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TOP PHOTO: Misericordia University chemistry professor Dr. Anna Fedor, left, assists Kacy Miller, 6, of Pringle, and Nicholas Mirigliani, 10, of Swowersville, in decorating a pumpkin with fluorescent materials.

CENTER PHOTO: Matt Dolan, 1, of Dallas, shakes a bottle containing a clear liquid until it turns blue.

RIGHT PHOTO: Misericordia University students Kathryn Heffner, left, of Somerset, N.J., Heather Marsico, of Duryea, and Jenna Strubhar, of Tremont, demonstrate 'things that glow and bubble.'



BILL TARUTIS PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

BOOM!

Misericordia's Dead Alchemist Society thrills participants

By MEGAN SCHNEIDER
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The witches in purple, sophomores Jenna Strubhar, Heather Marisico and Kathryn Heffner, created bubbling, smoking magic potions using giant test tubes, dry ice and a few secret ingredients. This was a new experiment the club added.

Families from all over Back Mountain gathered in the spirit of the season to watch the mad scientists of the Dead Alchemist Society at Misericordia University create disappearing cups, exploding pumpkins and sweet gummy bear death.

The 21st annual "Things That Go Boom! In the Night!" was held Wednesday in the outdoor Wells Fargo Amphitheater at Misericordia University.

Gift certificates from Fire & Ice on Toby Creek, candy baskets and other prizes were awarded by raffle.

Children had the chance to have colored slime made as souvenirs to take home.

And a Halloween-themed bake sale helped make the evening that much sweeter.

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According to Dr. Anna Fedor, assistant professor of chemistry at Misericordia, students tried to make the event more visual this year.

"The loud booms from blowing up the pumpkins sometimes scare the smaller children," she said. Because of that, it was decided to add more experiments involving

smoke and lights to engage the younger audience.

All 45 members of the Dead Alchemist Society participated in some way. Some made pumpkins vomit, some made pumpkins vomit, some made pumpkins shatter like glass and still others created black snakes from a beaker.

The students performed glowing potions, urban myth food experiments, made pickles glow and incinerated gummy bears.

Volunteers from the crowd helped all evening.

Nicholas Mirigliani, of Swowersville, was chosen to be part of Dr. Fedor's pumpkin make-over team. Other volunteer mad scientist assistants included Ali Hood, Dallas High School; of Dallas, and Alanna Holmgren, who was visiting from Valhalla, New York.

The Hagenbaugh family has attended this event three years in a row. Parents Heather and Dave say it is a family tradition. Their son Cameron, 7, and their daughter Mackenzie, 6, look forward to the exploding pumpkins, Mackenzie's favorite part.

Vigil supports Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers

By MEGAN SCHNEIDER
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FOR MORE INFO ...

For more information on the Back Mountain Alzheimer's Support Group, call The Meadows at 675-8600.

It was a night for the community to come together to support one another with song, prayer and the comfort of knowing they are not alone in dealing with Alzheimer's disease.

Scouts from Boy Scout Troop 155 led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance at a candlelight vigil and prayer session at The Meadows Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Dallas. Reverends Dr. Robert Zanicky and Gideon Gaetano led the audience in prayer and song.

Estella Killian, director of the Northeast Pennsylvania Alzheimer's Association, spoke about the association, what it does and shared a psalm with the group.

Zanicky shared a personal sto-

ry about a gentleman in his 80s, saying he has known the man for over 25 years. He told the group what it was like to have a conversation with a man you don't know who you are and then the following week remembers you again, like nothing was ever wrong. He shared that his friend is not expected to live much longer and many members of the crowd nodded, showing their understanding and sympathy.

In attendance were generations of families, groups of friends and spouses who have lost their partners. Many of the participants sang along to the spiritual songs performed by Karen Steltz, Leann Hoyt and Lurae

Millazo.

"Unless you've gone through it with someone you love, you can't really understand, but your hearts still go out to us," said State Rep. Karen Boback, adding she prays that one day everyone will be free from the fear of Alzheimer's.

Following a prayer led by Rev. Gaetano, the group moved outside to light candles and sing

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Members of Boy Scout Troop 155, Trucksville, hold candles during the Alzheimer's awareness candlelight vigil under the halogen lighting at the main entrance to The Meadows.



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