



Bring On Spring!

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Hospice Patients Receive Blankets

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THURSDAY WEEKLY

# The Fulton County News

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109TH YEAR, NO. 9

McCONNELLSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

FEBRUARY 26, 2009



Josiah Newman

## Area Man To Build Louisiana Schools

Monetary donations sought to take trip

By Chanin Rotz-Mountz  
STAFF WRITER

A Waterfall man is slated to travel to Louisiana early next month to help in the construction of two new high schools in areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Twenty-one-year-old Josiah "Josey" Newman and a group of fellow College of Agricultural Science students from Penn State University will be headed to Louisiana between March 7 and 15, spending the majority of their spring break constructing two new agricultural facilities for high school students located in Inland and in New Orleans.

Newman told the "News" students will first travel to Inland High School and then move on to the school in New Orleans as a follow-up. "These are going to be new facilities for the area. The area was devastated by Katrina, and there is no way that the residents in these parts of Louisiana can fiscally undertake a task such as building a new school," said Newman.

"Louisiana has highly fertile lands, and it is our goal to get these kids into college that may have not gone before. With the facilities that include a green wall (which is similar to a green roof in that it filtrates sediment and other contaminants out of storm water) these students should have the interest sparked in agriculture that is shown in most of Pennsylvania, including the Pennsylvania State University itself," he added. "... I would love to see a school in Fulton County construct something similar."

The project emphasis is similar to that of a Habitat for Humanity project, Newman said, in that the construction of the buildings is for the underprivileged. However, it is also different in that the schools are being constructed with a "green

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## DEATHS

- Burns, Shaunte, 15, Riddlesburg
- Kendall, John, 75, Chambersbg.
- Mellott, Annie, 90, Needmore
- Mong, Homer Sr., 76, Waynesboro
- Munson, James, 46, Warfordsbg.
- Runk, Ferne, 86, Willow Hill
- Shriver, Freeda, 94, Berk. Spgs.
- Souders, Evelyn, 76, Shirleysburg
- Woolford, Maria, 90, Hancock

OBITUARIES, Page B3



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## Kerper Tract Footbridge Open To Pedestrians



The new footbridge across Big Cove Creek near Big Cove Tannery was completed last year and can now be put on everyone's spring fun things to-do list. The 70-foot bridge is located on the popular Kerper Tract and offers handicapped accessibility, including an ADA-approved parking space.

## Judicial Candidates Speak At GOP Dinner

Two candidates seek prothonotary position

By Chanin Rotz-Mountz  
STAFF WRITER

Amidst a crowd of almost 110 area residents and officials, four judicial candidates for the Fulton/Franklin County Court of Common Pleas had their first opportunity to jointly speak about their campaigns for office, shared values and ongoing dedication to the judicial system.

First to take the podium during the annual Lincoln Day Dinner hosted by the Fulton County Council of Republican Women Saturday evening, full-time Franklin County Assistant District Attorney Angela Rosenberly Krom told to the crowd at the McConnellsburg Firehall her position as prosecutor is aptly referred to as the "fence between the foxes and chickens." As a result, her career dedicated to the people has been in the capacity of law enforcement.

"I've always strived to seek justice and do the right thing for the right reasons. That's not something that I just say. That's something that I do," stated Krom, who has worked both in and out of the courtroom on a

variety of criminal casework ranging from DUI cases and thefts to armed robberies and rapes.

Endorsed by Franklin County District Attorney Jack Nelson, Krom, a Franklin County native, noted, "I want to be your next judge because I want to do the work that judges do. I recognize that their work is not glamorous but difficult. I realize that for every hour spent in the courtroom they spend many hours outside the courtroom researching, writing and preparing to be on the bench. Judges must be honest, fair and impartial ... I have the skills to be your next judge."

Shawn Meyers, a partner with Steiger, Steiger & Meyers located in Mercersburg, touted his experience in several areas of law, including criminal, family and municipal law. Meyers, whose family roots are tied to the St. Thomas area, mentioned he has been travelling the mountain into Fulton County since 1995, handling cases locally on both a Magisterial District and Court of Common Pleas level.

"No matter the size of the county, what's important is that justice and the benefits of the rights of all citizens are the same," said Meyers. "I have a

good viewpoint on the perception there is difference between Franklin and Fulton based on their size, but there is no difference between the citizens and their needs."

Committed to his community as well, Meyers is active in the Mercersburg Rotary Club and formerly served as president, served as legal counsel for the Franklin County Fire Chiefs Association and was a former board member for the Franklin County Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC).

Tim Wilmot, part-time assistant district attorney for Franklin County since 1999, pointed out to those in attendance his campaign goal is simple: "To get the people of Fulton County to know who I am and what I've done to prepare me to be a judge in the Court of Common Pleas."

He further elaborated that criminal and family law, which he has a significant background in, comprises the majority of cases brought before the Court of Common Pleas. Dating back to 1996, he also began serving in the capacity of "master of divorce" in Franklin and Fulton counties, making impartial determinations on the breakdown

## Ayr Township "Just Says No"

To PennDOT road offer

By Jean Snyder  
STAFF WRITER

Ayr Township said, "Thanks, but no thanks" to PennDOT Monday evening in response to an offer by the state transportation agency to have the supervisors take over and maintain Union Church Road.

The 1.469-mile road runs east and west from the White Church at Union Cemetery and connects with the Cito Road. The offer is part of PennDOT's Highway Transfer "Turnback" Program that allows the transfer of local state-owned roads, serving a local traffic purpose, from state government to local government ownership. According to PennDOT, "roads that are candidates for transfer are those that have low average

daily traffic, or would benefit the municipality both socially and economically."

After the road is turned back to the municipality, PennDOT provides money to the municipality each year to cover the costs associated with maintaining the roadway at a rate of \$4,000 per mile.

PennDOT offered the township up to \$293,000 to bring the road up to township standards for township takeover. After that, the township would receive \$5,876 in liquid fuel funds annually to maintain the road.

According to township supervisor, Marlin "Sonny" Harr, taking over the road would be a hardship and a losing proposition rather than a benefit to the township. "We don't have any full-time road maintenance employees nor do we have the equipment needed to maintain the road," he said. He went on to say that it would only take one or two bad storms to go through the annual allotments just to buy and put down anti-skid on the road. None of the three supervisors expressed an interest in accepting PennDOT's offer. The road also has three bridges on it, but the offer indicated that PennDOT would maintain maintenance of the bridges.

The supervisors made the decision at their regular monthly meeting on Monday evening.

In other business, the supervisors finalized plans for three

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## Boyfriend Admits To Setting Fatal House Fire

Sisters die in blaze last Monday evening

STAFF REPORT

A 38-year-old Hancock man was arrested Friday morning after admitting to investigators he ignited the blaze that destroyed the home where he resided with his girlfriend and her two young daughters.

Clarence Franklin Meyers has been charged with two counts of first-degree murder and one count of first-degree arson in conjunction with the February 16 fire at 220 Old Route 40 that resulted in the death of sisters Nicole and Mary Gross, who succumbed to smoke inhalation while trapped in their second-floor bedroom. Meyers along with the girls and their mother, Melissa Lindeman, had moved into the home in August 2008.

Meyers told Maryland State Police investigators he was unemployed and hoped the family would receive donations from the community if their home was damaged in a fire. Meyers said he sprayed lighter fluid on an electrical panel and bed in the basement. A cigarette lighter was utilized to ignite a piece of paper that fell on a sofa near the electrical panel.

Meyers reportedly attempted to stomp out the blaze, but it spread too quickly. He was able to escape the home through a basement door and later tried to rescue the girls by climbing onto a rear porch roof.

Meyers suffered smoke inhalation, and the girls' mother sustained severe lacerations after breaking and jumping out a first-floor window. Both Lindeman and Meyers were treated at Winchester Medical Center in Virginia.

In addition to the murder and arson charges, Meyers has also been cited for one count each of first-degree malicious burning, one count of second-degree malicious burning and two counts of first-degree child abuse resulting in death.

## Stimulus Cash Will Begin Flowing To Pa. In Spring

By Marc Levy  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) - Most benefits of the federal stimulus package - tax breaks, cash payments and major transportation and water projects - won't be felt in Pennsylvania before spring.

But many details are becoming clear.

One is the timing of \$250 payments that about 3 million elderly and disabled residents will receive. The Social Security Administration said it will issue those one-time payments by late May by check or direct deposit.

Also, Pennsylvanians who have lost jobs may already qualify for special help paying for health coverage.

Most people laid off after Sept. 1 are eligible for a 65 percent government subsidy of their COBRA benefit, the health care insurance that terminated workers may continue at full cost through their former employers. The subsidy lasts for up to nine months and can be applied for 60 days after they're notified of their eligibility.

Gov. Ed Rendell's administration estimates Pennsylvania will receive \$16 billion over three years - and possibly more be-

cause states can compete for additional education and infrastructure grants.

Rendell, a Democrat, wants to use about \$5 billion to balance the state's budget over the next three years. Several billion more will go to schools and transportation projects, while millions of Pennsylvanians will get tax breaks or bigger benefits because they're poor, elderly, disabled or unemployed.

Some details about how the money in President Barack Obama's \$787 billion stimulus package will trickle down to state and local agencies in Pennsylvania as well as contractors, schools and residents are still being sorted out.

For instance, the Internal Revenue Service could not say Thursday when most taxpayers can expect to see their federal income tax withholding shrink

as a result of the highly publicized \$400 tax break most people will get.

But contractors involved in water, sewer and transportation work could be very busy in the next few months. Many projects already through the engineering and design phases but awaiting the money to start construction could see new life because of the

See STIMULUS CASH, Page A2

### Details Of How Pa. Fares Under Federal Stimulus

By The Associated Press

Major details of how Pennsylvania fares under the federal stimulus bill signed Tuesday by President Barack Obama:

#### AID TO POOR AND UNEMPLOYED

A \$25 weekly boost in unemployment checks through 2009. Also, for workers who have exhausted their regular unemployment benefits, the package provides up to 33 weeks of extended unemployment benefits through Dec. 31.

Food-stamp benefits in-

crease by nearly 14 percent.

Unemployed workers eligible for health insurance through the federal COBRA program will get a 65 percent federal subsidy for their monthly insurance premiums for up to nine months.

#### DIRECT CASH PAYMENTS

One-time \$250 payments to nearly 3 million recipients of Social Security and Supplemental Security Income.

#### TAX CREDIT

Up to \$400 in 2009 and 2010 for individuals who make less than \$95,000; couples are eli-

gible for up to \$800.

#### BUDGET AID

About \$6 billion for the state and local school districts.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE

\$1 billion for highway and bridge construction and repair.

\$343 million for mass transit projects.

\$218 million for water and sewer system improvements.

#### ENERGY

\$258 million for weatherization of low-income households.