

Book's 'Mr. Cherry' comes alive!

BY LINDSAY VANHULLE

Record-Eagle staff writer

One year ago, it was born — “Hidden Cherries,” a children’s book featuring a character known as Mr. Cherry.

Since its release, the book has sold enough copies to grant a second printing and will be available in bookstores across the country, author Anne Lewis said.

And its star, Mr. Cherry, is jumping out of the pages and making his first appearances as a 3-D character.

“Kids are loving him,” Lewis said. “He either makes them laugh a lot or cry.”

Based on illustrator Jim DeWildt’s drawings, Mr. Cherry is becoming a professional mascot, Lewis said.

Mr. Cherry’s first public appearance this year was at April’s National Cherry Festival press conference.

“Kids can relate to costume characters, and they like seeing them,” Lewis said. “It just makes it a lot of fun.”

Planned for Mr. Cherry include book signings and several appearances at this year’s Cherry Festival, including parades,

she said.

Seeing his character in 3-D adds a different perspective to his work, DeWildt said.

“When you work on canvas or paper all day long and then you see this character come to life, it does make it more exciting,” he said. “I know when I did it I had fun doing it, so I think that translates into the finished product.”

The book was conceived as a way to introduce children to the cherry industry, Lewis said. It became the first official book of the National Cherry Festival shortly after its release last year.

“I just think it’s a great way for kids to relate to the Cherry Festival,” she said. “I don’t think you have to just live in Northern Michigan to appreciate it.”



Local artist wins print competition

GARRET ELLISON

Record-Eagle staff writer

D.B. Henkel knows a thing or two about winning art competitions.

A professional artist since he was 9-years-old, he won his first national drawing contest in the Scott’s Fertilizer Early Bird drawing contest, and hasn’t looked back.

Henkel is the 2005 Festival Commemorative Print contest winner, an annual art competition where artists in three categories compete for the distinction of having their piece selected by a panel of judges to be the official limited edition print of the festival.

“Art, to me, is like music,” Henkel said. “It’s all been done in the last 100 years.

Now everything needs a twist to it.” A twist he has brought to his winning commemorative print, which shows a bowl of cherries atop an old issue of Life magazine.

Henkel has won about 25 regional and national competitions in his career. He moved back to Michigan after spending time in Hollywood as a set designer and special effects artist. He is currently illus-

trating a book with his father Donald, called “Painted Treasures,” due on shelves this fall.

Patti Schaap, director of the print contest, is very pleased with this year’s results.

“Every year the quality of prints seems to improve,” Schaap said. “It’s a little contest, in a little town, but the implications are far and wide.”

The contest was judged by Susan McQuaid, Steve Loveless and Jackie Valerio — the 2004 print contest winner.

The first place student winner for the contest was Megan McWatters, a TBA student from Traverse City.

The first place winner for the young peoples contest was Sarah Brunner of Traverse City.



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