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Cam-plex Park open to public sunrise to 4 p.m. during Camporee

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Dueling sprinklers water new grass Thursday, Aug. 10, at Cam-plex Park in an area that will house a temporary amphitheater during the 2024 International Pathfinder Camporee.

News Record Photo/Ed Glazar

When the International Pathfinder Camporee comes to town in August, Gillette residents will have access to Cam-plex Park during the day, but the park will close to the public in the evenings.

The Camporee's nighttime activities, which include performances on a stage that Camporee will bring in, will take place at Cam-plex Park.

The Campbell County Parks and Recreation board approved the hours for Cam-plex Park at its meeting Monday.

Cam-plex Park will open from sunrise to 4 p.m. Aug. 5-9, which is a Monday through Friday. But after it closes at 4 p.m. Aug. 9, it will remain closed to the public on Aug. 10, which is a Saturday.

The reason for this is the Camporee has two performances that day, one in the morning and one at night.

Cam-plex Park will reopen at sunrise on Sunday.

Parks board member Cory Bryngelson said he didn't like the idea of closing the park to the public for an entire day, and on a Saturday, no less.

"I wonder what kind of precedent we're setting here, that the next group that comes in and says, 'I'd like to have that park and use it all day for my event,'" he said.

"I completely agree with you, I don't love it, that's why I was opposed to closing it for the whole week," said board member Ryan Gross.

Initially, Camporee had asked that the park be closed for the entire week.

Gross said the board needs to make decisions on these things on a case-by-case basis.

"If another 50,000- or 60,000-person event comes, then we'll evaluate that on its own merits," he said.

Gross added that this decision does not dictate what the parks board will do when the Camporee returns to Gillette in 2029.

“In five years, that board will have to evaluate what they think went well and what they think didn’t go well,” Gross said. “Just because we close it this time does not mean we’ll close it in five years. That board will have to evaluate.”

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