



88-Year-Old Goes The Extra Mile To Vote

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Quilt Donated To Historical Society

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The Fulton County News

THURSDAY WEEKLY

75¢
For home delivery call 717-485-3811

108TH YEAR, NO. 46

McCONNELLSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

NOVEMBER 13, 2008

Military Memories Honors Veterans

Display opened, membership club forming

By Chanin Rotz-Mountz
STAFF WRITER

Every photo and tour album as well as each medal on display told an individual story. Many of those same stories were shared during the Fulton Fall Folk Festival as part of a memorabilia display organized by the recently formed, nonprofit organization known as Military Memories.

Coordinated by Harrisonville resident Amanda Daniels, Military Memories was created in hopes of paying homage to our local veterans and educating our youth about the United States military past and present.

According to Daniels, the phrase, "we support our troops" must surely be a sincere statement expressed by Fulton County residents when looking back at the community's overwhelming support on the debut of her project.

Daniels stated almost 300 individuals donated items belonging to themselves or loved ones, with memorabilia ranging from photographs and tour albums to uni-

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Truck Wreck Backs Up Traffic On Turnpike

STAFF REPORT

A Bedford County collision involving a tractor-trailer and a dump truck backed up traffic along the westbound lanes of the Pennsylvania Turnpike last Friday.

Pennsylvania State Police Trooper Shawn Gilbert of the Everett Turnpike station reported 63-year-old William H. Watkins of Brownsville failed to move into the left-hand lane after seeing signage indicating roadwork ahead. Watkins' 1998 Freightliner tractor-trailer struck the crash attenuator attached to a 2003 Mack dump truck owned by the Turnpike Commission.

The impact caused the dump truck operated by Johnny Guitar Foor, 37, of Breezewood, to be pushed 116 feet up the northern berm. Meanwhile, Watkins' tractor-trailer went into a concrete barrier and caught fire.

Watkins, Trooper Gilbert, added was able to get out of his truck before it became fully engulfed by flames. The tractor-trailer and its contents of canned and packaged food was totally destroyed in the blaze.

Watkins was wearing a seat belt as was Foor, who suffered moderate injuries. He was transported via ambulance to UPMC Bedford Memorial Hospital. No additional turnpike maintenance or road crew members

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DEATHS

- Benson, Ricky, 38, Three Springs
- Bishop, George, 53, McConnellsbg.
- Chaney, Loren, 60, McConnellsbg.
- Fisher, John, 76, Tonawanda, N.Y.
- MacGregor, Edna, 73, McConnellsbg.

OBITUARIES, Page B3



Members of the Fulton County Honor Guard fly the flags Tuesday morning during the annual Veterans Day program held in McConnell Park adjacent to the Fulton County Courthouse.

Veterans Day Marked Here

Medals presented to family of late Leroy McGowan

By Chanin Rotz-Mountz
STAFF WRITER

Area veterans and supporters gathered at the bandshell in McConnell Park Tuesday morning to pay homage to those in the various branches of the military, including a deceased Hustontown man whose family was presented with a handful of special medals awarded exactly 65 years to the day following his enlistment in the United States



Col. Tricia Anslow

Army Col. Tricia Anslow, keynote speaker, recognized the late Leroy E. McGowan, an apprentice seaman. McGowan passed away on June 25, 2007. Accepting the medals on McGowan's behalf for his service during World War II were family members, wife Lois and son Randy.

Col. Anslow pointed out the American Campaign Medal was given for McGowan's dedicated service within the American Theater between December 7, 1941, and March 2, 1946. In addition, the Asiatic-Pacific Medal with Bronze Star was for service during the Asiatic-Pacific Theater and individual participation in a designated campaign.

Medals and buttons were also



Col. Tricia Anslow of the U.S. Army presents a series of medals and buttons to the family of the late Leroy McGowan of Hustontown, who enlisted with the Coast Guard 65 years ago. On hand to accept the honors were McGowan's wife Lois and son Randy.

given to the McGowan family for the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign, World War II Victory and Honorable Service. In fact, Col. Anslow mentioned the Honorable Service Lapel Button, also known as the Ruptured Duck, was adopted by the War Department as the Honorable Discharge emblem for wear on the uniform of all military personnel who are discharged or separated from the service under honorable discharge conditions.

Furthermore, the Honorable Discharge button recognized McGowan's "faithful and dutiful service" from November 11, 1943 - February 28, 1946. He was honorably discharged as a ship's cook third-class from the U.S. Coast Guard on February 28, 1946, in Philadelphia.

In fulfilling her duties as speaker for the event hosted by American

Legion Post 561 and Bishop-Raker VFW Post 655, both McConnellsburg, Anslow reminded those on hand, "It is always a privilege to be in the company of our veterans. You are the greatest role models for our current service members. We look to you for inspiration. It is your example of sacrifice and dedication that keeps us motivated and strong. When we hear your stories of valor and service, of all the things you did for us and our nation, we definitely owe you a great debt of gratitude. Today's service members are permanently linked to you, and I believe you can be proud of the current soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen and coast guard carrying on your traditions."

"You taught us the meaning of

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Boro Makes 2 Mill Tax Cut For 2009

Council's expects to save nearly \$95,000 with police force gone

By Jean Snyder
STAFF WRITER

McConnellsburg Borough Council approved a tentative 2009 budget last Wednesday evening that calls for a 2 mill tax decrease for property owners in the borough. On a Mike Chilcote/Lee Rager motion, council voted unanimously to lower the mill-

age rate from 7 to 5 mills on real estate in the borough. The vote made good on a promise that council had made earlier to its citizens to return a portion of the tax dollars saved by abolishing the police force. One mill of taxes in the borough yields about \$25,000 to the borough's coffers. Council also voted for all other taxes to remain the same, including occupation taxes at 20 mills and a \$5 per-capita tax. Borough taxpayers also pay a one-half percent real estate transfer tax and a one-half percent wage tax.

Council last raised taxes in 2005 from 6 mills to 7 mills on property taxes for the year 2006 and the property tax has remained the same since then.

The proposed budget was adopted unanimously on a Lee Rager/Travis Bard motion during the council's regular monthly meeting.

The borough's proposed 2009 budget calls for expenditures of approximately \$580,318. Expenditures are projected to be lower than estimated 2008 expenditures by about 15 percent. The proposed 2009 overall projected budget reflects an overall "tightening of the belt" by council members during rough economic times.

EXPENDITURES

General Government

The proposed budget projects spending of \$137,544 in the General Government category and is less than projected 2008 expenditures in that category by about 2 percent. The decreases are largely in legal expenses, Social Security and telephone bills for the police department. There were small increases in the tax collection fees and in water, heat and lighting bills.

Police Protection

In the Total Police Protection category, the proposed budget sets spending at \$96,580, a decrease of approximately \$93,000 or 49 percent from expected 2008 expenditures of \$189,644. Although the decrease reflects the decision made by council not to enter into a new union contract after the current one expires at 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2008, council did have to budget \$96,580 for 2009 to cover end-of-contract obligations that are now being negotiated. Council budgeted \$12,000 per officer and \$51,026 for the pension fund. Council's contribution to the police pension fund in 2009 is 37 percent higher than their 2008 contribution. The contributions are calculated by an actuary.

Fire, Water & Contributions

The budget proposed sets expenses in this category at \$18,447, just slightly more than anticipated spending of \$18,086 in 2008. Only a slight increase is expected in trash collection for bulky item day.

Highways

A marked increase in expected street construction and street repairs in 2009 is the main reason for an increase in this line item this year. Although council expects to spend about \$15,000 in street repairs next year, actual street construction is set for about \$20,000 in 2009. Only \$6,006 was spent on street construction in 2008 due to the high cost of petroleum. Snow removal for 2009 is budgeted at \$10,000, which is more than actual expenditures of \$9,107 during a relatively mild 2008 winter. Overall, council projects spending of \$108,500 in the highways portion of the budget, a significant increase over expected expenditures of \$77,783 in that category for 2008.

REVENUES

On the revenue side of the budget, council expects to collect \$146,658 in real estate, occupation and per-capita taxes and \$155,519

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County Revises Office Construction Plans

Two-story office building will not be constructed

By Chanin Rotz-Mountz
STAFF WRITER

The Fulton County commissioners revealed last week that their plans for the construction of a new county office building have been revised greatly in comparison to when they kicked off their series of town meetings and aired their wishes earlier this year.

At their most recent public meeting held Thursday, November 6, at the Warfordsburg Senior Center, Commissioner David Hoover II reminded the eight individuals on hand the county's "utopia" for construction-related expenses would fall between \$7 and \$8 million. However, in hopes of not raising local residents' millage rates beyond one-quarter mill, the commissioners had previously set a more realistic spending budget scaled back to \$5 million.

Hoover announced their newest set of plans now calls for spending in the amount of \$2.5 million. Those

plans will not include the creation of a two-story office building and will primarily focus on the rehabilitation of existing structures as well as the relocation of several complements of county personnel.

Hoover elaborated, in accordance with these tentative plans, the commissioners are still moving ahead with their original plans of "going green" with the installment of a geothermal loop comprised of 50 to 60 wells in McConnell Park. The wells would not draw water from the groundwater supply but would continually recirculate whatever water is placed in the enclosed system.

Former county commissioner candidate Patrick Bard, who ran on the Democratic ticket in the 2007 election, questioned if the commissioners had taken into account the amount of land that is required when spacing or distancing the wells from one another. Bard also asked how the new plans will add to the county's existing parking, which was noted to be one of the goals of the project.

"Our three needs are parking, storage and buildings to carry us through the 21st century," said Hoover.

Fellow former county commissioner candidate L. Allen Morton had a few questions of his own in posing to the current board of commissioners, also comprised of Bon-

nie Mellott Keefer and Daniel H. Swain Jr. how much maintenance costs the county annually and how much additional time will elapse before the courthouse turns into a "major project" itself.

Commissioner Hoover responded the courthouse will receive a new

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Commissioner David Hoover II (far right) speaks with concerned citizens at the Warfordsburg Senior Center regarding the county's newly revised plans to renovate existing office space and relocate personnel.