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VOL 120 NO 24 10 Pages Wednesday, June 13, 2001 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Alumni golf tournament set for July in Heppner

This year's Heppner High School Alumni Golf Tournament will be held Saturday and Sunday, July 7-8 at Willow Creek Country Club.

Cost is \$40 per person, which includes a steak dinner following play on Saturday.

Play format will again be a five-member team scramble with two teams per hole. Participants can put

together their own teams or can be placed on a team by the committee.

Entry forms have been mailed to last year's participants. Alumni who would like to play but did not receive a form may contact David and Patti Allstott at 676-5216.

The tournament committee is seeking input from alumni regarding

the tournament. The event has always been held over two days, and the committee would like to know if more alumni would participate if the tournament were changed to just a one-day competition. All alumni are encouraged to give their comments to the Allstotts or John and Sonja McCabe at 676-5231.

Home school students hold awards night



The EXCEL homeschool group held its 10th annual awards night on Tuesday, May 29, at the Christian Life Center in Heppner. Twenty-five children from Heppner, Lexington, and Ione participated.

The children from each family did a presentation for the audience, after which their parents presented them with awards. Presentations included singing, piano solos, instrumental solos and ensembles.

Scripture recitation and signing. Awards were given for character qualities, completed grade levels, and outstanding achievements. Refreshments were served following the program, and samples of students' work were displayed.

Participating families included Bill and Nancy Jepsen of Heppner, Andrew and CJ Johnson of Heppner, David and Patty McNary of Ione, Gabe and Becky Owen of Lexington,

Kelly and Laura Sager of Lexington, Dick and Karen Temple of Lexington, Loren and Kathryn Unruh of Heppner and Tim and Myrna Van Cleave of Heppner.

EXCEL (Excellent Christian Education League) is a "group of local homeschool families which exists for the purpose of providing support and encouragement to one another," said a news release.

Willow Creek Water Park opens for summer



Local kids enjoy the water on the opening day of the Willow Creek Water Park in Heppner on Saturday, June 9. Water park staff says that the first day was busy and the concession stand was a big hit for swimmers.

School board residency issue likely to end up in court

A dispute concerning legal residences of two Morrow County School Board members will probably end up in the court system after action by the board Wednesday, June 6, at a special meeting in Lexington.

The board, going against the sentiment of most of the 70-plus members of the audience, voted to turn the issue of the residence of board members Barney Lindsay and Keith Lewis over to an independent judge who would be hired by the district. Both Lindsay and Lewis said that they would not abide by the judge's decision, which would not be binding.

Cost to the district to hire the judge, a retired senior judge from LaGrande, is anticipated to be around \$1,500.

The board maintains that it must resolve the residency question to prevent further legal challenge of board decisions.

"I really believe the board is going at this in a good faith way," commented John Witty, the board's attorney. "I believe it's sensible, rational, reasonable to get someone involved whose objectivity is unquestioned."

Brian Thompson, Heppner, a member of the audience, asked the board to hold off on hiring the judge. "Why don't you address it (the residency issue) when someone does bring suit instead?" asked Thompson.

Lewis' attorney, Douglas E. Hojem, said through a letter to Witty, that the board is without authority to question the qualifications of Lewis and Lindsay. Rather than have a disinterested third party make the decision, Hojem recommended taking the issue to the circuit court judge. He also said that if the school board took action, it would force Lewis and Lindsay to file an action in court. Hojem said he conferred with Lindsay's attorney Ed Sullivan, who concurred with him on the matter.

Ed Dick, Lexington and an 18-year school board member who was at the meeting said, "I can't believe the board finds it necessary to eliminate one of the board members. They were elected. I cannot see where this

procedure is helping kids in Morrow County."

"My advice to you (the board) is to ignore this," added Virginia Grieb, Bombing Range Road. "We've got more important things to do."

"Why didn't this come up before," commented Debbie Stratton, Irrigon. "Why is this coming up now with Barney in for four years. That's a long time for all of a sudden to make a mistake."

"You could probably rectify it next election," Stratton added.

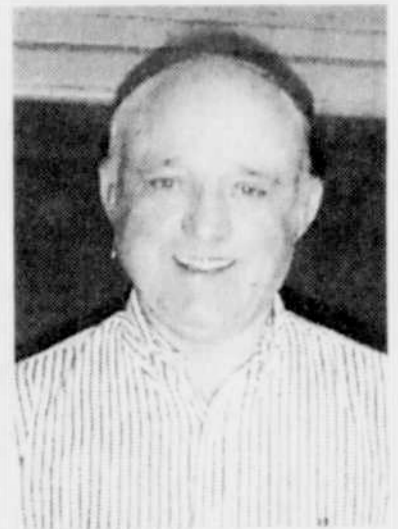
The questions concerning residency arose, according to board chair Gary Frederickson, when the board received an anonymous letter accusing Barney Lindsay of not living in the district from which he was elected (see adjacent anonymous letter and statement by Barney Lindsay). The letter claimed that Lindsay did not live at his claimed residency on Feedlot Road, which is in Zone 6, but actually at 68062 Lindsay Road, which is in Zone 2. (see zone descriptions and map).

At an earlier meeting Lindsay said he had maintained his residency at Feedlot Road since he returned from college. He also said his official residency had been investigated previously and the issue had been resolved.

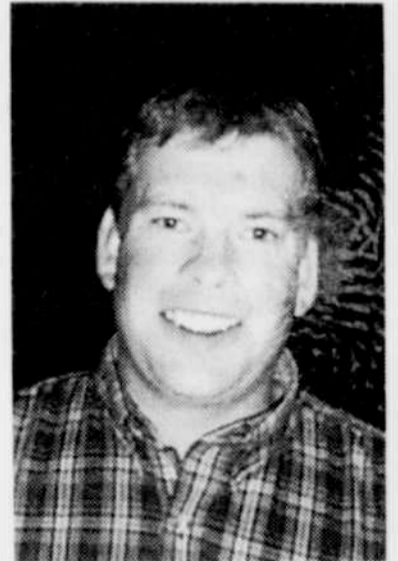
The Lindsay family owns property on both sides of Bombing Range Road, which divides the district. Lindsay's father, Larry Lindsay said at the Wednesday meeting that he would be the best person to ask as to his son's residence, but no one had even approached him concerning the matter.

Frederickson said that when the district looked into the residency issue, they also discovered that Keith Lewis actually lived a block outside the district from which he was elected. Lewis was elected from District Four, which is a small district encompassing the city of Heppner, but he lives at 440 Terrace Drive, which is actually in District 6, the district from which Lindsay was elected.

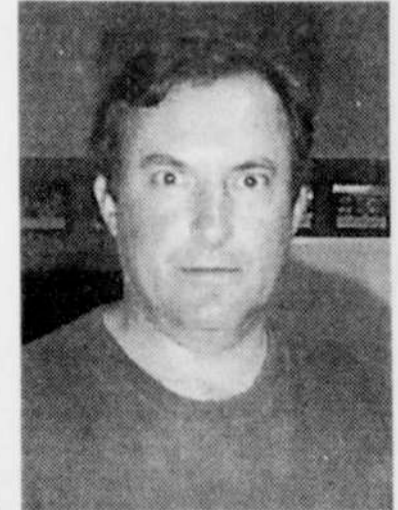
Lindsay had served four years on the board and was recently re-elected to another four-year term. Lewis had served two years of a four-year term. Both the men had often been critical of the board majority and on several occasions cast



Keith Lewis



Barney Lindsay



Board Chair Gary Frederickson minority dissenting votes. They both abstained from the vote over hiring an independent judge to decide the residency matter. Board members Julie Weikel, Boardman, Pat McNamee, Irrigon, Gary Frederickson, Boardman, Dwayne Carroll, Irrigon area, and John Rietmann, Ione, voted in favor of hiring the independent judge.

Zone map, anonymous letter and related news turn to page 3

Oregon Trail announces service upgrades

Oregon Trail Internet (OTI) announces several major upgrades in Internet service to Heppner and the surrounding local calling area. These include:

1) Installation of new T1 and 56k digital lines, offering faster, more up-to-date dial-up options for new and existing OTI customers;

2) High-speed DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) service, offering online connections at speeds from 10 to 30 times faster than a dial-up modem, with always-on, 24/7 connection, no dial-in necessary, and no busy signals;

3) Implementation of state-of-the-art spam control and anti-virus programming throughout the OTI system, protecting customers from most unwanted junk e-mail and viruses before they reach the home computer. "This is a major upgrade in the level of Oregon Trail Internet's services to their customers," said an OTI news release. "OTI is currently the only regional Internet Service Provider to offer this exclusive programming. This is a service that is primarily used by major international corporations to protect their internal systems, but, until now, has been unavailable in a local ISP. OTI has it, right now, for every customer in the Heppner area."

For more information about Oregon Trail Internet, or any of its services, call 1-800-276-4363, or go to www.oregontrail.net.

BEO introduces on-line banking

Bank of Eastern Oregon has recently announced implementation of its on-line banking product for all customers.

According to bank president George Koffler, "Some of our customers have waited for some time to get on-line banking. After an exhaustive search, we have chosen a system that fits our needs and has all the security features that we want to deliver to our customers to give them on-line banking."

The on-line banking product can be obtained by logging on to www.beobank.com, the bank's new web site.

"With this new product, you can view balances, pull up previous statements, look at activity, transfer funds and even pay your bills," Koffler said.

On-line banking is free to all customers and there is a modest charge for bill payment. The bill payment software is now being tested and will be offered to customers this fall.

"We looked long and hard for a software package that had 128-bit encryption and all the latest security features to make sure our customers' information is secure over the internet," said Koffler.

On-line banking can be obtained by stopping by your nearest branch and signing an agreement and letting the bank know which of your accounts you would like to have

included in your on-line banking pool.

"With our six branches in Morrow and Gilliam counties and our 24-hour telephone banking system, the on-line banking product fills out our offerings and gives our customers one more channel for us to deliver top quality service to them," said Koffler.

Local cowboy wins bull riding challenge

Local cowboy Jerid Penturf traveled to the Pro-Am Bull Riding Challenge in Hermiston and was the top winner at the event.

Penturf, from Heppner, took home first place with a check of \$1,294. The winning score was 79 points.

Penturf rode against 33 top bull riders from Idaho, Washington, California, Wyoming and Oregon. He was invited to ride with "Backing with the Stars" in Molalla in late August and was also invited to go on with the Pro-Am Bull Riding Challenge.

Penturf will be leaving June 28 for Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, for several bull riding tours.

Penturf is the son of Russ and Cindy Penturf, and the great-grandson of Sally Marlatt, all of Heppner.

Hi-Qual Heavy Duty Panels ON SALE

(Sale through Saturday, June 16)

12'	Reg. \$114 ⁰⁰	SALE \$96 ⁹⁰
14'	Reg. \$130 ⁰⁰	SALE \$110 ⁵⁰
16'	Reg. \$140 ⁰⁰	SALE \$119 ⁰⁰



Morrow County Grain Growers

Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mggg.net