

Sports complex set for 37th, Glenrose

SYSA's multiuse site plan still needs permits; faces neighborhood concerns

By **Nina Culver**

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The 20 vacant acres on the southeast corner of 37th Avenue and Glenrose Road are under new ownership, but a sports complex is still planned for the site.

The property was originally purchased from Morning Star Boys Ranch by South Spokane Little League. The surrounding neighborhood came out strongly against the project, and the league struggled to raise money for the project. Spokane County property records show the land was sold to the Spokane Youth Sports Association in 2016 for \$476,000, nearly \$100,000 less than what the league paid for it.

The plan was to create Little

League fields, but SYSA plans to build a multiuse sports complex, said SYSA executive director Philip Helean. Despite the new baseball fields at Prairie View Park, there is still a huge need for playing fields on the South Hill, Helean said.

"We just keep getting more and more registrations," he said. "It's hard to find space for kids."

It's so bad that Ferris High School students have to travel to Hillyard to use Andrew Rypien Field, which SYSA owns, for practice, Helean said. "There's just a huge need in Spokane," he said.

SYSA wants to include soccer, baseball and softball and multipurpose fields in the complex. "You could use it for football or lacrosse or rugby," he

said. "We're still putting plans together. We're just in the fundraising process."

SYSA was able to purchase the property because of a \$500,000 donation, Helean said. "A donor gave us that money as a gift to SYSA," he said. "Basically that property was a gift to SYSA."

South Spokane Little League representative Brian Gosline declined to comment about the sale.

The Glenrose Community Association has been vocal in its opposition to the sports complex since it was first proposed, expressing concerns about a sports complex in their rural neighborhood, and the noise, light

See **GLENROSE, 6**