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WANTED TO BUY: Good condition used cars, trucks and ATVs. Tri-State vehicles. Call John at 717-658-2875 or Sharon, 717-658-2871. 7-2-11

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Corbett: House GOP Officials Didn't Raise Red Flag

By Marc Levy

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER
 HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) – The ranks of current and former state House Republican legislators, prosecutors allege, are littered with people whose election-day efforts benefited from the illegal use of taxpayer-paid resources.

Meanwhile, the Republican floor leader since 2003, Rep. Sam Smith of Jefferson County, even signed contracts, received information and sat in on meetings that prosecutors allege had a connection to the illegal diversion of public money and resources.

But, before investigators began asking questions in 2007, nobody – no House GOP representative or employee – apparently ever voiced concern about such allegedly illegal activity to the office of Attorney General Tom Corbett.

“Not to my knowledge,” Corbett said Thursday after announcing charges against former House Speaker John Perzel and nine other current or former employees of the House GOP or Perzel’s campaign.

The nearly three-year investigation began in early 2007, prompted by the revelation by The Patriot-News of Harrisburg about secret bonuses doled out by legislative leaders.

Last year, Corbett’s office charged 12 people connected to the House Democratic caucus in alleged schemes to use taxpayer

dollars, including the bonuses, to fuel political activities. On Thursday, Corbett revealed the results of his investigation thus far into the House Republicans.

Perzel, of Philadelphia, was the only sitting Republican lawmaker charged Thursday. He lost both the speakership and control of the caucus when Democrats won the House majority in late 2006. Smith, who had been the caucus’ second-ranking official, took the reins.

The 188-page grand jury presentation released by Corbett on Thursday mentions Smith’s name no fewer than 11 times in the course of describing the alleged commingling of political and taxpayer-paid activity.

In some instances, Smith signed millions of dollars worth of contracts for a New Orleans company called GCR & Associates Inc. that, prosecutors allege, provided computer-driven methods to compile and sort voter data. That information ended up being used in political campaigns, Corbett said.

At other times before 2007, Smith sat in on meetings or received information, such as an e-mail, that allegedly discussed the use of GCR or caucus employees for political work.

Smith, who did not respond to numerous requests for comment through his spokesman on Thursday and Friday, was not charged with any wrongdoing. In a report last year by The Philadelphia Inquirer on grand jury scrutiny of the GCR contracts, Smith said the database had never been used for political purposes and served a legitimate government function.

In a statement released Thursday, Smith called the charges “alarming and shocking.” He wrote that since he assumed leadership of the caucus from Perzel, he has worked to put in place policies to keep political work separate from legislative work.

“It was always my understanding that we paid people – with campaign dollars – to work on campaigns and did not use legislative money to pay for that work,” Smith wrote.

Asked Friday about prosecutors’ conclusions on Smith’s involvement in or knowledge of illegal activity, Corbett’s spokesman Kevin Harley declined comment. But, Harley noted, the investigation into the House GOP is continuing.

Beginning in 2000 through 2006, Perzel directed taxpayer-paid information, computer equipment and caucus employees to be used on election day on behalf of himself and numerous other House Republican candidates, Corbett said.

The first full-scale use of a taxpayer-financed strategy to speedily identify reliable Republican voters who had not voted allegedly took place in the 2002 special election in the 176th legislative district won by Mario Scavello.

Scavello, R-Monroe, said he never suspected then or afterward that taxpayer money had helped fuel that election day effort.

“No, my god no,” Scavello said Friday.

Scavello and several other House Republicans whose elections surfaced in the presentment said they were aware of a House Republican Campaign Committee presence on election day.

But, they said, they had not been briefed on the strategy, and were absorbed in their own duties – knocking on doors, making phone calls or handing out literature. They assumed the committee’s activity was financed by campaign donations and never heard differently until rumors

began circulating during Corbett’s investigation, they said.

“This was all tightly held info,” Rep. Karen Beyer, R-Lehigh, who was elected in 2005, said Friday. “The average rank-and-file member, we never would have known this.”

Ceremony Held For White Buffalo At Pa. Resort Home

FARMINGTON, Pa. (AP) – Native American songs and dances welcomed a sacred white buffalo to his new home at a sanctuary established at a southwestern Pennsylvania resort following the closure of the zoo where he was born.

About 200 people took part in Saturday’s ceremony to thank owners of Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort in Farmington for buying the white buffalo and another black buffalo born at the nearby Woodland Zoo in Farmington, which closed last month. The animals are now on a 50-acre parcel on the wooded grounds of the resort, about 40 miles south of Pittsburgh.

Mike “Hawk” Goodfire, appointed by the Lakota tribe as caretaker of the white buffalo, led the program that featured talks from several elder members of the tribe. Nagi White Owl, ambassador of the Sovereign Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, was among those who came from far away to attend.

“We need to open our eyes, our ears and our hearts and come together to respect all,” she said. “The white buffalo born to white nations means fulfillment, a coming together of all nations.”

The white buffalo “Lightning” and the black buffalo “Thunder” spent the ceremony resting in a wooden sty overlooking the site, occasionally standing at the sound of drums and voices or strolling around the area.

Joe Hardy, founder of both the resort and 84 Lumber, was presented with a feather from a bald eagle as well as Indian blankets.

“This is phenomenal” Hardy said. “I am impressed. This is such a great day for all of us.”

The resort also plans to establish an American Indian interpretive center.

In Lakota lore, White Buffalo Woman was sent by the Creator to teach the people to communicate with the deity through the prayer pipe. When she left, vowing to return, she was transformed into a buffalo calf of different colors, and the birth of the white buffalo is said to signal her return.

Additional Legals

ADMINISTRATRIX'S NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Letters of Administration on the Estate of Carol A. Goes, late of the Borough of McConnellsburg, Fulton County, Pennsylvania, have been granted to the undersigned, and she requests all persons having claims against said estate to make known the same to Trudy Bumbaugh, 592 South Fourth Street, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania 17201, or her attorney, and all persons indebted to said decedent to make payment to her without delay.

Trudy Bumbaugh, Administratrix
 Schall and Bard, LLC
 James M. Schall, Esquire
 119 North Second Street
 McConnellsburg, Pa. 17233
 11-19-11

DEEDS

The following deeds were recorded at the local courthouse during the past week. State tax stamps affixed to deeds indicate one percent of the purchase price or of the fair market value:

William T. McGraw and Barbara S. Margaret to William T. McGraw and Barbara Margaret, trustees of the Margaret McGraw Revocable Trust in Bethel Township, tax exempt.

Kenneth A. Martin and Tami Tillotson Martin to Melanie A. Hunsecker and Kent H. Varner in Dublin Township, \$1,165 in tax stamps.

James M. Chesnut to William J. Secrist in Licking Creek Township, \$100 in tax stamps.

Valley-Hi Development Association Inc. to Charles H. Lam Jr. in Valley-Hi Borough, \$50 in tax stamps.

Betty Jean Christian, N. Eileen Angle and Joseph R. Angle to N. Eileen Angle and Joseph R. Angle in McConnellsburg Borough, tax exempt.

Ruth Ann Strait, Daniel E. Strait Sr. to Daniel E. Strait Sr. and Ruth Ann Strait in Licking Creek Township, tax exempt.

Gursharan S. Sidhu and Ravinder Sidhu to Floyd A. Collis Jr. and Sharon K. Collis in Brush Creek Township, \$1,020 in tax stamps.

FOR SALE



McConnellsburg
 New 3 BR 2.5 BA home w/radiant heat. Sunken LR. custom kit, 2 decks, patio. 2480 sq ft. 9' ceilings. Full w bsmt. 1.2 ac. \$279,000. Price reduced. Financing available.
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MID-ATLANTIC NEWSPAPER SERVICES, INC. STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK
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ABSOLUTE REAL ESTATE AUCTION

The following Real Estate Will Be Sold with NO RESERVE, Live & On-Site:
 660 E. Market St, McConnellsburg, PA 17233, Fulton Co.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

5:00 p.m. sharp, register before

For the Estate of John B. Bivens, James M. Schall, atty.



660 E. Market St, McConnellsburg, PA 17233, Fulton Co.
 2-story wood frame on 1/4 acre with garage

House Exterior 27' x 24' not inc porches; all electric heat- baseboards with thermostats in each room; basement: original stone, rough, dirt ; slate roof: age unknown, enclosed, unheated rear porch; well insulated, 3 beds 1 bath on upper level; attic: pineboard, insulated

TERMS: \$5,000 cash deposit day of sale, balance due within 45 days

OPEN HOUSE: Saturdays, December 5th & 12th, 10 am - 12 pm

BROKER PARTICIPATION WELCOME

More photos and details at COREAUCTIONS.COM or call 717-977-8716

CORE Auctions, LLC #AY-002045 Carl Ocker, President

Sale of Used Vehicles

The Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Area Agency on Aging is holding a public sale of used vehicles by sealed bid.

A description of the wheelchair accessible 12 passenger vans, Subaru wagon and conditions of sale can be obtained by contacting any of the Agency's offices at:

240 Wood Street, Bedford, Pa., 814-623-8148 or 1-800-892-7903
 307 Tenth Street, Huntingdon, Pa., 814-643-5151 or 1-800-528-9155
 116 West Market Street, McConnellsburg, Pa., 717-485-5151 or 1-800-637-0315

Bids must be received at the Agency's BEDFORD OFFICE before the close of business at 4:30 p.m. on December 7, 2009.

Bids will be opened at the Bedford County Commissioners regular meeting on December 8, 2009, at approximately 10:00 a.m.

The Agency reserves the right to reject any or all bids. The Area Agency on Aging is an equal opportunity employer and contractor