

# MUSEUM

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exhibits and events — museum staff often double as laborers when volunteers run short.

“It’s not the sort of job for someone that just wants to sit at a desk all day. You have to be always moving, always out in the community ... getting to know them,” said Shuemate. She attended Thursday’s Chamber of Commerce Small Business Showcase, along with Gilbertson and Andrea Smith, an AmeriCorps volunteer serving the museum.

Shuemate said re-engaging with the community was a top priority, considering the museum’s tumultuous last two years. In summer of 2013, the museum closed for renovations and restructured its governance from county to non-profit status. The following May, it lost its key executive.

In the transition, many businesses and local partners “forgot” about the museum, Shuemate said.

She also sensed a degree of local tension over the museum’s restructuring. “There had been some drama between the county and the council here because of the partnership and how that’s set up,” she said. “But I’m here to hopefully mend those relationships and get us back on the right foot.”

During her first week, Shuemate dove into her role, contacting local wineries and locking down “Happy Hour” wine tastings to coincide with the museum’s current exhibit, Clink! A Taste of Oregon Wine.

For her first major initiative, she convened with the Heritage Council Thursday and confirmed the museum’s summer exhibit: sports and recreation. The exhibit will honor the Columbia Gorge’s status as a water sports Mecca.

“We’d really like to highlight that part of our histo-

ry,” said Shuemate. “We’re looking for any businesses that would like to loan us items to put on display. We’re also interested in getting people’s stories about what brought them here for recreation as opposed to someplace else.”

Shuemate hopes to forge deeper connections with local businesses and political leaders to achieve her future plans for the museum. As a new member of town, networking will be a crucial undertaking.

Shuemate hails from Burlington, Wis., a town with a similar population size to Hood River. She has a Masters degree in Public History from the University of Wisconsin. She worked at three museums in Wisconsin, planning events and coordinating public outreach.

Shuemate is impressed with the town. “I was shocked and awed with how beautiful it is,” she said. “The people are kind and respectful and it’s just a really great community.”



Photo by Patrick Mulvihill

**PETERSON BROS. CONSTRUCTION** workers make upgrades to the Shoreline Trail in front of the History Museum Thursday, as part of the Port of Hood River trail project. Other repairs are being done in front of the marina. The project also includes the Nichols Basin trail farther west on the riverfront. In the background is the museum’s featured artifact, the wheel of the sternwheeler SS Henderson.

# DAVID

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decadent,” he said. “I have the background to do that sort of stuff. But what I really like is being involved with projects that are sensible, and energy efficient, and make elegant, efficient use out of storage.”

Current projects run the gamut of size and scope. He’s just finishing up an 800-square-foot custom kitchen ... and starting on built-ins for a 540-square-foot house.

“It’s a cute little design,” he said of the house, “but the cabinets were poorly planned and inadequate, so we were doing some alterations to existing cabinetry and building in a bunch of closets, window seats, and built-in dressers and bed headboards.”

He didn’t go to college to learn his trade — just the “school of hard knocks.” His first-ever job was a pole barn when he was 22 “because it was a job I could get,” he said. “I was trying to cultivate basic practical skills.”

In the 1980s, he worked in Portland, where he spent seven years going from “one McMansion to the next, doing interior staircases, closets, not the main kitchens and baths, but some of the built-ins and all the doors and trim and mantels and paneled libraries. We did some pretty fancy stuff back then.”

He had a knack for finish work, and “bluffed my way into a series of three jobs that were slightly over my head...” he said. “It was an accelerated learning curve.”

During those three jobs, he built circular staircases, paneled libraries and large mantels, and worked “alongside people that were better than me,” he said. “That’s an ideal situation for learning.”

But this extensive background proves to be both a blessing and a curse.

“...There seems to be a feeling among people that once you do really difficult work you can’t go back and do easy work anymore, and it’s simply not true. We find easy work to be easy,” he laughed. “Experience is experience, whether it’s creating a really masterful fine home or hanging a door and trimming it quickly.”



Submitted photo

**ONE OF** David McClure’s many projects: A library remodel inspired by the homeowner’s old roll top desk. “I really like doing offices because it’s so important to people,” McClure said. “Small improvement in efficiencies and aesthetics ... affects their mindset and their productivity.”

He describes Hood River Woodworking as a one-stop interior construction shop. “We design and build interiors of homes. And we do some specialty work on exteriors, too, timbered trusses on porches and deck rails and things,” he said.

While the bulk of his work is in custom cabinets, he also does a lot of stairs and window seats, both of which he enjoys building.

“I think stairs are very important things,” he said. “They’re one of the biggest things towards building an impression of a house when you walk in.”

While manufactured cabinets are popular in Hood River, there are advantages to custom built cabinets.

“I think a lot of people don’t realize that we can create something that is very specifically tailored to their house for a price that’s competitive, at least of quality manufactured cabinets, and we do it with materials that are free of formaldehyde, and low-VOC finishes, with a quicker turnaround than buying something from the factory and made in six weeks.”

When it’s all said and done, his favorite part of the job when it’s completed.

“I think people being really delighted with the end product and seeing that it inspires them in their daily life, that’s the reward ...” he said. “I like to design something that goes beyond nice craftsmanship and maybe, hopefully, it kind of inspires

the people that live with it. We hope that our enthusiasm for what we do is kind of contagious, and will, at least to some small degree, inspire excellence in people that see it and touch it and live with it.”

His woodworking business isn’t just about building — there is a lot of behind the scenes work that goes into each day, such as creating plans, measuring the proposed space and meeting with electricians.

“A lot is tied in with the design of things, too,” he said. “I do drafting and 3D rendering, and I’m kind of liking that a lot lately. I build it (on the computer) first. There’s no way by floor plans and elevations the owners can get a sense of what it’s going to look like, like they do with this kind of rendering. So

this has become a significant part of how I spend my time.

“The design is such an important element. Especially in a small house, the accumulated inches you gain in custom cabinets rather than putting in cabinets that come in three inch modules, it can really add up ... where you’re trying to center a sink and gain maximum space. The smaller the kitchen the more the custom cabinets can add to the efficiency of the space used.”

# ELECTION

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and Jean Sheppard and John Schoppert for the Library District.

Also, Theresa North and William Byrne have filed for the Transportation District seat.

However, no candidates have so far filed for two of three open seats on the Port of Cascade Locks commission, and only one for the two spots on the Port of Hood River board.

Positions open with no

candidate filed as of March 10:

Transportation — 1 position — unexpired 2 year term, 1 position — 4 year term

Parkdale RFD — 3 positions, 4 year terms

Westside RFD — 1 position, 4 year term

Crystal Springs Water — 2 positions, 4 year terms

Port of Cascade Locks — Positions 1 and 3, both with 4 year terms

Port of Hood River — Position 5 — 4 year term

Parkdale Sanitation — 1 position — 4 year term; 2 positions, unexpired 2 year terms

# Athlete of the Week



**Hannah Bergemann**  
Hood River Valley Ski Team

For the second year in a row, Hannah Bergemann took first place in every event of the freestyle competition during last week’s state skiing championships at Mt. Hood Meadows, helping lead her team to a first-place overall victory.

The Athlete of the Week will receive a large pizza with 2 toppings from Papa Murphy’s. Congratulations to our winner 3-14-15.



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