

COMMUNITY

Eastern Oregon Arts Festival attracts a crowd

More than 1,000 people attend Saturday event in downtown Hermiston

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

The Eastern Oregon Arts Festival drew a large crowd to downtown Hermiston Saturday.

Event co-chair Larry Fetter, Hermiston Parks and Recreation director, said the festival went well.

"We've had over 1,000 people here today," he said. "A goal for me would be to double our attendance next year."

A variety of artists displayed and sold their work at booths, and pieces were also on display for a juried group show. Virginia Harris, Umatilla, won the group show with a watercolor, "High Desert Homestead," and was recognized during a reception Friday.

"It kind of surprised me," she said. "I'm delighted, of course. It says there's a reason to keep painting."

Painter Sandra Spencer, Hermiston, was selected by attendees Saturday for the people's choice award.

Chris Huffman, Hermiston, and Karsten Boysen, Port Orchard, Washington, worked on metal sculptures during the festival, and both said they enjoyed the event.

"I think this event is great and turned out really well," Huffman said. "It was nice to see how much the community came out for this. It was packed."

Umatilla artist Jeff Wheeler said the weather was perfect for the festival.

"It's been a beautiful day," he said. "We couldn't have asked for better weather. We've had a lot of people come through."

The event also featured entertainment throughout the day, a variety of food vendors, a farmers market and plant sales.

Carol Mills, vice president of the Umatilla County Master Gardeners, said the event was excellent.

"This is our first year here, and we're very pleased with the turnout," she said. "We've had more fun with the people and kids. We'll be back next year."

Karen Hutchinson-Talaski said the Bloomer Girls Garden Club raised more than \$400 for Domestic Violence Services with the club's annual plant sale.

"It was a very great turnout," she said.



SEAN HART PHOTOS

Children participate in arts activities at the Eastern Oregon Arts Festival Saturday in downtown Hermiston.



Brian Cook, driving the buggy, and Karli Cook, right, offered buggy rides at the Eastern Oregon Arts Festival Saturday in downtown Hermiston.



Artists paint during a reception Friday evening that kicked off the Eastern Oregon Arts Festival Saturday in downtown Hermiston.



Awards were given during a reception Friday for a group art show at the Eastern Oregon Arts Festival.

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