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MCCONNELLSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

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Ray S. Koontz, 1916-2009

Businessman, Philanthropist Ray Koontz Dies At 93

"He was always ready to help," says son

Lindsay R. Mellott
STAFF WRITER

Prominent businessman and philanthropist Ray S. Koontz died Sunday at Fulton County Medical Center. He was 93.

Ray came to McConnellsburg from Bedford County, where he was born and raised, and is probably best known for bringing the modern supermarket to this rural community.

In 1961, recognizing a business opportunity, Ray bought the IGA grocery store in Hustontown and relocated it to McConnellsburg the same year. In short order, just about everybody was buying their groceries at Ray's IGA, which he expanded and updated numerous times over the years.

"He, of course, made his mark as a grocer," said Ray's one-time neighbor and former bank president Lyle Duffey. "We knew him as the man who brought self-service supermarkets to McConnellsburg and the county."

Ray eventually moved his supermarket to the Penn's Village Shopping Center that he bought in 1980. There, he built a new, modern structure to house the IGA. While other grocery stores, both large and small, came and went, Ray's IGA continued to thrive right up until the time he left the grocery business in 1990. Although Ray was active in the community, he was a silent mover and shaker.

Businesswoman Helen Overly said that Ray did lots of things for people behind the scenes.

"He was always there to help people," Overly said. "He did it in his own quiet reserved way."

Ray was a longtime member of the McConnellsburg Lions

See **KOONTZ**, Page A2

DEATHS

- Eddy, Helen, 93, Hancock, Md.
- Hargett, Robert, 58, Hancock
- Jackson, Sandra, 61, Hancock
- Jennings, Louise, 84, Hancock
- Koontz, Ray, 93, McConnellsburg
- Koppenhaver, David, 59, Clearville
- Mellott, Grover, 80, McConnellsburg
- Peck, Sarah, 78, Cathlamet, Wash.
- Powell, Johnnie, 79, Warfordsburg
- Robinson, Dale, 55, Berk. Spgs., W. Va.

OBITUARIES, Page B3



Mandi Lynch (center) was crowned the 2009 Fulton County Fair Queen on Sunday night during the annual pageant sponsored by the Xi Eta Lambda chapter of Beta Sigma Phi. Lakin Toothman (l) was the first runner-up and Megan Keller took the second runner-up spot. The pageant kicked off the weeklong annual fair events.

Mandi Lynch Crowned Fair Queen

Lakin Toothman is first runner-up in competition

By Jean Snyder
STAFF WRITER

Mandi Lynch, a McConnellsburg High School senior, was crowned the 2009 Fulton County Fair Queen during pageant ceremonies held on Sunday evening. This year, three contestants competed for the coveted crown and the opportunity to reign over Fulton County's 89th annual fair. Lakin Toothman, also a 17-year-old McConnellsburg High School senior, was the first runner-up in the annual fair queen pageant sponsored by the Xi Eta Lambda chapter of Beta Sigma Phi.

Lynch, 17, was sponsored by

Kim Richards Beauty Salon and was escorted to the stage by Kim Richards. She is a member of FFA, Yearbook Club, Envirothon and track and field. She also keeps stats for the basketball team.

Mandi is the daughter of Curt and Sandra Lynch of Harrisonville. She has one brother, Chris.

During the competition, all contestants were asked to tell the audience "why you should come to my fair." Then an additional question was chosen at random for each contestant.

Mandi will reign over this year's Fulton County Fair during the weeklong activities at the fair and during other county activities and parades. She will also compete for the state title in the

state Fair Queen Contest held in January.

The 2009 Fair Queen was crowned by Fulton County's 2008 Fair Queen, Olivia Strait.

Lynch plans to study to be a veterinarian pathologist after graduating from high school.

Lakin Toothman, the first runner-up for the crown, was sponsored by Palmer Realty and was escorted to the stage by Jewel Palmer. Lakin, 17, is a member of SADD, FCCLA and the United Methodist Church. She is also a graduate of Fulton County Camp Cadet.

She is the daughter of Jim and Deb Toothman of McConnellsburg. Lakin plans a career in nursing.

There were no losers at Sun-See **FAIR QUEEN**, Page A2

Assets Still Frozen In Fraud Case

Federal court grants preliminary injunction

By Lindsay R. Mellott
STAFF WRITER

Accused of securities fraud by a federal regulator, financial adviser Robert G. Bard and his investment advisory firm, Vision Specialist Group, have been prohibited from further violations of securities laws after a preliminary injunction was granted by a federal court last Tuesday.

U.S. District Court Judge William W. Caldwell, on Aug. 11, approved the preliminary injunction and also ordered the freeze on Bard's and his firm's assets to stay put.

Bard, 43 years old, of Warfordsburg, agreed to the court order without admitting or denying wrongdoing.

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) filed civil charges on July 30 accusing Bard and Vision Specialist Group of securities fraud.

The preliminary injunction negated the need for a hearing scheduled for Aug. 13 when a temporary restraining order that froze the assets of the defendants would have expired. It will remain in effect until further order of the U.S. District Court of the Middle District of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg, Pa.

According to the SEC, Bard squandered hundreds of thousands of dollars of clients' money

in risky investments and borrowing on margin. The regulator further alleges that Bard overstated account values when reporting to clients and created false statements misrepresenting the true value of their accounts.

The SEC also alleges that "Bard forged client authorization forms to transfer funds between accounts to conceal the dissipation of assets."

Most of Bard's clients live in and around Warfordsburg, and many of them, the regulator stated in its July 30 complaint, entrusted Bard and Vision Specialist with their entire life savings. Clients cited in the complaint include retired persons, a local fire company, a widow and a memorial fund for a U.S. Marine who was killed while serving in Iraq.

The SEC is seeking permanent injunctions, disgorgement of "ill-gotten gains" and financial penalties against Bard and Vision Specialist Group.

Cigola To Step Down As CF Head

Central Fulton's top administrator to retire

By Chanin Rotz-Mountz
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Julia Cigola made history in 1999 when she accepted the role of first female superintendent of the Central Fulton School District. Ten years and two months later, the longtime administrator publicly announced she is planning to retire at the conclusion of the 2009-10 school year.

Cigola first came to Fulton County to serve as director over a four-year time span for the Fulton County Area Vocational Technical School. Moving quickly up the ranks, she in turn worked as McConnellsburg High School principal for two years, which was followed by a year-and-a-half stint as district assistant superintendent.

Cigola, of the Huntingdon area, was bumped up to acting superintendent and eventually superintendent, when former superintendent Hervey Hann accepted a superintendent's position with the Huntingdon Area School District in February 1999.

Cigola's resignation for the purpose of retirement was accepted on a 8-0 roll-call vote on Tuesday, August 11. The resignation is slated to become effective June 30, 2010. Board member Parker Knepper was unable to attend the monthly meeting.

On the heels of Cigola's announcement, the Central Fulton School Board made several last minute hires last Tuesday to prepare for the 2009-10 school year that will get under way for students on Wednesday, August 26.

As the district was unable to obtain the services of a school psychologist internship for the upcoming school year, approval

See **CFSB**, Page A10

Fix, Garlock Show Top Steers At Fair

STAFF REPORT

Taite Fix, 16, son of Rodney and Kristy Fix of the Waterfall area, showed the grand champion "baby beef" at the 4-H/FFA Market Steer Show at the Fulton County Fair.

Fix's steer named "Tubs" is a 1,348-pound cross breed and was purchased from Fix Show Cattle, Waterfall. The steer was one of 37 steers competing in Monday evening's show, judged by Jason Corey of Top Bottom, Pa.

Fix will be a junior at Forbes Road High School and has been showing steers for eight years. This is his first grand champion.

Dalton Garlock, 14, son of Jason and Hollie Garlock of the McConnellsburg area, showed the reserve grand champion market steer. Garlock's steer named

"Banjo" is a 1,234-pound Short-horn steer purchased from Windy Knoll Farm, Everett, and raised on the Mike Hill farm. Garlock is a third-year competitor in the market steer show and will be entering the eighth grade at McConnellsburg Middle School.

Taite Fix held top honors in the heavyweight division, while Dalton Garlock had the honors in the middleweight division before being selected grand champion and reserve.

The results of Monday's show are as follows:

Lightweight No. 1

First - Dillen Burger; second - Brittany Holmes.

Lightweight No. 2

First - Carly Swope; second - Cierra Johnston; third - Casey

Randler; fourth - Brett Burger; fifth - Howard Poole III.

Lightweight No. 3

First - Cody Buterbaugh; second - Mason Buterbaugh; third - Hunter Buterbaugh; fourth - Sasha Holmes.

Champion Lightweight

Cody Buterbaugh.

Reserve Champion Lightweight

Carly Swope.

Middleweight No. 1

First - Dalton Garlock; second - Wyatt Fix; third - Samuel Gordon; fourth - Cassidy Dettwiler; fifth - Dillan Gordon.

Middleweight No. 2

First - Lauren DeShong; second - Megan Keller; third - Trai Fix; fourth - Justin Fogal; fifth - Dakotah Bruce.

Middleweight No. 3

First - Brittany Truax; second

- Michael Fogal; third - Whitney Fix; fourth - Branden Lynch; fifth - Sheree Fogal.

Champion Middleweight

Dalton Garlock.

Reserve Champion Middleweight

Brittany Truax.

Heavyweight No. 1

First - Taite Fix; second - Jared Henry; third - Blake Garlock.

Heavyweight No. 2

First - Cortnee Henry; second - David Seiders; third - Clayton Lynch; fourth - Justin DeShong.

Heavyweight No. 3

First - Levi Truax; second - Sierra Kohr; third - Clarissa Barton; fourth - Kristin Hawbaker.

Champion Heavyweight

Taite Fix

Reserve Champion Heavyweight

Levi Truax



Taite Fix and his Grand Champion steer, "Tubs"



Dalton Garlock and his Reserve Grand Champion steer, "Banjo"

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