

LOCAL & STATE

Hull Enters Guilty Plea

To be sentenced on corruption of minors, indecent assault

By Chanin Rotz-Mountz
STAFF WRITER

A Big Cove Tannery man entered a guilty plea last week to a variety of criminal charges stemming from a series of indecent incidents involving a 13-year-old girl during the month of July.

Accompanied by Fulton County Public Defender Tamela Bard, 31-year-old Rodney Hull appeared before Judge Douglas Herman of the Fulton County Court of Common Pleas on October 14 for arraignment and entry of a plea to three counts each of the corruption of minors, indecent assault without the consent of another and indecent assault of a person less than 16 years of age.

Hull pled guilty to the first count of the corruption of minors and the second count of indecent assault without the consent of another. Both counts are listed as misdemeanors.

He will be sentenced at a later date upon the completion of a presentence investigation by the Fulton County Probation Department.

The charges against Hull were initially filed on August 8 through Magisterial District Judge Carol Jean Johnson, and Hull was served via a summons the following week. In an affidavit of probable cause filed through Johnson's office, investigating officer Trooper John Lupe indicated the three incidents involving Hull and the teenager occurred between noon on July 4 and 6:30 p.m. on July 29 at a Thompson Township residence.

Hull reportedly inappropriately touched the girl through and under her clothing. After the final episode, Hull allegedly apologized to the victim for what he had done.

Crash Kills County Native

STAFF REPORT

A former Fulton County resident sustained fatal injuries when her vehicle collided with a sport utility vehicle hauling a family of six in York County over the weekend.

According to reports from the Northern York County Regional Police Force, 45-year-old Twila K. Martin of County Line Road, York Springs, was pronounced dead at the scene immediately following the Sunday, October 19, 4:15 p.m. accident.

She is the daughter of Avon and Tressa DeShong of Harrisonville.

Martin, police related, attempted to cross Route 15 near the intersection of Clearsprings Road when her vehicle was struck by a southbound 1997 Ford Explorer. The Explorer was operated by 43-year-old Shippensburg resident Matthew Laughman, who was transporting his wife, Marie, 43, and four additional people. All six individuals were treated and have since been released from Hershey Medical Center.

The crash caused approximately two to three miles of Route 15 to be shut down to motorists for several hours Sunday afternoon.

In addition to her parents, Martin is survived by her husband, John J. Martin Jr., and daughters Kaeleen and Tina Martin.

Martin's obituary can be found on page B3 of the "News."

New Pa. Bill Makes Gun Laws Tougher

By BOB LENTZ

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - Pennsylvania's gun laws got tougher Friday as Gov. Ed Rendell signed a bill increasing the mandatory sentence for anyone convicted of shooting a firearm at a police officer and for crimes committed with illegally purchased guns.

The bill raises the sentence for anyone who shoots a firearm at a police officer from 10 years to 20, with a maximum of 40 years.

It also aids prosecutors by increasing the statute of limitations from two years to five years for "straw purchase" cases, referring to federally prohibited transactions in which one person fills out legal forms and buys a gun for someone who cannot own firearms, such as convicted felons.

It also prevents mentally ill individuals from buying guns and raises the penalties for lying when filing federal paperwork to buy a gun and for filing a false report of a stolen gun.

The bill was supported by legislators, city officials and the National Rifle Association, but still has one flaw: It lacks a requirement to report a lost or stolen firearm.

"We need to make it a crime for failure to report a lost or stolen gun - no ifs, ands or buts," Rendell said.

GSR Truck/Tractor Pull Results

Small Block Street

First - Jason Sheeler; second - Katie Rupert; third - Kirby Mellott.

Big Block Street

First - Jared Miller; second - Bob Miller; third - Harold Sheeler.

Small Block (HO)

First - Jamie Barron; second - Chris Brossman; third - Jason Beggs.

Hot Street Diesel

First - Matt Cooper; second - Mark Andrews; third - Kevin Barr.

Modified Street Tire

First - Ron Cutrell; second - John Lewandowski; third - Mark Petros.

Outlaw

First - Todd Berkey.

Modified Diesel

First - Jeremy Denson; second - Sam Heinbach; third - Scott Parson.

Triaxx

First - Joe Tunstall; second - Justin Henry.

Small Block Showroom

First - Pat Lewandowski; second - Josh Pritchett; third - Josh Nunamaker.

Big Block Showroom

First - Matt Oglie; second - Doug Beckman; third - Cody Hewett.

Absolute Showroom

First - Danny Dively; second - Dale Clever; third - George Brown Jr.

Street Diesel

First - Jeramy Schwartz; second - Brian Hodecker; third - Doug Walt.

Antique Tractor Pull 1938 & Older 3,000 Lb. Class

First - Jeff Funk; second - Irv McClain; third - Lewis Nolt.

4,000 Lb. Class

First - Dale Truax; second - Adam Stecklor.

5,000 Lb. Class

First - Mark Duck; second - Irvin McClain; third - Martin Harvey.

Classic Antique 1939-1960 3,000 Lb. Class

First - Dean Forshey; second - Jeff Funk; third - Donald Beaver.

4,000 Lb. Class

First - Gary Newswanger; second - Mason Replogle; third - Barry Hall.

5,000 Lb. Class

First - Dale Buckley; second - Rufus Martin; third - Roy Kegg.

6,000 Lb. Class

First - Martin Harvey; second - Terry Moore; third - Joe Bartley.



Massey Harris was the feature tractor at GRS's annual 28th antique tractor show.



Young farmer David Seiders shows off his John Deere A at the GSR parade.

7,000 Lb. Class

First - Andrew Hulshart; second - Tom Nesbitt; third - Walt Barmont.

8,000 Lb. Class

First - Isaac Kohne; second - Tim Martin; third - Brandon Morton.

Farm Stock Pulls 7,500 Lb. Class

First - Wayne Stanton; second - Kenny Stanton; third - Ray Grubb.

9,500 Class

First - Kyle Smith; second - Jessie

Allsphaugh; third - Kenny Stanton.

12,500 Lb. Class

First - Jesse Allsphaugh; second - Aaron Coons; third - Harvey Largent.

15,500 Lb. Class

First - Harvey Souders; second - Allen Landers; third - Dan Zug.

17,000 Lb. & Over Lb. Class

First - Kevin Bishop; second - Tommy Nesbitt; third - Roger Landers.

Student Pleads With CF Board To Keep Ag Program

By Chanin Rotz-Mountz

STAFF WRITER

Distraught that the agriculture curriculum could be on the chopping block of programs being considered for elimination, 10th-grade student Taylor Morton led the issue before the Central Fulton School Board alongside local dairy farmer Mark Mosemann last Tuesday.

In her prepared speech, Morton pointed out that McConnellsburg alone has more than 20 different agriculture-related jobs ranging from veterinarians and farmers to horse dentists. In preparing for a career locally in the ag field, Morton related students aren't limited to learning just about agriculture but about the surrounding community and what it is comprised of.

Morton questioned if Central Fulton got rid of the agriculture program wouldn't the district in turn be failing its student body instead of preparing them for a successful future? "Will you fail us or assist us?" she asked.

Following Morton's comments, Mosemann pointed out the details previously shared with him on the future of the ag program were sketchy. However, Mosemann, who also serves on the Fulton County Area Vocational-Technical School's advisory council, noted there is a direct relationship between agriculture and Fulton County's economic viability.

Mosemann stated the continuation of the program would obviously pose cost issues, but many individuals, including a handful on hand at the October 14 board meeting, continue to be touched by agriculture.

Superintendent Dr. Julia Cigola informed Morton and Mosemann it was never the intention of the Central Fulton board to get rid of agriculture.

In other curriculum-related matters, seniors Dylan Deneen, Logan Peck and Trent Sowers appeared before the board with a request for an annual class trip to Florida. The students reported the trip would cost \$650 per student, and students have been provided with numerous opportunities to raise funding. It is estimated 44 of the 69 students will participate in the trip.

The board unanimously approved the request from the Class of 2009, which was followed by a reminder by board President Dennis Richards, who urged the students to be on their best behavior otherwise the next senior class would be punished.

Following the recommendation of the Curriculum, Planning and Technology Committee, the board accepted an online agreement as

well as related policies pertaining to attendance, acceptable use of Internet access and online education general matters.

A list of proposed field trips for the elementary, middle school and high school facilities was approved as proposed. Among the excursions on the list for 2008-09 was the FFA trip to the annual National Convention held in Indianapolis, Ind. At the time of the October 14 meeting, FFA advisor Brad Truax had been unable to obtain transportation for himself and the students. As a result, this trip was approved contingent upon him locating suitable transportation.

The board agreed to the start-up of a junior high girls/boys track team, which will be overseen by the current coaching staff. There will not be any extra expense related to uniform costs, and the lone expenditures will be for transportation for two away meets and officials for two home meets.

Director of Education Dwayne Northcraft provided the board and fellow administrators with an overview of changes being made in the district's curriculum to meet eligible state standard content for testing. As a way of monitoring what is being taught and creating accountability, Superintendent Dr. Julia Cigola added even though the current setup is time consuming, and at times frustrating, for the staff it will pay off in 2010 when PSSA testing standards are raised.

Elementary Principal Alicia Mellott said Mike Thaler, author of the popular children's "Black Lagoon" series, will be spending October 22 at the school visiting with students enrolled in K-4 through five. In addition to presenting two morning assemblies, Thaler will also have question and answer sessions with small groups of students during the afternoon.

Finance

Three individuals were approved for placement on the extracurricular salary scale in connection with their involvement with the annual elementary musical. Artistic director Noreen Mann is slated to receive \$1,885, while director Hope Moore will get \$1,735. Susan Cabbage, who serves as both musical set designer and costume designer, will receive \$1,035 and \$935, respectively, for her duties.

A \$1,000 donation has been earmarked for the maintenance and upkeep of the softball field at Lions Club Park used by the girls softball team. This is the first donation given to the Lions Club since 2006. In sending the donation, the district will also request the Lions Club establish a donation amount for fu-

ture years in order for the funding to be built into the general budget.

Building and grounds

Due to the increasing number of district belongings being held in storage, building and grounds supervisor Brent Seville has organized a garage sale for October 30 and 31 in the maintenance shop. Among the list of numerous items up for grabs are chairs, desks, a television, clothes dryer, a circular saw and router, and various kitchen tools and appliances. The items have been priced at fair market value.

Transportation

The daily rate of Chambersburg route #033 contracted to Lynn Reeder was increased from \$142.45 to \$180.96 as a result of adding another student to the transportation roster retroactive to September 22. Reeder's life skills route #036 will also be raised from \$71.58 to \$77.21 effective October 15 with the addition of another student on his roster.

In addition, the daily rate for route #011 of M. Cloyd Swope Jr. will drop from \$221.25 to \$199.11. The change retroactive to September 9 is connected to adjusting the route to bypass bridge construction on Patterson Run Road.

The daily rate of Jamie and Wendy Laughlin's route #024 was decreased from \$161.10 to \$93.06 effective September 22. The change is a result of taking a student off their roster.

K-4 route #035 contracted to Gary and Eileen Decker dropped from \$73.13 to \$60.77 on October 1 when a student was deleted from their passenger roster. In a follow-up motion, the Deckers were granted permission to replace a 1995 Mercury van used on routes #028 and #034 with a 1997 Dodge Caravan. The replacement was effective October 13 and will not affect their daily rate.

Due to mileage being inaccurately recorded during the previous 2007-08 school year, Chyrel Foster was paid \$45.42 for route #016.

Linda Thomas was added to the substitute bus driver list for the ongoing 2008-09 school year pending the receipt of all her credentials as was June O'Donnell and Brad Truax.

Personnel

Carleen Grissinger, middle school guidance counselor, will take maternity leave from December 3 through February 12. Grissinger is scheduled to utilize 34 sick days during the leave, while the remainder of time will be without pay.

The following individuals were added to the professional substitute list after completing an emergency certification program offered by Tuscarora Intermediate Unit #11:

Commissioners

Reintroduction Of LERTA Proposed

Solicitor asked to draft proposed ordinance, documents for county-wide tax assistance program

By Chanin Rotz-Mountz
STAFF WRITER

The Fulton County commissioners gave authorization to their solicitor Tuesday afternoon to proceed with the paperwork necessary to adopt an ordinance allowing for the reintroduction of an economic revitalization program on a countywide basis.

During a public meeting held before the commissioners October 21, Steve Thomas of the county planning office said members of the Planning Commission reviewed the proposal to offer the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA) earlier this month and appeared in favor of offering the tax-relief program to the county as a whole. LERTA not only encourages the expansion or remodeling of existing businesses but also encourages new businesses to move into the area through tax incentives or breaks.

As a result of the Planning Commission meeting, Thomas drafted the organization opted to draft a letter to be sent to the commissioners showing their support of the LERTA reinstatement. The Fulton Industrial Development Association has also penned a similar letter indicating it is in favor of the measure.

Michelle Sowers, chief tax assessor, provided the commissioners with a list of local businesses that either relocated to the county or expanded their current operation. Solicitor Stanley Kerlin added that, under existing economic hardship, numerous local business, including the Chevrolet and Ford dealerships, have or will be closing; JLG has en-

countered massive layoffs; two banks lost local ownership; and BiLo closed its doors, thereby bringing Fulton County's unemployment rate to the third highest in the commonwealth.

Furthermore, it was noted by those in attendance even though officials from certain areas of the county previously expressed some initial displeasure of the program, times have indeed grown tougher locally.

Kerlin was instructed to begin drafting necessary documents and advertising to adopt an ordinance at an upcoming meeting of the Fulton County commissioners. In the meantime, local municipalities and school districts will be contacted regarding the proposed plan.

In other county business attended to this week, business manager Tim Stanton reported on the savings available to local residents through their participation in the National Association of Counties (NACo) prescription drug discount card program. Since the program started in July 2007, local residents have saved \$27,395.92 on their prescriptions. Applications to join the program are still available at local pharmacies or through Stanton, who noted all residents of Fulton County are eligible.

On a motion by Commissioner Dan Swain, the commissioners agreed to change payroll providers from AD Computers to Pay Time. The change is effective January 1 or as soon after that time is possible.



Larry and Bonnie Flook hold his grandmother Clara Flook's "scrap basket" pattern quilt that was featured in this year's quilt show during the Fall Folk Festival.

Lifelong Quilter's Work Highlight Of Festival Show

94 quilts shown at annual quilt club event

STAFF REPORT

Thirteen quilts worked by a woman who quilted for most of her 97 years were the highlight of the Fulton County Quilt Club's annual show and contest during the 35th Fulton Fall Folk Festival.

Clara Elizabeth Flook's 13 quilts were some of the 94 quilted items, all stitched and pieced in a plethora of shapes, sizes and designs, that made up the popular weekend show.

Flook, a Myersville, Md., farm woman, died in 1983 and although she quilted for practical reasons, she considered quilting a real pleasure.

"Clara worked on quilts every day, a little in the morning, a little in the afternoon and evenings, too," said Bonnie Flook, wife of Clara's grandson, Larry.

The Flocks reside in the Needmore area.

All of the quilts made by Flook that were featured, except one, were pieced and quilted by her alone,

mostly in the 1970s.

Flook's quilts were all her own designs, her patterns and her color choices. Most of her quilts were pieced by hand and all quilting was done by hand.

She also quilted with a church group at least once a week and sometimes twice a week. Many of her quilts were auctioned off for her church.

Winners in the quilt contest included Barbara Nellemann, McConnellsburg, Best in Show, for her "pineapple" pattern 85x85-inch entry. Nellemann won Best in Show at last year's show and contest. Also taking home top honors were long-time quilter Velma Leese, Needmore, second place, best use of color, "bargello" pattern, and Harriet Hill, Manheim, Pa., formerly of Big Cove Tannery, took the Silver Thimble Award for best quilting stitches. Her winning 90x104 "sampler" quilt was her first-ever attempt at quilting.

Wanda Hann of McConnellsburg won the coveted People's Choice Award for her appliqued "Country Love" quilt.