

Students get songwriter session

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

Buddy Mondlock is one of the most respected songwriters in Nashville. Greats like Guy Clark, Nanci Griffith, Art Garfunkel and Janis Ian have worked with him.

Last week, students at Sisters High School (SHS) and Sisters Middle School got the chance to do the same as the songwriter swung through for a visit during a tour that took him to several dates in Washington. The visit was arranged by Mondlock's friend, SHS teacher Leah Soloff.

As it is for all the great songwriters, the art is more than a profession — it is a calling and a way of finding a way through the world. And the act of creation can be that for anyone who picks up an instrument.

"I feel like songwriting is one of the very best things I can do for my soul," Mondlock told the students during a session of the SHS Americana Project class.

He described driving along a mountain road and seeing a single flaming sugar maple amidst a uniform slope of green trees. The standout tree reminded him of an independent, exceptional girl he thought he might love, and it led to a song, titled "Fire of Change."

He played the song for the class, and noted, "I got



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Buddy Mondlock talked metaphor and work ethic with young songwriters in the Americana Project class.

to work out how I really felt about her by writing this song."

That is the kind of slice of the artist's life that teen-aged students can completely relate to.

Mondlock talked a lot about the use of metaphor, giving the session a literary bent. Chasing a metaphor is a signal aspect of Mondlock's songwriting.

The songwriter related his "discovery" at the Kerrville Folk Festival in 1987, by legendary songwriter Guy Clark (who has appeared twice at the Sisters Folk Festival). Mondlock encouraged the students to hone their craft and get themselves "out there" to build a potential career simply by playing at every opportunity and connecting with other musicians whenever possible.

He noted that Sisters has an exceptionally rich and

encouraging environment for young songwriters.

He also encouraged Americana Project students to be patient and work hard on their creations, playing for them a song it took him a year to write. Getting it right is more important than getting it quick.

"That's one of the joys of songwriting," he noted. "To say a lot in a few words — but just the right ones."

To learn more about Buddy Mondlock visit www.buddymondlock.com.

Clearwater gallery to host Wild River show

Clearwater Gallery will host the third annual Wild River show, highlighting the wild and scenic Deschutes River.

In 2013, artist Dan Rickards wanted to use the arts to raise money for Oregon's wild rivers. With the help of gallery manager Chris Nelson, who is a sought-after artist in her own right, they addressed the desire of local and Northwest artists to be represented in Sisters. The Wild River show has been cultivated as a way to help grow the arts community and support the conservation of Oregon's wild rivers.

This year's show will open on March 27 and hang through April 20. An array of media will be displayed for sale, each depicting the Deschutes River through the artists' eyes.

This year's sponsored non-profit is the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council. The Upper Deschutes Watershed Council is committed to

leading collaborative efforts that protect and restore the rivers and streams that make Central Oregon so unique. Healthy rivers and streams provide the clean water to support local economies, ecological diversity, recreational opportunities and unparalleled natural beauty throughout the region.

They will be the recipient of 20 percent of the show's proceeds, and Rickards will continue his commitment to the preservation of Northwest rivers by donating 20 percent of the proceeds from the sales of his Deschutes River print through the end 2015.

Rickards' original painting and the prints will be on display the opening night of the show.

The public is invited to enjoy an evening of inspiring art, good company, wine and light appetizers from 4 to 6 p.m. on Friday, March 27. For more information, call 541-549-4994 or visit www.theclearwatergallery.com.



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