

COMMUNITY

Artists who met in Hermiston return for display

February library display features art and jewelry

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

After meeting at the Saturday market in Hermiston, two artists forged a friendship that eventually led to a joint display of their work at the Hermiston Public Library.

Jewelry artist Tina Murphy and mixed-media artist Brandi Dayton, who both now reside in Kennewick, met several years ago while displaying their work to shoppers in Hermiston. Throughout the month of February their work can be seen at the library.

"Tina and I met at the Hermiston farmers market quite a few years ago," Dayton said. "We were both there our first time together, and now we're good friends. We've been friends ever since. We keep in contact doing shows together."

Dayton lived in Hermiston for several years before moving to Washington a couple years ago, and she still enjoys showing her work at the Hermiston market during the summer. She said Hermiston residents have helped her accomplish her dream of becoming a professional artist.

"I just try to get involved in as many of the Hermiston art events as possible," she said. "I think the biggest thing that I would say is how

appreciative I am of Hermiston and how they supported me as an artist and how proud I am that the arts community is growing."

Dayton said she also participates in the annual art walk, which is now called the Hermiston Arts Festival, but she has never displayed her work at a library before.

"I think it's a wonderful opportunity," she said of the library displaying artists' work. "I think what (Library Assistant Jodi Hansen is) doing for the Hermiston community and the arts is a great thing. I think that Hermiston needs more places to show art, and I think for her to coordinate that and organize that is a wonderful thing for artists that are coming out in Hermiston and a great thing for artists that are already established to come back and support Hermiston. I think that Hermiston is a wonderful community, and I think the arts are very important for a community."

As a mixed-media artist, Dayton uses different types of paints and media, including acrylic and watercolor paint and vintage paper. She said she usually creates art based on nature that is "very colorful and bright and happy."

Dayton said she has been selling art for the last 17 years, but she has always been artistic.

"Since I was a little kid, I was always drawing and sketching pictures out of magazines or anything I could get ahold of," she said. "I paint because it's my pas-

sion. I love art history. I love everything about art. I love design and color."

Murphy has also had a lifelong interest in her art: creating jewelry using rare rocks and gems.

"I've always loved rocks and gems, and I've always gone to gem and mineral shows since I was a kid," she said. "When you would have a book club in elementary school, they would have a fossil kit and a gem stone kit that I would get. I've been into rocks and gems my whole life, and I've always said I wanted to be a silversmith when I grow up."

Murphy said she and her husband cut and polish the stones, and then she wraps them in sterling silver to create a wearable piece of art.

"A lot of people do wire wrapping and it covers up the stone, and I hear the comment, 'Oh, you really show the stone off' because that's the star of the show," she said. "I never have a design in mind ahead of time. I look at the stone, and it just comes to mind what it needs to be. I have drawn out some things, but, for the most part, the stone and the colors inspire me when I see them."

Murphy started working full time as an industrial hygiene technician at Hanford 15 years ago, and the well-paying job allowed her to begin her expensive hobby of making jewelry.

Murphy said she was happy to display her work in Hermiston and remembers meeting Dayton at the market here.

"We were next to each



SEAN HART PHOTO

Jewelry artist Tina Murphy shows a piece she created that is on display at the Hermiston Public Library this month.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Artist Brandi Dayton is one of two artists whose work is on display this month at the Hermiston Public Library.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Former Hermiston resident Brandi Dayton created this painting and has several pieces on display at the library in Hermiston.

other and loved each other's things and traded art for jewelry," she said. "We still do that. My whole house is full of Brandi's artwork. We do a lot of shows together. We're a great mix. We complement each other really well."

Area robotics teams advance to district super qualifiers in Hillsboro

BY MAEGAN MURRAY
HERMISTON HERALD

After spending months drawing, refining, tinkering and building robots that can maneuver by themselves and pick up objects to score points, several area FIRST tech challenge robotics teams have advanced to the next level of competition: district super qualifiers.

Eight teams from Stanfield, Umatilla, Pendleton and Helix will compete in the district super qualifiers Feb. 21-22 in Hillsboro and at the Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum in McMinnville.

During the final area championships last month, three teams from Umatilla performed well. Team Nerdy Girls, an all-female team from Clara Brownell Middle School, was honored with the Innovate Award, given to a team that works outside the box and makes their robot design come to life.

"It's amazing," Nerdy Girls team member Marlene Jimenez said after competing. "We are glad to show that girls can do all of the same things boys can do. I hope we can inspire other girls to give engineering and building a try."

Team Smarties, also from CBMS, will also compete at super qualifiers as part of a winning alliance with Grizwald High School in Helix.

Team Tiger Tech from Stanfield Secondary School was honored with the PTC Design Award, which honors a team that incorporated industrial design and computer-aided design software

when developing their robot.

Team Robo Vikings from CBMS will also compete at the district super qualifiers for being the next highest ranked team that hadn't yet received an award.

Overall, the teams felt they competed well and are looking forward to the next level of competition.

"I feel (extremely) happy because I didn't think we would make it," Robo Vikings team member Mark Quinonez said.

Smarties team member Andrea Hernandez said

the competition has helped her team build confidence.

"This experience has been very fun," she said. "I will never forget, in our first competition, making it into third place. It was special because we didn't know what we were doing as a beginner team. It gave us huge amount of confidence."

If the teams do well at the super qualifiers, they will advance to the state championships, March 7-8 at Benson Polytechnic High School in Portland, where they will compete for the chance to advance

to the super regionals competition in Oakland, California, March 27-28, followed by the world championships in St. Louis, Missouri.

Last year, a team from Hermiston High School made it to the super regionals competition and hopes to repeat that success again this year. The

team has already qualified for the state competition this year because they volunteered to host each of the local tournaments at Armand Larive.

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