

# STREETS: Mayor outlines new offer

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In terms of feedback on why the measures failed, city council and audience members offered a number of opinions, including: unclear wording on the measures; inability to pay; unwillingness to allow for possible temporary property tax increases; and misinformation throughout the community.

After some discussion, Sands presented an offer from Community Bank in Joseph: a 20-year loan for the \$1.3 million that the city would repay by implementing a \$13-per-month transportation utility tax attached to sewer and water bills.

For the purpose of getting the information out to the

public that does not attend city council meetings, Sands sat down with the Chieftain to discuss the finer details of the bank loan.

“Community Bank contacted me about this new program where they can do this type of financing at a very competitive rate because the interest they earn is tax-free,” Sands said.

Community Bank told Sands it could loan Joseph the money at an initial rate of 2.75 percent with a renegotiated rate every five years. Sands and the bank took the possibility of higher rates in the future into consideration when discussing the loan.

For example, the \$13 per month would bring in about \$101,000 per year. The debt

service the first five years would total about \$78,000 per year, and the town would put the extra \$23,000 into a reserve fund to safeguard against possible rate hikes in the future. “Even if they jumped the rate by two points, we’d still have \$10,000 extra per year,” Sands said.

Depending on the volatility of the loan market, Sands said only the last five years of the loan might be uncertain, but said he felt confident the reserve fund could cover any loan rate aberrations. Sands said another advantage of the bank loan is that the administrative fees are much smaller than those of a bond.

“I’m hopeful that we can take advantage of this program and be able to finance the street repair and get it all done in one year. There’d be no mention of a property tax, just a monthly transportation utility fee,” Sands said.

Although it is not actually necessary to bring the bank loan issue up for a public vote, Sands is reluctant to proceed without it. “We could just sit back and say ‘Fine, you’ve spoken, and we’re not going to do anything to the streets,’ but if we (the council) communicate better, I think we can get approval,” Sands said.

The bank is not asking Joseph for collateral, although the council is planning to pass an ordinance allowing for the shut-off of water for those who will not pay the transportation utility fee in addition to their sewer and water bill. “I think this loan has a lot of advantages, and of course, the disadvantage is refinancing every five years, but if we take everything into account but the worst-case scenario, we can cover this just fine. I feel confident,” Sands said.

## 4-H MEMBERS SERVE COMMUNITY



From left, Kaesie Williams, 10, Zoey Leith, 12, and Gracie Ellis, 11 — members of the Sew Me the Bacon 4-H Club — practice community service by sprinkling wildflower seeds outside Wallowa Valley Senior Living. Aleasha Melville is the club’s leader.

Steve Tool/Chieftain

# Community Calendar: Blood drive; classes; Dawson reception

**Wednesday, June 17**  
American Red Cross Blood Drive, 12 to 6 p.m., Cloverleaf Hall, Enterprise. To schedule an appointment: Cindi Aschenbrenner, 541-426-2039; Julie Todd, 541-263-0101.

**Friday, June 19**  
First Aid/CPR/AED classes in Enterprise. Presented by Project Heartbeat. Training for lay responders to assist those suffering medical emergencies until the ambulance arrives. Course good for 2-year certification from the American Red Cross. Cost of the 7-hour class is \$45. For more info and to register: 541-432-0259.

**Tuesday, June 23**  
Reception honoring Lisa Dawson, Oregon State Parks Commissioner for Eastern Oregon, 5 to 8 p.m. at Wallowology, 508 North Main Street, Joseph. Complimentary food, beer, wine, spirits and fun.

**Wednesday, June 24**  
Educational presentation on dog grooming, 7 p.m. at Wallowa County Humane Society Information Center, 104 N. River St., Enterprise. Cindy Neal, from The Spiffy Dog in Lostine, will talk on how to keep your dog looking good between

professional groomings, and on other topics, and provide hands-on demonstrations. Suggested donation: \$5. Part of WC Humane Soc. Public Education Series.

**Thursday, June 25**  
Second Annual Josephy Lecture, 7 p.m. at the Josephy Center in Joseph. Admission by donation (\$5 suggested). Lecturer Jaime A. Pinkham will speak on the Nez Perce Tribe and the environment. More info: 541-432-0505.

**Friday, June 26**  
11th annual Watershed Festival, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wallowa County Fairgrounds. Outdoor summer fun and information provided by over 25 organizations. Family activities include soil painting, birdhouse building, and flower dissecting. Scavenger hunt for kids. Music provided by Wallowa Valley Music Alliance. More info: wallowaresources.org.

**July 3-5**  
Lostine Flea Market, downtown Lostine.

**Saturday July 4**  
Old-Time 4th of July Celebration, Wallowa. Downtown parade starts at 11 a.m., followed by barbecue at Fire Hall. Info: Wallowa City Hall, 541-886-

2422.  
Joseph Mountain Jubilee, all-day open air entertainment from bluegrass, country, Celtic bands. On Lake Street and Main Street in Joseph in various locations.

“Shake the Lake” fireworks display, after dark, 9-11 p.m., north end of Wallowa Lake. Info: 541-426-4622.

**Sunday, July 5**  
5th Annual Dulcimer Extravaganza Concert, 7:30 p.m. at the Josephy Center. Admission \$10 for adults; \$5 for children 12 and under. Concert, the kickoff event for the Joseph Mountain Jubilee, features dulcimer players Karen Mueller from Minneapolis, Minn., Steve Eulberg from the Bay Area, and local musicians Heidi Muller and Bob Webb. More info: 541-432-0156, wallowadulcimer@gmail.com.

The Community Calendar lists fundraisers, free local events and those with a nominal fee organized by nonprofit organizations. Submit information to calendar@wallowa.com. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday. To promote for-profit events, contact sales representative Brooke Pace at bpace@wallowa.com.



## AFRICAN AMERICAN LOGGERS OF WALLOWA COUNTY 1923 - 1960

CITY OF WALLOWA CONFERENCE ROOM  
JULY 12 - 20, 2015 • 10:00 - 4:00 DAILY

## PUBLIC DISCUSSION HOW DO WE TELL THE STORY?

BY PEARL ALICE MARSH, PH.D.  
TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2015  
CITY OF WALLOWA CONFERENCE ROOM, WALLOWA, OR  
7:00 PM

Sponsored by Wallowa History Center



M. CROW · LOSTINE, OR

## Grande Ronde Model Watershed Board of Director's Meeting

June 23, 2015 - 5:00 pm  
Wallowa Community Center  
204 East Second Street  
Wallowa, OR

If you have any questions, please call 541-663-0570

## You're Invited To The Jo Hard Customer BBQ

Saturday  
June 20th, 2015  
11 am - 3 pm

Enjoy Hotdogs, Chips, Drinks



## BUCKET SALE

- +Drawings For
- Gift Cards
  - Lodge Cast Iron
  - Traeger Grill Accessories

\*Some Exclusions Apply. See Store For Details.



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