

Halloween: Hundreds flock to the streets for downtown trick-or-treat

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Melton has been handing out candy in front of the Antiques and Art on Main storefront for the last three years. He says that they typically see about 1,200 people pass through. “I always enjoy sitting out here and seeing everyone’s costumes,” said Melton. “The kids are so creative.”

In Hermiston, there were plenty of Harry Potters and Spidermen running around, but Lillie Remington, 8, of Umatilla, seemed to be the only person dressed up as a bag of Jelly Bellys.

She picked the costume, created from a large plastic bag and colorful balloons shaped like jelly beans, because the candy is her favorite snack. “I just thought it was really cute, and I love jelly beans, and it is colorful,” she said.

Marisa White and Hannah Schulz, both of Hermiston, went for something a little less sweet: White was a puppet and Schulz, a puppet-master. Both costumes, they said, were homemade. “I like to go all-out,” said Schulz. “It feels like on Halloween, I get to be myself.”



Staff photo by Jade McDowell
The Sause family (Audrey, 12, on left, Gunner, 9, Colleen and Mason, 4) enjoy Treats on Main in Hermiston on Thursday afternoon.



Staff photo by Ben Loneragan
Costume-clad trick-or-treaters flock to downtown Pendleton to celebrate Halloween late on Thursday afternoon.



Staff photo by Ben Loneragan
A youngster dressed as Pikachu bumbles past a group of trick-or-treaters while crossing the street in downtown Pendleton on Thursday afternoon.



Staff photo by Jade McDowell
Children pause for a break during Treats on Main in downtown Hermiston on Thursday.

Scores: ‘Nation’s Report Card’ shows declines in Oregon, Washington

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official, Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal acknowledged a downward trend that extended from the Northwest across the country. “(A)lmost the entire nation saw fourth grade reading scores dip this year,” Reykdal said. “While it’s comforting to know we aren’t the only ones facing this, it’s tough to draw conclusions about what’s causing that trend.”

Both Reykdal and his counterpart in Oregon, Colt Gill, said the NAEP results underscore problems schools have meeting the needs of children in poverty. Gill said the scores

also demonstrate the need for the Student Success Act — a \$1 billion spending effort funded by a tax on commercial activity in Oregon. “The results reinforce the need for the Student Success Act,” Gill said. “The act is rooted in equity, authentic community engagement and shared accountability for student success. Focusing on those priorities will help us meet the needs of Oregon’s underserved students.”

The NAEP analysis found only 37% of Oregon’s fourth-graders were proficient at math, and only 34% were proficient readers. The proficiency level was also 34% for eighth-grade

readers, but only 31% for eighth-grade math. Washington’s proficiency rates were slightly higher than Oregon’s on most of those tests, though eighth-grade math was substantially better, at 40% proficient.

The NAEP test is one of the few assessments that is taken by students in every state, allowing an apples-to-apples national comparison. But in recent years, its relevance has diminished somewhat, as more states have moved away from unique state assessments, and toward shared exams, such as the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, which is used in Oregon, Washington and several other states.



EO file photo
Fourth-graders color animal masks for a game during an Earth Day field trip to the McNary Heights Wildlife Area in Umatilla on April 20, 2017.

Good Shepherd: Reminding medical professionals the importance of reassurance

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Jennifer. You’ve been in a car accident. You’re in the hospital.”

“Then she would repeat two of the most compassionate words you can say: ‘I’m here,’” he said.

That simple gesture meant the world to him. It eventually inspired him to start the “I’m Here Movement,” encouraging medical professionals to remember the importance of comfort and reassurance in their interactions with patients.

“Simple human presence is the cornerstone of caregiving,” he said.

For the next 20 years, Engle didn’t know who Jennifer

was — her position with the hospital, her last name, or even if she was a real person and not a painkiller-induced hallucination. But when he finally returned to the hospital where he was a patient all those years ago, the hospital had a surprise for him: they had found Jennifer.

A video of their reunion in 2013 can be found at marcusengle.com/im-here-movement. Marcus found out that at the time of his crash Jennifer was a 20-year-old emergency room technician, and had since worked her way up to clinical nurse manager of the surgical intensive care unit at the same hospital.

When Engle’s beloved guide dog Garrett was ready to retire three years ago, it was Jennifer who adopted him.

During his presentation Engle talked about other experiences with people who participated in his care, both good and bad.

He also talked about his decision to change the things he could in his life and stop worrying about the things that he couldn’t. When his accident happened, he wondered why it happened to him, but he knows now that his experience has helped others.

“It’s a huge compliment when people say, ‘I sell tires for a living, but your book

taught me so much about how to talk to people,’” he said.

Good Shepherd CEO Dennis Burke also spoke, sharing what the hospital has accomplished in the 2018-19 fiscal year and what it is planning for the near future.

In the past year Good Shepherd added the Good Shepherd Family Health Center; launched a new Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Center; expanded its home health and hospice services to the east side of Umatilla County; opened a wellness clinic at Hermiston High School; expanded its speech language and pathology department; opened a satellite pharmacy at

Regency Hermiston Nursing Home; remodeled its diagnostic imaging and lab area; put a new roof on the hospital switched to the EPIC records system; increased urgent care to seven days a week; and recruited 12 new physicians and providers.

“This was a good year in terms of recruitment,” Burke said.

The hospital isn’t done recruiting, however. In the next year it will be looking for two OB-GYNs, two family practice doctors, one to three hospitalists, two psychiatrists and a non-interventional cardiologist. The hospital will also be recruiting a new CEO, as Burke plans to

retire next spring.

“Dennis has been here 31 years — an exceptional CEO — and we wish him well,” board chair Steve Eldridge said.

Burke shared some upcoming projects the hospital is also planning, including construction of a physical medicine and rehabilitation center that will focus on helping people manage pain in multiple ways, and an “industrial medicine” program focused on serving people at risk of health problems from industrial jobs.

Good Shepherd is also planning to start up an oncology clinic and a sleep center, and expanding its cardio rehabilitation area.