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State to Reading: Police must monitor security cameras

According to a report published November 8, 2009 in the *Reading Eagle*, “In a ruling that puts the city’s year-old downtown security cameras in jeopardy, a state official has preliminarily ordered the city to use \$48-an-hour police officers to monitor the \$14.8 million system, not \$10-an-hour civilians...

“City officials said using police costs too much and that the system may have to be scrapped if

police monitors are required, but [Jack E. Marino, a hearing examiner for the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board] said that’s not a valid defense....

“Allentown, Lancaster, Baltimore and Wilmington, Del., use civilians to monitor their security cameras, and Reading hired its first civilian monitors in December. The police union, the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 9, immediately filed a complaint with the Labor Relations Board.”

Library board selects accomplished Executive Director

At the Tuesday, November 17 meeting of the Lancaster Public Library Board, Herb Landau was welcomed as the Board’s next Executive Director. Landau, who will don his new role in several weeks, presently serves as the Director of the Milanof-Schock Library in Mount Joy.

Beginning with a masters degree in Library Science from Columbia University, Landau brings

a specialist’s resume to the Board. In addition to his current position at Milanof-Schock, Landau has served for ten years as a library trustee in Delaware County and has managed industrial libraries.

In 2008, Landau’s “**Small Library Survival Guide**” was published by the American Library Association.

McCaskey East principal defends proposed 90-min. classes

In response to an inquiry by *NewsLanc*, Principal Jay Butterfield, D.Ed. responded:

“A critical element in an extended time period for classes is the methodology the teachers must use. Teachers cannot lecture for an entire 80 or 90 minute block—not even half that. In fact, teachers are trained to offer 3 or 4 highly effective and varied strategies per block. This serves several purposes including differentiating instruction for various learner types, engaging students as

constructors of their knowledge, getting students to move into and work with a variety of cooperative learning teams or groups, providing deeper and richer learning with each topic, and more.

“Regarding class layout, there are many alternatives to the traditional rows of seats. Educational leaders have for years advocated alternative room arrangements including small groupings, facing rows, horseshoe and paired
[Continued on back]

seatings. All of these arrangements are in use on the campus and would continue.

“Regarding the midway break, most extended periods have de facto breaks, as teachers transition between the aforementioned strategies.”

Trial concludes over \$1.25 million library bequest

By Cliff Lewis

This week, Judge Joseph Rehkamp conducted a trial over the disputed estate of Thomas Bucher, valued at about \$1.25 million. Bucher’s family is contesting a 2003 will, which disinherited all relatives and left the entirety of his estate to the Lancaster Public Library. According to Bucher’s father, former judge Wilson Bucher, the deceased was suffering from an *“insane delusion”* at the time of the will’s composition.

Attorney Steven Blair, also Wilson Bucher’s son-in-law, brought a number of witnesses to the stand with the purpose of proving Thomas Bucher’s insanity and excessive paranoia in 2003.

Questioned by Blair, Attorney Rory Connaughton confirmed that, when Thomas Bucher consulted his firm—Hartman, Underhill & Brubaker—in March of 2003, Bucher had expressed a number of concerns regarding his family’s actions, including the following suspicions:

- That his father was not honest with him regarding gifts being given to other family members
- That Blair was a *“wife beater”*
- That Blair and Owen were intimidating Wilson Bucher with regard to financial decisions

- That Blair had entered Thomas Bucher’s home without permission

Another representative of the firm later stressed that any suspicions expressed by Thomas Bucher were *“concerns”* and not necessarily *“beliefs.”*

Wilson Bucher’s testimony revealed that Thomas Bucher had resided rent-free in his parents’ home for about twenty years and that his parents had washed his laundry, ironed his shirts, and provided him with meals at the family table. Also, Wilson Bucher, then a Lancaster County judge, played an instrumental role in arranging three of Thomas Bucher’s jobs—including a longstanding career with the Lancaster Adult Probation and Parole Office.

Bruce Campbell, Thomas Bucher’s former supervisor at the Parole Office, described his past employee’s level of competence on the job. According to Campbell, Thomas always received positive performance evaluations for his work in training and overseeing parole officers. Thomas rarely exhibited any contention or disagreement, Campbell said.

At the conclusion of the hearing, Judge Joseph Rehkamp asked that both parties submit their briefings to him by the end of January.

SUNDAY NEWS: In *“City finances near the brink”*, Lancaster City Mayor Rick Gray is quoted as saying *“Police and firefighter union contracts, which comprise the highest portion of the budget for salaries, will both increase 3 percent... Though these increases may seem relatively small, when couple with prior increases, they have a compounding effect, which results in a substantial increase in costs.”*

WATCHDOG: Wage increases during a typical year of say 3% inflation might be 4%, which represents a 1% increase in ‘real’ added buying power after correction for inflation. A 3% raise in this year of 0% inflation amounts to a full 3% boost in ‘real’ buying power, a virtually unprecedented increase.

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