



BELLEVILLE NEWS-DEMOCRAT

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ART ON THE SQUARE

IT 'MAKES SPRING ROCK'

Annual event is much more than just fine art

By ROGER SCHLUETER
News-Democrat

BELLEVILLE — A jazz singer just back from Carnegie Hall entertains in an international wine garden while art lovers browse through paintings, sculptures, glasswork and jewelry worth millions.

New York? London? Paris? No, you'll find it right here during the ever-expanding Art on the Square celebration of fine arts May 19-21 in downtown Belleville.

Named the nation's best small town art fair in 2004 by the Art Fair Source Book, the fifth annual gala again will boast more than 100 award-winning artists in 11 categories from clay to woodwork.

Some — Loretta Roberts of Belleville, for example — could be your neighbors. More than a dozen others hail from as far as Israel, Ghana and Lithuania and will be taking part in the fair's new International Art Walk.

To further accent the world flavor, Ed Callison of Callison Distributors is adding a wine-tasting area where patrons can sample vintages from the countries represented. To make that wine go down smoothly, jazz singer and Belleville native Brian Owens, who recently performed at Carnegie Hall, will entertain all three days.

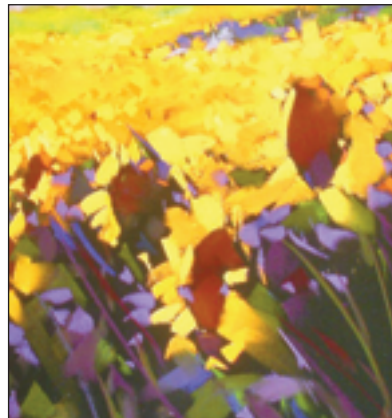
No wonder even the stu-



BETTY NEUBAUER/Oil and acrylic



PATTY KAMPMANN/Jewelry



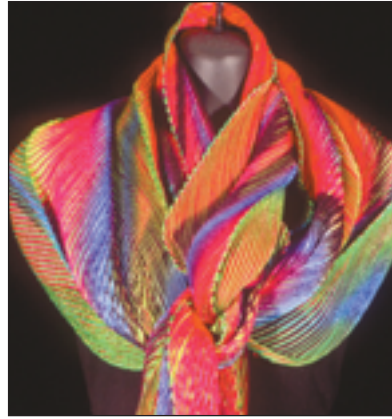
MICHAEL MCKEE/Drawing



PHILLIP J. SONIER/Photography



STEVEN DANIEL/Photography



LOUISE VALENTINE, BRIAN PROVENCHER /Fine craft or mixed media



SANDI DAHL/Drawing



RENEE AND JIM ENGBRETSON/Glass



DON NEDOBEK/Oil and acrylic

Please see SQUARE, A2

Art on the Square times and features

What: Art on the Square featuring 105 award-winning artists from 24 states and 14 foreign countries.

When: 5-9 p.m. May 19; 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. May 20; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. May 21.

Where: Downtown Belleville. **Admission:** Free.

Other features: Two stages of entertainment; wine garden; children's activity area; high school art exhibition and contest; food court; interactive

"Head to Toe" exhibit.
Art cash: Vouchers that can be used to buy art may be purchased in advance through 398-4482. Orders must be received by May 5; minimum order is \$50.

High Mount School art teacher George Wilkerson points to the character in the painting he drew to resemble his own likeness.



Student art on cutting edge for festival

By RAMONA CURTIS
News-Democrat

With the burst of Georgia O'Keefe's "Red Poppy" and the bust of King Tut's mask, students at metro-east schools already are making artistic contributions to next month's Art on the Square.

Six schools have created a 5-foot-by-5-foot murals for the

event's newest exhibit, jigsaw art. The murals will be cut in large segments, then laid out in the children's area of the festival, challenging young visitors to put the jagged pieces back together.

"I think a lot of kids will be going over to see what it's about, and a little bit of history and interest in art comes with it," said Art on the

Square director John Rule. "We're educating people. That's what Art on the Square is all about."

The schools participating in the new program are Blessed Sacrament, Cathedral, Emge, High Mount, Queen of Peace and White-side. Some schools recreated

Please see ART, A2

Soldier with ties to metro-east is killed in Iraq bombing

Army corporal once lived in Cottage Hills

By MARIA BARAN
News-Democrat

A 21-year-old soldier formerly from Cottage Hills died Sunday while serving in Iraq, according to family members.

Army Cpl. Shawn Thomas Lasswell Jr. was killed in a roadside bombing northwest of Baghdad.

Lasswell grew up in Cottage Hills. He moved to Las Vegas with his mother, Cathy Zehren, when he was about 10 or 11, said his stepmother Kim Lasswell of Cottage Hills.

She remembered him as the blonde-haired, blue-eyed boy whom she first met when he was 5.

Kim and Shawn Lasswell Sr. kept in touch Shawn Lasswell Jr. via telephone most of the next decade.

She said her stepson visited the area in June before leaving for Iraq

shortly before Christmas. She said he had grown into a handsome, broad-shouldered young man, standing taller than 6 feet.

"It was great seeing him again," Kim Lasswell said. "He was all grown and completely different. He was a big boy."

Kim Lasswell said her stepson enjoyed playing with remote-control cars, playing the guitar and hanging out with his friends.

"He knew his job. He knew what he was doing," she said. Two other U.S. soldiers died

Sunday in the attack.

In addition to his parents, Shawn Lasswell Jr. is survived by five siblings.

Funeral arrangements were undetermined Tuesday but will be held at Staten-Fine Funeral Home in Alton.

Seven other people from the metro-east have died in Iraq. They are: Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Christopher Dostie, 32, of Granite City, who died Dec. 30, 2006; Marine Cpl. Matthew Alan Wyatt of Millstadt, who died Dec. 3, 2004;

Army Sgt. Christopher Wagener of Fairview Heights, who died July 1, 2004; Army Capt. John Tipton of Granite City, who died May 2, 2004; Army Spc. William Dusenbery of Fairview Heights, who died Nov. 15, 2003; Army Pvt. Matthew D. Bush of East Alton, who died Aug. 8, 2003; and Marine Cpl. Evan James, a student at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, who died March 24, 2003.

Contact reporter Maria Baran at mbaran@bnd.com or 239-2562.



Army Cpl. Shawn Lasswell Jr. and two other soldiers died Sunday in an attack near Baghdad, Iraq.

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Pick 4-Midday: 7-1-0-2 Jackpot: \$3 million

MEGA MILLIONS Game: 1-20-32-37-39 Mega Ball: 9 Jackpot: \$20 million

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Pick 3-Midday: 5-7-6; Evening: 9-4-6
Pick 4-Midday: 9-3-8-9; Evening: 5-8-7-6
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Show Me 5-Evening: 13-18-25-35-42

