

Letters To The Editor

More On Fort Littleton's EDUs, Churchill And FDR

To The Editor:
An EDU, or environmental disposal unit, is an acronym for the sewer engineers, the DEP and all in the revenue-generating environment game folks created to help simplify things for us common folk. It is another way of saying toilet, commode, head, porcelain convenience, etc. Since the acronym itself is totally ridiculous, I thought it was a little clever using it in a letter that was completely sarcastic. Fact is, here in Fort Littleton it costs \$3.78 to flush the EDU per day, 365 days per year (even when we're on vacation or away). The ER (environmental refuge) that the EDU collects and distributes is piped, pumped and handled top drawer, 24/7, with no adjustments possible to economic conditions or folks' ability to pay their bills. I have been told that the "toxic" ER (which for years has been masterfully decomposed and recycled as earth) is almost converted back into tap water (through the wonderment of man's exuberantly expensive technology). You could practically make a pot of tea with, we're told, before it's dumped into our local, pristine trout stream. The heck with the mortgage, the heck with the food, our ER from the EDU is #1 here in F.L.
Considering the economy and all that is happening in the world, I hope the multi-million-dollar

system, serving a few dozen EDUs in Fort Littleton, would seem as utterly, fraudulently wasteful now as has been obvious to the majority of the residents since the project's curious conception based on questionable need.

By the way, is anyone still living in Burnt Cabins? A supervisor told me that Burnt Cabins would be condemned by now without a contraption to capture the ER from their EDUs, resulting in all the homes being left vacant because they slipped out from under the sewer guillotine. I thought for sure I saw lights on when I went past the other day. More utter ridiculousness, consistent with everything sewer.

Anyway, sorry to all and Mr. Mosebey about the Winston Churchill Freudian slip. I have been reading a collection of letters about the Battle of Britain, and I had Churchill on the brain. I suppose it was an error to remind me of how much I miss my late editor. Mom would have never allowed me to make such an oversight. However, the purpose of reiterating the quote remains the same regarding my resolute belief in our country as the greatest on Earth and the faith that we can get through this current mess.

Damon Schoen
Fort Littleton

Farm Bureau To Celebrate Food CheckOut Day February 10

To The Editor:
Fulton County Farm Bureau will be celebrating Food Check-Out Day on February 10 as a means of recognizing that growing wholesome food is a farmer's top goal. Pennsylvania's farmers are committed to producing safe, abundant and healthy food and the Farm Bureau is helping consumers find solutions to eating healthy on a stretched budget. Food Check-out Day will be observed through a charitable donation of food and money to the region's Ronald McDonald House located in Hershey.
"The Ronald McDonald House is a great home away from home for parents and children waiting for a loved one having treatment at the hospital," said Fulton County Farm Bureau President Reed Englert. "It takes a lot of resources to provide this

charitable service for our region. It's a perfect way for us to recognize the bounty from our farms," Englert added.

A contribution of food or funds to the event can be made by contacting Joanne Evans at 717-485-0532. The donated items will be presented to the Ronald McDonald Houses during a Food Check-Out Day program on February 10 that will include local farm families. The statewide event sponsored by the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau will benefit all five Ronald McDonald Houses in the commonwealth.

The Fulton County Farm Bureau is a farm and rural organization that advances agriculture and provides cost-saving services for its members.

Marlin Lynch
Fulton County Farm Bureau

Community Aids In Battle Against Selective Mutism

Hustontown boy diagnosed with anxiety disorder in 2006

By Chanin Rotz-Mountz
STAFF WRITER

Three years ago, Jim and Janet Fittry of Hustontown were introduced to a new term - selective mutism. Selective mutism is defined as a social anxiety disorder in which an individual is afraid to speak. Help and research are very limited for this order, making it doubly difficult for this rural southcentral Pennsylvania family to obtain proper help and treatment for their 8-year-old son, Ryan.

According to Janet Fittry, her middle child was diagnosed with the disorder in 2006. While he has continued to maintain a dialogue with his parents and siblings within the confines of their 9131 Waterfall Road home, interaction does not occur with other people or even at Forbes Road Elementary, where Ryan is enrolled in the second-grade class of Carrie Gingrich.

His classmates and staffers at Forbes Road have adapted well to Ryan's nonverbal communication skills, which range from

head nodding to a thumbs-up accompanied by a wide grin.

As a means of spreading awareness of the disorder and helping "Rid The Silence," the Fittry family sold whistles throughout the community for just 25 cents. Boxes containing the whistles, information packets and an outline of Ryan's condition were placed at Keller's Country Store and "The Fulton County News," resulting in a total of \$85 raised.

Fittry also said McConnellsburg Borough resident Peggy Bailey joined the effort and sold the whistles herself after seeing them on display at "The Fulton County News."

"It was a great way to get the community aware of selective mutism and help other just like Ryan," said Janet. "The response was amazing. I never expected to raise that much money."

"The whole process was great for Ryan because he now knows he is not alone," added his mother. "I don't want others to think he is being rude or ignorant when he doesn't answer when others speak to him."

Janet stated they have purchased Ryan his own military whistle that he carries with him when they are away from home



With plenty of help from his family and the community, 8-year-old Ryan Fittry of Hustontown is able to donate \$85 toward research and treatment of selective mutism. Ryan was diagnosed with the anxiety disorder three years ago.

and to use as his voice in case of an emergency. Ryan along with his older brother, Zachary, and little sister Alyssa celebrated their achievement in the community as well as Ryan's eighth birthday on December 20 by blowing their whistles. Ryan's school classmates also joined the celebration by blowing their whistles, compliments of the Fittry family, at exactly 7 p.m.

"Ryan doesn't like the 'happy birthday song' as it brings direct

attention to him," Janet related. "One of the best things that came from this was Ryan telling me he had a great birthday because no one sang Happy Birthday to him."

"It is a hard issue to deal with. One cannot imagine the difficulties and worries that comes by not talking, because you are afraid," concluded Janet, while also expressing her sincere thanks to the entire community.

Boro Police

From Page One

Justice Council queries and other radio equipment. Attorney Walker told council it could sell the vehicle to the county without advertising for bids since it would be considered a governmental transfer. Council members and fire company members Mike Chilcote and Lee Rager then also said the fire company would be interested in purchasing the cruiser. Walker said the fire company would not be considered a governmental transfer agent in the matter, but that the borough could put the cruiser, a 2001 model with 70,000 miles, up for bids. However, if the cruiser were put up for bids and not sold to the county, the bid would have to include the removal of the county's property.

Council decided to ask the county sheriff for a formal written offer on the vehicle to be presented at February's meeting. If the offer is acceptable, the cruiser will be sold to the county. If the offer is not acceptable, it could be offered for bids.

Members also discussed the enforcement of parking meters now that the police department has been disbanded. It was noted that anyone could be assigned those duties, and council said they do plan to enforce metered parking and will not tolerate all-day parking in the downtown. No formal action was

taken, however.

During new business, council met with Stephen Johnson, who recently purchased a property on North Third Street. Johnson asked for a variance on one of the lots on the two-lot property, saying he plans to build a single-story dwelling on the lot and needs a variance on setbacks. Johnson went on to say that he plans to start a business in Fulton County and would use the single-story dwelling as a model home for homes he intends to build in the county. The area is zoned residential. Johnson was instructed to submit a formal proposal and drawings spelling out the variances requested and present it to council at the February meeting.

Also, during new business, council met with Steve Thomas of the county's planning office for a report on the updating of the borough's zoning plan and ordinance and establishment of a subdivision plan and ordinance.

Thomas reported he believes he can get a matching grant to update the borough's zoning ordinance at a cost of \$25,000. While the matching grant would pay \$12,500, Thomas believes he could secure CDBG funding for \$7,500 and the borough would be charged \$5,000.

With regard to a subdivision ordinance, the borough would join Brush Creek, Licking Creek, Taylor and Union townships in the planning effort and it would

cost \$20,000 with \$10,000 in grant funds matched by \$2,000 per municipality.

Thomas said that Rettew of Lancaster County has been chosen to do the subdivision and zoning work for the county and municipalities. He also told council that the sum of the borough's contribution could be paid in 50 percent installments, with \$3,500 to be paid in 2009 and a like amount to be paid in 2010. Thomas asked council to pick at least one council member for the work group and submit that name to the planning office. No final action was taken on that choice.

Council members voted to reappoint Allen Cover to a five-year term on the Water Authority and Kirk Cover to a five-year term on the Sewerage Authority.

Council also agreed to retain Keller Engineer of Hollidaysburg as the borough's engineer on an as-needed basis.

The council president signed a CDBG agreement with the county for the second round of curb cuts in the borough.

Borough secretary Jack Fields was appointed the borough's Right to Know open records officer.

Council briefly discussed the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA) program and agreed they would like to participate, but cannot do so unless the school district also agrees. Attorney Walker suggested council delay its decision

until the school district has made a decision.

Councilman Mike Chilcote reported that the fire company has had only two worker compensation claims last year. The borough carries the worker's compensation for the fire company.

Finally, during new business, council voted to again contract with P&W Excavating for a one-year period to use the company's dump trucks for snow removal downtown at a cost of \$75 per hour.

Regular Business

At the beginning of the meeting, Franklin County attorney Shawn D. Meyers met with council members. Myers is a candidate for judge of the Court of Common Pleas of the 39th Judicial District, which comprises Franklin and Fulton counties.

During regular business, council approved payment of December bills in the amount of \$23,759. It was noted that \$726 was paid for the neutral arbitrator in the police arbitration matter. Receipts for the same period were \$27,578. Checks were written for \$18,921.53 leaving a January 1 balance of \$33,043.

Council members present included Rick Buterbaugh, Travis Bard, Lee Rager, Pat Frazier, Mike Chilcote and Mayor Jim Stenger.

Borough Council meets with first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Fulton House. The next meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2009.

NVFC

From Page One

ported that the new building has been completed and all trucks are moved into it. A new ambulance was purchased as well as a new fire truck. The truck was purchased through the Relief Association.

Divelbliss said the next step is to renovate the upstairs of the firehall for rental to the district magisterial judge.

Jim Divelbliss will serve again as company president in 2009. Mike Hann will serve as vice president, with Mary Hann as secretary, Gerri Strait as assistant secretary, Carrie Harr as treasurer, and Karen Hann as assistant treasurer. Lou Dennis will serve as chaplain; Donna Carbaugh as relief treasurer; Gerri Strait as assistant relief treasurer; Brian Strait as ambulance treasurer; Buck Richards as assistant ambulance treasurer; Donna Mellott as ambulance secretary; and Carol Dennis as assistant ambulance secretary. The company directors are Mike Hann, Brian Strait, George Johnson, Gerri Strait and J.R. Sigel.

The 2008 treasurer's report for the company included \$72,407 in expenses and \$72,643 in income.

Fire chief's report

Fire Chief J.R. Sigel reported that the company responded to 216 calls during 2008.

Sigel recognized the top 10 responders (with number of responses in parentheses): Josh Divelbliss (48), Jim Divelbliss (48), Brian Strait (52), David Stotler (54), Denis Strait (62), Rhonda Knable (78), Steve Knable (90), Wavy Kirk (101), John Beatty (137), Mike Hann (145) and J.R. Sigel (168). Three junior members, Destiny Knable (41), Amber Knable (41) and Justin Carbaugh (112) were also recognized for their responses to

calls.

In 2009, J.R. Sigel will take again lead the company as chief, with Mike Hann as deputy chief, Brian Strait as assistant chief, Denis Strait as captain, John Beatty as 1st captain, and Wavy Kirk and Steve Knable will be the company's lieutenants.

Fire police report

Ron Powell gave the fire police report. Ron will serve as fire police captain again in 2009 while Daryl Reed serves as lieutenant. Other fire police include Gerald Mellott, sergeant; Joanne Mellott, secretary; and Lou Dennis, Cam Mellott, Jerry Mellott Sr., Norma Wertman and Sharon Mellott.

Auxiliary report

Polly Lynch, auxiliary president, reported that auxiliary has bingo scheduled for the first Saturday of each month and a basket bingo scheduled for every month.

She said the auxiliary wants to work on making improvements to the building and kitchen, including window repairs.

Wavy Kirk presented the company president with a check for \$3,000 from Wednesday night bingo proceeds.

Ambulance report

Jerry Mellott Jr. reported that the ambulance made 362 runs on the emergency vehicles in 2008. The company responded to calls in Belfast (87), Bethel (143), Thompson (39), Brush Creek (25), Union (5), Ayr (1) and Washington County, Md. (2).

Medivacs were used from Stat Medivac and Life Lion.

He reported that the company purchased a new ambulance and the new expense was \$160,000. The old ambulance was traded in for \$55,000. He reported that the new ambulance

was paid for without borrowing, and the total income for the year was \$40,649

The top 10 responders for the year were Ron Powell (38), Josh Divelbliss (45), Lou Dennis (47), George Johnson (70), Eddie Barnhart (82), Carol Dennis (105), Jerry Mellott Jr. (150), Donna Mellott (169), Stacey Barnhart (176) and David Stotler (182).

In 2009, Jerry Mellott Jr. will serve as ambulance captain and Eddie Barnhart is the ambu-

lance lieutenant.

Just over 100 attended the annual banquet on a cold and icy evening. Guests in attendance included members of surrounding fire companies as well as Fulton County commissioners Dan Swain, Bonnie Mellott Keefer and David Hoover. Hoover served as master of ceremonies for the evening.

Saturday evening's meal was prepared and served by Pittman's Supermarket of Han-

Are you the picture of health?

Colorectal cancer is the 2nd leading cancer killer. But it doesn't have to be.

Kate Davis, Co-Founder
EIF's National Colorectal Cancer Research Alliance

Colorectal cancer and precancerous polyps don't always cause symptoms. So you can look healthy and feel fine and not know there may be a problem. Screening helps find polyps so they can be removed before they turn into colorectal cancer. This is one cancer you can prevent! Screening can also find colorectal cancer early, when treatment often leads to a cure. If you're 50 or older, make sure you really are the picture of health. Get screened for colorectal cancer.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CDC

EIF ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY FOUNDATION

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Is there a Wedding in your Future?

Did you receive the much anticipated RING during the holidays?

The Fulton County Chamber of Commerce & Tourism
Invites you to the
2nd Annual
Fulton County Bridal Expo
Sunday ~ January 18, 2009
2:00 p.m.
Bridal Fashion Show ~ 2:30 p.m.
American Legion
McConnellsburg, PA

The fine businesses of Fulton County
are ready and able to help you plan your dream wedding!

FLORISTS Invitations Gowns
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DJ/Micrography Real Estate GIFTS