

Botna Valley Optimists

Haunted house big fund-raiser for area club

By JACQUE MYRE
Nonpareil Club Reporter

Trying to scare the "dickens out of you" is the ultimate goal of the Botna Valley Optimist Club, which is named after the valley the Nishnabotna River runs through.

The club's main fund-raising event this year's is its fourth annual haunted house in Macedonia.

"Donia Dungeon of Fear" is sure to delight even the fearless because it is being held in the basement of a real haunted theater, according to Sue McCready.

The haunted house will be open the weekends of Oct. 22-23 and Oct. 29-30 from 7 to 11 p.m. Saturdays and 5 to 8 p.m. Sundays.

The haunted house will be in the basement of the Grist Mill McCready Theater, located on Highway 92. Turn south at the county road M16 sign west of Carson.

The theater building, which was originally an implement store, is more than 100 years old, and belongs to the fourth generation of Tom McCready's family.

Rich and Sharon Henry, club members, were working on the haunted house's mazes when they heard footsteps coming from the front of the building. When they went to let whoever was there in, they discovered that no one was there.

When they returned to the basement, they could still hear the footsteps and someone moving about.

This has happened as long as Sue McCready can remember and she said the theater is definitely haunted.

"We're very excited about being in the theater," said McCready. "I just enjoy being here, until the lights go off."

The rooms also are filled with lighted and decorated pumpkins. Riverside School students carved for the club's contest, which is held in conjunction with the haunted house.

After exiting out the back door of the theater, a hay rack will be waiting to take everyone on a ride in the countryside.



Nonpareil/Buzz Orr

Melinda McCready, right, Casey McClain, center, and Doug Keene, on roof, show off their costumes that they will wear for Donia Dungeon of Fear haunted house in Macedonia.

OPTIMISTS / Please see Page 2B