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## MORE INSIDE

In tomorrow's edition.

**COURIER EXPRESS**  
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**TV Week**

## Wicked weather

Thousands of customers lost power and one person was struck by lightning as powerful thunderstorms moved across the state. **A10**



## Pirates win

Pittsburgh Pirates fans celebrate after their team's 7-5 win over the Texas Rangers Wednesday. The Pirates swept the Rangers in the three-game series. **B1**

## Cold & snowy

The Old Farmers' Almanac is saying that this winter's shaping up to be cold and snowy. **B6**

**DUBOIS NOW.COM**

## Obituaries

No obituaries reported today

## Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly sunny with a 30 percent chance of showers. Much cooler with highs around 60. **Full report, A2**

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Many people gathered Wednesday night at the First United Methodist Church in DuBois for a Patriot Day service to remember those who have fallen, have been injured, or are still fighting to preserve freedom in America. (Photo by Katie Weidenboerner)

# Patriot Day service in DuBois

By **Katie Weidenboerner**

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DuBOIS —"It seems like only yesterday that our great nation was attacked on 9/11," Gold Star father Jack Tully said Wednesday to more than 100 people who gathered at a Patriot Day service held at First United Methodist Church on West Long Avenue.

The Tully family lost

their son, Michael, in Iraq Aug. 23, 2007. He was killed in action while conducting a combat patrol outside of Al Aziziya, Iraq. The vehicle Michael was riding in was hit by an improvised explosive device.

"Twelve years ago, most of us were glued to our information sources trying to comprehend just what happened, but the wheels were in motion for our loved ones

to answer the call of duty," Jack Tully said. "Some of our loved ones would fall, some of them will carry the wounds of war for the rest of their lives."

Amid the Pledge of Allegiance and group hymns of "America the Beautiful" and "Let There Be Peace on Earth," those gathered listened to Gold Star families and the mother of a Wounded Warrior speak about pa-

triotism.

Jack Tully said when he thinks of patriotism his mind goes to the American Veterans Traveling Tribute which came to Brookville from Aug. 21-25.

While the centerpiece of the Traveling Wall was an 80 percent scale version of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C., there were also six 4-foot-by-8-foot panels which had a

collection of individually-engraved dog tags depicting all the casualties of the global war on terror.

At this wall of fallen, Jack Tully watched as a troubled veteran stood staring at the names, shoulders heaving with sadness.

"I sat on the bench next to him and I said, 'Did you lose a loved one who is on this wall?'" Jack Tully recounted.

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# Hospitals position to continue quality care into the future

## Health care reform topic for Business Over Breakfast

By **Joy Norwood**

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DuBOIS — Health care reform is forcing many small hospitals to take a serious look at how they can continue to provide care to their communities.

Ray Graeca, president of Penn Highlands Healthcare, spoke about how four local hospitals have positioned themselves to continue to provide quality care into the future at Wednesday's Business Over Breakfast, hosted by the Greater DuBois Area Chamber of Commerce.

Health care reform or the Accountable Care Act was the reason for DuBois Regional Medical Center, Brookville Hospital, Clearfield Hospital and Elk County Regional Medical Center to join together under the parent company of Penn

Highlands Healthcare. Baby boomers are aging and looking for health care, he noted. At the moment, the government puts 19.5 to 19.8 percent of the budget for health care. However, economists say that once governments put 20 percent or more towards health care it becomes an unsustainable model. The United States, at 19.8 percent, is on the cusp of being into an unsustainable model, Graeca said, adding that something had to be done.

Graeca gave some history on the health care system, going back to the 1940s and the Hill-Burton law.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Services website, "In 1946, Congress passed a law that gave hospitals, nursing homes and other health facilities grants and loans for construction and modernization. In return, they agreed to

provide a reasonable volume of services to persons unable to pay and to make their services available to all persons residing in the facility's area. The program stopped providing funds in 1997, but about 170 health care facilities nationwide are still obligated to provide free or reduced-cost care."

The recession in 2008 impacted hospitals in that employers changed health care plans and employees saw higher deductibles and higher co-pays. This led to people putting off elected surgeries and hospitals saw drops in admissions.

Graeca said 44 million people in the United States do not have access to health care. Health care reform will provide that access to about 30 million of those individuals. However, the country cannot afford to pay

See Hospitals, Page A9



Ray Graeca, president of Penn Highlands Inc., was the guest speaker at the Greater DuBois Area Chamber of Commerce's Business Over Breakfast Wednesday. Graeca spoke on the formation of Penn Highlands and its impact on the community. Penn Highlands is the parent company for four area hospitals - DuBois Regional Medical Center, Brookville Hospital, Clearfield Hospital and Elk Regional Health Center. (Photo by Joy Norwood)

The employees of Phoenix Sintered Metals in Brockway gathered at the flag pole Wednesday in memory of Sept. 11, 2001. Mike Fassnacht, Director of Operations, led the group with the Pledge to the Flag. Dominique Martino, a senior from Brockway Area High School sang the National Anthem. Fire chief Jeff Fustine had the new fire engine from Brockway Fire Co. and Police chief Terry Young had the police car from the Brockway Police Department. This is the second year that the employees held this gathering. A list of facts about Sept. 11 were read and a moment of silence was held before returning to work. (Photo submitted)



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