

Coliseum

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experience before or after, that can hurt the whole memory. We want to take care of our patrons."

Kennedy even helped with the parking himself one time, to help his staff make sure the experience is the best it can be for both the guests and the staff. In addition, plans are also underway for additional parking.

"Some people don't realize the amount of work that goes into hosting an event," he said, adding some days the dedicated staff work all night, long after the audience has gone home, to make sure one stage is properly taken down, and the venue is prepped and ready for entirely different event the next day."

One of Kennedy's own favorite memories was after a "Disney on Ice" event when he encountered an audience member, a woman in her 80s, in tears. He was at first worried something bad had happened, but that was not the case.

"She told me she was so grateful," Kennedy said. "This was her grandchildren's first time at an ice show, and she remembered bringing her own there for the first time as well. That is why we do what we do."

He said he wants to make sure everyone who works with the Coliseum never forgets the importance of those memories, either.

"One thing I do each time 'Disney on Ice,' comes through, for example, is I tell everyone on staff during the first perform-



Courtesy of El Paso County Coliseum

ance to pick any kid in the audience and watch the look on their face the first time Mickey Mouse comes out on the ice," he said. "That is the coolest part. That look is what it's all about."

El Paso resident Robert Diaz, who has attended several concerts throughout the area, has a quite different favorite memory of the Coliseum. One of his first concerts at the Coliseum was seeing AC/DC perform on Oct. 27, 1985, for their "Fly on the Wall Tour" with opener Yngwie Malmsteen. The event, he recalled, was literally a blast.

"The band had already been playing stadiums and brought their stadium show to 'The Barn.' I remember just how loud it was and how it fueled the audience even more," he said. "The encore was the song 'For Those About to Rock.' As the song played, two stadium-sized cannons erected from both sides of the stage. I remember thinking 'These are not going to make it.' The cannons actually went through the roof, which was made of old particle tiles. (Lead singer Brian Johnson) yells 'Fire! Boom!' The tiles start coming down onto the audience. Brian (said), yes, 'fire' again. BOOM! All the windows in the place shatter. By the time he sang 'Weeeee Salute You' it was a full-on stock riot. A great rock memory."

Find your team

El Paso County Coliseum and its neighboring facilities at 4100 Paisano host several sports teams year round.

- **El Paso Rhinos:** El Paso's Junior League ice hockey team's home games are at Hospitals of Providence Events Center. The season runs October through March. Tickets: \$5-\$30. Free admission to active military with ID. Information: 479-PUCK (7825) or elpasorhinos.com.

- **Miners Hockey Club:** UTEP's hockey team and 2016-17 Texas Collegiate Hockey Conference Champions host games October through February at Hospitals of Providence Events Center. Tickets: \$7-\$20. Information: 491-7879 or minershockey.com.

- **El Paso Coyotes:** El Paso's new Major Arena Soccer League team enters its second season in October. The season opener is Saturday, Oct. 28, at the El Paso County Coliseum main building. Information: 229-1416, elpasocoyotes.com or on Facebook .

- **Sun City Roller Girls:** The Roller Girls' banked track roller derby generally begins in February with a championship bout in October, plus the Naughty vs. Nice bout in November at the Coliseum's Judging Arena. Teams



Get in on all the sports action!

are La Catrinas, Chucu Town Chulas, Las Diablas, Sexecutioners and Las Viudas Negras. Tickets: \$7-\$10-. Information: suncityrollergirls.com.

- **New Era Wrestling:** The Lucha Libre style wrestling bouts are 8 p.m. every Friday at the Coliseum's Pavilion. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets for regular bouts: \$8; \$5 children. Information: 356-5113 or on Facebook at NewEraEP.

Also, public skating is 7 to 10 p.m. Fridays, noon to 3 p.m. and 7 to 10 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays at Event Center next to the Coliseum, 4100 Paisano. All ages welcome. Times may vary on days of hockey games. Admission: \$10; \$8 military (skate rental included). Information: 479-PUCK (7825) or elpasohockey.org.



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RSVP * by Oct. 9 to

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