

Halloween:

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Stanfield

Also on Oct. 30, Stanfield's Fall Festival & Haunted Library activities including games and "trunk-or-treat" provided much fun, thanks to the work of several volunteers. Cecili Longhorn, Stanfield Public Library director, was one of those volunteers. Dressed as a scarecrow, she welcomed people into the library, which was decorated as a haunted house.

Volunteers spent a couple of days setting up the library. There were eight other volunteers at the library alone for the "haunted library." Some were dressed as monsters and murderers inside.

"Mom! I'm scared! Mom! Mom!" one small child shouted while touring the library, which was dark inside and contained frightening displays and music. Other visitors screamed, too, then laughed at themselves for being startled. The attraction, then, had its intended effect.

"We started it eight years ago," Longhorn said. "A friend and I decided we wanted to do a fall festival, and we asked if anyone was interested in volunteering. Somewhere along the way, we thought it would be fun to do a haunted library."

She said she had not, until then, even heard of a haunted library. A group of volunteers came together, and the idea grew from there. The library building, which closed for two days prior to the event in preparation, always contain fun new ideas she said. She expressed volunteers do a lot of work to give the impression of a large space inside their little library.

"I hope everyone who comes will come again to see what the library really looks like," she said.



A costumed stilt walker on Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021, strides along Main Street in Pendleton during the Pendleton Downtown Association's Halloween event.

Ben Lonergan/Hermiston Herald

Pendleton

At Downtown Trick or Treat in Pendleton with her family, Dawn Skinner, Pendleton, was one of the many people making her way to see the Heritage Haunt. It was at the Heritage Station Museum and included costumed characters and candy giveaways.

It was fun, Skinner said. She especially liked treating her granddaughter to the tradition because she was not able to experience it last year.

Granddaughter Sawyer Skinner, 4, was dressed up as Ariel, from Disney's "The Little Mermaid." Downtown Trick or Treat was fun, she said. She also said she liked the Echo Corn Maze & Pumpkin Patch, which she had visited earlier with her family.

It was scary, she said,

adding she and her group got lost in some places.

"We used teamwork and found our way out," Danny Kain, Pendleton, said.

Kain, Skinner's friend who was with the family at the maze in Echo, also was with them in Pendleton for trick-or-treating.

Sawyer said she liked dressing up in costume.

"My mom likes it too," she said of her outfit.

While young Sawyer and companions trekked Main Street, other people strove to make their enjoyment possible. Workers stood at the openings to many businesses, gifting children with candies. Long lines were common.

Joanna Engle, executive director of the Children's Museum of Eastern Oregon, was one such person. She handed out can-

dies from the doorstep of the museum, 400 S. Main St., and gave free museum

passes to adults.

"This is another fun opportunity for us to get

people into the museum and let people know about it," she said.

She also liked making people happy, she said. When she was a child, she said, she enjoyed dressing up, which is why Halloween was a fun holiday. It was a time for her and her siblings to have fun together with the rest of the family. She added, as someone who works around children, creating joy for youngsters, giving them the same experiences, she had when she was small, means a lot to her.

With Engle, Kim Chavez-Sierra, museum board chair, said she also was loving greeting kids and giving them a happy Halloween. Chavez-Sierra is married to East Oregonian reporter Antonio Sierra.

"Halloween is actually my favorite holiday, even as an adult," she said.

A kindergarten teacher, she added she the merriness on display at Downtown Trick or Treat was a good sight. The past year, with the pandemic continuing, has been tough on people, she said, and she was happy to see people finding joy in this activity, providing they were safe.



Becky Ramirez, left, hands out candy to trick-or-treaters Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021, along Main Street in Pendleton.

Ben Lonergan/Hermiston Herald

Assembly:

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Hermiston, Haight said, and questioned if they were being as effective as possible.

They had been, he said, bringing hope and life to members of their congregation every Sunday morning, and they had been working outside of their building, but church leaders believed like they could do more and wanted to be do more to "make Jesus and God famous" in their city.

He said leadership looked back at the past few decades and asked, "Are we being effective?"

Coming out of those contemplations, they decided they were holding onto a name, Hermiston Assembly, which does not "carry a whole lot of identity."

Hermiston Assembly is part of a denomination, called Assemblies of God. It was founded in 1914 and claims 13,000 churches in the U.S. with more than 3 million believers, according to the Assemblies of God website, ag.org. The website also claims there are 69 million believers worldwide.

Hermiston Assembly, though under a new name, still will be an Assemblies of God church, Haight said. He met with state leaders



A sign Oct. 27, 2021, in front of Hermiston Assembly, Hermiston, welcomes people to upcoming services. The church is changing its name on Nov. 7.

Erick Peterson/Hermiston Herald

about the continued association already.

The upcoming event

At 10:30 a.m., Nov. 7, the church is hosting "Name Change Sunday." It is planned to be an hour-long event with live music and a premier of a documentary.

The film, Haight said, is the work of a professional team of California filmmakers. It will tell the history of the church and its story in Hermiston. He said he wants to "provide the story of what has happened with our church over its last 90 years of existence."

The documentary, at the end, will reveal the church's new name.

The secrecy around the name, according to Haight, is because the need for context; before one knows the name, it is important to know the history leading up to it.

"We're not just changing the name to do something cool or flashy," he said.

Guests are expected to appear by video, congratulating Hermiston Assembly's big change. Following that, the church plans to hold an after party, 12-2 p.m. at the Maxwell Event Center, 145 N. First Place, Hermiston.

Disease:

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six years, but recent months have been atypical. This fall, she has heard of many cases.

She has not seen any cases in her own business, she said, but has heard of the disease spreading among fostered cats locally and in Walla Walla and Portland.

She recommended immunizations, and both Sargent and Frischman agreed, saying vaccinations are highly effective in pre-

venting panleuk. Cat owners can get their pets vaccinated at local vet clinics or they can do it themselves at home. Vaccinations are available at local farm stores.

Robin Barker of Fuzz Ball Rescue, agreed about the usefulness of vaccinations, and she said she sees vaccinations as the solution to the local outbreak. The problem, she said, is the outbreak is biggest amongst cats that are least likely to be vaccinated, such as strays.

She has seen outbreaks in other cities, and she said

she finds the situation sad.

Beau Putnam, Pet Rescue Humane Society of Eastern Oregon, also is concerned about the disease because it is difficult to treat. He said he has seen it among fostered kittens, and he wants people to vaccinate.

Veterinarian Frischman offered some hope about the current situation. She noted we are "coming out of kitten season," during which there are fewer cat births. We will, then, see fewer deaths and less spread, because there will be fewer new cats to spread the disease.

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