

11-year-old credited with finding missing boy

Taylor Kahn home and unharmed, his alleged kidnapper dead thanks to young Matthew Dixon

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SWEET HOME — Ever since he can remember, 11-year-old Matthew Dixon has hoped to become a police officer someday.

And in training for his future career, he's accustomed to keeping his eyes and ears open for anything that might be out of the ordinary.

Last week, it paid off. It was

because of Dixon's sharp eyes and good memory that police in Linn County were able to track down 11-year-old Taylor Kahn who had allegedly been abducted by his mother's boyfriend, Jeffrey Eggiman; police had issued an Amber Alert for Kahn.

Dixon had been out hunting with friends last Thursday when they first encountered Kahn and Eggiman parked in a black pickup

on an isolated logging road north of Sweet Home.

Dixon and his friends hailed the two, who said they were also out hunting — but did not appear to have any gear with them. That struck Dixon as strange, and he made a note to himself about Kahn and Eggiman's appearance and the license plate of their truck.

Then, later that night, Dixon was at home watching television when a picture of Kahn flashed on the screen.

"I said, hey, I know that kid. I saw

that kid," Dixon remembers telling his mother. She didn't believe him, so he persisted.

"They're going to say it's a black Ford Ranger." They did.

And then they mentioned the license plate Dixon had seen: "X-KAHN."

Dixon ran to the phone to alert Mike Luttrell, the father of the friend he had been hunting with, who called police.

"If it wasn't for him, I wouldn't even have known about the Amber Alert, and then the trail would have

been cold," Luttrell told The Gazette-Times in Corvallis.

Authorities are also giving the credit to Dixon.

"This is not an average recollection from an 11-year-old," Linn County Sheriff Dave Burright said. "He did an excellent job of letting us know what's going on."

Police were able to track Eggiman and Kahn to their exact location, where they shot and killed Eggiman after he allegedly waved a handgun at police. Kahn was unharmed, and was returned to his mother.

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Lorenzen: New perspective brought to Board

Continued from page 1

called Lorenzen a "deliberate consensus builder."

"He tries to be fair and open to all points of view," he said.

Lorenzen said comically that it was his "striking good looks" that got him elected.

"I'm bald-headed, have wire glasses and look like Dick Cheney," he said.

John Wykoff, executive director of the Oregon Student Association, said one of Lorenzen's strengths is his ability to deal with both Republicans and Democrats.

"At some point securing funding becomes political," he said. "You got to have someone who can explain higher education to both sides of the aisle."

Lorenzen said growing up in Pendleton has shaped his view of

higher education.

"(Education) is important for the general welfare of an individual to assure themselves of a secure economic future," he said.

Others said Lorenzen's background will allow him to bring a different perspective to the table. Lorenzen is currently the only board member from eastern Oregon, though Adriana Mendoza, an Eastern Oregon University student, will officially join the board next month.

Mendoza said Lorenzen's election was "extremely exciting for eastern Oregon."

"He will bring a rural perspective, which is a perspective that has been underrepresented," she said.

ASUO President and Oregon Student Association Chair Adam Petkun concurred that Lorenzen's background will add another

perspective to the board.

"He'll be able to ... make sure everyone's voice is heard," he said.

Richmond emphasized, however, that the background would not bias his perspective.

"He is not parochial in his views," she said. "It's very important that anyone who serves on the board take a broad view of the system."

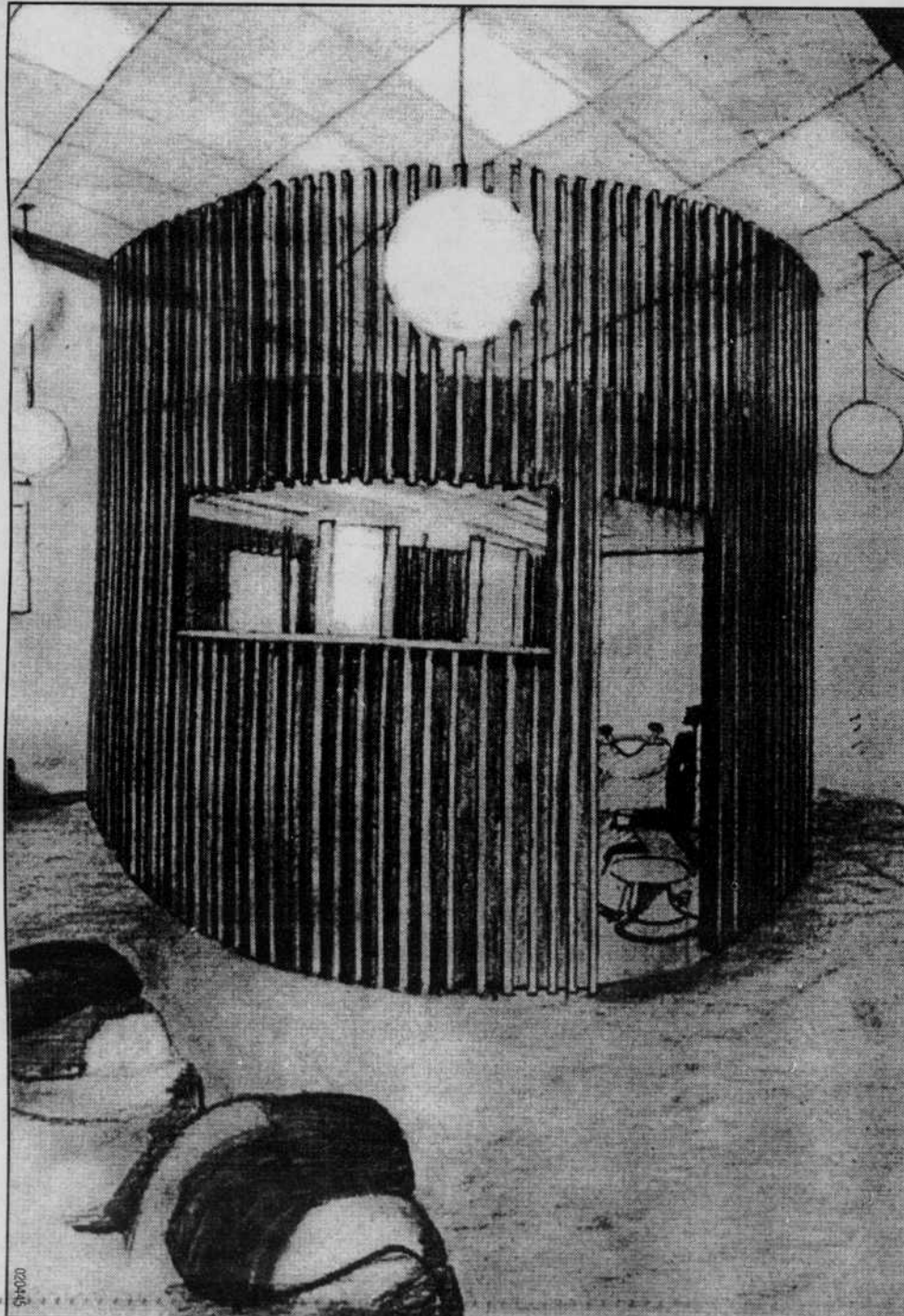
Wykoff said the board has moved beyond the Goldshmidt controversy.

"There's not time to look back," he said.

Additionally, Wykoff emphasized that Goldshmidt and Lorenzen are very different, saying "it's like comparing apples and sailboats."

"Neil was sort of a hurricane of energy and ideas," he said. "Henry's a soft-spoken guy who listens."

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