

Living Nativity
Live actors and animals
New Life Community Church
6068 W. Hayden, Rathdrum
Dec. 21, 22, 23 • 6-9 p.m.

Volume 8
Issue 11
December 14, 2011

The STAR

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
ECRWSS
RATHDRUM, ID
PERMIT NO. 9

Direct Mailed to
More Than 10,100 Homes
Every Week.

Proudly Serving Rathdrum, Spirit Lake, Blanchard, Athol and Hauser Lake.

Young and Old(er) Answer Call to Help Cut Firewood



By TOM BURNETT
Of The Star

The call went out and in they came... Little 3-year-old wood carriers to 70-year-old senior citizens to nearly 50 men, women and children in between, they gathered last Saturday in the front yard of the Rathdrum Lions Club to cut and deliver firewood.

"Yes, that was an impressive day's work; but worth every minute," according to project organizer Larry Quimby.

"We as a club feel extremely fortunate to be able to help those around us in their time of need. Pretty neat, don't you agree?"

Quimby said his "crew" cut fireplace-sized chunks of wood from the two full logging trucks donated to the club. Club members Cliff

Continued to the left



Three-year-old Kyle Fritz doesn't seem a bit bothered in replacing a glove with an old sock as he goes about carrying firewood while a "seasoned" sawyer goes to work against a large tree trunk.

Daniels of Chipmasters and Joe Lyons of Lyons Excavating donated heavy equipment to push the heavy logs into the waiting collection of some 10 chainsaw-wielding sawyers.

One guy, himself about the size of medium tree, was knee deep in sawdust before stopping for a moment. "Yea, my dad and I cut up 'bout 35 cords each winter for the neighbors. Yea, we enjoy it," he said with a swipe of his red plain flannel short across a wrinkled brow.

Boy Scouts from Troop 216 were there as were members of the Lakeland High School wrestling team and representatives of the Lakeland Little League baseball organization.

The youngest "woodsman" appeared to be 3-year-old Kyle Fritz, grandson of Kathy and Mike Fritz of Lakeland Trust Valley Hardware.

At least, it looked like pint-sized Fritz under that multi-colored stocking cap and stuffed inside that winter jacket. The little sock on his right hand instead of a glove, "was my fault," Grandpa Mike said.

"We couldn't find his other glove at the last minute.

Socks work just as well!"

Meanwhile, no less than seven "stations" were established, each with a crew huddled around a gas-powered splitter and enough hands to toss-and-stack cords of firewood into a host of waiting pickups.

Between 25 and 30 families benefited from this – no one, it seemed, kept an exact count.

"We really didn't care," Quimby said. "We just kept cuttin', loadin' and haulin' until all the wood was gone. 'Phew!'"

It's What They Want...

Gift Buyers: Stock Up on DSs!

By TOM BURNETT
Of The Star

OK, moms and dads... There is an excellent chance your youngsters want a DS for Christmas – whatever a DS is! Best we can determine, something about a dual screen video play system.

Anyway...

Last Thursday evening, we eavesdropped over the shoulders of a handful of Lakeland High School stu-

dents as they answered some 50 callers from youngsters offering their holiday wishes.

There was Scotty who wants a nerf gun, Mattie and her Cricket machine and 8-year-old Alexis who asked Santa for a stuffed panda bear.

Seemingly gone are the days of action figures, Tonka trucks and the age-old favorite, Barbie dolls. Even the fairly recent, remote

controlled vehicles did not get a call. But DS machines certainly did, with three out of four callers ranking the electronic gadget at the top of their Christmas list.

Cody, 7, asked Santa for new pants, Magic Treehouse Books before getting to his wish for a DS while a new soccer ball and cleats would satisfy 9-year-old Sammy. Five-year-old Tanny figured a

See SANTA Page 3



Lakeland students and staff gather last Friday morning to share the news of their being awarded a \$100,000 grant from the J.S. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation to further the school's ongoing programs of better equipping graduates to go on to college - and beyond.

Lakeland High Awarded \$100,000 to Assist Students

Lakeland High School and its ongoing programs to further advanced learning at the high school level was rewarded last Friday with a \$100,000 check from the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation for use in its "Go On Challenge."

LHS was one of eight high schools throughout the state to benefit from the multi-thousand dollar program – and one of two schools north of the Boise area. The grant was the largest ever received by the green-and-gold.

"Obviously, we are extremely pleased to have been selected for this prestigious honor," repeated both LHS counselor Frank Vieira and LHS principal Conrad Underdahl. "The funds will go a long way toward assisting and encouraging Lakeland students in the pursuit of 'going on' to some type of postsecondary education or training, for instance technical school, university or community college."

An exact decision as to how the money will be spent is yet undetermined.

"What the heck, we just

learned we won a couple minutes ago! I will say that LHS students will benefit from the money with the Go On Challenge kept in mind – providing opportunities for students to further their education while in high school." quipped Vieira.

The Go On Challenge is a three-prong competition; the first dealing with and how many students take preparatory and college entrance tests– PSAT, PLAN, SAT and ACT. Next, the Foundation looks at the number of students that successfully completed dual credit college courses and tech prep courses, while the third prong involves how many students tackle higher level math and science courses.

Lakeland came up winners in the dual credit and tech prep course offerings, sparking Vieira to note, "a good percentage of our juniors and seniors are enrolled in dual credit courses at North Idaho College and the University of Idaho."

He told of a 167 percent increase in those students taking the alphabet tests while LHS experienced a 38 percent

student increase in the dual course program. Tech prep courses completed showed a 56 percent increase, Principal Underdahl said, adding, "This shows us and our community that our students are prepared to take a challenge, go the extra mile, and succeed at LHS."

Information provided with the award indicated the Albertson Foundation "is launching a statewide campaign aimed at boosting the number of college graduates and, in so doing, spending \$20 million for scholarships and for methods to broaden a student's scholastic achievement level."

Before the advent of the program, Idaho ranked 43rd in the nation in students earning a four-year college degree. According to the Idaho Department of Labor three out of every four jobs in Idaho in 2014 will require advanced training and education.

"In reality, two-thirds of all American 9th graders will not be prepared for college within four years and half of those who actually go to college won't leave with a degree," the statement reads.

Let's See; 1,200 Eggs, Please!

HAUSER – Let's see... Gotta pick up a few items for breakfast... Best estimate, we'll be serving upwards of 1,600 hungry diners.

Such was the scene at the Hauser Lake Volunteer firehouse this past week as firemen, auxiliary and friends of the department prepared for their Breakfast With Santa, the annual fundraiser for someone suffering from a crippling disease.

This year, Justin Salisbury, 15, a Post Falls High School sophomore, will benefit from the hugely popular holiday season event. Justin suffers from leukemia.

Back to the shopping list...

Asst. Chief James Neils, one of the many sparkplugs behind the annual event, went shopping for 1,400 biscuits, 25 gallons of gravy and 200 pounds of pancake mix, 15 gallons of syrup, 100 dozen eggs, 200 pounds of scrambled egg mix, 70 gallons of orange juice and 20 pounds of

Feeding Close to 1,600...



Hauser Fire Department Lt. Andy Boyle has charge of sausage duty last Sunday during the Breakfast With Santa event.

See BREAKFAST Page 7