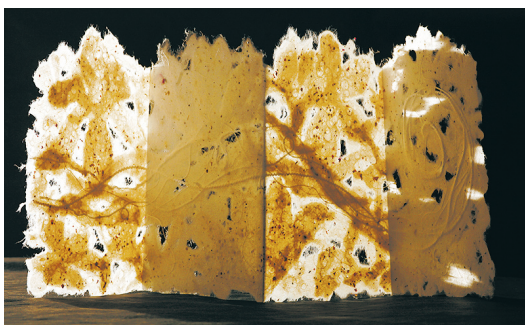


Paperwork's not just for offices

Making paper by hand is an art in itself, independent of anything an artist might put on it. Some of it can be seen at the Springfield Art Association gallery.

PAGE 17



Springfield, Bloomington tied in unemployment

Springfield and Bloomington-Normal tied for the lowest unemployment rate in Illinois in August — 7.9 percent. That contrasts with a national rate of 9.5 percent and a state rate of 9.9 percent.

PAGE 14



Cut your energy bills

Big or small, upgrades to your home's energy efficiency will save money.

LIVING SPACES

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS: COMPETITION OFF THE FIELD

SPIRITED DEBATE



Purchase these photos at www.sj-r.com/reprints Ted Schurter/The State Journal-Register

■ ROCHESTER: Orange Krush cheers during last Friday's upset of Sacred Heart-Griffin. This year, the cheering section has added a new character — Orange Guy. Senior Connor Cook didn't make the team, but he bought a \$50 orange spandex bodysuit and wears it at games.

What school has the most enthusiastic fans? Rochester, Springfield and SHG come to mind

By PETE SHERMAN | STAFF WRITER pete.sherman@sj-r.com

High Pride. Orange Krush. Cyclone Nation. They are among forces to be reckoned with during the Central State Eight football season.

The student cheering sections for Springfield, Rochester and Sacred Heart-Griffin high schools, like many others locally and around the country, have their own traditions and collective personalities. All of them are as indispensable to their high schools' football traditions as tailgate parties, cheerleaders, and marching bands.

"You can always tell about the schools whose students have been there all season long," said Matt Troha, assistant executive director for the Illinois High School Association. "When you see it done well, it's really cool. Tradition plays a big part of it."

There is general agreement among neutral observers — who are not easy to find — that Springfield High School's High Pride cheering section leads local schools in spirit and organiza-

tion. While other cheering sections tend to be ready by kickoff, SHS fans are known for setting off cheers long before the first quarter begins.

But what good is neutrality when high school sports are concerned?

"I definitely, without a doubt, consider SHS as the strongest and most energetic student section," said 2009 SHS graduate Matthew Fritsch, now a sophomore at Northwest Missouri State University.

"Rochester all the way," said Rochester parent Donna Alewelt. Somehow, the discussion seems far from settled.

Crowd control

Last Friday's instant classic between Rochester and SHG



Ted Schurter/The State Journal-Register

■ SPRINGFIELD HIGH: High Pride members pay \$10 for benefits beyond the chance to sit and cheer together.



David Spencer/The State Journal-Register

■ SACRED HEART-GRIFFIN: Cyclone Nation researches the opposition so that it can tailor its cheers to each game.

In Sports: SHS hopes to end a decade of losing to SHG tonight. PAGE 31

Why was Dowis ousted?

Clay Dowis says his political affiliation may have played a role in his ouster as deputy director of the Secretary of State



Dowis



White

Police. Secretary of State Jesse White blames an incident while Dowis was with Springfield police. PAGE 11

Summer breaks Springfield record for cooling degree-days

By JOHN REYNOLDS STAFF WRITER john.reynolds@sj-r.com

The summer of 2010 turned out to be a record-breaker for Springfield.

Above-average temperatures in June, July and August resulted in the city breaking its record for

cooling degree-days, a record that dated back to 1983.

William Warren, a retired professor at the University of Illinois Springfield, said degree-day measurements, created in 1975, are an indicator of how warm a summer is or how cool a winter is.

In a nutshell, a degree-day is calculated by adding a day's maxi-

mum and minimum temperatures, dividing by 2, and then subtracting 65 degrees.

If the value is positive, that's a cooling-degree-day. If the value is negative, that's a heating degree-day.

Wednesday's cooling degree-day value was 9, which brought the season-to-date total to 1,510. A nor-

mal value this time of year would be 1,101.

The previous record for cooling degree-days in Springfield was 1,501 in 1983.

Warren expects this year's total to continue rising through the end

See RECORD on page 4

Delivery questions? Call 788-1440

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78 HIGH

WEATHER

Partly cloudy today; mainly clear tonight.

More on PAGE 16

50 LOW

Inside

A closer look at degree-days. PAGE 4

Coming up

AT HOME: Model trains and gardening are two popular hobbies — and people love putting the two together. Trains of all sizes can be found running around decorative plants. Coming Saturday.



BELIEFS: Matthew Soerens, fluent in Spanish, the Bible and the nation's immigration laws, has been seeking out evangelical pastors, hoping to persuade them that immigration reform is a Christian imperative — even though the issue is so explosive that many ministers won't go near it. Coming Sunday.



SUNDAY A.M.: It's been years since you graduated from high school. So why do you still have that dream about attending a class for the first time on test day? Coming Sunday.

TIMEOUT: Pack up your bike (or rent one) and hit the beautiful trails of Cape Cod in fall, when it's less crowded. Coming Sunday.

INSIDE
Comics • Page 20

Friday, September 24, 2010

HEARTLAND

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THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER • SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS



PAPERWORK

Handmade paper isn't simply a base for pencil or paint. It's a work of art in itself.

Top: "Restless Night," a work by Meda Rives. **Right:** "The Wedding Party," on exhibit at the Springfield Art Association, was made of handmade paper by Betsy Dollar, the association's executive director.



Photograph courtesy of Betsy Dollar

STORY BY TAMARA BROWNING ■ PHOTOGRAPHS BY TED SCHURTER

Art meets commentary in Betsy Dollar's "The Wedding Party" — a fashion show of sorts featuring wedding-day clothing created with handmade paper. The components of "The Wedding Party," on display at the Springfield Art Association Gallery of Art, are "wearable books" in the sense that the ensembles represent characters whose thoughts are expressed through snippets of text on the paper clothing, by more elaborate text in a book set on a podium, or in handheld books visitors to the display can carry around.

"Each one has a different take on marriage in the 21st century and what it means and its validity or lack thereof," said Dollar, the association's executive director.

The Mother of the Groom is proud of her "boy" and thanks God "he's not like his father!" The Bride wants a partner she "can trust and can share goals and values." The Ring Bearer thinks, "Yuck, all this mushy stuff."

The fact that Dollar continues creating art installations using handmade paper (she's designing a funeral that will be exhibited in Hudson, Wis., in September 2011) points to her contention that papermaking is art in itself. It's not

just material upon which to create art. Having learned papermaking at the University of Colorado, Dollar saw the university moving away from offering papermaking in its curriculum.

"The leaning was that papermaking was a craft and not an art and did not belong in their curriculum, which is really sad," said Dollar, who has a bachelor and master of fine arts in printmaking from Colorado.

"It is just another material to generate fine art. It's no different than the acrylic paint or the oil paint that they're teaching in the painting department, or the plates and the paper that they're using in printmaking.

"It was an ongoing battle, even while I was doing my MFA, particularly with the painting professors. They just had a hard time with it. Paper was something you painted on. You didn't make it."

FIRST IN PRINT

Papermaking art is here

Artists' works in the art association exhibition "PULP: Fact, Fiction & Fantasy" show that handmade paper can indeed be art. Plus, the works serve as a way of introducing the community to hand papermaking.

continued on page 18



Left: Meda, left, and Veda Rives own Mirror Image Press, a studio where they work in printmaking and handmade paper. **Right:** Veda disassembles the mold and deckle after bringing it up through water.





Meda brings over a new layer of paper on a su (screen) to apply to a book. Each layer needs to be applied within a specific window of time to ensure it adheres to the previous layers.

continued from page 17

“What I realized very quickly when I started talking about hand papermaking, people looked at me very blankly,” Dollar said, because they didn’t know what she meant. “That’s why I jumped right to it to help pull this show together.”

The juried exhibition of handmade paper art features two-dimensional and three-dimensional creations from artists across the country. Dollar’s “The Wedding Party” is half sewn and half glued, using handmade paper of abaca, a plant related to the banana plant. The exhibit also includes a poetic paper measuring tape, paintings made with paper pulp (from abstracts to portraits) and a “BookEnviron” installation of several handmade paper panels, measuring 3 feet by 10 feet, with a maple leaf theme created by identical twins Meda Rives and Veda Rives. The work is suspended with thread from the ceiling.

The Riveses own Mirror Image Press, a studio in Virden, where they pursue handmade paper, printmaking and some rather large-scale art projects meant to immerse people into the spaces created and shaped by books.

“We work collaboratively on these large-scale installations. The works for which we coined the term ‘BookEnviron’ grew out of a brainstorming session that raised the question, ‘Wouldn’t it be wonderful to create a book that is large enough to walk into?’” the Riveses explain in a brochure.

Dollar said people have been really excited about the exhibition.

“That’s the good news there,” said Dollar, executive director of The Friends of Dard Hunter, Inc., the American hand papermaking organization.

An ancient art

Dard Hunter (1883-1966) is credited with creating a renaissance in hand papermaking and printing by the time of his death. Hunter wrote several books on papermaking, the result of more than 1 million miles of travel to remote regions of the world in search of information on papermaking, according to www.dardhunter.com.

From his collections, Hunter established the Dard Hunter Paper Museum. Originally at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, it’s now at The Robert C. Williams Paper Museum, within the Institute of Paper Science and Technology on the campus of the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

The Dard Hunter Collection documents the history of papermaking from its origin in China. Although the word “paper” is derived from the name of the reedy plant papyrus, which grows along Egypt’s Nile River, true paper is made of pulped cellulose fibers like wood, cotton or flax. A courtier named Ts’ ai-Lun, from Lei-yang in China, was the first recorded inventor of paper circa 105 A.D. Ts’ ai-Lun presented paper and a papermaking process to the Chinese Emperor and that was noted in the imperial court records, according to Mary Bellis’ article “History of Papermaking” (available on About.com).

The ancient Chinese made paper by soaking and beating plant fibers such as hemp into sludge. The sludge was strained through a cloth sieve attached to a frame that also served as a drying platform for the resulting paper.

Classic and innovative
Meda and Veda Rives create paper for their art through several steps, working with “half stuff,” partially broken or beaten abaca fibers for papermaking.

“There are all different kinds of fibers. Cotton

is pretty well known in Western culture, but basically anything that’s organic, you can make it into paper. Some of it’s easier. Some of it’s harder,” Meda said.

“Wood needs a lot to break it down. That’s why a newspaper will yellow over time — because it’s got a lot of acid that’s been used to process it down.”

A hydropulper — vat equipment used to slurry pulp — helps the Riveses further process the pulp.

“Basically, it’s a control of water. You need lots of water for the formation of the paper, and then it’s all about drying it in the right way,” said Meda, who teaches art classes at Eureka College and Heartland Community College.

Other steps include the use of a mold and deckle (a frame that retains the pulp on the cover while the water drains through) dipped into the vat of pulp (a watery mixture of processed cellulose fiber), transferring shapes such as leaves made with the help of stencils to the paper page and building up the paper shapes in layers in a process called wet into wet lamination.

The drying process begins with sponging to remove excess water. The pressing action also encourages the fibers to bond.

“There’s a window of opportunity where there’s enough moisture in it that you can keep adding to it. Once it’s set the way we want it to be, then we can do another sponging of it to get more excess water out of it,” Meda said.

“There are several different ways to dry it, but we like loft drying because it’s fairly simple. You just let it dry overnight — usually, depending on the humidity of the weather.”

After the paper is thoroughly dry, the finished page is removed from the working surface and ready to be displayed in an installation.

The Riveses’ art has been displayed in several American cities, and internationally in cities such as Tokyo, Japan; Sofia, Bulgaria; and Geneva, Switzerland.

“Papermaking is very interesting because there’s just so many different ways to approach working with the substance. You can spray it. You can make very elaborate molds for sheet formation,” said Veda, who is associate director of Normal Editions Workshop at Illinois State University.

Meda said: “You can do more of a sculptural-type of casting with it. With these pieces that we do, the flowers and the waves and these shape pieces, it’s always getting the right balance of how much open, lacy quality and how much do you need it to overlap for the integrity of the piece to hold together.”

Another way

The physics of traditional papermaking tends to be difficult for Dollar. At a shade over 5 feet tall, she has a hard time dipping a mold and lifting a sheet.

“That was a real struggle, because when you’re pulling the mold out, the surface tension is just brutal. If you rock at that point where you’re coming out of the water, your pulp falls all over and you get this wavy, yucky sheet of paper,” Dollar said. “Well, sometimes, it can be interesting, but it’s not generally what you’re shooting for.”

“It was really frustrating to me that about the maximum size sheet that I could successfully pull was about ... 16 by 20, 18 by 24 (inches).”

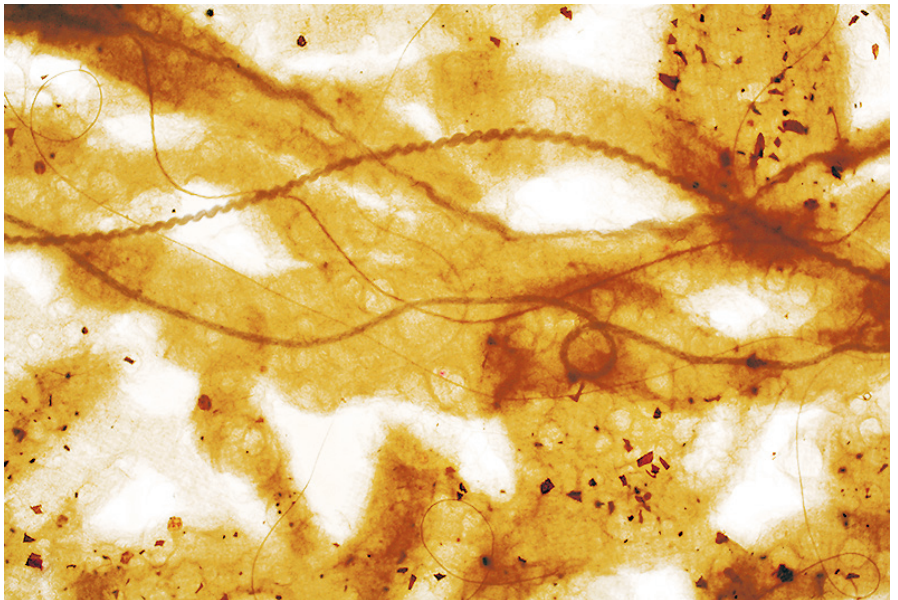
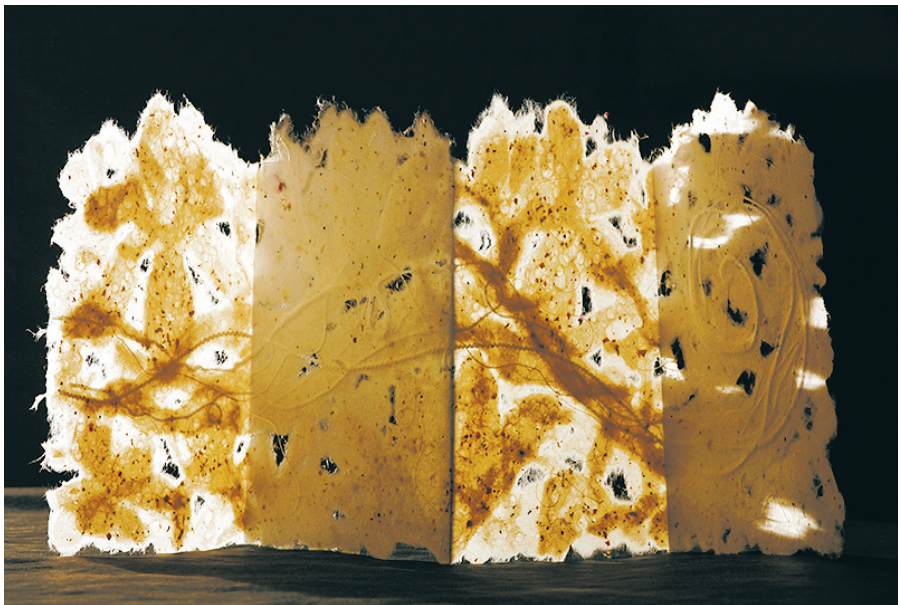
After Dollar learned pulp spraying, she could create larger sheets of paper. In pulp spraying, pulp is beaten until it’s superfine and processed through a pattern pistol, a piece of equipment used to spray texture on drywall. As the pulp is sprayed against a surface, it will take on that surface’s characteristics.

For example, if it’s sprayed against a matte surface like muslin, then the paper surface will be matte. If it’s a shiny surface like contact paper, it will be shiny.

“I make 4-foot-by-8-foot sheets of paper, so it’s kind of similar to making (fabric) yardage. It’s sprayed in layers,” Dollar said.

A conversation Dollar had with a friend who was teaching book arts at the University of Colorado led to her entry into creating wearable books. Her friend was doing a class project and invited Dollar to participate in a wearable books fashion show.

“I sprayed this piece of paper that had a spider web pattern in it and then I accordion folded it in



little pleats and made it into a wraparound skirt and then wrote the text that went into all of the folds on the skirt. I made a matching necklace for that,” Dollar said. “I did wear it in that fashion show. The trick is you can’t sit down.”

The experience caused Dollar to think of how each individual is a walking book — sending and receiving either intentional or unintentional messages.

“I realized there were all kinds of stories wrapped into this. These characters could interact among themselves,” Dollar said.

“PULP: Fact, Fiction & Fantasy” gives an overview of “what an incredibly diverse medium paper can be,” Dollar said. People are starting to realize what can be created with paper, she said.

“Most people think, ‘Paper. Oh. That’s the thing you do watercolor on or you draw on or you use that as your grocery list and throw it into the recycle bin,’ but it has just tremendous possibilities,” Dollar said.

Tamara Browning can be reached at amara.browning@sj-r.com or 788-1534.

Top: The depth and layers of the paper are revealed when it’s illuminated from behind.

Middle: The twins find inspiration in nature, using photographs and other natural art to guide them in creating their own works.

Above: The addition of dried rose petals, leaves and string creates an intricate design within the paper.