

Local 4-Hers compete at Oregon State Fair



Three local 4-H members represented Morrow County in competitions at the Oregon State Fair in Salem. Maggie Collins, Rebecca Jepsen, and Ashley Wolff all earned the right to compete at the state level by winning in one or more events at the Morrow County Fair.

Maggie and Rebecca both competed in the State 4-H Fashion Review. They individually modeled

outfits that they had sewn before a panel of judges on Friday, August 22. Then, on Saturday afternoon, they participated in a large public fashion show with 34 other intermediate and senior contestants from other counties in Oregon.

Both girls were awarded blue ribbons. Rebecca also won the Judges Choice Award along with two other intermediate contestants. In addition, Jepsen

gave a Power Point presentation on the topic of Paraspports in the 4-H Presentation Contest.

Results of that event will not be available until the conclusion of the 10 day fair - after all of the 4-H presentations have been given. This was Maggie and Becca's first year to compete in Salem, and they both really enjoyed the experience.

Meanwhile, Ashley Wolff was busy in one of

the 4-H State Fair kitchens in the Mini-Meal Competition. Ashley was awarded a blue ribbon for her meal of spinach artichoke lasagna with herbed pinwheels. She is also waiting to hear her overall placing in the contest. This was Ashley's fourth year to compete in Salem.

Maggie and Joe Armato of Heppner represented Morrow County in food preparation competitions last weekend.

Top left: Maggie Collins; Center: Rebecca Jepsen; Top right: Ashley Wolff; Right Center: Maggie Armato; and Bottom Right: Joe Armato. Joe Armato prepared a meal of Tuscan pork chops and mixed greens with tarragon dressing for the intermediate division of the mini meal food prep. Maggie Armato prepared a polenta dish for the senior division of foods of the pacific northwest at the state fair she also prepared caramelized onion and goat cheese tarts with citrus shrimp salad for the senior division of the mini meal preparation At the fair over Labor Day Weekend, Maggie has been the outstanding foods member at the state fair two times. -Contributed Photos



Willow Creek Diner and Bakery to change its days and times of operation

The same Marick faces, but with new days and times. Willow Creek Diner and Bakery, Heppner, has been busy making homemade cinnamon rolls and maple bars for awhile now, and providing fast friendly service. The owners John and Kathy are changing their days and times due to their desire to spend more time with their children.

As you know, Abbie has Down's Syndrome and there is a window of learning for her that is limited due to the extra chromosome on every cell in her body. This chromosome produces chemicals in her brain that between the ages of 8-12 will cause her brain cells to die. If Abbie can get knowledge into her long-term memory she will have a greater chance of retaining what she has learned. Her parents love running the Diner and providing evening service to their community, but feel a concern to be at home with Abbie after school instead of having her with the babysitter. They have a great child care provider but want the opportunity to spend her awake afternoon/evening hours to help with her homework and developing her social skills with her peer group. There have been great strides in the learning capabilities of children with Down's. Abbie's parents want no regrets that they have not done all they could personally do to help their daughter achieve all that she can. Abbie has had some great educators that have worked up individual learning plans for her and she has shown remarkable accomplishments.

Anyone that has met Abbie will testify that she is a smart and funny little girl. She is not a typical Down's child. Her charming personality and ability to remember people's names is amazing. The Maricks feel blessed to be in a community that is so receptive of Abbie and her disability. She was eight months old when they started operating the Diner and she has grown up right before our eyes. She is now six years old. Many stand amazed at how much she knows and how well she speaks.

The Diner's new hours of operation will start Tuesday, September 2, 2008. They will be open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. They will have a large breakfast menu and continue with their lunch menu. They are working on some great specials to offer on Mondays and during the lunch hour to give their patrons a nice choice. (During Heppner's busy holidays, the Diner will open so there will be enough eating establishments to accommodate the influx of extra people.) They realize this is a big change and are hoping the community will support their decision. Anyone who knows Abbie Marick knows she is a remarkable little girl and can understand why her parents would want to put their evening energy to give her the best chance in the world to succeed.

John and Kathy have also added exchange students to their home and want to be able to go to their sporting events. Having teenagers from different countries come into their home has been a fantastic experience for the entire family. They have made a tremendous difference in Abbie's life. The kids are very patient and work with her on a daily basis. Language and social skills are two areas they have seen a great improvement.

This may seem to be an article about Abbie and not the changing hours/days of Willow Creek Diner but as we know in a small rural business, children grow up in the business and the locals are involved a great deal.

The Maricks want to express how much they appreciate Heppner's support and are looking forward to offering breakfast and lunch to a wonderful town and their tourist trade.

Award named in Hansell's honor

The Oregon Water Resources Commission has created a new award in memory of Tyler Hansell, who served as a Water Resource Commissioner from 1994 to 2005. It was a position nominated by the governor. The recipient of this award has demonstrated leadership in the area of agricultural water management, increasing the efficiency of water use, while continuing to support agriculture as a vital part of Oregon's economy.

The "Tyler Hansell Agricultural Water Efficiency Award" is designed to reflect that spirit and approach that Commissioner Hansell displayed as a public official and successful businessman. As a third generation farmer, one of Tyler Hansell's favorite admonitions was that "any good farmer will



Members of the Tyler Hansell family accept the first ever "Tyler Hansell Agricultural Water Efficiency Award." L-R are TJ Hansell, Erin Hansell-Heideman, Francie Hansell and Kenz Hansell. -Contributed Photo

know exactly how much water and fertilizer he is applying to his crop." Tyler was committed to the idea of better management through measurement, and better stewardship through attentiveness. That ethic

reflected in his business, his community, his family and his friends. The Water Resources Commission has established this award as a means to remember and honor Tyler Hansell. The Commission intends to bestow this honor in the future to irrigators who demonstrate the same attention and care to Oregon's water resources. The first recipient of this award is the Tyler Hansell family.

"As a family, we have set high standards for future generations of irrigators, business owners and public servants," said Tyler's wife, Francie Hansell, who received the award. "Tyler would have been honored at this gesture and as a family we are privileged to accept it on his behalf. What a unique opportunity to reward good stewardship and pass on our heritage in a better state."

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