

THE Porch



BOOT HILL: Someone strapped a black therapeutic boot to the railing on the 9th Stret-Montello stairs.

WELL SAID: "The love of one's country is a splendid thing. But why should it stop at the border?" - Pablo Casals

SEEN AND HEARD: Bumper sticker: "Occupy Your Garden" ... kids keeping cool by bouncing on trampoline under tree with sprinkler hanging from branches ... One Dad, after delivering toddler to pre-school, walking home with trike in hand and helmet in the other ... Another Dad, riding unicycle and carrying tricycle ... Boy, about 10, managing to both kick soccer ball and hold small dog on leash, dog and ball going in different directions ... "Dormant Lawns for Farms and Fish" signs going up ... 8 p.m., Wednesday: patio full of diners at Apple Valley BBQ in Parkdale ...

TIME IS an illusion but distance is not: why is it the blue ODOT attractions sign on Highway 35 at Van Horn Drive says Mt. Hood Winery is a "1/2 mile" east?

The winery is no more than 200 yards from Highway 35. The winery's own sign and indeed the building are hard to miss, but someone could drive right past them, up and around the butte, and get to the Pine Grove School - about a half-mile down - looking in vain for a place to partake of Pinot. Ironically, there is another blue sign for Mt. Hood Winery on the highway, just up from Pine Grove's other winery, Wy'east, that accurately reads 1/2 mile to Mt. Hood Winery.

SPEAKING OF PEAKS: Those two wineries are named for the same mountain - Wy'east being the indigenous name for Mt. Hood. And isn't it time for a collaboration between two other local businesses whose names extol local mountains? A brewer's dinner pairing Twin Peaks Restaurant and Double Mountain Brewery seems a natural.

SURF-board's up, surfboard's down: the surfboards decorating the former Pint Shack and the former Idlewild Market are gone, but you can see a piece of beach gear on display at Dog River Coffee: along with Michelle Yamamoto's paintings inspired by "The Big Lebowski" (see Walter shout!) is the Hood River artist's intricately-painted surfboard, just inside the door.

SKI TIP: Plenty of changes (soda fountain!) at The Old Trunk on Dee Highway, en route to Parkdale, including eye-catching road signs employing old skis.

FATALITY

Continued from Page A1

night, July 5. Hood River County Sheriff's Office and Parkdale Fire and EMS also responded.

Police found Schmidt dead in a white 1998 Ford flat rack truck, which was leaning against a tree on the side of the road.

Officials closed off the highway in both directions for several hours during the investigation. According to an OSP incident report, the driver had been "unrestrained" and "alcohol appears to be a factor."

The highway was reopened later that night, once OSP closed the investigation.

Schmidt was born and raised in Baker City. He loved the outdoors and spent much of his time bird hunting, fishing and camping. Schmidt's most recent jobs were at NCS orchard and Valley Ag in Parkdale.

Those close to Schmidt noted his dedication to family, friends and work in his obituary. "Everywhere Fred



Photo submitted by Ashley Heck.

FRED SCHMIDT runs in Camp Patriot's Fourth of July Fun Run in Hood River, a 5k charity event that donates proceeds to disabled veterans. The next day, Schmidt lost his life in a car crash on Dee Highway. This was the last photo taken of Schmidt, said Janet Wilson, a local Camp Patriot coordinator.

worked, he left a positive impression on those with whom he came in contact," they wrote.

The day before the car accident, Schmidt ran in Camp Patriot's 5k Fourth of July fun run in Hood River, an

event that gives its proceeds to disabled veterans.

Schmidt is survived by his son, Tyler, siblings Kip Taylor of Kentucky, Kim Cantrell and Jackie Heck of Hood River, as well as other family members in Parkdale

and around the nation.

A celebration of life for Fred Schmidt will be held Sunday, July 12 at 3 p.m. at Hood River Valley Christian Church, 975 Indian Creek Rd. Hood River. A reception will follow at the church.

Idaho motorcyclist dies in solo crash on Highway 26

On July 6, at about 5:11 p.m., Oregon State Police and emergency personnel responded to a motorcycle crash at milepost 68 on Highway 26, east of Government Camp and the Highway 35 junction.

According to Lieut. Pat Shortt, a 2009 Yamaha motorcycle, operated by Wilbur F Fawcell, age 63, of McCall, Idaho, was traveling eastbound on Highway 26 when he struck a guardrail. Fawcell was ejected onto on the

roadway. His motorcycle came to rest 500 feet from the where he struck the guardrail. Fawcell was declared dead on scene. The highway was partially closed for several hours while the investigation was conducted.

The investigation is continuing and excessive speed appears to be the contributing factor to the crash. OSP was assisted on scene by the Oregon Department of Transportation and Welches Fire Department.

MUSEUM

Continued from Page A1

his yard. However, Staley said he also stepped down due to "frustrations," specifically that he disagreed with the Heritage Council's decision to terminate Shuemate.

Staley said he was worried the council would get a reputation for "laying off our directors." Long-time director Connie Nice stepped down in 2014 for medical reasons following a protracted series of organizational changes sparked in 2013 by county concerns about record keeping.

"In my opinion, the Heritage Council makes opinions where the long term results are not addressed," said Staley.

Staley said he generally supports the council - and will continue to help out as a handyman on a couple of museum projects - but he was frustrated with the council on several matters, including Shuemate's termination.

He said he was out of town when the Heritage Council voted to terminate Shuemate's position. He received an email regarding their decision after the fact.

"I feel I really should have been there. I could have had my say," said Staley. "I wanted her to feel good when she moved on ... that it wasn't because of her that it went bad."

Shuemate said that management had been "unprofessional" and "unethical" during her tenure. She also said her position had been made difficult by the museum's split from the County in 2013, in which the County closed the museum and audited its funds. She said the "fiasco" had made local businesses and stakeholders "weary of volunteering with the museum, having any business

dealings with it and with visiting it."

Jean Harmon of the Heritage Council said conflicts between the museum and the County had been resolved before Shuemate took up the position.

"They've been well sorted out since before (the director) came. We talked things over. We worked it out," said Harmon.

Heritage Council Chair Dottie Gilbertson said the museum director job is "a tough position," and she named "experience" and "maturity" as factors the Heritage Council had taken

into account when making its decision to fire Shuemate.

"At that time, where she was in her career and her experience didn't fit with where we wanted to go forward with the museum," said Gilbertson. "Dismissing Megan was a council decision ... we were thinking of what is best for the museum."

Shuemate argued that she made significant achievements while on the job. Ac-

See MUSEUM, Page A11



Photo by Patrick Mulvihill

ART CLUB OPENS SHOW

Chuck Kliesh of the Hood River Art Club and museum volunteer Dottie Gilbertson hang a Percy Manser painting Thursday to prepare for the club's 66th anniversary art show at the History Museum of Hood River County July 10-18. On the lower level will be artwork by the club's founding members, including Norman Tucker and Gilbert Clarke. A reception will be held July 18 from 1-4 p.m.; see page A1, Four to Go, for details.

Corrections

Gary Munkhoff's letter to the editor, "A truck and water solution," in the July 8 edition should have read that it takes two billion gallons of water per year to recharge the aquifer, not two trillion.

The Hood River News strives for accuracy at all times. If we make a factual error, we welcome readers to let us know about it by calling the news department at 386-1234.

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