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McCONNELLSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

OCTOBER 23, 2008

Md. Woman Pleads Guilty To Vehicular Homicide

To be sentenced in 2007 death of Gettysburg man here

By Chanin Rotz-Mountz
STAFF WRITER

A Hagerstown, Md., woman will be sentenced later this year in connection with a two-vehicle collision in southern Fulton County that claimed the life of a 71-year-old Gettysburg man in 2007.

Thirty-five-year-old Lori Jean Shoemaker appeared before Judge Douglas Herman on Tuesday, October 14, on two counts of driving under the influence and one count each of homicide by vehicle while driving under the influence, homicide by vehicle and duties at stop signs. The charges stem from the death of Harry M. Hartman, who suffered accidental blunt force trauma on August 25, 2007, when Shoemaker failed to stop at a busy intersection and struck Hartman's car.

Shoemaker had previously entered a not guilty plea to all counts and was scheduled to stand trial but withdrew her prior plea and instead pled guilty to homicide by vehicle while driving under the influence and driving under the influence at the highest rate of alcohol. She is represented in court proceedings by attorney James Kevin Reed and will be sentenced on December 30.

According to an affidavit of probable cause filed after the crash, a northbound 1995 Toyota 4Runner operated by Shoemaker reportedly failed to stop at a stop sign along Thompson Road and drove into the

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County To Get 5th Judge

Voters will select two new judges next year

STAFF REPORT

In light of an upcoming retirement and newly enacted legislation, Fulton County voters will have a say in 2009 in the selection of two new judges for the 39th Judicial District of the Court of Common Pleas encompassing both Fulton and Franklin counties.

Earlier this year, President Judge John R. Walker formally announced his retirement effective the conclusion of 2008. However, it is likely he will continue on for a short time in order to assist in the January 2009 trial term in Fulton County. Judge Douglas W. Herman is slated to move forward and accept the president judge position currently held by Walker.

In the meantime, House Bill 301 was introduced and with several approved modifications will allow for the election of a fifth judge next year. The original bill would have seen a fifth judge elected in 2011 and sworn into office in January 2012.

In addition to filling the two positions in 2009, fellow Court of Common Pleas Judge Carol L. Van Horn is also scheduled to appear on the ballot for retention. She first took office in 1999.

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DEATHS

- Brown,** Thelma, 64, Kenhorst
- Hoover,** Stephen, 59, McConnellsbg.
- Martin,** Twila, 45, York Springs
- Stratton,** Sara, 72, Chambersbg.
- True,** Tammy, 41, Warfordsbg.

OBITUARIES, Page B3



Some of the 264 tractors taking part in Grease, Steam & Rust's annual Fall Folk Festival parade Saturday make their way up Lincoln Way East. Parade-day weather was just about perfect and festival event organizers report good crowds.

Fall Folk Festival Still Pleases

264 tractors, six steam engines roll along parade route

By Chanin Rotz-Mountz
STAFF WRITER

The Fulton Fall Folk Festival may have come to a conclusion Sunday, but the roaring success of the annual three-day festival filled with good food, fellowship and, of course, tractors is still lingering for event organizers and vendors.

With a total of 32 Massey Harris/Massey Ferguson feature tractors dotting the parade route Saturday morning in McConnellsburg Borough, Paul Schmidt of the Fulton County Grease, Steam and Rust Association Inc. reported even minor changes in the route didn't deter individuals and organizations from registering for the parade that spanned about 1 1/2 hours. In addition to the Massey Harris/Massey Ferguson special feature, the parade also included six steam engines and a total of 264 tractors.

"The parade route changes went real well. There where no problems as an ambulance and several private cars were able to get to the Medical Center with no issues, and the new staging area worked well," said Schmidt. "The parade was a little tight with just a single lane until the Second Street intersection when the route went back to normal. We would like to thank everyone for their cooperation as the parade went very smooth, and traffic flowed well both before and during the parade."

The parade itself was judged by Sheriff Keith Stains, District Attorney Travis Kendall and Magisterial District Judge Devin Horne. Parade winners included Southern Fulton band in first place and McConnellsburg and Forbes Road finishing in second and third place, respectively. Shooting Stars had an impressive showing, clinching first place in the marching unit section, and McConnellsburg SADD and McConnellsburg Alumni Association

took second and third place.

The category of floats was awarded to Warfordsburg FFA (1st), Calvary Independent Baptist Church (2nd) and Forbes Road FFA (3rd),

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Dale Blankley of Warfordsburg and his grandson ride a John Deere 5020 in Saturday's big parade.

Peggy Ann Recounts Shade Gap Abduction

Kidnapping survivor describes eight days of terror

By Jean Snyder
STAFF WRITER

Forty-two years after being abducted from a school bus near her home, kidnapping survivor Peggy Ann Bradnick Jackson recounted her very personal story of a crime that terrified a community for eight days and thrust the small town of Shade Gap into the national headlines in the spring of 1966.

Speaking to a standing-room-only crowd of more than 700 in the McConnellsburg High School auditorium last Thursday evening, Bradnick Jackson ended her story by telling the crowd she is not a victim. "Victims," she said, "always look back and never go forward - but you have to learn to forgive. So, victim, I am not. Survivor, I am."

Bradnick Jackson spoke for nearly 90 minutes and took questions from the crowd for another 30 minutes. She also graciously met with those in attendance and signed autographs both before and after her presentation to a crowd gathered for the Fulton County Historical Society's fall meeting to kick off the 35th annual Fulton Fall Folk Festival.

Peggy Bradnick was only 17 years old when former mental patient William Hollenbaugh took her at gunpoint as she was getting off the school bus with her younger siblings on May 11, 1966. What followed was eight days of terror for the teenager as search parties of both civilians and law-enforcement officers combed the mountains in search of her. She recounted the abduction and said initially she could hear her father screaming for her upon learning that she had been taken. She also remembers how she looked forward to getting home that day because her mother was making a special dinner for them.



Peggy Ann Bradnick Jackson visits with and signs autographs for many of the more than 700 in attendance at the Fulton County Historical Society's fall meeting. The guest speaker recounted her 1966 kidnapping at Thursday evening's meeting held to kick off the 35th annual Fall Folk Festival.

Hollenbaugh, who had lived near the Bradnick residence in the Shade Gap area, was known in the neighborhood as "Bicycle Bill" or "Bicycle Pete" as he rode his bicycle throughout the area. He was originally from Mifflin County and had spent 13 years in a hospital for the criminally insane diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia before being released in 1959 when he moved to Shade Gap.

After abducting her, he told her he had been watching her for three years and also told her that from then on, "she should consider herself

dead." He told her she would never return to her family as he forced her deeper and deeper into the woods of the Tuscarora Mountains in an area known as Gobbler's Knob. There he had hidden supplies in various caves that allowed them to subsist and to elude the more than 1,000 law officials searching for them. After Hollenbaugh shot and killed FBI agent Terry Anderson, law-enforcement officials continued to arrive in the county to join in the hunt. In addition to Anderson, Hollenbaugh shot and killed a tracking dog and wounded another dog that eventually also died.

Thomas To Drop Ford/Mercury Franchise Here

Will remain open as Great Cove Autos

By Jean Snyder
STAFF WRITER

Fourteen months after closing its Chevrolet franchise, the Thomas dealership near McConnellsburg has announced that it will discontinue its Ford/Mercury franchise within the next 30 to 45 days and will deal exclusively in used vehicles.

Bedford County auto dealership owner Mark Thomas purchased the franchise from D.A. "Andy" Washabaugh in 2000, and later moved the business from its Lincoln Way West location to a new facility just north of McConnellsburg adjacent to what was then the Thomas Chevrolet dealership. Prior to that sale, the Ford dealership had been in the Washabaugh family since 1932 when Andy's father purchased the franchise. Andy then purchased the business from his father in 1961. Washabaugh believes there may have been as many as two former owners of a Ford franchise here prior to his father's dealership. The discontinuance of the Ford franchise will leave the county with only one new car dealership, Richards Auto Sales, in a county which, for many years, offered new vehicles from all of the "big three" domestic automakers. Richards Auto Sales holds the Chrysler/Jeep franchise.

The dealership has apparently fallen victim to difficult economic times, both nationally and locally. According to Chuck Robertson, general manager of the McConnellsburg dealership, Ford Motor Co., because of its economic position and with its stock selling at only \$2 per share, is no longer offering incentives to dealerships that could assist in the sale of new vehicles. As recently as 18 months ago, Ford stock was selling at \$18 to \$20 per share.

Washabaugh agreed with Robert-



This Ford sign at Thomas Ford will soon come down as the business drops its Ford/Mercury franchise. son's assessment, saying that all of the big three companies, General Motors, Ford and Chrysler, have failed to support small dealers in recent years. He said that expenses keep increasing, especially in small dealerships, fewer cars are being sold with the current credit crunch and yet the price of the new cars to the dealers "just keeps going up." He stressed that this is a problem with the domestic car dealerships nationwide. "I hate to see it go," Washabaugh said of the closing, "but the times are changing."

Robertson stressed that Thomas will remain open and will specialize in the sale and maintenance of used cars. The business name will change to Great Cove Autos, according to Robertson, and the used car inventory will expand from a current 40-50 to 80-100.

Robertson said there has been a real decline nationwide and locally in domestic car sales in past months. For example, he said, the local dealership sells about six used cars to every one new car. He also said that new car sales have declined from 12 to 15 per month to only 6 to 8 per month. He said the profit from the sales is just not enough to cover the overhead of having a new car franchise. He cited training expenses and a cost of up to \$5,000 per month in interest on inventory as some of the overhead involved.

Although Great Cove Autos will continue to do vehicle repair and maintenance work, it will not be permitted to do warranty work on new Ford/Mercury products. However, Robertson said, "We will continue to work with our customers and will make sure their vehicles under warranty get to a dealership for repair." He also said they would make sure that customers have vehicles to drive while the repairs are being made. There are Ford dealerships in both Chambersburg and in Bedford.

He also said the Carquest auto parts business will remain open as well as the detailing portion of the business. "All services will remain except for the Ford/Mercury franchise and warranty repair," he said. The hours will remain the same as well as the telephone numbers.

Robertson said the number of employees will be cut by 24 to 21. He said there will only be three layoffs and added, "We have told those three employees that we hope this to be temporary and that once we get reorganized, we hope to call them back." All current sales staff will remain, he added.

"We're excited about getting into the used car business on a larger scale," he said. He also cited Internet sales as being up and said just recently the dealership had sold used cars over the Internet to customers from South Carolina and Virginia. He said Great Cove Autos will specialize in lease cars, turned in, rental cars and executive cars and

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