

By SAMANTHA SWINDLER
The Oregonian

Perez, who owned a moving and storage company in California, became the day-



Samantha Swindler/The Oregonian

Klindt's Booksellers was founded in 1870 and is the oldest continuously operating bookstore in Oregon.

The bookstore is a beloved institution in The Dalles, a community of about 15,000 residents. When Klindt's

Inside, the space looks relatively unchanged from an old-fashioned general store. Perez took advantage of the pandemic closure by refinishing the original wood floors of the shop, and sanding and painting the original bookshelves that line the walls.

For years, stories have been told about the ghost of Edna Weigelt, who supposedly haunts the shop. After her brothers sold the store to the Klindts, Edna stayed on

"We have our regulars who come in just about every day, to chit-chat about books or politics or whatnot. It's a fun place in that regard," Perez said. "Bookstores are

"We're caretaking a legacy," he said. "There's a lot of responsibility in it, but there's also a lot of joy."

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