

HEPPNER

50¢



Gazette  
Times

## School board learns new Heppner principal resigned

The Morrow County School Board, at its July 8 meeting, learned that Lester McCormick, the recently hired principal of Heppner schools K-12, has already resigned from that position to take a job in Alaska.

McCormick's resignation leaves the district scrambling for another candidate to fill the void. This is the first year that the principal's job has been combined to include both Heppner Elementary and Heppner Junior/Senior High School. Following the resignation of former HES Principal Phyllis Danielson and the retirement of HHS Principal Dick Allen, the board elected to not fill the elementary principal's position because of declining student population at the school and as a cost-saving measure. Instead, they decided to combine the elementary position with the

seventh through 12<sup>th</sup> grades administrator's position. Other applicants are being interviewed for the position of principal and Dr. Jack Crippen, who made his debut as the new district superintendent at the meeting, says that he is confident a principal will be in place this summer.

In other business, the board:

-Learned of the following vacancies: Heppner Junior/Senior High-seventh and eighth grade math teacher, advanced math teacher, language arts teacher and possibly a business teacher; Ione Schools-science teacher; Riverside High School-band/choir teacher, music/business teacher, reading specialist, additional teacher; Sam Boardman Elementary-English-as-a-second-language teacher; A.C. Houghton

Elementary-special education teacher, ESL ed assistant; Columbia Middle School-technology education teacher, language arts/Spanish teacher, assistant cook. Dr. Crippen and the board discussed the superintendent's role in transferring teachers among schools in the district. The general consensus of the board was that they wished to be informed if the transfer would impact a school to the extent that a program would be lost.

-Discussed with Dr. Crippen the district's policy on use of district vehicles. Crippen had asked the board for clarification on the issue. Board member Gary Frederickson said that board policy allows for use of vehicles for district business and the board concluded that it would be reasonable for Crippen to take a district vehicle home when he anticipates leaving on district business early in the morning and when he arrives back too late at night to change to his personal vehicle.

-Discussed use of a district cell phone by Crippen who asked about the issue. The consensus of the board was that the district would purchase a cell phone plan for Crippen's use, but that he would use his private phone. The board learned that previous superintendent, Bruce Anderson, had used his private cell phone and had not sought reimbursement.

-Discussed with Crippen his membership in various clubs and organizations. The board consensus was that he attend as much as possible the Heppner, Boardman and Irrigon Chambers of Commerce and the Ione Community Agri-Business Organization (ICABO).

-Approved an intergovernmental agreement with Morrow County Unified Recreation District to provide funding for athletics and other extra-curricular activities. The funding amount has increased by \$20,000, from \$432,000 to \$452,000 for the 2002-03 year.

-Heard an update on the relocation of the Head Start building in Boardman to allow for construction of the new elementary school.

-Learned that positions four and five of the budget

## Youth snorkeling class offered

Willow Creek Water Park is offering a snorkeling class to area youth on Tuesday, July 16, from 5:20-6 p.m. This 40-minute class will introduce children to the proper use of a mask and snorkel, including clearing the mask, snorkeling and breathing.

Darrell Raver, an experienced scuba diver, will be teaching the class. Raver is certified by the National Association of Underwater Dive Instructors. Lifeguards will be on duty but students need to be able to swim and must have their own mask and snorkel. The cost is \$1.00 per student.

## Family barbecue at the Willow Creek Country Club

The Willow Creek Country Club in Heppner will have a family barbecue on Sunday, July 14; starting at 4 p.m. Golf play is for both men and women, with the type of play to be determined by the committee in charge.

Each family is asked to bring their own meat to the barbecue. Those whose last name begins with "A" through "K" are asked to bring dessert, and "L" through "Z", salad.

Cost will be \$1.50 per person for members and \$5 per person for non-members, with \$3.50 going to the club for greens fees.

Hosts are Slater and Darci Mitchell, Dave and Carol Mitchell, Gary and Barb Watkins, and Les and Jan Paustian.

## New city council members appointed

Two new council members were sworn in at the Heppner city council meeting Monday night. Cynthia Doherty and Marian Murchison will replace Rita Hedman and Kari Keown who recently resigned.

Doherty has lived in Heppner the past 27 years and is presently employed with the US Forest Service. Previously she worked as the lone city clerk and worked eight years with the Morrow County Sheriff's office.

Doherty has been a member of Heppner Little League board, Heppner Elementary Site Council, the Heppner Booster Club and the parent-teacher club. She has been appointed chairman of the police commission.

She and her husband, Mike, have three children. "I am looking forward to the job," she told the Gazette.

Murchison has lived almost nine years in Heppner. She is currently manager of the St. Patrick's Senior Center in Heppner. Previously, for approximately 10 years, she held the job of entertainment coordinator for Knotts Berry Farm in California.

In other business on Monday's meeting the council heard from local rancher Kyle Robinson who said he is having various problems on his property adjacent to the city limits of Heppner.

Robinson owns the property on which cross hill is located. He asked that when city employees were to travel to the area that they notify him beforehand so he is aware of any activity on the hill.

He also told of loose dogs on his property which he said have caused thousands of dollars in damage to livestock over the years. He asked how the problem could be taken care of and was told that there is a \$111 fine for dogs running loose, however, he would have to identify the dog's owner.

Robinson also said garbage from overflowing garbage cans behind Mountain Glenn apartments was blowing onto his property and causing problems.

John Gochnauer who owns

property next to Robinson's was also at the meeting and said cattle had torn down a chain link fence he had on his property line. He asked for city clarification where the city limits were, and also city policy on animals within the city limits. No action was taken.

In other city business the council voted unanimously to raise the Columbia Basin Electric franchise fee to 5 percent. The increase would raise an additional \$27,000 a year for the city. The fee is money collected by Columbia Basin on electric bills and then turned over to the city.



Cindi Doherty



Marian Murchison

committee, currently held by Mike Armato of Heppner and Wayne Huwe, Irrigon, are expiring. Appointments for the two three-year terms will be made at the September meeting.

-Adopted the 2002-03 board meeting calendar.

-Adopted the policy on school board elections.

-Adopted the job description of student health/safety coordinator, which will be funded through Medicaid. No district funds will be used.

-Set meeting dates for setting board and superintendent goals.

-Re-elected Julie Weikel as board chair.

-Elected Gary Frederickson as vice chair.

-Approved annual organization details, such as insurance agent, bank depositories, auditors, legal counsel and newspapers of record.

-Heard a bond construction update from Nan Hall of Heery International.

-Learned of concerns over disposal of materials resulting from the demolition of school buildings in preparation for construction.

-Approved the following resignations: Kitty Bredemeier, retiring from her teaching position at Columbia Middle School, effective August 17; Colleen Cunningham, A.C. Houghton computer trainer; Torrie Philippi, Riverside High School head volleyball coach; Lorraine Ellis, RHS music teacher; Diana Hammermeister, ACH second grade teacher; Troy Phillips, CMS ed assistant; Melissa Metz, Heppner High School assistant volleyball coach; Joanie Peck, ACH special ed teacher; Micki Fabian, CMS counselor.

-Approved the following extra duty contracts: Fred Long, RHS head volleyball coach, replacing Torrie Philippi; Gigi Lemmon, RHS assistant

continued page two

## Ione UCC holds VBS

Kids of all ages are invited to participate in Vacation Bible School at Ione United Church of Christ, July 22-26. The program for preschool-aged children through third grade will be held from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. each afternoon. They will be learning about sharing, honesty, forgiveness, and trust through singing, stories, crafts, and other fun.

Fourth through eighth graders will meet at the church

from 6:30-8:00 p.m. each evening. They will experience the stories of Daniel, Ester, and other Bible characters through a variety of activities. They will also swim together Friday night at the Ione pool.

Offerings will be taken each day to benefit the Neighborhood Center. Children may bring money or packaged food. Anyone with questions may call the church at 422-7530, Terri Clay at 422-2504, or Carri Grieb at 989-8353.

## Softball tournament to benefit local family

A co-ed softball tournament will be held to raise funds to help with medical expenses incurred by the Paul McElligott family. Ione citizens have organized a day or two of games with all proceeds going to McElligott who was injured in a car accident last March. The games will be held Saturday, August 10, and Sunday if needed, at the Ione softball fields.

There will be a coaches meeting on August 9 at 7:30 at the fields to determine starting times and whether there are enough teams to run the games into Sunday. The teams must have a minimum of 10 players but no more than 15 and registration costs are \$125.00 per team. As the teams are co-ed, there must

be a minimum of four women in the lineup at all times. The games will be played in a two-pitch format with six innings (or 1 1/2 hour time limit per game).

If enough interest is shown, there will also be a homerun derby Friday, August 9 at 6 p.m. with registration to be \$10 per person. This is a contest in which males will go against males and females against females.

Organizers want the tournament to be fun for everyone and have come up with some "fun and original" rules for each inning. Contact Lynn Dee Ramos at 422-7559, Melissa Larue at 422-7060 or Shilo Svetich at 422-7355 for a complete list of rules and more information. Entry deadline is Friday, August 2.

## Kids Parade is a feature of Celebrate Heppner

All youth through age 12 are invited to participate in the Kids Parade in conjunction with "Celebrate Heppner's History" on July 26. "Anything goes," says Claudia Hughes of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce, but the turn-of-the-century theme is encouraged.

"Dress your kids and bake your pies and come to town for fun," said Hughes. "Plan on a community day to celebrate historic Heppner."

More details concerning the parade and the rest of the day's activities will be published in next week's Gazette-Times.



South Morrow County 911 workers were the grand marshalls of last week's July 4 celebration. More pictures of the celebration are on page 5.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:  
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

**HARVEST HOURS**  
Starting Monday, July 8th:  
Monday through Friday: 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Saturday: 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
**Morrow County Grain Growers**  
Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at [www.mcg.org](http://www.mcg.org)