

Goof robs district of state money

GLIDE, Ore. (AP) — A one-time boon to the school district from a \$1.8 million tax settlement was mistakenly identified in paperwork as continuing income, so the state figured the schools in Glide didn't need its money.

Wrong. The Glide School District can cover its payroll, but things could be tight until the state pays up, business manager Kris Aanderoud said.

She said the state has assured the district it will receive the money after the end of the year, when final property tax numbers are compiled.

Glide schools would have received about \$730,000 in state money this fall to replace revenue lost under Measure 5 property tax limits.

But a Pacific Power & Light tax appeal settlement was recorded in the county assessor's office as a continuing offset, Aanderoud said.

The paperwork then went to the legislative revenue office, where state tax economist Terry Drake said his office double-checked the original paperwork to make sure it wasn't a computer error.

When the offset was plugged into the computer as continuing this year, the computation showed Glide should not receive any state replacement money.

All Douglas County districts, except Reedsport, received some of the money. They also are affected, but on a much smaller scale.

Glide, geographically one of the largest districts west of the Cascades, got the most money from the settlement, \$919,000, because it includes the most PP&L land, Aanderoud said.

"There some other errors, but this is the only one of this magnitude," said Mike Schofield, Douglas Education Service District business manager.

Police to get copies of drivers' photos

SALEM (AP) — Next time you smile for the Motor Vehicles Division's cameras, your picture will end up in state custody as well as on your driver's license.

On Monday the division began keeping duplicate copies of drivers' photos on file for police.

The program was approved by the 1989 Legislature to make it easier for police to identify people through driver's licenses and more difficult for people to get phony licenses.

The system didn't get under way until now because the division's photo machines didn't have the ability to make duplicates. Officials waited until their lease for the old machines ran out before ordering new ones.

"We actually started using the new cameras today," division spokeswoman Ann Snyder said. "They're up and running."

Banks as well as police agencies supported the bill.

"There are a lot of phony IDs floating around," said state Rep. Mike Burton, D-Portland, who sponsored the legislation two years ago.

But the Oregon chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union is wary of the new program on grounds that it might infringe on people's privacy rights.

Stevie Remington, executive director of the state ACLU, said police should not be able to ask the division for pictures without a specific reason.

"It must be a legitimate need to know," Remington said. "I don't think it's appropriate for police officers to come in and ask for all the blond, blue-eyed people. It's a little like making everyone come in for a lineup."

Because other states already had duplicate photos and tougher license requirements, Oregon was considered an easy mark for those wanting a phony

license or vehicle registration.

Burton said that during legislative committee hearings, lawmakers heard stories about people armed only with a library card being able to obtain duplicate licenses.

When people ask for duplicate licenses in the future, they will be checked against a photo mug already on file if there is any question about the person's identity.

In those cases, a temporary license will be issued because it takes several days to compare photos, said Mike Unger, manager of the division's driver's licensing section.

Unger also said that only law enforcement agencies and the division are authorized to use the photo file, although banks can obtain pictures through police.



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