

Guide Dog Depot to feature art work by Lena Contreras

Guide Dogs of the Desert has started a new feature at its Guide Dog Depot in Palm Springs.

Each month the depot will feature the talent of a visually impaired individual, whether entrepreneurial or artistic, said Kim Laidlaw, spokeswoman for Guide Dogs.

“The depot is an educational facility. We thought it fit perfectly to take it one step further. And it’s been a lot of fun,” Laidlaw said.

The first showcase is the work of artist Lena Contreras, a resident of Davis. Contreras said she started making pine needle baskets by hand about five years ago.

“I met another guide dog owner who makes them and at the time I was a member of the 4-H club that raises guide dogs up here. She showed me how to make them,” Contreras said.

She incorporates stones and beads into her straight needle baskets.

“(People) seem to like them. I’ve had friends order them. Lots of people seem to like them because none of them (are) the same,” Contreras said.

In coming months the depot is expected to feature the coffee of a master roaster and business owner as well as the work of a ceramic artisan.

The depot is at 125 Tahquitz Canyon Way.

For more information, call (760) 327-5920.



Guide Dogs of the Desert is featuring the works of artist Lena Contreras at the Guide Dog Depot. Contreras makes pine needle baskets by hand.