

The Daily Sentinel



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NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

Home of Stephen F. Austin State University

SHOUT

OUTS



Shouts Outs » 2A Sports: Coach talks NCAA rule changes » 1B

COURT

Hudson faces \$1M lawsuit

SFA employee files civil suit after alleged assault

BY PAUL BRYANT
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An SEA employee has filed a \$1 million civil suit against a Nacogdoches business owner who allegedly assaulted and injured him more than a year ago near Cole Art Center.



Hudson

"On or about June 16, 2014, on Commerce Street ... (Willie Hudson), without justification or provocation by (Mark Porter), violently and forcefully struck plaintiff with his fists several times on (his) face and body," the lawsuit shows. "At that time, plaintiff was a disabled person as that term is defined" by state law.

Hudson » 3A

SCULPTURE FOR ALL

Forging his own path



THE SCULPTURE

Photos by Levi Monday
New Mexico artist Christopher Thomson's piece "Spiral Pajos #1" won second place in the Sculpture For All juried show.

'Spiral Pajos #1' featured in SFA's outdoor exhibit

BY CHRISTINE BROUSSARD
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Paddles curving through the water in intervals, from left to right and back again, Christopher Thomson's kayak skated over the Potomac River Gorge. Floating in the kayak, built by his Chinese-born Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) political analyst father, Thomson grew to appreciate the natural surroundings of the District of Columbia, juxtaposed against a backdrop of industry. These memories would later become the inspiration for much of his art.

The New Mexico artist won second place in the 2015-17 Sculpture for All juried art show at SFA with his bright red and orange sculpture, "Spiral Pajos #1."

"The willow-like forms and arrangements were

Artist » 3A



New-Mexico-based artist Christopher Thomson won second place in the 2015-17 Sculpture For All juried art show for his piece "Spiral Pajos #1." The bright red and orange structure is one of 10 pieces chosen among dozens of applicants and will remain in the SFA gardens until early 2017.

DRUG CASE

Judge denies request

Court rules traffic stops were legal

BY PAUL BRYANT
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A federal judge has refused to suppress evidence against one of two men charged in 2014 in a drug conspiracy and racketeering.



Bams

Henry Bams "moved to suppress evidence obtained during traffic stops in Nacogdoches County, Texas, and Hot Springs County, Ark.," U.S. District Court records show. "Judge (Michael) Hawthorn concluded that both traffic stops satisfied the constitutional parameters established by the Supreme Court ... and recommended that Bams' motion to suppress be denied."

Bams » 3A

CRIME

Man looking for place to sleep spends night in jail

BY PAUL BRYANT
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A convicted felon was charged with criminal mischief after confessing to vandalizing three Nacogdoches businesses on Monday.

"Gerald McAlpin was contacted as the suspect in a criminal mischief call in which Kroger (on) North Street reported that somebody had just broken the glass on the front

Vandalism » 3A

Coming soon



Columbia

Nacogdoches committee members look back on efforts to build Columbia memorial

ARTIST » From 1A

suggested to me by a lifetime of hiking and kayaking along rivers, improvisational explorations in music and clay and subconscious harmonies and dissonances,” Thomson said. “While not copied from nature or blacksmithing traditions, my sculptures are inextricably bound to both. The building of large propane forges, acquisition of industrial power hammers and presses and 30 years of experience using them to forge sculpture ... precisely have now given me the confidence and freedom to forge steel improvisationally.”

‘Too subtle to articulate’

Thomson studied engineering at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania before pursuing art.

“Like many students in the ‘60s, I began questioning the Vietnam War and the values of our society that led us to it,” he said. “In 1969, my girlfriend and I dropped out of college and started making pottery and subsistence gardening in rural Central California. I would make pitchers, bowls, teapots and mugs in batches that looked the same, but invariably one or two would have a special presence for reasons too subtle for me to articulate.”

Then, Thomson was drafted into the war. After completing his military duty, he married

watercolor artist Susan Livermore and the two moved to New Mexico. It was after this move that Thomson switched from pottery to iron forging.

“Hot iron moves in much the same manner as clay,” he said. “The aesthetics I had developed making pots ... flowed seamlessly into the ironwork. I liked the strike-while-the-iron-is-hot immediacy of my new media. I began acquiring more tools and undertaking more elaborate projects.”

‘Emotions too powerful’

Thomson returned to the East Coast in 1998 after his father died of a heart attack while canoeing on the Potomac. The trip was a turning point for the way Thomson viewed his craft.

“As a small child, (my father) would sing ‘E Gon Zu Zu’ — a Chinese lullaby ... which I later learned was, ‘Go outside, cut a bamboo, carve holes, blow into the holes, blow your troubles away,’”

Thomson said. “I walked into the back yard and cut a stalk of the bamboo we had planted together as a child. I carved it into a flute and played the song at the service.”

“Holding the last note as it echoed through the church, I realized this was the wonder of life he had taught me.



Photo by Bruce Dale

Christopher Thomson works on a sculpture in his studio.

These were emotions too powerful to express in words but approachable through craft and art, and this was my calling in life — to truly experience and appreciate the wonders of our existence on this planet and, to the extent of my ability, express them through my art.”

Thomson continues to make various versions of “Spiral Pajos” — an offshoot of a project he has been working on for years called “Pajos.”

“Spiral Pajos #1” will remain in the SFA gardens until early 2017. It is one of 10 pieces chosen for the 2015-17 Sculpture for All exhibit.