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Monticello Manager Fired

By John Emerson

MONTICELLO — Monticello Mayor Gary Sommers appointed a new member to the village board Monday night and then, minutes later, voted with two board members to fire the village manager.

The dismissal of Village Manager Cheryl Shiber came following the appointment of Evelyn Vandermark as a new trustee. Vandermark's appointment and vote against Shiber broke a 2-2 deadlock on the board. Sommers and trustee Monis Brafman voted to terminate Shiber's con-

tract while trustees Michael Levinson and David Rosenberg wanted her to remain.

Vandermark, who could not be reached for comment, reportedly said that she was aware she was the swing vote and had made an informed decision. This is the second time she has served as a village trustee. Two years ago, she declined to seek re-election after serving two terms on the board.

After the vote was taken, Shiber was told to leave the meeting room immediately. The room was packed with village employees who witnessed her departure. In protest of the way Sommers handled the dismissal, Levinson immediately resigned as deputy mayor, a post he was appointed to less than two months ago. He did not resign from the board.

One of the reasons Sommers gave for terminating her contract was an inability to work with other village employees. Sommers had allegedly been gunning for Shiber for several months, but was stymied by the late Mayor James F. Kenny, who supported her. Sommers could not be reached for comment however.

He solicited and interviewed several potential candidates for the



Cheryl Shiber



Gary Sommers

empty seat on the board. Although he may not have made it a prerequisite for obtaining the appointment, some of those interviewed said he made it clear he was seeking their support to fire Shiber, although none would commit to voting against Shiber until they had an opportunity to assess her performance first hand.

"He [Sommers] told me this is the
Please see SHIBER, page 3A.



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By John Em
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Democrat Photo by Dan Hust

INTERESTED READERS: Several Monticello Middle School students look over pages of the *Democrat* at a career fair held Wednesday at the school. The *Democrat* joined approximately ten other local companies in the effort.

CS Presents Spring Concert

LICOON — Delaware Valley School will present the annual Concert on Tuesday, June 9 at 7 p.m. Admission is free. All musical groups will perform.

Shiber . . .

continued from front page

one thing he was going to do and wanted to know what I thought about it," said Tom Kelly, one of those considered for the vacancy. "I told him that if she wasn't doing the job, I would vote to get rid of her, but that right now I don't know that that's the case. He said he would call me the next day but I never heard from him."

During her 10 months in the position, Shiber ruffled more than a few feathers as she tried to learn the political landscape and become familiar with the village. Reports indicated that several village staffers and residents felt her work style was abrasive and not conducive to a friendly atmosphere.

One major accomplishment during her stay, however, was an agreement with the state Department of Transportation to make extensive improvements and renovations to Broadway. The agreement also allowed the village to hire the design engineer and present finished plans to the DOT to speed up the process.

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