

Shopping local is a win-win for all

■ Spread cheer to local artisans & businesses

Art Center East and Crossroads Carnegie Art Center have joined to promote local shopping this holiday season. Both art centers are offering safe, socially distanced options for browsing and purchasing gifts from their gift galleries.

“We want to focus on what is still possible and why it matters,” said Sarah West, Art Center East’s community outreach coordinator. “Northeast Oregon is home to so many talented artists. It takes a little more effort to shop with them compared with the major online retailers, but our goal this year is to make it as easy as possible.”

Both art centers offer a selection of locally made art and craft items through their gift shops, but the promotional campaign goes beyond their own retail efforts, as they lend support to “shop local” efforts such as the Union County Commerce’s Shop Hop going on Dec. 3-5 in La Grande.

The county-wide shopping event mimics the Monopoly board game, with participants collecting “properties” by having their game card signed or stamped at participating shops. The completed cards are then entered for a chance to win prizes donated by local businesses.

Along the way, shoppers are encouraged to consider purchasing holiday gifts for family and friends — the Shop Hop is a win-win for everyone.

Pick up a game card and map from one of the participating businesses, which are listed at www.facebook.com/TravelUnionCounty. Completed cards must be turned in by 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, at any of the businesses. The Chamber will draw for winners — with three

grand prize gift baskets up for grabs. Prize winners will be announced by the Chamber via Facebook and email on Dec. 8.

Art Center East is participating in the Shop Hop, and customers wanting to support local artisans can visit ACE’s gift gallery any day. Socially distanced in-person shopping is allowed Wednesday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Members are given a 10% discount all year in the gift gallery. This December, everyone who spends \$150 in the Gift Gallery will get a free individual membership, or spend \$200

for a free household membership.

If you are not comfortable coming inside to shop, ACE is offering virtual tours of the gift gallery via Zoom. Contact info@artcentereast.org or 541-624-2800 to make an appointment.

Baker City’s Crossroads Carnegie Art Center’s gift gallery inventory in online, and the shop will be

open for in-person visits Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a limit of six shoppers at a time.

Baker County gift-seekers: also see page 2 for more on shopping for art in Baker City and page 6 for the link to the online 4-H Christmas Bazaar. Online auctions supporting the Josephy Center’s “Gift of Art” and La Grande’s Festival of Trees also are detailed on p. 6.

For more information about Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, 2020 Auburn Ave., Baker City, visit www.crossroads-arts.org or call 541-523-5369. For more information about Art Center East, 1006 Penn Ave., La Grande, visit www.artcentereast.org or call 541-624-2800.



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