Construction of the long-planned, 15,250 square foot addition and the renovation of the original Sherman County Courthouse building began in early March. Site preparation, including removal of all soil to the level of bedrock and the substitution of compacted crushed rock, has taken place. Forms for the concrete foundation are scheduled to be installed during the month of April, and it is anticipated that the associated concrete work will be completed by late April or early May.

On March 8, an official groundbreaking and open house took place at the courthouse and was attended by several dozen people. The ceremonial groundbreaking, complete with “golden” shovels, was presided over by Judge Gary Thompson and Commissioners Tom McCoy and Joe Dabulskis. Steering Committee member Ron McDermid presented some history related to the construction of the courthouse building along with notable modifications and milestones regarding the building. Charles H. Burggraf was the architect, and A.F. Peterson was the builder of the original building, which came in at a cost of $6,665.00. Since its original construction, the courthouse has undergone refurbishment and remodeling several times. The most recent was in 2002, when the elevator and additional restrooms were installed at the back of the building, and again in 2011, when new windows were installed and upgrades to heating and cooling systems and communications infrastructure were completed.

The current project team was assembled in July of 2015, when Sherman County procured the services of Wenaha Group from Pendleton as owner’s representative. In November and December of 2015, the firm of Hennebery Eddy Architects from Portland was hired to provide architectural services, and Kirby Nagelhout Construction from Bend was retained as Construction Manager/General Contractor. After determining the square footage and use requirements for the addition and renovated courthouse, the project team spent the balance of 2016 developing the design that is now being built. The courthouse project, which is scheduled to be completed in July of 2018, will cost $9,000,000 and is funded entirely by revenue derived from Sherman County wind projects. Construction updates will be available throughout the duration of the project from the Citizen Reporter and the Sherman County Court Facebook page.

- Ron McDermid, Project Steering Committee Member
Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) is difficult, especially when cardiac arrest occurs so far from definitive medical emergency care. Thanks, in part, to an $11,000 grant from the Sherman Development League, this task has just been made a little easier for Sherman County Emergency Services personnel.

Sherman County Ambulance recently acquired a Defibtech Lifeline Chest Compression System. The Chest Compression System is a unit designed to perform effective, uninterrupted, and consistent chest compressions on a patient who is in cardiac arrest. The unit also allows the emergency personnel to attend to other duties as needed, such as ventilating the patient and administering cardiac drugs.

Sherman County Ambulance is also upgrading their 12 Lead cardiac monitor and Automated External Defibrillator. The upgrade includes replacing all components of the existing machine and a two year warranty. The cost of the upgrade is $5,720, compared to purchasing a brand new unit for about $23,000.

Sherman County Ambulance and its personnel strive to provide the most up-to-date care for the citizens of Sherman County and those who pass through our county. Sherman County Ambulance does not receive any tax funds; therefore, without the financial assistance of the Sherman Development League, some of the most up-to-date equipment would not be available.

- Shawn Payne, Emergency Services Director

North Sherman County Rural Fire Protection District is pleased to announce the recent purchase of six Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDS). The AEDs were purchased, in part, with a $2,500 grant from the Sherman Development League. North Sherman’s goal is to provide expedient, efficient emergency care to citizens and fire personnel. Placing the additional AEDs in emergency response vehicles will enable volunteers to perform CPR and defibrillation at a much quicker rate. The number one cause of death for fire fighters is cardiac arrest. This is another reason why it is so important to have AEDs available at fire scenes.

- Shawn Payne, Emergency Services Director

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Sherman County’s Car Show in Wasco, Oregon. To celebrate this event, Sherman County Historical Museum (SCHM) would like to invite people to share their photographs of people with cars. This community display will be a collection of photographs with a Sherman County connection. Please share a photo (old or new) taken in Sherman County or with a Sherman County person to be exhibited at the museum. SCHM is asking for a digital copy of the photo. If you have a physical copy, bring the photo to the museum and have it scanned so the digital copy can be printed by SCHM. Please provide information about the photo (who, what, where, why, when) in no more than fifty words. SCHM is currently accepting photos, and they can be emailed to director@shermanmuseum.org. Please call 541-565-3232 for information. Thank you for participating in this community display. We are looking forward to a great exhibit!

- Patti Fields, Sherman County Historical Museum

Photos Requested: Sherman County People and Cars

Biggs Service District Water System Improvements Project Update

Brad Baird, Anderson Perry & Associates, reported to the Sherman County Court that the United States Department of Agriculture funding application and the Environmental Report have been submitted. The public hearing for the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the reservoir site was held in February, and the CUP was approved. This officially creates the reservoir site. Brad asked the court to confirm the earthwork being done, including moving a mound of dirt to fill in a hole, grading the road along the fence, and leveling out the reservoir site. An archeological evaluation will be required at the access road and reservoir site. A visual pedestrian survey will be conducted, including shovel test probes. The court approved the expenditure of an archeology study of the reservoir site and access road up to $8,300. The timeline for construction depends on when funding arrives. Brad believes the project could possibly receive funding by June. Ideally, the well will be up and running by this time next year.

- Sherman County Court
EVERY CHILD READY TO READ
It’s never too early or too late to help your child
develop language and other early literacy skills. Here are five of the best ways for children to get ready to read:

1. Talking
2. Singing
3. Reading
4. Writing
5. Playing

These activities are easy to do with children of all ages. You and your child can enjoy them throughout the day—at home, in the car, or anywhere you and your child spend time together. Stay tuned to this section for more early literacy activities.

STICKS IN STACKS
Social crafting starts at 6:00 p.m. Instructional assistance for knit, crochet, and spinning will be available at 7:00 p.m. All fiber arts are welcome.

LIBRARY BOOK CLUB
Join us for tea, dessert, and book discussion. Please call or e-mail the library for times and dates.

- Marylou Martin, Library Director
Oregon Land Use Planning and Sherman County

Oregon’s statewide land use planning program provides protection of farm and forest lands, conservation of natural resources, orderly and efficient development, coordination among local governments, and citizen involvement. This program resulted in land use plans and state regulations guiding how and where new development occurs.

Every city and county in the state is required to have a comprehensive land use plan and implement regulations acknowledged by the state. Local governments make the day-to-day decisions in conformance with their state-approved plans. The Department of Land Conservation and Development administers the program.

All lands outside the four incorporated cities in Sherman County are zoned Exclusive Farm Use (F-1), with the exception of the motorsports park located near Grass Valley. The general purpose of the F-1 zone is to “Protect agricultural uses from encroachment by other incompatible uses and to provide tax incentives to assure that a maximum amount of agricultural land is retained in agricultural uses.”

Outright Permitted uses in the F-1 zone include but are not limited to farm use; one single family dwelling in conjunction with farm use; an additional dwelling used for farm use if located on same lot as the original dwelling and occupied by a relative; transportation improvements; and fire service facilities. These activities require the review of a simple zoning permit application along with a site plan and generally but can be approved by planning staff.

Conditional Use Permits are uses that have been determined to have an increased impact on surrounding properties and require a public hearing in front of the planning commission. These uses include but are not limited to commercial activities in conjunction with farm use; mining of aggregate; hunting and fishing preserves; nonfarm dwellings; room and board arrangements for a maximum of five unrelated persons in existing residences (overnight lodging); commercial utilities facilities; transmission towers over 200 feet or more; wireless telecommunication facilities; and public or private parks (RV parks, campgrounds).

Contact the Sherman County Planning Department at 541-565-3601 if you are considering any kind of development on your property to ensure you are in compliance with local and state laws.

- Georgia Macnab, Planning Director

Sherman County Court Hears Quarterly Reports

Sherman County department heads presented quarterly reports to Sherman County Court during the second quarter of the 2016/2017 year.

**Shawn Payne, Emergency Services Director:** Shawn is working on Life Flight media advertising. Everbridge Mass Notification is available through the county website. The annual emergency services banquet was successful. Emergency Services received a $1,400 grant from Avangrid.

**Brad Lohrey, Sheriff:** Brad presented an end-of-the-year report. Traffic crashes totaled 67, not including crashes Oregon State Police handled. There were 591 cases in total, and 3,367 citations were written. Frontier Regional 911 dispatch handled 46,664 calls during the year. The sheriff’s office fielded 5,797 calls to dispatch. Sherman County is the third largest user of Frontier Regional 911.

**Dan Aldrich, Building Maintenance Technician:** The water leak in the front of the courthouse is not an immediate problem but needs to be fixed. The pipe will need to be changed to PVC, though this may happen during construction of the new courthouse facility. Dan would like to ask the Budget Committee for finances to purchase equipment for waxing the floors. Judge Thompson suggested waiting to purchase the new equipment until the new facility is built.

**Jenine McDermid, Clerk:** The 2016 General Election had 83.7% voter turnout. No Board of Property Tax Appeals appeals were filed. Transition to the Helion recording system has begun, and e-recording will begin in March. The County Assessment Function Funding Assistance Program grant will open soon. Last year, Sherman County received approximately $55,000.

**Georgia Macnab, Planning Director:** Georgia reported several Conditional Use Permit (CUP) & Partition hearings for the month of February. Georgia has been working on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy list for the cities and the county.

**Bryan Hunt, Tri-County Veterans Technician:** The water leak in the front of the courthouse is not an immediate problem but needs to be fixed. The pipe will need to be changed to PVC, though this may happen during construction of the new courthouse facility. Dan would like to ask the Budget Committee for finances to purchase equipment for waxing the floors. Judge Thompson suggested waiting to purchase the new equipment until the new facility is built.

**Ron McDermid, Justice of the Peace:** Second quarter revenues were above the projected level. Traffic-related filings totaled 664. Five fish and wildlife cases were filed into Sherman County Justice Court, and no marine cases were filed.

**Jan Byram, Senior Center Director:** 588 meals were home delivered during the second quarter, bringing the year-to-date total to 1,393. The stove in the kitchen has been repaired. The thermostat in Jan’s office was replaced and reset for winter. The Department of Human Services has renewed the lease to use Room 105 for a five-year term.

- Sherman County Court
Prevention Coordinator Position Filled

Taylor Olsen has filled the position of Sherman County Prevention Coordinator. The Sherman County Prevention Coordinator is in charge of implementing strategies to prevent alcohol and drug use in the youth of Sherman County. Prevention can focus on any age group but typically is targeted towards youth, as it is most effective when started at a young age.

Taylor graduated from Sherman Jr./Sr. High School in 2010, and went on to receive her degree in Child & Family Studies. She taught preschool in Sherman and Maupin and was also a Family & Health Advocate for children and their families in both Maupin and The Dalles. Taylor is interested in prevention because she is passionate about Sherman County and promoting overall health and wellbeing.

In her spare time, Taylor enjoys sewing, reading, hunting, and spoiling her nephew. Her new position as Prevention Coordinator brings her back to the county, which she is excited for because, “…there is no place like it. I love this county, the people, and being near my family.”

If you would like more information about Sherman County Prevention, contact Taylor at 541-565-5036 or tolsen@co.sherman.or.us.

Best wishes to Taylor as she begins her new position as Sherman County Prevention Coordinator!

Free Medicare Class at Columbia Gorge Community College

There will be a free Medicare class at Columbia Gorge Community College Thursday, April 6 at the The Dalles campus from 9-11am and at the Hood River campus from 1-3pm. The class will be presented by state staff from SHIBA and will explain the ABC & Ds of Medicare. The class is open to everyone who has Medicare now, will have Medicare in the future, or who is trying to help someone with Medicare.

Call the college at (541) 506-6011 for free registration and details.

- Britta Willson, Mid Columbia Council of Governments

Senior Center Silent Auction a Success

Sherman County Senior & Community Center employees appreciate living and working in such a giving community. The Silent Auction Fundraiser and lunch on March 15, 2017, was a success because of our giving and sharing community. Thank you to our Senior Center Advisory Board for donating items and also to board members and volunteers who organized and supervised the auction. Thanks also to individuals in the community, not only for their generous donations, but also for their bidding at the auction itself.

Due to this year’s success, we’re making plans for some changes for our next Silent Auction.

- Jan Byram, Senior Center Manager

National Association of Counties’ 2017 Legislative Conference

Judge Gary Thompson and Commissioner Joe Dabulskis attended the 2017 National Association of Counties’ Legislative Conference held February 24-March 1 in Washington, D.C. The conference brought county officials face-to-face with federal government officials to discuss key county government priorities and specific legislation, regulations, and funding levels affecting essential services and programs. Steering committee and subcommittee meetings were held on a variety of topics including public lands, agricultural and rural affairs, environment, energy, and land use, and community, economic, and workforce development. While in Washington D.C., Judge Thompson and Commissioner Dabulskis took the opportunity not only to make sure Sherman County’s voice was heard at a national level but also to informally network with other Oregon counties and counties around the country.

- Sherman County Court

The Incredible Parenting Series

Parents with children ages birth to 8 years old!

When: April 5-May 17, Wednesdays, 5-7pm
Where: Moro Community Presbyterian Church
Topics: Social/emotional coaching, praise, limits, time-out
To sign up, contact Katie at 541-980-8674. Daycare & dinner provided.

Funded by Sherman County Community Outreach

Pictured: Judge Thompson (front row) and Commissioner Dabulskis (third row) join other NACo attendees in Washington D.C.
Special District Election—May 16, 2017

The final day to register to vote for this election is April 25. Voter registration cards postmarked by this date or an online registration submitted no later than 11:59pm are valid. Voter registration or information updates can be done online at My Vote at https://secure.sos.state.or.us/orestar/vr/register. do.

Registration cards can be obtained at any post office, county clerk’s office, or printed from the following link: http://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/SEL500.pdf.

Ballots will be mailed by April 28. It’s important to update your voter registration if you have moved or changed your mailing address. The Postal Service cannot forward ballots. An absentee ballot can be requested if you will be away from home and would like to receive your ballot at a different address. To obtain an absentee ballot request form, please contact the clerk’s office or go to http://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/SEL111.pdf.

Your voted ballot must be received on or before 8:00pm on Election Day or it will not be counted. Postmarks do not count. The ballot return envelope can be stamped and mailed or dropped off at any official county drop site across the state. If a voter casts their ballot after the Wednesday before an election, the ballot should be left at an official drop box site to ensure it’s counted. Our white drop boxes are labeled “Official Sherman County Ballot Drop Site” and are located near the following offices:

- Rufus City Maintenance Building – 400 Main Street – To the right of the city drop box
- Wasco City Hall – 1017 Clark Street – Located just uphill from the stop sign between the sidewalk and street
- Grass Valley City Hall – 109 SW Mill Street – Next to the city payment box
- Sherman County Courthouse – 500 Court Street, Moro - In the clerk’s office

If you have any questions, need a replacement ballot because you made a mistake, need an absentee ballot, or are in need of further assistance, please contact the Sherman County Clerk’s Office at 541-565-3606.

Below are the filed candidates and ballot measure, with contested races listed in random alphabet order pursuant to ORS 254.155.

Kent Water District:
Director, Position 1 – Todd Mills
Director, Position 2 – George Benson
Director, Position 4 – Joe Bibby

Moro RFPD:
Director, Position 2 – Bryan Cranston
Director, Position 3 – Pat Bird, Curtis Mason
Director, Position 5 – Emrie Moore

North Central Education Service District:
Director, Zone 3 (Rufus/Wasco) – No Candidate Filed
Director, Zone 4 (Moro/Grass Valley/Kent Precincts) – Geremy E Shull
Director, Zone 7 – At Large – Jim Doherty

North Sherman County RFPD:
Director, Position 1 – Trevor Fields
Director, Position 4 – Ken DeGrange
Director, Position 5 – Martin Richelderfer

Sherman County Health District:
Director, Position 1 – Curtiss Mason
Director, Position 3 – Jayme Thompson Mason
Director, Position 4 – Bert Parish
Director, Position 5 – Janice Byrd-Strand

Sherman County School District:
Director, Zone 2 – Wasco – No Candidate Filed
Director, Zone 3 – Moro – Kristie Coelsch
Director, Zone 4 – Grass Valley – Scott Susi

South Sherman FPD:
Director, Position 4 – No Candidate Filed
Director, Position 5 – No Candidate Filed

NORTHERN OREGON CORRECTIONS

33-93 PERMANENT TAX RATE LIMIT

QUESTION: Shall Northern Oregon Corrections have a permanent tax rate limit of $0.26 per $1,000 assessed property value beginning in 2017-2018?

SUMMARY: Northern Oregon Corrections (“NORCOR”) was created in 1996 through an intergovernmental agreement between several Oregon counties for the purpose of acquiring, developing, maintaining and operating a regional correctional facility and administering local community corrections programs and services. In 1997, voters within NORCOR approved general obligation bonds to finance the construction of a regional adult corrections and juvenile detention facilities, which currently serve Gilliam, Hood River, Sherman and Wasco Counties. The general obligation bonds were refinanced with refunding bonds in 2004 to lower debt service costs and taxes. The refunding bonds matured in September 2016. The taxes authorized by the voters to pay for the NORCOR bonds have expired. The taxes imposed by this measure would be used to maintain and operate NORCOR’s regional correctional facilities. This levy amount approximates the amount of annual taxes previously levied to pay the NORCOR bonds issued to construct the detention facility. In the first year of imposition the proposed rate will raise approximately $1,300,000.

- Jenine McDermid, Clerk

FREE Hazardous Waste (plus e-Waste) Collection!

Get rid of unwanted hazardous waste, electronics, and medicine.

When: Friday, May 5, 10am-2pm

Where: Sherman County Road Department, 501 4th Street, Moro, OR

A second event is also scheduled for November 3 in the City of Wasco!

For more information, call 541-506-2632 or go to www.tricountyrecycle.com.
Because Frontier TeleNet Exists...

-Gillian, Wheeler, and Sherman County are the three smallest counties in the state and the ONLY ones that do not have to use ANY dollars to support their 911 operations.

-There are thirteen family-wage jobs in Condon (sixteen jobs including Frontier TeleNet).

-Other counties are looking for Frontier 911 to perform 911 call/dispatch services for them, which creates even more job opportunities and saves them money.

-Our police, fire, and ambulance agencies have the highest quality communications system available - and do not have to pay anything for that service. That’s an anomaly in Oregon.

-Six school districts have enjoyed broadband internet services - at no direct cost to the schools - for over 15 years when no one else could or would provide the service.

-No local tax dollars were used to create and operate Frontier TeleNet; other than the 911 excise tax paid by all Oreganians, no local tax dollars have been used to build, develop, or operate the Frontier Regional four-county 911 call center in Condon.

-The counties invested in a Digital Switch that helps retain existing jobs, provides opportunities for job growth, and generates over $500,000.00 a year in revenues, with the potential for much more.

-The State of Oregon paid the entire cost of connecting to the Frontier Digital Network and Frontier TeleNet systems to improve their communications in our region as well as to create a safer working environment for all public safety and emergency services personnel in the area.

-Arlington TV Co-op and other Internet Service Providers are able to serve the citizens of our region because of Broadband services openly available from Frontier TeleNet.

-Our essential county buildings use Frontier TeleNet services and save money doing so.

Frontier TeleNet was created over fifteen years ago and remains a unique and enormously beneficial asset for Gilliam, Wheeler, and Sherman County. Every single citizen in three counties has benefited from Frontier’s existence.

Our students, police, fire personnel, emergency services personnel, Internet Service Providers, and the State of Oregon all benefit directly because Frontier TeleNet exists.

There are always those who choose to criticize innovation, but without Frontier TeleNet, none of these great things would exist. Our leaders had the foresight, commitment, and courage to build a communications system widely recognized as one of the true leaders in public purpose communications. Anywhere.

Every one of us should be proud and thankful to say that Frontier TeleNet, Frontier Digital Network, and Frontier Regional 911 are there to Answer the Call.

- Mike Smith, Frontier TeleNet

County-Wide Cleanup!

When: Saturday, May 6, 9am-3pm
Where: Sherman County Solid Waste Transfer Site, 72526 Welk Road
Limited: One trip per vehicle

No household hazardous or medical waste will be accepted.
No recycling.
Fees are required for refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, appliances, tires with/without rims, and furniture.
You may bring yard waste, car batteries, and e-waste.

Grant Awards Announced by Development League

Sherman Development League (SDL) has announced the successful completion of grant awards for 2017, committing $38,650.00 to projects of benefit to Sherman County.

Formed in 2000 as a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization, SDL’s mission is to provide grants and/or loans in support of community-based programs and projects to enhance the social, cultural, and educational environment of Sherman County. SDL provides fiscal sponsorship to organizations and/or unincorporated groups for projects which further its tax-exempt purposes and are of public benefit to the residents of Sherman County. A revolving loan fund has been established to provide loans to for-profit and non-profit businesses. SDL also serves as the Sherman County Cultural Coalition Board and provides related fiscal administration of funds received annually from the Oregon Cultural Trust and matching funds from Sherman County.

Five project applications met the requirements and goals established by SDL. Included are projects proposed by North Sherman RFPD, Sherman County Ambulance, Sherman County Fair, Sherman County Historical Museum, and South Sherman Fire District.

Since 2007, the Development League has awarded seventy-nine grants, totaling $1,195,885.00 in support of Sherman County organizations.

Applications for the next round of grant requests will be available in the fall of 2017. Requests for loans may be submitted at any time.

- Sherman Development League
Three Easy Steps to Recycle!

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.

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