

Asylum: Final night is set for Halloween from 5 to 9 p.m.

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Throughout the first floor of the house, the backyard and a detached garage, the couple intricately arrange a collection of around 1,200 children's toys into various scenes both horrific and humorous. Their inspiration comes from the dolls themselves, pop culture and other vestiges from their love of Halloween.

"I'm into vintage, 1930s, creepy, original Bela Lugosi Dracula movies," Loutzenhiser said. "That's my love of Halloween, is all very vintage stuff. Mark was very much the full-on gore, zombies, skeletons, that kind of stuff. We have creepy, vintage, gory stuff, so I think it all kind of goes together."

Williams grew up in a very religious family that he said frowned upon Halloween. When he did get to trick or treat, Williams would see the people who went all out on their decorations and said he grew up wanting to do the same.

The couple, who both work from home in electronic medical records, had bought a new house in north Portland about a decade ago and were thinking of a theme for their Halloween decorations. Williams was leaving to take a friend to the airport when he was frightened by a doll in his rearview mirror leaned up against a tree.

"It scared the crap out of him, and it was super creepy," Loutzenhiser said. "And we just went, 'that's it.'"

The couple started amassing a collection of dolls from



Photos by Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Mark Williams and Heidi Loutzenhiser, pictured with their dolls, from left, Clover and Eunice, arrange around 1,200 children's toys into horrific and humorous exhibits each Halloween. See more photos of their doll asylum online at DailyAstorian.com

local thrift stores and decorated the stairwell inside their house for a party, which soon attracted trick-or-treaters passing by. The next year, they held an open house and hosted droves of people coming to see their ever-expanding collection.

Over a seven-year run, the Doll Asylum became a staple of Portland, featured in multiple newspapers and on television stations, gathering international attention. People started dropping off dolls at the house, both original and adulterated, to add to the collec-

tion. Some come regularly to see how their donations have been incorporated.

The couple moved to Astoria two years ago to care for Loutzenhiser's father, who, along with her late mother, was raised in Seaside.

The move also helped the couple escape a growing Portland, where their Doll Asylum could attract several thousand people. The final straw came one night when a large group of Burning Man attendees showed up on a bus, blocking the street and setting up a mariachi band inside their house

unannounced, Williams said.

After spending their first year in town fixing up the house, the couple hope to become more involved in the community, volunteering with the Astoria Riverfront Trolley and the Liberty Theatre. Some of their displays have taken on a local theme, such as a Blind Pirate concert scene in their backyard paying homage to locally connected band Blind Pilot. In the coming years, the couple plan to unveil more North Coast-themed exhibits like the trolley, cannibalistic sea lions, shipwrecks and a



Mark Williams' and Heidi Loutzenhiser's Doll Asylum includes around 1,200 children's toys, along with some taxidermied animals, arranged into elaborate exhibits.

Finnish sauna.

Aside from Halloween and Thanksgiving dinner, the couple go all out for Christmas with a private display of ornaments, German smokers and music boxes inherited from prior generations. They do nothing for the other holidays, Loutzenhiser said.

"Before the first open house, both of us are like, 'Oh,

my God, we're never doing this again,'" she said. "But then after an hour of being open, we're like, 'Oh, that's right; this is why we do it.' Because everybody that comes is so nice. It's a great way to meet our neighbors."

The final night of the Doll Asylum is from 5 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at 1188 Harrison Ave.

Crew: Coast Guard rescued more than 10,500 people

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include astronaut Buzz Aldrin, Gen. Douglas MacArthur and U.S. Sen. John McCain.

"It's a little surreal," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Allison Dowell, an avionics electrical technician. "It's kind of one of those things everybody jokes about when you're going out on a case, like, 'Oh, this is going to be the Air Medal.'"

Dowell has been in the Coast Guard for six years, but was only certified for hurricane response seven weeks before Harvey.

"There are people that go 20 years without getting, you know, a good operation hoist, so it was such an honor to be chosen to go do that," Dowell said.

The medal recipients also included Lt. Tripp Haas, Lt. Cmdr. Kevin Rapp and Petty Officer 2nd Class Dan Wilson.

Haas was a pilot, first navigating hurricane-force winds



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Members of the Coast Guard were recognized Monday for their contributions to rescue efforts during Hurricane Harvey.

and then, after the storm subsided, heavy air traffic. Pilots used tricky landings, including one on a highway, and hovered near large objects, such as a downed power pole. His crew's rescues included two women who were in labor.

Haas recalls the vast number of people who needed help.

The Coast Guard rescued more than 10,500 people during the hurricane, which killed dozens.

"If I could have had an

unlimited amount of gas and an unlimited amount of time, we could have done that for two or three days straight," Haas said.

Wilson, a rescue swimmer, saved 30 people from heavily polluted water and assisted 59 more. One rescue involved a 400-pound man trapped in the upstairs part of a house. Wilson got the man out of the home and moved him about 200 feet away before waving for a helicopter.

In addition to the woman whose face he remembers distinctly, Murphy's crew rescued five other elderly people.

"To get the award, to get the level of the award, is certainly special," Murphy said, "but anybody would have done it if they were in our shoes."

Quakes: 'People are thinking about the reality of earthquake hazards more'

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media has changed in recent years, Roeloffs said. Most calls or inquiries are usually timed when earthquakes hit in clusters. But public education surrounding the 9.0 earthquake expected to rock the Cascadia Subduction Zone appears to have played a role in the increase of calls or reports.

"After one of the earthquakes near Vancouver, 169 people entered a submission to our website to say they felt

something," she said. "It's good, because I think people are thinking about the reality of earthquake hazards more."

Horning hopes, if anything, the recent quakes have reminded North Coast residents that the Big One could come anytime.

"This activity should not encourage people to be less alarmed or more alarmed,"

Horning said. "You should always be a certain amount of alarmed living here ... and you should always be prepared."

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