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Central Catholic falls to Curwensville

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VOL. 20, NO. 1

SERVING CLARION, CLEARFIELD, ELK, FOREST AND JEFFERSON COUNTIES

JANUARY 5, 2014

More than
\$200⁰⁰
in savings
inside

H: 38
L: 18



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Route 255 road work continues

ST. MARYS – Work to improve a section of Route 255 in the city of St. Marys is continuing through winter. The project stretches from the Tractor Supply Co. intersection to Route 120/State Street in St. Marys. Work this year is concentrating on the section between Wendy's and Satterlee & Sons.

Activity the week of Jan. 6 will include:

- The contractor will begin work at 7 a.m. Monday and continue through Thursday. All work will be performed during daytime hours.

- Route 255 will be restricted to one lane in each direction between Vine Street and State Street (Route 120) for the installation of water lines and sanitary sewer lines.

- Route 255 northbound will be restricted to one lane between Pistner Road and Iron Run Road as work to install an access road takes place.

Overall work includes pavement repair, drainage improvements, addi-

See Road, A8

Obituaries

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- Theresa Dixon, 98
- Helen Novitsky, 96
- Hallie Shindledecker, 87
- Martin Lyle, 81
- Stanley Owens, 74

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\$1.50

Woman sought in Falls Creek burglaries

FALLS CREEK — State police in DuBois are looking for a woman who is wanted in connection with a rash of burglaries, which occurred during the early morning hours Friday at a church and multiple residences in the borough of Falls Creek and the Smithtown area of Washington Township, Jefferson County.

Police said an unknown woman, believed to be in her early 20s, first tried to break into the residence of Joseph A. Alvetro, 46, Falls Creek.

Next, the suspect entered a garage at the residence of William I. Briggs, 62, Falls Creek, and stole a red 2006 Chevrolet truck.

The suspect then drove the truck to the Smithtown Community Church, where the truck ended up getting stuck.

The suspect entered the church by smashing a glass door. While inside the church, the suspect damaged numerous items.

After leaving the church, the

suspect entered the residence of Donald E. Liedl, 56, Falls Creek, which is located on the same street as the church. While inside the residence, the suspect encountered the victim and his son. The suspect fled the house and went into the woods behind the house, police said.

The suspect then forcibly gained entry into the residence of Marian L. Hickman, 83, Falls Creek, who saw the suspect in her upstairs bathroom and escorted her out of

her residence.

The suspect is described as a white female and believed to be between 5 feet and 5 feet, 4 inches tall. She was wearing a dark-colored hooded sweatshirt with a dark cap on underneath, gray-colored jogging pants and boots with fur on top of them. She was last seen carrying a silver and black drawstring backpack.

Anyone with information about these incidents is asked to call the police at 371-4652.



Bob Wareham stands in front of a large steel safe that has been locked for more than 40 years because of a lost combination. (Photo by Ron Wilshire)

No big payday!

Lost combination keeps steel safe closed for more than 40 years in Knox building

By Ron Wilshire

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KNOX — For more than 40 years a behemoth steel safe in Knox remained locked because of a lost combination while rumors and speculation circulated on what treasures might be inside.

The Main Street building housing the one-ton safe has seen many businesses over the years, stretching back to more than 100 years ago when J.L. Shanar Jewelry decided to purchase the massive unit from Hall's Lock and Safe Co. in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The connection with the jewelry store no doubt fed the rumors about what might be inside the safe. Perhaps the last business to actually use the safe for storage was Joe Logue, who sold appliances. The next owner was Babb Agrees, who had a gift shop, but could never get the safe open so it remained closed to the world.

Another owner, Paul Jordan, operated a hardware store and had a written combination, but was unable to unlock the doors.

Current owner Bob Wareham graduated from Knox High School in 1953 and then went to college but was later drafted. On

his return he worked at Knox Glass and then spent several years in Florida as a draftsman for rocket design. He returned to Knox and started working at the U.S. Post Office and served as postmaster before transferring to St. Petersburg in 1987, retiring in 1992.

He describes himself as a born craftsman and is proud he could always make whatever he wanted. He's also known as the area expert on Model Ts and has built both his own Model T and A.

He has gathered an extensive collection of Model T parts and related pieces over the years that prompted him to buy the Knox store as a warehouse for his work projects.

"I have several Model Ts and built one," Wareham said. "I've got two cars that never were. I've got a 14 model T that every part was made; even pieces were made out of pieces. I assembled the whole car.

"I've got a model A also in a garage at the other end of the street. I had the body built because you couldn't find bodies. A lot of people don't know it, but Ford sold mil-

See Safe, A5

Potentially life-threatening cold to hit area

By Nick Hoffman

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Dangerous, potentially life-threatening cold not seen in west-central Pennsylvania in 20 years is forecast to descend on the region beginning Monday.

The National Weather Service issued wind chill watches that go into effect Monday afternoon and continue until Wednesday.

Temperatures warmed Saturday in the wake of a cold snap Thursday and Friday and relatively mild temperatures are forecast for today, with highs in the 30s.

Rain and snow are expected later today, changing to all snow overnight and into Monday morning. Minor accumulations are possible.

Temperatures will begin

Pets need to be protected from extreme cold weather.

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falling Monday and will continue falling until they bottom out between 10 and 20 degrees below zero Tuesday morning.

The combination of sub-zero cold and winds of 15-25 mph with higher gusts will create wind chills as low as 35 to 40 below zero.

In such extreme conditions, exposed skin can suffer frostbite in a very short time and hypothermia — core body temperature reduced to dangerous levels — can also occur.

Actual air temperatures will be below zero Tuesday and Wednesday mornings and daytime highs may not rise above zero Tuesday.

Unemployment rates increase in area counties

By Nick Hoffman

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The employment situation in west-central remained muddled after Friday's release of local reports by the state Department of Labor and Industry.

Jobless rates remained unchanged or ticked higher in November.

Clearfield County's unemployment rate rose to 8 percent, up from 7.6 percent in November.

Jefferson County's rate rose from 6.5 to 6.8 percent. Clarion County's rate increased to 7.1 percent from 6.7 percent.

The jobless rate in Forest County stood at 8.3 percent, up from 7.1 percent in October.

Potter County's rate was 8.2 percent, up from 8 percent.

The unemployment rates in Elk and Cameron counties were unchanged, at 6 and 10 percent, respectively.

The rates were lower across the board than No-

vember 2012, when they stood at 8.6 percent in Clearfield County, 6.9 percent in Elk County, 7.9 percent in Jefferson County, 8.4 percent in Clarion County, 9.9 percent in Forest County, 11.4 percent in Cameron County and 8.7 percent in Potter County.

Taken together, the seven-county area's jobless rate in November was 7.4 percent, compared to 8.3 percent a year earlier.

The labor force totaled 113,600 in November, with 105,300 people working and 8,400 out of work.

In November 2012, the labor force totaled 114,200, with 104,800 people employed and 9,500 looking for work.

Year over year, while 1,100 fewer people were classified as unemployed, the number of people working increased by only 500 at the same time the overall labor force shrank by 600.

The local statistics mirror a trend that some ana-

See Rates, A3



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