

Owners' son paints store windows

By **MARY MARGARET PECHT**
Sentinel correspondent

A giant Christmas display in the show windows of Burnham Hardware emerged full-blown from the fertile imagination and agile fingers of youthful artist Steven Kochenderfer — who just happens to be the son of the store's owners, Dan and Suzanne Kochenderfer.

Kochenderfer, who turned 12 on Feb. 4, started drawing as a young child — all kinds of things, from cars to butterflies — but had no real formal training. When he was “6 or 7,” he says, he found a computer website on how to draw and started drawing, mostly video game characters. Then “I just kept going and going.”

In December, fresh from a post-Thanksgiving trip to Disney World, he and his mother stopped at a Christmas bazaar at Stitches in Time in Millerstown. While browsing about the complex, he came upon an artist — “a lady painting, downstairs,” he says, and stopped to watch. And inquire.

“She showed me a couple things, like how to mix colors, make a background, all kinds of different things,” he explains.

He came home, asked for paints, and his father offered him both encouragement and the store's 500 square feet of show windows as his canvas.

The rest is history. He spent about two weeks — outside in the cold, wearing gloves — to get the store's giant Christmas display completed, using tempera paints. Everything was done freehand.

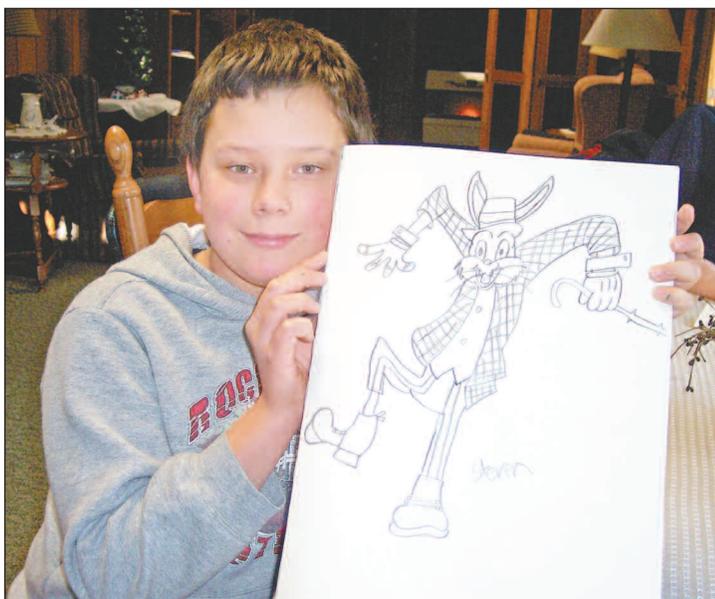
“I started with the doors, with candy canes, and I just kept on going,” he says, with a grin. The display, which eventually covered all the show windows, depicted winter scenes including snowmen, penguins, a “Peanuts” scene with Snoopy and Charlie Brown, and a snowball fight.

The youthful artist says he wants to try more seasonal



Sentinel photo by BUFFIE BOYER

Charlie Brown grins from a Christmas display in a window at Burnham Hardware, the work of young artist Steven Kochenderfer.



Sentinel photo by MARY MARGARET PECHT

Steven Kochenderfer, of Yeagertown, displays a pencil drawing of Bugs Bunny, which he sketched from an antique character cell. The youthful artist recently painted 500 square feet of show window at Burnham Hardware.

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