

Try your wits at the Ison House escape room

By Lisa Britton
Go! Magazine

BAKER CITY — Twila Lavery is having fun foiling people. But she's pretty happy when guests solve the riddles, as well.

Lavery owns The Ison House Bed & Brew with John Coop, and together they've created themed puzzles for an escape room experience.

It started March 17 with the theme of the 1904 World's Fair. In April, it switches to "Escape the White Rabbit." The May escape room will be "So You Wanna Be a Rockstar?"

"People love it. They're booking full," Lavery said.

The next dates are April 8-10, April 13-16, and April 20-24. Sessions, which cost \$45, are available in the morning, afternoon and evening. To make a reservation, visit www.theisonhouse.com or call 503-894-4075.

Groups are limited to four, and everyone must be age 13 or older. Participants have 45 minutes to solve the puzzle and "escape" the room.

"It's logical thinking, teamwork, problem solving and memorization," Lavery said.

The difficulty level is ranked as beginner/intermediate.

So far, the success rate is evenly split — half have solved the puzzle, and the other half didn't make it under the time limit.

"We did research to make it not too hard, and not too easy," she said. "It's fun to see people come out of the escape room — they're laughing and ringing the bell."



Twila Lavery/Contributed image
The next escape room theme at The Ison House is "Escape the White Rabbit." For details, visit www.theisonhouse.com.

Offering an escape room is just another project for the couple. In addition to lodging and an on-site pub, Lavery taught paint classes during the winter and this summer they will again bring in bands for concerts on the lawn.

The escape room, Lavery said, has brought locals as well as people from outside the area who are discovering The Ison House.

"They didn't even know we were here," she said.



Twila Lavery/Contributed image
The Ison House Bed and Brew escape room experience started March 17. So far, half the participants have solved the puzzles in the 45-minute time limit.

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