

UNVEILING: A dying tree was turned into an art piece

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the match between Bany and Skip Armstrong, and the flame of creativity was struck.

The tree was loaded and moved to Armstrong's property, where he spent the better part of a year dreaming up a concept for the piece. This past summer, right after Quilt Show, Bany, Deggendorfer and Armstrong met and put their plan into action. Carving began about Folk Festival time in early September, and the piece was finished in November.

Everyone agreed, "We have to honor the tree." The base of the sculpture is a bed of roses, in honor of Bany's and Deggendorfer's grandmother, Marie, who loved roses. From there on up are tens of carved musicians, playing guitars, keyboards, and more, all singing silently (though you could swear you hear music) from the tree. Armstrong captures the rhythm of music in motion along with the energy and rebellion of youth.

Close inspection reveals some "familiar" figures,

including Elton John, wearing big glasses and playing keyboard, and Armstrong's great friend, Zac Brown (of the Zac Brown Band) on lead guitar, with his trademark beard and black bowler hat. The arm of the tree that depicts country music acknowledges its roots in both soul and Celtic traditions. The arm depicting pop music has graphic guitar-based carvings.

Off to the right, on the edge of the country branch, a carved red robin sits on its nest. This is a tribute to the history of West Linn, which was originally called Robin's Nest. Carved music notes rise up the entire sculpture, floating on the backs of butterflies.

"The butterflies represent imagination," Armstrong said.

Way up at the top are Armstrong's muses — Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul; top-selling pop and country artist Taylor Swift; and Hank Williams, the Father of Country. These major characters are forever atop "One Tree — Many Songs" to inspire the thousands who study now, and will pursue and perform music in the years to come.

An opening ceremony is planned for sometime in early 2020 at the Youth Music Project in West Linn.

Obituary

George Richard Tosello

April 25, 1930 — November 26, 2019

George Richard Tosello left this earth to be with his Heavenly Father on November 26, 2019, at the age of 89. George was a Marine at the end of World War II and was called back for the Korean War, earning the rank of Sargent. After working in agriculture in San Jose and Aptos, California, he turned his passion for bowling into a career by purchasing 2 bowling centers in Santa Cruz County.

His extended family began moving to Sisters in the late 1970s, which provided him many opportunities to fly his beautiful Beech

Bonanza into the Sisters airport on a regular basis. He owned several Sisters homes over the years, both in town and in Tollgate.

George leaves behind the love of his life, Gayle Morris Stone Tosello; along with four sons Carey, Garth, Chris, all of Sisters; and Gregg of Canada; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

His sister, Beverly Warf, and her husband, Gene Warf, both of Sisters, preceded him in death.

George was passionate



about life, and that is how he lived. A man who loved family, people, and Jesus.

The family asks for donations to the Cure Alzheimer's fund (www.curealz.org) in his name.

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