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Published September 30, 2007  
 [ From Ingham County Community News ]

## Shawhaven Farm expands 'Haunted Barn'

By CHRISTIE BLECK  
 Lansing Community Newspapers

MASON — It's not "The Blair Witch Project" with unseen spooks in the woods, but Shawhaven Farm might give you similar chills.

Shawhaven Farm, located at 1826 Rolfe Rd., has enlarged its "Haunted Barn" for the Halloween season. Instead of just horses and hay, the barn now includes a coffin room, voodoo barbecue set, giant spiders and a sinister laboratory complete with flasks and flickering bulbs.

Nate Shaw, the son of Shawhaven owners Doug and Tami Shaw, was the mastermind behind the Haunted Barn.

Advertisement "I always enjoyed scaring everybody," Nate explained.

Tami said Shawhaven Farm, on which corn, sorghum and hay are the cash crops, is getting more into "agritainment." Now it has the Haunted Barn, corn and sorghum mazes and "Wagons of Fear."

Tami acknowledged the 2006 season was slow, although that might change this time around.

"We doubled the size this year," she said, of the Haunted Barn.

Many farms have corn mazes, but Shawhaven Farm also has a sorghum maze, a large, botanical walking puzzle made from tall grasses and surrounded by sunflowers. Tami said the mazes are free form and geometric in shape.

However, in October, the sorghum maze will become a "Dead Maze," Tami said, with fright-inducing items such as werewolves, skeletons and zombies.

If a visitor should get lost and really become frightened, she said someone will be on a perch to guide them out.

Taking visitors on wagon rides will be the Shaws' Percheron draft horses, which Doug said participated in Mason's Fourth of July and lighted parades. Rides will take folks past the cornfields and into the woods.

"Haunt dates" in October are Oct. 5 to 6, 12 to 13, 19 to 20 and 26 to 27, weather permitting. Admission is \$7 for the Haunted Barn, \$5 for the corn maze and \$8 for the Dead Maze. There is a \$2 discount for any two or three events; a four-event package is \$25.

Wagons of Fear rides are \$10, while admission to the Haunted Barn is \$7.

The Shaws have decided to donate 15 percent of the Oct. 13 to 14 proceeds and \$10 percent of the Oct. 21 to 22 proceeds to Camp Casey. The camp was started in memory of Casey Foote, who died of bone and brain cancer in 2004, just shy of her 13th birthday.

The Shaws, who knew Casey, also have invited Camp Casey families to visit the farm Oct. 13 free of charge.

The money raised at this event will go toward providing more "horsey" fun and activities to other children facing cancer, said Lauren Maiman, director of public affairs for Camp Casey.

"We couldn't be more grateful for their big hearts," Maiman said.

The camp has an office in Lansing but is a mobile program that provides horseback riding retreats to kids with cancer and their families.

Regular maze hours in September and October are 6 to 10 p.m. Fridays, 1 to 10 p.m. Saturdays and 1 to 6 p.m. Sundays. Admission is \$5 for one maze and \$7 for both mazes. A \$20 family package includes both mazes for two adults and two children. Horse-drawn wagon rides will be from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturdays for \$2.