

The comes Underground to life

Live actors reenact scenes for the Pendleton Underground Tours event Oct. 9

By Lisa Britton
Go! Magazine

PENDLETON — Ever wish you could step back in time? You'll have a chance to do just that on Saturday, Oct. 9, when the Pendleton Underground comes to life with a cast of 75 actors.

"It is so much fun," said Brooke Armstrong, the Underground's executive director.

Tickets are limited to fewer than 300, and cost \$50 per person. This event is for ages 21 and older. This is a fundraiser for the nonprofit Pendleton Underground Tours.

The tours start at 9:30 a.m., and the last one is at 3 p.m. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are sold for a specific time. Tours take off every 15 minutes and last about two hours. Groups are limited to 16 people.

Actors are stationed in each room and are frozen as the tour enters. Then everyone comes to life to act out a scene that could have happened 100 years ago.

"They reenact what it was like back then," Armstrong said. "Each room does its own skit."

The tours follow the rooms beneath downtown Pendleton, then head up to the brothels.

New this year, the Shamrock Card Room & Saloon will open at 5 p.m., after the tours, for the public "to have drinks and interact with the actors," Armstrong said.

To reserve a ticket, call 541-276-0730.

The next "Comes to Life" event is set for May 2022. For updates, check the Underground's Facebook page.

ABOUT THE UNDERGROUND

The tunnels below Pendleton were originally built to move supplies for downtown merchants. The tunnel system covers more than 12 city blocks, centered around Main Street and extending to the railroad depot.

The tunnels served several uses over the years — some illegal, such as opium dens and, during Prohibition, a speakeasy. The rooms also housed a bowling alley, billiard hall, ice cream factory and butcher shop.

The tunnels also provided private access to the aboveground Cozy Rooms bordello.



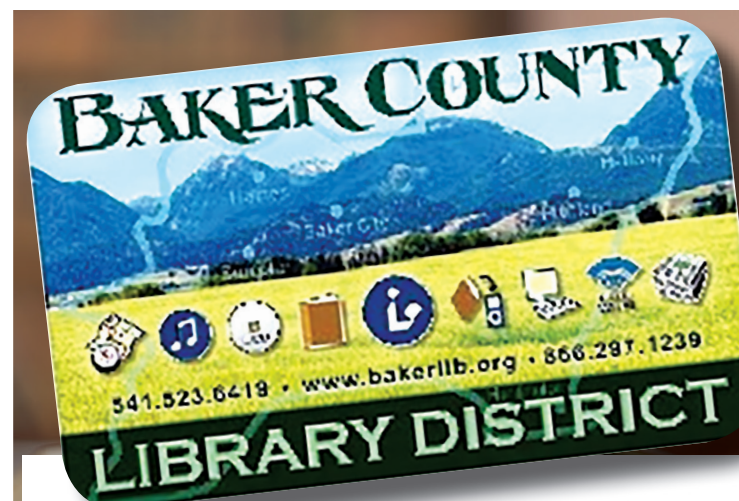
East Oregonian, File

Actors point guns at each other in the Shamrock Card Room while simulating a standoff over a poker game during the Pendleton Underground Comes to Life on May 20, 2017, in Pendleton. The next live event is on Oct. 9.

Focusing on Elder Abuse in September

- Around 1 in 6 people 60 years and older experienced some form of abuse in community settings during the past year.
- Rates of elder abuse are high in institutions, such as nursing homes and long-term care facilities, with 2 in 3 staff reporting that they have committed abuse in the past year.
- Elder abuse can lead to serious physical injuries and long-term psychological consequences.

Source: World Health Organization



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