



The Headlines

News From Members of the Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce

www.bransonchamber.com

417-334-4084

Kathryn Buckstaff
Membership Public Relations
Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce
417-334-4084
kbuckstaff@bransoncvb.com
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Branson Chamber Chatter

Operation Gratitude From Branson

Nita Tate, co-owner of “#1 Hits of the 60’s” at the Caravelle Theatre, has invited other show owners to send gifts to troops in hostile areas. It’s a double-duty plan.

“I just think it’s a great opportunity to entertain them,” she said. And when those troops come home, maybe they’ll have a good feeling about Branson and vacation here, she said. “We honor our veterans from the heart, not just for show,” she said.

She asks theater owners to donate CDs and DVDs of their shows and send them to Operation Gratitude, a California non-profit that has sent more than 375,000 care packages to troops. Operation Gratitude was founded in 2003 by a 46-year-old mom who volunteered at a military lounge in the L.A. airport. She wanted to be sure no soldiers were forgotten. Call Tate at 866-339-1960.

Walk/Run To Benefit Freedom

The Table Rock Freedom Center in Branson West, a residential faith-based addiction treatment center for women, will host The Big Kahuna/Maui Mile, a 5k/1mile run/walk on Saturday, July 11, in Springfield. Registration is 6:30 a.m. with the race starting at 7:30 a.m. from Fire Station #10 at 2245 E. Galloway St. Pre-register at www.trfreedom.com or call 417-417-239-0012. The race is an Ozark Mountain Ridge Runners’ triple crown event.

New Musical For Kids—Of All Ages

“Rock U Mentally Live” is an exciting original musical created by longtime Branson entertainer Bucky Heard, now in a limited engagement July 15 through Aug. 15 at 10 a.m. Thursday through Saturday at Dick Clark’s American Bandstand Theater.

Heard has created hip music that carries messages to kids about social and environmental responsibilities without them even knowing it’s a lesson. The music and choreography, the cast of costumed characters and the multimedia presentations reach out to the creative and intellectual potential in all children, Heard said.

“We love the educational and environmental focus of the show and are excited to be working with such a talented group of entertainers,” said Jeannie Horton, general

manager for “Legends in Concert,” also playing at the theater with Heard as John Belushi in the Blues Brothers. Tickets are available at the box office or by calling 417-335-7827. Group rates and lunch packages are available for groups of 10 or more.

Roy Rogers Rides Again

After seeking the right opportunity for 18 years, Roy Rogers Jr., the son of iconic cowboy star Roy Rogers has partnered with 821 Entertainment Group CEO Eric Geadelmann to produce a “King of the Cowboys” film trilogy plus animated TV, interactive games and merchandise.

From 1943 to 1954, Rogers was in 88 films, produced and starred in 100 episodes of his TV show and appeared on more than 400 licensed items.

The movies will be adventures ala Indiana Jones, said Roy Rogers’ grandson, Dustin Rogers. Dustin and his father, Roy, Jr., perform at their Happy Trails Theatre inside the Roy Rogers and Dale Evans Museum. The extensive collection of Rogers’ memorabilia was moved from Victorville, Calif., to Branson in 2003.

They also will release his digitally remastered movies on DVDs to introduce today’s kids to the family values of the Roy Rogers sagas, Dustin Rogers said.

Rogers said Geadelmann’s Nashville-based company will do it right. “Hollywood wanted nothing to do with this,” Rogers said. “There’s no sex, drugs or violence.”

Nursing Grads Meet Demand

Thirty-five nursing students recently graduated from Ozarks Technical Community College’s OTC’s practical nursing program in their Reeds Spring facility. Coordinator Sheila Kaylor said there’s a large demand for nurses in the area because of the many healthcare providers. The program attracts students from Branson, Blue Eye, Hartville, Fordland, Ozark and Nixa. After graduating, the nurses are eligible to take the State Board exam to become a licensed practical nurse. In 2008, 100 percent of students passed the exam.

This fall’s class is already filled. The deadline to apply for next fall’s class is April 1, 2010. To see the requirements, visit www.otc.edu. At the top left, follow “Students,” “Course Information,” “Degrees and Certificates” and “Allied Health.”

Soon To Become CenturyLink

CenturyTel will change its name to CenturyLink early next year following a recent merger with Embarq Corp. The combined company will serve about 7.5 million customers in 33 states. President and CEO Glen Post III, said CenturyLink has “the advanced networks, the people and the financial stability to deliver the reliable and innovative services that our customers want and need.”

Pamela Anderson, Marketing Communication Manager, said there will be no changes for local CenturyTel customers.

“Branson CenturyTel customers will continue to use the same toll-free customer service and repair numbers, and will continue to receive outstanding customer service from their local CenturyTel technicians and business sales representatives.” For more information, visit www.centurylink.com.

For additional information about the Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitors Bureau, visit www.bransonchamber.com or call 800-296-0463.