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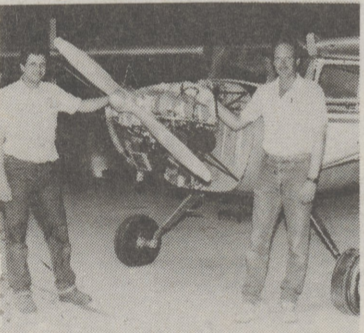
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Neighbors edgy after string of fires

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

The normally quiet, close-knit, tree-lined neighborhood of Harris and Washington Streets in the Roushey Plot section of Dallas Township has been recently plagued by a string of fires which police term suspicious.

According to township police chief Carl Miers, their only common denominator is that all have occurred within 500 feet of one another.

- November 28: a car fire.
 - December: two more car fires within 24 hours.
 - March 28: a fire guts a vacant home and damages a nearby garage.
 - May 22: a fire guts the second floor of another vacant home.
- Neither vacant home had electricity or gas hooked up, Miers

Map of fire locations, page 8

said.

Dawn Berlew, whose mother, Mary Wandel, lives right in the middle of the fires on Washington Street, pointed out the scene of each blaze.

She has memorized the details of each one.

"The March house fire almost took this one as well," she said. "The fire was humongous - it destroyed the vacant house next door and damaged the garage. A tree and clothesline in our yard were also burned. The firemen saved our house. It was so hot that steam was rising from the roof."

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POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

UNDER INVESTIGATION - The second floor of this home at 92 Harris Street in the Roushey Plot section of Kingston Township was gutted by a fire Saturday, May 22, which police are investigating as the last of a string of suspicious fires in the area.



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

THE SECOND TIME AROUND - Shavertown resident Tina Sidonio recently won the Pennsylvania State Martial Arts Championship for the second year in a row.

Shavertown girl eyes '96 Olympics

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

For fun, 16-year-old Tina Sidonio throws around 22-year-old men twice her weight five times a week and breaks two-inch thick boards with her bare hands.

The first-level black belt karate student recently won the Pennsylvania State Martial Arts Championship for the second year in a row and has earned a gold medal in a pre-Olympic tournament as preparation for the 1996 Olympics.

"My classmates are surprised that little 100-lb me can do this, but they're very happy for me," Tina joked.

Modest about her many accomplishments, Tina, a sophomore at Lake-Lehman High School, was inducted Monday, May 24, into the National Honor Society, has been nominated for Junior Leadership Wilkes-Barre and was one of two students in her school to be selected for a three-day Rotary exchange program at College Misericordia.

She is a straight-A student and plans to join the staff of *Knight Life*, the school newspaper, next year.

Tina has been studying karate since she was 12 years old; her current teachers are Master Vince Spurduto, a fourth-degree black belt and Master C.A. Manganiello, a third-degree black belt.

Before her first lesson four years ago, her teacher made her read the school's code of conduct out loud three times. To honor and obey one's parents and family, to respect one's elders and teachers and to maintain good school grades are only part of the code of developing body, mind and spirit which she has chosen to live.

"It's a lifelong commitment," Tina said.

Although Tae Kwon Do, focusing primarily on body movements, kicks and punches, is Tina's first love, she is also proficient in Hap Ki Do, a very dangerous defensive technique involving the use of weapons: the sword, bowstaff and non-chucks (two short sticks joined by a short cord.)

She attends karate class five times a week for 1-1/2 to two hours and works out at home. Although she had to learn to break a two-inch thick block of wood with her bare hands for her last black belt test, she concentrates mostly on fighting moves and katas.

A kata is a series of graceful, highly synchronized balletlike body movements which make up a form.

"When I broke the block, all that I felt was a little sting, nothing more," she said.

The only young woman in her karate class, Tina said that she has had to mature fast. "It's

very disciplined," she said. "I've learned to focus my attention and concentrate on my goals."

"Our karate class is very close," she continued. "It's like having a lot of extra brothers; there's always someone to talk to if I need to."

Competition for titles is very intense, Tina said. "It's all one-on-one. There's no one there to cover for you if you make a mistake. The honor of your entire school is on your shoulders."

The pre-Olympic competition was especially challenging for Tina, who had worked hard to prepare for it, and ended up battling a stomach ailment as well as her opponents.

"I just went into it knowing that I would do my best and that was all that mattered," she said.

The daughter of Gabriel and Margaret Sidonio of Shavertown, Tina has one brother, Gabe, 15. Fascinated with math and biology, she plans to study medicine, possibly specializing in surgery.

"I am very proud of Tina's accomplishments," Margaret Sidonio said. "She works hard at everything and never gives up."

Tina plans to continue the long road towards preparation for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia, by doing what she does best: giving her beloved karate a 1,000 percent effort.



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

First Communion

Anna Bruns, center, received a bit of help and advice from her friends Caitlin Ward, left, and Karissa Donahue while preparing for her first holy communion at Gate of Heaven Church. Photo of all the communicants on page 7.

Water runoff rules may hike home costs

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

New state-mandated regulations aimed at helping to prevent flooding by controlling stormwater runoff may make future development in the Back Mountain more costly.

According to Dallas Township engineer Tom Doughton, the stormwater ordinance, which officials from five area municipalities have been studying as part of a pilot project in Luzerne County, could eventually cost developers and people building new homes in the Back Mountain an additional \$4,000 to \$6,000 per lot.

The pilot project, called the Toby's Creek Watershed Citizens' Advisory Council, sponsored by the Luzerne County Planning Commission, recently completed a two-year study in applying the Stormwater Management Act #167 to Toby's Creek, which drains 30 square miles of the Back Mountain and an additional six square miles in Wyoming Valley before it flows into the Susquehanna River in Edwardsville.

The state Department of Environmental Resources (DER) ex-

Rules in a nutshell, page 8.

pects to approve the runoff management plans of the 11 municipalities (Kingston, Dallas, Lehman and Jackson townships, Dallas Borough, Luzerne, Pringle, Courtdale, Edwardsville, Kingston and Larksville) along the creek by July, according to David Jastenski of the department's Bureau of Land and Water Conservation.

After DER's approval, the 11 municipalities will have six months to adopt stormwater runoff ordinances. DER will fund 75 percent of the costs of implementing the ordinances for each municipality.

The state has the right to withhold General Fund money, which includes the Liquid Fuels Tax used by area municipalities for road maintenance, from communities which don't comply with the Stormwater Management Act, Jastenski said.

"The Back Mountain and Toby's Creek were chosen to be the first communities in Luzerne County

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