



Welcome to the Rathdrum Weekly Newsletter!

Rathdrum Trading Post Hardware

As you may have seen on their facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Rathdrum-Trading-Post-Hardware-414641321945486/> or heard at various locations in the community, they have until Midnight on March 31 to vacate their current location because the new owners of the mall have plans for their location.

They (RTPH) will be temporarily moving from their current location, east across the same parking lot, to the building that houses Lakeland Physical Therapy on the north side, and Heritage Health on the south. This is the same end of the mall that Wells Fargo Bank and the Rathdrum Library are located.

Their permanent home will be on Highway 53 in the currently snow covered vacant lot in the Super1 Foods parking lot next to Columbia Bank. But from ground breaking to occupancy, it is a minimum of 120 days (4 months) provided that the permitting process goes smoothly.

Rathdrum Chamber of Commerce Monthly Luncheon

This months luncheon is going to be held from 12:00pm to 1:00pm at the Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church on Thursday February 18th. This months featured speakers are our very own Mayor Vic Holmes and City Administrator Brett Boyer.

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP by email to Office@RathdrumChamberOfCommerce.com or via voice at 208.687.2866 by February 15th so they can get an accurate count to the caterer.

Space is limited, so get your reservation in early!

Rathdrum Chamber Newsletter

If you are not on the chamber's email blast, they have published their February newsletter. You can download a copy of it from the Rathdrum Weekly News server at <http://www.rathdrumweeklynews.com/downloads/RACoC-February2016.pdf>

Lakeland School District Levy Information

Submitted by Lisa Sexton

The Lakeland Jt. School District is honored to serve the students in our communities. We were proud to be identified as the number one school district in the state of Idaho in 2015 by NICHE. We believe there are many reasons for our success: amazing teachers and faculty working with our students, small neighborhood schools which allow us to get to know all of our students personally, and, very importantly, the consistent and overwhelming support of our patrons.

Continued on page 3

-We Need You-

Mountain View Alternative High School Senior Project Reverse Job Fair

What: As part of MVAS Senior Project Class, each senior is required to participate in a Reverse Job Fair. We need individuals in our community to interview students about their future career choices. Everything will be provided for you including all questions to be asked.

School Tour: At 12:30pm there will be a tour of our school, originally Rathdrum High School built in 1937, led by students for community members.

Moose Coffee: Also come early and order a coffee or espresso from our very own Moose Coffee.

When: Thursday, April 7th from 1 – 2:30pm

Where: MVAS Gym: 7802 W Main St, Rathdrum, ID 83858

Who: If you are interested in participating, please contact the Senior Project teacher Krista Bullard at krista.bullard@lakeland272.org or by phone at (208) 687-0025.



The Rathdrum Weekly News is an independent, locally owned newsletter published each Wednesday by Joseph Hume, with advertising and editorial offices located at

13785 West Highway 53,
Rathdrum ID 83858.

The Rathdrum Weekly News welcomes unsolicited editorial, article, or photographic contributions for possible publication within its pages, but reserves the right to edit any materials to conform to recognized Associated Press style guidelines. Editorial contributions, article, and advertising copy must be at the Rathdrum Weekly News by noon Friday of the week proceeding Wednesday's publication. Letters to the

Editor and submitted articles are gladly accepted and published as submitted so long as the content is within community standards and addresses a subject generally recognized to be of community interest.

Any Letter to the Editor or submitted article may be rejected outright because of possible libelous content or reduced in length due to space constraints. Some minor editing may occur. All items submitted must be signed and a working telephone number included. The author's name will be withheld if requested.

Advertising submissions also are accepted at the discretion of the publisher and may be rejected without cause.

The Rathdrum Weekly News assumes no obligation for accidental errors in any advertisement, but will gladly republish that portion in which an error has occurred.

The Rathdrum Weekly News expects its advertisers to respect community decency in its messages and that merchandise and/or services being offered are, indeed, available to the general public at the stated price or cost.

Any advertising, political or otherwise, are accepted on a "cash-with-copy" basis. The publisher has the right to deny the sale of advertising space to a delinquent account.

From page 1: Lakeland School District Levy Information

On March 8th we are running a supplemental levy election. The current levy will expire this year. When the recession hit Idaho and budgets were drastically cut at the state level, the patrons of our community provided support through supplemental levy dollars to allow us to continue the programs we had in place for students with the existing staff while maintaining all student contact days. As the state continues to work toward increasing the education budget to get back to where we were prior to 2008, we are faced with the necessity to return to the voters with another levy election.

On Tuesday, March 8th, voters will have an opportunity to vote in a \$5.3 million supplemental levy election. Traditionally, these levies are two year levies, however we are running this as a one year levy. There is an indication that state support may be increasing, but the extent to which that happens and the number of strings attached to those dollars is not currently known. A one year levy allows us to get a better pulse on the health of our state's economy and better gauge the fiscal needs of our district. It is our goal to lessen the reliance on levy dollars to run our programs.

The number one goal of our district is to provide safe schools where all students learn at high levels. Had we chosen to levy at the current rate, this supplemental levy would have generated \$5 million. With the slight increase to the rate we will generate an additional \$300,000 which we will use to enhance the security systems and measures within our schools. Security enhancements are not funded by the state. In the past we built schools to bring people in, but times have changed and now we need to ensure that we are allowing the right people access to our schools and ultimately our students. The median cost

of a home in Rathdrum is \$150,000. Based on this value and the homeowner's exemption on this home, the increased cost of this levy will be \$1.03 per month or \$12.33 per year.

Registered voters must cast their ballots in their identified precincts. Polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. If you have questions about your precinct you can call the Kootenai County Elections Office at 208-446-1030 or go to the website <http://www.kcgov.us/elections/search/>. If you have any questions about the levy election you can contact a district administrator at 208-687-0431 or go to our website https://ljsd-id.schoolloop.com/levy_town_hall_meetings.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our communities,

The Staff of the Lakeland Jt. School District

Rathdrum Adventure Race Sponsorship Opportunities

If you are interested in helping to sponsor the Rathdrum Adventure Race scheduled for Saturday September 10th, the chamber is taking applications. There are several levels of sponsorship available. You can download the sponsorship packet from our website at <http://www.rathdrumweeklynews.com/downloads/RAR2016Sponsorship.pdf>. Or you can send an email to Shanie at Shanie@RathdrumChamberOfCommerce.com and she will send you an original.

F1 for HELP

- We Clean Windows But We Aren't Janitors -

Joseph Hume CCNA MCSE
13785 West Highway 53
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Rathdrum Weekly News - <http://www.RathdrumWeeklyNews.com>

13785 West Highway 53 / Rathdrum ID 83858 / v 208.687.0183 / f 208.687.5838

Community Calendar

Wed Feb 10	<p style="text-align: center;">Ash Wednesday https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ash_Wednesday</p> <hr/> <p>American Legion Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting Rathdrum Lion's Club Meetings start at 6:00pm For more information contact Jean Bledsoe at Rathdrum154@gmail.com</p> <hr/> <p>Rathdrum City Council Meeting Starting at 6:00pm Rathdrum City Hall For more information please call 208.687.0261 x114</p>	Mar 18	<p style="text-align: center;">Ages 3 to 14 Rathdrum Parks & Rec For more information please call 208.687.2399</p>
Thu Feb 11	<p>Democratic Candidate Debate PBS News Democratic Primary Debate</p>	Tue Feb 16	<p>Mother Son Bowling Night 5:00pm - 8:00pm Rathdrum Parks & Rec For more information please call 208.687.2399</p>
Fri Feb 12	Abraham Lincoln's Birthday	Wed Feb 17	<p>Rathdrum Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting Starting at 6:30pm Rathdrum City Hall For more information please call 208.687.0261 x114</p>
Sat Feb 13	<p>Republican National Debate CBS News Republican Debate</p> <hr/> <p>Daddy / Daughter Dance 6:00pm - 9:00pm Rathdrum Parks & Rec For more information please call 208.687.2399</p>	Thu Feb 18	<p>Rathdrum Area Chamber of Commerce Monthly Luncheon Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran www.RathdrumChamberOfCommerce.com 12:00pm - 1:00pm</p> <hr/> <p>Lakeland Joint School District #272 Town Hall Meeting Starting at 6:30pm John Brown Elementary 15574 N Washington Street</p>
Sun Feb 14	<p style="text-align: center;">Valentine's Day https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentine's_Day</p>	Fri Feb 19	<p>Free Developmental Screening Lakeland Head Start 14797 Kimo Court For more information or to schedule an appointment please call 208.687.1682</p>
Mon Feb 15	<p style="text-align: center;">President's Day https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington's_Birthday</p> <hr/> <p>Lakeland Joint School District #272 President's Day (No school)</p> <hr/> <p>Rathdrum Lions Club Business Meeting 16114 N Meyer Road Starting at 7:00pm For more information please call 208.687.1212</p>	Sat Feb 20	<p>Democrat Nevada Caucus Republican South Carolina Primary</p> <hr/> <p>Scholarship Italian Luncheon / Fundraiser for Sarah Jones Memorial Scholarship Fund Starting at 1:00pm Blanchard Community Center For more information please call 208.438.1037</p>
Tue Feb 16 - Fri	Youth Spring Soccer Registration		

Mon Feb 22	George Washington's Birthday Rathdrum Lions Club Dinner Meeting 16114 N Meyer Road Social Mixer starting at 6:30pm Dinner starting at 7:00pm For more information please call 208.687.1212	Fri Mar 4 - Sun Mar 6	AAU Basketball Tournament 6 th - 8 th Grade Boys Rathdrum Parks & Rec For more information please call 208.687.2399
Tue Feb 23	Republican Nevada Caucus	Sat Mar 5	Kansas Caucus, Kentucky Republican Caucus, Mississippi and Michigan Primary
Wed Feb 24	American Legion Post 154 Membership Meeting Rathdrum Lion's Club Meetings start at 6:00pm For more information contact Jean Bledsoe at Rathdrum154@gmail.com	Mon Mar 7	Rathdrum Lions Club Business Meeting 16114 N Meyer Road Starting at 7:00pm For more information please call 208.687.1212
Fri Feb 26	Republican National Debate TBD Republican Debate	Tue Mar 8	Lakeland School District Voting is open from 8:00am to 8:00pm You must vote at your designated polling place For more information about the levy you can contact the school at 208.687.0431 or LevyQuestions@lakeland272.org To find out your designated polling place contact the Kootenai County Elections Department at 208.446.1030 or www.kcgov.us/elections
Sat Feb 27	Democrat South Carolina Primary Concealed Weapons Class Starting at 4:00pm Blanchard Community Center Call Bill Bailey to sign up 208.245.0914		
Mon Feb 29	Leap Year Extra Day		
Tue Mar 1	Super Tuesday Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado Caucuses, Georgia, Massachusetts, Minnesota Caucuses, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, and Virginia Democrats and Republican Lakeland Community Blood Drive Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran church 13541 W Highway 53 2:30pm - 5:15pm Make your appointment at www.inbcshares.org or call 800.423.0151		

How do you get your event added to our community calendar? It's simple, and it doesn't cost anything! Just send an email to Editor@RathdrumWeeklyNews.com with what, when (date and time), where, cost (if any), and contact or R.S.V.P. information and we will get it posted!

In order to make the next weeks newsletter, we need to have your calendar information to our office by this coming Friday.

If your event is listed, and something changes, please let us know as soon as you can so we can help to get the word out.

Watch for Changes to the FAFSA

If you have a child in college, you're probably familiar with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which must be completed to help ensure that students don't miss out on federal and state grants, work-study jobs and loans. But you might not know that some important changes will be coming to the FAFSA during 2016 - and these changes can affect both the *process* of filing for aid, and, possibly, the *amount* of aid your child will receive.

Here are three key changes to watch for:

- *Earlier availability of the FAFSA* -

Currently, you need to complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after Jan. 1 - which means you're probably filling out the form even before you've filed your taxes, which aren't due until April. As a result, you may have to estimate your income and update the information later. However, beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, you can complete the FAFSA starting on Oct. 1 of the previous calendar year, rather than wait until January. At that point, you will already have filed your 2015 taxes, so in filling out the FAFSA, you won't have to rely on estimates of your income.

For 2016 only, this change presents something of an anomaly - specifically, you should fill out the FAFSA as soon as possible for the 2016-2017 school year, using an estimate of your 2015 income, and then complete the FAFSA again in October for the 2017-2018 school year, using your actual 2015 income. In future years, you'll only have to complete the FAFSA once, with applications accepted beginning each Oct.1.

- *Lower "asset protection" allowance* - When you report your financial information on the FAFSA, some of your assets - such as your IRA and 401(k) - are not counted toward the resources you're expected to contribute to your child's education. Some other assets are considered available, but a

percentage of these assets can be sheltered, with the exact amount depending largely on your age and marital status. For the 2016-17 school year, this sheltered asset amount has been reduced significantly. However, while this reduction could have some effect on your student's aid package, it shouldn't be too severe because *income*, more than assets, is a bigger factor in the federal financial aid formula.

- *No more shared mailing list* - When filing the FAFSA, students can choose up to 10 colleges to receive their financial information. Previously, when students sent their FAFSAs to multiple colleges and universities, these schools could see the other institutions on the mailing list. But starting with the 2016-2017 application, schools will no longer have this information. This could actually benefit your child. Previously, if a school saw it was listed first on the FAFSA, it might have assumed it was the student's first choice and, as a result, may not have felt the need to be flexible in awarding financial aid. Now, though, without a list of its competitors, a school might be more open to negotiating a more favorable aid package for your child.

It's a good idea to stay current on the changes connected to the FAFSA because it helps determine financial aid eligibility - and financial aid is a key component of your strategy to pay for your child's (or grandchild's) education.

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Stop by to say Hi! and to pick up a copy of this weeks newsletter!

Today in Real Estate

Submitted by *Tim Herzog*, Twin Lakes Realty, Rathdrum

Right now I'm seeing a lot of new listings appear on the market and many seem fairly *high priced!*

Typically 'brand new' listings that show up on the market this soon in the season have some *pretty ambitious* numbers attached. I'm not saying that ALL new listings are overpriced but there is a *reality check* to what a property is truly worth in today's market. Some may say we have a *Seller's Market* but let's realize that it is the *Buyers* that bring the money to the table, either through financing or with cash! So who really is in charge? The *Laws of Supply and Demand* will always dictate the market!

Yes, this area is in demand, *especially* Rathdrum. We lack an inventory of affordable housing but with many new subdivisions already approved and new construction in progress, older and existing homes need to be priced right. New construction, for the most part, finances easier and prices are pretty much firm and offer much competition to existing home sales.

So what can you do if you want to sell existing and older properties? Well, first of all, get an accurate *Comparative Market Analysis* (CMA) on what your property may be worth. Regardless of how many comparable *Active* listings that are on the market, that should not be the basis for pricing. You must consider actual *Sold* prices, *Days on Market* and time of year that properties sold. Another important point is what type of financing your property will qualify for. That can be the limiting factor in selling because buyers may only qualify for certain types of financing leaving your property to lesser options.

The other thing to ask yourself is *WHEN* do you want to sell? Overpricing your property

may delay any opportunities to sell in a given timeline and you lose the chance to possibly purchase your next home or just get your money and run! It is said that the *first offer is many times the best offer!* That is exactly why listing property for sale is a task that should be left to a professional.

What I consider a *true professional* to be is one that does the research, shows you something in black and white that confirms value and doesn't just take a listing to have a listing!

I don't speak for all Realtor's but *if I can't sell the property, I probably won't list it!* I don't want to go back to my seller 30-60 days later and tell them the price is too high!

We are in a better market than a few years back and property is appreciating but not at huge leaps and bounds. *The real estate bubble* burst years ago and lenders and appraisers have become a lot more cautious these days so the only advice I offer is to be realistic when selling or buying and work with an agent that is competent and honest. After all, *IT IS YOUR MONEY!*

As your *local Realtor*, I'm always glad to answer any questions or concerns that are real estate related.

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