

# Lexington hires new maintenance man

By David Sykes

Curtis Thompson has been hired as the new maintenance man for the Town of Lexington. He replaces Scott Lamb who resigned to take a similar position with the City of Heppner.

Thompson will be responsible for maintaining the town's water system, streets and other facilities. He was a member of the town council but, after taking the maintenance job, turned in his resignation at the August council meeting.

In other business at the August 10 meeting the council heard a report from town recorder Janette Eldridge who said she has been working with the engineering firm Anderson Perry on grants for two feasibility studies for both the town water and sewer systems. The town has a central well and water system but is currently on septic systems for residents. The grant applications will be for \$20,000 each, one for water and one for sewer.

Eldridge also reported she would be doing a webinar on the reporting aspect



Curtis Thompson

of the American Rescue Plan. The American Rescue Plan was a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus rescue package designed to help the United States' recover from the devastating economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan provided grants to local governments, including Lexington, for dealing with the pandemic.

In other business, the council heard that two recreational vehicles parked in town with people living in them, and not hooked up to the septic systems, have been removed. The council also heard that the town will not be moving forward

The Port of Morrow has announced the development of a new training center in Boardman. The "Cultural Alliance and Training Center at SAGE" will add an approximately 12,500 square foot expansion at the SAGE Center. The future facility will provide ample room for job fairs, training, women and minority leadership conferences, health education, small business development enrichment and events focused on community inclusiveness.

"We are excited to be adding this new venue space," says SAGE Center Manager Torrie Griggs. "This addition will provide increased meeting room

with a proposed franchise fee and agreement for garbage service. The town has two businesses collecting garbage in town and it will remain that way. At an earlier meeting Hermiston Sanitary had said it would stop providing service if a franchise agreement were adopted. The other company providing service in town is Miller and Sons Disposal of Heppner.



A conceptual rendering of the Cultural Alliance and Training Center at SAGE. LKV Architects in Boise, Idaho is working with the Port of Morrow to design the new facility.

capacity that will make large seminars and group events a success right here in Boardman."

"The SAGE Center expansion will provide a beneficial community-based development center to assist our regional education and industry partners with programs and events that

support continuing education, workforce initiatives and youth programs," says Port of Morrow CEO Ryan Neal. "We want to thank Greg Smith for his budgetary leadership for Morrow County and Port of Morrow District 57. The Port is excited to continue to make Morrow County a great

place to live and work." The Oregon Legislature ended their 2021 session with the passing of House Bill 5006, which appropriates funds for projects around the state. The Port of Morrow will receive \$4.3 million for the construction of the Cultural Alliance and Training Center at SAGE.

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