

Sewing Sisters

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are plushies, focusing on making them cute and colorful. The two created a series of iconic cat and food themed plushies — the most popular being a cat and cheeseburger hybrid. Bailey said each piece is an art doll.

“My sister and I like a lot of the same sorts of things, so collaborating on designs is always a smooth process. I’ve always been inspired by all of the cartoons that we grew up with,” Tivoli said.

Tivoli said her favorite part of the process is brainstorming.

She said it is fun to imagine all of the possibilities and she and her sister are never short on ideas.

Bailey and Tivoli have different roles in creating their products. Bailey heads the sewing and basic design while Tivoli focuses more on graphics and refining the character design.

“We spend so much time, my sister and I, making these things, that it’s basically what they are — it’s just art,” Bailey said.

A typical order will come to the sisters as a collection of references for a specific plushy.

Bailey recalls getting a request for a robot named Juju with cat ears, big orange buttons and a gorilla-esque stance. Bailey said she prefers these unique, individual projects.

“That wouldn’t have existed unless someone went and found someone to make it for them. It makes me feel so happy to make something special for somebody that they care about,” Bailey said.

Bonnie Allison, a friend of Bailey, has a couple plushies by the Nickerson sisters. One is of Zubat from Pokémon.

“I love them! Her original designs

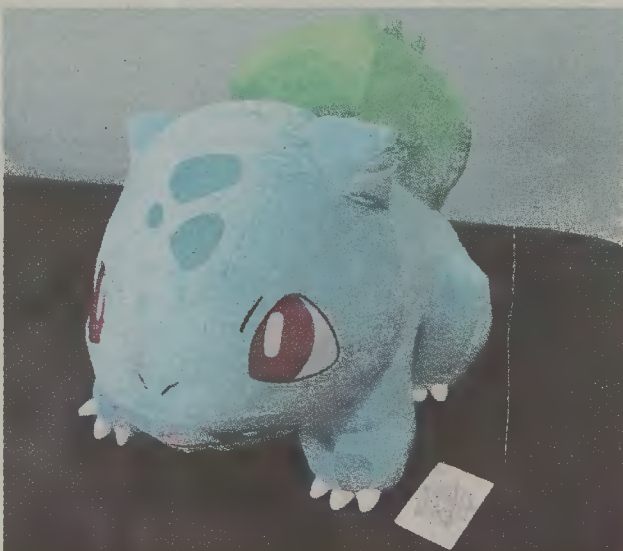
are very cute and creative,” Allison said.

Bailey’s next big project revolves around designing her own costumes for this year’s Dragon Con. One will be a kigurumi (the Japanese equivalent of a onesie) inspired by the video game character Spyro, while another will be themed after the Japanese Rilakkuma bear character. She draws most of her inspiration from Japanese mascots and American “geek” culture.

Bailey said her dream would be to have her own sewing shop.



Bailey Nickerson sports a Bulbasaur backpack she sewed.



This is a Bulbasaur plush made by the sisters.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY THE NICKERSON SISTERS

The sisters use patterns to make their creations.



PHOTO BY RACHEL VAN NOORDT
Bailey Nickerson poses for a photo.



Tivoli Nickerson poses for a photo.