

Number of rape
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ent occurred in Au-
ffered a free ride to
was in downtown
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to court documents,
g lot, got in the back
man and proceeded
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m in the face.
trial last month, a
dge announced his
and found Fairley
nt of rape and one
to be sentenced in
maximum sentence
the two counts. His
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pers public safety for
ues-Leader. Contact
s-leader.com, or on
Meier644.

**ght
tfish**
Morrisville, caught
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a 7-pound, 8-ounce
OF MISSOURI
SERVATION
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cord fish are recog-
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e, jug line, gig, bow,
water spearfishing,
grabbing or atlatl.
ation on state record
t.ly/2efqvl.
n Outdoors Reporter
d Neus-Leader. Fol-
adventures on Twit-
@Sara_Karnes. Got
? Email her at
gannett.com.

s have promised to
he results of a com-
ducted last year,
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d most popular an-
safety issues.
fived 67 proposals or
ods — adding up to a
ion of requests. Of
different proposals
ssness, adding up to

NEWS-LEADER.COM | FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2022 | 3A



A public warehouse liquidation auction is planned for June 2, 3 and 4 starting at 9 a.m. at the old Celebration City location, 1383 MO-376 in Branson. COURTESY OF ESSICK AUCTION AND REALTY AND THREE CREEKS AUCTION

Check out the Celebration City memorabilia being auctioned in Branson

Sara Karnes
Springfield News-Leader
USA TODAY NETWORK

You have a chance to buy some of the memorabilia that made up Celebration City, a 20th century theme park that operated in Branson.

The upcoming auction, held by Essick Auction and Realty along with Three Creeks Auction, will be June 2, 3 and 4 starting at 9 a.m. at the old Celebration City location, 1383 MO-376 in Branson. The public auction will include warehouse storage from Silver Dollar City.

There are thousands of items up for auction, including antique vehicles; large neon signage; Route 66 memorabilia; antiques; furniture; as well as theme park, theatre and show pieces and more.

There will be a \$10 gate admission for the weekend charged to those 18 years and older. Concessions and restrooms will be available on the grounds.

The first park on the site near the intersection of Highway 76 and Shepherd of the Hills Expressway had a short life; Branson USA opened in 1999 and closed in 2001, per News-Leader archives. The next year, however, Herschend Family Entertainment — which owns nearby amusement park Silver Dollar City, as well as a host of other entertainment properties — purchased the property and redid the park completely for a 2003 opening. The theme

of Celebration City was America in the 20th century; portions of the park were inspired by the 1950s, an old-time boardwalk and Hollywood filmmaking.

Celebration City ended its 2008 season without reopening the following year. The theme park has been closed ever since. Woodland Hills, a non-denominational evangelical church, began holding services in part of the park starting around 2004. Setting up to worship and breaking down afterward came with a deadline: Services had to wrap up before Celebration City came alive in the evening and the space was needed for shows.

A church member recorded the demolition of the Ozark Wildcat, a wooden roller coaster, in 2015. According to its website, the church appears to still be located at the former theme park site.

For more information about the auction, call 417-693-3178 or 417-839-9979 or email Jacque@essickauctionservice.com or threecreeksauction@gmail.com.

To view the full gallery, visit either of the auction house websites:

- <https://www.essickauctionservice.com/>
 - <https://threecreeksauction.com/>
- Sara Karnes is an Outdoors Reporter with the Springfield News-Leader. Follow along with her adventures on Twitter and Instagram @Sara_Karnes. Got a story to tell? Email her at skarnes@springfieldgannett.com.



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TODAY

PREMIUM MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS

\$250,000+ = 1.36% APY*

\$100,000 - \$249,999 = 1.11% APY*