

New superintendent takes helm, hopes to ease tensions

By **Judy Hoyle**
IVN Contributing Writer

David R. Holmes, the next superintendent of Three Rivers School District, will begin his new job effective July 1. He'll be stepping into an atmosphere which has grown contentious over the past 6 months.

In May, interim Superintendent Patricia Adams filed a tort claim; which threatens to sue former Chairman Ron Crume and the rest of the school board, claiming harassment and retaliation. In the document, Adams, whose one-year term ends June 30, accuses Crume of harassment after she told him it was "not proper to conduct Christian prayers prior to school board meetings."

The tort also charges that "Mr.

Crume has attempted to remove Ms. Adams' ability to govern the school and has attempted to intimidate her and prevent her from hiring or firing employees and in carrying out the school district's disciplinary policies with employees under her supervision."

Crume's opposition to the national education standard "Common Core" curriculum was also a point of conflict for the two. The tort also accuses Crume of subjecting her to "various political videos and articles..." that had nothing to do with her job and claims he and two other board members attempted to illegally meet in violation of Oregon's Public Meetings Law.

The tort claims Crume used anti-homosexual epithets while the two were in a private conversation. At the

time, they were discussing proposed anti-bullying and sexual orientation protection policies prior to a school board meeting last autumn.

If the tort becomes a lawsuit, the school district would be forced to spend a large sum to defend itself. In lieu of filing a lawsuit, Adams is demanding \$100,000 in damages for legal fees, medical bills and stress as well as assurances that the school board would stop interfering with her in the performance of her duties and take "necessary steps to ensure that Mr. Crume and other school board members will not violate school board policy, state, and federal law."

Ms. Adams' attorney, Ryan Vanderhoof is also representing the school board secretary and Adams' assistant, Shelly Quick, in another potential claim against Crume and

the district. Crume stepped down as board chair in March, citing personal reasons and needing more time for family and work.

Crume and his wife removed their two sons from Fort Vannoy Elementary School and placed them in a private school in January.

In discussing the selection of the new superintendent, current Board Chair Kara Olmo stated, "We had an excellent field of 17 candidates for our superintendent position. However, Dave Holmes emerged as the right choice. He was impressive at every stage of our search process for his leadership skills, depth of knowledge, comfortable communication style and strong record of success."

The Board reviewed the candidate applications with the assistance of a screening committee including

administrators, staff, and community members which selected several candidates for initial interviews.

Following the initial interviews, the board investigated the candidates' backgrounds and references, then invited Holmes and one other finalist to meet the staff, students and community. During their day in the district, the two finalists were interviewed a second time by the board.

Holmes has been the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning since 2010 for the La Center School District in La Center, Washington; which serves approximately 1,500 students. Prior to accepting his current position, he served as the principal at La Center High School for 11 years.

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Much of the county patrolling has now fallen to Oregon State Police. The state agency answered over 800 calls in Josephine County last year, while only answering around 285 in the more populous Jackson County.

Miller expressed relief that the county commissioners have come up with funding for four more deputies and also mentioned that ODOT's new proposal would reduce speeding through town, since there will be only one lane going north and one going south through Cave Junction.

The councilors agreed that they wanted the next dep-

uty to be more visible around town. They then opened the meeting to the public.

Carol Dickson pointed out that the \$150,000 city contract is valuable to the sheriff's office and that the councilors have more power than they've used in the past to direct, or even dismiss a contract deputy if that person is not performing up to their standards.

"I was a deputy who patrolled without backup," she said. "I know it can be done."

Dickson also happily noted that Deputy Travis Snyder, who just started working in Cave Junction again, has

already arrested a felon.

Mark Dickson, also a retired police officer, experienced the same thing.

"There were times when I was the only law on the road," he said.

Mark Dickson then suggested that the city create an advisory board of retired police officers to help the city work with the sheriff's office to get the level of service they're funding.

"Start with parameters that are quantifiable and measurable, like giving a time frame for creating a 10 percent reduction in crime," he said.

Illinois Valley Fire District Chief Dennis Hoke stated his concerns about reducing the number of traffic lanes through town.

"Every 30 seconds a fire doubles in size," he said. "We need to be able to get through town quickly to respond."

Hoke said another priority should be to change the deputy's hours, "so we get coverage at 3 a.m."

At the end of the session, an initial list gave the most importance to responding to violent crime, night activities, and drugs and dealers. Those were followed by traffic stop enforcement, patrolling Jubi-

lee Park, domestic violence, burglary, and enforcing two youth curfews. Those that are 16 and younger must be off the streets between 10:30 p.m. and 6 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, and between midnight to 6 a.m. Friday and Saturday. The curfew for those that are 17 and 18 is midnight to 6 a.m. every night unless they're accompanied by an adult or it's an emergency.

It was also announced in April that citizens are encouraged to self-report for non-emergency crimes through the sheriff's office website at www.jocosheriff.us/. Also, a new communications service

allows the sheriff's office to send information directly to residents via cell phone text messages and/or e-mail. People can register through the website for these updates.

Volunteers staff the sheriff's office substation, located below City Hall, three days a week from 1 to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Fridays. More volunteers are needed. Those interested are encouraged to drop in during posted hours or visit the sheriff's office website for further information.




Building Community
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- Visit Live Alpacas for FREE
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Arts Red Garter
Friday Night Open Mic and Karaoke!

Dale Hopper
 Friday, June 27 @ 5:30 p.m.
Taylor's Country Store



Tim Mitchell
 Sat. June 28 @ 6 p.m.
 Every Friday **Jay Barley**
 Every Wednesday Open Mic. Night From 6-8 p.m.

Saturday night Pool Tourney
 @ **Sportsmans Tavern**

Madd Moose!

Phil King
Wed. June 28
 6-9 p.m.
Selma Ore.

Saturday Karaoke with SMASH
 @ **McGrews of Course!**

Concerts in the Park

Summer 2014



Thursday Evenings
6:30 - 8:30
Jubilee Park
Cave Junction
Free admission
 Bring your lawn chairs or blanket
 Refreshments for sale by IV Little League




- June 26 • The "J" Barley Band
- July 4 • No concert scheduled
- July 10 • Lonesome Road: Country Blues Rock
- July 17 • Guppy Whimsical duo
- July 24 • Dawna Crocker & Rosie: Coffee House singer songwriters
- July 31 • East Fork County Bluegrass
- Aug 7 • Ras Cricket and the Cultivators: Reggae