

# Changes afoot throughout the valley



Courtesy photo  
**Diane Daggett**

## Daggett takes helm of Rotary Club

Wallowa County Chieftain

Diane Daggett of Enterprise is the new president of the Rotary Club of Wallowa County.

Daggett, a real estate broker and property manager at Wallowa Mountain Properties, was installed at the club's annual banquet June 28 and officially began her one-year term on July 1.

Daggett, a Joseph High School alumna, succeeds Chuck Anderson of Enterprise, who becomes immediate past president and adviser to the Rotary-sponsored Interact Club of Wallowa High School.

The 45-member club is retaining most officers and directors. The 2016-17 board of directors consists of: Shannon Maslach, secretary; Amy Hansford, treasurer and community service chairwoman; Chuck Anderson, immediate past president and Interact Club adviser; Judy Allen, Youth Exchange officer; Bob Crawford, vocational service chairman; John McColgan, club service chairman; Ted Hays and Kathleen Negus, co-sergeants-at-arms; Evelyn Swart, community service chairwoman; John Gorsline, membership chairman; Bill Finney, foundation chairman; Linda Casady and Dick Burch, programs co-chairwoman and co-chairman; Ralph Swinehart, international service chairman; and Jolene Cox, publicity chairwoman and social activities director.

Founded in 1978, the club has 45 prominent residents as members and is one of 33,000 Rotary Clubs in more than 200 countries. The club meets at noon Wednesdays at St. Katherine's parish hall, 301 NE Garfield St. in Enterprise. Guests are welcome.

## BIZ BUZZ

Kathleen Ellyn

This week we've got news from the entire Wallowa Valley corridor — from Joseph to Wallowa.

Joseph residents likely have noticed that Coco's Grill and Beech 18 Bar at 507 N. Main is closed, though not for long. Angelica Zurita and Jose Lopez, owners of Mexican restaurant La Laguna, are taking over that location (and giving up their Joseph location) beginning next fall.

"Our lease was up this year and I expected that it would either not be renewed or the rent would go up," said Zurita. "It wasn't renewed. I was prepared and had looked at a few other places, but they didn't suit my needs. Misty Kjemperud (owner of Coco's) had said she was willing to sell some time before, so I approached her."

The sale was finalized July 5.

Zurita expects to do a little remodeling in the kitchen but preserve most of the ambiance as it is.

Greg Hennes, owner of the Jennings Hotel in Joseph, has confirmed that the old La Laguna site at 100 N. Main St. will become a lobby/lounge for the hotel. Arrowhead Chocolates is not moving, according to co-owner Bruce Reinger.

There's an "Open" sign on Enterprise Auto Parts at 601 S. River St. The business, formerly owned by D.J. Januzzi, has been vacant since December but was purchased by Krag Norton of Lostine. There's new signage and manager Bill Tilton says though parts are still coming in, they hope to be fully stocked in a few weeks. In the meantime, they have next-day shipping on any parts you need.

The store is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

It's an Auto Value Parts store, and warehousing is done by Performance Warehouse. The benefit, Tilton said, is that Performance Warehouse does a DMV search of the county and then stocks the store with parts for the cars and trucks in the county.

There is no repair shop at the new store; all shop work will be sent to Norton's in Lostine, where Tim Hoffman and Camden Brookshire will do the work. Contact Enterprise Auto Parts at 541-426-0961 or 541-426-0962.

Constance Raven of Enterprise recently launched Wallowa Mountain Taxi. Raven has completed all security protocols, is certified for home health care and has 10 years experience working with elderly and mentally ill patients.

She also has earned a Class A CDL.

"Not that you need that to drive a taxi, but it puts people's minds at ease," she said.

She has just one vehicle for now, a small SUV that holds four people. And just in time for the festival season, she's running a special on bar pick-



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

**Jay Hinds, new owner of the Blonde Strawberry in Wallowa, and employee Chance Goebel on his first day on the job.**

ups anywhere in the county for \$10. Included in that is a return trip to your car in the morning for free.

If you want a trip to and from a bar, that's the regular rate.

Veterans ride for free within Enterprise city limits.

There is a \$15-per-hour waiting fee if you use the taxi service to run errands or do your shopping.

For now, she's available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and can be booked for trips to the Boise airport, Lewiston, Walla Walla, La Grande, Moscow and other far-flung destinations. She charges a flat rate: for instance, \$8 from Wallowa Lake to Joseph, with \$5 more for each additional passenger.

She recently took five loads of fly-ins from the Joseph airport, so it looks like there's a need being filled.

She'll also operate as a delivery service. Call 541-263-2460 for details.

The once-famous Lostine street fair on the Fourth of July was canceled, according to Mayor Krag Norton. The event shrunk from 166 vendors at the peak of its popularity to 12 last year, and this year some of those 12 decided not to attend this year.

Meanwhile in Wallowa, the Blonde Strawberry has been purchased by Jay and Debra Hinds and is garnering all kinds of notice.

"People are taking pic-

tures of the food," bragged Jay Hinds, "and we've gotten praise on their Facebook pages. Presentation is important."

So is quality, and given the limits of his kitchen (Jay calls it "the closet"), Jay does an amazing job. His coffee is private label.

"We have our own blend and roast," he said.

Fresh veggies from the Wallowa Farmer's Market arrived while I was sampling a humble ham and cheese made special by quality ingredients and a gorgeous presentation.

The Blonde Strawberry is open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week, and serves breakfast and lunch along with muffins, cinnamon rolls, shortbread and cookies. There is an outdoor dining porch with umbrellas over the tables.

Some clever Wallowans reserved tables near the windows to watch the Fourth of July parade this year.

The couch and chair area remains, as do the kids' games and tourism magazines.

The jump into being a chef and running his own restaurant took Jay a little by surprise. He says he stopped by to ask Rhonda Fuller for a job and she said, "No. Would you like to buy the place?"

Hinds has worked as a chef at a high-end restaurant before, but it was 30 years ago and he and his wife needed to discuss it a bit before deciding it was right.

There was no grand re-



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

**The humble ham and cheese done the Blonde Strawberry way.**

opening when he took over May 20.

"Nobody knew we were doing it. We kept it a secret," Jay Hinds said.

Also in Wallowa, right across the street from the school you'll see several Hickory Sheds on an empty lot with for sale signs. Garrett Mahon, who operates Geobel's Service Station and store just down the road toward La Grande, manages sales of those great little sheds. They're available "no credit necessary, rent to own."

In the short time he's had those sheds he's sold six locally. The day I visited a shed was on a trailer going out to Log House RV Park in Enterprise.

Several of those he sold are being put to work as farm sheds or camp houses, but the

smaller ones are great for storage as well.

"If you figure you're paying \$75 for storage and you never get any equity on it — with these you pay a little more or the same and in three years you have something," Mahon said.

You also don't need a building permit, provided you can have a structure on your property: They're already built.

Mahon recommends you check with your planning department in advance to make sure you can put the building on your land.

You can check out the sheds in person or online at [www.hickorysheds.com](http://www.hickorysheds.com). Call Garret for more information at 541-886-2811.

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

### Youth Art workshops at the Josephy Center.

July 11-14 "The Art of Nature" Clay for 7-13 year olds, 12-2pm, \$40.  
 July 12-13 "The Art of Nature" Painting for your 5-8 year olds, 10-11:30am \$35.  
 July 18-21 "Exploring Self & Bliss." Clay and painting for high school students, 9-4pm \$45.  
 July 25-28 "Bliss expanding." Clay and painting for high school students, 9-4pm \$45.

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