



Local teen creates terror town

By Ashley Sanders -The News staff writer

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While most people shudder at the things that go "bump" in the night, Port Acres teen Jake Griffin relishes in the terror - so much so the 17-year-old Kelly High School student has transformed his parents' home into a haunting affair.

"This is my fifth year to put on the haunted house," Griffin said. "I started preparing in August - selecting my scenes and deciding which direction I wanted this year's theme to go."

Griffin said Rita may have slowed his progress, but she will not deter the celebration of his favorite holiday.

"This year's theme is Arachnophobia," he said. "I am using a lot of nylon spider webs and black lights."

Other horrifying rooms in Jake's Haunted House include Frankenstein's lab - complete with test tubes, spooky music and science experiments gone awry, a frightful grave yard and a horrifying morgue.

"Halloween has always been my favorite holiday," Griffin explains of his love for bringing scares to local youth. "I love going to the store every year and getting new ideas. I try to move with the holiday trends."

Becoming a well-known attraction throughout the past five years, Griffin said he probably entertains around 150 critters and spooks on Halloween night.

"I like to say this is the best place in the Golden Triangle to get some treats and scares," Griffin said. "We do give out candy too."

When asked what inspired him at the young age of 11 to begin his own haunted house, Griffin simply responded: two inspiring women.

"My neighbor has truly inspired me to do this haunted house," he said. "She makes all of her decorations by hand. Unfortunately, her mother recently passed away, and I don't think she will be participating this year."

Griffin's other inspiration - his mother.

"My mom exposed me to scary movies at a young age," Griffin said. "I love scary movies. And, I appreciate my family all helping out and sharing my love of Halloween. I think it is important for parent to have good times with their kids."

For those interested in frightful thrills this Halloween night, Jake's Haunted House is located on in Port Acres. For further information on Griffin or his inspiration for creating scares, visit: hauntedacresmanor.us.



Photo Illustration by Mike Tobias/The News
Despite a few speed bumps thrown in by Hurricane Rita, 17-year-old Jake Griffin, right, and family will serve up some friendly, neighborhood scares at Jake's Haunted House in Port Acres.