



MHS Musical "Footloose"
Presented April 16-17-18

Page A8

THURSDAY
WEEKLY

The Fulton County News

75¢

For home
delivery call
717-485-3811

109TH YEAR, NO. 17

McCONNELLSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

APRIL 23, 2009

Central Fulton OKs Tax Assistance Program

District purchases
AlertNow emergency
notification services

By Chanin Rotz-Mountz

Five months following a decision by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to enact a countywide tax assistance program, members of the Central Fulton School Board moved forward with approving the resolution on a district level that will allow for tax breaks for improvements to deteriorating industrial, commercial and other business-oriented properties.

Hearing the recommendation of the district's Budget and Finance Committee last Tuesday, on an 8-0 roll-call vote, the board unanimously approved the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA) resolution for a period of five years. Board member Parker Knepper was unable to attend the April 14 meeting.

Commissioners Bonnie Mel-lott Keefer, Daniel Swain Jr. and David Hoover II had previously adopted the resolution on November 18, 2008, in hopes of "improving the condition and size of the labor force" and "stimulate existing business employment conditions as well as create new work positions."

The tax assistance portion of the resolution states exemption from taxes will be limited to the additional assessment valuation attributable to 100 percent of the actual cost of improvements to the deteriorated property for the first two years. The percentage of exemption will be reduced by 25 percent each following year, until the property owner is back to paying the property's full assessed value in the sixth year.

In other finance-related issues addressed last week, the board approved extending participation in the Keystone Opportunity Zone for unoccupied parcels. The extension will span seven years beginning January 1, 2011.

A bid submitted by Metz & Associates LTD of Dallas, Pa., was accepted for the food service agency to continue providing cafeteria-related services to the district. The bid included management fees in the amount of \$23,700 as well as a guaranteed loss totaling \$221,677.86.

Student and teacher meals are slated to increase during the upcoming school year. As a fol-

See CFSB, Page A12

DEATHS

Bitner, Arthur Sr., 93, Waynesboro
Divelbliss, Lloyd, 80, Hancock
Fraker, Dorothy, 63, Orrstown
Garlock, Helen, 97, McCbg.
Harvey, Katherine, 68, Needmore
Pittman, Helen, 84, Hancock
Runk, Joel, 54, Saxton

OBITUARIES, Page B3



Ray S. Koontz Field Dedicated



The **McConnellsburg Lions Club** dedicated its Little League ballfield at the club's community park to long-time member Ray Koontz Saturday afternoon. The ballfield has been renamed the Ray S. Koontz Field to honor the 90-year-old businessman who was one of the first in the community to "step up to the plate" in support of the plan to build fields for youth baseball. Lions President Roger Watkins described Koontz as "contributing more to Little League baseball than anyone will ever know." Looking on as the field is dedicated are Koontz's son Robert and daughters Renee Brink and Lena Fox, other family members and Lions Club members. Koontz is in failing health and was not able to attend Saturday's dedication.

Seven Vie For Central Fulton School Board

One incumbent, six
newcomers seek
party nominations
May 19

By Chanin Rotz-Mountz
STAFF WRITER

With only five seats up for grabs on the Central Fulton School Board, seven candidates are working diligently this spring to get their names and goals out to the public in hopes of securing the nomination of either the Republican or Democratic Party, or, if they're truly lucky both during next month's May 19 municipal primary election.

Of the total seven candidates found on the primary election ballot, all seven have cross-filed on both tickets, seeking either a

four-year or
two-year term
of office.

Each party will be responsible for nominating four of the following four-year candidates this spring: Dr. Brent Carlson, Eric S. Hollinshead, Ryan B. Richards, Matt Wakefield and Hollie L. Garlock. In addition, candidates Erika D. Hendershot and Christopher R. Hann are seeking a two-year term. In their race, each party will nominate a total of two candidates.



Carlson



Hollinshead

Dr. Brent Carlson
(D/R - 4 yr.
term)

With three children having graduated from McConnellsburg and one currently working her way up through the high school ranks, Dr. Brent Carlson knows a little about the Central Fulton School District and what it takes for students to succeed after high school. A local veterinarian, whose business is conveniently located adjacent to his 1024 Lincoln Way East, McConnellsburg, home, Dr. Carlson is the lone incumbent found on the May 19 ballot.



Richards

In the process of completing his first four-year term of office, Dr. Carlson told the "News" his effective communication skills are definitely one quality that have proven to be an asset to the board. "I am not afraid to ask questions," added Dr. Carlson, who noted down the road he would like to see districts receive more state funding while also seeing an end to unfunded mandates that place the lions share of the financial burden on tax payers.



Wakefield

"I work with eight other dedicated and hardworking board members. I think the community should be very proud of the district's extracurricular as well as academic accomplishments. These things happen because people work together," Dr. Carlson said. Carlson concluded the number one role of a board member is to support the administration and work hand-in-hand with them to provide a quality education for the kids.



Hendershot

In February 2008 when an unexpected vacancy on the Central Fulton School Board arose due to the resignation of Jeff Culler, Hollie L. Garlock was one

See CF ELECTION, Page A2

Democrats Honor Arlene Nesbitt

Fletcher, Weisbrod
and Krom key
speakers at annual
spring banquet

By Chanin Rotz-Mountz
STAFF WRITER

Having logged just under 50 years of service to Ayr Township, longtime tax collector Arlene Nesbitt took center stage for her years of dedication during a special presentation at Saturday evening's annual Democratic spring dinner.

In recognizing Nesbitt, Joy Dasher, vice chair of the party's Executive Committee, reported times have changed since the tax collector first took office in the early 1960s. A total of \$4,475 was collected from 482 taxpayers in 1962 in comparison to today's tax revenue for Ayr Township that now tallies more than \$1 million.

Even though the amount of money being collected by Nesbitt has jumped drastically in well over four decades, several things that haven't changed are Nesbitt's demeanor and her method of collection. Nesbitt has never used a computer to aid in her record-keeping, Dasher said, and

she still greets taxpayers with a hello and a smile.

"If there was ever a tax collector you could love, she's the one," added Dasher of Nesbitt, who is one of the longest serving tax collectors across the commonwealth. Nesbitt has logged approximately 48 years in the capacity of tax collector after running a successful write-in campaign at the prodding of then elected official Hays Richards.

Nesbitt told the crowd she has enjoyed her time in office and will sorely miss her 15-minute talks with Ayr Township taxpayers.

Brandon Fletcher

Harrisonville resident Brandon Fletcher, the Democratic Party's lone candidate for prothonotary, touched upon his campaign efforts for office and qualifications. Fletcher is a graduate of McConnellsburg High School and Shippensburg University, where he obtained a bachelor's degree in the criminal justice field.

He noted he logged five years as a juvenile probation officer in neighboring Franklin County and since 2005 has worked as a customer support professional



McConnellsburg area resident Arlene Nesbitt (left) was recognized Saturday at the spring Democratic banquet for logging just short of 50 years of service as Ayr Township tax collector. Joy Dasher (right), vice chair of the Democratic party's executive committee, made the special presentation amidst a crowd of 80 at the McConnellsburg Firehall.

for JLG Industries. Through his duties at the McConnellsburg plant, Fletcher stated he processes 350 to 400 customer requests on a weekly basis.

"You're faced with a lot of ad-

versity and a lot of opportunities for decision-making," said Fletcher, who noted the end result is a better knowledge of working in a team atmosphere

See SPRING BANQUET, Page A2

JLG To Build 268 Army Telehandlers

\$37 million contracts
won't call back laid-off
workers

By Lindsay R. Mellott
STAFF WRITER

Access equipment manufacturer JLG Industries announced last week that the U.S. Army has made two orders for military telehandlers totaling a little more than \$37 million.

In a statement released last Thursday, JLG said it would build 214 All Terrain Lifter Army System (ATLAS) II telehandlers for \$33.7 million.

The ATLAS II will be engineered with significant upgrades from the original ATLAS design, which has been in production since 1998.

This new military contract, however, will not call back any of the 1,670 employees JLG has laid off in the last nine months in

response to falling demand for its products.

"The order will help us maintain our current status and not immediately impact employment," Jeff Ford, marketing communications senior manager, said Monday.

With four-wheel drive, high ground clearance and 173 hp, the ATLAS II is built to go through the most rugged terrain. It is designed to reach into trucks or shipping containers, lift loads over obstacles and pick up loads from both above and below grade.

The ATLAS II has a maximum reach of 28 feet and loads of up to 10,000 pounds can be lifted as high as 17 feet. Upgrades include reduced emissions, interchangeable "quick" attachments and increased load handling capabilities.

"We are excited about the ATLAS II and its ability to build

on the stellar reputation for material handling versatility, superior reach and the rough terrain performance of the original ATLAS machines," said Denny Buterbaugh, JLG government products and programs vice

president.

Currently, there are more than 2,500 ATLAS machines working in the field for the U.S. Army.

See JLG, Page A2



ATLAS II Army Telehandler

**ANGELA ROSENBERY KROM FOR JUDGE
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS**

www.AngelaKromforJudge.com

Paid for by The Angela Krom
For Judge Committee