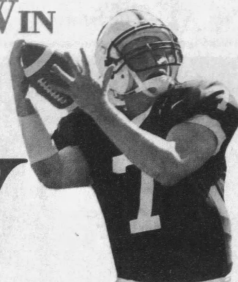


Mostly sunny, breezy and cool. High 69°

— Details A8

The Sentinel Sunday

www.cumberlink.com



Carlisle, Pa. — 156 pages

Sunday, September 19, 2004 — Vol. 123 No. 282

\$1.00

Rivers, streams spill over



Inside:

- An Amish family's Mud Level Road home near Oakville sustains major damage in Friday night's storm. — B1, B3
- Effects of Ivan across the state, nation. — A2, A6

◆ Gov. Rendell is to tour storm-ravaged parts of the state today, including portions of the east and west shores of the Susquehanna river.

By Tiffany Pakkala and John Hilton
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Passersby gaped at the underwater entrance to Creek Road at an intersection with Route 74 in Monroe Township Saturday evening, but across the road Clark Slothower continued to sell sweet corn and pumpkins at his vegetable stand.

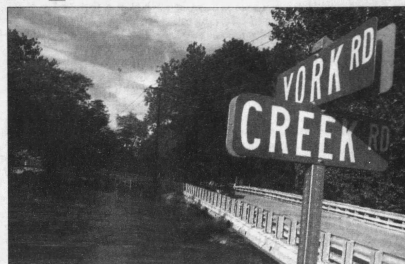
In his 52 years living on that corner, Slothower says he has seen worse. "When Hurricane Agnes went through in '72, our basement was flooded" by nearby Yellow Breeches Creek, he said, then added, "I've got the pumps ready"

if it floods again. Slothower knows it will get worse before it gets better, but there is some good news: no more rain.

"We're going to see high pressure building and that will give us some dry weather the next few days," says Megan Woodhead, a meteorologist for Accuweather. Smaller streams and creeks are expected to stop swelling sometime today, and larger rivers should crest late tonight, she said. The Susquehanna River is expected to crest at 26 feet. In Harrisburg, the river's flood level is 17 feet.

Locally, the Yellow Breeches reportedly

• See Rivers, A5



Jason Minick/The Sentinel

The Yellow Breeches swirls to the top of the bridge at Route 74. Creek Road remains closed due to flooding.

DICKINSON COLLEGE

Approval from grads, students

◆ The possibility the college may take over Dickinson School of Law appeals to many students surveyed Saturday.

By Tiffany Pakkala
Sentinel Reporter
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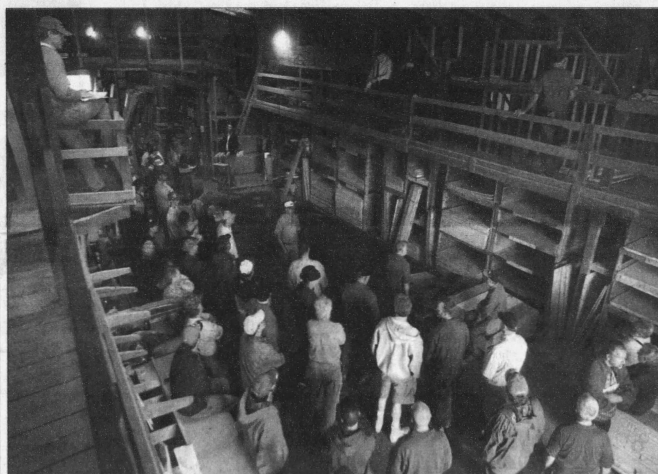
Dickinson College students were buzzing Saturday about a possible merger of their school and the Dickinson School of Law after college President William Durden told them of the possibility in a mass e-mail.

The college announced Friday that it may take over the law school, which now is a part of Penn State University. "We're right at the beginning of what I would call purposeful deliberations," Durden said when he answered his front door at home Saturday.

He referred all other questions to the

• See Approval, A4

'Selling off a piece of the community'



Jason Minick/The Sentinel

Auction-goers, longtime customers and friends gather inside the warehouse at Castles Lumber and Home Center Saturday as lumber is auctioned off. The auction continues 9 a.m.-5 p.m. today at the center on East Pomfret Street.

◆ Big box stores took away 30 percent of Castles business, and Home Depot will open soon.

John Hilton
Sentinel Reporter
jhilton@cumberlink.com

While hundreds of bargain-seekers bid furiously Saturday during the final sale at Carlisle's last hometown hardware store, Lee Castles was conspicuously absent.

And the long-time owner of Castles Lumber and Home Center probably won't be there today either.

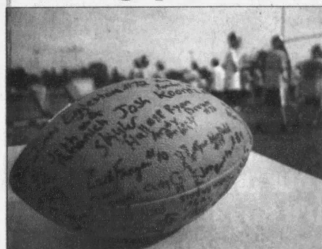
"I don't believe I can handle it," a somber Castles said by telephone from his Boiling Springs home. "It's the end of my dad's business. I guess I'm as sad about that as anything... It's been terrible for me. I've had an awful time of it. But that's the way life is. We'll survive."

Manager Mike Castles and his wife, Sue Castles, watch the auction.

• See Castles, A4

MECHANICSBURG AREA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Ailing youth inspires team



Jason Minick/The Sentinel

Above, the team autographed this football and delivered it to Kohl Cleckner during his recent hospitalization. At right, ninth-grader Kohl Cleckner jokes with senior Seth Pehanich, left, during a recent practice.

◆ Kohl Cleckner is too ill to fulfill his dream of playing football in high school.

By Joseph Cress
Sentinel Reporter
jcress@cumberlink.com

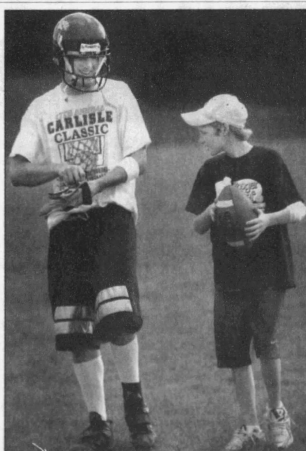
A team of football players gathered around him in a huddle was the last thing Kohl Cleckner expected to see again.

The thought of being unable to play was tough for the 14-year-old Mechanicsburg boy to tackle. Yet the Mechanicsburg Wildcats looked to him for inspiration even as his brief career in the sport seemed to come to an end.

Surprise visit

Cleckner was bummed out that late August day lying in a bed in Penn State's Children's Hospital at Hershey Medical Center. He was recovering from surgery the day before to bypass a section of his inflamed large intestine.

• See Team, A4



Arrest of trucker may help solve serial murders

Staff and wire reports

LINCOLN, Neb. — Authorities say a Lincoln truck driver suspected of beating and raping an Oklahoma City woman is a "person of interest" in a string of 10 homicides in six states, which may include a woman found dead this June in West Pennsboro Township.

Oklahoma authorities maintain that they have no evidence linking Carl Wayne Lawson to cases in Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Mississippi, Texas or Arkansas. But they said the case that led to his arrest Tuesday is very similar.

"At this point in the investigation we have nothing specific to link him to other crimes," said Oklahoma City Capt. Jeffrey Becker. "We believe it's premature at this time to rule anything out."

Lawson, 32, is jailed in Lancaster

• See Trucker, A5

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Notice to readers

Flooding interfered with Saturday delivery of The Sentinel and is expected to delay delivery of today's edition, too, in some area neighborhoods.

"We thank our readers for their patience," Sentinel Publisher Mark Blum says. "We're making every effort to get the papers delivered as soon as possible."

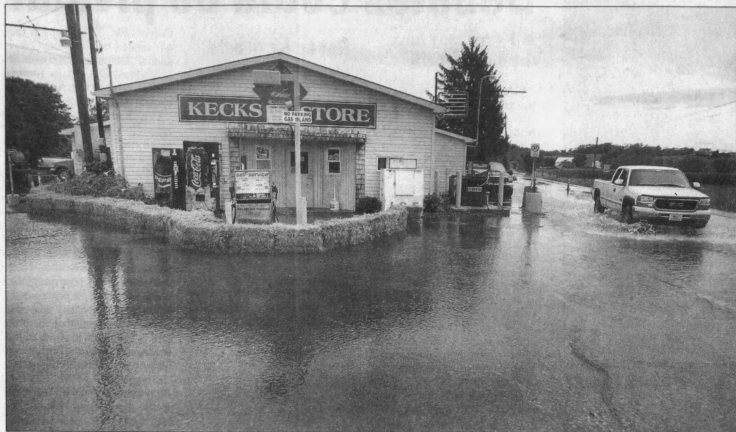


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Keck's Store and Archery at Pine Road and Route 233 is surrounded by standing water Saturday.

Jason Minick/The Sentinel

Flooding closes Penn Township store

By Brock Zentmeyer
Sentinel Correspondent
frontdoor@cumberlandlink.com

Hip boots and hay bales were a necessity Saturday as former Hurricane Ivan left its mark on Keck's Store and Archery at the intersection of Pine Road and Route 233.

When the store owners, Steve and Tammy Hammond, arrived Saturday morning, the intersection was flooded and the water was up to the front door of the business.

The Hammonds set up hay bales around doors and the gasoline pump.

Steve Hammond and employee Dave Collins, a member of Citizen's Fire Co., used their own vehicles as warning lights.

"We parked our trucks out front with the 'four-ways' on," Hammond says, adding, he called Pennsylvania State Police about 8 a.m. to request lighted barriers to alert motorists to the flooded intersection.

In addition to Keck's store, the water stretched north about 200 feet along Route 233 from the intersection.

A passing state worker also notified Pennsylvania State Department of Transportation of the situation.

About 9:30 a.m. firefighters with Penn Township Volunteer Fire Company 50 brought barriers.

Wet summer

Steve Hammond says he has seen a fair share of flooding this summer.

"(Flooding) happens when we get small storms," adds Hammond, who says he has complained to local and state officials and plans to contact his state representative.



Firefighters from Penn Township Volunteer Fire Co. 50 and residents push a stalled motorist across the flooded intersection of Centerville Road (Route 233) and Pine Road on Saturday.

Township Supervisor Clyde Barrick, who went to the scene Saturday morning, says township officials also have contacted the state Department of Transportation, which he says is responsible for seeking a solution to the chronic flooding problems along Route 233 near its intersection with Pine Road.

At 10:05 Pine Road, Jim Orner needed an additional pump to clear his basement of water.

"There was three feet down there," he says.

Normally, the ump pump can handle the "couple times in a summer"

when water does get into his basement, he says. A low-bank section of a stream that carries water off the mountain causes the flooding, he says.

Farther west at 1813 Pine Road, Jerry Laughman's trailer was completely surrounded by water that came from an elevated confield on the other side of the road. He says the water

comes under the road through a pipe, which is not close enough to Yellow Breeches Creek to drain into.

"I'm trying to deal with the problems and headaches," Laughman says. "This and Keck's flooding all needs to be recognized."

About 2 p.m. as the sun started to peek out from the clouds, the intersection and parts of Route 233 still were flooded. The water, which had overflowed the small stream at the low bank, still poured through a field, crossing Pine Road and into Keck's parking lot.

Some water crossed Route 233, through an adjacent field, then reunited with the stream. Other water flowed north on the roadway until it flooded a low field beside the railroad tracks.

No gasoline sales

As Steve Hammond stood by his gasoline pump at Keck's Store and Archery, a motorist

How many inches of rain?

Local rainfalls recorded at 11 a.m. Saturday:
• Harrisburg, 5.52
• Hershey, 7.9
• Mt. Holly Springs, 5.14
• Pine Grove Furnace, 6.15
• Shiremanstown, 6.0
* The rain had stopped by that time.

Source: Accuweather

cut through the parking lot to avoid the flooded intersection.

The Hammonds refused to sell gas Saturday because of a possibility of water seeping into the underground tanks.

"We won't sell gas until I can check it out, and that probably won't be until" today, he says.

"I'm not so much worried about business as I am just getting the water problem fixed," he adds.

Trucker

• Continued from A1

County on a \$3 million bond, charged with being a fugitive from justice. Lincoln police arrested him Tuesday on an Oklahoma warrant, which alleges he beat, strangled and raped a 51-year-old woman he met at an Oklahoma City truck stop on Sunday.

Becker said prosecutors on Friday filed formal charges of rape, kidnapping and assault with intent to kill.

Jessica Brown, a spokeswoman for the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, said Lawson is a "person of interest" in the homicide investigations. "We're not holding our breath

but we're certainly crossing our fingers that he is the guy," she said.

Since July 2003, there have been 10 homicides and one assault that authorities suspect could be connected to the Lincoln case.

In most cases, the victims were prostitutes picked up at Oklahoma truck stops who were beaten or strangled and then dumped by the side of the road, primarily along Interstate 40, Brown said. Some of the women were found partially clothed, others were naked, she said.

Body dumped here

Vesta B. Haufe, a 44-year-old Knoxville, Tenn., woman, was found by a motorist near the

westbound lanes of the Pennsylvania turnpike less than half a mile west of the Plainfield plaza in West Pennsburo Township.

Authorities believe Haufe was dead for more than a week before she was discovered. Haufe, also known as Vesta B. Meadows, was last seen alive at a truck stop in Knoxville.

The woman in the case that led to Lawson's arrest told officers she went to a man's truck to discuss payment for cleaning tires and fuel tanks and when she got into the truck, the man locked the doors and began beating and strangling her. She told police she remembers her attacker telling her she could bite or scratch him, because "the first three, four I killed it bothered

me, but I kinda like it now," according to an affidavit for an arrest warrant.

Lincoln police searched Lawson's apartment and truck, seizing numerous items including several with blood stains on them.

The woman said she passed out during the assault and woke up on the side of Interstate 35 near the Kansas-Nebraska border, according to court documents. She told officers a motorist stopped to help and took her home.

Lawson told authorities that he had smoked crack with a woman at the truck stop, that they got into an argument over money she stole from him and he hit her, opening a cut over her eye.

Rivers

• Continued from A1

crested Saturday night at 8.5 feet, which is 1.5 feet above flood level, according to National Weather Service figures. The Conodoguinet Creek was 8.5 feet, or half a foot above flood level. It was expected to crest early this morning.

Still, it will take the waters a while to drop back below flood level. Woodhead said the Susquehanna River in Harrisburg is expected to be within flood level through Tuesday afternoon.

"The biggest areas of concern as the (Susquehanna) river continues to come up is the Borough of New Cumberland, Wormleysburg and Fairview Township," said Roger Kohr, spokesman for Cumberland County Office Emergency Preparedness.

Cumberland County Commissioners signed a Declaration of Disaster Emergency to authorize Kohr's office to call in backup emergency response teams to help battle the flooding.

Gov. Ed Rendell plans to survey storm damages via helicopter Sunday over the southwestern parts of Pennsylvania, Wilkes-Barre, Scranton, and the East and West shores of the Susquehanna River. The tour will be followed by a press conference.

Forecasters projected three to five inches of rainfall for Friday night and Saturday morning, but much of central Pennsylvania was hit harder by the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan.

Sloshower said he had a rain gauge set to measure up to six inches of rain, but when he went to check it Saturday morning, it was overflowing.

The road near his home was one of many closed in the region, and nearby Williams Grove Mobile Home Park was evacuated altogether.

"The last of them pulled out of here about an hour ago," said Sunny Castle, who guards the empty park's entrance. "Monro Township declared it a state of emergency."

The only sign of life in the flooded park were ducks flopping around in what normally would be a front yard. Castle and two other workers were so stand guard at the park all night until the flooding subsided.

New Cumberland has declared a state of emergency in the area of Third Street and south to the borough line, strongly urging residents in that area to evacuate before the Susquehanna River is expected to overflow today.

The borough is requiring all residents in that area to remove their vehicles by 7 a.m. or they will be towed at the owner's expense. "Vehicles must be moved to any legal parking areas north of Third Street and west of Bridge Street."

Other areas expected to wade in the swollen Susquehanna include:

• In Wormleysburg, the 300 blocks of North Front and North Second streets and areas near the intersection of Front and Pine streets;

• In East Pennsburo Township, the 300 and 400 blocks of South Front Street;

• the village of West Fairview and River Road.

Kohr said winds were "continuing to affect Cumberland County" Saturday night, which means power outages can be expected "from falling trees due to moist soil conditions from the rain received in the County."

As of 1 p.m. Saturday, more than 6,650 Cumberland County

Tips for cleaning up from a flood

The Department of Environmental Protection offers the following tips for cleaning up after a flood:

• When entering a flood-damaged building, use caution and watch for dangerous debris. Once inside, turn off the gas and electricity.

• Do not let any open wounds come in contact with the flood waters, which could be contaminated with raw sewage and other contaminants which can cause infection.

• Discard any food that has come into contact with flood waters. Check refrigerated or frozen foods if your electricity has been turned off to make sure they are not spoiled. If you aren't sure, throw them away.

• Bring drinking water to a boil for two minutes if you suspect it has been contaminated.

• Never use a gas-powered pump or generator in an enclosed space. You could be overcome by carbon monoxide.

• Air-dry family treasures such as books, photographs or paintings. If they can't immediately be air-dried, freeze them until you can do so.

• Test plumbing and basement drains by pouring in a bucket of water. If the water does not run out, remove the clean-out plug from the trap and rake out the mud with a wire.

• Open doors and windows to ventilate and dry the inside. If the air doesn't clear basement odors, sprinkle bleaching powder on the floor.

• Do not attempt to repair floors until they are completely dry.

• Mattresses, carpets and rugs should be discarded.

• Washers, dryers and furnaces can usually be cleaned by a qualified electrician.

• Don't rush to move back home until your flood-damaged home is safe.

The Associated Press

homes were without electricity, Kohr said. A press release from PPL Electric Utilities said there were 15,000 customers without power in the Harrisburg area altogether.

While some residents in the region took joyrides to survey the flooding and gawk at damaged homes, others were afraid to drive without talking to police.

A press release from state police at Newport said, "The number of calls being made to police and police dispatch are blocking emergency calls from a chance to get through." Instead, it was recommended people call 1-888-783-6783 for closing updates.

The report said bridges on Back Hollow and Robinson roads were closed in Blain.

Residents living near affected areas are asked to continue monitoring their televisions and radios for updates, Kohr said.

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