

Letters To The Editor

Fulton County Farm Bureau Thanks Donors

To The Editor:

Amy Leonard, development coordinator for the Ronald McDonald Charities of Central PA, made the following remarks concerning the recent Food Check Out Day event held on February 10:

"We are simply in awe of the cash donations, many gift cards, food and other in-kind items donated this year on Food Check Out Day. We are so blessed to be on the receiving end of your organization's amazing generosity. We truly appreciate the effort and hard work that you always put into this special day, and the essential work that dedicated Pennsylvania farmers tend to all year."

She continued: "As you know, each family that depends on our services comes to us during the very difficult time of caring for

an ill child. Our ability to provide them with a home-away-from-home for the length of time their child receives care at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital is crucial. Because of you and others like you, the Hershey Ronald McDonald House has been able to welcome over 20,000 families to the 'House that Love Built,' at no charge."

So, Fulton County, your generosity has shown brightly again, as the contributions gathered by the county Farm Bureau in the 2009 campaign totaled a very pleasing \$2,430 in cash, \$40 in gift cards and \$552 in food and other items. Many thanks to Joanne Evans, coordinator, and all who made this possible.

Marlin Lynch,
Farm Bureau
Media Coordinator

PSU Ag Student Thanks LA Trip Supporters

To The Editor:

I would like to thank all the residents of Fulton County for their outpouring of support for the PSU College of Ag Sciences trip to Louisiana. I never was more proud as a resident of Fulton County, and part of this community. The community's support is so much more than I or anyone at Penn State would have ever expected. When someone asks me where I am

from, I tell them with a smile. Mine and God's love to all of you.

Thank you so much, for more than you will ever know.

Steve Prefontaine once said, that "To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift." Nothing less than all of your best has been wished to me, thank you again.

Josiah "Josey" Newman
Waterfall

Burglars

From Page One

Remyburg Service Center employee Roger Sowers, were valued at \$50 to \$150 depending on the type and size. They were stored in a van in the salvage yard until they could be sold in bulk to scrap metal yards.

McQuait was unable to provide a figure as to the amount of money he and Weaver received in selling the stolen converters to various scrap yards.

After reviewing testimony from McQuait and Sowers, Magisterial District Judge Carol Jean Johnson ruled there was sufficient or adequate evidence presented for a prima facie case. As a result, charges against Weaver were also bound over to the Fulton County Court of Common Pleas.

The next scheduled appearance in court for the six Hometown area men will be formal arraignment in the Fulton County Court of Common Pleas. Of

the six men, only McQuait, Shotts and Kauffman have been unable to post bail and remain incarcerated in the Franklin County Prison.

While defense attorneys spoke with magisterial district judges Johnson and District Attorney Kendall regarding the charges filed against their clients, investigating Trooper James Lupey and victim services coordinator Carolyn Kerlin met with victims regarding restitution and various court-related matters.

The men have been tied to more than 20 different incidents in Fulton County, with the first dating back to June 2007 and the most recent occurring in mid-December 2008. They have also been linked to incidents in neighboring Bedford and Huntingdon counties, where a salt spreader was stolen and a break-in was reported at a pizza shop. Money was stolen in the majority of the incidents, but metal objects that could be scrapped for cash were also reported missing in several incidents.

relieve pressure currently experienced at their Waterfall office, bank executives remain upbeat that the merger of many local banking institutions may also result in new customers.

"We're going to continue offering our standard services plus the extras that give us our hometown feel," Yohn told the "News" last spring when the announcement first aired in May 2008 about the bank extending its reach further south into Fulton County. "We like to go out of the way for our customers. We don't want to just know your account number. We want to know your name and what services best suit your lifestyle."

Adult Children Back In The Nest

The economic downturn is one reason families are combining households

By Marilyn Gardner
STAFF WRITER OF
THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

Like most adults, Sara Tree never expected to move back home with her mother. As the parent of grown children herself, she had long prized her independence. But two years ago, after losing her job, she had nowhere to go but her mother's one-bedroom apartment in Santa Barbara, Calif. Although she has been employed since then, her most recent job ended in December.

"My mom has been extraordinary in allowing me to share her space," says Tree, who asks to be identified by her pen name. "I have no privacy, but I have learned to live with that."

It is a refrain familiar to many who must double up with relatives. As pink slips proliferate and foreclosures multiply, more families are rolling out the welcome mat—sometimes hesitantly—to give shelter and support to relatives in need. The American dream of living under a roof of one's own is being downscaled. Now some displaced residents long simply to have a room of one's own.

According to the 2007 U.S. Census, 3.6 million parents live with adult children, up from 2.3 million in 2000. Almost 3.5 million siblings live with a brother or sister, up from 3 million. And more than 6.5 million people share quarters with other relatives, up from 4.8 million. Their ranks continue to grow.

In the process, families find that these arrangements require liberal amounts of patience, sharing, and compromise.

"At first, families feel the honeymoon stage," says Natalie Caine, founder of Empty Nest Support Services in southern California. "They get to practice true giving. They feel a new sense of purpose,

which is enlivening. Then the differences arise. The downside is sharing space."

Closets full of unfamiliar clothes. Damp towels compete for racks in the bathroom. Refrigerator shelves grow crowded with other people's food.

"Space in the kitchen is always the biggest issue," says Amy Goyer, senior vice president of Grandparents.com For Tree, space limitations require her to sleep in the living room. "I go to bed early and my mother goes to her room to read," she says.

Sometimes they eat dinner together. "I am mostly vegetarian and my mother is anything but, so that is sometimes awkward," Tree says. "I try to buy as much of my own food as possible, but I do not want to be rude and not eat what she has prepared all the time, so I adjust my diet now and then to make her happy."

Keeping everyone happy becomes easier when communication is open, family specialists say. "It's better to talk about things ahead of time if you can, and continue to talk about them on a regular basis," Goyer says.

Issues such as finances, privacy rights, and the length of time relatives will stay are important topics for discussion. Family members also need to agree on who is in control. If there are children, adults must decide who is allowed to discipline.

"Learn the art of communicating, whether that is through Post-its, e-mails, or sit-down chats, or even walking and talking, which can be less threatening," Caine says.

Before relatives move in, a group e-mail or conference call can bring everyone together for a discussion. After they arrive, Goyer says, it's important to hold family conferences. Even seemingly small issues such as a grandparent turning up the TV volume or a teenage grandchild playing loud music can cause tension, Goyer notes. Parents, she finds, often feel stuck in the middle. "They're trying to keep kids happy and grandparents happy."

Other issues arise when siblings share a nest. Last October, Barbara Hagin of Palo Alto, Calif., made room for her sister, a massage therapist who moved from the East Coast. "She expected to be on her feet by the end of the year," Hagin says. "She has the opportunity to see here and there, but I don't see how it's going to be very easy to pay the rent and bills on her own."

She adds, "Inserting another person in the mix has changed our lifestyle."

We do try to include her. It's like having an adoptive, fully grown daughter." (Her sister is 10 years younger.) Yet Hagin finds positive aspects to their shared housing. She and her sister have grown closer. She also praises her husband for his role, saying, "He's terrific. He's very supportive."

So is Hagin. "If I were in her shoes, I would appreciate the same kindness," she says. "I want to be supportive more than anything else." At the same time, she is uncertain how much longer they will be able to support her sister.

"I want her to save her money and be in a strong position to move out," she says. "I want to see her flourish and grow. But I can't conceive of her being ready to leave the nest for at least a few more months."

For Tree, who lightheartedly refers to her living arrangement with her mother as "two hens in a nest," one secret to harmony is simple:

"Basically we try not to step on one another's feet by giving space needed to each other."

Many families also find that appreciation helps to minimize challenges. In January, Frances Sales and her 8-year-old daughter moved in with her brother and his family in Lake Worth, Fla. Her husband is in Brazil, awaiting an immigration decision to return legally to the United States.

In his absence, she is looking for a job. Before the recession, she worked as a receptionist and a secretary. Now, she says, "I'll do anything—cleaning house, taking care of kids."

Sales and her daughter share a bedroom. "I usually make dinner and we all eat together," she says. "My brother and sister-in-law, they're great."

My brother has two more mouths to feed. I thank God that we get along. I love them very much and thank them for helping me."

Whatever circumstances cause a family to double up, Caine encourages people to enjoy their time together and be flexible. "Mistakes will happen. Things will break. People won't remember to do a chore or call... Lower your expectations. Put love and family first, not control."

Goyer also takes a positive approach, saying, "Look at it as not that you've lost something, but that you've gained a unique opportunity to get to know each other on a more personal level."

How to live in harmony

Parenting expert Susan Newman offers these tips to avoid potential conflicts and hurt feelings:

Make sure financial contributions are clearly defined so there's no misunderstanding. If a timeline is in order for when your financial help may stop, make one. This keeps everyone hopeful and moving in the same direction.

Discuss everyone's expectations for how the new living arrangements will work so no one is disappointed. Say no to demands and jobs you feel would take advantage of you.

Go over basics: Who will do the grocery shopping or the laundry? How much are you expected to baby-sit or car pool? Think a request through before you commit to it.

Don't allow tension or resentment to build. If you are upset about something or someone seems annoyed with you, discuss it as soon as possible.

Be wary of slipping back into the parent-child role, telling your adult offspring what to do or criticizing him or her. The same applies if you are the adult child moving in with parents.

Shuster Urges Transparency In Spending Stimulus Funds

Requests information for constituents

Tuesday Congressman Bill Shuster sent a letter to President Obama and Gov. Rendell urging transparency and accountability in the distribution of tax dollars from the stimulus bill and requesting information on behalf of his constituents interested in applying for stimulus funding.

Shuster sent the letters to Obama and Rendell after receiving a number of calls and letters from constituents, organizations, and local governments asking how they could apply for

stimulus funding and whether mechanisms are in place to prevent waste, fraud and abuse.

"There are real concerns being expressed from my constituents and they must be answered," Shuster said. "Government is entrusted to be good stewards of the public trust. Transparency in such a massive spending bill is a critical part of that trust and cannot be ignored."

Currently, there is no clearinghouse for information related to stimulus funding, and Congress will play no role in directing funding to specific projects. Groups and local governments

interested in accessing stimulus funds have no centralized place to turn for the information they need. Additionally, there is no one place for concerned citizens to go to watch how and where their tax dollars are being spent.

Shuster believes a system must be put in place to make absolutely sure that his constituents and the American public can see how their tax dollars are being used. Also, that system should be able to connect the federal government with groups that could use the stimulus funding destined for Pennsylvania.

"President Obama crammed the stimulus through Congress by constantly reminding the American people that without it, our economy may not recover," Shuster said. "The constant drum beat of urgency forced Congress to act hastily on a spending bill that will have historic repercussions on our future. President Obama has the stimulus he wanted. Now it's time for America to have some answers."

Copies of Shuster's letters will be posted to his Web site at www.house.gov/shuster. For more information, contact Jeff Urbanchuk.

Air Quality

From Page One

for the USA Today report. Although Central Fulton schools were on the list, no snapshot testing was actually done at the local schools for the newspaper report.

Instead, Candori said, they did an analysis of toxic inventory data gathered by EPA and then using "modeling" did calculations on what the air quality might be in the area of the schools. Candori said that although the toxic inventory data is collected to help monitor air quality, "in some ways, the information and used only comparison data rather than doing a risk assessment."

She said that while DEP has no plans to test at the local schools, it has agreed to test six more schools at their request.

Those six schools, like Central Fulton, were subject to the model used by the newspaper. The schools include two in Erie County, and one each in Chester, Lawrence, Lancaster and Berks counties. She concluded, saying, "So while we are not scheduled to test at Central Fulton, our tests in the six additional counties will give us some idea of what air quality levels are in those areas where snapshot testing was not done."

According to DEP acting secretary John Hanger, the agency did not find the levels of pollutants the newspaper's (USA Today) testing seemed to indicate. Hanger said, "Our testing found the total excess lifetime cancer risk from exposure to pollutants at these schools is within the acceptable range identified by the EPA. However, any health risk to a child, of course, is difficult for a parent to accept, which is why we are so committed

to reducing air pollution not only in the area around these schools, but everywhere across the commonwealth."

At each school monitored, DEP calculated excess lifetime cancer risk, or the risk above the general overall cancer risk of four in 10, from the exposure to the pollutants of concern. The risks ranged from 4 in 100,000 at Stonybrook Elementary to 5 in one million at Phoenixville. The EPA generally considers an excess lifetime cancer risk above one in 10,000 to be unacceptable.

At the national level, Lisa Jackson, the new EPA administrator promised during her confirmation hearings in January to identify 50 to 100 schools across the nation where air pollution might pose significant health risks. Jackson called it a "priority" and said the agency would begin taking test samples within five weeks and may release some results within a few

months. The cost of the effort was estimated at around \$2.5 million.

The USA Today report said, "Children are particularly susceptible to toxic chemicals. They breathe more in proportion to their weight than do adults, and their bodies are still developing. Exposure to some chemicals can trigger ailments such as asthma or lead to cancer years or decades later."

The USA Today report had indicated that the chemicals most responsible for the toxicity outside the McCConnellsburg schools were dicyanates, manganese and manganese compounds. The paper's report also listed the polluters most responsible for the toxics outside the school, and they included: JLG Industries Inc.; U.S. Army Letterkenny Army Depot; Kennametal Inc., Bedford, Pa.; and Redland Brick Inc., Cushman plant, Williamsport, Md.

New York were selected. This year a total of 125 scholarships were awarded.

Scholarship

From Page One

dren in grades three through 12 on the ins and outs of sculpture and weaving. Organized by the Fulton County Parks and Recreation Commission, the five-day camp to be held at the Forbes Road School District will emphasize both an Americana

theme and various techniques used by cultures from across the world.

The camp is a follow-up to five weeks of hands-on instruction received by Bennett at the Governor's School last summer in Erie. While not a requirement of the Governor's School, participants are urged to return to their communities, share their knowledge and give back.

"That was a fun time," said Bennett of last summer's learning experience. "But it also was an emotionally, physically and mentally exhausting time."

The McKelvey Foundation was created in 2000. During its initial year a total of 16 rural Pennsylvania students were awarded scholarships. The following year, 140 students from Pennsylvania, West Virginia and

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PUBLISHER

Jamie S. Greatehead

STAFF WRITERS

Lindsay Mellott • Chanin Rotz-Mountz • Jean Snyder

SUPPORT STAFF

Charles Dean • Trudy Gelvin • David Gregory • Robin Souders

417 E. Market Street, P.O. Box 635

McCConnellsburg, PA 17233

717-485-3811 or 485-4513 Fax: 717-485-5187

E-mail: fultoncountynews@comcast.net

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