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Coliseum

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come out to their home ice and support this team's third season, which starts Oct. 13 versus Northern Arizona.

Also making its home at the Event Center is the El Paso Figure Skating Club, formerly Sun City Blades, which hosts lessons and several exhibitions throughout the year.

On the wilder side of the sports world, NEW Era Wrestling lucha libre hosts bouts every Friday at the Coliseum. Sun City Roller Girls constructs its own banked track. Roller Girls' Teresita Lopez said the Coliseum's size is just right.

"The Coliseum is a great venue for us because it holds our massive banked track," she said. "The whole thing comes in about 12,000 pounds, just under six tons, and we can set up our track inside the Judging Arena, Coliseum as well as outside under the Pavilion.

Even outside of the regular seasons, sports and the Coliseum has been a perfect site for sports events for sometime. In 1976, NBA great Wilt Chamberlain played in the International Volleyball Association at the Coliseum, which was home from 1975 to 1978 to the area's own team, El Paso-Juárez Sol.

Boxing has also been a mainstay. El Paso's Gloves Regional Boxing Tournament celebrated its own 75th anniversary in January at the Coliseum. It hosted the notable title fight between Salvador Sanchez and Juan LaPorte in 1980, the same year Randall "Tex" Cobb won a couple of fights at the venue.

This year, El Paso native Tuff Hedeman's 12th Championship Bull Riding at the Coliseum was a nationally televised event.

The Coliseum also saw its share of teams come and go, including El Paso Buzzards hockey from 1996 to 2003, as well as short-lived teams like El Paso Raiders hockey in 1975-76, and indoor football teams El Paso Rumble in 2004 and El Paso Generals in 2009.

Performer, audience favorite

El Paso Coliseum has built a reputation as a must-stop for among many prominent touring acts, especially in the Latin music world.

"Playing at the Coliseum is like a 'rite of passage' for artists," Kennedy said. "Once the artists come here they don't want to leave."

Pop star Ariana Grande, who played at the Coliseum in October 2015 with guest Prince Royce, was told by other artists "you have to play at the Coliseum," he recalled. On the day of her performance, she even arrived earlier than announced to get the feel of the place, and was very pleased with her experience.

She wasn't the only one. Punk icons Green Day enjoyed their performance at the venue earlier this year so much they stuck around a couple of extra days just to rehearse in the facility.

Alternative metal heavyweights Nine Inch Nails even filmed part of their 2007 live concert DVD, "Beside You in Time," at the Coliseum during their March 28, 2006 performance.

One of the greatest names ever to headline in El Paso was Elvis Presley, who brought his 1956 "All Music Show" at the

Coliseum.

The performance featured Grand Old Opry star Faron Young, Jimmy and Johnny, "leading girl singer" Wanda Jackson and western artist Gordon Terry. Tickets to the event came at a hefty price of \$1.50 in advance and \$1.75 at the door.

"Buy now and save a quarter," the Herald-Post said.

Presley returned to the Coliseum in 1973.

Some performances have even been notable for crowds being a little too enthusiastic. Thirty Seconds to Mars lead singer Jared Leto had his nose unintentionally broken when he ran into the crowd during the band's aptly named "Taste of Chaos" tour at the Coliseum stop in 2007.

Other notable performances at Coliseum include Johnny Cash, Juan Gabriel, Ricky Martin, Slayer, Slipknot, Van Halen, KISS, Aerosmith, Glen Campbell, No Doubt, Alejandro Fernandez, Marc Anthony, Ana Gabriel, Pepe Aguilar, Mana, Foghat, Alice Cooper, Grateful Dead, Mötley Crüe, Judas Priest, Prophets of Rage, Lil Wayne, Nazareth, Jefferson Starship, Ozzy Osbourne, Stevie Ray Vaughn, Cheech & Chong, Electric Light Orchestra and too many more to list.

The Coliseum also hosts various music festivals, such as the Great American Rockabilly Riot, which moved to the Coliseum this year with headliners like Tiger Army. The Rio Grande Country Jam featured acts like Rodney Atkins as part of El Paso County Fair and Junior Livestock Show in September. Other unique events have included the Texas Showdown Festival tattoo fest and electronic dance party experiences like Foam Wonderland.

Where memories are made

The Coliseum, often affectionately called "The Barn" by local concertgoers, may be famous for many of the big names who have performed within its walls, but the building is also part of many area residents' more personal memories from graduations to family events, festivals, car shows, trade shows and expos, circuses and even church and charitable fundraisers.

Many locally organized events have made use of the Coliseum in the past. Junior Woman's Club's Spooktacular, Hispanic Cultural Center's Fiesta de La Flores, El Paso's "Authentic Oktoberfest," Generation 2K, and El Paso Comic Con are just a few home grown events to make use of the site.

"If you ask anyone who has lived in the area for sometime what their first or best memories of the Coliseum are, they will have something," Kennedy said. Everyone has a Coliseum memory."

For some it was their first date with their current spouse, for others it was seeing a favorite artist with friends, and others taking children and grandchildren to their first ice show or circus.

"People's experiences start in the parking lot," he said. "People can enjoy a good show itself, but if they encounter a bad



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