

Wishing You a
Pleasant Autumn!

Volume 7
Issue 51
September 21, 2011



PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
ECRWS
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.

Questions Continue Over Jail Ownership

By TOM BURNETT
Of The Star

Negotiations leading up to the eventual ownership of the Old Jail and its Annex are continuing, albeit "ever so slowly," according to one outside observer.

"But, hey, what's the hurry? That old building has been there 100 years, more or less. I don't see any good reason to hurry this decision..." she said last week.

The question is who – either the Rathdrum/Westwood Historical Society or the City of Rathdrum – will hold title to the city's showpiece building. The city owned the historical lockup for years before deeding it to the history group some five years ago.

The society found itself struggling to keep current certain issues such as insurance, utilities and general upkeep. Membership in the group also took a nosedive as money issues plagued meeting after meeting leading them away from the focus of the society – enjoying and preserving local history.

About this time, Don and Dorothy Jacklin entered the picture, benevolently underwriting a \$237,000 donation to refurbish the Old Jail and turn a crumbling, old structure into the city's lone, modern-day tourist attraction.

Once the reconstruction was complete, interest turned to "someday" building an Annex next to the jail with the thought being to provide a secure place to keep, preserve and store local artifacts.

Again the Jacklins stepped forward, donating another \$100,000 for the construction of the Annex immediately east of the Old Jail. Another \$116,000 is committed to finish the building projects with a little left over for "incidentals."



Aside from some old photographs, it, too, remains void of an appreciable collection of artifacts. The historical society meets in the building once a month – sometimes twice when a guest speaker is invited. A local Boy Scout troop also meets there once a month.

Aside from that, both buildings remain locked. Recently, members of the society have opened the Jail and Annex on Saturday mornings for guided tours – but without public notice, few took advantage.

Now, with two buildings to insure, heat, and provide electricity, water and sewer to, the society's treasury is further strapped, which led to many members getting behind a move to turn ownership of the building back to the city. The society lacked any fundraising efforts, relying solely on \$10 annual membership dues to support the operation.

There remained, however, a small faction of the society against the transfer of title.

With a transfer appearing imminent, the city had its legal staff compose a proposed agreement between the two parties several months ago. Reportedly, representatives of the two groups are meeting, but haven't gotten together since before Rathdrum Days in mid-July.

"We're very close to settlement," reported Historical Society President Susan Hopper.

"We're just waiting for them to come back with a response to our proposal," according to City Administrator Brett Boyer. "They did, however, tell me they intended to review the proposed agreement in the very near future."

"We're looking for a fair-to-both-sides agreement," Hop-
See JAIL Page 3



The Rathdrum Area Chamber of Commerce last Wednesday featured the four outstanding citizens for 2011 with plaques and approving applause during its annual awards ceremony. Winners were (from left) Lakeland School District Supt. Mary Ann Ranells, Professional of the Year; Mayor Vic Holmes, Citizen of the Year; Tamie Phelps, Volunteer of the Year; and Diane Gardner's Adept Business Systems owner Diane Gardner.

Chamber Recognizes Leaders

Mayor Vic Holmes was named the Rathdrum Area Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year during the group's annual Awards Day celebration last Thursday.

Other award winners were Mary Ann Ranells as Professional of the Year; Tamie Phelps as Volunteer of the Year and Diane Gardner for her success with Adept Business Services as Business of the Year.

The standout recipient was Phelps who reported the city's recent, first-ever Relay for Life campaign earned \$19,696 in contributions and pledges. She was credited with organizing the massive collection of volunteers necessary for the two-day event at Lakeland High School.

Ranells was credited with maintaining Lakeland's long standing reputation for its outstanding educational and administrative staffs and second-to-none physical facilities. Lakeland students continually rank above national and state averages in the core studies of mathematics, reading and communication skills.

Holmes was recognized for his devotion to youth sports, his dedication to the

smooth operation of the city and "for being there at more ground-breakings, ribbon-cuttings and most everything for the betterment of our city."

Gardner was applauded for her successful Talk it Up Roundtable discussions and her "being a part of so many community events."

Asphalt/Gravel Plant Permit is Denied

A Bonner County man's application for a conditional use permit to rezone some 130 acres on the Kootenai/Bonner County line to allow an asphalt processing plant was unanimously denied last Tuesday evening by the Bonner County Planning and Zoning Commission.

Representatives of the David Haman trust in concert with the Knife River Co. had requested the use permit for land it owns along the Anglin/Roberts Road, east of Highway 95.

News of the request touched off a firestorm of protests, generally centered around the perceived notion that a gravel/asphalt operation could adversely affect their water wells, their air quality, property values and the rural nature of their adjacent properties. Increased truck traffic, unwanted dust generation and an increased noise level also were a part of the many objections.

Nearly 35 residents of the area testified during the four-hour public hearing of their opposition to the project. A host of others chose not to testify, but indicated their support of those who did.

The Lakeland School District also wrote a letter of opposition to the plant, contending that the plant's location poses a "serious safety issue" as it maintains a school bus stop a short distance away.

According to one planning commissioner, the "project would do significant harm to the neighborhood and surrounding areas."

"We're just plain ecstatic about the planners' decision," reported Sheri Lorz. "We couldn't be more pleased. The voice of the residents was heard..."

In its defense, representatives of Knife River argued

their project would be "job-specific," meaning it would operate only when a demand for finished gravel was present. The spokesman, however, admitted, the plant would be neither quiet nor invisible during times of operation.

The petitioners may appeal the planner's decision with a petition of challenge before the Bonner County Board of Commissioners.

A similar petition, filed in 2008, was withdrawn before reaching a hearing.

School Board Studies Before/After School Daycare Program

A perceived need for a before-and-after-school daycare has caught the attention of the Lakeland School Board.

"Something," noted District Supt. Mary Ann Ranells, "that parents have been requesting for I don't know how long...at least ever since I've been in the district."

At issue is the concern of many working parents with what to do with their young children before school and during the hours after school lets out and they head for home.

Also, a "good number" of parents leave for, or have to be at work, sometimes long before school starts in the morning.

Dropping off children at daycare is sometimes awkward as problems develop with how to get the young students to school. After school hours are equally troublesome as the youngsters oftentimes are left alone to fend for themselves – an equally awkward period, the board was told.

Daycare centers are

Police Note Series of Burglaries

A series of home and vehicle break-ins have Rathdrum police asking residents to report "anything suspicious in their neighborhoods, especially during late night or early morning hours."

The alert, issued by Police Chief Kevin Fuhr, stemmed from a call last week of a burglary on Pine Street where two suspects entered the home through a doggie door and stole a number of items. Police later answered calls on Arbor and Coeur d'Alene Streets, Quail and Lofty Ridge where residents reporting purses, credit cards, bicycles, prescription medications and a handgun were stolen.

One of the stolen credit cards reportedly was used at a Hayden convenience store.

In addition, police believe the same pair entered a locked storage shed and stole a weed eater.

Panhandle Bank Plans 'Customer Appreciation'

Panhandle State Bank has extended an invitation to "join us for our customer appreciation BBQ event" scheduled from 2:30 to 5 p.m. Thursday at the bank, 6878 Highway 53.

At the conclusion of the event, the bank's 2011 Community Star will be revealed.

Lending a Helping Hand!



As part of their annual United Way Day of Caring program, four top executives of the Coeur d'Alene Fred Meyer store pitched in last Thursday to build an attractive rock planter around the entry sign at City Park. The four executives plus Mayor Vic Holmes (second from left) and Park and Recreation Director Lance Bridges (right) are Store Director Bob Hobart; Human Resources director Tanna Kluss; Operations Manager Eve Cluster, and Loss Prevention officer Brandon Nason. Fred Meyer, reported Hobart, allows "selected employees the opportunity of going into our neighborhoods and volunteering their time to help in constructive ways. Today we selected Rathdrum, largely because good things are happening in that city and we wanted to be a part of it."