



Clarence Newcomb brought Phoenix, who won "Sportiest." Another of Newcomb's dalmatians was judged "Most Colorful."



Maureen Kapral's hippy goat, Betty, was judged "Funniest."

## Dogs, other pets dress up for SPCA Halloween contest

By ELIZABETH SKRAPITS  
Post staff

**DALLAS** - Cats in hats, a greyhound turned into a pumpkin, Cruella DeVille brought back as a dalmatian — instead of in a storybook, all of these and more were at the Back Mountain Feed and Seed on Saturday.

The Luzerne County Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) held its annual Halloween Costume Contest for pets October 22. Ed Gross, SPCA Executive Director, was there as a judge and to present the prizes, which were donated by the SPCA and Back Mountain Feed & Seed, and included calendars, Halloween bandanas, pet treats, T-shirts, and SPCA mugs. SPCA board member and Dallas resident Mary Ward was also on hand to help.

Approximately 35 people from all over Luzerne County registered, many of whom were from the Back Mountain. There was no charge to register a pet in the contest, but donations to benefit the SPCA were gratefully accepted.

"The costumes just get better every year," Gross said as he looked around at the cavalcade of pets in whimsical attire. "Some people get really creative."

"This is hard," judge Betty

Gower of the Wilkes-Barre Dog Training Club whispered to her fellow judge and club member Louise Jones as the parade of costumed animals passed by. "They're all so good," Jones agreed.

At least one of their choices was fairly simple. It didn't come as a surprise when Dallas resident Maureen Kapral's goat Betty won for "Funniest Costume." Betty was decked out in outlandish hippie garb, including a Grateful Dead tie-dyed T-shirt (which was tied with neckwear belonging to Kapral's husband), big dangly peace-sign earrings, and a long disheveled wig. Her outfit and antics made everyone who saw her laugh.

"What do goats eat?" Gross asked Kapral when she came up with Betty in tow to receive her prize.

"Oh, she eats grain, hay — pumpkins!" she said as Betty made a hungry lunge at the pumpkin on the judges' table and Kapral reined her in.

The "Best Overall" winner was Patches, a six-month old mixed-breed puppy belonging to Dana Yozwiak, a student at Sweet Valley Christian Academy. Patches wore a grass skirt and was garlanded in rainbow-hued leis, and when Dana held out one of her

pet's favorite jerky treats, she stood up on her hind legs and did a little hula dance.

Clarence and Denise Newcomb of Dallas brought their Dalmatians Ember and Phoenix, both prize-winners. Phoenix, who won in the "Sportiest Costume" category, was dressed as a fireman, complete with scaled-down replicas of fire-fighter's equipment. Clarence Newcomb, himself a fire-company volunteer, said it was an appropriate costume for her because Phoenix really is a fire dog. "She rides on the fire truck all the time," he said. Ember won for "Most Colorful Costume." In a turnabout from the original 101 Dalmatians, she was dressed as Cruella Dalmatian, complete with black-and-white wig and a pink feather boa.

"Travelled Farthest" went to Lisa Smith of Centermoreland, whose short-haired pointer Tess

was decked out as a birthday party: she wore a party hat and a big gift-wrapped box with balloons, noisemakers, ribbons and a pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey game attached to it.

"Most Original" went to Debbie Evans of Harveys Lake, whose mixed-breed dog Oscar was dressed as a baby in a miniature shopping cart.

Among the honorable mentions were Dallas resident Melanie Vankevich's kitten, who wore an outfit and a Ty tag that made her look like a living Beanie Baby, and Hunlock Creek resident Alicia Emelett's caped canine, Superdog Sam.

After the contest the judges agreed that the costumes were so imaginative and the pets so well-behaved that judging had been very difficult. "I loved 'em all — I wanted to pick all of them," Louise Jones said.

## Latest library books

### FICTION

Current Fiction  
"Slaves of Obsession" by Anne Perry  
"Grasshopper" by Barbara Vine  
"The Devil's Code" by John Sanford  
"Sisters of Cain" by Miriam Grace Monfredo  
"An Empire of Women" by Karen Shepard  
"Blue Ridge" by T.R. Pearson  
"The Ice Limit" by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child  
"The Rescue" by Nicholas Sparks  
"Legacy of Love" by Caroline Harvey  
"Cold Steel Rain" by Kenneth Abel  
"Blackgammon" by Heather Neff

### NONFICTION

"Two Girlfriends Get Real About Cosmetic Surgery" by Susan J. Collini  
"Maximum Success: Changing the 12 behavior patterns that keep you from getting ahead" by James Waldroop  
"Women Can't Hear What Men

Don't Say" by Warren Farrell  
**LARGE PRINT NONFICTION**  
"Band of Brothers" by Stephen E. Ambrose  
"Eyewitness to Gettysburg" by Charles Carleton Coffin  
"Power and the Presidency" edited by Robert A. Wilson  
**MYSTERY**  
"Nothing Good Can Stay" by Dana Stabenow  
**BIOGRAPHY**  
"On Writing: A Memoir of a Craft" by Stephen King  
"Natural Blonde" by Liz Smith  
**REFERENCE**  
"The Statesman's Yearbook"  
"Best's Key Rating Guide" 2000 Edition  
**AUDIOTAPES**  
"Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" J.K. Rowling  
"Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" by J.K. Rowling  
"Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" by J.K. Rowling  
"Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" by J.K. Rowling

## Red Cross Blood Drive needs volunteers

The American Red Cross is looking for both professional and nonprofessional volunteers to assist with its upcoming blood drives. Nonprofessionals are needed for pre-screening and registration of donors, blood bag preparation, and canteen work. RNs, LPNs, EMTs, LMTs, graduate nurses and third/fourth year nursing students are needed for taking health histories, hemoglobin counts, and temperatures. Those who wish to volunteer or be trained, call the office of volunteers at 823-7161.

For those who wish to donate blood, the dates and locations of blood drives in the Back Mountain area are as follows: Wed., Nov. 1, at College Misericordia, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wed., Nov. 15, at Penn State Lehman, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Fri., Nov. 24, Gate of Heaven School, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

## Starlight Ball preparations continue

Preparations continue for the Wilkes-Barre General Hospital Auxiliary's 32nd Annual Starlight Ball scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 11 at Genetti's Hotel and Convention Center, Wilkes-Barre.

The gala event will feature a cocktail and social hour beginning at 7 p.m. and continue with dinner at 8:30 p.m. Musical entertainment will be provided by bands Fancy Dancer and The New York Times Band.

Among the numerous Starlight Ball attractions will be a raffle drawing for separate prizes of \$10,000, \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$2,000. A limited number of raffle tickets will be sold at \$100 each. Tickets may be purchased by individuals or by groups at the Wilkes-Barre General Hospital Gift Shoppe or from any Starlight Ball committee member.

For more information about the Starlight Ball or to purchase raffle tickets, please call the Wilkes-Barre General Hospital Gift Shoppe at 552-1241.

LUZERNE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
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If you or a family member have applied and have been turned down for Social Security Disability Benefits, call our office for a free consultation. You have a right to a hearing on your claim. I have successfully represented clients seeking Disability Benefits for almost twenty (20) years before the Office of the Administrative Law Judges of the Social Security Administrative.

If you have applied or are thinking about applying, call for our free booklet about the process and frequently asked questions.

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## An Open Letter to Luzerne County Residents

Good morning.

October is recycling month in Pennsylvania and we, your Luzerne County Commissioners, want to thank you for all that you do to make recycling successful in your County.

It seems that everyone in Luzerne County is recycling. At home, in work, at school, everyone is doing their share. When recycling began here in 1990, Luzerne County recycled 13 percent of its waste. For the past three years, Luzerne County has recycled over 50 percent of its wastestream. Thank you for your continuing commitment to the recycling loop.

However, to complete and continue the recycling loop, everyone should aggressively commit themselves to buy products made with recycled content. In this way, a market will be created for recycled material and the loop will be closed.

So that the recycling message continues to be heard, Luzerne County provides education and information programs to schools, special interest groups and service organizations. We also provide waste and recycling reviews to business and industry. For more information regarding these services, please contact the Luzerne County Solid Waste Department at 1-800-821-7654.

In closing, thank you and we ask you to keep recycling and to purchase items made with recycled material.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Makowski, Esq.

Thomas P. Pizano

Stephen A. Urban