

## City sewer system bids way over budget

Elation over a \$300,000 grant from the Oregon Economic Development Department to help fund a new sewer system for the city of Heppner turned into dismay as council members learned that construction costs were greatly underestimated.

Allen Rieke, project engineer with Anderson Perry & Associates engineering firm, told the council that his firm had estimated project costs at \$1,343,390. But, only three bids were received, the lowest from Thompson, McDougal at \$1,967,512, which was over \$624 thousand over the estimate. The other two bids were from GTE Metal Erectors, Inc., at \$1,988,174 which was nearly \$645 over the estimate; and from General Contractors Alliance Corporation at \$2,274,742 which was over \$931 thousand over the estimate.

When council members confronted Rieke about the disparity between the estimate and bids, Rieke told the council, "You're right. We've always been behind

in the dollars and we're always trying to play catch-up."

Rieke said that the bids were "high and not very competitive," and added that many contractors who would normally bid, were extremely busy this time of year and may have been put off by the project's strict timeline.

The city however, is under a deadline. The sewer system must be completed by Sept. 1994 in order to be in operation for a year by Sept. 1995 to retain the original Environmental Protection Agency grant to fund the project. After that date, the grant will expire.

The city has also signed a contract with the Willow Creek Country Club to spray effluent on the golf course. However, according to the contract, the irrigation system must be installed by March 1 so that the course will be in operation during the golfing season. If the system is not installed by then, the city must wait until October, when the golfing season is over. City officials

and Rieke said they will attempt to work things out with WCCC.

"I'm getting tired of going into this project without any choices," commented council member David Allstott.

The project has been fraught with problems almost since its inception. In addition to changes in the project and rising costs, the city has had problems siting the wastewater treatment facility, which was mandated by the Department of Environmental Quality.

Council members voted to rebid the project in October and make the time line more flexible, in hopes that more companies will bid. In addition, city officials and Anderson Perry & Associates will attempt to trim non-essentials from the project. But, the city may have to raise sewer rates around \$1 a month per \$100 thousand in increased project costs.

City administrator Gary Marks remains optimistic about the project. "We're this close," he said. "We're going to make it."

HEPPNER



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## Riding way of life for Princess Rondi



### Princess Rondi Robinson

**Height:** 5'7"  
**Eyes:** blue  
**Hair:** blond  
**Parents:** Kirk and Delia  
**Age:** 16 year old junior  
Heppner High School

**Activities:** varsity basketball, volleyball, sophomore class representative student council, FFA judging team.

time has been filled with plenty of laughter plus time to get acquainted with other courts. And along the way they have been busy promoting Morrow County while meeting new people, she says.

School activities include sports where Rondi plays on varsity basketball and volleyball teams. She was the Sophomore class representative for student council, and reporter for the Heppner FFA chapter. As a member of the FFA advanced judging team, during a busy fair week she will participate in the judging contests along with showing a steer. She recently received a certificate nominating her for the "Who's Who" award based on academic, athletic and extra-curricular

Princess Rondi Robinson's sweet 16 year is highlighted by memorable experiences. As a court member of the Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo, August 18-22, this year's royalty will be the first to make grand entries in the new permanent Heppner rodeo arena.

And it's "Wagons Ho to the Morrow County Fair" in conjunction with the celebration of the Oregon Trail migration 150 years ago.

The daughter of Kirk and Delia Robinson, this attractive blond princess will be a junior at Heppner High School this year. Also at home at their Hinton Creek residence is her younger brother Royal.

Influenced by Kirk and Robinson family members, Princess Rondi remembers riding since she was big enough to "hang on." Though she has been "bounced off" a few times, she says she enjoys competing in 4-H and open horse events. At the recent 4-H horse show she received the senior all-around reserve championship although she admits she didn't have much time for practice.

Rondi had a set-back earlier this summer when she injured her knee while playing basketball. When the court participated in Ione's July Fourth of parade, shortly after her knee surgery, princess Rondi received some good natured kidding about using a step ladder to mount her all-around court mount 'Bey Adni'. And she was teased about making a 'fashion statement' when her Nikes contrasted with her official riding habit while preparing for the parade.

The princesses' official riding outfits this year are teal ultrasuede with colorful inlays accented with fringe. Black hats, blouses and boots make a striking contrast to

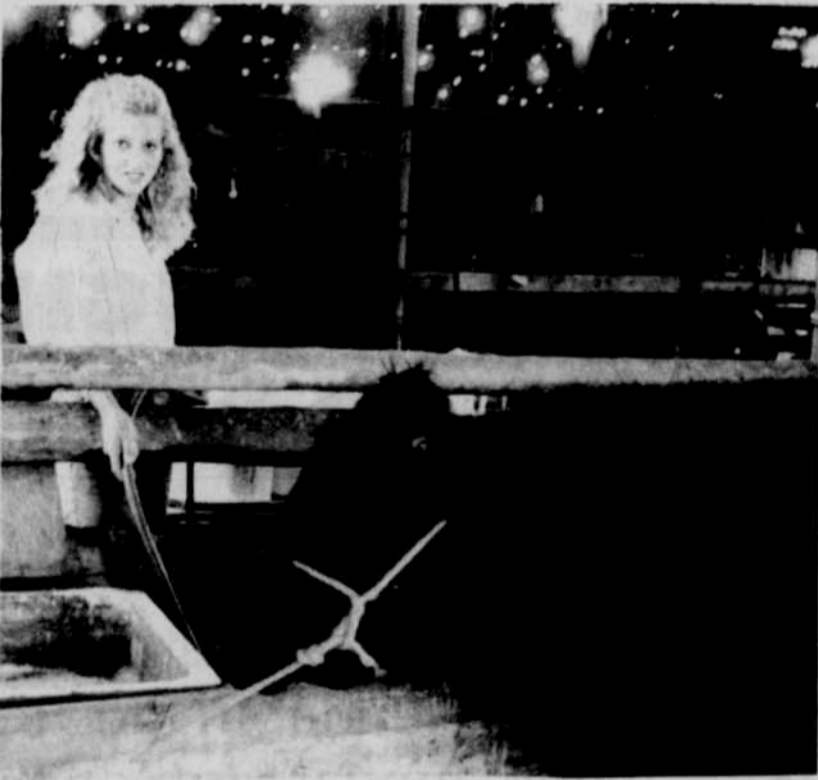


Photo by Joyce Hughes

Princess Rondi Robinson helps out on the ranch feeding and watering her steer and getting it ready for fair activities.

During her 4-H years she has been a camp counselor, a junior leader and has held offices. Babysitting has filled her spare time during this summer and then it's back to school. However the court will still be making official appearances during September in the Pendleton Round-Up and Walla Walla parades before they hang up their spurs.

Early morning starts have resulted in the usual lengthy waits in parade line-ups after being assisted by family members and friends. They even arrived an hour earlier than necessary for the Irrigon Watermelon Festival parade, she says. But waiting

## It's all part of the job

Gary Warren, Morrow County Sheriff's Deputy, has added a new job title to his resume—midwife.

Warren was called to the Sandpiper Apartments in Boardman around 3:57 p.m. on August 3. When he arrived a 22 year-old woman, Sandy Twidwell, was already in hard labor and by the

time Sheriff Roy Drago arrived on the scene, the baby's head was crowning. Warren delivered a healthy baby girl at 4:01. Drago said that the baby started crying immediately after delivery.

The ambulance arrived shortly thereafter and transported the mother and baby to Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston.

## Official wagon trains to stop at Cecil

By Anne Morter

The wagons are coming! Since leaving the Idaho-Wyoming border on June 26, the official Oregon Trail Sesquicentennial Wagon Train has trudged across many miles, making their way to Oregon City for the Labor Day, End-Of-The-Trail celebration.

On August 18 and 19 the train will be stopped in historic Cecil, for two days. Cecil is located approximately 15 miles north of Ione or 15 miles south of I-84 on state highway 74.

The wagons are due in Wednesday, August 18, in the early afternoon, but to get in the spirit, an old-fashioned box lunch social is planned prior to their arrival at noon. Several prominent local cooks are busily working to make sure their lunch baskets

bring top dollar. Anyone and everyone is invited to bring a picnic lunch and join in this event. The afternoon will feature concession and craft booths, bingo, and several types of entertainment, including a local history presentation and square dancing. A potluck, which is open to the public, is planned for 6 p.m. People joining in the potluck are asked to bring their own table service and a main dish, salad or dessert. Drinks will be available at the Cecil store. People should also bring lawn chairs.

Thursday, Aug. 19, will again feature concession and craft booths and bingo. Also on the slate are kids' games, a pie auction, and starting at 5 p.m. a lamb barbecue dinner. The menu in-

cludes delicious barbecued lamb, potato salad, baked beans, bread and Rocky Trail ice cream, the official ice cream of the wagon train. Advance tickets are still available at the Heppner Chamber of Commerce or Wheatland Insurance, Ione.

Finishing the evening will be a street dance in front of the Cecil store starting at 7:30 p.m. Donations will be accepted at that event.

Organizers encourage one and all to experience the Oregon Trail in Cecil where the Trail crossed Willow Creek. With the newly revitalized Cecil store, visible wagon trail ruts, and plenty of family activities, the days promise to give an authentic pioneer feel to the celebration, said organizers.

## HES principal hired

William A. Karwacki (pronounced Karwaski) has been hired by the Morrow County School District to replace Bryan Traylor as principal at Heppner Elementary School.

Most recently from the Maple Grove School District at Molalla, Karwacki, 60, brings 36 years of education experience to his Heppner assignment. Karwacki was a teacher for four years, a school psychologist for seven years and an administrator for 25 years.

Karwacki taught language arts, social studies and mathematics at Quincy Junior High School at Quincy, WA. He then spent seven years as a school psychologist at the Moses Lake School District at Moses Lake, WA. He served as principal at Larson Heights Elementary School at Moses Lake and at Aspen Elementary School at Evanston, Wyoming. He was superintendent and principal at

Elkton School District and at Maple Grove School District and Dickey Prairie School District, shared a position at Molalla. This past year Karwacki has been superintendent, principal and teacher at the Maple Grove School District.

Karwacki received a BA and MS of arts in education at Western Washington State University. He completed an educational administrative program at WWSU and Utah State University.

Karwacki has been a member of the Lions Club, a volunteer coach of Pee Wee basketball and a little league and Babe Ruth baseball coach. He has been a volunteer counselor and evaluator for Juvenile Services and is a past member of the United Way board of directors at Moses Lake.

Karwacki and his wife, Pennie, have two children, a daughter Sina, who is a senior, and a son, Miles, an eighth grader.

## Registration times scheduled for Heppner schools

The 1993-94 school year for Morrow County schools will begin August 30. Registration for Heppner Elementary and High School students will be August 24 and 26 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The offices will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. prior to August 30 for anyone unable to make the registration days.

Fees for Heppner Elementary and Middle School grades six through eight will be \$4 student body and \$2 towel fee. Heppner High School fees will be \$8 student body, \$5 computer lab, \$3 towel fee for sports and PE, \$20 yearbook (optional) and \$3 padlock.

Any high school student wishing to make a schedule change should contact Mr. Dickenson at the high school as soon as possible. Students should not wait until registration or the first day of school to request a change.

## New barrel racing events added

Three barrel racing events have been added to the Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo performance on Saturday, August 21.

A \$100 divisional tour barrel race will be added, in addition to a \$1,500 novice barrel race and

a \$500 novice barrel race. The races will follow the slack after Saturday's performance at approximately 6 p.m.

The barrel races are open to anyone. To enter, contact Mary Ann Munkers, 989-8488 August 16 from 7 to 9 p.m.

## Special fair and rodeo section in Gazette-Times

A special 20-page Fair & Rodeo section is included in this week's Heppner Gazette-Times.

The Fair and Rodeo starts next week, and you can read all about it in your special Fair & Rodeo section.

## Rodeo tickets on sale now

The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association rodeos will be held on Saturday and Sunday, August 21 and 22, with performances getting underway at 1 p.m.

Slack time is 8 a.m. Sunday. Pre-sale ticket prices are \$7.50 for adults and \$4.50 for children 8-12. Tickets purchased at the gate will be \$8 for adults and \$5 for children 8 to 12. Children 7 and under will be admitted free.

Tickets may be purchased at the Bank of Eastern Oregon, Heppner and Ione branch, First Interstate Bank, Country Shears, At the Top, Green Feed and Seed and Spicer, Kuhn & Mills, all in Heppner, and Morrow County Grain Growers in Lexington, or phone Mary Ann Munkers, home 989-8488 or work 989-8202, 8 a.m.-noon, Monday through Friday.

## Log Wrapper contest new at fair

A new contest, sponsored by Van Arsdale Construction has been added to this year's Morrow County Fair.

The Log Wrapper Throwing contest, which is open to everyone, will be held right after the log bucking contest.

A Montana Silver buckle, cash and other prizes will be awarded to the winner. There will be a \$10 entry fee.