

FIRST AND FOREMOST

a rundown of harmless news

SELF-GUIDED AUDIO TOUR CELEBRATES MARIETTA'S HISTORY

From staff reports

MARIETTA — In honor of Marietta's 175th birthday, the Marietta Welcome Center & Visitors Bureau has created a self-guided audio tour of Marietta's historic sites. The tour takes participants through Marietta's historic districts and cemeteries and tells the colorful history of Marietta, from pioneer days to the present. The tour was also done to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Marietta Welcome Center & Visitors Bureau.

"We couldn't think of a better way to celebrate than to present Marietta's wonderful history to the public" said **Theresa Jenkins**, executive director of the bureau. "It's a great way for people to learn about the buildings and sites they pass every day."



The tour is available on CD and can be purchased from the Marietta Welcome Center & Visitors Bureau or the Historic Marietta Trolley Company for \$2. The first 175 Marietta residents who come to the Welcome Center only will receive a complimentary CD as part of Marietta's 175th Birthday Celebration. To receive a CD, residents must show identification with a Marietta address and supplies are limited to one CD per family.

The project was made possible by a Techno-Tourism Grant from the Georgia Department of Economic Development.

The tour can also be downloaded to an iPod or MP3 player from www.mariettasquare.com by clicking on media room. The center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call (770) 429-1115 or visit www.mariettasquare.com.

COBB ARTISTS TO SHOWCASE WORK AT GEORGIA POTTERY EVENT

Several Cobb artists will be showcasing their work in the seventh annual Perspectives 2009: Georgia Pottery Invitational, which runs from Saturday through Sept. 16 in Watkinsville, at Oconee Cultural Arts Foundation at 34 School St. More than 4,500 individual pieces of pottery provided by 50 of Georgia's finest potters will be available for sale at this event.

There will be a preview sale and opening reception from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, with a \$5 donation charge. The show will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with free admission to the general exhibits. Activities will include pottery throwing demonstrations, workshops, studio tours, exhibits and sales. There will be admission charges for certain events.

Marietta artists participating in the event include **Anne Rafferty**, who specializes in animal sculpture and functional pottery; **Marise Fransolino**, a ceramic designer; and potter **Timothy Sullivan**.

For more information on the pottery festival, visit www.perspectives09.myocaf.com.



Photo special to the MDJ
A piece by Anne Rafferty of Marietta.

QUOTABLE QUOTE

"No matter what accomplishments you make, somebody helps you."

— *Althea Gibson, American tennis champion (born this date in 1927, died 2003)*



The Associated Press

Ariana Paglione, center, Paula Paglione, right, and friend Amanda Knops from New Jersey, hold up their art work. The ladies painted the pieces at Mud Puddy, a pottery studio in Saint Augustine, Fla., during their vacation.

Creative souvenirs

Vacationers across country get crafty with art projects

By **Melissa Kossler Dutton**

Associated Press Writer

Rain doesn't spoil vacation for the Benoit family of Springfield, Ill.

It gives them an excuse to get creative at the Express Yourself Art Barn near Saugatuck, Mich. The family always carves out time to work on craft projects at the studio and let the children make souvenirs, said their mother, Peggy Benoit.

Travelers around the country are slotting time in their vacation itineraries for making art. They're beading necklaces in Wilmington, N.C., painting coffee mugs in St. Augustine, Fla., and making candles in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains. Projects typically range in price from \$5 to \$75.

"Creating a personalized souvenir is a great reminder of your trip," said Heather Hunter, spokeswoman for AAA in Heathrow, Fla.

It's also something to do on a rainy day, of which there were many this summer across much of the country.

Art Barn owner Carole Selner worried that the ailing economy would hurt her business, but sales were up.

She offers an array of projects designed to appeal to different ages and interests. Visitors can paint ceramics or silk scarves, build a birdhouse or make jewelry, among other projects.

"So many families have such busy lifestyles," Selner said. "Taking time to express their creative side is something they don't have time for in their regular life."

Benoit likes to see her daughters, Lizzy, 8, and Anna, 11, painting projects at the Art Barn. During a recent visit, Lizzy decorated a ceramic moon while her sister created an underwater scene on a platter. Selner fires the pieces for customers. The Benois usually display their artwork at home on a wood-



Emily Bartlett, 14, paints a piece of a hair brush at Mud Puddy.

en fence that rings their pool.

It helps them remember Saugatuck, a resort town with many art galleries on the western coast of Lake Michigan.

"We love the art aspect of Saugatuck," said Benoit. "It's fun to actually do art, rather than just look."

Visitors to East Stroudsburg, Pa., jump at the chance to create their own memento, and like the idea of an activity for all ages, said Vicki Cobb, owner of Pocono Candle. Many tourists return to the candle shop every summer during their vacations, and parents enjoy watching their children's artistic talents mature, she said.

In Wilmington, N.C., tourists often

choose to string seashells or locally made beads into necklaces, earrings and bracelets to remind them of their trip, said Valerie Fountain, manager of Caravan Beads.

"They really like to be able to design a custom piece, often beach-themed," she said. "It's very special to have something they designed themselves."

The shop attracts people with varying levels of jewelry-making experience, Fountain said. Some beading enthusiasts arrive in town intending to visit the store. Other people wander in while shopping at the historic Cotton Exchange, the former hub of the city's cotton industry.

Cobb Symphony Orchestra tunes up for new season

By **Katy Ruth Camp**
krkamp@mdjonline.com

COBB COUNTY — Members of the Cobb Symphony Orchestra are tuning up for a new season, which will begin Sept. 12.

"This season will capture people's imagination and truly move them with pieces like the captivating 'Piano Concerto' by Ravel with Esther Budiardjo and the exhilarating 'Thieving Magpie Overture' by Rossini," CSO Music Director Michael Alexander said. "It explores all of our human emotions and will speak to a wide variety of audiences. We are proud to make music with over 1,000 people in our community and look forward to yet another year of artistic growth and service to our community."

The orchestra will begin with "The Force of Destiny, Master Works #1." Performances will be Sept. 12 at 8 p.m. and Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.

On Oct. 17 and 18, the group will present



Staff/Laura Moon

Violinist Wilson Tong rehearses with the Cobb Symphony Orchestra in 2008.

"Mahler's Magnificent Second, Master Works #2" at the Bobbie Bailey Performance Center at Kennesaw State University.

Performances will be at 8 p.m. Oct. 17 and 3 p.m. Oct. 18.

The chamber singers will accompany the

On the Web

Cobb Symphony Orchestra:
www.cobbsymphony.org



orchestra in concert at 8 p.m. Nov. 7.

In December, the CSO will present two holiday pops shows on the same day. At 3 p.m. Dec. 5. At 7 p.m. Dec. 5, the show will be at Johnson Ferry Baptist Church.

In January, the orchestra plans to present Copland's "Appalachian Spring" on Jan. 9. "CSO Jazz!" will be presented at the Earl Smith Strand Theatre on Jan. 22 and 23. Players will perform each month through the spring, and finish with "Just Plain Fun," featuring the chamber singers, at 8 p.m. on May 15.

Most performances are at the Murray Arts Center, 2250 Stilesboro Road, Kennesaw. Tickets for most shows start at \$15, and can be purchased online at www.cobbsymphony.org.