BACK MOUNTAIN BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: BACK MOUNTAIN BOWL AND FAMILY FUN CENTER

Fun to spare

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Back Mountain Bowl and Family Fun Center, Memorial Highway, Dallas is about more than bowling, although that's a major part of the business. Its 16 lanes certainly provide opportunity to enjoy the sport, but the fun doesn't have to end there, according to manager Mike Rollman.

It doesn't even have to start there.

With a game room, pizza shop, family-friendly dining room, full-service bar and seasonal ice cream stand, Back Mountain Bowl offers something for everyone, even those who don't like to bowl, and especially family. Rollman explained in today's world full of computers, video games and other electronic distractions, he's noticed families don't go out and spend time together as much as they did in the past.

Back Mountain Bowl and Family Fun Center, however, provides them with the opportunity to do just that — whether it's playing a couple games of bowling, winning prizes in the game room, eating a meal together in a booth in the new dining room or all the above.

"Bowling is a good family activity and exercise," Rollman said, "something for the kids to do. It gets them out and exercising."

The business holds "Rock

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A new dining room recently opened at Back Mountain Bowl and Family Fun Center.

n' Bowl" nights from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. each Friday and Saturday. It also hosts birthday parties, groups and special events. Twice a year, it opens its parking lot to a car show — once for the Knights of Columbus and once for the Boy Scouts. Rollman said these and other fundraisers and community events help the business better connect with the Back Mountain community, where he has resided his entire life.

He lives in Dallas, along with his wife Lori, who manages the dining room at Back Mountain Bowl, and daughters Marssa, 16, and Rachel, 13, who both help out with birthday parties at the business.

One thing he appreciates about managing the business is its loyal staff, many of whom began working there 10 or more years ago. And the business also has

Meet the manager:
Mike Rollman
Hobbies/interests: Playing pool and watching football.
Sports team: Dolphins.
Dream vacation: Jamaica (he took his family there in May).
Favorite pizza topping: Bacon or meat lovers.
When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up: A pizza maker (he started at age 13).

its loyal customers — regulars, who have been coming for many years.

The bowling alley opened over 50 years ago, but the restaurant is only about seven years old and the dining room was added just this year.

Spare Time Pizza offers more than stereotypical bowling alley food, he said, and the full-service bar provides customers with a chance to relax and watch sports on television. The goal of the varying menu and choices of dining atmosphere, according to Rollman, is to separate the business from others in the same category.

"You think of a bowling

Mike Rollman, left, and Clem Kopco work in the kitchen at Spare Time Pizza in Back Mountain Bowl and Family Fun Center, where the pizza dough is made fresh each day.

alley, you think of pretzels and pizza," he said, explaining Spare Time Pizza offers better quality and a more extensive menu, from cheese steaks and hot hoagies to wings and boneless chicken bites. In the warmer months, the Ice Cream Bowl offers over 24 flavors of soft serve ice cram, as well as a variety of specialty treats.

Hello there, Santa Claus

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Ava Ritts, 4, and Alese Ritts, 7, both of Shavertown, visit with Santa and Mrs Claus at Tunkhannock's Christmas in Our Hometown event during the tree lighting ceremony Dec. 7.

Dallas Post photographer wins award for his work

Dallas Post photographer Bill Tarutis was recently notifed that he won third place in the National Press Photographer Association Region 3 for this photo of American Legion baseball that was published in The Dallas Post.