

## Local student takes second in Elks soccer contest



Tyler Robinson (middle), 11, of Heppner, took second place in the Under 12 category at the Elks district soccer contest held in Milton-Freewater. Robinson is the son of Ryan Miller and Shanon Robinson, of Heppner. Presenting the award to Robinson is Marty Brannon (left) and Tom Wolff (right). This was Robinson's first year participating.

## Willow Creek Terrace to host Open House



Resident Joe Wright and staff Tina Fox get all fixed up for Willow Creek Terrace Christmas open house.

At Willow Creek Terrace, 'tis the season to show our appreciation to the community by sharing some holiday cheer.

The fourteen residents and the staff at 400 Frank

### OSU Extension Office closed over holidays

Oregon State University, Morrow County Extension will be closed on Dec. 24, 25 and 26 for the Christmas holiday. They will also be closed Jan. 1, 2004 for New Year's Day. They will be open on Friday, Jan. 2, 2004.

If you haven't registered for 4-H yet, it's not too late. Call the office at (541) 676-9642 to sign up.

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Gilliam Drive have scheduled an Open House for Thursday, Dec. 18, from 2-6 p.m. "We want to treat our neighbors in the Valley community to some punch and hors d'oeuvres," Manager Nancy Vander Does reports. "We are decked out with decorations and eager to share our home with visitors."

The festive atmosphere at the Terrace includes two Christmas trees, stockings hung with care, colorful paper chains and two recent additions to the facility's décor—large Christmas cacti. "Klamath First offered us the plant from their lobby, and it is gorgeous," Vander Does says. "And the Gribbles have given us their plant, which belonged to Dee's mother. It is over 100 years old."

The Open House will also feature holiday music and a visit from Old Saint Nick, who is expected at 4 or 4:30 p.m. on Thursday.

## Klamath First announces successful completion of sale to BEO

Klamath First Bancorp, Inc. announced on Monday, Dec. 15, that as of the close of business on Friday, Dec. 12, 2003, its wholly-owned subsidiary Klamath First Federal Savings and Loan Association successfully completed the sale of seven branches located in northeastern Oregon to the Bank of Eastern Oregon.

The seven branches are located in the towns of Burns, Condon, Fossil, Heppner, John Day, Prairie City and Moro. The sale included deposit accounts of approximately \$65 million, which will nearly double the size of the Bank of Eastern Oregon's six branches, and its \$78 million in total assets. The fixed assets and branch locations were included in the sale.

Kermit K. Houser, President and Chief Executive Officer of Klamath First Bancorp, commented, "The successful completion of the sale just prior to the proposed merger with Sterling Financial Corporation was critical to improve the operating efficiency for Sterling and it was important to both customers and employees at these branches to experience only one organizational change rather than two over a short period of time."

As previously announced, Klamath First Bancorp is party to an Agreement and Plan of Merger dated July 14, 2003 pursuant to which Klamath First Bancorp will merge with and into Sterling Financial Corporation. The merger is currently anticipated to be completed in early January 2004. Sterling was apprised of and concurred in the sale of Klamath First Federal's seven branches.

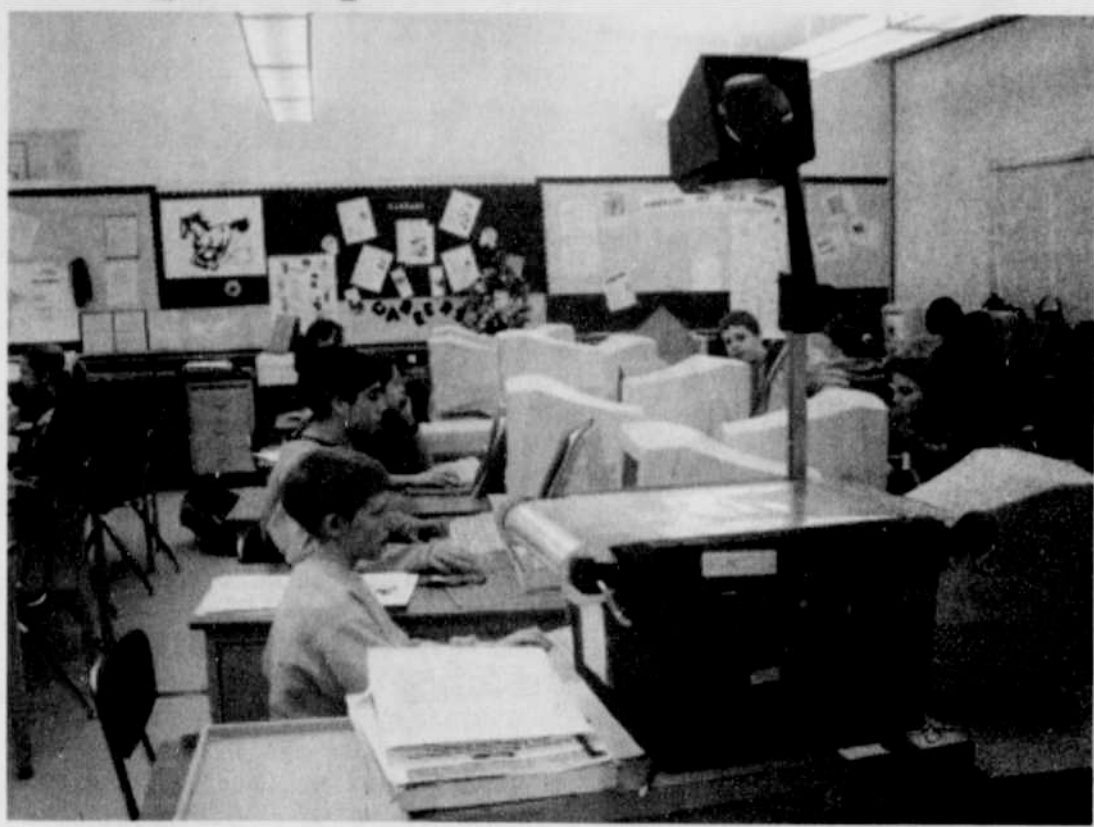
### 2003 Light Parade winners announced

Twenty-nine degrees didn't keep hearty kids and adults from participating in the annual Heppner Chamber/Merchants Light Parade. From walking Christmas trees to reindeer, participants are to be commended for bringing excitement to viewers along Main Street.

Judges awarded the Youth Award to "The Grieb Kids"; the Community Award to "The Pathfinders"; and the Commercial Award to Morrow County Grain Growers, who donated it to the 2004 Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro-Rodeo Court. "People's Choice Award went to "The Reload Ridge Riders".

Businesses sponsoring the 2003 Parade were: Murray's Drug, Bank of Eastern Oregon, Sherrell Insurance, and John's Place. Event chair was Darrell Raver.

## Jr. High computer class tours the world



L-R): Melissa Robbins-West, (starting in back partly visible) Keshi Richmond, Dillon Lutchter, Spencer Palmer, Grant Smith (front), (next row -back) Michael Wellman, Kassey Wilson and Matt Holland. With backs toward camera: Josh Shank, Chris Wellington, Stephanie Rill and Kathryn Strouse (not pictured are nine other students)

Darlene Marquardt's junior high computer class at Heppner High School is touring the world. Well... not really, but the project they are working on for the rest of this semester will take them on a virtual tour of the world.

They are putting together all the computer application skills they have studied so far this year and are integrating the material with other disciplines like social studies, math, foreign language and language arts. They have divided into groups and each group is creating a simulation of a rock band. They are the agents and band members and have to put together a tour itinerary.

They began by creating banners and T-shirt

designs for their band on the computer. They did research on the Internet on a real rock musician to find out biographical information. Then they made a flyer both in English and in Spanish and put together a PowerPoint presentation to advertise their band. The students also decided what cities their band would tour. The requirement was five cities on three continents and one had to be Spanish speaking.

Each group member will have to write a report on one of the cities they are touring to find population, type of government, climate and such. They are in the process of finding mileage between the cities and will have to determine airfare and food/

lodging expenses for their band.

Each group will also have to determine ticket prices for their concerts and calculate profits after deducting expenses. In the process, they will have to tabulate mileage and expenses and profits on a spreadsheet and work some with a database.

At the end of the semester, the information will then be presented to the class with each group giving a speech. The speeches will be videotaped for review and evaluation. They will also do self-evaluation and peer evaluations of the project.

Specifics about the project can be viewed at [www.hhs.morrow.k12.or.us/marquardt/2MIDDLE.html](http://www.hhs.morrow.k12.or.us/marquardt/2MIDDLE.html).

## HHS Outdoor Club begins ski season



HHS Outdoor Club prepares for fun day of skiing and snowboarding at Anthony Lakes Ski Resort.

The Heppner High School Outdoor Club held their first ski trip on Sunday, Dec. 7.

Outdoor Club advisor Dave Fowler and chaperon Terri Gentry took 22 students to Anthony Lakes Ski Resort. There was six inches

of new snow to make for a wonderful day of skiing and snowboarding.

The next trip is planned for Jan. 2, 2004. Think Snow.

## Postmaster General responds to Smith's request to keep Pendleton Processing Center

Postmaster General and CEO John Potter recently responded to Senator Gordon Smith's (R-OR) request to keep mail processing operations in Pendleton. In a letter sent to Smith on Dec. 11, Potter committed to reevaluate

all options concerning the current mail processing operations in Pendleton.

"The community has expressed the need to keep this facility in Pendleton and I am pleased to see the U.S. Postal Service is listening," said Smith. "Postmaster General Potter has been receptive to finding a solution that will retain jobs and increase the efficiency of mail service without taking the mail out of Oregon."

The Pendleton center is currently using mechanization that was designed in the late 1950s and adapted by the Postal Service in the 1960s and early 1970s. The facility in Pendleton is not large enough to house the latest sorting technology.

In a Nov. 25

conversation, Smith urged Potter to explore all viable options short of moving the processing center from Pendleton. Smith and Potter discussed alternatives that would prevent the loss of jobs, timely mail service, and the elimination of the Pendleton postmark.

"With so few federal services in eastern Oregon, it would send the wrong message to remove yet another one," said Smith. "This is simply not a service we can afford to lose."

The Pendleton City Council, Mayor, Pendleton Chamber of Commerce, Eastern Oregon Rural Alliance, and numerous groups and citizens have expressed concern and opposition to moving processing services to Pasco, WA.

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**IT'S SO FUN**

**To Be 2!!**

**Family & Friends are Invited to Celebrate ADRIENNE SWANSON's Birthday on Saturday, December 20th at the Heppner Elks Club, 6 p.m. - ?**