Setting the mood



PHOTOS BY REX BROWN | THE JOURNAL

Recent Seneca High School graduate Norah Mendoza, who will enroll at Winthrop University in August, puts the finishing touches on a vignette at Lake Keowee Marina on Monday in Seneca.

Marina enlists local help to liven up scenery

BY ERIC SPROTT
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — With brutal heat befalling the region in recent days, most people around the area are doing their best to stay indoors if at all possible.

But for Seneca High School art teacher Fred Edgerton and one of his prized pupils, the best they could do Monday morning at Lake Keowee Marina was accomplish as much as possible before the mercury got too high as they continue to work to beautify the area with a series of vignettes, along with a mural that will soon go up as well.

"Now that this is going pretty well, they're thinking about painting more," said Edgerton, who was flanked by Norah Mendoza at the project site. "The idea was to kind of eliminate a fairly unsightly wall with some stuff that kind of ties thematically into the (marina)."

Playing to the tropical theme of the bar and restaurant at the marina, Edgerton was working on a beach scene, while Mendoza painted a toucan as their day began to wind down shortly before 11 a.m.



Seneca High School art teacher Fred Edgerton works on a vignette along a fence at Lake Keowee Marina on Monday morning in Seneca.

Edgerton said around 25 life-sized birds painted by Seneca students — including Mendoza and Alexus Moore, among others — will be placed around the marina, not unlike the decorated, laser-cut cats the Blue Ridge Arts Center has placed around town.

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SCENERY: 'Work all of Seneca will see'

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"The birds mostly reflect her work," Edgerton said of Mendoza, who graduated earlier this month. "She's pretty much mastered that, and she tied most of the birds together."

Mendoza, who created one of the cats — Chero-Kat — placed by BRAC, said Monday having her most recent work on display at the marina feels particularly satisfying.

"I'm really excited to have everyone see what I can do," said Mendoza, who will major in illustration at Winthrop University in the fall and hopes to become a children's book illustrator. "Obviously, I have to thank Mr. Ed for giving me the opportunity to do it. It's given me a lot of practice into how it is working in the real world, and it's also giving me a chance to work up my resume and show the college what I can do.

"While I'm at college, I can also see if I can do any side work for anyone else. I'm really excited to be able to have work all of Seneca will see."

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