

Mini plus store coming to Kerby

By
Jenna Larkin
IVN Contributing Writer

From grocery stores, to clothing stores, to a discount food store; this town has it all to help serve the community and its needs. Or does it?

For years Tony's Appliance has provided appliances from washers and dryers to refrigerators at competitive prices and providing a service to those who otherwise would not be able to travel to Grants Pass. For a few months now driving down highway 199 one notices that the appliance store has been moved down to one end of the building while the main doors have been closed and some remodeling has been going on. This remodeling is good news to the consumers of this valley.

On August 19 Dollar Deals, next to Tony's Appliances in Kerby, will officially open its doors. Dollar Deals is a mini dollar plus store that will sell everyday items at low discounted prices. Some of the store's products will include, but is not limited to, themed and non-themed party supplies, plenty of automotive supplies to keep your vehicles happy, hair products ranging from hair ties to shampoos and conditioners, cleaning products, and basic household supplies to help with everyday cleaning tasks. The store will also stock a full array of school supplies to help those who are not able to make the trek into Grants Pass.

"We want to be able to help those who may not be able to make the trip into Grants Pass every time their child needs something for school. Now they won't have to," said Miriam Daugherty, one of the managers of Dollar Deals.

The store will also be donating supplies to the schools in hopes to cut down on some of the school's costs and help provide supplies to those kids that may not have other means of procuring the needed items.

"We decided to open the mini dollar plus store because there is nothing like it in the Valley or surrounding areas. We wanted to provide products that people use every day but have to travel to purchase them," said Tony Smith, owner of Tony's Appliances and Dollar Deals. "Now people that don't have the means to always get into Grants Pass to purchase certain products can come here and get what they need."

Dollar Deals also plans on stocking items for all the major holidays, such as Easter, Halloween, and Christmas. The staff will be open to suggestions to help improve the store and the communities' needs.

Dollar Deals will be open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. For any questions or information contact the store at 541-592-4903.

Make sure to watch the paper for future advertising for a grand opening happening in September.



(Courtesy photo for The Illinois Valley News)

Desiree Johnson (left) and Miriam Daugherty are ready for the opening of the new Kerby store.

Annual event It's the Berries is a success

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With signs leading the way, It's the Berries took place this past Saturday at the Belt Building located in Kerby.

It's the Berries is organized and hosted by Order of the Eastern Star, a fraternal organization of the Masons. Order of the Eastern Star is open to men and women, who must be related to a member of the Masons, while the men have to be Master Masons.

Local artisans and community members rented booth spaces and sold handmade items along with housewares. There were a variety of

items for sale, including jewelry, potted plants and shrubbery, and household items such as glassware, cups and lamps. There were also homemade berry pies and cobblers. The Creepy Creeping Crust cobbler was a favorite among patrons. The cobbler is a recipe in "It's the Berries" cookbook which can be purchased at the Kerby Museum. All proceeds go to the museum.

"This was our first time with not really knowing what to expect. Over all, we did well," said Terry Starkenburg, mother of Raelyn Starkenburg, who made a variety of jewelry to sell as a fund-raiser.

Raelyn Starkenburg is raising money to travel to Los Angeles to attend International Models and Talent (IMTA) in January 2014. Starkenburg is currently enrolled in IMD, a well-respected modeling/talent agency located in Medford.

"I was one of ten selected out of about fifty people to attend IMTA," said Starkenburg.

Plenty of other vendors did well considering the Josephine County fair was happening the same weekend and the smoke from the surrounding wildfires had rolled back in. Although there didn't seem to be too many complaints about the smoke returning. People were just happy to be able to get out and enjoy the company of others on a beautiful, sunny, summer day.

"We did well, it was a little smoky, but there was lots of good company," said Sarah Svendsen, one of the vendors. "The area for vendors

was easily accessible making it easy to set up."

Svendsen had a variety of household products for sell along with masonic emblems.

When the Blackberry festival died away a few years ago the local Eastern Star chapter decided to bring something similar to the festival back to the Valley, hence the It's the Berries was organized. After a fee is paid to the Belt Building for its use, the rest of the proceeds go to charities and the Daisy May scholarship for nursing. Some of the charities include but are not limited to the Oregon Science Institute, cancer research and the Shriners.

Anyone wishing to apply for the Daisy May scholarship can contact the local Eastern Star chapter and

apply. Applicants must fill out an application and write an essay as to why they should receive the scholarship and be enrolled at Rogue Community College (RCC) taking classes related to nursing or be enrolled in the nursing program.

With It's the Berries being a success this year, planning will begin soon for next year's event. The event is set to run sometime in August.

"I would like to thank everyone involved. The community, the vendors, and everyone that helped organize this event," said Hazel Griffith, head of It's the Berries event. "Thanks for everyone's support."

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