

AUCTION: Event celebrates arts and music in Sisters

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local artists contribute and have their work framed here. It is our way of giving back to the next generation, by sponsoring these artists with their donated pieces.”

The Schmidlings are also a part of the Sisters Arts Association, enhancing the arts community and sponsoring local artists by framing and selling their work in their gallery.

All the pieces in the art stroll are donated by artists and are then auctioned off at the private auction event at Ponderosa Forge and Ironworks on Saturday evening. Artist and contributor Wendy Birnbaum said, “It feels good to contribute to art in schools and have a part in making programs for kids to learn art.”

It is Birnbaum’s fifth year being a part of My Own Two Hands and the art programs at the schools. This year, Birnbaum and Susie Zeitner collaborated on a photograph taken by Birnbaum and then inlayed onto metal with glasswork done by Zeitner.

Another artist, Jennifer



PHOTO BY CEILI CORNELIUS

Dennis McGregor, Patrick Lombardi, and Peter Heithoff performed at Sisters Gallery & Frame Shop.

Hartwig, contributed a beautiful scratchboard cougar piece.

“When I first learned scratchboard, I was in high school, I never took art outside of school. I think it is sad to think schools are taking away arts programs. It builds an immense amount of character in students. I think the more the contribution the better to keep art in our community and to keep love in our society,” Hartwig told *The Nugget*.

The Friday art stroll was

followed by a free concert at The Belfry, with rockabilly dance band Petunia and the Vipers.

Saturday night’s auction at Ponderosa Forge raised thousands of dollars for Sisters Folk Festival’s outreach programs. Artists donated paintings, sculptures, jewelry and woodcrafts for the auction, and bidding was brisk. The highlight moment came when Sage Dorsey — a

longtime volunteer supporter of SFF — announced that he would match the winning bid for the wooden bench he hand-crafted for the auction in memory of Dorro Sokol, Boyd Wickman, and Jack Hartman. The winning bid was \$5,000, which meant the total was \$10,000 — an example of the generosity the community shows in supporting arts and education in Sisters.



PHOTO BY ROB KERR, COURTESY SISTERS FOLK FESTIVAL

Tracy Stout reacts to winning a card worth \$5,000 in auction credit at My Own Two Hands.

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