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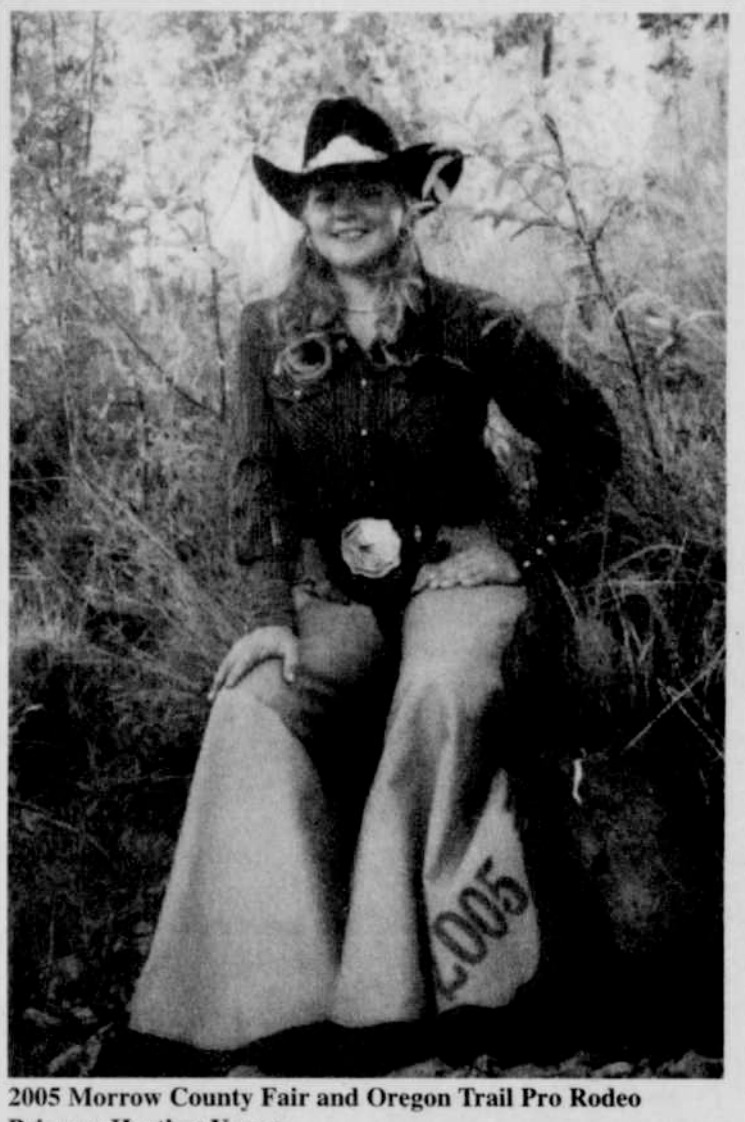
Princess Heather at home on the ranch

Princess Heather with Billy Bob

Princess Heather Yocom Blue-green eyes, blonde hair, 5'4"

Blonde-haired, blue-green-eyed 2005 Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Princess Heather Yocom is definitely at home on the saddle and on the ranch.

The 17-year-old daughter of Jack and Renee Yocom of Heppner says she has been riding "as long as I remember" and has been involved in 4-H just about as long. She has had 4-H sheep "a long time" and has had 4-H steers the past two years. This year Heather will show her steer, Brutus, at the fair. "The name fits him," laughs Princess Heather. "He's kind of wild. I haven't had much time to work with him."



2005 Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Princess Heather Yocom

Like many of the previous court royalty, Heather's family has long been involved with the fair, rodeo and community activities. Her mom, Renee, is the Morrow County Fair secretary and has always been active at the fair. Her dad, Jack, works the bucking chutes for the rodeo. Grandpa, "Papa Joe" Yocom has been involved with the Rodeo Committee, the Fair Board and numerous other activities and her grandmother, Hilda, who passed away, was "active with everything." Heather also has two brothers, Justin, 13, and Zachary, 11, who, she gets along with very well. They have been really supportive," says Princess Heather. "They have been really helpful and so have my parents."

In addition to her fair and rodeo court and 4-H commitments, Heather manages to stay busy—very

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Industrial park could see new development

South Morrow Industrial Park

A Eugene man, with the backing of a large charitable trust fund, has made an offer to purchase the South Morrow Industrial Park and restart the idle 4-megawatt electrical co-generation plant located there.

Daniel Desler, with the backing of the Western States Reliance Trust, had earlier signed a 90-day purchase agreement with the Port of Morrow, and now has about two months left to decide if he wishes to move ahead with the buy out.

If the deal is completed Desler may recruit other business development into the former Kinzua mill site, including businesses which use low pressure steam, a by-product of the electrical generating plant. According to the Port of Morrow he has been discussing several proposed business projects at the 146-acre site.

Desler, who owns a Eugene development company called Development by Design, has been involved with several projects in the Willamette Valley, the most current a 760-acre development on a former sawmill site near Sweet Home.

Desler's development company plans commercial and residential development on about 400 acres there, including professional space, residential and hotel and restaurant facilities. Desler has been working for the

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WindWave Communications proposes to acquire Heppner TV

Morrow County's only locally-owned and operated broadband telecommunications company, WindWave Communications, has entered into discussions with Heppner TV regarding a proposal to combine Heppner TV's existing cable television operations with WindWave's telecommunications facilities and expertise in order to produce a system capable of providing state-of-the-art, high-speed broadband telecommunications, internet and entertainment services, announced a recent press release from WindWave Communications.

Increased competition from satellite services has made Heppner TV's long-term viability questionable.

Heppner TV has recently confirmed that due to continued financial losses its only short-term alternatives are to continue to increase rates and/or cease its operations in Heppner. Increased competition from satellite television providers and decreasing memberships generally have caused Heppner TV to post a net loss of over $13,000 in the fiscal year ended Jan. 31, 2005. Based upon current projections this loss is expected to widen in the current fiscal year.

WindWave's proposal offers an opportunity to maintain existing service levels and offer services the competition does not provide, added the press release.

WindWave Communications has been expanding its telecommunications system in Morrow County and would like to enhance the service it makes available in Heppner. Upon acquisition of Heppner TV, WindWave would begin the process of upgrading the current cable TV services to bring additional services to Heppner and the surrounding area. WindWave is committed to maintaining and increasing service levels over the next five years to compete with those of satellite services.

As such WindWave proposes the following:

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Council okays music at the pool

The Heppner city council voted Monday to allow the Heppner swimming pool to play music over its load speaker from 1 to 5p.m. A resident that lived near the pool who had complained about music in the past, has apparently moved out of the area, and pool manager Merry Brannon asked the city to allow the playing of music again.

Brannon told the council the music will be played only during the afternoon and during pool parties. In a letter to the city she also said no vulgar or inappropriate music would be played. "We, (the city) have an 'awesome' facility, however we feel it would be even better if we were allowed to play music...We are not wishing to cause or create a disturbance. We are just trying to make the pool a fun place to be," she said.

After some discussion the council voted 5-1 to allow the music for the rest of the summer. Councilmember Glenn Baker was the only no vote on issuing the permit. "I don't mind being in disagreement with everyone, but the people who live there (around the pool) have a right to peaceful enjoyment of their property," he said.

In other pool related business, Brannon asked why a certain field area near the pool had recently been roped off by the county public works director, stopping parking by the public using the pool. For the past three years users of the pool had been allowed to use the area, which is owned by the county, for parking.

Interim city manager Larry Mills said the county had indicated earlier that it was going to stop the parking once the paving on Riverside Street was completed.

County Judge Terry Tallman who was at the council meeting said the county wanted to "end it" (the parking). "We didn't want the issue to go on. The agreement said it would

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Special Fair & Rodeo section included in this weeks paper

A special 16-page section covering the Morrow County Fair & Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo is included in this week's Heppner Gazette-Times,

The section includes schedules of events and much more information about the Fair & Rodeo.

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