

ECHO

Corn Maze open for business

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Fall has officially arrived in Echo with the opening of the Echo Corn Maze & Pumpkin Patch.

Forty-five minutes into Saturday's opening day no one had shown up yet, but organizers weren't that worried.

"The first day's always quieter," Gina Tyhuis said. "It's Saturday and people like to sleep in."

She was working with Val Ancil and Jeff Lorton to arrange hay bales and corn stalks into a photo backdrop for visiting groups as they waited for the first visitors to arrive.

The Tyhuis family started the corn maze three years ago, with the help of some friends. The maze at 100 N. Dupont St., across from Echo Ridge Cellars, takes about an hour to get through. The site also features a zipline, pumpkins for sale, fire pits for groups to rent, a hay bale maze for young children and a haunted scare path on select evenings.

Melissa Lambert and her husband were putting together the hay bale maze Saturday morning, surrounded by pumpkins and sunflowers.



Gina Tyhuis, left, Jeff Lorton and Sierra Hermesen create a photo backdrop at the Echo Corn Maze & Pumpkin Patch on Saturday.

Staff photo by Jade McDowell

"I planted 3,500 pumpkins in my back yard by seed," Lambert said. "We hand-planted every single pumpkin."

She said she had also gone over every part of the maze with caution tape, looking for any dangerous spots.

Lambert said she became friends with Tyhuis while babysitting her kids and began helping out with the maze that way. One of her favorite things about living in Echo is how community-oriented and family friendly it is, she said. The corn maze is a good example of those qualities.

"We got a few sponsors this year," she said. "Every year is getting bigger and bigger. It's exciting."

Tyhuis said the hay bales were donated by Jeff Spike, and the maze itself was designed and cut by Barton Laser Leveling.

"We definitely wouldn't have a corn maze without Barton," she said.

Admission is \$10 for a day pass or \$12 for the haunted path. Regular hours for the corn maze are Tuesday through Thursday 2-6 p.m., Friday 2-10 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The

haunted path, known as the Field of Screams, is open Oct. 13, 20, 27 and 31 from 7-9 p.m. The normal corn maze isn't haunted.

"We don't scare the whole thing," Tyhuis said. "A lot of people don't like to go if they don't like to get scared, so this way they have a choice."

She said it's mostly local FFA students who do the scaring, but she has gotten out there herself on occasion and it was fun.

For more information about special events, group rentals, field trips and rules visit echocornmaze.com or find them on Facebook.

Boater rescued on Columbia River

The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office rescued one person after his boat stopped working Friday evening. The boater was safe and was not injured. Around 5:30 p.m. Friday, sheriff's deputies responded to a call on the Columbia River west of the Interstate 82 bridge, for a boater whose motor had stopped working. The boater said he was near the shipping lane on the river, and was paddling away from the main river channel to avoid

a large river cruise boat that was coming downriver toward him.

Deputies went on the river in a jet boat, and found the disabled boat about half a mile west of the mouth of the Umatilla River. They safely towed the boat and its occupants to the Umatilla Marina.

The sheriff's office advised people to make sure their boats are in good condition before going on the water, and to take all nec-

essary safety equipment, such as life jackets, lights, and sound-producing equipment. Those who want to

have their boats inspected before going on the water can contact the sheriff's office at 541-966-3650 to



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Nationwide test of Wireless Emergency Alert System scheduled for Wednesday

East Oregonian

A nationwide test of the Wireless Emergency Alert System should send a text message to everyone's cellphone at 11:18 a.m. Pacific Time on Wednesday.

Two minutes later, the regular Emergency Alert System will also broadcast a message via radio and television.

A Wireless Emergency Alert can be used to warn citizens of danger via text message. The system has been put in place since 2012, but according to the Oregon Office of Emergency Management, a nationwide test has never been tried.

"A nationwide WEA message would only be used in the most extreme emergency situation," the OEM wrote in a news release.

The text being sent out Wednesday will have the

heading "Presidential alert" and state "THIS IS A TEST of the National Wireless Emergency Alert System. No action is needed."

There is no way to opt out.

Any cellphone from a participating carrier that is turned on between 11:18-11:48 a.m. should receive the test message from FEMA. The EAS will be broadcast for one minute via television, cable and radio stations at 11:20 a.m.

Both systems have been used in the past for regional or local warnings, such as an AMBER alert for missing children. In January, Hawaii accidentally used the system to send a message stating (falsely) that a nuclear missile was inbound.

The test was originally scheduled for September, but was postponed to Wednesday due to Hurricane Florence.

Baked goods sale benefits student book clubs

PENDLETON — For some tasty treats and to help support elementary school book clubs in the Pendleton School District, the Friends of the Pendleton Public Library is hosting its annual bake sale.

The event is Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Pendleton Public Library, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave. Those with a culinary flair are invited to donate baked goods.

Each year, the library friends hosts the event to pay for books for the program, which is open to second- through fourth-graders.

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