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CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Dallas author wins 'Mom's Choice Award'

By REBECCA BRIA
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Mary Garrity Slaby, Ph.D., discovered a family secret a few years ago while doing genealogy research.

Garrity Slaby, 54, of Dallas, was shocked to learn that her great-grandmother, Catherine McCafferty, was the aunt of Alex Campbell, a member of the Molly Maguires, a secret Irish organization. Campbell was one of four men hanged for allegedly killing two mine operatives in Mauch Chunk, lo-

Mary Slaby holds a copy of her award-winning book, "Call Me Kate."

cated in Carbon County.

It was Garrity Slaby's genealogy research and her aunt, Margaret Bonner, who inspired her to write a book for young adults called "Call Me Kate: Meeting the Molly Maguires."

The book, published in 2008, was recently named a silver recipient for historical fiction in the young adult books category in the 2010 Mom's Choice Awards.

The Mom's Choice Awards recognize authors, inventors, companies, parents and others for their efforts in creating quality family-friendly media, products and services. Award recipients receive a lapel pin,

seals for the winning product and a certificate.

Set in the 1860s, "Call Me Kate: Meeting the Molly Maguires" is a historical fictional story centered on 14-year-old Catherine McCafferty, a character named after Garrity Slaby's great-grandmother. In the story, McCafferty's best friend joins the Molly Maguires and McCafferty wants to intervene.

Garrity Slaby says she applied for the Mom's Choice Awards but wasn't sure if she would win.

"I didn't know really because I thought the book is different than a lot of books being written for young adults these days," she said.

Garrity Slaby wrote the book under the pen name Molly Roe because she thought it would be better to have a pen name for fictional writing in case she does more academic writing. She says Mollyroe is the name of the town land in Ireland where her great-grandfather Peter Bonner lived before moving to Pennsylvania.

"I thought it was a suitable way to memorialize my ancestors and posthumously thank him for being smart enough to put the town on his naturalization papers!" Garrity Slaby said. "Having the town land helped me find the actual loca-

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First-time bus riders

By REBECCA BRIA
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KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Four-year-old Zachery Rager couldn't wait to take a ride on a school bus.

Zachery, of Harveys Lake, said he was excited to get on a bus for the first time because, unlike a car, a bus has no seat belts.

Zachery and 13 other soon-to-be kindergarteners at Lake-Noxen Elementary School had the opportunity to take a ride on a school bus without their parents on Feb. 3.

The bus ride was part of the Lake-Lehman School District's Kindergarten Readiness Program. The program is meant for children entering kindergarten during the upcoming school year and for their parents.

Four segments are held during the current school year at each of the elementary schools to prepare the children and their parents for kindergarten. Activities are provided for both the parents and the children "to instill a sense of comfort and familiarity for their first elementary experience."

Topics covered include nutrition and health readiness, reading and math readiness and bus safety. Pre-registration materials are also distributed.

Sandy Dobrowski, transportation coordinator for Lake-Lehman, and Lori Kucwicz, a kin-

Lehman-Jackson Elementary School: Monday, Feb. 22, starting at 9 a.m. 675-2165

Lake-Noxen Elementary School: Tuesday, Feb. 23, starting at 9 a.m. 639-1129

Ross Elementary School: Wednesday, Feb. 24, starting at 9 a.m. 477-5050

• Parents will be required to provide their child's birth certificate, two proofs of residency (driver's license and utility bill and immunizations. The child must accompany the parent to registration.

dergarten teacher at Lake-Noxen, led the children outside of the school while the parents stayed behind to pre-register. Despite being apart from their parents, none of the youngsters cried.

Before allowing the students on the bus, Dobrowski reviewed bus safety with the children. The children were shown yellow flashing lights and red flashing lights and were instructed not to begin to walk toward the bus until they see the red lights. They also learned to stay in front of the yellow stop arm that comes out in front of the bus so they are visible to the driver.

The children then got on the bus and sat two in a seat for a ride around Harveys Lake.



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Ava Gubbioti, left, and Lanie Weaver are all eyes and ears on a school bus during a program offered to future kindergarten students at the Lake-Noxen Elementary School. Both girls are first-time school bus riders.

Rylie Bucknavage, 5, took a seat next to her friend, Faye Post, 4, whom she knows from Sunflower Sprouts Learning Center in Harveys Lake. It was a first school bus ride for both girls, who also both live in Harveys Lake.

"I've been on a bus before, but not a school bus," Faye told Rylie. "It didn't have seatbelts, either, but my mom and daddy

rode with me so I didn't fall off." Rylie said she liked the bus because of its windows.

Kucwicz led the children through several verses of the song "The Wheels on the Bus." Not long after they finished the song, the children asked if they could sing some more.

Kucwicz also pointed out things such as ice on the lake, a man fishing and road construc-

tion. Faye wanted to know why ducks were out on the lake in the middle of winter.

"What are they doing out there?" she asked. "It's so cold. And they put their heads under water."

In response to Faye's comments, Rylie said, "One time I put corn in there and they ate it and they thought it was fish."

"That's the funniest thing I ever heard!" Faye replied, obviously amused.

Belle Boice, who drove the bus, thinks the bus ride is a good idea to help prepare children for kindergarten. Boice's granddaughter, Lanie Weaver, was one of the children on the bus.

"It's not so scary when the bus rolls up to the stop (on the first day of school)," Boice said.

Special bond between them began at birth

By REBECCA BRIA
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"The babies are special. It's one of my favorite things to do to calf out cows. It's quite an impressive thing to witness and be a part of."

Amy Deome

Credited with saving calf's life

All seemed normal on Jan. 27 at The Lands at Hillside Farms when Buttercup went into labor.

A 2-year-old Jersey heifer, Buttercup delivered a calf, Lilac, after about an hour of labor. Although Lilac seemed a bit small, all was well until Amy Deome, a teamster at the farm, noticed Buttercup was delivering a second calf. The staff was unaware Buttercup was carrying twins.

The second calf, named Lily, was not breathing and was quickly hung upside down to help rid her

lungs of her mother's amniotic fluid. When Lily still didn't take a breath, Deome took matters into her own hands.

"I put my hand over the nostrils and the mouth and I put my mouth over one of her nostrils and blew into it," Deome said. "Then she took her first breath and we put a piece of hay in her nose to stimulate a sneeze response."

Deome, 38, of Shavertown, the wife of Chuck Deome, farm manager at The Lands at Hillside Farms, learned the procedure from a Massachusetts veterinarian named Dr. Tom Ray.

She agrees that her own mother-

ly instincts helped save little Lily. The Deomes have five children.

"I think that plays a part in it," Deome said. "The babies are special. It's one of my favorite things to do to calf out cows. It's quite an impressive thing to witness and be a part of."

Deome says it is fairly unusual for a heifer to give birth to twins, especially two females. Usually in the event of twins, one calf and one bull calf are born.

Lilac, 15 pounds, and Lily, 25 pounds, were immediately taken away from their mother. For the first week, they were each fed two bottles of their mother's milk. They

were then switched to two bottles a day each of a milk formula.

Deome explained that cows today are designed to milk more than a calf should be fed. If the cows naturally fed their calves, the calves would be overfed and the moms would be under milked, causing both moms and babies to become sick.

Lilac and Lily now join a herd of about 100 cows, 75 of whom are milking cows. Jersey heifer cows live to be about 9 years old at The Lands at Hillside Farms, but they only live to be about 5 on an average farm, Deome said.

According to Deome, the cows are bred at the farm beginning at a year to a year and a half old and carry their young for nine months. Many of the cows are pregnant and 10 are expected to give birth this month alone.

"They're like our family, too," she said. "That's the way you have to treat it."



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Amy Deome, a teamster at The Lands at Hillside Farms, Shavertown, rescued "Lily," a newborn calf at birth by using a resuscitation technique.



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