



DIANNE HUMBLE/Idaho Press-Tribune

Jessica Foreman (left) and Chris Coggburn of Nampa, Idaho, walk through a corn maze in Meridian, Idaho.

the difficulty of finding the exit that makes these mazes different, however. More and more of them are agricultural works of art.

"Part of making it entertaining is having a cool-looking design," said Brett Herbst, whose Utah-based company, The MAiZE, has designed more

John Kerry and George Bush. In Hilliard, near Jacksonville, Fla., Eddie and Betty Jean Conner have an eight acre replica of the Super Bowl XXXIX logo, accompanied by a smaller football maze and other farm- and corn-related attractions.

The lobster motif was chosen for

and a fun one, as my 11-year-old son, who led our family on a 40-minute odyssey through the lobster maze last month, can attest. But while an aerial photo confirms that the field looks like a giant green lobster, you can't tell

Please see **Mazes, G3**

# Scared witless' big park theme

## Haunted theme parks extend season, revenue

By John Seewer  
Associated Press

**ANDUSKY:** John Taylor is a ringmaster of sorts, directing an assortment of ghouls andideshow freaks in the shadows of Cedar Point amusement park's roller coasters.

It's opening night at the park's annual Halloweekends event, and the monsters are milling about in search of jagged teeth and wrinkly ears. Some are getting too restless, interrupting Taylor as he dabs black paint on the face of Mike Vatan, aka "Lord of the Monsters."

"The monsters haven't learned monster etiquette yet," Taylor says with a sigh and a chuckle.

Soon the "Screamsters" will stake out their places in the haunted houses and fog-filled paths throughout Cedar Point, waiting to frighten anyone who comes along.

"To see them scream makes it all worth it. There's

no better raw emotion than fear," said Vatan, an imposing 6-foot-5 figure with skulls hanging from his belt and horns jutting from the top of his head.

Theme parks nationwide are transforming themselves into dark and spooky Halloween attractions at a time of year that once was a slow period but now is one of the busiest.

### Halloween fright

"October is as big for us as July and August," said Susan Tierney, a spokeswoman for Knott's Berry Farm, which claims to have started the amusement park craze for Halloween fright.

The park near Los Angeles hired an additional 1,000 people for October, including 100 roaming monsters. Some are known as sliders because they run and slide at unsus-

Please see **Monsters, G3**

## IN THE WILD



BOB DOWNING/Akron Beacon Journal

The lake at Burr Oak State Park near Athens in southeastern Ohio.

# Park at its colorful best in fall, spring

## Burr Oak is in southeast Ohio's big forests, meaning changing foliage, wildflowers

By Bob Downing  
Beacon Journal staff writer

**GLOUSTER:** Burr Oak State Park in southeast Ohio is a little off the beaten path.

The 3,221-acre park sits in the hill country of the Sunday Creek Valley in Morgan County. It is north of Athens and south-

west of McConnellsville.

The park is popular with hikers and is at the edge of a scenic highway called "Rim of the World."

One of the best times to see the park is in the morning - when fog hangs over the ravines and hollows and the rolling, wooded ridges stretch off into the distance.

The park lies at the center of southeast Ohio's unbroken forests that extend for miles, with few manmade features. The park is at its colorful best with fall foliage

and spring wildflowers.

The cross-Ohio Buckeye Trail winds through the park and the park features its own 23-mile Backpack Trail. The two trails overlap but are separate in some places.

The yellow-blazed Backpack Trail circles the lakeshore. It is a 23-mile hike that will take two to three days to circle the lake. You can hop on the trail at various locations around the park. Backpacker

Please see **Wild**