

## Boo Bash boosts safe, scary fun

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\* UTICA - When Janice Durso of New Hartford stopped to drop off her absentee ballot, she didn't think she'd end up at the nearby Children's Museum's annual Boo Bash celebration.

"I'm going out of town so I had to drop off my absentee vote next door," she said. Her daughter, Bianca, gently tugged at her hand trying to guide her mother to the rabbits in the animal room. "Then we saw this and thought it could be a good time," she said as her husband, Tom, took their patient 2-year-old to the nearby exhibit.

The Dursos were just one of many families who took advantage of the special event Saturday that combined the educational adventures of the museum with a variety of Halloween activities including crafts, trick-or-treating and, of course, a haunted house.

"We wanted to create a safe place to take the younger children during the day," Executive Director Marlene Brown said.

\* KIRKLAND - Hayride a bumper crop of a fund-raiser

Bill Roberts fights fires. This weekend, he also frightens children. Roberts, chief of the all-volunteer Clinton Fire Department, spent Saturday evening preparing for the department's final haunted hayride before Halloween. "I like working in the field, dressing up," he said. "This year, I'm doing Jason (the hockey goalie-mask-wearing movie villain)." The annual fund-raiser, which runs over two weekends at the Kirkland Town Park, supports the fire department. Several thousand people attended this year and, after expenses, the event should bring in about \$12,000, Roberts said. Earlier Saturday, a "non-scary" matinee ride took place, Roberts said. Jason didn't appear.

\* UTICA - Brewery celebrates Schultz, Dooley

As the white limousine pulled up in front of the Matt Brewing Co., Bill and Judy Fraser -- in their matching Schultz and Dooley sweatshirts -- patiently awaited their two favorite characters. The brewery's "spokes-mugs" arrived, unveiling their 45th anniversary stein, and the couple from Red Bank, N.J., spoke of their love of Utica -- and its brewery. "It's great here in Utica," Judy said with an enthusiastic smile. "The people are nice and we love the products -- especially the root beer." "I've been a Utica Club fan forever," said Bill, who grew up in Syracuse. "I went to (Mohawk Valley Community College) in the '60s and discovered the brewery then." The new stein depicts the two characters back to back, with a special anniversary logo on its base.

\* UTICA - Stanley rocks with Motown soul

"This," Renee Lanaux said, "is old school." The Ultimate Motown Rock-n-Roll Reunion came to the Mohawk Valley Saturday night. Members of the Temptations, Platters, Cornell Gunter's Coasters and Beary Hobbs' Drifters belted out soulful hits at the Stanley Performing Arts Center. "We haven't had a show like this for a long time and we need to," theater Manager John Faust said. About 2,000 tickets -- about two-thirds of what the venue can hold -- were sold, he said. During the 1960s, when Motown reigned, the 33-year-old Lanaux, of Utica, wasn't even alive. Her mother played Motown records when she grew up. Today, Lanaux, a preschool teacher, listens to an eclectic group of music, including Creed, Nelly and Tim McGraw. But the Motown artists of another era could teach today's artists a thing or two, she said -- like "how to woo a woman."

UTICA - Project links families, soldiers via video

Pfc. Curt Honsaker warned his parents, Mark and Jeri Clark, that if they dressed up as a hammer and nail, as planned, for his Halloween video e-mail, he would not be happy. So when the couple came to the Army Reserve Center Saturday to send their message, they decided to adhere to their son's request. Instead, they came dressed up as cows. "We hope this brings him a smile" Jeri Clark said. With the help of the American Red Cross's Project Video Link and the 414th Army Reserve Family Readiness group, military families with a loved one overseas were able to send a two-minute video message via e-mail. "It is his first time overseas, of course we are worried" Jeri Clark said. Honsaker, now 18, joined the reserves when he was only 17, his mother said. He was deployed about six weeks ago.

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MARILU LOPEZ FRETTS / Observer-Dispatch

Lady bug Kara Kopek, 2, of Whitesboro, left, and witch Megan Fey, 5, of Greenbush, clean teeth at the dentist booth during the Boo Bash.



MARILU LOPEZ FRETTS / Observer-Dispatch

Princess in pink Gabrielle Zalewski, 4, of Cold Brook, plays Saturday during the annual Boo Bash at the Children's Museum in Utica.