

# Delight celebrates its 6th birthday with day of fun

By Eric Schucht  
For The Sentinel

Therese Nguyen never would have imagined her business making it to its fifth year anniversary, let alone its sixth. Delight, the family owned anime and game shop in downtown Cottage Grove hosted several activities on the Saturday after Thanksgiving to commemorate the occasion.

"I just wanted to have a cute store on Main Street," Nguyen

said. "I had no idea we'd be here for six years."

The celebration's events were meant to highlight the various community activities the store hosts. Nguyen said Delight is meant to be a community gaming space for all ages. Activities included a cosplay and anime meetup, trivia and card games, professional yoyo player Will Prater and Henna artist Vesta Snyder in attendance. Several prize giveaways occurred throughout the day. Prizes in-

cluded goody bags, promo booster packs, and slime.

Delight carries various game accessories, anime collectables, and other unique gifts.

Store inventory includes colorful socks, small toys, journals, keychains, plushies, pins and cosplay wigs among many other things. Candy, ice cream bars, sodas, ramune, pocky, and other treats can also be found on sale. Nguyen said they sell novelties in order to stand out in the area. "It's hard to make it in a small

town, especially when you're competing with big box stuff," Nguyen said. "So we tried to get unusual stuff."

To kick off the celebration, the first 100 people who arrived received cookies shaped as the character catbus from the anime film My Neighbor Totoro. Fans of Attack on Titan, Sailor Moon, Pokemon, Dragonball Z, Sword Art Online, Fairy Tail, Soul Eater and many other animes are sure to find something in the store to enjoy.

"I didn't know if people in Cottage Grove would like anime, but it was a huge hit," Nguyen said.

On Nov. 2 the store launched a Lego Robotics after school program. Delights partnered with Eugene Sudbury School, Opal Center for Arts and Education and Bohemia Elementary to provide the program. Using Lego Mindstorms EV3 kits and software, kid's grades 3rd through 5th get the chance to learn step by step programming. The after school program runs from 2:45 p.m. to 4 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday throughout the month of November. The program takes a break for the holidays for the month of December and starts up again in January.

As Delight is positioned in a niche market, Nguyen said they have to rely on the community for support. Nguyen was able to receive an Oregon Individual Account Grant from Aprovecho, a local nonprofit, to help support the business. For every dollar saved, the program matches with a \$3 grant, up to a total of \$9,000, lasting for a six

month to three year period.

But to Delight's owners, the business has never been about raking in huge profits. Nguyen said she just wanted a youth friendly store on Main Street that even her daughter could enjoy. Many of the kids who visited Delight since it first opened have now grown up. Nguyen's enjoyed watching kids who were once in middle school continued to visit the store as young adults.

"It's not about making money. You do it because you care about where you live. I got into it to have a place in a small town where people can have fun," Nguyen said.

Delight is located on 538 E Main St. and open Tuesdays to Fridays from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Delight moved to its current location a year ago in order to have a larger space.



## How to give

### Research before Giving

Begin to narrow down your list of charities by conducting some basic research.

Make sure the charity you are considering supporting is a bona fide, tax exempt 501(c)(3) public charity (all of the charities evaluated by Charity Navigator meet this basic requirement).

### Examine the finances

Ensure the charity is accountable and transparent. Charities that are an open book and follow good governance practices are less likely to engage in unethical or irresponsible activities.

### Discuss Results and Impact

A charity's ability to bring about long-lasting and meaningful change in the world is the key reason for their existence and for your donation. So, before making a contribution, talk with the charity to learn about its accomplishments, goals, and challenges.

### Create a budget

Understanding the tax benefits of giving and spacing out gifts during the year (via automatic monthly donations) may boost your overall giving capacity.

### Follow Your Investment

Remember to follow up with the charity in six months to a year to find out how they're using your money. Once you are assured that the charity is making an impact, make a commitment to support their work for the long haul.

## Health, Happiness & Wellness

A guide to local businesses committed to helping our community thrive

### Counseling & Mental Health

#### South Lane Mental Health

Serving Cottage Grove Since 1988  
• Outpatient Counseling for Children, Adults & Couples  
• Psychiatric Medication Management  
• Crisis Assistance

541-942-2850 • 541-942-3939 • www.slmh.org

### Dental Health

#### Delaying going to the Dentist?

Sedation Dentistry is a Dream come True... find out if its for You!

#### BIRCH AVENUE DENTAL



• Comprehensive General Dentistry  
• Advanced Cosmetic Techniques  
• Implants

1325 Birch Avenue, Cottage Grove

541.942.2471

Park W. McClung, DDS & Tammy L. McClung, DDS

#### See Dr. Bitner D.D.S., P.C.

350 Washington Ave • Cottage Grove

(behind International Fitness)  
Lumineers The Most Natural Veneer 541-942-7934

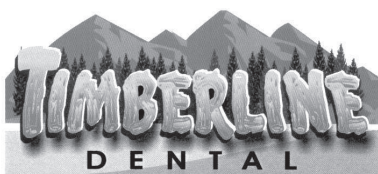
#### Douglas G. Maddess, DMD



Preventive and  
Cosmetic  
Family Dentistry

New Patients Welcome

914 South 4th St. • Cottage Grove • 942-1559



#### Dr. Shane Parsons

605 Jefferson Ave.  
Cottage Grove

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm

Emergency appts. available daily

New patients welcome

2 Hygienists available • Same friendly and caring staff

Please call for an appointment at 541-942-9171



Benjamin R. Thornton, D.D.S., M.S.

www.thornton-ortho.com

541.686.1732

### Pharmacies

#### BI-MART Pharmacy

OPEN at 9am Mon. - Sat. • Convenient Walk-Up Window  
100 Gateway Blvd. • 942-9107

Cottage Grove  
Prospectors and Goldiggers  
Presents

## Dr. Snapp's Holiday Bazaar

Historic Dr. Snapp House  
360 South River Road  
Cottage Grove, OR

Looking for a special gift this holiday season?  
Visit our historic Victorian house, enjoy our holiday  
treats and browse among our sale items from .50 cents to \$50

Friday, December 1 4:00pm to 8:00pm  
Saturday, December 2 10:00am to 8:00pm  
Sunday, December 3 11:00am to 3:00pm

To list your business  
call us 541-942-3325