Two Drivers Pronounced Dead in Rural Valley Accident

RURAL VALLEY - Two Armstrong County men were killed late Friday afternoon in a collision along Route 85. Thomas Lowell Dean, 86, of Dayton and Jacob Adam Iseman, 32, of Ford City were both fatally injured when the 2002 Gray Cheverolet Silverado 1500 truck that Dean was driving crossed the double yellow line and struck Iseman’s 2010 Ford Fusion car head on. This incident happened one-quarter mile west of the Water Street Intersection near Elderton State Bank. Both drivers sustained multiple blunt force trauma although they were wearing seatbelts. They were pronounced dead at the scene by Coroner Brian K. Myers. The manner of death was ruled accidental. The incident is still under investigation by the Pennsylvania State Police. Funeral arrangements for Iseman are being handled by Welch Funeral Home in Ford City. Arrangements for Dean are being handled by Carson/Boyer Funeral Home in Rural Valley. The Coroner’s office was assisted at the scene by the Rural Valley, Dayton, and Rayburn Township volunteer fire departments, Citizens Ambulance, Pennsylvania State Police, and the Armstrong County’s Sheriff’s office.

Visitors prepare to enter Grace Presbyterian Church on the walking tour of Kittanning churches yesterday.

Area Churches Open Their Doors to Visitors

KITTANNING - Local churches were open yesterday afternoon as the Kittanning Ministerial Association sponsored a free walking tour of the houses of worship. The tour began at St. Luke’s United Church of Christ at 2PM. The crowd then visited First United Methodist Church, followed by St. John’s Lutheran Church. The walkers then continued to Grace Presbyterian Church and St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. They were greeted at Family-Life Church with various Christmas hymns being played on the restored Hammond organ. The tour concluded with refreshments at the Salvation Army. Although not on the walking tour, Manorville United Methodist Church had an open house to view Nativity scenes provided by their parishioners following the Kittanning two-hour journey.

The Reverend Carl Johnson, pastor of St. John’s Lutheran Church in Kittanning, discusses the church organ and other unique factors about the sanctuary of his North Jefferson Street Church.

Leaders in Pennsylvania’s nonprofit community are speaking out against a federal tax reform bill which is awaiting a final passage vote in Washington. The Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations opposes several provisions of the tax bill, including one which would limit the number of charitable deductions in exchange for a higher standard deduction. Another portion the group opposes would rescind a federal law known as the Johnson Amendment, which prohibits most nonprofits from endorsing or opposing a candidate for political office. The holiday season can present challenges for those recovering from alcohol or drug abuse. The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs is there to help. Acting Secretary Jennifer Smith says people in recovery from alcohol or drug abuse should be aware of problematic situations they may encounter during the holiday season. Smith says it’s OK for people to leave environments they feel could threaten their recovery. She says anyone in need of help can contact Pennsylvania’s “Get Help Now” hotline at 1-800-662-help. The bills will next be taken up by the Senate. Governor Tom Wolf has signed legislation reauthorizing an important program to assist children. The Governor signed the bill protecting the Children’s Health Insurance Program through state funding on Friday. Wolf noted that for 20 years, CHIP has provided vital health coverage and care to about nine million children.

SPORTS
• Stealers fell to the Patriots, 27-24.
• Penguins grabbed a 4-2 victory over the Coyotes on Saturday.
• Penn State earned a 72-54 victory over George Mason.

Ice formed last week in the Allegheny River at East Brady due to temperatures into the single digits.