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Christmas tree for Cobalt includes hand-painted skateboard

Published: December 1, 2010

By Gini Davis

Five skateboards with designs hand-painted by local young artist Missy Johnson are serving as a novel fundraiser for Creswell's Cobalt Community Center, and for a possible future skate plaza in Creswell.



Click this picture to view a larger image.

"Not one is the same," Johnson said of her original, unique skateboards.

One of the skateboards designed by Johnson will be auctioned along with a Christmas tree on Dec. 2 during Creswell's annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. It will be one of about 16 trees auctioned as part of the Creswell Youth Advisory Council's Christmas Trees for Cobalt project.

Red, yellow and green adorn the African-inspired Rastafari movement skateboard. Fruitlands Skateboard: Johnson uses the painting technique known as "branding" to embellish the Fruit Lands design, a one-of-a-kind tribute to historic Creswell. The Fruit Lands skateboard will be auctioned off at the Creswell's Cobalt Community Center Christmas tree auction. Graffiti-style autographed skateboard: The black, gold and purple graffiti-style skateboard will bear the autographs of local skateboarders, recreational boarders and staff of Zumiez Skate Shop and Tactics Board Shop.

Photo Kelly Stroble

"The local skateboarding community supports that effort to have a recreational facility available to our youth, especially our older youth, so we wanted to be part of that process," said former Creswell High School teacher Christopher "Doogie" Douglas.

Douglas has since 2007 served as an advisor for a group of local skateboarders working toward the eventual development of a skate plaza in the Creswell area. He commissioned Johnson to design the boards in support of the Cobalt building and skate park projects.

The finished wood skateboard board that will be included with the group's Christmas tree bears the Creswell Fruitlands arch with the legend, Going Strong Since 1909 painted above it.


Johnson decorated the skateboard using a technique known as branding. "I painted it to look like it had been wood-burnt, like it had been gone over with a wood-burning tool," Johnson described.

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"She has been very creative; I thought that was really neat," Douglas said of Johnson's skateboard design.

Another of the skateboards painted by Johnson, a white board with black graffiti-style writing with purple paint splatters, will be autographed by recreational boarders and staff members from Zumiez Skate Shop and Tactics Board Shop, as well as local skateboarders.

"That one would have personal meaning to me, and I'd be willing to pay fair market value for it," noted Douglas.

To date, three boards have been completed by Johnson, who also came up with a Creswell skateboarding logo, Sk895, which has been worked into her original designs.

The third skateboard already completed by Johnson is painted in the red, yellow and green colors of the African-based Rastafari movement, in which red symbolizes the blood of humans and animals, yellow (gold) symbolizes the wealth and resources of the land, and green symbolizes the land itself.

That board, along with other hand-painted, one-of-a-kind skateboards, are slated to be auctioned or sold independently at a future date to raise money toward constructing a local skate plaza.

As part of a community service and outreach project, six or seven members of the local skateboarding community took part in the recent Ford Foundation Leadership Project and helped to build bridges in Garden Lake Park.

"We wanted to show support for Creswell and do our part to bring awareness about the local skateboarding community and toward the skate park," said Douglas, who added that he plans to resume regular meetings of the local skateboarding community to work on the skate plaza project after the first of the year.

"I'd like to kick this thing back up into high gear," Douglas said, noting that the Creswell City Council, in a 2008 resolution, gave their official support to the skate plaza idea, with the caveat that no city funding would currently be earmarked for the project.

"It's a grassroots project, but authorized and supported by the City Council," Douglas explained.

Anyone interested in learning more about the prospective local skate plaza, or in joining the group working toward its development, may contact the group at creswellskateplaza@gmail.com

The group also has a Facebook page and a Twitter account (Creswellsk895).

"We plan to continue raising money and community awareness; it helps to build our base," Douglas said.

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