

NEWS

Here comes the South Mountain Fair!

The 89th Annual South Mountain Fair will be held Aug. 16-20 at the South Mountain Fair Grounds in Arendtsville, Pa.

"The South Mountain Fair is a small fair that highlights the agriculture industry in the area," said Joanne Irvine, a fair board member.

The fair has eight barns filled with farm animals including beef and dairy cattle, sheep, goats and swine being judged throughout the week.

"The poultry exhibit is new this year," Irvine said. "The youth (4H/FFA) rabbit exhibit is also new."

In the main exhibit building visitors will find arts and crafts, needlework, home baked and canned goods, fruits, vegetables and flowers. A smaller building dedicated to amateur photographers showcases over 100 photos. There is also a display of over 100 pieces of antique farm machinery. In all, visitors will find about 3,000 exhibits that award

\$23,000 in premiums each year.

Each year, about 11,000 visitors come to the South Mountain Fair; some from as far away as Dover, Del., though most of them live within 30 miles of the fair. Some of the most popular things they come to see are:

- Baked goods auction on Tuesday, Aug. 16 at 7:30 p.m. Proceeds go to a local charity.
- Draft horse pull on Wednesday, Aug. 17 at 6:30 p.m.
- Fireworks on Thursday, Aug. 18 at 10 p.m.
- Draft and light horse show on Saturday, Aug. 19 at 9 a.m.
- 4H/FFA livestock sale on Saturday, Aug. 19 at 4 p.m.

"Of course there's the great fair food," Irvine said. "We have everything from hamburgers and french fries to BBQ ribs, cotton candy and funnel cakes!"

Kids will enjoy the South Moun-



tain Fair carnival rides and games. There is also a hayride run by the South Mountain Antique Engine Association, cotton candy, funnel cakes and other sweet treats.

The fair does not get its support

from large, corporate sponsors. It is supported by ticket sales and fair-ground rentals during the rest of the year for other events.

Admission to the fair is \$4 for adults. Children 12 and under are

free and parking is also free. Gates open at 4 p.m. during the week and 10 a.m. on Saturday.

For more information, visit the South Mountain Fair web site at www.southmountainfair.com.

Carriage House Inn hosts Civil War musical

Imagine if the Civil War had occurred in the 1960's rather than the 1860's and you will have an idea of what Gettysburg: The Musical is like. Col. Frank Sinatra sings "My Kind of Town." Then there's Buck Private Dean Martin who is one of the Stuebenville Shooters. "Not sharpshooters, just shooters," he says. "We like to drink a little bit." Then there's Sammy Davis, Jr. singing, "I've Got to Beat Meade."

Gettysburg: The Musical is a funny, musical history lesson that will leave you knowing a little more about the Battle of Gettysburg. "I never enjoyed a history lesson so much," one guest said after the show.

Gettysburg: The Musical is playing every Friday night at the Carriage House Inn in Emmitsburg as a dinner theater. It is an original two-person show written by and starring Billy Finch, a celebrity impersonator from Silver Spring.

Finch and his wife do the entire show. Finch impersonates Sina-

tra, Davis, Martin, Jack Nicholson, Johnny Cash, Rodney Dangerfield and more. Carol Finch plays female characters and, for one song, a Civil War general in drag. The costumes are fairly simple. Sinatra is dressed in a Civil War uniform, but he wears a fedora. "Union Jack" Nicholson wears dark sunglasses and a Civil War uniform. Some character changes just come from a change of expressions by Finch.

"We had wanted to do something to tie in with the 150th Civil War anniversary and this fit perfectly," said Kristy Shriner, the Carriage House dining room and marketing manager.

Finch has a repertoire of around 40 celebrities and he uses more than a dozen of them in the show. The songs are familiar tunes with new lyrics about the Battle of Gettysburg. For instance, "Pickett and Pettigrew" is sung to the tune of "Love and Marriage," and "Gray Tide" is sung to the tune of "Rawhide."

The show premiered on July 1 and will run through September.

Shriner said the response to the dinner theater has been so good that it is definitely something they will do again. "This is something new and unique," Shriner said. "It's history and entertainment with a twist."

Besides being a celebrity impersonator, Finch is also a history buff. Finch and his booking agent came up with the idea for the show and Finch contacted Bob Hance at the Carriage House in May. Hance said the show has been doing even better than he had expected it to.

Finch has been doing impersonations since he was in elementary school. "I'm doing right now what I did in the fourth grade," Finch said. "It's fun to be somebody else. You get to say things you wouldn't normally say."

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and dinner is at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$45 or \$80 per couple. To reserve your seats at the show, call the Carriage House at 301-447-2366. For more information, visit carriagehouseinn.info or billyfinch.com.



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