

## Letters To The Editor

### Urges Support Of A Fair Tax

To The Editor:

When challenges or problems take place in Washington, the normal response is "We must do something!" Typically, Washington's response is a combination of raising taxes and spending more money. Lets face it, currently the trillions of dollars we are spending is primarily made up of pork barrel and welfare.

There is a proposal that would fix many of the problems we face with no additional government spending. It is called the Fair Tax. The Fair Tax eliminates all taxes on income of any kind. No more personal or corporate income tax. No capital gains, dividend, estate or gift tax. No alternative minimum tax. No payroll tax. All would be replaced with a national sales tax. Instead of giving the government 33 cents out of every dollar you earn, you will give the government 23 cents out of every dollar you spend. The proposal will raise the same revenue as the current code, but you will choose when to pay taxes and how much to pay by how you choose to spend.

Just think, eliminating withholding taxes would give the average income earner an immediate 50 percent increase in take-home pay. How's that for a spending stimulus?

Perhaps now we should consider a Fair Tax before we commit additional trillions of dollars in debt on our future generations.

1. A Harvard professor's study showed that, on average, 22 cents out of every dollar we spend is paying the income taxes, payroll taxes, accountants, attorneys and the IRS in every product and service we purchase.

2. A Tax Foundation study says that we will spend \$350 billion simply to comply with the federal income tax regulations in 2009. Americans spend billions each year calculating the tax implications of business decisions. That is inefficient and just plain stupid. Eliminating this would

give us the equivalent of a \$4 trillion tax cut over 10 years without any impact on the budget. Accountants, lawyers and IRS staff could redirect their skills into more productive responsibilities in the marketplace.

3. It is estimated that because of the complicated tax code, the underground economy is avoiding more than \$2 trillion in taxes. Under the Fair Tax, these dollars would be taxed every time they buy a loaf of bread.

4. Offshore financial centers control more than \$13 trillion in available funds. These centers are looking for opportunities to get into our markets. Much of that money represents corporate profits from foreign sales that - because they will be taxed at 35 percent if repatriated - they invest these profits offshore. Under the Fair Tax we will be the world's largest and most stable tax haven. That increase in liquidity would make what we have done - and will do - with taxpayers funds look trifling.

If we are serious about getting more cash into our system and leaving more money in the pockets of workers to spend, we should look seriously at fixing a broken tax system that even Jimmy Carter called a disgrace. Yes, there are some concerns and issues associated with this new system, but if developed with the logic of our original founders, we can improve a failed system.

If our goal is to just spend trillions of dollars on new entitlements and burdening future generations with increased taxes and a diminished standard of living, then our current policies are the right prescription. If our goal is to free American markets and the American entrepreneur to innovate, we should encourage our representatives to support a Fair Tax. If this makes sense, write or call your representative today and tell them you want a Fair Tax.

Mike Crampton,  
McConnellsburg, Pa.

car's air bags did not deploy during the collision, and minimal damage was sustained to the vehicle.

Orr was wearing a seat belt during the accident and unconscious when officials arrived on the scene, state police reported.

Orr is survived by her husband, William, and multiple children.

nouncement, that Horton could be sentenced to life imprisonment for possession of firearms in furtherance of drug trafficking. An additional \$250,000 could accompany the sentence and five years of supervision following his possible release.

The trio along with a male juvenile, also from McConnellsburg, were apprehended by special agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives within days of the "smash-and-grab" at the Keystone Country Store located at 168 Path Valley Road, where owners reported 16 handguns and three long guns were stolen. A number of the firearms were traded for drugs by Horton, attorney Carlson maintains. Twelve of the stolen guns have since been recovered.

Assistant United States Attorney Christy H. Fawcett is serving as lead prosecutor in the case.

## Commentary:

# A Lifechanging Experience

**Editors Note:** *This article is the last of two penned by Waterfall resident Josiah "Jasey" Newman, who wrote his financial aid from area residents was able to participate in a school construction project in Louisiana.*

**By Josiah Newman**

It started as a mission inspired by a dear friend. It ended in what can only be described as a life-changing experience. It is one thing to hear of such a happening as Katrina and Gustav. It is another to actually see the aftermath. Personally, I brought more back from Louisiana than I took down with me, and I am not speaking of physical objects.

I thought stepping foot in a state where so many died would have a much greater effect of grief over me. To call my emotional state one of grief would not be correct in the slightest. I felt hope, admiration, friendship, anger (as in, simply, why?), but most of all, there was this sense of significance. In a time where most of the college students in America were waking up with headaches that Goody's could not fix, we woke up every morning, closer and closer to fulfilling what we set out to do: to inspire students interested in agriculture in the great state of Louisiana.

The schools in the children's faces in Iberville, La., were amazing. Every direction you looked, there was another kid who was happy to be spending time with a group of 15 college students

(and five advisors) who traveled 1,250 miles to be with them. Even the children who were not having a good time were involved easily when just pointed to somewhere on the project. This was our project, the students at the Iberville Academy took it and made it theirs.

I envy the strength of these children, they have literally been through hell and back - and they stand beside you, assisting you in every aspect of the construction of the living wall (Iberville), the greenhouse foundation (New Orleans), and raised beds (New Orleans).

Forbes Road, McConnellsburg and Southern Fulton could all take a lesson from Iberville. The Iberville Academy is a 'Magnet School,' so they accept students by lottery every year. About 400 applicants each year means 100 new students in the school. But the students are allowed to apply every year, so after four years of application, they are almost assured admittance. These students were so well behaved, I was astonished at this having attended high school in Fulton County. Then it was explained to me why.

The schools in the county have very poor performance, with the exception of Iberville Academy. If the students get three write-ups, they are done, they are shipped back to their under-performing schools. This leads to a student body that does amazing things. On the "old SAT" scale, their average score for an exiting student is 1100.

## Library

From Page One

summer program will run through the first week of August and is held once a week in Hustontown, McConnellsburg and Needmore.

Reading over the summer months is the primary focus and Burton encourages that by keeping a record of the books each child reads. When the program ends, every child, no matter how many books have been read, gets a prize.

Crafts and snacks are also part of each week's activities.

Last year, Burton said, 160 children participated in the summer reading program.

### Visiting authors

From time to time children's authors stop by the library to talk with young readers about

the books they have written. On May 14, from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., illustrator Wendell Minor and his wife and author, Florence, will be at the Fulton Theatre with their latest book for kids, "If You Were a Penguin."

The library, Burton said, will give free soft-cover copies of "If You Were a Penguin" to the first 60 families that come to hear what the Minors have to say about reading, books and penguins.

The Minors' visit here, according to Burton, has been made possible by the Pennsylvania One Book, Every Young Child initiative.

"The success of these programs (Family Place workshops, storyhours and summer reading program)," Burton said, "is due to the parents who really support and have an interest in their community library."

That support is confirmed by the numbers of children and par-

This is higher than Penn State's entrance requirement, which tells me this school is as on the ball as it looks.

I knew two of the other 14 students before I embarked on the trip. It was a very diverse group in the sense that we had students in the College of Agricultural Sciences who came from farm families with very Christian roots, and had a very conservative upbringing. We also had students from Pittsburgh and Philadelphia who had very liberal upbringings. Now you put those students together in three vans for a total of 40 hours on the road and you can predict what would happen. The funny thing is, it did not happen. No political debates. No slights against each other's religious beliefs.

In New Orleans, I saw a few students that made me shake my head a little, but far fewer than is portrayed on TV and in films. For an inner-city school, I saw no violence, cursing was commonplace (seriously, not much different than here), but the students were very polite and respectful.

We worked at what is called a 'PM' school. This is known as night school for us Yankees. The amazing part is, you have to consider what the students attending the PM school have to deal with. These are kids who have to support families, be it the one they were born in to, or the one they had started themselves. These are kids who work eight hours a day, and then go to school at night for

four hours. How many adults do you know could pull 12-hour days?

This school also has an "AM" program, which is a regular seven- to eight-hour school day. Most of the kids in the AM program don't have jobs on the side, and if they do, they're part time for the most part. So, you have a kid going to school seven hours a day, and working for four hours a day. Then you have another kid working eight hours a day, and going to school four hours a day.

You can predict who will be the better performing student, but they would be wrong. The PM program outperforms the AM program. Maybe this is a sign to cut back school hours and make it more like college perhaps?

The service project was so meaningful and groundbreaking (The living wall is cutting edge, and Iberville's is thought to be the first to be built at a high school in America,) that I cannot wait until my next project.

Also, I issue a challenge to the FFA at each of the three school districts in Fulton County to follow suit and build their own living wall on school grounds. It beautifies the landscape, cleans the water and helps end back-breaking garden labor. I promise you, whenever you are ready, I will be there to lend a hand, and I'm sure some of the students who went on this trip would not mind doing it again.

I'll close with a quote written in my senior yearbook that has carried me throughout college and inspired me to go to Louisiana:

"You do not need good luck, Enough for now."

—Ben Knepper

## Fatal Crash

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on the westbound lane, according to Pennsylvania State Police at the McConnellsburg barracks. The 2008 Hyundai Elantra then travelled more than 574 feet through a grassy field where it came to a rest. The

## Plead Guilty

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ton pleaded guilty in Middle District of Pennsylvania during a scheduled appearance before Judge Christopher C. Conner on Thursday, March 26. Horton's guilty plea was to possession of firearms in furtherance of drug trafficking and burglary of a federally licensed firearms dealer.

Fellow defendants Loren R. Stains, 18, and 19-year-old Jeremy R. Davis, both of McConnellsburg, entered guilty pleas earlier in the month in federal court to burglary of a firearms dealer. Each of the three young men are now faced with a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison as well as three years of supervised release and payment of \$250,000 in fines for the break-in.

The possibility also exists, attorney Carlson stated in his an-

## Ayr Twp.

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an agreement and resolution to access and use PennDOT's Web site in order to file online liquid fuel reports.

The supervisors also reviewed a letter from David Black Engineering informing them that Joyce Engel of California is withdrawing her subdivision plans for Magsam Creek Estates just off Route 30 east of McConnellsburg. Engel had previously submitted plans to subdivide the property into individual lots. No reason was given for withdrawing the plans.

The township meeting in May will be held on Tuesday, May 26, at 7:00 p.m. due to the fact that the regular meeting conflicts with the Memorial Day holiday. Normally, the supervisors meet the last Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the township building. The next regular meeting will be held on April 27, 2009.

## 200 Pupils Reported Sick At Pa. School

TOBYHANNA, Pa. (AP) - Officials in a northeastern Pennsylvania school district are trying to find the cause of an illness that has affected some 200 elementary school pupils.

Officials say one of three of the 603 students at the Coolbaugh Elementary Center was stricken on Friday. They say about half of the sick children stayed home and the rest were sent home after falling ill in school.

Pocono Mountain School District spokeswoman Wendy Frable says officials do not believe it was a case of food poisoning or water contamination. State health officials suggest that a norovirus or stomach flu may be running through the school. Only 25 students were absent last Thursday.

# Chinese Art Exhibit Features Flags Made Of Hair

By Kathy Matheson

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER  
PHILADELPHIA (AP) -

From afar, the nearly 200 world flags hanging in a Drexel University science building are recognizable but monochromatic, their stars, stripes and crescent moons rendered in shades of brown.

Up close, you can see why: They're made of human hair.

The flags, which inspire reactions from revulsion to fascination, are the centerpiece of "Ink Not Ink," a contemporary art exhibition that features painting, photography, sculpture and video by 40 Chinese artists.

Wenda Gu's stunning flag installation is likely to get most of the attention. Titled "United Nations: Man & Space," Gu created the banners using hair tufts, clippings and strands collected from millions of people around the world. And lots of glue.

Watching sunlight filter through the flags - which cover a glass wall section that's six stories high and 100 feet long - exhibit co-director Abbie Dean called the work "monumental, astonishing, thrilling."

"It's very cathedral-like," Dean said. "It almost gives it a stained-glass feeling."

Joseph Gregory, chairman of Drexel's Department of Art and Art History, worked closely with Dean and curators at the Shenzhen Art Museum and National Art Museum of

China to bring the mixed-media show to campus. It opens Thursday.

"This art reflects a great culture that's undergoing a profound internal change, urbanization and globalization," Gregory said. "China is a colossal culture with colossal power. It's here to stay."

"Ink Not Ink" refers to the ancient Chinese tradition of ink painting. Taoists believed artists were vessels for re-creating nature, so ink painting frequently depicted landscapes, Gregory said.

Modern Chinese ink painters have expanded the subject matter and even added other media to depict the world as it is today. Qiu Anxiang, whose work is included in the Drexel exhibit, uses ink painting in animation videos.

"In recent years, there's been a concerted effort ... to use this esteemed material, the ink and brush, in new ways that incorporate contemporary forms and speak to a contemporary audience," said Richard Vine, senior editor at Art in America magazine.

Vine, one of several experts speaking at a Drexel symposium Wednesday before the exhibit's opening, also noted that Gu was a renowned and one-time radical ink painter earlier in his career. He even experimented with an ink product made of powdered

under way in May. She also hopes to eventually add a program for 8- to 12-year-olds incorporating the popular series of "American Girl" books.

Head librarian Jamie Brambley says the library's annual budget places a lot of emphasis on children's programming.

"I think it's one of the most import aspects of what we are doing here and in the community," Brambley said. The result, she said, is "lifelong learners and lifelong readers."

Brambley reminds library patrons to use the rear entrance to the building during the renovation, which is expected to be finished in early August. Visitors to the children's library must use the rear entrance as well.

Family Place Libraries initiative is a national project cosponsored by Libraries for the Future and MiddleCountry Public Library and funded through a Commonwealth Libraries LST grant.

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