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## Phyllis Danielson named Morrow County School District assistant superintendent

By April Sykes

The Morrow County School Board, at their regular meeting at Riverside High School in Boardman Monday night, approved promoting administrator Phyllis Danielson to the assistant superintendent position. She replaces former assistant superintendent Wade Smith who resigned to take a position with the Hermiston

School District.

The board also adopted a resolution declaring an emergency for roof replacement at Sam Boardman Elementary School. The roof was blown off during a recent wind storm. The declaration of an emergency allows the district to bypass the bidding process to expedite the roof repair.

Also at the meeting, the board accepted a letter of separation from Irrigon High School art teacher Ray Davis. Under the separation agreement, Davis will receive his salary through the end of the school year, but will not return to his position at IHS. He was also a coach at the school.

In other business, the board:

-heard a presentation from Lea Mathieu who is teaching advanced placement classes.

-voted to write a letter of appreciation to Virgil Hausinger who has been a

custodian with the district for 30 years. He will be retiring from his position as A.C. Houghton Elementary assistant custodian effective June 30.

-accepted resignations from: Sarah Christy, Riverside High School volleyball coach; and Susan Hisler, Heppner Junior High head track coach.

-approved employment with Dean Mason, in a temporary contract for a half-time music teacher at ACH, replacing Adriene Lorraine.

-approved extra duty contracts with: Martie McQuain, Irrigon Junior High School half-time boys' assistant basketball coach; Dawn Callow, Riverside Junior High School head track coach; Rebecca Renfro and Richard Rockwell, sharing assistant track coach position at RJH.

-approved the first reading of revised special

education policies, which are mandatory and cannot be modified by the district.

-approved a resolution establishing a Section 125 plan, which would allow for deducting district employees' medical expenses prior to taxes.

-heard the following attendance report: ACH-354 students in kindergarten through fourth grade; Heppner Elementary School-188, kindergarten through sixth grade; Heppner High School-227, grades seven through 12; Irrigon Elementary-127 grades five-six; IHS-326, grades six-12; RHS-388, grades seven-12; Sam Boardman Elementary-316, grades four-six; Windy River Elementary, Boardman-226, grades four-six; Morrow Education Center-102.

-held an executive session following the regular meeting to discuss personnel and legal issues.

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## Boardman council raises concerns over "Mayor's Notebook"

The Boardman City Council revisited a topic from a year ago, Mayor Ed Glenn's column in the North Morrow Times newspaper. Mayor Glenn has been writing the monthly opinion column under the heading "From the Mayor's Notebook" since he took office in January of 2005. Previously he had written an opinion column in the same paper on a regular basis. The North Morrow Times is published monthly and is distributed for free throughout North Morrow County to all mailboxes and at local businesses.

According to a press release from the City of Boardman by Jackie McCauley, Councilor Pam Docken brought the concern before the Council at Tuesday's meeting. She was approached by concerned citizens who feel the monthly column is written on behalf of the City Council. Councilor Docken said the most recent article regarding the Tippage Fee Initiative was a negative article and is an at-

tempt by the mayor to sway votes on the issue. She is concerned about the City's liability. She asked for a disclaimer to be published along with each "Notebook" article.

Each councilor weighed in on the issue. Councilors Hollandsworth and Perry wanted to see the column's title changed to "Ed Glenn's Notebook" to avoid misleading readers that the mayor was speaking on behalf of the City. Councilor Pambrun also felt the column was misleading. She believes the media does not understand that Mayor Glenn is not representing the City of Boardman when he acts as spokesman for the mayor's and city managers on the Tippage Fee Initiative, and would like them to be better informed. Councilors Doherty and Yates did not see a real problem with the column, although Councilor Doherty did ask the mayor to publish a disclaimer in his column. Councilor Yates would like the City's attorney to look

into the issue and to get his view on free speech.

Mayor Glenn responded by saying other elected officials such as the president and the governor publish their opinions for their constituents. He said he tries to separate the kinds of messages he is sending and on occasion has published that his columns are his opinions. The mayor said he would consider the Council's request to print a disclaimer at the beginning of his column. He also reminded the Council he is acting only as spokesperson for the Mayor's and Manager's on the Tippage Fee Initiative, although he understands the City of Boardman has not taken an official stance on the issue. He reminded the Council that the North Morrow Times is happy to publish any rebuttal views submitted to them.

In other City news, the Council approved applying for an Oregon Department of Transportation Enhancement Grant to improve south Main Street. Councilors asked to see the engineered drawings of the project before the application is submitted. The City's Tree Committee reported they are ready to order trees to be planted along Front Street NW and Front Street NE. The Interchange Area Management Plan Committee reported they have an upcoming meeting on February 28. Also, the City is looking into recognizing its honored citizens with a memorial, the type and location is still being determined. And, the City will be designating the parking along the Post Office as 15 minute parking as soon as they can post it.

The next regular City Council meeting will be Tuesday, February 19, 2008 at 7 p.m. at Boardman City Hall.

### He had to hurry on his way



Although he has probably disappeared by now, this snowman could be spotted last week at the home of John and Linda Bristow of Ione.

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

## Council considers garbage rate increase

The Heppner City Council Monday considered a request by the city garbage collection company for an increase in fees for residential and commercial pickup.

Under the proposal the cost to pick up a 32 gallon garbage can would go up from \$10.80 per month to \$11 per month, if the cans are brought to curbside. If cans are not brought to curbside there will be an additional \$2.50 per week or \$10 per month charge. Additional cans are \$1.50 per month.

Previous garbage collector, Heppner Garbage Disposal, did not charge additional fees for picking up cans not on the curb.

Ryan Miller of Miller & Sons, which now has the garbage collection franchise in the city, is requesting the increase because of increased fuel and equipment costs.

Miller said the company was going to charge the additional \$2.50 per week to pick up cans not on the curb because of the increased labor cost to go into people's backyards and other areas to pick up the cans.

Miller says that by the time he sends a man into someone's yard, and there may be dogs and such there, retrieves the can, empties it into the truck, and then takes it back, he has quite a bit of time invested than if

the can were on the curb.

The council also discussed the problem of cans left on the sides of streets that have been blowing around in the wind and weather.

In requesting the rate increase Miller also pointed out that fuel costs have gone up 40 cents a gallon, and he has had to invest in an additional back up truck for the business.

A new piece of equipment called a roll off truck and box have also been purchased. Miller said the box would be available to deposit on site where people could fill it and then have the box picked up and dumped.

The council did not approve the new rates, but did set another meeting to discuss the request.

In other business at Monday's meeting the council appointed John Bowles to fill a council position left vacant with the resignation of George Koffer. Koffer resigned effective this month after he moved outside the city limits.

Bowles, 35, who has been a deputy with the Morrow



John Bowles

County Sheriff's Department since 2002, has three children and his wife's name is Kristen. Kristen is employed as a dispatcher with the sheriff's dept. Their children are Tosha, 17, Alex, 15 and Jake, 13.

"I have been interested in the city council for a couple of years," Bowles told the Heppner Gazette-Times "and I would like to do my part and help out the city of Heppner."

In other action the council learned that the city has been awarded a \$25,000 small city Oregon Department of Transportation grant to do work on Morgan Street. The city will probably do a thin overlay or extensive patching with the money.

The council heard that the Corps of Engineers may not be able to assist with funding for construction of a rest room facility near the little league field below the Willow Creek Dam. The city had hoped that money would be available from the Corps to help with construction. The Corps did offer to help find other grant or funding opportunities for the city.

The council also agreed to enter into a computer services agreement with Pat Struthers Consulting of Heppner to maintain the city's computer and network systems.

## AARP Tax-Aide to offer free tax preparation

AARP Tax-Aide is the nation's largest free volunteer run tax assistance and preparation service for low and middle income tax payers. This free tax preparation service is again being offered in the Heppner area. Both State and Federal returns are prepared and electronically transmitted free of any charges. This free tax service is available to tax payers of all ages and a wide range of income levels. You do not need to be a member of AARP to benefit from this service.

Prepares will be available to assist tax payers at the OSU Extension Office located at 54176 Hwy 74 on Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Anyone interested in taking advantage of this free service can call 676-9642 to schedule an appointment.

This service will be offered from February 8 through April 11.

Please be sure to bring all W-2's, 1098's, 1099's and any other documents showing income. If you have paid for child care, please bring information showing the amount paid, as well as the provider's identification number. If you think there may be a possibility that you would benefit from itemizing on your return, please be sure to bring all information pertaining to prescription drugs, medical care, including mileage to providers, plus property taxes, mortgage interest and charitable contributions. It is important to remember that the Oregon standard deduction is considerably lower than the Federal, so you may benefit from itemizing for the State return only.

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