



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Students enrolled at Gate of Heaven School during its final year pose for a school-wide photo. Most of these students will continue their education at Catholic schools throughout the region.

GOH

Continued from Page 1

ment," said Genello. Gate of Heaven parent Nancy Valkenburg, of Dallas, decided to keep her children, 3-year-old Logan and 5-year-old Jacob, close to home. "It was difficult," she said. "I talked with my family about it all the time. I felt it was pretty hard trying to make a decision so quickly." Logan will attend preschool classes at I'm Big Now in Dallas, while Jacob will attend kindergarten in the Dallas School District. Valkenburg said the decision wasn't easy because of her and her family's attach-

ment to Gate of Heaven. "My mom attended the school," she said. "I chose it for my children because I wanted to keep them in the Catholic faith. It's a small-knit community that seemed very family-oriented." Valkenburg enjoyed the small teacher to student ratio at Gate of Heaven, which she doesn't feel her children will receive at another local Catholic school. "We went to Good Shepherd (Academy in Kingston) to look, but it was a very big school," she said. Distance and the rising cost of gas prices also played a part in Valkenburg's decision. "(Good Shepherd) was a little too far of a bus ride for my 5-year-old son," she said. "There were definitely a lot of

factors in our decision." Mariam Randazzo, of Dallas, said she "can't even talk about" the school closing without getting emotional because of her and her children's bond with the Gate of Heaven community. "It wasn't an easy decision because our first choice was Gate of Heaven," she said. Randazzo said her two daughters, one in second grade and the other in seventh, will attend St. Nicholas/St. Mary's Elementary School in the fall. She added many of her daughters' friends will attend the school, and she said it was important to have social stability in addition to continuing in the Catholic school system. "All the schools offered tours and were very welcoming to parents and their families," she

said. But the atmosphere of the Gate of Heaven schools was something she had enjoyed for years. "I just like the variety of values they instill within the children," said Randazzo. "Simple things like kindness and how to treat other people. It's not even about being religious - they have great academics." Lisa Snyder, of Lehman, said her son, Will, will attend fifth grade at Good Shepherd Academy, though she'll have to give up some of the features she enjoyed while her son attended Gate of Heaven. "We wanted to keep the smaller school atmosphere but we didn't have too many options," she said. Snyder said most of her son's

friends will attend the school in the fall, and it was important to her son to still see his friends from the Dallas-area school. "I think all but three in his class are attending Good Shepherd," she said. This isn't the first time Good Shepherd Academy has seen an influx of students from closing schools - the kindergarten through eighth-grade school was created as part of a larger consolidation in 2007 of St. Boniface and Sacred Heart schools in Wilkes-Barre and Regis Elementary and Sacred Heart in Luzerne. Principal James Jones also said the school accepted many students from St. Aloysius School in Wilkes-Barre when that school closed in 2009. "We've all gone through a

consolidation experience," said Jones. "It makes it easier to welcome new families and extend the olive branch." Despite actions taken by neighboring Catholic schools to help make parents' decisions a little easier, some Gate of Heaven parents are still not sure about what to do in the fall. "I'm still undecided," said Kerri Hajkowski, of Dallas. She said she's enrolled her sons, Tommy and Alex, at Good Shepherd Academy, but she still isn't sure if it's the best fit. "I figured I have until the first day of school," she said. Gate of Heaven Principal Abe Simon said teacher placements will not be announced until the end of June.

COPS

Continued from Page 1

the opportunity to tell them not to talk to strangers and things like that. That's the mom and cop advantage." Kotowski said, in some cases, perpetrators won't take her very seriously when she's trying to lock handcuffs around their wrists. "I don't think males know they're under arrest even though they have handcuffs on," she said. "They think it's not real." But the women's real world experiences weren't completely unexpected. Kotowski was told at the academy that offenders will size an officer up, no matter if it's a female or male cop, and both women said the training - from how to diffuse a bar fight to taking down someone two feet taller than the officer - is the same for women as it is for men. In domestic abuse situations, both women said their

gender can sometimes play a role in handling the situation. "Female victims think I'll be more sympathetic to them," said Elias. "But then when I get (the male's) side of the story, I see she wasn't the victim. Females will think I'll side with them, be their buddy. It changes the dynamic." Kotowski said there are similar dynamic changes in her experiences with domestic violence situations. "I've found that the last thing a guy wants in that situation is to talk to another female after an argument," she said. "But females and kids are more comfortable and always want to talk to another female." Kotowski doesn't think about being a role model, but one experience at the Turkey Hill in Plymouth made her realize why she decided to become a police officer. "This little girl was with her father, she was probably 5 or 6 years old, and they saw me and he told her, 'See honey, you can be anything you want,'" said Kotowski.

'Rapunzel' comes to Lake-Lehman

A live family theater production of "Let Your Hair Down, Rapunzel" will be staged at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 4 at Lake Lehman Junior/Senior High School. The event is produced by Northeast Youth Theatre and has been directed by Mikayla Orrson, Hunter Lefkoski and Julia Whitesell in conjunction with the state Department of Education graduation requirements. Over 40 elementary school youth make up the majority of the cast in this musical. Kat Kaminski and Megan Rusonis play the parents of an off-beat Rapunzel, played by Amanda May. When the evil Witch Izwitch (played by Jessica Salus) steals Rapunzel away and locks her in a tower, the nerdish Prince Lew



Students rehearse a scene from the live family theater production of "Let Your Hair Down, Rapunzel." Amanda May, as Rapunzel, is in the tower. From left, Corrine Nevel, Jester; and Megan Rusonis, Rapunzel's mother; Hannah Kasko, Prince Lew the Science Guy; Olivia Anderson, Knight; and Madison Chulick, a member of the royal family.

Science-geek (played by Hannah Kasko), has to save her, much to the surprise of his royal parents. In a story of unexpected bravery, whimsy and treating others

how you wish to be treated, the stars learn the true meaning of the Golden Rule. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$4 for children age 12 and under and will be available at the door.

All profits will be donated to the Lake-Lehman Theater Fund to raise awareness of the need for continued funding of creative arts programs in high schools across the nation.

HIKE

Continued from Page 3

Hildebrandt Road about 1,300 feet from the district campus. The company's presence in the area has drawn hundreds of concerned parents and residents to various meetings with concerns for the health and safety of children, employees and other residents within the district. The board agreed in March to oppose the natural gas metering station because members felt it would cause harm to the health and safety of employees and about 2,800 children attending district schools. The stipulation and agreement proposed at Monday's meeting stated the company will not "physically locate any form of natural gas compression equipment (or) ... any odorant equipment and storage containment of the odorant mercaptan" at the proposed site. Local counsel for Chief, Atty. Jeffrey Malak of Chariton & Schwager, urged the board to approve the resolution as an interim action that can be changed at a later date. Goeringer stated this was the first time the board had seen the agreement, and he would like more time to ask questions of the district's attorney in the case, John Dean of Elliot, Greenleaf & Dean, about specifics in the document. He had questions related to a 50-barrel storage container, which he

calculated to total 2,500 gallons. Malak said the storage unit would hold "99 percent" water, as its purpose is to store water vapor extracted from the natural gas flowing through the pipeline to prevent corrosion. District Solicitor Benjamin Jones III said clarifications needed to be made to the document, and it would be considered at the board's June meeting. He said the district is concerned about potentially explosive or pollutant materials, other than natural gas, being located near the schools. The board also approved a 4.7 percent salary raise for Jones, to \$39,000 for the 2011-12 fiscal year. Bigus said Jones has been a solicitor for the board for more than 40 years, and goes "above and beyond" his responsibilities to the district. In other news, the board ... Honored retirees with a gift for their years of services within the district. Retirees included Kathleen McCarthy, principal of Wycallis Elementary, 16 years of service; Gertrude "Trudy" Matley, student support services coordinator, 22 years of service; Len Matuzczak, high school physics and science teacher, 26 years of service; Sharon Hartshorne, Dallas Elementary reading specialist, 33 years of service; Mary Yankowski, high school secretary, 38 years of service; and Allison Lord, middle school secretary, 39 years of service. Approved several purchases for the new high school construction project, including gym equip-

ment for an auxiliary gym from Fitness Headquarters LTD, totaling \$75,721; relocation of materials from the old building to the new building from Matheson Transfer Co., totaling \$77,740; laboratory equipment relocation and chemical disposal from Waste Recovery Solutions Inc., totaling \$4,229; and a 5-year agreement with Frontier Communications to provide a new telephone system at a cost of \$2,569 per month. Approved the following personnel and students to attend the following activities: Dallas Elementary fifth-grade science classes to Toby's Creek and Hillside Farms May 12 and 13 at a cost of \$165 per day, Dallas Elementary fifth-grade science classes to Canal Park in West Naticoke on May 18 at a cost of \$425, high school functional and learning support classes to the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport and Hillside Farms on May 12 at a cost of \$195, high school functional and learning support classes to the Wyoming Valley West Stadium May 20 at a cost of \$70, middle school learning support classes to the Wyoming Valley West Stadium May 20 at a cost of \$120, middle school jazz band and select chorus to the Fine Arts Fiesta in Wilkes-Barre May 20 at a cost of \$120, Dallas Elementary Environmental Club to Frances Slocum State Park May 26 at a cost of \$65 and elementary schools' vision students to Kirby Park May 26 at a cost of \$70. Appointed the following personnel: Beth Bevevino as high school secretary at an hourly rate

of \$10.73, effective May 18 and Mary Ellen O'Brien as part-time guidance secretary and part-time athletic director secretary at an hourly rate of \$10.73, effective on or around June 7. Approved a contractual agreement with Metz & Associates LTD for meal services at all schools for the 2011-12 year, with a financial guarantee of \$9,134.46 less the cost of the district's new Point of Sales program, which is \$7,000, and a \$0.05 increase to all student lunches. Approved the following additional volunteers at Dallas Elementary for the 2010-11 year: Mi Bapst, Eric Russ, Erik St. Clair, Diana Alhashemi, Paul Booth, Helen Davis, John Giampietro, James Gronski, Marc Ramirez, June Russ and James Schappert. Appointed PNC Bank as trea-

sure to the school board, effective July 1 and appointed the following banks as depositories for the district during the 2011-12 school year: PNC Bank, Landmark Community Bank, Citizens Bank, KNBT, First National Bank and M&T Bank. Approved the amount of \$5,000 in support of the 2011 Graduation Lock-In. Approved a leave of absence for the following teachers: Nicole Valkenburg, Wycallis Elementary fourth-grade teacher, from September 12 through October 28, and Sarah Kashatus, high school English teacher, for the duration of the 2011-12 school year. Appointed Kai Szulborski as a lifeguard in the Natatorium at an hourly rate of \$10. Appointed the following as professional substitutes: William

Barnes, Karen Downs, Sarah Edwards, Jason Homza, Kelsey Muldoon and Maura Neher. Approved the following organizations use of district grounds: high school football for use of Mountaineer Stadium for mini football camp from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. July 18-20, Mountaineer Aquatic Club for use of the Natatorium from 8 to 11 a.m. Monday through Friday June 13 through Aug. 5, Faculty and Friends Recreational Volleyball for use of the Dallas Elementary gym for games from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays throughout the 2011-12 school year and Dallas Field Hockey Booster Club for use of the Cleary Soccer Field for summer camp from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. June 20-24. Accepted the resignation of Krista Baines, high school cheerleading head coach.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

King Crossword - Answers  
Solution time: 25 mins.

A	M	I	S		S	P	A		S	E	T	H	
B	A	M	I	S		E	R	G		P	Y	R	E
B	U	L	L	S	E	Y	E		L	E	E	R	
A	L	L	O	T		S	P	I	C	E	S		
						C	A	T	S		E	T	A
J	A	C	K		R	A	Y	S		N	O	D	
A	G	A		M	E	T	O	O		D	A	Y	
Y	O	N		O	K	A	Y		B	Y	T	E	
						D	A	S		N	O	E	L
S	C	Y	T	H	E		G	A	L	A	S		
E	L	B	A		B	A	R	G	R	A	P	H	
G	O	A	L		B	R	A		E	R	I	E	
O	G	R	E		S	E	W		S	K	E	D	

Go Figure! answers

7	+	8	÷	3	5
x	-	-	+	-	-
2	x	5	-	4	6
-	÷	-	x	-	-
6	÷	3	+	1	3
8	-	1	-	7	-

Super Crossword Answers

T	O	S	C	A		W	A	I	L		E	L	S	A		H	E	A	D				
A	D	U	L	T		A	C	R	E		D	R	O	O	P		O	G	L	E			
R	O	B	O	T		T	H	E	T	R	O	U	B	L	E		L	Y	O	N			
						W	A	S	T	E		H	O	P	E		N	Y	M	P	H		
J	P	A	N	I	E	L	O	V	E	R		D	N	A		T	A	E		I			
F	I	D	N	E		G	M	A	S		P	R	I	M	E								
C	O	M	E		C	A	N		C	A	N		I	P	S	O							
W	I	T	H	A	T	H	R	E	E	D	A	Y	W	E	E	K	E	N	D				
S	T	E	A	M	E	R		Y	E	M	E	N		M	I	N	E	O					
L	A	G	B	I	S		E	W	E		P	A	R		D	A	D						
S	E	N	O	R	A		W	H	E	Y		I	L	I	E								
V	A	L	T	E		M	E	A	R	A		C	O	P	L	A	N	D					
I	S	T	H	A	T	I	T	T	U	R	N	S	T	A	S	D	A	Y					
F	H	A	T		E	T	A	T		U	P	S		D	O	L	L						
G	A	M	E	L		S	T	I	L	L		L	A	B		M	A	E					
A	L		C	P	R		S	H	A	L	L		A	M	A	Z	I	N					
M	U	L	E	T		S	T	A	R		B	R	I	B	E								
S	A	R	A		I	N	T	O	M	O	N	D	A	Y		O	B	E	S	E			
F	H	I	N		N	A	T	I	V	E		B	E	R	N		C	R	A	T	E		
N	L	I	E		G	E	R	I	E		A	L	L	E	X		N	O	A	T	I	A	L