

# TEXT OR TV?

EXPERTS POINT OUT THAT PARENTS WORRIED ABOUT THEIR KIDS' TEXTING WERE YESTERDAY'S COUCH POTATOES



# A TALE OF TWO QB'S

FAVRE AND VIKINGS TAKE THEIR LUMPS, WHILE BRADY AND PATRIOTS IMPROVE TO 6-1

SPORTS — PAGE 9



# Sentinel & Enterprise

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MONDAY, November 1, 2010

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## Pre-parade powwow

PHOTO BY CHARLES STERNAMOLO



Vincent Richards, 9, of Leominster, dressed as a ninja gets down on his 15-week-old puppy Rufus' level at the start of Leominster's annual Halloween parade Sunday afternoon. Story and more photos from the parade, Page 3.

## Westminster's Tommy Padula is an extra-special Eagle Scout

By Hunter Amabile hamabile@sentinelandenterprise.com

Dressed up in his tan uniform, and pressing his forefinger into each small patch that decorates his sash, Tommy Padula counted to 30.

Padula, 46, has been a Boy Scout for 30 years. And 30 represents the number of merit badges sewn into his uniform. He still has 12 more waiting to be put on.

On Sunday, Nov. 7 — the 100-anniversary celebration of the Boy Scouts of America — Padula, who was born with Down syndrome, will achieve the rank of Eagle Scout.

Padula is a member of Boy Scout

Please see EAGLE/8



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Tom Padula of Westminster of special-needs Boy Scout Troop 823 of Fitchburg earned his Eagle Scout at age 46.

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Is it too early for Christmas merchandise to be on retailers' shelves?

Yes, Halloween Isn't over yet 84%

No, it's never too early 16%

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SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE

LOCAL

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2010 3

# Leominster dresses up for Halloween

By Nick Mallard nmallard@sentinelandenterprise.com

LEOMINSTER — Downtown Leominster resembled the wildest reaches of a child's imagination Sunday afternoon, as ghosts and goblins, superheroes and critters of every type crowded Main Street.

Hundreds of children and their parents and guardians took part in the city's annual Halloween festivities, starting with a short parade of costumed participants and ending with a stretch of Main Street closed off for

games and candy collecting.

Mayor Dean Mazzarella, in the holiday spirit dressed as the Scarecrow from "The Wizard of Oz," called the annual gathering "a huge success" and noted what a great event it was for the community.

"We've been doing this for years now," the mayor said. "It's one of my favorite events in the city. It's absolutely great to see so many people come out and enjoy the event."

A short parade kicked off the event, starting near Walgreens on Central Street

with costumed children walking among floats, firetrucks and Halloween-themed vehicles until they reached Main Street.

Enjoying her first Leominster Halloween event was 16-month-old Juliette Gelinas, dressed as a piglet and accompanied by her parents, Ashleigh and Justin Gelinas of Leominster.

"We're really enjoying the festivities and seeing all the kids dressed up," Justin Gelinas said. "It's a great event that the city puts on for families and little kids, and we're hoping to have a good time. It's our daughter's first trip out into the world of Halloween, and we've had some mixed results, but we're enjoying this."

Despite a chilly afternoon — and competition from the New England Patriots game — costumed children and adults alike mobbed Main Street, taking part in various games for candy and enjoying the costumes of others.

"It's always good to see kids out here having fun in a safe environment," Mazzarella said.



From left, good buddies Tyler Clonan, (as a firefighter), Sean Rakip, (as Buzz Lightyear) and Sam Eichmann, (as Iron Man) all 5 and of Leominster, parade down Main Street.



PHOTOS BY CHARLES STERNAMOLO

Left: Superman (aka Peter Gove, 2, of Leominster) seems a little put off by dueling Statues of Liberty Isabella Ayers, 16, and Dylan Thibeault, 17, both of Lunenburg. Right: Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzarella (as the Scarecrow) gets ready to kick off the parade.



Augustina Rodriguez, 11, of Leominster, gets some treats from not-so-scary clown Karen Walker of Leominster.