

PAGE FOUR — Thursday, April 14, 2005

THE SAPULPA HERALD

Entertainment

www.sapulpadailyherald.com

From wild roller coasters to talking dogs, Branson's got it

By CINDY BARTON
Herald Assistant Editor

BRANSON, Mo. — Spring is here, and for vacation enthusiasts that means it is time to plan the family vacation. If you are curious about what Branson has to offer this spring and summer, here are a few inside scoops.

"Stuck on the 70s," a live show at the Starlite Theatre, has numerous melodies from the era. Four men and four women sing favorites such as "Dancing Queen," "Car Wash," "The Way We Were" and "Love Will Keep Us Together." All the songs are performed live along with an



Photos provided by Herschend Family Entertainment Corporation, Branson
PICTURED ABOVE ARE the "talking" dogs and Todd Oliver who perform in "Showboatini". At right is the finale of "NightFire" at Celebration City.



SAPULPA CINEMA 8
Movies for April 8 - April 14, 2005
1215 New Sapulpa Road
www.sapulpa.com
Hearing Impaired & Handicap Accessible
Movie Runtime: 9:15 - 11:30 AM / 7:45 PM

✓ **Sahara (PG-13)** - DTS
(1:35) - 3:55 - 6:40 - 9:35
✓ **Fever Pitch (R)** - DTS
(1:20) - 4:00 - 6:50 - 9:15
Sin City (R) - DTS
(1:25) - 4:05 - 7:00 - 8:45
Robots (PG)
(1:30) - 3:55 - 6:30 - 9:20
Beauty Shop (PG-13)
(2:10) - 4:30 - 7:10 - 9:30
The Ring 2 (PG-13)
(2:05) - 4:25 - 7:05 - 9:20
Guess Who (PG-13)
(1:35) - 4:10 - 6:45 - 9:00
Miss Congeniality (PG-13)
(1:50) - 4:15 - 6:55 - 9:25
✓ No Passes
() Matinees on Sat. & Sun.

IT'S CATFISH/PANFISH TIME IN SAPULPA!
INEXPENSIVE. CLOSE TO HOME. FAMILY FUN.
Opening Day APRIL 15th FISH SUNRISE TO 10:00 PM DAILY!
Sahoma Lake Bait Shop Open for all your needs. 227-1534
12,000 Lbs. Catfish Up to 5 Lb Hybrid Panfish
918-227-1534
Web Site: www.SapulpaParks.org
All Permits On Sale Now.
New Family Permit ONLY \$25.00
(Avail. only @ our Sahoma Lake Bait Shop)
APR. 15 - OCT. 15 PRETTY WATER LAKE.

Done Your TAXES Yet?

There is a better way. Get the help you need from a tax professional trained to help you when it matters most.

Tax Accounting Solutions

Cyndi Williams
125 E. Dewey 248-8129

Thursday Specials

Early Bird Special \$1.99

(Served Mon. - Fri. 6 a.m. - 11 a.m.)

(Sat. - Sun. 6am - 8am)

One egg breakfast with 2 bacon or 2 sausage links or 1 sausage patty.
Hash brown or grits and toast or sausage and gravy.
Substitute Cottage Cheese & Tomato for Hash Browns & Toast to make Low Carb Friendly. \$2.49

LUNCH SPECIALS

\$4.99

DAILY DINNER SPECIALS

All steaks include choice of potato, vegetable, and bread. All of our steaks are cut fresh on the premises.

onstage band.

However, the show isn't only about music. Comical skits are incorporated into the show and provide good transitions and outlets for the music.

If opting for a dinner show, "Showboatini" provides a meal, a show and a cruise on Table Rock Lake. The show, "Showstoppers,"

includes the most memorable songs throughout entertainment history. Renditions from "Mary Poppins," "Chicago," "Fiddler on the Roof" and much more make the show fly by.

This show also incorporates comedy. Comedian and ventriloquist Todd Oliver and his "talking" dogs bring curiosity to the audience's faces. How is he making those dogs' mouths move?

After a while it becomes clear that the dogs have a lower jaw apparatus which Oliver opens and closes while he throws his voice. But knowing his secret doesn't make the show any less amusing.

Acrobatics are also part of the performance. The stunts were so amazing the audience audibly gasped as they watched a talented couple exhibit their skills.

If you prefer dry land and a mix of country and gospel music, the four-man group Pierce Arrow is a good choice. Dan Britton, Denny Franks, Gary Koreiba and Michael Chambliss blend their voices to pay tribute to God and the United States.

Kim Boyce provides female solos in the show while Jarrett Dougherty provides the laughs. Dougherty takes on several different characters including an evangelistic preacher, a plumber, a woman and a fat Elvis. Even the performers on stage couldn't keep a straight face as this man, who has no inhibitions, let comedy pour out of him.

Watching shows isn't the best part of Branson for some. I know you are probably thinking there is nothing else to do in Branson besides watch shows. But that assumption is wrong.

Celebration City and Silver Dollar City offer activities for all ages. Celebration City's biggest attractions are children's amusement rides, arcade games, miniature golf, go-carts, two thrilling roller coasters and "NightFire".

The newest attraction, "NightFire!", is a nighttime laser show projected onto a five-story mountainside. Video projections streaming through water create a hologram-like appearance to the people portrayed. Elvis, The Beatles, the Supremes and other big-name musical groups are seen through the water while their music plays.

Videos also play against the mountain with no water effects. This is when pictures are shown of firefighters, police officers and military personnel.

The theme of the show is reflecting on the American spirit.

The show has a twist before the finale. You know those people who take your picture when you get to an amusement park? Well, don't just walk away because you know you won't buy the picture.

Before the end of the show, an announcer says that they will now pay tribute to the people who visited the park that day. About four pictures at a time are displayed on the mountain, and every-

one laughs and gasps at seeing themselves or someone they know.

The show isn't over yet. A powerful fireworks display finishes the evening, lighting up the night sky in an unparalleled fashion.

Silver Dollar City has different themes for various times of the year, and the current theme is "World-Fest."

Representatives from 14 countries from Zambia to the Philippines are exhibiting their music, dance and acrobatic talents during the festival.

Visitors also have the opportunity to taste foods from around the world, including Mexico, Jamaica, Italy, Germany and more.

If you eat Mexican or Italian food on a regular basis like I do, save the room in your stomach for something different. Try the Jamaican ribs. They're great.

Finally I have come to the point when I can talk about my favorite thing at Silver Dollar City. The new roller coaster, Powder Keg, will amaze you. It delivers thrilling speeds and drops while never going upside down or jarring your head.

It is meant to be a ride the whole family can enjoy, although there are, of course, height requirements to ride. Children must be at least 42 inches tall.

Powder Keg is themed after the miners who explored Silver Dollar City's Marvel Cave more than 100

years ago. The line to the ride has numerous props, including burned powder kegs and mining tools. The prop that stands out the most is a fake roller coaster track that jets into the sky with a broken end. A fake roller coaster car sits on a nearby roof over the wait line. It appears as though the roller coaster track blew up and the car went flying onto the roof top.

Of course, this is all part of the illusion and fun.

Keeping with the theme, before the coaster blasts off, a flash of fire bursts upward off of the roof. This is the sign for bystanders to watch closely because the coaster is about to take off.

Powered by an air-launch system, the coaster jets off and hits 53 mph in 2.8 seconds. It reaches a speed of 64 mph, and has its tallest vertical drop at 110 feet.

In layman's terms, the coaster goes super fast and has awesome, funny tickling drops that keep you coming back for more.

Although these vacation accounts were experienced first hand, everyone should research Branson thoroughly before leaving town. There are many activities and shows to see so it is important to prioritize in order to get in all the fun. Some Web resources include bransonchamber.com, silverdollarcity.com and bransonshow.com.

Cindy Barton 224-5185 Ext.205
lifestyles@sapulpadailyherald.com

Service As It Auto

Friendly Service