

Insider

For February 13, 2008

Cedar Falls and Waverly Editions

By Kim Burger

One thing we at the Bureau try to excel in is finding things for our visitors to do. That can easily translate into things our local residents would also enjoy. In the summer, this is pretty easy, with 80 miles of paved trails, venues that offer outstanding outdoor recreation, and our nationally recognized downtown area. But over the last few years we have noticed a new trend – lots of fun, indoor activities that can be enjoyed throughout the year. Each year this list continues to grow and attracts visitors to the Cedar Valley to relieve the winter blahs.

Live theater is always a delightful way to step out of the ordinary and we have so much to offer this month. Theatre UNI's production of *The Crucible*, at the Strayer-Wood Theatre on the UNI Campus, speaks to the hysteria of 1692 Salem. Two shows are left, the 15th at 7:30 p.m. and the 17th at 2 p.m. The Waterloo Community Playhouses production of *Unfinished Dreams* runs through the 16th at the Hope Martin Theatre in the Waterloo Center for the Arts. Enjoy the Midwest premier of this lighthearted comedy as Mom and Dad spend Christmas Eve with their three grown daughters in Dad's yet unfinished dream house. Enjoy Ken Ludwig's raucous farce, *Lend Me a Tenor – A Romp on the Rigors of Playacting*, performed by the Cedar Falls Community Theatre in the Oster Regent Theatre, February 22nd through March 2nd.

The Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center in Cedar Falls also gets in the act this month with two productions. February 18th at 7:30 p.m. is *Teatro Lirico D'Europa – Tosca*, a very dramatic opera set in 1800 Rome as Napoleon's troops are fighting the Austrians. On February 23rd at 8 p.m. enjoy Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet as they perform *The Magic Flute*, a ballet designed to appeal to all ages.

The Wartburg Community Symphony's Concert "Just in Time" is February 16th in Neumann Auditorium on Wartburg College Campus in Waverly at 7:30 p.m. Guitarist Peter Jankovic will perform.

Hobby and sporting enthusiasts won't feel left out either. On February 15th through the 17th gun collectors will be exhibiting and examining at McElroy Auditorium on the National Cattle Congress Grounds in Waterloo for Kraus Promotions Gun Show. The E/xpo in the UNI Dome - Indoor Electric R/C Fun-Fly is February 16th and 17th, for pilots and spectators alike! Boxers from all around the Midwest will gather at the Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center in Waterloo for the North Midwest Regional Boxing Championship. And the Northeast Iowa Steel Guitar Jam is February 23rd through the 24th in the Electric Park Ballroom in Waterloo. The Jam includes 30 artists from over six Midwestern states.

Of course farmers aren't out in the field yet, so it is a wonderful time for the Hawkeye Farm Show! The newest innovations in agriculture will be on display in the UNI-Dome February 20th through 22nd .

On loan from the Smithsonian Institute, the *Earth from Space Exhibit* opens at the University Museum in Cedar Falls February 16th and will be on display through June 28th . This is a fascinating and beautiful exhibition of large satellite images that includes the swirling arms of massive hurricanes as well as the triangular shadows cast by the Great Pyramids.

All of these events and how to contact them, plus many more, can be found on our website, www.cedarfallstourism.org. Simply click on Calendar of Events, then the Cedar Valley Tourism Calendar and you will see perhaps more than you ever imagined going on right in your own backyard!