

CONGRATULATIONS

GRADS

County
Graduates
In This
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09THURSDAY
WEEKLY

The Fulton County News

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McCONNELLSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

JUNE 4, 2009

P'burgh
Paper
Features
Fulton
CountyTrib-Review reporter
focuses on county's
unemployment rateBy Jean Snyder
STAFF WRITER

Fulton County's high jobless rate was the subject of a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review feature story that appeared in the newspaper's Sunday edition. Entitled "Fulton County struggles to work through jobless period," the story, written by Tribune-Review reporter Richard Robbins, reported on interviews he did with several Fulton County citizens during a visit to the county two weeks ago.

Robbins interviewed county commissioners Bonnie Mellott Keefer, Dan Swain and David Hoover as well as several county citizens who commented on Fulton's current economy. He also spoke with a JLG spokesperson and with state Sen. John Eichelberger.

Citizens interviewed for the story included John Piper, recently laid off by General Fasteners; Kevin Richards of Richards Auto Sales; Tammy Smith, movie rental store manager; Colleen Carr, a Southern Fulton resident employed outside the county; Wayne Strait, owner of Lincoln Way Market; Summer Stiffler, owner of Summer Thyme Floral; and Jeff Singer, laid off from JLG in February.

Robbins focused on the lay-

See PITTSBURGH, Pg. A2

Strawberry
Festival
Taking Shape

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

Headlining this year's Friday entertainment at the 19th annual Strawberry Festival will be the Country Christians gospel singing group. For more than 20 years, this popular troupe has been entertaining audiences throughout the area. Their performance begins at 6:00 p.m. on stage at the Fulton County Courthouse lawn. At 7:30 p.m., the vocal group will pause to assist with the annual local talent contest, followed by a finishing performance lasting until 9:00 p.m.

Any persons or groups wishing to compete in the talent contest can fill out an application form at the chamber office or at the chamber tent on the day of the contest. The talent contest is sponsored by Tower Bank. If additional information is needed, contact the chamber office at

See FESTIVAL, Pg. A2

DEATHS

Ansell, Harry, 87, Three Springs

Eisaman, James, 86, Upper Strasburg

Hohman, Eva, 90, Mercersburg

Ott, Bertha, 85, St. Thomas

Plessinger, G. Henry, 57, Needmore

OBITUARIES, Page B3



Cancer survivors release balloons after walking the opening lap of Relay For Life held Friday and Saturday at the Fulton County Fairgrounds. Despite hard economic times here, Relay For Life exceeded the \$40,000 goal set for this year by the American Cancer Society.

Relay For Life Nets \$42,000

By Lindsay R. Mellott
STAFF WRITER

Fulton County won a key battle in its war on cancer Friday and Saturday, netting a little more than \$42,000 for the American Cancer Society (ACS) at the 15th annual Relay For Life held here at the fairgrounds.

Two hundred individuals made up the 18 fundraising teams that took part in the overnight event and despite hard economic times exceeded the Cancer Society's 2009 goal of \$40,000 for Fulton County.

"It's amazing how well we have done," said Connie Woodruff, ACS staff person.

Last year the Fulton County Relay For Life raised \$35,128 after expenses.

"We've had some really big-hitters this year," said Anthony D'Anna, who has chaired Fulton County's Relay for the last three years. "The hospital did good, Kathy Kendall and the kids at school had a really big year, and the kids who cut their hair did good."

A spaghetti dinner, mini-relay and the annual Snowball king and queen fundraiser helped the Central Fulton School District raise \$8,247 to nab top team fundraising honors. Following in second and third places were

teams from Fulton County Medical Center.

Taking first place in individual fundraising, as she has for many years, was cancer survivor Betty Shelley with \$2,697. She was followed by Trudy Morton in second place and Lanette Deenen in third.

The Relay's opening ceremony Friday at 5 p.m. began with a kickoff lap walked by county cancer survivors and recognition of each survivor in attendance. A dinner for the survivors, their caregivers and team members followed. Around 40 cancer survivors took part, according to Woodruff.

At 9 p.m. 250 luminarias were lit in memory or honor of loved ones who have had cancer. Luminarias were sold for a suggested donation of \$5 each.

The money Relay For Life raises is used by the ACS for cancer research and community based support services that help people living with cancer.

Relay For Life 2009 was sponsored in part by Summit Cancer & Hematology Services, FOVA-VFW Bishop-Raker Post 655, Fulton County Medical Center, Knobsville United Methodist Church, American Legion Post 561, JLG Industries, The Fulton County News, Fulton County



Cancer survivors Barb Weller and Betty Shelley at Friday night's Relay for Life event held at the Fulton County Fairgrounds.

Fair Association, McConnellsburg Volunteer Fire Co. and Community State Bank.

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide community based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem

by preventing cancer, saving lives and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy and service.

For up-to-date cancer information 24 hours a day, seven days a week, call 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org.

Fire Destroys Wells Valley Home

Tanker crashes
en route to fire sceneBy Chanin Rotz-Mountz
STAFF WRITER

Two volunteer firefighters en route to a structure fire in Wells Township last Thursday evening escaped serious injury when their tanker crashed within two miles of departing Hustontown's firehouse.

Seventy-one-year-old Marvin L. DeShong and passenger Alton Ray Tice, 25, both of Hustontown, were transported to Fulton County Medical Center for treatment of minor injuries following the 10:42 p.m. crash.

The volunteer firemen were injured when the 2000 Freightliner tanker they were occupying ran off the heavily rain-soaked roadway at 6462 Waterfall Road, Pennsylvania State Police Trooper Bradley R. Huff reported. The tanker knocked out approximately 40 feet of guiderail before overturning onto its side along an embankment. Both



Hustontown firemen Marvin DeShong and Alton Tice only suffered minor injuries when the fire tanker they were taking to a structure fire along Wells Valley Road last Thursday evening skidded off the roadways and flipped onto its side.

See FIRE, Pg. A2

— PHOTO BY ADAM WATSON

Layoffs
Keep
Coming
At JLG210 lose jobs here,
115 at ShippensburgBy Lindsay R. Mellott
STAFF WRITER

The slumping economy brought more bad news to production workers at JLG Industries May 22 when 210 employees at the manufacturer's McConnellsburg plant and 115 at its Shippensburg facility were told they were losing their jobs.

The layoffs are effective June 5 and June 26 for McConnellsburg employees and July 28 for workers at Shippensburg, according to Ann Stawski, vice president of marketing communications at JLG's parent company Wisconsin-based Oshkosh Corp.

The news came less than two weeks after a May 12 layoff that took jobs from 100 nonproduction employees at the company's North American facilities.

Stawski said the most recent layoff affected workers at all JLG's North American production facilities, not just McConnellsburg and Shippensburg, bringing the total number of new layoffs at JLG to 450.

JLG also has North American production plants in Bedford, Pa.; Orville, Ohio; and Oakes, N.D.

Since the company began downsizing a year ago more than 2,200 JLG workers worldwide have lost their jobs or about 50 percent of the 4,500 people JLG employed globally when Oshkosh bought the company in December 2006.

Layoffs at McConnellsburg during the same period total 1,071. Twenty-two hundred people worked at JLG when it was sold to Oshkosh.

Sixty of the 210 employees affected at McConnellsburg this layoff, Stawski said, work in military production. Two recent U.S. Army orders for military telehandlers totaling a little more than \$37 million will bring them back to work in one to two

See JLG, Pg. A2

Jobless
Rate
Improves
SlightlyMoves from #66 to
#65 for AprilBy Jean Snyder
STAFF WRITER

Fulton County's jobless rate showed a small sign of recovery in April as the unemployment rate dropped 2.7 percentage points from a final 15.8 percent rate in March. The county's April unemployment rate was 13.1 percent, according to preliminary figures released by the Department of Labor and Industry this week. The small gain in employment figures was enough to move the county from the second highest rate in the state (#66) to the third highest rate (#65). The county's rate was lower than Elk and Cameron counties (#'s 66 and 67, respectively, with rates of 13.4 and 16.4 percent). Fulton regularly changes positions with Cameron and Elk counties, both also small, rural counties with populations less than 20,000.

The gain in employment for the county is only a preliminary figure and is somewhat ques-

See UNEMPLOYMENT, Pg. A2