

New Orleans museum free to all

December 7, 2008

<http://www.freep.com/article/20081207/FEATURES07/812070352/1032/FEATURES>

Detroit Free Press

Museum free to all

The New Orleans Museum of Art -- already free to Louisiana residents -- is also offering free admission to out-of-state visitors through Jan. 18.

The dates coincide with the citywide international art show called Prospect.1 New Orleans, and the museum's exhibit of 108 pieces by jeweler Peter Carl Faberge.

After Jan. 18, the museum will return to free admission for state residents, and an \$8 charge for visitors from out of state. The out-of-state charges for seniors will be \$7, and \$4 for children ages 3 to 17.

Historic hotel gets 5 diamonds

RICHMOND, Va. -- Richmond's historic Jefferson Hotel has received AAA's five-diamond award for the 16th year.

The Jefferson is the only establishment in central and western Virginia to receive the travel organization's highest rating.

The Jefferson was opened in 1895 and named to the National Register of Historical Places in 1969.

Titanic exhibit in St. Paul

ST. PAUL, Minn. -- An exhibit featuring artifacts from the Titanic is coming back to Minnesota. The Science Museum of Minnesota hosted the exhibit in 1999, and the exhibit with new items will be back in St. Paul starting June 12.

New items from the sunken ocean liner that will be on display include 62 perfume vials that were taken from the wreckage in 2000.

Next year's exhibit will also include a gallery dedicated to Minnesota connections to the tragedy. Tickets that include the exhibit and general museum admission will cost \$23 for adults and \$18 for children and seniors.

The Titanic sank in the Atlantic Ocean in April 1912.

Tulsa to get a Hard Rock

TULSA, Okla. -- The Cherokee Nation is planning to brand its expanded 19-story hotel and casino as the Hard Rock Casino Tulsa.

The new resort will include the traditional Hard Rock decor, memorabilia and merchandise, and will have influences from Cherokee heritage and Oklahoma's musical history.

The new gaming floor expected to open this month and the hotel set to open in spring 2009.
Stars draw crowds

HARRISONBURG, Va. -- A \$1.3-million renovation has breathed new life into James Madison University's planetarium.

The rededicated planetarium opened in September, and officials say the 66-seat facility has been packed every weekend. Assistant astronomy professor William Alexander says there's standing room only at most shows.

Shows are free and are held twice each Saturday for the public. The rest of the time the planetarium is used by JMU and local school students.

The renovation included building a new 30-foot inner dome, a new projection system, new chairs and a new heating and air conditioning system.

Heritage designation threatened

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia -- The capital of a popular Malaysian resort island could lose its new status as a World Heritage site because of a plan to build high-rise hotels, an official and news reports said.

Penang island officials approved plans for four new hotels before UNESCO designated Georgetown, the island's capital, as a World Heritage Site in July.

The proposed hotels would violate UNESCO guidelines because they exceed a height limit of roughly five stories for new buildings within the city's core, Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng said in the Star newspaper.

State authorities are uncertain whether to scrap the plans because they risk being sued by the hotel developers, it quoted Lim as saying.

UNESCO added Georgetown and Malaysia's southern city of Melaka to its list of more than 800 sites worldwide in July, saying both "constitute a unique architectural and cultural townscape without parallel anywhere in east and southeast Asia."

"Featuring residential and commercial buildings, Georgetown represents the British (colonial) era from the end of the 18th Century," it said.