

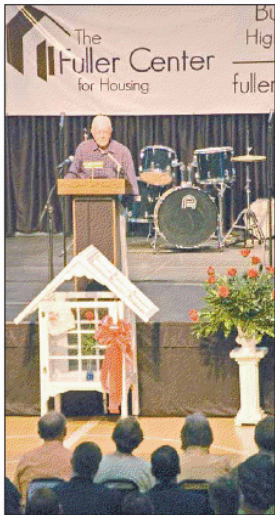
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100 home build begins



By WAYNE CLARK
Times-News News Editor

VALLEY — Before one of the largest crowds that's ever gathered at Valley Community Center, the Fuller Center for Housing kicked off the inaugural Millard Fuller Legacy Build on Sunday afternoon.

The goal is to build 100 homes in North, Central and South America this week with the blitz build being anchored in Lanett, Millard Fuller's hometown.

Approximately one year ago, Fuller came up with the idea of celebrating his 50th wedding anniversary with such a wedding build with Lanett at the center. It was his wish to have 100 new homes to be built at various locations throughout the world every year around an anniversary of his wedding.

After his death on Feb. 3 of this year, Fuller Center

supporters refocused the event on honoring and continuing Mr. Fuller's life-work in Lanett this week, volunteers will build six new homes and conduct Greater Blessing repairs and renovations to another eight homes in the area, effectively changing the face of an entire neighborhood.

Among those speaking in the Sunday program were two of Fuller's longtime friends, former President Jimmy Carter and Southern Poverty Law Center founder Morris Dees; his wife Linda and brother, Montgomery attorney Doyle Fuller.

Attendees also got a sneak peek at a forthcoming documentary about Millard Fuller's life that's being done by southern California filmmaker Steven Zuckerman. Included are photos of Fuller when he was growing up in the Valley area, pictures



HIGHWAY HONORS FULLER — Lanett native son Millard Fuller will be honored by having U.S. 29 between LaGrange and the Greater Valley Area named in his honor. Linda Fuller, left, Millard's wife, hugs Susan Ferguson during Sunday's ceremonies after Ferguson made the announcement. (Photo by Matthew Strother)

Highway 29 to be named in Fuller's honor

By MATTHEW STROTHER
Times-News Staff Writer

VALLEY — The Greater Valley Area's main corridor for travel will be named in honor of its favorite son.

Linda Fuller was surprised in front of the 1,000-plus crowd on Sunday gathered for the Fuller Center Legacy

Build kickoff that state legislators were trying to immortalize her late husband's name in the area's main connector.

Alabama State Rep. DuWayne Bridges brought up legislation to have the section of U.S. Highway 29 from the Interstate 85 interchange at the Lanett and Valley city limits to the state line

renamed the Millard Fuller Memorial Highway. Likewise, in Georgia, Rep. Randy Nix is now pushing similar legislation for the section of 29 from the state line to LaGrange also to be the Millard Fuller Memorial Highway.

"I think it's about the most incredible way they could have honored one of

FORMER PRESIDENT SPEAKS — President Jimmy Carter helped kick off the Millard Fuller Legacy Build before a full house Sunday at Valley Community Center. The build begins in earnest today as hundreds of volunteers work on the housing. (Photo by Matthew Strother)

Some Troup projects back in DOT plans but others aren't

By MATTHEW STROTHER
Times-News Staff Writer

LAGRANGE — Troup County leaders are happy that projects previously dropped from the Georgia Department of Transportation's list of programs have been reinstated, but

are still disappointed at some of the projects that didn't re-materialize.

New DOT Commissioner Vance Smith, formerly a state representative for parts of Long, Harris and Muscogee counties, has given Troup leaders confidence that Troup projects

will be handled with greater priority after the previous administration had dropped almost all from the state's immediate plans. Some of those projects included resurfacing of roads damaged by heavy trucks during construction at the Kia plant, which the

state had promised would be taken care of.

One of the projects at the top of the list includes \$350,000 in federal funds for the third phase of the streetwork project in West Point. The project is responsible for the new sidewalks and landscaping

downtown.

Commissioners also were glad to see the second phase of the south loop, which will complete a bypass from Rouseau Road to Whitesville Road and connect to LaGrange's Callaway Industrial Park along the perimeter of

White speaks on air defense

By CY WOOD
Editor/Publisher

LANETT — Valley native Maj. Gen. Johnny White is looking at retirement in a couple of years, but until then he will play a pivotal role in the air defense of this country.

White, who has moved back home but spends a lot of time in Langley, Va., in his military job and in the air with Delta Airlines, was the speaker Thursday at the Rotary Club of West

Point's meeting.

Until recently, White was the head of the Alabama National Guard but is now working at the federal level in a liaison role between the Air National Guard and the regular Air Force. He serves as assistant to the commander of the air combat command. That command involves approximately 55,000 personnel.

White speaks proudly of the Air National Guard, which provides close to a

third of this nation's fighter/attack and strategic/tactical aircraft planes. More than 108,000 personnel are involved.

White explained that the Air National Guard works a little differently than the more familiar Army National Guard. Ironically, he said, it's often the Air National Guard that responds first in the event of a natural disaster, because Air National Guard units are always in



Maj. Gen. Johnny White

Hospital restricts visitors due to flu

By THE TIMES-NEWS

VALLEY — Lanier Health Services has revised its visitor policy and is offering some advice on dealing with the N1H1 flu.

Effective immediately, people under the age of 19 and those with flu-like symptoms are prohibited from visiting the hospital.

"In order to protect our community and our patients, Lanier Hospital has implemented this new visitor policy," CEO Kelli Powers said. "Rather than visiting someone who is in the hospital, consider telephoning them instead. In addition, we recommend that anyone who has a chronic illness avoid visiting patients in the hospital since that could increase your chances of being exposed to other illnesses."

Lanier Health Services is committed to its role of helping the local community during flu season, Powers said.

"Our administration, physicians, and infection control prevention are working closely with state and local health departments in sharing information on any flu activity," she said.

As of Aug. 28, the hospital has no patients admitted with the flu.

With the overwhelming news coverage of the H1N1 flu (formerly called swine flu), there is some misunderstanding about the types of flu. Although there are many types of flu, all flu types are treated the same and prevented the same. Testing for the flu does not change the treatment of the flu.

The first line of defense for flu season is prevention.

HOW TO HELP PREVENT THE FLU:

- Wash your hands. Hand washing is extremely important.
- Keep your hands away from your mouth, nose and face.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you do not have a tissue, cough into your sleeve, not your hand.
- Stay away from family

Library Card Sign-Up Month begins

By TARIETHA TRUITT
Chambers County Library

VALLEY — Books are not the only bargain at a library card can get you during national Library Card Sign-Up Month celebrated at the Chambers County Library in September.

Several local merchants are partnering with the Chambers County Library and the Chamber of Commerce to save library card holders money by taking part in a "Show Us Your Library Card" campaign.

Simply show your current library card at participating businesses and restaurants to receive a discount or free item. Be sure to visit the libraries in Valley or LaFayette for a complete list of merchants and discounts available.

LaFayette, Lanett, West Point and Valley merchants supporting the library's promotion include A Cut Above, Allen's Flowers, Ashby's Beauty Salon, Baldwin's Building Material and Hardware, Bud's Blossoms, Canada's Homestyle Cafe, Cham-

berly's Capital City Bank, Chicken Stop, Chuck's BBQ, Coffee Break, Dar-Dee, Daniel's Drive Inn, Dave Shirley Photography, David's Bar-B-Que, 555 Market Place, Flower Kart, Hengeler's, Hood's Pharmacy, Irish Bread Pak, Junk to Riches, KFC (Valley), Kenny Knox Tire Center, LaFayette Barber Shop, The LaFayette Sun, LaFayette True Value Hardware, Lowe's Drug, The Mane Event, Merle Norman, Merf's Diner, Mikko's, Nan's Furniture Outlet, Papa John's Pizza,

Parker's Grocery, Piggly-Wiggly, Pro Nails, Quick Way Dry Cleaners, Roger's Key & Safe, Runway Taz & Boutique, Sakura Fusion, Simple Life Salon and Gift Shop, Strickland's Texaco, Sue's Chk., Sunshine Cleaners, Tag's Gift Shop, Variety, Valley Forest Valley Pharmacy, Whaley's Upholstery, West Point Tire Co. and Wing Stop.

The first 100 patrons to come in and sign up for a library card at the branch.

Bible Thought

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

1 Timothy 6:12

Weather

Temperature

Weekend High.....79°

Weekend Low.....69°

Today at 8 AM.....69°

Sunset

Weekend Sunset.....8:09°

Month's Date.....8:02°

Year to Date.....55.41°

Lake Elevation

West Point Lake

Today.....635.97

Weekend.....635.61

Full Pool.....635.00

Generation.....1-11 p.m.

Water Temp.....87°

Lottery

Win Your Life

05-14-10-20-4-07 FB:00

Mega Millions

01-17-03-17-54 3B: 21

Fantasy 5

02-12-12-14-20

Cash 2 - Run

1-1-4 (PM)

Inside Today

Early Told.....2

Classified.....15

Comics.....10

Deaths.....7

Days Gone By.....8

Lifestyle.....4

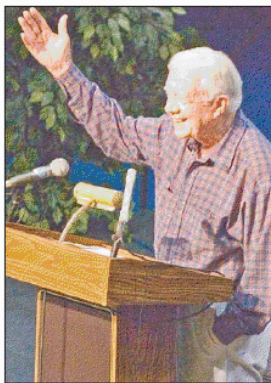
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More than a thousand people showed up for Millard Fuller Legacy Build Kickoff



President Jimmy Carter acknowledges the crowd.

Fuller honored at Legacy Build kickoff

Continued from page 1
 takes during his Aug. 20, 1959 marriage to Linda and home moves of the four Fuller children when they were very young.

"Millard was and is our hometown hero," program emcee Lynda Spofford said at the conclusion of the video presentation. "For those of us who knew him, he was one of the most joyful and delightful people you could ever meet, and we want to celebrate that today."

The first of the principal speakers to address the huge gathering was Fuller's widow, Linda. "We fell in love more and more every year we were married," she said. "We have four children, and our tenth grandchild was born not long before Millard's death. Today would have been our 50th anniversary."

She recalled her husband talking more than a year ago about doing something special to mark their 50th anniversary: the building of 100 new homes throughout the Americas with the massive effort being centered out of Lanett.

"He was excited about the idea when he talked about it. I said, 'Millard, I was thinking about a cruise,'" she said, getting some hearty laughter. "But the more and more I thought about it, the more and more I thought it would be a good idea. In every letter he wrote to anyone, up until the very end, he talked about this build. He was so excited about it. I'm so happy to have a big crowd here today. It's standing room only. I'm especially glad to have some extraordinary and special people here."

"It's been a long time since I lived here, or Millard lived here, but let me welcome you to my hometown," Doyle Fuller said to a crowd that included Fuller Center for Housing volunteers from all over the country.

He credited his brother's success in life to the values he learned here while growing up. He cited preacher Joe French of the Lanett Congregational Christian Church for having a big influence on both of them. "Without the life lessons that were embedded in him in this town, there would have been no Habitat for Humanity or Fuller Center for Housing," Doyle Fuller said. "People would be living in lesser circumstances today. There would be 300,000 fewer decent homes and between 1.5

and 2 million people would not have those homes to live in."

He said that there had been five true homes in his life - his wife Becky, Millard and Linda, Millard's close friend Morris Dees and Jimmy Carter.

Morris Dees said he knew immediately that he'd met an extraordinary person when he met Millard Fuller at a Democratic Party meeting in the late 1950s at the University of Alabama. "He was the best friend I ever had," he said. "He asked me what I wanted to do, and I told him I wanted to be the governor of Alabama," Dees recalled. "He asked me why, and I told him that I had grown up around poverty in Macon County, and I thought people should have a better life than what I had experienced."

Fuller told him that he wanted to be governor, too. "I asked him what qualified him for the job, and he told me that he had attended both Auburn and Alabama," he said, getting laughter.

Fuller and Dees went on to be business partners and both were millionaires before they were 30 years of age. They eventually went separate ways, Dees to found the Southern Poverty Law Center and Fuller Habitat for Humanity.

Dees said he thinks of the old Peter, Paul and Mary song "If I Had a Hammer" when he thinks of Millard. The words to the song fit him and his work so well. "He picked up a hammer to build better homes for people," he said. "He did it well, and the rest is history."

Dees said that while his old friend might be gone, his legacy lives on in the homebuilding efforts of the Fuller Center.

Former President Carter began by saying he would always remember Lanett, Ala., for an embarrassing incident that happened to him when he was campaigning for governor of Georgia in 1970. He'd come to West Point to shake hands with people and ask them for their support. Things were going well in a lot of the downtown stores, but when he got to one business, he was surprised that some folks were laughing at him. "They told me I was campaigning for Georgia governor in Alabama," he said.

Carter said it was an honor for him to talk about

Millard Fuller and his work. "One of the most important things I can say about Millard Fuller was his ability to put his finger on what mattered the most to people," he said.

The biggest single problem in the world today, said the former president, is the widening chasm between the rich and the poor. "Millard believed that having a decent home was the key to having a good life. The importance of home ownership has taken on a new meaning to me since I met Millard," Carter said.

Carter said that home ownership is a big factor in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He made the case that global conflicts can come down to something so simple as people not having decent places to live and to call their own.

Carter said that one of his all-time favorite cartoons appeared in an issue of the New Yorker magazine. The drawing showed a boy looking up at his father and saying the job he wanted when he grew up was to be an ex-president. Everyone laughed along with him at that.

"I didn't think being an ex-president was so funny back in November 1980," he said, referring to his defeat at the hands of Ronald Reagan.

He said he'd met Millard and Linda Fuller during the period he was returning to a normal life after leaving the White House in 1981. He was teaching Sunday school in his hometown of Plains, Ga., when some people from Habitat for Humanity in nearby Americus came to visit and asked him if they'd like to meet their founders.

Dees said that he was reluctant at first but that when he was persuaded to meet the Fullers, it took them only around 30 minutes to win him over to their cause. "Working with Millard and Linda is one of the best things that ever happened in my life," he said.

Habitat work isn't easy - it takes some true dedication on the part of those who do it. Carter joked that a Habitat worker once told him that Millard's dream is a nightmare to others. "There's a lot of hard work involved," he said.

He kidded that current Fuller Center President David Snell was "one of the worst slave drivers I've ever known."

That was from a time

when Carter was with a Habitat group that built 100 homes in five days in Central America. Another group built 382 homes in six days in The Philippines. Habitat workers have also built new homes in the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea.

Carter said that he and wife Rosalyn were watching a news program one evening and saw then-President George W. Bush talk about being in the most dangerous place in the world - the area between the two Koreas. They looked at each other as if to say - "We know; we've built homes there."

"I received a religious education from Millard Fuller," Carter said, explaining that it related to Paul's teachings as recorded in II Corinthians. When Paul was asked how does one know what's important in their life, he answered that the most important things are those you cannot see - peace, truth, justice, humility, service to others, forgiveness, compassion, love and so on.

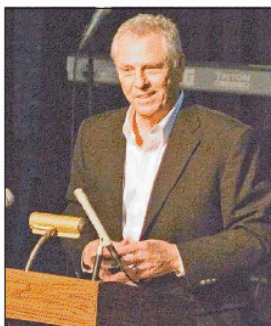
"Millard Fuller taught me that home building can be tied to this and for that I'm very grateful," Carter said.

In concluding remarks, David Snell said that Fuller had left some big shoes to fill but that it could be done on the part of a lot of people coming together to carry on his work. "I am sure that Millard is smiling down on us today," he said. "We are here, and the dream continues. We are here to see that it's done."

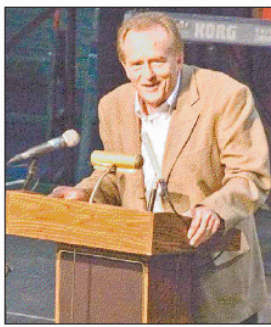
He described the Fuller Center as a ministry for the wealthy. He said that someone had put it quite well when they described a wealthy person as someone whose stomach was full, who had a warm place to sleep at night and the police were their friends.

Snell said it's gratifying to know that in many places in the world, second and third generation families are living in homes that Fullers had a big hand in building over the past 30 years.

He made the point that the Fuller Center is not inclined to back down from new home building anywhere in the world. "We've been negotiating to do projects in North Korea," he said. "This is a remarkable thing we are involved in, brothers and sisters. Millard is no longer with us, but his dream continues. He left us some big shoes to fill."



Fuller's former partner Morris Dees spoke.



Fuller Center President David Snell on program.



CFHP President Bill Scott takes a bow.



Young Singers of West Georgia performed at kickoff.



Valley Gospel Choir performed at kickoff.