

Letters To The Editor

Remembering Valentine's Days Past

To The Editor:
Sitting in my recliner in my retirement home, thinking about my memories of Valentine's Day 75 to 80 years ago. I was a school girl going to a small one-room country schoolhouse in Iowa. We got excited about Valentine's Day. The teacher always made a valentine box for us children to put our homemade valentines in for our classmates. Every year in January, through the mail, came a new wallpaper sample catalog to order new wallpaper. We children waited for its arrival because we could have the old catalog. From it we made our valentines.

We folded a sheet of wallpaper over and drew a heart on it, then cut two sides, left top side doubled, cut a "V" in the middle of the top and cut a little door in the front piece. You could open it and look inside. Then we would write a little verse inside that door.

Oh, the excitement! Girls waiting to see how many valentines each got from the boys. We wrote on the back of the valentines who each was for and from whom it was sent. The boys made an ugly face when the teacher handed them a valentine from the box if it was from a girl they didn't like. We girls watched when a boy got our valentine to see what kind of face that boy would make.

We were always anxious to see who made the prettiest valentine. They were all homemade. The boys made theirs, too. No family had a penny extra to

spend on a valentine.

Every year, as soon as I walked home and went in the house, my mother asked the very same question - How many valentines did you get from the boys? I still don't know why she asked the same question.

Another thing I could never understand back then was that I was a popular, rough baseball player. When boys chose up sides for their baseball team, I always was one of the first ones picked. The boys wanted me on their team. I would slide sacrifice on a team to help win many baseball games. But on Valentine's Day, I thought I should have gotten the prettiest valentines from the boys, but I usually got the ugly ones. The boys gave the prettiest valentines to a small girl who always sat in the shade with her doll, sewing doll clothes. She had shiny Shirley Temple curls. This girl never liked baseball. I knew all us girls wore the same long, homemade dresses, sewed from dyed seed and feed bags. Our undershirts were made from flour bags and sugar sacks. We had long cotton stockings and high-laced shoes. But that girl got the prettiest valentines every year. She would never slide into base, or show any of her homemade long, black bloomers made with elastic below her knees, to help win a baseball game. Then why did she always get the prettiest valentines?

Beulah Cole
age 92
Three Springs

Praise For Those Who Helped At Ft. Loudon Fire

To The Editor:
We here at the Franklin County Chapter of the American Red Cross would like to make mention of some events that took place on January 27, 2009, during the Fort Loudon Inn fire. This particular day was very tragic since a life was lost and people lost their homes, but there were so many wonderful things that took place this day, and we would like to recognize a few:

The wonderful staff and volunteers from the Fort Loudon Senior Activity Center and the Department of Aging who without hesitation opened up the center as a refuge from the inclement weather. Not only did the staff allow the Red Cross to operate a shelter on site, they provided us with much-needed support in all areas of comfort, feeding and casework to assist not only those affected by the fire, but also the first responders as well.

The staff from Franklin / Fulton Department of Mental Health who quickly arrived to provide emotional and mental support not only to those directly affected, but also to first responders, volunteers and to the community if needed.

Franklin County Department of Emergency Services, the state fire marshal office and various responding fire companies who provided the Red Cross with timely information and resources that supported our efforts to assist the affected families.

The Fort Loudon community and the owners of the Fort Loudon Inn that braved the inclement weather to offer support to the families through donation of clothes, food, money, resources for shelter, etc.

Every Red Cross volunteer who braved the weather and/or dropped whatever they were doing to ensure the folks at the Fort Loudon Inn were able to have a warm shelter and services to meet their immediate needs.

This was one of the best examples this day of how the community, local government, local businesses and volunteer organizations came together and worked in harmony to comfort, protect and lift up its neighbors in distress. This was a proud day for us at the local Red Cross, and I'm sure a proud day for all of Franklin County.

Allen A. White
Emergency Services
Director

Burglary

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a 1997 Honda Civic.
Criminal dockets show Whiteside was charged with one count each of criminal conspiracy/burglary and criminal conspiracy/theft by unlawful taking. Whiteside was remanded to the Franklin County Jail in lieu of \$15,000 straight bail following arraignment before District Judge Wendy Mellott. Her preliminary hearing has been tentatively set for March 9.

Flowers currently faces five counts each of burglary and criminal trespassing; four counts of theft by unlawful taking; and one count of conspiring to commit burglary. He was sent to the Franklin County Jail in lieu of \$30,000 straight bail following arraignment. He has waived his preliminary hearing.

Help Get State Health Care Bill Passed

To The Editor
The high cost of health care (and health insurance) is a frightening expense for every household and business in Fulton County. An article on page B1 of last week's Fulton County News stated that over a million people in Pennsylvania alone have no health insurance, citing a survey conducted by the state Insurance Department. According to that survey, 13 percent of the people in Fulton County, 1,265 individuals, have no medical coverage at all.

We all know people who need to see a doctor but stay away ... because they can't afford it. Health care expense is the most common cause of household bankruptcy all over America. It doesn't have to be this way.

The Pennsylvania Legislature will shortly consider a bill which, if passed, will make these problems a thing of the past. It's called the "The Family & Business Health Care Security Act" and would cover every person in Pennsylvania with the care they need. Under this act, a single payer fund will pay the bills while you continue to choose your own doctor. It will save businesses, households, government agencies and individuals money. We call it Sensible Health Care.

This bill covers a wide range of care - medical, dental, vision, hearing, emergency transport, hospice, long-term, prescription drugs and more.

Please urge Pa. Rep. Dick Hesse and Pa. Sen. John Eichelberger to help get this bill passed. You can learn more about this bill at the Web site: healthcare4allpa.org, or you can call 717 295-0237 statewide, or call us locally at 485-3386.

Jack and Kathie
Hendricks
McConnellsburg

A Fitting Poem For The Times

To The Editor:
This poem is timely. It is a poem learned 80 years ago, as I can best remember it.

Tax The Farmer
Tax the people tax with care
To help the millionaire
How?
Why tax the farmer?
Tax his house and tax his land
And tax the blister on his hand
Tax his cow and tax her calf
Tax him if he dares to laugh
Tax his ox and tax his ass
And tax the roads that he must pass
Then make him travel on the grass.
Tax his chair and tax his bed
And tax the bald spot on his head
Tax the air that he must breathe
And even tax his honey bees.
Tax his straw
And tax his hay
And tax the weeds he didn't spray,
Tax the hammock that he made
And tax the tree that gives him shade.

Allen A. White
Tax his mortgages, check and bills
Tax his deeds, contracts and wills.
Tax the gas to run his car
And also the beer he drank at the bar
And if he gets drunk
Throw him in jail
And tax the money that pays his bail.
Tax his healthcare and if dies
Then tax the coffin in which he lies
And when he ascends to heaven by goal
Try your best to stick a stamp on his soul.
For he is such a common man
So tax the rascal all you can.

Wallace A. Mellott
McConnellsburg

Burdette Publishes Book Of Poetry

First volume speaks of nature, religion and life

By Chanin Rotz-Mountz
STAFF WRITER

Heavily influenced by her grandmother Warfordsburg area resident Virginia Burdette finds the minutes and hours of her days filled with words. Words reflecting on the status of the world today, spirituality and love.

Burdette, better known to her family and friends as Ginny, recently released these compilations of words to the public through her first publication with Publish America known as "Ginny's Book of Poetry."
"My grandmother was a devout Christian. She encouraged me to write as a child. I never knew that it would go anywhere," related Burdette, who is a native of Greenville, Miss., but relocated to neighboring Franklin County at the age of one. She most recently moved to Nature Lane in Bethel Township approximately one year ago where she resides with family and perfects the words she hopes will bring joy into someone's life.

In spite of considering herself a lifelong writer, Burdette stated that many of her original works were lost during a move. She finished penning the poems that

are included in her first work nine years ago and was fortunate to receive kind and friendly encouragement that fueled her recent push to find an interested publisher.

"My book is spiritual and reflects how the world is today," Burdette told the "News." "We're all seeking for something - spiritual or positive knowledge to help us get through the life. I believe we are living in perilous times today with the rapid increase of violence, corruption, murder and crimes."

"Ginny's Book of Poetry" includes at least 100 original pieces with titles ranging from "Love Can Last" and "Three Wishes" to "Broken Spirit" that attest to the trials and tests of Burdette's life.

As a follow-up to "Ginny's Book of Poetry," Burdette's second volume of poems, which she hopes to entitle "Ginny's World of Poetry," is due out in June. In addition, a children's book based on the antics of her nephew as well as dog and pony sidekicks will likely be released this fall by Publish America, a traditional advance and royalty-paying book publishing company based near Frederick, Md., that represents almost 35,000 authors.

"Poetry has meaning whether it be spiritual or not. A lot of people have told me already that my



Ginny Burdette

poetry contains a lot of meaning and has made them cry," added Burdette, who has been traveling around the tri-state area doing book signings and speaking about her words of inspiration. Her most recent signing occurred at the Appletree Inn along the National Pike just west of Hancock, Md.

Burdette's book can be purchased through Publish America online as well as other wholesale stores or by calling the company directly at 301-695-1707 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

JLG

From Page One

Friday's layoff at JLG was announced the same day the Labor Department said that 598,000 jobs were lost in January. Unemployment figures for the nation now number more than 3.6 million workers, including 1.1 million in manufacturing, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Economists say that as the country continues to fall deeper

into recession, the unemployment rate, which is now at 7.6 percent, will rise to double digits. Fulton County's December 2008 employment rate, the most recent, is already in double digits at 10.5 percent.

"It's difficult situation (reducing labor costs)," Skyba said, "because people are affected personally."

Mergers

From Page One

selors and principals.

"It's my understanding that about 50 plus years ago, there was one superintendent for the county. If the structure would move back to one superintendent, there would still be the need for at least two or three other administrative positions to cover professional development, curriculum and instruction and all the state grant programs," she said. "This type of consolidation would also mean transportation issues ... I would also think class sizes would become larger at the sixth through 12th grades than they currently are now. Would we be looking at layoffs or furloughs of administrators, teachers, and support staff?"
Cigola also pointed out that

issues related to athletics and extracurricular activities would be reviewed in a different manner as a result of combining school districts. Furthermore, students could possibly find themselves competing or vying for a slot on a sporting team or for a position in band, chorus and musicals.

"Another item to mention is that if student numbers for these new consolidated districts are to be in the 5,000 range, then a consolidation of Fulton County schools alone would not make that happen. We might be looking at a Fulton/Franklin County District, including perhaps Fanetti-Metal and Tuscarora school districts," concluded Cigola. "Transportation of students would definitely be more complex were that to happen. As far as finances and how consolidation will benefit the taxpayers, I

would ask who pays for the past, current and future building projects and budget deficits, if they exist, of any districts to be consolidated?"

Forbes Road Superintendent Dr. Merrill Arnold and Southern Fulton Superintendent Ralph Scott were unavailable to comment on the governor's call for consolidation.

Tim Allwein, a lobbyist for the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) has gone on record publicly and stated that he hopes to work side-by-side with the bipartisan commission through the creation of implementation plans. Allwein, though, is not convinced that a merger would produce large amounts of savings as a need would likely exist to hire additional office administrators to oversee programs and grants.

Boro Police Issues

From Page One

introduced, there has been no serious effort to change the current system.
Last year when the council voted against renewing the McConnellsburg Police Association's contract, members noted that state police were providing part-time coverage to the borough more than 50 percent of the time. The borough's two-man force provided no coverage after 11:00 p.m. and often not on weekends. Currently state police across the state provide full-time coverage to more than 1,300 communities or nearly two-thirds of the state's municipalities.

Because there is no law requiring municipalities and boroughs to have their own police departments, many faced with small and shrinking tax bases have been forced to make the move to balance their budgets. Once the municipal forces have been disbanded, the state police then provide coverage to the areas at no cost to the municipality. Although legislative proposals to require financial participation are, from time to time,

said cases are assigned on a priority basis so that a call to investigate a smashed mailbox would not take priority over a call where someone may be endangered. "We may not be able to respond as quickly on some things as may be desired, but we do have a priority system and we just ask for understanding."

Quinn said the PSP have not noted any major problems with their increased workloads. She said that the extra work can cause staffing changes and that complements of troopers at the state's 81 stations are looked at after an analysis of the number of incidents is made by the PSP Research and Development office.

After council made the decision to disband the department last year, the local PSP station commander met with council to discuss its needs.

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The newest initiative by the PBCC is challenging you and your friends to **Paint Pennsylvania Pink.**

Make a donation today and spread the word asking others to lend a hand, a dollar, or a brush.

Help the Pennsylvania Breast Cancer Coalition Paint Pennsylvania Pink!

Each dollar raised will help put information in the hands of breast cancer survivors and women right here in Pennsylvania. We've been crisscrossing Pennsylvania for years, spreading the message of breast cancer awareness and advocacy everywhere we travel. Now, we want to **Paint Pennsylvania Pink** - and we need your help!

Visit www.pabreastcancer.org/ppp/ to make an online donation or to learn more.



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