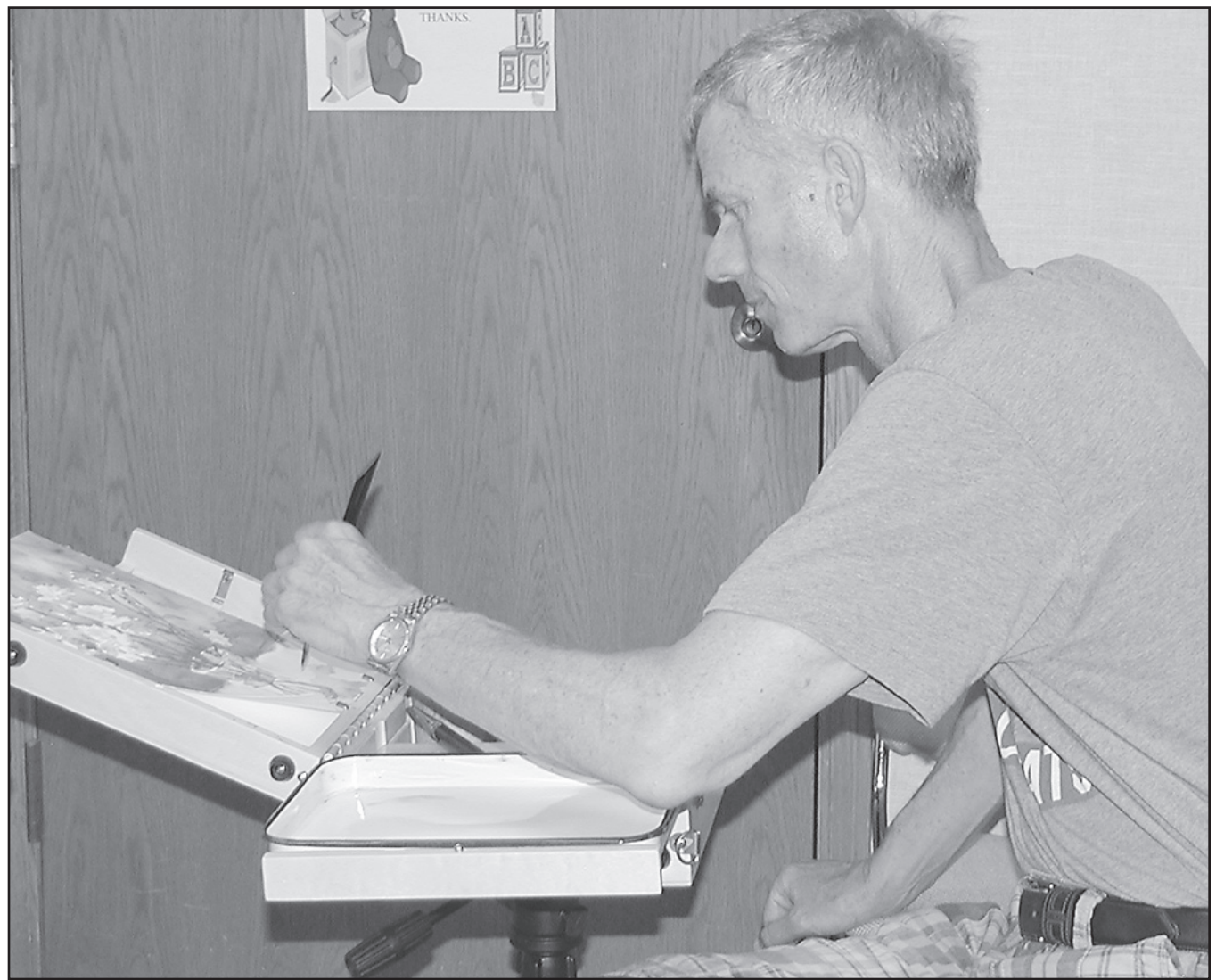


# First art walk deemed successful



MUSIC, ART, POETRY AND COOKIES were enjoyed Friday as people strolled down Main Street and stopped at the five different venues. Top, right, Claudia Bunker brought her harp and charmed the audience at the library. Clockwise, Richard Cram was producing watercolor pieces as Ms. Bunker played. Samantha Beeson arranged her art work displayed at Cuppa Joe Espresso; Allison Grice displayed her photography, cards and jewelry at Shay Realty; Debbie Fiala entertained at Bankwest.

Herald staff photos by Nathan Fiala and Karen Krien

## Despite hot weather, many attend art walk held Friday

By Karen Krien  
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It was hot and it was windy but that didn't stop people from enjoying the Draggin' Main Art Walk Friday afternoon.

This was the first year for the art walk. Two blocks of Main Street had been closed so people could mingle and leisurely walk across the street to enjoy the different events.

Five places, the public library, Jason's Computer Service, Bankwest, First National and Cuppa Joe Espresso, each had entertainment, both local and those with a connection to St. Francis. They also had displays of art, some for sale, others just displayed, and refreshments.

At the library, an in-house painter, Richard Cram, painted watercolor still life pictures which were hung around the

room. People stopped by to watch, often visiting with him as he painted.

At the banks and library, there were chairs where people were found listening to the music or visiting with friends and neighbors. It was the beginning of the St. Francis high school alumni weekend so there were many former students not only checking out the art and music but roaming the street, talking about how things had changed, or what business used to be here or there, or reacquainting themselves with teachers and people they used to know.

The art show was the vision of a group of people who saw St. Francis had a great deal of talent, some which few people knew about. Samantha Beeson, who works at Cuppa Joe had an interesting display of ceramic pieces which gave variety to the fused glass made by Kim

Zweygardt and the intricate watercolor paintings by Kary Zweygardt.

Jen Padgett, who has an eye for taking the old and highlighting it, had photography on display. Billy Perkinson came from Baltimore to make a life on the western plains of Kansas with his wife, Myra. Billy works in a variety of mediums from leather and saddles, to wood, to acrylics which were displayed at First National Bank.

Many know Peggy Moberly as the young lady who paints pictures on the business windows during the fair and at Christmas. Again, few knew about the intricate pictures she paints on turkey feathers. Her work was framed and on display at Bankwest.

Throughout the two hours, there was a variety of music. The music ranged from rock bands, musicians playing flutes, gui-

tars, piano, accordions and Claudia Cram Bunker brought her harp. There were individual poets and singers along with groups of singers.

The art walk was the seed of Bonnie Cram and Janet Carman, who wanted to see the arts better recognized in St. Francis. From there, meetings were held.

Louanne Isernhagen said she had missed the first meeting but, at the second, suggested an art walk of some kind. Many other communities do this sort of thing, she said, whether it be in buildings or along the street.

The group decided on the Friday before the high school alumni gathering, thinking that not only would the local people enjoy it but it would be nice for the alumni coming back to St. Francis. Kary Zweygardt said he could line up the artists, noting that he thought five would be a nice num-

ber to start with. Mrs. Isernhagen said she could line up the musicians and places for them to play.

There were a lot of people involved, she said. There were greeters at each of the venues, organizations provided cookies and drinks, plus there were the many people who stopped by to listen to the music and poets and to see the art.

Everyone seemed to be excited about it, she said.

Her brother-in-law, Fred Isernhagen of Aurora, Colo., said he had enjoyed everything about the art walk and was impressed with St. Francis' Main Street, noting how nice it looked.

On Monday, the planners met to discuss how the event went and what changes, if any, needed to be made for the next art walk.