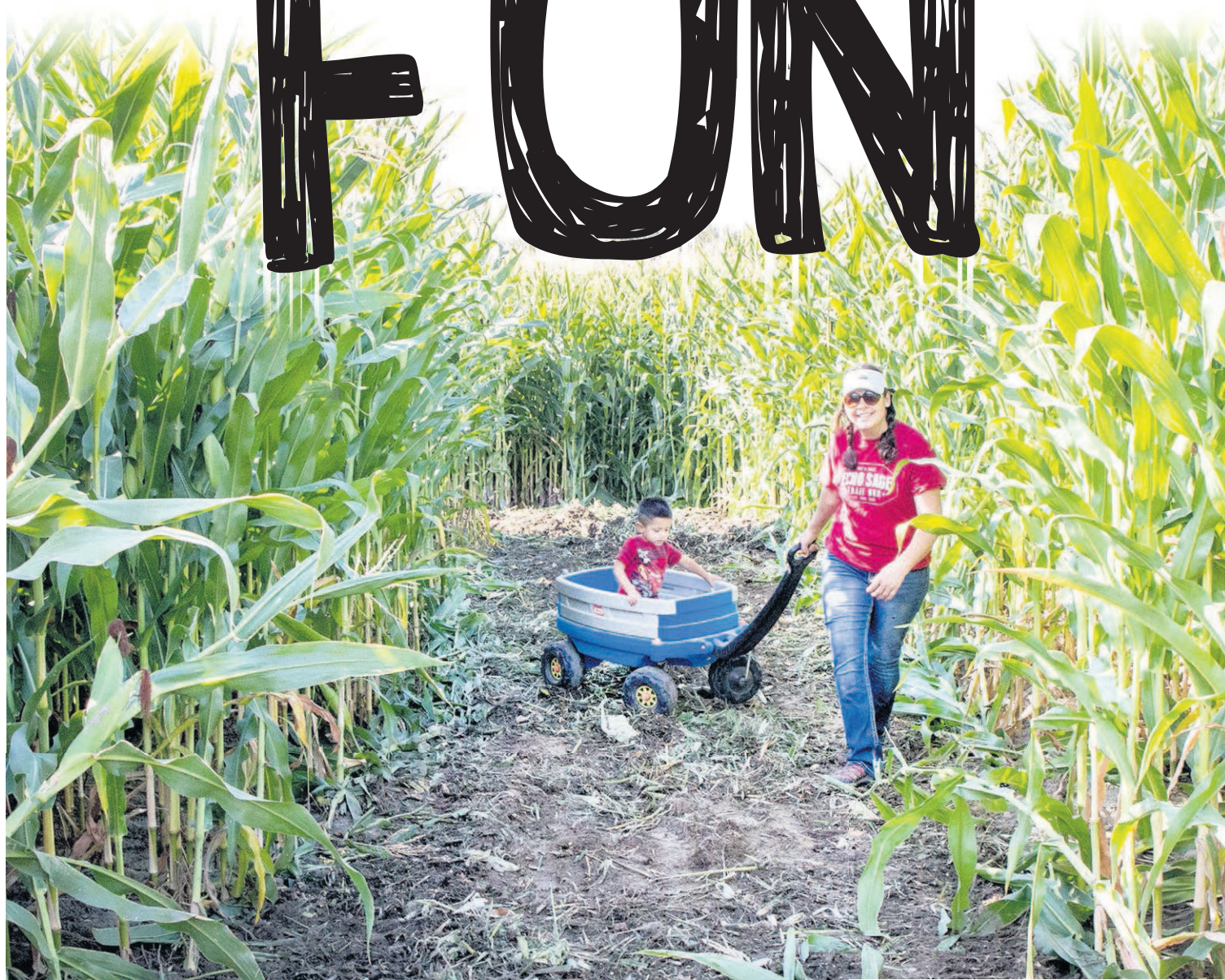




ABOUT TOWN

CRAZY MAZE PROVIDES FARM

FUN



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

Echo Corn Maze organizer Gina Tyhuis pulls her son Brent in a wagon Friday near the maze's entrance.

By TAMMY MALGESINI

Community Editor

Bob and Gina Tyhuis' 2-year-old son, Brent, is thrilled to have a corn maze in his back yard. "When we come down the hill he points and says, 'Corn maze, mama.' He absolutely adores the farm, he loves farming. Really, that's the motivation for the corn maze," said Gina Tyhuis.

The Tyhuis' have been in Echo for about 18 months, although Gina's family has farmed in the area for some time. Juggling responsibilities with grape harvest, Gina has been busy gearing up for the Echo Crazy Corn Maze & Haunt.

The Tyhuis' opened the corn maze this past weekend and will be open Thursday through Saturdays throughout October from 2-10 p.m. The maze is located off Echo's Main Street. People should park at 111 W. Main St. The entrance to the maze is several blocks north of downtown, between the 100-200 block of North Dupont Street. The cost is \$10 for ages 3 and up. Major credit cards and debit cards will be accepted.

Also, special haunts are planned for the maze Oct. 15, 22, 29 and 31 from 7-9 p.m. People will take a separate path for the fright experience, so participants can choose between the mild or scary path.

The maze encompasses eight acres with pathways of about 1.5-2 miles. Gina Tyhuis said the maze wouldn't be possible without the help of Barton Laser Leveling, which spend a couple of days cutting the paths.



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

A elevated view of the Echo Corn Maze gives a glimpse of some of the almost two miles of pathways inside the eight-acre corn field. Work on the maze was scheduled to finish on Friday.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brent Tyhuis, 2, son of organizers Bob and Gina Tyhuis, plays in the corn pit at the Echo Crazy Corn Maze & Haunt.

See FUN, A14

Vendors showcase their homemade, homegrown goods at Harvest Festival

By GEORGE PLAVEN
Staff Writer

The bounty was plentiful both inside and outside the SAGE Center during Saturday's third annual Morrow County Harvest Festival.

More than 30 vendors from across Eastern Oregon set up to showcase their homemade and homegrown goods, including everything from fresh produce to art, crafts, jewelry and quilts.

SAGE Center Manager Kalie Davis said the festival, which drew approximately 1,000 visitors last

year, is a fun way to bring the community together and give people an opportunity to share their talents.

"Our whole goal is to provide free activities for families," Davis said.

The event is presented by the SAGE Center, in conjunction with the Boardman, Irrigon and Heppner chambers of commerce. While the focus is primarily on local agriculture, there were plenty of other items to pique shoppers' interests.



STAFF PHOTO BY GEORGE PLAVEN

Free horse and buggy rides were offered outside the SAGE Center as part of the third annual Morrow County Harvest Festival.

See FESTIVAL, A14

Hermiston police respond to clown sighting

A person dressed as a "scary clown" was reported to Hermiston police Monday night, and though officers weren't able to locate the costumed person, they did issue a warning on Facebook about appropriate public behavior.

The clown was spotted near Wal-Mart headed toward the Apsen Apartments at about 10:30 p.m. wearing dark clothing and bushy hair. There have been many police reports of people dressed as scary clowns across the United States in the past few months and several in Oregon in recent weeks.

Hermiston police in a statement said people have the right to dress however they want — like a clown, ballerina or wearing "that ugly sweater your aunt knitted for your birthday in 1993." But if those donning strange outfits are acting "weird" to intentionally scare people, the department warned it would investigate the suspicious activity to see if a crime was committed.

Most of the reports in other areas have been non-criminal, though arrests have been made for trespassing, making threats and inducing panic.

School district to conduct second bond survey

Hermiston Herald

Hermiston School District is looking for a second round of opinions before deciding whether to place a \$104 million bond on the May 2017 ballot.

The Nelson Report is conducting a telephone survey of registered voters on behalf of the district this week. The questions will gauge community support of a \$104 million bond that would cost property owners approximately 90 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value.

The district completed an initial community attitude survey in April 2016. The results showed that after being informed of crowding and security issues at local schools, 63 percent of community members supported replacing Rocky Heights and Highland Hills Elementary Schools, expanding Hermiston High School and conducting district-wide improvements such as new roofing and HVAC systems at Sandstone Middle School.

Results of the new survey will be shared with the school board as they prepare to make a final decision on whether to place the bond on the May 2017 ballot. For information about the bond or to schedule a presentation from the school district about it, call the district office at 541-667-6000.

Irrigon city manager to speak at luncheon

The upcoming Irrigon Chamber of Commerce meeting features Irrigon City Manager Aaron Palmquist as the special speaker.

The no-host luncheon gathering starts with a meet and greet Wednesday, Oct. 12 at 11:45 a.m. at Stokes Landing Senior Center, 195 N.W. Opal Place, Irrigon. The meal is \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members.

For more information, contact irrigonchamber@irrigonchamber.com.

