

Pure Ludington

Ludington Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

SPRING 2016 EVENTS AND NEWS

March -June

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Photos and interviews available upon request.

NEW THIS SEASON

MICHIGAN ADVENTURE RACE - Epic Edition, May 21, Ludington State Park, 8800 W. M-116. miadventurerace.com. The largest adventure race series in United States is launching a new Epic Edition wilderness adventure race for one, two- and three-person teams to run, bike and paddle to off-trail checkpoints throughout picturesque Ludington State Park along Lake Michigan and Hamlin Lake. Five and 10-hour courses are available.

LIVE IN THE PLAZA, Thursdays in June (June 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30), 5-8 p.m., James Street Plaza. downtownludington.org/liveintheplaza. Visitors can enjoy free, live single acoustic music acts in downtown Ludington every Thursday in June. Grab take-out and a blanket or chair and enjoy a picnic in the plaza or enjoy the ambiance as you walk between shops. Weather permitting.

WORLD RECORD EVENT - Longest Ice Cream Dessert, June 11, 6 p.m. (eaters should arrive by 5 p.m. to get a space and watch the sundae be built), Ludington Avenue between Park and Harrison Streets, DowntownLudington.org/icecreamrecord. Ice cream lovers can belly up to a half-mile long ice cream sundae in downtown Ludington and eat a scoop of House of Flavors ice cream to help Ludington and House of Flavors win the Guinness World Record for the Longest Ice Cream Dessert. In addition to enjoying a free scoop of ice cream, sundae eaters also will take home a commemorative ice cream dish.

EVENTS

For a complete list of events by month, visit pureludington.com/visitors_calendar.cfm

MARCH

“Breaking The Code,” March 10-12 at 7:30 p.m., March 13 at 2 p.m.; West Shore Community College - Center Stage Theater, 3000 N. Stiles Rd., Scottville. westshore.edu. “Breaking The Code” tells the story of a mathematical genius, Alan Turing (as portrayed by Derek Jacobi in the London production) who, assigned to the top secret Bletchley Park England during World War II, was responsible for designing the first computer, which enabled the allies to crack the German Enigma code and, some would argue, win the war.

St. Patrick’s Day Celebration, March 12, downtown Ludington. downtownludington.org/stpatricksday. A variety of St. Patrick’s Day events await, including an Irish Jig 5K Run at 9:30 a.m. starting at Ludington CrossFit (on-site registration at 8:30 a.m.), Shamrock Parade at noon on Ludington Avenue, “Irish I Was Shopping” with downtown businesses open 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., and an evening pub crawl.

Sandcastles Children's Museum Spring Carnival, March 18, 5 – 8 p.m., Community Church, 109 N. Harrison St., sandcastleschildrensmuseum.com. This carnival features games and prizes, a cake walk, balloon animals and face painting as well as food concession with healthy dinner choices so families can make it a full evening event.

LUDROCK's Girls Rock 2016, March 19, 7 p.m., Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S Harrison St., ludrock.com. Sponsored by the Zonta Club of Ludington Area, this first-time evening event of "girl power" celebrates women through musical performance and spoken word. Local female musicians, singers and artists of all ages will perform live. Between musical performances, local women from various walks of life will tell short stories of accomplishments, perseverance, overcoming obstacles, activism and contributions to the local community. Follow the [Facebook event page](#) for the lineup.

APRIL

Bria Skonberg, April 28, 7:30 p.m., West Shore Community College - Center Stage Theater, 3000 N. Stiles Rd., Scottville. westshore.edu. Bria Skonberg is a catalyst for all things jazz. Hailing from Western Canada and now living in New York City, award-winning trumpeter/vocalist/ composer Bria Skonberg is "poised to be one of the most versatile and imposing musicians of her generation." - *Wall Street Journal*.

MAY

S.S. Badger Maiden Voyage, May 12, boarding at 7:45 a.m.; departure at 8:45 a.m.; arrive back at Ludington at 7 p.m. ssbadger.com. This annual tradition takes passengers minus their cars on a round-trip cruise to Manitowoc, Wisconsin, on the S.S. Badger's maiden voyage of the season. On-board activities include movies, games, Badger Bingo with prizes, and children's activities. Dining areas and bar service are open for purchases. Passengers have 90 minutes in Manitowoc while the boat is docked before heading back to Ludington. Tickets are \$35 per adult, \$19 for youth 5-15 years, and free for children under 5 and can be purchased at the Ludington Ticket Office starting in May. Call 800-841-4243 for information. *Rain or shine*.

Michigan Adventure Race: Epic Edition, May 21, Ludington State Park, 8800 W. M-116. miadventurerace.com. The largest adventure race series in United States is launching a new Epic Edition wilderness adventure race for one, two- and three-person teams to run, bike and paddle to off-trail checkpoints throughout picturesque Ludington State Park along Lake Michigan and Hamlin Lake. Five and 10-hour courses are available, and registration is open. Per-person cost ranges from \$74 to \$79 for the five-hour course and \$110 to \$120 for the 10-hour course.

JUNE

Live in the Plaza, Thursdays in June (June 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30), 5-8 p.m., James Street Plaza. downtownludington.org/liveintheplaza. Visitors can enjoy free, live single acoustic music acts in downtown Ludington every Thursday in June. Grab take-out and a blanket or chair and enjoy a picnic in the plaza or enjoy the ambiance as you walk between shops. Weather permitting.

Cole "A Musical Review," June 10-11 & 18, 7:30 p.m. and June 12 & 19, 2 p.m.; West Shore Community College - Center Stage Theater, 3000 N. Stiles Rd., Scottville. westshore.edu. A musical review about the King of Musicals, Cole Porter, plus narration that tells the story of Porter's life. The program includes Cole Porter standards such as "I Love Paris," "Take Me Back to Manhattan," "Love for Sale," "Night and Day" and "I Get a Kick Out of You."

Pirates of the Caribbean Shoreline Cruise on the S.S. Badger, June 11, 8:30-10:30 p.m. (boarding begins at 7:45 p.m.), ssbadger.com. Passengers can wear pirate costumes and speak in pirate lingo on this festive Lake Michigan shoreline cruise aboard America's last coal-fired steamship. Ticket price of \$39 includes the Badger Party Buffet with desserts and soft drinks, and live music by "Two Dudes in Flip Flops" featuring guitar, steel pan and vocals. Cash bar available with drink specials. Children 5 and under are free. Tickets can be purchased in person at the ticket office or by calling 800-841-4243 starting in March. *Rain or shine.*

Guinness World Record Attempt - Longest Ice Cream Dessert, June 11, 6 p.m. (eaters should arrive by 5 p.m. to get a space and watch the sundae be built), Ludington Avenue between Park and Harrison Streets, DowntownLudington.org/icecreamrecord. Ice cream lovers can belly up to a half-mile long ice cream sundae in downtown Ludington and eat a scoop of House of Flavors ice cream to help Ludington and House of Flavors win the Guinness World Record for the Longest Ice Cream Dessert. In addition to enjoying a free scoop of ice cream, sundae eaters also will take home a commemorative ice cream dish.

Ludington Lakestride Half Marathon/10K/5K, June 11, 8 a.m., 612 N. Lakeshore Dr. (starts at Nader's Lakeshore Motor Lodge), LudingtonLakestride.com. This 36-year tradition provides runners a beautiful and festive running race weekend near Lake Michigan. All races share the same starting route and finish at Stearns Beach on Lake Michigan, with the half marathon passing through Ludington State Park featuring a run down a sand dune plus return route with views of the dunes and Lake Michigan.

Big Sable Point Lighthouse Bus Days, June 25 (also July 16 & 30, Aug. 13 & 27, Sept. 24). splka.org. Buses run every half hour, 12-5 p.m. starting from park ranger house inside Ludington State Park, 8800 W. M-116. Visitors can forego the two-mile walk to and from Big Sable Point Lighthouse and ride a comfortable, handicap-accessible van through the sands to the parking lot in front of the lighthouse. Adults - \$5; Children 12 and under - \$2. Lighthouse, gift shop and tower are open on those days.

Gus Macker 3 on 3 Charity Basketball Tournament (25th anniversary in Ludington), June 18-19, Stearns Park Beach. Macker.com. Billed as the largest Gus Macker Tournament in the country, the Ludington Gus Macker celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2016 of attracting thousands of teams to compete along Lakeshore Drive and Stearns Outer Drive, steps away from Lake Michigan.

Sunset Beach Bonfires, June 23 (also July 28 and Aug. 25), 8 – 10 p.m., Stearns Beach, pureludington.com/SunsetBonfire.cfm. Back by popular demand, this series of free community bonfires on a beautiful Lake Michigan beach during sunset will be featured at Ludington's popular Stearns Beach. Visitors can enjoy a fun, safe bonfire near the edge of Lake Michigan on the south end of the park, with live music by local artists.

OTHER SEASONAL PROGRAMS

Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 217 E Ludington Ave., ludingtonartscenter.org. Spring and early summer family-friendly programs await, including:

- ***Wild Swan Children's Theatre Production, "Frog and Toad,"*** April 14, 6 p.m.
- ***Earth Day Event,*** April 23
- ***"The Absolutely Insidious and Utterly Terrifying Truth about Cat Hair,"*** Youth Theatre Production, April 29-30, 7:30 p.m.
- ***OJ DeJonge Middle School Exhibit*** (with possible corresponding middle school choir and/or band performances), April/May

- ***Maritime Magic Annual Craft Fair***, June 4
- ***Ixion Theatre Company Visiting Performance, "She Kills Monsters,"*** June 18-19
- ***Carol Garneau (legacy show) Painting Retrospective***, June/July

West Shore Community College - Performing Arts Series, West Shore Community College, 3000 N. Stiles Rd., Scottville. westshore.edu/community/arts_music_culture/performing_arts/current_season.html. WSCC student performances include:

- ***WSCC Jazz Ensemble***, April 14, 7:30 p.m., Center Stage Theater
- ***WSCC Chamber Winds & Wind Symphony***, April 20, 7:30 p.m., Location TBA
- ***WSCC Concert Choir***, April 24, 2 p.m., Center Stage Theater (jazz trumpeter/vocalist/composer)

ABOUT LUDINGTON

Located on the shores of Lake Michigan with miles of beachfront and water access, Ludington offers a quintessential “Up North” experience. Ludington and surrounding Mason County deliver the perfect combination of unspoiled natural resources and unrivaled outdoor recreation with quaint, small-town charm. And it’s all within easy reach, located at the intersection of U.S. 31 and U.S. 10. Come to Pure Ludington – Up North close by. For information on the Ludington area including lodging, events, and other tools to help plan your next Ludington getaway, visit PureLudington.com or call (800) 542-4600.

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