

# Photographer's work on display

By Sue Stafford  
Correspondent

The name Fettkether is a familiar one around the Sisters Library, and it is prominent during the month of November. The photographs of former Sisters resident Bill Fettkether, from his private collection, are on display in the computer room.

Fettkether's widow, Marianne, affectionately known to her friends as Fetty, has been a long-time library volunteer and member of the Friends of the Sisters Library (FOSL) Board. She loaned her late husband's photographs for the exhibit.

Born in Dubuque, Iowa, in 1926, to descendants of German immigrants, Bill came west to study at the Fred Archer School of Photography in Los Angeles. In 1946 he studied with renowned American photographer Ansel Adams, whose influence is evident in Fettkether's photographic images.

His work included color, black and white, and sepia images, but his preference was always for the classical black and silver image on white paper, which provides for the greatest range of expression.

Landscape subjects in nature figured prominently

in Fettkether's photographs – mountains, plants, and sand sculptures. Fettkether captured the gnarly form of the bristlecone pine, known for its resilience to harsh weather and bad soils. It is one of the longest-lived life forms on earth and a prized subject for the camera's eye.

In 1960, Fettkether went to work as a photographer with the Technical Information Department at the Naval Weapons Center in China Lake, California, where he was employed until his retirement in 1986. The China Hat base was rather unique, having been opened following the Japanese attack of Pearl Harbor in World War II. There were only a handful of military personnel on base, with mostly civilian chemists and physicists conducting the bulk of the work done there.

Most of his photography from the Weapons Center was classified, because they were developing the Sidewinder missile, the laser beam, and early versions of the jet-pack for individual propulsion.

His unclassified photographs were published in museum calendars, displayed annually in New York and Chicago, and honored with awards in numerous exhibitions. The Professional Photographers of America

recognized him for the quality of his work with an honorary master of photography degree.

Mutual friends introduced Fettkether and his future wife on a blind date less than a year after Marianne's arrival from Germany for a two-year nursing exchange program. Bill persisted and on July 12, 1963, they were married in a chapel on Melrose Avenue in Hollywood, California. They and their two children, Claudia and David, lived on the China Hat base for 10 years and then in nearby Ridgecrest, California.

Fettkether had visited Central Oregon to ski in the early days of Mt. Bachelor, and in the early 1970s suggested the family consider buying land here. They purchased 10 acres located between Sisters and Bend,



Bill Fettkether's work is on display through November.

with an unobstructed view of the Cascade mountains, paying \$25 a month until the balance was paid off.

In 1983, the house, which was designed by Fettkether, was built, complete with a full darkroom. Upon his retirement from the Weapons Center in 1986, they moved to their home in Central Oregon, where Marianne still resides, surrounded by Bill's photographs and the mountain view he enjoyed every morning.

In 2012, Marianne donated the handsome fused-glass circular window over the library's front doors in memory of her late husband. The richly colored light that shines through the window memorializes his lifetime of capturing light images with his camera.

"Bill gave me a good life. He was a very warm, knowledgeable person," Marianne shared. Nineteen years after his death following a stroke, she still misses him intensely.

## SISTERS Entertainment Arts Special Events

Friday~Nov. 4

**The Belfry Live Music with Grateful Bluegrass Boys** 8 to 11 p.m. Pub opens one hour before the show for refreshments. For more information call 541-815-9122 or go to belfryevents.com.

Saturday~Nov. 5

**Sisters Saloon Live Music with the Bobby Lindstrom Trio** 8 to 11 p.m. for blues & rock. No cover! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go to sistersssaloon.net.

**Cork Cellars Live Music with Parlour** 7 to 9 p.m. No cover! For additional information call 541-549-2675 or go to corkcellars.com.

Wed.~Nov. 9

**Hood Avenue Art Play Reading, "Loving Coltrane"** 7 p.m. With Sisters & Bend actors and talk-back session following. \$5 suggested donation, refreshments served. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. For more info call 541-719-8779.

Saturday~Nov. 12

**Sisters Saloon Live Music with Riley's Range Benders** 8 to 11 p.m. for Americana and blues. No cover! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go to sistersssaloon.net.

**Cork Cellars Live Music with Allan Byer** 7 to 9 p.m. No cover! For additional information call 541-549-2675 or go to corkcellars.com.

**The Belfry Live Music with Leo Kottke** 8 to 11 p.m. Pub opens one hour before the show for refreshments. For info call 541-815-9122 or go online to belfryevents.com.

Saturday~Nov. 19

**Sisters Saloon Live Music with Bobby Lindstrom's All Three Cylinders** 8 to 11 p.m. No cover! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go to sistersssaloon.net.

**The Belfry Live Music with Hillstomp** 8 to 11 p.m. Pub opens one hour before the show for refreshments. For additional information call 541-815-9122 or go online to belfryevents.com.

Friday~Nov. 25

**Fir Street Park Sisters Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony** 5:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Sisters Area Chamber. Join in singing Christmas carols and warm up around the fire pit! Three Sisters Lions Club will be selling popcorn & hot drinks. For info call 541-549-0251.

**Downtown Sisters 4th Friday Art Stroll** 4 to 7 p.m. Galleries & shops feature live entertainment & refreshments! sistersartsassociation.org.

Saturday~Nov. 26

**Cork Cellars Live Music with Jazz Folks** 7 to 9 p.m. No cover! For additional information call 541-549-2675 or go to corkcellars.com.

**Sisters Saloon Live Music with the Tommy Hogan Band** 8 to 11 p.m. Electric blues, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go to sistersssaloon.net.

**The Belfry Live Music with The Weather Machine** 8 to 11 p.m. Pub opens one hour before the show for refreshments. For additional information call 541-815-9122 or go to belfryevents.com.

**Hood Avenue Sisters Christmas Parade** 2 p.m. And after the parade... **Chamber Office Visit with Santa!** Enjoy holiday refreshments, too! Sponsored by the Sisters Area Chamber. For more info: 541-549-0251 or go to sisterscountry.com.

**Black Butte Ranch Turkey Trot Fun Run & Walk** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Register at 10:15 a.m. at the Lakeside Activities Center. Fundraiser for the SHS Nordic ski team, \$10. With raffle after the run/walk. For info call 541-595-5879.

Saturday~Dec. 3

**The Belfry Holiday Art Extravaganza!** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Creations from all the local artists and vendors you love, plus music from the SHS choir, jazz band, and Americana Project students. Info, go to belfryevents.com.

Deadline to submit items is by 5 p.m. Fridays to [teresa@nuggetnews.com](mailto:teresa@nuggetnews.com)

**The Belfry**

**Nov 4 / Fri / 8-11 PM**  
Grateful Bluegrass Boys  
A string band that plays traditional bluegrass + versions of classic rock favorites.

**Nov 12 / Sat / 8-11 PM**  
Leo Kottke  
Innovative acoustic guitar virtuoso

**Nov 19 / Sat / 8-11 PM**  
Hillstomp  
Distinctive do-it-yourself hill country blues stomp. North Mississippi trance blues, a bit of Appalachia, and a dash of punkabilly.

**Nov 26 / Sat / 8-11 PM**  
The Weather Machine  
Hard-to-categorize, high-energy live show strikes a chord with NW audiences.

PUB OPENS 1 HR PRIOR TO SHOWS  
[BelfryEvents.com](http://BelfryEvents.com)  
541-815-9122

**Sisters MOVIE HOUSE**

**STARTS FRIDAY**  
FRI., NOV. 4 - THURS., NOV. 10

**Hacksaw Ridge (R)**  
Fri 4:15, 7:00  
Sat-Sun 1:30, 4:15, 7:00  
Mon-Thurs 4:15, 7:00

**Doctor Strange (PG-13)**  
Fri 4:45, 7:15  
Sat-Sun 2:00, 4:45, 7:15  
Mon-Thurs 4:45, 7:15

**Trolls (PG)**  
Fri 4:30, 6:45  
Sat-Sun 2:15, 4:30, 6:45  
Mon-Thurs 4:30, 6:45

**Harry & Snowman (NR)**  
Fri 4:15  
Sat-Sun 2:30, 7:45  
Mon-Thurs 4:15

**The Accountant (R)**  
Fri 6:30  
Sat-Sun 5:00  
Mon-Thurs 6:30

Movie times and titles are subject to change. Visit website or call for latest information.

[WWW.SISTERSMOVIEHOUSE.COM](http://WWW.SISTERSMOVIEHOUSE.COM)  
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