

MOTH: Auction supports education programs

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with many other volunteers. “Many of the arts programs in the Sisters public schools happen because Sisters Folk Festival partners with the School District to provide needed resources,” Newport said. “MOTH is the yearly event that helps fund many of those programs, so it’s a great opportunity for the community to demonstrate their support of the ongoing opportunities provided for every student in our schools.”

As the evening drew on, guests sampled gourmet foods catered by Tate and Tate Catering along with delicious wine and beer amid an ambiance of iron benches and anvils. People admired unique variations on the “We All Belong” theme played out with jewelry, pottery, photography, paintings and sculptures — all donated by regional artists.

Right before the live auction kicked off, Dale Largent

and Brad Tisdell executed a few lively rhythmic dialogues on their drums to an invigorated crowd that was wired and ready to bid on stunning artwork.

Sisters High School students volunteered presenting art pieces during the live auction with auctioneer Jeff Mornarich.

It was Sisters High School student Sahara Lucas’ second time volunteering at the auction.

“I have so much fun, it’s an amazing event that helps the arts in our school,” she said.

Sisters resident and former board chair for Circle of Friends, Virginia Silvey added, “We are so lucky to have a community that supports our kids and supports the arts and then cultivates it. We are encouraging the kids to reach out and stretch.”

Sisters Folk Festival Creative Director Brad Tisdell was impressed with the continued love and support shown at this yearly gathering.

He noted, “The theme this year is ‘We All Belong’ because we want to reach out

and invest in one another as people, as community members, as family members, as friends and as neighbors. That’s what this is about, and this is what the art auction is about in bringing music and arts education together in our community and in our schools.”

The Theme Award winner this year was Dyrk Godby, with his beautiful leather and acrylic art piece called “Life.” The Spirit of Giving Award went to Susie Zeitner and Mary Jo Weiss, and Dennis Tower received the Award of Merit. An award of Merit also went to Jan Hasson. The Inspiration Award went to Bill Willitts for his art piece, “Transformation.” The Americana Folk Award went to Bill McDonald for his Kona Breeze uke.

And the Ben Westlund Advocate for the Arts Award was given to Sisters Gallery & Frame Shop co-owners Dennis and Helen Schmidling for taking the role of arts advocacy in the Sisters community seriously.

Helen Schmidling also won the MOTH raffle card worth \$5,000 in live-auction credit and won the highest bid for the framed MOTH poster



PHOTO BY JODI SCHNEIDER

Dennis and Helen Schmidling of Sisters Gallery & Frame Shop were awarded the Ben Westlund Advocate for the Arts Award for their work in the community.

artwork by Carly Garzon Vargas.

Schmidling noted, “When I saw Carly’s image I was immediately attracted. I see it as a symbol of the healing that’s necessary in families, community, and in the country. I promote art and artists,

and I see her as an important new artist in our community and I see her creative image as a celebration of what unites us.”

Saturday night’s auction at Ponderosa Forge raised over \$100,000 for Sisters Folk Festival’s outreach programs.



PHOTO BY ROB KERR

Patrons explore the art-laden floor of Ponderosa Forge.

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Sisters Folk Festival, in partnership with these dedicated artists, is committed to enriching lives through music, arts education and cultural events. A special thank you to these generous donors:

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Proceeds benefit Sisters Americana Project and affiliated programs of Sisters Folk Festival, Inc.

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