

HEPPNER 50¢

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Lexington RV park planned

10-15 sites on former school property



Local man wants to construct RV park on this former school property in Lexington.

By David Sykes

Lexington man Sam Bellamy plans to build an RV park on the former school property he acquired in town several years ago, he informed the town council last week. The council was aware of his plans as Sam's wife, Mary Kay, had been to a meeting several months ago to discuss the project.

Bellamy says the park is going to be mainly vacation type rentals with maybe two permanent spaces available. At last Tuesday's council meeting he was not asking for official approval from the town council for the project, just informing them of the details. He explained that before anything can be done, he first needs Department of Environmental Quality approval for an adequate septic system. The entire town of Lexington is on septic so locating and installing an approved system is an important first piece to building the park.

The town council appeared in favor of the idea with councilmember Bobbi Gordon saying it would be a "plus for Lexington." However, one audience member was concerned if the park could eventually become a problem for the town. "What is the guarantee it isn't going to turn into Heppner's RV park," they asked. Heppner's park is located downtown on Main Street across from the motel and has permanent residents. The park is gaining a reputation for trashy properties and reports of bad smells and people didn't want that to happen in Lexington. Bellamy said he is going to keep his properties clean and will have only one or two permanent spots for rent, mainly for the property's caretaker. The rest will be for short term rentals. "I will screen people carefully, even the two permanent I have there," Bellamy assured the council and public. There could be up

to 300 windmill workers coming soon to work on the project once construction begins, and Bellamy said he would rent to them, but plans on keeping a close eye on things.

Looking at rehabbing airport well

In other business Bellamy told the council that he was contacted by the windmill construction people about obtaining a non-potable water source to be used during the construction process. He said the town's abandoned well at the Lexington airport may be an option. Bellamy said the windmill company will pay for all the expenses of putting in a new pump if he were allowed to run a test on the well. He said the benefit to the town would be a new pump and another source of water. There were concerns that the town did not have water rights on the well, and also a resident near the well wanted to know if pumping would impact the water level in his well. Bellamy said a separate monitoring device could be placed on the surrounding wells to make sure they were not negatively impacted from the pumping. Bellamy said he was asking for permission from the council to run an eight-hour test on the well. The council said they would postpone the decision until they find out if they have water rights. Bellamy said the windmill company needed to know soon as they are looking for a water source by January or February. Members of the council suggested to Bellamy that a better option might be to have the windmill company help pay for drilling a new well instead, but he said there would not be time for that option.

In other business Mayor Marcia Kemp said she is still looking for land for a city park. "There is no place in this town for kids to play," she said. Kemp said she has a couple of pieces of land in mind and if she

secures them will begin applying for grants to fund it. "People have asked for a park and I think it's important to have a park for the kids. There are dollars out there for parks and we need to get them for our kids," she said. Community members voiced their concern that the two parks already in Lexington are not watered or maintained, so wondered if a new park would have the same problems.

Kemp also talked about new Welcome to Lexington signs planned for the town. She showed a picture of the Welcome to Spray sign as an example of how Lexington's may look. Although the community has been asked for suggestions for the new signs, the Welcome to Spray sign was the only one submitted. Kemp applied for and received a grant to pay for the new signs.



In other action the council heard a request from Sheila and Reid Miller for a reduction in setback requirements so they can put in a new home. The request was to reduce the set back from ten to six feet. The Millers said the reduction was necessary because of the odd configuration of the lot and there was only one place to place their new two-bedroom two bath home. The council voted unanimously to approve the request.

In other action Mayor Kemp asked that the two town employees laid off during the recent town shutdown be paid for those seven days. The council said no to payment because the shutdown could have been avoided. "The council was

-See LEX RV PARK/PAGE THREE

Parade winners announced



Owyhee Nite Dazzlers. -Photo by David Sykes.

The Owyhee Nite Dazzlers drill team took first place in the rider's category at the 2019 Morrow County Fair parade.

In the community float category, Critters with Attitude placed first and Columbia River Heat was second.

Morrow County Health District was named the first-place winner in the commercial float category with Bank of Eastern Oregon taking second.



Critters with Attitude. -Photo by Bobbi Gordon.



Morrow County Health District. -Photo by Bobbi Gordon.

Walden to hold Heppner town hall

Continuing a series of town hall meetings across Oregon's Second District, Representative Greg Walden (R-Hood River) announced today he will hold town halls in Sherman, Gilliam, Morrow, Harney, and Wasco counties beginning next week.

Heppner's town hall will be on Wednesday, August 28 at 2:15 p.m. at Heppner City Hall on Main Street.

"I'm looking forward



Rep. Greg Walden

to hearing from people throughout the Second District at these five town halls.

These meetings provide just another opportunity to hear from Oregonians and provide an update on the issues I'm working on back in Congress. In addition to the over 74,000 letters, emails and phone calls I have responded to over the past year, these town halls help me stay updated on the issues people are facing in our communities. This is a top priority for me," said Walden.

School starts Monday

Morrow County School District students start the 2019-20 school year Monday, August 26. There will be no school for students and staff on Friday, August 30, and Monday, September 2, for the Labor Day holiday.

The district held a district-wide staff in-service on August 19 at Riverside High School in Boardman, a building in-service on Tuesday and eight-hour staff workdays on Wednesday and Thursday, August 21-22.



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