

# Bellamy withdraws Lexington RV park request

Sam Bellamy has withdrawn his request to build an RV park on the old school property in Lexington. Bellamy stated in the town council meeting on November 12, "I thought putting in an RV park would be a slam-dunk." He also told the council and residents at the meeting that new businesses need to come to Lexington or the town will dry up and die.

Juli Kennedy, a close neighbor to the proposed park and head of the RV park committee, presented the concerns and recommendations the committee came up with in the meetings they held. The main concerns were noise, traffic in and out on East Street, visibility for close neighbors and the safety issue when pulling out onto the highway. Kennedy pointed out the concern with the speed of the traffic coming down the hill on Hwy 207, even though it is posted at 25 miles per hour. Another concern was the possibility of the park becoming "trashy" after the construction workers were gone.

Kennedy also reported some possible recommendations from the committee.

One recommendation was for a minimum of an eight-foot fence on two sides of the park, East Street and Hwy 74. She also suggested quiet times, pet policies and a non-transferable conditional use permit to be renewed annually by the town council.

After listening to the committee report, Bellamy responded to many of the concerns, although regarding the handout, he noted, "This is the first time I have seen this." He pointed out he could limit the RVs to certain years, possibly no older than 15 years, to keep the park looking nice. He said he would also implement and enforce rules and regulations.

After thinking more about building the park, Bellamy told council member Bobbi Gordon after the meeting that he had decided to just withdraw his request. Sam and Mary Kay Bellamy told the Gazette, "I just want to thank the Lexington city council and the Lexington residents for supporting me in my endeavor to build an RV park. A large share of my decision to pull my request was based on space. It was going to

be very crowded to get the new septic system in and the sites in the right place. Maybe there is a better spot in Lexington somewhere. I hope Lexington keeps trying to move forward with business opportunities. It's a good location for south Morrow County."

Two letters of interest in the mayor position were read to the council members and citizens in attendance by acting mayor Bobbi Gordon. After much discussion, it was decided to table the letters until the next meeting to give the council more time to decide. Also at the meeting, the council referred to the section of the town charter regarding absences of a council member. Marcia Sticka, the council member elected by a write-in vote in last November's election, has missed all meetings from July through November. According to the charter, councilors who are absent from meetings for a 90-day period are to be removed from the position. Due to those absences, the council voted unanimously to terminate Sticka.

In other business, council member Bill Beard reported on his research for a chlorination system the town is required to install. Councilor Curtis Thompson told the group the latest water sample had also come back showing coliform. He explained coliform is caused from residue in the system and is not harmful to humans or pets. The chlorination system could possibly fix the problem. He said flushing the entire system more often would also help.

The town has been advertising for a new town recorder since the previous recorder, Dawn Greisen, resigned with no notice in September. Denis Lien of Heppner has been hired to fill that position. Beginning Wednesday, November 20, the town hall hours of operation will be Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A discussion was held regarding hiring a new maintenance person after Eddie Dickenson resigned without notice in October. The council decided the position does not warrant being full-time during the winter, so will be advertising for a part-time person for now.

The next meeting of the Lexington town council will be held Tuesday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m.

## Library board to meet

The monthly meeting of the Ione Library District's board of directors will be held Monday, November 25 at 6 p.m. at the Ione Public Library, 385 W Second Street.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

## Community lunch menu

Nazarene/Christian volunteers will serve lunch on Wednesday, November 27 at St. Patrick's Senior Center. Lunch will be meatloaf, roasted red potatoes, corn, Key West veggies, sautéed zucchini and mandarin oranges.

Milk, coffee and tea is served at each meal. Suggested donation is \$3.50 per meal. Menu is subject to change.

# Forest seeks public input on HK Fire salvage project

The Heppner Ranger District of the Umatilla National Forest is seeking public comment on the HK Fire Salvage Categorical Exclusion (CE) project, located approximately 40 miles south of Heppner in Morrow County. The Forest Service will be accepting comments on the proposal until Dec. 9, 2019.

The HK Fire Salvage project was developed to address tree mortality following the 2019 HK Complex fires. The project

proposes commercially harvesting dead and dying trees on up to 250 acres. In addition, danger trees will be removed along roadsides within the fire area. Replanting will occur where needed to regenerate forest stands in high-mortality areas.

The Forest Service is seeking scoping comments to help refine the proposed action and identify ways to improve project design. The comment period is an opportunity for the public

to be involved in the process and offer thoughts on alternative ways the Forest Service can accomplish the project purpose and need.

For more information about the HK Fire Salvage Project please contact project lead Katelynn Bowen at Katelynn.bowen@usda.gov or 541-676-2105. Additional information about the project, including how to comment on proposed activities, is available at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57054>.

## Chamber Chatter

Heppner Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) will be making and selling frozen, homemade pies for Thanksgiving. Choices will be lemon ice box, pumpkin, pecan, apple, cherry, mixed berry, peach and Oreo. All pies will be \$20, except for the Oreo, which will be \$15. All pies will be delivered November 25 and 26. To purchase a pie or for more information, contact a FBLA member or Jeanne Collins at 541-676-9138.

November through December, annual food drive organized by Wheatland Insurance. Wheatland Insurance will be accepting donations of non-perishable food items at the Wheatland offices in Heppner and Ione. All donations will be donated to the Neighborhood Center and distributed throughout south Morrow County. Wheatland offices are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

Morrow County Foster Children Gift Drive Giving Tree set up at Les Schwab. Stop by and take a tag from the giving tree, return unwrapped gift by December 9 with the tag attached. You don't have to purchase everything on the list, give what you can. If you take a tag, please buy the gift. If you change your mind, bring the tag back and put it on the tree for someone else to take.

Friday, November 15 through Friday, January 10, 2020, Nominations for Heppner Chamber's Town and Country Community Awards Event will be accepted. Nomination forms will be available for community members to submit nominations for Woman of the Year, Man of the Year, Business of the Year, Citizen-Educator of the Year, Lifetime Achievement and Youth Award. Nomination forms will be available at the Bank of Eastern Oregon, Chamber Office, Community Bank, Heppner City Hall and Kuhn Law Office. You can also obtain a form by contacting the Chamber office at 541-676-5536 or by email at heppnerchamber@centurytel.net. The completed nominations

must be turned into the Heppner Chamber or Kuhn Law Offices no later than Friday, January 10, 2020 to be considered for the 2019 Community Awards Event.

Monday, November 18 through Thursday, December 12, Rewards Cards in denominations of \$10, \$20 and \$50 will be given out for the amount of purchase when shopping at participating merchants in preparation of Heppner Chamber's Celebrate Christmas Event. Collect and bring them to the event Thursday, December 12 for a chance to win prizes.

Wednesday, November 20, 3 p.m., public input meeting for Port of Morrow Fixed Route, organized by the Loop Morrow County Transportation. This is an open meeting to gather input on the upcoming Port of Morrow fixed route. The meeting will be held in the Wells Spring Conference Room at the Port of Morrow.

Thursday, November 21 at 12 p.m., Heppner Flood Evacuation Warning Siren Test. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Morrow County Emergency Management will conduct a live siren test of the Heppner flood evacuation warning system. Sirens are located at the Columbia Basin Electric Coop and at the U.S. Forest Service compound. Residents located near these locations should take precautions (hearing protection) as the siren will be very loud and will sound for approximately 10 seconds.

Monday, November 25 through Friday, December 13, Neighborhood Center Giving Tree at Heppner Market Fresh. Stop by and pick a name from the tree and purchase a gift for a local family member in Heppner. Contact the Neighborhood Center if you have any questions at 541-676-5024.

Thursday, November 28 at 1 p.m., Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner at Gateway Café for those who do not have plans for Thanksgiving. To contribute to the meal contact MelbaJo at 541-945-9471. December 6, 8:30 a.m.

## District Attorney's Report

Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson has released the following report: -Gena Marie Tortolani, 20, was convicted of unlawful possession of methamphetamine, Misdemeanor Class A, committed on or about October 15, 2019. Conviction was based upon a guilty plea on November 7, 2019.

Defendant was sentenced to the custody of county jail for a period of 180 days, however the execution of 150 days of this incarceration was suspended and defendant was sentenced to 18 months of supervised probation with multiple special conditions. A second count for criminal trespass in the second degree was dismissed. A monetary amount of \$1,500 was suspended.

# BANNERS! BANNERS!

## BANNERS!

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## Tips and information on buying your home

### Tip #2

#### Shopping for your home!

The process of buying a house can be complicated and sometimes frustrating. Finding a good Realtor who can help you through the process will make the home buying process much easier.

Following are some common steps and tips on finding and buying your new home.

#### Shopping for your new home!

Tip #1 talked about getting a pre approval letter from the bank so you know the loan you qualify for. You can read all the real estate tips on my facebook page. So now it's time: **Let's Go Shopping!** There are several places you can look for homes: newspaper, internet, drive around and look for signs in the yard. The most popular is probably the website Zillow.com

Zillow is easy to use and will show you all the homes listed for sale in your area.

Once you're on Zillow you can do a search for all the features you are looking for (bedroom, bath, etc). But in a small town like ours I think it's more fun to just type in the zip code and look at ALL the homes for sale. After all, you are shopping, right?

Now I'm not going to give a tutorial on how to use Zillow since it's straightforward and easy to use. Although be forewarned it's sometimes not up to date, and there may be homes that have been sold, or are otherwise off the market. Don't worry, contact your local real estate agent and he will know for sure. Now - if you don't have access to a computer, no worries. Drop by your agent's office or call them on the phone. They will go over all the homes on the market and give you flyers on the ones you like.

Once you've looked over the selection, make a list of the homes you want to see, and contact your agent. He'll take it from there and make all the appointments for your showings. Your agent can also answer any questions you may have ahead of time about the properties. Be aware that some homes are occupied by renters or owners and those usually require a 24 hour notice. Now we're ready to go

#### Next time:

**What to look for, and questions to ask when visiting a home.**

**Don't forget to like us on Facebook where you will find all my real estate tips.** David Sykes

**David Sykes Real Estate**

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