

Museum director fired, HR Heritage Council seeking replacement

By PATRICK MULVIHILL
News staff writer

The Hood River County Museum is once again without an executive — the museum director was terminated the Friday before last.

Megan Shuemate, who served as director for less than four months, was laid off June 26 following a decision made by the Heritage Council, a nonprofit that manages hiring and firing of museum employees.



Megan Shuemate

“It was a decision made by the council,” said Dottie Gilbertson, Hood River Heritage Council president. Gilbertson declined to comment further on the decision, but said the museum was “going in a different direction” from that of the former director.

Shuemate described the Heritage Council’s actions as “unprofessional, unethical behavior.” She indicated there were management issues at the museum before her hiring, which made her position difficult. She also cited conflict on everyday matters with the Heritage Council during her tenure at the museum.

“I wasn’t informed of the entire relationship situation between the museum and the community before accepting the job. There had been a huge scandal there about two years ago where the museum had set up a bank account in the County’s name. Not only is this sort of behavior unethical, but it is also illegal,” said Shuemate.

Shuemate said the County audited the museum’s funds and property during an investigation.

“The entire fiasco made many in the community weary of volunteering with the museum, having any

business dealings with it and with visiting it,” said Shuemate.

Management of museum employees has been coordinated by the Heritage Council, a nonprofit organization, since 2013, when the County split from the History Museum. However, utilities for the property as well as funding for the museum director, the sole paid employee, still comes from the County.

“We made that change primarily because the business operations work better if (they are) apart from one another,” said Hood River County Administrator Dave Meriwether.

Meriwether said the Heritage Council, as a nonprofit organization, is more flexible in using “public dollars” and accepting donations.

Shuemate, who moved from Wisconsin to Hood River for the job in March, took a position that was vacant since last May when former director Connie Nice resigned, citing medical reasons.

Shuemate said she signed a one-year agreement, with further employment hinging on funding from the County.

“I was also told, after the signing of my employment contract, that it was for one year and they could not guarantee I would be employed there after the first year because the County may decide not to continue funding,” said Shuemate.

Gilbertson said the Heritage Council will be looking for a new museum director.

Gilbertson also said the museum is re-orienting, and has decided on a new fall exhibit. The exhibit will celebrate Hood River County’s Schools, marking the 150th anniversary of their formation.

Tribal runners join Nestlé protest in CL



Submitted photo

RUNNERS FROM tribal advocacy groups from Eugene and Portland met up with protesters in Cascade Locks Saturday, protesting Nestlé’s proposed bottling plant.

By PATRICK MULVIHILL

Runners from Oregon tribal advocacy groups trekked from as far as Eugene to Cascade Locks over the weekend in protest of Nestlé’s proposed bottling plant.

The runners surprised local environmental groups in Cascade Locks, who were hosting a protest at the Marine Park on the same day, July 4. Until Saturday morning, the two sides were unaware of each other’s protests.

Rowena Jackson, a Eugene resident and Klamath member, drove in a support vehicle and helped coordinate the trip. She said she communicated via social media with the groups from Cascade Locks once she discovered they were both

holding a protest that day.

“It was amazing how this happened,” said Jackson. “We didn’t know there was going to be another rally.”

The first runners were the Eugene crew, representing the Peace and Dignity Run for Water, who made the longest trip at 180 miles in triple digit heat. There were about 17 runners originally, including one member of the Klamath tribes, and other participants of Native descent.

The goal of the run was to travel to Oxbow Springs in protest of Nestlé’s plant, which they argued would put spring water in corporate hands.

Jackson spread the word to other friends of Native descent in the Portland area and Saturday morning, six

more joined the run to Cascade Locks.

Local Water Alliance and Say No to Nestlé were hosting a protest the same day, but the runners weren’t aware until they were mid-way through their trek.

Jackson said the runners were met with excitement by local protesters, who had waited through the afternoon for them. The groups chanted, “Water is life; it’s not for sale,” said Jackson.

The local groups presented the runners with water, Gatorade and a salmon dinner.

“They didn’t expect a lot of people to show up,” said Jackson. “They were grateful and they were glad they stayed.”

Traffic Jam: first the cruise, then the show

WAAAM hosts annual antique vehicle display; look for a cruise through town this Friday night



Photo by Ben Mitchell

RESTORED (and under restoration) vehicles from WAAAM and the community will be on display this weekend, including Hood River’s “Coke Truck” and “Roadmaster Junior,” shown in the July 4 parade. Roadmaster, from Resurrected Garage, won the 2014 Blue Collar Rat Rod build out last year.

GOVERNOR TO SPEAK

Leaders For Tomorrow calls alumni to brunch

Leaders for Tomorrow (LFT) is celebrating its 20th Anniversary on Friday, July 17 at the Best Western Plus Hood River Inn. Organizers are looking for alumni of the program, originally called Leadership for Youth (a.k.a. Chamber Leaders) with students from Hood River Valley, Cascade Locks and Summit (now Horizon) Christian Schools.

Leaders for Tomorrow 20th Anniversary Celebration is Friday, July 17 and features a special appearance by Oregon Governor Kate Brown, during a brunch starting at 10 a.m.

Participants, alumni, sponsors, and teachers, administrators and counselors who have been involved with LFT should contact Kristin Reese at 541-806-0278, (or email kristinr@hrecn.net) for details, by July 13.

Since 1995, more than 400 students have participated in the program that connects

them with local business and community leaders. A series of full day field trips provide students with hands-on, behind-the-scenes experiences to better understand what it takes to create a vibrant community and a strong economy. Students learn about potential career opportunities in everything from health care and public safety to engineering and art.

“Twenty years of leadership is a pretty big deal so we want to invite everyone — students, teachers, sponsors, administrators — who has been involved over the years,” said Kristin Reese, LFT Program Director. “Finding them has been the challenge. Alumni have gone away to college and started families. Many have returned and still others have family in the area. If you or someone you know has been involved with Leaders for Tomorrow, I really want to hear from you!”

Come on out July 11 to the Western Antique Aeroplane and Automobile Museum to enjoy all sorts of cars, motorcycles, trucks, and more 30 years old or older. To get an idea of the types cars in the car show, car show participants will cruise through town Friday night. In addition to the car show on July 11, a swap meet will be going on at the same time.

Visitors have a chance to talk with some of the owners of the cars entered in the car show — last year there were over 120 and the event is only growing bigger. Some highlights from the past WAAAM Traffic Jams include a 1890s Riker Electric Car, very rare Chevy Corvettes, and the 2014 National Blue Collar Rat Rod Build off winner. Come experience automobile history up front and personal and see what this year will bring in to the show.

With demonstrations, classes and restoration talks, the WAAAM Traffic Jam is a great chance to learn about the secret lives of some of

the museum objects and just what it takes to keep the WAAAM fleet up and running.

As an added treat, special event pricing for the WAAAM Traffic Jam is \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids. Come on out and celebrate automobiles at the Western Antique Aeroplane & Automobile Museum on July 11 and take part of this important fundraiser for the museum. Start the morning early with the Hood River Eye Openers Lions Club with breakfast at 8 a.m. Same day registration for the car show is permitted so that everyone who wants to take part can participate.

WEEKLY SUDOKU ANSWER
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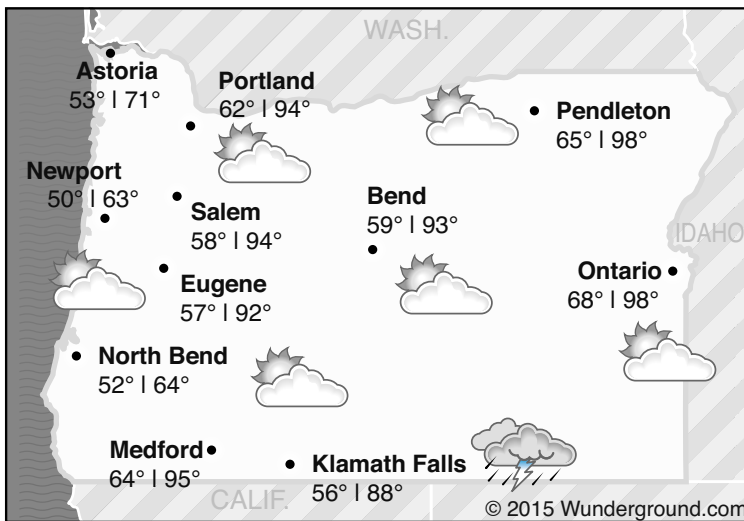
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Hood River Weather Forecast

Date	Forecast	Daytime / Overnight High / Low (°F)
Today July 8	Sunny	97° / 69°
Thurs. July 9	Mostly Sunny	95° / 67°
Fri. July 10	Mostly Sunny	86° / 64°
Sat. July 11	Mostly Sunny	86° / 65°
Sun. July 12	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 64°
Mon. July 13	Mostly Sunny	87° / 63°
Tues. July 14	Mostly Sunny	88° / 63°

Oregon Weather Map



This week’s Forecast
Sunny and hot, with a high near 96. West wind around 7 mph.

Humidity 68%
Wind Speed SE 2 G 4 MPH
Barometer NA
Dewpoint 55°F (13°C)
Visibility NA
Last update 06 Jul 7:00 am PDT

Actual High / Low

AGRIMET HOOD RIVER OR
Lat: 45.6842 Long: -121.5181 Elev: 510
http://uspest.org

June 29	-	89/66
June 30	-	92/67
July 1	-	100/61
July 2	-	98/63
July 3	-	95/63
July 4	-	95/71
July 5	-	97/65

Updated Monday, July 6 at 9:00 a.m. PST
Data from www.weather.com

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