

Ambulance service answers the call for fires, COVID



By Bill Bradshaw

ENTERPRISE — An ambulance service based in Eastern Oregon that often helps with wildfire victims has turned its attention to the still-raging COVID-19 pandemic that, unlike last year's wildfires, has not yet subsided.

Owned by Chris Arvidson, of Baker City, Med Transport is a privately held ambulance service that responds to calls — in addition to Oregon — in California, Texas, Maryland and New Jersey. Arvidson said he has a pool of 45 paramedics and a handful of emergency medical technicians who can be deployed.



Med Transport/Contributed Photo

Med Transport does trauma admits, taking trauma patients from local Eastern Oregon ICU's and emergency departments to trauma centers throughout the Northwest. Reducing the cost of rural health care one transport at a time.

"We have changed the services offered by our service and have been fortunate to send out the experi-

enced personnel to represent our community and our service throughout the country," Arvidson said in a

press release. In Eastern Oregon, paramedics reside in Enterprise, Baker City, La Grande and

Pendleton, Arvidson said.

Arvidson spoke highly of his Enterprise paramedic, Sean Cariss, who has worked on fires and disaster-relief assignments with the service.

"I spent a good part of October on an ambulance with him in Central Oregon," Arvidson said in the release. "He's a competent paramedic and is currently finishing up his critical-care certifications while on deployments."

While Med Transport used to chiefly do interfacility transfers, the service got heavily into wildfire relief and, last year, doing vaccination clinics. Of late, Cariss said, he's been to California and New Jersey doing such clinics.

"They're all over the place," he said. "Wherever the federal government asks to have resources sent."

Med Transport is getting involved with a variety of activities to combat the pandemic. The press release mentioned COVID step-down units that, Cariss said, are field hospitals where lower-risk patients are sent while recovering from the virus when hospitals are at capacity.

"We did see some pretty sick COVID patients, although they're now on the road to recovery," he said.

There also are COVID infusion centers, such as in California where the state health authority is trying experimental medication to help with symptoms of the virus, he said.

Cariss said in an interview that he's only been with Med Transport since September 2020. He's been living in Enterprise since

2017, primarily working as a paramedic, but also doing wildland firefighting.

He got started with Med Transport while working part time in eastern Umatilla County and Arvidson called where he was working looking for additional staff.

He said he likes the type of work since it gives him plenty of time off to spend with his wife.

"It's not guaranteed work; it's contract work," he said. "It's hit-and-miss stuff."

He said it works well since it's just him and his wife.

"If I had kids, it'd be harder," he said.

While it can be tough work with an element of danger, there are advantages.

"You get to see things you wouldn't normally see," Cariss said.

In Eastern Oregon, Med Transport has at least three other paramedics, the release stated. Bruce Cheeseman is based in La Grande, Nick Cripe is based in Baker City, and Mark Lewis is a recently retired firefighter paramedic from Pendleton.

"Some of our medics have done multiple deployments of 15-30 days and some have been out for over 90 days," Arvidson said in the release.

For more information on Med Transport, visit <http://medtransporteo.com> or its facebook page.

Bill Bradshaw is a reporter for the Wallowa County Chieftain. Have a business tip? Contact him at 541-398-5503 or bbradshaw@wallowa.com.

This week at
Joseph Center
FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

Motherhood Exhibit
Come visit before it closes on April 6!

Youth Arts Festival
Open House Sat. April, 10 from 12-5 p.m.

Youth Art Classes
There's still a few spaces available!

Key To Our Future Fundraising Event
April 15 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Foundations in Clay adult session
Every Monday, April 19-June 7; must pre-register

Adding Color to Copper workshop
April 15 from 1-4 p.m.; must pre-register

josephy.org
541.432.0505

Wallowa Memorial Medical Clinic
We Treat You Like Family

NOW OPEN!

Joseph Clinic
800 N Main St, Joseph
Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Call 541-426-7900
to schedule an appointment

*Compassionate Care
Minimal to NO Wait Times*

www.wallowamemorialmedicalclinics.org

bookloft & Skylight Gallery
Finding books is our specialty

CLUES ACROSS

1. Depilatory brand
5. "Surely you ___!"
9. Formal agreements
14. Present opening?
15. Region
16. Dole out
17. *Intergalactic makers' studio? (hint: read each starred answer's middle word twice)
20. Quick look
21. Runway display
22. New York NBA player
24. Played music at a club
26. Snowballs, in a snowball fight
27. Actress Rowlands
28. Moderate gait
29. Long-eared animals
30. *Retaliation for overdue wages?
33. Nonbinary possessive
34. Speech-language pathologist's concerns
38. *Where Fred Flintstone goes to get away from it all?
43. ___-full
47. Eclipse, to some
48. Mineral deposits
49. Queue
50. Texter's "Then again ..."
51. Bread for Swiss cheese?
52. Sandal feature
54. Chest press targets, informally
55. *Chardonnay served at a state dinner, say?
60. Network connections
61. Like some affordable textbooks
62. GPS calculations
63. Trains in the ring
64. Prepare for takeoff
65. Enlist again

CLUES DOWN

1. Negative replies
2. What an electric guitar hooks up to
3. If all else fails
4. Puffed snack
5. Guy in a toy box?
6. Add wrong, perhaps
7. ___ shanty
8. Ball gown fabric
9. Word after "boarding" or "touchdown"
10. Pack leaders
11. Insurance cases
12. In store
13. Shorthand pros
18. Startled cry
19. Wee bit
22. Soviet spy org.
23. Tidy
24. Like some hard cider
25. "You had one ___!"
28. Skating gold medalist Lipinski
29. Similar (to)
31. Guitar strummer
32. Extended family
35. Hot day
36. 2019 film that won Best Picture
37. "Frozen" reindeer
39. Replace, electorally
40. Dashboard Confessional genre
41. "I'm not impressed"
42. Upper-left key
43. Birthday party performers
44. Genre for Nicki Minaj
45. Upstate New York tribe
46. One often on the rebound?
50. "I'm impressed!"
51. Not many
53. Model Holiday
54. Toenail treatment, informally
56. Megan Rapinoe's team
57. Kind of hormone
58. T, on a sorority sweatshirt
59. Sixth sense, for short

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16				
17				18				19					
		20						21					
22	23					24	25				26		
27					28					29			
30					31					32			
	33							34		35	36	37	
					38		39	40	41			42	
43	44	45	46				47				48		
49						50					51		
52					53					54			
55								56	57			58	59
60							61					62	
63							64						65

Church Directory

Joseph United Methodist Church
3rd & Lake St. • Joseph
Pastor Cherie Dearth
Phone: 541-432-3102

Worship Online at JosephUMC.org

Grace Lutheran Church
409 West Main - Enterprise
Lenten Service
4:00pm Feb 24 - Mar 24
Sunday Worship at 9am
Pastor John B. King Jr
phone (message): 541-426-4633
web:gracelutheranenterprise.com

Enterprise Christian Church
85035 Joseph Hwy • (541) 426-3449
We have "In-person worship" @ 9:00 am (Guidelines observed)
Sunday School at 10:30
Parking Lot Radio/Facebook @ 9:00

David Bruce
Pastor, Enterprise Christian Church

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church
100 NE 3rd St, Enterprise
NE 3rd & Main St
541-426-3439
Worship Service Sunday 9:30am

Lostine Presbyterian Church
Discussion Group 9:30 AM
Worship Service 11:00 AM
Childrens program during service
Blog: dancingforth.blogspot.com
541.398.0597
Hwy 82, Lostine
Stephen Kliewer, Minister

Summit Church
Sundays at 9:30 am and 11 am at the Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise.
Masks are required - but made available at the door.
Pastor: David Pendleton
www.summitchurchoregon.org
Cloverleaf Hall • 668 NW 1st St. • Enterprise, OR 97828

Wallowa Assembly of God
702 West Hwy 82
Wallowa, Oregon
541-886-8445
Sunday School • 9:am
Worship Service • 10:am
Pastor Tim Barton
Visit Us on

Christ Covenant Church
Pastor Terry Tollefson
Church Office: 541-263-0505
Family Prayer 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
723 College Street, Lostine

Seventh-Day Adventist Church & School
305 Wagner (near the Cemetery)
P.O. Box N. Enterprise, OR 97828
Church 541-426-3751
School 541-426-8339
Pastor David Ballard 503-810-9886
Worship Hour
10:30 a.m. - Noon

Enterprise Community Congregational Church
Join us at the **BIG BROWN CHURCH**
Sunday Worship 11:00 am
Bible Studies: Sundays 9:30 am & Thursdays, 5:30 pm
Led by Lay Pastor Archie Hook
301 NE First St. • Enterprise, OR
Find us on Facebook! 541.426.3044

