

VILLE NEWS-DEMOCRAT

★ ★ ★

TRAVEL

SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2003

FARES

SONS

n to rent a car this
ok now while there
sale prices avail-
emand, combined
o 20 percent reduc-
sizes could make
stly proposition.
t frequent flyer or
nts. Consider rent-
off-airport location
charge high air-
fees (the reserva-
fill break them
u). Check your
insurance cover-
r credit card pro-
e if you can safely
rance fees.
ge Rent A Car has a
te on premium
ing convertibles).
plies to locations
rpus Christi, Har-
Antonio, El Paso,
San Diego and
ls through June 27
lackout dates.
00-777-5500;
agerentacar.com.
le WBTOPOFF.
free day with quali-
eisure weekly or
e-day car rentals
ember. To qualify,
e car, Class F or
ling SUVs and
reserve, access
m and click on
s at the bottom of
hen click on Week-
Vacation and scroll
ou find "What will
our free day?"
ant hotel group

By BRIAN MCTAVISH
Knight Ridder

BRANSON, Mo. — Every year 7 million visitors enter the Branson city limits to enjoy their favorite music theaters and other family-friendly destinations — whether it's the Baldknobbers Jamboree, pop singer Andy Williams, Silver Dollar City theme park, Shepherd of the Hills outdoor theater, go-carts, miniature golf or the pursuit of the perfect funnel cake.

But sojourners to Branson also want new stuff to do.

Which is why so many who rely on the tourist dollar here are so pumped about the city's newest attractions: Celebration City, a \$40 million evening-oriented amusement park, which opened May 1; and the adjacent Roy Rogers-Dale Evans Museum & Happy Trails Theater, which opened Memorial Day weekend.

It's enough to make a Branson booster burst with pride. Here's a rundown of major Branson attractions and some others of note:



KRT

Celebration City has a downtown in a Victorian accent.

Celebration City, 1338 Missouri 376: This new \$40 million, evening-oriented theme park is devoted to 20th-century American pop culture, especially from the early 1900s to the 1960s. Thirty rides and attractions include a Ferris wheel and three roller coasters, one of which is the new \$4 million wooden coaster called the WildCat. Gates open daily at 3 p.m. Admission (not including

tax) is \$27 for adults; \$22 for children 4 to 11. Call (800) 831-4FUN (4386) or visit www.silverdollarcity.com.

The Roy Rogers-Dale Evans Museum and Happy Trails Theater, 3950 Green Mountain Drive. Steeped in the silver-screen memory and music of "The King of the Cowboys" and "The Queen of the West," this new 26,000-square-foot facility is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. dai-

ly. The self-guided museum tour includes unique memorabilia — such as Rogers' late steed Trigger — interactive displays, videos and children's activities. The 325-seat theater will offer two concerts a day by Roy "Dusty" Rogers Jr. and his band, the High Riders. Museum/theater tickets cost \$31.98 for adults and \$21.97 for ages 6 to 12. Separate museum and theater admission is available. Call (866) ROY-ROGERS (769-7643) or go to the Web at www.royrogers.com.

The Shepherd of the Hills Outdoor Theatre, 5586 W. Missouri 76: Branson's original live show, "The Shepherd of the Hills," is a two-hour outdoor pageant based on the 1907 novel by Harold Bell Wright. The "true fiction" tale of hill folk in melodramatic upheaval is performed at 8:30 p.m. daily near where the author first pitched his tent a century ago to get acquainted with Ozark people and culture. Admission to Thursday's dress rehearsal is \$5; the gate will be donated to

an alcoholic recovery program. Performances continue Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays until daily performances begin May 25. Admission is \$34.95 for adults; \$18.95 for children. Price includes show, dinner, a visit to Inspiration Tower and a tour of the historic grounds, including a stop at the rustic Harold Bell Wright Museum, which contains Wright's original Shepherd of the Hills manuscript. Call (800) 653-6288 or go to www.theshepherdofthehills.com.

Showboat Branson Belle, 4800 Missouri 165: The city's only floating 700-seat show palace offers two new acts this year: Ventriloquist Todd Oliver introduces Lucy, a new "talking" dog to go with his other glib mutt, Irving; and the "Step-in' Out" dinner show features a musical salute to American cities. Meal, cruise and show start at \$36 for adults and \$18 for kids. Prices vary with dates and times of day. Call (800) 775-BOAT (2628) or visit silverdollarcity.com.

TRAVEL NOTES

Knight Ridder

Travel writers

Holiday Inn Family Suites Resort in Orlando offers the Sugar & Spice Kids Spa, the latest addition to the resort's family-focused amenities. Girls and boys can get facials, pedicures, manicures, tempo-

Aspiring travel writers can learn from experts at a workshop Aug. 14-17 in Corte Madera, Calif., in Marin County, north of San Francisco. Students work in classes with experts in their field. Af-

THE BEST AUTO LOANS

Our fast and friendly
personal service, combined with
great terms & free extras, add up to
your BEST VALUE in auto loans.

Clipped By:
kevinperjurer
Jan 16, 2026