

THE SCENE

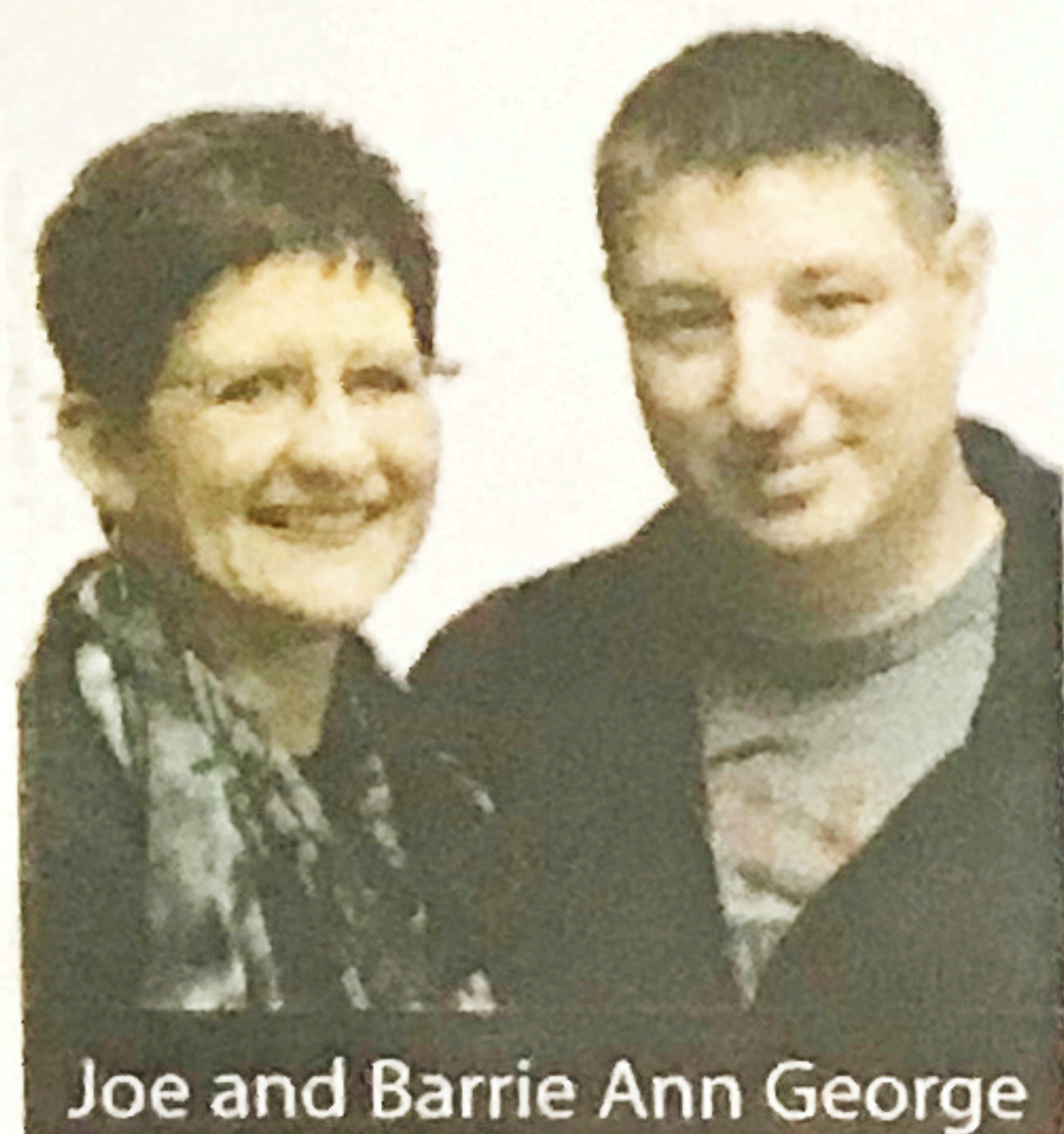
How to make the most of your weekend

Thursday, December 20, 2012

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The Sentinel • C1

See Music, C4



Joe and Barrie Ann George

Art

Metropolis Collective showcases mixed media

■ The gallery sees itself as a family of artists with a similar aesthetic.

It's fascinating to watch a gallery come to life on the evening of a show opening.

As spectators fill the space, the sounds of feet shuffling from piece to piece is replaced by the increasing hum of conversation until ultimately, the sounds of music and laughter fill the rooms.

This is the essence of an art show — the shared experience of seeing something for the first time, while

See Art, C4

Art

• Continued from C1

interacting with others, celebrating the creativity of the community.

The feeling of celebration was clear at the Dec. 7 opening of "Rumbletime — An Homage to Hometown Fist-a-cuffs" and "Bits and Pieces," two shows displayed at the Metropolis Collective, located at 17-19 West Main St., in Mechanicsburg.

Danielle Charette and Richard Reilly, both accomplished artists in their own right, opened the Metropolis Collective in June, bringing together a community of like-minded artists to fill a niche in Central Pennsylvania — to showcase contemporary art from local talent as well as from internationally recognized artists.

The Metropolis Collective sees itself as a family of artists with a similar aesthetic, working together and supporting each other's work. Composed of two spaces, the Trash Art Gallery and Hole in the Wall Gallery, the Metropolis Collective also boasts Stage Noir, which hosts live performances. The gallery seeks to make itself an artistic destination, both for the visual and performing arts.

The two current exhibitions focus on the mixed media technique. Commonly defined as visual art employing more than one medium (substance used to create the work); mixed media encompasses a wide variety of processes and results.

From collages to sculpture, utilizing supplies such as paints and ink to recycled materials and flea-market finds, the artists explore use of different materials to cre-

ate unique works that captivate their audience. The unexpected juxtapositions of everyday items with typical art supplies can almost deceive the viewer until closer inspection to see the actual, and sometimes unexpected, components of the work.

The mixed-media experience begins in the Trash Art Gallery, host to "Rumbletime — An Homage to Hometown Fist-a-cuffs" by the Hucklebuckle Boys, a two-person collaboration by local artists Zack Rudy and Garrett Dorsett.

The show focuses upon a time gone by when the "boys will be boys" mentality and late night rumbles to settle a rivalry were more socially accepted. Drawing upon personal experiences, which the viewer can find extremely relatable, "Rumbletime" is satirical and cynical, yet filled with dark humor.

An underlying theme within the works is a truly serious analysis of the changing social mores of childhood and what is considered acceptable behavior.

Described by Charette as "Brut Expressionism," the Hucklebuckle Boys' work combines high-brow influences, such as Jean-Michel Basquiat and Jean Dubuffet, with cartoon-like imaginary and graffiti. Employing various drawing medium, from ink to graphite to spilled coffee and tea, their pieces are bold while at the same time have intricate detail.

The artists tap each other's strengths in every piece, capitalizing upon the looser and uninhibited style of Dorsett coupled with the tighter, focused detail-oriented style of Rudy. The

combination of the two artists in and of themselves exemplifies a mixed-media style, not only through employing various tools in their art, but in using their individual personal strengths while working on the same piece simultaneously.

Venturing further into the space, the Hole in the Wall Gallery holds "Bits and Pieces," a further exploration of mixed media's various forms. Matthew Rose presents striking examples of Dada-influenced collage, one of the more commonly recognized forms of mixed media. Several bright eye-catching works come from David Barr, who employs layers of images in vibrant colors while using familiar logos and pop-culture imagery. A unique mix of found and self-created materials is employed by Bruce New, who offers a more subtle presentation of universal, yet personal, messages through collage.

In stark contrast are the three-dimensional creations of Tim Miller, who shows six pieces of a series titled "The 88," which, in its entirety, are pieces presented on a common background in an 8-inch by 8-inch format. The use of found objects such as shoes, dials and toys are presented in a timeline series with themes of love, loss and luck. One is instantly drawn to the eye-catching display from Mark May, who assembles robot-like sculptures using reclaimed and recycled everyday items found in places such as junkyards and "Cull Bin" at the Home Depot.

In the "outsider-art" vein, May's primitive style has a whimsical appeal with folk-



Submitted photo

David Barr's "Creatures On The Loose" is one of the pieces featured at the Metropolis Collective's "Bits & Pieces" show, which runs until Dec. 29.

art undertones. Be sure to take note of May's work in the Metropolis Collective's front window with life-size robots.

Both "Rumbletime" and "Bits and Pieces" run until Dec. 29.

Spending time inside the Metropolis Collective reminds one of trips to a New York City gallery, but the important thing to appreciate is the fact that this high-end contemporary art space is located right here local-

ly. It brings the downtown art scene sensibility to our community to integrate into an already vibrant art culture.

The Metropolis Collective is a welcome addition and will continue to bring fresh and exciting shows on a monthly basis. A visit to the Metropolis Collective does not disappoint and will only leave you wanting to return to see what's next!

The Metropolis Collective is located at 17-19 West Main St., Mechanicsburg.

Hours are Tuesday through Thursday 12-7, Friday and Saturday 12-8. For more information contact 717-458-8245 or visit www.metropoliscollective.com.

Joseph George holds a degree in History and Art History from Dickinson College. He and his wife, Barrie Ann, have spent much of their 20 years together traveling and visiting art galleries locally and throughout the world. Their tastes range from fine art to street art.

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