

# HORSE

Continued from Page 1

competitive event."

The petite trainer and her husband, Bill, operate a horse riding, training and boarding facility in Dallas. "Operate" might not be the right word – the Osborns consider their business a labor of love.

"We're like a family here," Heidi said of her students and stable hands.

The couple spends, on average, 14 hours a day, 6 1/2 days a week at the stable, and when they're not around, they miss the 27 horses kept there.

"We went away ... to see my mother and father in Connecticut," said Bill. "We were gone for, maybe 24 hours, and we couldn't wait to get back."

Days at the stable start by feeding the horses and, after their appetites are appeased, the galloping giants are "turned out," or exercised. The horses get out in the fresh air to roam and play at least three or four hours each day. Heidi and Bill clean stalls and keep up with feedings in between teaching lessons for riders of all ages.

"Now that school's in, I teach until seven or eight at night," said Heidi. Although the Osborns have a few part-time hired helpers at the stable, they do much of the work themselves.

"There are no sick days in my world," she said.

Osborn instructs students of ages and abilities, from her youngest student, who's 3 years old, to her eldest, who's 24.

"As long as you have a will to want to do it, there (are) no requirements," she said. "Anybody can ride."

Osborn started showing horses when she was just 7 years old but her love of horses developed long before that. The Callicoon, N.Y. native's parents bought a pony when she was just 5 years old.

"We woke up one morning and it had a baby," she said, laughing.

Her father had his own business and his employees would amuse the little girl by leading her and the pony around her yard for hours every day. It didn't take long for her to fall in love with the horses. She's been riding ever since.

"It's just such a passion," she said. "I can't even explain it."

The Osborns now own three horses: a 5-year-old Welsh Cross pony named Miley (yes, after Disney star Miley Cyrus, and no, the Osborns didn't name her), a 9-year-old black bay thoroughbred gelding named Sammie (Heidi's "dream horse") and a 13-year-old chestnut appendix quarter horse called Stormy, who sometimes goes by the name of Grand Stride (yes, the inspiration for the name of their business).



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Heidi Osborn, of Shavertown, oversees a riding stable on Machell Avenue in Dallas where dressage and showmanship are taught.

"We had a horse named Grand Stride and my business at the time ... had made such grand strides," said Heidi.

Her emotions for the equines are apparent in her work and her love for horses led her to find love in life, as well.

Heidi and Bill met at a horse show – he transported horses to and from shows and she was a participant in the competition. The horses weren't ready in time at one show in 1988 and the two got to talking. They became great friends even though she was from New York and he hailed from Connecticut. Ten years later they were married and now have a 10-year-old son named Corey.

"The horses basically brought us together," said Heidi.

Bill also credits Heidi with getting him back in the saddle, so to speak.

"I wasn't even riding and then this one comes along," he said of his wife.

He says he showed horses all over the country when he was younger and eventually got out of the practice, but remained in the industry due to his penchant for ponies.

When the Osborns realized they had the chance to rent and

operate a stable in Dallas, Bill started riding again and the two haven't looked back. They have been at the facility on Machell Avenue for only 3 1/2 years but to them, it's what they've been working toward during the span of their careers.

"We both, separately and together, wanted something like this for our entire lives," Bill of the couple's business. "We didn't realize how badly we wanted it until we had it."

"We make a lot of sacrifices," Heidi added.

Those sacrifices are worth it in the end, though.

According to Morris, Heidi's reputation as a trainer of champions is unmatched in the area and the Osborns couldn't be more proud of their students.

"They're really dedicated kids," said Bill. "They're here five, six, seven days a week. They practice; they ask questions. They're constantly striving to improve themselves."

Heidi and Bill can even finish each other's sentences when talking about their students.

"Every time they walk into the ring," Heidi started.

"It's a piece of us walking in with them," added Bill.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Members of the Dallas Harvest Festival Steering Committee are, from left, seated, Gina Major Ackerman, Barbara Roberts, co-chairs Liz Martin and Mike McDavid, Karen Fiorello, Rich Fufaro. Standing, Bill Peiffer, Nancy Silvi, Owen Faut, Carol Wall, Carol Carroll, Bob Opel, Connie Scott and John Cybulski.

# FESTIVAL

Continued from Page 1

tography at 5 Dug Rd. in Trucksville during regular business hours.

Photos can be no larger than 11 by 17 inches and entries must be matted and framed prior to submission. Entrants must be a current Back Mountain resident and a non-professional photographer and they must submit up to three photos for the contest. Photographers will be asked to sign a release form upon submission. All photos can be picked up the week after the festival.

## Dunk tank

The best photos might be snapped at the festival – but bring a waterproof camera. Elizabeth Martin, festival coordinator, has announced that there will be a dunk tank at this year's Main Street celebration to raise money for the festival and Dallas Fire & Ambulance.

The dunk tank will replace the annual dance at the fest.

Dunkies will be "pretty big names" in the Dallas communi-

ty, including Frank Galicki, Dallas School District superintendent.

"He's a really good sport," Martin said of Galicki. "More people are being open to suggestion (to be dunked)."

The fire company will use the money raised to restore Old Mac, an old-time fire truck that has been a favorite of children who attend the festival.

**More entertainment, vendors**  
Rich Fufaro, sub-committee chairman for vendors at the festival, is frazzled but excited about the new offerings this year.

There will be an addition of 12 booths as a result of the expansion of the festival. The upper parking lot of Dallas Center Hardware on Main Street has been donated for six vendors and an entertainment area. Constables will direct foot traffic through Mill Street.

Organizers of the Dallas Harvest Festival are proud of the first expansion in eight years.

"We've always been trying to figure out how to expand without becoming dangerous," said Fufaro.

The new spot on Main Street will give patrons extra leg room

while still maintaining the personality of the event. This is something Fufaro wants to preserve, as other festivals in the area will occur during the month of September and the Dallas Harvest Festival stands apart from the rest.

A new pub and eatery, Dallas Tap and Grill on Main Street, will provide its newly-paved driveway to the event which will also allow for more vendors. The tap and grill will be open during the festival.

"Previously, we've had to grow from within," said Martin. "We're very happy we're able to move higher on Main Street."

## Sale site

Fufaro wants businesses to know about a new promotional tool on the Dallas Harvest Festival website ([www.dallasharvestfestival.com](http://www.dallasharvestfestival.com)). Businesses can add information about special offers at the Sidewalk Sale during Dallas Days. Patrons can click on "Sidewalk Sale" on the site and view what businesses are offering during the three-day sale.

More information about the Dallas Harvest Festival can be found on the fest's website or by calling 675-1950.

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September 12, 19 4pm  
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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)

## Several locals graduate from Penn State U.

Several Back Mountain residents recently received degrees from Penn State University.

They are:

Michael E. Clemente, Dallas, Bachelor of Science in Accounting, University Park campus; Robert J. Hivish, Trucksville, Bachelor of Science in Actuarial Science, University Park campus.

Also, Andrew K. Kempinski, Dallas, Aengt, 2-year Electrical Engineering Technology, Wilkes-Barre campus; Richard E. Ketchner, Shavertown, Associates Degree, 2-year Physical Therapist Assistant, Hazleton campus.

Also, Mark J. McCabe, Hunklock Creek, Bachelor of Science in Information Sciences And Technology, World Campus; Alyson G. Midwinter, Trucksville, Associates Degree with High Distinction, 2-year Physical Therapy assistant, Hazleton campus.

Also, Brett A. Sprau, Dallas, Bachelor of Science in Business, Wilkes-Barre campus; and Deborah J. Stern, Shavertown, Ph. D. in Workforce Education And Development, University Park campus.

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