

Community News

Florence Chamber names holiday décor winner

Kitchen Klutter, 1258 Bay St. in Historic Old Town Florence, has won the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce's "We'll Be Home for the Holidays" store décor contest. Nearly 20 shops around town signed up to participate and compete for shoppers' votes in December.

"Outside we had lots of garland, lights, a wreath on the door, and Christmas décor in our flowerpots. Inside, we had a theme in each section of the store — Christmas, woodsy, snowmen — and a cocoa bar display with marshmallow snowmen, mittens, reindeer and trees," said manager Jan McKnight.

"We just came up with

some ideas, but Suzi Bennett made it pretty. Brett McKnight did the outdoor decor and Laura Pinnock, a Siuslaw High grad who owns Glamour Pots in Portland, came down and decorated our flowerpots," added McKnight.

"The whole promotion by the chamber helped. We were happy with the extra traffic it brought."

The chamber made a number of adjustments to its annual holiday festivities to comply with COVID-19-related regulations while still offering some fun marketing support for members. Locals were invited to "Shop Where You Live" and visitors were invited to "Shop Where You Play — In



COURTESY PHOTO

Kitchen Klutter's winning design used greenery and lights to make a festive statement in Florence over the winter holidays.

Hannigan. "We've been telling people to just stop shopping online for generic gifts and find special gifts — unique to the recipient — something really thoughtful and specially selected for the individual. Florence shops and galleries are full of those kinds of things."

"Without Santa's arrival with the fire department procession, hayrides, the Cider, Cookie, and Cocoa Trail, live music or caroling to help draw people to Florence, we needed to rally together to help save small businesses," added Hannigan. "Jan and her team did a great job and we've presented them with a nice plaque declaring

them this year's winner.

"We made Shop Small Saturday, the day after traditional Black Friday, a month-long celebration of local businesses in Historic Old Town Florence and all around town. It seemed to make a difference."

Kitchen Klutter has been owned and operated in the same location by various family members since 1981. It is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and until 5 p.m. Sundays.

"We pride ourselves on carrying the newest, best, and most interesting items to help you stock your kitchen. We also carry products for bath and body, babies, home decor, and gourmet foods. Our knowledgeable staff will help you find exactly what you've been looking for, and maybe something you never knew you couldn't live without," said McKnight.

Learn more about the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce at www.FlorenceChamber.com.

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New partnership expands childcare affordability for West Lane

Childcare has been one of many challenges facing families during COVID-19. Amidst remote work, job loss and economic uncertainty, many families are also experiencing a new need and expense: childcare for their school-aged children.

United Way of Lane County has helped forge a new partnership with the City of Florence, the Tykeson Family Foundation and the Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County to expand the affordability of childcare for local families.

"We know how important it is, not only for our kids to have a safe place to go, but how important it is to our workforce to have a safe place for those kids to go while their parents are being a member of the workforce," said Sarah Moehrke, Eco-

nomic Development Catalyst for City of Florence. "So, we knew that if we were able to pay partial scholarships or full scholarships for some students to attend The Boys and Girls Club, then that would alleviate some of the problem."

With CARES Act funding from the City of Florence and an additional investment from the Tykeson Family Foundation, United Way of Lane County has granted The Boys & Girls Club of Western Lane County with funds to cover the cost of childcare for 30 families.

"The group that I am most concerned about are the ALICE families — Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed," said Chuck Trent, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County. "They may be working two or three part-time jobs to make ends meet... but of-

tentimes what happens is they make just a little bit too much that they're not capable or not able to get state assistance or federal assistance. So, we're doing everything we can, with the help of United Way and the City of Florence, so that those families don't have to choose between whether they put food on the table or whether they have childcare."

United Way's long history of mobilizing people and resources to meet community needs, along with the eagerness of The City of Florence, The Boys and Girls Club, and the Tykeson Family Foundation to collaborate, were instrumental in bringing this opportunity into fruition.

"Raising funding and investing back into the community to help families is something that's our superpower," said Bess Jayme, United Way's Director of Education. "It's what we do."

The long-term impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on local communities is top-of-mind for the Boys and Girls Club, said Trent.

"We feel a deep responsibility to this community and to our kids. Because if you think about it, our future teachers, doctors, bankers, plumbers, electricians, the people that are healthcare providers, the people that are the future childcare providers — they're in our clubs today," he said. "At the end of the day, if we're not doing our part to make sure these kids stay at grade-level, that they have the kind of support services they need, the community is the one that suffers the most."

"We've got to do everything we can today in order to make sure that there's a bright tomorrow."

For more information about Boys and Girls Clubs of Western Lane County, visit www.bgcwlc.org.

'Souper Bowl of Caring' underway

In partnership with Florence Food Share, Florence Habitat for Humanity has a goal to raise 1,000 lbs. of non-perishable food for Food Share and \$1,000 for Florence Habitat.

Habitat will be accepting food and monetary donations between now

and Wednesday, Feb. 10, at Florence Habitat ReStore, 2004 Highway 101 in the Grocery Outlet Shopping Center.

For information on making a donation, email florencefoodshare.org/donate.html or go to www.florencehabitat.org.

COMING SOON TO VIRTUAL

CITY LIGHTS CINEMAS

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SUPER BOWL SUN 2 - 5:30 PM

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\$5..... SODA
\$5..... BEER/CIDER

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For more information on our closure and current status, please visit www.citylightscinemas.com

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 6	FEBRUARY 7	FEBRUARY 8	FEBRUARY 9	FEBRUARY 10	FEBRUARY 11	FEBRUARY 12
Showers	Cloudy	Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Showers	AM Showers
49°F 41°F	47°F 39°F	48°F 36°F	49°F 37°F	50°F 39°F	49°F 39°F	50°F 41°F

Health is our #1 Priority!

At Shervin's we are taking extra precaution in order to ensure that our customers and staff are kept safe and healthy during this quickly changing situation.

1 Car Sanitation – All cars are wiped down with a sanitizer before and after the service. We wipe down any areas in the interior where employees have touched, such as door handles, the steering wheel, keys, shifters and power window panels.

2 Hand Sanitation – Our staff will continue to wash their hands throughout the day and change gloves after each car they service.

3 Give Customers Options – We will pick up and deliver your vehicle to your home. You may also drop your key in our secure mailbox for drop-offs to avoid or minimize contact.

4 Employee Illness is Serious – We are encouraging employees not to shake hands. We are practicing "personal distancing" and encouraging employees to stay home if they feel under the weather.

5 Wipe Down High Touch Points – We wipe/spray counters, credit card machines, door handles, phone handles, kitchen areas, and chair arms and tables in waiting area multiple times a day. We continue to be focused and committed to working with each of you to ensure we continue to meet and exceed your expectations. We are here for you.

We thank you for your business and more importantly, your friendship. Please be safe and exercise extra precaution during this challenging time.



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