



## Merge fire companies

To the residents of Paradise Township: Nobody likes a tax, but a fire tax is good and fair -- except that the one being currently considered is an occupation tax. Just another way for the township to bleed money from you.

A fire tax is good for the fire companies so they don't need to spend time running benefit breakfasts, beef dinners and bingo. They have enough to do putting out fires and training.

In Paradise Township within the past 20 years, there has been talk that the fire companies should be more efficient -- due to their continual dwindling manpower. The township bought land for that purpose. Paradise Township supports two fire companies for 1,554 households.

Let's merge these two fire companies that cover only 18.6 square miles. Let's not continue the gridlock here in Paradise Township that has paralyzed Washington.

**Donald J. Holler, Paradise**

## Defends the GOP

In response to Jake Caldwell's letter Dec. 2:

I agree that the GOP needs to wake up, but you should know that it was the Democratic South that birthed the Ku Klux Klan. And that the Civil Rights bill would never have passed for LBJ if it weren't for Republicans. Even Mr. Climate Change Al Gore's daddy voted against it.

I would like every woman who thinks that there was a war on women to watch a partial birth

abortion and come out thanking God and the Democrats for such a right. I could never understand that the same people who fight for abortions will protest an execution of a child rapist/killer.

As far as so-called racist attacks on immigrants, all [the GOP is] asking is that immigrants come legally.

Romney and the Republicans are for trickle up economy because the government has gotten way too big. They don't understand why 47 percent would rather collect than contribute.

This was not the way this country was supposed to run. It is not so much that Republicans need to wake up, but it's the people who do not know their history or how to shake off this malaise that has been with this country since Woodrow Wilson. The GOP wants to honor the Constitution and the republic, not tear it down.

**J. Rich Coble, Marietta**

## Not entitlements. Earned

Why do politicians and newspapers keep calling Social Security and Medicare entitlements? Everyone who receives these benefits has paid for them with insurance premiums that were withheld from their paychecks for their entire work lives.

Their employers have shared in paying these insurance premiums. Social Security and Medicare are insurance benefits not entitlements. After paying for many years and finally qualifying (by getting old or becoming disabled), the beneficiaries finally receive the

benefits, not entitlements, they have paid for with their premiums.

Every time the word entitlement is used, it implies that something is being given without having been paid for by the recipient. This makes it easier for politicians to reduce "entitlements" as opposed to reducing "earned benefits."

The government got into the insurance business, built up reserves, and then "borrowed" from these reserves instead of paying for other expenses with tax income. Any other insurance company would not be allowed to do this.

Please stop telling me that I am not entitled to receive the full level of benefits that I have paid premiums to earn (emphasize earn) for the last 45 years, because the government misused my premiums.

**Eugene Blaettler**, West Hempfield Township