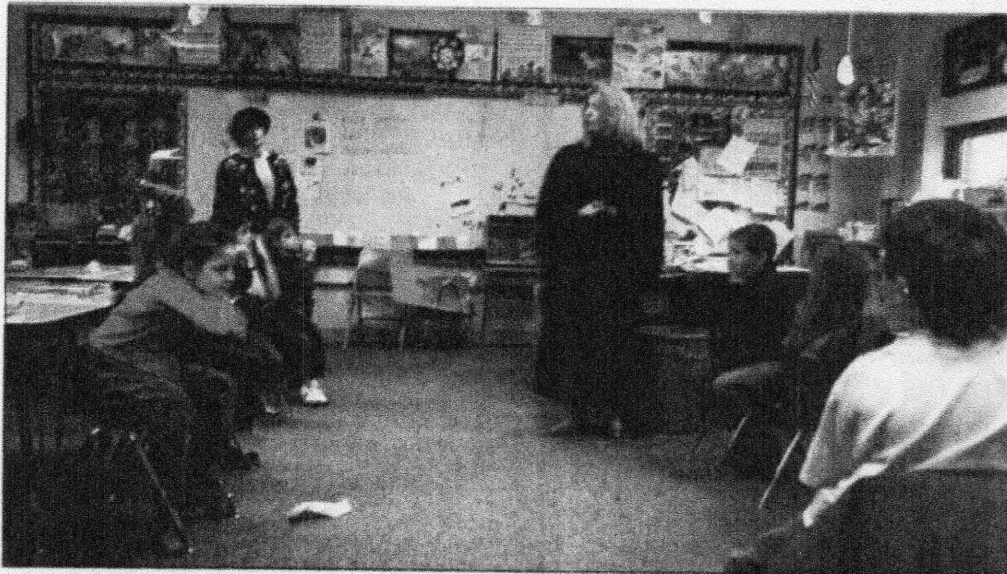


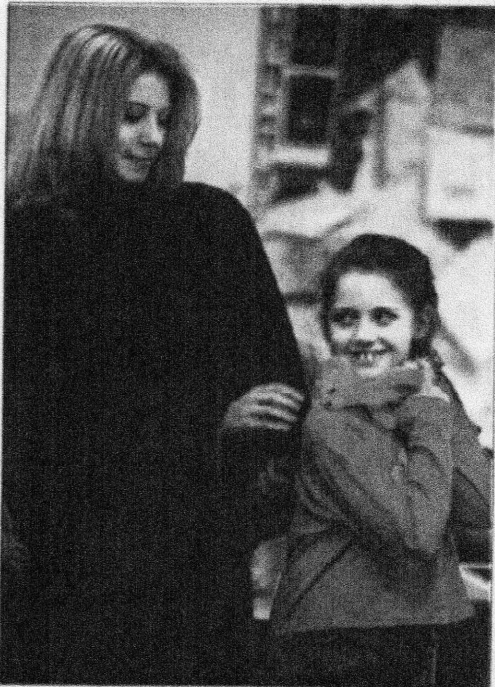
LAW STUDENTS

A district justice found that children like to talk about the law and court cases. So she visits grade schools, spreading the gospel of justice and law.



Darrell Sappo/Post-Gazette photo

District Justice Kelley Streib brought her Junior Judge program to Missie Burford's second-grade class at Adams Elementary School recently. Below, Streib attempts to take one of her props, a stuffed bear, from Samantha Riley to illustrate a point.



No objection to her teaching

By Darlene White Natale

District Justice Kelley Streib is taking her robes on the road, for a program that introduces children to the legal system.

Now in its second full year, the Junior Judges program was launched by Streib after she had visited a classroom of her aunt, a second-grade teacher. The youngsters seemed to like learning about the law, so Streib said she decided to create Junior Judges.

Streib, a former teacher, said, "To me, one of the most important things I can do is educate people."

Streib, whose office is in Evans City, brings along several props for her presentations. At a recent program at Adams Elementary School in Mars Area School District, she held up a huge gavel and asked the students to identify it.

"It's a court hammer," student Joshua Dryden told her.

Streib compared the gavel to the raised two-finger sign used in many classrooms to get attention and silence.

She told the students about the kinds of judges and their jobs, and asked the students what qualities a good judge should have.

Chris Collier to "You need to be a good thinker-outer."

Peter Leslie said, "You need a judge that will listen to you."

Josh Dryden, apparently still contemplating the gavel, said, "You need to have a hammer."

Kayla Gavala stressed patience, and classmate Shannon Greaves says a judge needs to be fair.

Curtis Stiscak said, "You have to be 44 to be a judge."

Using a toy lizard, Streib then created this civil case for the children to work through:

David Petruska has a one-of-a-kind plastic liz-

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ADAMS

Revised plan for park has fewer ball fields

By Darlene White Natale

A revised plan for a new park in Adams contains fewer playing fields and less parking.

The township's parks and recreation committee on Jan. 26 presented to the supervisors a revised plan for the 193-acre park.

In August, the township bought a farm that will be developed as a community park. The parks and recreation committee presented a preliminary plan in November that left half of the park undisturbed. Some neighbors, however, wanted larger natural areas for horseback riding and walking.

The master plan presented Jan. 26 leaves two-thirds of the park untouched, according to landscape architect James Pashek, of Pashek Associates of Pittsburgh.

The changes include one less soccer field, one less baseball field and removal of a parking area. The road will touch only the north and east sides of the park.

Bob Rinaman of the parks and recreation committee said they were seeking approval for only phase one of the plan. That phase will include a hiking trail, a community playground, a parking area, a softball field and two baseball fields.

Township officials budgeted \$150,000 for this first phase, and have applied for matching funds from the

state. The project is planned in four phases. "Optimally, you get it done in four years. It might take a little longer," Pashek said.

Many park neighbors expressed traffic concerns. Resident David Bittner said he didn't think that the roads were made to handle the influx of traffic created by a park.

"I think the parks and recreation committee had an agenda to fill it up with sports fields," Bittner charged.

Diane Ziggas of the parks and recreation committee said she called PennDOT on a regular basis concerning Three Degree Road, a state road. She says the park will have less to do with traffic than do the Mars Area schools.

Bunny Adams told the committee and township supervisors: "I think we're rushing this thing. I don't think we're being very American about this thing."

"I don't understand what makes you people think you own this field," Rinaman told the park's neighbors. He said there could easily be 100 homes built there by a developer.

Ziggas said this plan had not been rushed. She said they surveyed the public, looked for land and held public meetings. "We have been incredibly sensitive to the fact that this park is located in the green area of the township," Ziggas said.

Rinaman said the youth of the township needed some ball fields. He said girls have to play softball games in Penn Township because of a lack of fields in Adams.

Supervisor Harold Kennedy stressed that it was time to do something for the township's children — to get the children off the roads.

The supervisors decided to study the park plan, and tabled it until their Feb. 16 meeting.

Darlene White Natale is a free-lance writer.

From the courtroom to the classroom

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ard for which he paid \$100. His friend Angela Schwab borrows it, and promises to return it at the end of the school day.

Unfortunately, she loses it on the playground. Streib asked the students what can be done that's fair to both.

Many students suggested suing Angela. But Streib told the students that people should try to solve the problem before going to court.

Chris Collier said Angela should give \$100 to the lizard's owner, James Eastley suggested. "She could go to jail for two years." Seven other students agreed with the harsh jail sentence.

To the varied responses, Streib said, "All of you could be right," and explained that these are the kinds

of decisions judges have to make every day.

To introduce criminal law, Streib proposed that Angela had taken the lizard, and asked what could be done.

James Eastley queried, "Could you put her in the electric chair?" Another classmate suggested that they charge her \$3 million.

Kyle Bradshaw asked how many cases Streib heard a year. When she responded 3,000, Zachary Murrow told her, "That's a lot of talking."

Streib plans another visit to Adams in the spring, when she will present the children with Junior Judge certificates. Also, the children will view a videotape, "The State vs. Goldilocks," created by the Allegheny County Bar Association to help children understand how to resolve disputes.

Darlene White Natale is a free-lance writer.

NOTICE TO ALLEGHENY POWER CUSTOMERS WITH RIGHT-OF-WAY ACROSS THEIR PROPERTY

Allegheny Power has contracted for the ground application of herbicide solutions on electric line rights-of-way in parts of southeastern Butler and northern Allegheny

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