

COMMUNITY

ENTERTAINMENT

Cultural Arts District welcomes annual Grand Kids Festival to Galveston April 2

By Robert Stanton

The 21st annual Grand Kids Festival will be April 2 in historic downtown Galveston.

The event, a celebration of the arts like no other, will take place on Postoffice Street from 20th to 23rd streets in Galveston's Cultural Arts District.

The festival fills three city blocks from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday with three outdoor stages, an indoor stage (at The Grand), a storytelling tent, more than a dozen activity areas, more than 40 activity booths and an array of food and beverage booths.

"We want children to leave the festival feeling the success of performing on stage, the thrill of creating a hands-on masterpiece and the experience of seeing performances that inspire them," said an event press release.

Entertainment includes Cajun author and song siren Johnette Downing and Cirque Mechanics artists who will transport the audience to the world of Pedal Punk, a Steampunk inspired place where cycling is the way to escape the technology-obsessed society.

In addition, there will be stunt bikes, bungee trampolines, a balloon artist, a giant inflatable zipline, a stop motion photography artist, an origami artist, a glass-blowing artist, interaction with live animals at the petting zoo and pony rides.

As one of the festival highlights, Missoula Children's Theatre will conduct a week-long residency for a production of "Little Red Riding Hood." The residency will begin with an open audition for students in grades K-12 at 4:30 p.m. on March 28 at The Grand. The Missoula team will select a cast of 50 area children who will participate in a week of rehearsals to prepare for their two performances onstage as part of The Grand Kids Festival.

The festival grounds will be free to the public as well as the inflatables, petting zoo and Zippy Pets. A fee will be charged for some activities and booths, such as food and face painting.

For festival information, visit www.grandkidsfestival.com or call 800-821-1894 or 409-765-1894.

Seabrook

Runners and folks who love to walk are invited to take part in the 5K Runs to Benefit Footsteps For the Fallen on March 18-19.

The 5K run to benefit the Footsteps for the Fallen's scholarship program for children of Texas first responders will be 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 18, on the Seabrook Nature Trails.

A 5K run to benefit the scholarship program will begin at 7:30 a.m. March 19 and will take place on nature trails and city streets.

The Seabrook nature trails are surrounded by a diverse habitat of both



Kathy Van Dewalli

The 21st annual Grand Kids Festival will be April 7 in historic downtown Galveston and will include activity booths.

fresh and salt marsh, the coastline of the Galveston Bay, wetlands, and wildlife and bird sanctuaries.

The 5K participants receive a complete race packet, T-shirt and finisher's medal. The minimum age for participation is 5, with the written permission and on-site presence of a parent or guardian.

Visit www.footstepsforthefallen.org for more information.

Galveston

Spring break is quickly approaching and that means it's time for the return of the Spring Break Adventure Pass.

From March 11-20, guests will have the opportunity to purchase an unlimited, three-park pass allowing entry to Kemah Boardwalk, the Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier and Landry's Downtown Aquarium Houston as many times during that timeframe as desired.

"Back by popular demand, we are excited to bring back our Spring Break Adventure pass to area residents and spring break visitors," said Mark Kane, divisional vice president of Landry's amusement division, in a press release.

The Kemah Boardwalk is home to waterfront restaurants, retail stores and its famed amusements. A

variety of midway games, an arcade, a playground, and dancing fountains combined with 13 different rides give children and families a variety of choices. The Kemah Boardwalk is located at 215 Kipp Ave. in Kemah.

The Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier features family-oriented attractions that include 16 rides, midway games, a selection of food venues and retail shops. The Pleasure Pier is located at 2501 Seawall Blvd. in Galveston.

Galveston

Bach Society Houston will perform a concert entitled "Music for Passiontide" at 6 p.m. Sunday, March 20, at the Lyceum of Galveston Island, 2401 Winnie, in the ensemble's first performance on the island.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to perform for our neighbors in Galveston for the first time. Music celebrating the Passion is powerful and moving — full of drama and an intense longing for peace," said Rick Erickson, director of Bach Society Houston.

The ensemble has recently been invited to participate in the 2017 International BachFest that takes place annually in Bach's city of Leipzig, Germany, and is the first American

ensemble to receive the honor.

Accompanying the choir is Grammy-nominated lutenist Richard Savino, Benjamin Hayek on viola da gamba (a relative of the cello popular during Bach and Schütz's lifetimes), and Christopher Holman on organ.

Tickets cost \$35, \$30 for seniors, and \$5 for students, and are available via www.bachsocietyhouston.org. For more information, email cholman@bachsocietyhouston.org or call 713-553-4420.

Hitchcock

The 2016 Galveston County Fair and Rodeo will return April 8-16 at Jack Brooks Park at 5700 FM 2004, and a new entertainment lineup has been announced.

"For 2016 our fair has something for everyone, the entertainment lineup represents country legends to local favorites," said Paul Tibalto, Galveston County Fair and Rodeo president, in a media release.

Rodeo action, carnival rides, a livestock judging contest, and seafood and barbecue cook-off competitions are scheduled to be part of this year's fair.

"Our headliners include Tracy Byrd, Kyle Park, Johnny Lee, and new to our fair is the cappella group Six Appeal," Tibalto said. "We really have thought out-of-the-box to bring a wide range of entertainment for everyone to enjoy."

Byrd will be kicking off the 2016 fair on Friday, April 8, with Jason James opening. The Golden Triangle's favorite son is a country legend with a string of chart-topping hits. Byrd is known for his traditional country music and was recently inducted into the Texas Music Hall of Fame.

Park, an Austin singer/songwriter, will be taking the stage on Saturday, April 9, with local favorite Southbound 45. Park, who headlined a few years ago, returns to the fair with his crank-it-up tunes and large fan base following.

New to the 2016 Galveston County Fair and Rodeo is "Fiesta Sunday" on April

Johnny continues on 6



Christopher Holman/Bach Society Houston

Bach Society Houston will perform "Music for Passiontide" at 6 p.m. Sunday, March 20, in Galveston. It's the group's first performance on the island.

MY PERFECT HOUS(e)TON

Neighborhood Happenings

March 15

Meditation for Everyday Living, 7 p.m., Evelyn Meador Library

March 16

Rainbow Snacks: A Teens & Tweens Event, 2:30 p.m., Freeman Branch Library

March 18

Escape the Fate and New Years Day, 7 p.m., 18th Street Pier

March 18

The Spazmatics, 10:15 p.m., Scout Bar

March 19

The Devil Wears Prada w/The Word Alive, Fit For a King, Out Come the Wolves, 6 p.m., Scout Bar

Martha Turner

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