

Teachers in the Hempfield Area School District have a new five-year labor pact.

Hempfield Area School Board on Monday voted 5-4 to accept the recommendations contained in a state fact-finder's report. Teachers had already

George DePaulo, personnel director, and Joe Scheuermann, president of Hempfield Area Education Association.

Directors who voted in favor of the recommendations were Sonya Brajdic, Diane Ciabattoni, Louis DePaul, Dave Higinbotham and Robert McDonald. Opposed were Anthony Bompiani, John

director who voted for it voiced her dissatisfaction with the accord. Ciabattoni said she wanted more steps added to the salary scale and lower raises, but she voted for it in order to put an end to drawn-out negotiations. "I really think it's time we move on,"

result in the highest-paid teachers seeing raises of only 2.15 percent annually, he said, and Hempfield teachers will now pay more toward health care than do their peers in Westmoreland County. "We're not happy with this, but if we compare this to another strike, we'd rather have this," Scheuermann said.

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School directors who opposed the tract warned that it will add to woes that currently call for a \$2.5 million in cuts to next year's

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S.C. SPANGLER/TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Taking a longcut

An oversized load headed to Jeannette on Monday had to pass its exit on the Amos K. Hutchinson Bypass and make a U-turn in order to get to Route 130 without getting stuck in a toll booth. PGT Trucking of Monaca, Beaver County, picked up a

control house for Jeannette-based Elliott Co. last Tuesday in Baltimore. The load — about 160 feet long, 17 feet wide and 15.5 feet high — is needed to test a piece of machinery Elliott is building. The truck, flatbed trailer and load weighed about 122 tons.

Judge denies appeal by attacker

The Greensburg man is serving a 100-year sentence for beating a KDKA-TV reporter.

BY RICH CHOLODOFSKY
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

A man serving a lengthy prison sentence for attacking a television reporter in 2002 has lost his appeal.

Westmoreland County Judge John Blahovec, in a ruling released yesterday, said there was no basis for the appeal filed earlier this year by John W. Bolam.

Bolam, 39, of Greensburg, was convicted in a 2002 Labor Day attack on KDKA-TV reporter Mary Berecky at a car wash along Route 66 in Hempfield Township.

Bolam asked to have his convictions for aggravated assault, attempted homicide, reckless endangerment and simple assault overturned and that his 50- to 100-year prison sentence be vacated.

Bolam was sentenced under the state's three strikes law. He had two prior felony convictions for attacking women. He served almost eight years in prison for two separate offenses dating to 1992.

During the attack, Bolam hit Berecky over the head with a club or pipe at least 20 times. Bolam came from behind while Berecky was vacuuming her

Appellate judge keeps Lally on ballot

Petition problems don't nullify candidacy

BY CHRIS FOREMAN
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

An appellate judge on Monday denied a challenge by Fayette County Controller Mark Roberts to knock his Democratic primary opponent, Sean Lally, off the ballot because of problems with nominating petitions.

In a memorandum opinion, Commonwealth Court Senior Judge Joseph F. McCloskey upheld findings issued by Common Pleas Judge Steve P. Leskinen after a four-day hearing last month.

Leskinen struck about one-third of the 436 names Lally turned in on his petitions, but determined Roberts failed to show enough evidence to disqualify Lally from the race.

"I'm just actually tickled pink that the democratic process has worked," Lally said yesterday. "And I'm just tickled pink that Mr. Roberts has not robbed the people of Fayette County of their right to vote."

Roberts was not immediately available for comment about the ruling, or whether he might appeal to the state Supreme Court.

Last month, Leskinen eliminated names from Lally's petitions for reasons such as incorrect party affiliation, duplication or because the voter had signed Roberts' petitions.

Another batch of about 70 names were stricken because they were collected by Lally's supporters, although Lally signed affidavits identifying himself as the circulator. Among other arguments, Roberts' attor-

ney, John Connelly Jr., contended the appellate court should strike the remaining names from those affected petitions.

"Contrary to challenger's assertions, there is no support for the argument that once an affidavit of a circulator is found to be false with regard to a signature contained on a nomination petition, all of the signatures on the nominating petition must be struck," McCloskey wrote.

Connelly did not return a message left at his office in Hummelstown, Dauphin County.

Lally's attorney, Maria Balling-Peck, said Roberts went to great lengths to be the only candidate listed on the party's ballot for the May 15 primary.

Besides calling dozens of residents to ask them about their signatures on Lally's petitions, Roberts obtained 360 subpoenas requesting their attendance at last month's hearing.

Ex-wife testifies that husband terrorized her

He faces rape and other charges in the '04 case that included a standoff.

BY CHRIS FOREMAN
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Crystal Schroyer told a Fayette County jury Monday about the day in 2004 that her estranged husband terrorized her, held police at bay for five hours and then shot himself in the chest.

She testified that on the morning of Feb. 13, 2004, Robert J. Schroyer followed her from a Mt. Pleasant nursing home until he passed her car and blocked her on Tower Road, in Lower Tyrone Township.

He then used a key to force his way into her locked car and took

assaulted her, Schroyer told the jury.

The whole time, she said, she said little in response to his pleas to reconcile their 8-year-old marriage "because I didn't want him to act out any worse than he was."

She began her testimony on the first day of Robert Schroyer's retrial for rape, involuntary deviate sexual intercourse, terroristic threats, aggravated assault, recklessly endangering and resisting arrest.

State police arrested Schroyer, 30, after a five-hour standoff when he shot himself in the chest with Crystal Schroyer's hunting rifle.

Crystal Schroyer, 28, got away shortly after her husband raped her because a state trooper responded to an emergency call and began knocking on the front



SEAN STIPP/TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Field work

Parking permit question 'invasive'

A resident says the city shouldn't demand private information.

BY BOB STILES
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Karen Stepanovich Greensburg Council on Monday said that too much personal information was being sought in revised applications that residents must fill out to have permit parking.

The information sought includes each applicant's Social Security number and phone number, Stepanovich said. She questioned why the council wanted this information for tax purposes.

"I just think it's very invasive," Stepanovich said. "It doesn't sit very well with me."

In February, the city is sending out letters for residents to fill out new applications for permit parking.

City Administrator Trout said after last month's meeting that city officials were trying to get a better handle on who has permit parking.

Mayor Karl Eisaman said Stepanovich and Jeff Stepanovich, another Alexander Avenue resident who complained about the recent ticketing of vehicles that permit parking was not needed, had so many city residents who have to compete with other residents for on-street parking.

If a neighborhood doesn't want permit parking, a permit can be filled out to lift the special parking. If enough signatures are obtained, Eisaman said.

In another matter, the city awarded a \$35,450 contract to Rhino Construction in Lower Burrell, to replace sets of deteriorating streetlights at the rear of the Francis Joe Peluso parking lot.

SEE COUNCIL • B3