

guage to be added to the ballot question.
He wants the ballot to

The Springfield fire and police pension fund is underfunded by \$167 million.

NEWS-LEADER FILE PHOTO

Celebration City theme park shuts down

NEWS-LEADER STAFF

Herschend Family Entertainment announced Friday in a news release the closure of Celebration City in Branson, due to a shift in business strategy.

The company is exploring various new development concepts for the site, including an aquarium, other family attractions, re-theming the current park

and also destination retail and dining. The park was scheduled to close at end of the day Saturday, the last scheduled operating day of the season.

Approximately 18 full-time positions are directly impacted by the closure, and the company is able to find new roles for most of those individuals, said spokeswoman Lisa Rau in the news

release. Seasonal employees will have the opportunity to interview for 2009 seasonal positions at Silver Dollar City, White Water and the Showboat Branson Belle.

HFE properties in the region employ more than 2,000 year-round and seasonal positions.

"As with businesses across the country, we have had to carefully examine our future

strategic plans. We need to make smart, forward-thinking decisions in a tough economic climate. ... As we plan the re-development of the Celebration City property, we will focus on projects with strong appeal to new and returning visitors to the market," said Joel Manby, president and chief executive officer of Herschend Family Entertainment.

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\$10

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