

The Official Newspaper of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

**OWPA**  
Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association

The Heppner  
**GAZETTE-TIMES**  
Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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## Letters to the Editor

### Support restoration of Heppner Hotel

To the Editor:  
Dear Mayor Costa and members of the Council:

The purpose of this letter is to state our support for the restoration of the hotel building into a senior citizen residence.

It has come to our attention that there is hesitancy on the part of the council to forge ahead with this project and we want to let you know that, as merchants in the downtown area, we have heard nothing but positive comments from the public regarding the project.

Certainly the senior citizens are supportive of the idea, with 19 rental units planned and more commitments to rent than there are units available. Plus the seniors are working hard to raise funds to contribute toward the project.

Consider this: Would you rather see an unused, decaying fire hazard in the heart of our little town, or would you rather see a renovated, utilized building with increased activity in the downtown area.

It will be convenient to seniors who will be within walking distance to the post office, pharmacy, grocery, etc.

We understand that you have authorized a sum of money to be paid to the bond council for a bond rating study and we commend you for that action.

We ask that you please proceed with the project with the knowledge that the community support is there.

Sincerely,  
(s)Forrest & Gail Burkenbine,  
Heppner

### Explains BUILD Oregon program

To the Editor:

Perhaps the biggest challenge, and opportunity, to face me as State Treasurer during my term of office is the recently passed Federal Tax Reform Bill.

Tax Reform creates challenges because not only will the financing of public improvements have to meet new and rigid tests, but also because it places limits on the volume of bonds each state can offer. Municipal debt financing will be more difficult and more expensive.

Oregon must get off the beach before the tidal wave of tax reform crashes over us. But since I see tax reform as only part of the continuing hostility to municipal debt financing by the U.S. Treasury, it is not enough to move off the beach; it is essential to position ourselves out of harm's way.

The effects of tax reform have not yet been felt, so many people don't realize there is a problem. Just as many people do not want to take vitamins when they are feeling all right, we are having some difficulty convincing them they are about to get sick. But they will get sick and soon. What we needed is the proper medicine available in our medicine chest.

The first time Oregon is unable to offer bonds for a housing or water facility because of volume caps, and taxpayers are offered the prospect of no improvements or even higher taxes, we should have a solution ready.

Another challenge of tax reform is to find a replacement for Industrial Development Bonds which are sunsetted under tax reform. Although the merits of IDB's are frequently debated, it seems unlikely that business demands for concessions will go away. Hence, if we are to compete with other states for new businesses, I predict that some clone of IDB will need to appear in Oregon.

Over a year ago, I became convinced of these trends, so I began to look for solutions.

Because Oregon has suffered severely from a poor economy since 1981, I worried about what would happen if we lost the ability to finance IDB's and needed capital improvements in our communities. Because I believed we, as offerors of municipal debt, would be pushed into the taxable market, I believed we should have the choice of any taxable market.

As I studied these problems for solutions, the image of a solution began to appear. It was to develop into a program which I announced this fall called BUILD Oregon. I was later to learn that several other states, notably Illinois, have plans which share some of the features of BUILD Oregon and some of the same objectives, which only proves the strength of the idea.

BUILD Oregon, however, is unique and tailor-made to Oregon, has features the other programs do not have, and is designed to be self supporting.

The program has five components and unique financing alternatives. It is as big as needed, but no larger than necessary.

Sincerely,  
(s)Forrest & Gail Burkenbine,  
Heppner

## Births

**William Brooks Grubaugh**-a son, William, was born December 18 to Carolyn and James Grubaugh of Ione at Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 6 lbs. 1 oz.

**Jessica Lyn Wainwright** - a daughter, Jessica Lyn was born December 24 to Stacey Kennedy, Heppner, and Buz Wainwright. The baby weighed 7 lbs. 7 oz.

Grandparents are Larry and Ellen Kennedy, Heppner, and Al and Mary Ellen Wainwright, Madras. Great-grandparents are Floyd and Lauretta Lantis, Condon, and Dewey Kennedy, Heppner.

**Trampus Wayne Venkant-Jeffreys**-a son, Trampus was born December 18 to Helen Venkant of Heppner at Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 6 lbs. 9 oz.

**Blair Ashley Keithley**-a daughter, Blair was born January 6 to Kelly Jo and Jay Keithley of Heppner at Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 5 lbs. 14 oz.

Grandparents are Vern and Ginger Keithley, Heppner, Dick Rice, Lexington, and Carol Rice, Springfield.

Great-grandparents are Everett and Helen Keithley, Heppner, Evelyn Rice, Kelowna, British Columbia

**Joshua Dale Lankford**-a son, Joshua was born December 28 to Susan and Steven Lankford of Heppner at Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 7 lbs. 15 oz.

Grandparents are Bob and Betty Lankford and Mike and Marlene Gray, all of Heppner.

Great-grandparents are Dutch and Lavonne Lankford of Pilot Rock and Merritt and Maxine Gray of Heppner.

**Cody Richard Clow**-a son, Cody was born January 8 to Kathy and Eric Clow of Hermiston at Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 6 lbs. 12 oz.

Grandparents are Norman and Bonnie Clow, Irrigon; Elmer Hansen, Pilot Rock and Cathy Hansen, Trinidad, Colo.

Great-grandparents are John and Hazel Clow and Weldon and Daisy Swan, all of Dayton; and Lulu Rowan, Boise, Idaho.

## Hospital Notes

Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner reports admitting and discharging the following patients during the past week:

Kristi O'Brien, Heppner - admitted January 6, discharged January 6;  
Debbie Peck, Lexington - admitted January 7, discharged January 11; and

Owen Hughes, Heppner - admitted January 8, discharged January 10.

The following patients were still receiving care at the hospital Monday:

Myrtle Marshall, Lexington - admitted January 8;  
Norman Case, Heppner - admitted January 9; and  
James Pickle, Heppner - admitted January 11.

## District Attorney's Report

The Morrow County District Attorney's Office at the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner reports handling the following business during the past week:

Ray Matter, 25, unknown address, failed to appear for arraignment on January 9. A warrant was issued by Judge Ralph Currin.

Guillermo Arias Magana, 34, Boardman, failed to appear for arraignment on January 9. A warrant was issued by Judge Ralph Currin.

Jeffrey Todd McElhany, 20, Heppner, was arraigned before Judge Ralph Currin January 9 on eight counts of Sex Abuse I and two counts of Theft I. He entered a plea of Not Guilty. Trial is set for February 6.

Charles Allen Hanset, 25, Scappoose, was arraigned January 9 before Judge Ralph Currin on a charge of Driving While Revoked. He entered a plea of Not Guilty. Trial is set for February 6.

Terry L. Cook, 20, Washington, was arraigned January 9 before Judge Ralph Currin on 10 counts of Forgery I. He entered a plea of Not Guilty. Trial is set for February 6.

## Justice Court

Justice Court at the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner reports handling the following business during the past week:

Nicholas Scott Miles, Heppner - Switched License Plate, \$57 fine; Disobey Stop Sign, \$17 fine.

Jerry Harvey Derry, Fossil - Exceeding Bag Limit game birds to wit: exceeding limit on mallards, \$67 fine.

Richard Charles Baremore, Union - Overheight, \$31 bail forfeited.

John Brent Looney, Heppner - No Clearance Lights, \$26 bail forfeited.

Leona May Winters, Heppner - Violation of the Basic Rule (66 mph in a 35 mph zone), \$57 fine.

Patrick Dana Longbotham, Pendleton - Violation of the Basic Rule (38 mph in a 25 mph zone), \$30 fine.

Kenneth Charles Lindsay, Lexington - Violation of the Basic Rule (45 mph in a 25 mph zone), \$30 fine.

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## Editorial

# Hotel renovation will boost Heppner two ways

With the proposed hotel renovation project Heppner has the chance to (using the old cliché) kill two birds with one stone.

Number one, the hotel is in bad shape. Anyone who has been through the building can tell you that it is literally falling apart. The next time you are downtown take a look at this building and you can see that it is fast becoming an eyesore in Heppner. And it is not going to get any better. Considering the amount of money needed to fix the building up, don't expect a private owner to come in later and put money into the structure, because it just isn't feasible.

Along with its deteriorating condition, consider the possibility of fire in the old hotel. Fire is a real danger there, and once started it would be very difficult to put out. We could very easily have a repeat of what happened across the street in 1983, a devastating blaze that will take out a good portion of the block.

The second good reason for moving ahead with the renovation project, is the economic boost it could give to our town. The benefits for retired people living in Heppner are many, and our town is a desirable place for older people to live. Stores are easily accessible, the nursing home and hospital are nearby, recreation is available, and our town is safe. With the continued bad news we keep hearing about the economy of our county, it is good to hear some positive news for a change.

There is some risk involved with the project, but as with any forward movement, and with any progress there is bound to be risk.

Much of the hard work on the project has already been done, and major hurdles crossed. Money is available and there has been financial backing by local groups. An opportunity such as this for the betterment of Heppner does not come along often, and we should take advantage of it.

David Sykes

**WOOD CONNECTION**

All parties booked before January 31 for January and February receive 20% in hostess freebies or Valentine decoration. Parties over \$200 earn both.

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Deena Reid - 676-9973

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676-9157 or 676-5001  
Heppner

## Heppner Police Report

The Heppner Police Dept. reports handling the following business during the past week:

January 4, 12:40 a.m. - Security Check.

January 8, 9:59 p.m. - Parking citations issued.

January 10, 9 p.m. - took report of Criminal Mischief.

January 11, 2 p.m. - took accident report; 9:11 p.m. - citation issued for Expired Vehicle License.

January 12, 8:10 p.m. - received report of bad checks; 8:35 p.m. - citation issued for Careless Driving.

**OPEN HOUSE**

**LaVerne VanMarter**  
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Fri., Jan. 16  
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**Punch & Cookies**  
Stop by and wish Van  
Good Luck

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VAN MARTER  
& BRYANT  
INSURANCE