

Hudson Museum contributes objects to ‘West Mexico’ exhibit on display in Oklahoma

ORONO — An archaeology exhibition titled “West Mexico: Ritual and Identity” at the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma includes 21 objects from the University of Maine Hudson Museum.

The pieces, on loan from UMaine and other public and private collections, augment the more than 500 figures and vessels from West Mexico that Thomas Gilcrease amassed.

Robert Pickering, curator of “West Mexico: Ritual and Identity,” is familiar with the Hudson Museum’s West Mexican ceramics, having conducted research on its collections, says Gretchen Faulkner, Hudson Museum director. The figures from the Hudson are part of the William P. Palmer III Collection. West Mexican ceramics are currently featured in the World Cultures Gallery of the Hudson Museum, Faulkner says.

According to a release from the Gilcrease Museum about “West Mexico: Ritual and Identity,” about 1300 B.C.E., people began living in large towns and small farming hamlets in the western region of Mexico. The towns and villages were designed on a circular plan, which is different from cultures of the central Valley of Mexico, which built square platform pyramids and temples.

The circular pyramids were surrounded with a circular plaza, which was encircled by houses and temples on raised platforms. Long, narrow, stone-lined courts indicate inhabitants played a version of the Mesoamerican ballgame that was both sport and ritual.

For centuries, people thrived on the region’s ecologically rich and diverse resources. But when Spanish soldiers, adventurers and priests came to the western lands, these cultures were already ancient and the sites had been abandoned, according to a Gilcrease Museum release.

In the last 150 years, Mexican farmers have discovered the ruins include large and deep shaft and tomb complexes. The dead sometimes were accompanied by finely made objects, including ceramic human figures adorned with brightly colored clothing, tattoos and body paint.

Archaeologists are seeking to learn more about what the figures indicate about the ancient societies. The exhibition also includes perspectives from contemporary art, art history, anthropology and various materials testing sciences. As is the case with some archaeological research and exhibitions, ethical, legal and authenticity issues are involved and “West Mexico: Ritual and Identity” explores the issues.

PCHC welcomes new Dental Center leaders

BANGOR — Penobscot Community Health Care recently announced that Montessoro Upshaw, DDS,

MBA, chief dental officer, and Terri Bell, DDS, MS, MBA, associate chief dental officer, have been chosen to lead the providers and staff of PCHC Dental Center at 1048 Union St. Philip Higgins Jr., DMD, departing Chief Dental Officer, is now semi-retired and will serve at PCHC’s Dental Center at Helen Hunt Health Center in Old Town two days per week.

Upshaw, chief dental officer, received his undergraduate degree from Emory University, his Master in Business Administration from the University of Maryland, and his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry. Upshaw completed a General Practice Dental Residency at Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center. Prior to joining PCHC, Upshaw served as dental director at Morris Heights Health Center, Bronx, New York.

Bell, associate chief dental officer, received her undergraduate degree from Mt. St. Mary’s College, her Masters of Business Administration and her Masters of Technology Management from the University of Maryland, and her Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry. Bell completed advanced education in general practice dentistry residency at Navy Dental Command and at Lutheran Medical Center. Prior to joining PCHC, Bell served as lead dentist at Hudson River HealthCare, Poughkeepsie, New York.

“Drs. Bell and Upshaw have strong backgrounds providing excellent dental care, including a commitment to caring for underserved patients, and they both have impressive experience in dental health leadership,” PCHC President and CEO Kenneth Schmidt, MPA, said. “I know they will work collaboratively with PCHC’s many committed dental providers and staff throughout PCHC to provide the finest care possible.”

Husson’s Gracie Theatre announces fifth season performance lineup

BANGOR — The Gracie Theatre at Husson University recently announced the lineup for its fifth season. Together with founding sponsor Bangor Savings Bank, The Gracie kicks off its season on October 1 with a double-bill event featuring The Manhattan Transfer (TMT) and Take 6. Other acts booked for the coming year include the Joan Osborne Acoustic Duo, What’s Going On: the Marvin Gaye Experience, and Disenchanted! - The Musical. In addition to these acts, The Gracie will also feature a special Celtic holiday concert, the Matisse Jazz Project, and puppet wizards.

“This season is filled with great music. The Manhattan Transfer and Take 6 boast a remarkable 20 Grammy Awards. Joan Osborne is one of the great voices of her generation. Equally fantastic is Brian Owens, whose soulful tribute has been called the ‘second coming of Marvin Gaye,’” said Jeri Misler, managing director of the

theatre. “If that weren’t enough, we are ending the season with a large scale, hilarious new musical called ‘Disenchanted!,’ which is described as ‘Bridesmaids meets the Disney Princesses.’ You won’t want to miss out. It’s sure to be a great time!”

The season kicks off Saturday, Oct. 1, with The Manhattan Transfer and Take 6 in a double-bill event entitled, “The Summit.” No ordinary double bill, this show features unexpected twists and turns to create a once-in-a-lifetime event. The two groups embrace nearly every genre of popular music, including, jazz, swing, gospel and R&B. With crystal-clear harmonies, innovative arrangements, and funky grooves, the performance will showcase the depth and versatility of these performers. By the end of the evening, the audience will understand why this sextet is recognized as the preeminent a cappella group in the world.

Singer-songwriter Joan Osborne has rightfully earned a reputation as a commanding, passionate performer and a frank, emotionally evocative songwriter. She is widely known for her beloved hit song, “(What If God Was) One of Us,” as well as her live performances of “What Becomes of the Brokenhearted” and “Heat Wave” in the Grammy Award-winning documentary Standing in the Shadows of Motown. Osborne appears in concert Saturday, Nov. 5.

“What’s Going On: The Marvin Gaye Experience” features the new voice of American soul, Brian Owens. It’s a tribute to the legendary artist. Owens, who includes musical selections in a concert spanning the entirety of Gaye’s music-making career, performs hits like “Can I Get a Witness”, “I Heard It Through the Grapevine” and “You’re All I Need to Get By.” With a full band and Owens on vocals, this is a must-see show on Friday, March 31, 2017.

The not-for-children musical, “Disenchanted!” gives a saucy makeover to Snow White, Sleeping Beauty and other fairy-tale princesses. Broadway Box raves, “Think ‘Bridesmaids’ for Disney Princesses! This sidesplitting adult musical of the Disney princess posse and its mega-talented cast will make you blush and feel nostalgia all at once.”

“Disenchanted!” will be at The Gracie for one night only on Saturday, April 22, 2017 with shows at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.

In addition to the four shows covered as part of the season ticket package, The Gracie is home to a series of special performances. This winter, Husson University and the Gracie will celebrate the holidays with COIG: a Celtic holiday concert on Thursday, Dec. 8. COIG, one of Atlantic Canada’s premier traditional groups, is an ensemble of East Coast musicians with the fiery Celtic style as its musical core.

COIG easily shifts between century old tunes of past generations to original and contemporary compositions. The performance will feature over a dozen instruments (vocals, fiddles, piano, guitar, banjo, mandolin, viola, bouzouki, whistles, and more). With driving tunes, haunting

songs, and infectious energy, COIG is an unparalleled musical force.

Kaytek the Wizard, a puppet show with music, will entertain audience members ages 10 and up during February break on The Gracie stage. Master puppeteer Brian Hull will perform the show. Hull wrote the script in collaboration with Sarah Hunt who wrote the music. Kaytek the Wizard is based on the recently translated 1933 book by Janusz Korczak.

The show tells the story of a mischievous schoolboy who wants to become a wizard after discovering that he is able to perform magic spells and change reality. Revolving around the notion that power is not without responsibility, nor without repercussions, this story speaks to a child’s dream of shaping the world to their own designs.

The Gracie’s season is made possible with support from Bangor Savings Bank. The theatre gratefully acknowledges the generous support provided throughout the season by additional show sponsors including: Downeast Toyota, Four Points by Sheraton, the Dead River Company, WBRC Architects and Engineers, The Bangor Daily News, and The Maine Edge.

Season tickets are available at \$140 for the four main shows, which entitles purchasers to premium seating for each show at a 30 percent discounted rate. Single show tickets are available at gracie theatre.com, on Facebook, or by calling 207-941-7888. Tickets range in price from \$15-67 depending on the fees and the show.

Completed in October of 2009, the Gracie is Husson University’s center for the fine and performing arts. This beautiful 500-seat theatre is quickly earning a reputation as one of Maine’s premier performance venues. In addition, the Gracie also serves as a learning platform for students from the New England School of Communications in digital audio, sound mixing, set design and construction, lighting, acting and electronics. For more information, visit GracieTheatre.com.

Bangor announces EnergySmart Bangor Rebate Program, August Energy Expo

BANGOR — The City of Bangor recently announced the launch of EnergySmart Bangor, a residential rebate program the City initiated with Efficiency Maine. The program helps Bangor residents save on energy expenses by reducing the cost of energy efficiency upgrades. The program is offered to all Bangor residents of owner-occupied properties that qualify for the Home Energy Savings Program through Efficiency Maine. EnergySmart Bangor rebates can be used for upgrades including air sealing, insulation, supplemental heating systems, and more. The amount of EnergySmart Bangor rebates offered vary by project, but in many cases can nearly double the amount of rebates offered by Effi-

ciency Maine.

“Decreasing the winter heating bill for a significant portion of Bangor homeowners is one of the reasons I felt so strongly about initiating this program in the first place. In addition to the financial savings, the EnergySmart Bangor program will also modernize Bangor’s housing stock and decrease Bangor’s contribution to pollution and global warming,” said City Council Chairman Sean Faircloth. “With this initiative, Bangor establishes itself as a leader regarding the environment - while helping residents save money.”

The partnership between Bangor and Efficiency Maine is a first of its kind and could become a template for other municipalities.

“Efficiency Maine is excited to be working with the City of Bangor to boost the number of homeowners taking advantage of energy efficiency and heating upgrade rebates. The EnergySmart Bangor initiative is a great model for municipalities across the state to help encourage residents to make improvements that lower energy use and support the local economy and workforce” said Dana Fisher, residential program manager at Efficiency Maine.

Funding for the EnergySmart Bangor rebates are only available while funds last and are provided on a first-come, first-serve basis through a rebate reservation system. To obtain a rebate reservation number, Bangor residents can call (207) 992-4284 or email energysmartbangor@bangor-maine.gov. Residents must provide their name, the physical address of the property receiving the efficiency upgrades, a quoted price from an Efficiency Maine registered vendor, the estimated installation date and a return phone number.

More information about the EnergySmart Bangor program along with rebate forms can be found at bangormaine.gov/energysmartbangor or by calling (207) 992-4284.

The public can learn about energy efficiency projects and connect with a number of Efficiency Maine registered vendors at the Bangor Energy Expo at the Cross Insurance Center, 3-7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 16. The Bangor Energy Expo is free and open to the public. It is anticipated that 15 to 20 vendors will be attending, with some indicating special one-time expo pricing. Representatives from Efficiency Maine and the City of Bangor will be in attendance to answer questions about their respective rebate programs.

Bangor Band to play at Camden Classics Week Outdoor Day and Concert

CAMDEN — As part of the first annual Camden Classics week, a Community Outdoor Day and Concert will be held at the Camden Snow Bowl on Sunday, July 31. A 50-piece band will play on the athletic field for a free outdoor concert at 2 p.m. The concert will be preceded by a “recreational sampler” of activities at the

Snow Bowl starting at 10 a.m. to include kayaking, guided hikes, golf activities, stand-up paddleboarding, softball, tennis, trail running and guided mountain bike tours. Food trucks and an ice cream truck will be on hand to provide sustenance for outdoor enthusiasts and concert-goers.

Demo bikes will be available as will kayaks, paddleboards and other equipment.

The free outdoor concert will feature the Bangor Band, one of the oldest community bands in the United States. The band has been performing concerts at various venues every summer since their first season in 1859. Current conductor, Curvin Farnham, has served as director of bands for 24 years at the University of Maine and conducted the University Symphonic Band. Joining the band as a guest conductor will be Camden’s own Nancy Rowe, band director extraordinaire at Camden Hills Regional High School. Those attending the concert are encouraged to bring blankets and chairs to enjoy a wondering afternoon of music in the beautiful outdoor setting our Snow Bowl offers. All events of the day are free and open to the public and are sponsored by the Ragged Mountain Recreation Foundation.

While some think of the Camden Snow Bowl as purely a winter recreational area, many residents know of the abundance of year-round activities provided at the mountain. The Community Outdoor Day is the perfect opportunity to discover all that’s available in our own backyard.

The Ragged Mountain Recreation Foundation is focused on the “push to the finish” to complete the campaign for Camden’s new Community Outdoor Center. This is the final stage of the redevelopment project at the Camden Snow Bowl.

The Snow Bowl is the only ski area in the east with ocean views. A community ski area owned and operated by the Town of Camden, the Snow Bowl is in its final stage of a three-phase redevelopment. The goal of the project is to create a facility that serves as a magnet for four-season recreation in Maine’s mid-coast. The Snow Bowl contributes \$3.5 million annually to the region’s economy through its year-round operations, with 22% of its wintertime visitors traveling to Camden from outside of Maine. For more information, visit camdensnowbowl.com.

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