Discover your local museum



HEIDI HEILBRUNN / Staff

Colin Hoskinson, dressed as a prince, plays in the new Children's Museum exhibit, "Once Upon a Time."

Stroll into any of three Upstate museums this weekend and you'll be greeted with a flurry of activity.

A traveling fairytale exhibit at The Children's Museum of the Upstate, special National Museum Day tours at the Greenville County Museum of Art, and the annual Antiques Extravaganza at

Special tours highlight art exhibitions

By Ann Hicks
ARTS WRITER
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The whole family can enjoy a visual blockbuster on Saturday when the Greenville County Museum of Art celebrates the nation's fifth annual Museum Day.

Museums around the country are teaming up with Smithsonian magazine to celebrate America's culture and to raise awareness about the gems local museums offer visitors.

Special activities at the GCMA include a guided tour of works by South Carolina native Jasper Johns, "Just Thinking of a Series of Dreams," at noon, and by American iconic painter Andrew Wyeth, "The Greenville Collection," at 2 p.m. A video about Wyeth, "Snow Hill," also will be shown following the Wyeth collection tour.

Museum visitors will receive a 10 percent discount in the Museum Shop when they present a Museum Day card, which is available in Smithsonian magazine or by download from the Smithsonian Web site, www.smithsonian.com/museumday. The benefit is good on Saturday only.

acy have impacted the American culture," Santelli says. "But most of those people have passed or been embedded into American music history. Bruce is still

our lives he's wri
– the situations,
mance, the ups and
we can all relate to

So can nearly
other American e

JU CAN GO
- What: Museum Day
- When: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday
- Where: Greenville County Museum of Art, 420 College St.
- Admission: Free
- Information: 271-7570



HEIDI HEILBRUNN / Staff

Garrett Hiers plays at learning the cobbler's trade at the Children's Museum.

Unearth your treasures at Antiques Extravaganza

By Amy Clarke
STAFF WRITER
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Have you got a set of silver handed down from your grandmother? A pocketwatch that was your great uncle's? A settee that's been in the family for generations? Even a vase that you picked up an antiques store a few years ago?

If so, bring it down to the annual Antiques Extravaganza this weekend to see if it's genuine, learn a bit of history and even find out what it might be worth.

"Most of the items that people are bringing are sentimental items that they've had in their family for years and years," said Mary Chapman, director of marketing for the Museum & Gallery at Bob Jones University.

"A lot of time it's just connecting for people the history behind their antique. It usually involves family history or something of that nature," she said.

The Antiques Extravaganza, which has been held for 10 years at the Museum & Gallery, invites residents to dust off their old stuff to be evaluated and appraised by a team of experts. Four specialists will look over everything from silver and porcelain to fine art, furniture, Civil War items and more.

Claudia Major of Greenville has been going to the event for the past few years with her mother, Sara Bowden.

"It's kind of surprising to find out what you actually have or what you don't have," she said.

In recent years, she's

See **ANTIQUE** on page 3C

YOU CAN GO
- What: Antiques Extravaganza
- When: 6-9 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday
- Where: Bob Jones University Museum and Gallery
- Cost: $50 in advance, $60 at the door
- For more: 770-1331 or www.bjumg.org

Fairies, ogres, more come to Children's Museum

By Amy Clarke
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Visitors to The Children's Museum of the Upstate will have another new world to explore, and this one's all imaginary.

"Once Upon a Time … Exploring the World of Fairy Tales" is a traveling exhibit recently installed at the museum. It opened Sept. 19 and will run through mid-January.

The storybook kingdom of the exhibit features seven multicultural fairy tales, guiding guests through a variety of imaginative (and educational) environments.

"One of the reasons we brought it is because it explores different cultures and fairy tales from different places around the world," said Shannon Knutti, museum director of marketing.

"It also talks a lot about the authors and the illustrators instead of focusing so much on the story, so kids get an idea of, 'Wow, it's pretty cool to be a writer or an illustrator.'"

Kids can visit the palace from "Beauty and the Beast," climb Jack's beanstalk to the giant's lair, ride in Cinderella's carriage, delve into an African jungle from the story of "Anansi and the Talking Melon" and more.

"This one is really whimsical," Knutti said. "It's a different twist on some old, familiar, favorite fairy tales."



HEIDI HEILBRUNN / Staff

Augusta Underwood puts on a princess costume in a new Children's Museum traveling exhibit.

The exhibit, which comes from The Magic House, a children's museum in St. Louis, is ideal for ages 3 to 11.

The Children's Museum of the Upstate, at 300 College St., is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays to Saturdays and 1-5 p.m. Sundays. Admission is $12 per person.