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Basketball playoffs in full swing. Pg 9.



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Dallas High School students of month. Pg 12.



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Prince of Peace plans 50th Antique Show and Sale. Pg 5.

Police make arrest in JT burglaries; arrest HL man

BY TIMOTHY J. RAUB
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN — Local police have made two arrests and expect to make more soon in connection with a string of daylight burglaries throughout the Back Mountain.

Officials say there have been seven or eight daylight burglaries in the area during the past several months.

Several Back Mountain police departments are working together on the investigations.

The latest arrest came February 23, when Harveys Lake police arrested Phillip E. Knepp, 39, of Ridge Avenue, Dallas, on charges of receiving stolen property, specifically an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle that had been stolen along with numerous other firearms on Feb. 13 from James Pilger, of Lakeside Drive, Harveys Lake.

According to arrest papers: Pilger contacted police on Feb. 21 with information on his burglary.

Pilger said he was contacted by Ryan Healy, address unknown, who said he knew who had the stolen AR-15.

Healy said he would sell Pilger the rifle for \$1,000. Pilger agreed to purchase the rifle, valued at \$1,500, and Healy said he would pick up the money in 15 minutes.

Harveys Lake Police Chief Jeffrey Butler, patrolmen Charles Musial and James Karlowicz were at Pilger's home when Healy arrived Feb. 21.

Healy agreed to cooperate with police and said a second man, Dr. Ronald Bost, of 50 Stoneybrook Rd., Shavertown was in possession of the AR-15.

After a transaction between the two men, Pilger identified the rifle as his.

Police determined the rifle had been purchased directly from Knepp on Feb. 13, when Bost presented police with a receipt of sale.

Knepp was arraigned before District Justice Paul Roberts of Kingston and taken to the Luzerne County Correc-

tional Facility for lack of \$7,500 bail. Jackson Township police also arrested Alfred George, of Wilkes-Barre, in January with a daylight burglary in the township, and consider him a suspect in another burglary in the township.

"It is rare to have daylight burglaries," said Jackson Township police officer Scott Davis.

Davis recently attended a monthly crime information meeting in Wright Township to discuss the burglaries. "The method of entry has been the same in the burglaries, and we are currently looking for more than one person."

Police departments throughout the Wyoming Valley are working together to see whether a recent rash of as many as 60 daylight burglaries are connected, several law enforcement officials said.

Kingston Township has had two,

daylight burglaries in the past year. Chief James Balavage had no comment on the investigation into the burglaries as of press time, but did say both burglaries had forced entries, but different types of items were taken in each incident.

"At this time there is a suspect in one of the daylight burglaries, but we have not made an arrest as of yet," said Balavage.

Harveys Lake, which has had five burglaries since January, and one known daylight burglary.

"We think the daylight burglary in Harveys Lake may be connected to the burglaries in the other municipalities," said Butler. "We don't know for sure if there were any more daylight burglaries in the borough, because some of the people were not sure when the burglaries happened."

Both Balavage and Davis said residents can help prevent burglaries by



locking their doors, letting neighbors know when they are going to be out of town for an extended period of time and setting house alarms during the day while they are at work.

"You would be surprised how many people do not lock their doors," said Davis. "People also do not set their alarms during the day. We have not had a burglary yet at a home with an alarm."

Times Leader staff writer Kalen Churcher proved additional information for this article.

PETE G. WILCOX/SPECIAL TO THE DALLAS POST

Confiscated weapons from a Harveys Lake burglary remain at the Harveys Lake police station.

Band sponsors slowly gain ear of school board

□ Still, staffing is short and band director's job is open

By ELIZABETH ANDERSON
Post Correspondent

LEHMAN TWP. — After a long and contentious battle with the past school board, the Lake-Lehman Band Sponsors were shown a little light at the end of the tunnel by the present administration and hope to see much more.

The present school board, in place about two years, recently granted the wishes of the band sponsors and created the two new school district positions of Indoor Colorguard director and Indoor Percussion director, satisfying district insurance liabilities and enabling the Indoor Percussion and Colorguard to resume practicing for competition. The school district will pay the two new directors' salaries of \$1,926 a year with the balance of the salaries being made up by the band sponsors, a proposal made by the band support organization themselves when they requested the deal from the board.

The band sponsors pay quite a large percentage of the expenses for not only indoor guard and percussion, but also

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POST PHOTO/M.B. GILLIGAN

Racer's edge

Ryan May cheers on his competitors. Watching the race from left are: Karl Carichner, Brian Ghezzi, May, Luke Jolley (kneeling), Peter Steve and Kyle Banks. More photos on page 3.

Police investigate arson at junkyard

JACKSON TWP. — Police are investigating an arson at Malak Junkyard on Pine Tree and Salansky roads Tuesday morning.

Jackson Township officer Scott Davis said eight junked cars were set on fire when a flatbed tow truck, owned by Donald Malak, rammed into them after 4 a.m. The junkyard is owned by Malak's brother, Raymond Malak.

Davis said gasoline or a similar accelerant was used on the cluster of cars before the crash. The flatbed, valued at \$9,000, was destroyed, Davis said.

A nearby auto body garage was in danger during the fire, but firefighters extinguished the fire before it spread.

The state police fire marshal is also investigating, Davis said.

PSU student dies in one car accident

BY TIMOTHY J. RAUB
Post Staff

LEHMAN TWP. — A Penn State student died in a one-car crash on Feb. 21 near the Penn State University-Wilkes-Barre campus.

Penn State student Christian Procopio, 19, of Stroudsburg, was transported by helicopter to Scranton Community Medical Center after his 1992 Toyota sedan left the road at a high rate of speed and struck a tree on Old Route 115 in front of the campus, according to Lehman Township police.

Procopio later died at the hospital as a result of injuries sustained in the crash. The vehicle was involved in another crash earlier in the night at an off-campus housing facility. Then, police said, the car struck four parked cars in an off-campus apartment complex parking lot.

Lehman Township police are investigating the accident and said they do not believe alcohol played a role in the crash.



POST PHOTO/JIM PHILLIPS

Food and friendship

Truckville United Methodist Church held its annual Pork and Sauerkraut supper last weekend. Enjoying the food and fellowship were Altheda Smith, left, and Ruth Pritchard. More photos on page 4.

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