



## ‘The Asylum’ Opens For Second Weekend

KLARK BYRD

KBYRD@SUNTELEGRAPH.COM

SIDNEY – Above a modern-day business in historic downtown Sidney rests the once busy hallways of Sidney Hotel. Those now-empty hallways usually remain quite silent. However, as the veil between the worlds of the living and the dead thins with the approach of Halloween, the spooky activity in that old building begins to kick up.

At least, that’s what the Sidney Jaycees would have you believe. That’s because there are only two weekends left to experience one of the most frightening haunted houses around, according to Jaycee membership vice president Audrey Matthes.

“We had a small turnout for the first weekend,” Matthes said. “We’ve heard lots of screams, and we’ve seen people run out onto the sidewalk after going through.”

Perhaps that’s due to the fright factor offered by a hospital setting, or even worse, an asylum. That’s the theme for the entire haunted hotel experience this year, which is different than previous years when each room was themed.

“All the setups are new,” Matthes said. “We have a cafeteria, a burn unit, the morgue and a resident crazy doctor.”

It’s not too late to get scared because Sidney’s Asylum above Miller Office Products will be open for new patients on Oct. 23, 24, 30 and 31 from 7 p.m. to midnight. For the tykes who might be too scared to visit, there is a no-scare trick-or-treat on Halloween day scheduled from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The haunted hotel has been a mainstay attraction for Halloween scenes by the Jaycees for years. This year’s theme was based on the 1999 remake of “House on Haunted Hill,” a film that is set in an abandoned asylum where numerous murders were committed by the doctor.

The project is one of the largest fundraising events for the non-profit organization. Funds raised by the spooky show are used to fund other projects such as the no-cost Winterfest celebration and Toys For Tots program, Matthes said.



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SIDNEY JAYCEES, and ‘The Asylum’ project co-chairs, Audrey Matthes, left, and Misty Brown show off a gruesome scene sure to frighten those brave enough to enter the hallowed halls of the Sidney Hotel for the next two weekends. The haunted hotel has always been a large fundraiser for the non-profit group.