

Characters abound



The Annual Dallas Kiwanis Club Halloween Parade begins.

CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

The Annual Dallas Kiwanis Club Halloween Parade always attracts hundreds of costumed children. This year's winners are:

PRETTIEST

Callie Daris, first; Maggie Ropietsla, second; Maddie Fleschut, third; Emily Frisbie, fourth; Issy Handley, fifth.

UGLIEST

Chris Allen, first; Mia Replewicz, second; Nicole Conrad, third; Alexander Morsey, fourth.

FUNNIEST

Briget Goodrich, first; Gabe Allen, second; Allison Lariza, third; Tenley Richard, fourth; Drew Hutsko, fifth.

MOST ORIGINAL

Breanna, first; Gabby Marsala, second; Logan Davis, third; Jacob Semon, fourth; Courtney McCarthy, fifth.

BEST GROUP

Ryan and Kayleigh Fisher, first;



Art, left, Anna and their father, Andrew Smagin, of Trucksville, wait patiently for the results of the judging. Their group came in third.

Courtney and Justin Moss, second; the Smagins, third; Melinda and Cheney Champluvier, fourth; Charlie and Logan Hayes, fifth.

MISCELLANEOUS

Preston Klem, first; Tyler Hockenbury, second; Noah Silver, third; Jensen Mead, fourth; Andrew Goofrich, fifth.



Kennedy and Robyn Wood entered the prettiest category.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Donnie Evans and Melissa Ziolkowski, employees at Skateaway in Wilkes-Barre, raised \$500 for Adopt-A-Cop by going to local supermarkets with Rollin Roo and having people pay \$1 for the mascot to dance. Evans and Ziolkowski are organizing "Skate for a Cause" to be held from 6 to 10 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 13 at Skateaway. Proceeds will go to Adopt-A-Cop. Shown here, from left, are Rollin Roo, Skateaway mascot; Buck Haugenbaugh, Laurel Run Volunteer Fire Department; Evans, sales manager at Skateaway; John Mosley, Pennsylvania State Constable; Ziolkowski, manager at Skateaway; and Paul Daum, Laurel Run Volunteer Fire Dept.

Skaters will roll out for a good cause

By REBECCA BRIA
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IF YOU GO

"Skate for a Cause"
Thursday, Nov. 13, from 6 to 10 p.m.
Skateaway in Wilkes-Barre
Admission: \$2
Skate rental: \$2

Rodney Poceschi was working as a police officer in Virginia Beach, Va. when he pulled over a speeding car on June 23, 2003. The men in the car had just robbed an IHOP Restaurant and fired shots at Poceschi, a former resident of Pittston.

Though he was wearing a bulletproof vest, Poceschi was killed when the bullet entered his body near his shoulder.

In Poceschi's remembrance, his sisters, Gina Poceschi Boyle, of Sweet Valley, and Jaclyn Poceschi Mosley, of Laurel Run, formed Fallen Officers Remembered in May of 2004.

"When my brother died, our first thing was somebody mentioned a scholarship in his memory," Boyle said. "My sister came up with the idea for the organization and it was kind of a therapy for her."

The non-profit organization started donating bulletproof vests in 2006 and, when the demand became so high, the Adopt-A-Cop program was formed specifically to raise money for the vests.

When Donnie Evans, sales manager, and Melissa Ziolkowski, manager, of Skateaway in Wilkes-Barre, learned of Adopt-A-Cop, they wanted to help. The cause is especially important to the two because Ziolkowski's

husband, Jason, is a police officer in Plains Township.

Skateaway employees formed "Skate for a Cause," which will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 13, at Skateaway in Wilkes-Barre. In addition to roller skating, there will be child fingerprinting, K-9 dogs, a 50/50 raffle, basket raffles, emergency vehicles, games and a visit from Rollin Roo, Skateaway mascot, and Tux, mascot for the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins.

Admission is \$2 per person and skate rental is \$2. All proceeds will benefit the Adopt-A-Cop program through Fallen Officers Remembered.

"We just felt it was a good idea," Evans said. "Plains Township gets their vests by union but the part-timers do not. We felt it was a good idea to help the law enforcement and EMS who help people and don't get credit for it every day."

Evans and Ziolkowski have already raised \$500 by going to local supermarkets with Rollin Roo and having people pay \$1 to see the mascot to dance.

Jeff Tokach, first assistant attorney for Luzerne County, will

speak to the children at 7 p.m. about drugs and alcohol and why police officers need a bulletproof vest. Representatives from the Luzerne County Sheriff's Department and the Veterans Affairs Hospital Police Crime Prevention will also be in attendance.

The demand for bulletproof vests is great because most local police departments do not provide the vests for part-time officers. Instead, it is up to each officer to pay for his or her own vest, which costs about \$1200. Boyle says about 70 percent of police officers in Luzerne County work part-time.

Because of the increasing risk to paramedics and firefighters, the Adopt-A-Cop program expanded over the summer to also include vests for them.

Adopt-A-Cop donated 11 vests in 2006, 25 vests in 2007 and 27 vests so far in 2008. The organization distributes several brands of Level 3A bulletproof vests, which offer the highest protection available below tactical vests.

Boyle says the vests are lighter in weight and more comfortable than they were in the past. Each officer can also choose whether or not to have his or her vest custom fitted.

Rebecca Bria, a staff writer for The Dallas Post, may be reached at 970-7436.

Schickners note 50th anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Albert "Sonny" Schickner, of Harveys Lake, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 13, 2008.

The couple exchanged their marriage vows on September 13, 1958 in Highland Park, New Jersey, at the Highland Park Reformed Church with the Reverend James Mulder and the Reverend Richard Decker officiating.

Members of the wedding party were Joyce Meyer, sister of the bride, maid of honor; Gloria Burger Collins and Valentine Hugley Rolf, bridesmaids; Robert Tyhanic, best man; John Carscadden and Theodore Tishauser, ushers.

Mrs. Schickner is the former Carol Meyer, daughter of the late August and Doris Meyer. She retired from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey in 2001.

Mr. Schickner is the son of the late Albert and Yolanda Schickner. He retired in 2000 from his taxi cab business in Highland Park, New Jersey.

They are the proud parents of three sons, Bruce, and his wife, Susan, of East Windsor, New Jersey; Robert, of Highland Park; and Kyle, of Los Angeles, California. They also have five grandchildren, Michael, Curtis, Tyler, Christian and Alexis.

The couple has resided at Harveys Lake for the past seven years. They celebrated their anniversary with a cruise to Bermuda.



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