

travel

LOUISIANA TRAVELS



Photo by JANE BRAUD

Boaters now have easier access to the boat launch in New Iberia's City Park.

New Iberia boat launch enhanced

BY JUDY BERGERON
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Access enhancements to the public boat launch at New Iberia City Park are complete.

A celebration marking the end of the "Wallop-Breaux" project will take place at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday near the park's boat landing, 300 Parkview Drive. Light refreshments will be served in the Senior Center.

The improvements were funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in conjunction with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries through the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act.

The park also features playgrounds, a pool, recreation center, walking track, two softball fields, picnic pavilions, a meditation garden, gazebo, horseshoe pit, seven tennis courts and a weight room.

Iberia spots recognized

TripAdvisor® Certificates of Excellence were given to 11 Iberia Parish attractions, restaurants and accommodations recently.

Winners in the restaurant category include Jefferson Island Café Jefferson, Bon Creole Seafood, Victor's Cafeteria, Landry's Seafood and Steakhouse of New Iberia and R&M's Boiling Point. The hotels honored are La Quinta Inn & Suites and the Holiday Inn Express & Suites. The attractions include Jefferson Island Rip Van Winkle Gardens, Shadows-on-the-Teche, TABASCO® Factory & Country Store and Jungle Gardens of Avery Island.

The award recognizes hospitality excellence, is given only to establishments that



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consistently achieve outstanding traveler reviews on TripAdvisor, and is extended to qualifying businesses worldwide, according to a news release. Only the top-performing 10 percent of businesses listed on TripAdvisor receive the award.

Conference tickets on sale

The 2014 International Conference on World War II, "1944: Beyond All Boundaries," will take place Dec. 4-6 in New Orleans.

Tickets are selling quickly, according to the National World War II Museum. Ticket holders will have access to more than a dozen lectures by internationally renowned historians, including Rick Atkinson, Antony Beevor, Don Miller, Gerhard

Weinberg, and many more. They'll be discussing the strategy and preparation for the eventful summer of 1944 and its fascinating aftermath, and Q&A sessions also are planned. The key battles, personalities and controversies of the war will be explored.

For tickets and more information, go to nationalww2museum.org/conference/

Tool demo at Poverty Point

Visitors can learn how the inhabitants of Poverty Point developed and created implements during a demonstration 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, July 6.

The inhabitants, who lived at the northeast Louisiana site more than 3,500 years ago, used these tools in their everyday lives in order to survive.

Demonstrations will start on the hour. Poverty Point State Historic Site gives visitors the opportunity to study the culture of area inhabitants from 1600 to 1100 BC. The \$4 admission fee provides access to the area museum, video, hiking trail and tram tour. Children (12 and younger) and senior citizens (62 and older) are admitted free.

Poverty Point is located near Eppps, east of Monroe on La. 577. The park is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. For more information, call (888) 926-5492.

Iberia Parish Convention & Visitors Bureau, World War II Museum, Poverty Point contributed to this column. Louisiana Travels is a column about travel destinations and events in Louisiana. Email items for Louisiana Travels to travel@theadvocate.com or jbergeron@theadvocate.com.

WAY TO GO



Photo provided by HAL CANNING

The glories of St. Petersburg

Dr. Harold Canning and Pat Canning, of Baton Rouge toured the Church of Our Savior on the Spilled Blood in St. Petersburg, Russia, also known as the 'Venice of the North,' in April. The church was built between 1883 and 1907 as a memorial to Emperor Alexander II on the site of his assassination. The interior of the church is beautifully decorated in mosaic art. The couple took a seven-day cultural tour of the city that also included St. Isaac's Cathedral, Catherine's Palace and several visits to the Hermitage. They also visited Zurich and Amsterdam while in Europe.

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Dip your toes in surf along Jersey shore

BY WAYNE PARRY
Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — The Jersey shore's main attraction is undoubtedly its 127 miles of beautiful beaches.

And even with its reputation as one of only a tiny handful of spots in the country that make you pay for the privilege of dipping your toes in the surf (or even sitting on the sand), there are still a few beaches in New Jersey that you can use for free.

Beaches

There are five free ocean beaches in New Jersey: Atlantic City, where the glittering Boardwalk casinos provide a counterpart to the sun and surf; the Strathmere section of Upper Township in Cape May County, and the three beaches that collectively make up the Wildwoods: Wildwood, North Wildwood and Wildwood Crest. Due to natural currents and geography, these three beaches are super-wide. (Some beachgoers even complain it's actually TOO far from the boardwalk to the water.)

Cape May County offers beaches on Delaware Bay with a slower pace and calmer water, without the amenities of many oceanfront swimming

of them are rebuilt and good as new in the second summer after Superstorm Sandy. The most popular include Seaside Heights, Wildwood, Point Pleasant Beach, Atlantic City, Belmar, Ocean City and Asbury Park. The smell of the ocean, the screech of seagulls and the aroma of fried food are all part of the boardwalk experience in many of these spots. A few steps westward, take a walking tour of immaculately restored and preserved Victorian homes in Cape May and Ocean Grove.

Crabbing/fishing

The Jersey shore is full of spots to drop a baited line or a wire trap over the side of a bulkhead, and come up with a bucket full of tasty blue claw crabs. They're biting now and will be through the end of September. And the beaches and jetties are prime surf-fishing spots after the lifeguards pack

up and leave in the evenings.

Beach concerts

Free concerts on the sand abound at the Jersey shore this time of year. Two of the biggest will take place in Atlantic City when country superstar Blake Shelton performs on July 31, and Lady Antebellum follows on Aug. 3.

Miss America

The world-famous pageant that began in Atlantic City as a way to extend the summer tourism season for another weekend is back where it belongs after a brief desert fling in Las Vegas. Though tickets are required for the indoor competition events, the contestants greet the public in a free introductory outdoor event Sept. 3, and can be seen regularly on the Boardwalk during the two-week run-up to the Sept. 14 crowning of the new Miss America.

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