

Lion's Mane

Continued from A1

needed to move buildings or my business wouldn't survive. I needed to hire people to work at the Lion's Mane to make its survival rate higher. But I couldn't hire anyone with no room for them to have their own station. I began looking for a new building and that's when I found the perfect building. It's in the middle of town and close to the middle and high school and I still own this building today."

Hirst explained how hard she had to push and how much money she had to save. She said she had to explain to her family, the benefits of buying the building despite the financial impact.

For Hirst, this difficulty turned into a success. Hirst bought the building on 4th St. that she had worked so hard for.

When Hirst bought the building, she had the room to hire employees to work with her and expand her clientele. She hired Kim Sabin, Dee Welch and Donna True-Dennis. Sabin and Welch were hairdressers there and True-Dennis was a nail tech.

Hirst's building also has a room with a tanning bed where people could tan for a very affordable price. Hirst said she wasn't out to make money with her business, she wanted to be able to treat people with

her talent of doing hair and to make them feel good about themselves. Hirst said, "Once I purchased the building and hired people to work at the Lion's Mane with me, it was time to start servicing the people of Cottage Grove. My prices were super affordable and I think that's why I got clients so quickly."

Today, Hirst's business has changed a little bit. Hirst's nail tech, True-Dennis, had to leave the business due to arthritis. Sabin and Welch still continue to work there and don't plan on leaving anytime soon. Although Hirst, who is now 64-years-old, is getting neuropathy making it harder for her to do hair and she has had to cut back on her work significantly. Hirst was working three, 10 hour days and one half day and now she works just half days. Hirst is still proud of how far her business has come. From being in such a small building where no one else could work, to being in a building now where she has two other employees. Hirst has faced struggles but has said that her family and love for the community are what helped her push through it. Her advice to business owner is to focus on what's best for your business and the community, not just what's best for you.

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SLFR personnel headed home from CA



Members of South Lane County Fire and Rescue are headed home after battling the wildfires in California that have claimed more than 30 lives and hundreds of homes. Division Chief Joe Raade and Chief Jon Wooten were dispatched to the area, along with members of SLFR, as part of five strike teams sent to California from Oregon.



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