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Morrow County Fair, OTPR Court crowned



Morrow County Court (l-r): Dawn Boor, Stormy Howard, Beth Hermanns and Queen Brenda Holtz were crowned at the annual Town and Country Banquet.

Key files for county treasurer spot

Marie Key, Ione, has tossed her hat into the ring in a bid for election to the post of Morrow County Treasurer.

Key has been a resident of Morrow County since 1978 when the family moved from Kinzua due to the closure of Oregon's last company town. She and husband Joe raised four children, two graduating from Ione High School.

Key has accumulated over 30 years of experience working in accounting and office administration for a variety of business enterprises, both public and

private. Born and raised in East Texas, she began her career working for her father in his varied commercial ventures. While in Texas, Key also took over three years of accounting and business courses at the college level. She has been employed as the office administrator for Morrow County Public Works Department since July 1993.

Key says she would like to encourage positive change in county affairs, and believes that fostering cooperation between county departments will fur-

ther this goal. "I think cooperation and support between all departments of county government results in better service to the public, and since I am also part of the taxpaying public, that's important to me."

Currently Key is in the process of forming an election committee, which to date includes: Richard Johnson and Eilene Wheeler, Boardman, Marie Boor and David McNary, Ione, Deane Seeger, Irrigon, and Corol Mitchell and Lynnea Sargent, treasurer, Heppner.

Heppner FFA Greenhands elect officers



FFA Greenhand officers have been elected at Heppner High School. Pictured (left to right) are: front row- Donald White, chapter historian; Shane Matheny, sentinel; Jared Eckman, president; Royal Robinson, vice president; and Kristi Worden, parliamentarian; back row-Larry Woodall, secretary; Elliott Strouse, representative; and Brian Knowles, treasurer.

Exchange student a citizen of the world



Philipp von Jagow (left) receives a pin from Heppner Chamber of Commerce President John Edmundson.



Philipp von Jagow

By April-Hilton Sykes

Philipp von Jagow is a citizen of the world. In his 17 years, he has lived in Washington, D.C., Bonn, Germany, Madrid, Spain, Sao Paulo, Brazil, and Ione, Oregon.

Philipp came to Ione shortly after Thanksgiving and has been living the past two months with the Jim and Monica Swanson family as an exchange student of sorts. While he isn't with an exchange program, he learned of the Swansons, who have hosted many exchange students over the years, through his godmother. His godmother's son, Thomas Voegeding, spent a year with the Swansons two years ago on a year-long exchange. Philipp doesn't know Thomas, but contacted the Swanson family and asked if he could stay with them during his summer vacation-which is December and January in Sao Paulo, which is now his home.

The Swansons agreed, and, after a 28 hour trip, which included missed connections and kind of an interrogation by customs officials at Miami, Philipp is now a member of the Swanson family, which also includes son, Luke, 16, and daughter Adrienne, 13.

Philipp was born in Washington, D.C., where his father was an ambassador, but when Philipp was three months old, the family returned to their homeland of Germany. The family lived in Bonn, Germany, for five years before moving to Madrid, where they lived for three years. Philipp started the first grade in Spain and the von Jagows returned to Bonn when he was eight. They lived in Bonn for another seven years, before moving to Brazil in 1993. Besides German, Philipp speaks English and Portuguese.

In Sao Paulo, Philipp's father, Peter, 57, is consulate general, which is somewhat like a mayor or an ambassador. German business owners, teachers and others come to him for assistance. The job of consulate general entails long hours, many meetings, dinner parties, travel and entertaining. Philipp's mother, Henriette, 55, attends functions with her husband and organizes many dinner parties and receptions. While this may seem like a glamorous life, it entails much hard work and exhausting schedules. Philipp says that she once organized a dinner party to which 800 people were invited. Only 400 showed up. The president of Germany was one of the guests and Peter's father prepared for the event for a year. The function was in celebration of the national reunification of Germany which is on October 3. It is not unusual for 80 to 100 people to attend a dinner at their home, says Philipp. The von Jagows have a housemaid, which, he says is common, even among

poorer people, a gardener and hire a caterer to help with big events.

Because of security problems Philipp cannot ride the bus, walk or bicycle home from school. His mother takes him to school and picks him up every day as a caution against kidnapping for ransom, although, says Philipp, the German government wouldn't pay. The family employs a security guard and Philipp's parents sleep in a bedroom with armored doors and his father drives an armored car. Many homes like the von Jagows' have barbed wire around the grounds.

Since Philipp's arrival in Ione he is delighted to be able to do some of the things that he cannot do in Sao Paulo, like driving. He was able to get his driver's permit, which is not allowed in Brazil until 18 years of age. He also enjoys walking alone and at night without being anxious. He likes the wide open spaces and the arid climate in Morrow County. In Sao Paulo, the heat and humidity are so extreme that people have to rest in the middle of the day and must change their shirts two, three or even four times a day. He also commented on the absence of smog and air and water pollution in Ione. Philipp told the Heppner Chamber of Commerce Tuesday that Brazil has no anti-pollution laws.

Americans eat a lot more fast food than Brazilians and less fruit and vegetables, but, he added, dinner is much the same and the Swansons have "wonderful food".

Philipp noted that school is much less challenging than in Brazil, where only the "hard subjects like math and physics" are taught, and says he gets a little bored with the school routine here. In Brazil the school schedule is not the same every day. Philipp attends school from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., along with 2,500 other students, and then comes home to rest. Another group of 2,500 students attends his school in the afternoon. After resting Philipp has band and piano practice.

Students have sports three times a week for 45 minutes, but there are no organized school sports in Brazil, so Philipp has really enjoyed being manager for the Ione basketball team. "He has them spoiled," said host dad, Jim Swanson. In Brazil some of the wealthier people join sports clubs, with basketball, swimming pools, tennis courts and soccer. But at a cost of \$10,000 to \$50,000 for a lifetime membership to a club, the von Jagows don't belong. For fun, many people go to the beautiful Brazilian beaches, visit friends at their homes or go to bars. Philipp says he thinks the drinking age in Brazil is 16, but it is not enforced. He says that the police can be bribed to

overlook speeding and drunk driving tickets. Philipp cracked up the Chamber audience saying that police in Germany or the U.S. would barricade a pothole in the road, while Brazilian police would probably stick a tree in it.

Black beans and rice, the national dish, and fruit can be bought at a reasonable price, but housing, clothing and electronic equipment are very expensive. Philipp says that a stereo system that would sell for around \$300 in the U.S., sells in Brazil for around \$1,000. He bought a FAX machine during his stay, to take home with him.

Philipp says that a lot of Germans live in Brazil, many coming during World War II. The second biggest Oktoberfest, besides Munich, is in Sao Paulo. A great many Japanese also live in Brazil, he adds.

Philipp really took to small town life and, adds Jim, was fascinated with the population of Ione. Jim says that he took a photograph of Philipp next to the Ione population sign. After he got the photo back, Philipp crossed out the 275 population and changed it to 276. "This is a nice community with nice people," remarked Philipp. "In Sao Paulo 200 people would fit into a concert hall." Sao Paulo has about eight and a half million people.

During his stay in Ione, Philipp went pheasant hunting, played trumpet in the Ione pep band, helped Joe McElligott feed cows, rode with Gary Rea on a wheat truck, transporting wheat to Boardman, and rode on a tractor with Todd Lindsay. "I like the countryside," he says. "I'm tired of the big city." Philipp also put in some time washing dishes at Beecher's.

The Swanson family took him to Newport to see Keiko (the \$9 million fish, jokes Philipp), to Seattle, Portland, Salem to see the capitol, Bend to go skiing for the first time, Corvallis to see Oregon State University, and Pendleton. Philipp will go to Seattle again this Sunday and then will fly to Los Angeles Tuesday and, perhaps, visit Disneyland and MGM Studios. Next Friday he will be on his way back to Brazil.

Philipp's parents are also on vacation, but in Germany, where the family's three other sons live. Son, Moritz, 29, is a lawyer in Berlin; Friedrich, 27, is a businessman in Stuttgart; and Konstantin, 23, studies law at a university in Berlin.

Philipp has not yet decided what he wants to do with his life, but says he definitely does not want to become a diplomat. He is interested in a career with travel, but in the meantime is considering attending the university at Heidelberg. He also like the campus at OSU and, who knows, may even return to the U.S. someday.

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