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Methodist Church Subject of Tax Sale

By TOM BURNETT
Of The Star

Pssst... Wanna buy a church? Cheap at half price! The tall, stately Rathdrum Methodist Church building at McCartney and Post Streets, once the house of worship for virtually an entire community, is empty and falling into disrepair – and is for sale, tax sale.

The church building, owned over the years by the Methodist Conference in Spokane, was sold some five years ago to a well-meaning building contractor with visions of turning the 100-plus year old building into a community meeting hall. The congregation, once numbering in the hundreds, had decreased dramatically in recent years.

The “new” owner reportedly poured some \$30,000 into interior improvements including new windows, doors, electrical service, plumbing and various room partitions. The exterior remained virtually untouched as weather pounded away at the aged paint and, more critically, the crumbling foundation under the building.

He, however, neglected to make the monthly mortgage payments – or property taxes – on the building, causing ownership to end up with Kootenai County. It no longer enjoyed a tax-exempt status as it no longer housed a church congregation.

The county, as is common in such cases, listed the property, valued at \$130,059, for tax sale on Sept. 12. The minimum bid had been advertised at \$12,500. In all, 37 properties went on the auction block that day, with roughly half, including the church

building, not being sold.

As it now stands, the church can be bought for “any reasonable bid,” explained a representative of the county treasurer’s office.

“Any reasonable offer,” she said, “might be, who knows, \$500? \$50? You simply submit a bid together with a cashiers check in that amount to the county commissioners. They evaluate the offer and if it’s acceptable, you bought it. The deed goes into your name that very day!”

The church building is steeped in local history, almost beginning with its being built in 1905. So the story goes, the Presbyterians built the church in Rathdrum, while the Methodists constructed a church in Post Falls. However, the majority of the Methodist congregation lived in Rathdrum, while the Presbyterians resided in Post Falls. So, they switched churches with the Methodists taking over the Rathdrum building and visa-versa.

At one time, local historians reported, there existed a Presbyterian church in Rathdrum. It, however, burned in one of the city’s major fires.



The 100-plus-year-old Rathdrum Community Methodist Church building is up for tax sale. The once stately building is not without its problems.



Peeling paint...



Foundation decay...

Flu Shots Reported Available

With the start of fall comes the start of the flu season and the arrival of flu vaccines at the Panhandle Health District (PHD).

Flu vaccinations are recommended for everyone six months old and up. The flu virus is contagious and spreads quickly, particularly in group settings such as school and workplaces. The vaccine is the best protection from the flu.

PHD’s Hayden office, 8500 N. Atlas Rd., has flu vaccine for all ages and has scheduled clinics to provide it to the public. No appointments are necessary.

Vaccinations are \$29 for adults and \$10 for children. PHD accepts cash, checks, credit cards, Medicaid and Medicare Part B. People should bring insurance cards and any supplemental insurance information.

Flu vaccination clinics are scheduled for:

- Oct. 7, 14 and 28, 1:30-4:00 p.m., for all ages at PHD Hayden
- Oct. 18, 9:30 to noon, for all ages at Hayden Super One Foods, 240 W. Hayden Ave.
- Oct. 20, 10 a.m. to noon, for all ages at the Post Falls Senior Center, 1215 E. 3rd Ave.

This year’s flu vaccine targets three types of flu viruses, including H1N1. People vaccinated last year against the flu need a new vaccination this year. Children 6-months-old to 8-years-old need two doses of the vaccine unless they received

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Full Shelves Again at Rathdrum Food Bank

Back about a month ago – Aug. 10 to be exact – news made the front page of the dire shortage of food products at the Rathdrum Food Bank. A “modern day” record of 121 families had been served, leaving several empty shelves at the Main Street Food Bank facility.

That was then. This is now!

“Once again, this giving community has come forward,” said store Manager Sharon Dillon. “While we can always use donations of either food or cash, we’re back to having a good-sized stock of food items.

“We’re still short – as we generally are – of personal items like toiletries; soap, toothpaste, toilet paper, stuff

like that. Also our supply of cleaning agents is down pretty low right now; items used in cleaning bathrooms, kitchen sinks, areas like that,” she said.

“And, yep, Thanksgiving is right around the corner, which means a run on cranberry sauce, instant mashed potatoes, canned veggies and food items you’d expect to see on a holiday dinner table.”

The food bank, Dillon explained, tries to provide its visitors with 2 to 3 days worth of groceries which generally includes dry cereal, instant potatoes, canned veg-

Kootenai Health Gains Heart Clinic

Kootenai Health has acquired Heart Clinics Northwest in an effort to expand cardiac care in the region and enable residents to receive comprehensive cardiac care closer to home.

Under the new agreement, Kootenai Health will employ the physicians and staff of Heart Clinics Northwest. They will continue to provide services from their existing offices and satellite locations. Ensuring continuity of patient care will be a top priority both during and after the acquisition, according to a news release.

The acquisition sets the stage for further growth of cardiac services at Kootenai

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gies, powdered milk, tuna, rice, beans and some fruit.

“The main thing,” she said, “is don’t be afraid to drop off donations! A good number of our community is in need right now. A good meal is truly a welcome treat for them.”

He’s Off and Peddling

He’s off and peddling...

A few short weeks ago, Matt Evarts announced his ambitious plan of riding his bicycle 1,000 miles as his way of proving his theory of “never giving up.” His story made the front page of The Star.

Well, the 30-year-old Lakeland High School graduate left last Friday on his 1,000-mile trek.

Originally, he was planning a trip over to Oregon and down the coast of California. Plans changed.

“Think I’ll head to Boise and back, along Highway 95,” Evarts said on the eve of his departure.

Evarts, an easy-going, friendly type, suffers from astrocytoma, a rare form of cancer that hooks itself to the brain. In his case, a softball-sized tumor has attached itself to the left frontal lobe of his brain and will eventually lead to diminished memory, behavior, speech and most motor functions.

Until then, however, Evarts has this urge to embark

on a bicycle trip...a long bicycle trip.

“This is not for me, nope, not at all. It’s for others out there suffering from this ugly disease. If I can raise a couple bucks, it’ll all go to them; I want nothing in return; other than to say, I did the ride and helped make their life a bit better.”

Evarts told of needing a couple items prior to starting his bicycle tour. First, a bicycle. Second, a few dollars for food along the way.

Camping gear, clothes and the ambition, he had, complete with a “bright, yellow slicker as I’ll probably run into some inclement weather along the way.”

The lack of a bike was overcome when a regular reader of The Star came forward with a bicycle worthy of 1,000 miles – hopefully trouble free. That and a \$50 donation put Evarts on the road.

Donations can be dropped off at The Star and be forwarded to Evarts.

Quimby Selected as Panhandle’s Community Star Award Winner

A quiet, reserved, always good-natured Larry Quimby was named Panhandle State Bank’s Community Star of the Year before an approving gallery last Thursday afternoon at the bank during its annual Customer Appreciation BBQ.

“His positive outlook, good cheer and ‘can-do’ attitude exemplifies the nature of a star – a bright light that guides the way,” wrote Paul Matthews in nominating Quimby. “He truly deserves to be named our Community Star for 2011.”

Quimby, three years president of the Rathdrum Lions Club and winner of its prestigious Jim Wilson Award, was instrumental in building the Lions Pavilion in City Park and was named Mr. Relay during the recent Relay for Life event.

Fellow Lions Club members Norm and Cherry Heits-tuman co-nominated Quimby for the local Star award.

Others nominees included



Tamie Phelps of Panhandle State Bank recognizes Larry Quimby as the bank’s Community Star winner.

The Rathdrum Star’s Crystal Jensen for playing a major role in the Relay for Life as well as keeping alive the area’s popular Shop Local Campaign; Barbara McLean for her work with both Project Linus and her Wounded Warriors program; Larry Clark for his untiring effort to make happen the new \$2 million Northern Lakes Fire station currently under

construction across Highway 53 from the post office; and Lorna Finman for her Discovery Center, proposed in the hills north of the city along Highway 41 at Willadsen Road.

Quimby was presented a check for \$1,000, which he asked to be divided equally between the Rathdrum Senior Center and the Rathdrum Food Bank.