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WEEKEND EDITION

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Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea

MAY STREET PARENT Rita Britt signs a letter in support of increased K-12 funding Thursday night at May Street, where she attended the Teddy Webber Scholarship Night with her daughter, Tia, 3, and son, Talon, 6. "I'm a Hood River native and I went through these schools, and now I have two children and I want them to have a good education," Britt said.

Schools raise funding alarm

By KIRBY NEUMANN-REA
News editor

A rush-order letter writing campaign is underway at the urging of Hood River County School District officials.

The Oregon Legislature is slated to decide as early as Tuesday on a 2015-17 biennium funding package for K-12 school support, and under the \$7.325 billion package, the lowest and most likely to pass, Hood River would look at \$1 million in cuts.

(See hoodrivernews.com for a full version of this story.)

A second formula, \$7.5 billion, would provide "fragile stability" for most districts including Hood River, according to superintendent Dan Goldman, who reported Wednesday to School Board following his visit to Salem earlier in the week.

He said that while both are larger than the current biennium, "neither option adds back anything cut in the last 10 years."

Saying "a more thorough discussion on the Oregon education budget proposal is necessary," Goldman put out a call on Tuesday, after his visit to Salem, asking district patrons to let the Legislature know they support increased K-12 funding.

"Put bluntly, the \$7.235 billion state budget is on the fast-track for adoption in Salem and will equate to an approximate \$1 million reduction for our school district next year," Goldman said.

"The status quo does nothing for fixing the fact that we (Oregon) are the second highest in class sizes (nationwide) and the fact that we are near the bottom of the barrel in

See **SCHOOLS**, Page A2

THREE FIGURES AND THEIR IMPACTS

According to Goldman, highlights (or lowlights) of the three main funding proposals include:

■ \$7.235 million — "Could equate to the elimination of teaching positions raised class sizes, reductions in athletics, and other extra-curricular activities, or other program reductions."

■ \$7.50 billion — "This funding level would allow us to maintain current class sizes, maintain curriculum and technology infrastructure."

■ \$7.875 billion — This would allow the district to make "targeted investments" in instructional time, lowering class sizes, career and technical education, Advanced Placement offerings, engineering and arts."

Positions open for the asking?

As March 19 ballot filing deadline nears, many elected positions have no candidates

By KIRBY NEUMANN-REA
News editor

Wanted: water, sanitation, port and transportation directors.

The May 19 Special Districts election will call on voters to choose who will lead the boards and commissions that oversee special taxing districts all over the county, including several that cover the entire county.

But if the election were held tomorrow, most races would provide no choice — and possibly no candidates at all.

The deadline to file is March 19, at the County Elections Division. For details, call 541-386-1442.

Based on filings so far, voters will have races between Chris Reitz and Rob Brostoff for the School District,

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VACANT SEATS
List, page A11

Exhibiting Potential

Museum welcomes new director

By PATRICK MULVIHILL
News staff writer

After nearly a year in executive limbo, the History Museum of Hood River County found a new director in Megan Shuemate. The Wisconsin native comes to the job with enthusiasm, experience and a drive to put the museum back on the public radar.

Shuemate, who stepped in Monday, filled a vital position in the museum that was vacant since last May when former director Connie Nice resigned for medical reasons.

Heritage Council chair Dottie Gilbertson, who had assumed managerial duties during the void, was excited to welcome Shuemate. "We've been without a director for a long time," said Gilbertson. "I've been acting kind of as an interim director because we didn't hire one as fast as we wanted to."

The museum director is the only full-time, paid member of



Megan Shuemate

staff. With the title comes heavy responsibilities include planning events and exhibits, coordinating with local businesses and drumming up public involvement for the museum's cultural initiatives.

According to Shuemate, literal heavy duties are also a part of the job. She cited "heavy lifting" as an unexpected challenge in setting up

See **MUSEUM**, Page A11

Spotlight

A weekly series about a day in the life ...

Craftsman David McClure 'builds' life in HR

BY TRISHA WALKER
News staff writer

David McClure, of the Dave McClure, Co., and its subsidiary Hood River Woodworking, has made a name for himself over the past two decades he's lived and worked in Hood River.

McClure is a builder and craftsman, and these days, the bulk of his company's work is in cabinets. He does a little bit of everything, though, because the Gorge is a hard place to have a specialty.

"There's no shortage of specialized subcontractors, so you have to do it all," he explained. "I've been here for 22 years — most of that time, I've worked as the David McClure Company, doing remodeling. But we built our cabinet shop (Hood River Woodworking) in 1998 and since then, an increased amount of our work has become cabinets and other wood-working things."

He hasn't built a house since 2012, though it's something he would consider depending on the design — if it's energy efficient — and the customer.

"I've done a lot of luxury homes, which can get pretty

See **DAVID**, Page A11



Photo by Trisha Walker



Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea

BUILDER AND CRAFTSMAN David McClure has lived and worked in Hood River for 22 years and is a regular at local networking events, like Thursday's Small Business Showcase held at the Butler Bank Building in downtown Hood River. One of his many specialties: Making efficient, elegant use of space.

Four To Go

Climate Action Network holds stencil party Monday

Columbia Gorge Climate Action Network meets at 6 p.m. Monday at Riverside Community Church over a potluck supper and then will participate in a "stencil party" at 7 p.m. With help from artist Janet Essley, participants will create new stenciled artwork on t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, tote bags and cloth for banners to express concerns about the coal and oil rail transport through the Gorge National Scenic Area. Tools and paint provided. If you plan to attend please RSVP to Peter

Cornelison,
541-490-8473.

Sheriff beefs up enforcement on St. Patrick's Day

Hood River County Sheriff's Office is participating in a DUII enforcement effort on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, funded through the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration and administered by the Oregon Department of Transportation. The goal is to reduce driving under the influence of intoxicants, through enforcement and visibility.

If you have information about an impaired driver or are concerned about someone, please call 911 and report it.

Bridge closure scheduled next week

The Port of Hood River announces that the Hood River-White Salmon Interstate Bridge will be closed from midnight, March 16 to 6 a.m. March 17 (for a total of six hours) to make needed repairs to the lift span gates. Crossings during these hours will be allowed for emergency vehicles only, and must be coordinated through 911 dispatch.

For more information, contact the Port of Hood River office at 541-386-1645 or via email to porthr@gorge.net.

Dog poisoned at Event Site

After the reported injury of a dog that had visited the Event Site beach, Port of Hood River maintenance crews found animal poison in an isolated area of the beach on the afternoon of March 11. Crews cleaned up all product that was found, and have since conducted two thorough sweeps of the entire waterfront area. No other product was found during those sweeps.

Warning signs have been posted at the Event Site beach. The Port urges all waterfront visitors to keep dogs on a leash at all times, and to notify the Port immediately if they see any other poison pellets in the area by calling 541-386-1645 or via email to porthr@gorge.net



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