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McCONNELLSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

JULY 2, 2009



Breaking ground Tuesday for FCMC's patient services addition are, left to right: D.A. "Andy" Washabaugh, FCMC Foundation; Daniel Swain, county commissioner; Charles States, district director for state Sen. John Eichelberger Jr.; David Hoover, county commissioner; Bill Palmer, Palmer Construction; Bonnie Mellott Keefer, county commissioner; Rep. Bill Shuster; Sharon Martin, M.D., chief of staff; and Bill Dovey, FCMC board vice chair and building committee chairman.

Ground Broken For FCMC Addition

Hospital expansion
projects begins

By **Lindsay R. Mellott**
STAFF WRITER

Fulton County Medical Center broke ground Tuesday morning for a \$4.5 million 16,000-square-foot addition that will house patient services and administrative staff.

The groundbreaking comes less than two years after the Medical Center opened the

doors of a new 100,000-square-foot hospital at 214 Peach Orchard Road west of McConnellsburg.

Medical Center President and CEO Jason F. Hawkins said during opening remarks that despite the economic slowdown, hospital officials believed now was "the right time to borrow, the right time to build, the right time to consolidate services and the right time to provide jobs."

Hawkins said the addition will help to retain and attract doc-

tors, and that it will provide better services to the community and the doctors.

Once the addition is completed in about a year, all of the Medical Center's patient and administrative services will be located at the hospital's main campus under one roof.

The Medical Center currently maintains four buildings off-site for administrative functions and specialty physician services.

The two-story addition will be constructed at the southwest

corner of the hospital by McConnellsburg general contractor Palmer Construction Co. The main floor's specialty physician services will have 15 exam rooms, two procedure rooms and a spacious waiting area. Home Care Services will also be located on the main floor and, according to hospital officials, will be easily accessed.

Currently, the Medical Center's specialists comprise cardiology, general surgery, individual
See FCMC, Pg. A2

FR Adopts One Mill Tax Increase

Board split on finance matters; budget still adopted

By **Chanin Rotz-Mountz**
STAFF WRITER

Adamantly opposed to the tentative budget for the upcoming 2009-10 school year as well as a proposal to raise real estate taxes, three members of the Forbes Road School Board found themselves slightly outnumbered as both matters were adopted last Tuesday during a special meeting.

Board members Deonna Carmack, Kirby Shoemaker and Debbie Strait dissented during the 5-3 roll-call vote regarding the setting of millage rates and adoption of the general fund budget. Fellow board member Ed Brown, who had initially voted against the matter during the May board meeting, was unable to attend the June 23 gathering.

The general fund budget, as adopted, shows expenditures and revenues and other financing sources listed at \$7,615,298. Real estate taxes to support the budget were accordingly levied at 33.63 mills, which includes a one mill increase from the current rate.

In addition, wage and profits taxes and real estate transfer taxes were set at 1 percent. Per

capita taxes under Act 522 and 679 and occupation taxes were respectively set at \$5 and \$10.

In follow-up action taken by the board, board members Carmack, Strait and Karen Peffer were opposed to the adoption of the Taxpayer Relief Act and the property tax allocation resolution. Both issues involve the use of gaming funds. It was noted, however, the property tax allocation is subject to current county assessments with final approval given by the administration.

In looking at policy issues, multiple revisions were approved for the student handbook in the areas of grades, report cards and graduation requirements.

Under the category of personnel, the board accepted the resignation of longtime elementary teacher and former librarian Carol Strait. Strait's resignation was retroactive to June 15.

The board also conducted a 2-1/2-hour executive session to discuss personnel issues as well as legal matters and negotiations. No action was taken upon reconvening, but board President Terry Brant did publicly
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Foor, Dubree Enter Pleas

By **Chanin Rotz-Mountz**
STAFF WRITER

Two men facing charges of rape in separate incidents that occurred as far back as June of 2008 appeared in the Fulton County Court of Common Pleas last week to officially enter their pleas.

Kevin Duane Foor Sr. of 174 Fox Street, Defiance, entered a guilty plea to one count of rape by forcible compulsion before Judge Douglas W. Herman last Tuesday during mandatory arraignment. Foor has been represented in court proceedings by defense attorney Shawn Cohen and will be sentenced on

See FOOR, DUBREE, Pg. A2

DEATHS

Bottenfield, Violet, 84, Crystal Spg.
Brant, Harry, 89, Harrisonville
Daley, Charles Sr., 57, Greencastle
Fitry, Ernest, 93, Hamburg, N.Y.
Garman, James, 62, Waynesboro
Keefer, Wilbert, 84, McConnellsburg
Nearhood, John, 73, Bt. Cabins
Staudenmaier, Jeannie, 66, McConnellsburg
Wertz, Jane, 82, Warfordsburg
Wine, Matilda, 83, Greencastle

OBITUARIES, Page B3



USA Still Celebrates "Rockets Red Glare"

For many, fireworks top the list of weekend celebrations

By **Jean Snyder**
STAFF WRITER

As the July 4th holiday approaches, American citizens often include fireworks celebrations in their holiday plans. Whether it's a small backyard display of sparklers, firecrackers and toy cannons or a trip to a larger display of roman candles, motherlodes, rain of fire, aerial repeaters or radical recoils, pyrotechnics with their colored flames and sparks, including red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, and silver have been delighting Americans since the earliest settlers enjoyed them long before the Revolutionary War. Then in 1789, George Washington's inauguration was celebrated with a fireworks display.

Fireworks were originally invented in ancient China in the 12th century to scare away evil spirits, as a natural extension of the Chinese invention of gunpowder. Today, China still exports 90-95 percent of all fireworks consumed in the United States. In 2007, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, Americans consumed at total of 265.5 million pounds of fireworks - 238.6 million pounds for individual consumers and 26.9 million pounds for professional displays.

American households spend more than \$420 million a year on fireworks, according to the Consumer Expenditure Survey. And that figure doesn't include the amount of money private and government organizations pay for public shows.

It is believed that fireworks

were originally used to celebrate the new year, but their largest use has evolved into July 4th celebrations in this country.

Although fireworks fascinate all - from the smallest child to their grandparents and beyond, there are also dangerous aspects to fireworks that have resulted in their regulation through the years.

Although Fulton County is home to Phantom Fireworks, Pennsylvania citizens are not permitted to shop in the retail store located in Warfordsburg just off I-70. Pennsylvania laws restrict its citizens to only buying "sparklers, toy pistols or other devices in which paper caps are used that contain .25 grains or less of explosive compound, and are constructed so the hand cannot come into contact with the cap when in place for the explosion. Also permitted are toy cannons that operate on the principle of mixing calcium carbide, weighing less than 1/10th ounce and water in the reservoir of the cannon, and in which ignition results upon the creation of a spark." Exceptions may be made for those who have a Pennsylvania fireworks permit. Phantom sells 1.4G or consumer fireworks. Fireworks used in large professional displays are categorized as 1.3G fireworks or display fireworks.

Other than for those with a permit, fireworks specifically prohibited in Pennsylvania include any combustible or explosive composition prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or an audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration or detonation. This includes, but is not limited to skyrockets, roman candles, aerial fireworks, or other



Business was brisk on Sunday as shoppers flooded the parking lot at Phantom Fireworks in Warfordsburg. Although, by law Pennsylvania residents cannot shop in the store, out-of-state customers provided plenty of business for both the store and for several outside food vendors.

fireworks of like construction, and any fireworks containing any explosive or flammable compound.

Phantom Fireworks, a Youngstown, Ohio, company and a subsidiary of the BJ Alan Co., opened in Warfordsburg in June 2004. Phantom operates the largest chain of retail consumer fireworks sales showrooms in the country and while not the largest importer of fireworks in the country certainly ranks in the top three.

According to William A. Weimer, vice president and general counsel for the company, "the Fulton County showroom does very well due to its strategic location on the highway system. Sales were down somewhat last year when gasoline prices were so high, because the Fulton County showroom is so much of a 'destination location' showroom. Hopefully with gasoline prices down this year, the

showroom will pick up the business that it lost last year."

Weimer commented on the country's economic woes, saying, "There is probably not a single business in the country that has not been affected in some way by the economic downturn, and the fireworks business is no different. We have the same wage, rent, banking, insurance, supply and logistics issues all other retailers face. We see positive signs and feel that recovery is just right around the corner."

As for specific sales at the Warfordsburg store, Weimer said, "The biggest sellers are definitely the 500-gram aerial repeaters and the assortments. The 500-gram aerial repeaters have the most pyrotechnic composition permitted by federal law. While these products are not as powerful and do not go as high as the professional fireworks, they do give the closest representation.
See FIREWORKS, Pg. A2

SF Taxes Holding Steady

Principal Trail to serve as "assistant to superintendent"

By **Chanin Rotz-Mountz**
STAFF WRITER

The Southern Fulton School Board opted to hold the line on real estate taxes in spite of projecting increases in expenditures in several budgeted areas, including debt service, staffing and the possible creation of a new Life Skills program at the elementary level.

Following the original proposal aired during its May meeting, the board agreed on a 7-2 roll-call vote to adopt the 2009-10 budget totalling \$11,601,933. Board members Danny Crouse and Edgar Yates dissented, while fellow board member Richard Mosemann was unable to attend the June 23 meeting.

In accordance with the budget announcement, real estate taxes as well as payment of various per capita taxes will remain unchanged for Southern Fulton property owners. The millage rate is set to stay at its current rate of 22.5 mills, while Act 511 and 679 per capita taxes are staying at \$5. Earned income taxes and real estate transfer taxes are listed at 1 percent, and penalties are at a maximum 10 percent.

In other financial matters, the board agreed to have F&M Trust serve as both district treasurer and depository of funds.

Annual approval was again

See SFSB, Pg. A2

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