

Finding peace behind the podium

Weekly Toastmasters meetings provide support for public speaking skills

BY NICK ROSENBERGER
Redmond Spokesman

Nervous energy radiated through a room Nov. 29 at the Church of Christ in Redmond. Feet tapped, heartbeats raced and fingers flexed as members of the local Toastmasters club prepared for the opportunity — however excruciating it may be — to speak.

Alayna Weimer's knee bounced as she waited to stand in front of the 10 people scattered around the room. She stood up, smiled, walked to the podium and began to speak in a clear, smooth voice.

"Thank you, madam president, fellow Toastmasters and guests..." she began.

Weimer is a member of the Redmond Toastmasters club, a nonprofit focused on improving public speaking and leadership skills for members. It is a nerve-wracking weekly event that is both an opportunity to bond with others and a fierce example of bravery.

Gary Einhorn, an 80-year-old business consultant who has been involved with Toastmasters for about 14 years, was so nervous his first time at a club meeting that he knocked the podium over.

"It was just total anxiety and panic," said Einhorn.

He said it can take time to get comfortable with public speaking, but there are lasting, positive effects for those who do. Einhorn said he saw an interest increase of about 30 to 40 percent after Toastmasters gave him the confidence to present and promote his business.

"After a period of time doing it, my life changed positively," he said.

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SPORTS



Hit the slopes

Hoodoo Ski Area opens for the season. **A8**

BUSINESS



Cookie time

New bakery, Kook'i, comes to Redmond. **A5**



Rendering courtesy Deschutes Public Library

The front of the proposed Redmond Public Library, facing out to Centennial Park.

Starting a new chapter

Redmond library readies for demolition, reconstruction

BY TIM TRAINOR • Redmond Spokesman

The former Jessie Hill School, current home of the Redmond Library, will not live to see 100.

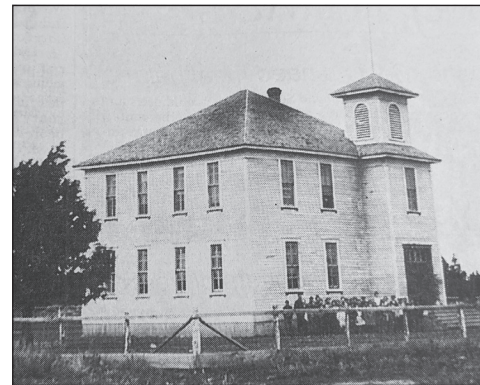
Built in 1929, the historic building in downtown Redmond will be torn down next month to make way for a new, two-story library that will be built at the same location.

In the meantime, Redmond pa-

trons will have to check out books, access the internet and do research in a smaller, less inviting space at 2127 S Highway 97 for the nearly two years of construction.

But once the new building is finished, Deschutes County Library officials say it will meet the needs of growing Redmond for decades to come.

See **Library** / A6



Redmond's public school, built in 1908, served grades 1-12. The building, which stood on the site of the present Redmond Public Library and former Jessie Hill School, was enlarged to double this size in 1911.

Spokesman file photo

Sewing school is in session

'Professor Pincushion' teaches basics of sewing via video, new book

BY TIM TRAINOR
Redmond Spokesman

From her 500-square-foot studio built in her Redmond backyard, Tova Opartny makes instructional videos for her more than half a million subscribers.

Opartny has made more than 500 such films, posting them both to her website and her YouTube page under the moniker "Professor Pincushion." In each one she teaches techniques that help DIYers overcome the hurdles that invariably pop up and stifle creative projects.

It takes about a week to produce each video, each well-lit with plenty of transitions and post-production work. But the advertising on her website and video channels is enough to pay the mortgage and allow Tova to be a full-time content creator.

"I'm not rich by any means, but (YouTube) has

helped me make a living doing what I love," she said.

Now, Opartny is branching out. She recently wrote a book "Professor Pincushion's Guide to Sewing: Garment Making for Nervous Newbies." During the process, Opartny was quickly reminded that writing and sewing have a lot in common. Both require consummate planning, a need for creative thought and — invariably — the creator finds themselves in a tight spot where the whole darn thing just seems impossible.

"Writing is basically like sewing," she laughed. "You're crying all the time."

Opartny grew up in the Bay Area of California. Her mother was a hobby sewer and taught Opartny the basics, but it wasn't until a high school class that she found her passion for fabric arts. As a high-achieving student with loads of Advanced Placement classes, sewing freed up her mind to think creatively. She loved troubleshooting problems and making something meaningful out of mounds of scraps.

See **Sewing** / A6



Courtesy photo

Tova Opartny, with her beloved sewing machine. Together, the duo produce videos to help DIYers complete complicated projects.

WEATHER FORECAST

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TUESDAY
Sunny
37/17



WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy
37/17



THURSDAY
Rain/snow
38/22



FRIDAY
Partly cloudy
38/21



SATURDAY
Snow shower
37/22



SUNDAY
Snow shower
39/24



MONDAY
Cloudy
42/21

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