

Local realty group gives back to community

By **Jodi Schneider**
Correspondent

Six years ago ZoselHarper Realty in Sisters resolved to become active in their community. Supporting the 4th Friday Art Walk is one of the ways Carol Zosel and Chuck Harper continue to give back to the Sisters community — by supporting local artists and vendors.

ZoselHarper hosts artists three to four times a year, and during September's Art Walk they featured popular local artist Randall Tillery.

"His work reflects the beauty of Central Oregon and provides wonderful talking points for clients who come to the office, as the art is on display until we host our next Sisters Art Walk," Zosel said.

Tillery completed an oil painting demonstration during the Art Walk from 4-7 at ZoselHarper Realty on Cascade Avenue.

"I think that it's great that the Sisters art community and the Sisters fourth Friday art walk is being enhanced by the addition of this location at ZoselHarper," Tillery told *The Nugget*. "The fact that they are not a traditional art gallery but want to be involved in the arts movement in Sisters and give back to the community is pretty awesome. In addition

to adding to locations for original art to be seen it also opens up the avenues for artists who may not be represented in a local gallery to display their art."

The realty group hosted entertainment by Melanie Rose Dyer Trio and Katy Leahey from Schatz Pretzel.

ZoselHarper also hosts the annual Christmas shopping spree at the Habitat for Humanity Thrift Shop for Circle of Friends children.

"Collaborating with the Sisters community is our greatest inspiration, and we look forward to cultivating more relationships," Zosel said.

Zosel is the vice president of Sisters Garden Club and is on the Sisters School District's Mission/Vision Committee. She is fund development director for the Circle of Friends, a nonprofit mentoring program in Sisters, and is a Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show volunteer.

Harper has been on the finance committee for Sisters Habitat for Humanity for three years and is board vice president. He has volunteered for Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show and Sisters Rotary for five years and volunteers at Sisters Rodeo, working the chutes for all five shows.

Films focused on outdoors

BendFilm has announced the feature films selected to screen in the 2018 BendFilm Festival running October 11-14, at locations around Bend including the historic Tower Theatre, Tin Pan Alley Theater and McMenamins - Old St. Francis, Cascades Theatrical Company, the Volcanic Theatre Pub and the Regal at the Old Mill District.

The 2018 BendFilm Festival will present 44 feature films and award over \$10,500 in prizes directly to independent filmmakers.

BendFilm created two new film categories to recognize environmental or outdoor focused stories and Native American cinema. Both categories will offer a cash award. Additionally, BendFilm launched BendFilm Underground which showcases bold, edgy or music-focused films to screen at the Volcanic

Theater Pub. A new pass will be created for this film track and is available for purchase now.

Todd Looby, director of BendFilm, said, "15 years ago BendFilm was born out of a need to bring the community together to share in the impact of original storytelling and to celebrate the art of independent film here in Central Oregon. Through new grant programs, a new Native American spotlight, new awards for filmmakers and more community programs, we renew our dedication to drawing audiences together to share in the power of film to open up dialogue and make connections."

Erik Jambor, BendFilm Festival programmer, said, "This year's program transports audiences all around the world and through humor, drama and innovation provides a means to walk in someone else's shoes. This

program will challenge the way we relate to our environment, ourselves and each other."

In celebration of BendFilm's 15th anniversary, audiences can look forward to a range of other programs and entertainment including music, virtual reality, interactive movie experiences, spontaneous performances, street theater and panel discussions. For more information visit www.BendFilm.org.

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— Todd Looby

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