

Super Art Walk turns into an A/C crawl

BY MATT HOLLANDER
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The weather did its best to foil Cottage Grove's plans for a Super Art Walk Friday night. When triple-digit temperatures lingered into the early evening and the downtown streets were sparsely populated, one might have thought that Mother Nature had succeeded. But there were in fact many people who came to take in the festivities — they just preferred to stay inside where it was cooler.

"I believe there has been a lot to see tonight, and there has been some particularly good music," said Laura Panella, who was enjoying the folk band Corwin Bolt and The Wingnuts at the air-conditioned Victoriana's with her out-of-town acquaintance, Frank Xavier.

"It's been amazing," added Xavier, who was visiting from Southern California. "We came for booze and stayed for the band."

The last Friday Art Walk was hyped by city leaders as a Super Art Walk due to the Oregon Mayors Association's 2015 Summer Conference being held in Cottage Grove. On top of the usual Art Walk activities, Friday's hours were expanded to 4-9 p.m. with several additional displays and activities.

"We've all had a great time, and the city is wonderful," said Scappoose Mayor Scott Burge.

Due to the extreme heat, several of the conference's activities were rearranged; for example, an outdoor lunch at Bohemia Park was relocated to the Village Green.

Burge said he has been to nine OMA conference's in a row, including the 2010 meeting that was also held in Cottage Grove. He said that although it was much hotter than five years ago, he appreciated the new twists on the event; for example, each conference attendee was given a dessert coupon to use at a local restaurant during Friday's Art Walk.



photos by Matt Hollander

Top Left: Rarely opened to the public, Territorial Seed Co. opened its doors for the Super Art Walk so that people could take in the commissioned murals of Michael Jamisch.

Top Right: Scappoose Mayor Scott Burge poses with the Animal House Deathmobile.

Left: Corwin Bolt and the Wingnuts (from left) — Josh Britton, Jeremy Sher, Tim Long and Corwin Bolt play at Victoriana's during Friday's Art Walk.

MAYORS

Continued from page 1A

opening ceremonies and the appearance of Ted Wheeler, Treasurer of the State of Oregon, as keynote speaker, noted as a highlight of the weekend for many of the mayors.

High temperatures began to interrupt plans on Friday, and the day's two meals — a lunch under the stage cover at the Bohemia Park amphitheater and dinner at the Cottage Grove Armory, were moved to cooler locations (the Village Green Resort and Community Center, respectively). Many of the mayors could later be seen fanning out throughout downtown Cottage Grove following Friday's dinner to take part in the Super Art Walk, which included a progressive dessert and a charm bracelet scavenger hunt.

Saturday brought presentations about Oregon's Scenic Bikeways, tours of local museums and lunch with pilots gathered for the annual Stearman Biplane Fly-in at the CG Airport.

On Monday, an exhausted Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers said that the weekend was a big success.

"It's a fun thing to do every five years or so," he quipped.

Mayors from larger communities included Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy and Biff Traber, who was attending the conference for the first time as the Mayor of Corvallis. Trader noted the presentation by Treasurer Ted Wheeler as a highlight because it allowed the visiting mayors to view the bigger picture with regard to how the state operates.

"Before now, I've been very much focused on local activities," Traber said. "But as mayor, I'm beginning to realize that I have a substantial responsibility to represent the City at the state level."

Myrtle Creek Mayor Ken Brouillard and his wife, Marilyn, said they thoroughly enjoyed the tours of Pacific Yurts and the Dorena hydro project. Brouillard is himself a newly elected mayor of a town of just over 3000 inhabitants.

"It's nice to see what other cities are working on, what they're working with and what they're facing," he said. "You come here and find out that you're not in a room all by yourself."

Brouillard said that, much like Myrtle Creek, he observed that Cottage Grove "wants an identity" and "wants opportunities for its businesses to do well."

Cottage Grove Mayor Tom Munroe observed that everyone he had interacted with seemed to be enjoying themselves. He said a spirit of service unites the mayors.

"Most of us approach it with an attitude that we're volunteers," Munroe said. "I don't see any of the snobbery, whether it's from a big city or small town. It's just a good bunch of people."



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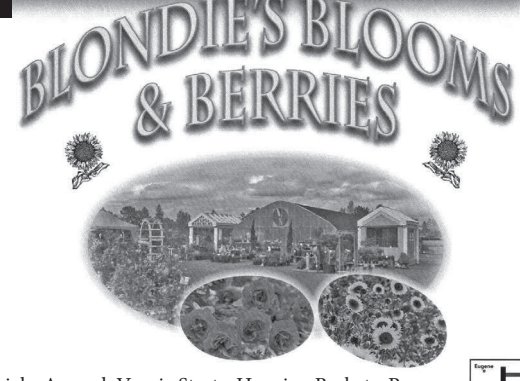
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