

SOAR foundation seeks public input

The SOAR Foundation is reaching out to the community to engage in a conversation regarding an expansion of the vision and mission of the organization.

The Foundation was founded in 1995 to develop and fund outdoor recreation activities and after-school programs for youth in the greater Sisters community.

The foundation fundraised and developed many after-school programs and outdoor recreational programs for children, teens, adults, and seniors that have benefitted the Sisters community for over two decades, including 100 percent of the fundraising for the Sisters Park & Recreation District building.

In 1998 the taxpayers voted to form the Sisters Park & Recreation District that now serves the programs and projects founded by SOAR, including the Sisters Park & Recreation District facilities co-located on the Sisters High School campus.

The SOAR Foundation has been a separate organization from the Sisters Park & Recreation District since 1998 and has had limited activity. The SOAR Foundation is now considering broadening its efforts to be more impactful to the Sisters community.

If you are interested in knowing more and would like to give input into the possible expansion of the SOAR Foundation vision and mission, email SOARfoundationofSisters@gmail.com and someone from the foundation will contact you.

Folks flock to fall street festival

By **Jodi Schneider McNamee**
Correspondent

Crowds of folks enjoyed the last days of summer in downtown Sisters on Labor Day weekend browsing through a variety of arts and crafts for the 9th annual Sisters Fall Street Festival held on Oak Street.

The street festival featured 60 vendors showcasing their handiwork from rustic elegant serving boards to uniquely crafted birdhouses. There was something for everyone's taste, including a multitude of activities for the little folks.

Face painting has become a popular part of the entertainment at street festivals, and Lillian's Art face painting booth had kids waiting patiently to get dressed up as a pirate or fairy without a costume.

And over at the Farmers Insurance booth the line was even longer with kids of all ages waiting for their special twisty balloon animals hand-crafted by Colleen Hull.

"We enjoy giving away balloon art that my wife makes at every street festival we go to, it's fun for the kids," said Steven Hull, insurance agent.

New vendor Don Potesta of Sisters displayed hand-crafted rustic serving boards, using latigo leather

as handles, promoting his business, Serve in Rustic Elegance. Potesta started his new business venture about a year ago after retiring as a full-time farrier for 44 years.

"I've worked with leather for over 40 years and still make horse reins," Potesta said.

This was his first show displaying his serving boards created and seasoned from fully dried hardwoods — red mahogany, black walnut, maple and chestnut.

"After we sand the wood, we seal it with a product we make ourselves using three organic oils and beeswax," he said.

New vendor Carol Borkowski from Kittitas Valley, Washington, showcased her "Cabin Quilts."

Borkowski always thought of herself as an artist and recently retired from her gardening business where she specialized in seasonal flower beds and containers.

"To me arranging flower beds was like painting with flowers," Borkowski said.

For the Cabin Quilts she uses outdoor paint on sign boards to create a classic quilt block look of flower shapes or whatever strikes her fancy.

"They are all quilt patterns, and the sign boards are very durable and can be hung outside," she said.



PHOTO BY JODI SCHNEIDER MCNAMEE

Don Potesta at his Serve in Rustic Elegance booth.

By noon on Saturday the streets overflowed with people and their canines cruising through the festival listening to the classic rock tunes of Derek Michael Marc & Double AA Band.

First-time vendor Sue Mooney calls her canine business "Wild Barking Moon." Mooney is from Minnesota and volunteers as a photographer at Top Dog Rescue Foundation in Minnesota. She artistically enhances her photos of dogs, usually wearing goggles, to bring out their true colors. And to support a good cause, a portion of the proceeds from her sales goes to Top Dog Foundation.

Early last year Mooney decided to pursue her dream

as an artist, so she sold her house and quit her job to travel around in her RV with her two Yorkshire terriers doing shows selling her dog art photos.

"This is what makes me happy," Mooney told *The Nugget*. "I have a big heart for dogs."

Event organizer Richard Esterman was busy helping with the festival's fundraiser that benefits Sisters High School Visual Arts Department.

"The Fall Street Festival, along with my other events, have a positive impact on our community by bringing in vendors and customers that eat, shop and use the city's lodgings," Esterman said.

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