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Festival from page 1B

such a fantasy, and gives him the freedom to interact with the audience, and improvise. "The mind is allowed to go absolutely wild. You get such a chance for improvisation out there, and I love that," he said.

Festival dining options also have a Renaissance theme. After you've worked up an appetite watching shows, and browsing among the crafters, feast on turkey drumsticks, potato skins, fish and chips, Scotch eggs and pasties, soup in a bread bowl, corn on the cob and apple dumplings.

Then you can test your skill in games popular during the Renaissance including archery, Jacob's Ladder, Dussling Buckets, the Maze and more. Full contact arm-wrestling tournaments occur three times daily at 12:45 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 5:45 p.m.

Aug. 26-27 is Highland Fling weekend at the festival. Listen for the stirring sounds of the Red Thistle Pipe Band on the Field of Honor each day at noon, 3:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. It's a Scottish celebration.

The North American Masters Caber Toss Championships, traditionally known as "ye casting of ye bar," take to the gaming fields each day at 2 and 4:15 p.m.

Join the Highland Dance Competition at Royal Court on the Green Grove Inn Stage each day at 2 p.m. King George (Mike Libby) and Queen Gwendolyn (Kelly Bociek) shall preside over the contests, but their subjects decide the winners.

Local celebrities will compete at noon, Saturday, Aug. 26, on the fields of Upson Downs in an All Sport Charity Challenge.

Advance tickets are available at all Kroger Supermarkets and participating Total gasoline stations.

FINE ARTS

BBAA director resigns

PERSPECTIVES



MARY KLEMIC

BBAA executive director Ken Gross has resigned from the position. His resignation was effective two weeks ago. He will be available as artistic advisor and consultant during the transition period.

"I'm very fortunate to have had the support of many wonderful volunteers, staff members and patrons throughout my BBAA career and pledge my continuing support to the many fine artists/teachers who have so generously shared their talents with the tens of thousands of participants in the art association programs," Gross said in a statement issued by the BBAA.

Gross is "moving on to other things," in the words of BBAA board of trustees president Susan Citrin, who is temporarily filling in as executive director.

"I think that it was just time. He's done a wonderful job here."

The BBAA, at 1516 S. Cranbrook Road in Birmingham, offers art programs, classes and exhibits. Now in its 39th year, it is a special swirl of activity that includes expansion of the building, with new studios and service areas.

Gross became director in 1973. His background in the arts includes a master's degree in visual design from the Haystack Mount School of Crafts in Maine and a post as assistant curator at the Henry Ford Museum.

"He's very well known and well respected in the field," said BBAA board secretary Kathy Walgren. "I don't know what his plans are."

"He has a good reputation. He led (the BBAA) through a lot of changes, from the early years to now."

Local talent

Local artists are among the 86 displaying their work at the Roper Invitational Artist 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 26-27, at Roper School's Bloomfield Hills campus, on Woodward just north of Long Lake Road.

The area artists are Karin

Batchelor (clay/raku) and Stan Megdall (blown glass) of West Bloomfield; Michael Crumb (funky and functional porcelain) and Nancy Parker (oil and watercolor paintings) of Rochester Hills; Dorothy Dorney (gold and silver jewelry) and Mary Jane Heiseki (handcrafted baskets) of Clarkston; Julie Gaynett (mixed media sculpture and jewelry) and Suzanne Lifton and Barry Lehtinen (three-dimensional mixed media collage) of Farmington Hills; Susanne Jongkind (hand-fabricated fine jewelry) of Lake Orion; Karen Lavens (handmade paper), Bernie Merritt (functional clay and stoneware) of Bloomfield Hills; Sandy Lentz (clay) and Constance Powell (paintings and graphics) of Birmingham; Richard Ribant (sculpture) of Rochester; and Linda Rizza (mixed media printmaking) and Mary Tomas (pastel drawing and printmaking) of Troy.

Admission is free. Proceeds go to the Roper Booster Club for use in support of Roper programs.

Mary Klemic is Oakland County arts editor. You may call her at (810) 901-2569. Her fax number is (810) 644-1314.



Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS

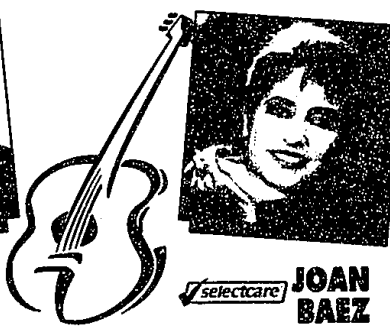
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8 pm

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To qualify, fill out the entry form below and return to: Roger Whittaker/Joan Baez Contest, Palace Sports and Entertainment, Two Championship Dr., Auburn Hills, MI 48326. One winner will be chosen and notified on Tuesday, August 29, and will receive 4 lawn tickets to Roger Whittaker at Meadow Brook Music Festival on Friday, September 1, at 8:00 pm and Joan Baez at Meadow Brook Music Festival on Saturday, September 2, at 8:00 pm. Employees of Palace Sports and Entertainment and The Observer and Eccentric are not eligible.

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