

Dallas scholastic bowl team loses to Bloomsburg

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

After winning the first round in Channel 16 WNEP's Scholastic Bowl, the Dallas High team bowed to Bloomsburg 300-130 in the second round, held January 12.

"We just couldn't get to the buzzer fast enough," said team member Gerri Searfoss.

Faculty member Wayne Hughes, advisor for the team, was strongly committed to coaching the members. He said he will begin building next year's team with practice sessions at the beginning of the second semester at the end of this month.

Among his plans for next year

Hughes intends to coordinate practice more closely with class activities. He also plans to have extensive, improved competition in selecting the team members.

Despite losing the second round, coaches and administrators commended the students for their fine showing and appearance on the air. "They knew the answers to most of the questions. They just weren't fast enough in hitting the buzzer," said Hughes.

Gail Smallwood of College Misericordia, Scholarship Bowl sponsor, interviewed the students and Hughes extensively to determine continued sponsorship. She indicated she was very pleased with the students' responses.



Pack 281 visits the Dallas Post

Members of Cub Scout Pack #281, Den 6 visited the Dallas Post last week to learn about newspapers. The youngsters were shown how news stories, advertisements and photographs are made for the paper. Each youngster was also given a greeting made on the computers at the paper. The group is shown above looking on as composing manager Paul Rismiller demonstrates the computers. From left are: Jeff Kosakowski, Den Leader Barbara Zimmiski, David Werts, Paul Mizenko, Rismiller, Nick Zimmiski, and Jake Walter. (Post Photo/Ron Bartizek)

Moreck loses round of court fight

By RICH JOHNSON
Staff Writer

A Luzerne County judge has turned down a developer's request to overturn Kingston Township's denial of his request for a zoning variance. Jack Moreck had asked the township's zoning board in October to grant the variance for property around a barn located along Harris Hill Road. Moreck wants to use the barn, which is located in an agricultural zone, as an office, shop and storage space for his construction business.

A hearing was held last week before Judge Patrick Toole on Moreck's request to send the matter back before the zoning hearing board.

Moreck argued that the zoning hearing board did not allow him a complete opportunity to produce all the evidence in the matter.

In October, Moreck went before the board in an effort to gain a variance. At that time, the board denied the request saying that it was contrary to zoning ordinances and that Moreck did not justify the need for a variance.

Last week Moreck's attorney, Chris Decker, argued that Moreck had no representation when he went before the township and was not fully aware of his rights at the zoning hearing. Decker said that the hearing board did not give Moreck the full opportunity to testify himself or cross-examine witnesses who opposed the variance.

Robert Opel, the solicitor for the zoning hearing board, told Judge Toole that an opportunity was given to Moreck but he did not take it. "The board did hold the hearing in

a proper procedure and was not adversarial to Mr. Moreck at all," said Opel. "It was a voluntary tactical decision to appear without council and the zoning hearing board should not be penalized by this."

Judge Toole agreed with Opel, saying that Moreck had an opportunity to speak. "Can you show me one place in the record where the board refused him a chance to speak?" Toole asked Decker.

The attorney responded by saying that the tempo of the hearing and way in which testimony was presented did not allow Moreck a fair opportunity.

Toole said that the record did not show where Moreck was prohibited from testimony during the hearing. "He was provided a chance to testify in the fact he was given a hearing," said Toole. "It was a voluntary decision to show up with no counsel and I can't allow a remand because it would benefit a layman to not get counsel."

Toole added that if he would allow this argument then others would benefit from it also. "People would not use counsel and if they won fine. If they lost then they would come back to the court and say 'I didn't have counsel' and I can't allow that."

Decker also argued that the decision by the zoning hearing board was made without sufficient evidence. "The decision is confusing and the statement made by the board was a conclusion that had no basis from the testimony given," he said. He added that the new evidence that Moreck had would help meet the requirements of the board.

Opel said that there was no

indication that there was new evidence and added that "...the proof of burden was on Mr. Moreck and he did not satisfy the requirements."

Moreck addressed the court and said he believed that he met the requirements with his testimony. "None of these statements appeared in the board's findings," Moreck told Judge Toole.

Toole asked Moreck what the requirements for a variance were and when Moreck could not answer the judge stated, "If you can't tell me what the requirements are then you can't tell me you satisfied the requirements."

Toole said that the zoning board would not find in favor of Moreck if there was not enough evidence provided. "I would hold you to the same standards that I would hold an attorney," Toole told Moreck. "The board can't make findings if there is not evidence to support the case."

Even though the remand for a new hearing was denied, Moreck and the township will probably be meeting in court in the future. An appeal of the variance decision is pending in the courts.

According to Opel the recent decision has no effect on the appeal except that no additional testimony can be offered.

Moreck has also hinted that other legal action may take place in an effort to get his business in the township. Since the October action, Kingston Township has denied two requests from Moreck for a zoning change on the 35 acres of property around the barn. Moreck has denounced both decisions and said that legal action may be pending.

Rec Center

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as borough manager, could be there more.

Mrs. Eyet also said members of the group had heard that budgetary constraints had played a part in the action. Although they understood fiscal constraints of the borough, the parents found it difficult to believe that nowhere in the budget could the council find the small amount of money which they paid Wolensky. If not, she said the residents were willing to accept an increase in millage or if taxes could not be raised, suggested that a registration fee be assessed for each child to cover Wolensky's salary. Another alternative would be to allow the group as a committee to conduct a fundraiser to pay the salary, she said.

"We ask you tonight to reconsider this decision and to please make a commitment to our children by reinstating Mr. Wolensky," Mrs. Eyet said.

Other mothers at the meeting also spoke on behalf of Wolensky and how well he worked with their children and the programs he had initiated.

Borough Council president Tim Carroll said the council would take the residents' concerns back to the recreation committee. In answer to a request that some of the citizens sit on the committee, Carroll said that could not be done but Robert Brown, chairman of the recreation committee spoke up and said, "I have no problem with having two or three of the group sitting down with me on a sub-committee in April to discuss the playground, then take their input back to the committee for consideration."

Borough Solicitor John Fine recommended that the citizens meet and appoint delegates and contact Mr. Brown for a date when he will sit down with them to discuss their input.

When asked by the group if the playground budget had been decreased, Carroll told them the allocation had been cut to \$9,000 from \$10,200 yearly.

"We cut appropriations from just about every category of the budget," said Carroll.

In other business the council approved a resolution to authorize Dallas Area Municipal Authority to initiate a municipal collection system for trash and recyclables in cooperation with Dallas and Kingston townships.

Appointed Charles Shurites of Dallas as a full time road employee to replace Donald Chamberlain, who has been accepted for disability. Shurites will begin Feb. 4.

Appointed Brian Feeny and Doug Higgins as part-time police officers, both having their Act 120 certificates.

The solicitor reported that he received a letter from James Post stating that he had agreed to a contract with Fitch & Sons to take down the Hearthstone Pub for approximately \$25,000. The solicitor said he had talked with Post's attorney who said he is trying to iron out a title problem between the present owner and Post.

Manager Milt Lutsey reported that PennDOT had approved a wigwag light to be placed on Route 309 along the side of the road in the vicinity of the Rite Aid drug store. He said he was going to contact PennDOT about filling in some of the rumble strips as they had said they would do in the past.

Children

(continued from page 1)

from here. Some of the classes have had programs including service men coming in to speak to them."

More detailed action is being directed at children who seem to be most affected by the outbreak of hostilities.

"Since the war started our guidance counselor Ed Mashas has been taking the names of the children who have been exhibiting serious concerns," Tetschner said.

"I have seen several children to date," said Mashas. "Parents of the children are welcome to contact me and request that I see their sons or daughters. Most of those I have talked with so far are third, fourth or fifth grade students. Our priority now are the concerns of the students. I have been trying more on a one to one basis. Some children are not bothered at all by the crisis."

Ms. Tetschner recommended that parents keep up their regular routine and monitor the television programs the children watch.

"Mr. Rogers has been having some good spots on TV to help the children," Ms. Tetschner said.

Samuel Barbose, principal at Westmoreland Elementary, said they have about 41 students with relatives either in the Mideast or mobilized ready to depart for the region.

"Since the war started we have locked the doors to the building in order to give the children a feeling of protection. We have also contacted the parents for permission to ask the children to sit in on group sessions if they want to," Barbose said. "Our teachers also answer any questions the children have in the classrooms. If the children want to talk about the war or someone in their family who has gone to the Mideast, the teachers give that priority."

"Our guidance counselor Debbie Hadzor has had only three or four students with any serious concerns to date," Barbose said.

Schools in the Lake-Lehman district have also instituted measures to aid children who are frightened or confused by the war.

Charles James, principal at Lehman-Jackson Elementary School, said they have been showing the "For Kids Sake" tape at regular intervals. "We stop everything and let them watch television. They also have an opportunity to see the Mr. Rogers spots."

"The teachers discuss a lot of the students concerns within the classrooms. That is where the students seem to feel most comfortable talking about it. The teachers answer their questions without going into complex explanations but by being truthful in short, simple answers," James explained.

Like Ms. Tetschner, James does not believe children should be allowed to keep watching the news on television. He believes their regular routine should be followed as much as possible.

Maryann Blessner, a guidance counselor, said she has had only a few third grade students come to her with concerns to date, but expects there will be more as the conflict continues.

Mrs. Debbie Phillips, guidance counselor at Lake-Noxen Elementary, said several of the students have relatives in Saudi Arabia.

"I talk with them in individual or group sessions," she said. "Next week we will open up group sessions for all who want to attend. Each of our class teachers are talking with the children and using maps or globes to indicate the countries and the distance they are from our country."

"We have two display cases in the front entrance and the students have made every item that is on display. All of the items relate to the Mideast, which has helped the children a lot."

"The nurse said she has seen a lot of children absent from school during the last week and believes it might be because of undue stress. She also has had quite a few coming in to her and expressing concerns and she has discussed their concerns in a way that they usually are satisfied," Mrs. Phillips explained.

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