

ARTS: Event supports outreach programs of Sisters Folk Festival

Continued from page 1

balsa-wood planes. “We are excited to take part in the community event, it is so fun to gather together with music and art, parading down the street, inspiring those to smile and dance!” said Sisters Middle School art teacher Judy Fuentes.

The middle and elementary schools also participated in “Alpine to Desert,” a continuation of the “fish fence” at the elementary school created under the guidance of former art teacher Laura Campbell.

“The kids buzzed with excitement all last week as they noticed that their artwork had been put up on the fence,” Fuentes said. “The painted trees and animals and ground pieces worked so well together.”

Bringing the parade to an exciting grand finale was the Sisters marching band from the Sisters middle and high schools.

The Americana Project connects young people to self-expression through the visual and performing arts, guitar-playing, songwriting, recording and performing.

“I think the My Own Two Hands celebration is a super-special opportunity for us to come together to celebrate as a community, to celebrate the arts, and celebrate one another,” said SFF Creative Director Brad Tisdell.

The parade was followed by an art stroll throughout town.

Hundreds of folks came from all around to join in the celebration with Sisters residents. People listened to

a diversified variety of musicians who performed in the 13 venues across town, including Benji Nagel and 12-year-old CJ Neary from Bend, a violin/fiddle virtuoso and composer who has been performing for seven years. And over at Sisters Art Works, Appaloosa played what they call “High Desert Americana.” Sisters residents Katy Yoder — former development director for SFF — and her sister Victoria Graves sang along with the band.

“We’ve been singing since we were kids!” said Graves. “We joined Appaloosa last summer when they played the Farmers Market at Fir Street Park.”

The stroll featured art donated by local artists for auction Saturday evening at Ponderosa Forge.

Sisters Art Works was packed full of MOTH artwork for people to admire. The main attraction was “Winged Spirit,” this year’s selection for the MOTH poster in collaboration by sculptor Anna Blair and fabric artist Laurie Whitham.

“When the theme for this year’s MOTH event came up (Take Flight) the idea of a Pegasus came to mind. I had a sense that the wings could be realized quite beautifully with fabric. And my friend Laurie, who is a terrific fabric artist, was my go-to collaborator choice and she agreed to be a team with me. We designed it together at the beginning but worked independently to create our part of the piece,” said Blair.

Whitham added, “Although I have not made artwork public before, outside of making Stitchin’ Post employee entries for the Quilt Show, I was honored to work with Ana, and honored that

our project was chosen to represent this year’s MOTH poster. There are so many talented artists involved, and their art is amazing. I think Ana’s choice of a Pegasus-like piece was a wonderful idea to represent the theme Taking (sic) Flight. I wish much success to the fundraiser this year.”

Clearwater Gallery had on hand “Final Approach,” by artist Dan Rickards. The acrylic painting of a redtail hawk won this year’s Theme Award prize.

After the stroll, folks headed over to The Belfry for the free concert by B-Side Brass Band and Seattle-based folk-synth pop quartet Kuinka. Earlier in the day Friday, Kuinka visited the middle and high schools in Sisters.

Friday’s events were followed on Saturday with the My Own Two Hands Auction and Art Party at Ponderosa Forge. Patrons stepped up generously to purchase the art, donated by local artists, raising tens of thousands of dollars for SFF’s work in Sisters.

“The total auction purchases and donations exceeded our expectations this year and was \$20,000 more than last year,” said Ann Richardson, SFF managing director. “Our patrons truly honored our artists by purchasing their work for an average of 110 percent of the



PHOTO BY JODI SCHNEIDER MCNAAMÉE

Music filled the air as Sisters celebrated both the visual and the musical arts in the annual My Own Two Hands.

value the artists assigned to their donations. When all is said and done, we will have close to \$100,000 that will

support arts and music programs, education, scholarships and community concerts in the coming year.”

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