

A lifetime spent managing enormous infrastructure projects gives Mountain Construction Engineering broad construction expertise.

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homas Hessling, President of Mountain Construction Engineering, worked for 37 years on some of the nation's most challenging and iconic infrastructure projects. A career construction engineer licensed in seven states, he spent his time traveling the country, serving major projects, and, over the course of time, winning multiple awards.

But life on the road was getting tiresome and he and his wife Robyn longed for a more peaceful lifestyle. In years past they regularly visited Robyn's father at his summer's home in Highlands, and like so many before them, they never left the Plateau without yearning to return. They determined to settle in the area once their two children entered college.

In 2017 the Hesslings purchased a home in Sapphire Valley and opened Mountain Construction Engineering.

Since opening, the company has won recognition for the integrated construction and facility management services they provide. That includes representing owners who are building second and third homes in the mountains and overseeing details of construction and financial oversight in their absence – in short, acting as a liaison between the contractor and the owner. Other services include structural engineering advice on deck work, and foundation work and design.

The company's advice is sought after for residential disaster relief inspections, and assistance with residential inspection compliance.

At a time when the home-building industry is having the most difficult stint in decades meeting demand, and homeowners are facing increasing frustration, Hessling is a welcome and reassuring presence.

Hessling can be seen on work sites throughout the Plateau and beyond in the company of his Samoyed dog Oscar, whom he refers to as the company mascot. Some years ago, Oscar lost his hair, a condition that rendered him both distinctive and easily recognizable. Generally thought of as "the construction manager," Oscar "represents happiness and everything good in the world – he gets the job done."

Robyn Hessling is a second-grade teacher at the Highlands School. Formerly a residential real estate agent and a buyer for retailer Abraham and Strauss, she has, as she says, business in her genes and uses her marketing skills on behalf of the company.

by Marlene Osteen