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Cleans Up At
Envirothon**

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**Area Youths
Raise Funds
For World Vision**

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THURSDAY
WEEKLY

The Fulton County News

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McCONNELLSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

APRIL 30, 2009

Firemen Working To Lower Boro Insurance Costs

Company takes steps to continue lowering workman's comp claims

By **Chanin Rotz-Mountz**
STAFF WRITER

Since the McConnellsburg Borough's workman's compensation policy was cancelled two years ago after a large number of claims were logged by the McConnellsburg Volunteer Fire Co., company officials have continued to crack down and improve their internal control measures, resulting in not only fewer claims but additional savings for the borough.

In speaking with the "News," Robert Snyder II, agent with the Robert Snyder Agency of McConnellsburg, reported the fire department submitted a total of four workman's compensation claims between 2003-2004. Those totals increased to six claims in 2004-2005, eight in 2005-2006 and another six in 2006-2007. While many of the claims had insignificant or no payouts, several of the incidents, Snyder noted, were rather seri-

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Jobless Rate Shows Little Change Here

Ranking in state moves from #67 to #66 for March

By **Jean Snyder**
STAFF WRITER

Fulton County's jobless rate showed little sign of recovery in March as the unemployment rate dropped only 1.2 percentage points from a final 16 percent rate in February. The county's March unemployment rate was 14.8 percent, according to preliminary figures released by the Department of Labor and Industry this week. The small gain in employment figures was enough to move the county from the highest rate in the state to the next to-highest rate. The county exchanged positions with Cameron County, according to the preliminary figures.

March's statistics, like those for January and February, mark the highest rate for Fulton County in 27 years when the April 1982 rate was 27.2 percent, according

See JOBLESS RATE, Page A2

DEATHS

Brant, Margaret, 92, Orange, Va.
Divelbliss, Lloyd, 80, Hancock
Fraker, Dorothy, 63, Orrstown
Harvey, Katherine, 68, Needmore
Kirk, Elinor, 88, Hustontown
Pittman, Helen, 84, Hancock
Runk, Joel, 54, Saxton

OBITUARIES, Page B3



Society Names Two Historians Of The Year

Coleman, Mentzer get top honors

STAFF REPORT

The Fulton County Historical Society made history of its own Friday night, naming not one but two historians of the year for the first time ever at its annual dinner meeting held at the Hustontown Firehall.

Historical Society board members Edith "Edie" Coleman of Crystal Spring and John Mentzer of Mercersburg were given the awards for their exceptional volunteer work in 2008.

In her two years as the society's Fulton House museum curator, Coleman has been unfaltering in her efforts to make the museum more accessible to the public. Society board member Ruth Reeder, who presented the award, said that because of Coleman the Fulton House museum, in 2008, was open for more hours than in recent years, including one day each week over the summer.

Reeder also recognized Coleman for leadership in grant writing and paper preservation and for fundraising efforts that have benefitted the Historical Society and the conservation of its museum collection.

During her five years as a board member, Reeder said, Coleman has attended workshops on grant writing, small museum operation and paper preservation. As museum curator she plans two special exhibits at the Fulton House each year and, according to Reeder, Coleman's two 2009 exhibits will feature old toys and items in the Historical Society's collection belonging to Lafayette C. Baker (1826-1868), a United States investigator and spy, serving for the Union Army during the Civil War and under presidents Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson.

Notable among the numerous fundraisers Coleman has spearheaded are teas at the Fulton House, resurrecting the so-

ciety's annual soup sale at the Fulton House's old log kitchen during the Fall Folk Festival and having souvenirs, such as mugs, T-shirts, magnets and key chains, made to sell in addition to the society's usual books and prints.

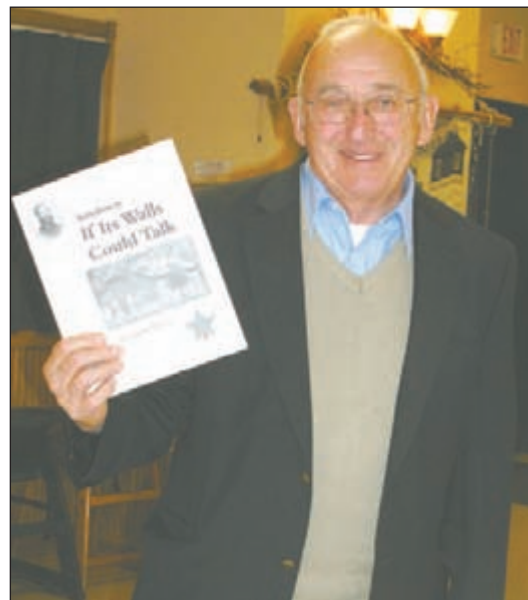
Accepting the award, Coleman joked that until Friday evening she had no idea she was so important. She thanked all those who had helped with her projects and also thanked the nearly 90 people who attended the Friday evening dinner for coming.

"I certainly am honored to be named Historian of the Year," Coleman said.

Mentzer was awarded Historian of the Year for his documentation of the signatures left by Union troops at Tonoloway Primitive Baptist Church when they had been hospitalized there during the time of Stonewall Jackson's bombardment of Hancock, Md., in 1862.

The 140-page book - "Tonoloway, If Its Walls Could Talk" - took two years to research and write and was published by the Friends of Tonoloway Primitive Baptist Church in August 2008.

To date, the Friends have totaled more than \$7,000 in book



John Mentzer



Edith Coleman

sales, said Lindsay R. Mellott, Friends board member, who presented Mentzer's award on behalf of the Historical Society.

Calling him a passionate, amateur historian, Mellott said Mentzer, who was raised in McConnellsburg, has also complet-

See HISTORIANS, Page A2

Five Seek Seats On So. Fulton School Board

Republicans, Democrats to nominate four this spring

By **Chanin Rotz-Mountz**
STAFF WRITER

Two incumbents, one former board director and two political newcomers hailing from southern Fulton County have cross-filed on the Republican and Democratic May 19 municipal primary election ballots in hopes of clinching at least one party nomination that could ultimately lead to being sworn into office this December as a member of the Southern Fulton School Board.

Among those vying for one of the four available director's seats are incumbents Patrick L. Bard and Edgar M. Yates; former board director L. Allen Morton; and new challengers Mark R. Mosemann and Timothy L. Hull. Each party will nominate a total of four individuals this spring for final consideration by registered voters this November.

Patrick L. Bard

Currently in his first four-year term of office, Patrick L. Bard is seeking re-election to secure his director's seat on the Southern Fulton School Board. Bard, who works as a building inspector as well as an equine dentist, reported his employment in various fields as well as involvement with different businesses make him a valued asset to the nine-member board.

In addition to previously serving as a county auditor, Bard, a resident of Needmore, is currently active with the Fulton County Fair Board and the Maryland/Pennsylvania Horse Show Board.

"I have a desire to see our children succeed in the future whether it be in college, a trade school, in the work force or the arts," said Bard. During his time

with the board, Bard has helped with the creation of the district's nature trail located at the elementary school; the Diploma Recovery program that helps adult district residents obtain their actual high school diploma instead of a general equivalence diploma; and the district's soccer and cross-country programs.

Looking at the duties of a board member, Bard stated, perhaps the greatest role is balancing what is fiscally or financially affordable for the community against students receiving the best possible education. Bard added students should also be provided with the best options to succeed in the world today and tomorrow.

With the topic of school district consolidation being one of more heated and heavily debated topics in recent months between school board directors, school faculty and the community, both pros and cons exist in the way the proposal has been presented to date. County schools, according to Bard, could be split up and linked with districts in Bedford, Huntingdon and Franklin counties with minimal advantages to our schools.

"Schools that have been fiscally responsible will be burdened with debts of other districts... Enrollment in the larger consolidated schools may be small enough that very little will be offered locally without travelling to other counties," he concluded.

L. Allen Morton

With four children now enrolled in the same school district he graduated from 25 years ago, L. Allen Morton still feels he has his fingers on the pulse of the Southern Fulton School District. Having already accumulated 12 years experience with the board, Morton stepped down from his position approximately two years ago.

"I still have an interest and a desire to serve," Morton told the "News." "While serving on the school board in the past, I feel I have always kept the best interest of the students and the taxpayers as the number one priority."

Looking ahead to the future, Morton, who owns and operates T&A Farms of Needmore, stated the administration and board need to continue to be "fiscally conservative" while still providing the students with the highest level of education.

Considering the possibility of consolidation, Morton stated, without yet knowing all of the details he doesn't have a position on the matter at this time. He did add, though, that each of the county's school districts have their own identity and provide adequate education.

"However, there are many areas we can operate together,"

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Swine Influenza Confirmed In U.S.

County holds preparedness seminar for rural health emergencies

By **Chanin Rotz-Mountz**
STAFF WRITER

As more confirmed as well as unconfirmed swine influenza cases continue to surface in the United States and in other countries ranging from France to Canada, steps are being taken across the nation and here with-

in the commonwealth to contain the possible spread of the flu outbreak.

County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Coordinator Vince Joyce shared with the "News" as of Sunday evening the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) had confirmed several dozen cases of swine flu within the United States' borders. Among those are 28 in New York, seven in California, two in both Texas and Kansas and one in Ohio. The symptoms in these cases remain

"relatively mild," and no deaths have been reported.

Kentucky and Georgia, the Department of Homeland Security has further maintained in local correspondence to Joyce, are reporting "clusters of viral infection." Investigations into these unconfirmed cases are ongoing.

On a broader, international level, the largest number of cases (20) of swine influenza confirmed by CDC has emanated from Mexico. In comparison, open source has revealed, the Mexico

Ministry of Health has 1,614 suspected cases and 103 related deaths. A formal request for antiviral treatments, personal protective gear and equipment as well as logistical and mobilization support from the Mexican government is likely and expected within days.

In Canada, only six cases have been confirmed with symptoms reported as mild. France is also studying four possible cases of swine flu, and unconfirmed re-

See SWINE FLU, Page A2

Ayr Nixes KOZ Extension In Business Park

Awards paving bid to P&W

By **Jean Snyder**
STAFF WRITER

Ayr Township supervisors said "no" to a request for an extension of the Keystone Opportunity Zone (KOZ) for the Fulton County Business Park during their regular meeting Monday evening. Their decision essentially nullifies a decision formerly made by both the county and the Central Fulton School District to grant the extension. All three taxing bodies must ap-

prove the extension in order for it to be granted.

According to county planner Mary K. Seville, the Fulton Industrial Development Association (FIDA) was requesting that the business park's KOZ, which is set to expire on December 31, 2010, be extended for an additional seven years to December 31, 2017. The KOZ program in Pennsylvania began in 1999 as a 10-year business incentive program that eliminated specific state and local taxes within specific underdeveloped and underutilized areas to assist the areas

with economic growth and investment. It was designed to lead to the creation of new jobs and to produce capital investment in real estate. In 2008, Governor Rendell signed legislation allowing for the extension of the KOZs. Under the new law, KOZ status on unoccupied parcels on all current zones may be extended for seven years from the expiration date of the zones; if companies occupy a parcel before December 31, 2015, they may receive KOZ benefits for 10 years.

The three Ayr supervisors unanimously voted no to the ex-

ension. Although Ayr does not levy any property taxes, supervisor Chairman Marlin "Sonny" Harr said, "This KOZ was in place during the prosperous years and didn't attract any new business to the area, so why would we think that any businesses would take advantage of it in this economy?" He went on to say that he does not believe that the township taxpayers should be expected to continue to subsidize the business park.

Both the county and the local

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