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Joplin Art Commission discusses ideas for roundabout

BY DEBBY WOODIN
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Local artists and residents interested in arts are working with Joplin city staff to create ideas for dressing up the city's roundabouts. The first project for the council-appointed Joplin Art Commission is the roundabout at the intersection of Zora Street and Duquesne Road. Council

members recently discussed a desire to add visual interest to the traffic circles. Joplin's public works director, Dan Johnson, said at a meeting of the commission Thursday that city officials want projects that would enhance the plain roundabouts but they don't want anything that could obscure traffic or cause an accident in the circular traffic islands.

One artist in attendance Alex Cogbill, and Frank Pishkur, art department chair at Missouri Southern State University, suggested a hawthorn tree, or welcome tree, that would look different as seasons turned. Hawthorn trees are regarded as low-maintenance ornamental trees that support wildlife, though they grow sharp thorns and are susceptible to disease. Haw-

thorns also are known in folklore as "fairy trees" that can create bad luck for anyone who cuts them. After rejecting the idea of a live tree, they discussed a design using a manmade material that resembles the changing colors of a hawthorn. In this case, though, the hawthorn tree suggested would be forged from metal to make a multicolored version of the tree

using paint. The metal could be stacked in layers to form the leaves and branches but installed in a low form inside the roundabout so that it did not interfere with the line of sight of motorists. Jorge Leyva, a member of the commission and an artist known for his bright orange-red art installations at places such as the Joplin Public Library, said that anything painted could

become weathered within a few years. Others commissioners said the finish could be treated with a sealant to prevent or reduce degradation of the paint. Heather Lesmeister, executive director of Spiva Center for the Arts, asked what criteria will be applied to the projects. She is also on the commission.

SEE **ART**, 2A

Husband calling



Gina Kroamer, of Mount Vernon, gives her best husband call as Diane Sanford, of Springfield, listens Friday. GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Contest popular event at Apple Butter Makin' Days

BY JOHN HACKER
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MOUNT VERNON, Mo. — When someone lives in rural Southwest Missouri, getting the attention of a husband who may be a quarter-mile away at a barn or somewhere loose in the neighborhood takes a special skill. That skill set was on display Friday at the husband-calling contest that was part of the 60th annual Apple Butter Makin' Days festival in Mount Vernon. "Bodie, get over here. Now!"



Gina Kroamer (left), of Mount Vernon, took first place in the Apple Butter Makin' Days husband-calling contest Friday while Diane Sanford, of Springfield, took second. Charlotte Becker, who said she calls her brothers, took third place. GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

That was the winning call, by Gina Kroamer, of Mount Vernon. She said she really doesn't yell at her husband like she did Friday on the stage on the

EDITOR'S NOTE: Globe subscribers can watch a video of the husband-calling competition by going to this story online at joplinglobe.com.

south side of the square. "I just entered the contest because my daughter was doing it, so I talked myself into it," Kroamer said. Second-place winner Diane Sanford, of Springfield, said she uses the call she showed off on stage to summon Danny Correll. "Mr. Honeybuns! Come on down!" "I do call him like that; his nickname is Mr. Honeybuns," Sanford said. Correll said it works —

SEE **SKILLS**, 2A

Joplin man convicted of first-degree assault at Mercy

FROM STAFF REPORTS
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A McDonald County jury convicted John Anthony McGonigle, 41, of Joplin, of first-degree assault Thursday following a two-day jury trial in Pineville. According to a statement from Newton County Prosecuting Attorney William Lynch, the charges stemmed from an incident Feb. 11 at Mercy Hospital Joplin. McGonigle was a patient there at the time. "Hospital employees were attending to McGonigle when he became agitated. After being told that he could not have his phone or visitors at that time, McGonigle threw his phone at the victim, the house manager for that shift, and immediately began striking him," according to Lynch's office. "The victim testified that the attack occurred without warning and described the moment he regained consciousness after being struck as one in which he believed he was going to die. Following the assault, the victim was transported to the emergency department for treatment." The victim suffered a number of injuries including fractures to the left maxillary (facial) and temporal bones, a fractured bone in his inner ear, a torn left rotator cuff, a knee injury, a concussion and a contrecoup brain injury with a subdural hematoma. The victim also suffered permanent hearing loss in one ear. According to the statement, during the trial, the jury heard testimony regarding statements made by McGonigle following the assault, including threats to other hospital employees. Another nurse who witnessed the assault testified that McGonigle threatened to find hospital employees and kill them and their families and pets. That nurse later received a social media connection request from McGonigle. "The defense presented evidence concerning McGonigle's medical condition and medication he had received shortly before the assault. However, testimony established that the medication would not have had sufficient time to take effect before McGonigle attacked the

SEE **CONVICTION**, 2A

American Legion, Globe announce annual Veterans Day essay contest

BY JOHN HACKER
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The Robert S. Thurman American Legion Post 13 in Joplin and The Joplin Globe are once again holding their annual Honoring Our Veterans essay contest in advance of upcoming Veterans Day, Nov. 11. Students in grades seven through 12 are invited to write an essay of no more

than 400 words on the topic, "What is the history in your community of how veterans are recognized on Veterans Day?" Students are also asked to give at least one idea to improve or expand on recognition of veterans in their community. Daniel Kuhns, director of audience engagement at The Joplin Globe, said the contest gives students

a chance to write and submit their work to a judge, but the goal extends beyond that. "I would say the contest is more about providing thought-provoking content to our readers," Kuhns said. "It's a bonus for the kids of getting them to think about this important topic but it's even more so about providing their thoughts to the community."

Kuhns said the American Legion post provides judges for the contest who will select the winning essays to be published in the Saturday, Nov. 7, issue of The Joplin Globe. Entries must be sent by a teacher or coordinator from the school the student attends or a parent if they are homeschooled. Entries may be emailed to ninie@joplinglobe.com. The

deadline is Oct. 21. Entries must be no more than 400 words long, typed and double-spaced in 12-point Times New Roman font and free of grammatical, spelling, usage and punctuation errors. Writers must use specific details to support the topic. Prizes will be awarded to the top three winning essays in each entry division (seventh-eighth grade,

ninth-10th grade, 11th-12th grade). First-place winners receive \$100, second place receives \$75, third place receives \$50. For more details, call the Globe's Newspapers in Education program at 417-627-7238 or visit www.joplinglobe.com/veterans-essay to download a printable flyer that can be posted.