**Write a news story for the Oct. 31 issue of the school paper based on the following information and what you have learned about news values and story writing. Choose an appropriate angle and include a strong lead, solid story structure and good use of quotations. You should sift through the information and pick out what is important and relevant; don’t try to cram everything from this fact sheet into your story.**

Facts:

-- Don Johnson is a 1971 graduate of PHS. He attended college at Harvard University and is now a successful businessman in the St. Louis area. Johnson was on the swim team while attending PHS.

-- Johnson donated $6 million to the project. The other $500,000 was covered through the athletics budget and the district facilities budget. The school will begin phasing out use of Bridgeton’s facility, as contracted at the beginning of the school year, and money from that fund was used for the project.

-- This is the largest donation ever given to PHS by a single individual. The last donation was used to renovate the costume shop underneath the auditorium for the theater department in 2002. It has been used for every show since, including this fall’s production of “Arsenic and Old Lace.”

-- The project was slated for completion in May 2009 but was finished early because of good weather, according to the construction firm. Construction began in June 2007.

-- JJ Fish Inc. completed construction on the Olympic-sized, L-shaped pool and 25,000 square-foot building.

-- The facility has locker rooms, showers, bleachers, disabled access to the facility and the pool, a one-meter dive board, electronic scoreboard and a covered walkway connecting the building to the school. This will allow for use during P.E. classes.

-- A ribbon-cutting ceremony to dedicate and open the facility occurred at 9 a.m. today (Oct. 20, 2008) with the district superintendent, school board, building principal, swim coaches, faculty, students and the alumnus donor in attendance.

-- The local media, including the district public relations department, also attended the ceremony. The principal, superintendent and P.E. department head each spoke about the positive effects of the facility on the school and community.

-- The pool is located behind the school on the northeast side where the maintenance sheds and warehouse used to be. Those facilities have been moved up the hill behind the tennis courts.
-- There will be an open house for public viewing and tours on Wednesday (Oct. 22). Swim team members will be the first to use the new pool; boys are currently in season. The girls team is invited to a night swim on Thursday.

-- P.E. classes can use the facility beginning in January. It will be open to the public in June as originally scheduled with lap swims, family swims and classes coordinated by city recreation departments. Specific dates, hours and activities will be announced in the spring.

Quotes:

“I just wanted to give back something to the school that gave me so much. I’m a man of few words, and that’s all I have to say on the matter.” – Don Johnson, 1971 graduate and donor

“Prior to this project, the students could never really be the home team in swimming and diving, and while our facility at Bridgeton was great, you could tell in the lack of spectators that it wasn’t really home.” – Rob Lange, boys swimming coach

“We hope to get more kids interested in swimming by having a facility right here for them to use.” – Linda King, girls swimming coach

“Our P.E. classes will continue as they are for now, gradually incorporating days at the pool. This will be after addressing all the issues that come with kids and the water.” – Becky Walker, P.E. department head

“I would like to see us start up club sports like water polo for the spring when the swim season is finished for boys and girls.” – John Thomas, sophomore, varsity swimmer

“It’s just another excuse for me not to dress out during gym class.” – Rachel Washington, senior

“The new pool will be a real boost for the school and the community. It’s one area of athletics we’ve been lacking. I’m glad to see this center built and be able to use it before I graduate.” – Jess Pfeiffer, junior, diving team

“Maybe now my parents won’t have an excuse not to come watch me dive.” – Matt Andrews, senior, diving team

“My thanks go out to all the individuals and groups who have given valuable support to the project, particularly Mr. Johnson for his generous donation.” – Jeff Casey, principal

“With the indoor facility, we will begin contracting with the cities in the district to allow their recreation departments to use the pool for various classes. We feel we could make it very viable as a community resource, as often as possible.” – Dr. Mike Martin, superintendent