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Four candidates seek seats on Hansen City Council

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Oct. 25--Four contenders, including two incumbents, are running for two seats on the Hansen City Council.

Incumbents Anthony Bohrn and Sarha Berry are running, along with Thomas R. Kennedy and Joseph William Ratto. The top two vote-getters will be elected to the council. Council members are paid \$115 a month.

Berry, appointed to the Hansen City Council in 2007, is seeking a four-year term of office.

Berry said her council work includes parks and recreation, which has led to updated playground equipment.

"We need to have a little more growth out here," Berry said. "We're working on an economic development team, getting that up and running."

Berry said the relocation of the Head Start building in Hansen to a new facility is good for the city. A graduate of Hansen High School, Berry, 34, is also secretary of the Hansen School District's booster club.

Bohrn was elected to a two-year term in 2007.

A self-employed construction worker, Bohrn said he wants to finish what the council has started since he took office.

For example, Bohrn said that the relocation of Head Start from the intersection of U.S. Highway 30 and Rock Creek Road to a spot near the post office on Main Street frees up a space for economic development.

Bohrn wants Hansen to bring in a new grocery store. He's also pursuing reduced speed limits along Highway 30 during school hours.

A graduate of Twin Falls High School, Bohrn, 57, also has attended courses at the College of Southern Idaho.

Kennedy was on the council from 1998 to 2006. He wants the city to provide bus service that would provide children with transportation to youth activities.

"Along with the new development comes a lot of children, so we're going to have to eventually do something for kids or they're going to tear the town up," he said, adding that the same bus could provide seniors with transportation to activities at the senior center in Kimberly.

Kennedy, 70, is a retired Army veteran who served for 27 years.

He earned associate's degrees from the University of Maryland and Pierce College in Tacoma.

Ratto, part-owner of Ratto Brothers Construction in Hansen, wants to bring more community involvement in efforts like tending city park grounds. Also a scoutmaster, Ratto said he would encourage Boy Scout groups to participate in community projects.

"Hansen's a great place to live and I'd like to keep it that way," Ratto said.

He also wants the city to start a scholarship program that gives students training opportunities in city-related occupations like wastewater and sewer management.

Ratto, 32, is a graduate of Hansen High School. He also holds a bachelor's degree in international agriculture from **Utah State University** and a master's degree in international business from the University of Phoenix. He has not held an elected post before.

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