Going concern seeking new owner

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

BIZ BUZZ
Kathleen Ellyn

Cattle Country Quilts in Joseph is for sale. That's a turnkey business opportunity if you're interested. **Sue Coppin** and **Cassandra Botts** have been operating the business for 12 years, and to make the transition easy for a new owner, they are offering training, 12 years of Quick Books records, business contacts, inventory, fixtures and more.

Local quilters and visitors sure hope someone interested in keeping it a fabric store will grab this business. No one wants to see it go away.

It's not too late for you to get in there and check it out for yourself.

"We've had several people come and talk with us, but no one has brought us money, yet," Cass Botts reported.

Cattle Country Quilts carries 1,500 bolts of quilting fabric along with the notions and supplies needed for you to make a beautiful quilt. They also host four different sewing groups weekly, feature classes and retreats and are part of the yearly sales across Eastern Oregon tour "Quilting on the Dry Side."

THE AMERICAN Angus Association has announced that Botts Angus Ranch (owned by **Beau** and **Kristan Botts**, son of **Cassandra** and her late husband **Bud**) has been ranked the fifth largest in registering the most Angus beef cattle in Oregon.

The Botts own 550 mother cows and run them on 1,000 acres. In addition, they are partnered with Rollin' Rock Angus of Montana in breeding some of the finest Angus in the nation through "Rollin' Rock Angus Genetic Partners."

The American Angus Association is the nation's largest beef breed organization with nearly 25,000 members across the states and Canada and several other countries.

It's great to hear that Wallowa County continues to be a cattle-raising agri-business leader in the state. When our local cattlemen win recognition like this, cattlemen from all over the nation know where to shop.

TAKING CARE of kids is no easy task, and finding someone to do it for you while you work the 9 to 5 can be even tougher. Child care in Wallowa County is scarce, so when I heard that Angela's Preschool and Childcare in Enterprise had openings, I thought I'd better get that news out.

Angela Swedin and her staff take care of 10 to 14 children (including Angela's own children) at 303 NE First Street, and have two preschool spots and plenty of after school openings available.

Angela is licensed with the state of Oregon and continues her education through online courses in Early Childhood Development. All of her staff has college training under their belts as well, she said.

Among the activities they regularly engage in are arts and crafts of all kinds, music and movement, activities to develop both fine and gross motor skills, story time and many more.

They welcome children from 6 weeks to 12 years old.

Jessup steps in as hospital's CFO

He arrived recently from Silverton area

By Paul Wahl
Wallowa County Chieftain

Dan Jessup

If you hear singing in the halls of Wallowa Memorial Hospital in the next weeks and months, it may be Dan Jessup.

He is the facility's new chief financial officer. Jessup and his wife are life-long vocalists and look forward to being part of the music scene in Wallowa County.

Jessup took over his position with the hospital Oct. 2, having relocated here from Silverton, Ore., outside Salem.

He replaces Joe Wanner, who resigned in August to join the senior leadership team at Bartlett Regional Hospital in Juneau, Alaska. Wanner was hired in August 2013.

Jessup's most recent position was with Silverton Health System, which operated a 48-bed acute care hospital. The facility recently became part of Legacy Health based in Portland.

"Legacy has a different business model that does not include the chief financial officer position at individual hospitals," Jessup said.

He stayed through the transition and then pursued the opening in Enterprise.

The Jessups have two daughters who live in Portland and hoped to remain in the Northwest.

Their visit in early August was their first time in the county.

"We once lived in Elko, Nev., and would meet our daughters for long weekends in Baker City," Jessup said. "So that was my familiarity with this area."

Jessup said he was "blown away" by how friendly people are and the abundant natural beauty in the area.

He has previously worked in similar positions for hospitals in Nevada, Colorado, California and Arizona.

He holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, N.M.

Jessup is responsible for the financial workings of the hospital, overseeing the billing, collecting and accounting areas as well as supply acquisitions and managing capital purchases.

He joins the hospitals administrative team, which also includes Chief Executive Officer Larry Davy and Chief Nursing officer Jenni Word.

Like much of the health care industry, Jessup said hospitals are in a period of flux, particularly where finances are concerned.

"There's a lot of uncertainty," he said. "It makes administration challenging but really interesting."

Jessup has seen his share of changes in the hospital industry since his first position in 1988.

"Most of the advances are in technology," he said. "A pacemaker used to be a three-day inpatient stay. Now it's a morning appointment."

He said hospital services have also morphed into better partner relationships with patients.

"Years back, we wouldn't see patients until they came in with a problem," he said. "Today, we work to help patients avoid having to come in at all. Not having to provide those acute services means lower costs.

Jessup said Oregon is ahead of much of the country in adapting to the new climate by creating a series of coordinated care organizations.

It is a network of all types of health care providers who work together in communities to serve people who receive health care coverage under the Oregon Health Plan.

The program helps reduce unnecessary emergency room visits, which is a plus for hospitals.

"On the whole, hospitals recognize that financially they can't go on the way they were, and this way is better for the patient," he said.

When he's not working, Jessup enjoys genealogy.

The couple traveled to Quebec, Canada, this past summer to research his wife's side of the family.

He was a member of the Salem Community Chorus and is a former board member of the Cortez High Desert Community Theatre in Cortez, Colo.

Home health care services turned over to clinics

By Paul Wahl
Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa Memorial Hospital has eliminated its home health care service in favor of a more integrated model of providing care.

The service was licensed to provide nursing care, physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech pathology, among others.

Jenni Word, the hospital's chief nursing officer, said the move was part of a national trend in home health.

She noted there had been a decrease in patient levels locally in the past two years, with a 29 percent decline last year.

It was no longer a profitable service for the hospital, she added.

Home health responsibilities have been for the most part absorbed by three clinics in the county — Mountain View, Winding Waters and Olive Branch.

"We would not have closed the service if there had not been options," Word added.

Nora Stangel headed the program for the hospital for more than 30 years. She has moved into a similar position with Winding Waters.

Of the two other nurses employed in the program, one rejoined the nursing staff at the hospital and one retired.

The program ended officially Sept. 1.

Word said the clinics have the potential to do the home health work better and with less regulation than what the hospital experienced.

"For instance, they can go out and see other patients who may not be homebound," she said.

"It's much better for the patients. Everyone in the program was handed off to his or her primary care provider clinic seamlessly."

She noted the hospital's home health group had done an "amazing job of providing high-quality care" since its inception in 1985.

Dallas, Texas-based Tenet Healthcare announced it would sell off its home health and hospice businesses in January, citing "unnecessary risks the businesses pose" to the company's financial picture.

Word, who recently attended the National Rural Health Association conference in Kansas City, said she learned the partnership between the hospital and the clinics is somewhat unique.

Medicare defines home health care as a wide range of health care services that can be given at home for an illness or injury.

It has been pushing implementation of such programs for years as a way of decreasing costs.

Wound care, patient and caregiver education, intravenous or nutrition therapy, injections and monitoring serious illness and unstable health status are among services generally delivered through the auspices of home care.

FOR THE RECORD

OCT. 2

2:06 p.m. — Wallowa County Sheriff's Office arrested Josie Jordan Makens, 28, of Wallowa for violation of release agreement. Original charges were unlawful use of weapon, menacing, recklessly endangering another person and pointing a firearm at another.

She was transported to Umatilla County Jail.

3:47 p.m. — A traffic stop in Enterprise resulted in a citation for violation of basic rule in a school zone.

6:21 p.m. — A traffic stop in Enterprise resulted in a vehicle impound as the driver had no insurance.

7:43 p.m. — A 911 caller reported a dead deer blocking the eastbound lane of Highway 82 in rural Enterprise.

7:49 p.m. — A stolen vehicle was reported in Enterprise. It was later recovered and released to the owner. Enterprise Police Department arrested Joshua Lee Boyd, 34, Enterprise, who was charged with unlawful use of motor vehicle. He was lodged in Wallowa County Jail.

8:52 p.m. — A traffic crash was reported in rural Wallowa.

OCT. 3

8:57 a.m. — A traffic crash was reported in rural Lostine.

3:52 p.m. — A traffic stop in Enterprise resulted in a citation for speeding.

OCT. 4

8:11 a.m. — A credit card theft was reported in Enterprise.

8:56 a.m. — Enterprise officers arrested Cody James Adams, 35, for theft of services. He was cited and released.

4:30 p.m. — A traffic stop in Enterprise resulted in the arrest of Becci Rhee Sasser, 62, of Enterprise, who was charged with driving while her driver's license was suspended or revoked. She was cited and released and subsequently transported to Umatilla County Jail for probation violation.

5:27 p.m. — Wallowa County Community Corrections issued an order of arrest and detention for Errol Clarence Bullock, 35, of Wallowa for probation violation. Original charge was assault.

OCT. 6

5:58 p.m. — Theft of services incident was reported in Enterprise.

OCT. 7

7:20 a.m. — A dead deer was reported as a road hazard in rural Joseph. It was removed.