

# Port Orford Today!

Port Orford's most popular newspaper  
Distributed from Bandon to Gold Beach

Thursday, December 26, 1996

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© 1996 by The Downtown Fun Zone

## The Downtown Fun Zone

Evan & Valerie Kramer, Owners  
832 Highway 101, P.O. Box 49  
Port Orford, OR 97465  
(541) 332-6565 (Voice or FAX)

## Internet Email Addresses:

Valerie: .. funzone@harborside.com  
Evan: ..... evan@harborside.com  
Nancy: .. nancyab@harborside.com



World Wide Web Internet Page:  
<http://www.harborside.com/funzone>

*Serving Port Orford since 1990*

## Fifth in the Nation!

By Jerry Cox

Lexington, Kentucky, known throughout the world for famous racing horses such as Man-O-War and Secretariat was a fitting site for the Junior Olympic National Cross-Country Championships held on December 14, 1996. Three thousand of the best young runners from throughout the United States gathered on the green undulating hills at historic Kentucky Horse Park to determine which teams and individuals were the best in the nation.

To qualify for the national meet, teams first had to place in the top three at one of fifty state meets during November. Individual qualifiers had to place in the top 25. Individuals and teams then had to at least repeat that performance at one of 15 regional meets throughout the nation in early December.

Local runners Lane Neely, Mark Welsh, Kellen Siciak, Shawn Lang, Joel Foster and Peter Welsh, fresh off an undefeated season for Blanco Middle School, decided to affiliate with the Southern Oregon Sizzler Running Club to see just where their running talents might take them. Neely, Mark Welsh, Siciak, and Lang constituted half of the Sizzler eight-man youth cross-country team and Peter

Welsh and Foster were members of the seven person midget team. Both teams were supplemented by other runners from southern Oregon. The elder Youth team then went on to win the Oregon State Championship and place second at the regional meet in Philomath, Oregon, thus qualifying as a team for the finals in Lexington. The younger midget team placed second at the state meet, but because they lacked a full team at the regional meet, they were unable to advance as a team to nationals. Peter Welsh, however, received an invitation based on his individual performance.

The possibility of competing at Lexington became a reality largely due to the efforts of Earl Lang who spearheaded a lightening-fast and very successful fund drive. His endeavor was enhanced by the efforts of the runners and their parents. Businesses, organizations, and individuals from Langlois and Port Orford graciously provided the necessary funds to fly the five runners to Kentucky to compete and covered their expenses. Community support given to the team from Langlois and Port Orford stood out at the meet as one of the more notable gestures of civic generosity. On December 12th, the runners and their adult chaperones departed for the national championship finals.

Festivities for the race actually began the evening prior to the race as parents, coaches and athletes gathered at Heritage Hall in the Lexington Convention Center for a pre-race pasta dinner and banquet. The highlight of the evening was the "Parade of Athletes" in which all 3000 of the runners (preceded by a banner indicating their region) entered the grand hall while theme music from "Chariots of Fire" and "The Olympic Procession" played in the background. Athletes listened to motivational presentations and then were administered the Junior Olympic Oath.

On race day, the Lexington weather cooperated for the thousands who gathered at Race Horse Park for the ten cross-country races that were to take place. Clear, blue skies and 40 degree temperatures seemed to fit in perfectly with the seemingly endless bluegrass hills rimmed

## Continued Inside Back Cover

Due to the New Years holiday,  
the deadline for submissions  
to next week's paper will be  
4:00pm SATURDAY instead  
of Tuesday.

The Downtown Fun Zone  
will be closed Jan. 1.

## Kathleen Bell L.T.C.

Accounting and Payroll Services  
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1819 Oregon St., Port Orford • 332-3022

**OPEN: 9:00AM-5:00PM Every Day**

**Check out what we have:** Some Can Goods, Dremel Tools, Gifts, Spices, Mechanical Tools, Cleaning Supplies, Beads & Findings, and too much to list (and lots more to put out!)

### Tide Predictions For Port Orford - 42° 44 N 124° 30 W

Produced by "Tides & Currents for Windows" version 2.0 by Nautical Software (503) 579-1414

Date	Midnight to Noon		Noon to Midnight		Sun		Moon		Set Phase			
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set				
Thu Dec 26	1:10a	6.7	6:18a	3.6	12:03p	7.8	7:01p	-0.3	7:45a	4:51p	7:08p	9:04a
Fri Dec 27	1:46a	6.7	6:58a	3.6	12:40p	7.5	7:35p	0.0	7:46a	4:52p	8:02p	9:43a
Sat Dec 28	2:21a	6.7	7:41a	3.6	1:18p	7.1	8:09p	0.4	7:46a	4:52p	8:57p	10:14a
Sun Dec 29	2:58a	6.7	8:27a	3.6	1:59p	6.6	8:44p	0.8	7:46a	4:53p	9:51p	10:43a
Mon Dec 30	3:35a	6.7	9:19a	3.6	2:45p	6.1	9:21p	1.3	7:46a	4:54p	10:46p	11:07a
Tue Dec 31	4:14a	6.8	10:18a	3.4	3:40p	5.6	10:00p	1.9	7:46a	4:55p	11:41p	11:35a
Wed Jan 1	5:01a	6.8	11:25a	3.2	4:49p	5.2	10:49p	2.3	7:46a	4:56p	12:37a	12:03p
Thu Jan 2	5:45a	7.0	12:32p	2.7	6:11p	5.0	11:41p	2.8	7:46a	4:57p	1:34a	12:33p

### Official Weather

Provided by the City of Port Orford  
Public Utilities Department

Date	High	Low	Rain
Sun Dec. 8			
Mon Dec. 9			
Tue Dec. 10			
Wed Dec. 11			
Thu Dec. 12			
Fri Dec. 13	53	37	---
Sat Dec. 14	58	32	---
Sun Dec. 15	56	32	---
Mon Dec. 16	57	36	---
Tue Dec. 17	62	35	---
Wed Dec. 18	58	31	---
Thu Dec. 19	58	32	.59

### Driftwood School

With the winter break upon us, a generous group of local people decided to encourage our children reading at home. The result was a packet of goodies, including books and activities which require some reading. Each child's bag also contained little "giftie somethings."

These are the folks to thank for this wonderful effort:

Shirley Nelson, Port Orford Library Children's Director; Anita Wadsworth, Scholastic Bookfairs; Jane Odson, Wholesale Jeweler; Norma Morrow, Laurie Foster-Hood; Char Moses; Colleen Cryzwana, Director P.O. Children's Center; Driftwood Booster Club; Pat Campbell, Campbell Realty; Buck's Sentry; Stephanie Stevens, Title 1 Teacher(Choices);

...and 4/5 grade students.

Autumn Anderson, Kelsey Anderson, Trisha Bazor, Anthony Conaway, Kelly Hollenbeck, Casey Murephy, Celia Osborne, Brandi Peabody, Lacey Smith and Gretchen Smith

Don't forget to recycle children's books at Driftwood! Bring a used book from home. Exchange it for another.

Driftwood's "Used Book Exchange" is a great sharing opportunity for students. And students can keep their "new" book forever...or until they're ready to recycle it! Look for the Used Book Exchange bookshelf outside CHOICES Enrichment Center, Room 7.

### General Law • Accident

### Criminal Defense

## HOWARD S. LICHTIG

Attorney; Licensed OR & CA

### BANKRUPTCY

When you can't make it any more.

**Chapter 13:** Pay bills, past due taxes & house payments, fully or in part, in 3 - 5 years, in one monthly payment, free from creditor pressure.

**Chapter 7:** Stop bills & creditors, keep your car and home.

**(541) 332-6060** Port Orford

# MAGIC

The Gathering

## Card Tournament December 28

Play Starts 11:00am  
Card trading before 11:00am

Admission one (1) Rare  
(value at least \$2.00)  
(used for prizes)

Type 1 Decks  
40 Card Min, No Max.

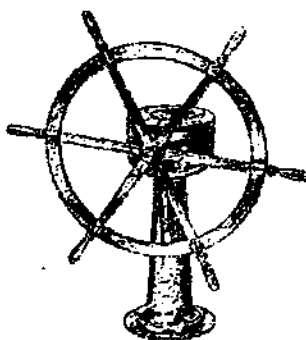
Sign up by 4:00pm Dec. 26  
with Annette at Ali's Auto on  
Hwy 101 in Port Orford

### Ideas For Town Entrance?

Beginning in October members of the Port Orford Community Response Team (CRT) began distributing questionnaires about beautification of Highway 101. One of the main topics was how do we achieve a clear sense of entrance into Port Orford from both the North and the South. In conversations with many citizens over the last two months along with the answers provided in the questionnaires, many people thought it was time to make a change. The entrance sign on the south end sets down in a hole behind the chamber building and is hard to see when coming down the hill and is very busy making it hard to read at speed. The sign on the north end sets to far off the road, it's the same busy design and at over 50 mph hard to understand. Many ideas for the entrances came up in the distilling of the questionnaire; "park like", "historical type", "arches", "colorful plants", "sculpture" to name just a few.

## Wheelhouse Restaurant

We only use top quality products.



Hours:  
7 am - 9 pm Every Day

Wishing all our  
customers a  
Happy Christmas!

From John & Jackie  
and all the crew

We will be CLOSED  
Christmas Day

At the December 12 CRT meeting three preliminary designs were presented to the public as ideas for updating the entrances to town. We are going to hang the three designs in the hall outside the City Council Chambers and invite everyone to please submit additional designs in the form of drawings, photos, or written proposal (for the artistically challenged). All ideas will be presented at the February CRT meeting, where selection of the

best or combination of the best ideas will be selected for further planning. So get your pencils out or at least your walking shoes and stop by City Hall to view the possibilities. All entries will be posted at City Hall, drop them by the office.

A public opinion poll is no substitute for thought.

A purring cat and a glowing fireplace makes winter bearable.

  
**Merry  
Christmas  
from the  
crew**

McNair True Value Hardware

Help is just around the corner  
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### Youth Center Break-in

The Port Orford Youth Center in Buffington Park was broken into sometime between Friday night at 6:00pm and Saturday morning at 9:00am. The suspect broke a window in the door and unlocked it from the inside. A cash box containing \$35.00 in coin was taken, some rolled and some loose. The Curry County Sheriff's Department is investigating the case. Some of the stolen coin was alleged to have been spent at Circle K. This theft follows on the heels of several others in Port Orford including burglaries at L & R Variety Store, Ali's Automotive, Monty's Texaco and Premium Pacific Seafood as well as eight tires slashed on a car and a truck parked on Dock Road.

In better news nine children from the Youth Center spent two hours of their Saturday morning helping the Common Good distribute Christmas baskets and gifts from the Tree of Giving.

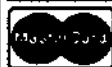
A quill shall be my bow, and ink- its arrows. — Jennifer Mulcahy

A promise is only as good as the word of the person who makes it.

## Port Orford Family Dentistry

### Is Now Open

We now  
accept



Call now for appointment  
Kevin Hardesty, DDS

### 332-5001

196 6th St., Port Orford  
(Behind Whale Cove Restaurant)

A proverb is a short sentence based on long experience.

A rabbit's foot is a poor substitute for horse sense.

## Second Glance

*Recyclers of Quality Used Stuff*

Great Resale Clothes

Used Books

Antiques

Collectibles & Uniques

Jewelry

Gift Certificates

11:30 to 5:00 Mon-Sat

Just north of Driftwood

School on Hwy 101

A reason for doing it is not an excuse to avoid responsibility for it.

A rose is beautiful in whatever garden it blooms.

(Tune of "Walking in a Winter Wonderland")

Power's out, eyes are glistenin'  
Boss is mad, data's missin'  
You're out on the street  
Poundin' a beat  
Lookin' for another job again.

Power's out, 'puter's runnin'  
UPS, keeps it hummin'  
You're file's ok  
No losses today  
No need to find another job again

### What's the difference between these guys above?

\$179.00. That's all it takes to protect your computer with a **BEST Power Patriot 420 VA** battery backup system. These units are affordable and great for computers, point-of-sale systems, and TV/Satellite/Stereo systems. Their surge protection protects your equipment from damage. The batteries kick in to provide power during outages thus protecting you from loss of data, tapes stuck in VCR's and other unpleasant problems. **SALE! Save \$10.00 - Now thru Jan. 4 at:**

### The Downtown Fun Zone

832 Hwy 101, Port Orford  
(541) 332-6565





We wish you a happy and prosperous New Year. Thank you for your support the last five years.

**Mercedes Collection**  
48384 Hwy 101, Langlois  
348-2364

**Whale of a Wine Festival**

Preparation for the Whale of a Wine Festival continues. A variety of wineries will be presenting their finest along with food booths and vendors. Entertainment, whale seminars, and an art show/auction are part of the planned activities. For details, call the Gold Beach Chamber of Commerce office or Dana and Barb Schultz at the Sand N' Sea at 247-6658.

*Currydale Farms*



**Real Estate**

Land & Lamb  
Langlois — 348-2500

**Farm Mart**

Fencing • Feed  
Culvert • Gates

Animal Husbandry Supplies

Across from Ocean Spray  
347-4356

**Coastal Whale Watch Week**

Whale Watch Week kicks off December 26 with volunteer guides available to answer your questions from 10:00am to 1:00pm at Cape Sebastian. For more information call the Gold Beach Chamber of Commerce at 247-7526.

A quartet is four people who think the other three can't sing.



*Relax,  
Remember,  
& Return*

**Christophe Restaurant**

Located at The Inn At Face Rock  
3225 Beach Loop Drive  
Bandon By The Sea  
**(541) 347-3261 Res.**

8-2 Breakfast - Lunch • 5-9 Dinner  
Closed all day Mon & Tue.

**Feast of Stories**

A "Feast of Stories" will be offered to pre-school children, ages 3 - 5, Friday, December 27 at the American Legion Hall. Stories and activities will begin at 10:30am and conclude with a nutritious snack by 11:30am. Any parent wanting transportation for children to get to the story time may stop at the library or call 332-5622 to request a ride.

Shirley Nelson, Children's librarian, will lead the session. This is a monthly event, a joint effort of Port Orford Public Library and American Legion Post #76. The hall is located on 11th Street, next to the Community Building.

**Dr. Tom Pitchford**

**Office Hours:**  
Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri  
Please call for appointment

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here on Tuesdays



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(541) 332-8265 Eve. & Sun. Port Orford

## School Board Highlights December 10, 1998

A monthly report to the district staff on the school board activities.

Theresa Hewitt was appointed to fill out the term of Marc Farmer who resigned from the board in October. Ms. Hewitt will serve until June 30, 1997. She will take the oath of office at a special board meeting on Wednesday January 8, 1997.

Business Manager, John Phillips informed the board that the State of Oregon has informed the district that we will receive an additional \$60,000 in the past school support funds. The funds will be included in our May 1997 payment from the State of Oregon. These funds will be carried over to the 1997-98 budget year. The district office is also preparing a supplemental budget to present to the board for approval in January. The funds are those identified in the auditors report as cash carry over above the 200,000 estimate. It is recommended the funds be used for staff salaries, maintenance, technology and instructional needs.

The board passed a resolution to begin paying the classified employees 6% contribution to PERS, beginning with the November payroll. This resolution is per the negotiated agreement.

The district office during the month of December has been working diligently on the retroactive checks in hopes of making these available to employees prior to the Christmas break.

The board approved an additional duty contract for Richard Wold as principal at Pacific High School for one year.

The board will hold an executive session on January 8, 1997 to discuss the superintendents contract. Action on the contract was tabled until the January 14, 1997 regular meeting.

The board took action to allow Pacific High School students the opportunity to wrestle in the Bandon High School Wres-



# SWOCC

*Change Your Mind With Education - Come Grow With Us*

*We wish you a  
Happy and safe holiday season  
And a prosperous New Year!*

Classes begin Monday, January 6, 1997

**Southwestern Oregon Community College**

905 Oregon (Hwy 101)  
Port Orford  
(541) 332-5810  
(Fridays only)

29392 Ellensburg, P.O. Box K  
Gold Beach  
(541) 247-2741 (Mon.-Thu.)  
(541) 247-6247 FAX

ting Program.

Phil Sword, Principal at Blanco announced that Blanco has been invited to apply as a Model Title 1 Program. The Oregon Department of education has encouraged the school to apply and last week sent two department people to visit the school to talk with staff and students. A major reason for their interest is due to assessment data over the past three years looking so good. If successful the school could be either a School of Merit or a Distinguished School. A monetary award would follow.

Juston Potter, Transportation Supervisor reported on the recent vandalism and theft on the school buses. Almost all of the items stolen have been returned and the offenders are being dealt with by Curry County officials.

The board received four bids for a new school bus and accepted the low bid from Larsen Bus Sales. All bids were within \$2000 of each other. Larson was low at \$54,452.

Pacific High School presented a Detention Plan Draft for board consideration. The plan will be placed on the January 14, agenda for consideration.

The board approved two policies: School Volunteers and 2CJ internet.

The following Christmas Programs will be presented at Pacific High School: Dec. 17 at 7pm Choir Concert and Dec. 19th at 7pm a Band Concert.

### Letter to the Editor,

The sophomore class of Pacific High School would like to thank all the people who contributed to our Christmas Tree Raffle and the items at the Christmas Bazaar. We really appreciate it! Not only did they show their true Christmas Spirit, but they helped us increase our funds for the class of 1999.

You want to know who won the Christmas Tree? The lucky winner of the beautiful tree was Colleen Harrison. Congratulations! Merry Christmas and Best Holiday Wishes!

Paige Minton-Edison  
Secretary/Treasurer

A racetrack is a place where windows clean people.

A really great man is one who makes others feel great!

# Grantland Mayfield Gallery



UNIQUE HANDCRAFTED GIFTS FROM NATURAL MATERIALS  
ART WORKSHOPS BY THE SEA  
GLASS BLOWER ON SITE

Studio Blown Glass • Fine Art • Basketry  
Fibre Artists • Jewelry • Sculpture • Pottery  
Wearable Art • Visionary & Native American

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2,000 sq ft • More than 100 Area  
Artists • Gift Shop • Boutique  
Paintings • Pottery • Sculpture  
Studio Blown Glass

Open Daily 9-5, Extended Summer Hours  
246 6th St. (Hwy 101), Port Orford, Oregon

## Central Committee Officers

The Curry County Democratic Central Committee elected officers for 1997 at the December 17 meeting, held in Gold Beach. Martha Weaver-Britell was elected Chairman, replacing Barbara Ellis, Committee Chairman for the last two years. Chris Hawthorne was elected as Vice Chair, Tom Seither, Treasurer and Marlene Wilken, Secretary.

Martha and the rest of the Committee members expressed their thanks to Barbara Ellis, outgoing Chair, for the wonderful job she has done. Under her leadership the Curry County Democratic Party gave strong support to Democratic candidates in the last election.

Martha said she plans "to continue working with local Democrats to get the message out that the Democratic Party is still the party of working Americans; that Democrats not only care about families,

## THE WOODEN NICKEL

Handcrafted Myrtlewood

Retail - Wholesale

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1205 Oregon St.

Port Orford, OR 97465

but will continue to create programs like the Oregon Health Plan that really help Oregon families."

Martha continued to say "In 1997 we will be educating people here in Curry County about Governor Kitzhaber's agenda for Oregon, an agenda which includes budget requests for coastal coho salmon restoration. The Herald recently had an article indicating that our local Republican State Senator elect may not support the Governor's budget request for fish habitat enhancement. We need to let him know how important this funding is for our local watershed councils and fishermen". It looks like 1997 is going to be a busy year for Curry County Democrats.

## Bartlett's Cafe

*Merry  
Christmas*

from the staff at  
Bartlett's

Open 5am to 8pm Every Day

Located across Hwy 101 from  
The Downtown Fun Zone  
in Port Orford

## Take A Second Glance

Port Orford has a new store with the catching name of **Second Glance**. Owners Cora Dyanne and Joyce Spicer offer over 3,000 quality used books, used clothing, and several pieces of antique furniture as well as an assortment of jewelry.

Second Glance is currently located in part of the former Rolling Rink / Sentry Market / Greens Packing building which also houses Ali's Automotive, adjacent to Driftwood Elementary School. The store will move in January to the building now occupied by Breezin Hair Care located between the Port Orford Liquor Store and the Ace of Gems.

# JOHN B. HOUSER

## Barber - Hairdresser

553 - 19th. Port Orford

Tuesdays-Fridays 9 - 5 • Saturdays 10 - 2

**332-2050**

evenings by appointment

RICHARD AuFRANC  
LAWYER

ALSO: CPA INACTIVE

**COMMON SENSE  
LEGAL ADVICE**

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WILLS - PROBATES

TRUSTS - REAL ESTATE

Hwy 101 at 9th St.

**332-2102**

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## SERVICES

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**BANKRUPTCY, DIVORCE, Wills, Trusts, Deeds, -** Join our list of satisfied customers. For a low cost, sensible non-lawyer alternative, call Summer Rain Services, 347-9196.

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**DANNY'S LAUNDROMAT** will be closed Dec. 21st thru Jan. 2nd. We'll be back on the 3rd. Have a safe happy Christmas.

---

**MOBILE LOCKSMITH SERVICE** - keys, installations, repairs, locks opened. Auto, home, businesses. Bonded. 332-7404.

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**COUNSELING** for individuals, couples & families - Ernest Thayer, counselor for 20 years maintains a practice in Port Orford & Bandon. All issues including relationships, parenting, depression & abuse. Sliding fee scale (sorry no insurance). Call for a free confidential assessment. 332-3210.

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**NOTICE: THE NEW YOU** Beauty Boutique is moving to our new location 1/2/97 at 42516 Port Orford Loop Rd. We will be closed Saturday 12/28/96 through Wednesday 1/1/97. Thank you for your patience and support.

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**MARY KAY CONSULTANT** Carol Daniels is making room for New Year inventory. On hand products 25 - 35% off! Call 332-5942.

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**PLANTS! RHODIES, FUCHSIAS,** pansies, petunias, and more: Coastal Gardens Nursery now open 9-5 - Tuesday thru Saturday, Arizona St. near dump. 332-9018.

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**CARPETS DIRTY?** Need Janitorial Services? Call Sunrise Carpet Cleaning! Residential and commercial, licensed and insured. Free estimates. Call Cliff at 347-3164.

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**CHILD CARE** in my home room for one infant 332-7065.

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## GARAGE SALES

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**SIXES GENERAL STORE** Quitting Business Sale: December 31, 1996. 25% off soda, beer and smokes. 50% off all other stock in store. At 2pm Dec. 31, 1996 we will close for the last time. Thank you for your support & Happy New Year.

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## REAL ESTATE & RENTALS

---

**BEACH FRONT HOME** at an affordable price of \$229,500. 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath. Watch a sunset or walk the beach at your pleasure. Call 332-3822, 1-800-408-4663, Century 21, Campbell Realty Cathy or Toby.

---

**FOR RENT; LANGLOIS,** 3 bedroom older home, newly redecorated, 1 acre with creek, 2 greenhouses, \$485/mo., no smokers. 347-2817.

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**3 BEDROOM HOUSE** on lakefront, for rent. Fireplace, hobby room downstairs, utility room. 2-car car port, nice neighborhood. 332-1375.

---

**COMMERCIAL BUILDING** .With 2,240 sq. ft. only 4 years old. Well constructed has fire walls, heat pump, lots of potential. Call 332-3822 or 1-800-808-4663 at Century 21, Campbell Realty, Cathy or Toby..

---

**VICTORIAN STYLE HOME** with two bedrooms, one bath, second floor is large and open to many possibilities a steal at \$45,500. Century 21, Campbell Realty 332-3822 or 1-800-808-4663 Cathy or Toby.

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**LOOKING FOR PROPERTY** for your manufactured home ? Call Century 21 Campbell Realty 332-3422, 1-800-808-4663 ask Cathy or Toby. We have properties starting at \$17,000.

---

**EVERGREEN RV PARK,** quiet comfortable, cable TV, walk to beach, harbor, shops and restaurants. Outside storage available. Two blocks west on 9th off 101. 332-5942.

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## MISCELLANEOUS

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**FOR SALE SEASONED** firewood by the cord. Call 332-9031.

---

**ARTHRITIS** the incurable disease? Discover how to gain drug free relief from arthritis pain. SASE for info. Nutrition Center Box 283, Gold Beach, OR 97444.

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**MINOLTA EP 5420** console copier; 4 years old with 500k copies, 42cpm; 4 auto-select paper trays incl. 11x17; auto feed; duplexing; reduce and zoom. Many new parts; assumable service contract. Upgradable for collating and stapling. New \$12,000; now \$4250. 332-9775.

---

**YOUR FORTUNE** on the pilgrim's path "The Lovemans in Christmas is Jesus."

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**ART SUPPLIES.** Don't forget BASS art gifts for Christmas! Sets are available for every art medium - painting, drawing, colored pencils, pastels, oil pastels, Fimo, charcoal, watercolor, etc. BASS, on the Pedway, 175 Second St. Open 10 to 5:30 daily, Bandon.

---

**SATELLITE RECEIVER** - Panasonic C2000A w/infrared remote \$100. 332-6565.

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**MINI STORAGE/U-HAUL.** 200+ storage units, 150+ climate controlled. Airport-U-Stor, across from Ocean Spray 347-4356.

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**Don't Forget**

**Next week's deadline  
is 4:00pm Saturday,  
Dec. 28!**



*Melandar*  
*Jewelry & Gifts*

# Year End Clearance Sale

Starting Dec. 26

11th & Baltimore  
Next to Bandon Post Office  
347-3965

**Fifth in the Nation!**  
Continued from Front Cover

by white plank fences that constitute Race Horse Park which would be the course for the largest field of Junior Olympian cross-country runners ever assembled.

Three hundred and one runners constituting 29 teams from across the United States occupied a 100 meter long starting line at the beginning of the boys' youth race. At the sound of the gun, it became quickly apparent that speed, endurance, and strategy were going to play a big role in the outcome of the race. The 4000 meter course, soggy and occasionally muddy due to recent rains, meandered over small gentle hills and wound through small clumps of oak trees. The 301 runners slowly began to stretch out as the race progressed and it became apparent that the Southern Oregon Sizzlers were going to let the rest of the nation know who they were. Ian Dobson, a freshman at Klamath Union High School and a member of the Sizzlers, assumed the lead at the mid-point of the race with Welsh, Neely, Siciak, and Lang finding their niche in the group. As the race progressed, Dobson, slipped to third, but

Welsh, Neely, Siciak, and Lang began to surge. The Sizzler team was supplemented at this meet by Warren Claudia from Rogue River and T.J. Axel from Brookings. The team of seven was collectively in the midst of running their best race of the season. As the runners began to cross the finish line, coaches and parents were desperately trying to determine what their respective team scores might be, a calculation which was virtually impossible due to the number of teams and individuals who were participating as independent runners. The hour long wait proved to be worthwhile, as team results indicated that the Southern Oregon Sizzler Boys' Youth Team finished as the 5th best cross country team in the nation!

For Peter Welsh who was competing in the midget division, it was a week of frustration as he battled the flu prior to and during the race and could not perform at his best. To his credit, he did finish the race and can take consolation in the fact that he earned the right to run with the best.

After the youth race was concluded, the results posted, and the reality of "5th in the nation" had set in, the runners from Langlois-Port Orford could not help but reflect on what had transpired: There they were in Lexington, Kentucky where the best runners in the country had just migrated for the opportunity to see who was best - When all was over and done, a team from Southern California had finished on top. The Sentinel Striders from New England were second, the Rain City Flyers of Seattle third, The Indiana Track Club was fourth, and the Southern Oregon Sizzlers, with four members from Langlois and Port Orford, were fifth! Fifth in the nation!

The accomplishment is extraordinary. It demonstrates that wonderfully grand things can become a reality if a person works hard and performs well. It also demonstrates that enormous conquests can be made by individuals who live in

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small towns. Perhaps most importantly, it demonstrates what can happen when dedicated young people are joined by a supportive and nurturing community.

**Senior News**  
By Mary Yoder

Isn't the center decorated nice? I heard it was done by Thelma Lagace and Bessie Laursen Hope I have that right. There will be no Rotary luncheons till January 9th. The volunteers who did it all Thursday, December 19 were: Bobbetta Kron, Norma Ellis, Bessie Laursen, June Dennison set up the dining room, Dutch Heinauer did the dishes, etc. December 17 Clair Stahl was taking care of the office in the morning - can you believe - he takes care of the money - helps with the dishes some times - what a treasure. Harold Trimble was working when I went in the other day. Sure nice to see him. The Christmas pot luck is Wednesday, December 25. You all come join your friends. Now I'd like to thank every one who have been so wonderful giving me the goods on for 1996.

The New Years Dance is Tuesday, December 31 from 7:30pm till ? Bring finger food. We'll close now with this: The joy of being friends is just a simple code of faith and trust. A homey comradeship that stays the threatened fear of darker days; The kind of faith that brings to light, the good, the beautiful and bright; The best and blest, and true and rare - in having friends who love and care.

## Letter to the Editor,

Saturday, December 14 at Lexington, KY, proved many things. One; that five young men from Blanco Middle School can have a dream and with determination, self-discipline, hard work and miles of gut wrenching practices; become fifth in the nation for the 1996 Junior Olympics Cross Country National Championships. With the overwhelming support of our community, it most certainly made it possible for these athletes to fulfill this dream. As a chaperone, I would like to thank everyone for their generous donations and support for these boys. Not only did they prove they are champions, but our community can truly be proud of each one of them. Their performance on the field was impressive, but beyond the cross country course, these athletes proved themselves as true champions off the field as well. They represented their school and community in a way that all of us can be very proud of.

To acknowledge a strong force behind these young men, I would like to also thank Coach Jerry Cox. It takes a special person to get cross country runners to practice, practice, practice and to make them believe they like doing it! Bringing the team through a winning cross country season and supporting six individuals in the pursuit of the Junior Olympics proves to me that to become a champion you have to have an inspiration.

There are many unsung heroes making this dream a reality, thank you Earl Lang for your countless hours of organization, to the parents for their enthusiasm and unconditional support and to the many people who believed in our kids. With this support, Lane Neely, Mark and Peter Welsh, Kellen Siciak and Shawn Lang let the nation know what a small town can really do.

Lynda Foster

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