



The handiest homemakers

Susan and Greg Stiles of Jackson Township were recently named the winners of the Back Mountain Citizens Council Home Beautification Award, co-sponsored by The Dallas Post. Shown from left are Ron Bartizek, editor and publisher of The Dallas Post, Susan Stiles, Chelsey Paige Stiles, Greg Stiles, and Nancy Eckert, president of the Back Mountain Citizens Council. In the foreground is Gregory Stiles.

Furloughs

(continued from page 1)

representing the school district, objected to the relevance of the teachers testimony.

"What is not at issue is whether or not in the opinion of a few teachers and association members, were the program changes good or bad," said Jones.

Instead, Jones said that the point of the hearing was to determine if four criteria in the state's law on furloughing teachers were met.

Under the Public School Code, the law provides that teachers can be furloughed because of: "Curriculum or alteration of the educational program on recommendation of the superintendent, concurred in by the board of school directors, approved by the Department of Education, as a result of substantial decline in class of course enrollments or to conform with standards of organization or educational activities required by law or recommended by the Department of Education."

The law also provides that teachers may be furloughed because of declining enrollment or consolidation of schools.

The first three criteria, the recommendation of the superintendent, concurrence by the school board, and approval by the Department of Education, have been met irrefutably, said Jones.

"The last criteria, (to conform with standards of organization of educational activities). It means that a public school district has the inherent right to make changes to improve the efficiency of education," said Jones.

Attorney Charles Herring, representing the furloughed teachers argued that in this case, efficiency, not education, was at the root of the school districts decision to furlough the teachers.

"They are the experts in their departments," said Herring, refer-

ring to the department heads who testified. "I would think that the administration would have talked with the experts regarding curtailment. They didn't do that because the programs were cut for budgetary reasons."

Understaffed, say teachers

"With the way it has impacted the English Department, I cannot believe they are educationally sound," said Donald Hopkins, English teacher, and chair of the English Department of the program changes which resulted in the furloughs.

Hopkins said that many English teachers are now teaching six classes a semester, in contrast to the five which they previously taught.

"Teachers are teaching six class and also assigned to supervise the writing lab. In effect they have a seventh class. We are more than willing to staff that computer lab," said Hopkins, but "when we offered to do it, it was with the understanding they'd have five classes."

"We have a minimum of four teachers in the system who are teaching classes which they never taught before," said Hopkins.

Hopkins and the other department heads called to testify said they were not consulted before the program changes.

In contrast to what Dallas Superintendent Gerald Wycallis testified at the previous night's hearing, Hopkins said the journalism course did have enough students to roster a class.

"Traditionally in the past, we have rostered the course at 13 and after the start of the year, the course size increased to 18," said Hopkins, who added that he was told in August that the course would not be taught because the teachers were moved to the Middle School.

Jones pointed out that Hopkins

was teaching five classes this semester, the same as last, and he had an average of 21 students instead of 23 last year.

To which Hopkins replied, "In recent memory I cannot remember having a class of 30 students which I have now."

Hopkins claimed that teachers have to little time to prepare for classes and correct papers.

"You have five periods of 45 minutes. That consumes about 50 percent of your time. Why is there so little time?" asked Jones.

"If you can locate that 50 percent of my time period," said Hopkins. "I would be thrilled to pass that on to my students."

John Turner, department chair for History and Social Studies, agreed that curriculum changes had hurt educational programs.

"The department's program has been altered by the disruption of the core subjects in the Middle School, primarily geography," Turner said. "As one of the core subjects we have had a negative impact because of manpower - the personnel staffing - it can no longer be as writing intensive as it once was."

Turner added that this is the first semester the history department has had a class with more than 30 students - and next semester there will be a class with more than 40 students.

Home economics has also suffered, according to its department head.

"My concentration was with textiles - that's gone. We're not using the sewing machines this year," testified Levada Riggins,

home economics teacher and department chair. "It's been cut in half. I'm teaching the same number of students but I'm not two people."

"I did ask Mr. Wycallis, if the money was restored would the home economics be restored, and he said yes," testified Riggins.

budgetary reasons. It was at her residence. I asked to meet her."

Schuler also said Wycallis met with her and told her that her position would be cut because of budget cuts.

"At a board meeting in June, Mr. (Clarence) Michael gave a very impassioned plea to contact our legislators to do something because of the district's budget crisis," testified Catherine Wega. "We sat at another meeting where it was bantered back and forth who was to be cut. They went around the table and discussed us. There were talking about millage."

"In the last week of June I recall a statement made by Mr. (John) George. I recall he said if the millage could be raised to a certain amount, the teachers would be kept," testified Paul Brown. "The comment was made that he would go to 17 mills if my position would be kept."

Waiting for the outcome

In his closing arguments, Herring said "I think the board has been overly involved in the program curtailment and overstepped its bounds. We're very fortunate that the damages have been minimal because most of the teachers are working or on sabbatical leave. You can bring them back."

Jones maintained that the testimony of the teachers was irrelevant because the law was adhered to.

"It is immaterial to these proceedings whether they happen to disagree with the decision made by the administration, the board, and most importantly, approved by the Department of Education," said Jones. "The teachers evidence did nothing to refute that. All that represents in my opinion is an opinion which contradicts the opinion of the administration."

Attorney Robert Panowicz acted as hearing officer for the school board and announced that the board will vote on the issue within the next 60 days.

If the school board does not decide in the teachers' favor, they can appeal the decision to the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas, with the exception of Nancy Ferko, who would appeal to the state Secretary of Education.

Property transfers

Property transfers recorded at the Luzerne County Court House from October 8, 1991 to October 24, 1991. Prices are extrapolated from transfer taxes paid. Many transfers, such as those between family members, are exempt from tax, so no amounts are shown.

Hale Bronson to Donna J. Tamagnini, RR 2, Hunlock Creek, property 5.56 ac., Lehman Twp.

Leo Milbrodt to Leo Milbrodt, Box 3102, RR 4, Dallas, property Lake Twp.

Charles A. Wilson to Marion E. Wilson, RD 5, Memorial Hwy., Dallas, property Carr Avenue, Dallas Twp.

Estate J. Nobel to Joyce N. Northrop, 129 Overbrook Rd., Dallas, property Overbrook Rd., Dallas Twp.

Robert Dale to Guy T. Martin, Halowich Rd., Harveys Lake, property Rte. 679, Lake Twp., \$1,000.

Mary Huray to David P. Huray, 7 W. Franklin St., Shavertown, property W. Franklin St., Kingston Twp.

John C. Devlin to Marilyn H. Devlin, RR 1, Box 195, Dallas, property LR 40002, Dallas Twp.

John C. Devlin to John C. Devlin, RR 1, Box 195, Dallas, property Dallas Borough.

Lee Sorbers to Ambrose J. Meletsky Jr., Noxen Rd., Harveys Lake, property Harveys Lake, \$104,000.

Wm. Cave to Joseph E. Kelly, 4 Downing Dr., Dallas, property Downing Dr., Dallas Twp., \$171,500.

Wm. Motyka to Anne Neyhard, RR 4, Box 539, Dallas, property Laurel Dr., Lehman Twp.

James C. Barrall to James L. Ashton, RR 4, Box 352, Harveys

Lake, property Hunt St., Harveys Lake, \$67,000.

Sylvester Kuchinkas to Bert Brace, RD 2, Box 223, Dallas, property, 1.59 ac., Lake Louise Hills, Franklin Twp., \$12,000.

Jay Elliot Coplan to Richard M. Polachek, 67 Harris Hill Rd., Kingston Twp., property Harris Hill Rd., Kingston Twp., \$116,500.

Errol Richard O'Brien to Errol Richard O'Brien, Box 288, Lake Louise Rd., Franklin Twp., property Franklin Twp.

Estate Joseph Trojan to Bernard Dalmas, 538 E. Main St., Nanticoke, property Crossen Rd., Lehman Twp.

Henry J. Funke to John G. Frank, RD 1, Box 337A, Harveys Lake, property Worden Ave., Harveys Lake, \$1,000.

John W. Manley to Kristen Schuler, 45 Hazletine St., Shavertown, property Hazletine St., Kingston Twp.

John W. Manley to John W. Manley, PO Box 1306, Jupiter, Fla., property Hazletine St., Kingston Twp.

John W. Manley to Kristin Schuler, 45 Hazletine St., Shavertown, property Hazletine St., Kingston Twp., \$10,000.

Charles E. Kishbaugh to Shirley Kishbaugh, RD 4, Box 630, Dallas, property 1.808 ac., Twp. Rd. 820, Dallas Twp.

Estate Joseph Trojan to Edward Dalmas, 158 W. Greene St., Nanticoke, property Crossen Rd., Lehman Twp.

Estate Joseph Trojan to Leonard Dalmas, RR 2, Box 220A, Shickshinny, property Crossen Rd., Lehman Twp.

Ernest K. Stephenson to Robert M. Stephens, 5 Fox Hollow Dr., Dallas, property Fox Hollow Dr., Dallas Twp., \$150,000.

William Traigus to Edmund C. Traigus, Hillcrest Dr., Gouldsboro, property Harveys Lake.

Thomas J. Delehanty to David G. Kapral, 59 Harford St., Shavertown, property L33, Sherwood Forest, Harford Ave., Kingston Twp., \$108,000.

Stacia Ann Feddock to Terry G. Jones, RD 3, Box 151, Harveys Lake, property 2 parcels, Harveys Lake.

Robert P. Preddy Jr. to Regina D. Maguire, Box 245, Lake Rd., Bear Creek, property 5.48 ac., Kingston Twp.

Estate Fred Hodle, Cynthia Hodle, Ext., to Charles P. Healy, 79 Willow St., Wilkes-Barre, property Jackson Twp., \$60,000.

James Wisniewski to Charles B. O'Hara III, RD 6, Box 28B, Tunkhannock, property Greycliff Dr., Dallas Boro, \$38,000.

Donald J. Jones to Jack E. Field, RR 2, Box 318, Lehman, property Lehman Twp., \$78,000.

Michael J. Prude to Laporte Inc., One Woodlawn Green, Suite 240, Charlotte, NC, property Genoa Lane, Kingston Twp., \$250,000.

Wayne K. Fritz to Michael McGris, RD 3, Dudley Rd., Harveys Lake, property Dudley Ave., Harveys Lake, \$21,500.

Thomas F. Metz to Alex Zajkowski, RR 1, Box 71S, Shickshinny property Ross Twp.

Floyd Milbrodt to Joseph Milbrodt, RD 4, Box 312A, Dallas, property 2.0 acres, Lehman Twp., \$2,000.

Floyd Milbrodt to Joseph Milbrodt, RD 4, Box 312A, Dallas, property 2.29 ac., Harveys Lake, \$2,000.

Don Rood to Wm. F. Rehring, 67 Kingwood Dr., Dallas, property Kingwood Dr., Dallas Twp., \$2,500.

Lee Sorbers to Wm. C. Rechar, 152D Grove St., Harveys Lake, property 142D Grove St., Harveys Lake, \$42,900.

Gertrude Distasio to Robert Distasio, RD 2, Box 211, Hunlock Creek, property Lehman Twp.

Jerome F. Fabian to James C. Barrall, RR 4, Box 352, Dallas, property E. Meadow St., Jackson Twp., \$119,500.

Ledge Road Realty Co. to John Carl Sobek, property Blueberry Hill Rd., Jackson Twp., \$15,000.

Robert D. Powell to Marlene A. Powell, property 3.00 ac., Lehman Twp.

Martha Eleanor Schell Fontanese to William Schell, 4695 Earl Dr., Harrisburg, property Lake Twp.

Wm. Schell to Laura Mae Deater, RR, Box 50, Noxen, property, 1.00 acres Lake Twp., \$3,000.

Wm. Schell to Carl E. Montross, RR, Box 50, Noxen, property 1.00 ac., Lake Twp., \$3,000.

Flamar Realty Inc. to Gregg Potorak, Lot #9, Highland Rd., Shavertown, property Highland Rd., Kingston Twp., \$36,200.

Thomas J. Callahan to Thomas J. Callahan, RD 1, Box 28A, Harveys Lake, property Baird St., Harveys Lake.

John A. Moreck to Dominick Trombetta, 613 William St., Pittston, property Green Rd., Kingston Twp., \$35,000.

Robert J. Brecik to Andrew Koczynski, 14 Woodside Dr., Dallas, property 4.378 ac., Jackson Twp., \$25,000.

Mary C. Llewellyn to Edward W. Hartman, 17 Richard Dr., Dallas Twp., property L17, Bluff Pointe, Dallas Twp., \$88,000.

Money the real motivation?

Herring also called several other teachers who said that they were told by school board members or by Wycallis that the furloughs were made for budgetary reasons.

Margaret Schuler testified that board member Ellen Nagy told her "that the cuts were made for purely

Noxen Methodist Church will hold supper

Noxen Methodist Church will hold a Turkey Supper and Bazaar, November 2. Serving begins at 4:30 p.m. Adult, \$6; children under 12, \$3.

THE DALLAS POST

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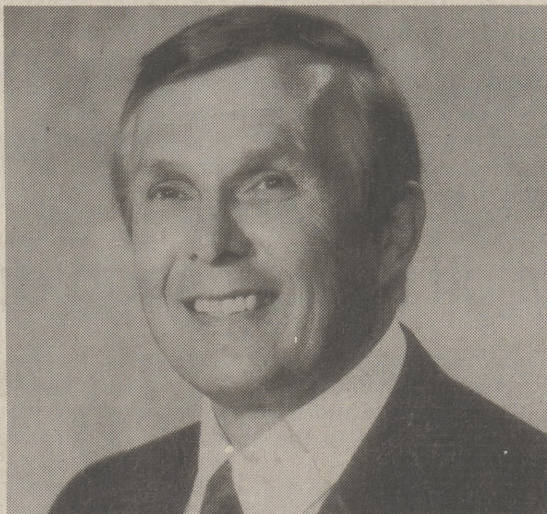
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