



FILE PHOTO

Tess Nava and Luis Nava hand out candy during the 2016 Treats on Main in Hermiston.

HALLOWEEN

Continued from Page A1

participate in carnival games, bounce houses, a haunted house, a giant pumpkin, prizes and much more.

Volunteers are still needed for the event. For more information, call 541-667-5018.

•A Fall Fest at Hermiston Church of the Nazarene offers a trunk-or-treat, hot dogs, games and family-friendly fun. The free event is Wednesday, Oct. 31 from 5-7 p.m. at 1520 W. Orchard Ave. For more information, call 541-567-3677.

ECHO

•The annual Echo Community Halloween Party is Wednesday, Oct. 31 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Echo City Hall, 20 Bonanza St. Coordinated by the city and Echo Booster Club, the free party includes a costume contest, games and prizes. A free meal of hot dogs, chips, cookies and punch or cider will be served.

Mayor Jeanie Hampton is organizing "Win it in a Minute," a series of games for youths. Volunteers are needed to assist with games and serving. For more information or to make a donation, call 541-376-8411.

•For a cornucopia of activities, head to the Echo Corn Maze, 100 Dupont St. It's open Tuesday through Thursdays from 2-6 p.m.; Friday, 2-10 p.m.; Saturday,

11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Also, the Field of Screams, a mini maze with a scary twist, is available Saturday and Halloween from 7-9 p.m.

The cost is \$10/one-time or \$12/all day and the haunted path. Additional ticketed attractions include kiddie carts, a zip line and pumpkins. Also, concessions are available Friday through Sunday. For more information, visit www.echocornmaze.com or call 509-528-5808.

STANFIELD

•Kids are needed to help put the bones back together during a Skeleton Scavenger Hunt. Hosted by the Stanfield Public Library, there are two sessions available — Friday at 6:30 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. at 180 W. Coe Ave. Open to ages 8 and under, there is a suggested donation of \$1 but it's not required. With limited space, participants need to register by calling 541-449-1254.

•Stanfield firefighters with Umatilla County Fire District #1 will offer up some hot treats on Halloween from 5-8 p.m. Stop by the station at 285 W. Coe Ave. for hot dogs, hot chocolate and spiced cider. In addition, kids will have an opportunity to check out the fire trucks.

•Be sure to cruise on over to Crossroads Community Church for their annual Trunk or Treat. Held on Halloween, the event

runs from 6-8 p.m. in the church's parking lot, 350 N.W. Sherman St. People are invited to decorate their cars or trucks and hand out candy to kids. With a theme of "Harvest is all Year," a pair of prizes will be awarded for the best decorated vehicle and costume.

The activity also features hot chocolate, warming fires and, if weather permits, a bouncy castle and slide. For more information, call 541-449-3434 or 541-449-1251.

UMATILLA

•Trick or Treat on Sixth Street — and more on Friday from 4-6 p.m. In addition to collecting candy at participating businesses, activities are planned at Village Square Park, across from Umatilla City Hall, 700 Sixth St. Judging for a pumpkin carving contest in both youth and adult categories begins at 5 p.m.

Also, be sure to check out the creativity of local businesses as they vie for prizes in a decorating contest featuring a theme of "Children's Animated Films." For more information, contact 541-922-4825 or kevans@umatillaorchamber.org.

•The Umatilla Museum is hosting a Howl-O-Ween Pet Costume Contest at 911 Sixth St. Prizes will be awarded in several categories for people and their pets (not just pooches). For more information, call 541-626-2099.

BTW

Continued from Page A1

Oct. 30 from 8-10 a.m. The workshop is open to anyone interested in learning more about effective nonprofit leadership and will be held at the **Blue Mountain Community College** Hermiston Center, 975 SE Columbia Drive in rooms 134/135.

Allison Hart, the principal at **A. Hart Associates**, will conduct the workshop. She has 15 years of nonprofit and association management experience and is the former executive director for the **Oregon State Chamber of Commerce**.

There is a \$25 per person registration fee. Register by Oct. 28 by calling 541-567-6151 or online at www.hermistonchamber.com.

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The Hermiston Education Foundation, which raises money for classroom supplies and projects, is holding a Fun Run on Saturday at 9 a.m., at Sandstone Middle School, 400 N.E. 10th St. Run or walk to support the Hermiston school of your choice on 1-mile or 5K courses

and win a medal if you place first through third. Costumes are encouraged, with a \$50 prize for judges' choice. Registration is \$15 for 1-mile, \$30 for 5K. For more information contact George Clough at 541-314-3182.

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A community suicide awareness event will take place Saturday from 12-4 p.m. at the Port of Morrow Riverfront Center, 2 Marine Drive, Boardman. Learn how to help veterans facing suicide risks. The event will feature a spaghetti dinner, ice cream and live music with **Steven K and the Bounty Hunters**. The event sponsored by **Morrow County Veterans Services** is free, but an RSVP requested for dinner. For more information contact **Linda Skendzel** at 541-922-6420.

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An **Honor Tree** ceremony recently sprouted up at **Good Shepherd Medical Center**, said **Bob Green**, executive director of the **Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation**. A special tree has been designated and a plaque was unveiled Oct. 12 in honor of **John & Janet Spomer**

of Hermiston.

John is a member of Kiwanis, a running enthusiast and retired from his dental practice a decade ago. A former educator in Portland and Hermiston, Janet was active in her church and P.E.O. Chapter CV before she died Oct. 14, 2017.

The Honor Tree program at Good Shepherd allows people to recognize someone special in their life. They can be designated as a Tribute Tree to honor someone who has made a significant difference in your life or as a Memorial Tree on behalf of a deceased love one. For more information, contact 541-667-3419, rgreen@gshealth.org or visit www.gshealth.org/foundation.

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A "Mover El Vote" political rally will take place at McKenzie Park in Hermiston from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday. The rally will be against Measure 105, which if passed by voters will remove Oregon's sanctuary state law banning local and state law enforcement from using their resources to enforce immigration law. Free champurrado and pan dulce will be provided.

WYDEN

Continued from Page A1

not freedom to assault," he said.

Hermiston city councilor Roy Barron asked Wyden to discuss his stance on Ballot Measure 105 which, if passed, would repeal Oregon's status as a sanctuary state.

"What is the federal government doing to get comprehensive immigration reform?" he asked.

Wyden said he would vote against Measure 105, and that he believed the measure would only make immigrants afraid to come forward for things like filling prescriptions or reporting domestic abuse.

He criticized Trump's changing stances on immigration, and condemned his family separation policy, to audience applause. He said he still supports a direct path to citizenship for undocumented individuals who speak English and haven't broken any other laws.

Multiple students asked Wyden to share why he thinks Oregon's graduation rates are so low, how he plans to help raise them and how he plans to make college more affordable.

One student noted the correlation between other states' higher graduation rates and better teacher pay.

"You're going to get an 'A' in every class," Wyden quipped, before noting that unlike most other states, the federal government owns most of Oregon's land, which limits the types of businesses or facilities that could be built on the land and, subsequently, pay local taxes.

Wyden said he wrote the



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden answers a question about immigration from Hermiston City Councilor Roy Barron on Tuesday

law that created the Secure Rural Schools program, which allows schools in rural Oregon counties to get payments from the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. That money, he said, helps Oregon schools make up for some of the money they lose out on in local taxes.

Wyden said as far as raising the graduation rates, he'd like to see more schools lean into career and technical education, add STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) to their curricula, and find things that get students excited about going to school.

Addressing college affordability, he cited a bill he introduced last year with Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, the "Know Before You Go" bill, which he said makes data about schools' graduation rates, debt levels and potential to earn and repay debt afterward available to students, breaking the information down by specific colleges and programs of study.

"I've also said debt repayment should be tied to

the income you're making," he said.

Several students and adults asked Wyden about his plans to make health care more affordable.

"Do you believe health care is a privilege or a right?" one student asked.

Wyden said he believes it's a basic right, and that his priority is containing the cost and "going after the middlemen that are ripping off the system."

"We're spending enough money for all Americans to get basic, good, equal coverage," he said.

Among his concerns is that after presenting a tax bill last week, Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell said Congress should cut spending on programs like Social Security and Medicare.

A student asked Wyden to name a vote he regretted.

Wyden said there have been several, but said a recent one was his support of Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke's appointment.

"He said he'd be like Teddy Roosevelt — a champion of the outdoors," Wyden said, adding that Zinke so far has not lived up to that promise.

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Umatilla County Commission Chair George Murdock is Focused on Umatilla County...

...And he's zeroed in on the things you care about. He's totally focused on what's happening from Milton-Freewater to Ukiah and from Meacham to Umatilla. "I can't control what's going on at the state or federal level but I can darn sure make a difference here," he says. Perhaps that's why voters in 41 of 45 precincts voting in the May Primary gave him a "thumbs up majority" for what he's accomplished during his first full term!

In January, the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners will take on a new look. Two years down the road we can expect another change. John Shafer will bring fresh ideas and new energy to the Commission. Umatilla County Commission Chair George Murdock can provide the necessary experience, wisdom, and leadership to help guide the Commission through a period of transition - what a powerful combination and what a valuable opportunity for Umatilla County.

Everyone agrees that Umatilla County is in the best shape it has ever been - a balanced budget, a stable level of programs and services, a great staff that prides itself in customer service, long overdue expansions in public safety, and a commitment to making sure that Umatilla County will stand up and be heard - whenever and wherever necessary!!!



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