

Many Halloween events begin this weekend

The Columbia Press

Spruce Up Warrenton brings back its popular Fall Festival this year with plenty of candy, games and hijinx.

The outdoor event at Robinson Community Park attracted thousands of children and parents last year. This year promises to be even bigger, with a wrap-around-the-park trunk-or-treat event with business owners and community groups passing out candy and toys from the trucks of their vehicles.

Warrenton Fire Department will rig up its equipment for a pumpkin toss and the local 4-H will set up a petting zoo. Carnival games, crafts, food carts, hayrides and a pumpkin patch round out the festival.

The Fall Festival is from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 30, at the park, Fourth and Alder streets.

Lots of other fun begins this weekend.

THE WEIR

A haunted house in rural Ireland is the subject of the play "The Weir" presented by Ten Fifteen Productions.

The play opens tonight and runs through Oct. 30. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 3:30 p.m. Sundays at the playhouse, 1015 Commercial St., Astoria.

Tickets are \$20 and available at thetenfifteentheater.com/tickets. Proof of vaccination is required to enter the theater.

BLOODYVOX

Promoters of this professional performance tout BloodyVox as a dance event with a touch of Hitchcock, Vampira, ghosts and zombies.

The show includes lots of wit mixed in with creepy delights.



Cindy Yingst/The Columbia Press

Children check out the small gifts being offered at the Warrenton Police table at last year's trunk-or-treat event.

It's appropriate for all ages with the sole performance at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16, at the Liberty Theatre, 1203 Commercial St., Astoria. Tickets are \$18-\$27 and available at libertyastoria.showare.com. All tickets will be held at the box office. Proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 test is required.

WITCHES, WIZARDS, ETC.

"Witches, Wizards and Waffles," a mini event that includes entertainment and food, is set for 6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 29 and at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 30, at the Garden of Surging Waves in downtown Astoria.

The free event is sponsored by Sparrow Dance Company. It is 30 minutes long and most appropriate for preschoolers and early elementary students. Children are encouraged to wear costumes and all those attending must observe CDC guidelines.

LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH

Lighthouse Christian Church will have a trunk-or-treat harvest festival from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 31.

The church is at 88786 Dellmoor Loop, just south of Warrenton.

There will be booths, games, trick-or-treating and a cake walk. The event is open to the public.

DOWNTOWN FUN

Merchants in both Astoria and Seaside downtowns will have safe trick-or-treat events.

Astoria's is from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 30.

Seaside's is from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 30 and 31.

Children should wear costumes and visit their favorite shops. Face coverings and social distancing are required.

FALL VENDOR FAIR

Pacific Grange on Highway 101 south of Warrenton is the site of three-day holiday harvest event.

The thrift market is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 5, 6, and 7 at the grange, 90475 Highway 101.

Included are local vendors carrying homemade gifts, antiques, jewelry, and other products. For more information, call 503-325-2100.



Teacher sees classroom as a happy place

BY BRUCE DUSTIN

For The Columbia Press

Cassie Sulfridge hopes her fourth grade classroom at Warrenton Grade School is "The Happiest Place on Earth."

She created a Disneyland-theme room and uses the Disney slogan as the class motto.

"COVID has been hard on kids and families and my goal this year is to help students transition back to full time," she said. "In-class learning is a safe, fun environment."

Sulfridge is one of several new teachers at WGS this year.

Originally from San Diego, she has traveled the



country for the Coast Guard and is retired from the Coast Guard Reserves. Her husband remains on active duty and that's how the couple ended up in Warrenton.

"We love it here. The people are so nice and everyone at the school has been very welcoming," she said. "I have worked in child therapy and special education."

Fourth grade was her favorite grade when she was a schoolgirl and was her favorite grade to be called for as a substitute teacher before joining special education.

"When the opportunity to teach fourth grade was presented to me here at Warrenton elementary, I was so excited," Sulfridge said.

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