

JELLEN: Artist will be featured during December art stroll

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She turns out canvas after canvas, mostly colorful horses painted in acrylic.

Years ago, her first professional solo show, with more than 25 paintings, finally instilled the confidence she needed. “That was the biggest show I ever had,” she recalls. “I invited my horse friends to see the show. One man came up and said ‘I have been with my wife for five years, and I never understood her love for horses, but when I look at your paintings, I now see what she sees in them.’ I realized I was not just painting for myself, but I was being an advocate for the horses by painting them.”

Commissions make up a good portion of Jelen’s work. The 2019 calendar cover is a commissioned painting of Mighty Montecito, or “Cito,” a Friesian owned by Sharon Amestoy of Sisters. Kathy Blossom of Bainbridge Island, Washington, has been collecting and commissioning Jelen’s work for many years.

“Her work moved me before I ever met her,” Blossom said. “I can feel the emotional content of it.” She commissioned Jelen to paint Snickers, for her daughter, Sarah. “Before she painted Snickers, I asked Jelen to talk to Sarah about how she feels about this horse, because her horse was ill. That emotion comes across in the painting,” she said.

Snickers is featured as the January horse in the calendar.

Jelen will be the featured artist during the December 28 Fourth Friday Art Stroll at Sisters Gallery and Frame Shop, and on Facebook, where she posts a link to order calendars.

O, Tannenbaum!

By **Jim Cornelius**
Editor in Chief

Christmas tree hunting is a beloved tradition in the forests of Sisters Country. But the idea of bringing a tree into the house and decorating it for Christmas was adopted relatively late in the United States.

Blame the Puritans for that. The early settlers of New England disdained anything that smacked of celebration of Christmas, as it detracted from the sacredness of the occasion, and the religious discipline appropriate to it. In 1659, they banned the holiday in New England:

“For preventing disorders arising in several places within this jurisdiction, by reason of some still observing such festivals as were superstitiously kept in other countries, to the great dishonor of God and offence of others, it is therefore ordered by this Court and the authority thereof, that whosoever shall be found observing any such day as Christmas or the like, either by forbearing of labor, feasting, or any other way, upon such accountants as aforesaid, every person so offending shall pay of every such offence five shillings, as a fine to the county.”

The Puritans certainly wouldn’t abide anything so pagan as a Christmas Tree.

And the tree does have pagan origins. Evergreen boughs decorated many a Viking longhouse or Germanic hall in winter — a symbol of persistence through the dark winter months.

The first “Christmas tree” appears to have been erected in the Baltics, possibly in Riga in 1510. It was the locus of celebratory dancing in the market square and was ultimately lit on fire.

The tradition of erecting a tree in the house and

decorating it with candles is often attributed to the German preacher Martin Luther (who famously sparked the Protestant Reformation in 1517). The candles were said to symbolize the stars of the night sky, which reminded Luther of Jesus.

Certainly, the Christmas tree tradition flourished in Germany. They became popular in England after Queen Victoria’s German-born husband, Prince Albert, had one erected in Windsor Castle.

It took a while to overcome prejudice in the U.S., where the Christmas tree was still regarded by respectable folk as vaguely pagan into the 19th Century. But the adoption of the tree in Great Britain and a massive wave of German immigration that started in the 18th century and accelerated through the middle of the 19th century broke down that taboo, and the tree was widely adopted across cultural lines.

And now the Christmas tree is an integral part of the American tradition — with a Capitol Christmas tree selected with great pomp and circumstance each year. This year, for only the second time, the tree comes from Oregon — and made a brief appearance in Sisters on its tour of the nation.

Man sentenced for hash oil explosion

William E. Wild, Sr., 48, of Redmond, was sentenced last week to 120 days in federal prison and three years’ supervised release for endangering human life by manufacturing hash oil.

According to court documents, on December 12, 2016, law enforcement and first responders responded to an explosion at Wild’s residence in Redmond. The explosion occurred in a detached garage where the defendant had been illegally manufacturing butane hash oil (BHO). The force of the explosion blew out Wild’s garage door. By his own admission, Wild had been smoking a cigarette in close proximity to the lab at the time of the explosion.

Officers on scene reported finding burnt clothing, a pressure cooker, a Pyrex dish, a large bin of marijuana stem bud and seed as well as an amber substance later identified as BHO. Officers also found a grow room adjacent to the garage with more than 20 mature marijuana plants. In total, investigators seized 57 mature marijuana plants; scales; packaging materials and containers; ledgers containing drug amounts, debts

and receipts; approximately \$20,000 in cash and several pipe bombs in Wild’s home.

Wild and his 18-year-old daughter were present at the time of the explosion, and suffered burns and smoke inhalation. They were transported by ambulance from the residence. Wild’s daughter was later intubated and flown by air-ambulance to Portland for treatment.

Wild, a first-time offender, previously pleaded guilty to one count of endangering human life on August 16, 2018. A restitution hearing is scheduled for February 7.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) in partnership with the Central Oregon Drug Enforcement team (CODE), the Oregon State Police and the Redmond police and fire departments. It was prosecuted by Pamela Paaso, Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Oregon.



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