

Life!

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THE POST-CRESCENT

Monday, July 24, 2006

YOUR CONTACT

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THE DAILY SPIN

Early arrival yields unexpected perks

Scanning the horizon for gray Tahiti, my husband, daughter and I looked around the soccer fields in vain.

We saw no coach, no teammates, no familiar gray shirts. It didn't take us long to realize we were an hour early for our daughter's match at Grignon Park in Kaukauna.

At first all we could think about were all the things we could have done with that hour at home, but we soon came to see it as some bonus time in a beautiful setting.

We walked up the hill along one of the park's wooded paths, past sections of its dirt golf course. In the woods it was cool and peaceful, and from the top of the hill we admired the recited view.

We then ambled down the hill toward the Grignon mansion. The 1877 home given the soccer fields an elegant backdrop, one we might not have noticed if we had not mistaken it for a 5 on our calendar.

But penmanship is not usually something to be lauded, but on this evening it gave us a new appreciation for a scenic corner of the Fox Valley.

Home nights. Now that soccer season is almost over we can spend our Wednesday nights enjoying the movies on the hill at Appleton's Memorial Park.

The free program kicks off Aug. 2, with a showing of "Madagascar." Children's games begin at 7 p.m., and the movie starts at dusk, about 8:45 p.m.

The movies continue through August, with "Cats in the Hat: The Movie" on Aug. 9, "Kicking and Screaming" on Aug. 16 and "Ferns Beater's Day Off" on Aug. 23.

There are no rain dates, call 920-833-3900 after 5 p.m. for cancellation information.

We usually bring a blanket and pillows so we can relax as we watch the show. Experience also has taught us to bring jackets, as August evenings can get surprisingly chilly.

Cave anniversary. It's also wise to dress for the weather if you're going to take advantage of the Cave of the Mounds anniversary tour celebration.

The temperature in the cave 20 miles west of Madison is a balmy 50 degrees. The anniversary of the date of its discovery (Aug. 4, 1939) will be celebrated with special activities Aug. 4 to 6.

The cave is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Hearst guided tours depart every 20 minutes. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children ages 4 to 12.

but they can be booked at 920-950-1000, ext. 243, at www.gripstons.com.



A PAST NOT forgotten

By Amanda Crowley
Post-Crescent staff writer

The Hearsthouse Historic House Museum, the first private home in the world to be lit by hydroelectricity, is a familiar part of the Appleton community.

It hosts school field trips, holds tours six days a week, and its annual Victorian Christmas exhibit is one of the best-known holiday events in the area. This year, the museum celebrates its 20th anniversary by exhibiting the house's past and making plans for its future.

The house was purchased in December 1986 by Friends of Hearsthouse, an organization that was formed when the house was threatened with destruction when its last owner, Harold Mares, could not find a buyer.

The museum was entirely volunteer-run until the early 1990s. Today, the museum has two professional staff members — executive director Christine Cross and program director Patty Lyka. However, the tour guides and the board of directors are all volunteers.

Volunteers also played a big part in the house's restoration, which began in earnest in 1992.

"We were very fortunate that the families and the owners of the tea room didn't make any major changes," Cross said. "They recognized the house's historic importance."

As a result, the house still has its original light switches and fixtures, and much of the wiring is still in place.

Still, the restoration was hardly easy. The house's original inhabitants, the Rogers family, moved to Chicago after 11 years in the house, taking all their belongings with them. There are no photos, letters or keeps from that period, and so the restoration crew had to rely on newspaper

AT LEFT, the Hearsthouse Historic House Museum once was used as a tea room.

BELOW, a hand-carved wall hanging decorates the parlor.

PHOTOS BY THE POST-CRESCENT BY AMANDA CROWLEY

Celebrating its 20th year, Hearsthouse museum still aims to bring history alive for those who enter its doors

If you go

Admission to Hearsthouse is \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children (ages 7-17). Prices for the Christmas exhibit are \$4 and \$2. Admission is free for Friends of Hearsthouse members and children 6 and under. Guided tours are available on the half-hour and hour beginning at 10 a.m. Lasting through Friday and at 11 a.m. Saturday. The last tour begins at 3:30 p.m.

The museum is located at 625 W. Prospect Ave., Appleton. Information is available at www.hearthousemuseum.org or by calling 920-730-8204.

"Hearsthouse: A retrospective" runs through Dec. 4.

Individual Friends of Hearsthouse memberships begin at \$30, with benefits increasing with each support level. All memberships include a newsletter, free tour, gift shop discounts and free flowers membership. Corporate memberships begin at \$250.

Box office

A look at the weekend's hottest movies

"Primer" talks to first box office after zero. Jerry Desha and his posse friends are jumping at the box office to see themselves.

Desha's "Primer of the Caribbean: Dead Maria Cross" remained the top movie for the third straight weekend, leading in \$35 million and taking its total to \$322.7 million after just 17 days, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The Disney sequel passed the \$300 million domestic total that its predecessor, 2003's "Primer of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl," rang up during its entire six-month run.

"Dead Maria Cross" beat back a rash of new films, led by Sony's terrific film "Monster House," an animated one that debuted at No. 2 with \$23 million.

Opening in third was M. Night Shyamalan's "Lady in the Water," which took in \$18.2 million.

Kevin Smith's "Chicks" opened at No. 6 with \$6.6 million. Uma Thurman's "My Super Ex-Girlfriend" debuted at No. 7 with \$6.7 million.

Wireless movie listings

For movie listings anywhere in the U.S., send a text message M and the city (such as Madison) or ZIP code to 4363 (4363).

Best bets

Fox Valley events worth checking out:

FUT ANNUAL: Look to the sky today in EAA-Airventure 2006, go off the ground, it goes through Sunday in Oshkosh. 511-8190, 920-426-4818, www.eaa-airventure.org.

For more entertainment options, visit our events calendar at www.postcrescent.com.

Page editor: Jane Galey

BUSINESS

FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2005

POST-CRESCENT WEST

PAGE 9

Beacon Street restaurant stands the test of time

New London business has strong appeal

By AMANDA CROWLEY
POST-CRESCENT WEST

NEW LONDON — The restaurant industry has a reputation for relative instability, but some places have stood the test of time.

Beacon Street, now in its third incarnation after more than 30 years, is one of those places.

So what's the trick to the restaurant's longevity?

"The mustard," said owner Mary Lou Nelson, smiling. "We're famous for our mustard sauce."

The mustard — and a lot of hard work and experience.

Nelson started working part-time at the restaurant on the corner of Beacon Avenue and Mill Street in the 1970s, when it was a fast-food restaurant called Super Burger. Later, she became a manager, and when Super Burger became Beacon Street Deli in 1981, she was on hand.

Four years later, Nelson bought Beacon Street Deli, and when they took out the deli counter to make room for more tables, the restaurant took on its current name.

Running Beacon Street has been something of a family affair for Nelson and her husband, Paul.

"All of my kids have worked here, and my son managed it for a year," said Nelson.

"I grew up working here. I started working here before (my mom) bought it," said Nelson's daughter Tammy Yonke. "Now when (the regulars) see my kids, they say, 'They look just like you did.'"

Most of Beacon Street's customers are regulars, according to Nelson. "We have groups that have been coming in for years. They come in, sit down and say 'yeah,' and I go 'yeah' and I put their order in."

Some customers come in so regularly that Nelson places their orders before they arrive. That's the way she likes it. "I love people, and it's so nice to



MARY LOU NELSON, owner of Beacon Street restaurant in New London, has been in the hospitality business since the 1970s.

"I love people, and it's so nice to see familiar faces."

Mary Lou Nelson, owner of Beacon Street restaurant in New London

see familiar faces."

In 1998, Nelson's husband, Paul, and Rick Bohlmann built and opened Half Nelson's, a

sports bar and restaurant north of New London.

"My husband was a carpenter, and that was his last building project," she said.

Since then, Nelson has often found herself working double shifts between the two restaurants, but her priorities are clear.

"I will hostess or waitress there (at Half Nelson's) if they need me, but this is my main restaurant."

Owning one restaurant and co-owning another seems like a

lot for one couple to handle, but Nelson loves it.

A CLOSER LOOK

WHAT: Beacon Street ("The Deli")

OWNER: Mary Lou Nelson

ADDRESS: 422 E. Beacon Ave., New London

HISTORY: Opened March 3, 1981, as Beacon Street Deli (was Super Burger)

EMPLOYEES: 13

HOURS: Tuesday-Sunday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

FAVORITE DISHES: Roast Beef Special, \$5.50; homemade lasagna, \$5.95; half-pound Beacon Burger, \$5.25; omelets, \$5.25

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APPLAUSE

Neighbors celebrating
their accomplishments

Pictured are Big Fling winners (back row from left) Jonathan Vial, Vinnie Biskupic, Alex Peterson and (front row) John Blume with organizer Eric Severson.

Big Fling event
a big success

Four teens who call themselves "The Matter of Disc" took top honors at the 2006 Big Fling.

The second annual event, held June 4 at Appleton's Platanus Park, is a disc golf clinic, competition and fundraiser for the Fox Valley Shining Support Network.

The four 13- and 14-year-old players, Jonathan Vial, Vinnie Biskupic, Alex Peterson and John Blume, won the top honor, the Golden Disc Award, for raising the most pledges for the nonprofit organization. The boys make up the team that wrote letters, canvassed their neighborhoods, asked friends, and got their parents involved to raise more than \$2,000.

The Golden Disc Award is a traveling trophy and will be awarded to the top pledge team at next year's event.

Other top pledge raisers include Dallas Britt, Glenn Beach, Phillip Redman, Ray Becker, Nicholas Auerbach, Eric Severson, Rob Martin, Craig Smith, Marty Muller, Adam Van Zee, and Lenny Berg and Dave Van De Loo.

Kids' safety event
offered Saturday

Court TV and Time Warner Cable will offer free digital fingerprinting of children from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Ross Darnow auto dealership, 2801 W. College Ave., Appleton.

Each child receives an 8-by-10-inch print-out with photo, fingerprints and personal information such as height, weight and hair color. Information and fingerprints are strictly for the families; no information is kept on file. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children also will provide safety tips.

Waupaca County
sets battle of bands

Bands interested in participating in the Waupaca County Fair Battle of the Bands may submit demostration tapes to July 17. The contest will be held 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Aug. 25 in Waupaca, Wis. Bands should send demo CDs or tapes to Brenda Hildebrand, P.O. Box 611, Waupaca, Wis. 54983. For more information, call 920-587-3395 or visit www.co2waupaca.com.

High school: Heather Lahti

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FINE ARTS

Summer art project helps Heifer International

By Amanda Crowley

First-Crescent staff writer

During the summer, art programs for children abound. All of these classes and camps support the good cause of keeping kids entertained during summer vacation, but not many of them raise money for international charities at the same time.

Enter Laura Corcoran, Lawrence University alum and organizer of a kids' collaborative art project that will benefit Heifer International.

On a recent sunny afternoon, five children ranging in age from kindergarten through 7th grade sat at a table in the basement of First English Lutheran Church, surrounded by markers, chalk, pencils, paper and vegetable oil. Despite the warm weather, they didn't mind being inside.

"I like art," said Dan Hagan as he colored the drawing of a duck, one of the animals Heifer International provides for farmers.

"Yeah," agreed older brother Eric. "It's what I do during French class."

Corcoran designed a project that would reflect the chosen charity. Each child would draw a Heifer International animal using markers and pastels, then coat the back of each sheet of paper with a layer of vegetable oil. This made the

paper semitransparent, so that when the sheets were combined, the project resembled a large stained-glass window. An image of the project will be placed on the front of each card, which will be sold to benefit Heifer International.

Corcoran came up with the idea for the project when she noticed that the church she attends, First English Lutheran Church, sometimes hosted art displays. "I thought about putting up a display of my work, but I decided it would be more fun to use kids' art," she said. "There's so much kids' art in churches. I thought it would be neat to really put it on display."

She decided to use the project as a fundraiser for Heifer International partly because she's been familiar with charity since childhood. "My parents would buy shares of different animals as gifts for teachers," she said. "It's a really good cause."

The wide age range of the kids involved created a challenge for Corcoran, who, as a student teacher, was used to designing projects for specific age groups. Though

she had originally intended to have two projects, one for each age group, the limited number of participants necessitated a redesign.

Though the age differences made Corcoran apprehensive about how the project would turn out, she's pleased with the result.

"You can tell that some younger and some older kids participated, and I really like that," she said. "After all, as she pointed out to the kids, 'One of the great things about art is that there's no 'better.' Just different styles.'"

Corcoran graduated from Lawrence in 2004 with a B.A. in studio art. She spent the 2004-2005 school year student teaching at the elementary and high school levels, and the assistant with a toddler art class at the Appleton Art Center. Later this summer, Corcoran will teach an arts and crafts class through the Appleton Area School District summer program.

The project will be on display at First English Lutheran Church, 326 E. North St., Appleton, in the window of the Drew Street side entrance. Note cards featuring the project will be available at the church.

Heifer International was formed in the 1940s. The organization promotes animal husbandry and farming around the world. For more information, visit www.heifer.org.

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LEND A HAND

Volunteer opportunities in
and around the Fox Valley

Transportation Volunteers

Volunteer drivers are needed to provide transportation for people ages 60 and over from 8 a.m. to noon or noon to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Volunteer picks time and day. Tolls are provided throughout the Fox Cities communities. To volunteer or to request a ride, contact Holly at the Thompson Community Center, 2338-2342-6445 or 888-200-6576 or e-mail hthompson@tc2.org.

Experienced Volunteer
Professionals and executives are needed who want to donate their time to area nonprofit agencies. Join EVER, a program of RSVF designed for volunteers ages 55 and over with managerial and professional backgrounds. EVER volunteers provide management assistance and a variety of other services in areas such as communications, financial management, human resources, marketing and strategic planning. Contact: Carol at the Volunteer Center, at 920-832-3340.

United Way Fox Cities: Individuals interested in becoming Community Income Volunteers are needed. Volunteers will be involved in one of the following: United Way Community Impact Areas: providing basic needs and self-help; client strengthening; family development; children and youth; or promoting health, housing and crisis intervention. Each impact area consists of approximately 25 community volunteers, who meet year-round, once a month for two hours. Contact: Rhonda Harnett or Mary Wiest, at 920-547-2100.

Pioneer Village: Volunteers are needed to help with maintenance chores. Contact: 920-835-5252.

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POST-CRESCENT EAST

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Bride needs to work closely with her bridesmaids

By AMANDA CROWLEY
FOR THE NEWS-RECORD

Before that walk down the aisle, brides have to choose who they want to lead them down the aisle. From the number of attendants to the color of the dresses, decisions about the bridal party can seem endless.

Beth PerryWattleworth, wedding coordinator and owner of Tailored Occasions in Denmark, offered tips to make choices easier.

How urgent is it to put your bridal party together? It's important to choose attendants "as soon as possible," she said, as many people have tight schedules. "You want to give people plenty of time to make arrangements."

Appleton resident Joanna Stoltz, 21, will be a bridesmaid in her friend Kristen Fischer's wedding in Appleton next summer. The bridesmaids were chosen last month, approximately 14 months before the wedding. It may sound early, but, as Stoltz pointed out, "we're in school, we live in different cities, and to do dress fittings and make decisions we had to get together early."

In order to start making those decisions, the bride has to decide whom she wants to ask. For brides with large families and lots of friends, choosing among the women in their life can be one of the most stressful tasks.

Many brides worry about offending friends or relatives, and so may feel pressured to have a large number of attendants — or none at all.

"The good thing is that there are a lot of roles for people to play during the day," PerryWattleworth said. If there are other people the bride would like to honor, they can participate in the wedding as readers, musicians or acolytes, among other things. In many cases, especially for people with young children or special talents, those roles can be preferable.

On the other hand, for smaller weddings, it can be acceptable for bridesmaids to have several roles.

"It's within the realm of etiquette for bridesmaids to do readings, or if your sister is a concert pianist and you'd like her to play, but it depends on how much else they are respon-



News-Record photo by Kirk Wagner
MIXED BLACK AND WHITE patterns are one of the popular trends of Bridal Elegance & Formal Wear in Kaukauna.

sible for. If she doesn't have too much else to do, there's nothing wrong with asking her to do double duty."

After all, they'll also have roles to play before the big day. Stoltz has been busy helping to plan Fischer's wedding. "I love all the planning and the little decisions," she said.

How should you choose the bridesmaid dresses? Stoltz also enjoyed helping to choose the dress she and her fellow bridesmaids will wear on the big day.

"Kristen and I went to David's Bridal and I tried on

something like 10 dresses. We narrowed it down to four, and then the other two bridesmaids came in and we all tried them on and made the final decision."

According to PerryWattleworth, "for a less formal event, looking for dresses online is a good option, as you may have more choices as far as colors, styles, sizes and price range. Chadwick's has a good selection, including very nice gowns in the clearance section. If you have something specific in mind, a bridal salon can help you find what you're looking

for quickly."

As far as style, though, almost anything goes.

"As fun as ballgowns are, they're not for everyone," PerryWattleworth said, noting that stores stock a wide range of styles and cuts. Worried about walking down the aisle in a bright orange gown? Well, according to PerryWattleworth, "it's really up to the couple to decide on colors and a theme."

There are dresses to suit everyone.

"For fullerfigured friends and relatives, there are many retailers that offer a wide range of sizes, so that doesn't need to be a factor," PerryWattleworth said.

When choosing clothes and accessories, the couple should consider their means and needs, she said. "Back in the day, when you look at etiquette from 20 years ago, the bride's family paid for lodging and some attire, as the bridal parties tended to be younger and lack income. Now, more mem-

bers of the bridal party will have jobs, and many of the parents are still hard at work, so it is important for the bridal couple to take into consideration the means of the people they choose."

Does being a bridesmaid have to cost so much? Being a bridesmaid can get expensive? from the dress and accessories to lodging and travel arrangements — but there are many ways to make the costs manageable.

With so many choices to make and details to iron out, being in a wedding can get stressful. Still, as PerryWattleworth pointed out, "The most important thing to remember is that the bride, groom and officiant are there and the papers get signed — everything else is just bonus. It is all about two people coming together." Stoltz agreed: "I'm just so excited to be a part of it and stand beside my best friend at her wedding."

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