

BLH Custom Builders eyes expansion



By Bill Bradshaw

No longer just log homes

ENTERPRISE — Having just passed a year in business — and a pandemic-laden one at that — Marty Weber is hoping to expand the BLH Custom Builders in Enterprise.

Weber bought the former Bronson Log Homes from Dean Himes in January 2020. Himes had incorporated it as dba (doing business as) BLH Custom Builders before the sale, and Weber is expanding into conventional-style homebuilding, while continuing the construction of log homes and custom furniture.

"I didn't want to change it too much from what it was; it's been here for 26 years," Weber said. "I wanted to keep that familiar feel, to try to make a new, fresh face with a new logo."

That new logo will closely resemble the old one, he said, with the coloring and design largely the same so customers will feel they're doing business with a familiar firm.

"We're trying to broaden our horizons," he said.

"We're not exclusively log-home builders. If someone wants a log home, we'll build it, but they're getting few and far between. We're



Marty Weber, left, co-owner of BLH Custom Builders, helps carpenter Kurt Klages on Friday, March 26, 2021, on a mock-up for a house the company is building at Wallowa Lake. The former Bronson Log Homes has expanded to constructing conventional-style homes as well.

just trying to broaden our market and customer base."

Having worked in construction for 24 years, Weber and his wife, Chelsea, are co-owners of the business. With their 12-year-old daughter and 6-year-old son, they have a 10-acre farm at the top of Minam Grade. Although they live just outside of Wallowa County, this is where their business is.

"Eventually, we want to expand into Union County, but right now we're keeping plenty busy here," he said.

In fact, BLH builds homes — both rural and urban — all over the county. At present, they just finished a log house at Flora, are working on another at Wallowa Lake and are working on a 1920-30s-style one on First Street in Enterprise. They also have a project at the lake awaiting permitting, another at Lostine and Weber's staining/chinking crew has five or six projects in the works.

The COVID-19 pandemic hasn't hurt BLH

much, Weber said.

"Construction's booming everywhere," he said, although he is seeing some difficulty in obtaining materials.

"The price is ridiculous, whether it's supply and demand or what. I heard they've shut some places down in the supply chain last year and now they're trying to catch up," he said. "Whether that's reason or what, I'm not sure, but demand is still high."

As a result, he didn't have to lay off any of the

nine-man crew — including himself — because of any shutdowns.

Although the work is generally seasonal, "We were able to keep everybody busy. In fact, we hired another guy last summer," he said.

While BLH has expanded into conventional-style homes, log homes remain Weber's first love.

"I'd like to do log homes exclusively, but the number of jobs and clientele is limited on what we can do here in the valley," he said.

Log homes are built on a similar type of foundation to a conventional home and are heated in a similar fashion. Like most in Wallowa County, that means wood, propane and/or oil. As for insulation, the logs provide much that conventional homes require synthetic insulation for.

Weber noted that the log homes require making each log uniform because they don't grow that way and then notched to form the corners, a feature that makes them unique.

"They're one of a kind. There are no two logs exactly the same," he said.

Weber said they are naturally well insulated.

"Once they get to temperature, they'll hold a lot more of the heat, he said. "The outside's not going to affect the inside as rapidly."

However, conventional homes do have their advantages.

"Conventional homes are tighter ... but each one has its advantages and disadvantages," he said. "It's about personal preference."

But Weber just wants to keep it.

"I like building with my hands. It's fun," he said. "It takes imagination."

BLH Custom Builders is located at 704 Depot St. in Enterprise. Phone: 541-426-6072 or 398-1017. Email: blh.marty@gmail.com.

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



& Skylight Gallery

Finding books is our specialty

CLUES ACROSS

- Showy display
- Bundle of joy
- Thunderclaps' noises
- Realm
- "Makes sense to me"
- Nickname that rhymes with "steady"
- Typical student driver
- Lean slightly
- Word heard at an auction
- Eagles hit whose title is sung after "Welcome to the"
- Brazil's second-most populous city, for short
- Genetic molecule
- "Colorful" PBS Kids series
- Word with "can" or "Man"
- Home to Bourbon St.
- "Pitfall!" console maker
- Topknot or bun
- Pancake house order
- Scissors sound
- Human
- Canadian tribe
- Break fluid?
- 1973 martial arts film
- Snickers purchase
- Spanish cheer
- Nursery rhyme character who "climbed up the waterspout"
- Corn Belt cylinders
- Sunburn soother
- Millennium Falcon flyer Han
- Essential ___ acids
- Commonly sacrificed chess piece
- Body floating in water?
- Country on the Red Sea
- Competent
- Shrinking sea

CLUE DOWN

- Maze answer
- Double Stuf treat
- ___ cute (rom-com trope)
- Chain of bakery-cafes

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			
66						67					68			

CLUES DOWN

- Collection of digital currency
- Himalayas' setting
- Steeple feature
- ___ in My Spaghetti (game with a rhyming name)
- Ornamental bloomer
- Substances in perfume
- Father of Thor
- Variety of M&Ms
- Genesis name?
- Tupperware top
- Rx overseer
- Sweeten on the vine
- Call the whole thing off
- Part of the iPhone 12's display
- Withering look
- Pounded, like the heart
- Steve Martin's instrument
- Nocturnal hunter
- Modern grocery store freebie
- Old TV component
- Individually
- Lantern liquid
- Clutches a railing, say
- Barilla ___-Color Rotini
- Peak behind a chalet
- Japanese entertainer
- "By Jove!"
- It "wounds all heels"
- Thin
- Spanish appetizer
- Piece of marble
- Wail from a cat
- Glum
- Fitzgerald who won many Grammys
- Sushi selection, and a hint to the last words of 20-, 25-, 45- and 51-Across



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

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 Kliever, 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

