



The Baker County Press

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Geiser Grand to offer real ranch experiences to guests

• HOTEL'S REAL ADVENTURES EXPANDS

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
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The Geiser Grand Hotel on Main Street has just finished expanding its previous "Real Adventures" packages, which have been offered to guests for quite some time.

Now, travelers to Baker City have a chance to visit local area ranches and experience firsthand what Baker County ag life is all about.

Said Geiser Grand owner, Barbara Sidway, "We've been offering this Real Adventures program since the Hotel re-opened in 1998. We developed it to enable our guests to access the rich and varied experiences that are available here in the Baker Val-

ley. It's called concierge service in big city hotels. We do it, at no charge, for our guests because we deeply believe in the quality of what we offer here, and know that when we share it, our guests are delighted."

The new Grand Ranch Experience shares ranching culture and heritage. Guests will get to know what life's like on a real ranch, and how agriculture really works while they

meet local ranchers and farmers.

Available activities vary with the seasons, with all locations less than an hour's drive from Baker City.

Proceeds of \$39 per person, for a two or three-hour visit, go to the cowboys, farmers and ranchers; no tipping needed.

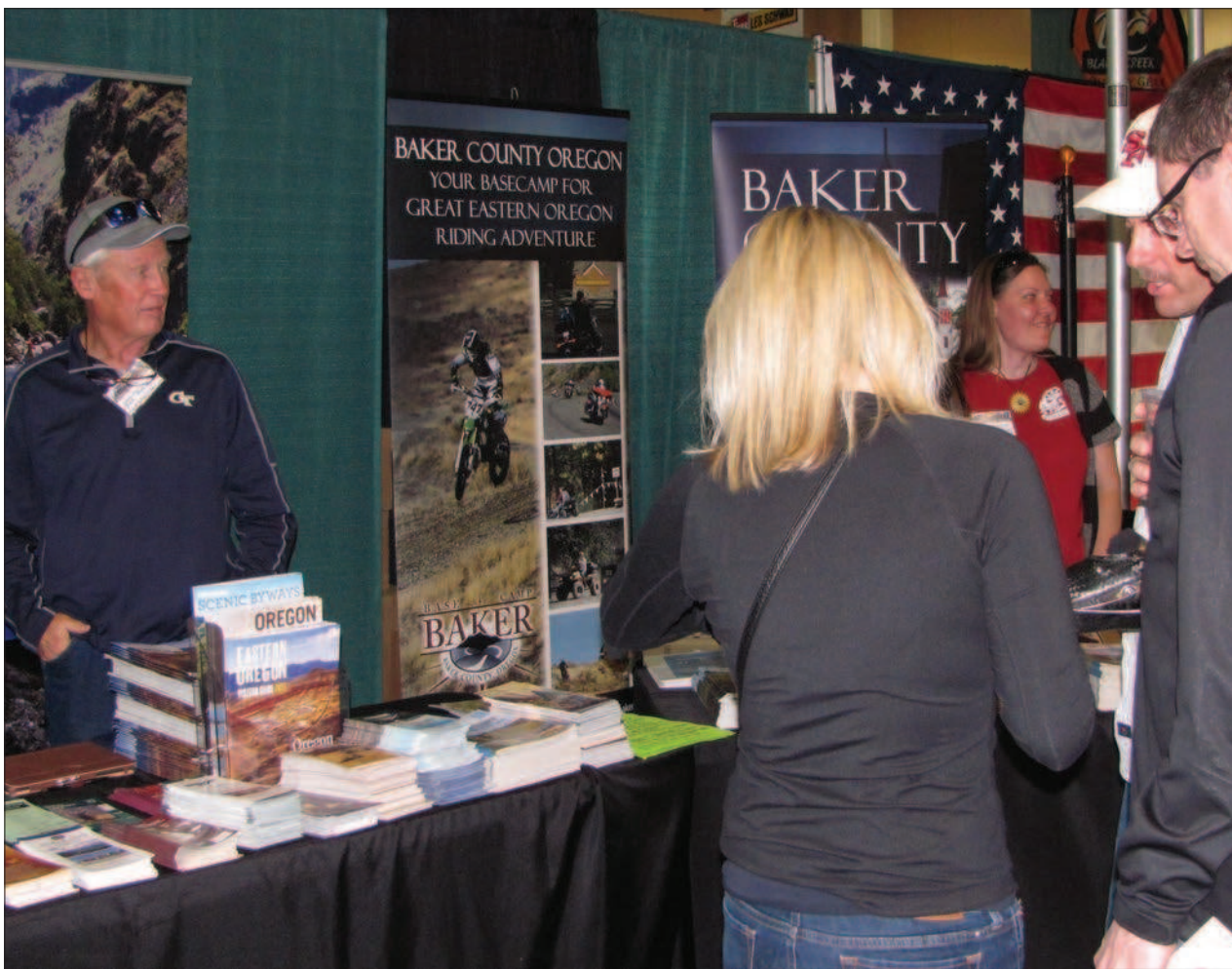
SEE REAL ADVENTURES PAGE 3



Submitted Photo

The Geiser Grand on Main Street.

Baker County goes to Idaho Sportsman Show



Eileen Driver / The Baker County Press

Dan Mitchell and Barbara Jo Stacy behind counter at the sportsmans show in Boise.

BY EILEEN DRIVER
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Nonprofit and for profit-groups from all over Baker County showed up to encourage visitors at the Idaho Sportsman Show to plan their vacations in Eastern Oregon.

The Sportsman Show was held March 3-6 at Expo Idaho located at 5610 N Glenwood St, Garden City, Idaho and hosts the Idaho State Elk Calling Contest, a kids archery shoot and seminars on fishing, hunting, and boating.

Also on display are boats, RVs, ATVs as well as the latest hunting, fishing, and camping equipment.

With thousands of people walking through the expo during the four days of it being open, the Baker County Booth, sponsored by the Baker County Tourism Commission, was able to reach many people who were not aware of all that Baker County has to offer.

On hand Friday night was Dan Mitchell of Richland who is an avid fisherman, Ari Sharp of Newbridge and Steve Sharp, a rancher from Richland, Barbara Jo Stacy, caretaker and park manager of Hewitt Holcomb Park, Allan Driver, President of the Huntington Lion's Club, and Betty Tamburello, secretary Huntington Chamber of Commerce.

Crowds of people stopped by the Baker County booth

to hear about the 14th Annual Panfish Tournament in Richland held June 4th during Oregon's free fishing weekend.

Sharp explained to all that the proceeds from the tournament go toward "Creating Memories"—a group that enables handicapped children to enjoy the great outdoors by taking them fishing and camping. They can be reached at www.creatingmemories.com.

Also a big draw at the booth was the Huntington Lion's Club Annual Catfish Derby held Memorial Weekend, May 27-30 with a grand prize of \$500 for the biggest catfish of the weekend and the Catfish Cookoff on Saturday, May 28th where people can sample different ways of cooking and eating the fish they catch.

More information on these events can be found at www.visithuntingtonor.org.

Also available in the booth were brochures, maps and information on events, trails, fishing, hunting and camping in all areas of Baker County. From the Sumpter Dredge to the Wallowa-Whitman national forest, from the Geiser Grand Hotel to the Hells Canyon Adventure Boat Tours, the Baker County area was talked about to all who would listen.

According to Timothy Bishop of Baker County Tourism Commission, "The more people we talk to about the wonders of Baker County the more who will come and experience it for themselves."

State dismisses 911 Call Center ethics complaint

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
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On February 26, 2016, the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) ruled that they "did not find cause to proceed with an investigation" regarding an ethics complaint filed against former interim Baker County 911 Dispatch Center Director Jerry Boyd.

Boyd, the former call center director, was brought back in an advisory capacity last spring, then served in an interim director position during the search for a permanent director, which occurred during the winter.

Boyd also serves as Reserve Commander for the Baker City Police Department.

The claim was filed December 17 by Dispatch Center employee, Jessica Lynch. A preliminary review completed on January 14 recommended dismissal of the complaint at that time—a recommendation that was made official last Friday.

Lynch contended that Boyd had violated use of office and nepotism provisions outlined under Oregon Ethics Law after his daughter, Ruthie Boyd, was promoted to a full-time Dispatcher position.

SEE ETHICS COMPLAINT PAGE 5

Interim Budget Board meets

BY GINA K. SWARTZ
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On March 2 a gathering together of the newly appointed budget committee members, new City Councilors and seasoned veterans from the budget board committee, Councilors and staff came together in a meeting giving an overview of what to expect in upcoming budget meetings.

Mayor Mosier called the meeting to order welcoming those who were in attendance and advising that she had asked City Manager Mike Kee to provide everyone with a copy of the Councils Goals that they had come up with because as Mosier stated, "I would like everyone to keep these in mind as we review our budget. I believe our budget should reflect our goals. Our goals reflect our values. So this is the time to keep in mind what it is we are trying to pay for."

SEE BUDGET BOARD PAGE 12

Friday Mostly cloudy with rain showers. Chance of precipitation is 60%. Highs in the low 50s. Lows in the mid 30s.

Saturday Mostly cloudy with a chance for rain showers. Chance of precipitation is 40%. Highs in the low 50s. Lows in the mid 30s.

Sunday Mostly cloudy with a chance for rain showers. Chance of precipitation is 20%. Highs near 50. Lows near the freezing mark.

Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.



Official weather provider for The Baker County Press.

Our forecast made possible by this generous sponsor:



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