

COUNTY COURT

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the cities and then dividing up the balance based on population. The funds for the grant will come from Strategic Investment Program (SIP), which is money coming in lieu of taxes from various energy projects, mainly wind, located in the county.

Russell said he preferred a base amount first to each city. "If we just did it on population Ione and Lexington would not get enough dollars to do anything with," he said. The commission did not make a final decision on how the grants would be distributed.

The commissioners also heard from Morrow County Assessor Mike Gorman, who said only \$1.8 million in the current year's property taxes were yet uncollected. He said that was a pretty good collection rate and that the final payment date was May 15 so more money may come in.

Gorman also went over the collection process with the commissioners, saying the county starts collection procedures after four years' delinquent taxes. He said on May 16 his office will send out delinquent notices and then in June start sending out foreclosure notices on tax bills over four years

old. On Aug. 18, he said four-year delinquent taxes will be published in the newspaper and then the court will get involved and issue a judgment against the property for the back taxes.

Property owners have two years after the judgment to pay up and get removed from the judgement. He said the county does not really like to go through the foreclosure process, and would rather property owners get caught up on back taxes. However, if after the two years from the date of the judgement no payment is received then the title is transferred to the ownership of the county, and the property is sold to satisfy the lien.

Personal property taxes such as business equipment or mobile homes are treated differently and can be seized by the county. "We don't make that a practice," he says, saying the county would rather work with the owners and get a schedule set up for payment. He said the county can charge 16 percent interest on late taxes.

Gorman also reported that he has new staff on board and they have been attending training classes to get up to speed and are doing a good job. "The new

staff is working out well, it will take a couple of years but I see good things," he told the commissioners. He said Derek Gunderson had taken the retired Cyde Estes's position. Gunderson, who has worked there three years, "has really stepped up," Gorman said.

Gorman also told the commission that his office plans on starting re-appraisals next year in some parts of the county. They will probably start with Boardman he said. Gorman added that his office is behind on market pricing farm valuations, especially irrigated ground, and plans to work on that also. The assessor uses past sales to value property, and he said they will team with Gilliam County, which has some dryland and irrigated sales also, to help do proper evaluations. He said the last county valuation study was in 2010, which found irrigated land around \$5,000 an acre, which "might be a little low, maybe."

In other business, the commission heard a report from Morrow County Treasurer Gayle Gutierrez. Commissioner Lindsay told Gutierrez she had tried to access information at the bank about county ac-

counts but was told only the treasurer could see that information. Lindsay said she felt more than one person should have access to the accounts. Gutierrez said that was not necessary, since all Lindsay had to do was ask her and the information would be provided. Commissioner Doherty said checks and balances were a good thing, and Russell said if the commissioners have a question "we should not have to go to the treasurer and then get the answer from her."

The commissioners instructed county staff, however, to draw up bank instructions allowing all commissioners and the finance director access to the county banking accounts. Gutierrez said she did not agree, "and would not sign off on that."

In other action the commission awarded three roofing bids to Seth Moses Roofing of Heppner. Moses will put on foam roofing with coating to the county shop building at Lexington, the library in Heppner and the health building in Boardman. Moses was low bidder on all projects for a total of \$37,875.

"I am pleased this went to a Morrow County con-

City landmark gets welcoming new look



The storefront of the Gilliam-Bisbee building in Heppner got a minor facelift recently with a window display welcoming visitors to the community. The display, which combines country whimsy with helpful visitor information, was created by Babette Wall of Heppner. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

tractor," Lindsay said. "I have been pleased with Seth's work on previous occasions."

The county also voted to sign a three-year trucking contract with Andy Ashbeck Trucking, LLC. The contract spells out the costs the county will pay for various trucking equipment when it calls on Ashbeck to help with road projects. "If deadline to get a project pave road repaired and need gravel, this will allow someone else to call upon

if needing the additional equipment," the contract states.

The commissioners also discussed an earlier proposal to change the rodeo board from its present committee structure to a county recognized board. The county and the rodeo have been talking over the change and what it would mean for the rodeo. No agreement has been signed; however, Lindsay agreed to be the liaison between the county and the rodeo.

SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Elementary and Windy River Elementary; and Lois Tallman, SBE ed assistant.

In other business, the board:

-received the following enrollment report for May: A.C. Houghton Elementary, Irrigon-276; Sam Boardman Elementary, Boardman-336; Heppner Elementary-171; Irrigon Elementary-198; Windy River Elementary, Boardman-227; Heppner Jr./Sr. High School-161; Irrigon Jr./Sr. High School-370; Riverside Jr./Sr. High School, Boardman-428; Morrow Education Center, Irrigon-62; total-2,229. Dirksen reported that the district is up 61 students over last year and is optimistic concerning continued growth.

-approved the following recommendations to rehire for 2017-18 (Heppner listed only): Heppner Elementary: educational assistants-Jackie Alleman, Lorna Botefuhr, Rebecca Evans, Tami Lien, Janet Wilson, one vacant ed assistant position, ed assistant/library tech-Debra Campbell; head cook-Kim Carlson, assistant custodian-Kathy Cutsforth, facilities coordinator-Kelly Fox, assistant custodian-Linda Workman, head secretary-vacant; Heppner Jr./Sr. High School: library tech-Ginger Bow-

man, educational assistants-Tiffanie Greenup, Ken Grieb, Jessica Lentz, Larissa Maddern, department secretary-Tracie Bunch, head secretary-Darcy Hostetler-Robinson, head cook-Lori McCabe, assistant custodian-Teresa Parret, head custodian-Robert Wilson.

-approved the following extra duty contracts for non-coaching positions recommended for rehire for 2017/18: Heppner Elementary: TAG (talented and gifted program) coordinator-Madison Rosenbalm; half-time DART (early intervention)-Sarah Matheny, Melissa Coiner, ELL site coordinator-Mary Ann Elguezabal; Heppner Jr./Sr. High School: annual-Jeremy Rosenbalm, band-Rick Drake, drama advisor (fall/winter and spring)-Alaina Lemmon, half-time TAG coordinator-John Flaherty, Petra Payne, Dart-John Flaherty; district level: RTI (response to intervention) district coordinator-Melissa Coiner, Jill Ledbetter, ELL (English Language Learner) district coordinator (extra duty pay schedule D)-Theresa Proctor-Reece, RTI system district-wide coordinator-Kaira Rysdam.

-approved the following extra duty coaching contracts (Heppner listed only): Heppner High School: Greg Grant-athlet-

ic director, head football, C-team boys' basketball, head golf; Virginia Grant-half-time cheerleading, Les Payne-assistant football; Kevin Payne-half-time assistant football; Jeremy Rosenbalm-half-time assistant football, head boys' basketball, Mindy Wilson-head volleyball, Russ Nichols-half-time head cross country, head/assistant track, Antonia Nichols-half-time head cross country, Ken Grieb-assistant boys' basketball, Robert Wilson-head girls' basketball, Mark Lemmon-head wrestling, Andy Stelk-head baseball, Timothy Wilkins-assistant baseball, Laura Winters-head/assistant track, Matt Scrivner-assistant golf, Rick Johnston-head softball, Janelle Ellis-half-time assistant softball, Mike Correa-half time assistant softball, vacant-assistant girls' basketball, assistant volleyball; Heppner Junior High: Chad Doherty-head football, Joe Armato-assistant football, Terri Gentry-head volleyball, Rocky Turner-head boys' basketball, Jeremy Arbogast-assistant boys' basketball, Antonia Nichols-head track, Brandi Sweeney-assistant track, vacant-assistant volleyball, head girls' basketball, assistant girls' basketball, head wrestling.

-approved the follow-

ing employment action: resignations/non renewals-Devin Bailey, Irrigon Jr./Sr. High School science teacher, end of 2016-17 school year; Beth Garnett, Riverside Jr./Sr. High School science teacher, Brenda Profit, Sam Boardman Elementary special ed teacher, Adara Spring, Sam Boardman Elementary ed assistant, Renee Zielinski, RJSHS head secretary; retirement-Lloyd Bowman, June 30; employment/promotions/transfers 2017-18-Katie Burton, SBE first grade teacher, Julia Finch, SBE third grade teacher, Tiffany Jordan, RJSHS language arts teacher, Christine Moore, Windy River Elementary sixth grade teacher, Heather Noble, SBE/WRE kindergarten-grade six music teacher, G'Ann Thomas, RJSHS language arts teacher, Sarah Wells, SBE kindergarten teacher, Jacquelynn Whitesell, SBE special ed teacher, Haily Wooldridge, Irrigon Jr./Sr. High School language arts teacher, Lucia Zavala, SBE ed assistant.

-approved the first reading of policy on the superintendent's evaluation, the local wellness program, staff-student-parent relations, whistleblower, family medical leave.

-adopted policy on head lice.

-adopted administra-

tive rules on reimbursable school meals and milk programs.

-viewed a presentation on the district's science textbook adoption by teachers Dawn Callow, Kaitlin Gustafson, Jason Palmer and Danielle Wardle and adopted textbooks. The presentation also included information on the online forensics classes held in Boardman and Irrigon, but not available in Heppner due to science teacher staffing shortages.

-received the following 2017-18 board calendar as follows: July 2017-no meeting, Aug. 14-RJSHS, Sept. 11-district office, Heppner Elementary, Oct. 9-Sam Boardman Elementary, Nov. 6-A.C. Houghton Elementary (changed from Nov. 13, due to the district's observance of Veteran's Day), Dec. 11-Windy River

Elementary, Jan. 2018-no meeting, Feb. 12-Irrigon Jr./Sr. High School, March 12-Heppner Jr./Sr. High School, April 9-Irrigon Elementary, May 15 (changed from May 14)-Morrow Education Center, Irrigon, June 11-Heppner Elementary.

-heard the following announcements: May 12-make up snow day for north end schools only, May 15-Crystal Apple awards, May 25-seniors' last day, May 29-Memorial Day holiday, June 3-graduations- 10 a.m., Riverside, Boardman, noon, Irrigon, 2 p.m., Heppner; June 8, students' last day, June 13-30, Irrigon and Heppner summer school, June 12-30 and July 31-Aug. 5, Boardman summer school, June 12-next board meeting and budget hearing.

Youth invited to 'Disco with It' at tri-county 4-H camp

Each year Oregon State University staff from Gilliam, Wheeler and Morrow counties host a Tri-County 4-H Summer Camp at Cutsforth Park outside of Heppner. This year's camp dates are Thursday, June 15, through Sunday, June 18.

Cost is \$85 if registered by May 25 and \$100 from May 25 through June 5. Scholarships are available to enrolled 4-H members; please check with your county 4-H Office. No registrations are will be accepted after June 5. T-Shirts are included with the registration fee.

While this is a 4-H camp, it is open to all youth from these three counties; they need not already be

enrolled in 4-H in order to participate. The camp theme this year is "Disco with It."

Youth who attend will spend three nights camping in tents with their counselors and peers and will participate in educational workshops, craft activities, a hike and a dance. There will also be a campfire each night complete with skits and songs. Counselors are in the eighth through 12th grades and are from Gilliam, Wheeler and Morrow counties.

For more information, contact the Morrow County 4-H office at 541-676-9642 or visit <http://oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu/programs/camps/other>.

DA's Report

Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson has released the following report:

-Marion Ivan Taylor, 57, was convicted of Assault IV, a Class A Misdemeanor. Of the sentence of 180 days' jail time, 90 days were suspended and the defendant sentenced to 36 months bench probation.

In addition to 90 days' jail time, probation conditions included 60 hours of community service, no contact with the victims, and anger management evaluation and treatment. Counts of Harassment and Theft II were dismissed. Fines, fees and assessment totaled \$100.