

Girl gets to meet harness racing legend.
SPORTS
PAGE 9



THE POST

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PHOTOS FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Rick Koval, a naturalist with the North Branch Land Trust, measures a 2-century-old white oak in Trucksville.

This bark has some serious bite

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK
Post Correspondent

TRUCKSVILLE - Ancient, landmark trees grace the Back Mountain, a testament to natural tenacity. They are stoic witnesses to the area's history and may have genetic qualities that make them worth preserving and propagating.

She's a real tree hugger. Lori Womer tries to estimate the diameter of this Luzerne County champion blue spruce that sits on the property of Omar Hallsson, owner of the Castle Inn.

ON THE WEB

www.dcnr.state.pa.us/statepark/natural/bigtree

And some - based on their size - might be state champions. The Back Mountain area was originally forested with excellent trees for lumber, according to historian D.A. Waters. In his history of Dallas, Waters a "particularly unusually large species of pine tree, that grew to a height of 200 feet, with no limbs below 150 feet, the diameter being five or six feet at the ground." Hickory, chestnut, maple and oak also grew abundantly in the area.

A remaining example is on the property of Ann Holak of Knob Hill Road in Trucksville. According to neighbor Patty Kresesky, this giant tree was 250 years old when the Holaks bought the property 30 years ago. That could make the tree 285 years old, a mere baby tree in 1720.

See TREES, Page 3

Library honors Rudolph

Back Mountain Memorial Library dedicates new gazebo

Marilyn Rudolph, former children's librarian, is presented with a letter of congratulations from First Lady Laura Bush while library board president Joseph Stager applauds.



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Members of the Back Mountain Memorial Library's board of directors who attended a dedication of the gazebo to Marilyn Rudolph, from left, first row are Wallace Stettler, Jill Kryston, Fred Krohle, Marilyn Rudolph, Joe Stager, Ron Moran, Sandy Weyman and Raelene Olszewski. Second row: William Grant, VI Gommer, Karen Boback, Martha Butler, Bennie Matchett, Shirley Moyer, Pauline Kutz and Ernest Ashbridge

By M.B. GILLIGAN
Post Correspondent

Marilyn Rudolph always thought it would be nice to have a place to sit outside of the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

She got her wish. The library's board of directors formally dedicated the library's new gazebo to the former children's librarian earlier this week. Rudolph recently retired after 35 years of service.

"Several times over the years Marilyn had mentioned how nice it would be to have a place outside the library and the board kicked around some ideas and did some shopping," said Joe Stager, board president. "Cleary Forest Products of Dallas helped us out with the price of the gazebo and we also had some donations towards this memorial for Marilyn when she retired."

The board members and the Friends of the Library hosted a retirement brunch for Rudolph in the spring. "There was a covered picture on an easel and they brought me over to it," she said. "When they removed the covering, there it was, a picture of the gazebo. I always thought it would be so nice to have something like that here."

The beautiful wooden structure was built by the Amish in Lancaster and shipped to the library on a flatbed truck. It was put to use almost as soon as it arrived.

"We used it for 'Music Under the Moon' and some of the children's activities," said library director Martha Butler. "We also used it for some of the Little Tykes activities during the auction and it's a nice place for the staff to eat lunch."

The dedication ceremony was highlighted by a pre-

See GAZEBO, Page 7



SHAVERTOWN SISTERS HELP HURRICANE VICTIMS



Shavertown youngsters Abbie, Angela, and Amelia Bendick organized a lemonade stand and bake sale on Labor Day, with all proceeds being donated to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. The daughters of Mike and Jackie Bendick of Shavertown raised \$411 through sales and donations. Abbie, 8, is a third grade student at Dallas Elementary, while Angela, 6, is a first grade student at the school. Amelia is 2 years old. Working behind the counter, from left, are Abbie, Amelia and Angela Bendick.

Did your family, civic organization, church, or school do something special to raise money for the victims of Hurricane Katrina? If so, we want our readers to know about it. E-mail a photo and information to thepost@leader.net. All photos must be JPEGs with resolution of at least 300. You can also mail photos to The Post, attn. editor Dave Konopki, 15 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18711.

Inside The Post

12 Pages, 1 Section
Calendar.....10
Church.....6
Editorial.....4
Schools.....5
Sports.....9

How To Reach Us

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Tunkhannock center of artistic community

By Frank Wilson
Inquirer Staff Writer

TUNKHANNOCK - When Ernest Bentley, founder of the Primavera Fine Arts Foundation, wanted to reproduce Russian artist Natalia Tsarkova's painting La Madonna della Luce (Our Lady of Light), one of the last works of art personally blessed by Pope John Paul II before his death in April, he wanted nothing but the best.

He did some research and learned about a scanning system developed in Germany by Cruse Digital Equipment. "So I called the

See ARTISTIC, Page 8