

BACK MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

# Group sings praises for regional EMA's response

By SARAH HITE  
shite@mydallaspost.com

The Back Mountain Community Partnership praised efforts of the regional emergency management agency Thursday and its response during the past two weeks of inclement weather.

Tropical Storm Irene heavily impacted the Back Mountain area at the end of August, bringing down trees and power lines and wreaking havoc for some communities' infrastructure.

Members of the partnership and state Rep. Karen Boback, R-Harveys Lake, discussed the Back Mountain Regional Emergency Management Agency's response to the storms, and brainstormed about ideas to better support the organization.

Mark Van Etten, president of the Dallas Fire & Ambulance Association, said tropical storms Irene and Lee were the first regional emergencies the Back Mountain EMA has handled since its inception.

Prior to the formal coordination between Dallas Borough and Jackson, Lake and Lehman townships, Van Etten said individual fire departments would help each other during emergency situations.

The regional EMA set up a central command area at the Dallas Fire & Ambulance headquarters on East Center Hill Road and offered residents water, food and cleanup kits during Tropical Storm Irene.

Boback was pleased with the communication she received from EMA coordinators and felt the operation was very organized.

"It was just so much easier to keep in contact," said Boback.

Mark Van Etten, president of the Dallas Fire & Ambulance Association, said tropical storms Irene and Lee were the first regional emergencies the Back Mountain EMA has handled since its inception.

Partnership chairman Jim Reino Jr., of Kingston Township, said he spoke with state Sen. Lisa Baker, R-Lehman Township, and devised a plan to apply for a gaming grant, state funds generated from fees assessed at licensed local gambling facilities to enhance host communities, to build a centrally-located command center for the regional EMA in the event of future emergencies.

Reino suggested the center also contain supplies, such as generators, sandbags and water pumps, available for use when municipalities need such items. He said it could also contain a meeting room for the partnership, which currently meets at Misericordia University.

"On the Sunday Irene hit, the only way out of the Back Mountain was through the rock cut (on the North Cross Valley Expressway)," said Reino. "I think this (command center) would come under a safety clause."

Partnership member Al Fox, of Jackson Township, said the center should be located in an area that can expand in order to accommodate other potential regionalization efforts. The partnership is currently looking for more information about a police regionalization study.

"We're not looking to build a Taj Mahal," said Reino. "We're just looking to build a functional supply depot to hold joint meetings to help instill the cooperation we have now and mergers that may take place in

the future." The partnership has until the end of the year to apply for a gaming grant.

Joe Chacke of NEPA Alliance said the application would require an architect's and engineer's plans for the project.

In other news, the partnership...

Discussed municipal contributions to the Dallas School District D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program.

Partnership member Kathleen Sebastian, of Kingston Township, said the cost for the program would be split between municipalities and the school district. Dallas Township, Kingston Township and the district would be responsible for 25 percent, or about \$3,000, of program costs, and Franklin Township and Dallas Borough would need to chip in 12.5 percent, or \$1,500, each.

Sebastian also said Kingston Township D.A.R.E. Officer Frank Ziegler would offer his assistance in the creation of a program in the Lake-Lehman School District, which would cost about \$7,000 to begin.

Announced that a meeting on a proposed police regionalization study offered by the Governor's Center for Local Government Services has not yet been confirmed. Members are hopeful the study presentation will be held during the October or November meeting of the Back Mountain Community Partnership.



Staff members at the new John Heintz Rehabilitation center in Dallas are, from left, Judy Sterowski, Janice Sepcoski, Jill Healey and Michell Weingartner.

CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST



Elizabeth and Ray Gimble, of Larksville, tour the new facilities at Geisinger Dallas John Heintz Rehabilitation Center.

## Open house at Heinz

Allied Services outpatient clinic Dallas recently relocated to a new location in the Geisinger Building on Lt. Cleary Drive. Heinz Rehab has been providing outpatient physical rehabilitation services since 1992 to the residents of the Back Mountain Area and over 25 years to the Greater Wilkes-Barre area.

### CIVIC BRIEFS

#### Noxen Fire Co. holds chicken barbeque

The Noxen Volunteer Fire Company will hold a Chicken Bar-B-Que from noon to 2 p.m. today, Sept. 25, at the fire hall on Stull Road.

Price is \$8 per dinner. Dining-in and takeouts will be available.

#### Little Theatre performance slated

Little Theatre of Wilkes-Barre presents "Into the Woods" at 3 p.m. today, Sept. 25.

For reservations, call 823-1875.

#### Intertribal Powwow set for Sept. 24, 25

The Seventh Annual Fall Intertribal Powwow benefiting the Noxen Fire Co. will be held from 10 a.m. to dusk today, Sept. 25 at the Noxen Fire Co. grounds, Stull road.

All drums are welcome. Volunteers are also needed and may call Natalie "Wisteria" at 947-2097 for more information.

#### Craft show set for Irem Pavilion

An Arts, Crafts and Collectibles Show will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today, Sept. 25 at the Irem Country Club Pavilion, Dallas.

Interested vendors are asked to call 675-3488.

#### G2G dance slated

The Fourth Annual Generation2Generation Lee Vincent Dance will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. today, Sept. 25 at Genetti's Hotel and Convention Center in Wilkes-Barre.

Admission to this event is free with a complimentary ticket available by calling 675-4270 or by visiting gentogen.net.

#### Music Box slates auditions

Auditions for "Murder at the Music Box," an interactive murder mystery, will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 26 at the Music Dinner Playhouse, 196 Hughes St, Swoyersville.

The play is directed by Jessica Werbin and requires a cast of men and women ages 16 and over. Performance dates are October 28, 29 and 30.

For more information, call 283-2195.

#### Event benefits Make-A-Wish

The Second Annual Wines & Wishes event to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 26 at the Metro Gar and Grill, Dallas.

Cost is \$65 per person. To purchase tickets, call the Make-A-Wish Foundation Scranton office at 341-9474.

#### Bingo scheduled

Bingo will be held on Monday, Sept. 26 at the Northmoreland Twp. Vol. Fire Hall in Centermoreland. Early birds start at 6:30 p.m.

Food and drink will be available.

#### Dinner planned

A roast beef dinner will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 28 at the Northmoreland Twp. Vol. Fire Hall in Centermoreland.

Tickets will be available at the door.

#### Boback hosts open house

Rep. Karen Boback (R-Columbia/Luzerne/Wyoming) will host an open house from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 29 at her district office, 5929 Main Rd., (off Route 118), Hunlock Creek.

Advanced registration is not required to attend the open house, but residents who have questions may call the Hunlock Creek office at 477-3752 or Tunkhannock at 836-4777.

#### Square Dance set

A Square Dance sponsored by the Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 1 at the fire hall, 329 Orange Rd., Orange.

Admission is \$6 and music will be provided by "Just Us Country Duo."

For more information, call 333-4626 or 333-5912.

#### Contra Dance set

A New England Contra Dance will feature the music of "Smash the Windows" and calling by Bob Isaacs at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 1 at the Church of Christ Uniting, 776 Market St., Kingston.

No partner or previous experience is necessary. Admission to the dance is \$9 for adults and \$25 for families.

For more information, call 333-4007.

#### Vendors sought for craft show

Vendors are being sought for the 28th Annual Dallas Boys Soccer Craft Show scheduled for October 2 at Dallas High School. Set up begins at 7:30 p.m. Show opens at 10 a.m.

Volunteers are also needed for vendor set up and breakdown.



Hundreds turned out for the Cait's Quest 5K Run/Walk in memory of Caitlin McGuire.

BILL TARUTIS PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

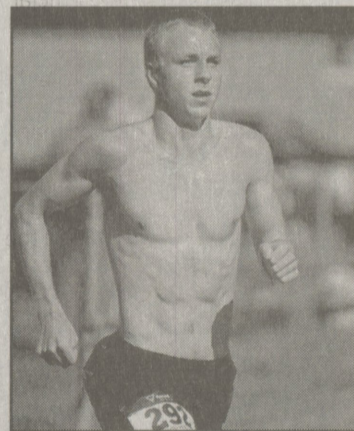
## Running in Cait's memory

The memory of Caitlin McGuire was very much alive on September 18 during the "Cait's Quest 5K Walk/Run" at the Dallas High School track.

Organized by McGuire's friends Cory Patton, Holly Gumble, Jodi Feldmann and Nikki Gelso, the run was one of several fundraising events held to help McGuire's parents, Anne Koes and Kevin McGuire, pay off her student loans.

The group raised more than \$24,000, doubling its initial goal of \$10,000, through several fundraising efforts this year.

A Dallas High School graduate, the 24-year-old McGuire was in the process of attaining a graduate degree in psychology from Marywood University when she was murdered in February by her boyfriend before he took his own life.



Robert Moulton, of Mountain Top, wins the male division.



Molly Rupert, of Shickshinny, wins the female division.

**15% OFF**  
**To All Flood Victims**

- Residential & Commercial
- Mud Removal, Basement Cleanouts
- House Washing, Masonry Cleaning

**Baylor's Pressure Washing**  
570-713-8357  
FULLY INSURED • FREE ESTIMATES  
www.baylorspressurewashing.com

**DARLING & SONS' FARMS & GREENHOUSES**  
"Growing Quality Is A Family Business Since 1930"

**Garden Mums & Flowering Cabbage, Kale & Pumpkins**  
**Homegrown Sweet Corn & Tomatoes • Red Beets**  
**Potatoes • Cabbage • Green Squash**  
**Peppers • Eggplants**  
**McCutcheon's Canned Goods**

**M-F 9-5 • SAT 9-4 • SUN 9-2 • 675-2080**  
1/2 Mile Off Rt. 309, Dallas, Hildebrandt Rd. (200 yards north of Dallas Elementary School)

**LUZERNE LUMBER**

445 MAIN STREET  
LUZERNE, PA 18709  
570-287-1177

- Power Washers
- Sump Pumps
- Contractor Bags
- Shop Vacs
- Cleaning Products
- Generators
- Chemical Resistant Gloves

...more than just great lumber!

www.LuzerneLumber.com or order online  
www.AceHardware.com & have it shipped to our store