

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
LOW 26 HIGH 46	LOW 28 HIGH 48	LOW 28 HIGH 38	LOW 23 HIGH 39	LOW 24 HIGH 41	LOW 27 HIGH 44	LOW 26 HIGH 43

SIoux COUNTY

CAPITAL-DEMOCRAT

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SURPRISE AND WONDER IN STORE FOR WEEKEND ILLUSIONIST ACT

By SHARON VERMEER
Correspondent

ORANGE CITY — “When I was ten years old, a magician named Reza came to Marshall, Minnesota, where I grew up,” explained illusionist Jett Skrien. “My sister and I had tickets in the front row! He had fancy lights, props, dancers, and cool tricks. He brought me up to do a linked circle trick. After the show, he gave me a smaller set of three rings to practice with. Later, I e-mailed him on my parent’s computer to say thank you and ask to learn more tricks, and he e-mailed me back and agreed. Then he did a show in Omaha. We saw that, and he taught me more tricks.”

Skrien loved magic and practiced hard. When he was twelve, a classmate’s parents, who knew he was always doing magic tricks, asked him to do a show for a younger brother’s birthday party. “We packed up my little cardboard box of tricks, and my parents drove me there,” Skrien laughed. “I did the show in the basement for about twenty kids. I actually got paid about \$50!”

After that, his reputation spread by mouth to mouth, and he averaged a couple of shows a week through middle school, then more through high school. After he got his license, he started traveling to other nearby states. When he was fifteen, he was able to partner with Reza, going to the Bahamas for a week to be part of his show. “This was one of my favorite shows!” he exclaimed. “I got to travel internationally for the first time. The people were so friendly and kind, and the food was amazing. We loaded stuff into a shipping container because he had massive tricks, and then I saw how that was sent off. His show had a lot of technology in it, so I was able to help with that, but he also let me do a warm-up show. He was doing tricks like video walls and making a motorcycle appear from thin air: really updated tricks.”

Returning to the United States, Skrien performed nationally, including shows in California and Maine, performing for corporations and large events. Reza asked him to go to other



places with his show as well, traveling to Canada and Mexico and performing in the show; Reza runs in Branson, Mo.

“Recently, I’ve been staying more local because I’m at Northwestern College,” he said. “Right now, I’m a senior studying Pre-physician Assistant and Theater. I plan on continuing the Physician Assistant program at Northwestern. I’m taking a bit of a hiatus now, but I’m looking forward to finding a balance between being a PA and a magician. I want to perform on a cruise ship sometime. And I would like to take the current size of my show one step bigger, with more lighting, a bigger trailer, and bigger, more upscale tricks for a larger theater.”

On Saturday, March 25, at the Unity Knight Center, Skrien will perform for the Orange City Arts Council. The show, from 7:00-8:30 p.m., will be full-scale with many illusions. “I’ll make a girl appear out of thin air, cut someone in half, and I’ll escape from a wooden box, switching places with my assistant in the blink of an eye,” he proudly shared. “I won’t do anything simple, like pulling a rabbit out of a hat! These are larger, more modern illusions like a Las Vegas-style show brought to my hometown Orange City. It will be a clean comedy for all ages, with lots of audience participation.”

“What I really love is that magic can bring joy regardless of age. It brings us into a time of disbelief, where the rest of your problems disappear, and you can enjoy the moment.”

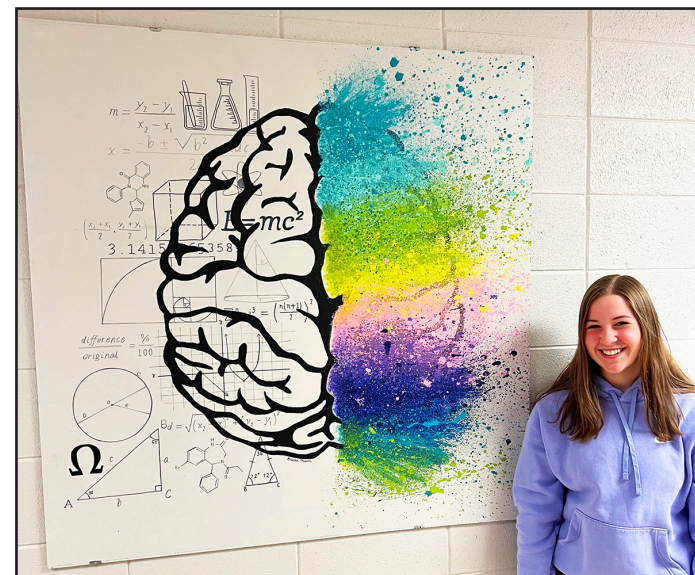
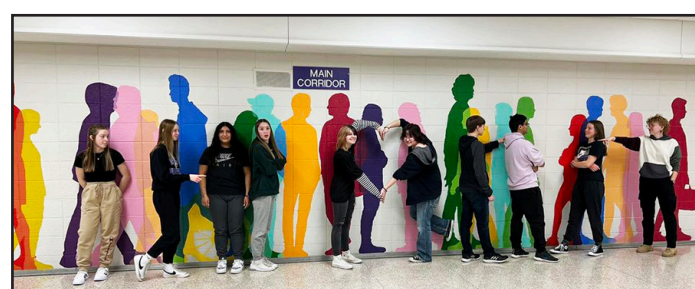
Tickets for the show on March 25 can be purchased online at orangecityarts.org: \$20 for adults, \$15 for students, and \$5 for children aged five and under.



Sports:

LOCAL ATHLETES COMPETE IN TWO INDOOR MEETS

See page 7 for more details



Art abounds at MOC-Floyd Valley

By SARAH WEBER
Co-Editor

ORANGE CITY — Art students at MOC-Floyd Valley are showcasing their art throughout the school and the region.

Roberta Pottebaum has taught art at MOC-Floyd Valley for 15 years and insists, “With art, you are always learning.”

Sioux County will have several opportunities to see the student’s work at regional art shows in the coming months.

Through March 30, 24 of the 57 art students at MOC-Floyd Valley have work on display at Dordt University. “Students had to take the initiative to enter the images of their work,” Pottebaum explained of the selection process.

On March 30, a closing reception will be held at the campus center Art Gallery at Dordt University, where students and art teachers will be present. The event is open to the public. The showcase features high school students’ art in various mediums, including graphite, charcoal, chalk, watercolor, oil, acrylic, photography, mixed media, and ceramics.

“The variety is what I enjoy most about teaching. There is so much variety. And it is so much fun watching a student figure things out, and projects come together; my students are creating some really neat things this year,” Pottebaum said. “Often they are teaching me; we learn new mediums and work on them together.”

Artists were also featured at the Buena Vista University Art Show earlier in the month. Six selections from local students were displayed from February 12-March 12 at the 13 annual exhibitions.

The Northwest Iowa Visual Arts Show at Northwest Iowa Community College will occur on March 27. Students who submit projects are judged and receive awards based on their submitted work. Results will be posted March 27.

Later in the school year, MOC-Floyd Valley will host its art show, with a Fine Arts night showcasing student work on May 2. The event will include an awards concert.

Several students took their art a step further and brought art

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MOC-FLOYD VALLEY HIRES NEW ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

By SARAH WEBER
Co-Editor



ORANGE CITY — On Friday, March 17, the MOC-Floyd Valley School District announced the hire of Mitch Aalbers as the next activities director.

The announcement included a statement from the district. “Mitch and his family are active, passionate members of the MOC-Floyd Valley family, and we look forward to his leadership and service.”

A life-long resident of Orange City, Aalbers graduated from MOC-Floyd Valley in 1997 and attended Northwestern College, graduating with a Physical Education degree, with an emphasis in recreation and fitness management. “The degree falls under sports management now, but this was the longer title then,” Aalbers explains. He also received his coaching endorsement; coaching for 12 years at Northwestern College and most recently as defensive coordinator for the MOC-Floyd Valley football team for the past three years.

Aalbers enters the position with 15 years experience as the Parks and Recreation Director for Orange City.

“I see a lot of similarities with my current position and the Athletic Director. Building relationships is really important to me, I hope to bring that to the role. As Parks and Recreations director, I don’t always know where a kid comes from or anything about their story, but I try to show each kid I care. Last year we had 623 kids signed up for spring soccer and I tried to interact somewhat with every kid at some point, just so they would know me and

know that I am present and that I care.”

Relationship building is what he is most excited about in the new role.

“I have coached many kids, but it will be fun to be able to interact with them in a school day and get to know them on a more personal level,” he said.

He plans to bring two big objectives to his new role, relationships and culture. “I want to continue to develop those things not just at the high school, but in the middle school and elementary school and find ways to connect and celebrate all our students,” he said.

Superintendent Russ Adams agrees. “We are excited to have Mitch join the MOC-Floyd Valley team! He has a tremendous servant’s heart, deep connections within our school community, and an unparalleled work ethic! We are looking forward to his leadership and passion in leading our activities and athletics at MOC-Floyd Valley.”

Aalbers states, “I want to support all students in the activities they enjoy and help them thrive as they go through our school system,” he added. “The general public will usually acknowledge success on the athletic field, but I think it is important to celebrate all the talented individuals at MOC-Floyd Valley in all the things

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