



'Log Cabin Quilting by Mary' now open

Open House Thursday, July 9, northeast of Leader

By Dawn Schimpp Timbs
World reporter

"Log Cabin Quilting by Mary" is up and running in rural Motley; and the public is invited to an open house Thursday, July 9, from 3 - 7 p.m.

Owned and operated by Mary Keppers, Log Cabin Quilting offers a wide range of services centered around a professional, stitch-regulated Phaff Grand Quilter quilting machine.

"I had been teaching classes in Pine River, which I loved doing; but they didn't have the quilting machine I really felt was necessary," Mary said.

About a month ago, she decided it was time to purchase a machine on her own...something that not only she could use; but one that others could rent to do their quilting projects.

Shortly after that, 'Log Cabin Quilting by Mary' was born.

Nestled in a wooded area on Crooked Lake, just a few miles northeast of Leader, Log Cabin Quilting is the perfect get-away place for quilters of all skill levels to work on their projects.

Bring your own quilt-

ing materials; or purchase some from Mary, who has a wide variety of patterns and enhancements to choose from. Classes are also available for beginners.

Can't find the time to work on your quilt? Hire Mary, who's passionate about quilting, to finish it for you.

"I love quilting; and I've found this to be such a peaceful, inspiring environment to create in," Mary said.

Her new business, as well as the log cabin home she shares with her husband, Dave Keppers, Mary considers a gift from God. "I want to share it with others," she said.

The Keppers began building their log home last September; and moved in around Christmastime.

"We had lived in a hunting shack without water for about a year while this was being built," Mary laughed. "This is definitely a dream come true."

Another dream come true, for Mary, is having her own quilting business, complete with her new state of the art quilting machine.

She's been passionate about quilting since she

was a child, Mary said.

"Both of my grandmothers - Grandma Kaufman and Grandma Regan - were very creative, hard working, social and ambitious," Mary said. "They were the first ones to teach me about quilting."

The spacious lower level of the Keppers' log cabin is the perfect set-up for working on large quilts and for teaching classes, Mary said.

During the summer months, Mary also offers "Stitch, Bitch & Chocolate Day Retreats," for groups of at least four.

Sew lake-side with friends; and be served salad and a sinful chocolate dessert," says a brochure about Log Cabin Quilting.

The open house July 9, Mary said, will be a wonderful opportunity for people to see her business; ask questions; enjoy some snacks; and win door prizes.

"I'm so excited about this new venture; and I hope all of my friends from the Motley and Staples areas will stop by and celebrate with me," Mary said.

Log Cabin Quilting is located at 6440 59th Ave. SW in rural Motley; across the road from the Foothill



Quilter

Mary Keppers, owner of 'Log Cabin Quilting' in rural Motley, holds up a wall hanging from one of her favorite quilt patterns, "Chicken Date." The spacious lower level of the Keppers' log cabin home is

set up for quilters; and comes equipped with a Phaff Grand Quilter 18.8 (longarm machine). A skilled quilter, Mary is also available to teach classes; and to assist others with their quilting projects.

Forest. Directions: Hwy 64 from Motley, 6 miles east on 24th Street, south on 59th Avenue.

For more information call 218-568-4903; or email mlkeppers@tds.net.



Motley Fire Chief Davis steps down

By Dawn Schimpp Timbs
World reporter

After nearly 20 years of service to the City of Motley, Fire Chief Troy Davis has agreed (per request of the Motley City Council) to step down from his position.

This decision was made at the regular Motley City Council meeting June 23, following a closed session that lasted approximately two hours.

During the closed session (a Performance Evaluation for the Fire Chief), the council spoke with Chief Davis; and Assistants Dave Greig and Bryan Hutchison individually.

When the regular meeting reconvened, Mayor Konrad Alexander said that the consensus of the council had been to ask Chief Davis to step down.

The mayor made that request into a motion (adding 'with deep regrets'); a motion which was accepted unanimously by the council.

The council also asked Davis to stay on in an advisory roll; but Davis said he would need time to think about that.

In a unanimous decision, the council later approved a motion made by council member Duane Solga to name Dave Greig as interim fire chief. Previously, Greig has served in capacity of First Assistant Chief.

Chief Davis had initially requested that the closed session pertaining to his evaluation remain open. A lengthy discussion

followed at this time before the mayor called for a closed session.

Council member Bruce Mills asked that the formal complaint (filed by the City Clerk's office) be read out loud.

City Clerk/Treasurer Terri Smith said that the formal complaint had to do with the fire department filling an office they had been asked to vacate with 'junk.'

Although the above mentioned office had previously been used by the Fire Dept. Relief Association to secure their charitable gambling items, the council had recently decided (per request of Smith) that it should be used as a secure area to store office files, since the Relief Assoc. no longer had charitable gambling.

The fire department apparently took it upon themselves to go ahead and move the office files downstairs; and the appearance of the room after this move was judged differently by at least two council members.

Council member Duane Solga said he had looked at the office. "It looks like it was an intent to aggravate," Solga said of the many boxes stacked throughout the room. He also felt that the method of bringing office files downstairs should have gone through the council.

Council member and fire dept. liaison Rob Sampson disagreed; stating that "The fire dept. did what they were told. They were told to vacate the office, so they brought down the stuff."

Sampson said he believed the Fire Dept. thought they were doing the office staff a favor. "This was not done maliciously," Sampson said.

Smith said that a statement had recently been made by members of the fire department to the effect of, "She kicked us out, we're kicking her out."

Chief Davis wondered why this particular incident would be included in a closed session.

Sampson also questioned this; saying that it had nothing to do with a performance evaluation.

Smith said that the closed session had been called because of leadership skills; to see if there had been good leadership skills shown now or in the past. It (the session) had nothing to do with this office item, Smith said.

Council member Nancy Nieken asked Davis why he hadn't stopped members of the fire dept. from moving the files into the office. Davis answered that he was busy.

At this point, Hutchison said that it had been his (Hutchison's) idea to move the files into that room.

Sampson was also concerned about where certain closed-session information (labeled 'confidential') had come from.

"Where did you get it?" he asked Smith, who answered that it was none of his business.

Smith said it had been brought to her and that she only had given it to the people who were already aware of the situation.

Firefighter Connie Da-

vis (Troy Davis' wife) told Smith that she was not even supposed to have been told this information.

Sampson told the council that he believes there needs to be an investigation in regard to where the 'confidential' information for the closed session came from.

It was at this point, at approximately 9:20 p.m., Mayor Alexander requested that the council go to a closed session. The regular meeting reconvened at 11:15 p.m.

In a statement made following the meeting, Davis said, "I don't have any hard feelings toward the city or the council. I took this job because of the people; and I will continue to serve the people of this community until my job officially ends."

Crow Wing Calendar

July 5

PATRIOTIC OUTDOOR SERVICE, will be held Sunday, July 5, at Pillager Baptist Church, 10:30 a.m. Cookout, picnic to follow. Bring a dish to share, lawn chair.

July 17

FOOT CARE CLINIC, sponsored by Lakewood Health System, Friday, July 17, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Scandia Valley Town Hall. For info., appts., 218-894-8080.

Welcome to the cabin

Mary and Dave Keppers, of rural Motley, built their log cabin (located on Crooked Lake, northeast of Leader) last year. A passionate quilter, Mary recently opened "Log Cabin Quilting by Mary," an inspiring, peaceful place for quilters to come on their own or with a group to create and work on projects. An Open House will be held Thursday, July 9, from 3 - 7 p.m. For more information, call 218-568-4903. (Staples World photos by Dawn Schimpp Timbs)

'Living History' events at Lindbergh Historic Site

The Charles A. Lindbergh Historic Site, Little Falls, is offering two 'Living History' events in July. These include:

• The WPA and Lindbergh Park; Saturday, July 11, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Meet historic reenactors portraying WPA workers and learn about projects undertaken at the historic site.

• Living History; Saturday, July 25, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Hear stories from actual tenant farmers and workers employed by the Lindbergh family from 1906 - 1918.

The Charles A. Lindbergh Historic Site is located two miles south of Little Falls, 1620 Lindbergh Drive. For more information, call 320-616-5421.

Endowed scholarship honors Doug Keran

An endowed scholarship has been created at Central Lakes College in honor of Dr. Doug Keran, long time instructor (retired) in the Natural Resources program at CLC.

An initial donation has been made by NR instructor Gary Carson, who was once a student of Keran's and later a colleague.

Aside from serving as an instructor, Keran has been an interim vice president of academic affairs.

He retired from his full-time duties at CLC several years ago. However, this fall he is teaching Introduction to Ecotourism, a curriculum he developed as part of an Associate in Applied Science degree program in Ecotourism.

The scholarship will be awarded to a student in his/her second year at CLC pursuing a degree in Natural Resources. To be eligible, a student must have a 3.0 grade-point average.



Bluegrass concert

The Crow River String Band (bluegrass gospel music) will perform at Scandia Valley Park Friday, July 3, 6 - 8 p.m. The free concert, a picnic and pony rides are sponsored by the Lincoln Evangelical Free Church. Fireworks will follow at dusk, sponsored by Scandia Valley.

All-School Reunion for Little Falls girls school

Graduates, former students, faculty and staff of St. Francis High School, Little Falls, are reminded to register to attend the All-School Reunion July 18 - 19, at St. Francis Convent (St. Francis Campus), Little Falls.

All attendees and guests must be pre-registered so that preparations for the celebration can be finalized.

For more information, contact by email info@fslf.org; or call 320-230-3311. St. Francis High School was an all-girls Catholic high school operated by the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, from 1926-1977.



New officers

The Motley Lions recently installed new officers. Row one, from left; Ray Lucas, President 09-10; Nancy Lucas, secretary; Anita Sutton, third vice president; Betty Farber, membership. Row two, from left; Installation of the new officers was done by Frank Leidenfrost, past district governor and Amy Leidenfrost, first

vice district governor; Don Delude, first vice president; Marvin Swecker, second vice president; Harry Meyer, past president; Glen Sutton, board member; Dennis Lucas, lion tamer; Mary Vergin, board member; Don Vergin, board member; Denise Anderson, treasurer. (Submitted photo)