

EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2021

146th Year, No. 8

WINNER OF 16 ONPA AWARDS IN 2021

\$1.50

GOOD TIMES

Umatilla County celebrates Halloween with big events



Becky Ramirez, left, hands out candy to trick-or-treaters Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021, along Main Street in Pendleton.

Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

By ERICK PETERSON
East Oregonian

UMATILLA COUNTY — Halloween 2021 will be a holiday to remember for people of Eastern Oregon.

Friday to Sunday, Oct. 29 to 31, 2021, people turned out for local events. Some attended the activities as visitors, others as helpers, but everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves.

It was a big year for many people, as they delighted in experiences that had been canceled the year prior because of the coronavirus pandemic.

At Downtown Trick or Treat in Pendleton with her family, Dawn Skinner, Pendleton, was one of the many people making her way to see the Heritage Haunt. It was at the Heritage Station Museum and included costumed characters and candy giveaways. It was fun, Skinner said.



Trick-or-treaters hustle along Main Street in downtown Pendleton on Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021.

Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

She especially liked treating her granddaughter to the tradition because she was not able to experience it last year.

Granddaughter Sawyer Skinner, 4, was dressed up as Ariel, from Disney's "The

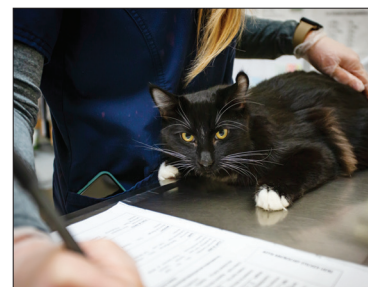
Little Mermaid." Downtown Trick or Treat was fun, she said. She also said she liked the Echo Corn Maze & Pumpkin Patch, which she had visited earlier with her family.

It was scary, she said,

adding she and her group got lost in some places.

"We used teamwork and found our way out," Danny Kain, Pendleton, said.

See Halloween, Page A9



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian
Beetlejuice sits on an exam table Friday, Oct. 29, 2021, at the Pendleton Animal Welfare Shelter, Pendleton.

Deadly disease making way though local cat populations

Vets, others urge cat owners to vaccinate pets against panleuk

By ERICK PETERSON
East Oregonian

UMATILLA COUNTY — Veterinarian and other animal welfare professionals have noticed an uptick in feline panleukopenia in Umatilla County. As they warn the public about this disease that kills cats, especially young kittens, they also spreading the word on how they can help prevent it.

"I've never seen it this bad," Carol Boggs said.

Boggs is a volunteer and treasurer for Fuzz Ball Animal Rescue, Hermiston. She also assists Cat Utopia of Pendleton and at the Pendleton Animal Welfare Shelter, Pendleton.

Her work includes trapping, fostering and transporting animals. In a regular week, she traps around 20 cats and dogs, she said, but recent weeks have not been normal. Last week, she was not capturing animals at all, and she has limited all contact with the creatures she would ordinarily be helping, because of her fear of panleukopenia contamination.

Panleukopenia, also called "panleuk," is an infectious disease among cats. Mark Sargent, Oregon Trail Veterinarian Clinic veterinarian, explained details of the disease. Its literal translation is "all white low," referring to its effect, lowering a cat's white blood cell count.

Cats pick up the virus in their environment, the veterinarian said, sometimes from other cats, but soil also can be a source of infection. Indoor cats may be less at risk, but even they are susceptible to the disease if someone tracks the virus into their home.

Jessie Frischman, veterinarian with Hermiston Veterinarian Clinic, added the disease attacks bone marrow, decreases white blood cells and sets up its victim for other infections. Symptoms include vomiting, loss of appetite and diarrhea. Death often follows, she said.

See Cats, Page A9

Cars pour in for drive-thru booster vaccine clinic

At least 400 people received boosters at the clinic, officials said

By BRYCE DOLE
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — A line of cars Friday, Oct. 29, stretched from the Pendleton Convention Center to Roy Raley Park as hundreds of people lined up for the long wait to get their COVID-19 booster shot.

Officials said at least 400 people received boosters at the clinic, where flu shots and first COVID-19 doses were available. The line was so long that some people said they waited more than two-and-a-half hours for their shot.

"I have other plans today," said an impatient 88-year-old Delores

Hendricks, laughing. At around 1:15 p.m., she was near the end of the line after arriving at the clinic two hours before.

"I don't want to get the virus," said Hendricks, a Pendleton resident since 1950. "People my age, they don't always make it ... I don't know why people don't want to get (the vaccine). I think they should. We need to get rid of this thing."

The clinic was scheduled to start at 9 a.m., but the earliest patients showed up at 7:30 a.m. Health officials delivered doses on a breezy day where the rain, at times, poured sideways. Joe Fiumara, Umatilla County's public health director, said health officials at the clinic were "a little cold and a little wet." Some officials wore trash bags over their sweatshirts.



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Vehicles fill the parking lot Friday, Oct. 29, 2021, at the Pendleton Convention Center for a drive-thru clinic for the COVID-19 booster and flu vaccinations.

See Clinic, Page A9

