

Ready for a fright?

By Lisa Britton
Go! Magazine

BAKER CITY — Corrine Vegter has always loved haunted houses, and now she's able to create haunts on a big scale in the basement of Churchill School.

"It's been my favorite thing since I was a kid. I'd literally hang a maze of sheets from my ceiling," she said of her childhood version of a haunted house. "My whole room was a maze. I'd make all my friends and family go through it."

She owns Churchill with her husband, Brian. They unveiled the Haunted Studios in 2020, and the experience returns this year with new features — including a slide that gives visitors a new way to enter the haunted house.

"It's literally a black hole," Vegter said.

(Stairs are still an option, too.)

The haunt opens Friday,

Oct. 8, and continues every weekend through Halloween. The entrance is in the parking lot of Churchill School, 3451 Broadway St.

Friday and Saturday tours begin at 6:30 p.m. and the last person goes through at 9:30 p.m. Sundays are from 5:30-8:30 p.m., with the first hour a "no scare" experience for those who want to see the artistic creations without the screams.

"No actors, no jump scares," Vegter said.

Tickets are \$15 at the door, or \$12.50 if purchased in advance at www.churchillbaker.com. Groups are limited to six.

For the first weekend, Oct. 8-10, children age 10 and younger can go through for free if accompanying a paid adult.

Vegter, along with Brigid and Blake Musselman, have spent nearly a year working on the event.

"Brigid and I have been working every Saturday since the

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haunt ended last year," she said.

Christopher and Jessica Hobson designed the slide entry, with the materials provided by Natural Structures.

Vegter said there are about 10 actors throughout the Haunted Studios.

"At least one for every room," she said.

Masks are required, and groups will be staggered to ensure social distancing. Also, those who are sensitive to light and sound, or have serious health conditions (lung, heart, allergies) are urged to proceed with extreme caution.



Corrine Vegter/Contributed image

Churchill Haunted Studios opens Oct. 8 and continues every weekend through Halloween in Baker City.



Corrine Vegter/
Contributed image
Churchill Haunted Studios is open nightly on Friday, Saturday and Sunday beginning Oct. 8. A "no scare" hour starts at 5:30 p.m. on Sundays.

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