

SPRD: Interim will continue her work for district

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after the departure of Liam Hughes, resigned her position effective October 24.

Snead currently serves as a member of the Jefferson County School District 509-J school board. She owns her own consulting business headquartered in Madras, serving as a consultant to businesses and organizations like SPRD that need some reorganization and streamlining.

She thrives on the work of shoring up an organization’s policies and procedures. In an earlier interview with *The Nugget*, Snead said, “I love this stuff.” She sees internal controls of finances as crucial to the health of any business. Establishing clear policies and procedures for all employees and human resources-related issues is one of her goals. She is also working with the board to prioritize programs and create a solid cost recovery plan.

SPRD recently succeeded in securing three \$5,000 grants, one to assist with rekeying the building, another to go toward scholarships, and a third to help support a new 10-week Friendly Agers Program.

Snead reported to the board that the Senior Health Fair held on October 19 had 18 vendor/participants and 99 attendees. The Happy Girl Run on November 2-3 saw 765 race participants. SPRD was able to make \$1,936 on the event through the silent auction, driving a van shuttle for participants, and receiving \$1 per participant as the local beneficiary of the event.

“We feel very lucky to have the option of having Courtney stay on,” said SPRD Board Chair Jeff Tryens.

GUITARS: Event will showcase vintage sound

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massive medical and living expenses. That account can be accessed at <https://www.gofundme.com/preston-thompson-family>.

Fortunately for the business, Thompson had long-since built a crew of skilled craftsmen who are fully capable of carrying on the legacy of Preston Thompson Guitars at their expected level of quality.

Thompson launched an intensive study of 1930s Martin guitars in the 1970s and ’80s, learning to build guitars that captured the unique, complex sound of those golden-era guitars.

The vagaries of career took him away from guitar-building. He sold off his equipment and worked for Sunriver Resort from 1987 to 2001, part of that time as marketing director. Then he worked for Black Butte Ranch for four or

five years.

“After that, I decided to get back into it,” he told *The Nugget* in 2013.

The Internet played a key role in the revival of his guitar-building career. People were finding his 1970s and ’80s guitars, and were on the Web searching for their maker.

“Those guitars were out there working for me,” Thompson said.

For several years, Thompson made guitars out of his home shop in Bend. Dave Blakeslee, who collected instruments, and Sisters businessman Dan Stewart decided to go in with him to create a full-scale business, and Preston Thompson Guitars opened in Sisters in 2013.

Stewart is on hand every day helping to keep the business chugging along, Funk said.

“He was always a big believer in what Preston had and wanted more people to be able to experience those guitars,” Funk said.

The crew Preston built over

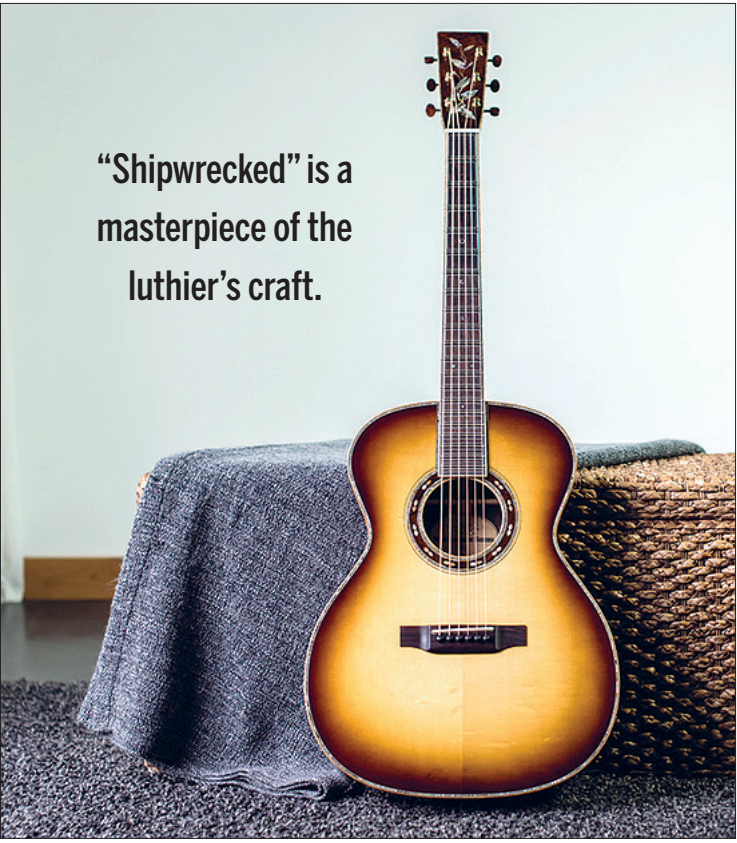


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the past five years has carried on through Thompson’s illness, using the secrets of sound that Thompson had rediscovered.

“He passed all that knowledge on to guys that were already skilled,” Funk said. “He just trusted them.”

The luthiers have now created the first in a Masterpiece Series of guitars, an exquisitely inlaid guitar built from “shipwreck” Brazilian rosewood — tonewood discovered from a 1920s shipwreck

of the coast of Brazil. They took “Shipwreck” to Portland to show to the founder in the hospital.

“He was really proud of everyone,” Funk said. “It was really a collaboration with his leadership.”

More on the Masterpiece Series may be found at <http://pktguitars.com/masterpiece-series/>.

The Belfry is located at 302 E. Main Ave. in Sisters — next door to Preston Thompson Guitars.

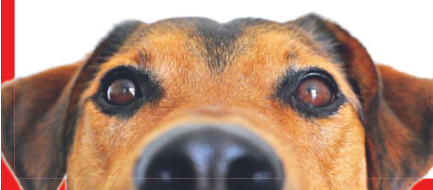


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“Shipwreck” features exquisite inlays and Brazilian rosewood tonewood recovered from a 1920s shipwreck off the coast of Brazil.

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