Shades of the Southwest youth art show draws record number of entries

By Tim Keller — For the Comet | Posted: Saturday, January 24, 2015 11:00 am

RATON – The 3rd annual Shades of the Southwest Youth Art Show, on display at Old Pass Gallery through the end of January, drew a record 85 entries from school-age artists from throughout the region. July Hunnicutt won Best of Show in the high school division with her self-portrait, drawn with a pencil.

Presented by Raton Arts & Humanities Council and Raton Parks and Recreation, cash prizes in all divisions and age groups were underwritten by Raton's First National Loan Production Office, Springer Electric Cooperative, Holiday Inn Express-Raton, Cappellucci's Fire & Safety Company of Trinidad, and the Colfax Reunion band.

Saturday afternoon's artists' reception drew a packed house of young artists and their families. Jared Chatterley and J.R. Alderette, both from Raton Parks and Recreation, announced the prizewinners and handed out awards.

July Hunnicutt

July Hunnicutt's self-portrait, drawn with a pencil, won her "Best of Show" honors in the Shades of the Southwest Youth Art Show at the Old Pass Gallery. She also won a first place award for one of her paintings.

William Worth Warder dominated the kindergarten-second grade division with winning entries in both the pencil and sculpture categories. His "Route 66" won Best of Show for his age group.

The third to fifth grade division saw more diversified results with Giana Marez winning in the pencil category, Sarah Jeanne Warder winning for painting, Creede Chatterley winning for sculpture, and Carson Chatterley winning for photography. Best of Show for the division was won by Sarah Jeanne Warder for her "Tropical Sunset."

In the sixth to eighth grade division, Silver Hunnicutt won the pencil category, Mackenzie Gruver the painting category, and Zeke Alderette the sculpture category. Mackenzie Gruver's "Windmill" won Best of Show for the division.

In the high school division, July Hunnicutt added a first place for painting to the Best of Show she won with her self-portrait. Audrey Munden and Renee Martinez placed second and third in pencil while Patrick Blaisure and Teresa Blaisure won second and third in painting. Megan Pietre won the photography category.

The People's Choice Award, with a $100 prize, will be announced this week after weekend audience votes are tabulated.