

2011

YEAR IN REVIEW

Featuring People, Places & Special Events



A Special Supplement to The Franklin Shopper

Franklin County, Pa Edition

January 11, 2012



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

AND BUSINESS HONOR ROLL

January

January 2

Company develops solar thermal dissipator. A Chambersburg manufacturer of solar thermal products hopes to tap into new markets with the launch of a new product. EarthNet Energy makes solar thermal systems, which heat water for domestic water use, radiant floor heating systems, swimming pools, and other uses. The company recently began the production of a solar thermal dissipator, which protects solar thermal systems from generating too much heat.

January 3

Babies arrive in new year. A little girl born in Chambersburg Hospital to a Shippensburg couple Saturday became Franklin County's 2011 New Years baby. Ilyn Mryla Velazquez was born 2:03am New Year's day. She weighed 7 pounds, 9.8 ounces and measuring 20.5 inches long. She is the daughter of Tonya and Guillermo Velazquez of Shippensburg.

Area schools earn state honor. The Pennsylvania Department of Education honored school districts with the Keystone Achievement Awards. This year's awards were given to public schools that achieved "adequate yearly progress: in the 2008-2009 and 2009-10 years. The following area school districts received distinction from the Department of Education on their ongoing efforts: Chambersburg Area: Andrew Buchanan Elementary, Coldbrook Elementary, Thaddeus Stevens Elementary, Grandview Elementary, Scotland Elementary, New Franklin Elementary, Guilford Hills Elementary, South Hamilton Elementary, Lurgan Elementary, Falling Spring Elementary, Fayetteville Elementary, Hamilton Heights Elementary, Marion Elementary. Greencastle-Antrim: Greencastle-Antrim Senior High School, Greencastle-Antrim Middle School, Greencastle-Antrim Primary School; Shippensburg Area: Shippensburg Area Middle School, Nancy Grayson Elementary, James Burd

Elementary, Grace B. Luhrs University Elementary; Tuscarora: Montgomery Elementary, Mountain View Elementary, St. Thomas Elementary, Mercersburg Elementary; Waynesboro Area: Fairview Elementary, Hooverville Elementary, Mowery Elementary, Summitview Elementary

January 5

Ship teacher contract OK'd. The school board unanimously voted to accept the latest proposal from a negotiating session.

January 6

SU's Grove school re-credited. The John L. Grove College of Business has again earned national re-creditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International.

January 10

Chamber celebrates 100 years. Chambersburg's 'most progressive businessmen' began Chamber in 1911.

January 14

Nursing center receives state award. Menno Haven's Penn Hall nursing center was recognized as one of the best in the state. Pennsylvania Secretary of Aging John Michael Hall presented the Excellence in Quality Care Award to Menno Haven.

January 15

Olympic medal donated to academy. Mercersburg academy has a golden new way to show off its Olympic heritage. Charlie Moore, a 1947 graduate, recently donated his 1952 Olympic Summer Games 400-meter hurdles gold medal to the school.

January 16

Restaurant gets new name, manager. The restaurant at the Shippen Place Hotel is now operating under a new management and a new name. Formerly known as the Black Horse Restaurant and Tavern, the restaurant has been renamed University Grille.

January 20

County's poverty rate is one of lowest in PA. Franklin County has one of the lowest poverty rates in Pennsylvania. The county's poverty rate of 7.9 percent ranked seventh lowest among Pennsylvania's 67 counties.

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January 23

County got \$33.9M in 8 years. Where the money went. Between 2003 and 2010, the state invested \$33.9 million directly in Franklin County Businesses and farms through a mix of low-interest loans, grants and job training assistance. Most of the assistance came in the form of low-interest loan financing that is paid back to the state.

January 25

Gas bills to rise at least 17 percent. Resident served by UGI Central Penn Gas could see their bills increase by about \$15 a month. UGI Central Penn Gas, which serves the Waynesboro and Shippensburg areas, filed a request with state regulators to increase base rates for natural gas delivery.

Sewer rate to increase again in Feb. Chambersburg residents will see their sewer rates jump 25 percent in February the second such increase in less than a year.

January 27

CASD moves to hike property tax rate. Chambersburg Area school board voted to advertise the 2011-12 preliminary budget for public inspection. A 3.5 percent increase would still leave the district with a \$2 million budget deficit.

January 28

County Ok's review of sites. Consultant gets \$62K to examine downtown buildings for best use. The county's consultant is to review five downtown buildings to see how county offices can be arranged to make room for a fifth courtroom.

Elephant museum nearly ready to reopen. U.S. 30 attraction rebuilt after July 5 destruction in fire. The newly rebuilt Mister Ed's Elephant Museum and Candy Emporium is set to open its doors exactly seven months after a fire destroyed its former home.

January 29

SU to break ground for new buildings in April. Shippensburg University Board of Trustees voted to demolish tree campus buildings, paving the way for new residence hall construction at the school.

January 31

Marcellus waste OK for area landfills. Drill cuttings

already deposited in Cumberland County dump.

February

February 1

County's unemployment rate improves again. Franklin County's unemployment fell for the second straight month. December unemployment dropped to 8 percent.

Boro blocks solar panel use. Chambersburg Gastroenterology Associates put in a \$185,000 solar system last fall. The plan was to cut electric bills by 20 percent. The system remains inactive because Chambersburg Borough limits the amount of electricity such systems can generate. The medical facility's system capacity exceeds that limit.

February 2

Manitowoc to add 200 jobs here. Manitowoc, Franklin County's largest manufacturer, is seeing a rebound in the economy with an expectation to hire 200 people for the first half of this year.

February 5

School districts to lose state funds. A surprise e-mail to superintendents across the state has Chambersburg bracing for a larger 2011-12 budget shortfall than previously expected. Instead of a budget next year being \$2 million unbalanced, it's going to be \$4 million unbalanced.

February 12

'Save a Life Tour' to visit 7 area schools. Franklin County Commissioners are spending nearly \$26,000 on a week long alcohol awareness program. One of the goals is to reduce the number of alcohol-related crashes and fatalities in the county.

February 15

Borough to allow solar energy. A solar energy system installed by Chambersburg Gastroenterology Associates in Chambersburg will become a pilot project for the borough.

February 16

Area tallies \$51M in stimulus money. Since the signing of the federal stimulus package two years ago, more than \$51 million has flowed into Franklin County. The largest recipient of the local

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stimulus money was Keystone Health, which received \$13.6 million in grants.

February 28

Council for the Arts stays put. Lower rent, providing art classes allows for same location downtown.

March

March 2

Carnegie Library head to lead Wilson College. Pittsburgh's Carnegie Library President has been unanimously selected to serve as the next president of Chambersburg's Wilson College. Dr. Barbara K. Mistick has been appointed the 19th president in the college's 142-year history. Mistick will officially assume the presidency on July 1.

March 4

County's housing market starting to stabilize. The housing market in Franklin County is showing signs of stabilizing. Existing home sales picked up slightly last year.

March 10

School district loses 3 grants. State budget cuts leave CASD \$3.54 million short. Discontinuation of the Education Assistance Program will cost the district \$444,995. An end to charter school reimbursement will add another \$326,992 to the deficit.

March 12

County's minority population up. Franklin County's population is not only one of the fastest growing counties in Pennsylvania; it's one of the fastest changing. The county's total population grew percent 15.7 between 2000 and 2010 while its minority population grew by 105 percent.

March 15

Jobless rate lowest in 2 years. Franklin County's unemployment rate has dropped to its lowest point in two years. The jobless rate decreased for the third consecutive month to 7.6 percent – the lowest since January 2009.

March 16

Volvo to add 220 jobs here. \$100M to be spent at Shippensburg plant. The company announced it will move the North American sales headquarters and rental business from

Asheville, N.C. to Shippensburg by September 2012.

March 24

School district cuts 8 positions. The Chambersburg Area school board voted to cut 3 programs and discontinue eight positions. The board abolished the dental hygienist program, exploratory language program at the Chambersburg Area Middle School and driver education program at the Chambersburg Area Senior High School.

March 25

Neely Spence adds to trophy case. Shippensburg University junior Neely Spence (Shippensburg) is running out of room for all the awards she is winning. Spence was honored as the 2011 PSAC Women's Indoor Track Athlete of the Year meaning she has been named an athlete of the year, all eight of her competitive seasons to date at Shippensburg.

March 28

Aid for U.S. farmers in jeopardy. A program envisioning "healthy" communities in harmony with the natural environment: is at risk in the federal budget process. The local Resource Conservation and Development Area Council programs help dairy farmers transition to rotational grazing, weed control and no-till planting.

March 29

Walk-in clinic set for U.S. 30. Med-Express is renovating the interior and exterior of the former Sunrise Electronics building at 1048 Lincoln Way East in Chambersburg to make way for a full-service walk-in health care clinic.

March 31

Red Cross offices to merge. People served by the local American Red Cross chapter won't notice a change in services when the Chambersburg office closes April 30. Tom Reardon heads the new chapter, the result of a merger this month between the Franklin and Cumberland county chapters.

April

April 1

Wilson's next president shares belief in women's focused education. Barbara

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Mistick brings a history of involvement in women's education.

April 2
Grants aimed a low-income families. Franklin County Commissioners gave preliminary approval to seven housing grant awards. Commissioners awarded \$104,083 in grants. Much of it will leverage federal grants or help low-income families remain in their homes.

April 5
Jobless rate at 25-month low. Unemployment in Franklin County continues to drop, this time to its lowest point in more than two years. February's jobless rate of 6.8 percent was the lowest since January 2009 – signaling that jobs are slowly starting to return.

April 7
CASD teachers OK contract. Chambersburg teachers made significant concessions in salary and benefits when they voted to ratify a new two-year contract with the school district.

April 8
Chamber honors contributions. Will Pananes, owner of Chambersburg's Olympia Candy Kitchen, was honored for his work over the past four decades. He was inducted in to the Greater Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce's Hall of Fame. The Athena Award: Lorna Edmundson; Property Improvement Award, \$150,000 to \$500,000: The Inn a Ragged Edge; \$500,000 or more: The Butcher Shopper; Agribusiness Award: Tuscarora Mountain Winery; Environmental Sustainability award of Wilson College and the Greater Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce: Vacon; Volunteer of the Year: Robin Hamon; Heritage Center Ambassador Award: Frances Humelsine.

April 10
Chambersburg noted for growth. The Chambersburg area has been named among a dozen micropolitan areas "worth watching". Writing for the nation's business community, journalist G. Scott Thomas listed 12 micro areas with growth rates higher than 15 percent.

April 13
Warden worked his way through corrections. The new warden of the Franklin County Jail has risen through the ranks of the corrections system. Daniel Keen is the director of county prison inspections for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. Keen will start his new job on May 2.

April 26
Jobless rate drops again. Franklin County's jobless rate continued to fall for the fourth straight months. Franklin and Cumberland counties tied for the eight lowest rates in the state.

Grant to fund growing plants on CASHS roof. Chambersburg Area Senior High School is to get a "green roof: within the next year or so. The project received one of the two Environmental Education Grants awarded to programs in Franklin County. Agricultural science teacher John Seaman and his students will design and install a living roof on the Chambersburg high school starting this fall. A living roof uses soil and vegetation atop an existing structure to manage storm water runoff.

May
May 1
CASHS work finished, celebrated. Dedication follows \$74 million renovation.

May 3
Report: Franklin county's air improving. The county was among seven in Pennsylvania graded with a "C" for air quality in the annual 2011 state of the Air. The county's ozone level is measured at a station on South Mountain.

May 6
Chamber honors 'Mr. Ed' Gotwalt. The local business community also showed its gratitude when the Gettysburg Adams Chamber of Commerce recently honored Ed Gotwalt as its Small Business Person of the year.

May 7
County's 'man of vision' sworn in. Former jail warden officially the state's corrections director. New Pennsylvania Department of Corrections Director John Wetzel was hailed by

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friends and former colleagues as a man of vision and principle who will bring to his state job the same dedication, work ethic and leadership he displayed during his tenure as a warden at Franklin County Jail.

May 10
\$1M grant given for plant. Chambersburg will get a second \$1 million grant for proposed upgrades to the J. Hase Mowrey Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant that serves Franklin County's biggest town and the three townships surrounding it.

May 12
State group lauds Supervisor Swailes. Metal Township Supervisor Anna Swailes was presented with the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors 22nd Annual President's Leadership Award. Each year, the association presents the award to a township supervisor and a township administrator whose outstanding projects or programs have benefited their communities.

May 13
Eight companies provide boost to county's economy. Franklin County's economy is re-emerging. Eight companies have already pledge to invest \$108 million in their businesses in Franklin County.

School district Oks \$880K for tech upgrades, back-up system. The Chambersburg Area School District will spend up to \$880,000 for technology upgrades.

May 19
New urgent care facility opens today. A new MedExpress urgent care facility in Chambersburg opens to patients today. The urgent care facility is designed to treat people who either do not have a primary care provider or cannot get an appointment with one, but have an injury or illness that does not warrant a trip to the emergency room. A physician is always on staff and the facility is open seven days a week from 9am-9pm. It is open year-round, closed only on Christmas & Thanksgiving.

May 20
\$2M grant may go back to Pa. The \$2 million grant allocated for a mystery proj-

ect in Antrim Township may be going back to the state. Manitowoc may forego the funding because of timing and administrative compliances issues.

May 27
Mattress stores supplier calling it quits. The Lemoyne Sleeper store in Chambersburg might be closing. The mattress and furniture company is closing its factory and three company-owned stores in Lemoyne, Lancaster and Lebanon.

May 28
F-1 tornado confirmed. Winds accompanying a tornado knocked down trees in a path from Marion to Fayetteville.

May 30
Tech grant deadline extended. Grants to teachers in Franklin County will be awarded to encourage the innovative use of technology in grades K-12. The Greater Chambersburg Chamber Foundation, an affiliate of the Greater Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce, is offering the Innovative Technology Challenge Grants to educators in all six school districts in the county for the first time.

June

June 1
County has 3,350 more jobs. Employers listed 3,350 job openings in April. It was the most listed in a month since 2008.

June 6
County virtual academy created. Chambersburg Area School District has 238 students who attend a form of online charter school. The Franklin Virtual Academy which will start with the 2011-2012 school year.

June 15
Juvenile complaints in county on decline. Juvenile offense complaints in Franklin County are on the decline. Theft, simple assault, and possession of drug paraphernalia make up the three largest juvenile offenses.

June 16
School districts salvage all-day kindergarten despite Pa. budget cuts. Area school districts were able to save full-day kindergarten despite the loss of state funding.

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June 19
Retirees flocking to "Riviera of Pennsylvania". Franklin County's population is rapidly graying. Franklin County's elderly population is growing nearly twice as fast as the county's total population. The 24, 679 people over 65 make up 16.5 percent of the people living in Franklin County's.

June 23
CASD hikes property tax 3.5%. Chambersburg Area school board made the general fund fudge for 011-12 official.

July
July 8
County radios \$3K each. The county is purchasing 26 radios for probation officers at a cost of \$3,409 each. The county is moving its emergency communications system to new frequencies that are to improve communications between first responders and eliminate areas where there is no radio reception.

July 12
Council approves rezoning at Jennings' site. Jennings Chevrolet Buick GMC got a green light to move forward on its plans. Chambersburg Borough Council voted to rezone a piece of land on Grant Street from distributed commercial highway to media manufacturing.

July 14
D.J. Brown wins Pa junior title. D.J. Brown, age 14, has earned the Handicap Division title in the Pennsylvania Junior Bowlers Tour.

July 15
Franklin grows to 4th class status. Franklin County has grown into another class of county. Candidates seeking countywide offices will need more signatures on their petitions.

July 17
5 community programs closing. The South Central Community Action Program is closing five programs and will lay off 12 employees. The following programs are closing for lack of funds: Money Skills(taught families to budget and learn about banking) will end July 31; Utility Assistance (Contracted with utility

companies to assist families with their utility costs) will end July 31; Housing Rehab (did home maintenance and handicapped accessibility for low income families, predominately seniors on fixed incomes) will close Dec. 31; Family Development Service and Case Management(participants were challenged to set and meet goals...like get GED or a job), will end July 31; Wee Care Learning Center (opened in 1974 as a sliding scale day care program to help low income working parents) will end August 26.

July 19
3 CASD schools miss the mark. 1 elementary, 2 secondary schools fail to reach adequate yearly progress standard. The district, as a whole, achieved AYP for the fourth consecutive year. Chambersburg Area Senior High School, J. Frank Faust Junior High School and Benjamin Chambers Elementary School fell short of AYP.

Empty armory to go to CASD. Army to take care of lead, asbestos before transfer.

July 25
New home sales still in slump. Median price of existing houses \$139K.

July 27
Metal works company expands in Greene. An expansion project nearly doubled the size of Sunset Metal Works' building in Greene Township. The company is a contract manufacturer of metal fabrications, components and weldments.

July 29
More cuts possible for community program. The South Central Community Action Program(SCCAP) runs the Franklin County homeless shelter, Women Infants & Children, six food pantries and a variety of other initiatives. Just four of its 22 programs are self-sustaining.

August
August 2
Jobless rate increases while hiring stagnates. Franklin County's unemployment rate climbed at the same time employers indicated that overall hiring was at a standstill. The county has a

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THE YEAR IN REVIEW

AND BUSINESS HONOR ROLL

jobless rate of 6.9 percent, up from 6.7 percent in May.

August 5
Robot fills prescriptions at local pharmacy. Norland Avenue Pharmacy welcomed its newest employee – a robot that fills prescriptions. The SP 200 Robotic Prescription Dispensing System looks like a large cabinet. Inside the transparent doors, a robotic arm quietly glides around filling the prescriptions.

August 9
Borough allows 12 yard sales per year. Chambersburg Borough Council approved an ordinance restricting the amount and duration of yard sales conducted in the borough.

August 10
Lake closed amid E. coli concerns. With the number of sick children increasing, the lake at Cowans Gap State Park has been closed while officials continue to investigate the source of E. coli infections.

August 20
Farm awarded grant to install solar panels. Dennis Rife's chicken and beef cattle farm on Guntner Roads was awarded a \$20,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to install solar panels for a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic system to provide energy for farm operations.

August 23
SASD athletes will pay to play. Pay to play is on its way to Shippensburg Area School District. A \$40 fee will be assessed per student in high school and \$20 per student in middle school.

August 24
Cowans Gap Lake reopens for all but swimming. Fishing and boating again are permitted on the lake. Quake rattles East Coast. Officials: 5.8 is strongest quake in East since '44.

August 31
Jobless rate up. After declining for four consecutive months, Franklin County's unemployment rate has now risen for four straight months.

September

September 6
Apple crops hurts from May hail. Prices could decline to sell damaged fruit.

September 14
\$500k price tag on court complex phones. New phone system would use the Internet for service. A voice Over Internet Protocol system will allow employees to tie their desk phones to their cellular phones.

September 15
Keystone docs move in. New health center is complete. Keystone Health has started moving practices into its new community health center on Fifth Avenue in Chambersburg. Keystone Internal Medicine, Keystone Women's Care and Keystone Pediatrics will have offices in the building.

September 27
Jobless rate continues to increase. Franklin County's unemployment rate continued inching upward in August. The seasonally adjusted jobless rate rose 0.3 percentage point. With the latest increase, the county's unemployment rate has not improved since March.

Local farmer has top cow. Windy Knoll View dairy farm in Mercersburg came away with several top honors at the 48th All-American Dairy Show, the world's largest dairy show. Pledge-ET was selected as Grand Champion Holstein from among 184 animals. Pledge was also Senior Champion and the first-place cow in the 125,000-pound milk production class.

September 29
SU to receive \$1.8 million for Reading Recovery program. Shippensburg University will share a \$46 million federal grant with several other institutions to expand its Reading Recovery program. Reading Recovery is an early intervention program that offers one-on-one reading instruction to first-graders identified as struggling with reading as well as instruction by educators trained in the program method.

October

October 2
Cardinals Win. The Chambersburg Cardinals captured the championship of the Gridiron Developmental Football League with a 19-14 victory

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THE YEAR IN REVIEW

AND BUSINESS HONOR ROLL

over the Oklahoma Thunder at Tara Stadium in Atlanta.

October 5
Foundation honors Reitz for heroism. Chambersburg firefighter saved 2 from burning duplex. Assistant Fire Chief Norman Reitz of Chambersburg Fire Department was chosen for the Burn Prevention Foundation Heroism Award, one of six "Spirit of Courage: award given annually.

October 6
JB's digital plan seen as success. Every freshman receives Macbook. The cost to the student is a one-time \$20 insurance fee that covers the computer for three years. The machines belong to the school district.

October 7
County unites against wage law. Legislation moves to modify state's prevailing wage regs. County commissioners passed a resolution calling for the repeal or major revision of the 1961 law requiring that workers on public projects be paid the prevailing wage for their region.

October 12
Depot workers earn a 7th Shingo medallion. The employees of Letterkenny Army Depot are credited with bringing home a seventh Shingo medallion. They had won the Shingo prize for Excellence in Manufacturing, Bronze Medallion Teams that rebuild the aviation ground power unit.

October 13
G-A leads county in average SAT scores. Greencastle-Antrim High Schools leads the county in Scholastic Aptitude Test.

October 14
8 groups given grants. Summit Endowment has awarded grants to eight local organizations. Grants were awarded to the following: Chambersburg Council for the Arts; Children's Aid Society-Frances Leiter Center; Interfaith Housing Alliance; Keystone Health; Penn State Cooperative Extension(Adams County); Penn State Mont Alto Nursing Program; Waynesboro Area Human Services Council.

October 22
No layoffs at Letterkenny

Army Depot. Letterkenny Commander Col. Cheri Provancha said we have come to the natural end of a labor contract, which is normal administrative contract action, not a reduction in workload.

Police chaplain wins Blue Knight award. Pastor Kenny Craig, a motorcycling chaplain with Chambersburg Police Department, won the title of "Best Knight" during the 2011 Knights of the Roundtable Tournament in Gettysburg.

October 23
Wilson's leader: Small institutions are more invested in student's success. Wilson College President Barbara Mistick earned a master's in business administration from the University of Pittsburgh after she finished at Carlow. She later completed her doctoral work at Case Western University.

October 26
Boro expects drop in fund balance. By the end of this year, Chambersburg Borough might have less than \$500,000 in its general fund cash account – a fund that once maintained a cushion of millions.

October 27
Farm gets federal aid to change manure to electricity. The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that is helping to fund a \$1.3 million biodigester at Hard Earned Acres, 1317 Ritner Highway. A digester will convert manure to methane and methane to electricity on the 820-cow farm owned by Robert and Barbara Keefer.

November

November 1
County's jobless rate drops. Franklin County's unemployment fell 0.4 of a percentage point in September – the largest monthly decrease since March.

November 5
Walk-in care facility opens Monday. Keystone Health in Chambersburg announced that the Keystone Walk-In Care center will open at 10am. The practice is in Keystone Health's new facility at 830 Fifth Ave., Chambersburg. It will open seven days from 10am to 8pm. No appointment needed.

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THE YEAR IN REVIEW AND BUSINESS HONOR ROLL

November 9
400 jobs slated. A discount beauty retailer anticipates hiring as many as 400 in the Chambersburg area. ULTA Cosmetics will occupy the remainder of the Liberty distribution warehouse in Guilford Township.

November 10
ULTA to start training new hires in Dec. ULTA Beauty plans to begin job training for newly hired employees at its Chambersburg warehouse.

November 11
Vogele: Growth spurs move to south. A Chambersburg manufacturer is moving to Tennessee because it has outgrown its current facility. Vogele, which makes road paving machinery, is leaving Chambersburg for the Nashville area, where its parent company operates a larger facility.

November 15
County program serves a model around nation. Day Reporting Center draws many visitors. Franklin County's alternative to jail has been getting a lot of attention. Criminal justice officials from as far away as Florida have toured the Day Reporting Center on Loudon Street. The success rate has increased from 60 percent to 73 percent.

November 26
Businesses awarded grants. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has awarded four grants to Waynesboro area businesses for energy efficiency projects. Crawford Enterprises awarded money to purchase and install an energy efficient heat pump; Coming together Productions was awarded a grant to purchase and install an Energy Star rated heat pump; Banyan Investments LLC received a grant to install an Energy Star rated heat pump to help reduce energy consumption; First General Services of Pen-Mar Inc. received a grant to purchase and install high-efficiency T8 lamps and compact fluorescent lighting for its building.

November 29
Citizen of Year Award Given. Charles "CQ" Smith was awarded the 2011 Mike Waters Chambersburg Citizen of the Year Award. The award is given out each

year to one Chambersburg resident who is dedicated to volunteering and helping out the community.

November 30
Chief Dubbs retires after 27 years. Deputy Emergency Services Chief William Dubbs ended a 27-year career with the Chambersburg Fire Company. His new job will be as the borough's lead property maintenance code inspector.

December

December 1
Jobless rate dips for 2nd month. Unemployment fell slightly in Franklin County for the second straight month. The percentage of workers who are unemployed fell in October to 6.5 percent.

December 2
Kimple named new assistant principal at CAMS south. Shawn Kimple, the head teacher at South Hamilton /Elementary School, was recently named the new assistant principal at Chambersburg Area Middle School South.

December 7
Way cleared for 2 restaurants. Chambersburg Planning and Zoning Commission approved site plans to construct an Olive Garden and Longhorn Steakhouse on Norland Avenue.

December 9
Chamber honors Martin's success. Edwin Martin, president of David H. Martin Excavating, was named the Business Person of the Year by the Greater Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce at the chamber's 100th anniversary.


December 10
\$2.5 M Ok'd for business parks. Franklin County commissioners recently agreed to back a 1.5 million grant for the United Business Park near Shippensburg and \$1 million for the Antrim Commons Business Park near Greencastle.

December 16
Depot marks 70th anniversary. Col. Cheri Provanha, Letterkenny commander,

10

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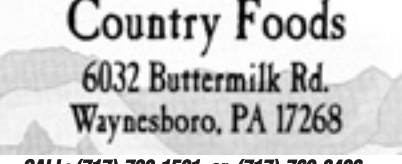
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THE YEAR IN REVIEW

AND BUSINESS HONOR ROLL

unveiled the 70th anniversary commander's coin, known as Kenny Penny. Commanders present their coins to employees for outstanding service.

Child abuse reports decrease in Franklin County. Reports of child abuse in Franklin County are down, and less than those in similar counties, according to a new report on child welfare.

Middle schools to get security upgrades. Board seeks bids for work estimated at \$500K. The Chambersburg Area school board took the first steps toward approving a \$500,000 security construction and renovation project at CAMS North and CAMS South. The board voted 8-1 to solicit bids for secure entrance construction at the two schools.

December 17

Final county budget. No hike for real-estate taxes; employees get 3% raise. The total budget of \$121.8 million includes federal and state dollars for mandated human service programs.

December 18

County adjusts pay range for top job. Franklin County "Commissioners have changed the pay scale for the top administrative position in county government. The County Administrator position has been re-established to the salary range of \$93,000 to \$145,000. The past grade for the position previously started at \$60,000 a year.

December 22

Township gets grant to study connecting trails. Greene Township will see whether a network of trails can connect the Chambersburg Rail Trail to trails eight miles away in Caledonia State Park. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy recently announced 10 South Mountain Partnership mini-grant awards of nearly \$90,000 including \$15,000 to Greene Township. The grant will allow the township to see if it's feasible to tie into the downtown Chambersburg Rail Trail, to extend a trail to Caledonia,

and to connect the Greene Township park in Scotland with Norlo Park on U.S. 30 in Guilford Township.

December 24


Family deli, grocery going out of business. Arthur's Deli and Grocery in New Franklin is going out of business.

December 27

Today's the day. Starting today, teens face new driving restrictions. They are: Drivers under the age of 18 will not be able to transport more than one passenger younger than 18 for the first six months. After six months, junior drivers can transport up to three passengers younger than 18 as long as the driver has not been convicted of a driving violation or has not been partially or fully responsible for a reportable crash. Exemptions apply for family members and if a parent or guardian is in the vehicle; After the first six months, junior drivers can take three passengers younger than 18 with them as long as they have a clean driving record; All drivers and passengers younger than 18 must wear seat belts and it is a primary offense. Police officers will be able to pull a car if they suspect someone is not properly restrained. Children under the age of 8 also must be fastened in a child safety seat; The hours of behind-the-wheel training for permit holders increases from 50 hours to 65 hours. Ten of the additional hours must be logged after dark, and five hours must be logged during poor weather conditions; Current permit holders younger than 18 who have not yet passed the driving test must meet the requirements of the new law.

December 28

Franklin County's unemployment rate up slightly. Franklin County's unemployment rate inched upward in November. The seasonally adjusted jobless rate rose one tenth of a percentage point to 5.5 percent.

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