

MOTH: Guitar-maker is a good fit with festival's work

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May 8, and an art auction and party at Ponderosa Forge on Saturday, May 9.

Thompson crafted a dreadnought guitar for auction at the MOTH event.

Somebody on May 9 will go home with an exceptional instrument, knowing that he or she has contributed significantly to the programs that are making Sisters a thriving center for arts, education and an arts-driven economy.

"It's all so woven together," Thompson said.

His business partner Dan Stewart notes that being woven into the fabric of the festival and the music scene in Sisters was always part of the business plan. They deliberately located at 352 E. Main Ave., next door to The Belfry, which is a year-round venue for music in Sisters, including during the Sisters Folk Festival.

"When we made the decision to locate here, the whole idea was to be more a part of the arts and music community," Stewart said.

The fabric is made of many colorful threads. When *The Nugget* showed up to interview Thompson and Stewart, they were busy selling a guitar to a man from Portland who had first fallen in love with a Thompson guitar at the 2014 Sisters Folk Festival.

Eric Bibb, who returns

this year as the SFF encore artist, will then take possession of a guitar he picked out while he was here last year — a guitar that Thompson had made for a friend in Bend who was willing to sell it to Bibb.

"The intent is to sponsor Eric Bibb," Stewart said. "He'll be here every day (during the September festival) meeting with the folks."

And Thompson is working with another festival artist on a signature guitar: young jazz and bluegrass phenom Chris Luquette.

"Chris is like 25 years old and he's *so good*," Thompson said. The young guitarist has "so much in front of him. To have that relationship is really invaluable."

Luquette was part of the 2014 Sisters Folk Festival, as lead guitarist with Frank Solivan & Dirty Kitchen, one of the nation's most highly regarded bluegrass outfits. The band returns to Sisters May 9 to play the art auction and party at Ponderosa Forge.

Luquette plays the same model of Preston Thompson guitar that is up for auction.

It's all part of an artistic and entrepreneurial symbiosis that is helping Sisters thrive both culturally and economically. And it sounds really, really good.

For more information on the Sisters Folk Festival and My Own Two Hands, visit www.sistersfolkfestival.org. For more information on Preston Thompson Guitars, visit www.pktguitars.com. Contact Thompson at 541-977-3014.



Paw Prints

Jodi Schneider McNamee
Columnist

Adopting a dog when you have kids

Your 8-year-old son and your 1-year-old pooch are playing in the room next to you, when suddenly you hear a growl coming from your dog. You race into the room and find your son trying to get the family dog to sit in a chair. Your son explains they were just playing a game and Fido needed to be sitting in that chair.

Luckily you were nearby, but things could have gotten out of hand; your son could have been bitten.

Young children are not able to interpret a dog's language, and the dog is incapable of communicating in other ways. Almost all dog bites are a result of failure on the parents' part to recognize and prevent potential problem situations.

Although dogs are capable of learning to control their behavior and not bite, and older children can learn to leave the dog alone, adult supervision is essential. Small children should never be left alone with any dog, no matter how reliable he has been before. Small children don't recognize a warning, such as a growl, when they hear one and very young children (under the age of 6) don't know what a growl means. A responsible adult needs to be on the scene to prevent any aggressive behavior by the dog and to keep her child from putting himself in danger.

Not every dog is right for a child and not every child is right for a dog. Your child will need to be trained on how to treat a dog, and Fido will need to be trained for tolerance, besides strict obedience training when around your child.

So, plan on spending lots of time training your dog and your child when bringing a new dog into your home with young family members.

Obedience training and socialization are absolute musts for a dog that will be spending time with children. Remember that a dog will act according to his instincts if he doesn't receive proper training or if that training isn't kept up through regular

practice. Your dog needs to be taught to obey commands under all conditions no matter how distracting. Just like when your dog responds to "come" could save his life one day, an immediate response to the command "leave it" could save a child from serious injury.

The best approach to adopting a dog when you have children is to wait until your child is over 5. Researchers have found that children 7 or older can be ready to start developing a rewarding relationship with a new furry friend.

Take your time when looking for a dog, educate yourself about dog breeds. Finding the right dog for your child requires some detective work. Certain breeds can play a genetic role in a pet's personality and there are certain breeds that are more suitable for kids.

All ages of dogs have their advantages and disadvantages to consider. Puppies require more time and care and will need training not to play bite, and jump up on your kids. And a puppy's baby teeth are razor sharp until around four months of age when they get their adult teeth. An older dog may have pain and medical issues that limit

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