

CRASH: Community rocked by tragic loss of young lives

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stated that, “Investigators are still working to confirm where each occupant was seated at the time of the crash and believe speed was a contributing factor.”

The crash remains under investigation.

In a letter to the Sisters Outlaws community, Sisters High School Principal Joe Hosang wrote:

“We are heartbroken and our deepest thoughts and sympathies are with the families right now. We know there are tons of questions and we are still gathering information. Out of respect to the families, we are not sharing any details....

“A loss of this magnitude to our community is difficult, but working together, we can help our students through the grief process. *Please* know that we all deal with grief differently and feel different emotions. It is okay to feel whatever emotions you might be feeling. When we tragically lose someone, it leads to many questions, some of which may never be answered. Rumors may come out about what happened, but please don’t spread them. They may turn out to be untrue and can be deeply hurtful and unfair to the students and their families and friends.”

Last week’s incident is the third single-vehicle accident that has claimed the lives of young Sisters women in recent months. Twenty-four-year-old Summer Jean Collins died in a crash on Suttle Lake Road in August and 18-year-old Rianna McGonagle suffered fatal injuries in a wreck on Hwy. 199 in Josephine County last month.

SHOUP: Intern has hit the ground running for City of Sisters

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Even before Shoup arrived, City Manager Cory Misley knew what her duties would be. Her official title is Assistant Community Engagement and Program Coordinator. She will be splitting her time between the Comprehensive Plan update starting this fall and coordinating projects that were identified as objectives in the Sisters Vision Project. Misley and City Recorder Kerry Prosser will coordinate her activities.

One of Shoup’s underlying talents is her creativity, which she brings with her to her work. Given the restrictions due to COVID, she said, “I look forward to finding creative ways for the public to safely engage in providing input for the Comp Plan.”

Shoup’s resume highlights her creative talents as well as her work ethic. She attended the Vancouver School of Arts and Academics for high school and at the same time participated in the Running Start program at the local community college. She graduated from high school and at the same time received her associate’s degree.

At VSAA she expanded her talents as a visual artist (pottery, sculpture, painting,

drawing), which she turned into a business screen printing T-shirts and creating greeting cards, which led to commission work. She also focused on her skill as a writer in the literary arts program. In the field of moving arts (videography), she developed an interest in animation, illustration, and storyboarding, which she hopes to use during her time with the City.

Shoup’s diverse interests were apparent during her college years as she sampled a variety of disciplines from nutrition and sustainable agriculture to public health, finally settling on the Community Development Program at Portland State University. She graduated last spring with her Bachelor’s Degree in Urban Planning and Design. Part of all her pursuits has always been a strong desire to be of help to people.

Notification of her placement in Sisters wasn’t received until August 17, necessitating a scramble to find housing in a tight rental market, get moved, and report to work at City Hall in early September.

The native of southwest Washington spent some summer vacations with her two siblings and parents at Eagle Crest Resort, but had never been to Sisters. She “really likes Sisters” and reports that “the people have been great.”

The other two possible placements in the RARE



PHOTO BY SUE STAFFORD

Emme Shoup is an AmeriCorps intern working with the City of Sisters on community engagement.

program were in Astoria working with food systems and the port, or in Roseburg. With friends in Bend, Shoup was delighted to be assigned to Sisters.

Being an active person, one of the first things she tackled after arriving was summiting South Sister with friends and camping overnight on the mountain.

Last fall, Shoup studied permaculture design in Peru, expecting limited amenities, but was particularly impressed with their bus system, which was more like flying on a plane. The buses are double-deckers, with seats that allow passengers to lie down or they can watch TV wearing headphones. She had expected maybe some chickens on board.

When queried about her

views on the current tenor of our times, Shoup responded.

“I try to see the light. Both sides are impatient and frustrated. We’re going through some tumultuous times,” she said. “But I have hope because a lot of us are fighting. That’s a sign of hope that people still care.”

Shoup is particularly hopeful when it comes to those she calls “the children of the COVID years,” those coming along behind her who are having to be adaptable and resilient while dealing with bizarre norms.” She would like to see society “change how we regard and trust youth.”

Shoup’s optimism can be seen in her assessment of being in Sisters: “It was meant to be.” And so far, she “feels welcomed and appreciated as I am.”

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