

Insider

For February 24, 2010

By Kim Burger

Old Man Winter just isn't letting go, but we Iowan's are made of hearty stock. It's been a fabulous winter to sled down the hill in Prairie Lakes Park near the Visitor Center and explore the trails on cross country skis. In fact Waverly Leisure Services will be offering their annual Candlelight Ski along the Waverly Rail Trail this Saturday evening, February 27th, from 5-7pm. It's a fabulous time and I encourage you to give it a whirl. You can learn more by calling 319-352-6263.

For those of you who prefer to enjoy winter inside, we've got a long list of ideas sure to keep you busy til the snow melts! Our *distinctive* Cedar Falls downtown is hosting the WOW Convention aka Women's Outrageous Weekend, this Friday through Sunday. Downtown businesses will offer special discounts, classes, giveaways and more. It's sure to be outrageous fun for you and your Gal (or Guy) Pals.

Also, this weekend, on Sunday the 28th, the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center will hold its annual Beers to You and Gourmet Too event at the Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center from 3-7pm. Enjoy beer tasting and food pairings while supporting the PAC's general programming and Kaleidoscope series. Some of that programming includes the upcoming mix of music and "tragedy" planned for March. The Soweto Gospel Choir will perform some of the most evocative sounds on earth with their African gospel music March 5th at 7:30pm. The Acting Company offers their performance of Shakespeare's romantic tragedy *Romeo and Juliet* March 7th at 7:30pm. On March 11th the retro 1940's musical *In the Mood* featuring The Mood Singers and Dancers with the String of Pearls Big Band, will perform at 7:30pm. The Broadway musical *Avenue Q* takes to the stage March 31st, and April 1st and 2nd at 7:30pm each day.

The UNI-Dome is also hosting a myriad of activities. You don't have to be a farmer to enjoy attending the Hawkeye Farm Show March 2nd through the 4th. Take your kids and enjoy not only free parking and admission, but see live animals, learn about farm machinery and develop an understanding of farming. The following weekend the Dome will welcome the Eastern Iowa Sports Show March 12th – 14th, always a sign of the warmer weather to come. Antique buffs are sure to enjoy the hunt for collectibles during the Antique & Collectibles Show March 19th – 21st. This is Iowa's largest indoor show if its kind.

The weekend of March 6th and 7th brings the infamous Chris Cakes to town to serve 'em up hot and syrupy at Hartman Reserves' Maple Syrup Festival! When you have had all that you can eat, visit the Sugar Shack for live maple syrup processing demonstrations as well as other fun activities for the entire family.

The Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony invites you to travel on a unique side-by-side journey through folk-inspired music at the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center March 6th at 7:30pm.

Strayer-Wood Theatre will perform live Edward Albee's *Three Tall Women* February 25th – 28th and March 4th – 7th. This 1994 Pulitzer Prize winner is the story of an elderly woman taking stock of her past while facing her inevitable passing.

The Black Hawk Children's theatre will delight you with their performance of *The Hobbit*, J.R.R. Tolkien's wonderful adventurous tale, at the Hope Martin Theatre located in the Waterloo Center for the Arts, March 5th – 7th. Enjoy *Tuesday's with Morrie*, performed by The Waterloo Community Theatre, also at the Hope Martin Theatre, March 26th – April 3rd. And last, but certainly not least, the Waverly Sales Barn hosts their Spring Midwest Horse Sale March 23rd – 27th and Heritage Farm's celebrates the Bunny Brunch March 27th and April 3rd.

Whew! With all of this going on spring will be here before you know it! I encourage you to check out our on-line calendar of events at www.cedarvalleytourism.org for more details and additional ideas, or better yet, stop by the Visitor Center and pick up a copy of our Bi-Annual Calendar.