

Business Pulse

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“When we started this we didn’t really have a clue what to expect,” said Jewell.

Jewell said he’s heard from a restaurant owner who is interested in the space, which could be a mouth-watering option. Other possibilities have been offices, which have appeal because they bring people downtown to work every day.

No matter the tenants, the building is two giant steps forward for Main Street McMinnville. It’s a notch in the win column. It’s a victory for the good guys wearing white. It’s marvelous.

REMODEL YOUR KITCHEN AND BATH

After years of hibernation, new home construction in Warren County has shifted into overdrive. The stout economy has also led to a rush in home remodeling projects, especially for kitchens and bathrooms.

With that in mind, long-time home improvement specialist Kris Pawlak has opened a showroom for his business, RSR Kitchen



Furry Tales has moved to its new location on Main Street next to Topz and across from Park Theater. The larger location allows for more retail items for your four-legged friend, including tents and chew toys. Pictured is employee Tiffany West.

and Bath. The showroom is located at 1710 Smithville Highway and can be reached at (931) 304-8179.

“I’ve been selling cabinets for about two years and everybody would ask me about my showroom,” said Kris. “So I decided it was time to open a showroom.”

Kris has owned other home improvement businesses over the years and

he did a first-rate job installing windows at my house more than six years ago. I thought that little testimonial might come in handy.

RSR offers seven brands of cabinets in dozens of colors and profiles to ensure there’s a product that fits your scheme.

“This is just a fraction of the cost of custom cabinets,” said Kris. “Cus-

tom cabinets are so labor intensive because you’re doing it all by hand. This is a much more affordable alternative.”

RSR can offer a complete kitchen remodel, or it can tackle smaller projects like new countertops. Work has been steady and Kris says he has been keeping six crews busy. He says it will likely take two months to get a complete bathroom or kitchen remodeling on the schedule and about two to three weeks for smaller projects.

“We also sell directly to the homeowner if anyone wants to install it themselves,” said Kris. “We sell hardware and have thousands of elements to choose from.”

RSR offers vanities from 24 inches long to 72 inches. If you haven’t seen the latest in kitchen and bathroom lighting, you can stop by the showroom and see all the retro fixtures that are in stock.

If you have a project in mind, Kris says he can provide a free estimate. He says the materials selected can make a big difference in the cost and there are many options that aren’t



Gus the dog enjoys getting a haircut Friday morning at Furry Tales. The business has a new location and a new number, 506-7331.

high-end that still look great.

RSR is open six days a week, Monday thru Saturday. The showroom is located across from Morton’s Horticulture. If you’ve been thinking about remodeling, a trip to RSR is a great place to start.

NEW LOCATION HAS BITE

Furry Tales has scampered to a new location, leaving its side-street spot on Spring Street in favor of a prime-time storefront on Main Street next to Topz and across from Park Theater.

“A lot of people didn’t know we existed,” said Furry Tales employee Tiffany West. “We’ve gotten a whole lot more foot traffic. People will stop in and say, ‘I didn’t know anything about you guys’ and we’ve been open two years. I guess they didn’t see us as much at the other place.”

Dog grooming remains a mainstay of the operation. Tiffany says business has been solid thanks to

customers who keep their dogs well-maintained and groomed every five or six weeks. At the new Main Street location, there are three dog grooming tables and two bathtubs.

The most noticeable upgrade is the much larger retail space that allows for more dog-related merchandise. There are clothes, play toys, leashes, tents, collars, umbrellas, homemade treats, and even life jackets for water recreation.

“Anything you can buy for yourself you can also buy for your dog,” said Tiffany.

Furry Tales is co-owned by Angell Boland and her mother, Jill Eckert. If there’s a dog in your life you’d like to see looking better, give the business a call. The new phone number is 506-7331.

THAT’S ALL FOLKS

The constant barrage of business activity is refreshing. If you have a business tip to bring to my attention, the number is 473-2191.



The new construction on East Main Street across from First National Bank is showing steady progress. Real estate developer Jewell Hale estimates the project is about three to four months away from completion.

Do Verizon, AT&T make it hard to switch?

NEW YORK (AP) — The Justice Department has opened an antitrust investigation into whether AT&T, Verizon and a standards-setting group worked together to stop consumers from easily switching wireless carriers.

The companies confirmed the inquiry in separate statements late Friday in response to a report in *The New York Times*.

The U.S. government is looking into whether AT&T, Verizon and telecommunications standards organization GSMA worked together to suppress a technology that lets people remotely switch wireless companies without having to insert a new SIM card into their phones.

The Times, citing six anonymous people familiar with the inquiry, reported that the investigation was

opened after at least one device maker and one other wireless company filed complaints.

Verizon, which is based in New York, derided the accusations on the issue as “much ado about nothing” in its statement. It framed its efforts as part of attempt to “provide a better experience for the consumer.”

Dallas-based AT&T also depicted its activity as part of a push to improve wireless service for consumers and said it had already responded to the government’s request for information. The company said it “will continue to work proactively within GSMA, including with those who might disagree with the proposed standards, to move this issue forward.”

GSMA and the Justice Department declined to comment.

News of the probe emerge during a trial of the Justice Department’s case seeking to block AT&T’s its proposed \$85 billion merger with Time Warner to over antitrust concerns. That battle centers mostly on the future of cable TV and digital video streaming.

Verizon and AT&T are the two leading wireless carriers, with a combined market share of about 70 percent.

PHOENIX (AP) — U.S. health officials on Friday told consumers to throw away any store-bought romaine lettuce they have in their kitchens and warned restaurants not to serve it

amid an E. coli outbreak that has sickened more than 50 people in several states.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention expanded its warning about tainted romaine from Arizona, saying information from new illnesses led it to caution against eating any forms of the lettuce that may have

come from the city of Yuma. Officials have not found the origin of the contaminated vegetables.

Previously, CDC officials had only warned against chopped romaine by itself or as part of salads and salad mixes. But they are now extending the risk to heads or hearts of romaine lettuce.



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