

Educator Appreciation Days return to Ripley's

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JAN WADDY

News Herald Features Editor

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PANAMA CITY BEACH — School is back in session, but Ripley's Believe It or Not! is giving Florida teachers a break.

Florida K-12 school employees get free admission to

Ripley's attractions in Florida from Sept. 8 to Oct. 18 with the return of Educator Appreciation Days.

Ripley's Panama City Beach Odditorium, 9907 Front Beach Road, underwent a major renovation in 2014 and has more than 500 artifacts and 200 new exhibits, including the large interactive "Operation" game.

"Another popular exhibit is Bodies in Motion with a shadow wall that distorts the body," said general manager Drew Morales. "People start dancing. It's real cool and people enjoy filming themselves."

The first room features a floating car in a pool.

"It's an actual size car made out of wood, and it floats. It was made by an Italian artist to float and drive," Morales added.

The 7D Moving Theater has been upgraded with zombie and pirate movies featuring guns connected to the chairs.

"You can shoot them and it keeps score out in the waiting area," said Morales, who added the seats still move and other elements, such as wind, have been added.

The Laser Race also has been moved next to the Mirror Maze.

Guests can even make and decorate their own wax hands in the lobby for a unique souvenir.

Teachers, administrators, counselors and support staff are eligible for free admission during the Educator Appreciation Days. They just need to bring a current pay stub and photo ID with them. Also, up to three guests who come with an educator can get half off admission.

Odditorium admission regularly starts at \$17.99 for adults and \$12.99 for children. Ages 5 and younger are free.

The Odditorium is open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For more information, visit Ripleys.com/PanamaCityBeach or call 850-230-6113.

