



STAFF PHOTO BY TIM BARBER

Douglas Richardson, 9, shops Tuesday for a Halloween mask with his mother, Dolli Richardson, and grandmother Linda Wells at Spirit Halloween Superstore on state Highway 153. The Richardsons plan to take Douglas trick-or-treating Sunday, Oct. 31.

Spooky Sunday

Governments weigh moving trick-or-treating to Saturday

BY MICHAEL STONE
STAFF WRITER

Allhallows eve is a day for pulling pranks, dressing like creatures from the underworld and lurking around after sunset.

Sunday, on the other hand, is a day on which many people wake up early, dress in formal attire and travel to church. Also, don't forget about work and school weeks starting bright and early the next morning.

This year, Halloween and Sunday fall on the same day. Conflict

much? Some area governments think so.

The city councils of three towns in Marion County, Tenn. — Jasper, Kimball and South Pittsburg — voted to celebrate Halloween on Saturday instead.

"I was approached by a minister wanting to move the observance of Halloween to Saturday night," South Pittsburg Mayor Mike Killian previously told the Chattanooga Times Free Press. "My wife informed me that has been done in the past, but I don't really remember it. I certainly

favor that, though."

Whitwell will be following suit with its neighboring Marion County cities, said Ronnie Davis, the town's police chief.

Officials in Chattanooga and all other Hamilton County cities say they also thought about switching things around, but in the end decided to take a more hands-off approach to the celebration.

"And we're going to keep Thanksgiving and Christmas on the same day, too," joked Pam Ladd, vice chairwoman of the Chattanooga City Council. "We're

not taking a stand. We just want whichever day they choose to be a safe time for everyone. Let's be respectful of each other's property and have fun."

The decision is a shift from 2004, the last year Halloween fell on a Sunday. At that time, Chattanooga council members approved a resolution that urged Halloween partakers to move their observances to Saturday.

Despite the lack of any formal announcements, at least some parents in Hamilton County are

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expected to take their costume-clad children around for tasty treats on Saturday.

"I think it's going to be a mixture because I've heard a lot of people talk about both days," said Michael Hawkins, an employee of Spirit Hallow-

een Superstore on Highway 153 in Hixson. "But I think the majority of it is going to be on Saturday."

Not for Bradley County, said Dan Howell, assistant to County Mayor D. Gary Davis. Many of the county's churches, including Howell's, will be hosting "trunk-or-treat" events Sunday, and the 23rd annual Halloween Block Party in Downtown Cleveland is scheduled Oct.

31, he said.

The event, Howell said, is expected to attract about 15,000 people.

"It's on the 31st and it's just kind of a standing tradition," he said. "There will be all kinds of folks here."

For Catoosa, Walker and Whitfield counties in North Georgia, there haven't been any formal announcements about switching Halloween to Saturday, officials said, but

most all festivities are scheduled for Saturday and most trick-or-treaters are going to be out that day.

"When this has happened before, the little trick-or-treaters came around on Saturday night," said Walker County Commissioner Bebe Heiskell. "So I think it's going to take place that way."

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