

RUNNING

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The Race of Education builds friendships, enhances relationships between students and brings people together in a positive way.

It demonstrates the commitment parents have to the Gate of Heaven School.

The students not only benefit by upgrading the computers but by building their health through exercise.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Gate of Heaven students line up last Friday morning to begin racing in the Race for Education fund-raiser.

GETTING READY TO HAVE SOME FUN



CLARK VAN ORDEN/ THE DALLAS POST

Students from Wycallis Elementary School in Dallas arrive at Wyoming Valley West Stadium for Luzerne Intermediate Unit Field Day Friday morning. The Wycallis students joined other LIU students in participating in track events, crafts and other projects during the annual event.

DARLING

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Mary does what she can to relieve the tension of the farm and workload for her family.

"She never made us feel as if there were any problems on the farm," says Paul Darling. And, he recalls fondly, every Sunday the family would "leave the farm behind" and take a trip out to Sandy Beach to swim and have a picnic.

"She's able to separate (from the farm) better," says Debbie.

Bowling every Tuesday and being involved at Gate of Heaven Church helps, too.

Now in her 70s, Mary is still always there for the planting, harvesting, pruning, weeding and selling that goes with operating a farm.

"When it's time to work, I work. But, then it's time to play," Mary says.

"She never missed one of our basketball games even though she was a nervous wreck if we didn't do well," remembers Paul. And there was always a hot home-cooked meal on the table, Debbie recalls.

"She's a great cook," Debbie says. "We didn't know what she put in it, but it tasted great."

Joe Darling likes his mother's Yorkshire pudding and apple strudel best while Mary's grandson, Logan, loves to help make

"We all call her 'the saint' but my father calls her 'Mother Superior' and wonders what the 'board of directors' has decided today."

Deb Ann Belenski
Describing her mother, Mary Darling

the pierogies - potato, cabbage, cheese and, sometimes, prune and blueberry.

Mary still cans and freezes corn, beans, and spinach but always has plenty of time left over to help others.

"She thinks nothing of taking someone to the hospital or a hair-dresser appointment," says Nicole.

Mary has made it a point to teach her family to always have respect and compassion for others.

"When someone came to the house, they were embraced and welcomed like part of the family," remembers Debbie.

"She's amazing," says Nicole. "She's very giving and treats everyone as if they are her own."

"It was a very hard way to grow up but a good way," says Debbie, remembering how she and her siblings worked the farm as soon as they were able. The family was

too busy working the farm to be distracted by much of anything.

Thinking about how she raised her children on the farm, Mary recounts picking up the kids and putting them on top of the bunched onion crates in the back of the family station wagon. Her mother-in-law would say, "You're going to kill those kids" (from the smell of the onions).

Today, though, Mary says, "Just look at them. I think they turned out all right. It was hard work; I had fun. But I don't know if they thought it was fun."

O'Reilly basketball banquet to honor coaches, players

Coaches Belenski, Darling and Guido will be honored at Wilkes-Barre's Ramada

The Bishop O'Reilly boys basketball program final banquet will be a tribute honoring seniors and previous players under coaches Belenski, Darling and Guido.

The banquet will be held on Saturday, May 19, at the Ramada Inn, Public Square, Wilkes-Barre.

Cocktail hour will be from 6 to 7 p.m. with dinner served at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 per person and are available at the school office or by calling Bob or Ann Coolbaugh at 287-4635 or Mark Belenski at 675-3864.

Tickets must be purchased by May 14.

For additional information, contact Frank Sobek at 693-4544.

Bandits shock Palmer with 7-6 victory

The Back Mountain Bandits U13 lacrosse team pulled a major upset and shocked the powerful Palmer Panthers (Easton) with a 7-6 win after overcoming a 0-2 deficit early in the game. The U11 boys almost completed the sweep over Palmer but came up short after scoring four unanswered goals but lost, 6-5, in a great game.

The U11, U13 and U15 girls will play Central Catholic (Bethlehem) at 1 p.m. on Sunday, May 20, at the Dallas Middle School. For complete scores and schedule information for the Back Mountain Bandits Lacrosse League, log on to www.bmyl.org.

LAST WEEK'S SCORE

- Girls**
- Wyoming Seminary 10, Back Mountain 5
- U19 Boys**
- Tunkhannock 6, Back Mountain 2
- Nazareth 4, Back Mountain 0
- U15 Boys**
- Schnecksville 6, Back Mountain 3
- U13 Boys**
- Back Mountain 7, Palmer 6
- Wyoming Seminary 7, Back Mountain 6 (OT)
- U11 Boys**
- Palmer 6, Back Mountain 5

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