

# New owners, fresh ideas at RimRock



Kathleen Ellyn

## Main Street shifts soon

Things are shakin' on Main Street in Enterprise — some of which I can't tell you until it's "official."

But this I can say: J's Place computer and music supply store has moved around the corner into the old Savoie's Specialties building.

Jay Connolly, owner of J's Place, is still stirring his displays around for the perfect fit, but he's open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays at the new location, 103 SW First St. Contact him at 541-426-0108.

Well, we know what Jay's move means, don't we? Some time ago Jody and Michael Berry, who own Wild Carrot Herbs and Dandelion Wine on Main St. in Enterprise, mentioned they had their eyes on Jay's establishment for future, undisclosed "expansion," and Jay confirms he sold them the building.

Just what the Berrys are going to do with that building is the subject of delicious speculation at this point.

"We honestly don't have plans other than to renovate," said Jody Berry. "We're in that 'uncover' state, and then we'll see where we go from there."

So far they've uncovered some huge window space hidden under the wood facing, and Michael is in and out of the building remodeling as I write.

But wait, there's more. But I can't tell you, yet. Stay tuned.

I can tell you that two other home businesses made it through their Planning Department and City Council approvals recently: Vicki Waer's one-chair, home-based salon in Joseph and Lola and Mike Johnson's self-service pet wash station on Eggleston Lane. Congratulations to both entrepreneurs. We can't wait to hear when you're ready to open, now that the paperwork is complete.

Please send your Biz Buzz news tips to Kathleen Ellyn at [kellyn@wallowa.com](mailto:kellyn@wallowa.com).



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Kim and Cabot Carlston are the new owners the RimRock Inn north of Enterprise.

Kim is the daughter of Bill and Nancy Ruderger. She graduated from Enterprise High School in 1987 and was

a princess on the 1987 Chief Joseph Days court. Her roots in the county stretch back for generations.

"I'm glad to be back," Kim said. "Cabot and I were trying to find something in Wallowa County where we could put our restaurant and hospitality talents to work."

Kim majored in hospitality and international studies at Southern Oregon University in Ashland and worked at a high-end bed and breakfast establishment and Ashland Hills Hotel and Suites. She also worked in marketing for the Valley Mall in Medford, and then got a "dream job as a marketing manager" at Mrs. Fields Cookies headquarters in Salt Lake City, which she held for 10 years.

In 1994, Kim met Cabot, a southern California boy majoring in biology who always was a "great cook who loved to cook," Kim said. "So after we got together we focused on that."

Cabot was chef at the in-

ternational and vegetarian Greenleaf Restaurant in Ashland and then put his biology degree and master's degree in secondary education to use as a junior high science teacher in Salt Lake City. Ten years later, they were ready for their next act — the one that would take them back to Wallowa County.

The Carlstons have taken over the upstairs apartment at the inn, leaving two rooms for lodgers on the main floor. They're going to expand the lodging capacity with the addition of another teepee (or two) and the conversion of the four underused RV hookups to finished, vintage camp trailer lodging.

They'll be open seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. They plan to serve breakfast and lunch and recommend reservations for dinner.

For more information, call 888-440-4161 or 541-828-7769 or visit [rimrockinnor.com](http://rimrockinnor.com) or email [info@rimrockinnor.com](mailto:info@rimrockinnor.com).

## RIBICH

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"He played soccer from the time he was in kindergarten," she said. "I coached soccer until he was in fifth or sixth grade. He was always fast, running everywhere. I was fast and his dad (Mike Ribich) was fast. I knew he had potential."

Mike Ribich had four words to describe his son as a child: "Low maintenance, high morale. He was a great kid."

The elder Ribich plans his vacation time around his son's meets and attends as many as possible.

Ribich, now 20, has

grown to 6 feet and one inch, weighing a lean 135 pounds. Along with the growth spurt, he has grown into a National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II three-time All-American with his fifth-place finish in the 1,500 meters at the national finals in Bradenton, Fla. on May 28. He also earned All-American distinction in two events at the Division II Indoor Track Finals in March.

Not long after his first win, Ribich saw a banner in the EHS gym celebrating the 2005 cross country individual state championship won by Krista Stangel. He knew he wanted one of his own. He fulfilled that dream in 2013, winning three gold medals, including the individual

cross-country title at the state meet that year.

"I kept pursuing it, and every fall I just kept getting better and better and continuously improving, as I still am," he said.

EHS track and cross-country coach Dan Moody helped prepare Ribich for track at the college level.

"Moody was different than any other coach at the high school level," Ribich said. "Lots of athletes come to college and don't pan out, or they just taper and never improve. Dan is more of a developmental coach who really looks into making the best possible future athlete, and the best possible person. He's responsible for the success I continue to have here."

The two continue to stay in touch.

Moody remembers Ribich well, having coached him from seventh grade to his senior year.

"He was a small individual but had a lot of heart," Moody said. "He was tenacious with how hard he worked. He was someone to watch, even as a seventh grader."

Moody said that despite Ribich's tremendous individual efforts, he also was a team player who enjoyed participating in relays.

"He was on our mile relay team that were state champi-

ons, and that was important to him."

Having three state gold medals under his belt didn't necessarily mean NCAA Division I schools were beating down the doors for Ribich. He said he was most heavily recruited by both Eastern Oregon University and WOU before deciding on the latter in December of 2013.

"Recruiting was pretty simple for me. I didn't have that many options, but the options I had were pretty important to me," he said.

One of the main differences Ribich sees between college and high school competition is the level of commitment by college athletes.

"When you see an individual competing in cross-country or track, they're dedicating pretty much nine months or all year, every year to getting in shape and pushing themselves to the limit every single time. College is full of individuals who want to improve themselves."

Ribich used his competitive spirit after his college freshman year when he placed first in the 1,500 meters at the Greater Northwest Athletic Conference championships, but failed to make it to the national finals.

"It's kind of ridiculous how you can make it to conference, but you can't make

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