

# EYES

Continued from Page A1

Diana Stein of Joseph, moved in.

"There were things I really wanted to see in my lifetime," Jenkins said. "I wanted to see the Inland Passage in Alaska and the ice, to go to New York and see the Statue of Liberty. Now, it's hard to just go in a room and not know a person by sight that you've known all your life."

Her family was immediately available to help drive her back and forth for treatments in Portland and her son, Ted, began scouring the Internet.

It was Ted who spotted a potential solution.

Now, Jenkins' response to blindness may make her one of the most recognizable people in Wallowa County. The solution that her son found her was to buy Lt. Commander Geordi La Forge's vision visor.

Jenkins' new glasses are not exactly the same as those

worn by the Star Trek character, but they can allow a legally blind person to see again.

They're a technological miracle created by a Canadian engineer, Conrad Lewis, who was looking for a solution to the blindness of two of his sisters who have a form of macular degeneration. He created the eSight portable vision system. It allows individuals who retain even a tiny portion of sight to see clearly — as if they are looking directly ahead of themselves.

The glasses auto-adjust to distances or can be zoomed in by a magnification of 24X.

"When I was trying them on for the first time in Boise, I was looking out an 11th story window, and I could zoom in and see the people in a car on the street below," Jenkins recalled.

The glasses do this by using a high-speed, high-definition camera that captures what the user is "looking at," enhances that and displays it on two Organic Light Emitting Diode screens. Those dis-



Courtesy photo

The newest design for eSight glasses. The glasses can address the majority of legal blindness issues. Approximately 80 percent of all blind individuals retain some sight that the glasses can maximize.

plays can then be adjusted to where the wearers remaining vision can best read the image.

Only about 15 percent of the visually impaired population, an estimated 285 million worldwide according to the World Health Organization, are totally blind. Devices like eSight could

help the other 5 percent.

"They go on like a regular pair of glasses and people know instantly if they work or not," said Jaime Silverberg, advocacy manager for eSight.

The glasses have been available worldwide for several years, have been reported on and studied in many nations and have been cham-

pioned by Major General Gale Pollock, a retired U.S. Army major general who served as the Deputy Surgeon General of the United States Army and as Chief of the Army Nurse Corps.

Pollock has been working with the Veterans Administration, the Blinded Veterans Association and the Wounded Warrior Project to find a way to make the devices available to veterans.

"Major Pollock is working with us through her not-for-profit The Overcome Vision Loss Foundation," said Silverberg.

There is still no cure for the disease Jenkins has, but treatments to slow the progression are available. She receives those every three months.

The only obstacle remaining preventing Jenkins living a full and independent life is the same one in the way of every other person who could be benefitted by the technology.

It's expensive. Insurance will not pay for it. Jenkins must pay the \$10,000 price tag.

Her friends have mobilized to help.

Judith Rahn opened a bank account at Community Bank where anyone can donate for the glasses or ongoing medical treatments at the Casey Eye Institute at OHSU to preserve her remaining sight.

Tim Parks of TW Bronze in Enterprise is donating sev-

eral bronze works to a raffle to raise money for the glasses and ongoing treatments.

"I've known her for 30 some years, and I'm a friend of her brother, Scott Grote," said Tim Parks. "She's excellent, wonderful and there's nobody more deserving. I really want her to make this goal so I'm getting together several bronze pieces so that there can be one raffle but three or four winners."

The bronze pieces under consideration are his Fennec Fox, rabbits and other small bronzes valued at a minimum of \$400 each. The pieces will be available for viewing soon and information on how to purchase a raffle ticket is forthcoming.

"I need Kathy to be cutting my hair — and she still does," Parks said. "She's just right up on my head when she does it now."

Jenkins' brother Scott Grote, a Wallowa County native who is now an Elvis Impersonator in Portland, is also planning a benefit performance in Wallowa County.

A Canadian benefactor will pay a third of the cost if she can raise the remainder by Jan. 1, 2018.

An online crowd funding page where people can donate toward the purchase has been created by eSight.

"We give her the resources to create her own story, and we provide the platform," said eSight's Silverberg. "Every dollar donated goes directly to her glasses. If she raises more than the cost, she may use the money for medical expenses or pay it forward and help fund someone else's glasses."

To donate to the eSight crowdfunding page for Kathy Jenkins, visit [giving.esighteyewear.com/kathy-jenkins](http://giving.esighteyewear.com/kathy-jenkins).

If Kathy misses the deadline for matching funds, her friends intend to keep raising funds until she has the whole \$10,000.

"It's just day to day, now," Jenkins said. "I just put everything in God's hands. What a blessing from God that gave people the talents to be able to build or make these glasses."



## Holiday Season Garbage Schedule

For Our Valued Customers & Friends

All of us at Rahn Sanitary Services would like to take this time to express our sincere **THANK YOU** for your continued business and support!

This year our office and garbage routes will **NOT** be operating Christmas Day, Monday, December 25, 2017. This will mean all Monday schedules will be picked up on Tuesday. There will be no other changes to the rest of the week.

Our office and garbage routes **WILL** operate our normal collection routes on New Years Day and the remainder of the week.

We are again, offering a one month discount if you pay for the entire 2018 calendar year. This offer is for can service accounts only. Payments must be made by the end of January

**Just a couple reminders for the upcoming year:**

- \* If you know you will be missing a pick-up, you must call in ahead to receive credit. \*
- \* For those who dispose of kitty litter, please bag it up. \*
- \* Our trucks leave the office a 5am, have cans out the night before or by 5am. \*
- \* Office policy for can size is 32 gallons and one handle must be intact. \*
- \* We ask that can weights do not exceed 50 lbs, as we still "throw cans" manually. \*
- \* When calling for services after hours, please leave your name, address & phone number. \*

### Merry Christmas

### Happy New Year

## Equipment for all your snow removal needs!

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## Extended holiday shopping hours and festivities about Friday & Saturday!

### FRIDAY DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>

**9 am - 9 pm**  
Ice Skating at Enterprise City Park (weather permitting)  
**Ice Skate Rentals at R's Consignment at 105 W Main St**

**11am - 6 pm**  
Wonderland Pop Up Market at the Burnaugh Building  
**handmade, artisan goods & tasty snacks**

**2 pm - 4:30pm**  
Selfies with Santa and Mrs. Claus at Wild Carrot Herbals 116 W Main St

**6 pm**  
"It's a Wonderful Life" at the OK Theater

### SATURDAY DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>

**9 am - 9 PM**  
Ice Skating at Enterprise City Park (weather permitting)  
**Ice Skate Rentals at R's Consignment at 105 W Main St**

**9 am**  
Drop off Fudge at Bee Charmed Market Place

**11am - 6 pm**  
Wonderland Pop Up Market at the Burnaugh Building  
**handmade, artisan goods & tasty snacks**

**1 pm - 5 pm**  
North Pole Barrel Train Ride & Wagon Rides

**2 pm - 4:30 pm**  
Santa Central with Mrs. Claus and the elves at Wild Carrot Herbals 116 W Main St  
**free professional digital photos, hot cocoa, homemade cookies and holiday cheer**

**3 pm**  
Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire Wild Carrot Herbals 114 W Main St

**3:30 pm**  
Enterprise Volunteer Fire Department's Famous Four Alarm Chili Feed at the corner of 1st and Main

**3:30 pm**  
Christmas Karaoke hosted by Tom Hyatt at the corner of 1st and Main

**5:30 pm**  
Winterfest Lights Parade on Main Street from North 2nd St to Depot St  
**Drawings for kid's gift certificates & prizes following the parade**

**7 pm**  
Live Music (An American Forrest) at The Range Rider

## Merry Christmas from GEMS and the City of Enterprise!

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