



June 15, 2007

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## Little D Technology: The Answer to La Pine's Computer Woes

Jun 05, 2007

by SARAH LAWRENCE CBN Feature Writer

For many years Tony and Kathy DeBone continually traveled to La Pine from their home in Seattle -- sometimes as often as once a month— to visit family and soak in the sites, sounds and sun of Central Oregon. They dreamed of one day living here.



In 2005 they finally found the opportunity to make the move and used their mutual talents to open Little D Technology, a business that builds websites, organizes networks, handles computer set-up and back-up plans and completes maintenance and repairs on computers for local residents and businesses.

"When we moved down here there were obviously not a lot of hi-tech jobs here in La Pine and there's not that many to go around in Bend," Kathy said. "So we decided we wanted to stay in La Pine and not do the commuting, and so that's why we decided we would go ahead and open up shop here in town."

The DeBone's opened their business in the La Pine Highway Center in November 2005 and quickly learned that they were filling a niche in the area.

"One of the interesting comments we got when we first started to get to know a few people was, 'Please don't go away,'" Tony said. "Apparently there have been people doing what we do and they just kind of come and go. They're here for a year and then all of the sudden they're not."

Tony said Little D Technology should be around for a long time to come. The business has experienced steady growth since opening 1 1/2 years ago.

"We've found a real need for websites here," Tony said. "We started out with the Chamber of Commerce. It was just kind of great timing that we moved into this office and then from there we worked with Wilderness Garbage, La Pine Community Clinic, the city and the La Pine Industrial Group."

Business has been so good the couple is thinking about hiring their first employee sometime in the next year.

"The first year was a lot more of a struggle than it seems to be this year," Kathy said. "This year our main problem is using our time effectively and staying on top of what's going on. Our next step will probably be to hire someone and every since day one our goal has been to provide a family wage job in this area with benefits. We want to give back to the community."

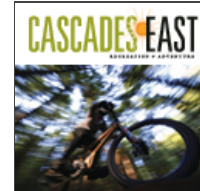
Kathy said volunteering and getting involved in the community is very important because it not only helps improve the city they love, but it also provides the fringe benefit of attracting new business.

"La Pine is a very community oriented town and I think something that's helped our business is that we do volunteer a lot and we're involved in a lot of things," she said. "We care a lot about what goes on here in La Pine. My husband is on the La Pine Park and Recreation Board and also on the La Pine Rodeo Association. I've been involved with La Pine Huskies and I volunteer at the school."

Tony won the annual community service award for 2006 by the La Pine Chamber of Commerce. Kathy said they also support local businesses whenever possible and people tend to return the favor.

Tony said great customer service is another aspect that makes the business successful. Because they don't sell computers, the business is truly a customer service organization.

"We've got a program for managing customer priorities and jobs that we're doing, so we're really focused on making sure that anybody who comes in is getting the solutions they need," he said. "And if we can't fix the problem, we tell them up front and send them to buy a Macintosh or visit Dell.com if they need a new




computer.”

In the future they hope to expand the business to include software development. Tony said he feels fortunate to have started Little D Technology when and where they did.

“We are in the right place at the right time,” he said. “We’re very happy to be in La Pine at this point. Our son is going to school here and we’re only 10 miles from work. The business park is going to take off ... and we know we’re in a good position to grow the business with the community right now.”

Information: 536-1079 or [www.littledtech.com](http://www.littledtech.com).

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