

## Heppner Principal Wade Smith hired as district assistant school superintendent

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-Thad Killingbeck, currently assistant principal at Boardman Elementary and Windy River Elementary schools, both located in Boardman, as principal at Windy River;

-Mark Jones, longtime Riverside High School social studies teacher, as RHS assistant principal; and

-Chris Davis, currently Irrigon High School social studies and leadership teacher, as half-time Irrigon Junior/Senior High School principal.

The changes will be effective July 1.

Smith, who lives in Heppner with his wife, Marianne, who is a teacher in Boardman, and two young children, says the family "absolutely" plans to stay in Heppner. He has been the Heppner schools' principal for the past three years.

Also at the meeting, the board heard from district deputy clerk Rhonda Lorenz, who told them the severity of the financial impact changes in the PERS (public employees' retirement) system will bring on the district. According to Lorenz, the district should expect around \$286,000 in increased costs per year to fund the PERS beginning 2005-06 and an additional \$800,000 per year beginning 06-07. She said there may be an additional impact, depending on the outcome of court cases. Burrows said that the costs were the result of a "too generous" previous PERS board.

In other business, the board:

-voted to change the board meeting packet from paper to electronic. Starting with the next regular board meeting, board members will receive meeting notices and the board informational packet online via the internet. Board secretary Julie Ashbeck, who traveled to the Fern Ridge School District to explore the electronic method, told the board that the new method could save the district \$2,000 to \$3,000 per year "conservatively" on labor, paper and mailing. She said that last month's board packet cost the district \$396. Ashbeck also commented that the method enabled members of the Fern Ridge community to "truly feel a part" of the board and its proceedings.

From now on, notice of a board meeting will go out to board members

electronically. The board members may access the board packet via a special route to ensure confidentiality or they, and anyone who has access to a computer and the internet, may access the packet on the district website. The change will also facilitate searches for specific topics, such as action the board has taken, will enable archiving as far back as three years and will allow viewing of the board minutes as far back as six months. The change is also expected to save time for the board secretary.

The board agenda will be projected on a screen at board meetings rather than being available as a handout. Anyone wishing to have a hard copy of the board packet may print it out on his computer. The Morrow County School District website is [www.morrow.k12.or.us](http://www.morrow.k12.or.us).

-adopted the 2005-06 C calendar for the 2005-06 school year. This option, which was selected by a majority of district staff, calls for a pre-Labor Day start, with teachers beginning on Aug. 22, students beginning on Aug. 29, two-plus weeks at Christmas, students ending on June 7 and teachers ending on June 9. Joel Chavez and other north-end administrators told the board that a long Christmas break is preferred because many Hispanic students and their families travel to Mexico during the Christmas break, some taking as much as a month off. By increasing the Christmas break, the district would not lose as much money due to absent students, since districts are reimbursed by the state depending on student numbers.

-viewed a demonstration of the Accelerated Reader program by a Boardman Elementary School kindergarten student and her dad, BJ Wilson, who is the Boardman Elementary principal.

-heard a technology report from Joe Buglione who is with the Umatilla-Morrow ESD.

-heard a report from English Language Learner program director Joel Chavez as to how communication between the district and the Spanish speaking community and between the Spanish and English speaking communities has been improved. Chavez has made himself available as a translator for meetings,

parent conferences and Saturday morning focus groups and has translated newsletters and other district information for Spanish-speaking families. He said that around 20 Hispanic and Anglo students have been involved in calling families, using their language skills in Spanish and English, and both Hispanic and Anglo students have been involved in a production of the musical "West Side Story." "Communication is what it's all about," said Chavez. "It's the key factor to total success of our schools." Chavez said that the district will soon begin retesting all of the district's 701 English as a Second Language students.

-learned that the superintendent and board members met with the Irrigon City Council to discuss disposition of the old Irrigon School building, which is owned by the district, but is now occupied by the Irrigon City Hall. The aging building is considered a liability and neither entity wanted to claim it. Burrows told the board that the Irrigon City Council now agrees that the city and the school district are partners in the disposition and said that the Irrigon mayor has agreed that they will jointly pursue a structural analysis of the building and costs incurred.

-heard from Burrows that three out of four of the roofing projects are completed or nearing completion, with the exception of the Riverside High School roof. Burrows said the district is not dissatisfied with the work being done on the RHS roof, but is unhappy with the speed of the project.

-heard from Burrows that the RHS multipurpose room is essentially completed.

-learned from Burrows that architectural plans for the Irrigon Junior/Senior High School technical building are on track and the district is expected to go out for bids on the project around the end of the month, with groundbreaking planned for May and completion of the project possibly by September.

-heard from board Chair John Renfro, who disputed information published in "The Oregonian" listing Morrow County as one of the big losers in the state in terms of student population, with a three percent loss. Renfro said that the Morrow County School District actually had "modest growth" and attributed the data to the loss of lone area students who

now attend school in the newly formed Ione School District. However, he said that the district has "mostly made up" the losses to Ione.

-learned that Boardman Elementary School is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this Thursday.

-learned that a public hearing of the state legislature Rules and Election Committee has been set up at Heppner Elementary School Friday, April 8, beginning at 4 p.m., with a coffee hour to follow. The meeting, which is open to the public, was arranged by the district and state Representative Greg Smith.

-approved the second readings and adopted job descriptions for the assistant superintendent and the facilities coordinator, new positions created by Burrows.

-accepted resignations from: Richard Smith, A.C. Houghton Elementary head custodian; Doran DeGraw, Irrigon Junior/Senior High School Spanish teacher; Georgia VanWinkle, food service director; Greg Lyons, IJSHS track coach for the 2004-05 school year.

-accepted resignation from the Irrigon Community Education Committee from Kim Townsend, position four.

-accepted retirement for Linda Padberg, Heppner Elementary School secretary, retiring as of Oct. 1, 2005.

-approved employment for Mike Burrows, RHS head custodian, replacing Jerry Bair; Mark Jones, RHS assistant principal, replacing Mike Stuart; Chris Davis, half-time IJSHS assistant principal, replacing Bill DeBoard.

-approved extension of 2004-05 licensed contract status staff for 2005-06; renewal of 2004-05 licensed probationary status staff for 2005-06, including: Jean Collins, language arts; Petra Elguezabal, Spanish; Mark Dowdy, counselor/social studies; Dieter Waite, biology; Kresimir Waite, math; Josh Browning, language arts; and Bobby Rice, music, all Heppner High School.

-approved probationary administrators: Wade Smith, HJSHS/HES, who will become a contract administrator; BJ Wilson, SBE/WRE; Jack Johns, district programs director; and Joel Chavez, ELL director, who will all be third year administrators, and Daye Stone, HJSHS/HES who will be a second year administrator.

-approved 2004-05 contract administrators: John Sebastian, ACH; Ron Anthony, IJSHS/IES; Dirk Dirksen, RHS; and Thad Killingbeck, SBE/WRE.

-approved non-renewal for: PERS retirees, Joyce Hesla, Karen Cooley, Larry French and Kathleen Spinks; all licensed temporary status staff, Terri Clay, Title I, HES, Melissa Coiner, math/PE, HHS, Forest McKinnis, alternative ed, and Debbie Royer, Title I, SBE, and temporary administrator Matt Combe, alternative ed.

-heard the following announcements: Boardman Community Education Committee, WRE, 7 p.m. March 15; Irrigon CEC meeting, IES, 7 p.m. March 16; deadline to file for open district positions, March 17; Heppner CEC meeting, HES, 7 p.m. March 21 (may be cancelled for lack of quorum); spring break March 21-25; end of third nine weeks, March 31; board work session, Polycom between IJSHS and the district office, 7 p.m., March 31; public hearing-Rules and Election Committee, HES, 4 p.m. April 8; next board meeting, HHS, 7 p.m. April 11; Oregon School Boards spring regional meeting, May 2; spring election, May 17.

## Weston-McEwen Pipe and Band coming to the Parade

Heppner will welcome Weston-McEwen's Pipes and Drums to the Great Green Parade on Saturday, March 19. Thirty to forty members will travel here to perform, not nearly as far as their planned trip to Scotland later in the year.

Rob McIntyre, director, said the first set of bagpipes arrived in Athena in 1959 and no one knew how to play them. This was slowly turned into knowledge and by the early 1960s there were four sets of pipes with a girl from each class studying piping. Steve Pyle, now retired, who has played in the Heppner parade and during the afternoon Ceili, began forming the Pipes and Drums in 1968, known as the Lassies. Finally in 1980 the first male pipe member joined.

Hear these young people perform during the Cruz-In and in the parade on Saturday from 12 noon until 2 p.m.

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## Campbell Road

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banjo, fiddle, and vocals; and Barbara Tuttle on bodhran, djembe, and other percussion instruments.

The band evolved out of an earlier band that Dan was in, which played under various names, including The Predator Parasites, Violet and the Dead Husbands, The St. Cecilia Ceili Band, and every St. Patrick's Day, the Upper Valley Pseudo-Irish String Band.

Jessamyn joined in when she got old enough to be allowed in the bars, and Barbara took up the bodhran. Jon arrived on the scene in 1994, earning a place in the band by marrying into the family. At its peak, the Pseudo-Irish String Band had nine members crammed onto one tiny stage. Shortly thereafter, other members of the band drifted away.

Whittled down to the core family, the band played under the names Tuttle Family Band (too plain), and Fhideag (too hard to spell), before settling on the name Campbell Road in 1997.

Campbell Road has performed at pubs, festivals, Highland games, weddings, and private parties throughout the state of Washington. They have recorded two CDs, "By Blood or Marriage," released in 1997, and "Bare Bones," released in 2002. Both CDs feature cover art by Dan Tuttle.

More information about the band can be found at [www.campbell-road.com](http://www.campbell-road.com).

## City Council cuts police hours

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coverage to 80 hours per week, which would have cost the city \$147,775 per year, but decided that would not be enough coverage.

In other business, the council:

-approved the vacation of an alley between Gale and Highway 207, and granted a variance to City Manager Gerald Breazeale, who lives in the area, to construct a garage on the property.

-learned that the city insurance policy will most likely cover most of the damage to the grade school from a backed up sewer two weeks ago. Water apparently damaged some sheetrock and flooring in the school. No dollar amount was given.


-endorsed efforts by the fire department to look for "independent" funding for construction of new buildings.

-heard that the Willow Creek Golf Course has voted to be included in the Urban Growth Boundary. The council voted unanimously to move ahead with an intergovernmental agreement with the county to begin the process of extending the UGB.

-agreed to move ahead with a plan to refund water and sewer deposits to people with a good payment history. The deposits are \$130 and the city has been holding some of the money since 1994.

-learned that there are four vacancies at the St. Patrick's Senior Center. Council also voted to raise the rents by \$20 per month at the center.

-appointed Keith Lewis to the city budget committee. He will replace Joyce Kay Hollomon who resigned.



**By DAVID SYKES**  
REALTOR

### OVER OR UNDER-SPENDING

Some people spend more than they can afford when buying a house. Equally painful is the mistake of buying the cheapest possible house and then suffering through its shortcomings.

I have no intention of stating how much anyone can afford for a house. This is a very personal decision. There are guidelines of monthly averages that lending institutions use for housing expenses. But - like the "height/weight" charts printed on scales - these are only averages.

Don't hold back if you feel you can exceed the guidelines.

When you are willing and sufficiently disciplined to economize on other expenses, you can get a better house than the average calls for. A good house may seem costly, but the rewards are well worth it. Investing in a house that's a little more expensive gives you an excellent inflation hedge while your whole family enjoys a better place to live. And often, the resale opportunity is brighter.

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Celebrate St. Patrick's Day and Wee Bit O' Ireland! (March 17 - 20)

See all the "Greens"!  
Shamrock plants are here!

Irish gifts and party supplies, plus fun things to wear!

Don't miss CASINO NIGHT!  
Friday March 18 at 7 p.m.  
at the Heppner Elks Club.

**Purchase Your Lucky St. Patrick's Button (\$3) for 3 chances to win \$100!**

**EASTER IS EARLY THIS YEAR! SUNDAY, MARCH 27th**

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