

Trio of special events highlight Rogue Winterfest

Tickets on sale for festival, which begins Dec. 5

By Kathleen Alaks
of the Daily Courier

Tickets are now on sale for three special events that are part of the 11th annual Rogue Winterfest, scheduled for Dec. 5 through 9 at the Bear Hotel.

The festival showcases 25 beautifully decorated trees and one-of-a-kind art pieces designed by local artists and designers, displayed in a winter wonderland setting surrounded by lights.

Two days of the five-day event, Dec. 7 and 8, are set aside for public viewings. Those tickets are sold at the door only.

The festival's three special events are the Gala and Holiday Auction on Dec. 5, the Golden Social on Dec. 6, and the Culinary Christmas Classic on Dec. 9.

"Ticket sales are going really well so far," says event planner Sue Price. "We're about 75 percent sold out on the culinary event and the gala is about 50 percent sold."



Courtesy photo

The annual Rogue Winterfest event, above, showcases beautifully decorated trees, shown in detail at right, in a winter wonderland setting all under sparkling lights.

Funds raised during Rogue Winterfest support three mental health agencies in Josephine County: Family Solutions, Kairos and Options for Southern Oregon.

Tickets for all three special events are available online at roguewinterfest.org or at Ever-

green Federal Bank, 969 S.E. Sixth St. in Grants Pass. Details of each event follow.

- The Gala and Grand Auction is Dec. 5 starting at 5 p.m. It includes a feast of Southern Oregon bounty catered by Taprock Northwest Grill, Southern Oregon wines, the holiday

tree and art auction and music by 3 Little Birds.

Tickets are \$85 each or \$600 for a table for eight. Those attending must be 21 or older.

- The Golden Social on Dec. 6, gives seniors age 55 and older a chance to preview the show,



enjoy coffee and desserts and listen to Donna Tennaro perform holiday music and songs from the 1940s and '50s. It's open from 1 to 4 p.m.

Tickets are \$3 and they must be purchased in advance. For groups of 10 or more, contact Sue Price at 541-890-5472 or sue@roguewinterfest.org.

- The Culinary Christmas Classic is on Dec. 9 from 6 to 9 p.m. This is a semi-formal affair, with tastings of Southern Oregon wines, microbrews and cuisine, a silent auction and dancing to the music of Broadway Phil and the Shouters.

Tickets are \$45 and guests must be 21 or older to attend.

- Public viewings of the decorated trees will be Dec. 7 and 8. These include live entertainment, family activities and games, visits with Santa, Mrs. Claus and the Snow Queen and a chance to visit the Christmas on Mars exhibit.

Tickets for the public viewings are sold at the door only. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for those 17 and younger or seniors 60 and older or get a family pass for up to six for \$15.

For details about each event, see the event website, roguewinterfest.org.