

Letters To The Editor

What Does Thanksgiving Mean To You?

To The Editor:
What does Thanksgiving mean to you? Besides being thankful, is it football games, car races, a big dinner? To me it means "Indians and Pilgrims."

In the early 1800s, several young men came to America by boat from Copenhagen, Denmark, and settled in a Danish colony in Iowa. They worked for other settlers for 50 cents a day and saved up their money. Each bought a piece of ground for a farm with a creek, then built a cabin and shanty barn. Two of these young men sent money to their schoolmate sweethearts, later the two girls came over to America.

They were married when the mule-riding circuit preacher rode by. Years later (in 1917) they became my grandfathers and grandmothers. I grew up on this land; it was my home. I have thanked God many times that my grandparents came to America, or I would be living in Denmark.

The cabin had no glass windows; they'd close shutters at night. Not all Indians had moved west, a few stayed behind. When grandma baked breads, an Indian man would come stand outside the window. He would always have a dressed rabbit or squirrel in his hand to exchange for a loaf of baked bread. Some mornings grandpa would go to the shanty barn to milk his cow and a dressed rabbit or squirrel would be hanging there. Then he knew an Indian had milked some from the cow.

Indians doctored themselves with herbs, roots, berries, leaves, bark, etc. Sometimes an Indian squaw would come crying and grandma knew an Indian was very ill. Grandma would take the squaw to the barn and give her some dry

barley. Indians boiled this and drank the juice. There was an Indian graveyard nearby and grandpa and grandma would notice if there was a new burial.

My grandmothers brought flower and vegetable seeds over from Denmark when they came and they planted them. They were new to the Indians. They would see Indians walking through the flower and vegetable garden, smelling and touching, but never destroying or taking anything.

My mother, her brothers and sisters played American games in the yard. Indian children stood in the trees watching, trying to figure out their new games.

The Indian children tried to tame and catch the wild horses. They did a lot of running and were good trackers and trappers.

White children would watch them play. No words were ever exchanged, but there was some sign language among adults later.

The Indians never did any damage. They were friendly, independent Indians that stayed behind. The fighting tribes had moved west. Some Danish men married Indian girls when the circuit preacher rode through. Indian women made beautiful beads and things from animals, horse or cow hides. Indian women were very hard workers and made white men very good wives. They knew how to bring in meat and would exchange meat for baked bread and vegetables from the garden. Squaw husbands showed them how to cook it. There was a trading post near our Danish colony, which later became a big city. It is still called today - Sioux City, Iowa.

Beulah Cole, age 91
Three Springs

Take Time To Donate Blood

To The Editor:

Last week you published an article from the American Red Cross discussing the low blood supply and in conjunction with that, I would like to urge all those who are able to donate at one of the upcoming blood drives. I realize it is a busy time of year, but these supplies can make a life or death difference. I know this because last year I received a blood transfusion the day after Thanksgiving. While many were out shopping on Black Friday, I was giving birth to a handsome, little boy. Things didn't go quite right and I required four units of blood. I

shudder to think what would have happened had those supplies not been available to me. Please take the time to donate.

Upcoming sites are December 3 - 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church;

December 5 - 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m., Fulton County Area Vocational Technical School, McConnellsburg;

January 8 - 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Presbyterian Faith Center in Warfordsburg.

Thank you,
Susan Householder
Warfordsburg

Proud To Be A Boorman Road Resident

To The Editor:

Some time has passed since the last article was written about Boorman Road in The Fulton County News. Upon much thought about the article I feel compelled to respond.

We, the residents, feel the message being conveyed by the way The Fulton County News wrote the story about Boorman Road has and will lead the reader in the wrong direction and influence his or her opinion as to the value of Boorman Road to Brush Creek Township and Fulton County.

I being of the so-called "Weekend Warrior" residents feel I am in a very good position to inform the very uninformed of the true value of Boorman Road.

Fact #1: All of the people who reside on Boorman Road and the ones who have chosen to invest in real estate along and around Boorman Road generate a great deal of tax revenue for the township and county.

Fact #2: All of the residents on Boorman Road and so called "Weekend Warriors" have full-time jobs and go to work daily. Some residents own their own business, which employs quite a few people, in turn generates quite a few tax dollars for the commonwealth of PA, Fulton County and Brush Creek Township.

In our opinion, there probably is not another one-mile stretch of road in Fulton County that generates more tax revenue than Boorman Road. We are sure the facts and fig-

ures for this statement can be documented and verified.

It is the goal of the people who depend on Boorman Road to stimulate a little more interest and enthusiasm with the township and county in regard to the care and maintenance of Boorman Road. In the past, the routine maintenance on Boorman Road has been performed by the residents and again the so-called "Weekend Warrior." We have paid our property taxes, road taxes, school taxes and every other tax handed to us year after year and still we continue to do the maintenance on Boorman Road with no whining or complaining.

We are certainly not asking for anything that is not already the duty and responsibility of Brush Creek Township and Fulton County to the taxpayers in as much as they already own the road. Brush Creek township does have a 65-foot right-of-way on Boorman Road that it took from the residents for future development. Some of our deeds state this fact.

And one last thought. All of my life I have worked five or six days a week, which only leaves the weekend to work around the house. I was taught this is what a true red-blooded American does for their family and themselves. I guess I have been doing it all wrong. If this is what makes me a "Weekend Warrior," I am truly very proud of it.

Charles R. Mielke
Boorman Road
Resident

Food Basket Operating As Usual

To The Editor:

The Fulton County Food Basket Inc. would like the community to know that it is operating under its usual conditions. This month Food Basket has given out 148 food orders and 156 TEFAP food orders. The Food Basket has been able to distribute holiday food items that have been acquired through many sources and will continue to distribute them through the holiday season.

Through generous donations from local community organizations, churches, schools, private individuals, businesses and Giant's "Bag For Hunger" Program, the Food Basket is prepared to aid those families who find themselves in need of food. The Food Basket has seen a 20 percent increase this year from those who are in need of food to feed their families.

The Fulton County Food Basket Inc. would like everyone to know that last year it distributed 1,668 food orders to 1,231 families in need in Fulton County. Along with the generous support from the above agencies, the Food Basket remains the lead agency for the State Food Purchase Program, TEFAP Program, and the "TRACKS" Penn State Nutrition Education Program.

The Food Basket is conducting its annual fundraising appeal. Anyone wishing to make a donation may do so by contacting the Food Basket at 717-485-5688 or by mailing your contribution to the address below. For more information or for those interested in volunteering time, contact the Food Basket at P.O. Box 512, McConnellsburg, PA 17233.

We hope this clears up any misunderstandings concerning the operations of the Fulton County Food Basket Inc.

Thank you for helping us feed those hungry in our community.

Sincerely,
Susan Cabbage,
Food Basket Manager

Turkey

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us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want that we often wish you partakers of our plenty."

On Thursday, Americans will celebrate the storied tradition of giving thanks. All families will do it in different ways, from time-tested traditions of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade followed by the harvest feast and on to the usual NFL afternoon games. Some will cook and many more will eat. For the less fortunate, there will be open doors and opportunities to break bread with their neighbors. Our soldiers will also likely gather for turkey at tables a world away where we can only imagine their struggle and pray for their safety. Some will maneuver their families through crowded airports while others will gather at home. The dinner table talk will likely drift toward unemployment concerns, investment worries and the high prices of food and fuel. But one thing will remain as it did with the Pilgrims nearly 400 years ago in that someone at the table will offer a prayer of thanks

Dog Found In W. Pa. Goes Home To N.J. After 5 Years

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
PITTSBURGH—For the first time in five years, Tootsie will spend Thanksgiving at home in New Jersey.

The dachshund got lost five years ago, and is now headed home to Pleasantville, N.J.

Two weeks ago, Tootsie was found wandering the streets in a rough area outside Pittsburgh. The Animal Rescue League of Western Pennsylvania traced Tootsie's owner using a microchip implanted in his neck.

The league then wrote a letter to Elda Arguella. So much time had passed since Tootsie went missing from the Arguella's gated yard, she wasn't sure they were referring to her dachshund.

But on Monday, Arguella, her 18-year-old daughter, Edna Colon, and her son, 16-year-old Daniel Colon, drove to Harrisburg and were happily reunited with Tootsie.



JLG President Craig Paylor speaks before Chinese officials at a groundbreaking ceremony for a new manufacturing facility held last Tuesday in Tianjin, China. Paylor said JLG had chosen to expand in China because the company believes the Asian market holds long-term growth potential for access equipment.

JLG China

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Bohn also called the new plant "a significant opportunity for our customers, as well as the company." He said, "This locally produced product will give Oshkosh a distinct strategic advantage in a very aggressive, competitive Asian landscape."

According to the statement, JLG has sold and serviced its products in Asia for decades and, in 2002, opened a Beijing office to im-

prove response time for its Chinese customers.

JLG's vice president of global marketing, Kirsten Skyba, said on Friday that the timing of the groundbreaking in China was unfortunate due to the layoffs, but that plans to break ground last week had been in the works for a long time.

"We're really investing in the future," Skyba said about the China plant. She said JLG had a history of putting production where its market is and that the company sees China as having real long-term potential for growth and development.

She also noted the cost of shipping products made in this country to customers in Asia and said that making JLG equipment in China would make the company more competitive.

"It's good to be with a company that has a long-term view, even if it has short-term problems," Skyba concluded.

Besides McConnellsburg, JLG currently has production facilities in Shippensburg and Bedford, Pa.; Orville, Ohio; Oaks, N.D.; Maasmechelen, Belgium; Tonnes, France; and Medias, Romania.

New Bailout Focus: How To Fight Foreclosures

The government will help homeowners restructure shaky mortgages financed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, but partisan debate looms over how to keep up the aid

By Peter Grier

STAFF WRITER OF

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR
WASHINGTON—First came Wall Street. Now Washington is turning more of its attention to Main Street, as the federal government moves to try and rescue more mortgage holders in financial trouble.

On Nov. 11, administration officials announced a plan for refinancing delinquent loans held by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the giant government-controlled mortgage companies. The move could lead eventually to lower payments for hundreds of thousands of homeowners.

But the future extent of Uncle Sam's housing bailout remains a major open question. The new plan is all well and good, say critics, but it does not affect millions of strapped subprime borrowers whose loans aren't controlled by Fannie and Freddie.

Political tension over this issue seems sure to arise in the coming transition period. Key Democrats want to use cash from the already-passed \$700 billion financial rescue bill for a larger mortgage-rescue program.

The man who controls that pot of money, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, isn't sure that's such a good idea.

New mortgage aid would constitute direct government spending, said Paulson on Nov. 12. The financial-rescue money, by contrast, is supposed to go for investment, albeit in troubled financial institutions.

"We continue to explore further ways to reduce the risk of foreclosures," said Paulson.

The concept of aid for troubled homeowners isn't what is at issue. Almost everyone involved insists that the current troubled economic period won't end until housing prices bottom out and homeowners - plus their lenders - feel financially stable once again.

The difference is over the approach. Should it be one of limited government intervention, plus a push to get the private sector to do more?

Or should it be more controlled by the government? In that sense, the clash may be a classic one of Republican versus Democratic market sensibilities.

The target is the troubled homeowner whose loan has some hope of being salvaged, said Rep. Barney Frank (D) of Massachusetts, head of the House Financial Services Committee, at a Nov. 12 hearing.

"There is zero likelihood that federal tax dollars will go to those who hold loans that should never have been made in the first place," said

Frank, who will play a key role in developing policy for congressional Democrats on the issue.

Federal money shouldn't be used just to help homeowners pay mortgages, he said. Rather, it should be used to induce institutions that hold troubled loans to write down some of them to the point where the borrower can repay.

"Foreclosures damage the whole economy. This is not a matter of compassion for those who would be foreclosed," said Frank.

The U.S. program announced on Nov. 11 would build on the government's existing Hope Now program with a streamlined mortgage-modification process.

It would be open to homeowners who are at least three months delinquent on their mortgage payments and whose loans are either owned or guaranteed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

The program's goal is to reduce the monthly payment on the loan to no more than 38 percent of a family's monthly income. This could be accomplished by lengthening the term of the loan, lowering the interest rate, or reducing the loan principal.

"My guess is this would result in some large and significant number of mortgages being restructured," says Alex Pollock, a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute

and former president of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago.

It is true that millions of homeowners with troubled loans would not qualify for the new program simply because their mortgage is not held or guaranteed by Fannie and Freddie, notes Pollock. But expansion of this rescue program would inevitably become a difficult exercise in line-drawing, he says.

"You have this perverse feedback loop, where the more people in trouble get help, the more people who are keeping up with their payments say, 'What about me?'" says Pollock.

Paulson, for his part, announced on Nov. 12 that the Troubled Asset Recovery Program would not buy the troubled mortgage-based assets of financial institutions. That had been the original purpose of the \$700 billion rescue plan.

Financial markets deteriorated too fast for the Treasury to get that program up and running, said Paulson. Instead, he resorted to direct injection of capital into banks and other financial institutions.

Paulson said the Treasury was continuing to look at a model proposed by Sheila Bair, head of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., under which the Treasury would spend upwards of \$50 billion on a mortgage-modification program.

"We will continue working hard to make progress here," said Paulson.

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