Jerry Harris has been chosen by Richard Maxwell, executive director of the Branson Entertainment Hall of Fame, to paint all the portraits for the new Hall of Fame. Harris is well known in Branson for his pencil drawings and paintings of country music artists displayed at local museums.

Sci-Port Louisiana’s Science Center’s new traveling exhibition “How to Make a Monster: The Art and Technology of Animatronics” is now open now through April 6. The exhibit allows visitors to see how cinematic creatures are made from the storyboard process to the final stage experiences. Attendees will also learn tools and techniques necessary to successfully host key market segments like group tours, media, small meetings and conventions. The hands-on workshop will focus on how to design, develop stories, script and stage experiences. The seminar is only for attractions, with attractions to create unforgettable visitor experiences. The seminar aims to help attractions boost experiences. The featured speaker, Veneto, aka The Opportunity Guy, is an expert in working with attractions to create unforgettable visitor experiences. The seminar is only for attractions, festivals and tourism-related businesses, events or organizations. Lunch will be provided. The event is free, but space is limited. To RSVP call 318-222-9391.

Mardi Gras Bash Celebrates Nine Years of Fun for Out-Of-Town Groups

Mardi Gras Bash was named one of the American Bus Association’s Top 100 Events in 2014. Mardi Gras Bash tickets, which may be purchased by groups of 10 or more, are $35 per person for an all-inclusive parade-day experience which includes access to a prime viewing location on the parade route, meal tickets for Louisiana cuisine, live Cajun music and dancing, meet-and-greet opportunities with local Mardi Gras personalities and more. To purchase group tickets or for more information contact Erica Howard, tourism sales manager, by Jan. 7 at 818-551-8862 ext. 104 or ehoward@sbctb.org.

Mary Dunn, Chairwoman
Shreveport-Bossier Hotel & Lodging Attractions Assn.*

Sherry Stuckey, Vice-Chairwoman
Shreveport-Bossier Hotel & Lodging Attractions Assn.*

Carlton Golden, Treasurer
Bossier Parish Police Jury*

Tom Lubbe, Secretary
Shreveport-Bossier Hotel & Lodging Attractions Assn.*

Tanita Baker, Shreveport-Bossier African American Chamber of Commerce*

Joan Botta, Harrah’s Louisiana Downs/ Attractions Assn.*

Tari Bradford, Shreveport Mayor’s Office*

Rob Brown, Shreveport-Bossier Hotel & Lodging Assn.*

Sandy Cimino, Bossier Chamber of Commerce.*

Mark Garrett, Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce*

Gary Hubbard, Bossier Rural Mayors*

Joyce Jeffrey, Bossier Office of Community Services*

Jason McKinney, Louisiana Restaurant Assn.*

Kellie Morris, Caddo Parish Commission*

Inki Shaver, Shreveport-Bossier Hotel & Lodging Assn.*

Ray Tromba, Bossier City Mayor’s Office*

Patricia Woodridge, Caddo Rural Municipalities*

*Appointing Organization

Log on to www.shreveport-bossier.org/partners for industry events and updates
**Your Bureau at Work**

The staff of the Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau raised funds, collected non-perishable food items and browsed in the Turkey Bowl Food Drive to benefit the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana at Holiday Lanes, Nov. 21.

- **Stacy Brown**, president, and **Evelyn Cassell**,Boom or Bust Byway coordinator, met on Nov. 18 with representatives from the firm of Merje Environments & Experiences who are contracted to develop the wayshowing signage program along the Byway (LA Hwy. 2).
- **Dianna Douglas**, regional sales manager, attended XSITE Birmingham with the Hilton Shreveport and Shreveport Convention Center in Birmingham, Ala., Nov. 12-14. She hosted the District 50 Toastmasters International Fall November Conference at the Hilton Shreveport and Shreveport Convention Center, Nov. 14-17.
- **Brandi Evans**, vice-president of communications, completed Leadership Louisiana, a one-year program that delves into the state's issues. It is organized by the Council for a Better Louisiana, a nonpartisan statewide organization working in the public interest to focus attention on challenges most important to moving the state forward.

- **Pat Gill**, internet and systems manager, and **Melissa Small**, communications coordinator, were accepted into the inaugural class of the Louisiana Tourism Leadership Academy, a one-year program that builds tourism leaders. It is organized by the Louisiana Tourism Promotion Association.
- **Erica Howard**, tourism sales manager, attended Travel South International Showcase in New Orleans, Dec. 1-4. She also hosted a group of five tour operators on a Louisiana Holiday Trail of Lights tour in Shreveport-Bossier and the other six partner cities, Dec. 11-14.
- **Suzanne Manfredi**, convention sales manager, attended Rejoune Marketplace in Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 29-30. She had 29 scheduled appointments and secured four requests for proposals. She also traveled to Montgomery, Ala., Oct. 9-12. Suzanne presented the conference bid to APLUS Southern Region Conference and won the bid to host the regional conference in 2016.

**State Officials from Louisiana and Arkansas Hosted I-49 Ribbon Cutting**

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The Louisiana Office of Tourism is partnering with the Shreveport Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau to bring the 33rd Annual Travel South Domestic Showcase to Shreveport-Bossier, March 22-25.

Travel South Domestic Showcase is a marketing program designed to showcase tourism organizations state-by-state and connect operator buyers and sellers to bring more visitors to the South. Pre-registration for buyers and journalists is up 30 percent over previous years, and the showcase expects to have more than 500 delegates participate in the programming.

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The second article in Venues Today, titled “SMG GMs Head Home,” focused on the return of Rebecca Bonniver to lead the CenturyLink Center as the general manager. Bonniver previously opened the facility and spent five years as director of sales and marketing. The facility will celebrate its 15-year anniversary in November.

The journalists on the tour also visited several meeting venues where movies were filmed, sampled Cajun cuisine and attended the Louisiana Film Prize and the Red River Revel Arts Festival.

The media stories can be viewed online at www.venuestoday.com.