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Gazette Times

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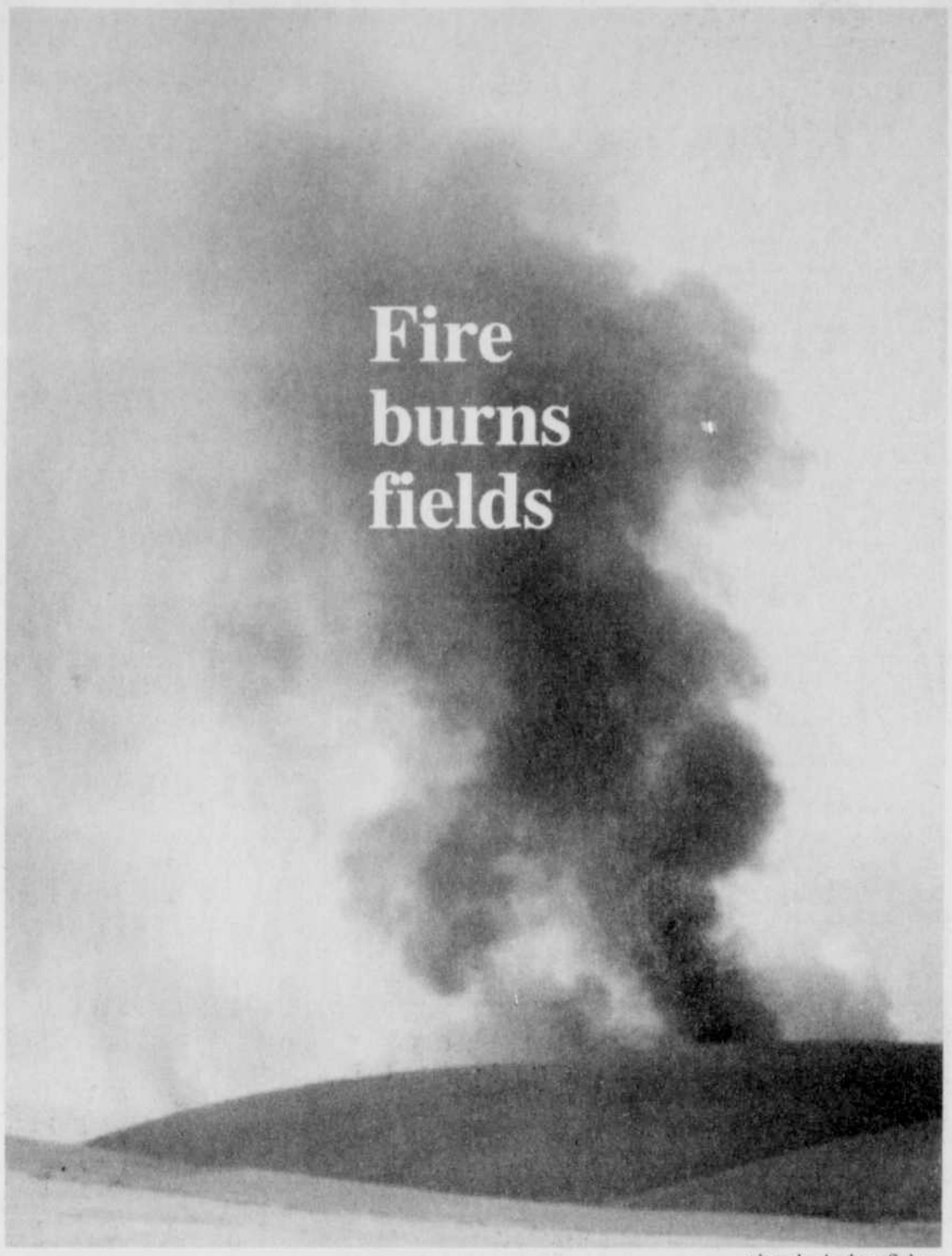


photo by Andrew Sykes

Several miles of land, including approximately 750 acres of wheat fields, owned by Turners, Drakes, Robinsons and Evans, burned Monday afternoon, Aug. 7. The cause of the fire was undetermined, but concluded to be accidental. Several fire departments responded in mutual aid and had the fire out in about four hour.

Reading and rodeo make this year's Fair and Rodeo Princess

Princess Josie Miller

Josie Miller, 16, of Lexington, is this year's Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Princess. This is Miller's first year on the court and she says she is really enjoying "being involved with the community, especially the kids." The court this year has made it a priority to participate in local summer reading programs, reading to the children, and while school was in session, they helped read during Accelerated Reader and SMART program reading times.

Miller, who lived in Morrow County until she was three, returned to the county a year ago, after living with her family in Culver. She is excited to be back in the area. While in Culver, Miller participated in junior rodeo and 4-H rodeo. This year she is active in 4-H lamb, but plans to have a steer next year.

In her extra time, Miller works with the Lexington Junior Fire Department. During the school year, she is active in volleyball, tennis, yearbook and shop class.

Carrying her faithfully in the numerous parades she has already been in, and through the rest of her reign, is her 24-year-old quarter horse gelding, Rickey. Miller has ridden Rickey for six years.

Miller's favorite event so far this year was the Spray Rodeo. "It was rainy, but lots of fun," she said.

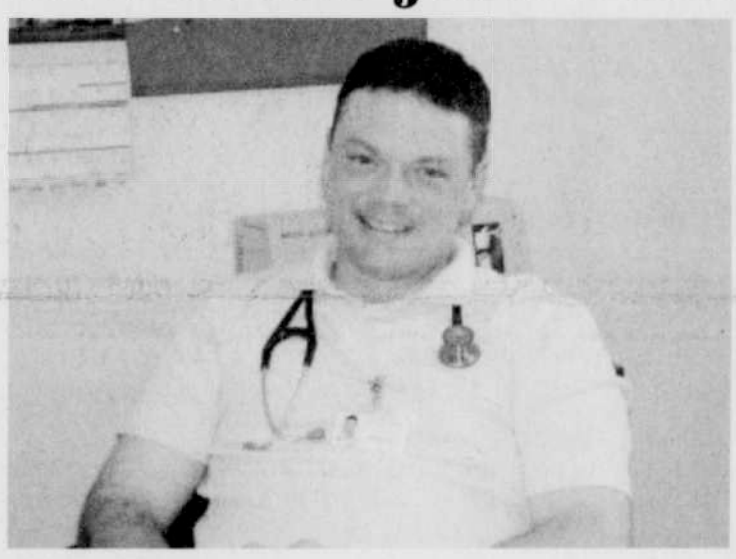
Miller said there are two reasons that made her want to become a rodeo princess; first being that her mother, Sheila Miller, was a princess in 1985; and secondly, when she was 8 years old, her family visited the Morrow County Rodeo and Princess Bobbie Rankin let her ride one lap around the arena with her. That ride made her know she "had to be a rodeo princess."

Keeping things in the family, one of this year's pennant bearers is Miller's brother, Jarreid, 13. "He's lots of help and lots of fun when he wants to be," said Miller of her brother. Miller's father, Reid, has also helped out throughout the year.

Miller says most of her life she has wanted to be a veterinarian, however, lately she has considered going into equine chiropractics.

Miller and the court have already ridden in numerous rodeos, but are now focusing on the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo, which will be held Aug. 16-20. The parade will be held Saturday, Aug. 19 at 10 a.m. Kid's Day at the Fair is Wednesday, Aug. 16 and Miller's reminds everyone to be sure to check out the Ice Cream Social and Pet Show.

New doctor joins Pioneer Memorial Clinic



Dr. Zachary Hale

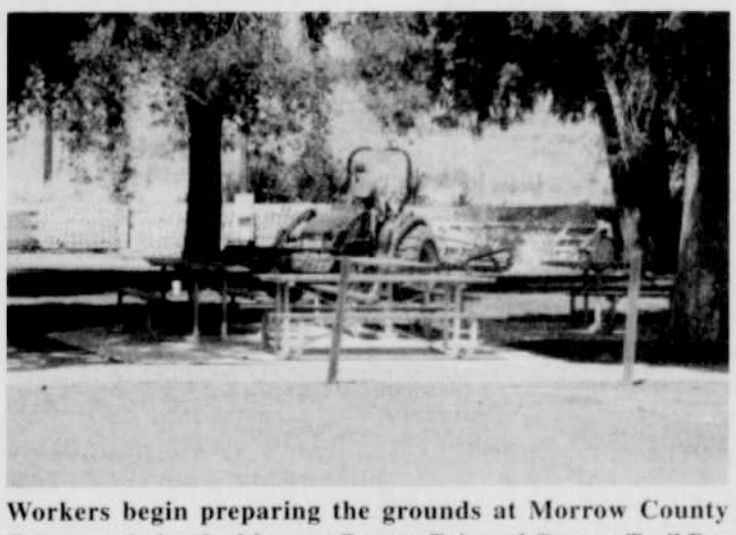
Dr. Zachary Hale, of Tri-Cities, WA, has joined the Pioneer Memorial Clinic on a part-time basis, until June when he will become a full-time staff member.

Dr. Hale, who received his medical degree from Emory University in Atlanta, GA, specializes in family medicine. He has been in practice since 1998.

Dr. Hale moved west from the East Coast in 1998, and has most recently worked in Wenatchee and Tri-Cities, WA. However, he likes small town living and Heppner had the right appeal. Dr. Hale and his family, wife Carmela and sons, ages 6 and 3, enjoy RVing, camping, hiking and other outdoor activities.

Dr. Hale began working in the county last month, covering a couple shifts at the Irrigon Clinic and has already begun working at PMC.

Fair preparations underway



Workers begin preparing the grounds at Morrow County Fairgrounds for the Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo to be held next week Aug. 16-20 in Heppner.

Special Fair Edition in this week's issue

Included in this week's issue of the Heppner Gazette-Times is a 16-page special 2006 Special Fair & Rodeo Edition.

The edition will cover events, calendars and fun things to do at this year's Fair & Rodeo. The Fair and Rodeo starts next week on Wednesday and runs through Sunday

Lexington water crisis averted

A crisis was narrowly averted after the Town of Lexington awoke Thursday, Aug. 3, to discover its water reservoir only half full.

The problem was discovered around 7:30 a.m. that day by the town's maintenance supervisor, Dan Marshall, who had gone to the reservoir to take a water sample. He immediately alerted Mayor Val Doherty and Lexington Council members. A temporary line was subsequently run from the cemetery well to the reservoir to maintain the water level and townspeople were alerted of the situation by phone, leaflets and by door-to-door canvassing and were advised to conserve water until the crisis was over. At that time, city officials were unsure as to how long the crisis would continue.

Marshall said that the reservoir's normal capacity is 300,000 gallons and the level had dropped to a little over half. He said that the town goes through around 180,000 gallons per day. He said that the damage may have resulted from lightning strikes to the pump.

The reservoir pump was then pulled and the damage was determined to be a seized motor. A new motor was installed and the reservoir has since returned to its normal level.

While the water was deemed safe during the temporary period, chlorine was added to the line as a precautionary measure and people were advised to that effect. People were also advised to drink bottled water temporarily, especially infants and the ill.

The mayor called an emergency executive session to discuss legal and liability issues, but by that time, the immediate crisis had been resolved.

Doherty credited townspeople for rising to the occasion and said that everyone "pitched in" to help in the crisis, including town council members, town recorder Jaylene Slinger, Kristal Temple, Heppner city manager David DeMayo, the local CSEPP office, Senator David Nelson in Salem, the Cemetery District, Sam Bellamy, Roger Schoonover and many others.

Prior to the emergency, the council had contemplated installing an alarm to alert of such an event and plan to revisit that issue.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

At the MCGG GREEN FEED STORE in Heppner:

Check out our Fair & Rodeo Sale!
10% OFF ALL WRANGLER MERCHANDISE
20% OFF ALL TACK
25% OFF Montana Silver

See You At The Morrow County Fair & Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo!

Nursery Stock still 40% OFF! We're clearing it out... hurry! Sale ends Saturday, Aug. 12!

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