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Illinois Springs Into Action

Families Take To the Outdoors As Winter Goes Into Hibernation

As winter bids farewell, families are leaving their homes to finally stretch their legs and enjoy the outdoors. This spring, Illinois offers loads of attractions rich in culture, history and plenty of physical activity to satisfy anyone looking for fresh air. *Monkey Around with Animals*, Mufasa the lion would like to welcome families to visit the *Niabi Zoo* in Coal Valley in Western Illinois. In addition to a jungle of animals, including lions, tigers and black and white colobus monkeys, Niabi also offers the "Discovery Station," where visitors can experience up-close encounters with animals living at the zoo. Children and adults can visit some of their furry and winged friends for free at *Philips Park Zoo* in Aurora, just 45 minutes from Chicago. The zoo serves to educate its visitors on some of the most fascinating animals in North America, such as wolves, fox, elk, potbelly pigs, reptiles and even the U.S. national symbol, the bald eagle. Located next to the zoo is Phillips Park, which contains such attractions as a large state-of-the-art playground, trails for biking and a pier for fishing.



For natural fun and at just a 90-minute trip southwest of Chicago, *Starved Rock State Park* of Utica offers a forest of possibilities for family excursions. Go exploring through some of the 18 hikeable canyons or catch a view of the beautiful overlooks along the Illinois River. The park also provides a great opportunity for picnics, horseback riding, boating and fishing. Camping and lodging are also available through reservation. Families can also enjoy the mysteries of a deep, dark cave that once provided refuge for notorious river bandits can be discovered in Southern Illinois at *Cave-In-Rock State Park* of Hardin County. In addition to the natural splendor of a 55-foot wide cave overlooking the Ohio River, the park also offers outdoor enthusiasts hours of activities with marked and unmarked trails, boating and fishing. Camping and lodging are also available through reservation. To get started on planning the perfect spring vacation, travelers can request a free copy of the new ¡Vive la emoción! brochure, find additional information or book a travel package through the Illinois Bureau of Tourism's Spanish-speaking travel professionals at 1-866-610-GOZA or its website, www.disfrutaillinois.com.





Chicago Tap Theatre...

Continued from page 28

and female dancers, all of whom excel in both tap and other forms of dance, Yonally not only creates a whole new world for The Hourglass through his choreography, he also creates a unique new spin on the art of tap dance.

The Hourglass in the Stop-Time Chronicles runs July 6th through 8th, 13th through 15th, 20th through 22nd and 27th through 29th at the Athenaeum Theater Studio 1, located at 2936 N. Southport. Tickets can be purchased at the door, through www.ticketmaster.com or by calling 312-902-1500. Tickets are $25 for adults, $20 for seniors and $15 for students or dancers. Discounts are also available for groups of 10 or more.

Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre...

Continued from page 28

If you haven't seen Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre recently, be prepared to see the company like you've never seen them before. Dancing with a new caliber of talent, accompanied by top-quality compositions, and expressing powerful messages behind the movement, CRDT has moved in an exciting and noteworthy direction. Pieces in the *Latin Fire* program to note are *Voces Inocentes* (Innocent Voices), featuring choreography by Eddie Ocampo and original music composition by Producing Director Joe Cerqua, depicts the unfortunate reality of youth soldiers in Central America. As well as *Brujos Deseos* (Witching Lust), a passionate love triangle inspired by the traditional Argentinean Tango, with music by Resident Composer Donald Neale and choreography by Wilfredo Rivera. Tickets to CRDT's *Latin Fire* are $30 for general seating and $25 for group sales (10 or more). To purchase tickets, contact the Vittum Theater Box Office at 773-342-4141 or www.vittumtheater.org. For more information, please visit us at www.cerquarivera.org.

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