

The DALLAS POST

50¢

Serving the communities of the Dallas and Lake-Lehman School Districts

www.mydallaspost.com

Missionary team heads for earthquake-ravaged Haiti

By REBECCA BRIA
rbria@timesleader.com

The medical missionary team of Back Mountain Harvest Assembly had already decided to go to Haiti in 2010, months before a devastating earthquake hit that country.

When the hurricane occurred in January of this year, however, there were even more reasons for the group to go there.

Back Mountain Harvest As-

sembly's fifth annual medical missionary team is made up of 20 people who will travel to St. Marc, Haiti from May 12-18. They will stay with Pastor Gary Walker and his wife, Carolyn, a missionary couple who live in St. Marc.

Ron and Suzanne Hillard, of Harveys Lake, lead the medical missions through Back Mountain Harvest Assembly. The Rev. Jack Rehill, of Pittston, assistant pastor of Back Mountain Harvest Assembly, leads the spiritual sup-

YOU CAN HELP

Donations to help offset the cost of the medical missionary trip to Haiti may be sent to:
Haiti mission trip
In c/o Back Mountain Harvest Assembly
340 Carverton Rd.
Trucksville, PA 18708

port.

"There still is a lot of infant mortality in Haiti and a lot of people don't realize it but child

slavery is still legal in Haiti," Hillard said, explaining the team's initial intentions to go to Haiti.

For the past four years, the

medical missionary group has gone to Nicaragua. Hillard said the church still sent a construction team to that country earlier this year but the medical team members agreed to go to Haiti after the Walkers invited them.

"Emotionally and spiritually, we need to be prepared for people who are even more destitute, who don't have a home, perhaps have lost all of their family members..." the Rev. Rehill said. "At least in Nicaragua, people did

have some type of a roof over their head and they did have family members. I think we're going to be confronted with an even greater need."

According to Hillard, 14 of the 20 missionaries are local but not all of them are members of Back Mountain Harvest Assembly.

This will be the first medical mission trip for Maryellen Giannuzzi, of Dallas, who has been a

See HAITI, Page 12

'MONSTER' COMES TO LAKE-LEHMAN



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Rehearsing for "There's a Monster in My Closet!" are, from left, Jessica Salus, Julia Bucholtz, Sophia Soifer, Hannah Kasko, Katherine Kaminski, Emily Blaum and Gabi Fitzgerald, all Back Mountain residents. The play will be performed at 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 8, at the Lake-Lehman High School. For more photos, please turn to page 9.

Her determination captured their hearts

Despite two broken legs of her own, 'Miss Jimmy' gives birth and cares for kittens.

By REBECCA BRIA
rbria@timesleader.com

The outlook was bleak for a stray cat taken to Dr. Jim Hyssong's office on March 11.

The cat was found lying on the side of the road, was pregnant and had two broken legs when a Good Samaritan took her to Hyssong at Brookhill Animal Hospital in Conyngham.

The weekend was approaching and Hyssong planned to fix the cat's legs the following Monday, providing the cat lived that long.

It was a strange turn of events, it was Hyssong who did not live. The 63-year-old veterinarian died unexpectedly on Sunday, March 14.

Dr. Delinda Zehner, of Back Mountain Veterinary Clinic in Dallas, was contacted by associates at Brookhill Animal Hospital and asked to help. Zehner had worked at Brook-

CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST
Miss Jimmy cares for one of her kittens as best she can with two broken legs of her own.

hill as a veterinary technician from 1991 to 2003 before going to veterinary school.

"Dr. Hyssong thought, 'Well, I'll give the cat a chance and see how she will do,'" Zehner said. "They didn't think she would make it through the night when she came in. It was kind of his last effort before he passed away. He was in the process of doing a good deed and that was an important part."

Zehner agreed to take the cat, which she named "Miss Jimmy" in honor of Hyssong, under her care. An ultrasound showed that Miss Jimmy was pregnant with two kittens who were doing well.

Dr. Anjilla Cooley, a veterinary orthopedic surgeon, was consulted. She performed surgery on the cat to repair her legs, using external fixators and, two weeks later, Miss Jimmy gave birth to her kittens.

Zehner estimates Miss Jimmy is about a year old and the kittens she recently birthed are most likely her first litter.

"She just had such a will to live - to have kittens and to be pregnant and have two broken legs," Zehner said. "She's just a really sweet cat. She purrs nonstop when she is here. She put up with a lot from us looking at her and trying to evaluate her."

Miss Jimmy has now found a new home with a veterinary technician at Brookhill Animal Hospital. The kittens will also go to a new home when they are old enough to be separated from their mother.

"Miss Jimmy had such an effect on everybody at Back Mountain (Veterinary Clinic)," Zehner said. "To have gone through what she's gone through...she's really been through a lot and has survived a lot. Just to have that will to live is amazing."

Dallas LifeSmarts team is 10th best in country

Members of the Dallas High School LifeSmarts team placed 10th out of 32 teams in the 16th Annual LifeSmarts National Championship held April 24-27 in Miami Beach, Fla.

LifeSmarts is a consumer challenge competition for high school students across the nation. Nine Pennsylvania high schools competed for the state title.

The National Consumer League, in partnership with nonprofit organizations, government agencies and educational organizations, makes the competition available to teens in every state. The Attorney General's Office plans and implements the program for Pennsylvania.

Dallas advanced to the national competition after winning the LifeSmarts Consumer Challenge Pennsylvania state competition on March 2 in Harrisburg.

The Maryland state champion team was the winner of the national championship and North Dakota captured second-place.

This year, championship officials introduced a new compe-

tion to determine the national champion in each of the subject areas - technology, health and safety, the environment, personal finance, and consumer rights and responsibilities - that LifeSmarts encompasses.

Pierce Donovan, a member of the team, was awarded an individual honor for placing first in the nation in the technology category of the 2010 topic assessments. He won a \$500 scholarship from the National Consumer League for this honor.

Members of the Dallas High School LifeSmarts team who competed in the 2010 national and state competitions are Katelyn Reinert, team captain; Kevin Hunter, Donovan, Tim Reinert and Monica Esopi.

The school's LifeSmarts team is coached by Kevin West, who has served as the team's coach since 2005. Lois Redmond is the co-coach.

Catherine Wega, a retired teacher who is now a member of the Dallas School Board, coached the team to the national championship in 2003.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Several members of the Dallas High School LifeSmarts team placed 10th out of 32 teams in the 16th Annual LifeSmarts National Championship held from April 24-27 in Miami Beach, Fla. From left, are Pierce Donovan, Kevin West, coach; Katelyn Reinert, team captain; Tim Reinert, Monica Esopi and Kevin Hunter.

For Lake-Lehman soccer and junior high baseball coverage, see page 10



6 09815 20079 9