

## EVENT NEWS

*Marc Burnett, Director of Marketing/Sales*

The Holidays at the Civic Center have officially begun, with the Radio City Christmas Spectacular starring the Rockettes putting the national spotlight on Peoria for several days. The limited tour came off flawlessly, and word of the building's expertise and outstanding customer service was passed along the grapevine.

Another ray of the national spotlight was shining on October 24, 2008, when



*Artist, Preston Jackson, in front of the Underground Railroad Sculpture*

the National Park Service was in town for the dedication of the Underground Railroad Sculpture, commemorating the Pettengill home and their work in the 1800's for the anti-slavery movement. Designed by artist Preston Jackson, the monument stands tall at the top of Liberty Street, making Peoria history come alive for students of all ages. The project will be on the cover of the National Park Service's January/February newsletter.

The national tour of "Monty Python's Spamalot" will be in town Jan. 13-18, and "RAIN - The Beatles Experience" plays the Theater for one night only on Saturday, February 7. Tickets are on sale now for both shows. Also visit our website, as it is new and improved! It features an easier to use calendar, videos and pictures, and special features about what's happening. Please send us your comments.

## CONVENTIONS & MEETINGS

*Robin Barnes, Director of Convention Sales*

The 17th Annual Women's Lifestyle Show was another great success thanks to WEEK-TV, Jay Goldberg Events and Entertainment and Joy Miller & Associates. Thousands of women from throughout central Illinois came to the Peoria Civic Center for a day of entertainment, pampering, wonderful food and fun. There were over 300 exhibitor booths, educational seminars and numerous door prizes, plus many free samples. Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 24, 2009 for next year's show.

The Peoria Civic Center also is home to several other annual consumer shows:

WMBD-TV's Family Fest - Saturday, January 24, 2009

Greater Peoria Home Builders Annual Home Show - Friday, February 27 through Sunday, March 1, 2009

Central Illinois Recreational Show - Friday, March 6 through Sunday, March 8, 2009

Central Illinois Auto Show - Friday, April 3 through Sunday, April 5, 2009.

Please check the website at [www.PeoriaCivicCenter.com](http://www.PeoriaCivicCenter.com) for more event details.

*"I cannot say enough good things about the experience we had at the Peoria Civic Center. Coming from a hospitality background, I tend to have high expectations, and I was pleasantly surprised at every turn. Our guests had great experiences, and I know that we are all already spreading the word about how wonderful the Civic Center is to work with. Thank you for everything you did to help make our special day stress-free, memorable and as perfect as possible!"*

**- Rachael Newston**



**SALES & SPONSORSHIP**

*Beau Sutherland*  
*Advertising Sales Manager*



The Verizon Wireless Café, located between the Great Hall and the Triangle Lobby, offers patrons free wireless internet access, snack and beverage options, a power-up station, and a plasma TV. Visit the Verizon Wireless Café while attending your next event.

**RESTAURANT REVIEW**

Located on the lower level of the Prairie Building in downtown Peoria, Andre's Restaurant serves both lunch and dinner in a great atmosphere. Andre's Cajun-influenced menu features a variety of offerings, including gumbo, alligator quesadillas, homemade desserts and fresh baked dinner rolls. The Soggy Bottom Blues Band performs every Saturday beginning at 7 pm, with no cover charge.

Andre's Restaurant  
 320 Liberty St.  
 Peoria, IL 61602  
 (866) 770-3895



Hours of Operation

Lunch - Mon. - Fri. 11 am - 2 pm  
 Dinner - Tues. - Thurs. 5 pm - 9 pm  
 Fri. and Sat. - 5 pm - 10 pm

**WHAT'S HAPPENING**

Check out a complete listing of events at the Peoria Civic Center! Great seats are available through the Box Office, all Ticketmaster outlets, by phone at 309-676-8700 or online at [www.PeoriaCivicCenter.com](http://www.PeoriaCivicCenter.com).

Here are a few highlights:

*Oak Ridge Boys* December 5

*Bob & Tom Comedy All-Stars* December 6

*Peoria Ballet "Nutcracker"* December 13-14

*Peoria Area Civic Chorale "An American Family Christmas"* December 19-21

*Monty Python's Spamalot* January 13-18

*RAIN: A Tribute to the Beatles* February 7

**RECIPE OF THE MONTH**

*Chef Stephens*

**Black Bean Soup**

- 1 pound black beans**
- 3 quarts water**
- ½ pound salt pork, diced**
- 1 large onion, diced**
- 2 ribs celery, diced**
- 1 small green bell pepper, diced**
- 3 cloves garlic**
- 1 small can diced tomatoes with juice**
- 2 quarts chicken broth**
- ½ teaspoon dried thyme leaves**
- ½ teaspoon dried oregano**
- 1 small bay leaf**
- ½ teaspoon cayenne pepper**

In a large pot add beans and 3 quarts water and soak overnight. Drain beans and set aside. Add diced salt pork to soup pot over high heat. When you've rendered some fat from the salt pork, add onion, celery and green pepper, and sauté for 2 minutes over high heat. Reduce heat and add garlic, stir and cook for 1 minute. Add beans, diced tomatoes, chicken broth, thyme, oregano and bay leaf, bring to a boil, reduce to a simmer and cook until beans are tender, about 1 ½ hours. Add cayenne pepper and cook for 15 more minutes. Garnish with chopped cilantro and sour cream. Serve with corn tortillas.



Worldwide Entertainment and  
 Conference Venue Management



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