

TRICKS: Other businesses also set up tables on the street

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protect the movie’s royal family, and their daughter Tyra was Shuri, the Black Panther’s little sister.

Tyray joked that he told Orkesia she should shave her long locks to match the bald group of characters, but she declined.

Others put new spins on the ubiquitous. Jaime Arzate’s Iron Man costume featured circular lights on the palms and chest, but the pièce de résistance was the 16-year-old’s cardboard mask, which he rigged to open up with the push of a button.

“I’m kind of a nerd, so I’ve always been into the Marvel stuff,” he said.

Arzate said he crafted the mask based on a YouTube instructional video and it took him a total of two or three weeks to complete.

In an age where an inflatable costume is only a click away, Arzate’s DIY spirit made his outfit stand out.

At Hermiston’s Treats on Main, thousands of costumed children and their parents flocked to downtown Wednesday afternoon.

There were plenty of inflatable costumes there, too, including a trio of dinosaurs posing for photos with children on the city’s new festival street.

The city invited businesses that don’t have a downtown location to set up booths on the festival street this year. A few, including Bi-Mart and Marlette, set up tables with costumed employees handing out candy.

On Main Street, children lined up for candy from downtown businesses dressed as pirates, princesses, superheroes and more.

Emerson Shackelford, 1 1/2 years old, may have had the brightest costume. Her mom Christy Shackelford had created a hot pink flamingo costume by wrapping her in a florescent feather boa and creating a beak out of cardboard.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Jaime Arzate, 16, of Pendleton built his own homemade pneumatic “Iron Man” helmet from a tutorial video online to wear while trick or treating.



Siblings Marion, 9, left, Judah, 6, Warren, 3, and Conner Oliver, 11, all decided to dress in a Western theme for trick or treating Wednesday

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Phishing attempts increase on Oregon election officials

By ANDREW SELSKY
Associated Press

SALEM — Oregon’s paper-ballot voting system in the state has never been more accurate or secure, though the number of phishing attempts targeting election officials has increased, the state’s elections director said.

Oregon Elections Director Steve Trout said he himself has been hit by a dozen phishing attempts since July. In all of 2017, he had only one or two.

Phishing is an attempt to trick people into sharing sensitive information, such as passwords and usernames, often by inducing them to click on a bogus link or by pretending to be an entity.

The FBI and U.S. Department of Homeland Security officials advised Trout and others attending a security summit this week that there has been a huge increase in phishing attempts in the nation, targeting elections officials and other critical infrastructure, such as energy and banking sectors, Trout told journalists Tuesday.

In the run-up to the 2018 election, federal, state and local officials are trying to be more vigilant about attempts to affect the vote, mindful of the 2016 election in which Democrat presidential candidate Hillary Clinton’s campaign and Democratic National Committee emails were hacked and leaked.

The Department of Homeland Security said Wednesday it has been sharing classified and unclassified information with state officials and other critical infrastructure entities about nota-

ble attempts at phishing.

U.S. intelligence agencies have concluded that Russian sought to undermine the 2016 election in favor of then Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump and against Clinton. DHS is not blaming anyone so far for the ongoing phishing attempts.

“DHS has not attributed these phishing attempts to a nation state or any other actor,” the department said in a statement. “Phishing is an extremely common practice on the internet.”

In an email to The Associated Press, Trout described the phishing attempts aimed at him. Many told him to reset his Outlook password and provided a link, or told him his information technology department would be integrating his account into a new Outlook web-mail system.

“One was acting like it was the Department of Justice but with a weird email address and another was selling gold bars,” Trout said.

Emails determined by Trout’s information security team to be phishing attempts are sent to the Department of Homeland Security, and the FBI could take action from there, Trout told reporters. He said he doesn’t know the status of those his office sent to DHS.

In Oregon, ballots are mailed to voters and returned either by mail or left in drop boxes. In each county, filled-out ballots are kept in locked rooms outfitted with security cameras, except for one sparsely populated county where tallies are conducted in a jury room where there is no camera, except at the entrance, Trout said.

The voter registration database has detection devices in place to alert officials if it has been tampered with. If it has, the database can be restored to the latest known good version, Trout said.

Early ballot returns in Oregon show that voter turnout so far is 124,056 higher than the previous high for a midterm election, Secretary of State Dennis Richardson’s office said Wednesday. Turnout late Tuesday stood at 657,480. The previous midterm election high at this point was in 2014, when 533,424 ballots were returned.

But the percent returned — 23.8 percent — almost matches the Tuesday before the 2014 midterm elections: 24.5 percent. The reason more completed ballots have been turned in so far this year with the percentage remaining roughly the same is because of population growth and increased voter registration, Richardson said.

Trout said the biggest threat facing the election is misinformation, via word of mouth, social media or mainstream media.

“We are in the middle of an information war,” Trout said. He did not elaborate on his statement that mainstream media has been spreading misinformation.

The Internet Research Agency, essentially a Russian troll farm, has been indicted by U.S. Special Counsel Robert Mueller for its actions during the 2016 presidential election.

Facebook and other social media companies are attempting to halt election meddling and misinformation campaigns on their platforms.

AWARD: About 30 percent of inmates don’t have GED

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school they took me off the roster.”

But something clicked for Hays when, on a day she was suspended from school, her mom took her along to one of her classes at BMCC.

“It was the first time I’d really seen her motivated,” Hays said, recalling that sitting in the class inspired her as well. “They just really wanted to help people.”

After attending BMCC and Eastern Oregon University, she returned to Irrigon, and applied for a job opening as an assessment and training specialist at BMCC. The job included training teachers, tutoring students for the GED, and administering tests.

In 2005, a teacher left the program, and others encouraged her to apply. Although she didn’t have a master’s degree, Hays created a lesson plan, and got the job — her current role.

Working with a group of about 12 students at a time, Hays teaches at TRCI five days a week, three classes a day.

She will have inmates, who have already passed the course, serve as tutors as

they cover four subjects.

“We’re teaching science, social studies, reading and math all at the same time,” she said.

Because students are all coming in with different levels of skill and experience, they often have to individualize the lessons.

“I’m constantly looking for patterns, and having multiple objectives for every lesson, so everyone is getting something out of it,” she said.

Along with writing grants and advocating for corrections-specific curriculum, much of Hays’ time goes into understanding how individual students learn.

“I ask, ‘What’s something you know well? How would you teach that to somebody?’” Hays said. “There’s nothing you can’t learn. More than the curriculum itself, I’ve had to adapt the approach.”

Hays said about 30 percent of inmates statewide come in without a GED certificate. Getting one while incarcerated is often a springboard to further education.

Tammy Krawczyk, director of college prep at BMCC, said six students have com-

pleted their GED certificate since July. That number does not include the prison, she said.

But she said overall, BMCC has seen an increase in the number of students completing GED certificates, and those transferring into college courses.

Hays said she has seen a connection between the students who complete the GED program and succeed in school, and success once they leave TRCI.

“I’ve seen people out in town who were in our program,” she said. “We’ve gotten postcards, phone calls from people wanting letters of recommendation, which we don’t give. Or they just want to say thank you.”

She said increasingly, there are programs to move former inmates back into the workforce, and highlighted the skills they develop if they apply themselves while in prison.

Still, it’s a challenge for many students to get there. Hays said it’s not uncommon for her students to have learning disabilities, memory issues because of medications they’re taking, or mental issues as a result of head injuries or drug abuse.

Hays said it is rare a student fails the program for any reason other than bad behavior.

“I try to find out what motivates someone,” she said. “Say, this is your opportunity to learn and advance what you have. I’m not keeping someone in there who will not work, not progress toward a goal.”

Getting a GED certificate can pay dividends, even inside TRCI. There are some jobs, such as laundry and the physical plant, for which inmates must have passed the program in order to work.

“It seems like there are a lot of boxes to check,” Hays said. “But the biggest box is getting people to think, getting them to believe that their education matters.”

Hays said she hopes students will realize the value of an education, regardless of what their future holds. She recalled a student of hers who is doing life in prison without parole.

“He’s working on his master’s,” she said. “We can’t always control the circumstances of where we are, but can certainly work toward making that place better.”

BUCKS: Realtors PAC gave \$100K to Buehler

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latest bid. Instead, he donated \$400 in-kind to Buehler to rent a room for a lunch event in late August. Drotzmann’s business, Lifetime Vision Source, contributed \$500 in early September to Buehler.

Drotzmann was not available before deadline.

Real estate broker Art Kegler is Boardman’s top individual gubernatorial donor, giving \$900 so far to Buehler. Kegler also is the chief petitioner on Measure 104, which would amend the state Constitution to require a three-fifths vote in the Legislature to raise taxes. Brown opposes the measure. The governor also did not meet with the Oregon Realtors Political Action Committee and Buehler did. The PAC donated \$100,000 to his campaign.

But Kegler said while he has professional interests in supporting Buehler, he also has personal reasons.

“I like him,” Kegler said. “He’s smart as a whip — he’s a Rhodes Scholar — and he really answers questions well.”

One entry sticks out: The Murdock Cattle Company’s contribution of \$250 to the campaign for Kate Brown. George Murdock, Umatilla County commissioner and local Republican stalwart, owns the company. But he said the entry is not what folk might think.

“It’s not like I sent \$250, I can tell you that,” he said.

Rather, Murdock said he represented the county’s interest at an event with the governor, but the county cannot pay those expenses, so he paid.

“I get lots of opportunities to do that,” he quipped.

Top local contributions

Hermiston

Twisted Aspen \$10,000 to Brown
L & L Farms, \$10,000 to Buehler
Rural Services Company \$10,000 to Buehler
Larry Malmberg, president and CEO of M&M Potato, \$3,500 to Buehler
Robert Levy \$2,500 to Buehler and \$2,500 to Brown
Glenn Chowning \$1,050 to Buehler

Pendleton

Garnet R Olson \$2,700 to Buehler
Camille Preus \$2,000 to Brown
Parley Pearce, owner and operator of Hamley’s in Pendleton \$1,400 in-kind to Buehler for breakfast event
Attorney and rancher Steve Corey \$1,889 to Buehler (\$1,500 cash, \$398 in-kind)

Umatilla

Hendon Construction Co Inc. \$1,000 for Buehler

Stanfield

Amstad Farming Company \$4,500 to Buehler
Amstad Produce \$1,500 to Brown

Weston

Farmer Granella Ruth Thompson \$1,000 for Buehler

Boardman

Threemile Canyon Farms \$10,000 for Brown
Castle Rock Farming \$10,000 for Brown

Heppner

Terry Thompson \$1,000 for Buehler

Irrigon

Morrow County Sheriff Ken Matlack \$300 to Buehler

Athena

State Sen. Bill Hansell, Republican, \$200 for Buehler

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in Conference Rooms 3 & 4

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Moms and Caregivers.

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“I try to find out what motivates someone”
— Dulcie Hays, Oregon GED educator of the year