

Letters To The Editor

Farmers Just Trying To Make A Living

To The Editor:

This is in response to last week's letter to the editor "Farm Smell Overwhelming in the Borough."

I could not help but to feel distraught over this letter. I have seen all too close how comments and complaints have made it hard, or should I say harder, for small-town farmers to make it in such a world of ridicule. Fulton County is a small community surrounded by farms of all kinds. Sometimes I think some should take a step back and try to reverse the situation as "if the shoe was on the other foot."

Farmers are just trying to make a living as you and everyone else in the community does to support their families. In fact, farming is one of the most traditional ways in this community to make a living. Most just do not understand what it takes to sustain in the farming industry. I do not think for one second that any farmer is not "concerned about their neighbors" or their opinions. If anything it is the complete opposite.

I fully don't understand the comment that was put forth, but

I just can't comprehend how any one farmer is destroying the property value of half the borough of McConnellsburg due to the smell of manure. And, yes, this smell might be unpleasant to some; however, some also might consider it nice country air. I'm sure if you did some research, you might find that many farms close to the borough have been in operation long before you resided in the borough. So maybe that was a mistake on your part.

This is only my opinion. I just don't understand what is so wrong with a person doing their job that is causing no personal harm to you or others. Situations like this, along with many other hurdles that farmers encounter daily, make it more difficult to survive in today's world as a small-town farmer. You just can't please everyone! Someone always has something to say. Will small-town farms become a thing of the past, and will we have to rely on factory farms? I hope not!

Michelle Lynch
Harrisonville

Responds To "Overwhelming Farm Smells"

To The Editor:

In response to the letter written by Ellen Mullenix titled "Farm Smell Overwhelming in Borough," I would like to start by apologizing on behalf of the agricultural community for slight inconveniences that scents bring into your life. The fact that you had to close your windows and use your air conditioning leaves me deeply saddened in a way I cannot begin to describe.

To start, the property values that you think nearby farms destroy is a ludicrous and misguided slight on our community. One, when you bought your property, you knew there were farms nearby. Two, you're actually going to write to the county's only paper and tell us that property values are decreased by local agriculture? One of the only things we have to attract new residents to Fulton County is our lush, rolling hills filled with fresh vegetation. Personally, I've always enjoyed looking out over a field. People move here for those things; if anything, nearby farms help your property value. Three, you live on South First Street in McConnellsburg, odds are your property value wasn't through the roof to speak with.

You to start with "air pollution?" Are you serious about this? Air pollution is not the odor brought on by fecal matter. I suggest you visit nearby Roaring Spring and have fun smelling that town on a humid day - it contains a paper factory. Air pollution is the release of toxic, smog-causing gases into the environment. Unless it is an extremely concentrated dose,

methane is not at all harmful to the human body. Trust me when I tell you by the time you smell the gas from the manure, it is dispersed far beyond any reasonable concern of any person.

The most outrageous thing you say is speaking of collection systems to produce electricity from manure. So you are suggesting that the farmer incurs a large cost for no reason but to save on a small bill each month. I don't think you know that much about agriculture, but I will tell you this, it is not a highly profitable enterprise to undertake. You honestly think that there is value in putting one of these systems into your average family farm? I am one of the most environmentally minded people you will ever meet. The fact that you make an environmental statement like yours to get your point across is a blatant case of "false environmentalism." What you are suggesting is that the farmer not use a natural and organic product like manure to treat his fields but use synthetic chemicals made in a laboratory. Chemicals that are not fully cleansed through the Earth's natural infiltration process, and are not degradable in the traditional sense, will find their way to our local streams and tributaries. That, Ms. Mullenix, is a self-centered argument. Enjoy having your windows closed, learn to live with the smell or move. These are your options.

Joshua Newman
Senior—Agricultural and
Biological Engineering at
Pennsylvania State University
Waterfall, Pa.

Don't Lose Health Insurance Gamble

To The Editor:

Healthcare insurance is a bet, a gamble that you hope not to win. But if you are so unfortunate as to win, you want it to pay off (pay your medical bills). Unfortunately, quite often the rules change when you try to collect. You get too sick to work, lose your job and thus lose your health insurance, and Cobra is too expensive to keep. Or the health insurance companies find

an obscure sign of a pre-existing condition in your medical records and your insurance is cancelled.

On June 11 a group is going to Harrisburg to lobby for a state single-payer system, a system where if you pay into it, you will not lose the gamble. It will pay off. Call 485-3386 or 485-5456 for details.

Ray Messick
McConnellsburg

Farm Smell Puts Food On Tables

To The Editor:

I can relate with the farm smell all to well, for I am a producer of that smell. A fourth-generation farmer doing everything I can to continue putting food on the tables of a starving society. We continue to strive to use the most economical and environmentally sustainable practices available. The most practical solution for odor control would be to eliminate all dairy production, or to raise the price of our products by 300 percent. The cost increase could be justified as followed: 100 percent for the federal government to increase regulations on odor, 100 percent for lawyers to enforce the regulations, 95 percent to fund the projects in order to produce electricity inefficiently, and 5 percent for the producer to achieve the unachievable. This would result in the bankruptcy of the dairy industry, no odor and Chinese dairy products. Now that is such an enlightenment!

Ryan Richards
McConnellsburg

Farm Smells Don't Compare To City Smells

To The Editor:

I read with interest the letter by Ms. Mullenix concerning the farm odors permeating the borough. This is a farm community. The town was built to serve the needs of the farmers of the surrounding area. And guess what farmers do for a living? Yep, you guessed it, they raise livestock - cows, hogs, chickens, horses, sheep, all manner of livestock. These animals must eat, drink and perform the same bodily functions as every other living creature to survive. I would venture to guess Ms. Mullenix doesn't object too strongly to the odors of the steaks and burgers that come from her barbecue grill or kitchen at meal times, all of which are made possible by farmers and their animals.

Thirty-eight years ago my wife and I moved to Fulton County farm Baltimore, and believe me Fulton County has no smell that can even compare to that of exhaust fumes and garbage in the streets. Not to mention the noise of tires squealing, neighbors shouting and sirens blaring. In fact, we kind of like that farm smell.

God bless our farmers,
Brian Tucker
Harrisonville

"News" Readers: FYI

To The Editor:

I notice on page A3 of last week's paper there is a photo of the Fulton Honor Guard during the Memorial Day service at the Union Cemetery with a mention that the gentlemen are standing at attention. Not so, they are standing at parade rest. You'll notice the firearm is being held away from the body with the "troops" in a wide stance and their left hand behind their back - otherwise nice photo!

To put a "plug" in for Fulton County, please pick up a copy of the May/June issue of "Pennsylvania Magazine." Right smack in the middle of the magazine, pages 26 and 27, there is a beautiful view referred to in the magazine as "Best Drive in the South." It shows an east-facing view from the Sideling Hill Mountain, Summit Road hang glider launch site, Fulton County. The view is between Waterfall and Hustontown, with Clear Ridge in the far background. Also in the background is Center United Methodist Church. It is a nice fall scene.

We just mailed our updated subscription check today, so keep up the good work.

Bill Wright
St. Thomas

Clearing The Record

In a front-page story "Ready, Set, Relay For Life" published in last week's edition of The Fulton County News, the vocal group performing at the Relay For Life survivor dinner was incorrectly reported. The story should have stated the Country Christians would perform.

The Fulton County News wants its news reports to be fair and correct in every respect. If you have a question or comment, phone us at 485-4513.

Dr. Matthew Hahn Returns To Hancock

Will set up private practice with Dr. Marilyn Nelson

By Jean Snyder

STAFF WRITER

Dr. Matthew Hahn, former medical director at Tri-State Community Health Center in Hancock, Md., has announced that he will return to Hancock and will open a private practice on July 6 of this year. He will be joined in the practice by fellow family physician Dr. Marilyn Nelson. Their practice will be known as Hahn and Nelson Family Medicine and will be located at 131 N. Pennsylvania Avenue in Hancock.

Hahn's return to Hancock comes just 14 months after he left Tri-State Community Health Center in a dispute with the center's then-director, Leslie Colbese. Hahn was dismissed as the center's medical director, and Colbese is no longer with the center. Hahn's dismissal was followed by an outcry from his patients and citizens of Hancock and the surrounding areas.

Hahn is currently practicing at Shenandoah Community Health Center in Winchester, Va., but he says he wants to re-

turn to Hancock for several reasons. His first reason is that he says he misses his patients, but he also wants to fulfill his dream of operating his own practice. Hahn stated, "I'm very excited to be coming back to care for so many familiar patients. I've missed a lot of people. I've wanted to have my own practice for years, and this seems like the perfect opportunity. We're going to try very hard to provide our patients with the best care possible." Hahn told the "News" that when he practiced at Tri-State, about one-third of his patients were from Fulton County.

In addition, he wants to try out an electronic medical record system that he helped to create. The goal of the system, he says, is improvement in medical care by using an electronic reminder system. Hahn and Nelson Family Medicine will be one of the test sites for the system, which is called Oxbow EMR. "This software helps us keep better patient records, and even helps us make better medical decisions. The most important thing, however, is that it helps us be more efficient, so that we can spend more time doing what matters, taking care

of patients," Hahn said.

Dr. Marilyn Nelson practiced medicine in Vermont from 1981 until relocating to western Maryland in 2007 to be more centrally located to her children, who now live in many different locations. "I am excited about the opportunity to practice quality healthcare in a smaller, more intimate setting. I have always enjoyed taking the time required to get to know my patients, which is hard to do in most practice settings today," she said. Nelson is currently practicing medicine at Tri-State Community Health's Cumberland office.

In order to be able to give better care to their patients, Hahn and Nelson plan on keeping the practice relatively small, and making average appointment times longer, so that patients can have more personal care. "We don't want patients to feel rushed. By keeping the practice smaller, we think we can take better care of people. We're going to limit the number of people," Hahn commented.

Hahn and Nelson Family Medicine will be accepting most insurances. Patients can call now at 301-678-7007 to begin to register and to schedule appointments for July.

Festival

From Page One

485-4064.

Saturday morning is featuring the return of the "Berry Step" dance group at 10:00 a.m. Young people of all ages can be seen on stage performing popular dance routines. Then at noon eight contestants will be stuffing

themselves in pursuit of the hot dog eating championship. Saturday afternoon marks the return of the "berry" fun pet show. To enter each of these contests application forms can be obtained from the chamber office or under the chamber tent.

Persons or groups wishing to rent a vendor space along West Market Street should also contact the chamber office. Twenty-

Pittsburgh

From Page One

offs at JLG to narrate a story of economic hard times in the county.

In addition to the local citizens' accounts, Tribune-Review photographer Sean Stipp captured photos of Fulton County,

including shots of Lincoln Way, a photo of the Lincoln Highway marker at the Fulton House and photos of the commissioners, Richards and Singer.

The article may be accessed at http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/regional/s_627505.html

Robbins told the "News" he chose Fulton County for the

Fire

From Page One

DeShong and Tice were wearing seat belts at the time of the accident, which disabled the tanker truck.

The tanker was eventually set back to rights and removed from the scene by Interstate Towing. Members of the McConnellsburg Volunteer Fire Co. aided state police on the scene with traffic

control.

Meanwhile, additional firefighters from Hustontown and neighboring volunteer companies from Robertsdale, Wood and Broad Top (RW&BT), Three Springs, Saxton, Six Mile Run and Trough Creek arrived on the scene to find the seasonal home of Jeffrey Manley of Arlington, Va., fully engulfed in flames. Additional companies remained on standby.

Utilized as a type of weekend

JLG

From Page One

months.

"We are looking for recalls of those employees in August and September," Stawski said.

The remainder of the layoffs Stawski characterized as "permanent."

Unemployment

From Page One

tionable given the fact that layoffs continue at JLG, the county's number one employer. Although the numbers of those unemployed and of those in the workforce changed from March, the number of people actually employed remained unchanged (1,000) from March. Final April rates will be released at the end of June.

In spite of the small gains, April's, like those for all of 2009 to date, mark the highest rate for Fulton County in 27 years when the April 1982 rate was 27.2 percent, according to Pa. Dept. of Labor and Industry statistics. Fulton County's unemployment rates stayed at 20-25 percent for most of 1982 and 1983.

The seasonally adjusted data for Fulton County for April 2009 showed unemployment at 1,000, with a total labor force of 7,800 for the county. By comparison, the April 2008 unemployment rate for Fulton was only 6.4 percent.

Fulton County's current unemployment rates are markedly higher than both the state and national rates. Pennsylvania's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 7.8 percent for the second consecutive month. Prior to April, the state's unemployment rate had risen for 14 consecutive months. The United States' unemployment rate continued to rise, increasing four-tenths of a point to 8.9 percent in April. Pennsylvania's rate was up 2.8 percentage points from a year earlier, while the U.S. rate was up 3.9 percentage points over the year.

Rankings for Fulton's neighboring counties include Franklin still at number 25 with an unemployment rate of 8 percent,

down one-tenth of a percentage point from March. Franklin is tied for the number 25 slot with Northampton County. Bedford's ranking rose to number 64 with an unemployment rate of 11.8 from number 61 with an unemployment rate of 11.5 in March. Huntingdon County's rate went from 11.1 percent in March (and ranked 60) to 10.8 percent in April but ranked 61.

In April, Centre County once again posted the lowest unemployment rate in the state with 5.7 percent, followed by Chester County with a rate of 6.1 percent.

Pennsylvania's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs count fell by 17,300 jobs, the eighth consecutive month of overall job losses for the state. At 5,654,800, the Pennsylvania job total fell to its lowest level since August 2004. The April job loss was less than half the revised March decline of 36,100 jobs.

Pennsylvania jobs were down 161,900 since April 2008. Since January 2003, the state job count is up 29,100.

four spaces are available and starting to fill up.

The annual festival features lots of delicious strawberry treats: shortcakes, pies, quarts of fresh strawberries and waffles.

The festival begins Friday, June 12, from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and on Saturday, June 13, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Plan to attend for some old-fashioned fun and build community spirit.

story because of the extremely high unemployment rates in Fulton County and in the surrounding counties of Huntingdon and Bedford.

The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, also known as "the Trib" is the second largest daily newspaper serving metropolitan Pittsburgh.

or summer getaway, the 2-1/2 story home as well as Manley's personal belongings were completely destroyed in the blaze.

State police Fire Marshal Trooper M.B. Gordon visited the fire scene during the morning hours on Friday, May 29, to help determine both the origin and cause of the fire. In speaking with the "News," Gordon stated he is still investigating the incident and should have more to report later this week.

the credit market to loosen up, product development continues to take place. Stawski said work continues on new products so that JLG is "ready when the market comes back."

JLG is still the market share leader in access equipment sales, Stawski said. "The company," she said, "is aggressively going after sales."

Senior Centers Announce Farmer's Market Check Dates

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program checks will be available Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., at the senior centers throughout the county. Vouchers will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis until the supply is exhausted. To receive vouchers you must be a county resident and meet the income guidelines of \$20,036 for a one-person household or \$26,955 for a two-person household. You are eligible to receive one set of vouchers per calendar year.

The following is a list of centers where the vouchers will be available: McConnellsburg Senior Center, 100 Woodside Drive, McConnellsburg; Hustontown Senior Center, 387 Cole Road, Hustontown; and Warfordsburg Senior Center, 209 Long Hollow Road, Warfordsburg.

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"The family suggests that memorial contributions be made to the American Heart Association."

When people want to honor a loved one and fight heart disease.

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