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Oak Hill neighbors protest auto body work

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Neighbors say that Kurt Schneider is operating an auto body repair business in the garage of his home in Lehman Township's Oak Hill section.

Schneider says that it's just a hobby and that his neighbors are harassing him.

Matters came to a head at the September 20 Lehman Township supervisors' meeting, when John Keefer, Schneider's next-door neighbor on Birch Drive, and Tom Yoniski, who lives two houses away from Schneider on Hilltop Drive, complained about Schneider, who lives on the corner of Birch and Hilltop Drives in Oak

Hill.

"He does body work and paints cars in his garage six days a week, eight to 12 hours a day. I can hear his air compressor and air-operated tools running continuously," Keefer said. "It's so loud that I can't sit outside and enjoy my yard on nice days."

Schneider stores a rollback tow truck and other vehicles under the carport of a vacant home owned by William Smith between his and Yoniski's homes, Keefer continued.

"Wrecked cars come in on the rollback, get some work done, then disappear," he said.

"He's using his place as a staging area for his cars," Yoniski said. "For the last two months,

he's kept three vehicles without license plates, an old yard tractor and the tow truck under Smith's carport."

Keefer said that Schneider is also operating a vending business from his home. On his days off during the summer, he said that he saw four full-size tractor-trailers back into Schneider's driveway to make deliveries.

Keefer said that Schneider has been doing this work at his home for about the past 10 years. "I tried to talk with him once about it," he said. "He told me that he works on the cars for his wife to drive. His attitude was that it's his yard and he'll do whatever he wants to with it."

"I won't say that there aren't

cars here," Schneider said. "Some people in our neighborhood have more cars in their yard than I do. I have never worked on cars belonging to anyone in this area."

He continued that he has no sign in his yard and doesn't do any work on cars for other individuals.

"My wife has a car that was hit in the rear end. I'm going to fix that," he said. He added that the rollback tow truck belongs to his wife.

Schneider said that one of his neighbors has been harassing him ever since they moved into the neighborhood.

He attributes the situation to dogs. Whenever his half Labrador-half retriever gets loose the

neighbors complain. But they "turn their dog loose" and it goes into his yard to do its business, he says.

They have nothing better to do than stick their noses in other people's business," he said.

Schneider refused to answer whether or not he was operating a vending business from his home. "Other people here have home businesses," he said. "Lots of trucks come through here."

A reporter visiting the neighborhood September 24 and September 26 noted that Schneider's home is located at the end of Hilltop Drive where it meets Birch Drive.

The driveway is screened from the roadway by a line of hedges,

making it visible only from the road directly in front of Schneider's house.

The garage where Keefer and Yoniski say that he does his body work and paint jobs is directly underneath the home.

The back half of a red GTO with part of a drive train inside blocked the entrance to the two-car garage. Both sides of the driveway were lined with large auto parts, including two set of rear ends, a bumper for a medium-size blue car, a radiator and a chrome-colored Dodge grille.

A Dodge van and a white Nissan pickup truck hitched to a red two-wheeled car dolly were parked

See OAK HILL, pg 16

Medic 1 unit in accident

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Police won't file charges in connection with an accident between Nesbitt Hospital's Medic-1 unit and a car on Route 118 Friday morning, September 24, which has left an area woman pregnant with twins in the hospital.

According to Lehman Township police, the Medic-1 unit, a 1991 Chevrolet Suburban operated by Carl K. Carey, Jr., 48, of Harveys Lake, had been traveling east on Route 118 and was attempting to turn into the driveway of the Back Mountain Medical Center when it collided with a 1992 Subaru Legacy station wagon operated by Tammy Renee Payne, 25, of RR 2 Dallas, which had been traveling west on the highway.

Personnel from the Lehman Rescue Unit had to cut Ms. Payne, who is pregnant with twins, from her car, police said. She was transported by the Lehman ambulance to the Nesbitt Memorial Hospital, where she was treated in the emergency room and admitted. She is listed in fair condition, according to a hospital spokesperson.

Carey and a passenger, Mark Henn, 33, of Tunkhannock, were transported by the Dallas ambulance to the Nesbitt Memorial

See MEDIC 1, pg 2



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Contact sport

Dallas shut out a previously unbeaten Coughlin 38-0 Saturday, in a game filled with hard hitting. Wingback Jared Cooney needed care for a cut he suffered on one play. The whole story, and this week's predictions, on page 11.

Lifetime in jail for Schwartz

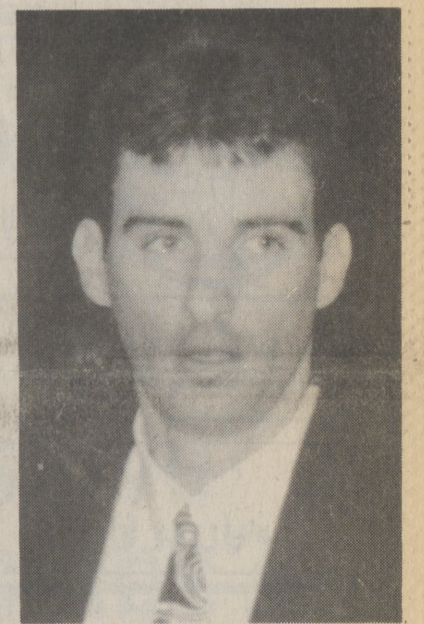
By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Minutes after being sentenced to life in prison, convicted murderer Stephen G. Schwartz quoted the New Testament to the press while blinking back tears.

The Dallas Township resident was sentenced to life without parole Tuesday by Luzerne County Judge Hugh Mundy for the January 17, 1992 murder of his former girlfriend, Deborah VanLeuven, 27, of Lake Ariel in the presence of their two-year-old daughter, Stephanie.

Mundy also sentenced Schwartz to 18 to 36 months on related charges: three counts each of theft by unlawful taking and receiving stolen property, for the theft of VanLeuven's car and credit

See SCHWARTZ, pg 13



STEPHEN SCHWARTZ

Road ownership at center of dispute

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

While the Franklin Township supervisors and the Luzerne County Road and Bridge Department wrangle over who actually is responsible for Crown Hill Village's three roads, the residents face an obstacle course every time they leave home.

They also face a legal obstacle course because no one knows who legally owns Farm View, Crown and Hill Drives and is responsible for their upkeep - Luzerne County, Franklin Township or someone else.

The three roads are in official limbo until someone figures it out.

When Walter Baseski moved into Crown Hill 20 years ago, the

development's three roads were dirt tracks a scant 1-1/2 lanes wide.

They've only gotten worse over two decades.

"You can't walk on my road," he said. "You have to drive very slowly." In front of my place there are lots of deep gullies. There are some really nice homes here, but the roads are pitiful. No one has taken care of them."

One of Crown Hill's first families, Frank Zuba maintains 300 feet of Farm View Drive at his own expense so that he can get in and out.

"I have it good, but you should see the difference where I leave off," he said. "It's really bad near

See ROAD, pg 16

You could win it all at Monopoly tourney

If you've ever wanted to be a millionaire, here's your chance. You could be one of two lucky readers to compete in the first annual Wyoming Valley Monopoly Tournament, compliments of The Dallas Post.

The tournament is officially sanctioned by Parker Brothers, Inc., which has produced the game since 1935, and is one of many similar events held throughout the nation. The winner of the local tournament will have a chance to move to state competition, and may go on to play in the U.S. Monopoly Game Championship.

The tournament, to be played Sunday, October 24 at King's College, will include a 90-minute preliminary round, lunch and a final round. Each participant will receive a t-shirt and lunch at no charge. Two Dallas Post readers, drawn at random from entries received by 12 noon October 18, will waive the \$24 entry fee.

The Post is sponsoring the tournament along with other area businesses and organizations. The event is hosted by Wyoming Valley Montessori School and proceeds benefit the school's scholarship fund.

To enter, just fill out the coupon below, send it in before October 18 and keep your calendar free for October 24. Winners must be 10 years of age or older, and employees of The Dallas Post and their families are ineligible. Entry coupons also will be published in the next two issues of The Post. One entry per person, please.

I'm ready to Monopolize! If I'm picked, I agree to be interviewed and photographed for publication in The Dallas Post.

Name _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone No. _____
Must be 10 years of age or older to win.

Lake council silent on cop's suspension

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

The Harveys Lake Borough Council voted at its regular meeting September 21, to reinstate Patrolman Mark Karlonis after a two-week suspension and pay him for one week of the time that he didn't work.

Mayor Joseph Boyle refused to comment on Karlonis's suspension, saying that personnel matters are always kept confidential.

When asked by a reporter if Karlonis's job was in jeopardy, Boyle said, "No."

Annabelle Ave. resident James Drury, Sr., asked council to either confirm or deny reports that it is considering hiring a borough manager.

President Joseph Miscavage

answered, "We've mentioned it."

No definite decision had been made on the matter, Miscavage continued.

Councilman David Abod announced in a written report that the borough has received a \$5,000 county grant to install four dry fire hydrants.

In other business, the council voted to:

- Authorize borough secretary Carole Samson to update the borough's code books for the past three years, a routine process involving entering all new ordinances into the borough code.

- Authorize the Municipal Authority to enforce the sewer hookup ordinance. Council members explained that this will

See SUSPENSION, pg 14

Newsstand, subscription prices to rise

The price of The Dallas Post at stores and by subscription will rise effective with the October 6 issue. Single copies purchased at stores will cost 50¢, while local subscriptions will rise to \$18 per year from \$16. Two-year subscriptions will cost \$32. Out-of-area subscriptions also will rise accordingly.

This is the first increase in price since 1989. It is necessary because the costs of news gathering, production and distribution have risen, and because advertising sales have not grown sufficiently to offset them. We hope to use some of the revenue to further improve news coverage. Part of the store price increase will be shared with dealers.

■ Fall Bridal Showcase appears on pages 7-9.

■ Jack and Lou Conyngham honored with scholarship in their name at Penn State, page 3.

■ Scholarship tests set at Dallas, page 12.

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