## Take a ride on the Wild Side

By Van Mitchell

**Contributing Writer** 

rontier City is Oklahoma's only amusement park and as a result thousands of visitors from across the state make the trek to the park every year.

And, this summer attendees will get another chance to try something new with the addition of the Brain Drain thrill ride, said Alyssa Baier, promotions manager for Frontier City and White Water Bay

"We previously opened our thrill ride The Brain Drain," Baier said. "It is basically a seven-story steel loop that takes 24 riders back and forth and up and down and all around. It is crazy. It is the toughest ride we have added in the last 10 years. It is really something that our guests are excited to see and take advantage of."

Frontier City, located at 11501 N. I-35 Service Road in Oklahoma City, opened in 1958 as a Western "town" theme-park.

It opened up at the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds, but moved to its current location a few years later to become a "boom town," since it sprung-up quickly. The park added spinning rides, several roller coasters and a log flume ride starting in the 1960s and 1970s.

The park is the subject of the song "Frontier City" by the Nashville band Kings of Leon, as drummer Nathan Followill once worked there.

Today, the park includes a variety of thrill rides like the Silver Bullet roller coaster to more family friendly rides like the Winged Warrior which is one of the newest additions to Frontier City. This interactive family ride features eight flying vehicles allowing guests to soar as high or as low as they please in a high speed rotation.

Baier said another popular park feature is the Wild West Waterworks which was added several years ago as



-Provided photo

The Silver Bullet looping roller coaster is one the most popular and thrilling rides at Frontier City in Oklahoma City.

a way for guests to stay cool during the hot summer months.

Wild West Water Works is the largest water activity structure in Oklahoma with over 198 ways to get wet, eight slides, a 1,000 gallon tipping bucket, spacious lounging deck, changing facilities, showers and more, creating the ultimate water oasis for guests of all ages.

The Wild West Waterworks also features the Mystery River Log Fume and Renegade Rapids.

"This year, Frontier City added Gully Washer - a six-story, high-thrill speed slide complex - to its Wild West Water Works area," Baier said. "It's a perfect way to keep cool on hot summer days."

Baier said Frontier City has also continued to update its older rides as well as change some of the amusement park's menu items.

"We have been updating our older rides," she said. "We have been trying to make sure that all our rides are working at peak efficiency so they are running 100 percent of the time. We have added several new menu options that are really important to

## **Hold on Tight**

**WHAT** Frontier City

**WHERE** 11501 N. I-35 Service Rd., Oklahoma City.

**DETAILS** The park includes a variety of thrill rides, family friendly rides and special events and concerts.

**INFO** Call (405) 478-2140 or visit www.frontiercity.com

people. We are making sure we are accommodating a wide range of people. We listen to what they have to say."

Baier said another staple of Frontier City is its summer concert lineup. Concerts this summer include Rick Springfield on July 15, Randy Houser on July 22, Grand Funk Railroad on July 29, Alter Bridge on Aug.5, Newsboys on Aug. 12, R5 on Aug. 19, Z-Fest on Aug. 20, Forever in Your Mind on Aug. 26.

"We have our summer concert series coming back this season," Baier said. "We have a lot going on this summer ahead." Baier said attendance at Frontier City continues to grow.

"We are anticipating a steady increase in people," Baier said. "There are a lot of people coming through the doors."

Main gate general admission tickets are \$39.99; junior admission (guests 48 inches tall and under) is \$29.99; senior admission (62 and older) and handicap admission is \$29.99; military admission is \$27.99 and children two and under are free.

Hours of operation for the summer are usually 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday; Saturdays are 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sundays are noon to 8 p.m. The park will remain open until 11 p.m. on Saturdays during concert weekends.

Wild West Water Works hours of operation are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and Sunday from noon to 7 p.m.

Baier said it is best if guests call ahead or check online for operational hours.

For more information call (405) 478-2140 or visit www.frontiercity.com