

Kids Korner

They Came, Saw, And Split

BALLY (Berks Co.) — Winning a race to make a 100-foot banana split requires scoopers,

peelers, syrup dribblers, a 50-foot stream of whipped cream, and the Army National Guard.

On June 3, these pieces came together as students and teachers raced to build their portion of a 100-foot banana split with the help of the Guardsmen. The two teams tied.

Students from St. Francis Academy have been writing to the Army National Guardsmen since Christmas during their deployment to Germany. During the school's annual Dairy Day celebration, the students honored and thanked them for their efforts.

Dairy Day is the school's annual celebration of the end of school and June as Dairy Month. This year it was also Guard Appreciation Day.

Students and SFA staff competed against each other, with the help of the Guardsmen, to build

their portion of a 100-foot banana split. The banana split was made in a rain gutter using 33 gallons of Turkey Hill vanilla ice cream, two gallons of chocolate syrup, one gallon of strawberry syrup, one gallon of pineapple syrup, whipped cream, and 100 bananas.

The teams divided themselves into groups: scoopers/peelers, syrup dribblers, and finally whipped cream sprayers. The latter two groups sprinted to complete their portion.

Prior to the start of the contest, Berks County Dairy Princess Pam Werley gave a presentation about milk.

Jean Kummer, public relations specialist with the Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association, launched the National 3-A-Day campaign in the Bally area. This is a new program that promotes the nutritional need for three daily servings of calcium from dairy products.

Judges for the event included: Robin Melcher, vice president of National Penn Bank; Jim Barnett, communication specialist with Land O'Lakes; Jean Kummer, public relations specialist with the Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association; Berks County Dairy Princess Pam Werley; John Ferranti, owner of the Main Street Pub; Joyce Lepre, executive board member of the RRTA; Luann Zambinini of A.D. Moyer Lumber and Hardware; and Bob Morrone, owner of Pennsburg Dairy Queen.

St. Francis Academy, founded in 1743, is the oldest school in the 13 original colonies and it has an enrollment of more than 280 students in grades pre-K through 8.



Dairy Princess Pam Werley confers with the other judges.



Students add ice cream to the rain gutter.



The teachers' team works to build their share of the banana split.



First grade students enjoy Turkey Hill ice cream after the contest.



Laura Dewalt, center, is congratulated by Representative Julie Harhart and Judge Daryl Bombardger for raising the grand champion hog.

See More, Do More At Northampton 4-H Fair

NAZARETH (Northumberland Co.) — 4-H'ers see more and do more at 4-H Roundup one weekend each year. That's when the Northampton County 4-H Center is filled with activity.

The Northampton County 4-H Roundup, Aug. 8-10, proved the many ways 4-H members "See More, and Do More with 4-H."

Each 4-H member brings a completed project, which they have worked on over the last year. The Blue Building was filled with more than 300 projects ranging from posters, rockets, evening gowns, rock collections, pillows, paintings, blankets, plants, and much more!

Saturday's entertainment consisted of eight different types of animal shows. More than 150 4-H animals were on display throughout the day. The youth competed in livestock shows, including pigs, cattle, goats, sheep, poultry, and rabbits. Although the weather was unfavorable, 4-H'ers did a great job.

The weekend concluded Sunday with an exciting day filled with horse events, when 68 horses were exhibited, showing their graceful beauty. Horses were seen trotting, jumping, and completing courses.

Museum To Host Home School Day

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Landis Valley Museum will host Home School Day, Wednesday, Sept. 24, from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

During this all-day event, the museum provides Home School students and their families an opportunity to explore the museum's crossroads village, and participate in educational hands-on activities at their own pace.

Arrival time is 9 a.m. with activities scheduled from 9:30 a.m. through 2:30 p.m. Tickets purchased at the gate are \$7 for adults, \$10 for students ages 6 to 17. Children under 6 are free. For additional information, or to register by phone, call Nancy Landis at (717) 569-0401, ext. 254.

Retell Story

Asking kids to "re-tell" a story they've heard — through their own words, drama or pictures — can improve their reading comprehension and ability to analyze information.

Smart Stuff

with Twig Walkingstick

Dear Twig: I heard about a "dead zone" in the Gulf of Mexico. What is it? (Part 1 of 4.)

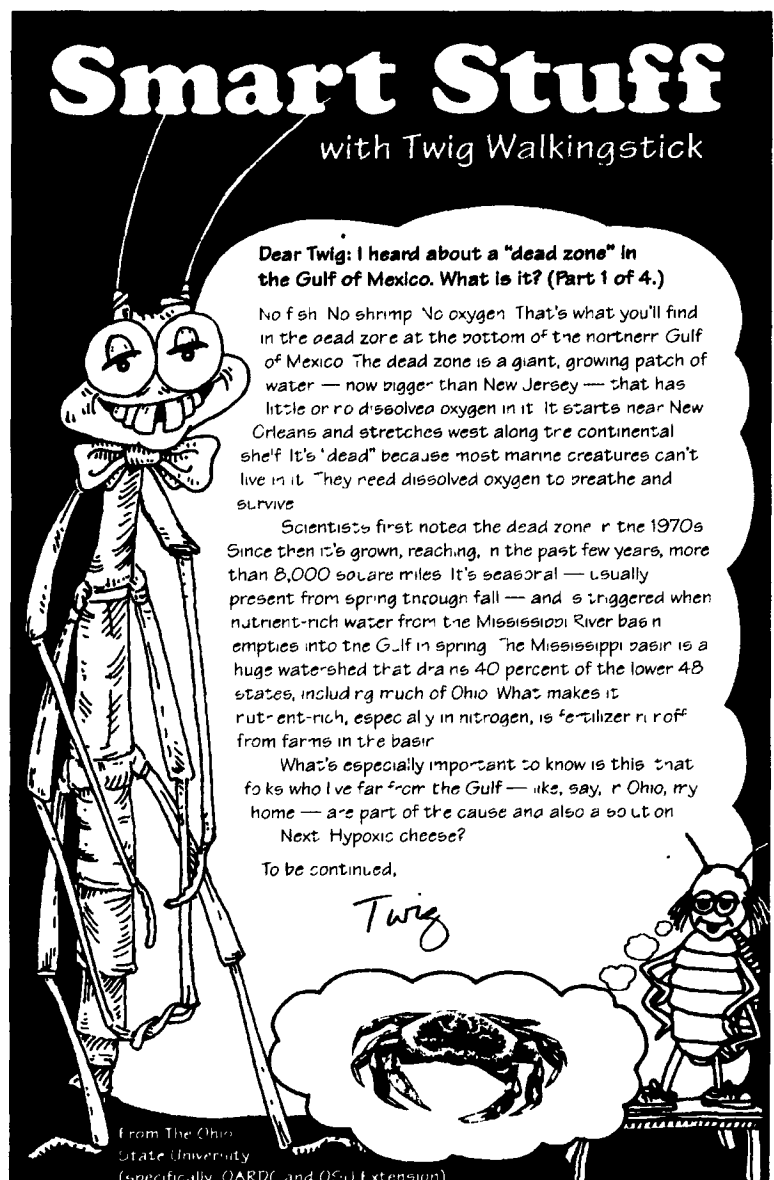
No fish. No shrimp. No oxygen. That's what you'll find in the dead zone at the bottom of the northern Gulf of Mexico. The dead zone is a giant, growing patch of water — now bigger than New Jersey — that has little or no dissolved oxygen in it. It starts near New Orleans and stretches west along the continental shelf. It's "dead" because most marine creatures can't live in it. They need dissolved oxygen to breathe and survive.

Scientists first noted the dead zone in the 1970s. Since then it's grown, reaching, in the past few years, more than 8,000 square miles. It's seasonal — usually present from spring through fall — and is triggered when nutrient-rich water from the Mississippi River basin empties into the Gulf in spring. The Mississippi basin is a huge watershed that drains 40 percent of the lower 48 states, including much of Ohio. What makes it nutrient-rich, especially in nitrogen, is fertilizer runoff from farms in the basin.

What's especially important to know is this: that folks who live far from the Gulf — like, say, in Ohio, my home — are part of the cause and also a solution. Next: Hypoxic cheese?

To be continued.

Twig



From The Ohio State University (specifically, OARDC and OSU Extension)