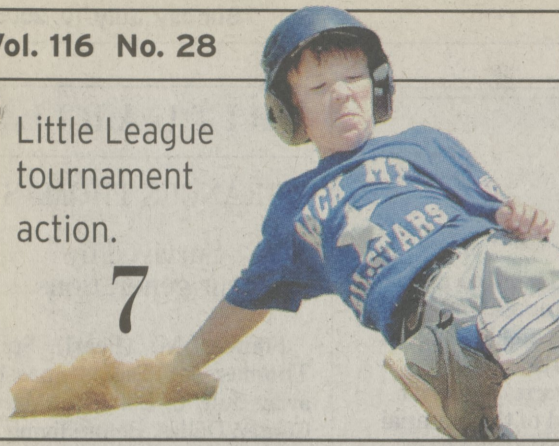


Little League tournament action.

7



# THE POST

50¢

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS & LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

## HARVEYS LAKE BOAT FIRE



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Nick Arnone talks about his plans to rebuild this dock at Sunset Marina. All but three of the 15 slips were destroyed by a fire last week.

## Dock owner vows to rebuild

Nick and John Arnone's grandfather built the dock nearly 50 years ago.

By RONALD BARTIZEK  
Post Staff

HARVEYS LAKE — Until July 1, the worst thing that had happened to Nick and John Arnone's dock in the lake's inlet was a roof blowing off in the 1970s. It was not replaced, and that's just as well now that a fire has consumed 14 boats and most of the dock.

The inferno, which sent plumes of dark, acrid smoke into the air while spilling gasoline and oil into the water, started in a boat at Arnone's 20-slip marina. Witnesses said the fire started when Anthony Skiro, 37, of Hanover Township, tried to start his boat and the engine caught fire — and so did he. Skiro jumped into the water, and his boat began to drift, igniting others.

Firefighters from Harveys Lake and Kunkle were the first to reach the scene, but their efforts to douse the flames with water were unsuccessful.

"They should have just let them burn," Nick Arnone said two days after the fire. "Because they burned anyway." He said both the fiberglass hulls and canvas covers contributed to the intensity of the fire.

The dock was built in the 1950s by Arnone's grandfather, and will be rebuilt, although Arnone isn't sure how quickly, given today's regulatory requirements.

Mark Carmon, spokesman for the state Department of Environmental Protection, may have good news for Arnone; the rebuilding process may not be difficult if the supporting pilings are intact. "Those pilings are pretty big," Carmon said. "If it's just cosmetic, there may not be any permits required."

Arnone said he had not been able to inspect

the dock closely because it is still surrounded by floating barriers being used to collect oil and gas.

The news is worse for some boat owners who tied up at the dock. "A lot of them did have insurance," Arnone said, but some did not, including a couple who had put a new boat in the water. "They'll be paying for the next 10 to 15 years, and they'll have nothing."

Arnone charges \$500 per season for docking privileges, and he said his contract specifically states that insurance is not provided. In a move to protect himself, Arnone said contracts will be rewritten to require that boat owners carry liability insurance that would pay for damage they cause.

The dock was not insured for damage, only liability, Arnone said.

Because work is being done on its engine, a

See REBUILD, Page 2

## In the end, boaters are the key to safety

By RONALD BARTIZEK  
Post Staff

Could the July 1 fire at Harveys Lake have been prevented, or at least controlled before than a dozen boats were destroyed? There seems to be no quick answer to that question, and little in the way of regulations that could help the next time.

"I think everything went pretty well," said Kunkle Fire Chief Jack Dodson. His department was second on the scene, following Harveys Lake Fire & Ambulance. "I've been chief for 33 years, and I've never seen anything like this."

Firefighters poured water on the burning boats until they could get foam set up. Because the boats are made from fiberglass and plastic, water isn't very effective. But there were problems even with the foam.

"There were different locations you couldn't get into," Dodson said, since most boats have closed compartments that the foam could not penetrate.



FOR THE POST/FRED ADAMS

A Dallas firefighter poured water on one of the burning boats.

Gasoline vapor, which is heavier than air, settles in those areas and is highly flammable. Also, the boats were moving targets after their mooring lines burned off and they began drifting. "It was just a different scenario all around."

While an exact cause of the fire hasn't been determined, early reports indicated that one

boat caught on fire while its owner was doing work on the engine.

George Horwatt, of Dallas, a boat dealer for more than 20 years, said boats and motors are equipped with specialized components to prevent fire, such as shields to contain backfires or sparks. Even the starter motors on marine engines are specially

constructed, and thus more expensive. Horwatt suspects some boat owners choose less-costly standard replacements, which lack the safety measures.

Larger marinas have fire extinguishers and other safety equipment handy to the docks, Horwatt said. "You're talking millions of dollars of investment" in large boats, he said, so boat owners demand precautions.

Nick Arnone, co-owner of the dock that burned, said he's heard there may be a push to require 100-pound fire extinguishers at docks. He doesn't think that will help, and the equipment will be vandalized. Besides, he said, unless there's a trained firefighter around, extinguishers won't be effective. "There's really nothing you can do," he said.

Jim Stout, Waterways Conservation Officer with the Pa. Fish & Boat Commission, said most boats are required to have a fire extinguisher on

See SAFETY, Page 2

## Tunkhannock getting a new 'streetscape'

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK  
Post Correspondent

TUNKHANNOCK — It has taken since 1994, but with plenty of help from the community work finally is moving ahead on a downtown Tunkhannock streetscape project. When completed, new sidewalks, curbs, trees, benches and "gaslight type" pedestrian lighting will stretch one block in each direction from the red light at the intersection of Routes 6 and 29.

"It took a lot of time and effort to pull this off," says Donna LaBar, owner of a real estate office on Tioga Street, and member of the streetscape committee. "It took five years just to get the initial money for the design project in 1999."

Committee members visited and spoke to officials in other towns who were going through the same process. "They were always more than happy to share their experiences and we learned a lot like that."

LaBar notes that the project is the brainchild of "just some business people" who wanted a more attractive downtown area in order to stimulate tourism and keep business in town. "It's exciting. I'm sitting here today, watching them tear out the first 200 feet of

See STREETScape, Page 3

## Drain is a menace, supervisors are told

By CAMILLE FIOTI  
Post Correspondent

DALLAS TWP. — A large open drain pipe on the corner of East Center Hill Road and Midland Drive is an accident waiting to happen, said Randy Parry who lives on that corner.

"Somebody's going to have an accident down there," he told the supervisors at their July 5 meeting. "It's an extremely dangerous situation."

The opening to the pipe is at the bottom of a deep trench along East Center Hill, and since the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation owns that road, they are the ones to do the maintenance, responded vice chairman Frank Wagner.

Parry said that storm water runoff from a parcel of land behind his house is contributing to the problem. "The water just keeps coming. I've seen it go through my yard three feet deep."

He asked the supervisors if the swale in front of his house on Midland Drive, which is

See DRAIN, Page 2



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

## On the ball

Rory Corcoran kept his eye on the ball during a tennis camp held recently at Newberry Estate. More photos on page 3.

### Inside The Post

- 12 Pages, 1 Section
- Calendar .....12
- Church .....11
- Editorials .....4
- Obituaries .....5
- School .....9-10
- Sports .....7-8

Lake-Lehman High School Class of 2005 officers.

10



Today's the last day of the 59th Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction. Booths open at 4 p.m. and the bidding starts at 6. Don't miss out!

### How To Reach Us

News: 675-5211  
thePost@leader.net  
15 N. Main St.  
Wilkes-Barre PA 18711  
Advertising: 829-7101  
Subscriptions  
and Delivery: 829-5000