



Jr. boys and girls win sectional titles. Page 7



# THE POST

50¢

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

## SOMETHIN' FISHY GOING ON



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Allie Heffernan and Helen Hagenbaugh, both from Lehman, had great fun applying the Japanese art of Gyotaku to t-shirts at Frances Slocum State Park. The July 24 session was one of many activities offered at the park for children and adults. Check the calendar on page 12 for each week's listings. More photos on page 12.

## Kingston Twp. could be hurt by change in county tax collection

Now, Luzerne County pays \$3.50 per bill to the township, but a proposal would move collection to the Courthouse.

By RONALD BARTIZEK  
Post Staff

**KINGSTON TWP.** — Luzerne County is poised to make a change in tax collection procedures that could deal a blow to the township's financial recovery.

Responding to a request from the county commissioners for money-saving ideas, Deputy Treasurer Dominick DePolo suggested that the county take over collection of county property taxes, a task that is now performed by each municipality's tax collector.

The county pays varying amounts for collection. Kingston Township receives \$3.50 per tax bill, and DePolo projects a savings of \$12,047 based on 3,442 taxable properties. Since the county already handles the cost of postage and mailing, "There's no expense for the county," he said.

But county savings would reduce township revenue. Kingston Township is paying \$17,590 in 2004 for its part-time tax collector, and the lost county revenue equates

See TAX COLLECTION, pg 2

## Spinners dine and ride for MS research

By SANDY PEOPLES  
Post Correspondent

An ironic twist of fate has spurred even greater dedication to fight multiple sclerosis in a group of local volunteers.

Last year, Stephanie Baloh wanted to join her brother Tom's 13-year effort to raise money to help fight MS. "Our group of five spinners trained for six months," Baloh said.

"Shortly before the 162 mile, two-day bike race sponsored by the MS chapter in Philadelphia, my right side became numb. I thought I had had a stroke, but I was shocked to find out that I had MS." Fortunately, she had a single

### IF YOU GO

#### MS City to Shore benefit

Thursday, August 5  
Leary's Cork and Keg  
Division St., Kingston.

Entertainment throughout the night; Jared Campbell, 6-7 p.m.; Big Daddy Dex, 7:30-9:30; Crush from 10 p.m. on. Minimum donation of \$6 at the door goes directly to the Multiple Sclerosis Society. For information or to make a donation, call 574-0464.

episode and a complete recovery of all affected functions.

"Last year I was able to complete only half of the race, but this year my goal is to cross the finish line

on September 19," Baloh said. The Back Mountain group of five Royal Spinners raised more than \$4,500 and the 100 member NE chapter raised more than \$36,000 last year.

MS has affected more than 400,000 young Americans between the ages of 20 and 40. It is a chronic and progressive disease that affects the nervous system. The onset can be dramatic or slow, but there are promising treatments that can help patients lead full and productive lives.

"This is why we ride," said Baloh.

To get a head start this year, the new group of seven, Team Electronic Ink - Royal Spinners Cycling See BENEFIT, pg 2



FOR THE POST/SANDY PEOPLES

Back Mountain spinners recently met to make some final plans for the 162-mile race against MS. From left, seated: Colleen Martinez, Mark Baloh, Stephanie Baloh, Tom Duffy. Standing: Kerry Landon, Pam Oliveira, Bob Minnick.

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Local stars shine at the Music Box

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Family hosts Irish teens in program that builds goodwill

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## Their old house preserves a bit of history

Couple painstakingly renovates the Bottoms House, while the borough grows around them.

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK  
Post Correspondent

**DALLAS** — It's not an experience for everyone, say Pat and Paul Paci — living in their home along King Street in Dallas, surrounded by a 10-year renovation project.

"Actually, the corner of this property is in the middle of King Street," corrects Paul Paci, an assistant surveyor, and a homeowner whose construction project has become a way of life.

The 1 1/2 story white cottage-style home is notable both for its location and its continued existence. It sits at the lower end of King Street, behind the Dallas Borough building.

The surroundings have changed in the 100 or so years since the modest home was built. "There used to be a creek that ran down King Street with a stone bridge behind the borough building," says Bob Besecker, a lifetime resident of Dallas and realtor whose office is on Main Street.

While new construction and rearrangements have gone on all around, the house has stood its ground. It now looks over the parking lots of Citizens Bank, Fino's Pharmacy, and the former rectory for Gate of Heaven Church, which is being converted into a branch of the Snowdon Funeral Home.

Pat (Hann) Paci says the couple bought the house so they could be close to her family, who live on Parrish and Davenport streets. They don't mind the sometimes busy location, which keeps them well-connected to all town activities. They rather enjoy it.

"I get all my lawnmowers from the town collection," says Paul Paci. Last year they donated the use of their front yard as a petting zoo for the Dallas Harvest Festival and will do so again this year. They loved the young children and small animals in their yard.

See OLD HOUSE, pg 2



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Paul and Pat Paci pose under an archway inside their King Street house. Little by little, the couple is renovating the century-old home, once known as the Bottoms House. The arch is likely not an original feature.

## Festival, now 'Dallas Days,' will expand

More days, more food and music are on the list of activities.

By M.B. GILLIGAN  
Post Correspondent

**DALLAS** — Building on the success of last year's first event, the Dallas Harvest Festival will be bigger, longer, and will have a new name this fall.

"We've expanded the festival for this year and are calling it 'Dallas Days,'" said Rich Fufaro, committee chairman.

Dallas Days will be held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 17-19. The second annual Harvest Festival itself will be from 1-6 p.m. that Sunday on Main Street. "We're going to have even more food and vendors at this year's event," said Fufaro. "There will also be free entertainment."

In addition, the committee is planning several other exciting events over the weekend. "Word Horde" will be held Friday evening at the Back Mountain Memorial Library. "It's going to be an open mic night for reading poetry and prose," said Fufaro. "They will also have music."

A dance will be held at Irem See FESTIVAL, pg 2