

# Business / Agriculture

## Masquerade Ball quickly becoming local tourism success

BY KERRY McQUISTEN  
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Last Saturday the Wicked Ways Masquerade Ball saw its third year—along with a third year of growth.

A joint venture between this newspaper and the historic Geiser Grand Hotel, the event has begun bringing tourists into the area in impressive amounts.

Barbara Sidway, owner of the Geiser Grand, said the hotel was booked to capacity, primarily with guests for the Ball.

Guests from as far away as Australia reserved rooms, and said they plan on doing so again next year. Other guests had already done exactly that—reserving rooms for the last weekend in October in anticipation of the Ball's fourth year.

After the rooms at the venue were filled, other guests began reserving rooms at other hotels, some said that evening. Charlie Carpenter from



Kaitlyn McQuisten / The Baker County Press

Vivien McQuisten, 6, helped hide the faux diamonds for this year's scavenger hunt before hitting the dance floor.

Arkansas flew in for his second year at the Ball, choosing a rental house instead.

Local sponsor, Glacier 45, kindly provided their flavored vodkas for the event, which also included authentic absinthe—and sold out quickly.

Ron Colton provided carriage rides under the stars. Lucritia told fortunes for guest entertainment. Jason Drew from 100.3 The X out of Boise was the night's DJ. Shelly's Magic Mirror provided photography from a mirror that looked like something

straight out of "Snow White." All will return next year.

Vendors with a product or service they feel in keeping with the overall theme of the event are welcome to call 541.519.0572 in anticipation of next year.

## Bed bugs in Baker City?

BY TODD ARRIOLA  
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Several years have passed since there was an increase in officially reported incidents of bed bug infestation in Baker County.

Recently, though residents have mentioned hearing new stories about infestations in a couple local houses—although the new stories remain "officially" unconfirmed.

Bed bugs can create a major headache for property owners and members of the public, since it's difficult to get rid of them without professional treatment.

While there's no shortage of bed bugs, there's a positive in that they're not known to carry disease, according to Malheur County Environmental Health and Solid Waste Director Craig Geddes, who is contract Sanitarian for Baker County Health Department.

Bed bugs, Cimex lectularius, flat, parasitic insects, reddish-brown in color, and wingless, range in size from one millimeter, to seven millimeters, and can survive for several months without a meal, which they get solely from the blood of humans and animals during sleep, according to information provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

A normal and common misconception about bed bugs is that they're spread from location to location (by clothing and luggage, for example) due to less than sanitary conditions and hosts; however, states the CDC, "Bed bugs have been found in five-star hotels and resorts, and their presence is not determined by the cleanliness of the living conditions where they are found."

Common places where bed bug infestations can be found are near where people sleep, according to the CDC, such as apartments, shelters, rooming houses, hotels, cruise ships, buses, trains, and dorm rooms. During the day, they find

clever hiding spots, such as seams of mattresses, box springs, bed frames, headboards, dresser tables, inside cracks or crevices, behind wallpaper—basically anything around a bed.

Bed bugs, states the CDC, "have been shown to travel over 100 feet in a night, but tend to live within eight feet of where people sleep."

Geddes said, "There are bed bugs in the area (Baker County)," but, "They're more of a nuisance issue," not carrying disease, but rather, possibly causing less serious conditions, such as itching and loss of sleep.

However, the itching in some cases can lead to excessive scratching, increasing the chance for a secondary skin infection, or an allergic reaction

could result from being bitten several times, according to the CDC.

Bite marks resemble those of a mosquito or flea, but they may not show up for up to several days or more after the initial bite, because bed bugs inject an anesthetic and an anticoagulant when they bite.

The CDC recommends avoiding scratching the area, and applying antiseptic creams or lotions, along with taking an antihistamine.

Geddes, who's performed bed bug infestation inspections in places frequented by the public, such as motels and restaurants, said that the best course of action to battle an infestation is to seek professional treatment, and to skip do-it-yourself remedies found on the Internet.

"One site recommended

using rubbing (isopropyl) alcohol," a flammable chemical compound, "to clean all of the surfaces," which could lead predictably to a dangerous situation, Geddes said.

He gives business owners as much information as he can, in order to effectively prevent an infestation, and to seek professional treatment, if needed.

Signs of an infestation, states the CDC, include the bed bugs' exoskeletons after molting; bed bugs in the folds of mattresses and sheets; rusty-colored blood spots, due to their blood-filled fecal material that's excreted on the mattress or nearby furniture; and a sweet, musty odor.

SEE BUGS  
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### — WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, October 27, 2017 — Eastern Oregon

Prices trended generally steady in a limited test. Retail/Stable type hay remains the largest demanded hay. Demand for organic hay increased this week. Many hay producers have sold out for the year.

Eastern Oregon: No new sales this week. Last week:

Tons	Price Range	Wtd Avg
Alfalfa / Orchard Mix Small Square Premium	27 175.00-185.00	182.41

Mixed Grass Small Square Utility	300 45.00-45.00	45.00
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USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

### — CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, October 25, 2017  
Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 1,690

#### Steer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 185.00-221.00	Top 225.00
400-500#	Bulk 165.00-195.00	Top 203.50
500-600#	Bulk 135.00-163.00	Top 167.00

#### Heifer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 140.00-169.00	Top 173.00
400-500#	Bulk 131.00-160.00	Top 164.00
500-600#	Bulk 125.00-143.00	Top 144.50

#### Yearling Steers

600-700#	Bulk 134.00-158.00	Top 161.00
700-800#	Bulk 125.00-150.00	Top 152.00
800-900#	Bulk 130.00-148.00	Top 150.00
900-1,000#	Bulk 110.00-118.00	Top 121.00

#### Yearling Heifers

600-700#	Bulk 130.00-145.00	Top 148.00
700-800#	Bulk 125.00-138.00	Top 141.00
800-900#	Bulk 115.00-134.00	Top 140.00
900-1,000#	Bulk 108.00-118.00	Top 126.00

Thin Shelly Cows	42.00-55.00
Butcher Cows	56.00-66.00
Butcher Bulls	65.00-76.00
Stock Cows	N/A
Younger Hfrts.	N/A
Stock Cows Young	N/A
<b>ProducersLivestock.com</b>	
<b>541-473-3136</b>	

### — LOG PRICE REPORT —

Prices are based on the majority of saw mills in Northeastern Oregon and Central Idaho. The prices listed below are a composite prices of various sawmills willing to visit with me about this topic.

Ponderosa Pine—small diameter class 8-11 inches diameter class \$250 per mbf. Only one sawmill was willing to buy small diameter pine at this time.

Ponderosa Pine—medium diameter class 12-17 inches diameter class \$300 to \$350 per mbf

Ponderosa Pine-large diameter class 18 plus inches diameter class \$380 to \$410 per mbf

The Pine prices are still approximately \$40 per mbf below average lumber/log market due to 2017 fire salvage

Doug Fir & Western Larch—\$380 to \$420 per mbf. Normal prices typically ranged between \$425 to \$475 per mbf.

White Fir—\$300 per mbf. Normal prices typically ranged between \$340 to \$360 per mbf.

Engelmann Spruce—\$350 at one Idaho sawmill, other sawmills including with White fir prices.

In general, the log prices still impacted from 2015 fire season and fire salvage that resulted. Sawmills are starting to get log yard inventory in line with sawmill production needs. With a new Administration as of 1/20/2017, a more normal economic environment should result and hopefully a more healthy housing situation will result in a better climate for Northeast Oregon Sawmill and private forest landowners.

Courtesy of Arvid Andersen,  
Andersen Forestry Consulting

### — PRECIOUS METALS REPORT —

#### Price per ounce, USD

**Gold:** \$1,270.40

**Silver:** \$16.69

**Platinum:** \$918.15

**Palladium:** \$982.24

Bloomberg.com

### — AG COMMODITIES —

**Corn:** \$346.25/bu/USD

**Wheat:** \$417.50/bu/USD

**Soybeans:** \$985.25/bu/USD

**Oats:** \$264.50 bu/USD

**Rough Rice:** \$11.57/cwt/USD

**Canola:** \$518.70 CAD/mwt

**Live Cattle:** \$125.50/lb./USD

**Feeder Cattle:** \$159.70/lb./USD

**Lean Hogs:** \$67.93s/lb./USD

Bloomberg.com

Saint Alphonsus Foundation—Baker City Invites you to . . .

## Festival of Trees 2017

### Preview Among The Trees

Thursday, November 30, 2017

6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$15 per person

Hors d'oeuvres

No-host Bar

Silent Auction

### Gala

Friday, December 1, 2017

5:30 p.m.—11:00 p.m.

Cocktails 5:30 p.m. ~ Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$55 per person

Buffet Sit Down Dinner

No-host Bar

Silent & Live Auction

Following the auction, dance to the live music of "Colorblind"

Events are held at the Baker County Event Center  
2600 East Street  
Baker City, Oregon

☞ Tickets Available at Betty's Books,  
The Sycamore Tree and  
Saint Alphonsus Medical Center—Baker City

### Family Day—Saturday, December 2, 2017

Admission: Can of Food/Unwrapped Toy

Viewing of the Trees

"Make It, Take It" ~ Sponsored by Crossroads Art Center

Photos with Santa ~ Sponsored by Baker City Kiwanis

For more information contact  
Laura Huggins at 541-524-7732

