

# Dispute

(continued from page 1)

ing funds in the borough, have through their relationship weaker through the years.

In 1992, both the Harveys Lake chief and Idetown chief met and made an agreement to work together. A short while later Idetown called to cancel the contract, Lutinski claimed.

Lutinski also cited an event that he said occurred last year during a fire on Annabelle Ave. at Sunset on Harveys Lake. He said he called Idetown and asked them to help hook up to the water lines. Idetown wanted to go to the fire, but Lutinski said he refused them because that is not where he needed them. Idetown then called into the Back Mountain Communication Center and went home instead of doing what he asked.

Shirley Wentzel, Idetown treasurer, maintains that Idetown was stopped from getting to the fire by a Harveys Lake firefighter who was directing traffic.

Jack Dodson, the firemen's association president, said the decision to suspend Idetown came after a member of Idetown's company made disparaging remarks about Harveys Lake to television news reporters. Lutinski said Idetown made specific negative comments via television news about Harveys Lake fire company.

"A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to revoke and suspend your membership in the Back Mountain Firemen's Association until such a time that you could either justify your actions to this organization and/or make a public apology through the same media sources that your company publicly slandered a member of this organization and indirectly the...association itself," stated the letter from the association to the Idetown Fire Company.

In a letter to Lutinski, Dodson, and Jay Wilkes, Jackson Twp. fire chief, Wentzel wrote that she contacted both Channel 16 and Channel 28 in search of a tape of the alleged insulting remarks and found none.

"We received the tape of the Channel 16 news and found nothing to that effect. I called Channel 28 and asked to purchase their tape of the news that night. They assured me the only thing...said (by an Idetown firefighter) was that, 'It was a darn shame this had to happen.'"

Wentzel gave *The Dallas Post* an audio tape copy of another Channel 28 broadcast. On the tape, a Channel 28 reporter remarked that one local assistant fire chief wondered why his department wasn't called. He went on to report that Idetown fire hall is five miles from the nursing home and that other fire officials said Idetown wasn't needed even if they had been dispatched.

John Hutchins, Idetown asst. fire chief, was then interviewed by the reporter. "I think five people can help out. An extra hose line, relieving people on scene-giving them a break. Maybe five extra people could've helped out," said Hutchins on the Channel 28 broadcast obtained by Wentzel. Hutchins did not specifically men-

tion Harveys Lake on that tape. In her letter, Wentzel wrote that Hutchins was caught off guard by the interview and did not have enough time to prepare a statement. "I hope this softens the problem of misunderstanding," she wrote in the letter, dated May 27.

Lutinski said he did not see this as an apology and believes the comments made by Hutchins second guess the actions Harveys Lake took in dealing with the fire.

"Just the way the questions are worded leads people to believe something else could've been done," said Lutinski. He also said Channel 28 told him directly that they were called by Idetown and asked to pursue the fact that they were not called to the fire.

Idetown maintains the interview was spontaneous and initiated by Channel 28, not them. But in her letter, Wentzel writes, "I am writing this letter on my own as I feel this is my fault for starting with Channel 28. I had no idea they were going to pursue this in the manner they did." Wentzel said she was referring to her seeking the tapes after the allegations were made.

*"Just the way the questions are worded leads people to believe something else could've been done."*

**Frank Lutinski**  
Harveys Lake fire chief

Dodson said the letter to Idetown did not include all the accusations the association says they made. "We wanted them to sit down with Harveys Lake and clear the air," he said. "But, they never sat down with us."

Wentzel said she has talked to Dodson several times and asked him how this could be settled, but nothing ever happened.

Idetown Fire Company, a.k.a. Jonathan R. Davis Volunteer Fire Relief Association, was established in 1959. Idetown is funded by Foreign Fire Insurance taxes from Lake Twp. and Lehman Twp. Lake Twp. gives them \$1,600 per year and Lehman Twp. pays \$4,000 per year for workmen's compensation and insurance.

Dave Sutton, supervisor chairman in Lehman Twp., said Lehman, Lake Silkworth and Idetown are in negotiations to develop mutual aid between them. After being suspended from the association, Idetown asked to set up a mutual aid with Lehman. At Lehman Twp.'s board of supervisors meeting last week, the board said it would support Idetown being dispatched simultaneously with the Lehman Twp. fire company.

Wentzel said Idetown is happy with this proposition. "Somewhere along the line the mutual aid agreement dissolved (with Harveys Lake)," she said. "We don't know how. We don't care if we never go in the borough. We just want to be dispatched with Lehman Twp. It's Harveys Lake's loss."

But Dodson said he wants to again try to set up a meeting with Idetown to clear the air.



The two fire companies are at opposite ends of the lake. The Country Manor personal care home was on Queen of Peace Rd., in the upper left corner of the map. (Map segment from Back Mountain Community Map, G.R. Fisher Surveying and Mapping.)

# Chase

(continued from page 1)

He was arraigned before District Justice Swank in Wright Twp. He could not pay his \$10,000 bail and was sent to the Luzerne County prison.

Miers said Ross was recently paroled and that the parole probation department launched a detainer. Even if Ross could pay his bail he could not leave the prison because he violated his parole.

"It's stupid. All someone has to do is stop," said Miers, of people who race away from police.

*"It's stupid. All someone has to do is stop."*

**Carl Miers**  
Dallas Twp. police chief

Miers said the police department's pursuit policy was followed.

Ross was scheduled to have a preliminary hearing Nov. 26 before District Justice James Tupper.

# DISTRICT COURT BRIEFS

## Two charged with taking, breaking Grotto Pizza beer glasses

Noxen resident Sean Crisman, 23, and Noxen resident Marc Kornova, 24., were arrested Sept. 14 by Harveys Lake patrolman James Karlowicz after police heard the sound of glass being smashed and observed two men walking away from a pile of broken glass near Grotto Pizza.

Crisman and Kornova had beer glasses from Grotto Pizza that they were not unauthorized to take.

The glass on the ground matched that of the beer glasses.

Crisman was charged with disorderly conduct, public drunkenness and scattering rubbish on land. A related charge of theft by unlawful taking was dismissed. Kornova was charged with public drunkenness. Related charges of theft by unlawful taking, disorderly conduct and scattering rubbish were dismissed.

### D.U.I. CHARGES

Harveys Lake resident Jerry Cavill, 46, was arrested Sept. 4 by Harveys Lake patrolman Scott Baker after police responded to an accident at Ridge Ave. and Rt. 415. After failing field sobriety tests, Cavill was taken to Wilkes-Barre General Hospital where his blood alcohol level was determined to be .226, more than twice the legal limit of .10.

He was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and failing to keep right. Related charges of accident involving damage to attended vehicle and failing to yield right.

Tunkhannock resident Jason L. Roberts, 23, was arrested Sept. 7 by Harveys Lake patrolman James Karlowicz after police observed him driving erratically on Rt. 415. After failing field sobriety tests, Roberts was taken to Wilkes-Barre General Hospital where his blood alcohol level was determined to be .057 and his blood tested positive for mari-

juana.

He was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance, failing to keep right and careless driving. A related charge of not driving at a safe speed was dropped.

Roberts waived his right to a preliminary hearing before District Justice James Tupper.

### TRESPASSING

Wilkes-Barre resident Marvin Artmont, 41, pled guilty to defiant trespassing after his arrest on Sept. 13 by state trooper Jared Butala when police were called to the residence of James Smith. Artmont was identified as one of three people who took four 14 karat gold rings, a 64 piece set of silverware and an alarm clock from Smith's residence without permission. All the items were recovered and are being held as evidence.

Related charges of criminal trespassing and theft by unlawful taking were dismissed.

## AIDS Day recognized at Wilkes Dec. 1

Wilkes University and St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception Church, in recognition of World AIDS Day will be holding an Ecumenical Service on Mon. Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. at St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception Church, South Washington Street.

The observance will include reading, music and meditation. Msgr. John Esseff will be the guest speaker at the observance. A speech entitled "Living With AIDS," presented by Jennifer Nicols, in room 101, of Stark Learning Center, Wilkes University, will follow the service.

All community members are invited and encouraged to attend the Ecumenical Service.

For more information, call 1-800-WILKES-U, ext. 4770.

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