

The Cottage: A Co-op Offering Local Art and More in Scappoose

By Scott Laird

Are you one of those people who like to buy from local businesses whenever possible? Do you like to support local artisans, crafts people and small business owners? When you do your holiday shopping do you look for unique, one-of-a-kind items that tells the recipient they are someone special?

If you answered yes to any of these questions then you need to stop by and shop at The Cottage in Scappoose.

Based on a cooperative business model, The Cottage is a shared space featuring the work of over twenty artists and vendors, similar to the Made In Vernonia store that many of our readers may already be familiar with. The Cottage offers locally crafted art, gifts, flowers and more.

Located in Old town Scappoose, just a few blocks off Highway 30, near the Scappoose City Hall and Library, The Cottage recently moved to this new location on July 15th. Prior to the move, the store had been tucked away by the DEQ office; they opened in that location last November.

The new location has been great for business, according to store “manager” Sarah Mann. “We have most definitely seen a difference,” says Mann.

A walk through The Cottage will open your eyes to all kinds of local talent and gift items that you probably haven’t

seen before. Which is exactly the point. The inspiration for The Cottage storefront came from Mann herself, who had been developing her personal business as a “special events” florist. She



Above: Sarah Mann is the owner of Flora Designs and the manager of The Cottage.
Below: Pottery by Cody Galvin.



saw an opportunity to introduce a more artistic element to floral designing in the Scappoose area and was looking to expand into the everyday floral market. “I thought, ‘How could I get a retail space that could maybe support itself and give me a venue to have a work space,’” says Mann. “And I started

thinking of all the other creative and talented people that I knew in Columbia County and the Portland Metro area who had thought about opening a shop themselves, which of course requires a lot of resources.”

Mann was able to bring together a group that bounced ideas around and eventually opened the original store. “The end result you see here is very different from the rough draft that we initially envisioned,” says Mann. Mann says she originally had a partner when the business began. “Debra Miller was hugely instrumental in helping bring all the pieces together and get the doors open.”

Mann seems to be the perfect fit as the face and personality of The Cottage. Friendly and engaging, Mann knows something about each of the vendors she helps represent in the store and the story behind their work that is on display. She is extremely knowledgeable about, and excited to talk about each of the artists. Her enthusiasm for her work and place in the community comes shining through as she discusses the cooperative business model and the many artists and crafts people who are represented in the store.

So far the concept seems to be working. Mann’s *Flora Designs* business is the anchor which allows her to open the store Wednesday through Saturday. The Cottage contains work and products from over twenty artists and vendors—anything from colorful paint-

Seth Cutright to Receive Life Saving Award

Columbia County Sheriff Jeff Dickerson announced this week that the Oregon State Sheriff’s Association will be awarding its Life Saving Award to Seth Cutright, the Vernonia youth who rescued his grandmother from their burning home on October 12, 2012, and suffered burns as a result.

“Seth Cutright’s valor and fearlessness in braving the inferno to save his grandmother’s life is an inspiring story,” the sheriff said.

Sheriff Dickerson nominated Cutright, age 12, for the statewide award after learning of his heroism. The Oregon State Sheriff’s Association represents the 36 elected sheriffs of Oregon, which recognizes outstanding achievements by employees and the citizens they serve during its annual conference.

This year’s conference is December 2 through 6, with the awards banquet scheduled for Wednesday, December 5 in Bend. Cutright and members of his family will be on hand to receive the award that night.

ings and photography to jewelry to hand-made baby clothes. Mann says the store originally opened with just five vendors, so the growth has been tremendous.

Mann showed me around the store and pointed out some of the highlights in the store, although she was disappointed that she wouldn’t have a chance to talk about all of them. For Mann, it is hard to single out any of the vendors—she thinks they are all fabulous!

Local artist *Sally Stevens* is from
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mt. hood
adventure



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sustainability
day



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trick-or-treat

Incumbents Win Reelection in Columbia County

Incumbents held the night in Columbia County on November 6 as all of the local races tipped in favor of those running for reelection.

Long time County Commissioner Tony Hyde defeated challenger Tammy Maygra to retain his Position 3 seat. Hyde received over 61 percent of the vote to Maygra’s 38 percent.

Earl Fisher was also reelected as County Commissioner, winning Position 1 in a close race over Wayne Mayo. Fisher received 50 percent of the vote; Mayo received 49 percent of the vote.

Columbia County Sheriff Jeff Dickerson overcame a challenge from within his own office, defeating deputy Dave Fuller by a margin of 59 to 40 percent.

In local races, Josette Mitchell, Randy Parrow and Kim Tierney were all reelected in Vernonia after running unopposed. Mitchell will retain her seat as Vernonia

Mayor after winning with 87 percent of the vote; there were 86 write-in votes. Parrow and Tierney will also return to the Vernonia City Council; Parrow received 48 percent of the vote, Tierney received 39 Percent and there were 125 write-ins.

Oregon State Representative Brad Witt held his seat in District 31 in the Oregon House. Witt, a Democrat, defeated Republican challenger Lew Barnes, as Witt garnered 53 percent of the vote to the 41 percent that Barnes received.

In the US Congress, Democrat Representative Suzanne Bonamici held her seat in the 1st Congressional District, receiving 60 percent of the vote.

Nationally, Columbia County voted with the rest of the state of Oregon to reelect President Barack Obama. Columbia County cast 50 percent of their votes in favor of the Democratic incumbent, trending below the Oregon number of 54

percent. Republican challenger Mitt Romney received 45 percent of the vote from local voters, Romney received 42 percent statewide.

There were numerous ballot measures under consideration in Oregon this election. Oregonians voted against several measures including rejecting Measures 82 and 83 which would have allowed private ownership of casinos in the state, including a proposed casino in Wood Village. Oregonians also rejected Measure 80 which would have legalized the possession and cultivation of marijuana and hemp; Colorado and Washington State both passed similar measures. Oregonians also voted against Measure 84 which would have phased out the estate tax.

Oregonian’s approved several measures including Measure 79, which prohibits additional property taxes and Measure 85, which allocates the corporate kicker refund to education.