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ALFRED UNIVERSITY

Hornell Art Walk set for Saturday evening

By Ryan Papaserge
The Evening Tribune

HORNELL — For one night only, Hornell will become an interactive art museum.

The Hornell Art Walk, an annual event coordinated by Brett Hunter's "Space and Place" class at Alfred University, is set for Saturday from 4-9 p.m. The event features 14 exhibitions located around the city.

The event also features students and faculty from Alfred University's Sculpture and Dimensional Studies division, the city of Hornell, and Maple City-based artists and organizations.

Saturday's art walk marks the culmination of a semester of effort from Hunter's students, one that included integration into the community. Hunter's class is held at the Hornell Community Arts Center on Thursdays and Fridays.

Hunter said that while this is the fifth annual walk, it's the fourth conducted by his students. The first effort was held by artists who happened to have exhibitions on the same day.

Alana Wesley's exhibit will be located at the Roadside Field on Route 21 across from Hope Cemetery. Wesley's project is based on research into the Underground Railroad in the region and will be located where Otis Thacher's house once stood. Thacher was one of two brothers involved in abolitionist efforts.

"Each year for the last four years, each of the students in the class does a project in town and then we invite other people and other organizations to have some shows at the same time so it becomes a bigger event," Hunter said.

And sure enough, several events are taking place on the same day. The Hornell Area Arts Council will hold its Spring Festival at Broadway Mall Park while Hornell Partners for Growth's Wildflower Festival takes place at One Steuben Square. Orpheus Chorale will hold its performance of Brahms' German Requiem at United Presbyterian Church as well.

"We're trying to build a community-wide set of events to happen on the same day," Hunter said.

In order to create their work, artists had to become members of the community and learn about what makes

Hornell tick.

"I don't know if it's so much artists but this class is supposed to be more with the community and making work based off of your experience with the community," Reese Peacock, teaching assistant, said. "A lot of them would go talk to at the YMCA or with the people who are in the bus loop, really working with aspects of the community."

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Wesley, who hails from Australia, said her research — conducted in conjunction with the Almond Historical Society and Hornell historian

Collette Cornish led her to create an exhibition (involving cotton buds) with a message.

"I was stranded the first day I came to Alfred," Wesley said. "I haven't been here very long. The bus driver picked me up and he still drove to Alfred and decided to give me a tour of the area when he was going there. He said there was a lot of history ... I really didn't know much about (the Underground Railroad) and I was told that used to be a station. When we were told that we could do a project about Hornell, I decided to investigate the history further."

Meanwhile, Jenna Kawola will hold her exhibition in Opera Alley next to Broadway Mall Park.

"I started off kind of investigating restaurants and I started trying to become a regular at the Texas Cafe and just see what I could research and get a vibe from everyone,"

Kawola said. "After doing that, I kind of got this idea of making a welcoming space outside for people to go to and hang out, discuss things, and just kind of make like a living room area outside in this normally unwelcoming place."

Several "Nothing New" boxes will be located around the city as part of a paper-making workshop, led by Olivia Barber and Michelle Kwiecien, in which recycled newspapers will receive a second life. The workshop will be held in the parking lot outside the Hornell Community Arts Center.

"The context of our project is to make paper and zines, which are shortened versions of magazines which are self-published out of old newspapers," Barber said. "We've done that with the Hornell Junior and Senior High School for the past month. We've been doing workshops with students in

the after-school program."

Taylor Covertino's exhibition will be held inside the railroad underpass and will spotlight Hornell's lost and found.

"It started out as researching local businesses and what's in their lost and found and whether or not they have any," Covertino said. "That expanded to researching lost and found places in Hornell like here, which used to be a Ponderosa and was transformed into an arts center ... It turned into a big question of what has been lost and what has been found?"

At the end of the day, the students hope their efforts improve upon what's been given to them.

"It's not only us connected to the space, but the space connected to the work as well," Wesley said. "It's like we've taken what they've given us and we're giving it back to them."

READER PHOTO



A preening black-throated sparrow perches high in a tree over Broadway Mall in Hornell to address some bird hygiene issue on Tuesday, a reminder that flea and tick season has arrived early this year. PHOTO PROVIDED

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HUMAN INTEREST

O'Mara names 2015 Woman of Distinction

ELMIRA — State Senator Tom O'Mara (R-C, Big Flats) announced Tuesday that he has selected Linda Thomas, longtime owner and operator of the Wellsburg Diner in the village of Wellsburg in Chemung County, as his 2015 "Woman of Distinction."

Thomas will represent O'Mara's 58th Senate District at the Senate's 18th Annual awards ceremony in Albany on Tuesday, May 5 in Albany. Thomas will be recognized along with more than 60 other honorees representing senatorial districts from across the State.

O'Mara noted that this year's ceremony is being held during National Small Business Week, which he said makes his tribute to Thomas even more timely and fitting.

Thomas has owned and operated the Wellsburg Diner since 1997. The diner was destroyed by severe flooding from Tropical Storm Lee in September 2011. In the aftermath of the storm Thomas, despite daunting financial and personal hardships, vowed to reopen.

"This town's been very good to me, and the people in this town have been very good to me, and I wanted to stay with them," Thomas told the Elmira Star-Gazette in late February 2012 shortly before, with the help of the community, the Wellsburg Diner reopened just a block away from its original site. "The Wellsburg Diner is more than a building. It's a family."

O'Mara said that the new Wellsburg Diner has become a focal point of community



Linda Thomas has been named the 58th Senate District's 2015 Woman of Distinction. She will be honored for her small business savvy and community minded efforts in Albany on Tuesday, May 5. PHOTO PROVIDED

life in the village and surrounding communities and has expanded to employ nearly 20 local workers.

Since the flood, Linda has hosted meetings and events at the diner to help address numerous community concerns, as well as to support local activities and organizations including the animal

protection agencies "A Voice for All Animals and "The Second Chance Ranch."

"Linda Thomas exemplifies persevering through tough times, lending a helping hand to those around you, and commitment to community. She's proof that our small town traditions and values are alive and well," said O'Mara.

HOSPITAL AND BIRTH REPORTS

St. James Mercy Hospital, Hornell
Visiting: 2-8 p.m.

Admitted: None Reported
Discharged: None Reported

Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital, Bath
Visiting: 1-8:30 p.m.

Noyes Memorial Hospital, Dansville

Visiting: 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Jones Memorial Hospital, Wellsville
Visiting: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 4-8 p.m.

Admitted: Jennifer Roberts, Scio

Discharged: None Reported

Births

A son was born to Jennifer (Crittenden) Roberts of Scio on Monday, April 27 at Jones Memorial Hospital in Wellsville

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ABC	The Middle	The Goldbergs	Modern Family	blackish	Nashville		News
FOX	American Idol				2 on Your Side at 10	Seinfeld	Two and a Half Men
PBS	Nature		NOVA		Italy's Bloodiest Mafia		Nightly Business Report
TBS	Family Guy	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	Conan
AMC	Jurassic Park III				Jurassic Park III		
USA	NHL Hockey						NCIS
A&E	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Shipping Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars
LIFE	Terra's Little Family	Terra's Little Family	Terra's Little Family	Terra's Little Family	Little Women: NY		Little Women: NY
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YES	MLB Baseball				SportsMoney	Boxing 30	MLB Baseball

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