

N.H.'s Story Land park to open under new owners

GLEN, N.H. — Story Land park opens for its 54th consecutive season Memorial Day weekend, but under new ownership.

The company that owns the Pittsburgh area's best-known amusement park, Kennywood, is buying Story Land, the family-owned amusement park in New Hampshire, according to the Conway Daily Sun.

Story Land, located along Route 16 in Glen, was founded in 1954 by Robert and Ruth Morrell, whose descendants have operated it ever since.

Story Land features rides, shows, play areas and live storybook characters, much like Idlewild Park in Ligonier, Pa., 45 miles east of Pittsburgh, which is also owned by Kennywood Entertainment. Idlewild is famous for its Storybook Forest section, which features live characters from nursery rhymes and other children's stories.

In addition to buying Story Land, Kennywood purchased Heritage-NH, a museum dedicated to the history of New England that closed its doors after 30 years in 2006. There were no immediate plans for that site.

Ky. re-enacts key battle

BLUE LICKS, Ky. — Organizers are preparing for a re-enactment of a 1782 battle in northern Kentucky that came to be known as the worst defeat in the state's history.

Local and state leaders were

at Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park last week to plan for the 225th anniversary of the battle, in which dozens of Kentucky Militia troops were slaughtered by combined American Indian and British forces.

Representatives of re-enactor groups — Sons of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution, Kentucky Historic Society — and a variety of state and civic leaders discussed plans to promote the biggest ever re-enactment commemoration of the event, slated for Aug. 18-19.

"We are hoping for about 4,000 to 6,000 visitors for the event," Stefanie Gaither, manager at the park, told The Ledger Independent.

Though the fighting took place nearly a year after the official end of hostilities, the battle is considered the last encounter of the Revolutionary War.

Despite warnings from Daniel Boone, the Kentuckians unwisely forged ahead for an attack and were ambushed near a ravine.

During a disorganized retreat, close to 70 Kentuckians were killed and a few others were captured. The British and Indians suffered two dozen casualties.

Paul Tierney, Blue Licks Park naturalist, said organizers are hoping for about 300 camps of re-enactors.

The Kentucky State Parks Foundation is creating a Friends of Blue

Licks Battlefield State Resort Park group, said John Downs, Kentucky State Parks historian.

"Money raised in the name of this park will go toward events at this park," Downs said. He added that a shuttle system will be set up to take visitors between venues.

Take more trips to N.C.

SWAN QUARTER, N.C. — Summer tourists and locals will soon have two more ferry trips to choose from when traveling between Swan Quarter on the mainland and Ocracoke on the Outer Banks.

Four departures from both locations will run starting Tuesday through September.

Hyde County leaders lobbied for the increased trips for the 25-mile route across Pamlico Sound to accommodate locals and tourists.

Running only two departures did not provide travelers with enough time to make the trip on the same day, so they either had to spend the night or drive about 150 miles through Dare County.

From the Raleigh area, travelers will be able to reach Swan Quarter in about three hours, said Margie Brooks, executive director of the Hyde County Chamber of Commerce. For details, go to www.ncferry.org.

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