



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

A costumed stilt walker on Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021, strides along Main Street in Pendleton during the Pendleton Downtown Association's Halloween event.

Halloween:

Continued from Page A1

Kain, Skinner's friend who was with the family at the maze in Echo, also was with them in Pendleton for trick-or-treating.

Sawyer said she liked dressing up in costume. "My mom likes it too," she said of her outfit.

While young Sawyer and companions trekked Main Street, other people strove to make their enjoyment possible. Workers stood at the openings to many businesses, gifting children with candies. Long lines were common.

Joanna Engle, executive director of the Children's Museum of Eastern Oregon, was one such person. She handed out candies from the doorstep of the museum, 400 S. Main St., and gave free museum passes to adults.

"This is another fun opportunity for us to get people into the museum and let people know about it," she said.

She also liked making people happy, she said. When she was a child, she said, she enjoyed dressing up, which is why Halloween was a fun holiday. It was a time for her and her siblings to have fun together with the rest of the family. She added, as someone who works around children, creating joy for youngsters, giving them the same experiences, she had when she was small, means a lot to her.

With Engle, Kim Chavez-Sierra, museum board chair, said she also was loving greeting kids and giving them a happy Halloween. Chavez-Sierra is married to East Oregonian reporter Antonio Sierra.

"Halloween is actually



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Makenna Zander, 7, crosses Southwest Emigrant Avenue on Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021, while trick-or-treating in downtown Pendleton.

my favorite holiday, even as an adult," she said.

A kindergarten teacher, she added she the merriness on display at Downtown Trick or Treat was a good sight. The past year, with the pandemic continuing, has been tough on people, she said, and she was happy to see people finding joy in this activity, providing they were safe.

Stanfield

Also on Oct. 30, Stanfield's Fall Festival & Haunted Library activities including games and "trunk-or-treat" provided much fun, thanks to the work of several volunteers. Cecili Longhorn, Stanfield Public Library director, was one of those volunteers. Dressed as a scarecrow, she welcomed people into the library, which was decorated as a haunted house.

Volunteers spent a couple of days setting up the library. There were eight other volunteers at the library alone for the "haunted library." Some were dressed as monsters and murderers inside.

"Mom! I'm scared! Mom! Mom!" one small

child shouted while touring the library, which was dark inside and contained frightening displays and music. Other visitors screamed, too, then laughed at themselves for being startled. The attraction, then, had its intended effect.

"We started it eight years ago," Longhorn said. "A friend and I decided we wanted to do a fall festival, and we asked if anyone was interested in volunteering. Somewhere along the way, we thought it would be fun to do a haunted library."

She said she had not, until then, even heard of a haunted library. A group of volunteers came together, and the idea grew from there. The library building, which closed for two days prior to the event in preparation, always contain fun new ideas she said. She expressed volunteers do a lot of work to give the impression of a large space inside their little library.

"I hope everyone who comes will come again to see what the library really looks like," she said.

Hermiston

Hermiston hosted several events, including Treats on

Main & Beyond. Local businesses handed out candy to costumed trick-or-treaters.

"It was pretty cool," Sarah Ramos, Hales' Restaurant hostess, said. There were many visitors with fun costumes, including some decked out as dinosaurs, she said.

Cristal Carman, cook for Veg Out, participated also in the festivities, as she handed out candy with a co-worker.

"It turned out really good," she said. "I really enjoyed seeing all the costumes. Some of them made them themselves. Others had unique themes, like some ballplayers from 'A League of Their Own.' So I really enjoyed it, and I think the kids did, too."

Another impressive costume, she said, was Col. Sanders, the KFC founder and mascot. Someone dressed up like the Colonel and carried a bucket of fried chicken, Carmen said.

Over at the Hermiston Public Library, staff also reported having a good time with their volunteerism. Vivian Cano, library assistant, was one of those volunteers, helping to put "goody bags" together and then handing them out to children.

She said she saw many excellent costumes — a giant banana, unicorns, Fortnite characters and more. She noted the specialness of this holiday, especially as some of the kids were enjoying it for the first time in a couple of years, having had it cancelled last year due to COVID-19 worries.

"They were excited, shy but excited once they got their bags," she said. The bags contained candy, bookmarks and library information.



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Alisha Lundgren, assistant deputy director of the Umatilla County Health Department, draws up doses of the COVID-19 vaccine Friday, Oct. 29, 2021, during a booster shot clinic at the Pendleton Convention Center.

Clinic:

Continued from Page A1

The clinic was one of two in Umatilla County that day, with the second occurring in Milton-Freewater. Fiumara said the turnout was larger than expected.

"We're glad people showed up," Fiumara said. "We're glad to give everyone who wants a booster a booster."

Who can get a booster?

Research shows booster shots can bolster protection against COVID-19, especially for those most vulnerable to infection.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports people who received a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine are eligible for boosters if they are 65 and older. People who are 18 and older and live in a long-term care facility, have underlying health conditions, or work or live in a space at high-risk for infection also are eligible.

The CDC recommends people get a booster shot six months after getting their Pfizer or Moderna shot.

Johnson & Johnson recipients over the age of 18 also are eligible for boosters, the CDC says. They can get their booster two months after their first dose.

Recipients can mix-and-match with any of the vaccines, according to the CDC.

Pendleton booster clinic

The long line of vehicles snaked through the convention center parking lot the after of Oct. 29. People sat in

their cars with their heaters and radios on for hours. Most people seeking their extra immunizations were elderly. Several patients groaned at the wait, but most were in jovial spirits.

There was Terry and Raylene Ellis, a retired school teacher and retired entertainer. For two hours and 47 minutes, they talked, complained, laughed and sang along to tunes on the radio.

They said Umatilla County's low vaccination rates — and high infection rates drove — them to get extra protection. They said they know people personally who have died of COVID-19.

"I couldn't have dreamt up this pandemic," Terry said.

After getting his booster, Terry said he plans to finally get back to playing racquetball at the gym. He and Raylene said they would encourage other people to get vaccinated to protect the other people in their community.

"I go with the science," Raylene said. "Let's all take care of each other."

A few cars ahead of them sat Mike and Linda Ferguson. As senior citizens, they said they recognize they are at increased risk of severe illness and need all the extra protection they can get. They, too, know people who have died of COVID-19.

"When it's somebody close to you, you know how serious it is," Linda said.

To Mike, getting a booster carries with it one step toward a massive goal:

"You're hoping to put an end to the pandemic."



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Registered nurse Lexie Futter, left, prepares Raylene Ellis to receive her COVID-19 booster shot Friday, Oct. 29, 2021, during a vaccination clinic at the Pendleton Convention Center.

Cats:

Continued from Page A1

Kittens are especially at risk, as their immune system is immature and their body fat is low.

Sergeant said Umatilla County has "seen a lot" of panleuk, a "flurry of it" in the last two months among strays.

"I don't recall seeing an outbreak like this before," he said.

Cases sometimes pop up "here or there, but nothing like this," he said, adding he suspects it got into the right

population, stray cats, and spread like "wildfire."

Boggs, who fosters cats, also used the word "wildfire," when describing panleuk transmission in her home. When she still was trapping animals, she brought home an infected cat and the disease spread within her home.

Having lost seven cats recently to panleuk, she is on the lookout for the disease. In addition to limiting her contact with other cats, she regularly disinfects her home, her car and herself with trifeccant spray. The 53-year-old Hermiston resident has been taking care of cats her entire life, and said she is heartbro-

ken by a disease she sees as being on the upswing as she has never seen before.

Cindy Spiess, owner of Pendleton's Cat Utopia, called the situation as "really sad." She also is on the board of directors for PAWS. She added she tends to see outbreaks every five or six years, but recent months have been atypical. This fall, she has heard of many cases.

She has not seen any cases in her own business, she said, but has heard of the disease spreading among fostered cats locally and in Walla Walla and Portland.

She recommended immunizations, and both Sergeant

and Frischman agreed, saying vaccinations are highly effective in preventing panleuk. Cat owners can get their pets vaccinated at local vet clinics or they can do it themselves at home. Vaccinations are available at local farm stores.

Robin Barker of Fuzz Ball Rescue, agreed about the usefulness of vaccinations, and she said she sees vaccinations as the solution to the

local outbreak. The problem, she said, is the outbreak is biggest amongst cats that are least likely to be vaccinated, such as strays.

She has seen outbreaks in other cities, and she said she finds the situation sad.

Beau Putnam, Pet Rescue Humane Society of Eastern Oregon, also is concerned about the disease because it is difficult to treat. He said he

has seen it among fostered kittens, and he wants people to vaccinate.

Veterinarian Frischman offered some hope about the current situation. She noted we are "coming out of kitten season," during which there are fewer cat births. We will, then, see fewer deaths and less spread, because there will be fewer new cats to spread the disease.



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Amanda White goes fills out intake paperwork for Beetlejuice on Friday, Oct. 29, 2021, at the Pendleton Animal Welfare Shelter in Pendleton. While PAWS has not had a case of feline panleukopenia, they are working to inform cat owners of the dangers of the disease.

Thank you for supporting

Newspapers In Education

NIE

Metal Fabricators Inc.

NORTHEAST OREGON WATER ASSOCIATION

CHI St. Anthony Hospital

CORTEVA agriscience

Jeremy J. Larson DVM

WILL'S PREMIUM MEATS

TUM-A-LUM LUMBER

ALIVE & WELL

THE SADDLE RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

KOPACZ NURSERY FLORIST

GOLD SPONSORS
Community Bank

SILVER SPONSORS
Alive and Well PPP
CHI St. Anthony Hospital
Corvea Agriscience
Desire For Healing Inc
Hill Meat Company
Northeast Oregon Water Association
OSU Extension Service- Umatilla County
RE/MAX Cornerstone
Rick's Car Wash
Tum-A-Lum Lumber
Western Radiator

BRONZE SPONSORS
A & G Property Management & Maintenance
Blue Mountain Community College
Coldwell Banker Whitney & Associates, Inc.
Davita Blue Mountain Kidney Center
DuPont Pioneer HiBred Research Center
Jeremy J. Larson DMD LLC
Kelly Lumber Supply Inc
Kiks Golf Center
Kirby Nagelhout Construction Co.
Kopacz Nursery & Florist
Landmark Tax Services
McEntire Dental
Mid Columbia Bus Co
NW Metal Fabricators Inc
Rob Merriman Plumbing & Heating Inc
The RBH Group LLC
The Saddle Restaurant and Lounge
Willowbrook Terrace

OTHER SPONSORS
Barhyte Specialty Foods
Umatilla Electric Cooperative
CMG Financial
Duchek Construction
Episcopal Church of the Redeemer
Hermiston Public Library
Hodgen Distributing
Pendleton KOA
Starvation Ridge Farming, LLC
Sun Terrace Hermiston

Want to see your name here? Call 541-276-2211