

Gazette Times

Ellis organizes St. Pat's 5K walk/run again this year



Janelle Ellis By Bobbi Gordon

Janelle Ellis of Heppner is preparing for her 12th year participating in the St. Patrick's 5K walk/run.

Her first step to turn it into a 5K run was to map out different routes around town.

She said after a year or two of feedback, she changed the route.

Heppner without a hill is difficult unless you head out one of the highways, which I did not want to do for safety reasons.

Ellis indicated she is not sure of the number of people who participate each year, but she thought they have had as many as 50 runners.

The Friends Helping Friends committee began the event at first as a tribute to Donna Schonbachler, a much-loved Heppner woman and home health nurse.

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their family and friends rather than feel like they are "working."

According to Friends Helping Friends committee member, Susan Hisler, Janelle brings a willingness to keep the event going each year.



Leah Sommers (left) and Janelle Ellis wear their inaugural St. Pat's Day "Donna Schonbachler Remembrance Walk" T-shirts.

she coached Janelle in Jr. High track and running wasn't everything to her back then.

Ellis was born and raised in Heppner, attended MHCC and graduated from Portland State University.

New Catholic priest arrives

By David Sykes

Saint Patrick Catholic Church in Heppner and St. Williams in Ione have a new priest, Fr. Thankachan Joseph.



Fr. Thankachan Joseph

Fr. Joseph was born in India and had been a priest there for 17 years.

He said he knew since he was nine years old and started attending church with his grandmother that being a priest was his life's calling.

social media and peer pressures. "I like to help them with time management," he says pointing out that young people often have only short-term memory and can daydream and not concentrate.

He says he likes being in the US and Heppner but does miss his family.

sometimes they feel unappreciated, like they are not doing good enough.

Fr. Joseph has known since he was a small boy that he wanted to be a priest.

He says he likes being in the US and Heppner but does miss his family.

Lexington a Second Amendment Sanctuary

Council votes unanimously: 'Right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed'



Juli Kennedy is sworn in as Lexington's new mayor by Town Recorder Denis Lien.

By David Sykes

Concerned that state government may be moving to take away Oregonians' Second Amendment rights to keep and bear arms, the Lexington Council last week voted unanimously to designate the town a Second Amendment Sanctuary.

While admitting that Lexington is just a small town, councilmembers said the people must start somewhere to stand up for their constitutional rights.

would hope other towns would pick this up and do this," Councilmember Bill Beard said.

Others in the audience said the Oregon Legislature, which is controlled by liberal Democrats from the Portland metro area, will probably begin passing anti-firearms laws in the upcoming legislative session.

The three-page ordinance respects existing federal firearms laws but pushes back against any new laws that, among other things, would tax firearms or accessories.

The new ordinance designates violations to be a civil offense and a Class A violation with a maximum fine of \$2,000 for an individual and \$4,000 for a corporation.

According to a website run by an organization called Oregon Firearms Federation, there are currently 24 out of the 36 coun-

ty governments in Oregon that have created either ordinances, resolutions or letters defending Second Amendment gun rights.

In other business last Tuesday's meeting newly appointed mayor Juli Kennedy was sworn into office and presided over her first meeting.

The council heard a report from Fire Chief Charlie Sumner who said he was going to approach new Heppner Fire Chief Steve Rhea about asking if Lexington might be able to join the rural fire district.

In other business the council reviewed a pro-



Scott Lamb has been hired for the maintenance position in Lexington.

posed budget calendar for the budget committee to begin the budgeting process for the upcoming year.

The council heard a report from new city recorder Denis Lien who gave a positive report and said he is getting a feel for the job and getting a handle on the city's financial systems and bookkeeping.

In other business Councilmember Bobbi Gordon introduced the new town maintenance man, Scott Lamb of Heppner, who recently moved to the area from Irrigon.

Polaris advertisement for the 2019 Ranger XP 900 EPS, featuring rebates up to \$1,500 and financing as low as 3.99% APR.