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LIFESTYLES

Community Corner

Playworld Systems helps rebuild New Orleans park

LEWISBURG — Playworld Systems Inc., a leader in customized recreation equipment and an advocate for play, helped bring play back to the children and families of the areas ravaged by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

On Jan. 19, Playworld Systems teamed up with nonprofit organization KaBOOM! and the New Orleans Recreation Department to rebuild New Orleans' Taylor Park.

Local residents, dignitaries and representatives from the New Orleans' Recreation Department joined Playworld President Matt Miller and KaBOOM! CEO Darell Hammond in a ribbon cutting ceremony held that afternoon in the park.

More than 300 Playworld associates and distributors from across the country, representatives from KaBOOM!, and local community members joined the rebuilding effort to construct multiple new playground structures, shading features, seating, fencing, and even painted murals for the park.

Playworld Systems donated the playground equipment used for the build at an estimated value of \$100,000, the largest playground contribution given to the city of New Orleans to date.

A grant of \$10,000 was additionally provided by the Greater New Orleans Foundation for the Taylor Park project. The park was one of the largest rebuilding initiatives to take place in the Central City neighborhood since Hurricane Katrina.

The previous playground equipment at Taylor Park, located in the Central City neighborhood, was removed after Hurricane Katrina due to safety concerns and damage, leaving only the park's sports fields for local youth to use.

The build was part of Operation Playground, a two-year commitment by KaBOOM! to build 100 playgrounds in Gulf Coast communities affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The new playground's design was based on drawings provided by local children at a Design Day event held in December.

Alzheimer's Support Group plan meeting

The Alzheimer's Support Group will hold a meeting from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 12 at the Divine Providence Hospital Auditorium.

The topic will be "The LIFE Program" with guest speaker Perry Landon,



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LIFE executive director, Albright Care Services.

LIFE, which stands for Living Independently for Elders, provides comprehensive medical, health and social services that enable participants to remain at home as independently as possible for as long as desirable and feasible, according to a news release.

In December 2005, plans were announced for a 15,000-square-foot comprehensive health service facility in Williamsport, according to the Albright Care Web site.

For more information, call Landon at (866) 907-LIFE, or visit www.albrightcare.org/life-center/index.asp.

The next support group meeting will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. March 12.

Packwood House Museum calls in textile consultant

LEWISBURG — Thanks to a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Packwood House Museum recently undertook the documentation and photographing of the museum's coverlet collection.

Using the skills of textile authority Patricia Herr of Lancaster, a committee of 12 people spent Jan. 23 and 24 on the project.

Herr examined each of the more than 30 woven coverlets to provide information about their origins, weaving techniques, regional pattern variations and overall condition. The resulting information will be integrated into the museum's collection database and will eventually be available for sharing with other institutions.

A follow-up exhibit of regional coverlets also is planned for this summer, to run from June 19 through Sept. 29.

Pieces on loan from area collectors will be added to the museum collection, creating a comprehensive exhibit of examples from surrounding counties.

For more information, call the museum or e-mail info@packwoodhousemuseum.com.

Section: Posted: 2/5/2007



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