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Gov. Butch Otter (left) joins State Superintendent of Schools Tom Luna and businessman Ron Nilson in tossing the first shovel of dirt during last Tuesday's groundbreaking ceremony for the KTEC school.

Rathdrum Welcomes KTEC With 'Official' Groundbreaking

By TOM BURNETT
Of The Star

In between a rainshower or two last Tuesday afternoon, Idaho Gov. Butch Otter led a team of educators, political leaders and local business professionals in dedicating the \$7.9 million Kootenai Technical Education Center (KTEC).

Speaking before some 200 applauding spectators, the governor himself applauded "the many, many people who helped put this together. Your community got together, passed a bond election by some 68 percent and put this together with the thought toward the future." There are some 5,000 young students each year in Idaho that don't graduate from high school.

"Across the nation," added a leading proponent on KREC businessman Ron Nilson, "there are 33 percent of our high school students who don't make it to graduation.

"What happens to all these students? They're faced with little to look forward to. What happened to the days when technical education was available to them? It's our goal, our ambition to bring back these choices.

"There are millions of jobs going unfilled... Why? Because we are not producing the students capable of filling them.

"China, Japan, India; they're standing ready to fill those jobs," he said.

KTEC, the crowd was told, will exist to offer technical-based job training: welding, automobile mechanics, drafting, electrical, nursing,

restaurant employment and related positions.

And KTEC will provide this valuable training right here at home. A trained work force means more businesses, more jobs coming to the area, he said.

Added State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna, "there will be

College banded together in 2006 to form KTEC. Business interests along with a select group of educators meet privately, Nilson said, before approaching the school districts for support.

Once a conceptual agreement was reached, Nilson explained how the group started searching for available



Lakeland School Supt. Mary Ann Ranells shares a moment with Gov. Butch Otter during KTEC groundbreaking ceremonies.

other districts that'll want to duplicate what they see happening here. Giving students a choice is so important.

"And, a technical education is just such a choice. To be able to graduate with a skill is so necessary to a growing community."

Overall, the concept behind KTEC is unique, the crowd heard, in that it is comprised of three independent school districts forming a consortium toward a single goal - to fill the void created by a perceived lack of a trained, skilled labor force in the areas of technical applications.

Lakeland, Post Falls and Coeur d'Alene school districts along with North Idaho

land by approaching the late Wayne Meyer.

"He told us if we could raise enough funding to buy 10 acres, he'd donate the adjacent 10 acres... and we did and he did." Before firm building plans could be completed, the land had to be annexed into Rathdrum, which was accomplished earlier this year, after complex agreements were ironed out dealing with road construction, water and sewer lines.

The city waived most of its usual building fees.

Meanwhile, the Lakeland district purchased an adjacent 39 acres as a future building site.

The actual KTEC building is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2012.

Names Like Zucchini Road, Lettuce Court And, It Used to be Called!

Attention! Those living in the Arthur's Gardens subdivision...the fashionable subdivision bordered by Wright Street, Rose Estates, Copper Valley and Thayer Park.

How many are aware that today's Winchester Drive was named Strawberry Lane, back in 1976 when the subdivision was "officially" approved and adopted by the city? It gets better!

Today's Manchester Drive was originally named Stringbean Street while Trevor Street was called Lettuce Court and Tudor Street, Corny Circle until both streets crossed Beechwood Lane - which was called Turnip Road 35 years ago. On the west side of "Turnip Road" were Carrot Place (today's Tudor Street) and Radish Way (Trevor Street).

Heading south, between Stringbean Street and Strawberry Lane, there existed Raspberry Road - today's Boxwood Lane, Huckleberry Road, now called Juniper Lane and no doubt a neighborhood favorite, Heather Lane was named Zucchini Road.

And, that was the way it was - 35 years ago!

Tunnel of Terror Promises Its Fair Share of Scary Moments

Where, we ask you, can you go for \$5 and have the scare of your life - and not have to leave Rathdrum?

For the ninth year running, Ed and Ruth Maryott have created their Tunnel of Terror, the seasonal house of horrors located just off Highway 41 at Diagonal Road.

This year, "yes, we've added some new 'spooky stuff!' You'll have to come out and see for yourself!" said the mastermind behind the local favorite holiday attraction.

"Well, okay, I can tell you we've added an enclosure at the end... where we will be serving free kettle corn and goodies for the kids - that is, if they make it through the Tunnel of Terror!"

For those patiently waiting a turn to enter the Tunnel, John Carpenter's *The Ward* will be ongoing "for your viewing pleasure," she said. "Oh, incidentally, that movie was filmed in Spokane and Moses Lake!"

Basically, the Tunnel is some 450 feet of carefully-crafted "let's call them 'elements'" designed to put a fright into most every visitor. There are ghosts, goblins, snakes, animals and wispy creations guaranteed to scare the daylights out of those brave enough to enter, Maryott said.

"We, that's Ed and I, have been working on this year's

Tunnel pretty much since last year. Seems every day we do something with it; of course, the major emphasis coming since August. We probably spend eight to 12 hours a day on the Tunnel."

Why? "Simple! Because we enjoy doing it... Every penny we make goes right back into the displays."

This year's admission is, like last years, \$5 for those over 12 and \$3 for those visitors 6 to 12. Children under 6 are admitted free, "but must be accompanied by an adult," she said.

"Last year we had over 1,300 fearful visitors enter our tunnel; we are ready to

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A sample of what's in store for visitors to the Tunnel of Terror.

Civil War Historian Provides Insight Into 'The Great Battle'

"What," James McPherson asked his audience of some 500 Thursday evening, "accounts for today's interest in the Civil War? After all, it was 150 years ago!"

The Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, educator and historian spent the next 45 minutes explaining the importance of the nation's bloodiest war to those attending the eighth annual Idaho Humanities Council's annual dinner speaker at the Coeur d'Alene Resort.

"First," McPherson said, "was the mere size of this conflict. It extended from Pennsylvania to New Mexico, Florida to Kansas. At best count, 620,000 soldiers - both men and women - were killed in the Civil War, apart from the unknown number of those wounded.

Six hundred twenty thousand... "that was 2 percent of the entire population of the

nation in 1860. You equate that to today's population and you'd have 6 million soldiers engaged in the war."

Then there were the heroes, "those men whose names have become mythical characters - Lee, Grant, Sherman, Lincoln, Jackson. These names have become almost romantic in the sense their image has lasted 150 years."

The Civil War, he continued, brought forward several issues; slavery, conflict, state sovereignty vs. national unity and government vs. social change.

Initially, the war tested the unity of the nation as a number - 11 to be precise - seceded from the union. The north went to war to preserve the Union. While many consider slavery as the key issue for the South, slavery was not a central issue until about two years into the war, he said.

"The South, however, is better off now having lost the war than they would have been had they won the war!" he said.

Following his talk, McPherson offered to answer questions from his attentive audience, including one

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Library Sponsors Open House

Teen Read Week celebration is set at the Rathdrum Library from 4 to 7 p.m., Oct. 18 with an emphasis on the many teen volunteers. Also will be the unveiling of the new Teen Photo Collection, attractively displayed on one wall of the library.

Refreshments will be served, 4 to 7 p.m.

And, for a relaxing moment with a good book, the library now has a Reading Garden, surrounded by greenery, shadowy trees - even a water feature.



McPHERSON