

Lexington mayor seeks ideas for welcome signs

Vacant council seat still goes unfilled

By David Sykes

Lexington mayor Marcia Kemp says she wants public input for the three new Welcome to Lexington signs going up in town.

The grant for the signs came from the Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group community enhancement program, which has given out money to communities for improvements.

In a related matter Kemp invited the public to come and be part of the town's budgeting process.

Council position still unfilled

In other business the council revisited making an appointment to fill a vacant council position.

consideration. Apparently, Tim Schulte withdrew his request from last month to be a councilmember.

A motion was subsequently made to vote on the two candidates. The vote was two yes, councilmembers Bobbi Gordon and Bill Beard, and two no, councilmember Marcia Sticka and Mayor Kemp.

The issue was not resolved at last week's meeting, and the empty council position remained unfilled.

Jake brakes making noise

In other business the council discussed a truck that comes through town regularly making noise using its "jake" brakes.

when used in residential areas. There are no signs in Lexington prohibiting jake brakes and apparently there is no town ordinance against it.

In other action the council sent a letter to Federal Signal Corp asking for a refund of \$6,639 the town spent in 2018 with the company for a new fire siren that never operated.

County thanked for funds

In other business the council was presented with a letter Mayor Kemp wrote to the Morrow County Budget Committee thanking them for the \$55,463 provided to the town by the county.

In the letter Kemp also talked about projects she hopes to see get done with the help of grant money.

"Lexington is now entering a new era - We are inviting the citizens to 'Make Lexington Great' and we are off to a great start since January of this year.

Local teachers receive Crystal Apple awards



Sue Gibbs



Petra Payne

Four local teachers were recently chosen as the 2019 Crystal Apple winners. Sue Gibbs, a fourth-grade teacher at Heppner Elementary School; Petra Payne, the Spanish/Senior Transition/Health teacher at Heppner Jr/Sr High School; Stephanie McElligott, the Instructional Aide/District Test Coordinator/Next Steps Counselor for Ione Community School and Paul Neiffer, a Spanish teacher/ESL Director at Ione Community School were awarded 2019 Crystal Apple Excellence in Education awards by the Intermountain Education Service District (IMESD).

from eastern Oregon school districts were honored at events held in La Grande and Pendleton.

Each year, the IMESD partners with its school districts to recognize outstanding administrators, teachers, educational assistants and office and building staff for their dedication and commitment to students and for their willingness to go above and beyond their regular duties.

Sue Gibbs has worked for the Morrow County School District for 21 years. Her nomination stated, "She works hard to help each student reach their full potential and is committed to individual instruction for every student who needs it."

Petra Payne has worked for the district for 16 years. According to her nomination, "Tireless in her devotion to students, Petra goes the extra mile to ensure they are well prepared for future success."

Stephanie McElligott has worked for the Ione district for seven years. Stephanie's bilingual skills are greatly valued, as she is integral in communicating to non-English speaking students and their parents.



Paul Neiffer



Stephanie McElligott

Paul Neiffer has worked for the district for two years. According to his nomination, "Paul is a great asset in working with Ione's non-English speaking students and works with the adult Hispanic Club. His vast knowledge of so many subjects is impressive, and students and co-workers alike highly respect him."

"We are so pleased to celebrate all of this year's Crystal Apple winners. Each of these individuals are contributing greatly to the success of students in eastern Oregon," said Michele Madril, IMESD director of communication.

Awning to be replaced at local store



(L-R): Doug Klock, Dale Bates, Darlene Klock and Richard Hainline load up the old awning to send it off for repair.

The awning at Peterson's Jewelers on Main Street in Heppner was removed Monday and the frame was transported to Walter's Upholstery in Walla Walla, WA to have the new awning installed.

G-T closed Memorial Day

The Heppner Gazette-Times will be closed for the Memorial Day holiday on Monday, May 27. The deadline for all news and advertising for the May 29 issue will be Friday, May 24, at 5 p.m.

interest in making donations to assist with enhancing the Peterson's Jewelers building to show Mr. Peterson that he is appreciated for the great service he has provided to the community for many years.

The Heppner chamber is in charge of the project and will be accepting donations. Contact the chamber at 541-676-5535 for additional information.

Polaris Spring Sales Event advertisement featuring a 2019 Ranger XP 900 and financing offers.

Morrow County Grain Growers advertisement with contact information for Justin Bailey.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.