

Daily Journal

NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI



Top, the Wizard of Odd performed his magic and comedy act for youngsters at Thomas Street Elementary, Parkway Elementary and North Mississippi Medical Center Friday. Another show is scheduled for 4 p.m. today in front of McRae's at The Mall at Barnes Crossing. **At left, Thomas Street** Elementary School student Jeremy Spratt, left, has a good laugh thanks to the Wizard of Odd, a clown magician who was in town Friday to promote the Clyde Beatty-Cole Brothers Circus coming to Ballard Park next weekend.

PHOTOS BY THOMAS WELLS

Wizard makes magic

■ The 'Circus Ambassador' will teach a clown class for kids today.

BY M. SCOTT MORRIS
Daily Journal

TUPELO - There's a chance Thomas Street Elementary students will jam the school library in search of magic books.

If so, the Wizard of Odd deserves the credit.

"Go to section 793 in the library," the wizard advised students during a Friday afternoon magic show. "That's where the magic books are and books about the circus and juggling and clowns, all kinds of stuff. That's my favorite part of the library."

The wizard is an "advance clown/circus ambassador" for the Clyde Beatty-Cole Brothers Circus, which will present a series of four shows at Ballard Park Oct. 24-25.

On Friday, the wizard took his box of magic tricks and his bright red nose to Parkway Elementary School, North Mississippi Medical Center and Thomas Street.

Kids from kindergarten to third grade at Thomas Street got to see the wizard perform numerous sleight-of-hand tricks, including turning a yellow handkerchief into a red one.

"That was my favorite part," said 6-year-old Mary Elizabeth King.

At the beginning of the show, the wizard said he suspected he was dealing

with a smart group of youngsters, and 6-year-old Nathan Flinn proved him right by piercing a part of one illusion.

"When he turned the red round ball into the red square one, I think he crushed it up into his hand," Flinn said with a satisfied grin. "He made it look like it was turned into a square."

More shows

The Wizard of Odd was scheduled to perform another Thomas Street show Friday night during the school's fall festival.

He'll also teach a free "Junior Clown Academy" at 2 p.m. today at The Mall at Barnes Crossing near the Food Court. The class can include up to 30 kids ages 4 and older. At 4 p.m. today, he'll do a magic act in front of McRae's.

Big Top Facts

■ **What:** Clyde Beatty-Cole Brothers Circus

■ **When:** 4:30pm & 7:30pm Oct25, 2pm & 5pm Oct 26

■ **Where:** Ballard Park Sportsplex

■ **Tickets:** Reserved \$16/adults, \$11/under 12 & over 62; General admission \$14/adults, \$9/under 12 & over 62; VIP ringside \$22 (\$2 discount on advanced tickets)

■ **Ticket Outlets:** McRae's at The Mall at Barnes Crossing, www.tickets.com, (888) 332-5600 or at the show.

"Everyone in the class gets a clown nose," the Wizard of Odd said, "and I'll teach them to do a magic trick with it."

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