



# the HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES

50¢

VOL. 140 NO. 2 8 Pages Wednesday, January 13, 2021 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

## Juvenile arrested in town-wide graffiti spree

Locals clean up after vandal targets churches and more



Bill McDowell (left) and Merlin Hughes paint over graffiti on the stairs at the Episcopal Church. -Photo by Janelle Ellis.



Graffiti at the Episcopal Church.



Larry Lutcher, Janet Greenup, Father Thankachan Joseph and Jerry Healy (not pictured) repaint the Catholic Church and garage door of the parsonage to cover up the vandalism that was done sometime Sunday night. -Photo by Janelle Ellis.

## Heppner Saint Patrick's Day Celebration canceled

'We don't want it becoming a super spreader'



Because of COVID there won't be any leprechauns roaming the streets of Heppner this March.

By David Sykes

Fearing the event could turn into a COVID super-spreader event, the Heppner City Council Monday shut down the 2021 Heppner Saint Patrick's Day Wee Bit o' Ireland event, saying there would not be a celebration this year.

The council was in unanimous consensus the celebration, which can attract thousands of out-of-town people to Heppner, was not a good idea with the current COVID-19 pandemic still out there.

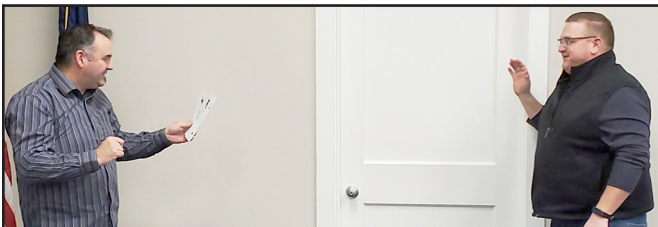
The council decided to make the decision now instead of waiting until closer to the event to avoid a repeat of last year where

vendors and merchants stocked up on supplies only to have the event cancelled which left them taking the loss on unsold merchandise. "If you are going to have St. Patrick's, now is when you start to plan for it," City Manager Kraig Cutsforth said in urging the council to make an early decision. "I don't want a repeat of last

year with all the planning costs and then no event," he said. "There is real concern. We don't know if we want two thousand people coming in and it becoming a super spreader." A super spreader is the name given to events and gatherings that draw large crowds and close contact causes a big surge in COVID infection

rates. The council agreed and with consensus said there would be no event in 2021. "Maybe next year we can come back and have one twice as big," Mayor Jim Kindle said optimistically.

In other business at the meeting newly elected and re-elected councilmembers and the mayor were sworn in. First Council President Corey Sweeney swore in -See ST. PAT'S CANCELED/PAGE TWO



Keeping their proper social distancing, Heppner City Council President Corey Sweeney (left) swears in re-elected Mayor Jim Kindle, after which Kindle swears in Councilmembers Sweeney (right) and JoAnna Lamb. All councilmembers, staff and the public do wear masks throughout the council meetings.



## Coffee roasting business opens in Heppner



Browne House Coffee's roasting room is open on Wednesdays for samples.

By Bobbi Gordon

Travis and Laura Winters opened Browne House Coffee, a fully licensed FDA coffee roasting business, in June of 2020. However, they bought the facility and started building the business a year prior. "Coffee roasting has been a dream of ours for a long time, and we are excited to share our product with the community," Laura noted.

The roasting facility is located in the brown building next to the Neighborhood Center on Main Street in Heppner. The Winters told the Gazette, "Many businesses have located here over the years, and we are proud to put a business back in the building." They said they are excited to build a business that not only thrives but can give back to the community as well. They are pleased that many community members have tried, shared, gifted and enjoyed their coffee.

Browne House Coffee provides high quality roasted coffee beans to eastern Oregon and the pacific northwest. At this time, coffee can be ordered online, with shipping available, through Facebook and Instagram. Their website

will be coming soon. They sell wholesale coffee to businesses as well.

The roasting room is open to the public from 4 to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays for pickup and samples. Their future plans include providing additional coffee services and merchandise as the business grows.

Travis Winters was born and raised in Heppner and came back ten years ago to start a family. He is currently the main roaster and contact for the business and is enjoying starting a business in his hometown.

Laura Winters moved to Heppner with Travis and is currently a teacher in Boardman. Together they have two girls and live in a family home in Heppner. She first experienced picking and roasting coffee while living with a family in Nicaragua as a teenager. Coffee has been a part of her life in many ways through the years - as a roaster, a barista and a consumer. Laura said she is passionate about sourcing green coffee from farms that treat workers well, pay fair wages and practice sustainable farming, and working with importers that share the same ideals.

## No evidence of foul play in Bowles' death

David Lee Bowles, 43, Heppner, was found deceased in his cell at the Umatilla County Jail on Saturday, January 9. According to the press release from the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office (UCSO), there is no apparent evidence of foul play. Early Saturday morning, while conducting morning rounds, jail staff discovered Bowles deceased in his bed.

Oregon State Police had previously reported that Bowles had turned himself in to the Morrow County Sheriff's Office on Thursday, January 7 after he had been named as a person of interest in the shooting death of his wife, Marlen Bowles, on December 15. He was jailed on charges of

first-degree manslaughter and felon in possession of a weapon.

UCSO staff and detectives are conducting an investigation into the death. Morrow County District Attorney, Justin Nelson, told the Gazette an autopsy was scheduled for Bowles Monday, January 11 to determine the cause of death.

"David Bowles was our primary suspect in the shooting of Marlen Bowles. When he was arrested, we had already filed a secret Information of Felony against him involving the shooting and had a nationwide arrest warrant outstanding. With his death the case will now need to be dismissed because the defendant is deceased," Nelson continued.

**POLARIS**

GOING ON NOW!

MORROW COUNTY GRAIN GROWERS

350 MAIN STREET LEXINGTON OR 97839  
CONTACT JUSTIN BAILEY 541-256-0229, 541-989-8221 EXT. 204

WINTER STARTS NOW  
UPGRADE YOUR RIDE

REBATES UP TO \$2000 ON SELECT MODELS

POLARIS.COM/SNOWMOBILES