

Friday ushers in new April art shows

Shows feature blacksmithing, photography, painting and more

By Lisa Britton
For EO Media Group

BAKER CITY — Shane Alderson and Roy Fontenot had a general idea for their combined art show — they wanted to find a different way to showcase photography and blacksmithing.

Then Alderson had an idea. “We’re going to shoot this underwater,” he decided.

“And it turned out amazing,” Fontenot added.

Fontenot, who works under the name Black Iron Forge Co., and Alderson of Shane Alderson Photography are the featured artists for April at Royal Artisan, 1912 Main St., Baker City. The show opens Friday from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Their show joins several others opening for the downtown First Friday art walk on April 2.

ROYAL ARTISAN

Fontenot is a third-generation welder. He took up the art of blacksmithing about 10 years ago.

“I’ve been around welding all my life,” he said. “It just evolved into blacksmithing — getting back to how they used to do it.”

His blacksmithed bells have been exhibited at Peterson’s Gallery and Churchill’s Hall Pass Gallery.

Alderson has practiced photography for more than 25 years.

“I was 14. I bought a camera and figured it out that summer,” he said.

The next fall he was hired as a stringer photographer for the Baker City Herald. Since then, he’s photographed around the world, although many will be familiar with his scenics of Eastern Oregon.

For their show, titled “Capturing the Flames,” Alderson photographed the process as Fontenot created pieces for the exhibit.

“This is different, fun and creative,” Alderson said.



“Red Koi” by Becky Litke

CROSSROADS

April brings the open theme show at Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, 2020 Auburn Ave. This year’s theme is “Puzzle.”

“Artists were asked to interpret ‘puzzle,’ either through abstract thinking or literal definition of the

word,” said Crystal Rainwater, community art director. “Crossroads found 2020 to be a puzzling time, not just for the art center but the world.”

The show opens Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. After 5 p.m., patrons need to access the building on Second Street.

Visitors will need to sign in, wear face coverings, and sign up for a gift certificate drawing of \$25 to Sweet Wife Baking.

Patrons can also vote on a favorite piece for the People’s Choice Award, which will garner \$100 for the artist and a special award created by Tom Dimond.

The show also can be viewed during Crossroads’ regular hours of 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

WHITE HOUSE

White House Art and Design Company, 1829 Main St., is featuring Haines artist Becky Litke for the April First Friday art walk.

A meet-and-greet with the artist will be from 4-8 p.m. Friday.

CHURCHILL

Earl Murphy is the featured artist for April at Churchill Hall Pass Gallery, 3451 Broadway St.

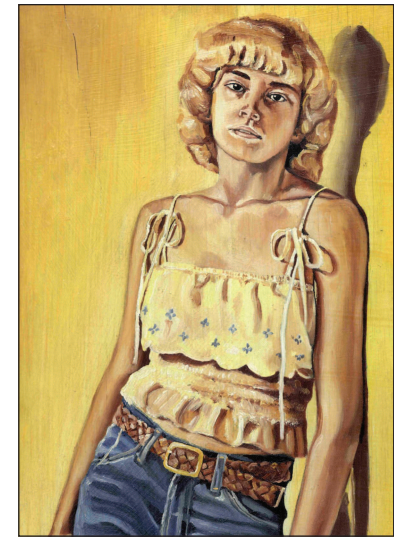
Murphy did his first portrait in oils — when he was 9.

His first art classes were at Indiana University East in Richmond, Indiana. While there, he entered several art competitions.

Later, while working at a bus manufacturer, Murphy injured his left wrist to the extent that it required three surgeries. He’s left-handed.

The state of Indiana sent him back to school, and he submitted a portfolio to Herron School of Art in Indianapolis, Indiana. He was accepted and majored in secondary art education, with minors in fine arts and architectural engineering.

Life happened, and his art took a hiatus. Now retired, Murphy moved to Baker City in June 2020



“Terry Black” by Earl Murphy

and paints in a studio at Churchill.

He works on landscapes, city scenes, portraits, still life or “whatever I find as a challenge or something of interest.”

CHEESE FAIRY/COPPER BELT

While this location may not be open for the evening art walk, artists on display include Becky Litke, Sherri Linnemeyer, Redneck Table Company and Teresa Uriarte.



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GO
WEEKEND OUTLOOK



FRIDAY
High 67 Low 39
Thickening clouds



SATURDAY
High 66 Low 38
Turning cloudy



SUNDAY
High 60 Low 36
Showers possible