

Rathdrum Lions Club  
**BENEFIT AUCTION**  
 This Saturday • 10 a.m.  
 Lions Clubhouse, Hwy 53 at Meyer Rd.

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## Council Positions Uncontested Holmes Faces Challenge for Mayor's Position

### New Faces Join Incumbents Spirit Lake Race Rule in Hauser

By TOM BURNETT  
*Of The Star*

Kevin Randles of Dashco fame filed a last minute declaration of candidacy last Friday to challenge incumbent Mayor Vic Holmes who is seeking a second term as the city's top elected official.

Randles did not offer a statement to coincide with his petition, simply opting to pay the \$40 filing fee as opposed to submitting the required five signatures of registered voters.

In the two city council positions, no one filed for either position currently held by incumbents Debbie Holmes and Fred Meckel.

Meanwhile, in Spirit

Lake, council incumbents Gary Ventress and Diane Berg submitted petitions for reelection while incumbent Kim Hill opted not to file for reelection.

However, veteran campaigner Bill Erickson along with Rosemary Wheaton filed for positions on the council. Erickson ran four years ago in a three-way race for mayor, doing battle with then-city council members Shelley Tschida and Todd Clary.

Following a feisty campaign, Erickson received 122 votes against 140 for Tschida and 146 for Clary. Spirit Lake lives under an ordinance that mandates a mayor must accumulate 51 percent of the

votes cast among the top two candidates.

A runoff between Clary and Tschida followed with Clary garnering a sizeable majority of the votes.

Meanwhile, Idaho election law allows until Sept. 23 for anyone to submit a write-in candidacy.

In Hauser, incumbent Councilmen Roger Lefebvre and Gary Mallon are both running unopposed for reelection to four-year terms on the council.

Mayor Olita Johnston has two years of her term remaining as does Council President Claire Hatfield. A fourth city council seat remains vacant following the recent resignation of Lacey Hynes.



COURTESY PHOTO

Road crews add finishing touches to the Ross Addition asphalt street overlay project as the summer's list of road upgrades nears completion.

## Ambitious Road Upgrades Nearing Completion

Recent hot weather is not only an invitation to an area lake, but is ideal weather for applying asphalt street overlays and rebuilding decayed roadbeds.

Main Street across from Mountain View High School, for example, had been repaired to a point where additional patchwork would be a waste of money, explained City Administrator Brett Boyer.

So, with money saved from other projects, the city opted to rebuild that portion of Main Street.

Coincidentally, a block west, Knife River was finishing a more involved project, that of improving Second Street and installing new sidewalks and curbs in front of the Old Jail and its Annex as well a section of unimproved roadway in front of the city's Parks and Recreation Building. Also, as part of that job, the battered utility pole at Stevens and Main Streets – scene of a number

of accidents – was moved a noticeable distance west.

To accomplish the pole relocation, several utilities such as Avista Utilities, telephone companies, and cable systems were involved, many

requiring new wiring. A section of Main Street had to be removed to allow the work to proceed.

Meanwhile, asphalt overlays were applied to the streets in the Roth Addition.

## Drug Discovery Leads to Arrest of Suspect, 26

Twenty-six year old Brian Measel of Rathdrum was arrested last Saturday evening on drug charges when police discovered suspected heroin in his possession.

According to Chief Kevin Fuhr, an off-duty officer observed the suspect driving east on Highway 53 near Rathdrum. Fellow officers followed, then stopped the defendant on Fourth Street near his home. When he opened the glove compartment to provide his license, registration and proof of insurance, the officer noticed a hypodermic needle.

A complete search of the suspect's car followed with officers discovering two more needles, drug paraphernalia and a small amount of suspected heroin.

Measel was charged with two counts of possession of drug paraphernalia and a single count of possession of a controlled substance. He was taken to the Kootenai County jail.

## Bad Information Comes Our Way!

Call it a bit of "exciting confusion," but the information provided by The Star following last week's announcement of the winner of the Rathdrum Lions Club's 1966 Ford Mustang was, well, not totally accurate.

It seems the newspaper reported the winner, Andrea Johnson of Liberty Lake, Wash. as being part of a bicycle tour that stopped by the Lions Clubhouse for breakfast on Labor Day morning.

See **LIONS** Page 3

## Storytime at Rathdrum Library

Community Library Network at Rathdrum once again is offering toddler and preschool Storytime programs on Tuesday mornings, beginning with Mother Goose Lapsit at 10 a.m. for 0-3-year-olds. The little guys and gals must be accompanied by an adult.

Preschool Storytime meets at 10:30 a.m. for 3-5 year olds.

Call the Rathdrum Library at 687-1029 for more information.



SHELLEY CHAMBERS/The Star

Heavy equipment goes to work on Maine Street in Spirit Lake last week as the city embarks on the downtown rehab project, made possible through a \$500,000 grant from the Department of Commerce. Aged underground water lines prompted the project which includes new curbs, sidewalks and new pavement along Maine Street - all planned to be completed before the snow flies.

## District Schools Open with 133 Empty Desks; Less \$\$\$

By TOM BURNETT  
*Of The Star*

On day one of the new school year, 4,281 students were attending classes in the Lakeland School District, 133 students short of the last day of last year.

There are 104 less elementary students this fall and 29 less secondary students.

"This is truly a first for our district," according to Lakeland's Business Manager Tom Taggart, "where the number of incoming students is less than the last day of school the prior year.

"To what do we attribute this?"

"Well, a number of reasons, largely financial. People losing their homes and being forced to leave the district or landing a new job elsewhere – any number of reasons," he said.

A reduction in student attendance could mean a reduction of as much as \$400,000 in state funding this fall because the state bases its funding on the number of seats filled.

Compounding the already complex issue, Taggart explained, was a change in

how the state funds school districts experiencing a decline in student population. Before last year's education reform legislation, 99 percent of school funding carried from year to year – even if a district reported a decline in student population.

Now, the state allocates 97 percent of the previous year's funding. Next year, the percentage will be even less.

"It's frustrating," Taggart said, "to see our legislators support a law change that hurts our district in such a huge way."

On the first day of school, Athol Elementary School reported a population of 366 students; Betty Kiefer, 493; Garwood, 321; John Brown, 403; Spirit Lake, 321 and Twin Lakes 281.

On the secondary level, Lakeland High School reported 754 students and Timberlake High, 534. Lakeland Jr. High reported 431 students and Timberlake Jr. High, 271. Mountain View Alternative High School has 106 students.

Attendance figures, Taggart noted, changes on a daily

basis, "but seldom more than a couple of students."



Panhandle State Bank's Tamie Phelps (right) presents \$2,000 to the staff and students during John Brown Elementary's Welcome Back School Assembly last Friday afternoon as the bank's match of their raising nearly \$2,200 toward new playground equipment. Students raised their match from last year's Recess Rocks Fun Run. On hand to accept the bank's donation are (front row, from left) students Sophie Schnepf, Michael Cheney and Sara Lindquist. Second row (from left) are JBE Principal John Asher, teacher Betty Mobbs and PSB's Phelps.