

OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR

Too Big To Fail Or Too Small To Matter

By Elisha Greeley Smith, Center for Rural Affairs

What does it mean to a community to lose a business like a car dealership? Sadly more rural communities are coming to grips with the loss of cornerstone, mainstreet businesses thanks to the disproportionate closure of rural dealerships.

Dealerships are owned by independent business people who not only provide a product and service, but also own real estate and inventory. According to a Chicago Sun-Times article, dealerships generate an average of \$280,000 just in local sales tax. Franchised dealers are a vital part of the local economy and community. They provide jobs, healthcare benefits and related business opportunities. And they contribute to other community institutions in myriad ways.

The closure of these dealerships is a severe economic blow to rural communities and counterproductive to rural economic development. Closing dealerships will not significantly affect the bottom line of GM or Chrysler. The dealerships pay for the cars they sell and assume a lion's share of the risk in the new car business. Firing the automakers' independent sales team is penny wise and pound foolish.

This decision epitomizes how federal policy can adversely impact rural communities by favoring the needs of industry and underestimating the importance of entrepreneurship. Congress should address the disproportionate rural dealership closures. And we should all learn the lesson that, if we invest in them, rural America's entrepreneurs and small businesses can contribute to America's economic recovery precisely because they are neither too big to fail nor too small to matter.

Letters To The Editor

Military Trucks Misidentified

To The Editor:
The trucks that were in the picture of the Transcontinental Motor Convoy passing by the Fulton House in last week's paper were incorrectly identified. They were listed as being World War I vintage restored

jeeps that could have made the original journey, but they are really Dodge M37 3/4-ton cargo trucks that were used around the time of the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Shelby Brant
Waterfall

Thanks For Making Relay For Life A Success

To The Editor:
As a staff member and on behalf of the American Cancer Society, I would like to thank everyone who helped make Relay For Life a huge success this year. I could not help but be moved by the way the teams and citizens of the county came together to raise over \$42,000 to support life-saving cancer research, educational programs, patient services and advocacy efforts of the American Cancer Society.

It took all of the teams working together to raise this money, but I'd like to share some of the special ways the money was raised by the teams. Fulton County Medical Center employees raised \$11,122.43 through their auction and employees giving up paid time-off hours for Relay For Life. Central Fulton School District students raised \$8,247.00 with their winter dance, a spaghetti dinner before the musical and a "mini-Relay" school event. Detwiler's Dynamic Dynamos raised \$5,644.43 selling subs, cookie dough, having restaurant nights, selling program ads and raffles. Lexi's Donations and even donated their hair to a program that makes wigs for children going through cancer treatment. The 4-H Horse Show held a horse show the day after our event to benefit the Relay For Life. The Fulton-Franklin Democratic Club and the Survivors Leave Footprints teams raised money through basket raffles, silent auctions and program ads.

We welcomed some new teams this year as well. Southern Fulton School District National Honor Society, Community State Bank and Tower Power did a wonderful job of fundraising, with each of these teams raising over \$1,300. What great work, especially for first-time teams!

The American Cancer Society recently unveiled a new branding campaign that helps explain our mission to fight can-

cer by helping people stay well, get well, find cures and fight back against cancer. This new campaign explains what the American Cancer Society and our many volunteers help us do on a daily basis.

Stay Well - We help you take steps to prevent cancer or find it at its earliest, most treatable stage with educational programs.

Get Well - We're in your corner around the clock to help you make decisions and guide you through a cancer diagnosis. Our toll-free number 1-800-ACS-2345 is a 24-hour, seven-day-per-week number with trained counselors to take your questions.

Find Cures - We fund research that helps us better understand, prevent and cure cancer. American Cancer Society research has led to many important discoveries and treatments, including drugs such as tamoxifen for breast cancer and gleevec for leukemia.

Fight Back - We work with lawmakers to pass laws to defeat cancer and rally communities worldwide to join the fight against cancer. It is through many of the legislative successes that we can effect changes that affect millions of people. Legislative successes have included things such as the "clean indoor act," which helps protect the public against secondhand smoke and insurance coverage of colorectal cancer screening.

Again, on behalf of the American Cancer Society and the Relay For Life committee, I want to say thank you to all of the people in Fulton County who truly pull together to make this event a success!

Please remember that the American Cancer Society is available 24 hours a day by calling 1-800-ACS-2345 or log onto www.cancer.org for up-to-date cancer information.

Connie Woodruff
Community Cancer
Control Specialist

Spring Planting Enjoyed By FCMC Long-Term Care Residents



FCMC Long-Term Care residents recently enjoyed sunshine and gardening through the efforts of three high school students and the North End Garden Club. Three McConnellsburg High School students, Brock Ashman, Cody McCullough and Charlie Randazzo, built raised planters as a senior project for the residents. These sturdy planters were skillfully constructed at an appropriate height for residents to be able to garden from their wheelchairs. The North End Garden Club followed up by providing plants and helping the residents enjoy a day of gardening in the sun.

Sunroom

From Page One

nity Development Block Grant (CDBG) program overseen by Hann. The six-month construction project, headed by Southern Contractors of Three Springs, recently concluded, revealing a bright and cheerful sunroom measuring 16 by 20 feet.

McDonald stated the new space is mainly utilized by the center's attendees for playing bingo and to conduct private meetings. The center has approximately 20 active seniors who visit daily for meals and fellowship.

Hann indicated the project, designed by Jerre Parson of Dennis E. Black Engineering, totalled \$67,774 and was funded fully through the CDBG program. Meanwhile, furnishings for the new sunroom were bought with money that came from an array of fundraisers conducted by the seniors, including bake sales, soup sales, dinners and solicitations. The club wrapped up its fundraisers netting a total of \$5,500.

"All of the seniors love the room for its brightness, beauty



Attendees and management at the Warfordsburg Senior Center recognized the contributions of multiple county officials and businesses this Friday night during a dedication of their newly constructed sunroom. Those recognized include (front row, left to right) Karen Hann, county projects coordinator; Commissioner Bonnie Mellott Keefer; center manager Cindy Rinker; Area Agency on Aging Executive Director Alan Smith; (back row, left to right) Commissioner Daniel Swain Jr. and Warfordsburg Senior Citizens Club Inc. President Bob McDonald.

and the 10 windows that make it possible to enjoy the sunlight during the day," added McDonald. "If it wasn't for everyone who

helped by giving donations or helping to our centers or fundraisers, we wouldn't be enjoying such a lovely building."

The evening ceremony ended with a special fireworks display presented by Phantom Fireworks of Warfordsburg.

JLG

From Page One

sales forecasts and position our company for improved overall performance."

Layoffs that result from the restructuring are indefinite, JLG said. A number of affected workers will have transfer options when the changes are implemented. According to the company, JLG is actively exploring potential employment opportunities with other Oshkosh business segments.

JLG's restructuring news came less than two weeks after its June 9 announcement that a \$76.9 million contract to rebuild U.S. Army telehandlers would call back 60 workers laid off from its Military Support Center.

Kids' Camps

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both camps that explore a range of outdoor activities such as fishing, fly fishing, .22 target shooting, trapping, outdoor first aid, paddle boats, archery and various wildlife stations.

Anyone requiring more information regarding the Parks and Recreation Commission's remaining summer camps and activities should contact program director Chanin Mountz at 717-552-0071 or via e-mail at chaninr@comcast.net. All applications and registration fees must be received by Monday, July 20.

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