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Two Public Hearings Scheduled for Upcoming Projects

By TOM BURNETT
Of The Star

A question-and-answer, open house to explain how the proposed bridge replacement on Highways 41 and 53 over the railroad tracks is scheduled from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday (Nov. 10) at Rathdrum City Hall.

A second, unrelated open house, also sponsored by the Idaho Transportation Department, is planned for next Wednesday (Nov. 16) at both Rathdrum and Hauser city halls to "seek input" on proposed improvements along Highway 53 from State Line east to Highway 95.

An overview of the "bridge" project will be available for the public as background for comments and to ask questions.

According to last-minute information, the new span will be nearly twice as long as the existing bridge – which was built in 1936 – and measure 74 feet wide to include four 12-foot travel lanes and a 10-foot pedestrian walk on either side. The additional span length will allow room for two additional railroad tracks under the bridge, projects for the future.

The current bridge, which

carries an average of 12,200 vehicles each day, is 126 feet long and 44 feet wide with two 12-foot wide traffic lanes. It has one 5-foot bike/pedestrian lane.

Actual construction is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2012 and be completed by that next fall. The estimated \$6.2 million construction cost is being funded using federal monies once committed to the now-shelved Bridging the Valley project.

How bridge traffic will be routed during construction is likely to be a major topic at the open house.

The public session dealing with Highway 53 improvements is scheduled from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Hauser City Hall and from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Rathdrum City Hall. The open meetings are being designed to "share information and seek public input and to consider access strategies" in the areas of traffic safety, congestion and capacity of the busy highway. Scheduled are "short presentations" at 3:45, 4:45, 6:45 and 7:45 p.m. followed by an opportunity to ask questions and provide input, according to the ITD.

Bike Thief Casts 'Spell' Over Neighborhood 'Fun'

What seems an ugly end to an otherwise noteworthy, "fun, Halloween" evening was reported last week by the creator of the "Nightmare on Wright Street."

Homeowner and the man behind the "Nightmare," Lance Deacon said he built his holiday feature "as I've done in years past to offer the neighborhood kids something fun to do on this night."

Deacon said he didn't advertise the event, other than spread the word around his neighborhood.

"Still, there were about 200 kids..."

Deacon said he didn't charge to go through the "Nightmare" but that he'd placed a donation jar near the entrance.

"You know, if someone wanted to drop in some change... whatever. The money was intended for the Special Olympics..."

"Well, some kid in a grey hoodie sweatshirt and riding a small bike, rode up, grabbed the jar and took off down the street."

Deacon said he reported the incident to the Rathdrum Police.

Blood Center Needs You

The Inland Northwest Blood Center is sponsoring a Community Blood Drive from 3:00-6:00 p.m., Nov. 10 at Shepherd of the Hills Church in Rathdrum.

ISP Schedules Road Safe Class

The Idaho State Police has scheduled its second-of-the-season Road Safe Classes for 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 19 at the Idaho State Police Region Office, W615 Wilbur Ave., Coeur d'Alene.

Call 208 209-8620, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday to reserve a seat as class size is limited to 60 people.

Benefit Set for Lakeland Grad

A spaghetti dinner and raffle is scheduled for 2 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 20 as a benefit fundraiser for 20-year-old Lakeland High School graduate Curtis Bennion who is suffering from esophageal achalasia.

Also, on Friday, Nov. 11, a benefit concert is planned at Lakeland High School, beginning at 6 p.m. Admission will be \$3 for students with their ASB card, \$5 for those without the card.

Surgery appears the lone cure for Bennion's condition where the lower part of the esophagus is unable to relax after he swallows, thus denying the ability to nourish his body, causing him to lose excessive weight.

Since his graduation two years ago, Bennion has volunteered time and talent to upcoming Hawk athletes. He also served as a coach.

Cash donations may be deposited at any Wells Fargo Bank branch in Curtis' name. Dinner is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 10 years and under. Call Catherine at 651-3523 with donation items for the raffle.

The Start of Something Big!



Crews prepare the necessary forms for the concrete foundations of the future Kootenai Technical Education Center (KTEC) under construction at Lancaster and Meyer Roads.

Dog Owners - Remember, 'No License Required,' Only ID Tag

With 2012 on the horizon, Rathdrum dog owners are reminded they are no longer required to purchase a license for their family pet – but instead continue to keep their dog current on rabies vaccinations.

A few pet owners, noted City Administrator Brett Boyer "are already inquiring about their dog license for the new year. This is to remind everyone, dog licenses are not required, but that identification tags are!

"The city is no longer in the licensing business," he said, adding, the required ID tags are available at pet shops "and any number of places." Tags should contain the dog's owner, address, phone number, even the pet's name.

The ID tags, he continued, are important in that should the "animal get loose and catches the attention of the city's animal control officer, she can return the dog to its rightful home."

Without the tag, the dog likely will wind up at the Kootenai Humane Society where, if it is ultimately claimed, will cost the owner. Fines may include \$100 for a dog running at large, plus another \$25 for having an unlicensed dog, plus any fee the Society may charge.

Portions of the current city code, Boyer explained, are much the same as vehicle insurance.

"The state requires you as the car owner to get insurance, but does not require you to show proof of insurance unless you get stopped."

The code was amended earlier this year following

a report that only some 200 of the 2,200 dog-owning families living in the city licensed their dog, compliance was lacking. Preparing the actual tag was the same as the license, leaving the city with the option of getting out of the dog licensing business – which it did.

Speaking of Dogs!

Rathdrum's two major grocers, Stein's Family Foods and Super 1 Foods have joined the Rathdrum Food Bank and Concerned People for Animals in promoting this year's Thanksgiving for Animals campaign.

Both stores have offered to decorate specific carts for shoppers to donate quantities of pet food.

Super 1 has scheduled Saturday and Sunday (Nov. 12 and 13) for its Thanksgiving for Animals food drive while Stein's is planning Nov. 20 through 23 for its drive.

"Any donation would be extremely wonderful as it's well documented animals are a huge assistance to people in times of stress or during the holiday season..." reported Ami Gibson of Concerned People for Animals.

A receipt for a pet food donation or with any questions, contact Chuck or Carol Kinsey, 687-6564.

Athol Mom, Daughter Back In Business

Mother and daughter Louise Voves and Gwen Bakie are back in business, making their famous "sticky cinnamon rolls," along with cookies, doughnuts, muffins, specialty cupcakes, pies, homemade soup and sandwiches.

This is the same family of bakers that had the Knead n' Dough in Spirit Lake some 15 years ago, until their building was destroyed by fire and was never rebuilt.

Knead n' Dough, open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, is located in the "little white house with the green roof" at 5787 W. Highway 54 in Athol.

Candidates Report Fundings

Mayoral candidate Kevin Randles appears to have spent the most money in his campaign from Oct. 1 through Oct. 23, according to candidate filings posted last week. Final reports are due after the election.

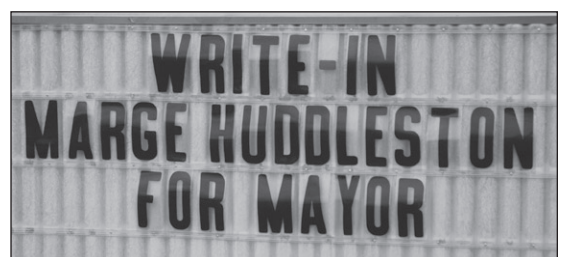
Randles said he spent \$1,200.19 on campaign literature of the \$3,000 he put into his campaign from personal funds.

Mayor Holmes reported spending \$310 of the \$320 contribution he received during October, leaving \$10 in his treasury.

In the one contested city council race, incumbent Debbie Holmes reported a \$180 personal contribution – and spent it on newspaper advertising. Her opponent, write-in candidate

Len Newton spent \$178.30 of the \$200 campaign contribution he received also on advertising.

Incumbent Councilman Fred Meckel reported "0" in both contributions and expenditures from Oct. 1 through the 23rd.

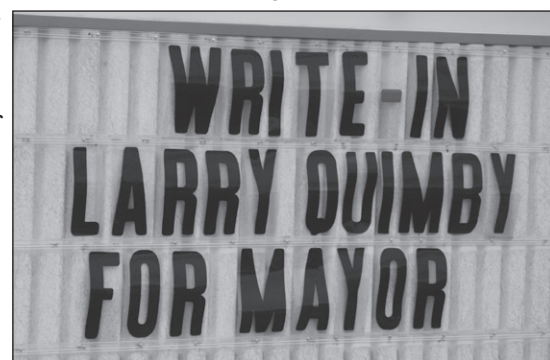


Marge Huddleston of Rathdrum Chamber of Commerce fame and town whirlwind Larry Quimby both admitted they were surprised at seeing their "names in lights" on the reader board.

Conceding his chances of being elected to the city's top spot were unlikely, Quimby noted "there were a lot of people out there that actually wanted me to run."

"Ha, too much pressure for this ol' man!"

Meanwhile, Huddleston apparently was hot on the campaign trail as repeated efforts to track her down were unsuccessful.



In what many reported as a "surprise," the names of two last minute write-in candidates for mayor appeared on the reader board in front of the Westwood Plaza shopping