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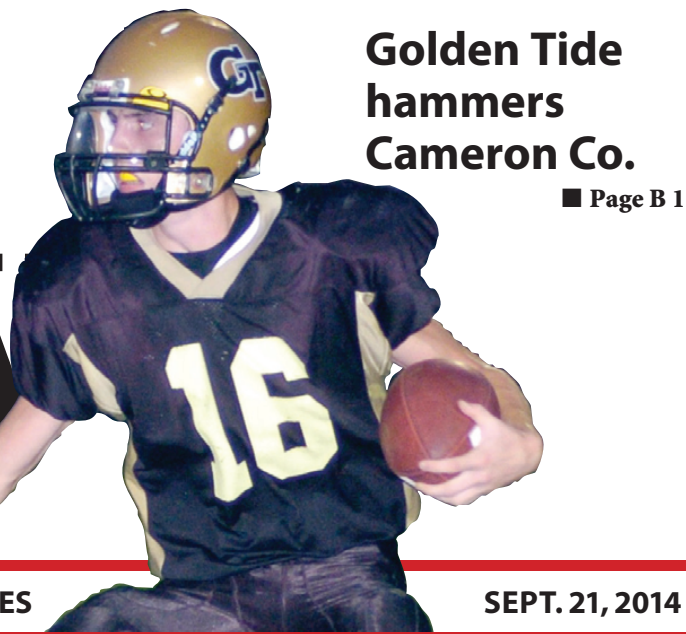
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DuBois VFW  
seeks entries  
for Voice of  
Democracy  
competition

DuBOIS — Donald E. Aravich, DuBois VFW Post 813 Voice of Democracy Essay chairperson, announces the Voice of Democracy scholarship competition is open to students in grades 9-12 in the DuBois Area School District, including those at the Catholic and Christian schools and home schooled students.

Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or older and previous Voice of Democracy first place state winners are not eligible to compete.

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars' premier scholarship program. Each year, more than 50,000 high school students compete for more than \$2.3 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording a broadcast script on an

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Obituaries

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• Don Erickson Jr., 89

• Tina Ross, 52

• Jeanne Solida, 84

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Dave Herzing of DuBois throws out a pitch at PNC Park in Pittsburgh. He is wearing his wife's ball cap in awareness of ovarian cancer. Sandra "Sandy" Herzing passed away the week before but coincidences experienced at the park would make many believe she was there in spirit for her family. (Photo submitted)



This teal and antique white motorcycle is more than just a pretty bike. For Dave Herzing this bike is a statement on ovarian cancer awareness. Sandra "Sandy" Herzing, his wife, fought for 17 months before passing away, Aug. 20. (Photo submitted)

Coincidences  
or divine signs?

In memory of 'Iron Sandy,'  
family plans to send a family  
battling ovarian cancer on a trip

By Joy Norwood  
jnorwood@thecourierexpress.com

DuBOIS — Things happen in life that some people may say are simply coincidences but when those "coincidences" are joined together many believe they are divine signs.

Signs that can bring peace to a grieving heart and give confirmation that our decisions are the right ones.

Dave Herzing of DuBois recently had such an experience where the coincidences were just too overwhelming to not mean something more.

But this story doesn't begin with the co-

SANDY HERZING

See Coincidences, A5

Lees sentenced,  
faces 10 years  
in state prison

By Randy Bartley  
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BROOKVILLE — Kenneth Lees II, the self-styled "mastermind" of a methamphetamine lab near Brockway, could spend the next 10 years in a state correctional institution.

The charges against Lees II, 25, arose when the police were investigating a marijuana growing operation, methamphetamine and MDMA, (Ecstasy) lab at the Lees home, Cemetery Hill, Snyder Township, Jefferson County. Kenneth Lees Sr. opened fire from inside the house, shooting PSP Trooper Bradley K. Wilson twice. Lees Sr. later took his own life.

Lees II was apprehended just off of Route 219 in the Brockway area. The state police attempted to stop Lees II, who was driving a borrowed blue Honda Civic, but he attempted to flee and a pursuit ensued. The police searched the Honda Civic and found unknown pills, an iPhone, a multi-colored glass smoking pipe and a blue binder.

The blue binder contained an eight page handwritten note in the outer sleeve, "Kenneth R. Lees II" was handwritten under the NAME block on the first page. It was dated Sept. 27, 2013. Under the words "EXPERIMENT/SUBJECT" was written "FINAL EXPRESSIONS."

The last three sentences written on page 7 were: "I dedicated my time to learning about how to grow high quality marijuana and succeeded. I put all my \$ from the 1st yr. of college (excess shorlarships/grants, etc.) into a grow hit that my dad helped me install. I was the mastermind and he the laborer."

On page 8 was written: "I really did this for personal satisfaction, as I knew I could easily make vast amounts of cash by 'flipping pounds' but he saw it differently. Without a job, no wife, and retirement just a future dream he wanted me to do this seriously. I was all about it at first. We set up an indoor and outdoor (greenhouse) growing op. We made a lot of \$ and split it down the middle. He kept meticulous records on excel spread sheet. etc. Years after I grew bored w/the operation & tried to teach him how to grow. The qual-

See Lees, A2

Curwensville church to help honor  
firefighters killed in the line of duty

By Kimberly Finnigan  
kfinnigan@thecourierexpress.com

CURWENSVILLE — A local church will participate in a national event to honor firefighters killed in the line of duty.

Charlie Wall, event organizer, said he found information about "Bells Across America" on the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's website.

"I was surfing the web one day and found a link to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation website. Through there I found the link to Bells Across America," Wall said.

Wall is a lifetime member of the Clearfield, Curwensville and Grampian/Penn/Bloom Fire departments.

Each year, a memorial is held in the chapel at the fire academy in Emmetsburg, Maryland, for firefighters killed in the line of duty.

"The families are escorted by uniformed fire personnel. Then they're given a flag which was flown over the capitol and a rose," Wall said.

However, Bells Across America was started in 2011 for families of fallen firefighters across the country who aren't able to come to Emmetsburg.

Wall said he organized the first event as part of the regular service at the Curwensville United Methodist Church.

A wooden cross, a fire boot and larger cross mark the scene of a traffic accident which claimed the life of 19-year-old Walter Matthew Sarnoski, a Sandy Township firefighter. Sarnoski was responding to a traffic accident in his personal vehicle Jan. 20, 2005, when he collided with a Sandy Township Fire Department vehicle on Route 255. On Oct 12, a memorial service called "Bells Across America" will take place to honor firefighters, like Sarnoski, who lost their lives in the line of duty. (Photo by Kimberly Finnigan)

Last year, he invited all fire departments in the county, but didn't have much of a turnout.

"This year, I'd love to go up to the pulpit and look out to a sea of blue (uniforms)," Wall said.

For this year's service, Wall said he is going to read the names of all the firefighters killed in the line of duty in Pennsylvania and he will ring the bell.

Wall said the pastor of the church has also arranged for a bagpiper to play "Amazing Grace."

"There's just something about hearing 'Amazing Grace' on the pipes," Wall said. "Last year, when he played, people left with tears in their eyes."

There will also be a video screen that will have the names and pictures of firefighters killed in the line of duty.

Wall said this year's service will begin at 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 12. The service is open to all firefighters from all departments

See Church, A2

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