

WHAT'S NEW

IN LAKE CHARLES/SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA ♦ SUMMER 2016



John Guidroz

CRAFT BREWERY REVIVAL

Rikenjaks Brewing Company has made its official comeback in Lake Charles this summer after first making its debut in the 1990s. Rikenjaks is also Lake Charles' newest venue for live music. The recently opened restaurant features an outdoor bar and patio with games like Giant Jenga and Cornhole – perfect for an afternoon spent amongst friends. Rikenjaks proudly serves Old Hardhead, an original brew unchanged since first being served in 1992, while bringing a new flavor to the table with Contraband Brown Ale. Both beers are easy-drinking and complement the warm summer weather in Southwest Louisiana.

Crying Eagle Brewing Co. is the 25th brewery in the state of Louisiana. Brewing is underway with three handcrafted brews available to the public: "The Chuck," "Ready to Mingle" and "Calcasieu Common."

Crying Eagle Brewing Co. is a 15,000-square-foot facility featuring indoor and outdoor stages, a private event space and a landscaped, outdoor beer garden. The company will also serve seasonal hand-crafted beers and feature a two-story tap room offering tours and live band performances. For more information, go to www.VisitLakeCharles.org/brews.



Crying Eagle Brewing Co.

BASS FISHING IS BETTER THAN EVER

Freshwater fishing in Southwest Louisiana has made a comeback in recent months. Reports from all around the area, specifically Cameron Parish, say that anglers are catching more than they have in years.

The Big Burns, located along LA-27, has always been a hot spot for bass and crappie. Lately, fishermen are saying that in the right areas, you can catch fish on nearly every cast. Before you grab your gear and hook up your boat trailer, you'll need to get a permit to fish the Big Burns, which can be found at most local convenience stores in the area.

Bass fishermen are reporting that some of the best lures are "super speed craws," a four inch trailer bait shaped like a crawfish coming in a variety of colors that swims and flutters on the surface of the water as you reel it in.

An insider tip: the watermelon red and black & red colors are getting the most action.



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SUMMER FESTIVAL SEASON HAS ARRIVED

Lake Charles is known as the Festival Capital of Louisiana for a reason. During the summer months, Southwest Louisiana is packed with a variety of unique celebrations the whole family can enjoy.

Celebrate the food, art and music that defines Cajun country at popular festivals like the 29th Annual Cajun Music & Food Festival, Marshland Festival and Arts & Crabs Fest. Show off your patriotism and Cajun pride at events like the 2016 Stars & Stripes Celebration and Boudin Wars Competition! Download the Lake Charles Events App or check out www.VisitLakeCharles.org/events to stay up to date with all of the events and celebrations happening in Lake Charles.





TRIP ADVISOR RECOGNIZING CVB & LOCAL BUSINESSES

The Lake Charles/Southwest Louisiana Convention and Visitors Bureau along with 42 local businesses have been awarded the prestigious TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence. The coveted award celebrates excellence in hospitality and is only given to establishments that consistently achieve great traveler reviews on TripAdvisor. See the full list of winners in Lake Charles at www.VisitLakeCharles.org/excellence.

HISTORIC TOURS JUST GOT INTERACTIVE

The Charpentier Historic District's self-guided tour app highlights the rich history of the city as well as the carpenter-architects who created Lake Charles' unique style of architecture and now includes an interactive photo feature and gallery. The free app can be downloaded in your app store by searching "Lake Charles Historic Tour."



The 40-block Charpentier Historic District reflects the personalities of the carpenters and builders who constructed the Victorian mansions in the early 1900s that still stand today. The district, with its intricate woodwork and distinctive columns, is nationally recognized as having Lake Charles-style architecture on the National Register of Historic Places.

Whether you drive or walk, this app will give you turn-by-turn directions. The application features 30 minute to 1 hour tours, ghost tours, videos, photos, as well as social media sharing capabilities.

The Lake Charles Historic District tour app is available in English, French, Spanish, German and Closed Captioning in English. The new interactive photo feature is available in the English and Closed Captioning versions. For more information, go to www.VisitLakeCharles.org/history.

FREE CVB APPS



LAKE CHARLES EVENTS APP

The Events app allows users to easily access a calendar of events for Southwest Louisiana.



CREOLE NATURE TRAIL APP

The Creole Nature Trail All-American Road app is a hands-on opportunity to experience one of America's untamed natural wonders. This touring app is available in six languages.



LAKE CHARLES HISTORIC APP

Experience the Charpentier Historic District, with a tour app that highlights the history of Lake Charles, the Great Fire of 1910 and Ghost Stories and Legends of the district. Visitors can choose 30 minute or 1 hour tours and a haunted tour. The Lake Charles Historic District tour is available in five languages.

Check out these apps and more at www.VisitLakeCharles.org/Apps.

SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA CASINO EXPANSIONS CONTINUE

Delta Downs Racetrack Casino & Hotel in Vinton, La. is undergoing a \$45 million expansion project slated for completion in December 2016. The first phase was recently completed by opening **Rosewater Grill and Tavern**. The centerpiece of the project is a new hotel tower, featuring 167 new guest rooms and suites. Additionally, all 200 existing rooms and food and beverage outlets will be redesigned, and their event center will be enlarged to better accommodate meeting and banquet functions.

Golden Nugget Lake Charles, located adjacent to **L'Auberge Casino Resort**, is currently adding an additional 300-room hotel tower which will be completed in the spring of 2017, bringing the resort to 1,040 rooms. Each of the additional rooms will be over 500 square feet and will contain a five-fixture bathroom with two sinks, walk-in shower and an oversized tub.



L'Auberge Casino Resort recently expanded its dining options by opening Modern Pantry, a 24 hour dine in or grab-and-go restaurant offering a wide variety of options from local Creole favorites like boudin and gumbo to sushi, salads, sandwiches and gelato. L'Auberge Casino Resort has also recently completed a \$7 million renovation of their luxury Garden Suites. Spa du Lac is currently being renovated and will open this summer. Later this year, the resort will begin construction on a new lobby bar.

Isle of Capri Lake Charles has recently completed renovations to its concert venue, The Lone Wolf, which is perfect for grabbing a bite to eat, listening to music and dancing.

Visit www.VisitLakeCharles.org/gaming for more details on all of the resorts in Southwest Louisiana.

TOP 10 ATTRACTIONS

1. Casino Gaming
2. Creole Nature Trail All-American Road & Adventure Point
3. Festival Capital of Louisiana with over 75 fairs & festivals
4. Year-round Golf
5. Culinary Explorations
6. Sam Houston Jones State Park
7. Charpentier Historic District
8. Museum & Art Galleries
9. Live Music
10. Cottage Shops Cultural District

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LAKE CHARLES/SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

1205 N. Lakeshore Drive, Lake Charles ♦ (800) 456-SWLA ♦ www.VisitLakeCharles.org