

Hundreds of people enjoy Art-i-facts

By **Jodi Schneider**
Correspondent

Sisters High School (SHS) was transformed into a unique collaboration of the arts Tuesday evening, March 19, as students, teachers, and guests gathered together for the annual art night event.

ART-i-facts benefits the full spectrum of high school arts programs.

The event is a way to bring the arts community together with education to showcase what students have been working on for the last year.

Bethany Gunnarson, SHS art instructor, said, "It's for all ages and we hope to promote creativity and interaction with community members who attend. There are lots of hands-on art stations for people to create and have fun!"

Guests meandered through the student art exhibits, displays, and interactive stations from cupcakes to canvases that were all manned by volunteer SHS art students.

There were creative senior

art displays, luthier/woods classes displays, a potter's wheel, silkscreen T-shirts for sale that students designed and created, painting tables, jewelry tables, henna tattoos, face painting, paint dart mural, a drawing station, and of course art for display and for sale.

While Gunnarson directed the visual arts, music teacher Rick Johnson coordinated the audio portion of the program, with performances by the Sisters High School Jazz Choir, the High School Band, and the Americana Project.

All ages enjoyed designing homemade cupcake toppings prepared by students of the SHS culinary arts program, under the guidance of their teacher TR McCrystal.

This event allows community members who might not attend the choir, band, or Americana Project concerts to experience the students' music.

"Art night allows all the arts departments in the school to be enjoyed together at one event," noted Johnson.

"As community members are admiring the incredible art created by the art department, woods department, and culinary department, they can listen to the Jazz Choir and Band and songwriters from the Americana Project."

This year the art department added an interactive Chinese calligraphy table where anyone can learn the art of writing Chinese featuring the visiting Chinese teachers. This visual art form was prized above all others in traditional China.

"It's not just calligraphy,



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Students threw pottery in the Sisters High School Commons.

it's our language," Annie, one of the visiting teachers from China, said. "We call it a culture activity. We use a special

brush and use black ink. The brush is shaped like a tear drop and you need to control it using your hands."

Hayden Homes supports arts in Sisters

Earlier this month Hayden Homes sponsored an art contest for high school juniors and seniors that would give the winning student a \$2,500 scholarship and a place for the artwork at Hayden Homes' model home.

The winning artwork proposal was announced at the art event by Hayden Homes Regional Director Geoff Harris and associate Donnie Eggers.

Students had until March 15 to draft their proposal, which included a sketch of their artwork along with a description of the artwork, execution strategy and supply needs. Then a team of judges from the Sisters Arts Association (SAA) reviewed their designs.

Kit Stafford, artist and volunteer for ART-i-facts, facilitated the compassionate critique of the art for the board members of the SAA jury selection the day before the event.

"I started working with Hayden Homes through SAA last year," Stafford said. "Hayden Homes said they wanted to do something to support the arts on a yearly basis, and this year they've added the scholarship. They are committed to the community — especially the arts."

The scholarship was presented to SHS senior Delia Hoyt.

Hoyt told *The Nugget*, "It means a lot to me that someone would look at my art and say, 'that's someone I want to

support, someone that I want to see to continue to create. I moved around a lot and have been in different schools where art wasn't necessarily the focus. And I see how Sisters' community really cares about art and wants to support art students, and it's amazing."

Delia revealed that the concept of her art piece is the interface of the natural world with the modern world or how nature interacts with modern development.

The art piece is commissioned by Hayden Homes for completion by May 10. Hoyt will share her work at a special "Meet the Artist" night at the model home to kick off a season of display alongside a framed photo and bio.



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Students shared their artistic endeavors with community members.

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