

**Gift tree up at Central Red Apple**



Marlene Currin, gift tree coordinator, with Christmas gift tree at Central Red Apple.

A gift tree has been placed at Central Red Apple. Anyone interested in participating in the gift giving can pick a tag off the tree and purchase the items listed. The tags include children and adults from Morrow County. Extra tags will also be added in the next few days.

Gift-wrapped presents, with the designated number clearly marked on the present, are to be returned to the Neighborhood Center by Friday, Dec. 19.

The tree is sponsored by Hope/Valby/All Saints Shared Ministries. Names are provided by the South Morrow County Neighborhood Center.

**Sign up period for EQIP now open**

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced that the first sign-up period for the 2004 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in Oregon is open now and will close Dec. 31.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program is a voluntary conservation cost share program. Through EQIP, farmers and ranchers may receive financial and technical help to install structural and management conservation practices on eligible agricultural land. Agricultural land may include cropland, grazed land and forestland.

EQIP activities are carried out according to an EQIP plan of operations developed with the producer. Incentive payments may also

be made to encourage a producer to adopt land management practices such as residue management, direct seeding, conservation crop rotations and irrigation water management.

EQIP applications are accepted throughout the year, but cut off dates apply for each funding period. People who applied and were not funded in 2003 should contact NRCS if they are still interested in participating. NRCS evaluates each application using a state and locally developed ranking process to select priority proposals for funding.

For more information, visit NRCS at the USDA Ag Service Center at 430 Heppner/Lexington Highway or call them at 676-5021.

**Murray's hosts gift tree for Morrow County foster children**



Cam Wishart displays gift tree at Murray's Drug.

A gift tree for Morrow County foster children has been set up at Murray's Drugs. There are 28 names of children ranging in age from infant to 18 years. Anyone interested in purchasing gifts may stop by Murray's and take either a whole tag, or buy a specific item from a tag.

Gift-wrapped presents should be returned to Murray's by Friday, Dec. 19. For more information ask store personnel.

**Creative Arts and Crafts changes meeting date**

The meeting date has change to Dec. 18 for the Morrow Country Creative Arts and Crafts. Everyone is asked to bring a gift for the Christmas gift exchange as well as a plate of goodies to share. Presents should be under \$10.

Also on the agenda is the workshop policy and Sandra Haynes workshops in scratch board set for Jan. 17 and 18 and colored pencil set for Feb. 14 and 15. Any member or people interested

in these workshops should contact Judie Laughlin at 676-9781. The scratch board class must be paid for by Dec. 18 and the colored pencil workshop by Jan. 15.

Haynes will be displaying several choices of subjects at the meeting. Anyone interested in seeing the pieces is invited to attend.

A drawing for a 5x7-inch matted Robert Walton print will also be held at the Dec. 18 meeting.

**IHS holds fall sports dessert**



(L-R): Nick Christman, Billy Gates, John Walton and Paul Neiffer received awards in football.



(L-R): Natalie McElligott, Meghan McCabe and Kayla LaRue received awards in volleyball.

Ione High School held its fall sports dessert/awards night Thursday, Nov. 20 at the high school cafeteria.

The football team was recognized for having the second highest GPA for 1A schools in the state, with a 3.41 average. The team record for the year was 6 and 3. Head Coach Dale Holland and assistant Dennis Stefani gave out the following awards: Big Stick Award for an incredible hit- Billy Gates; Most Improved Player- John Walton; Top Tackler- Nick Christman; Top Blocker- Paul Neiffer; and Most Valuable Player- Nick Christman.

Head volleyball coach Charity McElligott recognized

the team for an incredible year despite many injuries and illnesses. The junior varsity team was congratulated for being undefeated for the year. McElligott and JV coach Cathy McCabe gave out the following awards: Most Improved Player- Kayla LaRue; Most Inspirational Player- Meghan McCabe; and Most Valuable Player- Natalie McElligott.

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**Starting December 15th**  
**THERE'S A NEW TEAM**  
**IN TOWN**



Left to Right: Back Row - Kay Rene Qualls, New Accounts Representative; Darrell Raver, Branch Manager and Loan Officer; Sharon Harrison, Assistant Branch Manager and Installment Loan Officer; Deona Hodges, New Accounts Representative. Front Row - Lynne Uitto, Customer Service Representative; Vicki Rayburn, Customer Service Representative; Florene Robinson, Customer Service Representative; Bev Crum, Customer Service Representative; Rosemary Burns, Customer Service Representative.



**Bank of Eastern Oregon**

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