

Wreaths rake in the goods for college, bidders

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The bidding gets competitive for a certificate-festooned wreath from Splash Frozen Yogurt and Coffee Shop in Twentynine Palms. The cheery red creation would bring in \$340 for Copper Mountain College students.

JOSHUA TREE — T'was the season to be generous for the 100 revelers at the third annual Festival of Wreaths Sunday.

The Copper Mountain College Foundation netted more than \$11,000 at the auction for benefits such as scholarships, tutors, book grants, bus passes, travel, special events and the construction of a Student Activity Center.

Businesses and nonprofits decorated and donated 20 large wreaths, each coming with bonuses and gift certificates. For instance, the wreath by Bailey's Auto Repair and National Park Tire of Twentynine Palms included two tickets for the Aerial Tramway, overnight stays at two hotels, a smog check, tire balancing and a Stater Bros. grocery certificate.

The wreath from Pacific Western Bank in Yucca Valley made bein' green easy by bundling in 150 one-dollar bills.

Wind Walkers in Joshua Tree incorporated a dream catcher that could be detached from the wreath and hung separately for sweet dreams.

The only wreath maker that got to keep its \$420 proceeds was cancer-fighteing Relay For Life Morongo Basin. Wreath winner Maxine Perket of relay team Rotaries at Work said her 86-year-old mother, her 91-year-old father an aunt and an uncle all have beaten cancer, so she knew she had to have the lushly ribboned creation.

The only participant who went away a little disappointed was auctioneer and college superintendent Roger Wagner. When opening the bids on the wreath from Wonder Valley's jewelry maker Mikal Winn and hair care's extraordinaire Jeff Hafler, Wagner rubbed his smooth pate winsomely.

"I really wanted that cut and curl," he said with a sigh.

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