

The Citizen-Reporter



SHERMAN

COUNTY

A Sherman County Government Publication — February 2016

Judge Thompson Joins Trade Mission to China

In October of 2015, Judge Gary Thompson, acting as Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) President, had the opportunity to travel with AOC Executive Director Mike McArthur to China with the 2015 Oregon Legislative Trade Mission. During his trip, Judge Thompson signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Fujian Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Counties and AOC on the Establishment of Cooperative Relationship. He also signed a Memorandum of Understanding between Mid-Columbia Economic Development District and Hydro China to support the development of the John Day Pumped Storage renewable energy project.

A group of seven legislators traveled to China, led by Senator Arnie Roblan. Senator Bill Hansel, Senator Sara Gelser, and Representatives Barbara Smith-Warner, Kathleen Taylor, Carla Piluso, and Duane Stark were among the group. Jin Lan, Executive Director of the Oregon-China Sister State Council, led the trade mission. During the mission, Governor Brown renewed the sister state relationship Oregon has had with Fujian Province for the past thirty years.

During his two-week trip, Judge Thompson attended formal meetings, meals with Chinese



Members of the Trade Mission attend the Fuzhou Fujian People's Friendship Association Banquet.



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Trade Mission to China (Continued)

officials, trade discussions, and got to experience a little sightseeing. The trip was productive and full of many highlights. While in China, Judge Thompson:

- met with Foreign Affairs Vice President Chen Naiqing and former Ambassador to the United States, Zhou Wenzong;
- traveled by high-speed train to the Port City of Tianjin to participate in an investment seminar sponsored by the Port of Portland;
- visited the Great Wall of China and The Forbidden City;
- joined Governor Brown in a formal meeting with Vice Premier Liu Yandong;
- traveled to Yinchuan and visited a local mosque and Muslim community;
- traveled to the edges of the Gobi Desert to see a desert reclamation project;
- toured Shanghai harbor and Shanghai Museum;
- visited Fuzhou, the capital of Fujian Province;
- participated in the AOC signing ceremony ;
- took a trip down the Wuyi River on a bamboo raft;
- traveled to Xiamen, a popular tourist destination;
- visited Hong Kong.

This Trade Mission provided the opportunity for interaction and collaboration with China. Oregon is the sixth leading state in trade with China, and there are many opportunities to further a commerce relationship between the two. Judge Thompson and AOC hope to help Oregon explore and take advantage of opportunities for greater interaction with Fujian and China in the future.

~ Lauren Hernandez, Administrative Assistant

Cities Visited:

Beijing, Tianjin, Yinchuan, Shanghai, Fuzhou
Xiamen, Hong Kong



Members of the Trade Mission attend a formal dinner.

Pictured below: The Great Wall of China; traveling the Gobi Desert via camel to see a desert reclamation project; bamboo raft trip down the Wuyi River; busy streets of Hong Kong.



Public/School Library Updates

MITTEN TREE

Thank you Sherman County Community members for turning Sherman County Public/School Library's Mitten Tree into a beautiful giving tree. Our community donated 44 hats, 22 pairs of gloves and mittens, 5 ear warmers, 7 scarves, 2 boot toppers, and 6 blankets to the Sherman County Food Bank. Your generosity is sincerely appreciated!

NEW WEBSITE FOR LIBRARY

Learn about upcoming library events and search the Sage catalog for books, DVDs, and audiobooks on our new website: www.scpslibrary.wix.com/scpsl. The website has links to booklists, educational games for kids of all ages, news, local services, Heritage Quest, Learning Express Library, OSLIS, and Library2go. Library2go offers ebooks and audiobooks to borrow and download onto your favorite device.

"STICKS IN STACKS" THURSDAYS 6:00 P.M.

Social crafting starts at 6:00 p.m. Instructional assistance for knit, crochet, and spinning will be available at 7:00 p.m. Bring your knitting and crochet, spinning and quilting, cross-stitch, etc. All fiber arts welcome.

NEW BEST SELLERS

"A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms" - George R. R. Martin
 "Welcome to Night Vale" - Joseph Fink & Jeffrey Cranor
 "The Girl in the Spider's Web" - David Lagercrantz
 "Come Rain or Come Shine" - Jan Karon
 "Killing Reagan" - Bill O'Reilly
 "Pacific" - Simon Winchester

**"Today a reader,
tomorrow a leader."**

- W. Fusselman

BI-MONTHLY ART EXHIBITION

Open to artists and residents of Sherman County

"Just Imagine" February 3 – March 31
 "Between the Lines" April 6 – May 31

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

The library is a drop-off spot for box tops. Clip box tops from hundreds of products, bring them in to the library, and we will deliver them to the grade school.

NEW PARENTING COLLECTION

Teachers, parents, and daycare providers will enjoy our parenting collection in the children's area. Choose from a variety of titles including:

"Being Helpful" - Joy Berry
 "Bedtime Mouse" - Sandol Stoddard
 "I'm a Big Brother" - Joanna Cole
 "Clifford Visits the Hospital" - Norman Bridwell
 "I Like Myself!" - Karen Beaumont

Website: www.scpslibrary.wix.com/scpsl
Email: shermanlibrary@sherman.k12.or.us
Phone: 541-565-3279
Address: 65912 High School Loop
 Moro, Oregon 97039

FALL AND WINTER HOURS

Monday	8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday	8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Thursday	8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Friday	8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

~ Marylou Martin, Library Director

Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program Offered in Wasco, Hood River, Sherman Counties

The Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program is funded by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Mid-Columbia Community Action Council (MCCAC), in partnership with Community Action Partnership of Oregon (CAPO), administers SSVF in Wasco, Hood River, and Sherman counties.

The program provides supportive services for low-income veteran families that are experiencing homelessness. These services are designed to increase the housing stability of veteran families.

MCCAC's SSVF program may provide the following services as they relate to housing stability: outreach services, case management services, assistance with applying for VA benefits, assistance with obtaining other public benefits and needed services within the community, limited financial assistance when necessary to stabilize housing, and assistance with other necessary expenses.

To be eligible for the SSVF Program, the head of household or spouse of head of household must have served on Active Duty in the Armed Forces, the household annual income cannot exceed 50% of the County area median income (AMI), the household must be homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless (court ordered eviction), and the household must need only short-term temporary assistance to stabilize permanent housing.

A veteran is defined as a person who has served on Active Duty in any branch of the United States Military who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. National Guard and Reserves are not eligible unless they have served on Active Duty for something other than training.

The following documentation is required to enroll in SSVF: a photo ID for all adults in the household, DD Form 214 showing discharge status (SSVF cannot serve individuals with a dishonorable discharge) or a VA Medical Card, proof of all household income, Social Security cards of all members of the household, copies of lease or landlord agreement (if currently housed), and a copy of court ordered move out date if applicable.

Please contact Bob at MCCAC via phone, 541-298-5131, or email bobd@mccac.com to schedule an appointment.

~ *Bob DeRocher, SSVF Case Manager/Outreach/Advocate*

Voter Registration Deadline

The last day to register to vote or change party affiliation for the May 17 Primary Election is Tuesday, April 26, 2016. Voter registration cards postmarked by April 26 or submitted online no later than 11:59 p.m. are valid registrations for this election. Registration cards can be obtained at any post office or county clerk's office, or you may register online electronically at:

<https://secure.sos.state.or.us/orestar/vr/register.do?lang=eng&source=SOS>

Registered voters who have moved must also update their voter registration by using one of the methods listed above. The Postal Service is not allowed to forward ballots. Please contact the Clerk's Office at 541-565-3606 if you need assistance.

~ *Jenine McDermid, Clerk*

Progress Made Towards New Facility for Sherman County

Progress continues to be made towards a new facility for Sherman County. In December, the Selection Committee completed their work and Kirby Nagelhout Construction was named as the Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) for the project. Kirby Nagelhout is a reputable firm with a wealth of experience on similar projects in our region. They will be an important part of the team as they work to provide periodic estimates and constructability reviews throughout the design process. This input will be used to keep the project budget on track and reduce the need for costly change orders during construction.

Another important event was the open house held on December 15, 2015. Wenaha Group, Kirby Nagelhout Construction, and Hennebery Eddy Architects were present to learn more about Sherman County, to present our findings to date, and to answer questions. Some great input was received from those in attendance, and the ideas generated were incorporated into discussions during subsequent programming workshops. At this stage, an initial program (essentially a list of spaces and features that will be necessary to meet identified needs) has been completed and presented to the County Court. The Court is working with the project team to challenge and refine the program, making sure that the new facility will demonstrate an efficient use of space in both the new and existing buildings and that the proposed project will demonstrate an effective and efficient use of public funds. Once the County Court approves the project, Hennebery Eddy Architects will move quickly into the schematic design phase.

~ Heath Gardner, Project Manager



2016 Primary Election Filing Deadline

On Tuesday, May 17, 2016, the Sherman County Clerk's Office will be conducting the 2016 Primary Election. Candidates for the following positions must file for office prior to 5:00 p.m. March 8, 2016, at the Clerk's Office: Commissioner – Position 1, Sheriff, and Clerk.

Precinct Committeepersons must also file for office before 5:00 p.m. March 8, 2016. These are 2 year terms and are elected at the Primary. Please contact the Clerk's Office at 541-565-3606 if you have any questions.

~ Jenine McDermid, Clerk

Sherman County Historical Museum to Host Paint Nite

Join the Sherman County Historical Museum at the Wasco Annex in Wasco, Oregon, for Paint Nite February 11th at 6 p.m. Yummy appetizers from The Feed Trough and beer and wine from Moody Tollbridge Winery Company will be available for purchase. Get your tickets online before they are sold out through the fundraiser Paint Nite link provided:

<http://paintnite.com/pages/events/view/TheDalles/935013>.

Doors open at 5:00 p.m., so pick out your seats and remember this isn't an art class, it is fun and for adults 21 and older.

~ Patti Fields, Executive Director



<http://paintnite.com/pages/events/view/TheDalles/935013>

Support Sherman County Historical Society



The Sherman County Historical Society, incorporated in 1945, operates the Sherman County Historical Museum, which opened in 1983 in Moro, Oregon. The Museum, owned by its members, is the primary historical preservation facility in the county.

The Museum, which is open daily from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. May through October, can also be visited and toured during the winter season by appointment. The Sherman County Historical Museum takes requests for research, information, or copies of photographs in the off-season as well as during the regular season. As 2016 begins, please consider becoming a member or renewing your membership to the Sherman County Historical Society for \$30 a household. Membership helps support local efforts to preserve county history and heritage. One very valuable thing you can share with the museum is your time as a volunteer. We are grateful for all those who greet visitors, serve on committees, chip in with projects, or just attend our events. It all helps make our organization better for our members, our community, and all those who care about Sherman County. Thank you for your past and future support in 2016!

The Sherman County Historical Museum is located at 200 Dewey Street in Moro, Oregon. For more information, call 541-565-3232 or visit our Facebook page and website: www.shermanmuseum.org.

~ *Patti Fields, Executive Director*

New Fiber Project Coming to Sherman County

Sherman County Court is excited to announce a new fiber optic project promising to dramatically increase available Internet speeds within the county. Currently, Sherman, Gilliam, and Wheeler County residents, along with schools and emergency services, share a combined 300Mbps of Internet Bandwidth. After the project, Sherman County will have a dedicated 10Gbps (10240Mbps) of available Bandwidth - more than a 3300% increase in capacity.

The project will run from the City of Wasco to the Erskine communications building south of Moro and connect to county facilities, Sherman County School District, Frontier TeleNet, and to the county's Internet Network. Construction should begin in February and end no later than December 31, 2016. The work will cost 1.48 million dollars, which has been set aside over the last two years by the Sherman County Budget Committee. It will be fully funded and create no debt. State Legislature has recognized the effort to bring fiber to the region and awarded Sherman County \$820,000.00 to go towards this important work. Future projects for fiber lines from Wasco to Rufus and Erskine to Grass Valley are in the planning stages.

Sherman County recently received the National Association of Counties Innovation Award and the Oregon Connections Technology Award for its Wireless Internet Network Development (WIND). Although the county is receiving accolades for its efforts nationally, it recognizes the challenges of this success. Now that so many households have signed up for the service, available speeds are suffering due to limits of the current capacity.

County Court has moved forward with the fiber project to provide capacity needed for today's Internet-hungry households. Recently, the Court identified a possible fix that would increase capacity significantly sooner. The fix is being researched and an announcement could be made within weeks.

~ *Mike Smith, County Commissioner*

Mid-Columbia Center for Living Introduces New Sherman County Mental Health Specialist



Mid-Columbia Center for Living (MCCFL) is pleased to introduce Christine Barvoets to the Sherman County community. Christine has a master's degree in counseling/psychology and has worked in the field for 39 years with children, adolescents, and adults in outpatient, inpatient, short-term

hospital programs, and long-term residential programs. Her professional skill set includes working with at risk youth, domestic violence survivors, and those suffering with addiction and recovery issues. She is excited to be Sherman County's Mental Health Specialist and is in the community five days a week.

Christine feels grateful that she has worked and witnessed people recovering from a wide range of obstacles including childhood abuses, addiction, trauma, mood disorders, and other life experiences. She adds, "If people didn't recover, then I could not have continued to work in the mental health and addictions field for this long!"

Last year, Christine and her husband bought a house and moved to Condon, Oregon.

"I fell in love with the amazing beauty and the stars...they reminded me of my East Coast home," Christine shared. She was pleased to be able to find work with Center for Living in Sherman County where she can enjoy being a part of such a "close knit community," further stating, "I feel blessed to have the opportunity to work with everyone." She is enjoying getting to know the community, allowing for the building of

relationships, and wants to "build programs based on services community members are requesting."

Christine is in Moro Monday through Friday and has an office at the Community Center on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. She jokes that you may find her roaming the streets on Wednesday and Friday, as she does not yet have an official space on those days. She can be reached during business hours by phone at 541-565-3149. Walk-ins or drop-ins are welcome at the center. She would love to see you!

~ Christine Barvoets, MCCFL

Valentine's Day Silent Auction Fundraiser

Join us to celebrate an early Valentine's Day! We will have a silent auction and lunch with proceeds going to the Senior & Community Center meal program. Auction items will include donated items and homemade delicacies. Please contact us to donate or for further information.

Date:

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

Time:

12:00 Noon

Location:

Senior & Community Center
300 Dewy Street, Moro, OR





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Three Easy Steps to Recycle!

First Sort: Commingled:

- PAPER - white and colored paper (staples OK) newspapers, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, phone books, paperback books, spiral-bound notebooks, shredded paper in a paper bag, cereal & cracker style boxes (liner removed), cardboard tubes, paper bags, egg cartons, milk cartons & juice boxes.
- PLASTIC - plastic bottles with a neck, plastic tubs 6 oz. to 5 gal, plant containers 4 inches & larger.
- METAL - aluminum cans, tin cans (flattened), clean aluminum foil & foil baking pans, empty aerosol cans (discard cap).

Second Sort:

- All glass bottles & jars - rinsed. No lids.

Third Sort:

- Corrugated cardboard - flattened.

All items should be clean & rinsed with lids removed & flattened if possible.

Self-Haul Recycling Depot Schedule:

- Moro 9 am - 4:30 pm: 2nd Friday & Saturday
- Wasco 9 am - 4:30 pm: 3rd Friday & Saturday
- Rufus 9 am - 4:30 pm: 4th Friday & Saturday
- Grass Valley 1-3 pm: Monday & Tuesday weekly

Do Not Recycle:

- Carbon paper
- Food-contaminated packaging
- Clear "clamshells" (berry, bakery or battery packages)
- Frozen food boxes or food stained paper
- Label backing sheets
- Paper towels, tissue, napkins
- Photographs
- Plastic-coated envelopes
- Wax, plastic or foil-coated paper
- Styrofoam.

The Dalles Disposal
1317 West 1st Street -The Dalles, 97058
(541) 298-5149

The Solid Waste Transfer Site:

72526 Welk Road
Open every 2nd & 4th Saturday
10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

