

Internet

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into an open slot on the computer's main board and letting the computer's software set it up. For DSL, a technician from the phone company installs a small box that splits the signal coming into the home, allowing DSL users to talk on the phone and use their internet connection at the same time. For cable access, a technician will run a new cable line just for the computer.

Data moves both into and out of a user's computer, and high speed connections move at different speeds in each direction. In most cases, the speed a computer downloads information is more important. A typical 56 kilobaud per second (kbps) connection, the fastest conventional modem, can download one megabyte of data in about five minutes. Epix's most popular residential package downloads data to a user's computer at 640 kbps, and uploads data at 160 kbps. These speeds are for users who don't expect to send out much information. Video game players, who send out and receive data constantly, often use the 320 kbps down, 320 kbps up package. Powerlite will offer downloads as fast as 1,500 kbps downloads, and 128 kbps uploads.

With the computer always connected to the internet, security becomes an important issue. "We do what we can. Security is a game of odds," said Leepson. "We try to reduce the chances of something happening." Leepson said inexpensive programs, called "firewalls," that act as a shield between the customer's computer and the internet are a good safeguard. "The final measure is what people at home do," Leepson said.

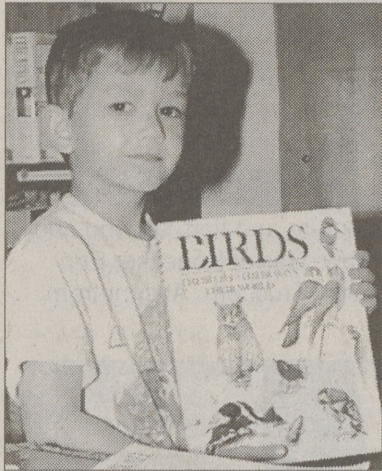
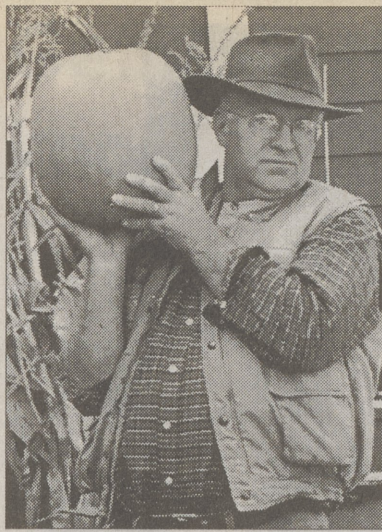
CTE/epix has spent effort and money into making their DSL service a success. They gave it a brand name, Jack Flash, and marketed it with glossy flyers and a splashy, comic book style billboard campaign. Tele-Media has named its cable service Powerlite, and is in the early stages of developing a marketing campaign. Jack Flash has been available for about

a year. CTE/epix is finding ways to make the installation end of their DSL connection easier. In the future, customers will plug the DSL modem into the computer and into one end of a small box plugged into a regular phone line. Currently, a technician from the phone company must install the filter in the customer's main box. "It would enable us to get service to customers quicker. It would allow people to move their DSL connection with their computer from room to room. We do what we can to make it easier," said Leepson. For now, technicians install the filter/splitter for the entire house rather than just one outlet, and wire a separate jack for the computer in just one location.

CTE/epix has partnered with a company called iBeam to provide faster access to movies and other multimedia files. Content from popular web sites is available to epix customers on the CTE/epix network, and customers would be rerouted to the faster internal servers, avoiding internet congestion. Tele-Media has been expanding its services as well. They have been upgrading their cable system with fiber optics, and they are now offering digital cable services as well. Tele-Media's coverage area includes almost all the Back Mountain.

The future is bright for high speed internet access. Leepson said some experts project DSL usage will grow to 7 million users by 2004 as compared to 900,000 this year. CTE/epix currently has over 1,700 signups throughout its coverage area, and has a backlog of connections waiting to be installed. Tele-Media's service is available in selected locations, and customers should call for availability.

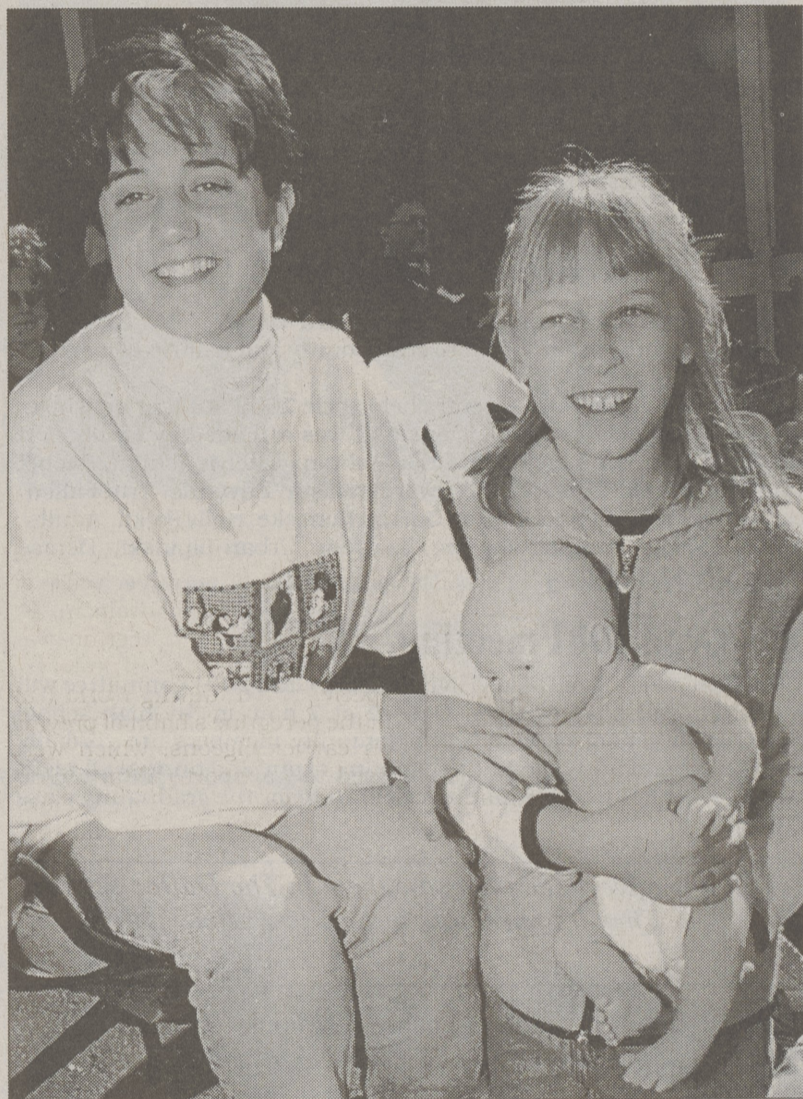
For information about Jack Flash DSL service, call 1-888-977-JACK or visit the web site www.getjackflash.com. For information about Powerlite cable access, call 675-0279.



Wrapping up fall

POST PHOTOS/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library's Fall Wrap-up Auction drew a spirited bidding crowd Sunday, along with dozens of items sold over the block, visitors could browse about 30 craft displays, have lunch and take home a treat from the volunteer bake sale. In photos, clockwise from above: Ruth Challenger, Truckville, sold seasonal crafts; Steve Traver, professional auctioneer and library volunteer, donated several hours of top-notch auctioneering; when Dana Morris bought a chair, it came with a doll, which she gave to Theresa Ann Restaino; Sean Cragle found something he liked in the book booth; Joe Stager, co-chairman, displayed a pumpkin that was up for bid.



High-speed access choices

Jackflash DSL service - CTE/epix internet services

Monthly Cost	Sign up/equipment cost	Speed (down/up)	Special features
\$49.99	free w/ 1 year contract	640 kbps/ 160 kbps	5 free hrs dial-up per month
\$79.99	free w/1 yr contract	320 kbps/ 320 kbps	5 free hrs dial-up per month

Powerlite cable internet access - Tele-Media of Luzerne County

Monthly Cost	Sign up/equipment cost	Speed (down/up)	Special features
\$34.95	\$4.95 per month lease, \$199.95 buy	1.5 mbps/ 128 kbps	subscriber rate
\$44.95	\$4.95 per month lease, \$199.95 buy	1.5 mbps/ 128 kbps	non-subscriber rate

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

BACK MOUNTAIN HARVEST ASSEMBLY - 340 Carverton Rd., Truckville. 696-1128. Pastor, Daniel S. Miller. Christian Education for all ages, 10:00 a.m. Worship 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. Wed., 7 p.m., "Genos" youth service. Midweek home groups; call for days and times. Weekday prayer 6:30-7:30 a.m. Visitors welcome.

DALLAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 4 Parsonage St., Dallas. 675-0122. Rev. William D. Lewis, Pastor. Sunday School 9 a.m. Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

PRINCE OF PEACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 420 Main St., Dallas, 675-1723. The Rev. Robert A. Nagy, Rector. Sunday Holy Eucharist 8 & 10 a.m. All are welcome!

SHAVERTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 163 N. Pioneer Ave., Shavertown. 675-3616. Pastors: Rev. Douglas and Janet Bryant Clark. Music Dir., John Vaida. Saturday Service, 5:30 p.m., short, informal casual worship; Sunday Service, 9 a.m., family oriented worship with children's sermon and Jr. Church; Sunday Service, 11 a.m., traditional service. For more information call the office at 675-3616.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - 196 N. Main St., Shavertown. Sat. Worship 5:30 p.m.; Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Phone 675-3859 or e-mail: stpaul@epix.net for more information. Everyone welcome! Rev. Charles H. Grube, Pastor.

To place your Post Classified Call 675-5211

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