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COURIER EXPRESS

In tomorrow's edition.

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TV Week

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MORE INSIDE

Line of credit approved

The Clearfield Municipal Authority voted to approve a \$797,460 line of credit with CNB Bank at its meeting this week. **A2**

Mayor helps families

Over the past several winters, Braddock Mayor John Fetterman kept a close eye on low-income households in his borough — one of the poorest in the area — often by knocking on doors to check on families in need. **A5**

House GOP eyes interim budget

Pennsylvania House Republican leaders said Wednesday they will seek an interim spending plan later this week to end the five-and-a-half month budget stalemate if there is not enough support to pass a \$1 billion-plus tax increase they helped negotiate with Gov. Tom Wolf and Senate leaders. **A6**

Federal Reserve raising rates

The Federal Reserve is raising interest rates from record lows set at the depths of the 2008 financial crisis, a shift that heralds modestly higher rates on some loans. **B7**

Obituaries

A9

- Lamarr C. Kessler, 84
- Richard Wareham, 68

Tomorrow's Forecast



Cloudy. A chance of snow showers in the afternoon. Cooler with highs in the lower 30s. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Full report, **A3**



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Talking about their Make-A-Wish experience are Cheryl, center, and Josh Golembowski, right, during last week's Light Up A Child's Life campaign in DuBois. At left is Lindsey Herzing, regional manager of Make-A-Wish, based in Punxsutawney. (Photo submitted)



Stacy Hanzely of DuBois, right, talked about what Make-A-Wish meant to her family during last week's fundraising campaign which raised slightly more than \$108,000 in the greater DuBois area. Also shown is Lindsey Herzing, regional manager of Make-A-Wish, based in Punxsutawney. (Photo submitted)

Make-A-Wish campaign raises more than \$108,000

By Elaine Haskins

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DuBOIS — DuBois area residents made the 22nd Annual Make-A-Wish Light Up A Child's Life Campaign last week a success by raising slightly more than \$108,000, according to Lindsey Herzing, regional manager of Make-A-Wish, based in Punxsutawney. That amount represents a new record for the annual campaign.

The Greater Pennsylvania Chapter grants more than 700 wishes a year.

"It was such a heartwarming week with many donors and families stopping by to tell their stories," Herzing said. "The community was so generous to this year's campaign."

The annual fundraising campaign for Make-A-Wish was held Dec. 8-13.

Once again, the DuBois Area School District was a big supporter of the campaign. Collectively, the school raised more than \$25,000, Herzing said.

The Greater Pennsylvania Chapter grants more than 700 wishes a year. The Punxsutawney region covers Clearfield, Jefferson, Elk, Cameron, Potter, McKean, Centre, Clinton, Huntington, Blair and Indiana counties.

Make-A-Wish is a wish-granting organization that raises money, not a fund-raising organization that grants wishes.

The "goal" has always been to have enough money to fulfill every wish the organization needs to fill. Make-A-Wish just never wants to

DuBois

have to turn down a child.

Anyone can recommend a child, from friends and family members to church members, nurses, doctors or volunteers.

When a child is referred, Make-A-Wish makes sure the family is aware the child has been referred and approves.

Then the agency works with doctors to have a form filled out confirming the child has a life-threatening medical condition.

A team of volunteers is then set up to go to the home and find out what the child dreams of.

The wish can be for anything, but about half of them are to go to Disney World.

Others have included a trip to Hawaii, a cruise, shopping sprees, meeting celebrities, playhouses and swimming pools.

Sometimes the wishes are of something a little more unique, such as being a superhero for a day.

Make-A-Wish volunteers get a first and second wish from the child in case the first wish falls through.

When it comes to trips, Make-A-Wish allows anyone living in the home up to age 18 and the parents to go along.

The average cost for a wish is \$3,900. The average was \$3,400 when wishes began being granted in 1980, but costs have risen.

The Light Up A Child's Life campaign is the only internal campaign the organization does. Sometimes other organizations raise money for Make-A-Wish or students do senior projects that benefit the agency.

Ex-firefighters waive arson charges to county court

By Jeff Corcino

Special to the Courier-Express

CLEARFIELD — Two former volunteer firefighters from the Hope Fire Company in Philipsburg who were recently accused of arson waived their right to preliminary hearings before District Judge Richard Ireland at centralized court held at the Clearfield County Jail.

Samuel W. Connor, 19, of Howard is charged with burglary, conspiracy/arson-intent to destroy unoccupied building; arson-intent to destroy unoccupied building; reckless burning or exploding-places uninhabited or unoccupied structure; possess explosive/incendiary material; criminal mischief, failure to control/duty and recklessly endangering another person.

Clearfield County

Hunter T. Harris, 21, of Philipsburg is charged with burglary, two counts of conspiracy/arson-intent to destroy unoccupied building; reckless burning or exploding-places uninhabited or unoccupied structure; possess explosive/incendiary material; criminal mischief, failure to control/duty and recklessly endangering another person.

According to the affidavit of probable cause, Harris and Connor along with Kenneth L Moore IV, 20, of Lanse, were all volunteer firefighters with the Hope Fire Company in Philipsburg. The three of them allegedly were at the fire station early in the morning Oct. 9 when they discussed setting a vacant house on fire in an effort to respond to it with the fire company and extinguish the fire.

The three allegedly gathered hay, a cardboard toilet paper tube, paper wrapper from a new roll of toilet paper, and a paper plate and made a fuel package for ignition.

Moore drove to the area of the vacant home at 309 Ida St. and dropped off Harris and Connor. Harris placed the fuel package in a wooden frame shed that was attached to the rear of the structure.

Harris then used a lighter from Moore's vehicle to

See Firemen, Page A9



Velma Smouse of Soldier shows off her walker that she crochets various themes depending on the season or event. See story Page A3.



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