

Special meeting -

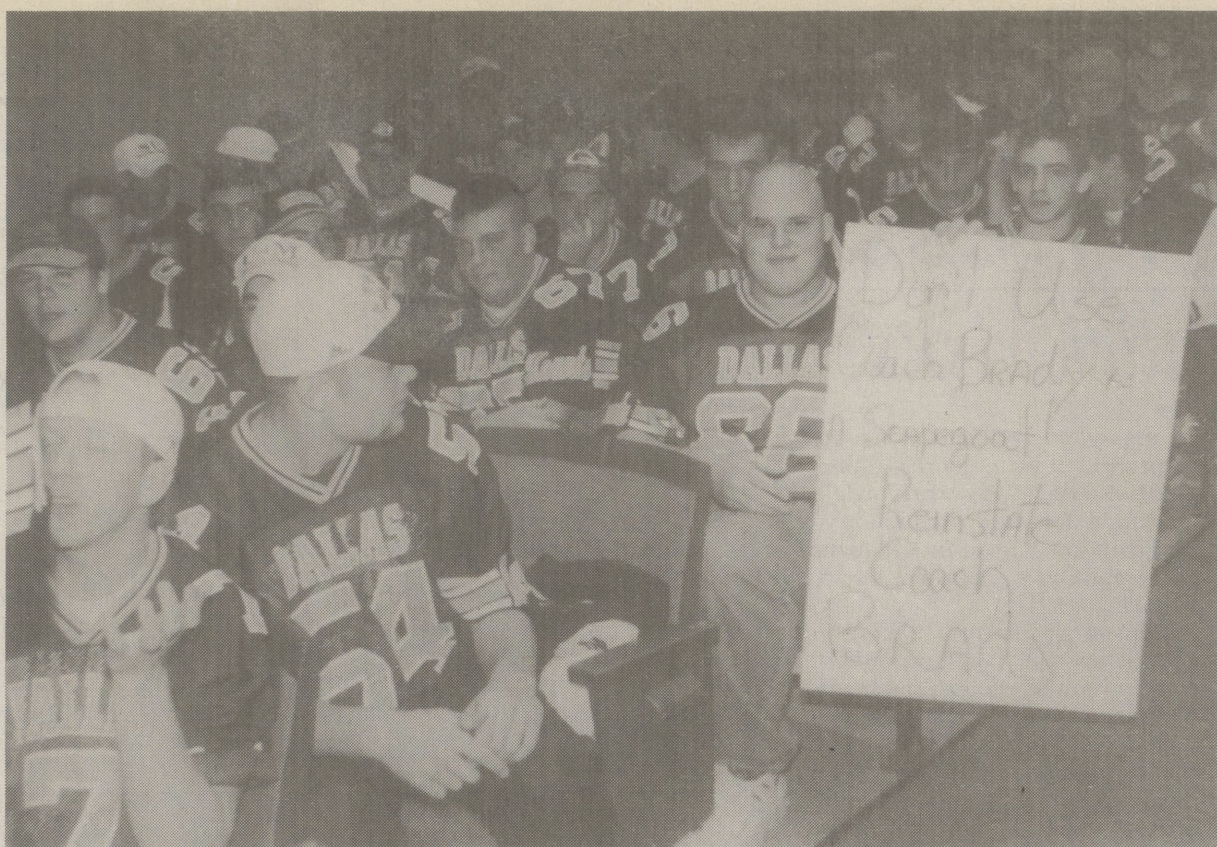
(continued from page 1)

dent Ernest Ashbridge read a statement prepared by the board's lawyer pointing out that the evening's discussion was limited to the suspension because Brady still awaited a full hearing on the charge made by a parent that he had disciplined the son too harshly.

Attorney Ralph Kates had been retained by the group, and began the club's presentation by saying, "The fabric of this community has been seriously stressed" by the incident. He said the club had conducted an independent investigation, which concluded that Brady had acted within the bounds of propriety when he assigned escalating numbers of an exercise to a freshman member of the team who had missed a game.

Kates emphasized that Brady's suspension, which followed a complaint by Ron Pietraccini, father of the disciplined player, was not consistent with past practice in the school district. Kates said action had usually been taken only after the school had received the results of an independent investigation.

Steve Wengen, a Shavertown resident who described himself as a friend of the football program, cited the "family atmosphere" of the team. Pointing out that the administration's investigators had recommended a written reprimand, Wengen said he felt suspending Brady would set a "dangerous precedent," and weaken discipline on the team.



Frank Perkoski carried his heart on a sign for the meeting. Football players helped swell the crowd to at least 500.

Deafening applause followed Mark Kaschenbach and Scott Townsend, two senior members of the team who spoke next. Each described the positive aspects of the program, and referred to Jackson and not Brady by name. Townsend cited the opportunities for college scholarships the experience presents. "It's an honor to be a part of the Dallas program," he said.

"It's an honor to be a part of the Dallas program."

Scott Townsend
Senior football player

Gary Beisel, a three-year member of the Gridiron Club, presented a petition requesting Brady's reinstatement, signed by 143 students. He defended coaches from complaints, saying his son learned important lessons while on the team: dedication to team goals, respect and discipline.

"I am sad today," said Linda Dorrance, whose children have been in the program in the past. At the same time, she said, "I am very proud." She defended the program and its discipline by saying, "I don't think there's anyone here who did more 'hit-ups' than Willie," her son.

Marty Moore credited Ted Jackson with turning his son's life around. He said he first met Jackson when he was the newly-elected president of the Gridiron Club, and Jackson had kicked his son off the team for smoking. He said his son accepted his punishment and went on to be MVP of the conference title game. Adding a sophisticated twist, Moore cited Winston Churchill's comment to the effect that the battles of World War II were won on the playing fields of Eton.

When Wengen took the microphone to summarize the Gridiron

Club's presentation, Clarence Michael, a former school director and outspoken critic of Jackson and the football program, shouted, "Is this a school board meeting or a Gridiron Club meeting?" Wengen rebuffed his comment, aided by a few catcalls from the audience, and continued his summary.

Kates wrapped up the Gridiron Club's portion of the meeting by saying, "He (Brady) is part of the system he worked within," and requesting the suspension be lifted.

Michael was the only speaker not on the Gridiron Club agenda. After walking to the microphone to scattered remarks, he said, "My major concern is the kids." He suggested to the board that the consequences of discipline apply to adults as well as students. He also said he objected to one individual — Jackson — jeopardizing a game and reminded the board that they employed coaches and not the other way around.

After Michael reiterated that the homecoming game should be played and saying the incident shouldn't have escalated, he returned to his seat surrounded by polite applause.

That contrasted with the thunderous applause that followed the board members vote to lift Brady's suspension until a full hearing on the complaint against him could be held. All five members of the school board who were present voted for the motion made by Thomas Landon. Four board members — Thom Russ, Reese Finn, John George and James Richardson — did not attend the meeting.

Rift

(continued from page 1)

as the first step to emasculating the program.

The Dallas Gridiron Club's response — to request a special meeting of the school board — and its leaders handling of the meeting helped cool tempers, at least temporarily. Board members voted to lift the suspension until a formal hearing can be held on the matter, which was enough to satisfy head coach Ted Jackson and most of the audience.

People familiar with the football program, speaking on condition that their names not be used, said some school board members and others in the community have felt for some time that the program was out of control. They point to Jackson's profanity-laced tirades from the sidelines as an example of behavior that is inappropriate in a high school atmosphere. Clarence Michael, who was the lone speaker not affiliated with the Gridiron Club Friday night, has made no secret of his desire to get Jackson out of the district.

Two incidents this season, star running back Frank Valvano's ejection from the opening game and a series of fights at the end of a game with rival GAR, have given critics more ammunition. The incident involving Brady is seen by some as simply an extension of a program gone awry.

There also is a feeling among some observers that Jackson doesn't do enough to help players seeking college scholarships. They point out that few Dallas football players have gone on to Division I colleges after graduation, and that

Jackson, who teaches in Plains, simply can't be available to support the players' efforts.

Supporters contend the Dallas program teaches valuable lessons, and Jackson sets high standards for his players both on and off the field. Before each season begins, they say, Jackson lays down the rules and enforces them evenly, in the process teaching discipline, team spirit and self-sacrifice.

Parents and players spoke Friday with a great deal of pride and gratitude for what the experience of playing football at Dallas had done for them while in school and after they had graduated. And two recent graduates, Greg Nadzan in 1993 and Dave Townsend in 1994, went to Ivy League schools.

One question that hasn't been raised is why Brady, a first-year coach only two years out of Dallas, was given the task of disciplining a troublesome player. Another Back Mountain high school coach expressed the opinion that veteran coaches, one of whom had a run-in with the youth days before the incident, should have handled the matter.

For his part, Ron Pietraccini said Sunday that he doesn't think Brady represents a threat to his son, nor must he lose his job over the incident. And he's grateful his two sons in the program — Aaron and Brian, a senior co-captain — haven't suffered more. "Their friends at school have been nothing less than wonderful," he said.

But the scars are still slow to heal. "My son's trying to get over the deal," Pietraccini said.

Business group slates Halloween party

The Back Mountain Business and Professional Association will hold a Halloween party for members and guests Tues., Oct. 29 at the Huntsville Golf Club. A per person charge of \$15 will include hors d'oeuvres and a band. The party will be held from 7 to 11 p.m. Reservations should be made by Fri., Oct. 25 by sending payment to: BMBPA, Box 25, Dallas PA 18612, or by calling 675-9380. Leave a message that tells how many will attend.



Clarence Michael gestured toward the audience as he spoke at Friday's special school board meeting. Michael has been a critic of head football coach Ted Jackson, but urged that the homecoming game be played during his turn at the microphone.

Leaf collection now going on in Dallas

Dallas Borough Fall leaf collection has begun. All residents are requested to rake their leaves into rows, no wider than three feet, along the front edge of their yards. Only leaves should be raked out for collection; branches, stones, and other yard waste materials will cause damage to the vacuum leaf collector.

Residents who wish to do so may continue to place leaves in bags, no larger than 33 gallon for collection. All bags should be placed along the curb for pick-up.

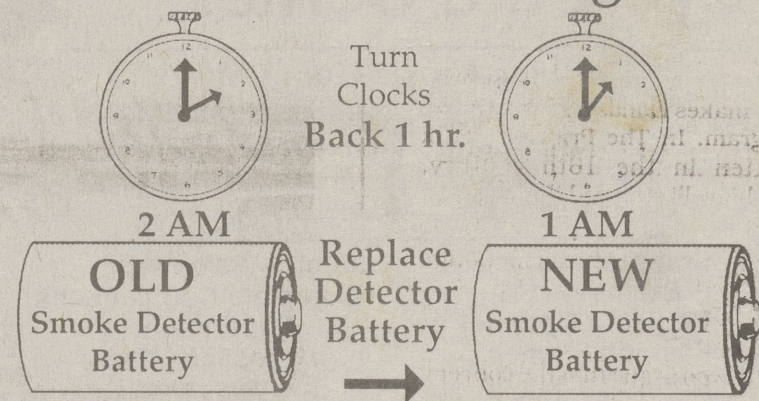
All leaves collected by the borough are turned into shredded mulch and delivered to local farmers or residents to provide nutrients and improve the soil.

Fall fun for kids at Fellowship Evangelical

A fall celebration for kids will be held at the Fellowship Evangelical Free Church, Hildebrandt Rd., Dallas, Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m. Fun, snacks, games and entertainment by clowns for kindergarten through 6th graders will be featured. Parents are invited to stay.

There will be a costume judging with prizes (when picking costumes, please choose the "good guys and gals. Pre-registration is requested. Sign up at the church 675-6426 or at Gifts From Above on Rte. 415, 675-0354.

Sunday, October 27th,
Is the time for changes.



Wow!
Check This Out
What Was Has Changed To

Shavertown Fire Co.'s Firemen's "Hot" Bingo Every Friday Night
Shavertown Fire Co.'s Firemen's "Hot" Bingo Every Sunday 6:00 pm

Come Play Our New Sunday Firemen's "Hot" Bingo Lots of New and Exciting Games and Prizes!!!

Call 675-5211 to Advertise

Fellowship Evangelical Free Church
45 Hildebrandt Rd., Dallas
675-6426
Sunday Worship Service
9 am & 10:30 am
Nursery provided for all services
"A Church that cares about you"

Cooks PHARMACY

- Computerized Prescription Service
- Russell Stover Candies
- Greeting Cards
- PA Lottery Ticket
- Newspapers
- Magazines

159 N. Memorial Hwy., Shavertown, PA
675-1191

Shop the **LARGEST** selection of Area Rugs in Northeastern Pennsylvania... now during our **Super Sale!**

Hand Made from INDIA & CHINA!

Quality BRAIDED RUGS! Machine Made ORIENTALS! Various SIZES!

Accent DECORATOR RUGS!

AFFORDABLE QUALITY RUGS!

STORE HOURS
Wed 11-4 Saturday - Closed
Thurs 11-8 Sunday 12-4
Fri 11-4 Mon. & Tues. 11-8

<p>OVAL BRAIDED RUGS 5x8 - \$99 • 8x11 - \$239 • Tubular Braided Style • VALUES TO \$300</p>	<p>Genuine Hand-Made ORIENTAL RUGS 4x6 - \$399 • 6x8 - \$899 8x11 - \$1798 • VALUES TO \$2500</p>	<p>Machine-Made Rugs ORIENTAL DESIGN 4x6 - \$99 6x8 - \$199 • 8x11 - \$399 • Made in the U.S.A. • Patterns Woven through the back • VALUES TO \$500</p>	<p>SUPER BUYS!! 'One-of-a-Kind' HAND-MADE RUGS 8x11 - \$499 & up • Good Selection!! VALUES TO \$1100</p>
---	--	--	---

CARPET CLEARANCE OUTLET

WILKES-BARRE BLVD. AT BUTLER STREET, WILKES-BARRE PHONE 8 2 6 - 1 8 0 6

DIRECTIONS
use Exit #2 from the Cross Valley. Bear Right to 2nd Light. We are at the 2nd light.

HOURS
Saturday - Closed
M-T-Th 11-8
W-F 11-4
Sun. 12-4