

The Dallas Post

50 Cents

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

Vol. 109 No. 36

Dallas, Pennsylvania

September 9 thru September 15, 1998

Three live to tell of lightning strike

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post Staff

FRANKLIN TWP. - "I've never been that close to lightning before," Tom Rickaby said Monday afternoon. "Neither have I," responded Robert Sands, a neighbor. "And guess what, I never want to be that close again."

For good reason. Sands, Randy McGeehan and Robert Rickaby were struck by lightning when a

fierce thunderstorm swept through the area about noon Labor Day. Fortunately, they didn't take a direct hit, and all three refused medical treatment from paramedics who responded to the Rickaby home in the Country Village trailer park off Orange Road.

Sands and McGeehan were doing body work on Sands's truck, which was parked across and down the street from Rickaby's when the bolt apparently struck a

*Where did it hit?
"Me!"*

Robert Rickaby
Franklin Twp.

tree, went to the ground and traveled along the road. Rickaby was standing in the street, about 10 feet from a minivan parked in his driveway. When the lightning hit him, it threw him backward

against the car.

"I don't remember a damn thing until I was on the couch," Rickaby said. Other neighbors and family members, who had been standing outside and closer to the tree, helped him into the house. Meanwhile, Sands had been thrown to the ground, scraping his elbow, and a can of spray paint McGeehan had been holding was knocked out

See LIGHTNING, pg 10



Robert Sands, left, Randy McGeehan and Robert Rickaby stand in the street near where they were struck by lightning Monday.

BMT Land Trust preserves 37 acres, creek

The Back Mountain Regional Land Trust has preserved another parcel of woodland and wildlife habitat. Located in Mehoopany in Wyoming County, this 37-acre property is owned by Mrs. Betty Davies.

In 1961, the Davies family built a log cabin here from the locust trees harvested from the mountainous portion of the land. Since then, they've enjoyed countless hours of pristine woods, clean air and the cool waters of the Mehoopany Creek. During this time, the land came to be known as that "Special Place."

Mrs. Davies and her family hoped to preserve this land forever. In their search to do so, they found the Back Mountain Regional Land Trust could assist them. The Land Trust became the party responsible for enforcing a conservation easement or conservation restriction that was created by the Davies' and the Trust.

This document becomes part of the property deed and is officially recorded at the respective courthouse. Current and subsequent owners of the land must abide by the restrictions noted in perpetuity.

One of Mrs. Davies' desires was to protect the riparian forest buffer for the adjoining Mehoopany Creek. Riparian refers to the area of land adjacent to a body of water, stream, river, marsh, or shoreline that directly affects or is affected by the water. Riparian areas serve as a transition between the aquatic and the terrestrial environment. In essence, Mrs. Betty Davies and future owners are positively affecting the health of not only Mehoopany Creek, but also that of the Susquehanna River into which it flows.

Other projects in progress by the Land Trust include Ridgetop Preservation in Luzerne County, Bear Creek Planning Project, conservation easements on nearly 220 additional acres in Luzerne and Susquehanna Counties, and a series of seminars to begin in 1999 to train a pool of professional attorneys, appraisers and accountants in the technical work of land trusts.

The Back Mountain Regional Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) conservation organization located at 11 Carverton Road in Trucksville. The Land Trust serves Luzerne and Susquehanna Counties as well as Wyoming County. It is a publicly supported, membership-driven organization. If you would like more information about us, please call the office at 696-5545.



POST PHOTO/JIM PHILLIPS

Sweet servings

Minnie Sidorek and Audrey Lockhart had the dessert goodies ready for the Kunkle Fire Co. chicken barbecue, held Saturday. More photos on page 3.

Lake Twp. recyclers could use more hands

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

LAKE TWP. - The Lake Township Recycling Program needs volunteers. The small, but faithful group of people that shows up every month needs help handling the volume of recyclables collected.

As the program celebrates its eighth anniversary this October, the volunteers want to maintain its vitality in the community. But, they cannot do it alone.

Currently, two to five people volunteer their time the second Saturday of each month at the Lake Township Municipal Building on Rt. 29. "That is not enough when we have heavy traffic," said Joanne Wascalus, who has volunteered for the program since 1991.

The program accepts three colors of glass, plastics with the numbers one or two on them, bimetal cans and aluminum. Every other month newspapers are collected. The next drop-off date is Sept. 12. All recyclables are taken to Bielecki Scrap and Recycling Center in Wilkes-Barre.

Lake Township's population is approximately 2,000 and Wascalus estimates that 70 families drop off between 1 1/2 and 2 1/2 tons of recyclable material each month.

If you ask the small group why they haul themselves out every month to separate sometimes sticky bottles and cans, most say because of the environment. And because of Irene Thomas.

"Irene Thomas strong-armed me. She was very persuasive and kept calling me," said Bertha Williams, with a laugh. Thomas started the recycling program in 1990. She passed away suddenly in January and is missed greatly by the remaining volunteers.

"She touched a lot of people," said Beth Chocallo, who brings her 12-year-old son, Patrick, to volunteer. "She was involved in many organizations. She brought a lot to our attention and took the time to research information."

Annabell Allen, who has been involved with recycling since 1993, volunteered her time because she was retiring. "I actually brought my stuff out and then

See RECYCLERS, pg 10

Couple works together, like magic

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

HARVEYS LAKE - While her husband Keith was at work, Linda Culver's curiosity got the best of her. She went downstairs and tried to figure out all of Keith's magic props and sets. After more than 10 years of marriage to a magician, Linda discovered that she was bitten by the magic bug.

That was about three years ago and now the husband and wife duo from Harveys Lake work together as KC & Company. They perform their upbeat, funny shows for fundraisers, schools, parties and magic conferences.

Just this March the two won first place at Carol's Pocono Magic Festival. "It was really nice (to win)," said Mr. Culver. "But, it's always more difficult to do magic shows for other magicians. They can usually tell when you mess up."

"I think people like to see magic because it is different, entertaining and colorful."

Keith Culver
Magician, Harveys Lake

Keith Culver has been cultivating his magic since he was in seventh grade and has been performing it all his adult life. "I think the mystery behind magic is what fascinates me," he said. "I think people like to see magic because it is different, entertaining and colorful. People like to be fooled and like to try to figure out how a trick was done."

The couple enjoys working together. Sure, they bicker a bit, but like any creative team, it's because they want the show to be the best it can. And they're married.

"It's nice working together," said

Mr. Culver. "Now I can get into bigger illusions."

It took Linda Culver some time to get used to performing in front of an audience. She remembers her debut performance with

See MAGIC, pg 10



Keith and Linda Culver perform as KC & Company.

Fall Sports Preview

Special section inside, on Dallas and Lake-Lehman fall sports teams.

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