



**Tonoloway To Hold Fall Service This Sunday**

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**SFHS To Present 'The Sound Of Music'**

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# The Fulton County News

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McCONNELLSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

OCTOBER 2, 2008

## Local Jobless Rate Climbs

Fulton ranks 65th highest out of 67 counties

By Jean Snyder  
STAFF WRITER

Fulton County's unemployment rate rose by 1.2 percentage points in August, going from 7.3 percent in July to 8.5 percent in August, according to preliminary figures released by the Department of Labor and Industry last week. The seasonally adjusted data for Fulton County showed unemployment at 700, with a total labor force of 8,200 for the county in August.

In August, 2007, the county's unemployment rate was only 5.4 percent.

The county, with the increase in unemployment for August, has moved in rankings from number 64 (out of 67 counties) to number 65. Only Forest and Cameron counties posted higher unemployment rates for August. The sharp increase in unemployment statistics for the county reflects recent layoffs at JLG, and it is likely that future layoffs in county industries will impact unemployment further during the winter months. Fulton County's current unemployment rates are markedly higher than both the state and national rates.

Rankings for Fulton's neighboring counties include Franklin at number 6 with an unemployment rate of 4.8, up from 4.2 in July and tied with Cumberland County. Bedford's ranking rose from number 55 in July with an unemployment rate

See **JOBLESS RATE**, Page A2

## FIDA Director Resigns

STAFF REPORT

The executive director of the area's Industrial Development Association bid farewell to Fulton County last Thursday after accepting a similar employment opportunity in nearby Blair County.

Wendy Melius joined the Fulton Industrial Development Association (FIDA) in 2002 and immediately found herself in the midst of the ongoing preparations for the completion of the South Central Business Park located off Fulton Drive. Touted as her biggest undertaking, the business park currently hosts six businesses.

Melius stated the decision to leave FIDA was "hard" but based on "personal and financial reasons." With work already begun for a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a second business park in county, Melius stated she will remain available to trouble shoot and lend assistance where necessary.

## DEATHS

- Black**, Elke, 67, Chambersburg
- Funk**, Robert, 79, State Line
- Gearhart**, Boyd Sr., 45, Hancock
- Goshorn**, Rebecca, infant, Chambersburg
- Hixson**, Esther, 83, McConnellsburg
- Kelly**, Caroline, 71, Bt. Cabins

**OBITUARIES**, Page B3



## Great Pumpkin Pride



**Mark Sipes'** 260-pound Atlantic Giant pumpkin gets the top spot in a colorful autumn display at his home near McConnellsburg. Sipes says growing big pumpkins is a lot of fun but requires work and dedication. He should know; he's grown his fair share of the big guys. This year's pumpkin measures 100 inches around and has a vine length of about 50 feet. Sipes hopes to grow an even bigger pumpkin next year.

## Upgrades Abound On State Forestland

Boorman Road fixed for local residents; former Glatfelter property open for fall hunting

By Chanin Rotz-Mount  
STAFF WRITER

In hopes of improving recreational opportunities for sportsmen, hikers and even all-terrain vehicle trail riders, numerous upgrades and alterations to state forestland are on the schedule for this fall in Fulton County.

Possibly the most notable of the ongoing improvements is the recent completion of roadway repairs in Brush Creek Township by the Bureau of Forestry. Making headlines repeatedly throughout the summer months, the condition and actual ownership of the Boorman Road was both a hot topic and a sore subject for year-round residents and weekend warriors owning property along the dirt road.

Filled with questions, residents met with county commissioners, the Bureau of Forestry and Pennsylvania Game Commission officials to determine who should be held responsible for filling potholes and severe ruts caused by water erosion.

At the time, Buchanan State Forest District Forester Jim Smith informed the group that during the 1930s access to that particular area was needed for fire suppression and timber management. However, several decades later state forest- and gamelands were consolidated. With the Boorman Road no longer bordering any state forestland, Smith

concluded there was no further reason for the Bureau of Forestry to continue utilizing the existing right-of-way agreement with landowners.

Following the July meeting, Smith told the "News" foresters went to the drawing board and devised a plan to "fulfill an obligation" based on the landowners pressing concerns as well as the bureau's long history of maintaining and utilizing the dirt road located off Camp Meeting Road.

A five-person Bureau of Forestry crew worked for four days utilizing heavy equipment ranging from backhoes and bulldozers to graders to re-establish ditches and tail ditches and clean culverts along the Boorman Road. At the conclusion of their work on Thursday, September 25, Smith stated the end result is a much smoother roadway for local residents and a "clean slate" for the bureau.

"We felt we had some sort of obligation after hearing the residents concerns and issues," said Smith, who added effective Friday, October 3, the Bureau of Forestry is giving up its right-of-way to the Boorman Road. Letters are being sent to landowners this week apprising them of the bureau's decision.

As a result of the bureau's decision to abandon its right-of-way, ownership and future maintenance issues will rest solely on the shoulders of property owners adjoining Boorman Road. Therefore, periodic maintenance to avoid water runoff and maintain the integrity of the existing dirt roadway will need to be addressed.

### Former Glatfelter property

With fall archery season for white-tails getting under way Saturday, Buchanan State Forest recreation forester Steve Keiper reported the former Glatfelter property located in Knobsville is a perfect location for sportsmen wishing to harvest deer, turkey and even small game.

The 590-acre parcel straddles Route 522 north of McConnellsburg and adjoins Cowans Gap State Park to the east. It was purchased by The Conservation Fund and turned over to the Bureau of Forestry following ongoing talks with the Fulton County commissioners and plenty of input from area residents supporting the transaction.

Keiper stated two safety zones bordering Washabaugh and Covert properties are in existence but there is still plenty of acreage on the eastern side of the roadway for sportsmen. The western side would prove to be a more difficult area to deer hunt and is definitely better suited for small game, said Keiper, who added both rabbits and turkey abound in this newest area of the Buchanan State Forest.

Even though there are currently no developed sites for parking, parking areas will eventually be centrally located on the eastern side for hunting and recreation after safety improvements are made to a bridge. It is hoped the parking areas will be open for public use by the start of fall bear and white-tailed deer rifle seasons. Motorized vehicle access will be restricted in those areas beyond the proposed parking areas in order to maintain ample hunt-

## Economy Leads Many To Food Basket's Help

Local agency continues to participate in "Hunters Sharing the Harvest"

By Chanin Rotz-Mount  
STAFF WRITER

The drastically declining economy has caused many to fixate on the tough winter months ahead that will be plagued with high fuel bills. However, it's not just heating bills that cause worry with local residents on low and fixed incomes, it's also the ever-present fear of being able to put food on the table while keeping a roof over their heads and gasoline in their vehicles.

According to a survey of 50,000 people completed in 2004 by Economic Research Service (ERS), a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 38 million people are

considered "food insecure" as they are unsure where their next meal will come from or if they'll have enough money to purchase food due to such things as utilities and rent. About a third of that group deemed "food insecure" by the government go without eating at times.

The Fulton County Food Basket located along Woodside Drive in McConnellsburg caters to those needing help putting a meal on the table, and officials have witnessed a definite increase in patronage in 2008.

Food Basket Director Susan Cabbage told the "News" the number of people visiting the facility for assistance has jumped 20 percent in the last six months. The current average of monthly orders is approximately 120 and July and August's numbers totalled slightly higher with 138 and 125 orders sent out the doors of the Ayr Township organization.

Emergency food assistance plays a vital role in the lives of low-income families. Cabbage stated while some of the newer patrons at the Food Basket are long-term county residents, other patrons have recently moved to the area in order to take advantage of low-income housing as well as lower monthly rent payments than are available in neighboring counties.

To help with their rise in requests in food, the Food Basket is in the midst of starting its fall letter campaign to area churches and other human-service agencies in search of financial donations to offset its operation and food costs. Other groups such as schools and Scouting groups also routinely conduct food drives to help keep the Food Basket's shelves stocked.

Cabbage stated items such as canned soup, vegetables and juices are always staples needed at the Food Basket, which also accepts donations of fresh vegetables and fruits from residents who find their gardens overflowing and are unsure of what to do with the extra produce. Produce is also annually grown through the Food Basket's garden program, which boasted four locally planted and harvested plots this year.

Other programs directly benefiting the Food Basket and its patrons include the "Hunters Sharing the Harvest," a venison program that has been channeling donated veni-

See **FOOD BASKET**, Page A2

## Tri-State Director Resigns

Leslie Colbrese steps down effective September 30

STAFF REPORT

The executive director of Tri-State Health Community Clinic recently submitted her letter of resignation to the organization's board of directors, citing her acceptance of another position in a similar field of work.

Effective September 30, Leslie Colbrese will be stepping down from the position she has held for 20 months. Sheila DeShong, who serves as Tri-State's chief operating officer, will be filling in the capacity of interim director until a replacement can be located.

The search for Colbrese's replacement, according to reports, will be launched on a nationwide level by Virginia Community Healthcare Association. In order to continue offering the best quality of healthcare at their offices, which includes a total of four locations in Maryland

See **TRI-STATE DIRECTOR**, Page A2

## Ayr Twp. Adopts Vehicle Weight Limits

New ordinance applies to 22 township roads

By Jean Snyder  
STAFF WRITER

Following a public meeting on September 15, the Ayr Township supervisors adopted a vehicle weight limit ordinance that will affect 22 roads in the township. The supervisors adopted the ordinance for safety reasons and to limit damage to township roads.

Under the new ordinance, vehicles weighing more than 10 tons will not be permitted to use the 22 roads named in the ordinance. Exceptions to the ordinance include school buses, emergency vehicles and delivery vehicles making local deliveries or pickups along the road(s).

The roads named in the ordinance were selected based upon a study done by the township's engineers, Keller Engineers.

In addition to spelling out the consequences for violation of the ordi-

nance, it also allows for the supervisors to grant special permits should further exceptions be appropriate.

During their regular meeting on Monday evening, the supervisors said that no one voiced objections during the public meeting held to consider the ordinance.

Also during their meeting on Monday evening, the supervisors agreed to transfer \$14,119.81 to the McConnellsburg Volunteer Fire Relief Association. The supervisors receive the funding from the state and transfer it to the local fire company. The state funding, under Act 15 of 1989, is calculated 50 percent by using township population and 50 percent by using the market value of real estate in the municipality. In addition to Ayr, Todd and Licking Creek townships as well as the borough of McConnellsburg receive state funding for the relief association.

It was announced that this year's

annual Fulton County Township Convention will be held on October 13, 2008, at Sideling Hill Christian Church.

The supervisors reviewed a letter from the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) informing them that a September 11, 2008, inspection of Chestnut's Septic Service found three areas of non-compliance with regard to the land application of sewage sludge on the Chestnut farm. The septic service is permitted by the state to land-apply the sludge under various terms and conditions that are subject to periodic investigation by DEP.

The three violations of the Clean Streams Law included "no documentation verifying that pathogen reductions (necessary for lime stabilization) were met prior to application; no documentation that the sludge was screened prior to application to remove organic materials; and that the farm's conservation

plan states that one of the fields where the sludge is applied was to be used for hay production. However, the field is instead being used for corn production."

In the letter, DEP alleges that the violations "constitute a public nuisance" and Chestnut was given 15 days to submit a written report responding to the findings.

Several years ago, the Ayr supervisors attempted to pass an ordinance prohibiting land application of sewage sludge on any lands in the township. However, they were unable to proceed with such an ordinance due to the fact that state laws allow land application of sewage sludge, and it was unlikely that a township ordinance prohibiting it could have been enforced.

The Ayr Township supervisors meet the last Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the township building. The next regular meeting will be held on October 27, 2008.