

Ripley's has been haunting Gatlinburg for 10 years

Ripley's
HAUNTED
ADVENTURE™

By **STEPHANIE EDWARDS**
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Occupied body bags hanging from the ceiling, chain saw-armed lunatics and ghostly figures can all be seen in Gatlinburg every day.

And they have been for the past 10 years.

Ripley's Haunted Adventure is celebrating this milestone anniversary with a spooky event.

Anyone who wants to see the attraction's ghouls and villains will have the opportunity to be spooked at 7 p.m. on July 2. These creepy characters will march in a parade outside the attraction.

We are very proud of our success," said Suzanne DeSear, manager of Ripley's Haunted Adventure.

If you haven't wandered through the attraction, it is well worth your time and money. It's one of the few "haunted" attractions that has managed



to scare me.

You are told the following story: "The attraction is the original site of the Grimsby & Streaper Casket Company was constructed in 1891. It was built over a cave that the locals called The Sinks.

"The locals never went there, and it was said that anyone who

ventured in to The Sinks either went mad or were never seen again.

"The company operated 24 hours a day, but it was at night that it was most active. It was said that unnatural things went on in the place, and it was often blamed for the unusual number of people who disappeared from the

town.

"In 1926, after the strange disappearance of both Grimsby and Streaper, the company ceased operations. The building was boarded up and fenced in. Over the years, new shops and stores were built in front of it and it was mostly forgotten.

"In 1991, Ripley's acquired the property

and demolished the buildings that had been built in front of it. Until further notice, Ripley's will be conducting tours of the old factory, pending a decision on how to further develop this valuable location."

Whether there is a shred of truth to this story or not, it is a very creepy place to hang

out. When you enter the building, you are told to put one hand on the shoulder of the person who is in front of you.

As the group walks single file through the spooky place, they encounter all sorts of frightening surprises.

The most unsettling experience is walking through several hanging body bags that appear to be occupied.

Plus, the tour ends in a nightmarish fashion. All I can say is make sure that you make a bathroom stop before you take the tour.

Tickets are \$12.99 plus tax for ages 12 and older and \$7.99 plus tax for ages 6-11.

No one younger than the age of 6 is allowed due to the graphic nature of the facility, and those younger than 12 must be accompanied by a guardian.

Ripley's Haunted Adventure is located at Traffic Light Number 8 in Gatlinburg.

For more information, call (865) 430-9991 or visit the Web site — www.ripleys.com. ■

Jonesborough — an affordable vacation



By **STEPHANIE EDWARDS**
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Just because you're tight on cash this year doesn't mean that you can't have a fun summer getaway.

If you have \$250, plus a full tank of gas, you can get away for a night or two and have tons of fun.

Tennessee's oldest town, Jonesborough, is only two hours away from Knoxville, and it has many charms that are worth checking out.

The Historic Eureka Inn is in the heart of this lovely town, and has room rates starting at \$109 a night.

Rooms are decorated in rich colors and antique furnishings.

Even though it's a historic inn, each guest room has modern conveniences such as DSL Internet and

cable television.

Expansive gardens and a gazebo make for a beautiful place to spend the afternoon reading.

The inn offers packages that include accommodations plus bonuses such as a gourmet dinner for two and tickets to a play. Another package includes dinner and a carriage ride. Both packages are extremely affordable.

Because Jonesborough is home of the National Storytelling Conference, it makes perfect sense that visitors would be interested in storytelling year-round. Positive Solutions, a tour company, hosts Strolling and Stories sessions at 10 a.m. Monday through Saturday.

Or if you prefer ghostly and mysterious stories, you may want to attend Legends, Whispers and Mysteries at 7 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month. Tours depart from the Jonesborough Visitors Center. Tickets are \$12 per person.

A tighter budget trip would still allow you to explore the town, looking for antiques and admiring the town's architecture.

Plus, you can visit the the Jonesborough/Washington County History Museum for free. The museum features archives, photographs and artifacts that show important parts of the city's history from the 1850s to the 1980s.

The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Although admission is free, donations are accepted.

Since this is a budget-conscious vacation, you may be relieved to know that there are plenty of fast food and casual dining restaurants.

But you must treat yourself to a nice meal at least



once on your trip and have a taste of local flavor. Bistro 105 seems to be a favorite among visitors and locals alike.

Two people can enjoy a trip to Jonesborough for less than \$250 total if you stay at the Historic Eureka Inn for one night, eat fast food for most of their meals, take a ghost or storytelling tour and keep the souvenir buying to a minimum.

To get to Jonesborough from Knoxville, take I-40 East to I-81 North toward Bristol. Take the TN-93 South Exit toward Jonesborough. Turn left onto TN-93 South. Turn right onto Oak Grove Avenue. Turn left onto West Main Street, and turn left onto North Cherokee Street.

For more information, visit the Web site — www.jonesboroughtn.org. ■

Creative Discover Museum is all a-buzz

Chattanooga's Creative Discovery Museum's 9th annual Honey Harvest will be held from noon to 4 p.m. on July 25 and 26.

The Honey Harvest is a museum wide celebration for some of the world's hardest workers — the Honey Bee.

Museum guests will learn about the art of beekeeping, the life of a bee and how honey is made.

Visitors can observe beekeepers working in the Museum's own on-site hive, see how honey is extracted from the comb and taste different honeys from around the world.

In the atrium, guests will learn about the many uses of honey, beeswax, and pollen. Activities also include

rolling beeswax candles, creating honey lip balm and making honey soap.

Guests will also have to a chance to make their own bee helmets and have fun with honey bee face painting. All activities are free with Museum admission.

Creative Discovery Museum proudly boasts three Education staff who are Master Beekeepers. They each took courses to learn the art of beekeeping and gained enough "bee knowledge" to lead in caring for the bees.

These staff members are trained to examine the hive and look for signs that may show the bees need extra attention. Working in pairs, other staff may assist

one of our Master Beekeepers in order to maintain a healthy hive. Our Master Beekeepers will also be on hand

during Honey Harvest to help lead activities and answer questions. Through Aug. 9, the Museum will be open

from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Sunday. Tickets are \$9.95 for children and adults. 321 Chestnut Street, Chattanooga, TN 37402. For more information, call (423) 756-2738, or visit www.cdmfun.org. ■

YOUR TICKET TO FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT!

SHOWTIMES FOR JULY 3 - JULY 9, 2009

TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN (PG13) 1230 320 615 910 Midnight on Fri & Sat ONLY *No Passes	STAY COOL WHILE WE HEAT UP THE SCREEN THIS SUMMER ADVANCE TICKETS NOW ON SALE HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE (PG)	PUBLIC ENEMIES (R) 115 400 650 930 Midnight on Fri & Sat ONLY *No Passes ICE AGE: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS (PG) 105 310 510 710 910 Midnight on Fri & Sat ONLY *No Passes UP (PG) 100 305 520 730 935 Midnight on Fri & Sat ONLY
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