

TRENDING:

BARACK OBAMA

MOHAMMED MORSI

CONGRESS

SUPREME COURT

EDWARD SNOWDEN

Google™ Custom Search

Search



Treatment for Depression
Brookhaven Retreat
Exclusive Women's Treatment Facility

Get Help Now

EDITORS' PICKS:

UNFORGETTABLE: Osama Bin Laden's fatal blow to the Taliban

CONNECT:



HOME ▶ CULTURE ▶ ENTERTAINMENT

RADIO

LOG IN

E-MAIL ALERTS

SUBSCRIBE

CLASSIFIEDS

E-EDITION

Haunted houses of all types make being scared fun

COMMENTS (0) SIZE: + / - PRINT





Role-playing actors in costume and makeup pose in their settings at the House of Shock, a haunted house in New Orleans. The attraction was started by three childhood buddies and draws 25,000 visitors annually. (Associated Press)

By Mary Foster - Associated Press

Thursday, October 13, 2011



Enlarge Photo 

NEW ORLEANS — [Ross Karpelman](#) smiled happily as he looked over his huge collection of bloody body parts, large rats, dangling cobwebs, and tools for cutting, slashing and sawing.

[Mr. Karpelman](#), who with two childhood buddies built a haunted house called House of Shock, has seen it grow from the likes of peeled grapes for eyeballs and cold spaghetti for worms into an attraction that's visited by 25,000 people annually and rated one of the best of its kind.



GET THE LATEST IN MEN'S FASHION

SHOP THE RAIL >

FREE SHIPPING. FREE RETURNS. ALL THE TIME.

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE



[Immigrants account for all job gains since 2000: native-born workers' employment has fallen](#)



[Obamacare's employer mandate delayed to 2015](#)



[HURT: Gettysburg — Another day for Yankees to wallow in anti-South hate](#)

CELEBRITIES IN THE NEWS



[Alec Baldwin: Twitter saga continues as he quits social media — again](#)



[Pierce Brosnan's daughter dies of ovarian cancer](#)

A ghoulish inhabitant of the House of Shock is ready to throw ... [more >](#)

PHOTO GALLERY:



5 Photos

Haunted houses of all types make being scared fun

Ads by Google

Pedialyte® For Children

When it Comes to Rehydration, Other Household Beverages Can't Compare.

www.Pedialyte.com

STORY TOPICS

Other
Halloween
Ross Karpelman
Amber Arnett-Bequeath

“None of us can believe it’s grown like this,” said Mr. Karpelman, referring to his friends and [business partners](#), Jay Gracianette and Steve Joseph. “We had all done haunted houses in our backyards as kids and remembered how much fun it was. We just wanted to have that kind of fun again.”

Halloween-season attractions such as House of Shock are big business. Ranging from haunted houses to former prisons to amusement parks and even farms with haunted barns and hayrides, the haunted attraction industry is worth \$2 billion in two dozen countries worldwide, according to Larry Kirchner, editor of [Hauntworld](#) magazine. More than 4,000 attractions are listed on the magazine’s website.

“People love Halloween,” Mr. Kirchner said. “It’s not a holiday you have to participate in, it’s a holiday you want to participate in.”



Enlarge Photo

A scene from the House of Shock, a haunted house, in New ... [more >](#)

Fans pay between \$20 and \$50 or more to visit attractions that include such varied venues as the Queen Mary, the storied cruise ship now docked in Long Beach, Calif., which gets a makeover to host haunted evenings, and Ruby Falls in Chattanooga, Tenn., a natural underground waterfall that becomes a haunted cavern. There are haunted casinos and

cornfields. In Salem, Ore., the [Oregon School for the Deaf](#) hosts a haunted house each year called the Nightmare Factory as a fundraiser for the school.

What was once a backyard attraction or something set up by a local



Utah rehab rejects Paris Jackson

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



Magpul floods Colorado with ammo magazines 2 days before gun...



MILLER: Obama calls racism on criminal background checks



Michelle Obama: White House like a ‘prison’



‘My dad’s a great hero’: Texas man fatally shoots home intru...

▶ All aboard the Paula Deen cruise! Ships set to sail in 2014

▶ WHITEHEAD: From a nation of laws to a nation of men

COMMENTARY

WHITEHEAD: From a nation of laws to a nation of men



group looking to raise [money](#) has become a festival of fright that often stretches from September to November. At House of Shock, which runs Fridays and Saturdays from Sept. 30 to Nov. 5, with a six-day-straight run over the weekend leading up to [Halloween](#), visitors pay \$25 (\$50 to jump the line) and spend 45 minutes to an hour or more going through the graveyards, butcher shops, swamps and cult church of the “House.” Many spend hours more outside enjoying the free show, the freaks, and the bar and food stand.

Amber Arnett-Bequeaith’s grandmother started a haunted house business 37 years ago in [Kansas](#) City. The attraction then, which was more like a theater show, was a world away from the Beast and Edge of Hell attractions the family operates now, she said.

“I remember as a little girl picking up any bones I could find out in a pasture for props,” she said. “Today it’s all about technology, sounds, sights even the infusion of smells. It’s a full sensory stimulation. I’m amazed at how [computers](#) have taken over.

“We work with people’s fears and phobias,” she added. “But it’s a safe scare. It’s what people are attracted to on [Halloween](#) — fun and excitement.”

Ms. Arnett-Bequeaith even features a wedding package at Edge of Hell, and up to six actual [weddings](#) are performed there each year.

Edward Terebus has been in the haunted attraction business for 32 years and he also credits [technology](#) for many of the scares in his

HAUNTED HOUSE

By John W. Whitehead

How a cozy police state tempts a distracted republic

BOVARD: The voting rights mirage

BILLER: The dirty little secret about holiday traffic ticketing

EDITORIAL: Obama’s cruel advice

EDITORIAL: A line in the sand



Business Directory

[Popular Searches](#)

Powered by [Local.com](#)



years and he also credits [technology](#) for many of the scares in his Erebus Haunted House in Pontiac, Mich. Computers control sounds, floor mats, puppets, animatronics and other props. He frequently revamps the show.

FOLLOW US ON

FACEBOOK

Follow @washtimes

QUESTION OF THE DAY

Former President George W. Bush told CNN that history will judge his record. Will history judge him kindly?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided
- Other

[Login to Vote](#)

[View results](#)

“A haunted attraction is similar to a Broadway performance,” Mr. Terebus said. “The show runs and then it shuts down, redecorates and opens up with a fresh show.”

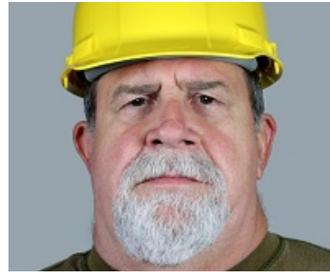
Although New Orleans’ House of Shock uses some technological elements, it bucks the trend by relying on live actors for many of its theme-driven rooms.

“We have more than 350 volunteers that love Halloween and the chance to scare someone,” Mr. Karpelman said.

From the Web



Billionaires Dump Stocks, Prepare for Collapse (Shocking)
New smax



The 5 Warning Signs of Prostate Cancer
New smax Health



5 Richest Women In The U.S.
Investopedia

by Taboola



Citizen town hall

From Washington Times, powered by TellDC

TODAY'S QUESTION:

[therealboss @ Congressman Rangel](#)

The cost of going to college in the US has risen enormously and the interest rates for these loans have made it nearly impossible for the... [\[see more\]](#)

VOTE 709 | 0 VOTE

291 Votes Needed!

PREVIOUS QUESTION:

[Dr. Sudip Bose @ Congresswoman Blackburn](#)

As an emergency room physician, I am concerned about ensuring patients have access to timely and appropriate care. How will health care... [\[see more\]](#)

OFFICIAL VIDEO RESPONSE:



VIDEO: Rep. Blackburn responds to a question from emergency room Physician, Dr. Sudip Bose about how to insure... [play video »](#)



- [Boehner: Obamacare Train Wreck Will Only Get Worse](#)
- [Walid Phares: Egypt Protests Signal 'Civilizational War'](#)
- [Michelle Obama: Being First Lady 'Prison-Like'](#)

Billionaire Tells Americans
to Prepare For "Financial
Ruin"
Moneynews

3 Ways For Guys To Drop
20lbs Quickly
Hot Topix

2 Metabolism-Destroying
Foods To Avoid At All
Costs
Natural Health Sherpa

- [The Truth About Electronic Cigarettes Exposed](#)
- [Should Obama's Health Plan Be Overturned? Vote Here Now](#)
- [NSA's Clapper: I'm Sorry for My Remarks to Congress](#)
- [5 Warning Signs Crucial to Remaining Cancer-](#)

Copyright 2013 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

COMMENTS

ALSO ON THE WASHINGTON TIMES

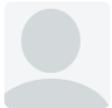
Lady Gaga amends national anthem: 'Land of the free, and ... 1791 comments

'LOL, JK': Texas teen faces 8 years in prison for making ... 833 comments

Court says past voting discrimination can no longer be held ... 2905 comments

Court strikes down federal anti-gay marriage law
2276 comments

0 comments



Leave a message...

Best ▾ Community

No one has commented yet.

Comment feed Subscribe via email

AROUND THE WEB

Shocking: American Seniors Yet Money Morning

Canned Tuna Recall: Get the

Billionaire Tells Americans to "Financial Ruin" Moneynews

10 Signs Of An Affair Lifescript

Free

- Dennis Rodman: I Should Get Nobel Peace Prize

What's This?

Most Read Most Shared Most Emailed

Immigrants account for all job gains since 2000: native-born workers' employment has fallen

In Zimmerman trial, prosecution's case circling the drain

Texas abortion battle heats up as activists Hail Satan!

Obamacare's employer mandate delayed to 2015

HURT: Gettysburg Another day for Yankees to wallow in anti-South hate

BILLER: The dirty little secret about holiday traffic ticketing

CUTLER: Tough questions about immigration 'reform'

Coburn: Hundreds of IRS employees work full-time on labor union business

ZIA: The thankless role in saving democracy in Bangladesh

WHITEHEAD: From a nation of laws to a nation of men

COMMUNITIES

Independent voices from the TWT Communities



The Civil War

News and views on the Civil War.

Gettysburg commemorates 150-year anniversary on July 3

'Copperhead': Ron Maxwell's new movie scores with



The Ten Steps to Sexy Diet

Eat & drink your way to better health, a better body and a better planet.

Buffalo Burgers for a healthy Fourth of July
Your Love Life Might Need a Boost of Vitamin E



A World in our Backyard

The world impacts us. What happens in our towns, cities, states, country and on this planet makes a difference to us.

Egg carton labels and animal welfare: Are you being misled?

Lower risk of breast cancer linked to omega-3 fatty acids in fish



Just Enough for the City

Searching for a Republican agenda that can thrive in an increasingly urban, diverse, and secular America.

When does life begin?

LADD: Davis abortion filibuster triggers an expanded conversation

Photo Galleries





Famous athletes involved in murder-related cases

9 Photos

Should Obama be
Reading **YOUR** email?



Sign the Privacy
Petition

(2 people are spying on you)

See Who

NEWSLETTER

Get free daily emails on topics of interest to you, from breaking news to the day's top stories. [Privacy Policy](#)

To sign up for our daily emails, [click here](#).

To manage your email subscriptions, [click here](#).

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

- The Washington Times
- Sports
- Opinion
- Andy Parks
- Photos
- Communities

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

- The Washington Times
- Politics
- Opinion
- Nation
- World
- D.C. Local
- Culture
- Sports
- Books
- Andy Parks
- Photos
- Communities

HOME

NEWS

- Politics
- National
- World
- Security
- Economy
- D.C. Local
- Newsmakers
- Inside the Beltway
- Inside the Ring
- Pruden on Politics
- Embassy Row
- Inside China
- Weather

OPINION

- Editorials
- Commentary
- Letters
- Miller
- Water Cooler
- Books
- Kuhner
- Nugent
- Cartoons

VIDEO

SPECIALS

SPORTS

- Football
- Baseball
- Basketball
- NCAA
- Olympics
- Tennis
- Golf
- Hockey
- Soccer
- Horse Racing
- Video

LIFE

- Entertainment
- Home and Lifestyle
- Travel
- Health
- The List
- Technology
- Books
- Video

BOOKS

COMMUNITIES

MULTIMEDIA

RADIO

SPECIALS

BLOGS

- Inside Politics
- Capitals Watch
- Guns
- Missives from Mali
- Screen Play
- Technology
- Water Cooler
- From the Sports Editors
- Nationals Watch
- Redskins Watch
- United Watch

[Subscribe](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [E-Edition](#) | [Customer Service](#) | [Careers](#) | [Terms](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Marketing](#) | [RSS](#) | [Advertise](#) | [About](#) | [Contact](#)

All site contents © Copyright 2013 The Washington Times, LLC | 3600 New York Avenue NE | Washington, DC 20002 | 202-636-3000

