

September First Friday Art Walk set

BY TIM TRAINOR

Redmond Spokesman

The next edition of the First Friday art walk, organized by the Dry Canyon Arts Association, is set for Sept. 2 from 4-7 p.m. The monthly event showcases local artists and businesses, offering opportunities for customers to purchase and enjoy local makers.

This month's featured artists include printmaker Rick Thompson, who graduated from the Art Institute of Seattle and enjoyed a long and varied career as a graphic designer. His work will be displayed at Eqwine Wine Bar, 218 SW 4th St.

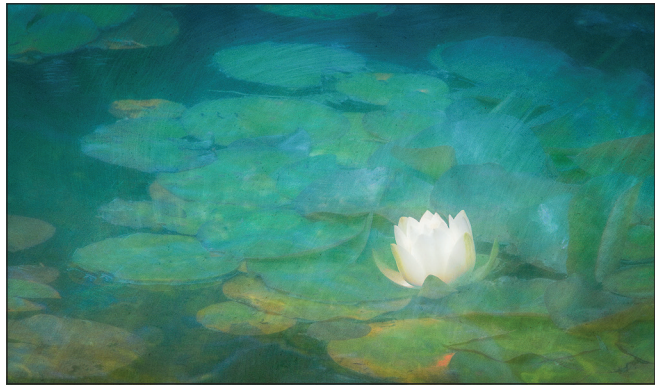
The silk scarves of artist Joan Bertucci Sheets will be displayed at SCP Hotel, 521 SW 6th. Sheets has been an art educator in public and private schools for children and adults and worked for the Portland Art Museum.

Grace & Hammer Pizzeria, located at 641 SW Cascade Ave, will host the watercolor and acrylic paintings of Wendy Wheeler-Jacobs. Wheeler-Jacobs works primarily in watercolor and acrylic to capture local birds, animals, plants and landscapes. She especially loves painting at Smith Rock.

The wood carvings of Redmond resident Bill Hunt will be displayed at Arome, 432 SW 6th Ave. Hunt took up wood carving after he retired, when he began creating fencepost ducks out of 100-year-old cedar posts from Central Oregon cattle ranches. Hunt then de-



Local artist Shireen Gastineau will be featured for the September edition of the First Friday Art Walk.



Painting by Shireen Gastineau

cidied to expand his art into his hobbies of golfing and fishing by re-purposing rare persimmon wood clubs into hand-carved duckheads and juniper wood for his stringers of fish.

Junction Roastery, 708 SW Deschutes Ave, will show the

vibrant mixed media abstract art of artist Vance Perry. Perry uses numerous techniques to create his abstract pieces.

"At some point it tells me I'm done," he said. "It starts with an open mind, proceeds with choices and ends with a



A group of quail carved by local artist Bill Hunt.

piece that is complete. It told me so."

The High Desert Music Hall, 818 SW Forest Ave., will show the digital photo art of artist Shireen Gastineau. Gastineau starts with im-



Courtesy photos

Artists of many disciplines will be celebrated at the next First Friday Art Walk, set for Sept. 2 from 4-7 p.m.

ages gathered in nature, then heightens it with digital tools, such as "paints" and "layers."

"Those images transform into a world of my making," she said. "Most of my art is at least a half dozen, often 20 to 100, layers of my images blended to a finished piece."

The Redmond Senior Center, 325 NW Dogwood Ave, will show off the geological structures of artist Camille Fitterer. Fitterer is a passionate

rockhounder, treasure finder and nature lover.

"Each sculpture is created from my rockhounding treasures and is a mix of natural stones and stones which I have polished myself," she said. "It is fun to see how it all just comes together."

For additional information on the artist or the art walk itself, visit drycanyonarts.org.

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Aha airline flying out of Redmond goes bankrupt

BY SUZANNE ROIG

CO Media Group

After flying twice-a-week from Redmond to Reno, Nevada, Aha, the low-cost carrier of ExpressJet, stopped flying on Monday and filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy, according to the airline.

No passengers were left stranded at Redmond Airport and the Aha check-in counter was left empty, said Zach Bass, Redmond Airport director.

Bass declined to comment on the ramifications of the decision by ExpressJet to file for bankruptcy.

ExpressJet operated flights from the Reno/Tahoe area to 11 cities in the Western United States, according to company information. Prior to operating Aha, ExpressJet had been the airline flying as Delta Connections and United Express. At its peak, ExpressJet operated more than 450 aircraft, according to company information.

"A combination of conditions led us to this decision," said Subodh Karnik, ExpressJet's CEO, in a prepared statement. "Despite the valiant efforts of our employees to overcome challenges and despite great support by our cities and airports... we arrived at a point where termination of operations was in the best interest of our stakeholders."

Customers with tickets on Aha were instructed to contact their credit card companies for refunds. ExpressJet, the parent company of Aha, is not assisting with credits or travel arrangements, according to the airline's website.

It's the second carrier to cut back air service to Redmond. In July, Allegiant canceled its flights in and out of Redmond Airport from Mesa, Arizona, and Las Vegas. The routes started in 2019, and the airline had initially suspended them seasonally through October.

"I don't think this is a reflection of Central Oregon's attraction," said Damon Runberg, Oregon Employment Department regional economist. "It's more of a reflection of these businesses and COVID-19's impacts on travel."

According to Redmond Airport's website, Avelo Airlines, another low-cost airlines, will



Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin file

Passengers board an Aha jet for the inaugural departure from Redmond Airport to Reno-Tahoe International Airport on Nov. 5, 2021.

begin adding service to Palm Springs, California, starting Nov. 11. The Houston-based carrier announced the twice weekly nonstop service on Aug. 4. Avelo also operates a direct flight from Redmond to Burbank Airport near Los Angeles.

The Central Oregon Air Service Team, a collaborative task force of regional representatives from visitor bureaus and economic groups, meets regularly with airlines to retain and attract air service at Redmond Airport, said Julia Theisen, Visit Central Oregon CEO.

In July, Redmond Airport recorded 52,405 people getting off an airplane and 51,893 getting on an airplane, about the same number as recorded in 2021, according to data on the Redmond Airport website.

"Visitor demand to Central Oregon remains strong from both air and drive markets," Theisen said. "Visitors con-

tinue to seek out the region for its natural beauty, recreational opportunities, and arts and culture."

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Heaven Can Wait 5K run fundraiser returns Oct. 2

By Spokesman staff

After COVID-19 forced the Heaven Can Wait 5K walk/run into a virtual fundraiser, the popular event will return Oct. 2 to a new location: Redmond's Dry Canyon.

The run/walk raises money for Sara's Project and will take place at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 2. The event will start and end at the Redmond High School stadium with a course that runs through Dry Canyon.

The event, in previous years, had been in Bend. It has been one of the largest races and fundraisers in Central Oregon.

"It is our hope that bringing Heaven Can Wait to Redmond will provide a more central location for community members who have been touched by breast cancer to come together, wherever they are in their cancer journey," said Anna Contreras, events and development

specialist with St. Charles Foundation in a press release.

Heaven Can Wait raises money for Sara's Project, a fund of the St. Charles Foundation that helps provide support services to people in Central Oregon who are battling breast cancer. Over its 23-year existence, the event has raised approximately \$100,000 each year for assistance to under-insured patients, as well as therapies such as therapeutic massage, acupuncture, yoga, and reiki.

Heaven Can Wait has also become an opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate cancer survivors while also remembering loved ones.

"It has been almost three years since the community last gathered to support this powerful event," said Mari Shay, administrative director of cancer services for St. Charles. "This will be my first Heaven Can Wait, and I look forward to meeting more cancer survivors and our community partners as we stand together to support those who are battling breast cancer."

To participate or volunteer in the 5K walk/run, register at HeavenCanWait.org. For questions related to the event, call 541-788-2940 or email afcontreras@stcharleshealthcare.org.

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