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LEXINGTON

Government 'now open for business'

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

LEXINGTON — The city of Lexington reopened Tuesday night after the city council voted unanimously to approve the 2019-20 budget.

"The town is now open for business," mayor Marcia Kemp declared, prompting a round of applause from the audience.

Lexington's city government lost its authority to spend money on July 1 after three of the four city councilors did not show up to a planned budget hearing on June 27.

Kemp consulted state agencies and the League of Oregon Cities and under their advice locked city hall on the first day of the new fiscal year, laid off the city's two employees, held the city's mail and left a message on city hall voicemail stating the town was "closed until further notice." Neighboring fire departments in Heppner and Ione were asked to be ready to provide the first response to fires in Lexington.

Myrna Sieler was one of about 40 residents present Tuesday, and said the shutdown was something people had been talking about "everywhere you go" for the past nine days.

"There are a lot of different views about what happened," she said.

She said she was happy to see the city's government reopen and its two employees, a city recorder and maintenance person, go back to work.

Tuesday's meeting was much more upbeat than a community meeting Kemp called on Monday to take citizen questions about the shutdown. During Monday's meeting, which lasted about half an hour and drew just under 50 people, participants at times raised their voices and talked over each other.

They seemed divided on who to blame.

"What I want to know is why you refused to make a simple phone call that would have eliminated this whole mess," Will Lemmon asked the mayor angrily. "All you had to do is make a phone call, Marcia, and it would have prevented the whole thing."

Others joined him in blaming Kemp for not trying harder to get councilors to the meeting. They pointed out that while one councilor was out of town, two more lived just a few blocks away.

Bill Beard, one of the councilors who missed the meeting, said in the past the city's protocol was to send out an agenda packet ahead of the budget meeting and call councilors

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Family plans to reopen dairy

Easterday Farms purchases former Lost Valley Farm

By GEORGE PLAVERN
Capital Press

BOARDMAN — It's been five months since Lost Valley Farm closed and sold off its remaining herd of dairy cattle. The facilities have now been scrubbed clean, and the massive free-stall barns await

their new tenants.

Lost Valley's owner had big ambitions when he opened the dairy in spring 2017 near Boardman. It was supposed to have 30,000 animals at full capacity, making it the second-largest in the state. Instead, it became a high-profile disaster as regulators cited more than 200 wastewater violations and its owner declared bankruptcy within a year.

Cody Easterday is aware of the controversy. At the same time, he believes the dairy will be successful

with the right management and the right approach.

Easterday Farms purchased the property, including the buildings and infrastructure, for \$66.7 million in February. The cattle had been sold at auction separately. A new corporation, Easterday Farms Dairy LLC, was registered with the state on March 20.

On July 1, Easterday Farms Dairy submitted an application to the Oregon Department of Agriculture for a new Confined Animal

Feeding Operation permit, otherwise known by the acronym CAFO. The permit would allow Easterday Farms to reopen the dairy.

Based in Pasco, Washington, Easterday Farms is a fourth-generation, family-owned business with 70,000 head of beef cattle and 25,000 acres of potatoes, onions, grain and forage in the Columbia Basin.

As president of Easterday Farms,

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RIDING FOR RICK

Man honors brother by winning championship buckle

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Rod Retherford gazed down at his 17-year-old brother's coffin and felt heartbroken.

A horse named Headlights had kicked Rick Retherford in the head as he somersaulted to the dirt during the 1974 Oregon high school state finals saddle bronc competition. On the day of the funeral, 15-year-old Rod bent close and placed the championship calf riding buckle he'd won in junior rodeo gently on his brother's chest. He softly made a promise.

"I'll win a bronc riding title for you someday," he said.

Life would take Retherford far away from rodeo for a time, but after 45 years, the Pendleton saddle maker recently made good on his vow.

In the aftermath of his brother's death, young Rod struggled with the immensity of his loss. The boys had been close. Rick, a popular and handsome teen with an easy smile, had demonstrated a knack for rodeo until that final ride. The two brothers had formed a band that played rodeo dances in which Rick played lead guitar and sang, and Rod played drums. They loved to cruise in Rick's electric blue Galaxy 500, smoking Swisher Sweets and dreaming of the day they would road trip to professional rodeos.

In addition, Rick had served as a protector to Rod, who stood only 4-feet-11 and weighed 82 pounds as a freshman. Rod went home from the funeral and found a belt buckle nearly identical to the one he had placed in Rick's coffin and wore it every day as



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Pendleton saddlemaker Rod Retherford recently won a saddle bronc competition to honor his brother Rick, who died at age 17 in a rodeo. Retherford's championship buckle includes the words "For Rick."

a way to feel connected to his brother.

He set about following Rick's example in rodeo, riding bucking horses and bulls and later turning pro. It seemed he was on his way to winning that saddle bronc title for his brother.

Then football got in the way.

Retherford played his senior year in high school and proved to be small but mighty at free safety. His brother had also played football, so it was yet another way to feel close to Rick. In Rod's last year at Treasure Valley Community College, after a growth spurt, he tried football again with great success. The next year, he walked on to the Washington



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Rick Retherford holds the championship buckle he won at the Buckeye Senior Rodeo in saddle bronc. At the bottom are the words "FOR RICK."

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Model T tour commemorates epic race

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — More than two dozen Ford Model Ts powered into Pendleton on Tuesday as part of a transcontinental tour. The teams and drivers are commemorating the 1909 Ocean to Ocean Automobile Endurance Contest that began June 1 in New York City and ended June 23 in Seattle.

Henry Ford entered two Model Ts in the race against four other competitors. Ford No. 1 did not finish. Ford No. 2 won, although race organizers later disqualified the team because it replaced its engine during the race. But that didn't come out until months later and the race hoopla was done.

Kim Kramer of Richmond, Indiana, said it has been a blast cruising the nation in the replica of that 1909

No. 2 car, and that's a bit surprising.

The replica, like the original, is a sport version, weighing about 950 pounds. The car lacks a top, lacks a windshield, has no fenders. You look down, you see the road, she said, but she has never been scared while in the car.

Her husband, Jerry Kramer, is one of the three men driving the No. 2. He has been having a good time as well.

"It has been an absolute hoot," he said. "People go by and their eyes bug out."

The owner of the car lives in Florida, they said, and drove the replica to Olathe, Kansas, where they and fellow Indiana teammates Jamie Maxwell and Benny Young took over. They are part of 28 cars making the trip, plus a few more now on

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