

Ski slope shows drive-in movies through summer

Tussey Mountain features films outside through summer months

By Kathleen Loughran
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Though the last drive-in theater in the State College area has closed, one place still remains where people can see movies outside.

Tussey Mountain began Movies on the Mountain this summer after employees said they missed the old drive-in movie theater.

"The drive-in theater is gone that we all used to go to, so we felt there was a void without it," Lodge Manager Christie Hume said.

"And we have a perfect venue here. [We have a] fantastic stage that we felt could be utilized beyond concerts."

The gates for the movies open at 8 p.m., but the movies don't begin until 9 p.m.

Cost of admission is \$1 per person. Director of Sales and Marketing Aaron Weyman said.

Though Hume said the Tussey staff was not sure who their audience would be when they initially started Movies on the Mountain, she said the showings have attracted people of all ages, especially families.

"It's a fun night out. I was talking to someone who attended the event and she said she couldn't believe there were four-year-olds here and there were 60-year-olds here," Hume said.

Office Manager Sue Matalavage said she thinks the event is perfect for families.

"I think our market for the Movies on the Mountain is targeted to families," Matalavage said.

"It's a way to get out of the house that won't cost your family a lot of money."

Weyman said two of the three movies that have been shown thus far have been family-oriented.

Because those two had a good turnout, he said the final two movies are also geared toward families.

"Planet 51" — which was chosen through a fan vote — will premiere tomorrow at 9 p.m.

Then on August 20, "Alice in Wonderland" will be the final movie on the mountain shown this summer.

But Weyman, Hume and Matalavage all said they hope that Movies of the Mountain continues for further years.

"We're all kind of new to this, so it's been a learning experience this first year," Weyman said. "But I think we've been pleased with the result so far. The possibilities are there for growth, and we'll definitely play around with some things to make it better."

If you go

What: Movies on the Mountain

Where: Tussey Mountain

When: Fridays; gates open at 8 p.m., films start at 9 p.m.

Details: Cost of admission is \$1.

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