



Bob Brown's drawing of a skeleton rising from a pumpkin was chosen as the top drawing at the Optimist Club's Haunted House.

Clubs sponsor Halloween happenings

A number of local groups are planning activities for Halloween this year.

Among them is the Sandy Optimist Club, which has a longer maze and new scenes at its Haunted House.

"We changed the scenes so that the people who were here last year would be surprised," said Bill Wardy, secretary and treasurer of the local club.

The Haunted House will be open from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. today and Friday and from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. or later on Saturday, Oct. 31.

The Haunted House is in the former Thriftway building at 17450 Meinig Ave. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children under 12.

It takes as many as 30 to 40 people at a time to staff the Haunted House, but Wardy said it is one of the club's most enjoyable activities.

The Optimist Club receives help each year from Vic Bennett, who sets

up a sound system to play scary music. Bennett has a new scene this year, and the Optimist Club has added a new scene.

Other variations in scenes and changes in the maze should surprise visitors, Wardy said.

Adding to the atmosphere are the window drawings done by art students at Sandy High School.

Chuck Kearney, art instructor, said the top 23 proposals made by art students were selected.

The students who made those proposals got out of school for the day to do the paintings and were treated to lunch by Jo-Jo's Pizza and the Optimist Club.

The painted windows were judged by the high school art staff, which selected winners from the advanced art class and from the introduction-to-art class.

Winner in the introduction-to-art

class was Erika Wight, a freshman. Danielle Estes, a sophomore, was runner-up.

In the advanced art class, Bob Brown, a senior, won with his drawing of a skeleton coming out of a pumpkin. Runner-up was Robbie Johnson, a senior.

A number of other groups also plan Halloween activities. They include:

✓ A "Lite-a-Spook" program sponsored by the Sandy Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 4273 and Auxiliary.

Hours are from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31, at the VFW Hall, 38452 Proctor Blvd.

Special tags are put on the costumes of trick-or-treaters so that they are visible in the dark. Adults also are welcome.

✓ The Bull Run Halloween Party

will be held Friday, Oct. 30, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the school gymnasium.

A donation of a can of food is the price of admission. Food will be donated to a local service agency.

A number of games and activities will be held, and snacks will be available.

✓ The eighth annual Kelso School Halloween Happening Carnival will be from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30, at Kelso School.

There is no charge for admission. A number games will be offered and food and snacks will be available.

There will be a haunted house and an area for preschool children.

Bingo prizes include donations from area merchants, Trail Blazer tickets, a weekend at Rippling River and lift tickets at Timberline ski area.

The event is sponsored by the Kelso Community Club.

Spook Alley scares up Halloween fun

by PHIL CHRISTENSEN
Correspondent

The familiar cry of "trick or treat" may be going the way of ghosts and goblins in the Hoodland area. Hoodland Park Plaza's annual "Spook Alley," likely will scare up more than 2,000 children and parents from the area on Halloween night.

Co-sponsored by the Mount Hood Area Chamber of Commerce and the Hoodland Merchant's Association, the event will include games, contests, prizes, food and even live music.

Dreena Ledwidge, chairwoman of the Spook Alley project this year, said, "There will be 10 booths giving away prizes. It's mostly geared to kids, but there's something for everyone."

Among those booths will be the pumpkin judging contest. Ledwidge emphasized the pumpkins are to be "home-carved only. In the past, folks have seen the words, 'pumpkin carving contest,' and have come thinking they're going to carve it there. This year we've made it very specific on the posters that they are to be carved at home."

"There's also the costume judging, ages 1 through adult," she added. "Each age group gets a prize. Some are gift certificates, some are prizes."

A popular booth that will return this year is Designer's Hair Center's booth where children's faces can be made up to look like clowns.

There's some dispute, Ledwidge says, as to whether the annual event has been going on 18 or 20 years, but regardless of who's counting, Spook Alley has been a success.

"It's probably tripled in just the 7 years I've been involved," Ledwidge said.

She pointed out that even though cold rain historically hits the region around Halloween, "Droves of people have still been there." With this year's dry weather, she expects a bigger turnout than ever.

One of the reasons the annual event work so well is the excellent support of merchants on the mountain, she said. "The Chamber (of Commerce)



Dreena Ledwidge

and the Merchants donate as a club, but each merchant also donates cash and gift certificates." All of the merchants at Hoodland Park Plaza, she said, "donated either money or gift certificates."

"Everyone has been real cooperative up here. It's neat. We sent out fliers to everyone asking for donations, and when we missed someone, they sent a donation anyway. Their names will all be on the sponsor board at the plaza."

Ledwidge says that the spirit of cooperation continues right through the post-party clean-up. "Everyone tears down and cleans up their area." As for the litter, "It's really not bad. Bliss donates dumpsters."

While kids are enjoying the booths, there will be live music inside, where it's warm. "Will Frank from the Natural Food Store and Travis Purkerson will be providing music in Michael's Mount Hood Deli. That's also where the food center is. Mike and Carol have been super about

opening it up. The music is more for adults, though the kids enjoy it too," Ledwidge said.

"Welches school made some of the posters for decorations," she noted. "Kindergarten through eighth grade made decorations for that night to put up on the booths and the walls. Lee Shepherd donated the rest of the posters for the event."

When compared to the traditional "trick-or-treat" Halloween customs, Ledwidge views Spook Alley as "much superior. There aren't a lot of places to go, door-to-door (on the mountain). Spook Alley has worked out real well, and every year it's gotten bigger and bigger, so we know it's filling a need. Last year we had between 1,500 and 2,000 people."

Sgt. Poole of the Oregon State Police agrees that activities such as

Spook Alley are better than the traditional alternative. "I think it's a better use of the kids' time," he said. "On Halloween a lot of kids are out, and it's easier to consider getting into mischief." He added that with so many young people out, with the anonymity offered by costumes, "they can get into mob mentality. It just makes it a lot easier to try to get away with mischief."

Poole was concerned too, about the safety of children walking about neighborhoods in the dark. "That's always a consideration," he said. "The traffic seems to increase in volume on that night because parents are taking out kids and teens are out in their cars to be seen. Some get pelted with eggs and water balloons."

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