

Ranger District employees, volunteers brave weather to deliver firewood

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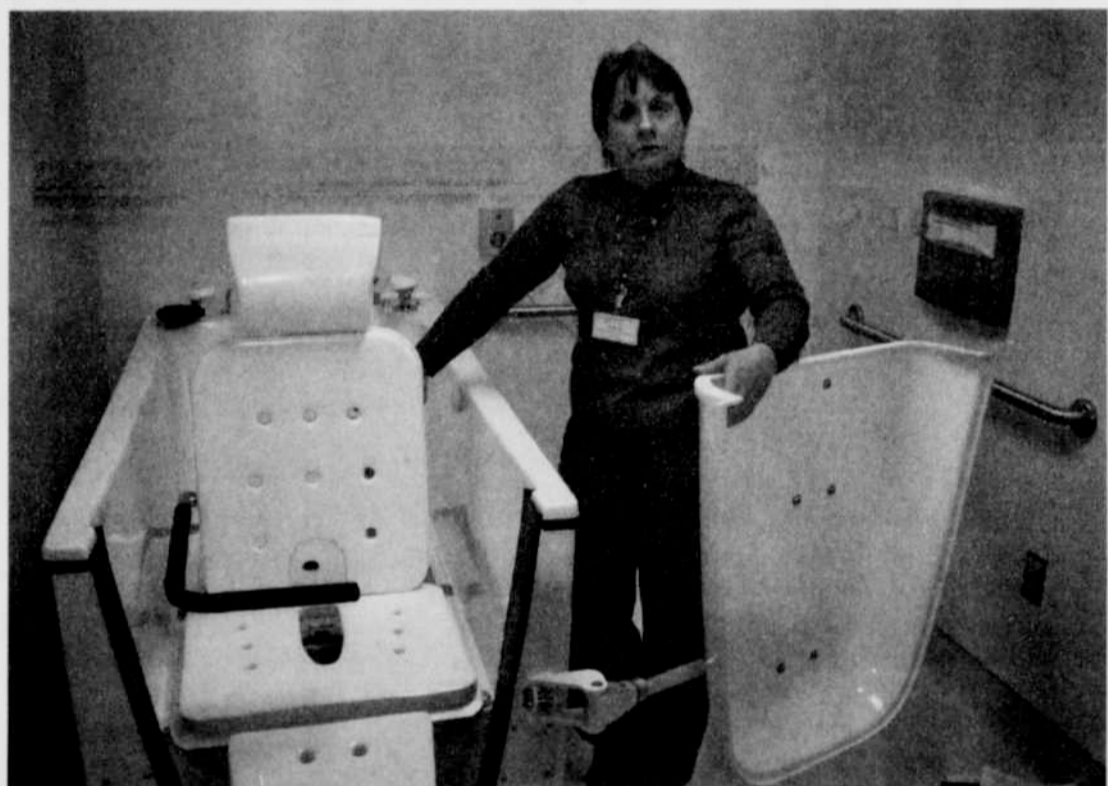


The whole group of "Santa's" helpers pause for a photo



Volunteers work in the chill to deliver split firewood

Open house shows off new long-term care facility at Hospital



Molly Rhea, Director of Nursing, Home Health and Hospice, shows the special bath at the new long-term care unit recently completed at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner

Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner recently underwent a major remodeling and expansion to put in an eight-bed nursing facility, which is now ready to begin receiving residents, and an open house was held Monday to show off the facility. Contributors to-

ward the facility include: \$20,000 from Pioneer Memorial Hospital Foundation; a \$20,000 Tippage Grant from Morrow County;

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County deals with biggest snow fall in recent years

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Icicles hang off a building in Heppner

On Friday, only a handful of volunteers had signed up for Saturday's delivery, until Heppner High School teacher John Flaherty started contacting high school students, and by Saturday helpers began arriving. Volunteers ranged in age from kindergarten to senior citizens. It was a family affair for Forest Service Ranger Conservationist Tim Collins who brought his wife, Jeannie, along with their three kids. It was an international effort as well when Forester Carrie Spradlin invited a friend visiting from Scotland to join the group.

Even though it was bitterly cold, volunteer Terry Harper said it best. "I could be sitting at home in front of a warm fire, but the thought of someone else not having a fire to stay warm was overwhelming."

Those participating included: Bryan and Matt Holland, Larry and Dillon Lutzer, Terry and Curtis Harper, Jordan Hatfield, Quinn Chick, Jake Gregory, Chris Hickerson, Dave, Joe and Justin Pranger, John Flaherty, Mike Burns, Jeromy and Jen Wilson, Thomas Mafera, Dale and Jesse Boyd, Gary Popek, Brian Spivey, Tim, Jeannie, Maggie, Patrick and Roy Collins, Carrie Spradlin, Ian MacLachlan, Rebecca Wese-man, and Marcia Kemp.

Port of Morrow, Bombing Range Road, Baseline Road and Willow Creek Road. This totals 150 miles, and with 180 miles of minor collectors, there are close to 330 miles of roads for maintenance, O'Brien points out. He adds that this mileage needs to be doubled since it takes two passes with a plow to cover the average road. With 12 plows out, this works out to 55 miles per plow.

At the north end they keep two trucks and one pickup plow and sander working at all times in the winter months. The remainder of the equipment takes care of everything from Bombing Range south.

The county's general maintenance department has a pickup plow and sander and does all of the parking lots and has been hired by the city from time to time to assist in plowing streets as well as helps with some county roads, O'Brien says.

The county has a total crew of 19 including two mechanics and a

weed supervisor. At times the weed supervisor either plows snow or works in the shop helping with chain repair.

The other 12 vehicles are manned by the remaining 16 people on the road crew. O'Brien says that the crew handles weekends and, with any rotation of personnel or anyone out sick, it can stretch manpower very thin. He added that there is one man off with a medical condition now.

The crew starts work at 4:30 a.m. and works until dark on snow days. The manpower does not allow for a night shift, however they do run weekend routes.

O'Brien says the county will also utilize some local contractors on an emergency basis or as needed.

"We still feel however that it is advisable to avoid unnecessary travel and always carry adequate storm survival equipment in your vehicle. Please bear with us we are doing our best to make your travels as safe as possible on this holiday season," O'Brien said.



Janet McDowell makes her way across a snowy Main St. in Heppner Monday



Heppner city crew member Randy Sample blows snow off the sidewalk on Willow St. in Heppner