

We would like to thank everyone for their concern and kindness in the passing of our mother, Dixie Dawn Wiley. For the prayers, cards, beautiful flowers, delicious food, phone calls, and the lovely dinner after her service in Spray. Each and everyone of you are such special people and we really did lean on your support. The service held at Amber Rose is one that will not soon be forgotten.

God bless you all,
Ron Brisbois and family
Randy Britt and family
1-28-1p

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who work extremely hard to make the Town and Country Banquet such a success. I was honored to receive my award, and later that night thought of many things I could have said to express my gratefulness to be a part of such a special community. The staff, parents, and children make our school a terrific place to be. I count my blessings because something wonderful happens everyday at school.

The day of the banquet was no exception. I had read a story about Martin Luther King, Jr. to a group of first graders. After I read the page about King being shot and killed, Justin's hand immediately went up into the air, so I called on him. Instead of a question, he stated, "Mrs. Elguezabal, Martin Luther King, Jr. surely went straight to heaven cause of all the good things he did for those poor people!"

It is an honor, a privilege and yes, a blessing, to be here. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Mary Ann Elguezabal
1-28-1c

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8-6-tfx

Elks awarded "Special Business" award

The Heppner Elks Lodge was awarded a "Special Business" award at the recent Chamber of Commerce Town and Country Banquet held on Jan. 15.

"This institution is 107 years old, and has proudly served its community and surrounding area for decades" said award presenter Cliff Green, a Chamber director. "The main function of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is charity, and this Lodge has provided over one million dollars in scholarships to Willow Creek Valley graduating seniors during the past century," Green continued.

The local Lodge is involved in many civic activities: Easter Egg Hunts for youth, Father's Day picnics, Cub and Boy Scout troop sponsors, Hoop Shoot competition, Soccer Shoot-Out competition, cash support for youth activities and school needs, eyeglass and hearing aid assistance for area youth, and the constant support of our nation's veterans and their hospital and retirement home needs.

"The Elk's Hides Program, very active in the Willow Creek Valley area, was conceived and started in

Oregon, and annually provides hundreds of thousands of dollars for our nation's disabled and needed veterans," Green stated.

Thomas Wolff, current Exalted Ruler, accepted the award on behalf of the Heppner Lodge. "I am standing up here because I am the current Exalted Ruler of the Heppner Lodge, but there have been a hundred and six Exalted Rulers before me who have all contributed to this award," said Wolff.

"The Heppner Lodge is operated virtually 100 percent with volunteer help and committees. I especially appreciate my officers for their continual help and support during the past year," Wolff continued.

"There have been two individuals who have been instrumental in keeping the Heppner Lodge functioning and it's programs on-track year-in and year-out. Glen Ward and Roger Mortimore have served as Lodge Secretaries for many decades and bridged the annual transition from one Exalted Ruler to the next. Both have served as Exalted Rulers and contributed untold hours to the Lodge and it's programs. The value of their service to the



Current Exalted Ruler Tom Wolff accepts the Town and Country "Special Business" award on behalf of BPOE #358.

Lodge and the community is beyond calculation," Wolff added.

He ended his comments with the following: "For the past few years, the Officers and Trustees of the Heppner Lodge have been making an earnest effort to change the image of our organization from 'just another bar on Main Street' to a perception of a benevolent and charitable arm of the community. This award strengthens and reaffirms that position."

Kelsey Wolff wins HJHS Geographic Bee



(Back Row L-R): Kate Kendrick, Kelsey Wolff, Aftan Betsinger and Spencer Palmer; (Center Row L-R): Maggie Armato, Baillie Keithley and Katie Moore; (Front Row L-R): Taylor Disque, Kaylee Helfrecht, Joe Pranger and Chris Hickerson. Not Pictured: Grant Smith.

Kelsey Wolff, an eighth grader at Heppner Junior High won the school-level competition of the National Geographic Bee on Dec. 16 and a chance at a \$25,000 college scholarship.

The school-level Bee, at which students answered oral questions on geography, was the first round in the 16th annual National Geographic Bee. The National Geographic Society and ING Americas, one of the world's largest integrated financial services companies, sponsor the Bee.

Written qualifying tests were given to all students in grades seven and eight. The competition then continued with twelve students: Kaylee Helfrecht, Katie Moore, Taylor Disque, Baillie Keithley, Kate Kendrick, Aftan Betsinger, Chris Hickerson, Kelsey Wolff, Maggie Armato, Spencer Palmer, Joe Pranger and Grant Smith. Talented and Gifted Coordinator Linda Dutcher coordinated all aspects of the HJHS Geographic Bee. HJHS social studies teacher Mark Dowdy served as reader and moderator of the HJH contest, and Ginger Bowman, HJH/HHS librarian served as timekeeper and scorekeeper.

The kickoff for this year's Bee was the week of Nov. 17, with thousands of schools around the United States and in the five U.S. territories participating. The school winners, including Kelsey Wolff, next took a written test; up to 100 of the top scorers in each state will

be eligible to compete in their state Bee on April 2.

The National Geographic Society will provide an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for state champions and teacher-escorts to participate in the National Geographic Bee national championship on May 25 and 26. The first-place national winner will receive a \$25,000 college scholarship and a lifetime membership in the Society.

"Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek will moderate the national finals on May 26. The program will air on the National Geographic Channel, and afterward on PBS stations, produced by Maryland Public Television.

Anyone can brush up on geography with GeoBee Challenge, an online geography quiz at www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee, which poses five new questions a day from previous National Geographic Bees. The GeoBee Challenge board game, sold at Target stores nationwide, also provides

geographic fun for the whole family. The board game recently won the prestigious Parents' Choice Award.

The National Geographic Society is the world's largest nonprofit scientific and educational organization. The 114-year-old Society reflects the world through magazines, books, maps, television and interactive media. National Geographic magazine, the official journal of the Society, has a circulation of about 10 million and is read in every country in the world. National Geographic Channel, a daily television cable network that launched in the United States in January 2001 is available in more than 34 million homes. The Society has funded more than 7,000 scientific research projects and supports an education program combating geographic illiteracy.

HELP WANTED

The Town of Lexington is seeking a **Maintenance Worker**. This is a 40-hour per week position. The successful applicant must be bondable, possess a valid Oregon driver's license, be able to pass random drug testing and have excellent people skills. A criminal history/background check will be performed.

A more detailed job description is available at the Lexington Town Hall, located at 150 W. Main Street in Lexington. Closing date 2/5/04.

Send resume and references to: Town of Lexington; P.O. Box 416; Lexington, OR 97839. 1-21-2c

The Town of Lexington is seeking a dedicated volunteer to fill the position of **Mayor** on the Town Council. If you are a resident of the Town of Lexington and interested in participating in local government, please send your letter of interest to: Town of Lexington, P.O. Box 416, Lexington, OR 97839. Please submit your letter by 4:30 p.m., Feb. 8, 2004. For more information, please call 989-8515 or stop by Town Hall at 150 W. Main Street in Lexington, OR. 1-28-1c

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NEACT to meet

The North East Area Commission on Transportation (NEACT) will hold their next meeting on Thursday, Feb. 5 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Region 5 Headquarters, located at 3012 Island Ave. in LaGrande. The NEACT, comprised of transportation stakeholders from Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa and Baker counties, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation help identify and prioritize transportation-related projects in the five county area. The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities, per the Americans with Disabilities Act. The general public is invited to attend.

Among the topics on the agenda is a presentation on proposed Eastern Oregon projects identified to promote freight mobility, support industrial land development and/or result in the creation of jobs. One \$100 million out of the \$2.5 billion transportation package passed by the Oregon Legislature earlier this year will be dedicated to projects statewide that support freight, industrial lands and job creation. Also on the agenda are presentations from Union, Baker and Wallowa counties regarding transportation modernization priorities, and an update from Oregon Transportation Commissioner Mike Nelson and ODOT Region Manager Tom Schuft regarding recent Transportation Commission meetings.

Time has been set aside early in the meeting for comments from the general public. To schedule time on the agenda at future NEACT meetings, please contact the NEACT Secretary Glenis Harrison at (541) 983-3179.

An Area Commission on Transportation is an advisory body chartered by the OTC to help address all aspects of transportation.

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