



Veterans Day Ceremonies Held Last Wednesday

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JLG Makes Donation To Food Basket

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THURSDAY
WEEKLY

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MCCONNELLSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

NOVEMBER 19, 2009

Accountant Accused Of Bilking Company

Preliminary hearing rescheduled for Joseph Runk of Spring Run

By Chanin Rotz-Mountz
STAFF WRITER

A Franklin County-based accountant faces an array of criminal charges here in Fulton County amid accusations he stole money from a local company on the premise the funds were earmarked for employee tax withholdings.

Joseph Anthony Runk of 16715 Path Valley Road, Spring Run, was charged by Pennsylvania State Police, McConnellsburg, on October 30 through the office of Magisterial District Judge Carol Jean Johnson. The 54-year-old accountant faces one count each of theft by unlawful taking, receiving stolen property, deceptive or fraudulent business practices, misapplication of entrusted property of a government or financial institutions; two counts of forgery; and three counts of theft by deception.

Runk's preliminary hearing previously scheduled for Monday, November 23, in Fulton County Central Court has been continued and will likely be conducted in late December or early January.

The criminal complaint filed by investigating officer Trooper Angela Roher indicates a total of \$41,915.38 belonging to a company in Needmore was unlawfully taken by Runk, who gave business owners the impression the cash was to be forwarded to the Internal Revenue Service for payment of taxes.

A detailed description of the felony thefts provided by Trooper Roher revealed the accountant "withheld information from the victim regarding the proper amount that needed to be forwarded to the IRS for taxes. Instead he informed them of an amount higher than what the IRS required, and he then retained the difference."

In a follow-up affidavit of probable cause filed by Roher, Runk had allegedly been routinely overcharging the business for taxes during a four-year time frame from 2000 through 2004. The possible discrepancies were first noted when company officials contacted Runk to obtain a "ballpark figure" on new employee withholding taxes.

After Runk provided two different figures, officials began digging through past tax and payroll records. According to the affidavit, certified public accountants Boyer & Ritter were then hired to assess those same records and came up with a preliminary estimate of \$207,637.18 in money overpaid to Runk for employee tax withholdings.

The affidavit prepared by Roher, alleges Runk also attempted to secure power of attorney over the business' tax and payroll information by forging the company president's name on documents sent to the IRS. The IRS responded to the request stating the power of attorney and declaration of representative was "illegible and incomplete."

DEATHS

Barnett, Inez, 83, Waterfall
Duval, Dolly, 71, Ft. Littleton
Henry, Ronald, 53, Hustontown
Memmi, Ruth, 83, Three Springs
Thompson, Robert, 80, Hancock
Tibbs, Kevin, 59, Harrisonville

OBITUARIES, Page B3



From Farmland To Afghanistan



The large, armored military trucks (M-ATVs) that are being built at JLG are quickly becoming a familiar sight in McConnellsburg and as they are road-tested through Great Cove farmland south of town. The trucks, which are headed to Afghanistan in support of U.S. ground forces fighting the war there, are being seen in larger and larger numbers as production ramps up to 1,000 per month. Seeing the trucks has instilled an increased sense of pride and patriotism for residents who understand the important role the county is playing in equipping the U.S. military. Production of the M-ATVs will continue through March 2010.

Military Orders Keep JLG Working

New order calls for another 1,000 M-ATVs

By Lindsay R. Mellott
STAFF WRITER

A fifth order from the Department of Defense for 1,000 armored off-road military vehicles (M-ATVs) announced last Wednesday by parent company Oshkosh Corp. will bring more work to JLG Industries.

Oshkosh said in a news release that the new order is worth \$438 million and brings the total number of M-ATVs Wisconsin-based Oshkosh is building at its

defense facilities and here at JLG to 6,219.

The total value of the five orders for M-ATVs is now more than \$3.2 billion, the news release stated.

"The most significant way we can show support for our armed forces is high rate, quality production of these important vehicles that provide the mobility and survivability necessary for the harsh Afghanistan terrain," said Robert G. Bohn, Oshkosh chairman and chief executive officer.

Production of the M-ATVs, which is split between JLG and Oshkosh Defense, is expected to

reach 1,000 vehicles a month in December.

According to Jeff Ford, JLG spokesperson, all of the M-ATVs' cabs are being built at JLG and half of the truck beds. When production reaches its peak, Ford said, JLG will be making 500 truck beds and 1,000 cabs each month to meet the Defense Department's accelerated acquisition schedule. Half of the cabs made here are shipped to Oshkosh Defense where the remainder of the truck beds are being made.

Oshkosh also said last week that it had exceeded the government's delivery demands

Commissioners Still Slashing Expenses

Joins CCAP healthy living program

By Chanin Rotz-Mountz
STAFF WRITER

Allocation requests presented to the Fulton County commissioners were seeing cuts of up to 50 percent on Tuesday as the weeks dwindle down until a tentative nod is given on December 8 to the 2010 general budget.

The Penn State Extension Office was among the departments and organizations to see their request slashed this week. In 2009 the extension office received a total of \$29,158, which was typically spent on travel, meals and training. In addition, the county also pays for a full-time employee with benefits and office rent.

As pointed out by newest commissioner Craig Cutchall, the county should reduce the 2010 allocation by half, since that has been the method followed in recent weeks. As a result, the commissioners agreed to provide the extension office with a total of \$14,579.

Jointly tackling the issues of

the Area Agency on Aging budget and a memorandum of agreement (MOA) that is set to expire on December 31, the commissioners informed business manager Tim Stanton they could not foresee lowering their annual appropriation while raising the amount paid to the county through the MOA.

At this time, the Agency pays the county a total of \$300 per month to cover custodial services as well as an average of \$172 per month for electricity. Stanton stated the \$300 should actually be raised to \$377 monthly to cover custodial services and issues such as fuel have never been addressed. Given that the Agency occupies a quarter of the Neighborhood Services Center building, their portion of fuel expenses should cost \$94 per month.

Stanton added the Agency had a balanced budget for the fiscal year of 2008, but unlike the Fulton County Conservation District, it isn't sitting on unrestricted surplus. The business manager concluded if the county reduced the Agency's allocation, Agency officials would not be able to fall back on surplus and would likely have to resort to cutting areas such as employee benefits.

Stanton also touched on Fulton County's population and related it to the county's annual payment to the Agency. Stanton's calculations show Fulton County should only be paying slightly more than \$10,000, which is 50 percent less than what is currently being paid.

Stanton's analysis will be shared with Area Agency on Aging Executive Director Alan Smith next Tuesday before a final decision is rendered by the commissioners.

In a follow-up motion, the commissioners approved a resolution permitting the Agency to extend its line of credit by \$750,000 with Susquehanna Bank.

Stanton concluded the county is better off now than in comparison to the beginning of 2009 when the county began the year with a \$300,000 shortfall. He said by tightening the belt and cost containment, the county has cut the shortfall down to \$15,000 with six weeks remaining in the current year.

Chief Clerk Dan Swain mentioned the possibility of having located a potential site for an al-

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Parent Of Sick Child Asks CF To "Step Up"

By Chanin Rotz-Mountz
STAFF WRITER

The father of a 7-year-old boy afflicted with an inherited genetic disorder called upon members of the Central Fulton School Board for assistance last week amid claims the child is being "neglected" by the school.

Todd Hershey stated his son has arrived home on numerous occasions after a day at school without having a proper snack between his mandatory dosages of cornstarch, which in its uncooked form provides a steady slow-release form of glucose.

Hershey's son has been diagnosed with glycogen storage disease type 1 (GSD1), a rare liver disease where an individual's body cannot break down sugar. Symptoms vary depending on the type of GSD, but typically involve low blood sugar, an enlarged liver, slow growth and muscle cramping.

Dietary changes are often instituted in those affected with GSD, according to reports. For instance, in children ages 2 and older, frequent small carbohydrate treats, that may include uncooked cornstarch, are given routinely throughout the day. In addition, foods that contain a high dosage of fructose or lactose may be totally eliminated from the diet.

According to Hershey, repeatedly forgetting to adhere to dietary guidelines could lead to matters much worse for his son, such as kidney failure or liver cancer.

"The other day his blood sugar was 70. It was rock bottom," said Hershey. "I want to know who is responsible? ... I

need someone here who is going to step up and say this is a serious condition and we're going to take care of it."

Hershey lauded the efforts of McConnellsburg Elementary Principal Alicia Mellott but pointed out she is only one person.

"When I go to work I shouldn't have to worry if the boy is getting his snack or cornstarch. I need it taken care of one way or another. If I have to go above and beyond here I will," said Hershey, who was accompanied to the meeting by fellow concerned parent Mark Peck. "... I've had just about enough of it."

Retiring board member President Dennis Richards informed Hershey he appreciated his bringing the matter to the board's attention. He assured Hershey it was indeed a "very serious" matter, and it would be properly channeled to and handled by staff.

Hershey also took the opportunity during his allotted three minutes of the public comment section to address handicapped accessibility concerns. While the lower entrance to the building is accessible, the front entrance has a cumbersome stair to navigate before the door buzzer can be sounded for office staff.

Mellott said she had already been in contact with Brent Seville, building and grounds supervisor, regarding eliminating the step. She added, however, the project would have to be tackled during summer months.

In other issues addressed during the November 10 meeting, the board followed the recommendation of its insurance carrier

and approved the following administrators to serve on various boards within the community: Todd Beatty, Fulton County Services for Children; Alicia Mellott and Brent Seville, Central Fulton Educational Foundation; Dr. Julia Cigola, Tuscarora Blended Learning Charter School and Fulton County Partnership; and Wayne Northcraft,

Allegheny College of Maryland Foundation Board.

As a follow-up to the board's previous work session, the board approved sharing the services of food service director Adam Carlson for the remainder of the 2009-10 school year with the Tuscarora School District. The board will

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Honoring Those Who Served



The Fulton County Honor Guard prepares to deliver the salute to the honored dead at Veterans Day services held last Wednesday, November 11, on the Fulton County Courthouse lawn. For a report on the ceremony, see story on page A3.