

Following their own PATHS



KEVIN GOLDY/THE INDEPENDENT

ABOVE: Sarah Crumpton paints her horse Lucky at Oakview Elementary Friday. The horse will be auctioned to benefit a scholarship fund established in memory of Lisa Price, who died Dec. 24 in a fire.
TOP: Oakview students in Robin Greene's class put a hula skirt on a horse named Aloha.

Auction to benefit scholarship fund

By **KENNETH HART**
The Independent

ASHLAND When Rick Reeves was in art school, abstract art was in vogue. As a result, his ultra-realistic style of painting, which is heavily influenced by the likes of Norman Rockwell and Howard Pyle, was looked upon with disdain, he told students in Robin Greene's sixth-grade class at Oakview Elementary Friday.

But Reeves said he never let the taunts deter him. Today, the Tampa, Fla., resident is one of the nation's most renowned illustrators, specializing in American historical art, including military battle scenes of all eras.

His clients include the Department of Defense, the Mount Vernon Museum, located at the home of George Washington, book publishers, video game manufacturers and dozens of others.

"If you're good at something, you're going to have people disparage you, partly because they don't understand you and partly because they're jealous," he told the students.

"But if you're going into something like this, do what you like. If you go

your own way, you'll love it and you'll be successful at it."

In addition to speaking to Greene's students, Reeves, who was in town for a show of his work at the Ashland Area Art Gallery, dropped off a pair of his prints that he donated for a benefit event that will be Tuesday at Oakview in memory and honor of the school's art teacher.

employed by the Ashland schools for 10 years and had turned 35 the day before the blaze.

A portion of the proceeds from Tuesday's event will go to benefit Price's family. The remainder will be used to start a scholarship fund in Price's memory next year with the Foundation for the Tri-State Community Inc.

"Miss Price, she was very special to us ..."

Emily Preece, holding back tears remembering teacher Lisa Price

The prints — one titled "Pumpkin Patch" and the other depicting the "Orphan Brigade," a Kentucky Civil War regiment — are among the items that will be auctioned off at the Lisa Price Scholarship Dinner and Art Auction, which will run from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Price, who also taught art at Crabbe Elementary, was killed when her family's home on Coal Branch Road in rural Greenup County caught fire on Christmas Eve. She had been em-

Reeves said he found out about the fund-raiser from his friends Brad and Claudia Burgess of Ashland and wanted to contribute.

"My wife's a teacher, so I know the effect they have on kids," he said.

Just how much Price's students still miss her was evident when Greene asked one of them, Emily Preece, to tell Reeves a little bit about Price.

"Miss Price, she was very special to

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us ..." was all she could get out before breaking down in tears. Others in the room, including the adults, were moist-eyed as well.

"She was an awesome teacher," another student, Eden McKenzie, said of Price. "She was one my favorite teachers ever since I was in kindergarten."

McKenzie and her friend, Rachel Jarvis, were among the students who painted miniature horses that were donated by The Trail of the Painted Ponies, a public art project with which Price, who was known for her love of horses, was involved. Their horse is titled "Maiu Aloha" and has a Hawaiian theme.

The Trail of the Painted Ponies sent seven miniature horses to be painted by students, and those also will be auctioned Tuesday, said Greene, the chief organizer of the event.

The benefit dinner and auction are an outgrowth of a les-

son Greene taught her students on The Trail of the Painted Ponies following the holiday break, during the period when Price normally would have taught art class. That led to the students corresponding to the artists involved with the project — several of whom have donated items for the auction — via e-mail.

Tickets for Tuesday's event, sponsored by the Oakview PTO, are \$15 per person and may be purchased at the school. The admission price includes dinner from Outback Steakhouse and entry into a drawing for one of Price's paintings.

More information about the event may be obtained by calling Greene at (606) 928-5015 or Deb Fazenbaker at (606) 326-1825.

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KEVIN GOLDY/THE INDEPENDENT

Emily Preece paints her horse Mr. Tux at Oakview Elementary Friday. Her horse, along with other horses and paintings, will be sold to benefit a scholarship fund.

