

# QUILT

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Sometimes the final quilting is very intricate, a work of art of its own, and sometimes it is done by hand. Most quilts made nowadays are not done by hand; they are done with sewing machines. But while an ordinary sewing machine can easily handle assembling the quilt top, most are not built to accommodate the final quilting.

Ideally, one uses a special, larger machine that can roll up and down the quilt — a machine like Hope's long-arm quilting machine. These machines can cost anywhere from \$4,500 to \$17,000.

Hope wore out one long-arm machine already and is on her second.

She began sewing clothing in the '20s and '30s, when "everyone had a sewing machine," she said. "It was a necessity."

She made her first quilt in the '50s, when she made quilts for her children's beds.

"I just like about every part of quilting," she said. "I hand quilted at first, and even sent some quilts to the American Quilter's Society in Paducah, Ky."

Along the way, she married and had three children (Erl, Carol and Mark) and raised them on a farm on Alder Slope outside Enterprise. She also co-founded the Wallowa Mountain Quilters Guild, which is holding its annual quilt show this weekend at Joseph Charter School.

She is surprised now "at the number of people who don't have a sewing machine. And they're surprised that I don't have a computer — a computer doesn't do what I want to do."

What Hope wants to do is to encourage folk art. When she purchased her first long-arm quilting machine (since worn out), she let it be known that she would quilt for anyone for a token price. These days that is \$25 to \$45, depending on the amount of customization. Most other quilters charge in the range of \$200 to \$500.

"I decided I wanted to be useful to people who were interested in the folk arts," she said. "It is safe to say I do one quilt a day — though some days I do two."

She hasn't had time to do her own quilts in a long time, she said, but she



Kathleen Elynn/The Chieftain

**Hope McLaughlin takes a moment to rest in her favorite chair. The window curtain is a quilt top from a quilt that wore out.**

still has many of those she has made in years past.

Her love of quilting extends from the barns outside that are decorated with quilt blocks, to the cupboards in her kitchen that are decorated with "Sawtooth Star" patterns, to her curtains — worn quilts she has recycled as quilt-top drapes. Her favorite chair is covered with a quilt.

She's no snob about quilts. Although she has hand-stitched entire quilts from scraps to finished product, she knows that people nowadays don't have the time for that, but still have the love of craft and comfort and history and giving.

And that's just fine.

"People like to make things, and a quilt is beautiful and useful," she said. "It's a creative folk art. My mission is for people to be able to afford to have their quilt quilted. It's expensive to get quilts finished and we have some very gifted quilters who have sewing machines and quilt for people."

We've read about some of those local people lately in the story about the Honor Quilts made for our veterans. Others make quilts regularly for the newborns at Wallowa Memorial Hospital. Hope has a box of 40 to 50 quilts from Pacific City destined for a children's hospital. In many cities quilters supply their local police department with small quilts to wrap children who have suffered some

tragedy or emergency in their family. Hope's customers in other states regularly send her entire boxes of quilts to be done. The staff at the Enterprise Post Office is part of the quilting community, too. They save boxes for Hope to use to send quilts back when completed.

Quilting has always been about family and community, and quilting in groups remains popular. One quilting group meets regularly at Hurricane Grange outside of Joseph. And although Hope is working on that long-arm quilting machine alone in her upstairs bedroom, she's still an important part of a community of craftspeople.

This weekend, Hope will be the featured quilter at the 24th annual Wallowa Mountain Quilters Guild Quilt Show and vendors market, Friday and Saturday at Joseph Charter School, 400 E. Williams Ave. in Joseph. The event runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Admission is \$3.50, with free admittance for kids under age 12.

There you will see, in addition to many beautiful quilts by other quilters, some of Hope's favorite quilts — she likes the "Log Cabin" pattern best and may give a lesson on how to build one.

"I want to keep on keeping on as long as my health holds out. And so far, so good," Hope said with a smile.

# RECORDS

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to find any medical information that may help with the patient's treatment while another is going through the patient's belongings hoping to find a medication list or an insurance card. Some information can take hours to obtain.

That was the old days. Now picture the same scenario, only this time the ambulance crew has relayed the driver's license details to the ER staff, which already has obtained most of the patient's medical history online. The ER staff is aware the patient has diabetes as well as allergies to several pain medications and an antibiotic, which is pertinent information to the patient's treatment.

The second scenario is possible because of the hospital's installation of the Epic Electronic Health Records system. The new EHR system allows nearly instant access by authorized medical personnel to a patient's information because Epic's system essentially is the industry standard and used in three out of four medical facilities.

Wallowa Memorial Chief Nursing Officer Jenni Word is happy with the

new system, which is set to go live June 11.

"If the patient has been seen in another hospital, clinic, or surgery center that has Epic, you can search them and their records will be there for you instantly," Word said.

On the other hand, emergencies aren't the only reason to access your medical records. The new system allows anyone to access their own records online with Epic's "My Chart" application.

"It allows a patient to log onto My Chart to get messages from their doctor, get prescriptions re-filled and make appointments," said Stacy Green, the hospital's communication director. "There's a lot to be excited about there."

The hospital staff is excited about the EHR upgrade.

"It's a big transformation," Green said. "Once we go live during the week of June 11, there will be great benefit to the patient."

She added that there will be challenges through the break-in period as the staff learns the new system, but the hospital expects smooth sailing within two weeks.

Winding Waters Medical Group already uses Epic's EHR system, and Mountain View Medical Clinic is set to start using Epic on June 13.

# LAWSUIT

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The law firm of Rietmann & Rietmann LLP of Salem is representing the counties.

Linn County used the same argument when it opted out of Community Correction, a 2003 program in which the state handed parole and probation programs over to the counties.

Linn County argued that the state had not provided adequate funds to operate the program.

"We saved about \$1 million on that," said Linn County Commissioner Roger Ryquist. "The state took over the operation of that program and has done an excellent job."

Now, Ryquist said, counties are wondering if the same constitutional provision ought to apply to the new sick-leave law.

"Counties have told the state they

were triggering the unfunded mandate provision of the constitution," Ryquist said. "I couldn't have been more clear. But rather than just declaring 'they didn't fund it and we don't want to participate,' we're acting with caution. We do need some guidance from the court. We think we know what the voters intended and we'll see how this turns out. It could require the legislature to be more thorough in their analysis of the costs."

The decision for or against the counties does not affect the issue for businesses. Ryquist said that if the decision went in favor of the counties he would expect business representatives to appear before the legislature and say "Hey, what about us?"

The law currently contains a provision that says any business that provides the same services as the county (for instance, contractors providing parks services, etc.) can make similar arguments to the state, according to Ryquist.

# GRADS

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• Joshua Rummell, who also won the AJ & W Blockland, Terry Crenshaw Memorial and Wallowa Honor Society Awards.

Marli Tracy-Mallory took home the Chief Joseph Days, Eastern Oregon University Scholars and Eastern Oregon University Achievement Awards.

Noah Allen and Skyler Blush plan to enter the workforce.

The importance of failure and the fact that one will wear a lot of hats in their lifetime were themes for the group as the speakers took the stage.

Principal Rebecca Nordvedt reminded students that as the future unfolded "it is full of unlimited possibilities; it is now your job to grasp these possibilities."

Frye told his fellow graduates, "I always thought I had things figured out ... before I actually had to figure them out."

Emily George advised students to take failure in stride.

"Failure should be our teacher ... it's something we can only avoid by doing nothing, saying nothing, being nothing," she said.

John Roberts, class of 1966, gave the commencement address. He said he had been a very poor student, "probably the worst" and "pathetic." But he'd done one thing right to make up for his poor performance in academics, he said. He'd married a teacher — Wallowa Title 1 teacher Nancy Roberts.

Over the years, he told the class, he'd worn a lot of hats,

from a Marine Corps hat, to a Boise Cascade hat, to the hat of the owner of R&R Restaurant in Wallowa. Along the way he'd also worn a Joseph School Board hat for 14 years and a coach's hat for 35 years.

He wore a husband hat, a dad hat and he was there to tell them that no one could say what their future would be.

"I can just say, make choic-

es. Your choices have consequences — things change. Discipline will be a big factor for the rest of your life; be on time, be on schedule and do your job."

Superintendent Bret Upmore sent them off with a Steve Jobs quote: "Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life."

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**ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**

**DAVID RIBICH**

This week's athlete of the week is David Ribich, a 2013 graduate of Enterprise High School. Ribich, 20, a three-time All-American in track, recently captured fifth place in the 1500-meter race at the NCAA Division II track and field finals after a record-breaking year at Western Oregon University.

A scholar/athlete, Ribich worked hard to maintain a presence on the honor rolls of both WOU where he is a sophomore and pursuing a communications degree, and also has his eye on a coaching track in the future.

David Ribich is the son of Mike Ribich and Geneva Reinhardt, both of Enterprise.

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