

# 'Apollo 13' held over at Rhodes Center

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

"Apollo 13: Mission Control" has added four additional performances at the Milton Rhodes Center for the Arts. The new shows are Thursday, February 7 at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, February 8 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, February 9 at 10:30 a.m. and Sunday, February 10 at 2 p.m.

The show opened last week to rave reviews and sold-out shows. Based on the ill-fated April 1970 NASA mission to the moon, "Apollo 13: Mission Control" tells the story of three American astronauts trapped 200,000 miles from Earth fighting for their lives. Reynolds Place inside the Milton Rhodes Center is being transformed into an authentic replica of Mission Control complete with retro computer consoles to transport audience members back in time and place to Houston in 1970.

Audience members seated in Mission Control must make the critical decisions necessary to bring the astro-



"Apollo 13: Mission Control" puts the audience in the action.

Press Photo

Remaining audience members act as Mission Control specialists and interact with the three astronauts aboard Apollo 13, whom they watch on display screens from Mission Control. Seating is limited to 180 guests for each performance of "Apollo 13: Mission Control." Ninety-nine of the seats are at the authentic computer consoles, and the remaining seating is in the non-participatory "press gallery." Computer console tickets are \$46.50 for adults, \$36 for seniors (62 and over) and \$24.50 for children (12 and under). Tickets for the press gallery are \$22 each, and a Family Four-Pack of tickets for the computer console area is \$118. For more information or to purchase tickets to "Apollo 13: Mission Control," visit [www.Apollo13Live.com](http://www.Apollo13Live.com).

Tickets also are available by calling 336-747-1414 or in person at the Milton Rhodes Center, 251 North Spruce St.

naughts home safely. One lucky member of the audience will be selected to serve as one of the Apollo 13 astronauts and

taken off stage to participate in a unique, once-in-a-lifetime theatre experience as astronaut Jack Swigert.

## KEVA

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minutes and debated whether more could be added without the structure toppling over.

"Slow and steady gets second place," said McDowell with a laugh.

Lindsay, who was celebrating her ninth birthday, said she was happy to take home the second place prize, a 50-piece KEVA set. Lindsay, a regular SciWorks visitor, said it was an "exciting and tricky" competition.

"I was worried it was going to fall and I'd have to start over, but it didn't," she said.

Josh Alfing and his four year-old son Jamie won the competition. The pair came to the museum as part of a father-son church outing.

Alfing said he and Jamie simply stacked the planks triangularly on top of one another to form their tower, forgoing the elaborate bases that some teams used. As the tower grew beyond little Jamie's height, he handed planks to his father to place. When it grew beyond Alfing's height, he stood on top of the wooden box that held the KEVA planks to keep building. When time was up, the duo had constructed a 72.25-inch tower. They won a 200 piece KEVA set, valued at \$58.50.

Alfing said he and Jamie "dabbled" in KEVA planks at another museum but this was their "first big engineering feat." Though Jamie had been to SciWorks several times, it was his first trip there with his dad, who hadn't been to the science museum since he was child himself. Alfing said he was glad his son was involved and engaged in the contest, and



Photos by Todd Luck

Second-place winners (front row, from right: Ben Beckerleg, Lindsay Beckerleg, (back row) Nicole Cockerham, Cathy McDowell and, Hal Cockerham holding Joshua.

Jamie said his favorite part of the competition was "winning a prize."

"It was fun," said Alfing. "I think my son had a really good time. As long as he had a good time, I was happy."

The contest was held to promote SciWork's KEVA exhibit and its new Sunday operating hours. The permanent KEVA exhibit opened last fall after a successful temporary exhibit was on view last summer. The exhibit includes work stations where visitors can use the museum's 15,000 KEVA planks to create. There are plenty of photographs and completed KEVA structures around to provide examples and inspiration. One photo features the tallest KEVA tower ever built: a 51-foot 8-inch tower structure built with the assistance of a lift

in the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C.

SciWorks will hold its next KEVA contest from Feb 23-April 10, when local residents will be invited to post pictures of their

"coolest" KEVA structure on SciWorks' Facebook page. Those truly deemed the coolest will win prizes.

For more information about SciWorks, visit [www.sciworks.org](http://www.sciworks.org).

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Michelle and Craig Gunckel with their sons Logan, Payne and Hayden.



Creations greet visitors at the KEVA exhibit

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