



Tonoloway Meeting House Open To Visitors

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MVFC Launches Newest Building Fundraiser

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THURSDAY
WEEKLY

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JULY 9, 2009

\$1.05 Billion Defense Deal Will Call Back JLG Workers

Armored truck cabs to be built here for Oshkosh

By Lindsay R. Mellott
STAFF WRITER

JLG Industries got a much-needed shot in the arm last Tuesday when parent company Oshkosh Corp. announced it had won a billion-dollar U.S. Department of Defense contract that will bring laid-off workers back to JLG's McConnellsburg plant.

The \$1.05 billion order for 2,224 armored vehicles addresses the immediate need of ground forces fighting in Afghanistan for explosion-resistant trucks that are lighter and agile enough to navigate the country's harsh terrain.

Reports published in several newspapers last week say the truck's cabs will be built at JLG's McConnellsburg plant and that hundreds of laid-off workers will be called back to work.

Oshkosh spokesperson Ann Stawski, however, said on Monday only that production and assembly will take place in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. She said that Oshkosh is still meeting with the contracting entity and that production plans and employment figures have not been finalized.

Employment numbers, Stawski said, will be determined before the end of July.

JLG has laid off a little more than half of its workforce since it began downsizing a year ago. The majority of those layoffs took

place at its McConnellsburg facility.

Oshkosh's mine-resistant, ambush-protected all-terrain vehicle, or M-ATV, was selected by the Army after months of testing on production-ready vehicles built by Wisconsin-based Oshkosh and three other companies that were vying for the huge contract.

The Associated Press reported last week that Oshkosh was unanimously picked to build the armored vehicle, saying the Oshkosh prototype "proved to be more resistant to explosive blasts and its mobility was best or equal to every other offering."

Oshkosh performed more than 7,500 miles of independent off-road testing to identify possible enhancements to the ar-

mored vehicle so it would meet or surpass the Pentagon's performance requirements.

The contract has a nine-month delivery schedule, with the first vehicles due to the Army in August. Stawski said Oshkosh will eventually speed up production to 1,000 vehicles a month.

Robert Bohn, chairman and chief executive officer of Oshkosh, said, "Due to the urgent need of our armed forces for a survivable and highly mobile vehicle, our corporation's number one priority is meeting the department's (DOD) accelerated delivery schedule of the Oshkosh M-ATV."

To comply with the Pentagon's ramped up delivery schedule, Oshkosh began daily pro-

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Oshkosh M-ATV offers superior mobility and survivability for the U.S. Armed Forces.

BUSINESS WIRE PHOTO



U.S. Rep. Joe Sestak visits the "News" office Tuesday morning.

Joe Sestak To Run Against Specter

STAFF REPORT

U.S. Rep. Joe Sestak (D-Pa.), from Media, Pa., was in McConnellsburg Tuesday morning to meet with Fulton County Democrats and visit the "News" office during a 20-day tour of Pennsylvania's 67 counties.

At the end of that tour, Sestak is expected to formally announce that he is running for the Democratic nomination for U.S. senator. He will be running against Sen. Arlen Specter, who recently switched his party affiliation from Republican to Democrat. Specter was also in the county last week holding a town hall type meeting at the Fulton Theatre late Wednesday afternoon. (See story elsewhere.)

"He (Specter) is not the right leader for the times," Sestak said. "I know he is not the person to lead us into the future."

Following an early morning meeting with county Democratic Chairman Rheon Gelvin and active Democrats at the headquarters on South Second Street, Sestak stopped by the "News" office to meet with publisher Jamie Greathead.

"Specter voted against healthcare reform in the 1990s without offering an alternative and was the decisive vote on tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans," Sestak said.

Specter voted with President George W. Bush 80 percent of the time and has given the country a tragic war in Iraq and a tril-

See SESTAK, Pg. A2



Sinoquipe Scout Reservation has seen many improvements and general maintenance projects completed over the summer as a result of a work crew funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and Southern Alleghenies Workforce Investment Board. Above, the crew puts the finishing touches on cabin shingles.

Youth Service Corps Leaving Mark On Camp Sinoquipe

Around 30 youths employed in the county summer work experience program

By Chanin Rotz-Mountz
STAFF WRITER

Amid the ping of BB gunfire, splashing lake water and campfire songs, another sound is emerging this summer from Sinoquipe Scout

Reservation - the sound of hammers, shovels and other hand tools needed for general maintenance and upgrades at the Dublin Township camp.

A team of five area men and their crew leader employed through the Employment and Training Office's summer work experience program have been onsite daily since May 20 completing an array of duties at the camp that hundreds of Cub and Boy Scouts call home. The crew is

funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the Southern Alleghenies Workforce Investment Board.

According to camp director Jack Rhodes, summer crews had been an annual fixture at the reservation for multiple years. However, funding needed to keep the program up and running literally dried up.

Fast forward 10 years to summer 2009, and the newest

See YOUTH SERVICE, Pg. A2

Specter Meets With Local Democrats

Town meeting held at Fulton Theatre

By Chanin Rotz-Mountz
STAFF WRITER

Sen. Arlen Specter visited Fulton County last Wednesday for the first time since changing his party affiliation. His visit here was hosted by county Democrats seeking answers to questions on healthcare, unions and his future as a politician.

Introduced at the town meeting by Joy Dasher, Specter and the 45 residents on hand were informed by Fulton County's Democratic Executive Committee vice chair that the county is small and hidden away from much of the world and is sometimes even forgotten. However, Dasher did note in spite of its remoteness, citizens in Fulton County do have a voice and care deeply about county, state and national issues ranging from education and jobs to energy.

Touting himself as a "frequent visitor" to Fulton County,

Specter said he first came to the county in 1980 as a Republican. After being approached by Democrats to change his party affiliation and voting in favor of President Barack Obama's proposal for stimulus funding earlier this year, the senator switched parties in late April after "finding himself at odds" with Republican philosophies.

"I decided we had to act," Specter told the crowd last week of the president's stimulus package. "We provided the critical votes to get it done. I knew the Republicans would be upset ... but this is an issue bigger than parties."

Specter joked, "After I voted in favor of the stimulus package, there were more Republicans who wanted me to be a Democrat than Democrats."

Reminding the crowd he was there to listen and not talk, Specter fielded a variety of questions beginning with a proposal

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Boro Council Hears County Rehab Plans

Adopts LERTA ordinance, opens paving bids

By Jean Snyder
STAFF WRITER

McConnellsburg Borough Council members heard a presentation from Fulton County Commissioner David Hoover and the county's engineer regarding the county's renovation project at council's regular meeting last Wednesday evening.

Hoover and Christopher Bearegard of CEDG Engineers outlined the county's renovations in a three-phase plan to refurbish the courthouse and an adjacent parking lot. According to Bearegard, phases one and two of the plan will include a geo-thermal heating and cooling system for the courthouse and the replacement of the bell tower. It will also include replacing windows panes with double-pane glasses, relocating restrooms on the first floor of the courthouse and replacing the stairway to the second floor.

According to the plans, the upstairs courtroom will be refurbished and new lighting will be installed. A walkway from the second floor of the courthouse is also planned to connect it with the second floor of the jail. This will allow for the use of the second floor jail area for a holding cell for prisoners on court days and for meeting space for prisoners and their attorneys. The handicapped-accessible ramp now in place at the east end of the courthouse will be extended to the sheriff's office.

In the adjacent parking lot, commissioners plan to take down the three houses owned by the county on North Second Street and pave and line the parking lot. When completed, there will be 128 parking spaces and six additional that will be handicapped-accessible, according to Hoover. The plans call for new sidewalks, lighting in the parking area, and stormwater drainage from the parking lot will be handled with an underground detention basin that will reduce the runoff to pre-construction rates of runoff or less.

In addition, McConnell Park will be given an increased elevation to make viewing events in the band shell easier. The back of the jail and exercise yard will be razed, and West Spruce Street, which runs past the jail, will be straightened and paved. Hoover said plans are already under way to save Polly Water's rose bush, which climbs the north side of the jail wall.

A portion of the county's plan brought objections from council when the engineer announced that West Spruce Street would be made one-way gong west and that the road way out of the parking lot to the north of West Spruce Street will be closed off entirely, all to limit access on North Second Street/Route 522. Bearegard said that PennDOT prefers the limited access in such projects. However, council president Rick Buterbaugh reminded Hoover and Bearegard that only council can grant permission to make the borough's streets and/or alleys one-way and that this was not discussed or approved when the county brought the initial plans to the borough. Mayor Jim Stenger, who owns property at the west end of the parking lot, also vehemently opposed making the alley one-way and closing off the other entrance/exit. Hoover was told the county would need to submit that plan again to the council for consideration.

Hoover concluded by saying phase three of the plan would include work on the east side of North Second Street with new sidewalks and the relocation of several offices, as well as the razing of the probation office building once that office relocated to the basement of the Neighborhood Service Center. According to Hoover, drilling of wells for the geo-thermal system could begin with six to eight weeks, and that work on the project will begin either late this year or in early spring of next year.

According to Bearegard, the plans will be forwarded to the borough's engineering firm, Keller Engineers, for its review prior to the borough's approval.

See BORO, Pg. A2

DEATHS

Grissinger, Harold, 54, Three Springs
Grissinger, Thema, 86, McC'burg
Henry, William, 68, McC'burg
Mills, Bernadine, 73, Hustontown
Peyton, Edith, 93, Crystal Spring
Wilkerson, P. Edwina, 84, Hagerstown

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