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ART ON THE SQUARE

Springfield artist wins Best of Show

Woman uses scratch board technique

BY SCOTT WUERZ
News-Democrat

BELLEVILLE — Sandra Willard only brought 40 pieces of her work with her to Art on the Square, making her one of the least prolific producers at the 11th annual art show.

So imagine her surprise when that relatively small cache of work outweighed the labor of a couple hundred more experienced and better traveled artists and the festival to win Best in Show honors.

"Every artist wants to be able to put something like that on their resume," Willard, of Springfield, said of the selection. "Especially when it happens at the No. 1-ranked show in the country. I was shocked when I found out I won it. It still hasn't sunk in."

As the show neared closing time on Sunday, Willard had nearly sold out all of her pieces, most still life scratch board pictures.

Scratch boarding is a technique of drawing where the artist uses sharp tools to scrape away a layer of black India ink painted on top of clay. As the ink is scraped away, the color of the clay below is revealed to create the lines of the drawing.

Sometimes artists use multiple layers of different colored clay on top of one another. The deeper they cut determines which color will be revealed.

"Her work is amazing," Art on the Square Director Patty Gregory said of Willard. "From a few steps away they look like photographs. You have to have incredible talent and patience to do what she does and you can really see her heart and soul in her work."

Willard said she only started scratchboarding about three and a half years ago. Before that she drew in ink.

"You have to take your time, so it's impossible to create a whole bunch of pieces to take to a show," Willard said. She

Please see **ART, A2**



STEVE NAGY/News-Democrat

Art on the Square Best of Show winner Sandra Willard is from Springfield.

2012 ART ON THE SQUARE AWARDS

- Best of Show — Sandra Willard
- Ed L. Karasek Illinois Artist Award — Clifton Henri Booth
- Joan Voss Renner Award — Clare Malloy
- Mayor's Choice — Scott Amrhein
- Barb King Jewelry Award — Wendy Newman
- Rotary Club of Belleville Award — Yoram Gal
- Best of Category Awards
 - Clay — Jennifer McCurdy
 - Drawing/Graphic — Michael Bond
 - Fine Craft — Robert Farrell
 - Glass — Scott Amrhein
 - Jewelry — Jay Nielsen
 - Mixed Media — Ummarid Eitharong
 - Oil and Acrylic — Bruce Peeso
 - Photography — Chris Dahlquist
 - Sculpture — James LaCasse
 - Watercolor — Scott Hartley
 - Wood — Richard Judd
- Awards of Excellence (nonspecific to category)
 - Jack Brumbaugh, Nathan Grubich, John Herbon, John Costin, Tony Cray, Eric Lee, Keith Lewis, Sam Stang.

Earlier business closings proposed

Councilwoman aims to reduce violence in ESL

BY CAROLYN P. SMITH
News-Democrat

EAST ST. LOUIS — City Councilwoman Emeka Jackson-Hicks has proposed legislation requiring bars and other businesses to close earlier to cut down on violence that happens in and around the establishments.

The legislation calls for the businesses to close at 2 a.m. during the week and 3 a.m. on weekends, she said.

Some places would be exempt, including the Casino Queen, hotels and gas stations.

A public hearing on the plan will be held 6 p.m. Tuesday at City Hall.

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Springfield, has repeatedly called for the city to make nightclubs close at 1 a.m. to cut down violence, but Mayor Alvin Parks Jr. has opposed the change because it would cost jobs.

In a news conference called in April by Durbin, U.S. Attorney Stephen Wigginton said East St. Louis was the nation's murder capital last year, posting a murder rate equivalent to 109 killings per 100,000 residents. The national average is 5 per 100,000.

Jackson-Hicks said the city's Police Department cannot accommodate the large crowd that comes into the city after 2 a.m. or 3 a.m.

She said the Police Department is operating with a skeleton crew and is already overworked.

Jackson-Hicks said last year overtime in the department was extremely high because of the lack of manpower.

"There's nothing on the legislation that cannot be tweaked or changed. That's why we want to know what the citizens desire," Jackson-Hicks said.

"The goal of the legislation is not to prevent business, but to promote business. In order to promote business in our city, we first have to deal with the issue of public safety," Jackson-Hicks said.

Please see **BUSINESSES, A2**

Motorcycle ride honors prisoners of war, those missing in action

Run for the Wall passes through area Tuesday

BY JACQUELINE LEE
News-Democrat

Veterans and their supporters will pass through the metro-east Tuesday on the annual Run for the Wall motorcycle ride to honor prisoners of war and those missing in action.

Retired Air Force Master Sgt. Michael D. Gilkerson, of Mascoutah, will join the ride from Wentzville, Mo., and visit Jefferson Barracks Veterans Hospital on Tuesday morning.

Gilkerson, who served in Vietnam from 1969 to 1970 with the 6924th Security Squadron at Danang Air Base, said the ride started as a demonstration to get legislators' attention to help those who are prisoners of war and missing in action.

"We're not letting you forget," Gilkerson, 67, said. "Those are

my brothers that are missing or held captive ... and it hits a nerve with a lot of us."

Gilkerson said he has wanted to participate for the past two decades. He bought his 2012 Harley-Davidson Street Glide about 14 months ago and this will be his first Run for the Wall.

The group will leave Jefferson Barracks about 11 a.m. Tuesday and make their way east from Interstate 255 to Interstate 64 and across the state. The ride can be viewed from the Ruby Lane overpass in Fairview Heights and the Green Mount Road overpass in O'Fallon.

Some of the riders started Wednesday at Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. The ride ends Saturday at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The participants also join the



JACQUELINE LEE/News-Democrat

Retired Air Force Master Sgt. Michael D. Gilkerson, of Mascoutah, will join the Run for the Wall ride from Wentzville, Mo., and visit Jefferson Barracks Veterans Hospital on Tuesday morning.

"Rolling Thunder" parade Capitol. Sunday from the Pentagon to the For registration, route and

event information, visit rftw.org and rollingthunderrun.com.

Retired Air Force Col. Pat Savoy, 56, of Shiloh, made his way to California to do the entire ride, more than 5,400 miles.

At registration, Savoy said people hugged him and said, "Welcome home." In New Mexico, the group dedicated a wreath at a new veterans memorial. Along the way, there was a dozen people "on an overpass in the middle of nowhere, waving flags," Savoy said.

Savoy said the ride is helping him get back into civilian life after serving in conflicts since 1991.

Savoy enlisted in the Air Force in 1976 and served for 35 years, including Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan. When he was in Baghdad, he officiated 22 ceremonies for fallen warriors.

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TODAY'S WEATHER

Partly cloudy and warm
High 74, Low 52



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