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Zoo Bar to hold July festival

From Staff Reports

This summer, it's going to be a blues extravaganza.

The Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St., celebrates its 25th anniversary this summer with a series of concerts running July 6-11.

Larry Boehmer, owner of the Zoo Bar, said the festival consists of 20 national acts and five regional acts, some of which include Magic Slim and the Teardrops, Radio King, Little Ed and the Blues Imperials, Bossphilly and The Self Righteous Brothers.

He said the first four nights the shows will be held indoors with three or four bands per night, and the remaining shows will be taken outdoors.

Boehmer said tickets, which went on sale last week, are available in two forms, a weeklong pass for \$60 that includes admission for all the shows, or \$5 per night at the gate of the outdoor shows.

For more information, call the Zoo Bar at (402) 435-8754.



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Sinatra, 82, feeling well, doing fine, says his wife

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Frank Sinatra spends his days soaking up the warmth of the sun and his family, despite reports he is on his death bed, his wife says.

"The rumors are just crazy. You can't believe it. He's doing very well. You'd think they'd just stop with it," Barbara Sinatra said Monday.

The 82-year-old entertainer before a January 1997 heart attack, which led to tabloid reports that he is gravely ill and has been given last rites by the Catholic church several times.

"It doesn't bother him anymore. I guess he's used to it. You just roll with the punches," Barbara Sinatra said during a telephone interview to promote the Frank Sinatra Las Vegas Celebrity Classic charity golf tournament. "He's strong and walking around. We're enjoying friends."

She said he hasn't ruled out attending next month's tournament, which benefits the Barbara Sinatra Children's Center at Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage and the Las Vegas Opportunity Village.

Former Disney duo to meet on Broadway

NEW YORK (AP) — Opening soon on Broadway! The failed business relationship between Disney CEO Michael Eisner and one-time superagent Michael Ovitz is being restaged as a Times Square rivalry.

Ovitz, formerly Disney's No. 2 man, has accepted an offer to take control of Livent Inc., the ambitious theatrical company that produced the Broadway musical "Ragtime," the company announced Monday.

Livent co-founder Garth Drabinsky will step aside as chairman as Ovitz, who left the Walt Disney Co. after 14 months work and a severance package worth up to \$130 million, becomes a major shareholder.

The move puts Ovitz in direct competition with his former boss and Disney — one of Livent's star shows, "Ragtime," is playing across 42nd Street from Disney's New Amsterdam Theatre where "The Lion King" is playing.

Livent, based in Toronto, owns a network of five theaters.

Ovitz will invest \$20 million in Livent, giving him a seat on the board and a 12 percent stake in the company. He left Disney in December 1996.

Drabinsky will be replaced as chairman and chief executive by U.S. investment banker Roy Furman, Livent said.

The announcement came as Livent reported 1997 losses of \$30 million, or a drop of \$1.74 a share, compared with a 1996 profit of \$7.4 million, or 51 cents a share. Revenue

for 1997 was down slightly to \$215 million.

Livent's financial future has been tied to the success of "Ragtime," which opened in New York last December to many good reviews, but has not been selling out. It cost more than \$12 million to produce.

Livent became a major player on Broadway in 1993 with "Kiss of the Spider Woman," which, despite winning a Tony Award for best musical, lost money during its two-year run.

Its successes have been its touring company of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," starring Donny Osmond, as well as a Toronto production of "The Phantom of the Opera," which opened in 1989 and is still running. Livent said it also made money on the Broadway runs of "Barrymore," a one-man show starring Christopher Plummer, and an expensive revival of "Show Boat."

The company has been hurt, in part, because of expansion costs and debt refinancing.

Drabinsky — who has been chairman, chief executive and in charge of creative development for the company's live theatrical productions — said he recommended the changes so he could devote more time to the creative side of the company. He will become vice chairman and chief creative director for live theater.

The changes are effective after Ovitz's share purchase from the company is completed, expected to occur after Livent's annual meeting June 4.

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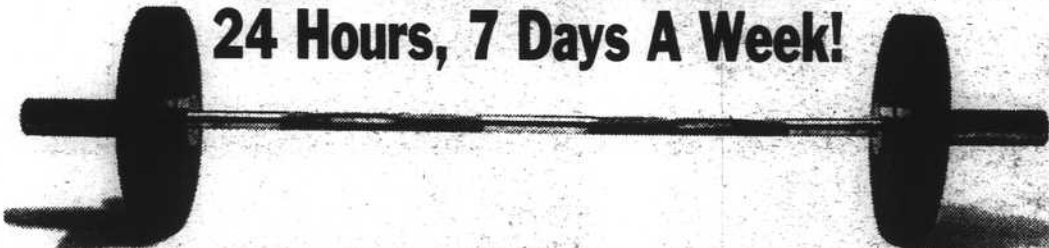
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