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## A new lease on an old St. David landmark

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Chris McFarland of Battalion Enterprises is renovating one of the best-known buildings in the St. David area.

HECTOR ACUNA HERALD/REVIEW

**ST. DAVID** — Judging by how quickly new tenants filled the yet-to-be-finished Battalion Office Complex, there was a great need for office space in St. David.

Chris McFarland, a U.S. Border Patrol retiree and owner of Beloved Companion pet crematorium, is renovating one of the best-known buildings in the St. David area.

The plan is to bring the old Grandma Goodman's grocery at 78 W. Patton back to life as a commercial office complex. The 3,800-square-foot building will house six businesses, with five of the spaces already reserved.

The first of move-ins are expected sometime in September, with Chris taking one of the spaces for his Beloved Companions business.

Battalion Office Complex derives its name from a monument erected across the street in 1960. It commemorates The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints battalion's camp in 1846 and the return of Capt. P.C. Merrill to San Pedro in 1877.

The building's unique sign was painted by Doug Quarles, a locally-known artist who's created several murals in Benson, with his art decorating the Benson Visitor Center.

One of the office spaces is to be the future Tara's Trimz Salon, owned and operated by Tara McFarland, Chris' wife. Tara has operated the salon in Benson for five years. She welcomed the move to a salon of her own.

Real estate broker Kiri Hall intends to relocate her office from a shared space in Benson to the new building, where her business Mariposa Realty will be headquartered.

Hall lives in St. David and was pleased to learn of the new office space.

"My initial desire was to find a space in St. David, but I couldn't find one," Hall said.

She used an agent to find her the space in Benson, and when the Battalion became available, she jumped at the chance.

"Oh my gosh, they're doing office space," she said. "That would be perfect, so I instantly reached out to them."

Jamie Lynn's Heart Minds Sole is a FootZoneology clinic, helping clients through the signal system of the feet to heal the body, a practice she's studied for more than nine years.

"It's similar to reflexology," Lynn said. "It's just more in depth, it works with the entire foot."

Ashley Savage's retail business started for the love of nature and being outdoors. The family-owned business will be a home goods store with natural and nature related items, wooden spoons and bowls, jewelry and art, all showcasing nature and natural methods of fabricating.

Savage is a woodworking artist, and the other members are also creative and will help operate their retail space. Husband Jeff and oldest son Jeffery will manage the business end of the shop.

Daughter Jade works with clay to create jewelry and son Jaxon, who creates heart pendants and jewelry, will sell their art at the store along with the wares of outside vendors and creators.

The location of the Battalion Complex comes with a bit of history.

When Ann Taylor Goodman started a mercantile business out of necessity following the death of her husband in 1885, she probably didn't know her business endeavor would be part of the St. David community for more than 100 years.

According to accounts of the time written in "Mormon Pioneers of the San Pedro Valley – St. David Arizona" by the St. David Heritage Society, Mrs. Goodman, having been left with nine children to feed, sold the family cow to pay for funeral expenses and used the remaining funds of a few dollars to buy a few bars of soap and a few articles to resell.

She turned a room in their home into the first rendition of Grandma Goodman's mercantile. She traveled by horse and buggy to nearby Fairbank, Tombstone or Benson to source her supplies.

Eventually Goodman would purchase Mr. Beebe's store, a mercantile that had opened in 1879, and that store would operate for 30 years as the St. David Store.

When natural water sources dried up in old St. David after an earthquake in 1887 changed the San Pedro River flow, residents relocated to an area with artesian wells named Marcus and called it "new" St. David.



Francis Goodman, Margaret's son, operated the St. David Store and Post Office until 1919 when he relocated to Safford.

Lorenzo Wright claimed the St. David Store name for a mercantile he started in 1919.

The store burned down and was rebuilt in 1952 when it was owned by Spencer Merrill.

"The building is from the 1930s, but it was rebuilt and enlarged in the 50's," McFarland said. "There was even a gas station, with the gas pumps out in front."

In 1981 owner Jimmie Mayberry would rename the store Grandma Goodman's in honor of Margaret.

Hungarian born Jim Lieber and wife Fran ran the grocery store in the 1990s until 2001. Jim was a survivor of Nazi death camps in Auschwitz and Mauthausen.

McFarland said his parents, who ran a mortuary next to the building, purchased the property from Mayberry nearly two decades ago and it had sat vacant since then.

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