

ON THE GO

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st want to know g past, so get a st guide, such as by John Doerper Guides, \$21) for scription.

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questions from y Travel, 235 11747-4250 or Please include n. Questions will only.

\$1.56 / gal.

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By Rhoda Amon
STAFF WRITER

WHERE EVERYDAY IS INDEPENDENCE DAY

The question is, what are you going to do for the Fourth of July when everyday's the Fourth of July?

Celebration City, a new nighttime theme park in Branson, Mo., closes each night with a pyrotechnic flourish. A nightly outdoor multimedia laser production show called "Celebrate," whisks guests through the 20th century. High-tech special effects highlight World War II Victory parades — the first steps on the moon, rock and roll, disco, the computer age, Marilyn Monroe, John Wayne, James Dean, Elvis Presley and the Beatles — culminating with the Stars-and-Stripes, all projected against the side of a mountain.

The park, which opened last month, also unveiled 30 themed rides and attractions designed for the brave and the free. A choice of three different roller coasters include the Ozark Wild-Cat, a new retro wooden coaster that reaches speeds of 45 mph and drops riders eight stories; the Thunderbolt, a 60-foot steel coaster that peaks at 35 mph; and Jack Rabbit, a 52-foot coaster that provides camel-back features. Other thrill rides include the Accelerator, which takes riders up an 80-foot tower and plunges them back down, and the Fireball, which spins riders more than 60 feet in the air.

But the main theme of the park is to take visitors back to the



The new theme park, Celebration City, in Branson, Mo., wants to show visitors that the town isn't just about music. It offers three rollercoasters, rides, a Coney Island-style boardwalk and nightly fireworks.

early 1900s and to show that "Branson isn't only about music," said spokeswoman Lisa Rau. Visitors enter through Celebration Street, which is filled with vintage cars and carousel. They proceed to a Coney Island-style boardwalk and go onto Route 66, which celebrates the '50s and '60s with shiny cars and drive-in diners.

The park, a Silver Dollar City attraction, is open daily from 3-11 p.m. Call 800-831-4FUN; www.silverdollarcity.com.

ONLINE AMERICANS ARE VACATION BOUND

In an optimistic travel survey, 84 percent of 1,000 active travelers who have Internet access said they'll take a vacation this summer.

The largest number, 45 percent, intend to visit friends or relatives; 23 percent will be heading for beaches or lakes;

Travel