

# Childrens' art is Celebration highlight

Pieces of art began to pile up in Leigh Files' living room last week: The works of Eugene-area school children, gathered to appear in the fifth annual Imagination Celebration and Very Special Arts Festival.

Files is coordinator for the Very Special Arts Festival, a component of the celebration that promotes and showcases the artwork of disabled children.

Mosaics, drawings, paintings and prints, will appear at the event, which will be held Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts.

The Very Special festival is an outreach program of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts of Washington, D.C. The celebration will showcase the quality and variety of student-arts activities in Lane County.

"This is a whole day at the Hult Center just for kids," says Jill Weiss, of the Lane Regional Arts Council, which is sponsoring the event.

About 5,000 students, teachers and parents attended last year's celebration, which included a parade and all-day entertainment, Weiss says.

This year's event will begin with an "Umbrella-antics" parade that will wind through the Downtown Mall before arriving at the Hult Center. Entertainment will continue throughout the day with a variety of performances by students and local musicians, storytellers, singers, dancers, tumblers and jugglers.

There will also be an expanded visual art display in the Hult Center's Jacobs Room and main lobby, and hands-on arts activities at the "Imaginarium" on the outside courtyard.

As a special gift, the Kennedy Center is sen-

ding the Magic Carpet Band to perform at the event. The band, which can be seen on the Nickelodeon cable-television network, is composed of a group of actors, mimes and musicians that perform acts written entirely by children.

The main focus of the event, however, is the art exhibit, Weiss says, noting that it is hard to find a special place to display student art.

Students from first grade through high-school will have their work on display. Most of the children participating in the program are from the Eugene School District, Weiss says. But contributions from Springfield and Pleasant Hill schools have grown during the past few years, she adds.

Files says she believes the event has special significance for the handicapped individuals who participate.

"I think the program is a very important vehicle for expression, teaching and learning skills," she says. "Sometimes a handicapped kid's greatest asset is how he or she can draw or play the piano by ear."

By showing his or her art to the public, a handicapped person can develop self-esteem, which will help him or her in other areas, Files adds.

Interpreters for the deaf and wheelchair assistants will be available at the event to give the disabled an opportunity to participate in all of the planned activities.

The entire celebration is open and free to the public. For more information, contact Weiss at 485-2278 or Files at 344-4178.

By Julie Freeman



Photo by James Marks

Leigh Files is assembling artworks created by Eugene-area handicapped children for Saturday's Imagination Celebration and Very Special Arts Festival.

## Percussion shows slated

Percussion is the word to remember when considering on-campus live entertainment Saturday.

Jazz-fusion drummer Billy Cobham will give a solo drumset performance from 2 to 5 p.m. in Beall Concert Hall. Admission is free.

Cobham, known to many as the greatest jazz-rock-fusion drummer alive today, will perform material from his latest GRP Records album, "Warning." His past performances have included work with The Mahavishnu Orchestra, John McLaughlin and Jan Hammer (of "Miami Vice"-theme fame). Cobham has played drums on recordings with such notables as Miles Davis, George Benson, Ron Carter, Horace Silver and Hubert Laws.

Cobham's other albums include "Inner Mounting Frame," "Birds Of Fire," "Between Nothingness And Eternity," "Spectrum" and "Glass Menagerie."

At his Beall Hall appearance Saturday, Cobham will introduce Eugene to New York City drummer Dom Famularo. Famularo will open the drum show with a performance lec-

ture, followed by Cobham's performance.

Saturday night, Beall Hall will see a switch from drums to marimba, as Leigh Howard Stevens will appear in a virtuoso solo recital of classical marimba. Stevens is currently regarded as the world's foremost classic marimbist. His performance begins at 8:00, and admission is free.

Stevens, a native of New York City, has performed worldwide and has received frequent standing ovations and outstanding critical acclaim.

Stevens is credited with the development of the modern independent four-mallet classical marimba technique, and is the author of an authoritative text, "Method of Movement for Marimba."

Stevens and Cobham appear as part of the Northwest Percussion Festival and eighth annual Oregon Day of Percussion. The event is produced by Charles Dowd, professor of percussion at the University School of Music. For more information, call 686-3761.

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