

June

It's raining as I write, and a very welcome rain it is in our dry and brittle county. Does it portend our hurricane season? Something to think about as you scurry for supplies...candles, books, beer, water, bread, books, beer, canned goods, books, and beer.... are the battery reading lights we sell gobs of this time of year. It's easy to forget the lack of electricity and hunker down when lost in a good book.

Reminds me of a favorite quote: "Without a book in my hand, I am a desperate man." I'd tell you who wrote it if I remembered but my memory went with my hair color. I also often wonder how peoples' bladders work without a book in their hand. Never road rage, (or long grocery line rage) for me as you won't catch me without a book.

I realize that in this, my third newsletter, that it seems less about books than it does about my own musings. I noticed that in April I mentioned an independent business, Special T's, downtown, and in May it was Custom Iron, a motorcycle shop. I am compelled to write about another independent this month.

Do I detect a pattern?

In a rebellion against gas prices and a need for some exercise, I began bicycle shopping. My oldest daughter, Kerri, and Nikki's mom, Pat, had recently bought one so off I drove. (hehehe)

J.C.'s Bikes and Boards south of downtown doesn't only cater to the skateboarders who proliferate any odd curve, curb, incline, bump, or jump around town. They sell bikes, one of which I am now a proud owner. J.C. is a young man with infinite patience who will take the time to answer all the questions even an older white-haired lady might ask. And yes, I'm sure I could have found one less expensive at a chain store but the few dollars saved would go to the out-of-state corporate office instead of staying in Deland and benefiting us all by contributing to our local services: fire, police, schools, etc. You get the picture.

Imagine a town where the only stores are huge big box conglomerates and the only restaurants chains? How robotic is that! Yuk.

Therein was yet another shameless attempt to make you aware, and understand the value of the mom and pop businesses to the economy and ambiance of our area.

If nothing else, we offer local wares, charm, diversity, charm, appeal, charm, customer service, charm and a few giggles.

So, if you see a white haired lady on a bicycle with her "stuff" in a basket humming the wicked witch of the west theme from the **Wizard of Oz** as she pedals her way to work, it will undoubtedly be me.

Although I do enjoy good literature, Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Jonathan Swift are among my favorites, (hence my "I Read Dead People" T-shirt) I have stumbled on Harlen Coben lately and have lost sleep reading, actually devouring, and his books. If you like a well written, compelling mystery, he's your man. I haven't read his latest yet, **The Woods**, in hardcover but I will. Did you ever notice that your favorite authors become so popular that they eventually start out in hardcover and you must wait months or years for the paperback? Bummer!

But think about it, Wordpeople. When you divide the hours of enjoyment into the price of a hardcover book it's not that expensive. You spend that much and more at a restaurant and you know where that ends up!

Nikki and Amanda are reading paranormal (defined as beyond the range of normal experience or scientific explanation) books and, boy are they ever "beyond the range". It seems vampires, werewolves, fairies, and shape shifters are "in" and many authors are trying their hand at them. I am amazed at how those two gals can hand sell these books and how many customers relish and consume them.

Lori, our resident intellect, reads history and has almost finished reorganizing our history wall. She has started reading some of each genre we have to familiarize herself with other types. I remember many years long

gone when I read a light romance and a Louis L'Amour western for the same reason. Mysteries and trade size, general, indefinable fiction is still my drug of choice.

Kelli doesn't get too much reading time with a husband and two young teens but usually reads what I rave about. She's gearing up for our Harry Potter party July 20th and a vacation to California in August. Can you imagine enjoying a trip in a small car with a 13 and 15 year old and a husband that doesn't like to stop at motels? Neither can I.

Donna hasn't been feeling well for some time now and is home getting her strength back. We miss her and wish her well. I'm sure her two Yorkies like having her around 24/7.

Courtney's family has moved to Eustis and she can't commute so no more Courtney. We hope she has a great life.

We could use some help here but it would be hard to be all we need. It has to be someone who reads, knows the alphabet, has an outgoing personality, will work for peanuts, is an event coordinator, is a people person and will stay forever. Training is more complex than you might think and we want someone who has a burning desire to work with us forever.

June 30th is looming so come pre-pay for your **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows** while we are offering the 20% discount.

Those of you procrastinating but prepaying July 1 thru July 14th will get a 10% discount and that money will go to our local Friends of the Library.

July 7, 2007...07-07-07 we will offer a 7% discount on all purchases not already discounted.

Come see our mascot cat that has shucked his (giggle) Mother's Day outfit and is now adorned as a Father's Day Graduate.

Don't forget the Harry Potter "win a trip to London" contest and the Mainstreet "win \$500.00" contest. Rules

are here at the store.

If I weren't such a technophobe I would add some links for your amusement and amazement. The best I can do is suggest you Google **Book Crush** by Nancy Pearl for a fun look at books for teens. She wrote **Book Lust** and **More Book Lust** for the rest of us. Please feel free to add your own joke here!

The website <http://barterbooks.co.uk/mural.html> is absolutely fascinating. Where *do* people come up with these ideas?

Another website that is clever, fun and bound to offend someone is www.thebricktestement.com so skip this one if you're easily offended.

As I write there are only 48 days to Harry Potter and 206 shopping days until Christmas.

Oh! I'm supposed to write about books, Nikki tells me, so here is some current information:

Selected titles with a pub date of next Tuesday, June 5:

The Harlequin by **Laurell K. Hamilton** (Berkley, \$25.95, 9780425217245/0425217248). The 15th outing for vampire hunter Anita Blake

The Navigator by **Clive Cussler with Paul Kemprecos** (Putnam, \$26.95, 9780399154195/0399154191). The 7th NUMA Files novel

Spare Change by Robert B. Parker (Putnam, \$24.95, 9780399154256/0399154256). Boston P.I. Sunny Randall joins forces with her retired cop father to crack a 31-year-old cold case.

On Chesil Beach by **Ian McEwan** (Nan A. Talese, \$22, 9780385522403/0385522401). The new novel from the author of *Atonement* and *Saturday* explores a newly minted marriage in crisis.

Undead and Uneasy by **Mary Janice Davidson**

(Berkley, \$23.95, 9780425213766/0425213765). It's marital mayhem for Vampire Queen Betsy Taylor, who must track down the person responsible for the disappearance of her groom-to-be.

Too Late to Say Goodbye: A True Story of Murder and Betrayal by **Ann Rule** (Free Press, \$26, 9780743238526/0743238524). Rule's latest true crime tale delves into the mystery surrounding the apparent suicide of a dentist's wife.