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HEPPNER

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Gazette times

VOL. 121 NO. 52 10 Pages Wednesday, December 25, 2002 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Juniper Canyon Road now open for travel



A truck travels down the newly opened Juniper Canyon Road

Santa visits daycare center



Santa with the kids at the Heppner Daycare Center

Santa brought car toys, coloring books, candy canes and other gifts to the children at the Heppner Daycare Center, on Friday, Dec. 20. Children at the Center ranged in ages in from 10 months to 11 years. Santa also took pictures with some of the children and stayed to get a group photo as well.

Juniper Canyon Road is now open for travel. The road had been closed for several months while Morrow County worked on realigning and reconstructing the roadbed. These changes will improve the safety of the road, as well as make it accessible for trucks taking products to market. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Oregon Transportation Investment Act (OTIA) have provided funding for this project.

The Morrow County Road Department is still working on the road and there may be some delays while equipment is being moved. The road is finished to gravel at this time, with paving of the road to occur in late Spring 2003. If you have any questions about this road or this project, contact Morrow County Public Works at 989-9500.

Cox brothers make donation to Senior Center

The Cox brothers made a \$250 donation in memory of their parents, Bill and Winifred Cox, to the St. Patrick's Senior Center in Heppner.

The money will be used, at their request, for the community Christmas dinner, to be held Wednesday, Dec. 25, at the Senior Center.

It will also go to provide the entrée for the Jan. 25, 2003 dinner for the Senior Board annual meeting. Monies will also be used for showing appreciation for the volunteers that give time in the office at the Senior Center. A free dinner will be held, Jan. 8, 2003, for these volunteers with the donation being picked up by the Cox donation.

Bill and Winifred Cox were long time residents of Heppner, where they raised their five boys. Bill was a member of the first Senior Center board.

Christmas messages from local pastors page 3

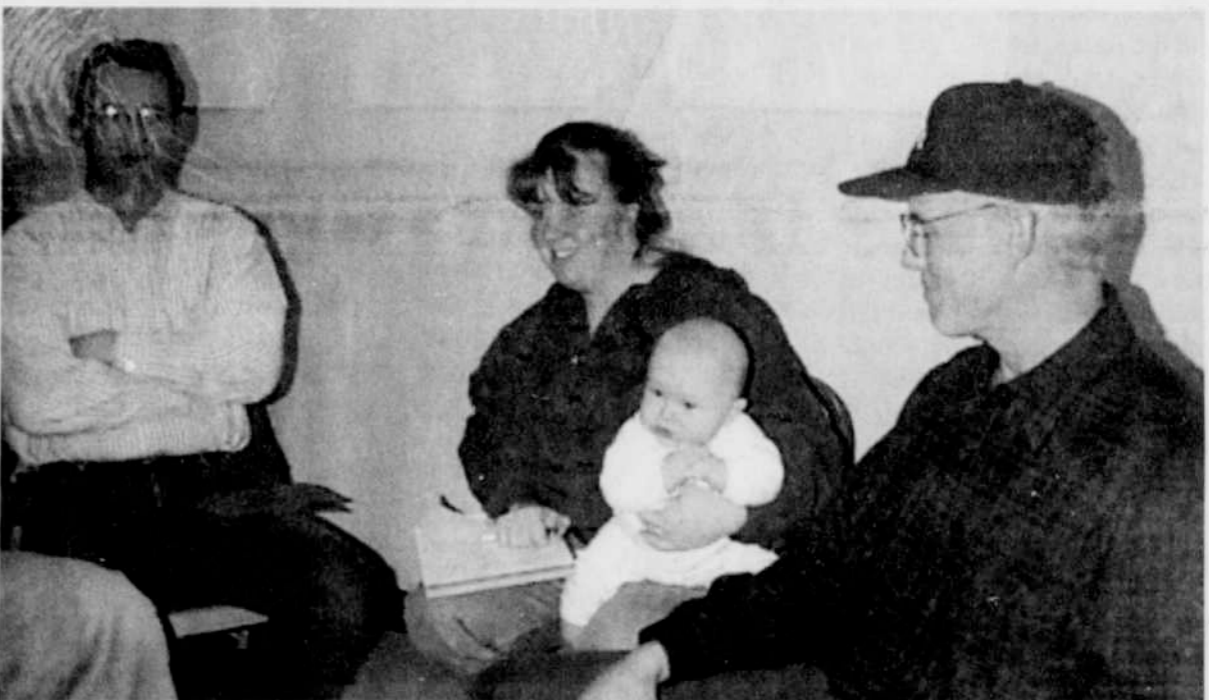
Ione community rallies to support school



Anne Morter (left) adds a revenue-boosting suggestion to a committee's list, with Sarah Carlson (center) and Arlynda Gates.



Ione High School students Tim Doherty (left) and Billy Gates brainstorm at the Ione community meeting with teacher Duane Neiffer.



Four-month-old Matthew Orem attended the Ione community school budget work session with his mom, Brandi Orem (center). Also pictured are Larry Lutcher (left) and Joe McElligott.

They brought the babies. They brought the old ladies. They brought the teens and parents and everyone in between. And they all got together—150 strong—in the Ione School cafeteria Tuesday, Dec. 17, to come up with ideas on ways to cut more than \$270,000 to balance the Ione Schools' 2003-04 budget and increase funding to their school.

The scene was "organization with a capital O" as each person entering the cafeteria received a handout with a number on the back. After an informational session with Morrow County School Board member John Rietmann, Ione, the assembly was divided into groups by number. Each group was assigned to come up with budget cutting ideas and ways to increase revenue to the Ione School. At the end of the meeting one person from each group presented their ideas. Each revenue-boosting suggestion was assigned to an Ione group for follow-through. Budget cutting

suggestions were to be presented to Dr. Jack Crippen, Morrow County School superintendent.

Suggestions for cuts included cutting: the Ione Schools principal, custodian, music program, art program, tech ed program, business program, laundry person, lunch program, field trips, outdoor school, bussing, district courier, second language requirement, counselor, classified substitutes, extra duty ticket takers, administrative overhead at the district level, shop program, career ed, Plato computer system, school supply budget, one science teacher, one elementary school teacher, PE teacher and ESD services. Other suggestions included funding music, art and drama through the Morrow County Unified Recreation District, which already provides funding for athletics and other co-curricular and community activities; selling the district-owned house in Ione which has been used as housing for the Ione principal; selling the district office; combining classes,

including seventh and eighth grade and high school classes; sharing teachers district-wide, via the v-tel system; eliminating non-core curriculum; holding football games during the day to save utility costs; eliminating the state CIM and CAM requirements for students; instituting a pay freeze or a \$1-\$2 cut in personnel wages district-wide; having students clean their own school rooms; having parents or teachers do the school laundry; donating school supplies; instituting half-day kindergarten; instituting block scheduling; and organizing volunteers for aides, ticket takers, janitorial services, carpools, providing music and art and even making school lunches.

Ideas to increase revenues included: building a boarding school to draw out-of-town students; advertising for additional students; using educational interns or student teachers; increasing the number of foreign exchange students;

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FRIDAY AT 5:00 P.M. (Holiday schedule)**

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