

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 project.

"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 Promise.

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 first year.

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

The Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) is Oregon's largest state-funded need-based 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

than 11 years in partnership with schools and organizations 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.CollegeGoalOregon.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 Ferguson on display at the Josephy Center beginning Jan. 10.

COMMUNITY 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.

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

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.

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.

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 541-398-0800.

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

get a new hairstyle this year and may you rip into the good things of 2016 like a 3-year-old 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

the ocean). This report (www.nrcresearchpress.com/doi/abs/10.1155/2011/123456) 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
Joseph

Eds Ed Staub & Sons
Energy, Community, Service.
201 East Hwy 82
Enterprise, OR 97828
541.426.0320

Eds Propane
Ed Staub & Sons

Speed Queen
Rinnai

Crosley
Amana

Celebrate the new year with new name brand appliances!

Randy Strohm is retiring!

Come and send him back to the future
Saturday, January 9th, 2016
VFW Hall in Enterprise, OR
5:00 Social, Potluck
and Music by KC Kunkle

Wallowa County Chess Club
Welcome Tourists and Players of all levels!
Thursdays 4 to 8 PM

FREE!

JOSEPHY CENTER FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

403 Main Street
Joseph, Oregon

January 2016 Black To Move And Win

JB BANE & COMPANY
ELECTRICAL & WATER SYSTEM CONTRACTOR
CCB#187543 ECF 32-14C

ELECTRICAL & PLUMBING SUPPLIES • PUMPS
IRRIGATION • HARDWARE • APPLIANCE PARTS

208 S. RIVER ST. • ENTERPRISE, OR
www.jbbane.com 541-426-3344

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Wednesday, Jan. 6
• Lostine City Council, 7:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Thursday, Jan. 14
• Joseph City Council, 7 p.m. <http://www.josephoregon.org/>

Monday, Jan. 11
• Joseph School Board, 5:30 p.m. at the school library. <http://www.joseph.k12.or.us/>
• Wallowa School Board, 7 p.m. at the high school library.

Tuesday, Jan. 12
• Wallowa Union Railroad Authority Board, 5 p.m. at the WURR Depot in Elgin. Agenda: Rail with Trail project.
Monday, Jan. 18
Wallowa County Commissioners, 9 a.m. at Thornton Room at the court house.

Tuesday, Feb. 2
City of Enterprise Planning Commission, 7 p.m. at Enterprise City Hall

Lostine Tavern
WALLOWA VALLEY OREGON

HAPPY 2016!
FROM ALL OF US AT THE LT!

JOIN US FOR HAPPY HOUR SPECIALS
WED-SAT, 2-5PM

DINNER SPECIALS SERVED 5-8PM

OPEN 11 AM-8PM, WED-SUN
HIGHWAY 82, LOSTINE • 541-569-2246
STAY CONNECTED ON FACEBOOK

WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN
wallowa.com

No matter what your business is, the Wallowa County Chieftain has the audience you need!

We have many options to market your business in an affordable and effective manner.

Call **Jennifer Powell** today!

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