



Happy Thanksgiving!

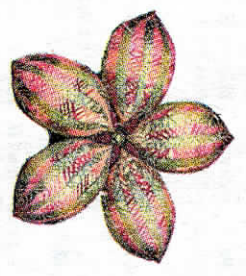
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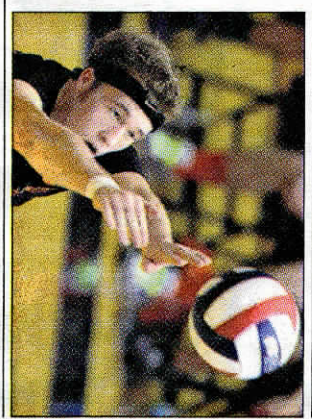
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RAM exhibit showcases the versatility of polymer **Out & About, inside**



Joey Gesteland of Burlington is the All-County Player of the Year in boys volleyball **Sports, Page 1C**



Mandatory abuse reporting expands

Walker signs bill into law in Racine

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RACINE — Standing at a podium near Gov. Scott Walker, Jennifer Pichelman of Caledonia thanked legislators for the bill that she said will protect children like her daughter.

Last winter, her then 9-year-old daughter was allegedly sexually assaulted at a Racine

Unified school. An educational assistant allegedly witnessed the assault and did not report it.

But in Racine on Wednesday, Walker signed a bill that grew from that case and strengthens the state's mandatory reporting law to require all school employees to report child abuse and neglect, not just teachers and administrators.

"Putting this bill into law today will protect our precious children. It's a win for parents, children and the state of Wisconsin," said Pichelman, whose daughter was allegedly assaulted, consistent with inappropriate touching, at Olympia Brown Elementary School.

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Gov. Scott Walker signs the first of several bills into law on Wednesday at the Sixteenth Street Community Oriented Policing House, 1900 16th St. Walker signed several bills, including a bill Caledonia mother Jennifer Pichelman, at left holding papers, calls "Maddie's Bill," which makes all school employees mandatory reporters of child abuse or neglect. "Maddie's Bill" came as a result of a reported sexual assault of Pichelman's then 9-year-old special-needs daughter while she was enrolled at Olympia Brown School last winter. The reported assaults at Olympia Brown consisted of inappropriate touching, were allegedly witnessed by educational assistants but not reported.

Mother

EX-SCJ employees

Out & About

The Journal Times
Week of Thursday, November 24, 2011
www.journaltimes.com/outabout

TERRA NOVA

Polymer Art at the Crossroads



Santa Arrives This Saturday!

Join us in West Racine for the arrival of Santa at the Chalet! (located at the Corner of Washington Ave. & West Blvd.)



Polymer possibilities

RAM exhibit showcases the medium's versatility

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The "P" at the beginning of polymer could also stand for possibility, as the possibilities of what can be done with the sculptable, acrylic material sometimes referred to as polymer "clay" seem almost endless.

An exhibit currently on display at the Racine Art Museum called "Terra Nova: Polymer Art at the Crossroads," explores those possibilities through the artwork of eight "boundary breaking" artists from around the country. They are: Bonnie Bishoff and J.M. Syron (www.syronbishoff.com); Jeffrey Lloyd Dever (check Facebook); Kathleen Dustin (www.kathleendustin.com); Steven Ford and David Forlano (www.fordforlano.com); Tory Hughes (www.toryhughes.com); Cynthia Toops (www.cdbeads.biz); Pier Voulkos (www.polymerartarchive.com); and Elise Winters (www.elisewinters.com).

The exhibit's title, "Terra Nova," means new land and refers to the new territory being forged by these artists in the polymer medium. Their pieces range from intricate jewelry to sculptural forms, and functional furniture that doubles as artwork. And each artist brings their own vision — not only in terms of concept and creativity, but in the methods used to manipulate the very versatile material — to the exhibition.

The last 20-30 years have brought a lot of technical advances within the polymer medium and "Terra Nova" allows us to appreciate what can be done with the

material and where professional artists have taken it, said Bruce Pepich, executive director and curator of collections at RAM. It also shows the museum's commitment to establishing a permanent collection of polymer art, as the more than 200 objects on display in "Terra Nova" include part of a large number of works gifted to RAM in 2009 by the Polymer Collection Project (<http://polymerartarchive.com>) for its permanent collection.

If You Go

WHAT: "Terra Nova: Polymer Art at the Crossroads"

WHERE: Racine Art Museum, 441 Main St.

WHEN: Now through Feb. 5. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. The museum is closed on Mondays and federal holidays, including Thanksgiving Day.

COST: Museum admission is \$5 adults, \$3 for seniors (63 and older), full-time students and young adults (ages 12-18). No charge for children younger than 12. Admission will be free to all during Downtown's First Friday, all day, Dec. 2.

INFO: Go to www.ramart.org or call (262) 638-8300.

◆ **PHOTO GALLERY** at www.journaltimes.com/outandabout

in much of this polymer art.

Dever, whose background is in graphic design and illustration, said what first interested him in polymer as a medium was the freedom it gave him to explore color three-dimensionally.

"I love being able to take concepts of illustration, painting and design into the three-dimensional arena," he said. "Polymer clay is the perfect media for that."

Winters, whose previous work was in ceramics and photography, also said she enjoys the opportunity polymer gives her to "play with color and dimension." In her larger, wearable forms — with their flowing folds and ruffles — the artist

'To Wear or Not to Wear'

Another colorful exhibit running at the RAM is "To Wear or Not to Wear," a collection of artist-made garments and objects of adornment that are both wearable and non-wearable.

Organized by Lena Vigna, RAM's curator of exhibitions, the show includes pieces ranging from a dress constructed of ceiling tin to shoes made of discarded lottery tickets. It features works by both emerging and established artists in a variety of media and will run through Feb. 19 at the RAM.

The public is invited to add to the fun during Downtown's First Friday event on Dec. 2, by wearing their most treasured artist-made piece and visiting the museum from 6 to 9 p.m. Local artists, teachers and students will be on hand to talk about art they are wearing, and visitors are invited to cast their vote for their favorite wearable piece of art. The most popular piece will be named at 8:15 p.m. and the wearer will receive a mystery wearable gift and a free art class.

For more about "To Wear or Not to Wear," go to www.ramart.org.

brings a color sensibility much like that of a painter to the material, Pepich said.

For other artists — such as the collaborative, furniture-making team of Bonnie Bishoff and J.M. Syron — it is polymer's ability to be layered, sliced and patterned that is featured in their work. Between them, the two artists bring experience in building musical

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The popular 'Festival of Lessons and Carols'

Tradition is a strong thread in this season's fabric. And one of Racine's long-standing holiday traditions will return this weekend after several years of absence.

"A Festival of Lessons and Carols" will be performed by the Choral Arts Society of Southeastern Wisconsin in St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 614 Main St., at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 27, much to the delight of both its performers and audience.

Based on the traditional "Service of Nine Lessons and Carols" — which has been performed at the University of Cambridge's King's College on Christmas Eve since 1918 — the CAS' "Festival of Lessons and Carols" has been part of the community chorus' season for about 18 of its 25 years, according to James Schatzman, founder and artistic director of the CAS. One of the reasons it was not included in recent seasons, Schatzman said, is because of other performance opportunities which tend to present themselves at this time of year, including collaborations with



SCENE & HEARD
Lee B. Roberts

the Racine Symphony and various school groups. Popular demand, however, has brought it back for what is the chorus' 25th anniversary season. And Schatzman, too, is excited for its return.

"We're just thrilled to be doing it again," he said. "It is a great way to set the context of what the season is really about."

In addition to the 60 CAS voices — performing treasured Christmas songs and classic concert pieces — "A Festival of Lessons and Carols" features inspirational and historic texts read by local public officials and representatives from area agencies. This

year's guest readers will include state Rep. Cory Mason, D-Racine, and state Sen. Van Wanggaard, R-Racine, as well as Deacon Kevin Stewart from St. Luke's Hospitality Center; Sister Carol Wester from the HOPES Center; and Lisa Kane from Racine Vocational Ministry. The audience, too, can join the celebration, as they are invited to sing along with familiar favorites.

Sunday's concert will also feature the

music of a brass quintet and the church's pipe organ. And, if your afternoon is already booked, the CAS will give you another chance at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 16. The same concert will be performed that night at St. Mary's Lutheran Church, 2001 80th St., Kenosha. While you may have to travel a little further to hear the program that night, you will be rewarded with a special treat — the addition of the Lance Middle School Choir to the show.

Tickets for the festival performances are \$15 adults, \$12 seniors and \$5 students (families of two adults plus children pay \$40), and are available at Personal Touch Florists, both locations. For more information go to www.choralartsonline.org or call (262) 634-3250.

'Nom Nom' Concert

This weekend also boasts another musical treat — one that carries on the spirit of Thanksgiving, with an emphasis on the giving. Local musician Luke Patterson is hosting a "Nom Nom" concert, to benefit the Racine County Food Bank, at 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 26, at First Presbyterian Church, 716 College Ave. And all it will cost you is two non-perishable food items (an offering will also

POLYMER / RAM

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instruments, teaching science and carving wood to their work. And polymer is a medium that allows them to bring all of that together, Bishoff said.

Their furniture highlights new concepts in surface design, using polymer applied as a veneer. The result is often a surface that looks like a painting, but is actually layers of polymer clay, which — when it catches light — adds dimension to the piece, she explained.

These are just a few examples of the many ways polymer is manipulated in the diverse collection of art that is "Terra Nova." Visitors can also see how patterns and images can be transferred onto the material in the work of Tory Hughes — or how detailed drawings can be made on its surface, in pieces by Kathleen Dustin.

Polymer truly is a medium of possibilities. And the best way to experience and appreciate them is in person.

RAM is also offering visitors the opportunity to explore their own creativity with polymer in a special Polymer Playroom set up at the museum. The playroom will be open during special Downtown events, such as First Friday, as well as during specified weekly hours. Check the schedule with RAM.

EVENT

Pandora's Ball masquerade and Friday at Kenosha's Rhode Ce

KENOSHA — Pandora's Ball, a free masquerade and costume contest, will be held from 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 25, in the lobby of the Rhode Center for the Arts, 514 56th St. It coincides with Lightin' Up Kenosha activities at other shops, stores, galleries and cafes in the downtown and lakefront areas.

Pandora's Ball will feature performances by Voices and Verses, a music and multimedia ensemble; Brent Mitchell, singer/songwriter and guitarist; Laurenzi Dance, modern dance troupe; Ed Godula and Raylene Bernotat of RG Productions, a vocal acting troupe; Out of the Box Players, featuring

music by drums, didgeridoo, flute and percussion instruments; and Dylan Zocchi and Nick Webb, creating psych noise and strange beats. The ball celebrates the publication of Pandora's Box, a limited edition collection which includes a book by local and international artists and authors a compact disc with music and spoken word performances, and assorted visual art including original artwork and craft items.

The masquerade and costume contest is open to ages 13 and older. Participants are invited to incorporate some element of mythology, legends, tall tales or