

# **Commissioners vote** themselves full time, then decide against pay increases

\$12,802 pay raise shelved after citizen concerns

### **By David Sykes**

salary, two members of the at a meeting last week, after hearing citizen concerns, salaries.

At the Feb. 8 meeting Doherty said he has real- sioners "attend meetings

Saying their jobs are coming on the board, that to be involved with decifull time on a part-time the job is not part time as sions that impact the county "currently listed," and he Morrow County Court last made a motion to change month voted to rename their any reference to the com- lissa Lindsay also agreed, positions full time, and then missioner position to full time.

Commissioner Russell decided not to raise their seconded saying he agreed the position is "much more" than a part-time job. He said new commissioner Jim it is important that commis-

ized after being elected and all over the state in order financially and otherwise."

Commission chair Mesaying the hours are not part-time, but said she wanted to "take a slower approach," wanting to educate the public on the realities of the position and obtain feedback before renaming the position full time. She voted no on the motion.

Russell said he was not seeking additional compensation, but instead wanted anyone who might contemplate becoming a commissioner to "understand it's not a part-time commitment," and he along with Doherty voted in favor.

Meanwhile, on March 16 the county compensation board, a citizen group making recommendations to the court on elected officials salaries, met and discussed the commissioners' salaries. All the board members agreed that "a person doing full-time work should be compensated at a full-time rate." Recognizing that the county commission had earlier voted to rename their positions full time, some board members were still "uncomfortable" recommending increasing commission wages to the full-time county designation of 1.0 FTE (full time equivalent) "at this time."

The compensation board did, however, agree unanimously to increase the commission's salaries by \$12,802 per year. The commissioner currently make \$38,407 and the pay increase would have brought them to \$51,209. The board arrived at the -See COUNTY COURT/ PAGE FOUR

# Health district discusses feasibility of facility remodels, expansions

arrested on rape, sex abuse charges

Ione man

Morrow County Sheriff's Office arrested Ione man Corey Scott Baker last Wednesday, according to a statement by Morrow County Sheriff Ken Matlack. Baker, 40, was arrested on one count each of rape I and sexual abuse I. both felonies.

Both crimes were alleged to have happened between July and September of 2016 with a girl under the age of 12.

The arrest was made on a circuit court warrant issued based on a secret indictment March 13 by the Morrow County Grand Jury.

Baker was released on his own recognizance March 22 and is scheduled for arraignment April 20.

Matlack says the investigation is ongoing.

Emergency personnel respond to

**By April Sykes** 

the Irrigon Clinic.

Board member Jill

The Morrow County modeling the hospital or over the last month, Parker Health District Board, at building a new one, asked was surprised at the low its Monday night meeting MCHD Chief Financial number and remarked that at the Port of Morrow in Officer Nicole Mahoney she believed that they (the Boardman, discussed the for information on hospifeasibility of remodeling or tal usage that Parker said building Pioneer Memorial she could not extract from Hospital and remodeling monthly statistics provided by Mahoney.

Parker, Boardman, ques- her that five people were were earlier discussed in an

board) were just talking about remodeling the entrance to the hospital and not remodeling or rebuilding the facility. The two When Mahoney told options, remodel or rebuild,

tioning the sagacity of re- admitted to the hospital earlier presentation to the board put on by architect Scott Combs of the Clark/ Kjos architect firm.

Administration had earlier emphasized that the hospital must continue to offer cutting-edge medical services for their patients, using updated equipment, -See HEALTH DISTRICT/

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# Estes retires after 31 years with county

### **By Andrea Di Salvo**

After 31 years working for Morrow County, most of that time in the assessor's office, lead appraiser Cyde Estes will retire this week. Her last day is March 31.

Estes, who will be 61 in May, was born "Here. In the hospital when they could still deliver babies,' she says. She was raised in Heppner and, during high school, went to work gaining valuable skills that would serve her later in life. She worked summers in the forests of Eastern Oregon,



Cyde Estes retires this week after more than 31 years with the county. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

working lookout towers. She then worked for the U.S. Forest Service, both first for the Oregon Dept. manning lookout towers of Forestry out of Fossil, and fighting fires on a heli- attorney's office later in

**Troy Morgan** 

encourage and represent

LA GRANDE, OR- tained dean's list standing

Two local teachers, Dale during fall term were given

#### tack crew.

"It gave me skills reading maps and things, which I use today, very much," she says.

During the school year, she also worked for attorney Bob Abrams—later Judge Abrams-during his on from some very good time in private practice. Between school and sports, she did office secretarial Heppner High School in work while Abrams' secretary, Mary Bryant, taught her about legal documents and about being a legal secretary. Estes says that experience not only helped her get a job in the district

life, but has helped her to this day in her role as an appraiser.

"(It's) been very helpful in my job, because we handle tax appeals," explains Estes. "I had some very good training early people."

After graduating from 1974, she attended Blue Mountain Community College for a year, majoring mostly in biology, before getting married and moving to Montana. During her -See ESTES RETIRES/PAGE EIGHT

Holland, Morgan receive Inspirational Teacher **Awards from EO** 

### broken gas line

Morrow County emergency responders turned out in force last week to manage what could have been an explosive situation, according to a statement by Morrow County Sheriff's Office.

At 10:46 a.m. March 20, MCSO dispatch received report of a damaged natural gas line near Morrow Cold Storage in the Port of Morrow area of

-See BROKEN GAS LINE/ PAGE TWO



ton to re- cation and ceive Inspirational Teacher academic excellence. EOU Awards from Eastern Or- presents the Inspirational egon University. First-year Teacher Awards annually in honor students at EOU recognition of outstanding nominated the teachers for high school teachers who the honor.

Students who main- the importance of higher

## Get Ready to 'Walk MS'



Participants in a past Walk MS Eastern Oregon in Heppner. -Contributed photo

the 19<sup>th</sup> year of sponsoring of the event. the Eastern Oregon Walk MS. All towns in Eastern Oregon are invited to join the event on Saturday, April by registering as virtual 22.

Pre-registration is ap-

Heppner is ready for welcome to register the day tinuing fight against MS

Those unable to attend the day of the scheduled walk can still help the cause walkers.

There is no registrapreciated. Pre-register on tion fee for the Walk MS. the web at www.walkms. Donations of any amount org or by phone at 1-855- are welcome, as those funds 372-1331. Walk-ins also are will help support the con-

(multiple sclerosis). Participants raising \$100 per person or more can earn prizes for outstanding fundraising, starting with a T-shirt prize at the \$100 level while supplies last.

The registration/checkin begins at 9 a.m. at All -See WALK MS 2017/PAGE TWO

graduate of Heppner High pner High School. School, nominated Troy

education to their students. Morgan is a member of the Holland to receive an In-Patrick Collins, a 2016 mathematics staff at Hep- spirational Teacher Award.

Morgan to receive an In- graduate of Ione Communi- staff at Ione Community spirational Teacher Award. ty School, nominated Dale School.

Holland is a member of the Jason Juarez, a 2016 mathematics and chemistry

## Heppner native recognized by Forbes as top wealth advisor

Heppner native Kelly means we are serving our Kilkenny Hale was recently clients well," said the com- 35 years of investment innamed one of America's pany in a statement. top women wealth advisors by Forbes magazine. #137 on the Forbes Hale, daughter of the late list (which can be Bob Kilkenny, is a financial viewed at forbes. advisor and senior portfolio com/top-womenmanager with RBC Wealth advisors/); accord-Management in Portland, ing to the maga- Kelly OR.

"It's an honor to have a typical account

ognized as one of the best a total of \$2 billion under in the industry—because it her management.

Hale fell at

dustry experience. After she graduated from Heppner High School, she then obtained a Bachelor of Science in business administration from the University

Hale has more than

zine, Hale manages Kilkenny Hale

a teammate nationally rec- size of \$2.5 million and has advisory member for RBC

of Oregon. She also serves as an FCAC -See WEALTH ADVISOR/ PAGE TWO

