

OPENINGS

Branson USA park, Starlite ready to go

Branson USA, the huge new amusement park on the site of the former Mutton Hollow crafts village, will open today.

Featuring almost 20 rides, two go-cart tracks, an 18-hole miniature golf course and a 700-seat family theater, manager Wayne Leatherman says the gates will open at 11 a.m. today.

There are also restaurants and 20 gift shops at the park.

Hours are 11 a.m. through midnight daily. Call 335-2396 for more information.

The Starlite Theatre is also celebrating its grand opening this weekend. Shows featuring the American Kids and Doug Gabriel

and the Lost in the '50s revue have already been going on for a while. But the rest of the place, located where Barbara Fairchild's theater once stood, has just been completed.

The theater will include the Starlite Diner and Judy's Gift Shop, both located on a replica of a '50s town square. Call 337-9333.

SCHEDULES

Play keeps show going on Stafford's night off

Jim Stafford gets one day of the week off — Sunday — but that doesn't mean his theater is closed for the day.

Beginning this Sunday and continuing through Oct. 31, his play, "Neighborhood Watch," will be presented at 8 p.m. In the early '80s, Stafford and musician Steve Van Gelder wrote the story of a

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