John "Herm" Suplizio told the council Monday that he talked to Ed Yahner of Advanced Disposal, who said he is going to hold off with the leaf pickup in the city for about two weeks.

"The reason being (is) because what usually happens is we pick them up hurriedly and then people are calling and saying they missed leaf pickup," Suplizio said. "That being said, he (Yahner) is going to put a dumpster over at the city garage, so if anybody has a pickup truck and wants to take their leaves to the city garage they may do so."

Suplizio also discussed the re-

DuBois

cently announced award of nearly \$600,000 from the state to help finish the downtown Streetscape project.

"We are going to be doing some work on Long Avenue and the Franklin Street area," Suplizio said. "I think we are also going to look at maybe drainage on West Long Avenue. We are trying to be proactive now."

Suplizio also thanked city mechanic Bob Pisaneschi for work he has done on the street sweeper. Off and on, the city has had problems with the street sweeper and Pisaneschi has been in contact with the company. As a result, the city will have a brand new sweeper starting next year, Suplizio said.

"We don't have to do a rollback until 2018," Suplizio said. "It saves the city a ton of money. That's a big deal, that's a big savings." He estimated a new street sweeper costs about \$150,000.

Police Chief Ron LaRotonda announced that the city police department has been awarded a grant from CVS/pharmacy to install a drug collection unit, which is located in the lobby of the city police department. He said it will provide residents with a safe and environmentally responsible way to dispose of unwanted, unused or expired medication, including controlled substances.

Councilwoman Diane Bernardo asked LaRotonda about the benefits to the community.

LaRotonda said the new unit is intended to reduce the amount of unneeded medicine in residents'

homes and decrease prescription drug abuse, which has soared in recent years, especially among teenagers. More than 70 percent of teenagers say it is easy to get prescription drugs from their parents' medicine cabinets, according to a 2014 Partnership for Drug-Free Kids study.

The new unit will also help DuBois prevent the contamination of local landfills and water supplies from unused medication, LaRotonda said.

The city's new drug collection unit site is open to the public from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday or 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling 814-765-1533, and drugs can be dropped off with no questions asked.

Evelyn Kirkwood of West Washington Avenue once again appealed

See DuBois, Page A9

The Clinic
at Walmart



Location:

20 Industrial Drive
DuBois, PA 15801

Hours:

Open 7 days a week

No appointment necessary

Monday - Saturday 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Sunday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

PENN HIGHLANDS DUBOIS THE CLINIC AT WALMART

In affiliation with Penn Highlands DuBois