The Arlise Troupe and their wild and crazy unicycles will be among featured performers at the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus set for July 5 at the Iron County Fairgrounds. (C&M photo)

IRON RIVER—Thanks to the sponsorship of the Iron County Fair Board, Culpepper & Merriweather Circus, “America’s Favorite Big Top Circus,” is coming to Iron River Thursday, July 5, at the Iron County Fairgrounds with two scheduled performances at 5 and 7:30 p.m.

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Now in its 28th edition, C&M Circus has become internationally known for quality family entertainment.

This authentic one-ring, big top circus has been featured on National Geographic’s Explorer TV series, Entertainment Tonight, the Los Angeles Times, the Chicago Tribune and Arizona Highways magazine.

It has also been featured on the A&E Special: Under the Big Top, and most recently, On the Road with Circus Kids, a Nickelodeon special featured on the Nick News program.

“Bring your friends and family out circus morning to watch as a familiar place in your town is transformed into a bustling circus city,” said a spokesperson.

“Activity swirls around the grounds as animals are unloaded, the big top is erected, and rigging is prepared for performances later in the day. Enjoy the magic and tradition of the American circus with your family and create memories that will last a lifetime.”

Between 9:30 and 10 a.m., come watch the raising of the big top, then stay for the free tour, said the spokesperson.

This presentation offers a unique face-to-face opportunity for families, schools and interested community members to meet and learn all about the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus family and includes a walking tour of the circus grounds.

“Learn interesting facts about our performers, the history of our show and the different species of animals in our circus family. In this presentation, we will also address topics such as hygiene, grooming and the veterinary care all of our animals receive.”

In recent years, the tent raising and morning tour has become a popular program for families and interested community members.

“It is presented in a way everyone, young and old, can learn many interesting facts about the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus family, and now we have a brand new tent. This is a special part of Circus Day that should not be missed.

"On Circus Day, our performers bring the magic of the circus to life in each 90-minute show."

This year's lineup includes an all-star group of performers and entertainers that include Miss Simone and her amazing single trapeze, Miss Lana's Feathered Friends, Miss Paulina on the Web, the Arlise Troupe on their wild and crazy unicycles, Angel Perez with juggling, the Silverlake's sizzeling whips, Karina and her hoola hoops and the Perez Russian Swing.

"This year, we are trying something new with animal acts. Every few weeks a new act will be contracted out, all with original music written by the talented, Matt Margucci from Los Angeles, Calif. Our performers are sure to amaze, delight and entertain audience members of all ages beyond your wildest imagination.

Tickets are available in advance at E&E Trustworthy Hardware at the Riverside Plaza, Iron County Chamber of Commerce, Miners Harvest Jewelers and Sentinel Technologies in Crystal Falls.

Prices for advance tickets are $6 for children ages 2 to 12, children under 2 are always free, and $9 for adults.

On show day tickets will be $12 for adults and $7 for children.

"Buy your tickets early and save."

For more information or to purchase tickets with a credit card call 866 BIG TOP 6. Advance tickets will be available at this number till 4 p.m. Central Time.

The Circus Day schedule (times may vary) include: between 9:30 and 10 a.m., tent raising and free tour; 4 p.m., midway and box office open (pony rides, moonbounce, concessions and more); 5 to 6:30, first show; 7:30 to 9, second show.