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Board Attorney to check superintendent's personnel actions, Page 3

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Teachers voice concerns to superintendent

By Leigh Stone & Laura Flynn
An after-school teacher walk out was the result of a letter all teachers in the Nicholas County School District received during the weekend stating they either would be re-hired this fall or would be re-hired unassigned. More than 50 teachers, tenured and non-tenured, made the walk from Nicholas County High School to the board of education office Monday after the school buses failed to take students home shortly after 3 p.m.

"You're being hung out to dry," Supt. Every to Huber

Classified employees and non-tenured teachers had expected "pink slip" letters in the mailboxes last week, but not all teachers. Even high ranking administrative positions, such as the elementary principal, Gerald Hammon and assistant principal, Pam Randolph, received letters. Pam received a pink slip and Hammon received a letter stating he would be hired back - but was unassigned. Every was reluctant to speak with the teachers as Channel 27.

changes across the board," said tenured teacher Gloria Norton. Every, superintendent, sat in his board office and folded questions from the teachers. The small office only allowed a portion of the contingent, among them Huber and a few other tenured teachers. Every sent the letters this past weekend to all teachers in the district, not just non-tenured.

When you ask questions...



Nicholas County Elementary School teacher Tony Smith posed with other school district personnel in a walk to the board office Monday to ask Superintendent Every about letters sent to staff members during the weekend.



Approximately 50 teachers and support staff of the school district made the trek after school Monday to ask the superintendent his reasons behind the letters.

"You're being hung out to dry," Supt. Every to Huber. Teachers, joined by classified staff who had fully expected the pink slip letters due to the declining financial situation of the district, wanted answers to questions concerning their jobs, said Travis Huber, Kentucky Education Association President for Nicholas County. Huber is also a science teacher at the high school and teacher member of the high school site based decision making council. "I feel like there should be

Kingsolver profiled on KET May 15

Barbara Kingsolver's voice is soft and measured, according to the listener. But the message, according to the woman herself, is that of a firebrand, albeit a polite one.

Pigs in Heaven sold more than 40,000 copies in paperback in one year...

In interviews with her family and friends, literature professors, authors, publishers and the author's own words - winners enjoy a glimpse of what motivates the critically and commercially successful author of "The Bean Trees," "Animal Dreams," "Pigs in Heaven," and

brood firebirds, according to Kingsolver's but firebirds with an overlay of kindness and goodness," she says. "people like Harriet Arnow, Robert Penn Warren, Wendell Berry and Abraham Lincoln. I consider that my legacy."

"I was finally beginning to understand that words can be more powerful than swords, that I could do something useful when I sat out write," Kingsolver recalls. Kingsolver is not afraid to question myths held dear by many of her readers, as illustrated in her novel "Pigs in Heaven," which tackles the volatile issue of child custody rights of Native Americans versus those of adoptive white families.

"High Tide in Tucson," plus short stories and non-fiction. Kingsolver, who now lives in Arizona, credits her rural Kentucky upbringing and her parents' example with instilling in her a love of reading and writing and an ethical and moral grounding that values nature, justice and service to others. These values are consistently evident in her work. "To this day, when I see things that make me angry or sad, I want to act to change it," she says.

Novelist and critic Jack Butler, who reviewed "The Bean Trees" for the New York Times, describes Kingsolver as a writer who uses "strip-folklore. She can show the foibles of certain attitudes - and she can do it in a flash."

The commercial success of her first novel, "The Bean Trees," allowed Kingsolver to write full

time. "I was finally beginning to understand that words can be more powerful than swords, that I could do something useful when I sat out write," Kingsolver recalls. Kingsolver is not afraid to question myths held dear by many of her readers, as illustrated in her novel "Pigs in Heaven," which tackles the volatile issue of child custody rights of Native Americans versus those of adoptive white families.

Superintendent may be in error says KEA exec

By Leigh Stone
Managing Editor
Superintendent Randy Every may not be handling the teacher staffing situation correctly. "I'm saying I think he's made some blunders," said Clifton Burd, executive director for the Kentucky Education Association Tuesday afternoon.

Burd, formerly an elementary school teacher at South Bend, Indiana for 10 years, has served the KEA the past 22 years. It is the first time he's seen tenured teachers told of termination in this fashion, by form of a letter. Five targeted teachers said to have received such a letter, and Superintendant Randy Every said all teachers received either a termination letter or a reassignment letter, Every confirmed.

Currently, the KEA attorney is looking at documentation gathered from Burd Tuesday morning from interviews with tenured teachers. "I gather the evidence in the interviews with Travis Huber and the tenured teachers. I say the attorney will have something in about three weeks."

Burd said he wouldn't not comment at length about the teachers' questions. "We don't want to tip our hand but I believe he (Every) made a lot of

errors. One of the problems we have is we can't find any sense in the way he terminated teachers. You don't put people under that type of stress. Burd said he felt being told of termination or reassignment by letter was "morally wrong."

His advice to non-tenured teachers is forthright. "I advise your non-tenured teachers to start looking at another job. They need to look as soon as possible. And those who are tenured can look, too."

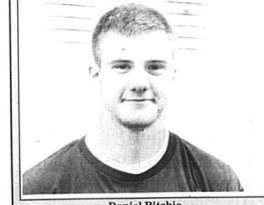
Burd said the district by law would have to rehire teachers if it were decided their position was needed. They couldn't just hire someone new to fill a position. Then, after the tenured and correctly certified person says they don't want the position, the board could advertise the position available to teachers.

The KEA representative said the attorney will be making sure Every handled the personnel

action against "pink slips" given to district personnel.



Pink candies were placed on Superintendent Randy Every's car while parked at the board office Monday afternoon as a statement against "pink slips" given to district personnel.



Daniel Ritchie

Student of the Week

Daniel Ritchie has been selected as this week's Student of the Week. Ritchie is a junior at Nicholas County High School and is the son of Dennis and Pam Ritchie.

His proudest accomplishment at NCHS has been a member of the Bluejackets Basketball team three years. Ritchie is a guard. Science is his favorite academic subject. Upon high school graduation, he plans to attend college and take general studies to help him determine a career. So far, he feels he

would certainly like to take some business courses. NCHS science teacher Sue Kirby nominated Ritchie for this honor. "He's a real pleasure to be around. He's never a problem, just an all-around good American Kid. He's no trouble."

The Carlisle Mercury will profile one student each week, chosen by the faculty of their respective school. Watch this space in future issues.