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 Hinderliter
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 ■ Page B 1



VOL. 21, NO. 21 SERVING CLARION, CLEARFIELD, ELK, FOREST AND JEFFERSON COUNTIES MAY 24, 2015

**No newspaper
 Monday**
 The Courier-Express will not publish a newspaper Monday because of the Memorial Day holiday.
 The Courier-Express office will be closed Monday and will reopen Tuesday for normal business hours.

**Sunday
 \$183⁰⁰
 Savings**
 Year to date savings: \$3809

Fewer flights causing concerns
 By Cathy Moore
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FALLS CREEK — Fewer flights, fewer passengers, larger expenses. The Clearfield-Jefferson Counties Regional Airport Authority dealt with numerous problems at their meeting Friday morning.
 During a review of charts, Bob Shaffer, airport manager, pointed

See Flights, A2

**H: 76
 L: 51**
 Page A 10

Obituaries
 Page A2

- Leon Goodford, 76
- Albert Huddy, 66

INDEX
 30 pages

ClassifiedD2
 CrosswordC5
 EntertainmentC6
 FinanceD1
 FoodC1
 Health/FitnessC4
 LotteryA8
 OpinionA6
 OutdoorsB5
 Public NoticesD3
 ScoreboardB4
 SocialsC3
 SportsB1

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Jack Kestler of St. Marys holds a photograph of himself taken in 1943 - nearly a year before he would parachute out of a plane during the D-Day invasion and be captured by German troops. (Photo by Katie Weidenboerner)

World War II vet remembers D-Day, POW life

By Katie Weidenboerner
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ST. MARYS — At 92 years old, Jack Kestler sits in the living room of his South Michael Street home, looking out the bay window as hummingbirds flit from the feeder outside to a nearby tree branch where they rest and stare intently back at him.

In that same living room, a hand-embroidered scene of Chartes, France, hangs on the wall. Stitched by the hands of his mother-in-law, the steeples of the Chartes Cathedral rise over the quiet and colorful street of the quaint city.

For Kestler, the wall hanging is more than a family heirloom. Several months after being captured on D-Day, he would be taken to the church, which became a holding area for nearly 800 Allied Prisoners of War during World War II.

"It's not good," Kestler said of being a POW, held captive for nine months by German troops. "It's nothing you're ever proud of either, but it happened."

On April 24, 1942, at 20 years old, Kestler quit his job at the Johnsonburg papermill and joined millions of other men who enlisted in the U.S. Army. When asked why he joined up, he said unflinchingly, "I want-

"Parachuters were never known for being nice guys. The discipline is unbelievable. It's rough. Many more failed than made it."
 — Jack Kestler

ed to go. We had just been attacked."

Once he joined the military, he would find his place in C Company of the 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division, where he would become a sergeant.

"Parachuters were never known for being nice guys," Kestler says with a laugh. "The discipline is unbelievable. It's rough. Many more failed than made it."

Months of training in the United States and Europe led up to Kestler's big jump on D-Day, when on June 6, 1944, the Allied Forces of Britain, America, Canada, and France attacked Germans on the coast of Normandy, France. With more than 150,000 soldiers, the Allies were victorious, marking the turning point in the war.

"We had trained and trained for this moment."

See Vet, A5

DuBois Area Honor Guard does more than lead parades

By Elaine Haskins
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DuBOIS — The DuBois Area Honor Guard is one of the local service organizations that do a lot more than lead parades in their snappy uniforms, marching in step and carrying the unfurled U.S. and military service flags.

Marching in parades is not the principal mission of the honor guard, according to Honor Guard Commander Mike Skehan.

"But we do enjoy it, and are honored to be called back each year to lead the parade and display the colors," Skehan said.

The Honor Guard's primary mission is to render military honors at the funeral or memorial services of deceased veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard).

"We do this only at the request of the veteran's family, and we do so at whatever venue the family chooses, in the church, at the funeral home, or graveside," Skehan said. "We've even rendered military honors at an ash-

scattering ceremony in a remote, wooded area."

Inclement weather doesn't stop the Honor Guard from conducting services at a cemetery or elsewhere outdoors.

"Our veterans didn't serve only on warm, sunny days. Should we be any less resolute in honoring them?" Skehan said. "We have ponchos for rain and cold weather uniforms for winter. If the family's preference is for a graveside service, we'll accommodate them, even if our bugle is frozen and our bugler able to produce only a ragged version of Taps."

"By the way, this actually happened about two years ago on a very cold day at St. Catherine's Cemetery in DuBois," Skehan said. "The family insisted on having Taps played on a real bugle rather than using a recorded version."

All veterans are eligible for these honors, Skehan said.

"Not just eligible but also entitled, provided that the deceased veteran was discharged from the military under honorable conditions,"

See Guard, A4



Members of the Walter W. Craig American Legion Post 354 kicked off the Memorial Day Parade Saturday morning along Broad Street in New Bethlehem. (Photo by Evanne Gareis)



More than 50 New Bethlehem area residents gathered at Guntown Park, along Water Street, for the annual Walter W. Craig Post 354 American Legion Memorial Day Service Saturday. Post Commander Robert Paul Fink, center stage, served as the program's featured speaker. (Photo by Evanne Gareis)

TREASURE LAKE MID-WEEK SPECIALS
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