



# the HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES

50¢  
VOL. 140 NO. 1 8 Pages Wednesday, January 6, 2021 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

## Vehicle crashes into dentist office



A driver who is believed to have had some sort of medical emergency, hit the front of the Advantage Dental office in Heppner last Wednesday. Inset: the vehicle that hit the building suffered some damage.

Mark Andrew White, 71, of Heppner has been identified as the driver of the vehicle that rammed into the Heppner Advantage Dental Office, twice,

before a bystander, who refused to be identified, jumped into the vehicle and stopped it. The employees inside the dental office said it sounded like a bomb went

off. The driver appeared to have suffered a medical emergency, according to information provided by the Morrow County Sheriff's Office.

Dr. Joseph Sharon, the dentist at the office, who was outside after the accident along with the employees, said that the office will be closed down until further notice.

## Bowles still sought as person of interest

Oregon State Police are still searching for David Bowles, husband of Marlen Bowles who was shot on December 15 in Heppner and later died. Bowles, 43, is a person of interest in the investigation. According to Morrow County Sheriff Ken Matlack, the lead for the investigation was transferred to OSP partly because David Bowles is the brother of Morrow County Undersheriff John Bowles.



David Bowles

any information about the location of David Bowles to contact the state police, as any piece of information could help. "I am requesting that anyone with information on this case please contact the Oregon State Police. I am concerned that there are members of our community that have information that has not been shared. While they may have received information from someone else, that is still information that law enforcement may not have at this time. I am worried that people in our

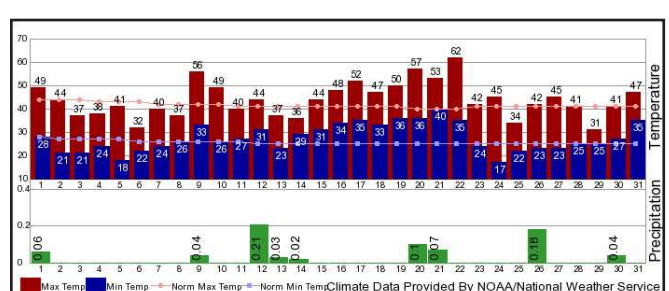
community just assume that information they hear is known to law enforcement and many times that is not the case. If you do see David Bowles please do not approach him and instead call law enforcement right away."

The investigation is being led by OSP Sgt. Sean Beldine, Baker City. Beldine is the criminal sergeant who handles Umatilla, Baker and Union counties. At this time, a press release with information regarding the investigation has not been released.

Bowles was last seen driving a brown Chevrolet Impala with Oregon license plate URG552. He is a 5-foot-6, 180-pound white male with graying hair and blue eyes. Police are urging residents to not confront him, but to call 911 or OSP Dispatch at 800-442-2068 and reference OSP case No. SP200348879.

## December warmer than normal

According to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton, temperatures at Heppner averaged warmer than normal during the month of December.



The average temperature was 35.7 degrees which was 2.3 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 43.9 degrees, which was 2.5 degrees above normal. The highest was 62 degrees on the 22nd. Low temperatures averaged 27.5 degrees, which was 2.0 degrees above normal. The lowest was 17 degrees, on the 24th.

There were 22 days with the low temperature below 32 degrees. There was one day when the high temperature stayed below

32 degrees. Snowfall totaled 0.5 inches. The heaviest snowfall was 0.5 inches reported on the 13th.

The outlook for January from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner during January are 43.6 degrees and normal lows are 26.7 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 1.47 inches.

## Morrow County moves from extreme to high-risk status

### Allowed to resume offering indoor services

Morrow County, one of five Oregon counties, recently moved from extreme risk to high risk based on recent COVID-19 spread. Umatilla County is one of the 24 counties that remained in the extreme risk category.

Oregon Governor Kate Brown announced the updates to the risk levels based on the state's new public health framework which is supposed to reduce transmission of the COVID-19 virus. The framework uses four different risk levels for counties based on

COVID-19 spread: extreme risk, high risk, moderate risk and lower risk. Health and safety measures are assigned for each level.

The five counties, Clatsop, Coos, Douglas, Lincoln and Morrow, moved to the high-risk category effective January 1. High risk is the first level where some businesses and facilities can resume offering indoor services. There are still 24 counties considered at extreme risk, seven counties at lower risk and zero at moderate.

## Matlack receives COVID-19 vaccine



Morrow County Sheriff Ken Matlack is the first to get his COVID-19 vaccination at an outdoor clinic held by the Morrow County Health Department on December 31. Matlack's shot was administered by Erin Anderson, RN, Morrow County Health Department nurse. People receiving the shots were told to wait for 15 minutes before leaving in case of a reaction. They will need to wait 28 days before receiving the second dose.

## County officials sworn in



County officials, elected in November, were sworn in Tuesday at the Morrow County Court House. L-R: Commissioner Jim Doherty, Clerk Bobbi Childers, Justice of the Peace Glen Diehl, Treasurer Jaylene Papineau and Sheriff Kenneth Matlack. -Photo by David Sykes.

POLARIS advertisement for snowmobiles. Includes the text 'WINTER STARTS NOW' and 'REBATES UP TO \$2000 ON SELECT MODELS'. The background shows a person riding a snowmobile in a snowy environment.