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TULSA SUMMER STAGE 2017

June 22 Mark Gibson and Friends in Concert
June 22-25 Local Landmark, National Treasure: An Epic Concert Celebrating 95 Years - Theatre Tulsa
June 22-25 The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged - Sand Springs Community Theatre
June 23 One More Day With Denny Day - Echo Theatre
June 24-25 Oy, Gestalt! - Spinning Plates Productions

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tulsaworld.com/calendar

FROM THE COVER



A crowd gathers outside for a free concert at LaFortune Park's gardens area. MATT BARNARD/Tulsa World

FROM STAFF REPORTS

With the kids out of school, families often find that idle time is often expensive time. But it doesn't have to be that way. There are plenty of things to do during the summer that don't cost a dime.

Whether you enjoy watching movies, splashing around in the water to keep cool or taking a leisurely stroll around a local festival, Oklahoma has a host of events and activities for free.

Here are some of the best.

Outdoor concerts

SUMMER'S FIFTH NIGHT

Utica Square
The 26th annual edition of this Tulsa favorite offers a variety of music styles with 7-9 p.m. concerts Thursdays. Red Dirt Rangers and Mary Cogan are among the acts scheduled, with Grady Nichols performing in the Aug. 31 finale.

STARLIGHT CONCERTS

Guthrie Green, 111 E. M.B. Brady St.
Guthrie Green is home to this series staged by longtime favorite the Starlight Band, Oklahoma's only professional concert band, with more than 50 musicians. The musicians offer theme-driven performance nights, beginning at 8 p.m. on the Tuesdays of June 27, July 11 and July 18, as well as one First Friday Art Crawl evening July 7.

GARDENS AT LAFORTUNE CONCERTS

LaFortune Park, 5202 S. Hudson Ave.
These first-Friday-of-the-month shows take place at the Gardens at LaFortune Park, a green space located near the intersection of 51st Street and Hudson Avenue, northwest of the Herman and Kate Kaiser Library. Music begins about 7 p.m. and continues for about two hours. The lineup includes Hi-Fi Hillbillies (roots-rock, '50s-'60s) on July 7, Merle Jam (country) on Aug. 4 and Wanda Watson (blues-funk) on Sept. 1.

JENKS RIVERWALK SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Riverwalk Crossing, 300 Riverwalk Terrace, Jenks
The Riverwalk Crossing center in Jenks offers an amphitheater area for Saturday shows, all set for 7-9 p.m., with live radio station remote broadcasts on site from 6-8 p.m. Upcoming acts include Let's Zeppelin (tribute band) on July 1 and the Tiptons (country) on July 15.

Summer movies for kids

BROKEN ARROW WARREN THEATRE
1700 Aspen Creek Drive, Broken Arrow
The Broken Arrow luxury theater's ultra-popular summer movie series for kids has an amazing offer: Children age 13 and younger get not only free movies, but also free concessions and live entertainment at the theater. The shows take place at 10 a.m. Tuesdays, with doors opening at 9 a.m. Some conditions include: all tickets will be for reserved seating; tickets must be picked up in

person at the theater box office and will not be available online; the tickets can be picked up as early as the Saturday before each Tuesday showing through the July 25 finale.

SUMMER MOVIES @ CIRCLE CINEMA

10 S. Lewis Ave.
Tulsa's art-house gem is teaming up with the Tulsa City-County Library's summer reading program to show family-friendly films for free in July, with kids receiving a free concession treat. These shows will take place at 1 p.m. Wednesdays in July with the following schedule: July 5: "The Lego Batman Movie"; July 12: "Sing"; July 19: "Trolls"; and July 26: "Boss Baby."

MOVIE IN THE PARK

Guthrie Green, 111 E. M.B. Brady St.
Every Thursday from May to October at 8:30 p.m., Guthrie Green shows free movies in the park. Get out your lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy a fun night of film under the stars. This week, AARP presents "Something's Gotta Give," starring Jack Nicholson and Diane Keaton. The June 29 feature is "The Great Outdoors," starring Dan Akroyd and John Candy. For a full schedule, visit guthriegreen.com.

Free pools and splash pads

WHITESIDE MUNICIPAL POOL

4009 S. Pittsburg Ave.
The Whiteside Municipal Pool offers a free indoor swimming experience from noon to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The last day of swimming is Aug. 11.

BERRY MUNICIPAL POOL

5002 N. Wheeling Ave.
The Berry Municipal Pool offers free swimming from noon to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

BENTLEY PARK SPORTS COMPLEX SPLASH PAD

8505 E. 148 St., Bixby
The splash pad area at the sports complex is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Monday. It closes after Labor Day weekend every year. The splash pad was awarded "2011 Dream Designs Spray Park & Power Play" by Aquatics International.

41ST STREET PLAZA

4100 Riverside Drive
The splash pad and fountains at the 41st Street Plaza Complex are open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. through Oct. 1 for children of all ages.



Kids run through a splash pad at 41st Street and Riverside Drive in Tulsa.

MATT BARNARD/Tulsa World file



Story time for toddlers through second grade is held at 10 a.m. every Thursday through September at the Linnaeus Teaching Garden.

CORY YOUNG/Tulsa World file

The water facilities are closed every so often to be cleaned.

Festivals

BIXBY GREEN CORN FESTIVAL

June 22-24, Bixby Community Center, 211 N. Cabanis Ave., Bixby
The annual Bixby Green Corn Festival will feature a variety of family activities, including a youth talent show, jam session, bingo, a magic show, a carnival and more. Admission is free; some activities cost money. For information, call Celia Wetherill at 918-366-4841.

MVSKOKE NATION FESTIVAL

June 22-25, Claude Cox Amphitheater, 2950 Warrior Road, Okmulgee
Delta Rae and Lee Ann Womack will perform June 23. Jonny Lang and Kenny Wayne

A schedule can be found at jaychamber.org.

PORTER PEACH FESTIVAL

July 13-15, Downtown Porter
The Porter Peach Festival will celebrate its 51st anniversary this summer. Visitors can purchase or pick peaches at nearby orchards, and Main Street will have food trucks, arts and crafts vendors, games for kids, live music and contests. Peach-related competitions include cook-offs in dessert and preserve categories and peach-eating and pit-spitting contests.

ESKIMO JOE'S 42ND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

July 17-23, Eskimo Joe's, 501 W. Elm Ave., Stillwater
Join thousands of visitors for a weeklong party at the anniversary celebration. Different events are scheduled for each day of the celebration.

TULSA COUNTY FREE FAIR

July 20-22, Expo Square, 4145 E. 21st St.
The Tulsa County Free Fair, held at the Exchange Center at Expo Square, features 4-H and community exhibits, plus learning events and competitions. For more, go to tulsacounty.org/freefair.

CRAIG COUNTY FREE FAIR

July 27-29, Craig County Fairgrounds, Vinita
Exhibits, livestock shows, children's activities and nightly events will be part of what is billed as the oldest continuously run fair in Oklahoma. Visit craigcountyfairgrounds.com.

WHOLE HAWG DAYS AND POKER RUN

July 27-29, Eufaula
Music, arts and crafts and a parade are among attractions at the festival, but be sure to be there at 5 p.m. July 29 for a "hawg sandwich" giveaway. For information, go to eufaulachambercommerce.com

RUSH SPRINGS WATERMELON FESTIVAL

Aug. 12, Jeff Davis Park, Rush Springs
Always on the second Saturday in August, the Rush Spring Watermelon Festival is known as one of the oldest celebrations in the state. There will be watermelon-themed activities for the whole family, including a seed-spitting contest, a 5k run, free watermelon slices, prize watermelon auction and the annual Watermelon Queen Coronation.

Museums

PHILBROOK MUSEUM SECOND SATURDAY

2727 S. Rockford Ave.
Philbrook Museum of Art hosts its regular Second Saturday event, which offers a host of family-friendly events, from art making to scavenger hunts, every second Saturday of the month. Admission to the museum itself, along with access to the galleries of the Villa Philbrook and participation in all the First Friday activities, is free.

GILCREASE MUSEUM FUNDAY SUNDAY

1400 N. Gilcrease Museum Road
It's an afternoon of museum fun for the whole family. Every third Sunday of the month, visitors can enjoy different art-making stations in the museum, each offering different materials and themes, as well as teaching artists to help guide and inspire. An art hunt is available to explore the galleries with a prize at

the end. Families also will enjoy interactive spaces, the Kids Site and the Kravis Discovery Center, as well as the different galleries. Admission is free.

Playgrounds

The city of Tulsa and Tulsa County have several parks with great playgrounds. Here are some of our favorites:

- Mohawk, 5701 E. 36th St. North
- LaFortune Park, 5202 S. Hudson Ave.
- Highland, 4909 E. 36th St.
- Darlington, 5179 E. 29th St.
- Langenheim, 4701 S. Harvard Ave.
- Hunter, 5804 E. 91st St.
- Owen, 560 N. Maybelle St.

Outdoor and nature

OXLEY NATURE CENTER

Redbud Valley Nature Preserve
Prepare for a rocky adventure when you hit the trails at Redbud Valley Nature Preserve, just outside Tulsa on the northeast side of town. Seeing this 1-mile woodland loop along bluffs over the Bird Creek watershed is worth the planning time. Take Interstate 44 toward Joplin and be mindful when you take Exit 237 for 161st East Avenue to stay to the left, turn to go under the interstate, turn left again on Skelly Drive and then take the first right (north) on 161st. Keep going and soon 161st will be a two-lane blacktop dropping down a hill into a wooded area. The Redbud Valley sign and entrance will be on your left. Oxley Nature Center oversees the area and staffs the Harriet Barclay Visitor's Center open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. The trails are open only 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on those days. Admission is free, but the gates close promptly, so don't be caught out late on the trails.

KEYSTONE ANCIENT FOREST

160 Ancient Forest Drive (North of 209th West Avenue/Highway 412 Exit), Sand Springs
Hike nearly 5 miles through Oklahoma crosstimbers forest with 500-year-old cedars and 300-year-old post oak trees and enjoy what's inside this 1,360-acre nature preserve. Typically open Saturdays. Check sandspring-sok.org or Keystone Ancient Forest Facebook page for dates.

TURKEY MOUNTAIN

6850 S. Elwood Ave.
Tackle Tulsa's urban wilderness along the river where you can hike, walk, run or ride your horse or mountain bike from 1 mile to 10 miles along its trails next to the Arkansas River. A beginner or slow walker? No problem.

STORY TIME

Tuesdays through September, Linnaeus Teaching Garden, 2435 S. Peoria Ave.
Volunteer gardeners of the Linnaeus Teaching Garden will host story time for toddlers through second grade starting at 10 a.m. every Thursday through September. Story time is set in the entry garden pavilion around the statue of Carl Linnaeus. Participants are encouraged to bring a blanket to sit on. Picture books with garden themes will include an activity in the Linnaeus Garden afterward.

WIN THIS



The Nixons will perform at Cain's Ballroom for a reunion show Friday. COURTESY

See The Nixons at Cain's

The Nixons will play a reunion show at Cain's Ballroom on Friday and we have tickets to give away. Like Tulsa World Scene on Facebook — facebook.com/tulsaworldscene — leave a comment and share the post for your chance to win tickets to the show. Or buy tickets now at cainsballroom.com.

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