

# Letters To The Editor

## Respect The Flag, Take Care Of It

To The Editor:  
As I drive around Fulton County and surrounding areas I see a lot of faded and torn flags. These flags need replaced. If you don't want to replace them at least take them down. Take them to a VFW or American Legion where they

can be retired properly.  
We have enough people in this country disrespecting the flag. Let's not be one of them. Show respect for the flag and be proud to be an American.

Ted Hall  
U.S. Army vet  
and proud of it

# Topper Extends Hours At Mercersburg Office

### SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

The hours of operation will be extended at Rep. Jesse Topper's (R-Bedford/Franklin/Fulton) Mercersburg office, located inside Mercersburg Borough Hall, at 113 S. Main St., starting Thursday, Sept. 6. The office will be open every Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

"The Mercersburg office was opened late last year to assist residents with state-related issues," Topper said. "Since then, the number of visits to the office has greatly increased and the need for additional hours to better serve the people of the 78th District was evident."

Topper's offices, which are also located in Bedford and McConnellsburg, can provide assistance with a variety of state

issues and programs, including:  
Driver's license and vehicle registration applications and renewals.

Assistance with PennDOT paperwork (lost cards, changes, corrections, special registration plates, farm plates and exemption stickers, vanity plates and placards for persons with disabilities).

Assistance regarding birth certificates.

PACE and PACENET applications for seniors.

Property tax and rent rebate applications.

State tax forms.

Referrals to agencies.

Residents with questions should call Topper's Bedford office at 814-623-9097, or his McConnellsburg office at 717-485-4430.

## SFSD

### From Page One

change from sole proprietor Lynda Strait to LS Strait Transportation LLC. The board approved Fischer's Garage as the inspection site and the month of November for the third inspection during years 16 and 17 of bus contract agreements.

**Grounds**  
The board agreed to allow Girl Scout Troop 80338 to use the elementary parking lot on Friday, Oct. 26, from 6-8 p.m. for their second annual trunk-or-treat event.

**Agreements**  
Approval was given to the Authorization and Waiver of Liability Agreement for Parent to Act as Aide Agreement, the Parent Transportation Agreement with SFSD, the agreement for the Pre-K Counts grant between the Pennsylvania Department of Education and SFSD, and an agreement for behavioral sup-

port and educational services between SFSD and Extended Family Programs Inc. and Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8. Approval was also given to the Memorandum of Understanding between SFSD and the SFEA (Southern Fulton Education Administration) for the district to hire two pre-K teachers for one year.

The following board members were present: Patrick Bard, Jeff Hull, Eric Barnhart, Richard Morgan, Timothy Mellott, Mark Mosemann, Donnie Gordon, Kirk Layton, and Allen Morton. The meeting was conducted by board President Allen Morton. Also present were Tara Will, superintendent; Meredith Hendershot, high school principal; Kathy Cutchall, elementary principal; Diane Younker, special education director; Doug Leisher, technology specialist; Debra Schetrompf, business manager; and MaryAnn Johnson, board secretary. Visitors present were Carol Shoemaker, Dorothy Hixon, and Lori Bard.

# Commissioners Recognize September As National Recovery Month



**Fulton County commissioners** and mental health professionals proclaim September as National Recovery Month. Pictured, left: James Eagler, Franklin Fulton Drug & Alcohol; Melanie Irwin, Gaudenzia; Jack Elvey, Tri-State Community Health; Alanna Fletcher, community member; Teresa Hess, Tri-State Community Health; Ali Washabaugh, Gaudenzia; Pete Lynch, Fulton County commissioner; April Brown, Franklin Fulton Drug & Alcohol; Stuart Ulsh, Fulton County commissioner; Rodney McCray, Fulton County commissioner; Mike Straley, FCMC Foundation; Dan Miller, chief probation officer; Drew Washabaugh, probation officer.

## AMISH

### From Page One

Now 37 and living in New York City, Bontrager earlier this year created the Amish Heritage Foundation, a milestone in fulfilling her childhood vow.

It is registered as a nonprofit, and a board has been formed; its application for tax-exempt status is pending.

Working with Bontrager is Elam Zook, a Lancaster County man who left the Amish church and serves as the foundation's director for the development of Amish literature.

Bontrager and Zook describe the foundation's mission as "reclaiming our Amish story."

They aim to lower the barriers between the Amish and the outside world, and to bring the voices of formerly compliant Amish like themselves into discussions of the culture. Those voices, they say, have been marginalized and ignored until now.

On Sept. 28 and 29, the foundation will hold its inaugural conference in the Lisa Bonchek Adams Auditorium at Franklin & Marshall College. The college is a co-sponsor; F&M anthropology professor Michael Billig is among the speakers.

The lineup, Bontrager said, is "stellar," with nationally recognized names in law, religion, entrepreneurship and human rights.

### The plain truth

According to Bontrager and Zook, scholars and the media have perpetuated a "myth" of Amish society as largely idyllic and harmonious.

"Everybody's vested in this myth," Zook said, even the

Amish themselves.

Bontrager readily acknowledges Amish life has its pluses: reverence for hard work done well, self-reliance, a commitment not only to family and community but to welcoming strangers and helping the needy.

But there is far more dysfunction in Amish life than is generally acknowledged, she and Zook say.

Wisconsin v. Yoder, the 1972 U.S. Supreme Court decision that allowed the Amish to forgo compulsory education after eighth grade, was a crucial wrong turn, Zook said.

It froze Amish culture in time and created "an embrace of ignorance," he said: "It's what sealed our fate."

Bontrager and Zook say the Amish are taught not to question church leaders or biblical authority.

At minimum, that limits Amish young people's opportunities for personal growth and informed choice - a direct betrayal of the premise of adult baptism, Zook said.

The two also say it has provided cover for widespread physical, emotional and sexual abuse of women and children.

Bontrager says she herself was assaulted both as a child and later by ex-Amish relatives.

"It's rampant," she said, but incidents are usually hushed up and victims are pressured to forgive their attackers.

Occasionally a case goes public. In 2004, Mary Byler went to legal authorities after years of rape by her brothers. They pleaded guilty, but her community condemned her action and excommunicated her.

Byler is on the foundation's board; an interview with her will be featured at the conference.

While individual cases of

abuse are well-documented, opinions regarding its prevalence in Amish communities vary considerably. Even in mainstream society, gathering accurate data on abuse is difficult; for the Amish, no reliable statistics are available.

Steve Nolt, senior scholar at the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College, said the center plans to have a faculty member attend the conference.

He declined to comment on the foundation's views of Amish scholarship, saying: "The conference will hopefully provide some new insights and fresh perspectives, which are always welcome."

### Outreach and assistance

Going forward, the foundation plans to roll out a broad range of social services for ex-Amish seeking to build new lives: counseling, health services, education, entrepreneurship programs and more.

The goal would be to base services near Amish communities in the Lancaster area and elsewhere.

Resources will be available to people who leave the Amish, and to those who choose to remain, Bontrager said.

In contrast to evangelical Christian organizations that seek converts among the Amish, the foundation's orientation is firmly secular, grounded in enlightenment principles of rationality and humanism, Bontrager and Zook said.

Bontrager said she is speaking with potential donors and hopes to have the foundation operating on a multimillion-dollar budget in a few years.

"The need is that great," she said.

VISIT US ON THE WEB  
fultoncountynews.com



## THE FULTON COUNTY NEWS

### County Seat Weekly Newspaper

417 E. Market Street,  
P.O. Box 635  
McConnellsburg, PA 17233

U.S. PUBLICATION NO. 211820

Periodicals Postage Paid at  
McConnellsburg, PA 17233

Postmaster, Send Changes Of Address To:

P.O. Box 635, McConnellsburg, PA 17233

JAMIE GREATHEAD  
EDITOR & PUBLISHER

AUDREY GREATHEAD  
1921-2001  
EDITOR EMERITA

LINDSAY R. MELLOTT  
COPY EDITOR  
CASSIDY PITTMAN

TRUDY GELVIN  
MADISON ROMIG  
DAVID GREGORY

PRODUCTION STAFF

717-485-3811 OR 485-4513 FAX: 717-485-5187

E-mail: fultoncountynews@comcast.net www.fultoncountynews.com



\$30 In Fulton County



\$33 In Pennsylvania

\$38 Out Of State

Colorectal Cancer Screening Saves Lives

"Now THAT I understand."

If you're over 50, get tested for colorectal cancer.

Polyps and colorectal cancer don't always cause symptoms. That's why screening is so important... screening helps find precancerous polyps, so they can be removed before they turn into cancer.

See your doctor and get screened.