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A&E notebook

By Staff Report

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Wearing tights for a cause

“Men in Tights,” an annual fundraiser for the Springfield Ballet Company, returns Friday with a cast of highly trained dancers ... and a few local men who may (or may not) be skilled at dance.

The evening includes selections from SBC’s repertoire, some special musical highlights and the theme from the movie “Robin Hood: Men in Tights.”

“Men in Tights” begins at 7 p.m. Friday at Hoogland Center for the Arts. Tickets: \$15, available online at www.scfta.org or by calling 523-2787.

This year’s guest dancers are Ed Cully of Michel & Cully Claims Service; Kirk Farah of WMAY-AM; cardiologist Dr. Randy Martin; Pat Phillips of Springfield High School; Paul LaMantia of LaMantia Creative; Joshua Ratz and Jake Smith of the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Illinois; and Blake Stadel of WDBR-FM.

To make a fundraising pledge in honor of one of the guest dancers, go online at www.springfieldballetco.org. Pledge forms also will be available at the show.

Burr to take stage at Donnie B’s

Comedian Steve Burr performs Friday and Saturday at Donnie B’s Comedy Club, 2937 West White Oaks Drive.

Originally from Rochester, N.Y., Burr created and hosts the iTunes podcast “3 Things You Never Talk About.”

Performances begin at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. both days. Tickets cost \$13 and \$15, and are available by calling 391-5653. For more information, go online at www.donniebosofspringfield.com.

What is art? Find out at UIS

Fourteen senior visual art majors at the University of Illinois Springfield will showcase their representation of what “Art Is”

during an exhibition that opens today and continues through May 13.

The exhibit is at the UIS Visual Arts Gallery, Room 201 of the Health and Sciences Building at UIS.

Students showing work are Kaitlyn Bitner, Rachel Book, Kimberly Bretz, Willa Campbell, Lauren Cooper, Michael Curry, Adrian Hebert, Aby Lee Hood, Shannon Lubben, Ashley Moore, Valencia Robinson, Veronica Sparks, Emily Welch and Jennifer Yakes.

The exhibit opens with a reception at 5:30 p.m. today, beginning in the Visual Arts Gallery and concluding in the Access Gallery.

Students' art on display

Ninety pieces of art created by Sangamon County elementary, middle and high school students are being exhibited at the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine.

The exhibit opens Friday and continues through May 21 in the second-floor lobby of the medical school's main building, 801 N. Rutledge St. It is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

The display represents the work of students from 36 schools in Sangamon County.

Throwback farming

Horse-drawn plows, historic farming equipment and agricultural techniques from the 19th century will be featured during the Antique Farm Show on Saturday at Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site near Petersburg.

The event, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, is free.

Spud and Tom Eldridge of Greenview and other central Illinois farmers who still use horses for farming will demonstrate early plowing, planting and other agricultural skills.

A display of historic farming equipment will be set up in a field by the Blacksmith Shop near the entrance to the village. The Vintage Ag Association of Menard County will have an antique tractor display in the parking lot by the visitor center.

Make an appearance at art alliance exhibit

"Appearances," a new members' exhibit by the Prairie Art Alliance, opens Friday at the H.D. Smith Gallery at the Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 S. 6th St.

An artist reception will be from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday. Admission is free.

The exhibit, which continues through June 25, features work by Springfieldians Joan Beeman (painting/drawing/mixed media), Robert Leffler (photography) and Debra Nickelson Smith (ceramics/sculpture/jewelry), all from Springfield.

H.D. Smith Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

The Springfield Bonsai Society will have an exhibit in conjunction with the opening of "Appearances" from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Hoogland Center.

The art alliance also has five new juried artist members as a result of the spring jury process.

- Rhonda Armstead of Springfield — jewelry
- Janice DiGirolamo of Athens — watercolor
- Jed Leber of Chatham — painting (acrylic/oil/ink)
- Amanda Magill of Springfield — photography
- Diana Manning of Argenta — sculpture

Join the Upper Story Tour May 6

The 11th annual Upper Story Tour, a peek at parts of downtown buildings not ordinarily seen by the public, is from 5 to 8 p.m. May 6.

Downtown Springfield Incorporated (DSI) hosts the tour.

The tour features:

- The bishop's residence at The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 815 S. Sixth St.
- Commercial apartments on the 21st floor of the Springfield Hilton, Seventh and Adams streets
- King Technology's renovated Buck's Building, 3 N. Old State Capitol Plaza
- Wolter Beeman and Lynch, 1001 S. Sixth St.
- An historic Lincoln Square apartment, 217 S. 6th St.
- Penthouse at the St. Nicholas Apartments (Old St. Nick Hotel), Fourth and Jefferson streets.

Following the tour, a reception will be held upstairs at Floyd's Thirst Parlor, 210 S. Fifth St. Several downtown businesses will provide beverages and appetizers.

Advance tickets cost \$8 for DSI members and \$10 for non-members; tickets at the door cost \$13 for DSI members and \$15 for non-members. For advance tickets, go online at www.downtownspringfield.org or call the DSI office at 544-1723.

The first Pied Piper Downtown Architectural Walking Tour of the season begins at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday. Anthony Rubano of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency will discuss the architectural styles seen in downtown Springfield.

Tuesday's free tour will travel around the Old State Capitol Square and end with a reception at Mangia Bene Two Olives Cantina, 518 East Adams St. It begins in front of the Lincoln-Herndon Law Office. For more information, call DSI at 544-1723 or go to www.downtownspringfield.org or www.downtownrediscover.com.

LLCC to hold Vietnam War program

Retired history professor John Squibb will provide insights about the Vietnam War during a brown-bag lunch Friday at Lincoln Land Community College.

“The War Is Over — The Legacy of the Vietnam Withdrawal” will be from noon to 1 p.m. Friday at the R.H. Stephens Room in Menard Hall at LLCC, 5250 Shepherd Road. The event marks the 35th anniversary of the United States’ withdrawal from Vietnam.

The \$12 fee includes a box lunch, which will be available at 11:45 a.m. To register, call 786-2292.

Jacksonville Theatre Guild calls all aspiring directors

Ever want to direct a play? The Jacksonville Theatre Guild is accepting applications to direct a show during the 2010-11 season.

Plays to be performed are:

- Neil Simon’s “Rumors”, Oct. 14-17
- The Irving Berlin musical “White Christmas,” Dec. 9-12
- An adaptation of the Hans Christian Anderson tale, “The Emperor’s New Clothes” (with child actors), Feb. 17-20
- The musical “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee,” April 28-May 1
- “Fee, Fi, Fo, Fum,” (youth production), June 9-12
- The musical “Footloose,” July 28-31 and Aug. 4-7.

The directing positions are paid. To apply, send a resume, cover letter and your first and second show preferences to Jacksonville Theatre Guild, 210 W. College Ave., Jacksonville, IL 62650, or e-mail your information to jaxtg@verizon.net. Deadline: May 7.

For more information, call Linda Van Aken at 245-5868.

Celebrate Mom at Hoogland

The third annual Mother’s Day Luncheon and Concert returns to the Hoogland Center for the Arts on May 9.

Gordon Productions and Giganti & Giganti Fine Jewelry are presenting the event, which features entertainment by Gus Gordon, Doug Hahn and Lori Ann Mitts singing Broadway songs.

Tickets: \$35, includes a buffet luncheon, the concert and a rose for Mom. Doors open at noon May 9, with lunch at 12:30 p.m. and the performance after lunch. For reservations, call 523-2787 by May 6.

Old Capitol Art Fair seeks volunteers

The Old Capitol Art Fair, a juried art fair, needs volunteers.

The fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 15 and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 16 on the Old State Capitol grounds and surrounding streets and sidewalks.

To volunteer in the Children's Tent, contact Jennifer Benanti at 416-6476 or jennifer_benanti@yahoo.com.

To check in artists or sell T-shirts, contact Meridith Bryans at 793-9602 or Oldcapartfair@gmail.com.

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