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VALLEY CALENDAR

Thursday, Oct. 31

Author visit — Bill Edisch, author of "Citizen Mitten," will talk about his book and the process of writing a book. He will speak at 9 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 31, free, at St. Ann Lutheran Church, 971 Olinda Trail N., in Grand Rapids. This is a fundraiser for Kivalamo, Elim's sister congregation in Wisconsin. Buy a signed copy of "Citizen Mitten" from Bill, and a portion of your money will go towards education scholarships for this village.

Illoween downtown — Downtown Stillwater merchants will participate in a trick or treat event, kids encouraged to bring costumes, noon to 3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 31. Participating businesses will have signs; get a complete list at Doozie Chic Boutique or Alfresco.

Donate books — Friends@Stillwater Public Library is collecting used books in good condition for its 2009 Fall Used Book Sale, 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 31, in the library's parking lot. Books must be clean, current and in good condition. No encyclopedias, Reader's Digest Condensed Books, religious materials, videos, cassettes, magazines, textbooks or National Geographic magazines will be accepted. Tax donation receipts will be available. For more information visit www.stillwaterlibrary.org.

Sunday, Nov. 1

Brunch — Sunday brunch at the Bayport location from 8 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 1, all-you-can-eat scrambled eggs, potato, pancakes, sausage, bacon, fresh fruit, coffee and beverage all for \$7. Make your reservations by calling 651-439-4713.



Photos courtesy of Bob Rupp

First stop at the door was the "Purple Pinky Station," where kids left donations for Polio Plus and got their finger painted. Donating, from left, are Betsy, 5, Ellie, 11, and Matthew McGinley, 9; and Gina, 10, and Erin Lambert, 11. Painting pinkies is Sunrise Rotary member Jim Meler.



Getting their treats from Boutwells Landing resident Ann Simpson are Isabella, 7, and Madeline Worm, 9, daughters of Tom Worm, of Lake Elmo.

Scare tactics

Hundreds of St. Croix Valley youngsters take in Rotary's pre-Halloween Parade at Boutwells Landing

OAK PARK HEIGHTS — More than 22,000 packets of candy, gum, cookies, crackers, potato chips and other treats flowed out Boutwells Landing in the bags, sacks, buckets, jack-o-lanterns and stomachs of 453 Stillwater and beyond tricksters on Wednesday.

It wasn't a new record in numbers of 10-and-under costumed kids in this eighth year of the Sunrise Rotary and Boutwell sponsored pre-Halloween parade. But it set a new record for time. An estimated 1,200 people, counting parent and grandparents, moved through Boutwell's main building in just over one hour.

Four-year-old Jayden Lacy, of White Bear Lake, was outside the entrance in her red Pluto costume by 5:10 p.m. A few minutes later a line had formed

halfway to the street. By the time the Stillwater High School pep band began to play, tricksters and parents stretched around the corner. When the doors opened at 6 p.m., a group of youngsters and parents were first in line.

"Then it was bedlam," organizers said in a release. "But organized bedlam."

The costumed parade filed past two "purple-pinkie" stations, where they deposited donations to help eradicate polio, then peeled off in two lines. One line went to the right, past the main desk, the Boom Site Café and the barber/beauty parlor.

The other went left, through the big Town Hall conference room, past the museum from which candy supplies were being dispensed, past the chapel, the First Bank in-house convenience office, the

library and out the west entrance.

Seated along the entire length of Boutwells' main corridor were more than 100 residents. Melissa Woolley, Boutwells' co-chair, counted 97 and estimated she had missed a few. Many oldsters were in costumes and all had hands full of treats.

Mark Fisher, Sunrise Rotary co-chair, reported 30 members of the Stillwater Area High School pep bands played outside, under the baton of Band Director Dennis Lindsay — after they had been fed pop and pizza in the Boom Site café.

Four teenagers from Joann Hongval's United Way youth group dispensed water to oldsters, as did three High School STRIVE seniors, and Sunrise Rotarians distributed candy, manned purple-pinkie stations, counted

tricksters as they came in, parked cars and helped with the setup and cleanup.

Preparation for this year's event, as it does every year, started a month ago when Sunrise members had stuffed 2,300 announcement flyers into packets taken home by area school kids.

Jon Stillman, Sunrise member and Rotary District 5960 Foundation Chair, reported about \$450 donated by the kids for the Purple Pinkie Project. Boutwell residents added another \$230, for a total of nearly \$700 toward a \$2,000 commitment Sunrise is making this year to help eradicate polio around the world.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has joined Rotary International, the UN Children's Fund, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and the World Health Organization with a \$350 million grant for a final

push to wipe out polio. RI is committing another \$200 million in a drive, which has already eliminated the disease in all but four countries. Kids who donated last night got one of their pinkie fingers marked with purple, just like kids in countries such as Bangladesh do, to indicate they have been inoculated.

Fisher got financial help for this year's pre-Halloween Parade from the First State Bank, Stillwater Motors and Sunrise Members. Extra candy, beyond that purchased at a discount through Target, came from Como Zoo's recent Zoo Boo.

The Big Bash, which started promptly at 6 p.m., ended abruptly a couple minutes after 7 p.m., several minutes before its official ending at 7:15 p.m. Supplies of kids and candy — all 15-plus cases of it — ran out about the same time.