Bid awarded for library lift

By Kathleen Ellyn Wallowa County Chieftain

Local company Wellens Farwell Construction of Enterprise has been awarded the contract to install the long-awaited Enterprise Public Library lift, pending review of all contracts by Enterprise City Attorney Roland Johnson. Wellens Farwell was the lowest bidder for the project at \$206,526. Pinnacle Architecture of Bend did design for the

"It's within our budget; it doesn't leave us as much contingency as we like, but the bids were higher than expected," said Librarian Denine Rautenstrauch.

The library has a budget of \$244,000 thanks to private donations, a donation of a Nature Conservancy deer tag for raffle, \$7,000 from the City of Enterprise, fundraisers and five grants of significant amounts. The city of Enterprise had estimated the library project would cost \$250,000 including a contingency fund.

They had also expected to go out for bids earlier in the year, but "everything just took more time than we anticipated," said Rautenstrauch.

The library serves many patrons with knee and hip replacements, balance issues. heart of stroke issues and many more limitations. The new lift, which will be placed on the northeast side of the library within the original library footprint, will be accessible via the basement. An Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) approved ramp already provides access to the basement where an ADA bathroom is located. The lift will take occupants to the main floor of the library.

Student grant application workshops set

Kathleen Ellyn Wallowa County Chieftain

It's time for high school seniors to put their finances in order for college, and the Office of Student Access and Completion has scheduled 40 financial aid assistance events throughout Oregon to help students fill out their Free Application for Federal Student Aide (FAFSA).

Students are encouraged to fill out their FAFSA forms as soon as possible starting Jan. 1 since the form determines financial need for purposes of federal, state and campus-based financial aid, including the Oregon Opportunity Grant and the Oregon

Oregon Promise provides \$10 million toward tuition for Oregon graduates pursuing a certificate or degree at one of Oregon's 17 community colleges. The program was expected to serve 7,000 students in its first year of availability. Qualifying students can receive full tuition (minus a \$50 per term co-pay) in their

To find out more, visit www.OregonPromise.org.

The Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) is Oregon's largest state-funded needbased grant program for students planning to go to college. Oregon taxpayers are the primary funders for Opportunity Grants. More than 34,000 students received OOG awards totaling almost \$55 million in the 2013-14 academic year. In 2014-15, OSAC anticipates disbursing more than \$58 million to approximately 35,000 students.

Oregon's month-long series of "how to fill out your FAFSA" events is part of the national College Goal Sunday program organized by the National College Access Network. OSAC has coordinated the Oregon program for more

PUBLIC **Meetings**

Wednesday, Jan. 6 • Lostine City Council, 7:30

Thursday, Jan. 14 Joseph Čity Council, 7 p.m.

http://www.josephoregon.org/

Joseph School Board, 5:30

p.m. at the school library. http:// www.ioseph.k12.or.us/

· Wallowa School Board, 7 p.m. at the high school library.

Wallowa Union Railroad

Wallowa County Commission-

Authority Board, 5 p.m. at the

WURR Depot in Elgin. Agenda: Rail with Trail project.

ers, 9 a.m. at Thornton Room at

City of Enterprise Planning

Commission, 7 p.m. at Enterprise

Monday, Jan. 11

Tuesday, Jan. 12

Monday, Jan. 18

Tuesday, Feb. 2

the court house.

p.m. at City Hall.

than 11 years in partnership with schools and organiza-

tions across the state.

Trained volunteers and financial experts will provide information on navigating through the steps to apply for financial aid, learning about scholarship opportunities, completing the FAFSA, and other postsecondary education financial aid challenges.

Students should bring their parents or guardians to the event, if possible, and the tax returns of both parents and the student. Visit www.College-GoalOregon.gov for specific dates, locations and types of documents to bring. Students and parents also should create a Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID before the event. For more information about creating an FSA ID please visit studentaid.ed.gov.

The nearest site for Wallowa County students and parents will be Pendleton High School in Pendleton. Workshops are scheduled for 6-8 p.m. Jan. 11 in the High School Media Room and 9 a.m. to noon Jan. 16 in the High School Library Computer Lab.

A complete list of locations is available at www. CollegeGoalOregon.gov.

Wednesday, Jan. 6

Northeast Oregon Network (NEON) will host an open enrollment event from noon to 7 p.m. at Wallowa Resources, 401 NE 1st St., Suite A, in Enterprise. For more information, contact Vixen Radford at 541-398-2539 or vradford@neonoregon.org.

Sam Collett hosts a twice-monthly still life drawing gathering, complete with a live model every first and third Wednesday of the month from 7-9 p.m. at the Josephy Center. \$5-10 suggested donation for model. All skill levels welcome.

Thursday, Jan. 7

Please join Lake Wallowa Lodge LLC for its Save the Lodge presentation, hosted beverages and light hors d'oeuvres at 5:30 p.m. at the Lostine Tavern. To RSVP call 541-398-0305 or email info@lakewallowalodge.com.

Friday, Jan. 8

Fishtrap Fireside, 7 p.m. at Fishtrap, 400 E Grant St. in Enterprise. Featuring Brenda Buchanan, Jesse Johnson and Ralph Swinehart. An open mic reading follows and is limited to five minutes (including introductions) and a maximum of four performers. First come, first served.

Saturday, Jan. 9 The Music Alliance continues

its season of Tunesmith Night, featuring songwriters Edmund Wayne, Mike Cramer and Brent Wydrinski. Doors open at 6 p.m.,

"City Council Meeting" is among the work by Bob Fergison on display at the Josephy Center beginning Jan. 10.

OMMUNITY **Calendar**

music starts at 7 p.m. at Lear's Main Street Grill, 111 W. Main, Enterprise. Admission is \$10 at the door or by season pass. All ages welcome.

Sunday, Jan. 10 Fight the Winter Blues: View the Art of Bob Fergison. The Josephy Center for Arts and Culture will display the art of Enterprise artist Bob Fergison during January/February. "Expressive" Figures" will open Jan. 10 and remain on display through Feb. 16 at the Center's Gold Gallery on Main Street in Joseph

Enterprise Mayor Steve Lear will be hosting his bimonthly meeting, "An Afternoon with the Mayor," 3 to 5 p.m. in the Tomas Building Conference Room, 309 S. River St., Enterprise. The

purpose of the meetings is to get local residents more actively involved and to move their issues forward.

Tuesday, Jan. 12

Preparation for the next Wallowa Valley orchestra concert will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Enterprise High School band room. Dates for Tuesday rehearsals are as follows; Jan. 12, 19, 26, and Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23. A concert is scheduled for Feb. 28 in Elgin. For more information contact the Inland Northwest Musicians, 541-289-4696 or associate conductor Randy Morgan 541-426-3593.

More information about the WVO and INWM can be found on our facebook pages or by visiting our website, inlandnorthwestmusicians.com.

Community Connection is hosting free Energy Education Workshops with door prizes and giveaways from 1-3 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at Joseph Fire Hall. Energy Education workshops are free and will give you some useful information on how to save money on your energy bills.

Saturday, Jan. 16 Old-Time Community Dance

(Squares, Reels, Circles, Waltzes, Contras) with Live String Band and caller from 7-10 p.m. at Hurricane Creek Grange Hall, between Enterprise and Joseph. \$5/person, under 12 free. Beginners welcome. No partner or special clothing required. All dances taught and called. For details, call Laura at 541-398-

Lower Valley Farmers' Market, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., 301 E. 1st St. Wallowa

See CALENDAR, Page A12

ROMBACH

Continued from Page A4

It was great. Big. Fun. Wonderful. Exciting.

Still, every time we got to talking with someone on the chair ride up the big wonderful high-tech mountain, Todd and I ended up telling whoever it was riding with us about our little ol' hill back in eastern Oregon and how they should really come out and ski Fergi. I think a few of them just might.

Happy 2016, y'all. May The Force be with you if you

the ocean). This report (www.

get a new hairstyle this year and may you rip into the good things of 2016 like a 3-yearold opening presents.

Jon Rombach is a local columnist for The Chieftain.

LETTERS

Continued from Page A4

importance of a fish passage when this dam gets rebuilt.

Dam removal is becoming common practice all over the world as dams such as this one have outlived their use. Here is an opportunity to fix the dam, provide passage for Sockeye salmon and have more water.

At one time Sockeye salm-

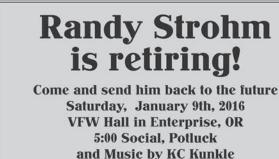
on runs dominated these waters. Sockeye salmon and landlocked Kokanee are incredibly resilient.

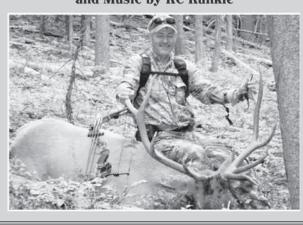
It is a proven fact that Sockeye have been known to re-establish their anadromous runs from the ocean after many years. Sockeye salmon were restored to Redfish Lake, Idaho, in recent years after Sunbeam Dam on the Salmon River was thought to have blocked the longest run of Sockeye salmon in the world (900 miles from nrcresearchpress.com/doi/ abs/1) written in 2011 demonstrates how Sockeye salmon runs can be re-established in rivers and lakes. It seems like there would

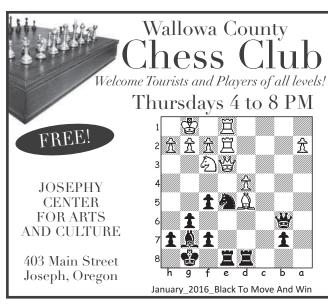
be plenty of support from environmental groups, tribes and government agencies (state and federal) that would like to see Sockeye back in Wallowa Lake. Grants and funding should be available for this project to rebuild a dam with adequate fish passage.

Judy Goodman















541-426-4567 (office) or email jpowell@wallowa.com