

# ENTER — IF YOU DARE

'We're the legend of Halloween.'

Ripley couple enter a whole new dimension when it comes to Halloween

**H**uge skeletons at the front gate. Giant spiders crawling over the front porch. Tombstones. A huge skull at the front door. Eerie blue lights and lots of fog.

Enter the domain of the 100-year-old Barbee Mansion at 162 S. Main St. in Ripley — *if you dare*. Quickly walk past the ghostly creatures. Don't get caught in the spider webs. Refuse to see if it's your name on one of the tombstones.

Your treat — unless you plan a few tricks yourself — is a greeting from Chad and Rachael Lowry, the human denizens of the historic home.

Most people celebrate Halloween with some decorations, candy or maybe a small party. The Lowrys, however, have taken Halloween to a new level.

"We've always done big Halloween displays," Chad said, "but it took on a whole new persona last year."

Built in 1908, the Barbee Mansion provides the perfect setting for Halloween. The Lowrys were living in Drummonds when they saw the mansion for sale on the Zillow website. They bought it the first time they walked through the home. As a part of the purchase, they kept the Barbee Mansion Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/barbeemansion](http://www.facebook.com/barbeemansion).

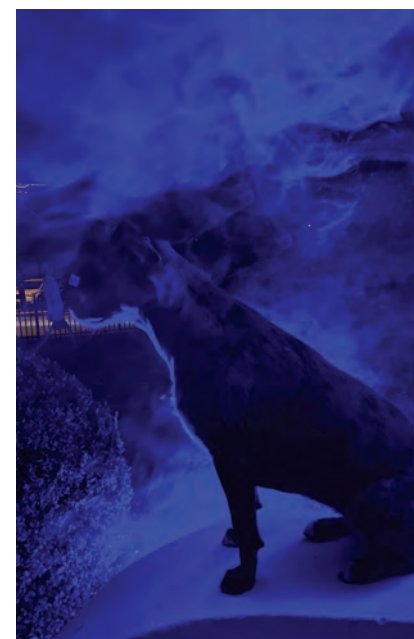
Each year, starting on the first of October, Chad

and Rachael decorate the entire house, inside and out. Their two grown sons no longer participate, but this year they have enlisted the help of their two nephews, Noah and Nicholas Lowry, who live nearby in Burlington, Tenn.

Though it isn't easy finding the large decorations for sale, Chad adds to his Halloween display each year. He purchased a giant spider and a giant pumpkin head this year on Home Depot's website at 2 a.m. one morning.

"You can hardly get them," he said. "They are gone within minutes. I just happened to check and sure enough found them; Home Depot has the absolute best Halloween decorations every year."

His wife puts a foot down on having coffins in the yard, Chad said, "but you never know."



Jill, the family dog, watches over the festivities on Halloween. She has a tombstone with her name on it.



Undeterred by the eerie setting, trick-or-treaters, left, flock to the Lowry home on Halloween. A skull and other ghostly effects sit on the table in the front hallway — visible by all who come to the door.



Blue lights and fog machines add to the effect outside. After reading that blue lights make everything look eerie, Chad said he spent just \$10 on two blue lightbulbs, one of the best aspects of the display.

Chad also calls himself “a big Costco guy.” That’s where he buys the full-size candy bars to give away to trick-or-treaters.

Last year, 500 children showed up. Because the Lowry house is located right off the Ripley Court Square, many families came from Ripley’s Trunk or Treat event. People who drive can park across the street on the Methodist Church parking lot, Chad said. Police will be on hand to direct traffic.

This year, Chad and Rachael will open their doors at 5:30 p.m. on the night Ripley celebrates Halloween. They stop handing candy out when people stop coming to their door.

Mysteriously, all of the decorations will be gone and stored under the house by noon the next day.

“We are the legend of Halloween,” Chad said. “We have always loved Halloween. We like interacting with the kids. It’s a great time.” ■



**Clockwise from left, a woman and her dog stroll across the lawn at 162 S. Main St. in Ripley; the Barbee Mansion, in night and daylight settings, was ready for Halloween last year; house residents enjoy a little music; a bony Darth Vader waves to passersby.**

More from Ripley Power and Light, pages 20-21



Ava Beavers, Colton Ozment's cousin, carries the Christian flag at a Flying H event. Ava, the daughter of Alisha and Joey Beavers, participates in the memorial rodeo every year. Her dad is a Ripley Power and Light lineman.

## Son's Death a Catalyst for Helping Others

What started out as a way to help cover funeral costs for Scott and Melissa's 19-year-old son, Colton, has become annual fundraisers to help other children.

"We put on horse shows, rodeos and point shows every other Friday night," said Scott, a lineman at Ripley Power and Light.

Scott and Melissa were overwhelmed by the support they received from friends and family members after Colton died in 2016. They offered to put on a rodeo in Colton's memory to help defray funeral costs.

A rodeo was a great way to remember Colton, who was an avid bullrider.

"I didn't know what I was going to do after we lost Colton," Scott said. "Then Melissa and I started talking. My buddies helped us out so much. We decided to have a memorial rodeo each June to help other children."

Events include bullriding and barrel racing. Each year, funds raised at the rodeo go to three children who need help financially to fulfill their dreams and compete in the international rodeo.

The memorial rodeo is in the Flying H Arena in Halls,

which was built by Scott and his buddies, after another arena was torn down. The arena also hosts a Hope Fund horse show,



which benefits children being treated at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The Point Show held every other Friday night allows young riders to accumulate points for how well they do. At the end of the year, points are tallied and the riders receive prizes. "If we can touch a kid and keep him or her off the street and on a horse, we feel like we've done something," Scott said.

The Ozments have two other children, Mollie, 17, and Tucker, 14. Everyone participates in the horse events, said Scott, who said he was still in diapers when he first starting riding on his family's farm.

For Scott and Melissa it's all about family and friends. People who can help others.

"Everyone loved Colton," Scott said. "He was a joker. He loved to hunt, he loved riding horses and he loved bull riding. He would love what we are doing, too." ■



At top, Colton rides his horse, Hondo. Above, each memorial rodeo starts with prayer. Hondo participates, wearing Colton's chaps.

For more information about events at the Flying H Arena, go to its Facebook page: Flying H Arena.

## Help Us Keep the Street Lights On

Ripley Power and Light needs your help in keeping our streets safe by reporting any street lights that are flickering or off.

Ripley Power and Light installs and maintains the street lights for Gates, Halls, Henning and Ripley. Though we patrol the major streets at night, we may not know when some lights need repair or new bulbs.

For example, many of our outdoor lights will show they are beginning to fail by blinking on and off.

### How street lights work

Street lights have controls that are sensitive to sunlight. A lack of sunlight causes a circuit within the street light to turn the light on at night or in dark weather.

### We need your help

Let us know when you see:

- A street light off at night.
- A street light burning during the day when the weather is not cloudy or overcast.
- A street light flickering on and off.

It is important to give the pole number and street name for the light and any other details about the location. We will repair the light as quickly as possible.

You can call us or fill out the online form under 'Energy Explained' on our website: [www.ripleypower.com](http://www.ripleypower.com).



## A Halloween Safety Check

### Costume Safety

- All costumes, wigs and accessories should be fire-resistant.
- If children are out after dark, fasten reflective tape to their costumes and bags, or give them glow sticks.
- Halloween makeup should be nontoxic; test it in a small area first; remove it before children go to bed to prevent skin irritation.

### On the Prowl

Children are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car and killed on Halloween than on any other day of the year. Lack of visibility because of low lighting at night also plays a factor in these incidents.

- A responsible adult should accompany young children.
- If your older children are going alone, plan and review a route acceptable to you.
- Agree on a specific time children should return home.
- Teach your children never to enter a stranger's home or car.
- Instruct children to travel only in familiar, well-lit areas and stick with their friends.
- Tell your children not to eat any treats until they return home.
- Children and adults are reminded to put electronic devices down, keep heads up and walk, don't run.

## IT'S HALLOWEEN ALL OCTOBER ON RIPLEY COURT SQUARE

Businesses, organizations and individuals are invited to participate in Squarecrows, an annual project sponsored by the Ripley Downtown Development Corporation.

Information about Squarecrows, dates, squarecrow PVC frames, rules and the entry form are on the organization's Facebook page: [facebook.com/developripley38063](https://facebook.com/developripley38063).

The Squarecrows go up on Thursday, Oct. 1, and must be taken down on Nov. 1.

If you have any questions, call Lee Johnston at 731-635-0008.



Use your imagination to build a squarecrow.



## RIPLEY POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

[www.ripleypower.com](http://www.ripleypower.com)

### Ripley Office

731-635-2323  
150 S. Main St. • Ripley

### Halls Office

731-836-7595  
409 S. Church St. • Halls

### Office Hours

We are open 47 hours each week to serve you better!

7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Monday-Thursday  
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday

### You can pay your bill ...

- at [www.ripleypower.com](http://www.ripleypower.com)
  - through bank draft
- at our Ripley & Halls offices
- in the office night deposit boxes
- at the kiosks at our offices

*If you have not been receiving your bills, call our office immediately so we can verify your mailing address.*

### Ripley Power and Light offices will be closed ...

Monday, Oct. 11,  
for Columbus Day

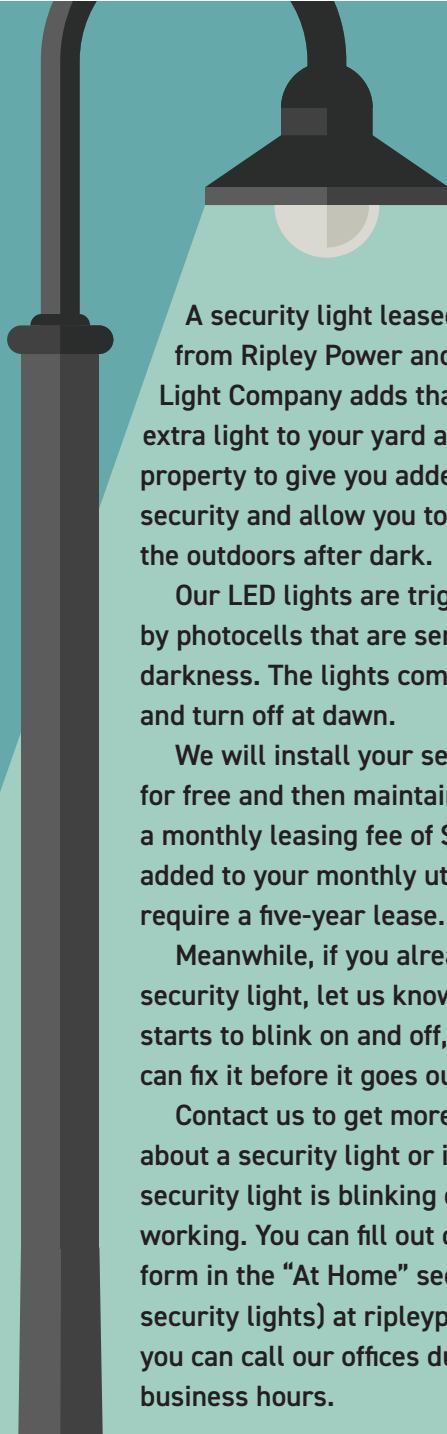
Thursday and  
Friday,  
Nov. 25-26, for  
Thanksgiving



Remember to change your smoke alarm batteries when you "fall back" an hour on Sunday, Nov. 7, as Daylight Saving Time ends.

TN-200

## Light up your night with a Ripley Power backyard light



A security light leased from Ripley Power and Light Company adds that extra light to your yard and property to give you added security and allow you to enjoy the outdoors after dark.

Our LED lights are triggered by photocells that are sensitive to darkness. The lights come on at dusk and turn off at dawn.

We will install your security light for free and then maintain the light for a monthly leasing fee of \$13.32 that is added to your monthly utility bill. We require a five-year lease.

Meanwhile, if you already own a security light, let us know if the light starts to blink on and off, so that we can fix it before it goes out.

Contact us to get more information about a security light or if your security light is blinking or no longer working. You can fill out our online form in the "At Home" section (click on security lights) at [ripleypower.com](http://ripleypower.com) or you can call our offices during normal business hours.