

Enroll Now for Children's Theater Workshop in Searcy



Enrollment for the spring session of the Land O'Frost/KidStage children's theater workshop is now ongoing, with the first sessions to kick off January 10 and 11 from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. at Searcy's Performing Arts Center on the Square, located at 111 West Arch on Searcy's historic court square. The sessions, open to area youngsters aged seven to 17, will culminate with play, "The Wind in the Willows," to be scheduled for mid-April.

Tuition for the class is \$50 per student, with two separate classes held weekly each Monday and Tuesday.

This year, said Center on the Square Executive Director Lana Hallmark, the sessions will take on a bit different form than in

the past.

"We've experienced a steady rate of growth since the KidStage program first began," Hallmark said, "and with the partnership of Land O'Frost in the program, we've grown to the point of needing more classes."

Hallmark said the addition of an additional weekly class will allow the program to serve more area youngsters than has previously been possible. Students will be able to choose which afternoon, Monday or Tuesday, best fits into their schedule.

"The problem we've run into," she said, "which is a good problem to have, is that the classes have grown to the point where we have more kids than roles available in the play

we do each session."

To counter that, Hallmark said the youngsters in each class will form two separate casts for the play, allowing each child greater opportunities when the casts are formed. Both casts will perform in onstage presentations of the play on different nights.

"This gives more of the children the chance to put into practice what they've learned in larger roles," she said. "A tribute to the success of the program is the number of kids who have taken on roles in the dinner shows we do, and they've done very well in those shows."

Keba Rogers will return as the children's director and will direct both versions of "The Wind in the Willows" at the end of the sessions.

Happenings at the Little Rock Zoo

Friday and Saturday, January 14 & 15, 2005

Eagle Awareness at Bull Shoals State Park
See this living symbol of America, as well as, other birds of prey and migratory birds presented by expert rangers and naturalists. Also witness several birds up close as handlers from the Little Rock Zoo bring an array of birds from the bird of prey collection. Please call 870-431-5521 for more information.

Friday and Saturday, January 28 29, 2005

Eagles Et Cetera Festival at DeGray Lake Resort State Park
Experience eagle watching tours, arts and crafts, bird workshops, and live birds of prey presentations presented by the Little Rock Zoo Education Department. Please call 501-865-2801 for more information.

Friday, February 11, 2005

Eagle Awareness at Cossatot River State Park
See live birds of prey demonstrations by the Little Rock Zoo's Education Department throughout the day at this scenic park's education center to help start its first annual Eagle Awareness program. Please call 870-835-2201 for more information.

Saturday, March 12, 2005

Pachyderm Birthday Party at the Little Rock Zoo
Join us to celebrate the 55th and 54th birthday of our Asian Elephants, Ellen and Mary from 11:00 - 1:00. A special "Elephant's Delight Cake" will be presented to Ellen and Mary and ice cream and cake will be served to the visitors. Keeper Chats about the elephants will be at 10:30 and 1:30 and information on elephant conservation will be available.

Friday, March 18 through Sunday, March 20, 2005

Towering Termite Tour
Visit the Little Rock Zoo to understand the good, bad, and just plain strange ways of termites. The Towering Termite is filled with a wealth of fascinating facts, interactive activities, and educational displays! Come out and see the 20-foot by 60-foot termite! Free with General Zoo Admission.

Saturday, March 19, 2005

Breakfast with the Reptiles
An unusual breakfast for animal lovers. Join us from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. for a fascinating look at the world of reptiles.

Members: \$9.00
adults/\$6.00 children

Non-members: \$12.00
adults/\$9.00 children

Price includes buffet breakfast, Keeper Chat, and admission to the Zoo.

Call 666-2406 ext. 122 for reservations.

For more information, call the Little Rock Zoo at 501/666-2406 or go to our web site at www.littlerockzoo.com. We will update the information below as details become available.

Keeper Chats and Story Time will resume in the Spring!

A Hill's View

By Paul or Julie Hill

I Swear

While many of you were lazing about on your first morning of the New Year, your recently elected (and re-elected) city officials were being sworn in to their new (or renewed) positions in "Your Dream Hometown Government". Newly elected District Court Judge Theresa Hughes accomplished the "do you's" as her first official duty in her new office, while her husband and predecessor Judge Tom Hughes (retired) looked on supportively from the sidelines. Like many of you, I too have been battling a cold for the last few weeks, and was not able to attend the event. It was a painful decision, but felt it safer for all concerned if I kept my germs to myself.

But Monday I took the time to review my own oath - the same oath as the other elects - and to reflect on just what those words mean to me. These few, simple words, although concise and direct, apparently mean different things to different people. I thought I'd share them with you today:

"I solemnly swear or affirm to support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, and the City Ordinances of the City of Beebe, Arkansas, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties on which I am about to enter." These are public servants with a serious mission and clear guidance, who need your support and involvement. That's just my two cents...

Saddle On Up

No, don't fret. I haven't "gone cowboy" on ya - not yet anyway. I just want to invite

you to visit another great restaurant. I only offer up these reviews when I find something really good, so you better listen up.

Saddle Creek lies in the Heart of the Lakewood Village Mall in North Little Rock. They stripped bare the old Mexican restaurant and built a Montana lodge, with its large wooden doors opening out to the wonderful mall fountains.

The restaurant is built around a wood-fired grill and boasts the warm, western theme of a Northwestern hunting lodge. If you like thick wood, big stone and warm fireplaces, you won't find a better place to spend your time. I didn't want to leave!

And the food? Now, you know how I love to eat, and you ought to know I wouldn't steer you to some pretty showplace that's void of good cuisine. Executive Chef Ken Weis offers the freshest menu in town, with freshly cut aged steaks, fresh fish flown in every other day, and the choicest selection of vegetables imaginable. The menu is full but not overwhelming. I had the grilled salmon, and it was unbelievably great. If God had intended fish to taste so good He wouldn't have made cows!

They also have a pastry chef whose name is Pamela, and although I've heard wonderful things, I was unable to sample her wares. If you're in the neighborhood you ought to stop by for a dessert or two (!) and let me know the results.

Or maybe I could write it off as research on my expense account!

Reach Paul and Julie Hill at hillsvie@sbeglobal.net or at PO Box 599, Beebe, AR 72012

Youth Audition Dates Announced for "The Miracle Worker" at Arkansas Repertory Theatre

Arkansas Repertory Theatre (The Rep) announces youth audition dates for its upcoming production of the classic American stage drama, The Miracle Worker by William Gibson.

The Miracle Worker, directed by Brad Mooy, tells the electrifying story of young Helen Keller. Left frustrated and violent by her inability to commu-

nicate, Helen is in danger of being sent to an institution. In desperation, her parents seek help from the Perkins Institute, which send them Annie Sullivan, a "half-blind Yankee schoolgirl," to tutor their daughter.

Auditions will be held Saturday, Jan. 22 at 1 p.m. Youths age 6 and older should call James Eison at 378-0445

Ext. 214 to schedule an audition. Actors should prepare a one-minute monologue. Several roles, including that of Helen, are to be cast. Rehearsals for the production, which runs March 18 - April 10, begin Feb. 22. If possible, please bring a picture and resume to the audition.

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