

# Building on a need

MC Lumber opens with own demand

BY COREY MEINTS  
cmeints@iafalls.com

Iowa Falls has not had a privately and locally-owned lumber yard or hardware store for years. Matt Hoversten changed all of that beginning over a year ago. On Jan. 1 of this year, MC Lumber & Hardware officially opened on the city's east side.

Hoversten has gone down a lot of avenues in his career, including construction. Which, a little over a year ago, led to a realization that he needed more materials at a more affordable price. In turn, that led to the opening of his own lumberyard and hardware store at 133 E. Rocksylvania in Iowa Falls. He is partnered with his sister Rebecca Hoversten who serves as president, managing member and secretary.

"I've had many trades of choice," Matt said. "I helped start Triple M Auto so my fun job is working on cars. Right now, though, I am building a house for the Iowa Falls Development Committee, so I would say construction is my paying career."

The move to owning a business addressed Hoversten's need to find materials at affordable prices for his construction business. Self-admittedly stubborn, he felt opening



PHOTOS BY COREY MEINTS/TIMES CITIZEN



Matt Hoversten opened MC Lumber to fill his needs as a builder. He now offers everything he needs to do his own work, while also offering lumber, hardware and rentals for everybody else.

his own lumber yard and hardware store was the best solution.

"I was doing a bathroom remodel and had most of the stuff I needed for it," Hoversten said.

"But the people I was doing the work for decided they wanted to make it bigger. So I needed four more sheets of drywall. I didn't want to drive all the way to Waterloo for

four sheets of drywall."

So, Hoversten shopped local. That led to his first thoughts of opening his own construction supply business.

"I kind of got mad at another lumberyard and thought, 'well, I'll just open up my own,'" Matt said. "I didn't want to pay more than double for what I could get leaving town. I just thought that was wrong."

Hoversten carries a variety of plumbing and electrical materials, lumber and other construction needs, some automotive supplies, garden and outdoor items, and other things. The hardware portion includes almost everything from door-knobs and screws to shelf brackets and lynch pins and tape measures.

There is also a rental department with breaker hammers, metal sheet cutters, hole saw kits,

Matt and sister Rebecca Hoversten have been doing business out of MC Lumber since before officially opening. The business was created to fill his own construction needs, and offers everything for do-it-yourselfers to builders.

jacks, scaffolding, paint sprayers, a skid loader, cement shears, table saws, drain cleaners, drills, heaters, orbit sanders, saws, level systems, hole diggers, dump trailers and more.

"If we don't have something available on site, we order in from our suppliers or pick the item up on one of our own material runs," Hoversten said.

Basically, Matt said, there's virtually everything he has needed over his own career in construction.

"I've done construction stuff my whole life," Hoversten said. "I think I was born building stuff out at our farm. I even had a great-grandpa that had the hardware store in Gifford. I think it's in my blood, I've just always really wanted to have a hardware store and lumberyard. I've had 15 other business or maybe more in my life, but this is really what I wanted."

When his interaction with another construction supply business brought that all to mind again, he actually thought about building his own business. Then he noticed that

a former lumberyard was for sale. He jumped at the chance, and just recently put a sign on the front of the building. Sort of an official open for business gesture, Hoversten said.

He entered into a purchase for the property over a year ago. He started doing business officially shortly after that. But things changed and he remained mainly focused on his own construction business. Because of that - a deal with the city to build three houses - he was able to officially open his lumberyard as a way to supply himself with the needed materials while also supplying local contractors and do-it-yourselfers the things they need. Hoversten said he officially kicked the doors open for business on Jan. 1.

In almost every way, Hoversten said it's the lumberyard he always wanted - old fashioned.

"I like to think we're old school, and that's what I wanted," Hoversten said. "I want service, and I don't want to rob the people coming in. It's about customer service. I don't want to run anybody out of business. But if somebody doesn't want to drive out of town to get a lower price, we're here."

MC Lumber is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. and can be reached at 641-373-2871. ■

# Nerdy Birdie Crochet fresh off the hook

Eagleburger turns hobby into side hustle

BY TAYLOR NOHRENBURG  
tnohrenberg@iafalls.com

Amigurumi is the Japanese art of knitting or crocheting small (or large) stuffed yarn creatures. For Iowa Falls resident Lee Eagleburger, owner of Nerdy Birdie Crochet, the art has become more than a hobby.

The busy mom, who also does daycare as her main business, finds time between naps and playtime to increase her stock for upcoming events, complete custom orders and to supply The Coffee Attic & Book Cellar with her wares. If you notice an octopus or two while getting your morning brew, Eagleburger more than likely crocheted it.

"My mom has tried to teach me to crochet for years, and I just never got it," she said. "I started making pumpkins and one thing led to another."

For Nerdy Birdie only being a side hustle, Eagleburger has found success in different market ar-



TAYLOR NOHRENBURG/TIMES CITIZEN

Items like these mama octos and mermaids can be found at the Coffee Attic in downtown Iowa Falls.

reas, one being the Sleepy Hollow Renaissance Faire that's held in Des Moines in the fall and spring.

"I was anticipating having problems with people talking about the products ilyly at the Ren Faire or my prices," Eagleburger said.

Instead, she found a different type of problem - a good problem, to say the least.

"I had multiple people tell me I needed to raise my prices while I was at the ren faire," she said. "It takes time... It's like, 'Am I shorting myself?' because

it's so hard to price your own work."

She has since then found ways to do so, like weighing her skeins of yarn and filling and taking into account the time put into a project.

Worrying her skill levels aren't up to par since she's new to the art, this year's May Renaissance faire said otherwise.

"I took 250 items... I sold around 229," Eagleburger said. "I also ran out of a lot of my big things - I had the little baby bees and those were gone by two to three o'clock on

Saturday."

She brought in around \$3,000-\$4,000.

Of all of her creations she had at the fair - goblins, unicorns, Loch Ness monsters, frog princes, mermaids, crowns, mushrooms, bees, frogs and

dragons - and in general, bees are quite popular, and many will ask for them in different colors.

Eagleburger felt that she was under-prepared for the event, as she never knew what to expect.

"This past ren faire was a little bit higher stressed getting ready for it because it was my first market ever," Eagleburger said.

Events like the Renaissance faire felt like a safe place to first sell her products. So much so that she is planning on heading back next year after she builds her stock up.

Her other skills like sewing were put into play while preparing for the event as well.

"Having the ren faire, they want you to design your tent so that it fits the vibe," she said. "I had to sew a whole tent cover in Renaissance, and I have decent sewing skills. It wasn't terrible."

Her husband Ryan,

her biggest supporter, designed and built some of her tent's product shelving. He also built the sign with her business's logo on it.

"I'm glad I can check all the boxes of stuff I need, so the next time will be a lot smoother, and less anxiety driven," she said.

Though Eagleburger doesn't have a physical storefront, those wanting custom creations or products she has made already can contact her on Nerdy Birdie Crochet's Facebook page.

As for the meaning behind the name "Nerdy Birdie," she and her husband are self-proclaimed nerds and with Eagleburger having the childhood nickname "Lee Bird" and the couple's last name having "eagle," the "birdie" part was just the right fit.

"We're just little nerdy birdies," she added. ■

# Hospital welcomes psychiatry services

Hansen Family Hospital is pleased to welcome Mindy Struthoff, ARNP to their team of visiting specialists. Struthoff will provide psychiatry services one Wednesday a month in Iowa Falls.

Struthoff earned her associate degree in nursing from North Iowa Area Community College (NIACC). She continued her education at the University of Iowa, where she re-

ceived her bachelor's degree in nursing and went on to complete her Master of Science Degree in nursing at Allen College. She is certified as a psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner.

To schedule an appointment with Struthoff in Iowa Falls, call 641-494-5170. Psychiatry services are available for patients ages 12 years and older.

Hansen Family Hospital is a Top 20 Critical Access Hospital located at 920 S. Oak St. in Iowa Falls. They are home to three convenient family care clinics, 16 different visiting specialties, an on-site home medical shop, surgery clinic, 24/7 emergency care, and more. Visit [www.hansenfamilyhospital.com](http://www.hansenfamilyhospital.com) for more information on services offered at their organization. ■

**St. Matthew's By The Bridge Episcopal Church**

**Iowa Falls Summer Organ Recital Series 2023**

*All programs are Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m.*

**June 25: Dr. James Hammann**  
**July 9: John Stender**  
**Aug. 20: Daniel Lewis**

These concerts are free and open to the public.

On Sunday, June 25, resident organist, Dr. James Hammann will present a varied program including works by John Stainer, Johann Sebastian Bach, Antonin Dvorak, Robin Dinda, and Nicholas Jacques Lemmens. Of special interest is the new work by Robin Dinda, "Will There Be Any Stars," which was commissioned by Judge David R. Hansen, in honor and memory of his late wife, Ginger.

On Sunday, July 9, John Stender, who is the Director of Music and Organist at First Presbyterian Church in Rochester, MN, will perform.

On Aug. 20, Daniel Lewis, who is Director of Music and Organist at St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Winona, MN, will play.

A reception will be held in the undercroft following the recital.

*This performance is made possible in part by grants from the Barlow Family Foundation and the Iowa Falls Church Women United. For additional information call: James Hammann, 515-943-3541.*

