

Spooks spiffing up for holiday scares

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Do you find yourself skulking around moonlit graveyards looking for something to make your hair stand on end? Has an evil force been urging you to feel unsafe, paranoid and just plain icky? Do you long for black cats to cross your path?

If so, you obviously just need a good scare. Fortunately, with the Hallowed Eve only eight creepy nights away, there is an abundance of spooky dwellings in the Council Bluffs area specially designed to suit your sinister needs.

But where do these horrors lie? When are they released into the night, you ask? Read on, if you dare, and welcome to the Daily Nonpareil's Guide to Fear.

• **The Haunted Jail** — Located in the historic Squirrel Cage Jail, 226 Pearl St. Ghosts of long-forgotten thieves return to haunt the jail after an absence of several years. The sponsors, the Pottawattamie County Historical Society and the Council Bluffs Jaycees, say the Haunted Jail's electric chair exhibit guarantees fear. Hours: 6 to 10 p.m. Friday through Oct. 31, closed Monday. Admission is \$1.50 for adults and \$1 for children under 14 years old.

• **The House of No Return** — Sponsored by the Grace Presbyterian Senior High Youth Fund. The House of No Return is, indeed, a house that no one returned to — located in the vacant structure at 1270 E. Pierce St. between Council Bluffs Savings Bank and Hansua Hardware. Be careful of the mutilation room, organizers say.

Hours: 7 p.m. to midnight weekends and 7 to 11 p.m. weeknights, Saturday through Oct. 31. Admission is \$3 for "monsters" and \$2 donation for "goblins" age 12 and younger.

• **Eagles Aerie 104 Haunted House** — This is the fifth year for the Eagles' haunted house, located at the Eagles' Club, 16th and F streets. With a chainsaw room, laboratory and all-black maze with only two exits, you know you are in trouble. Hours: 6 to 9 p.m. daily, Friday through Oct. 30. Admission is \$1 for adults and 75 cents for children under 12 years old.

• **Heritage Trails Haunted Hayrack Ride** — The innocent setting of the Darrel and Georgia Joy farm near Pacific Junction is the site for this seemingly relaxing adventure that takes you through the haunted hills of southwest Iowa, followed by a bonfire to scare your chilliness away. The farm is located about 7½ miles northwest of Glenwood on Mills County L31. Directions: Take the Bellevue exit off Interstate 29 east to County L31, which is between U.S. 370 and U.S. 275. Go south on L31 about five miles; the Joy farm is just past a rock quarry. Hours: 6 p.m. to midnight through Oct. 31. Admission is \$3 for adults.

• **The Spook Station** — The Carter Lake Fire Station at Ninth and Locust streets will be transformed into four fire-truck bays so full of terror that Fire Chief Carl Wilson had to warn, "Come as you dare." He would give no hints of what horrors to expect. Hours: 7 to 10 p.m. tonight through Oct. 31. Admission is \$1 donation.



"Prisoner" Dustan Kern, son of Dale and Teena Kern of Route 4, and axe-man Marty Doner, son of Mark and Marilee Doner of 303 W. Valleyview Drive perfect their leg-severing techniques in preparation for the opening of the Halloween "House of No Return" at 1270 E. Pierce St. Thursday night. — Nonpareil photo by Steve Glowacki.