IV Haunt doubles its size; twice the screaming fun

By
Annette McGee Rasch
IVN Senior Contributing Writer

The spooky doors of Cave Junction's haunted house creak open at dusk on Thursday, Oct. 30, in the pavilion at Jubilee Park. Open through Saturday night, from 7 to 10 p.m., this year's terrifying trek through the butcher room, zombie room, corn room and nurse room is twice as long as last year's and plenty of "movie monsters" are guaranteed to scare the pants off visitors.

"We start mapping it all out in springtime," said Krystal Hulsey, who really knows how to let her freak flag fly. She's the queen of Halloween and for the past seven years has been the driving force behind IV Haunt, the non-profit organization that raises funds for worthy causes.

"Each year everything's different," Hulsey said. "The element of surprise stays fresh and the atmosphere is enhanced by creepy music and black lights. Last year, 900 people went through the house."

The tour takes about half an hour and costs $3 per person. Kids under 8 get in free, but must be accompanied by parents, adult guardians or an older sibling.

Sometimes a few people are gently escorted from the house after becoming "too freaked out," though they often return the next day and make it through.

"We don't do anything too gory and we have 'monster repellant,'" Hulsey explained. "Before going through, parents should tell us if they, or their kids, don't want to be frightened. They'll get a glow wand to point at our 'haunters' and that makes the monsters go away. Little kids feel empowered and this helps teach them how to handle fear."

"As a kid I was taught that to be a little scared is fun," she said. "You get through it and laugh about it later. While we're not out to petrify anyone, I'll give a little warning: we mostly haunt and prank the parents. The kids love that!"

Hulsey grew up in Downey, California, where Halloween is huge, with haunted yards and competitions between houses. Still young when she moved to Cave Junction, Hulsey was disappointed to find less enthusiasm for the holiday. After moving away for college, she returned to the Valley with her husband Walter, and their two children, and decided to beef up Halloween.

"Kids need to have some good fun," she said. "When they're bored, troubles follows, but if they're engaged then they stay on the right track. And families shouldn't have to drive to Grants Pass for cool events like this. We have the talent right here in the Valley."

A candlelight vigil at 7 p.m. on Halloween Friday will be held.

"The oldest form of Halloween was a celebration of loved ones who'd passed on," Hulsey said. "The holiday was meant to remember and celebrate ancestors, family members, friends and pets. So we're holding this candlelight vigil to keep that tradition alive. People should bring their own candles, flashlights or lanterns."

The IV Haunt donates 100 percent of proceeds to two causes; and this year the volunteer firefighters of the IV Fire District and the IV Disc Golf project at Forks State Park will benefit.

Putting the haunted house together doesn't come cheap. Last year, the Hulseys spent $1,800 out of their own pockets on props and equipment.

"I spend all year long, buying things here and there," Hulsey said. "People ask me why. It's because we love it... the smiling faces, the screams and then the laughs. My whole family, friends, and tons of community volunteers come together, spend money and work their butts off to make this great for the kids."

The 2014 IV Haunt crew is hoping for a little support this year.

A Masquerade Ball fundraiser with a DJ and black lights is being held at 8 p.m. Oct. 24 at McGrews. The cost is $15 per couple, or $8 for singles. Extra masks will be available for purchase at the door. Donations can also be dropped off at Taylor's Sausage or the Haunted House.

Hulsey also wants people "to keep a close look-out on the pavilion to protect the equipment and props already on site. There's been some vandalism, though now donated security cameras are in operation.

"There is nothing there of any real value," she said. "But we've put a lot of time and effort into the haunted house and would be crushed to find it ruined."

Hulsey acknowledges Taylor's Sausage for helping out every year, and also thanks Out and About, Fire Mountain Gems, Jerry's Towing and the IV Haunt community volunteers for their support.

Visit the "IV Haunt" Facebook page or http://www.hauntedillinois.com to learn more.

Selmac Park hosts see work as a gift

By
Judy Hoyle
IVN Contributing Writer

The remarkable story of Jacqueline and Dave Ivie is a testament to their faith and compassion for their fellow man. The Lake Selmac park hosts have known each other for nearly 30 years. Dave was best friends with Jacque's first husband for 20 years. They worked together and played golf together in Southern California.

Dave lived in San Bernardino for 42 years, and worked in a machine shop in Santa Fe Springs. Jacque has also lived in Hawaii where she taught school, as well as Mississippi and Tennessee.

Jacque's first husband contracted leukemia and she cared for him for five years until he passed away 7 years ago. Following his death, she moved to Nashville, never knowing that Dave was in love with her, and always had been.

Last year, Jacque prayed, "Lord, if there's some blessing you have for me that I'm not aware of, please reveal it to me." At an Andrew Womack Gospel Truth gathering she received messages that led her to call Dave on the phone.

Last October, Dave invited Jacque to visit him at Lake Selmac and he rented one of the five yurts at the county park for her accommodation. After nearly a week of visiting and touring the area, he proposed to her, she accepted and they got married in Grants Pass. They honeymooned in the yurt.

Now they live in Dave's 22-foot long fifth-wheel trailer, near the main boat ramp on the south side of the lake.

"We needed to simplify our lives, Dave said.

The couple work together to help visitors find their campsites, keep the restrooms clean and regulate the pump house to maintain potable water. The county park boasts 119 camp sites located within five separate campgrounds and also offers full hook-ups for recreational vehicles. Dogs on leash are also welcomed.

Each day brings new adventures. Last year, Dave had to jump into the lake to save a woman who was pulled off the dock while she was holding the rope to her drifting boat. Another time a valley resident decided he would rent a yurt and charge his friends $15 each to attend an all-night concert that he'd organized without acquiring the necessary permits. After Dave told him that was against the rules, the young man and his friends threatened him. The next day, the young man was banned from Josephine County parks for life.

The county only charges a $4 day use fee for the park, but no longer accepts checks since so many have bounced. Those who ignore the rules and fail to display a permit run the risk of incurring a $260 ticket.

Jacque suggested a solution which the County Park system offers.

"If you bring your ticket into the county Park and Recreation office on Ringuette in Grants Pass within 10 days, you have the opportunity to buy the $30 annual day-use pass and they'll cancel the ticket," she said. The annual pass, like the day use pass must be affixed to the drivers' side of the windshield.

"We educate people about the park and the rules are simple," Dave added. "This year we've had a lot of church groups. They all have their favorite campgrounds."

Dave has fished the lake for about 10 years, and is proud of the trophy-sized largemouth bass as well as the trout, bluegill, and crappy which populate the lake. The couple practice catch and release fishing and Jacque has caught 238 bass since March.

"This is a beautiful lake," said Dave. "We enjoy our surroundings and helping people. We get a lot of people from the coast, Shasta, and Portland. They say they wish they could live in this valley like we do. We have a wonderful situation here."

"We're very privileged," Jacque said.

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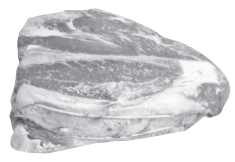
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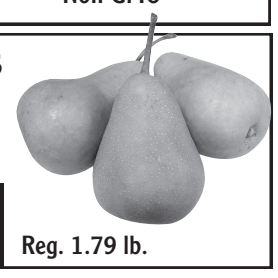
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