

Apartments, retail going up downtown

Renovated 1919 bank to host two retail space, apartments

BY NICK ROSENBERGER

Redmond Spokesman

Drive past the intersection of Sixth and Deschutes streets in downtown Redmond and it's hard not to notice the imposing columns and white brick of the former First National Bank — or the construction crews hard at work, renovating the 105-year-old building into new retail storefronts and a five-apartment complex.

The project, headed by Mission Building and Renovation, is bringing to life a downtown building steeped in Redmond history.

The renovated bank, built in 1919, will lease space to two retail businesses. Jessica Klein has already signed a contract on one of the storefronts, with plans to open a retail operation similar to her former Corvallis clothing and boutique called Mod Pod Decor. Her Redmond business will be called Desert Prairie Boutique.

The other space is still available, according to Francis Senger, owner of Mission Building and Renovation. The Bend-based general contractor often focuses on revitalizing historic buildings.

The five apartments behind the bank, meanwhile, will feature a one-bedroom unit with parking on the first floor. The second and third floors will host both a one- and two-bedroom unit.

The apartments, once completed, will have a brick façade that matches the bank, said Senger.

The building, located now at 404 SW Sixth, is an iconic image of Redmond. It was built just nine years after the city was incorporated and 15 years after Frank and Josephine Redmond



Nick Rosenberger/Spokesman

The First National Bank building at 404 SW Sixth in downtown Redmond sits under construction as Bend-based Mission Building and Renovation LLC converts it into two retail spaces and five apartments.

first settled amid the surrounding juniper and sage. It was the second bank to be built in the fledgling town and was constructed by Ole K. Olson. The pillars gave off an Egyptian air and the building housed U.S. National Bank from 1937 to 1973.

Its most recent renovation began in summer 2021 and is expected to be completed in November, said Senger.

“People really identify with it,” he said. “It brings a unity to how people view the town instead of being all spread out.”

If you're talking about revitalizing a downtown space, Senger it makes sense to renovate one of its oldest buildings. There's a community need to bring those buildings back to usefulness.

“It provides a real clear picture for people downtown,” he said.

It hasn't been the easiest renovation. The bank needed structural upgrades and a new roof. Plus, there was the 14-inch thick vault, which had to be removed by hand.

“(It) took a couple guys like a week of hitting it with jackhammers,” Senger said.

Much of what will soon be apartments had to be demolished, which was difficult to do without damaging the historic bank, Senger said.

“Retaining the building in its basic form helps people identify with where they're at and the history of the town,” he said.

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Minnie the mouser lounges on the job, picks books

Herringbone adds a bookstore cat

BY LEO BAUDHUIN

Redmond Spokesman

Minnie takes great pride in her staff picks shelf at Herringbone Books. One of her latest displays includes Minnie Mouse's bedtime storybook and the children's titles “They All Saw a Cat” and “Cat Problems.”

“She's probably sold more of her books than we have of ours,” Herringbone owner Brandon Weimer said.

Most of the day, Minnie lounges in her tree near the front window of the bookshop, located at 422 SW Sixth in downtown Redmond. From time to time, she offers a meow to greet an approaching customer or get to her feet and pad over to the adjacent display table for pets.

Minnie, a black-and-white house cat, has been a store staple for since roughly Aug. 12, according to employee Leila Irwin.

Weimer said he has always wanted a bookstore cat and plans fell into place when BrightSide Animal Center put

him in touch with two young women who were looking to rehome a cat they couldn't take care of anymore.

Fortunately, Minnie fit Weimer's requirements. She's friendly, likes to window watch, doesn't try to make an escape every time a customer enters the store and — miraculously — walks into her pet carrier “almost like a dog” — so it's easy enough for Weimer to take her home at night. The only drawback is that she doesn't interact well with dogs, but Weimer or Irwin will make sure she stays out of the way if a customer wants to bring their pup into the store.

“She's just been a great addition,” Weimer said.

And she's been a hit with customers, as well.

Weimer and Irwin said they'll have customers stop by just to say hi to Minnie.

“I get people who come in like, ‘We always see you Brandon. Where's Minnie?’” Weimer said. “Oh, okay, now I'm chopped liver.”

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Photo by Leo Baudhuin/Spokesman.

Minnie relaxes in her cat tree in the window of Herringbone Books.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Man found dead in river near Terrebonne

A man who went swimming in the Deschutes River near Terrebonne on Saturday, Aug. 13, was found dead the following day, the victim of an apparent drowning near Lower Bridge.

According to the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, crews responded after 9 p.m. Saturday, August 6 to Lower Bridge Way for a report of a missing person. A caller told deputies that he had been swimming with a friend that afternoon and left to run an errand. When he returned, his friend was missing.

Deputies, two search and rescue volunteers, a drone with thermal capabilities, and a police dog searched the area in the dark, without success. After 7 a.m. the next morning, a full crew returned to the area to continue searching. About noon on Sunday, the missing man was found dead roughly a half mile downstream from Lower Bridge Way.

The man's identity is being withheld until next of kin have been informed. As of Sunday,

police said nothing suspicious was noted in the investigation, which is not criminal.

Dates set for 2023 Sisters Rodeo

Tickets for the 2023 Sisters Rodeo will be available Sept. 1, the Sisters Rodeo Association Board of Directors announced.

The annual rodeo has been set for Wednesday June 7, 2023, with following rodeo performances running from Friday June 9, 2023 through Sunday June 11, 2023.

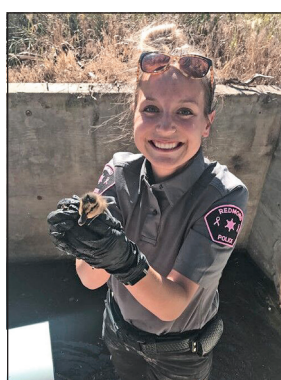
Tickets will be exclusively available online at tickets.sistersrodeo.com/p/tickets.

The board also announced that tryouts for next year's rodeo queen will take place Saturday, Sept. 10. Next year's queen will have the opportunity to represent the 83rd annual Sisters Rodeo in promotional events across the state.

The competition is open to women who live in Oregon and will be between the ages of 18 and 25 as of June 1, 2023.

Applications are available online at sistersrodeo.com/

Redmond police officers rescue ducklings



Redmond officer Sara Casselman rescues ducklings from a drainpipe last month.

By Spokesman staff

Over the course of three days last month, Redmond Police officers twice rescued and reunited stranded duckling. On July 16, community service officers Sara Fenno and CSO Casselman, with assistance from Central Oregon Irrigation District, saved a duck-

ling stranded in a locked drainpipe. Three days later on July, officers Jonathan Manski and CSO L. Barajas, with the assistance from the Redmond Public Works Division, reunited five ducklings with their mother after they got stuck in a storm drain, according to Redmond Police.

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