

llllllllllllllllllllllll  
 Bessie Wetzeli Newspaper Library  
 University of Oregon  
 Eugene, OR 97403

## Santa and helpers deliver packages

Santa and his helpers, Heppner Volunteer Firemen and Jan Skaggs and Glennave Arriaga of the Heppner Neighborhood Center, spent Sunday, December 21, getting ready to deliver packages and Christmas baskets and other goodies to area families.

**Right**  
 Santa and Heppner Volunteer Firefighters gather around the tree before heading out on their deliveries



HEPPNER

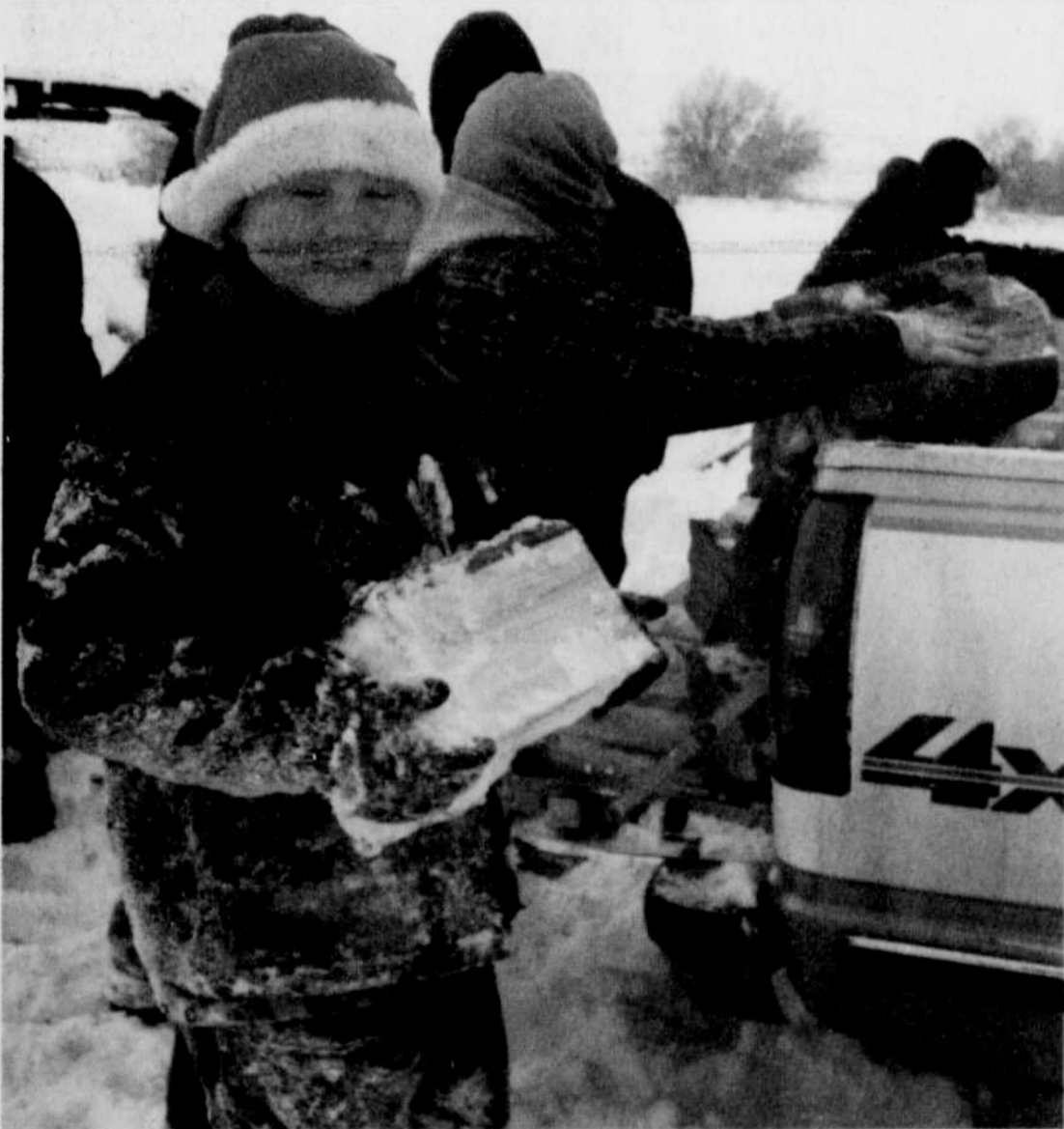
50¢



Gazette  
 Times

VOL. 127 NO. 52 10 Pages Wednesday, December 24, 2008 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

## Ranger District employees, volunteers brave weather to split and deliver firewood



"Santa" helps load firewood into a pickup for delivery

Braving the windy and blustery four-degree weather, over 18 community members and 12 Heppner Ranger District employees delivered eight cords of firewood to families in the Heppner and Lexington area on Saturday. This is the third year the Heppner Ranger District has spearheaded the community firewood project which is coordinated through the local Neighborhood Center. Current Forest Service employees, along with retirees and seasonal employees, split the wood several weeks ago which was donated by Dodge Logging. Donald Moody of LaGrande donated his time and equipment to off-load the wood.

*continued page three*

## Town and Country planned January 15

The Town and Country community event will be held on Thursday, January 15, at the Morrow County Fairgrounds: The event will begin at 6 p.m. with a "no-host" beer/wine bar operated by Murray's. "Puddin' on the Ritz" will be "putting together a great dinner consisting of prime rib/parmesan chicken, wild rice, dilly green beans, winter fruit and cranberry romaine salads, assorted rolls and blueberry cheesecake for dessert.

Entertainment will

be provided by Michelle Stone and the Heppner Elementary School Choir. The cost will be \$20 per person.

Tickets will on sale starting Friday, January 2, and may be purchased at Bank of Eastern Oregon, Chamber of Commerce, Heppner TV and Murray's Drug.

"Plan on coming and support our community award winners, enjoy great company, a great dinner and great entertainment," said Sheryll Bates, Chamber executive director.

## County deals with biggest snow fall in recent years

South Morrow County has been dealing with one of the heaviest snowfalls it has seen in several years, as city and county road crews, as well as the local Les Schwab, work to keep traffic moving.

The city of Heppner reports that there have been no "major" problems in town and has been constantly plowing and sanding to keep the streets passable.

Morrow County Road Department Director Burke O'Brien issued the following report Monday addressing the county's effort on snow removal:

O'Brien said he hoped to have the majority of the county roads opened by the end of the day Monday.

To handle snow removal, the Morrow County Road Department has six, three-axle plow trucks four of which have sanders. They also have one single-axle plow truck with a sander.

The OHV Park has one single axle plow truck with a sander which the road department is using this winter since the park is closed. This gives the county more plow trucks and sanders. They also have four road graders, all of which are operating in different areas of South Morrow County.

The county earlier purchased a snow blower which is powered by the OHV Park skid steer and it is being utilized to help with drift removal on several county roads. It is also being utilized to keep the Cutsforth Park lot clear for snowmobilers this winter.

O'Brien says the county is plowing the major connector roads first including Tower Road, Bombing Range Road, Baseline Road, Willow Creek Road, Hardman Ridge Road, Rhea Creek Road, Sunflower Flat Road and several others. Once these roads are open they will begin working on the secondary roads.

On weekends and holidays the list to maintain is as follows: Tower Road, Columbia Avenue in the

*continued page three*



Les Schwab employee Matt Baker puts on a set of snow tires Monday. The tire store has been working hard to meet the demand.

## Long court career comes to an end for Sharon Biddle



Sharon Biddle

After spending 33 years "on the top floor of the courthouse" as she says, Sharon Biddle has worked with many people over the years.

She started out working in the district attorney's office and then in January 1983 moved to the Circuit Court. The district attorney at that time was Herman Winter and then she also worked with Dennis Doherty.

In the Circuit Court she has been mainly responsible for keeping the court docket which means working closely with the attorneys and the

judges. When she started, judges Olson and Wells were the Circuit Court judges. "That has been the most enjoyable part of the job she says," working with the attorneys and the judges. She estimates she has worked for 10 different judges over the years.

Biddle's last day on the job is Dec. 31 and she and her husband Sonny, who retired earlier this year, plan on eventually settling in Montana where they have some property.

"We have to stay and watch our grandson play football next year," she says.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:  
**MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.**

**AT MCGG GREEN FEED & SEED IN HEPPNER:**



Merry Christmas to all our friends and customers!

We will be closed Wednesday at noon  
 Open again Friday for regular hours, Saturday 8 a.m. - Noon



**Morrow County Grain Growers Green Feed & Seed**  
 242 W. Linden Way, Heppner • 676-9422 • 989-8221 (MCGG main office)