

Out of the Blue specializes in Kentucky products

- By Keith Lawrence Messenger-Inquirer - 11 hrs ago



Photo by Greg Eans, Messenger-Inquirer.com/geans@messenger-inquirer.com Matthew McCloud, general manager of the Hampton Inn & Suites Owensboro Downtown/Waterfront, sorts through t-shirts on Monday in the hotel's store, Out of the Blue. The store, which just recently opened in the hotel's west wing, offers souvenirs featuring Kentucky-themed products.

When guests at the Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton Owensboro Downtown/Waterfront want souvenirs of their visit, they no longer have to leave the hotel.

Out of the Blue, a store featuring Kentucky-themed products, just opened in the west wing of the hotel's ground floor in the former Buds Tweentique location.

The name comes from Kentucky's nickname -- the Bluegrass State -- Matthew McCloud, the hotel's general manager, said Monday.

Corey Wathen, store manager, said Kentucky-made barbecue sauces, jewelry, candles, shirts, socks and candy are currently available.

Bourbon, gin, vodka, wine and craft beer from Kentucky -- as much as possible from Owensboro -- will be arriving soon, he said.

There are recycled barnwood plaques in the shape of Kentucky.

And repurposed whiskey barrel heads that say, "Heaven must be a Kentucky kind of place."

Bluegrass music plays over the store's sound system.

"We don't carry the little souvenir trinkets," Wathen said. "But we're getting in more Owensboro stuff. And we're always looking for more."

McCloud said the hotel hopes to offer more art work by local artists.

Photographs by Adam Paris and glasswork by Ann Demko will soon be available.

McCloud said local artists and people who create local products can call the hotel at 270-685-2005 to talk to Wathen about getting their work in the store.

"We want to support Owensboro and Kentucky," he said.

Store hours are currently from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and from 9 a.m. to noon on Sunday.

But Out of the Blue will begin staying open until 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday in a couple of weeks, McCloud said.

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