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Charges Bound Over Against Six Hustontown Burglars

Only one preliminary hearing requested Monday

By Chanin Rotz-Mountz
STAFF WRITER

Charges have been bound over to the Fulton County Court of Common Pleas against six young Hustontown men accused of committing a rash of crimes, including burglary, theft and mischief against neighbors, business owners and even family members for well over a year.

In speaking with the "News" immediately following Fulton County Central Court on March 2, District Attorney Travis Kendall confirmed Max Harold McQuait III, 2149 N. Clear Ridge Road; Christopher George Shotts of 3823 North Clear Ridge Road; Brian Allen Cutchall, 379 Pitt Street; Jonathan Lee Kauffman of 7475 Waterfall Road; and Samuel Gardner Ranck III, 353 Pitt Street, waived their right to a preliminary hearing in connection with the incidents that occurred mostly in northern Fulton County.

Only Joshua Michael Weaver of 3404 North Clear Ridge Road opted for a preliminary hearing on Monday. Weaver and McQuait both face charges of conspiracy to commit theft by unlawful taking, theft by unlawful taking and receiving stolen property for an incident that reportedly occurred in April at Remsburg Service Center salvage yard where a large number of catalytic converters were reported missing.

Weaver, who was represented in court proceedings by attorney Richard Weber, did not take the stand on his behalf. McQuait, however, was called to the stand by the commonwealth to testify to his involvement as well as Weaver's in the April 25 incident off R&D Lane in Todd Township. McQuait stated he and Weaver both attended the Forbes Road School District and in recent times have "partied and hung out together." McQuait added it is "possible" that they smoked "weed" before committing the crime, which included a one-eighth mile hike each direction to remove the converters.

The converters, according to See **BURGLARS**, Page A2

DEATHS

- Atherton**, Amos, 85, McCbg.
- Everts**, Ray, 75, Hagerstown
- Jefferson**, Peter, 53, McCbg.
- Lucas**, Anna Mae, 89, Harrisonville
- Mellott**, Annie, 90, Needmore
- Nolan**, Fredith, 75, Newburg
- Parson**, Harold, 70, McCbg.
- Stoner**, Evelyn, 76, Mercersburg
- Smith**, Howard, 29, Breezewood
- Sunderland**, Mary, 62, Hagerstown

OBITUARIES, Page B3



President of the Community State Bank of Orbisonia Board of Directors Emory "Sonny" Parsons Jr. turned over the first shovel of dirt last Thursday at 415 Fulton Drive, which will mark the financial institution's second branch location within Fulton County's borders. The new bank, which is being constructed by Rockwell Construction, will be open for business in September.

Community State Bank Breaks Ground Here

Hope to open in September

By Chanin Rotz-Mountz
STAFF WRITER

After several years of careful planning and deliberation, Community State Bank of Orbisonia finally came through last week with its promise of breaking ground for a second bank in Fulton County.

Gathered around Emory W. "Sonny" Parsons Jr., fel-

low members of the board of directors and bank officials as well as county business leaders witnessed the long-time bank chairman turn over the very first shovel of dirt Thursday, marking the official breaking of ground for the McCConnellsburg branch office.

Those on hand at the 2 p.m. ceremony included directors Barbara Barlow, Linda Scott, Jessica Tice and Ramon Morgan; bank Presi-

dent and CEO Paul H. Yohn Jr.; proposed McCConnellsburg branch manger Scott Knepper; and various branch executives. Excited to get under way after two years of planning, Craig Rockwell and Joe Sabol of Rockwell Construction, project general contractors, were also on site.

Located at 415 Fulton Drive in Ayr Township adjacent to Tri-State Community See **CSB**, Page A2

DEP, EPA Monitoring School Air Quality

DEP reports refute USA Today report findings, no testing planned here

By Jean Snyder
STAFF WRITER

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has acted on USA Today's reports of unsafe air quality levels near several Pennsylvania schools and now the new administrator at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has also promised to monitor the air for a variety of toxic chemicals near schools.

Action by the two agencies comes on the heels of a December 2008 report from USA Today on the air quality around more than 125,000 schools across the country. Notably here, Central Fulton School District's three schools ranked in the first percentile, or number 168 out of the 125,000 schools with the worst air.

In its report, "The Smoke-



stack Effect - Toxic Air and America's Schools," the newspaper used an elementary school in Ohio as a gauge to rank air quality around the schools that were monitored as part of the special report. The Meredith Hitchens Elementary School in Addyston, Ohio, was closed after air samples outside the building were found to have high levels of chemicals coming from a plastics plant across the street. The levels were so high outside the school that EPA determined the risk of getting cancer there was 50 some times higher than the state considered to be acceptable.

A model was developed by EPA called Risk-Screening Environmental Indicators and that model was used to identify schools in toxic hot spots. The model estimates how toxic chemicals released by companies are dispersed across the nation and in what quantities. The model used emissions reports filed by 20,000 industrial sites in 2005.

Using the model, the paper then found 435 schools with air more toxic than the air outside the Hitchens school. Of the 435 schools, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois has the highest numbers, but the worst schools included those in 170 cities across 34 states.

Last month, Pennsylvania's DEP announced it had monitored four of the Pennsylvania schools in the report and found no unsafe level of air pollutants or metals in the schools, which included Midland Elementary School in Beaver County, Wayne Middle School in Erie County, Stonybrook Elementary School in York County and Phoenixville Area Kindergarten Center in Chester County.

Each of the four schools was monitored using air quality monitors directly at the school buildings, and samples were collected and tested over several weeks. Each school was monitored for the air pollutants identified by USA Today's snapshot testing. The pollutants included chromium, manganese, benzene, naphthalene and nickel.

Although DEP plans to monitor an additional six schools, there are currently no plans to monitor the Central Fulton schools. According to DEP spokesperson Teresa Candori, the four schools tested had actually had snapshot testing done

See **AIR QUALITY**, Page A2

Kayla Bennett Gets McKelvey Scholarship

By Chanin Rotz-Mountz
STAFF WRITER

Touted as a "modern and contemporary" teen, a Hustontown area girl with both an eye and hands for art as well as a mind for business was recently selected as this year's lone scholarship recipient by the McKelvey Foundation, an organization that has been celebrating "drive and determination" in area youths since 2000.

Eighteen-year-old Kayla Bennett was selected by representatives from the McKelvey Foundation from a sizeable applicant pool from Forbes Road's Class of 2009. While Bennett was surprised about her final selection to receive a \$3,000 annual scholarship to any four-year college in Pennsylvania, she did tell the "News" that in the back of her mind she hoped the fact that she currently operates a business in her spare time, centered around the design and creation of jewelry, would be enough to edge out the tough competition.

"The McKelveys are big on



Kayla Bennett

opening businesses and entrepreneurialship," said Bennett, the daughter of Malissa Steigerwald of Hustontown and Bernard "Bernie" Bennett of York.

In order for Bennett to even apply for the annual scholarship, Foundation requirements stipulate applicants must be the first generation within their family to

attend college and show involvement in work and extracurricular activities. Bennett is a member of the district's tennis team and serves as co-captain of the cheerleading squad. She also is treasurer for the FCCLA, president of the FBLA, vice president of the National Honor Society and is a member of both the yearbook staff and Varsity Club. For a number of years, she played for the Lady Cardinals field hockey team.

Furthermore, multiple requirements must be met to maintain her good standing with the McKelvey Foundation and continue receiving her annual scholarship allotment. Participants must maintain a 2.5 grade point average, reside on campus for at least the first two years of college and continue involvement in both work and additional activities.

Additional funding of \$2,500, according to Foundation guidelines, is also available to participating scholars interested in studying abroad.

While Bennett doesn't have a definitive answer on what her career will involve after obtaining a degree in art, with a minor in business, the possibility exists that her passion and creativity could lead her into event planning. The focus of those events, Bennett added, could include the use of some of her artpieces that currently include sculpture and, of course, handmade pieces jewelry.

While her creative side isn't limited to jewelry and the use of clay, Bennett is excited about having the opportunity to broaden her horizons and learn various techniques, including the creation of slump glass, glass blowing, enameling and soldering. Already on her schedule of things to do before heading off to Shippensburg University this fall is weaving and stained glass as well as trying her hand at teaching.

Within weeks following her graduation from Forbes Road, Bennett will be one of three local artists, including Lisa Black and Judy Appley, to instruct children See **SCHOLARSHIP**, Page A2

Forbes Road Holds Brief Board Meeting

By Chanin Rotz-Mountz
STAFF WRITER

The Forbes Road School Board met very briefly Monday night, tending to an array of personnel and finance-related issues.

Under the categories of personnel and extracurricular activities, the board accepted the resignation of longtime Lady Cardinals varsity basketball coach Craig Cutchall on an 8-0 roll-call vote. Board member Debbie Strait was unable to attend the March 2 monthly meeting.

Elementary teacher Michele Grace was granted authorization to serve as a mentor for newcomer Samantha Connor.

New Enterprise resident G. Todd England was added to the district's professional substitute list.

Eric True was authorized to volunteer as the assistant baseball coach, and Corey Doyle was hired as the new junior high assistant baseball coach.

Jennifer Means of Wells Tannery was added to the custodial substitute list pending the receipt of clearances.

In the area of finance, the board approved a tax refund in the amount of \$33,048.66 to Crown Communications. According to Superintendent Dr. Merrill Arnold, the money will serve as a reimbursement for the duplication of taxes paid on an alleged tower. In other tax matters, the annual tax exoneration list was approved as presented to the board.

Curriculum matters included homebound instruction approval for both a high school student and an elementary student.

A trip to the Sideling Hill

Plaza was accepted as the elementary reading month reward as proposed by elementary Principal Byron Hesel. The trip will be at no cost to the district.

In accordance with PIAA regulations, varsity boys basketball coach Jeff Gelvin was granted permission to utilize Forbes Road's facilities during the off-season.

At the conclusion of its meeting, the board conducted an executive session to review personnel and negotiation matters.



MARCH MADNESS

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