



Hermiston residents Hope Smith and Angelica White, both 13, walk through the path at the Echo Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch.

## Echo Corn Maze plows into season

By TAMMY MALGESINI  
East Oregonian

ECHO — Gina Tyhuis is excited for another season of sharing her love of agriculture with others at the Echo Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch.

Bob and Gina Tyhuis moved to Echo nearly five years ago; however, Gina's family has been a part of the area farming community for many years. This is the fourth year the Tyhuis family, which also includes 5-year-old Brent, has created the corn maze as part of their farming projects.

"I'm a farmer," Gina said. "I like to educate people on where food comes from — most everything starts on a farm or ranch."

One of the highlights of the corn maze complex, Gina said, is an agricultural education program. Area schools, she said, have enjoyed time at the corn maze — both having fun and learning about farming.

The program features four stations that people can rotate through. They include a focus on the growth cycles of corn, pumpkins and bees. The last station features team-building activities.

In addition to the educational component, the corn maze also harvests a lot of fun. A variety of activities are available, including the regular corn maze, the corn crib, a mini-maze, a straw bale maze and tunnels, a hay bale pyramid, kiddie carts and a zip line. Also, there's a fire pit with seating. The



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini

Zoellie Teem, 5, proudly carries her pumpkin as her grandmother, Rhonda Teem, father Michael Reese, and mother Heather Teem look on. The Hermiston family celebrated Heather's 26th birthday Friday at the Echo Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch.

Field of Screams Corn Maze Path is open on three select dates.

The corn crib, Gina said, is extremely popular. Doubling in size from last year, she equates it to a giant sandbox — only it's less messy and more fun. Also, while at the corn maze, don't forget to purchase a pumpkin to take home.

The event schedule includes Special Olympics Day (Oct. 11, \$5 admission for coaches and athletes from 2-10 p.m.), Oregon Army National Guard Day (Oct. 12, \$2 off regular admission with military identification from 2-9 p.m.) and Five Dollar Fridays

(through Nov. 1, discounted admission from 2-6 p.m.)

The Echo Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch is the perfect place to celebrate special occasions. Heather Teem of Hermiston ushered in her 26th birthday this past Friday with her family — Rhonda Teem, Michael Reese and Zoellie Teem, 5.

"There's a whole lot to do — having something like this is really nice," Heather said. Zoellie's melon-shaped grin confirmed her mother's sentiments. The 5-year-old's eyes lit up even further when she chose her own pumpkin.

Concessions are available Friday through Sun-

### ECHO CORN MAZE

**HOURS:** Tuesday through Thursday, 2-6 p.m.; Fridays, 2-10 p.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**LOCATION:** 100 N. Dupont St., Echo.

**COST:** \$10, ages 3 and older; free, ages 2 and younger; \$12, all day pass.

**MORE:** Ticketed attractions, \$1 (kiddie carts, zip line); Fire pit rental, \$50 for three hours; Field of Screams Corn Maze Path, \$12 (Oct. 19, 26 and 31 from 7-9 p.m.).

**INFO:** Call/text 509-528-5808, visit [www.echocornmaze.com](http://www.echocornmaze.com) or search Facebook.

day, which includes beverages and light snacks. People are asked to refrain from bringing their own refreshments and no alcohol is allowed. However, private reservations are available for picnics around the fire pit — bringing your own food or take-out from local restaurants is allowed with reservations.

The corn maze continues through Sunday, Nov. 3. Be sure to check the schedule for added activities or changes in hours.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at [tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com](mailto:tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com) or 541-564-4539

## Award-winning novelist opens EOU literary lecture series

East Oregonian

LA GRANDE — Sharma Shields will read from her work as the Carl and Sandra Ellston Ars Literary Lecture Series opens the 2019-20 season.

The Eastern Oregon University program brings quality authors to the region to perform readings. The award-winning novelist will present her new novel, "The Cassandra," Monday, Oct. 14 at Art Center East, 1006 Penn Ave., La Grande. The free event is open to the public.

"The Cassandra" follows the life of a young woman who runs away and becomes a secretary at the Hanford Research Center in the early 1940s. She foresees a dire future, but those in power ignore her warnings. Though a historical novel, "The Cassandra" is noted for its critique of patriarchy, militancy and the cultural preference for destruction.

Referred to Shields as "one of our finest literary fabulists," novelist Shawn Vestal said the book glows with powerful insights about the nation's reckless nuclear history and its corrosive chauvinism." Also, the Kirkus Review said it includes a warning that's impossible to ignore regarding the costs

of blind adherence to ideology.

Shields also wrote "Favorite Monster," a collection of short stories, and "The Sasquatch Hunter's Almanac," a novel about a young man's search for the elusive creature who snatched his mother when he was 9 years old. Her short stories and essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Kenyon Review* and the *Iowa Review*. Shields has received several awards, including the 2016 Washington State Book Award, the Autumn House Fiction Prize and the Tim McGinnis Award for Humor.

Copies of her novels will be available for purchase and a book signing will occur after the reading. The author's website is [www.sharmashields.com](http://www.sharmashields.com).

For more information about the Carl and Sandra Ellston Ars Literary Lecture Series, contact English professor David Axelrod at 541-962-3633 or [daxelrod@eou.edu](mailto:daxelrod@eou.edu).

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at [tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com](mailto:tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com) or 541-564-4539



Shields

## COMING EVENTS

### WEDNESDAY, OCT. 9

**STANFIELD SENIOR MEAL SERVICE**, 12 p.m., Stanfield Community Center, 225 W. Roosevelt, Stanfield. Cost is \$3.50 for seniors, \$6 for others. (541-449-1332)

**HERMISTON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE**, 12 p.m., Harkenrider Center, 255 N.E. Second St., Hermiston. Cost is \$4 for adults, free for children 10 and under, \$4 for Meals on Wheels. Extra 50 cents for utensils/dishes. Bus service available by donation. (541-567-3582)

**PENDLETON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE**, 12-1 p.m., Pendleton Senior Center, 510 S.W. 10th St., Pendleton. Costs \$3.50 or \$6 for those under 60. Pool, puzzles, crafts, snacks, Second Time Around thrift store 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For Meals On Wheels, call 541-276-1926. (Tori Bowman 541-276-5073)

**ADVENTURE TIME STORY TIME**, 2-3 p.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. Stories and activities for developmentally disabled children and adults. Free. (541-567-2882)

**ECHO CORN MAZE**, 2-6 p.m., Echo Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch, 100 N. Dupont St., Echo. Cost is \$10 for ages 3 and older, free for ages 2 and under, all-day pass is \$12 per person. Ticketed attractions include kiddie carts and zip line (\$1). Fire pit rental \$50 for 3 hours. Pumpkins available for purchase. (509-528-5808)

**ADULT BEGINNERS' COMPUTERS**, 3-4 p.m., Pendleton Public Library meeting room, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Registration is required. Classes tailored to the needs of the attendees. (541-966-0380)

**REGIONAL TRAILS WORKSHOP**, 5-7:30 p.m., Stanfield School cafeteria, 1120 N. Main St., Stanfield. Public input is requested on a conceptual trails plan for the west Umatilla County region. Brief overview of the project, development timeline, workshop activities, user survey and more will be presented at identical workshops in four communities. Refreshments and Spanish translation available. Free. (Robert Waldher 541-278-6252)

**BUTTERCREEK BOYS**, 6-7:30 p.m., Sun Terrace Hermiston, 1550 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston. Offering toe-tappin music, the seasoned musicians resume performances at a new venue. Free. (541-564-2595)

**VEGAN/SUSTAINABLE LIVING POTLUCK SUPPER**, 7 p.m., location varies, Pendleton. Bring a vegan dish and recipe. Gluten-free friendly group. Call to RSVP and for driving directions. (541-969-3057)

### THURSDAY, OCT. 10

**PRESCHOOL STORY TIME**, 10:15-11 a.m., Pendleton Public Library, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Stories and activities for young children. (541-966-0380)

**PRESCHOOL STORY TIME**, 10:15 a.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. For children from 3-6 years old. (541-567-2882)

**PRESCHOOL STORY AND CRAFT TIME**, 10:30 a.m., Milton-Freewater Public Library, 8 S.W. Eighth Ave., Milton-Freewater. (Lili Schmidt 541-938-8247)

**BOARDMAN SENIOR MEAL SERVICE**, 12 p.m., Boardman Senior Center, 100 Tatone St., Boardman. Cost is \$4 for seniors 55 and over or \$5 for adults. (541-481-3257)

**HERMISTON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE**, 12 p.m., Harkenrider Center, 255 N.E. Second St., Hermiston. Cost is \$4 for adults, free for children 10 and under, \$4 for Meals on Wheels. Extra 50 cents for utensils/dishes. Bus service available by donation. (541-567-3582)

## BRIEFLY

### Town hall to address ambulance rate proposal

MILTON-FREEWATER — A town hall meeting will provide information about proposed ambulance rates in the Milton-Freewater Ambulance Service Area Health District.

The district's board will field questions and discuss the proposal, which will appear on the Nov. 5 ballot. The town hall meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. at the Milton-Freewater Public Library, 8 S.W. Eighth Ave. Everyone is encouraged to attend to learn more about the ambulance district and the rate proposal.

For more information, call Dan Kilmer 541-938-3906 or 509-386-3146.

### Climate change group to discuss Argo floats

PENDLETON — Jack Simons, who recently retired from an agricultural consulting business, will make a presentation during the upcoming 3rd Tuesday Eastern Oregon Climate Conversation.

Simons, a founding member of the Pendleton Bird Club, will discuss ocean-going floats (called Argo), which provide valuable information

about climate change. The gathering is Tuesday, Oct. 15 at noon in the Theater Room at The Prodigal Son Brewery & Pub, 230 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton. Anyone who is interested is invited to attend.

A light lunch offering is available with a \$10 suggested donation. No-host beverages can be purchased prior to the presentation.

The group meets to provide an opportunity to share an open and respectful climate change conversation. For more information about EOC3, contact [eastoregonclimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:eastoregonclimatechange@gmail.com) or search Facebook.

— East Oregonian staff

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