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'It's very sad'

DeKalb family mourns loss of grandmother, mother killed in crash / 6

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Labor deal

Biden visits Belvidere, says workers need 'fair shot' and 'fair wage' / 12

TODAY'S WEATHER



HIGH **46** LOW **25**

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ART ALL AROUND

Public festival brings contemporary works to DeKalb / 3

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RETAIL ADVERTISING

jringness@shawmedia.com

OBITUARIES

dekalbobits@shawlocal.com

General Manager

Jim Ringness

815-526-4614

jringness@shawmedia.com

Senior Director of Content

Joe Biesk

815-526-4387

jbiesk@shawmedia.com

Editor

Kelsey Rettke

815-526-4565

krettke@shawmedia.com

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Consider volunteering for CASA DeKalb County to support our children

In an era when workforce diversity and inclusivity are not just buzzwords but essential components of successful businesses, Opportunity House Inc. shines as a beacon of hope and opportunity.

The organization offers customizable employment solutions that benefit both employers and individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities while championing the cause of equality.

Opportunity House is one of the many answers to the pressing issue of staffing for businesses, through their vocational employment skills training service that includes both Group and Individualized Employment Services. Both types of service help employers boost their operational efficiency by providing a customized workforce that can fit their business needs.

The Group Employment team at Opportunity House can be tailored to a variety of tasks, from janitorial services to light assembly needs, filing, stocking and more.

One of the key features of the Group Employment Services is the 1:2 ratio of Opportunity House Support Staff/Job Coaches to the client employee. The job coach remains on site while the client employee completes their job tasks. Coaches work closely with team members, aiding in the development of employment skills.

The goal is integrated employment, where individuals with disabilities find their place in the workforce, contribut-



VIEWS

Michele Vaughn

ing to both their personal growth and the economic growth of the community.

Michelle Donahoe from the DeKalb County History Center said, "We love our community partnership with O.H.! Collaborating with them was the perfect solution for our organization. The clients are hardworking and take pride in cleaning the History Center. The workers are supervised ensuring that expectations are met and are often exceeded."

The key feature of Individualized Employment Service is the 1:1 ratio of Opportunity House Support Staff/Job Coach to the client employee. This ensures a strong focus on the client/employee's personal growth and skill development. In the past 12 months, 27 individuals held individualized community employment.

Also, 100% of employers surveyed state that they are very satisfied with Opportunity House Vocational Services.

The turnover rate for employees with disabilities is significantly lower, standing at 8%, compared to the 45% turnover rate for other workers. Businesses that employ people with disabilities also enhance their image, as 87%

The Group Employment team at Opportunity House can be tailored to a variety of tasks, from janitorial services to light assembly needs, filing, stocking and more.

of customers prefer to patronize such establishments.

Opportunity House takes pride in being a catalyst for change in the employment landscape. They offer practical and effective solutions that not only empower individuals with disabilities but also benefit employers. Embracing inclusive employment, not only unlocks untapped talent but also promotes a more diverse, compassionate and successful business environment.

For numerous years, Opportunity House has partnered with Kishwaukee United Way. Through the generosity of grants and the annual K UW Day of Caring, their organization has experienced a significant enhancement in the services provided to clients.

For additional information please contact Johanna Blocker at 815-895-5108 ext.108 or email jblocker@ohinc.org. You can also visit our website at www.ohinc.org.

• Michele Vaughn, Ed.D., is executive director/president of Kishwaukee United Way.

LOTTERY

ILLINOIS LOTTERY

Midday Pick 3: 8-9-5 (6)
Evening Pick 3: 0-2-4 (8)
Midday Pick 4: 4-9-9-8 (5)
Evening Pick 4: 7-9-4-7 (1)
Lucky Day Lotto Midday:
3-21-25-37-44
Lucky Day Lotto Evening:
6-14-16-23-45

Lotto: 4-16-18-35-38-44
Extra shot: 8
Lotto jackpot: \$5.15 million

MEGA MILLIONS
Est. jackpot: \$223 million

POWERBALL
Est. jackpot: \$220 million

INDIANA LOTTERY

Daily 3 Midday: 0-3-1 (2)
Daily 3 Evening: 8-9-0 (1)
Daily 4 Midday: 5-7-7-4 (2)
Daily 4 Evening: 4-2-9-5 (1)
Cash 5: 7-32-33-35-37
Est. Lotto jackpot: \$42.6 million

WISCONSIN LOTTERY

Pick 3 Midday: 5-7-2
Pick 3 Evening: 3-9-2
Pick 4 Midday: 7-4-1-4
Pick 4 Evening: 8-4-0-2
SuperCash: 2-8-23-26-28-34 (N)
Badger 5: 1-6-13-20-28

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ON THE COVER

A student passes by a portion of the sculpture "Foundations of Character" by Erinn Stuart on Wednesday outside the NIU School of Art and Design, Visual Arts Building. The piece is part of the Terrain Biennial 2023, a countrywide exhibit where artists display their work outside of homes and building around town. See story on page 3. Photo by Mark Busch

CORRECTIONS

Accuracy is important to the Daily Chronicle and it wants to correct mistakes promptly. Please call errors to our attention by calling 815-526-4565.

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Global art here at home

7 artists feature sculptures around DeKalb as part of worldwide exhibition

By MEGANN HORSTEAD
mhorstead@shawmedia.com

DeKALB – A rainbow bridge, a piece of concrete slab and material excavated from VHS cassettes.

Have you seen these three exhibits around town? They're all part of a larger public arts festival, dubbed Terrain Biennial, that concludes Wednesday and brings contemporary art to new and underserved audiences worldwide.

Many of the exhibits are showcased on Northern Illinois University campus, part of the DeKalb-centric contributions of seven local artists to the Terrain exhibition.

Terrain Biennial has art displays across the globe, built by artists from every aspect of life for "anyone who walks, rolls, skips or wanders by to discover," according to its website.

"I love the Terrain Exhibition because it brings art to the community in such a unique way," Elmhurst resident Rebecca Griffith said. "There's just something so special about artists all over Chicago, Illinois and beyond coming together at a certain time. We become a larger community. I hope people enjoy it for its visual aspects. ... I love the idea of people being able to watch the artwork age throughout time. Being outside, it looks a lot different today than it did when we installed it."

Griffith excavated material from VHS cassettes to create an art installation that's meant to open up discussion on how information is processed, nostalgia and memory.

Her piece, "The Day of the Triffids, 1963" was inspired by her time growing up in the 1990s inside the video store her mother owned, according to the exhibit's notes.

"The Day of the Triffids, 1963" is a science fiction horror film about a meteor shower which leaves most of the planet's population blind, followed by an apocalypse where Earth is invaded by extraterrestrial plants. The film is about survivor's learning to live in a hostile and new environment.

Griffith said she faced her share of challenges trying to bring her creation to life.

But she managed to handle issues that arose by taking inspiration from an unlikely source.

"Typically, [the VHS tape] exists



Photos by Mark Busch

ABOVE: A student walks by the piece "The Day of the Triffids, 1963" by Rebecca Griffith on Wednesday outside the Northern Illinois University School of Art and Design, Visual Arts Building. **BELOW:** An untitled piece by Amy Fleming is seen Wednesday outside the NIU School of Art and Design, Visual Arts Building.

out in the open," she said. "I adhere it with clear tape. That's traditionally how you would fix a VHS tape. So having that challenge of how is this going to be able to stay outside for a long time was something I really thought about. So, I looked to office culture and the kind of things I remember my mother using. Laminating was the obvious choice."

John Siblik, associate professor of art at NIU, said he's glad he decided to take part in the initiative. He said it brings great significance to him to participate.

"Not only is my work about the environment and the importance of sustaining the environment and our natural resources but from an aesthetic standpoint, most of my sculptures are in essence three-dimensional drawings," Siblik said. "To have them come to being as three-dimensional form on the landscape is really the aesthetic beauty for me that comes about with these pieces is creating what I think of as these three-dimensional images on the



landscape. So, it's a way for me to be a part of the very rich landscape tradition within art. So, that gives me a

great deal of pride."

See GLOBAL ART, page 5

Siblik installed "Rainbow Bridge" that can be seen at 105 W. Lincoln Highway, displayed at the corner of First Street and Lincoln Highway. Rainbow Bridge is a 3D celebration of Siblik's daughter, and his mother who died this spring, according to Terrain Biennial.

Siblik said he was intrigued seeing the works of other artists who are participating in the larger public arts festival.

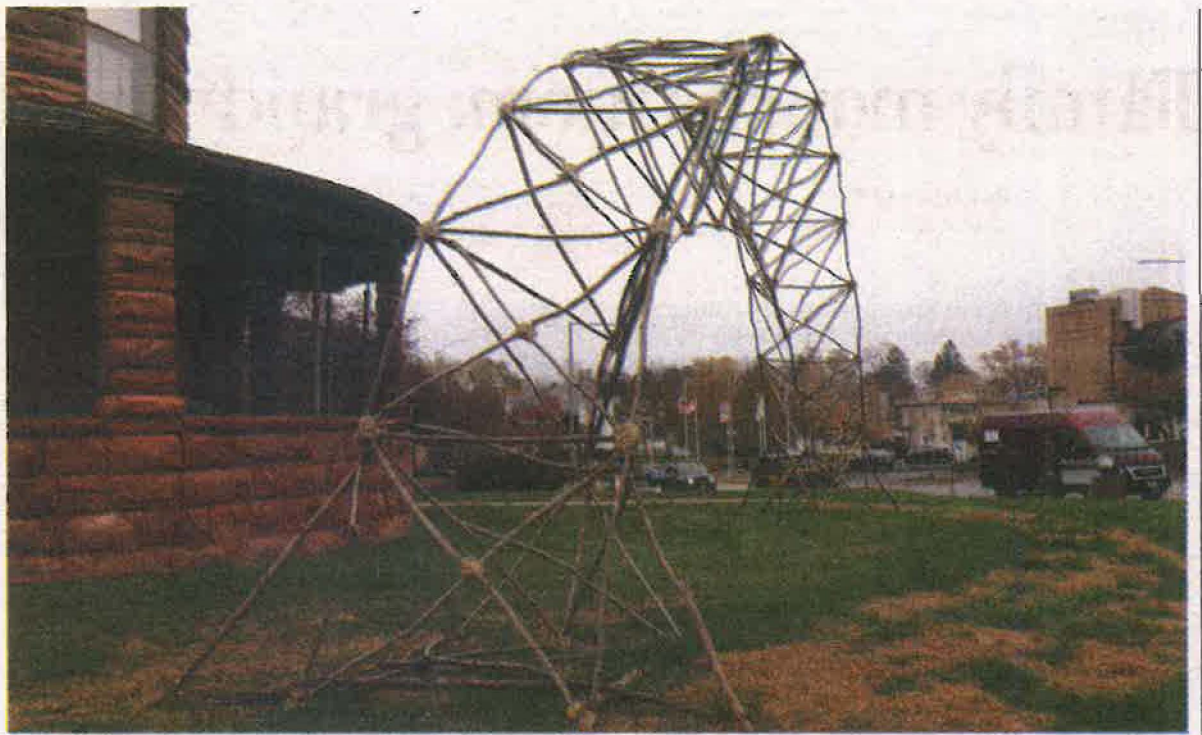
"It's really kind of amazing when you start looking at sculptures from India, England and all kinds of places in the United States," he said. "To think that you can do an exhibit around the globe simultaneously, and it's all volunteer help. The people who are investing this amount of time in making and sharing is an amazing part of the story, as well."

Marisol Cervantes, NIU foundations instructor, said she's excited to have her work, "Its Underneath Concrete Now," featured in the exhibit.

"It feels great," she said. "It's really nice, too, to have something out on display not only for faculty and staff of NIU but also all of DeKalb and people just driving to the university since it's placed right outside in front of the art building."

Cervantes is the creator behind the abstract concrete slabs that linger in the grass near the NIU School of Art and Design building. He challenges anyone who is perusing the artwork in the Terrain Exhibit to expand their definition of art.

"I hope that viewers are able to at first see that it's actually an art piece and not a concrete slab sticking out of the grass because I did want it to be camouflaged," Cervantes said. "A lot of my work, especially



Mark Busch

A piece called "Rainbow Bridge" by John Siblik is seen Wednesday on the northwest corner of First Street and Lincoln Highway in DeKalb. The piece is part of the Terrain Biennial 2023, a countrywide exhibit where artists display their work outside of homes and building around town.

when it comes to sculpture, I leave it as a natural tone so it mimics something that's growing out of the ground or something that's coming up off the ground or that it looks exactly like concrete. So, I'm hoping that, at first, it plays with the understanding of what it

is art and what is naturally there. So, I think that I really want people to investigate it, look at it and also just take the time to look at things for a long time and be able to draw things from the natural sources that we do."



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