

# The DALLAS POST

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CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

The Gate of Heaven gymnasium was supposed to be filled for the Dallas Lions Club Annual Night at the Races which has been cancelled because state police are cracking down on all small games of chance. Here, event co-chairs Frank Rollman, left, and Don Berlew talk about what could have been.

## Lions' Night at the Races is a bust

By DOTTY MARTIN  
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Members of the Dallas Lions Club just want to make enough money to support their charities. And the club has many of those, like student book scholarships, donations to the Back Mountain Memorial Library, The Association of the Blind, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Luzerne County Fair sponsorship, Catherine McAuley House, Community Christmas Tree, Boy Scouts, American Legion and its Hometown Heroes Project donations.

An annual Night at the Races

has allowed them to do just that for more than 25 years.

Not this year.

The Pennsylvania State Police have cracked down on events such as Night at the Races, shutting them down because they are illegal under Pennsylvania's Small Games of Chance Act.

A recent story published in The Times Leader quoted State Police Sgts. Jamie Jones and Gary Severns with the Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement as saying that holding a Night at the Races-style activity is unlawful due to three elements: consideration, chance and reward.

Consideration is defined by placing a bet or wager, chance is

"It's a lot of work. But it was the best promotion we had and everybody got involved with it. It brought friends, families and neighbors together for a night of fun and we never had any trouble."

Don Berlew

Dallas Lions Club Nite at the Races co-chair

the player having little to no control of the outcome. And the reward consists of cash, merchandise or anything of value that is greater than the bet.

Both state Sen. Lisa Baker and state Rep. Karen Boback have co-sponsored legislation addressing small games of chance but neither of those bills will be passed in time for the Dallas Li-

ons Club to hold its event which was scheduled for April 20 at the Gate of Heaven gymnasium on Machell Avenue.

Frank Rollman, who has co-chaired every Night at the Races the club has held, said club members were taken by surprise.

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## Future chefs hone skills

By SARAH HITE  
Dallas Post Correspondent

### MORE INFORMATION

For more information about children's cooking classes at the Brown Barn Café, visit call 674-9787. The next class will be held on Sunday, March 10. Reservations are encouraged.

Local youngsters had a sweet introduction to the culinary arts at a children's cooking class held at the Brown Barn Café in Shavertown on Feb. 17.

About 20 tykes participated in the class, held monthly at the café. In honor of the recently-observed Valentine's Day, participants whipped up a batch of red velvet cupcakes and frosting from scratch.

Café owner John Costello said the classes began in May 2011 as a way to show children and adults alike that it's not impossible to make fresh food fast.

"I wanted kids to see how easy it is to make real food from scratch," said Costello. "I was making cupcakes with my 8-year-old daughter and I messed up the batter. I made another batter in two or three minutes. I thought to myself, 'How much faster could the stuff from a box take to make?'"

Costello said the class has another added benefit - it's fun.

Plenty of those in attendance had previously dabbled in food prep, including 11-year-old Ben Reavy, of Trucksville. He came to the event with his brother, 7-year-old Declan, and mom Susan to show off his skills in the kitchen.

"Ben is the resident chef at home," said Susan Reavy. "He is the creator of creators."

She said her eldest son likes to make trumped-up versions of his mom's standard desserts.

"He'll take an ordinary cupcake and make it new," she said. "Just this morning he said he wanted molten cupcakes. I just made regular ones, and he melted chocolate over the top of them."

Other seasoned students of sustenance had to learn the hard way. Elaine Rogocuski, of Pikes Creek, said she doesn't like to cook, so she's hoping her two children can learn to take the reins at dinner time.

"It's fun," said 9-year-old Brayden Rogocuski. "I like to cook steak at home with my dad."

Brayden's sister, 5-year-old Brenna, doesn't like spending too much time working in the

kitchen unless she is the taster for her brother's creations. She helped during the baking session by tasting the sugar befove cupcakes and frosting from scratch.

"Anything with sugar, I'm there," said Brenna.

The biggest challenge during the class for 8-year-old Sophia Kruger, of Shavertown, and 9-year-old Bridget Dowd, of Lehighton? Deciding who would crack the egg.

"There's only one egg," said Kruger. "I think I like the messiness of cooking. I like cracking eggs."

In the end, the girls attempted to break the egg together, which resulted in fishing out egg shell fragments with their fingers.

"We're familiar with this challenge," laughed Abbe Kruger, Sophia's mom.

Jill Walsh brought her daughters, 5-year-old Teagan Cotter and 8-year-old Eiden Cotter, all of Dallas, to the class because she thought it was a good opportunity for children to see what goes into the food they eat.

And sometimes that includes tasting things they aren't supposed to eat.

"I like to taste the batter (before it bakes)," Teagan said. "We all do that."

While the cupcakes baked, the children were treated to a reading by local artist and children's author Angelo DeMuro, of Shavertown.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Brenna Rogowski and her brother Brayden, of Pikes Creek, share cooking duties at a Sunday morning cooking class for children at the Brown Barn Cafe in Shavertown.



Sophia Kruger, of Shavertown, and Bridget Dowd, of Lehighton, work as a culinary team during a Sunday afternoon cooking class at the Brown Barn Cafe, Shavertown.



Jack Costello and Declan Reavy, of Trucksville, are very involved in making red cupcakes during a Sunday afternoon cooking class at the Brown Barn Cafe, Shavertown.



BILL TARUTIS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

## Lent begins with Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday was observed on Feb. 13 at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Dallas by the Rev. Kathleen Jamhoury, interim pastor. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent in the Western Christian calendar. Occurring 46 days before Easter, it is a moveable fast that can fall as early as Feb. 4 and as late as March 10. Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of adherents as a reminder and celebration of human mortality and as a sign of mourning and repentance to God. The ashes used are typically gathered from the burning of the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday. This practice is common in much of Christendom, being observed mainly by Catholics, Anglicans, Lutherans and Methodists.

Linda Rodriguez, of Dallas, receives ashes from Trinity Presbyterian Church Interim Pastor, the Rev. Kathleen Jamhoury on Ash Wednesday.



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