

## Letters To The Editor

### Taxaide Program Thanks Community

To The Editor:

On behalf of the Chambersburg Taxaide Program, we would like to thank everyone who helped make this another successful year for us. In the McConnellsborg area, we served more than 350 clients, e-filed more than 300 federal and 250 state returns, assisted with more than 175 requests for property tax and rent rebates and served more than 35 people who were guests of the Hopewell Senior Center.

Our sincere appreciation goes to the Farmers and Merchants Bank for the use of its space and facilities at the Fulton Theatre. We were able to maintain a central location with adequate parking and easy access for our clients.

We feel our service is a much-needed service in this commu-

nity. Our staff is made up of strictly volunteers; our equipment is either donated or is purchased out of funds derived from donations; and our pay comes only from the satisfaction of helping people. This is a most gratifying task performed by people who are willing to give back to the community and supported by the organization mentioned above.

If anyone is interested in helping with the Taxaide Program, please feel free to contact us. We are always looking for new volunteers as tax counselors, greeters and/or technical assistants.

Chambersburg Taxaide Program  
McConnellsborg Branch  
Joe Schellhase  
District Coordinator

### Historians

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ed two family genealogies that have been published, is working on a third and is active in several other historical societies.

Mellott said she knew of no one more deserving of the Historian of the Year award than Mentzer.

"His published research on Tonoloway is a significant contribution to the public record of Fulton County history," Mellott said, "and a reminder of the important role Tonoloway Primitive Baptist Church has played in the story of Fulton County."

Besides thanking the Historical Society for honoring him, Mentzer expressed his appreciation to longtime friend and fellow McConnellsborg High School classmate Harold Largent, who helped decipher the soldiers' signatures; and Joan McCulloh of Mercersburg and Anna May of Warfordsburg for editing his manuscript.

Concluding his remarks, Mentzer said, "Tonoloway, If Its Walls Could Talk" is a tribute to the early families in Fulton Coun-

ty and to the patriots in both the Revolutionary and Civil wars."

Prior to the announcement of the historian of the Year awards, outgoing Historical Society president Dick Newman presided over a short business meeting that included the nomination and election of society officers: Dick Miller, president; Monica Seville, vice president; and Ken Keebaugh, secretary. Elected to three-year terms as directors were Linda Garber and Summer Stiffer. Dick Newman was elected to a one-year term as director, and Gene Leese will take over the duties of treasurer from Dan Swain.

The society's annual meeting concluded with Burt Kummerow from Historyworks Inc. of Baltimore, Md., presenting highlights and local stories based on his research for the guidebook "Pennsylvania's Forbes Trail: Gateways and Getaways along the Legendary Route from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh."

Kummerow said the story of the Forbes Trail is "a story to be proud of."

"It's all around us in Pennsylvania's historic nooks and crannies."

at number 25 with an unemployment rate of 8.1, up slightly from a rate of 8.0 percent in February. Franklin is tied for the number 25 slot with Beaver, Juniata and Lackawanna counties. Bedford's ranking remained at number 63 with an unemployment rate of 11.5, up slightly from 11.4 in February. Huntingdon County's rate went from 10.9 percent in February (and ranked 61) to 11.3 percent in March and ranked 63.

In March, Centre County posted the lowest unemployment rates in the state with 5.6 percent followed by Chester County with a rate of 6.0 percent.

Pennsylvania's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs count fell by 30,500 in March. At 5,677,700, Pennsylvania's job total fell below 5.7 million for the first time since June 2005. Three sectors showed a decline of greater than 5,000 jobs in March — manufacturing was down 11,800; trade, transportation and utilities was down 6,600; and construction was down 5,200.

## Rural Roads Safety Week Event Held

By Chanin Rotz-Mountz  
STAFF WRITER

As farmers start their move back into fields to begin the spring planting season, a handful of local farmers, business owners and residents gathered at the Back Run Road farm of Harry Johnston last Wednesday morning to celebrate Rural Roads Safety Week and remind motorists to stay alert and safe.

According to Fulton County Bureau representative Al Clark, the week of April 19 through April 25, known nationwide as Rural Roads Safety Week, was designed to raise awareness on the importance of driving safely on rural roads. "Spring is one of the busiest times of the year for farmers and equipment will be on the

roads during planting season," Clark added in his announcement.

In addition to a welcome and introduction by former Fulton County Farm Bureau president Marlin Lynch, the special event also included a presentation by farm owner Harry Johnston, who is also the owner and operator of Fulton Valley Ag Services, and Trooper George Carper of the McConnellsborg state police barracks. Carper shared legal requirements as they apply to the operation of farm equipment and how motorists should interact with farmers while navigating area roadways.

Carl T. Shaffer, president of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

based in Harrisburg, shared with the "News" that while safe driving practices should be implemented year round, motorists should exhibit extra caution during spring planting.

"Drivers should keep their guard up throughout the planting, growing and harvesting seasons by reducing speed and being more aware of other motorists," Shaffer stated. "We encourage farmers and drivers on country roads to look out for one another and to share the road so we can save lives, avoid serious injuries and eliminate costly accidents."

In 2008 alone, there were 89 crashes and five deaths involving farm equipment and vehicles. Those numbers are up from PennDOT's statistics

that show in 2007 two people died during a total of 82 farm equipment and vehicle-related accidents.

As reminders to both motorists and farmers, Shaffer said farmers operating equipment on roadways must display a red-bordered, orange triangle sign, referred to as a slow moving vehicle emblem, on the rear of all vehicles and equipment that move at speeds of 25 miles per hour or less.

Motorists are also reminded to leave ample time to reach their destination so as not to rush on the roadways, to pass any equipment with extreme care and caution, to remain visible and yield to oncoming wide vehicles.

### Firemen

From Page One

ous in nature between 2004 and 2006.

As a result of those ongoing adverse claims, in May 2007 the workers' compensation insurance company insuring the borough discontinued the workman compensation policy. In turn, the borough purchased a higher cost insurance from the State Workers' Insurance Fund, the local insurance agent said.

Snyder, in conjunction with fire company Chief Pete Lynch, was thrilled to report last week due to internal efforts at the company, the McConnellsborg Borough has been able to convince its prior insurance carrier to once again provide workers' in-

urance coverage beginning May 1.

During the last two years, Lynch stated new policies were enacted within the fire company that directly reduced claims to two in 2007-2008 and three in 2008-2009. The insurance carrier paid out a total of \$261 for the 2007-2008 claims, and \$514 for the 2008-2009 claims.

In direct comparison, company volunteers were dispatched to 600 fire and rescue calls as well as 2,100 EMS calls dating back to 2007.

Lynch further said that the company has created a safety committee and a safety officer position to ensure that all members are in compliance while on call, especially in the area of wearing proper protective equipment. Furthermore, monthly

training meetings are held for the company that is comprised of volunteers.

In addition, debriefing meetings are held with everyone involved in the event of a workman's comp claim to go over what occurred and what could have been done better to keep the situation from occurring. Company members injured on the scene are also evaluated on site by medic unit officials to determine if the individual should be sent for treatment or testing.

Snyder mentioned the company's safety committee originally began with the injured fireman, three officers from the fire company and himself. The committee has since evolved to include many others, and the group meets during the company's training nights to review the

claim before the group. "One of the more positive results of this is that it has enhanced everyone's attitude toward safety and safe practices," said Snyder. "As a result, our claims frequency has gone down, along with the average payout for each claim."

Snyder concluded due to the efforts at the firehall and the reduction in the frequency and severity of claims, the total reduction or savings from the prior year is \$440. Meanwhile, the additional savings the borough has experienced from changing from the State Workers' Insurance Fund back to their prior carrier.

"To be fair, the total savings of \$8,478 is all attributable to the efforts of the folks at the firehall. Efforts that we plan to continue going forward," he added.

### Ayr

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school district previously approved the KOZ extension to expire December 31, 2017. Had the township approved it, it would have allowed for any vacant, undeveloped lots in the park to take advantage of the state and local tax breaks on locating a nonretail business in the park. The extension would not have applied to existing businesses within the park whose tax incentives will expire on December 31, 2010, according to Seville.

During other business on Monday evening, the supervisors awarded a paving bid to P&W for its low bid of \$21,272.55 to pave nearly one mile of road in the

township. Supervisor Tom Nesbitt abstained from the vote. One other bid was received from New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co. for \$25,779.90, and supervisors Harr and Gary Hopkins voted to accept the low bid. The P&W bid was for \$72.15 per ton, while the New Enterprise bid was for \$86.70 per ton. Roadways to be paved include the access road to the township building and small portions of Woodland Drive and Cove Valley View Road. The supervisors said the total job is slightly less than one mile.

The supervisors reported "good business" for bulky item days on April 24 and 25. According to Harr, five 30-yard dumpsters of metal were removed and

an additional two 30-yard and two 40-yard dumpsters of bulky items were collected. The supervisors will hold an additional one-day bulky item collection in September.

The supervisors also received notice from the Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection that due to the state's lack of funding, the township will no longer be paid for sewage enforcement services at this time. Townships were advised to continue to track those expenses in the hopes that the state will be able to reimburse at a later date. According to township secretary Denise Grissinger, expenses for the township's sewage enforcement officer are shared by the property owner and the town-

ship on a 50-50 basis. The township can then invoice the state for reimbursement on its 50 percent share.

Due to a schedule conflict with the Memorial Day holiday, the supervisors voted to change their regular May meeting to Tuesday, May 26, 2009.

Also during other business, the supervisors discussed a new ordinance with their solicitor, Stanley J. Kerlin, regarding the implementation of the septic system pumping program in the township. According to Act 537, all municipalities must establish a three-year septic system pumping schedule by 2010. The supervisors reviewed a sample ordinance but took no formal action on Monday evening.

### Swine Flu

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ports have now emerged from New Zealand, Brazil, Columbia, Israel and the UK through the World Health Organization.

Even though the outbreak is not considered a global pandemic at this time, a "public health emergency" has been declared in order to be prepared for any changes as has a traveler's health alert notice.

Joyce said the situation is being monitored closely here, and plans are in place at the Fulton County Medical Center to address any issues. Hospital and EMA officials met this week to further discuss the topic.

Local residents are now being encouraged to refrain from visiting long-term care unit residents and patients at the hospital if

they are suffering from a cold or flu-like symptoms.

In Fulton County last Wednesday, almost two dozen area responders, county and hospital officials and other residents received a rather timely lesson on rural emergency preparedness and public health emergencies compliments of the University of Pittsburgh Center for Public Health Preparedness and the local EMA office. Presenters Sherie Wallace and Dave Puposzar pointed out that infectious diseases can often get rolling and may not get documented as quickly in rural areas as in their urban counterparts.

Wallace and Puposzar touched on a variety of natural and technology-related disasters, bioterrorism, pandemics and epidemics. Pandemics, according

to the duo, are categorized as epidemics but on a larger scale, such as spanning several countries or continents, and affect a large portion of the population. References to past pandemic experiences included the Spanish flu pandemic of the early 1900s and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

Puposzar stated the reality for rural communities, such as Fulton County, is that in such instances the cavalry will not be coming. In many cases, he stated, a large percentage of health-care workers will not report to work due to having being inflicted themselves or are caring for loved ones themselves.

"You will be on your own for a while. Maybe indefinitely," said Puposzar.

"What if up to 25 percent of the medical workforce can't or won't respond?" asked Puposzar.

### SF Board Election

From Page One

Morton said.

Mark R. Mosemann

After having had a part in saving the agricultural program at the Central Fulton School District, members of the southern Fulton County community began emerging with suggestions on Mark R. Mosemann working for their own school district in the capacity of board director. Mosemann took their ideas to heart and, backed by his time with the Fulton County Area Vocational-Technical School as a member of the Occupational Advisory Board and Local Advisory Committee, is now one of the five interested candidates battling for four positions on the board.

Mosemann said his diverse background includes experience in leadership, vision and financial know-how, which was gained in part during his time as general manager at Misty Mountain Dairy in Warfordsburg. "I feel one must look at the current situation as well as what the future may bring. Decisions made by the school board today can affect the viability of the school district and the students it has educated well into the future," he stat-

ed. "I am a partner in a large agricultural business and correctly managing money, budgets and financial statements is a daily activity that affects our long-term success."

If elected, Mosemann noted, he would work to ensure the education provided at Southern Fulton prepares youths for the future while doing so in a "financially and ethically responsible manner."

Mosemann, a father of three children ranging between two months in age and seven, concluded he remains opposed to Gov. Ed Rendell's current proposal for school district consolidation due to the lack of public input on actual implementation; lack of significant financial savings; increased transportation times for students; and larger class sizes.

"However, I feel there may be areas we can increase efficiency and extend our money within Fulton County's three districts, such as sharing resources and equipment. Scheduling courses is often a challenge in small districts, but with all three districts working together, perhaps we could achieve an expanded program on a more limited basis where transportation can be managed in a more timely fashion," said Mosemann. "The place to save money with consolidation is by reducing state and fed-

eral bureaucracy in the education system. The system gets more complex each year and the amount of time and paperwork required is increasing at an exponential rate."

Edgar M. Yates

One could say Edgar M. Yates has been a fixture with the Southern Fulton School Board since the early 1990s. Since 1991, Yates has been attending meetings as a concerned member of the public, asking questions and keeping tabs on district spending and policies, and in 2006 joined the board for his first four-year term of office.

Seeking re-election, Yates, who logged 23 years with the U.S. Army military police and 22 years as a federal government security specialist supervisor, stated he displays both common sense and leadership values that are integral attributes for any candidate seeking office as well as a desire to remain open and available to the general public.

"I operate openly as a board member with trust and integrity in a professional manner, treating everyone with civility and respect," said Yates.

Looking back at the last four years, Yates stated that he has given his total support to the professional teaching staff while remaining open to communicating with the local citizens on ongoing issues and, in general, has

enjoyed monitoring overall school operations. Down the road, though, the Needmore resident said he would like to see a reorganization of staff in the area of administration; better and more direct communications with the local community, including senior citizens; and quality education for the children, including special education programming.

In terms of possible improvements or savings through consolidation, Yates stated, he is in agreement with the idea of consolidation to a "certain point." "Administrative costs would be cut in half. Maintenance costs would be cut in half. Contractual costs would be cut in half, and even monies spent on tax collection would be saved," he concluded. "One thing that would prevent me from agreeing with the consolidation would be the change of school district boundaries and district bond investments."

All election candidates have been provided with a mailed questionnaire for compilation by the "News" in anticipation of the May 19 election. The fifth and final candidate for the Southern Fulton School District's Board of Directors is Timothy L. Hull of 5830 Great Cove Road, Needmore. Information requested of Hull was not made available to the "News." He also could not be reached by telephone.

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