

HEPPNER

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VOL. 122 NO. 49 8 Pages Wednesday, December 3, 2003 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

### BEO purchase of Klamath branches concludes Dec. 12

Bank of Eastern Oregon will finalize the purchase of seven Klamath First Federal branches on Friday, Dec. 12. This purchase will increase BEO's base to include 11 branches in six eastern Oregon counties.

The agreement to purchase the seven branches came in September, three months after Klamath began negotiations with Sterling Financial of Spokane for a total buy out. The seven branches BEO is purchasing are the same ones they were looking at purchasing seven years ago when Wells Fargo sold out to Klamath First, said Bank of Eastern Oregon president George Koffler.

Five of the branches are in new locations for BEO and two, Condon and Heppner, were in competition markets. The five new branches are in Burns, John Day, Prairie City, Fossil and Moro. Over the weekend of Dec. 13 and 14 the branches computer systems will be

converted. Also, all Klamath First indicators (signs, etc.) will be replaced.

With the purchase of these branches, Bank of Eastern Oregon has doubled its financial base, growing to become a \$150 million financial institution from its current \$85 million size. In the purchase BEO is receiving \$66 million in deposits and approximately 150 loan accounts.

BEO will also be keeping all the Klamath First employees, thus increasing its size to approximately 80 employees. All the employees, existing and new, have gone through six weeks of extensive training in bank operations.

In Heppner, BEO is in negotiations with the city about purchase of the Klamath First building for city hall. If the purchase does not go through, the building will become an administrative office building.

In Condon, BEO will move to the Klamath First

building while remodeling is being done on the BEO building. After the remodel, which is expected to be complete in Fall 2004, the branch will return to its original building.

Information packets were sent to all current Klamath First patrons describing the products and services provided by Bank of Eastern Oregon. Also, during the second week of December, all former Klamath First patrons will be offered free checks and ATM cards.

The week of Dec. 15-19, Bank of Eastern Oregon will be holding open houses at all its new or combined branches. Patrons are sure to see all the familiar faces they are used to as there will be a combining of employees, said Koffler. Everyone is invited to attend the open house and learn about the many products and services of BEO, as well as receive hats, mugs, piggy banks, pens, pencils, and other items.

### Ione Youth Group holds Burnside Service Trip

Nineteen Ione Youth Group members and their chaperones traveled to Portland on Tuesday, Nov. 11 for a day of service in the Burnside area. The youth divided into three groups, with members visiting agencies they hadn't helped at on previous trips.

A group went to the Salvation Army Harbor Light where they helped in the kitchen and cleaned the food storage area. Another group helped organize and deliver meals to senior citizen shut-ins through the Loaves and Fishes program. The third group helped residents Clement Jones, Ken Wheeler, William Kerney and Clayton Murray serve lunch and bus tables at the Blanchet House soup kitchen.

Two of the groups combined forces in the afternoon at Outreach Ministry where they cleaned the office and sitting room and sorted donated clothing. Many of the youth group members were able to visit with the Outreach clients while they worked. Junior Kasie Peterson enjoyed visiting with Skippy, a young man who was abandoned by his family after becoming brain damaged in a motorcycle accident.

The other group toured both Transition Projects on NW Glisan and the Portland Rescue Mission on Burnside. Transition Projects is a community service center that provides information and referrals, shelter for men and women, food boxes, clothing and showers, rent assistance, mailing addresses and identification assistance. The Portland Rescue Mission offers the same basic services, but is a faith-based aid agency. They aid men and women through their "New Life" program that stresses love of God to help gain freedom from drugs and alcohol. German exchange student Simone Reisenbauer was impressed with the tour leaders. "They worked so much from the heart, it was amazing."

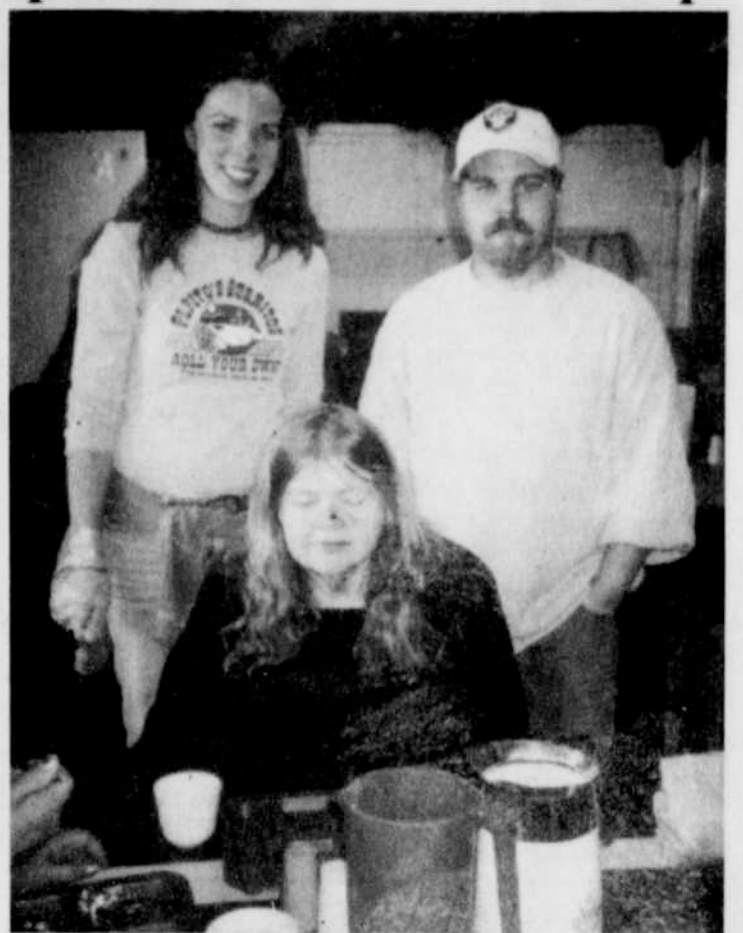
As a follow up project to the service trip the group is "adopting" an Outreach Ministry client through their Christmas Connection program. Youth group leader Cathy Halvorsen would also like to remind interested community members of the continuous need for socks for the poor of Burnside. Donations may be left at area churches.

Making the trip from Ione were Natalie McElligott, Meghan McCabe, Johnny Collin, Paul Neiffer, Tim Doherty, Tina Tuzarova, Simone Reisenbauer, Sara Peck, Barbara Holland, Nick Christman, Tyler Raible, Kasie Peterson, Alyssa Rietmann, Jenny Griffith, Tyler Brown, Dan Long, John Walton,

### Submit your ideas for the 2004 fair theme

It is time once again to start thinking about a fair theme for 2004. If you have any ideas please send them to the Morrow County Fair, P.O. Box 464, Heppner, OR 97836 or call 676-9474.

The theme will be determined by the Fair Board at their January meeting. The



Natalie McElligott and Blanchet resident Clayton Murray serve lunch at Blanchet House.



Jenny Griffith, Alyssa Rietmann and Simone Reisenbauer sort clothes at Outreach Ministry.



Duane Neiffer visits with Outreach client Skippy.



Johnny Collin sorts food at Salvation Army.

Kayla LaRue and Stephanie Holland. Adults supervising the youth were Cathy Halvorsen, John Collin, Duane Neiffer and Jeri McElligott.

### Christmas tree fundraiser to be held

The Ione Youth Group is once again selling Christmas trees as a fundraiser. Money earned is used for service projects and scholarships. Anyone wishing to order a tree may use an order form available at the Ione Post Office or call Jeri McElligott at 422-7257. All orders must be made by this Saturday, Dec. 6. Trees will be delivered by Dec. 11.

individual with the winning theme will receive a gift certificate for \$25. New this year, if a business comes up with the winning theme, they will receive a 1/4 page ad in the 2004 Premium Book. The fair dates are Aug. 18-22, 2004; it is the 91<sup>st</sup> year of the fair.

### Stroll Heppner & Parade of Lights

Thursday, December 4th

All Day

Heppner Merchants Open Houses  
Refreshments & Door Prizes!

4:30-5:30 p.m.

Light Up The Christmas Tree

Children are invited to bring their ornaments!  
Enjoy Christmas carolers & music.  
Free cocoa & hot cider beside the tree  
will be provided by Central Red Apple.  
Wreath sales by Heppner Garden Club.

4:30-6:00 p.m.

Pictures with Santa at the Shoe Box

Viewing of the Christmas Trees for the Chamber Auction

6:00 p.m.

THE LIGHT PARADE

The more, the merrier!  
Decorate your wagon, car, boat, truck, trailer, bicycle, yourself...  
\$100 prizes! Vote for your favorite at Central Red Apple!

Friday, December 5th

Heppner Chamber of Commerce invites you to attend

### The Second Annual Designer Christmas Tree Auction

6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Shoe Box

Punch & Cookies, Live Music, No-Host Wine & Appetizers!

CHECK OUT OUR 30% OFF AISLE!

EVERYTHING IN THIS AISLE MUST GO!

Selected Muck Boots, LaCrosse Overshoes, Caulking, Paint and MUCH, MUCH MORE! Shop Early For Best Selection!

Morrow County Grain Growers

Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net