

Bountiful Blessings
at Thanksgiving

The Fulton County News

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McCONNELLSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

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18-Year-Old Dies In Head-On Collision

Greencastle man with area ties suffers fatal injuries

By Chanin Rotz-Mountz
STAFF WRITER

An 18-year-old Greencastle man with ties to Fulton County suffered fatal injuries early Friday morning when his car collided head-on with an oncoming vehicle along Route 16 near Shady Grove in neighboring Franklin County.

Matthew Alan Moats of 6369 Hager Road was pronounced dead at the scene not long after the 5:13 a.m. collision occurred near the intersection of Long Lane in Antrim Township. According to reports from Franklin County Coroner Jeffrey Conner, an autopsy was tentatively scheduled to determine the cause of Moats' death.

Moats, Pennsylvania State Police in Chambersburg said, was east-bound when his 2004 Dodge Intrepid swerved into the oncoming lane and struck a 2004 Nissan Murano operated by Tabitha May McDonald.

McDonald was flown immediately following the crash to Washington County Hospital in Hagerstown where she received treatment for minor injuries. She was released later in the day.

McDonald, of Waynesboro, was utilizing a seat belt as was passenger Ralph Eugene Doyle, address unavailable. Her second passenger, a 2-year-old girl, was buckled into a rear child passenger seat. Both Doyle and the young girl escaped harm.

Moats was travelling to Johnson Controls Frick in Waynesboro where he was employed as a welder when the accident happened on November 21. He was wearing a seat belt.

In addition to being survived by his 6-month-old daughter, Bailee Thomas, Moats is also survived by fiancée Samantha Thomas of Fort Loudon and various family members. Locally, Moats is survived by maternal grandfather Carl Peck Sr. of Needmore as well as maternal great-grandmother Anna K. Harvey, also of Needmore.

Moats obituary can be found on page B3 of the "News."



JLG President Craig Paylor, left, breaks ground for a new JLG manufacturing facility in Tianjin, China, Nov. 18. The new JLG plant will make JLG products to meet growing demand in China and other Asian markets.

JLG To Build Products In China

Ground broken for plant in Tianjin

By Lindsay R. Mellott
STAFF WRITER

JLG Industries and parent company Oshkosh Corp. broke ground last Tuesday in Tianjin, China, for a manufacturing facility to meet what both companies say is a growing demand for aerial platforms in the Chinese and other Asian markets.

The new plant will produce JLG equipment specifically for the Asian market.

Oshkosh Corp. Chairman and

CEO Robert Bohn said, in a statement released Nov. 18, that the new plant would be a complement to other JLG manufacturing facilities that build products for the rest of the world.

The groundbreaking took place just a few days after JLG began a staggered layoff of 500 employees worldwide in its third downsizing since July, a result of the global economic slowdown, the company has said.

When the latest round of layoffs is completed at the end of January, 1,400 workers will have lost their jobs

with JLG.

"We have chosen to expand in China because we believe the Asian market holds tremendous long-term potential for our access equipment. In many respects, our Asian customers are just beginning to see the tremendous value that access equipment can provide in construction, manufacturing, maintenance, industrial and shipyard applications," said Craig Paylor, president of JLG and Oshkosh Corp. executive vice president, in the statement.

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500 More Workers Lose Jobs At JLG

Staggered layoff takes place through January

By Lindsay R. Mellott
STAFF WRITER

JLG Industries has given up an additional 500 employees worldwide to the worsening global economic slowdown. The staggered layoff began Nov. 14 and will continue through January and affects workers across the board, including production and administrative staff, in all of the access equipment manufacturer's facilities.

JLG spokesperson Kirsten Skyba, vice president of global marketing, could not say how many workers are losing their jobs at the McConnellsburg plant, but Justin Fleming, a spokesperson for the state Department of Labor & Industry, said Friday that the company had told the state's Rapid Response Team coordinator 146 employees here would go.

Fleming said another 111 workers at JLG's Shippensburg operation and a dozen at its Bedford facility would also lose their jobs in this downsizing, the third since the company announced in July it would cut its workforce by 600.

Another 220 employees lost their jobs in a second downsizing that ended last month.

In all, 1,400, or 31 percent, of JLG workers worldwide have been laid off, said Skyba, who characterized the past year at JLG as

"challenging."

Craig Paylor, JLG president and executive vice president of Oshkosh Corp., JLG's parent company, said in a released statement, "Economic conditions have continued to their unprecedented deterioration since mid-September, leading construction markets to intensify their slide over the past two months. We've seen a particularly strong downturn in Europe, which has now followed the slowdown in North America."

Financial instability, credit availability and continued weak construction have resulted, Paylor said, in lower demand for JLG's products around the world.

"This workforce reduction was unavoidable, but that doesn't make the decision to downsize any easier," Paylor said.

"The downturn has hit all of our products and, as a result, all of our facilities and locations," Skyba said. She said that, in general, the three layoffs have "largely eliminated our second and third shifts."

Fleming said the Rapid Response Team will work with human resources at JLG to determine the schedule of layoffs in this third round of downsizing and then hold a meeting in conjunction with the local CareerLink office to provide displaced JLG workers with information about unemployment compensation, retraining, education opportunities, job search activities and crisis counseling. Several such meetings have taken place at the American Legion since JLG began laying off workers in July.

Joyce Lynch, career placement specialist at the McConnellsburg office of the Huntingdon County CareerLink, said Friday that no Rapid Response Team meeting had been scheduled as of yet, but she hoped that one would be held before Christmas.

"We're getting a lot more calls and a lot more people from JLG coming in looking for help," Lynch said.

The McConnellsburg CareerLink office is located at 116 West Market Street, telephone 485-5131. CareerLink services are available to displaced workers, the unemployed and employed.

Thanksgiving Day Celebrates Harvest Bounty

Americans will consume 46 million turkeys on Thursday

By Jean Snyder
STAFF WRITER

As economic worries continue to dominate the national, state and local news, millions of Americans will still celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday and for an estimated 90 percent of American families, turkey will be the centerpiece of the annual feast.

In spite of high unemployment rates, numerous layoffs, bailouts and buyouts and a continuing fluctuation of oil, and gas prices from moderately high to very high, on Thursday, families will find that they still have the same things to be thankful for as the Pilgrims did in 1621 after landing at Plymouth Rock.

Their harvest festival was celebrated by the Pilgrims, to thank God for saving their lives and guiding them through their struggles through their journey in the Mayflower and the following years of drought at Plymouth. After the rain that marked the end of the drought and revived the crop of corn and other fruits, they decided to celebrate the day with their neighbors. They didn't assemble to be thankful for their riches or for their bounty of food, but instead they were thankful for their lives and for arrival in America.

In fact, contrary to popular belief, pumpkin pie, cornbread, roasted turkey and all the Thanksgiving paraphernalia that we see on our Thanksgiving table do not owe their roots to the original Thanksgiving meal of the Pilgrims. According to records of the first harvest festival, their menu consisted largely of many different types of meat such as cod, eel, lobster, fowls, venison, rabbit and chicken. However, the common mentality of the 17th century did not call for much use of the vegetables in the preparations. Moreover, many vegetables would not have been available, according to the time of the year when the feasts were held, to the colonists. Since there were no ovens, there were no cakes, breads and pies. Sugar that pilgrims had brought with them on the

Mayflower was also at its end, so there were no sweets, too. Though the food was rich and would have been considered unhealthy by today's standards, pilgrims were hardworking people and were quite active.

The 1621 celebration at Plymouth Colony was considered to be a harvest festival, while the first actual Thanksgiving celebration was not celebrated until late July of 1623. It was not until the 1860s that Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving as the last Thursday in November, perhaps to commemorate anchoring of the Mayflower at Cape Cod on November 21, 1621. President Franklin D. Roosevelt specifically mentioned the date for Thanksgiving was set to the fourth Thursday of November in 1939.

Although the Pilgrims would not have had roast turkey (there were no ovens), accounts of their menu show that the meal likely did include lobster, rabbit, chicken, squash, beans, chestnuts, hickory nuts, onions, leeks, dried fruits, maple syrup and honey, radishes, cabbage, carrots, eggs, and maybe goat cheese.

Today, however, it is estimated that in addition to the 90 percent of households that eat turkey on Thanksgiving Day, another 50 percent also serve turkey on Christmas Day. "At Thanksgiving this year, it is estimated that some 46 million turkeys will be eaten on Thanksgiving Day, about the same as in previous years," said Sherrie Rosenblatt, spokeswoman for the National Turkey Federation.

The American Farm Bureau Federation estimates a Thanksgiving meal for the average gathering of 10 will cost \$44.61 this year, up 5.5 percent from last year. That includes a 9-cent-a-pound increase for turkey, the group said this week, noting that the cost of the meal was still less than the same meal 20 years ago, when stripping out inflation.

However, the meat-producing industry in the United States, like most industries at this time, has been struggling to make a profit. Too much meat on the market, high prices for commodities and fuel, and weaker demand from restaurants have sliced into profits. According to



The Thanksgiving Feast

business reports, Pilgrim's Pride Corp., the nation's largest chicken producer, is sagged by debt and using temporary credit lines to stay afloat. Some observers worry that Tyson Foods Inc., the world's largest meat producer, may also have too much debt. Turkeys are likewise in trouble, but on a smaller scale since people eat more beef, chicken and pork overall. Turkey producers say prices edged up slightly, but not enough to recoup the costs of raising the "unpardoned" gobblers this year.

According to recent news reports, it is estimated that fewer people will travel this Thanksgiving, choosing instead to save money on gas or airfares by remaining at home. This would mark the first time in six years that travel rates have dropped. Delta Air Lines Inc. chief financial officer Edward Bastian told investors last month that "while near-term demand remains solid, we are keeping a very close eye on booking trends. Internationally, we are starting to see a little bit of demand softening." He said passenger bookings were down 2 per-

cent to 4 percent for November and December from a year ago. Recent reports from the American Automobile Association (AAA) have echoed the same figures, but said also that recent falling gas prices may help to boost travel rates.

While travel may be down over the holidays this year, the area's hoteliers and innkeepers are seeing a boost in business for January. It is estimated that more than 4 million will attend the inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama on January 20, 2009, in the nation's capital. All hotel rooms in the D.C. area have been booked and the spillover crowd has sought lodging in both the Hagerstown, Md., and Chambersburg, Pa., motels and hotels. Both areas report record numbers of reservations for the two-day period.

After the first Thanksgiving at Plymouth Colony, in spite of the many hardships that still existed for the colonists, Edward Winslow wrote home to his friend in England, "And although it be not always so plentiful as it was at this time with

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The News
will be closed
Thursday,
November 27,
due to the
Thanksgiving
Holiday.

DEATHS

Barry, Gregory, 55, Warfordsbg.
Bookheimer, Bruce, 65, Hustontown
Chaney, Joyce, 45, Hagerstown
Eichelberger, Dorothy, 91, Martinsbg.
Foor, Freda, 96, Everett
Kuhn, Betty, 83, Chambersbg.
Moats, Matthew, 18, Greencastle

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