

POST PHOTO/KYLIE SHAFFERKOEETTER

Tim Polin shows off the trophy he won as third best chess player in a national championship.

Tim Polin is nation's third best at chess in his grade

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOEETTER
Post Staff

SHAVERTOWN - Could you imagine being the third best chess player in the country? Tim Polin, 12, of Shavertown doesn't have to.

On the weekend of Oct. 25 Polin went with his chess team, the Smart Alekhines, to the National Scholarship Chess Championship in Terre Haute, Indiana and took third in his grade level. The tournament had 900 youths competing and was open to grades K-12.

The tournament was unique because the players only play others in their grade. Polin had to play and win a total of six games, to achieve his place.

The Wyoming Seminary seventh grader wasn't so sure of his achievement at first. "I thought I would come in seventh or eighth," said a modest Polin. "It was a lot of fun and a great experience."

Polin, who started playing chess at age three, was last year's State Champion in his division.

The Smart Alekhines are part of the Wilkes-Barre Chess Club which was started three years ago. "Tim was there at the very first meeting. He has made big gains in the past years," said Trent.

"Chess helps develop problem solving skills and a certain independence since the player, unlike a team sport, is out there on his or her own," explains Trent about the sport that typically gets little coverage. Polin said that he would really like to see chess get the media attention it deserves.

The Wilkes-Barre chess club meets on Saturday mornings at the First Presbyterian Church in Wilkes Barre.

"Tim has a very good memory. It's important to be able to remember patterns and see how to follow through with a move. He also gets out the books and studies very hard. He is very tenacious and doesn't like to lose," said George Trent, the Smart Alekhines coach, of his young player.

Police hope spikes will avert high-speed chases

By JENNIFER JUDGE
Post Correspondent

DALLAS - The Dallas Township Police may soon have a new tool in their fight against crime. The Stinger Spike System, also referred to as Stop Sticks by another manufacturer, could eliminate high speed pursuits.

The Stinger Spike System is accordion shaped and requires that a police car get in front of the vehicle that is being pursued. When the vehicle runs over the system, metal spikes are driven into the tires. The tires deflate within 20 seconds, forcing the vehicle to stop. The device can be used with both cars and large trucks. The officer then uses a cord on the end of the system to pull it off the road before any other cars pass over it.

Police Chief Carl Miers has a patrol area of 19 square miles. The township employs eight full-time officers and 10 part-time. Miers want the Dallas Township Council to approve the purchase of two 10-foot sets of the Stinger Spike System that would cost the township \$389 each.

Miers says that two police cruisers are on the road from 12 p.m. to 4 a.m., five days a week and the purchase would allow both cruisers to be equipped with the new technology.

This is technology that both Dallas Township and Lehman Township were looking for last June. In a DUI pursuit that lasted for 96 miles and went through five counties, a Lehman Township cruiser was damaged, a Lehman Township officer was injured, a state police cruiser was damaged, and a Dallas Township cruiser was destroyed. The driver of the vehicle being pursued finally lost control of his vehicle and ran off

"This would bring things to a halt a lot quicker and a lot safer."

Carl Miers
Dallas Twp. police chief

the road.

"We called ahead to see if anybody had Stop Sticks, but none were available," reported Miers. Lehman Township Police Chief Howard Kocher said, "If we had this in June, we would have stopped that chase immediately."

The tactics that are now employed in pursuits often lead to destruction of police cruisers, Miers said. Police use what is called a moving roadblock. One police cruiser gets in front of the vehicle being pursued and another follows. The lead cruiser slows down in an attempt to stop the vehicle being pursued. Miers said, "The chase car tends to destroy the cruiser."

Chief Miers said the township has about one pursuit per year on average, but this year has already seen two pursuits. Chief Kocher also reported the number of pursuits being up from previous years. Lehman Township has been involved in four pursuits in the past four months as opposed to their usual one per year.

Lehman Township has already purchased the new technology Chief Kocher said. "We're the first department in this area that purchased one. We're hoping the other ones will purchase them too."

Kocher said that each officer will be trained how to use them properly and the police department has received approval from



Howard Kocher, Lehman Twp. police chief, displays the department's new Stinger Spikes, used to avoid high-speed chases.

their insurance company to use the Stinger Spike System. He said, "With this, we hope to eliminate roadblocks all together. They're just too dangerous." Chief Miers hopes that Dallas

Township will be next in line to buy the Stinger Spike System because they are easy to employ and effective. "This would bring things to a halt a lot quicker and a lot safer," Miers said.

DISTRICT COURT BRIEFS

BAD CHECK CHARGE GOING TO TRIAL

Calvin Rutkowski, 26, 125 Austin Ave., Wilkes-Barre, waived his right to a preliminary hearing on charges of writing a bad check on a closed account. On July 26, Kingston Twp. Officer Martin C. Maransky responded to a complaint made by The Shavertown Shooting Supply owner, Richard Hann. Rutkowski sold Hann two guns on July 9 and one on July 13. On July 17, Rutkowski returned to Shavertown Shooting Supply and bought back one of the guns for \$530 with a check. On July 22, Hann received the check back informing him that

the account had been closed July 1.

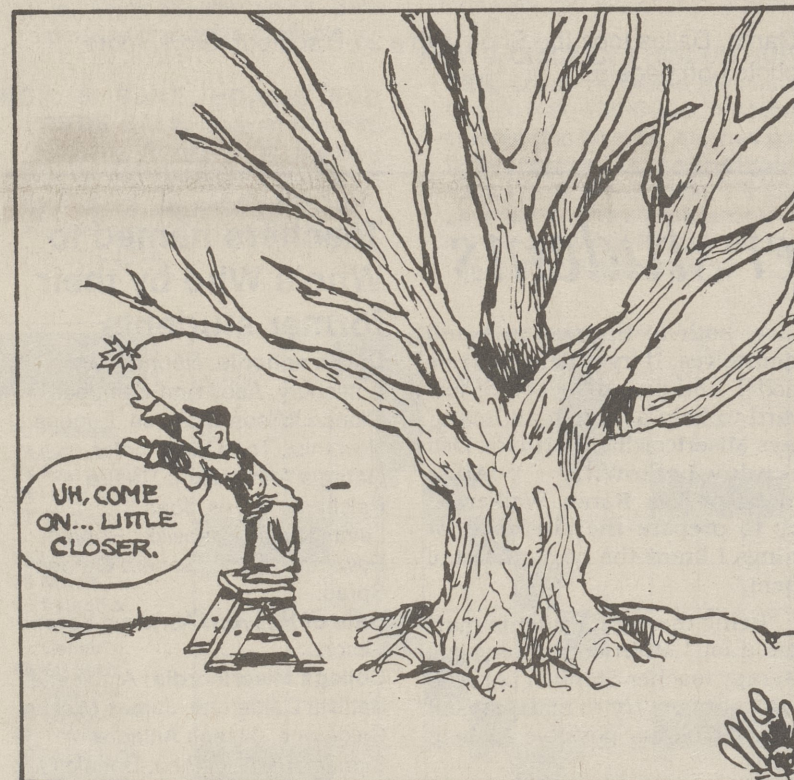
PLEADS GUILTY TO HARASSMENT

Joseph Smith, 33, 321 Huntsville Rd., Shavertown, pleaded guilty to physically harassing his wife in a hearing before District Justice James Tupper. A charge of simple assault was dismissed.

Smith was arrested Oct. 12 after State Trooper Jerard A. Butala was dispatched to Country Village trailer park for a report of a domestic dispute. Smith's wife said that Smith punched her in the face a few times during an argument about the children and house.

Ladies Auxiliary to sell flavors

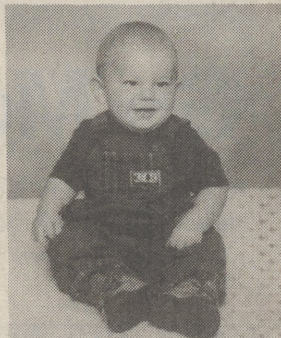
The Ladies Auxiliary of the Sweet Valley Fire Company are selling flavorings for \$2 a bottle. Also available for sale are stainless steel peelers and paring knives. For more information, call Joy Wickard at 477-5323.



Aaron James will note first birthday

Aaron Phillip James, son of Jennifer Joy James, Edwardsville, is celebrating his first birthday November 10.

His grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Thomas James Sr., Noxen and Mrs. Geraldine Page, Edwardsville. Great grandparents are Michael and Josephine Berish, Larksville and the late Martha T. James, Luzerne.



AARON PHILLIP JAMES

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NOTICE

Dallas Borough Residents

A Zoning Board hearing will be held tomorrow night, Thursday evening, November 7 at the Gate of Heaven Church at 7 PM to act on changing the use of the property on the corner of Machell and Sterling Avenues to Offices including commercial, professional, and business. A variance is also being requested to add an exterior stairwell, etc. **Please attend meeting.**

Paid for by Sterling Avenue Association, Inc., a non-profit corporation to promote and protect the privileges and interests of the residents of the Borough of Dallas, Pennsylvania.

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NEWS

Coverage area: The Dallas Post covers the "Back Mountain" area of Luzerne County, including Dallas, Kingston, Lehman and Jackson townships, Dallas Borough, Harveys Lake and the Dallas and Lake-Lehman school districts. We try to get to as many events as possible, but staff and space limitations make it impossible to cover everything. If you have news about your family, town or organization, please send it to us and we'll try to get it in. Photographs are welcome; we prefer black and white, but color will usually work.

Corrections, clarifications: The Dallas Post will correct errors of fact or clarify any misunderstanding created by a story. Call 675-5211.

Have a story idea? Please call, we'd like to hear about it.

Letters: The Dallas Post prints all letters which have local interest. Send letters to: Editor, The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612. All letters must be signed and include a phone number at which we can reach the author. Deadline is Noon, Monday prior to publication.

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