

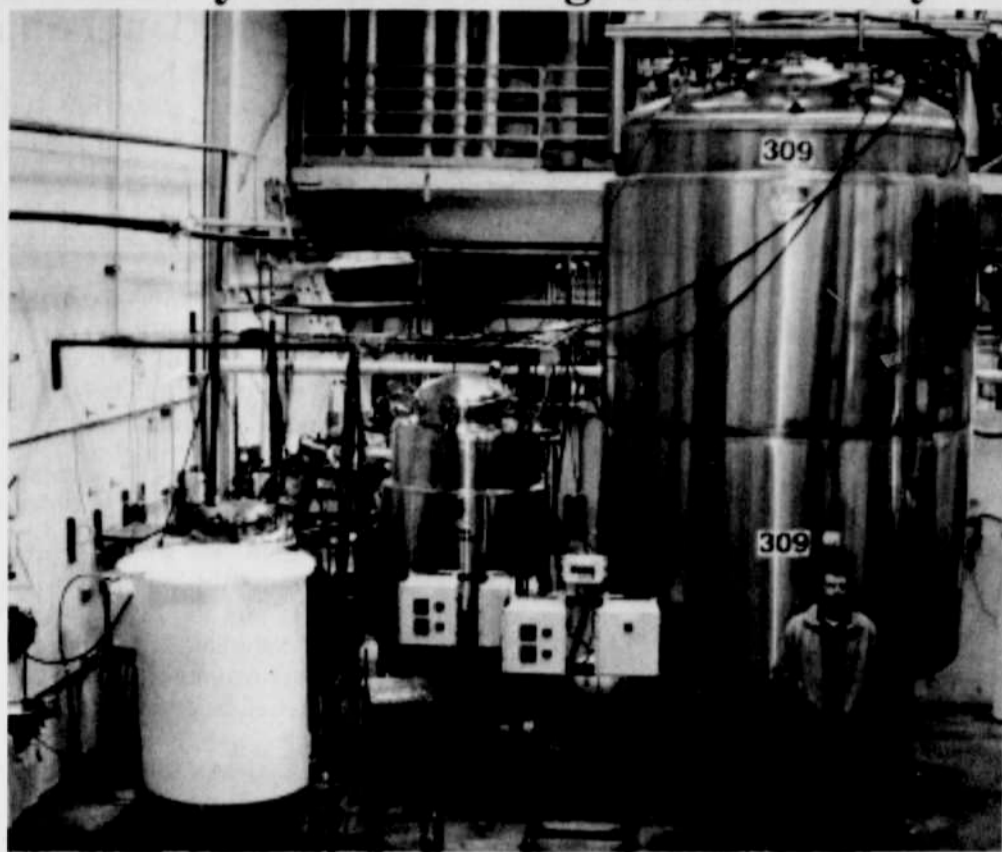
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## Boardman bio refinery set to break ground in May

By David Sykes

A Colorado company constructing a bio fuel plant at the Port of Morrow says everything is going well and it plans to break ground next month.

Carrie Atiyeh, public affairs director of the ZeaChem Inc. of Lakewood, CO, told the Heppner Ga-



Lakewood, Colo. — A ZeaChem Inc. engineer stands in front of a 5,000 liter fermentation tank at Hazen Research, Inc.. ZeaChem is a developer of biorefineries for the conversion of renewable biomass into fuels and chemicals.

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### Ione to contract with ESD for superintendent's job

By David Sykes

The Ione School Board on Monday night approved a contract with the Umatilla-Morrow Education Service District (UMESD) to provide superintendent and central office services beginning July 1. Current Ione Superintendent Karl Ostheller announced earlier this year he will resign his position, effective June 30. Ione will then hire a new on-site principal for the school.



Mark Mulvihill

The contract will include superintendent services such as governance, school improvement, human resources, and business services, UMESD Superintendent Dr. Mark Mulvihill said.

UMESD already provides Ione with central office support for business and human resource services. The move is a cost-effective one during these rough economic times, said Mulvihill.

"The UMESD is very excited for this new service delivery in Ione," he said. "This is an example of capacity, leadership and efficiencies during turbulent economic times. In a small district like Ione, it's a win-win situation."

While Mulvihill will assume the official role of Ione superintendent, he'll receive support from other UMESD administrators in providing central office services. Deputy Superintendent Michael Lasher will handle day-to-day operations such as human resources and business services, and Assistant Superintendent Mary Apple will organize special education and school improvement services.

Mulvihill stressed the importance of having an on-site principal who can be directly involved within the community, and he plans to collaborate with whomever that person ends up being. While the UMESD may not always have an administrator in the district, there will still be a presence, Mulvihill

added. "One could compare this model with a large district, which features an active building principal supported by a central office."

"It is the consensus of the Ione School Board that this arrangement will benefit the staff at Ione Community School, thereby improving the education of our students," said Ione Board Chairman Joe McElligott. "We look forward to working with the UMESD in this new capacity." The board voted unanimously Monday to accept the contract.

Mulvihill told the board that there is talk in Salem there will be a \$3 billion shortfall in the next state budget and that many districts are looking for ways to cut costs without impacting classrooms. "School districts are going to have to make tough decisions on things outside the classroom," he told the board. "Things such as custodial and administrative. From the ESD prospective this is the model for the future having a central office. We are going to make this successful," he added.

In a related matter Monday the board started the search for a new principal at Ione schools. ESD began advertising for the position Tuesday and there is a cutoff of applications May 28. The board named a review committee of a teacher from each the high school and grade school along with the administrative secretary and the entire school board. The committee will review the applications after the cutoff and decide which applicants to interview.

In other business at Monday's meeting the board heard a request to reinstate the music program.

Alex Carlson has been independently tutoring students on the violin and several of the students put on a demonstration for the school board. Carlson said he received a grant from the

Morrow County Cultural Trust to give lessons the past school year to seven local students. He gave each student a 30 minute lesson each week. In asking the board to reinstate music full time into the schools, he said he had 50 signatures on a petition requesting this.

Citizen Maureen McElligott also asked the board to put music back into the schools. "If there is any money in the budget I am asking you to hire a music teacher," she said. "It is sad we have to go to a community band instead of a high school pep band," she said.

Board member Lisa Rietmann said there may be a possibility of a \$7,000 grant that can be used along with an Ameri-corp person to staff a music program at the school. She said the district is exploring different options. Board member Joe McElligott said the board would take it under consideration. "But you have to understand we don't have much to work with," he said.

In other business the board discussed a new cell phone policy for the school district. Ione has been without cell service but will be getting service sometime in June, so the new policy would be for the next school year. The sent a draft policy back to committee for changes before adoption.

In the superintendent report Ostheller said for the third quartering ending in April in grades six through eight there were 23 students with a GPA of 3.0 or better (68 percent of students) and four of those earned a 4.0 GPA. In the high school 52 (81 percent) of students had a GPA of 3.0 or better with 17 of those earning a 4.0 GPA.

A new 2010-11 school calendar was also handed out at the meeting. Some of the highlights are: School will start on August 31 of 2010 and end on June 7 of 2011; winter break will be from Dec. 22 to 31; and spring break will be from March 21 to 25.

zette-Times that the company plans a ground breaking in May with completion of the facility planned by the end of the year. She said when completed, the plant will produce 250,000 gallons of ethanol per year using fast growing poplar trees harvested from the 35,000 acres of tree farms owned by Greenwood Resources near Boardman. The plant is a test facility gearing up for larger scale production.

Atiyeh said the company is using a technique of not cutting the trees completely down to obtain the raw poplar material. She said they are cutting the trees above the soil and not removing the roots, the trees then grow back, are harvested every five years and only have to be replanted every 15 years. She said it will take 10 tons of tree and other material per day to produce the required 250,000 gallons per year.

Atiyeh said the company is making good progress getting ready for operation at the Port. She said the modules for the plant are being built in Denver and shipped to Boardman where they will be assembled for operation. The Boardman plant is a test production facility, and if it is successful a full scale production facility will be built somewhere that produces 25 to 50 million gallons of end material. Some of the end products coming out of the plant will be chemicals for plastic products, car paint material and an additive that makes coffee decaffeinated. Earlier Atiyeh had said the plant could, in the future, also use wheat straw or waste from the national forest in its production. "Corn was the first generation of ethanol

production," Atiyeh said. "But now we are expanding into other areas. It's not just ethanol anymore," she said of the ZeaChem process. She said the chemicals will compete with petroleum in many of its end uses.

"This is a new way of producing ethanol," she said. "We are using proven technology," she said.

Atiyeh said about

75 people will be employed in construction of the plant, and when completed there will be 25 full time jobs operating the plant. She said the plant will eventually produce an estimated 200 indirect jobs.

The plant was funded in part with a \$25 million grant from the Department of Energy, and up to \$40 million in two rounds of venture capital.

### FAA puts hold on big Shepherds Flat wind farm

Part of this article are reprinted from Consumer Energy Report web site at [www.consumerenergyreport.com](http://www.consumerenergyreport.com) and from [www.solveclimate.com](http://www.solveclimate.com)

The Federal Aviation Administration has issued a "notice of presumed hazard" halting Caithness Energy's development of what would be the world's largest wind farm in Shepherds Flat in Morrow County that was scheduled to break ground on May 1.

The FAA's order resulted from increasing concerns from the Air Force that the three hundred and thirty eight turbines would interfere with transmissions from a radar station in Fossil.

"We're just sitting here in no man's land," said Les Gelber, a Caithness Energy partner.

Oregon stands to lose 706 jobs and millions of dollars in royalties for Oregon farmers if the venture is

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### Little League season opens in Heppner



Opening day of Little League season saw Madison Combe pitching for the Bank of Eastern Oregon team. —Photo by Sandy Matthews

### Irrigon Medical Clinic announces new provider

Darryl Denison, PA-C, has taken over the reins at Irrigon Medical Clinic effective Thursday, April 15. Denison, a physician assistant, has assumed both provider and managerial duties at the clinic, announced Morrow County Health District Administrator Mike Blauer.

Darryl has most recently been working in Hermiston and he brings to Irrigon a broad base of knowledge and experience that he has gained during

his medical career, having worked in pain management, neurology, orthopedics and urgent care medicine.

Denison began his medical career as a registered nurse, serving as an instructor flight nurse in the US Air Force. He later returned to school and graduated with honors from the University of Washington physician assistant program.

Denison and his wife, Kathy, have three

adult children and five grandchildren. His hobbies include spending time on his computer and reading.

Denison relieves Ken Wenberg, M.D., who has been providing patient services at the clinic since January. "Dr. Wenberg was a great support to us," Blauer said. "Because of his help we were able to keep the clinic operating without interruption."

Dr. Russ Nichols will provide oversight of patient care at the clinic.

### Heppner to host track meet

Heppner High School will host the Mustang Invitational track meet on Friday, April 30. This is the first large meet that will be held on the HHS track since the renovations were

made.

As of Monday, April 19, 13 schools from around the area have committed to attending.

Field events will

start at noon and running events at 1 p.m.

Anyone interested in helping can contact Melissa Coiner at 541-676-9128.

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