

The Citizen-Reporter



SHERMAN COUNTY

A Sherman County Government Publication — June 2021

Sherman County Oregon

One community bound together by the beautiful scenic views, rolling crops and good people who care for one another.

It has been a trying year through this pandemic. Our community role models normally have the ability to connect with our youth in ways many other communities don't or can't through the school and other programs. Our mentors have deeply missed the interaction with students and the students have missed their adult/community support that is so rich in Sherman County. The Sherman County Sheriff's Office has been invested and dedicated to mentorship programs of our youth which has been significantly hindered in this climate. A few months back, Sheriff Lohrey, who is a member of the Drug and Alcohol Prevention Team, requested that we do something to show the Sherman County students that "We are still here. We still sup-

port them. And we will be back as soon as we can!" The idea grew into something much bigger as the students became engaged in the planning and wanted the same message to be brought to the whole community. As a result, SHS Student Leadership Class/The Pack, was tasked with designing a logo that represented Sherman County as a whole community. They designed a logo that depicts the strengths they see and feel in our community. You will soon start seeing this logo throughout Sherman County. The Prevention Team will have swag available this summer. The students and staff at the school are immediately getting stickers for their water bottles with much more to come. When you see this logo think of the message from our Sherman County Youth.

One community bound together by the beautiful scenic views, rolling crops, and people who care for one another.

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Museum Opens on June 1, 2021

Tuesday, June 1, 2021, the doors of the Sherman County Historical Museum OPEN for the 2021 season. We are excited to share our history and heritage with visitors from 10 am to 5 pm Tuesday through Saturday. If you want to visit us on a Sunday or a Monday give us a call to pre-arrange your visit to the museum with an appointment and we will be happy to open the doors for you.

There are new exhibits and updates to many of the current exhibits in the museum for you to enjoy in 2021.

We are part of ODOT's Journey Through Time Scenic Byway program! You can find us on 200 Dewey Street in Moro, Oregon. Plan your scenic drive with trip ideas from Travel Oregon. for general information inquiries email us at: info@shermanmuseum.org or to Patti Fields, Director at: director@shermanmuseum.org

Volunteer Spotlight

Kathy Ahearn has been volunteering as an EMT Basic for 9 years. When asked what the highlight of volunteering as an EMT Basic is, she answered “Watching a very ill patient begin to respond after interventions by our crew is a highlight every time it happens. Volunteering with EMS brings amazing rewards every day. It’s a joy to do this job.”

Kathy also stated that people should consider volunteering with EMS and save lives. “The citizens of Sherman County rely upon the ambulance service to respond to all emergencies. Our dedicated volunteers make this happen. Educational opportunities are available for EMR’s and EMT’s.”

When asked about Kathy; Dana Pursley-Haner, Emergency Services Director, stated “Kathy brings a joy and laughter to Sherman County Emergency Services. It’s an honor and pleasure working alongside Kathy. Kathy also does other various volunteer positions throughout Sherman County.

To volunteer with EMS, contact Dana at emergencyserv@embarqmail.com



Are You Ready For The Early Wildfire Season?

It is just June and the drought and wildfire situation across Sherman County is looking critical. March and April precipitation ranks as the driest on record for Idaho, 2nd driest for Oregon, and 4th driest for Washington since 1895. Often agricultural areas are viewed as being safety buffers during wildfires where irrigated crops are less likely to burn than surrounding fuels. However, dryland crops often have increased fire behavior than surrounding vegetation, especially when crops are being harvested. Farmers and ranchers are well experienced in preventing and putting out wildfires on their property, but those travelling through agricultural areas are unfortunately less careful. As the number of people living and recreating in the Mid Columbia increases so does the probability of a fire happening. In 2018 89% of wildfires in the U.S. were started by humans. Be vigilant of wildfire starts along transportation corridors through the county and also be aware that wind towers have the potential to start fires. In July 2018 a 2,000 acre fire was sparked by a faulty wind turbine near Arlington. The main culprit of wildfire spread is the same in rural areas as it is for urban areas, embers! We often view wildfires spreading with a big wall of flames, when in fact little embers, that can travel for over a mile, ignite most houses and quickly spread crop fires.

The best strategy is to keep embers out from entering a structure through attic vents, eaves, or under decks using 1/8 inch metal screening. Consider quickly covering ember traps with secured tarps around the farm or home when a fire is approaching and other screening is not present. Same concepts apply to the farm where ember traps may be present in structures and surrounding debris. Also the vegetation in the immediate area around the home (0-5 ft) should not be combustible, consider using rock instead of bark mulch. Keep trees and shrubs thinned out with short green vegetation within 30ft of your structures. Maintain short grass in the 30-100 ft surrounding structures, it is not necessary to water areas beyond 30 ft. Another important consideration is can first responders see your home or farm address from the main roadway? Is it reflective to be seen at night?

Want more ideas on being ready for fire season? Jacob Powell, General Agricultural Extension Agent with OSU for Sherman and Wasco Counties, completed a series of webinars in May focused on wildfires in agricultural areas that can be accessed on YouTube at the links below:

Wildfire Defensible Space for the Farm and Ranch - <https://youtu.be/7j5FwqhPzNs>

Livestock Evacuation During Wildfires - https://youtu.be/-j_VoUGII5E

Beat the “Cheat”: Dealing with Cheatgrass - <https://youtu.be/atzRkzEE7QU>
Mitigating Wildfire Risk through Grazing and Taking an Inventory: <https://beav.es/42a>

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS!!

Sherman County is offering two **CASH GRANTS** to ease costs and address the demand for more livable housing in Sherman County. Act now before the money runs out!

The **New Rental Housing Development Grant** will contribute **\$10,000** per new rental housing unit constructed to the developer. Funds are given as a grant upon completion of the project with a commitment to keep the property as a long term rental for a minimum of 5 years.

The **Housing Rehabilitation Grant** provides a reimbursement grant of up to 20% of eligible expenses, not to exceed **\$20,000**, for the rehabilitation of existing non-owner occupied stick-built dwellings.

For more information and links to applications visit co.sherman.or.us and search for rental housing. Contact Marla Harvey at (541) 296-2266 or via email at marla@mcedd.org with any questions or to apply. Funding is limited and you must contact program staff prior to starting project to be eligible. This program is funded by Sherman County.

Resident Incentive Program Applications Available Soon

Applications for the 2021 Resident Incentive Program will be mailed out during the first two weeks of June. This year will mark the 13th year since the program was first introduced in 2009. Qualifying applicants must live in Sherman County at least one year prior to the application due date of August 31, 2021 and must still be residents in December, 2021 when checks are usually mailed out.

Applications are sent to all addresses currently registered with Sherman County post offices. Information about the program and the application can also be found on Sherman County's website at www.co.sherman.or.us or by calling the Financial Services Office located in the Courthouse at 500 Court Street in Moro: 541-565-3623.

Please note: The pink envelopes used to mail out the application forms are not intended to be used to return them. Without proper postage and address, these applications may become lost in the mail and never delivered to us making the applicants ineligible.

Chamber of Commerce

The Condon Chamber of Commerce is undergoing a strategic initiative to expand into a Tri-County Chamber encompassing Gilliam, Sherman, and Wheeler counties to enhance economic prosperity, community livability and drive tourism throughout the region. Their goals are to work collaboratively to build partnerships with government, businesses, and communities. The Chamber is currently defining and determining the priorities of this initiative as a whole and are seeking input, support, and engagement throughout the region from the county governments, city governments, businesses, and community leaders. The Chamber of Commerce invites you to become a member today. For more information contact your Chamber Director K'Lynn Lane at 541-384-7777 or condonchamber@condonchamber.org

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#SCstrong #ShermanStrong

Created in partnership between The SHS Student Leadership/ The Pack and the Sherman County Prevention Team.

Design credit to Austin Olson, 11th grade, with assistance and input from SHS Leadership Class .



Wasco School Events Center Happenings

Over the past four years, the Events Center auditorium and most of the classrooms have been painted and had other improvements made. We are excited to now move to the exterior of the building, which is in the process of being power washed, patched, and painted. We have also purchased our own chairs and tables (both round and rectangular). These will remain at the Events Center and are not available to borrow. The ones we have been using belong to the County and have been available for use by community members for events outside of WSEC. Those tables and chairs, along with the trailer to transport them, will now be located at the Courthouse, and those wanting to use them will need to contact Tammi at 541-565-3416.

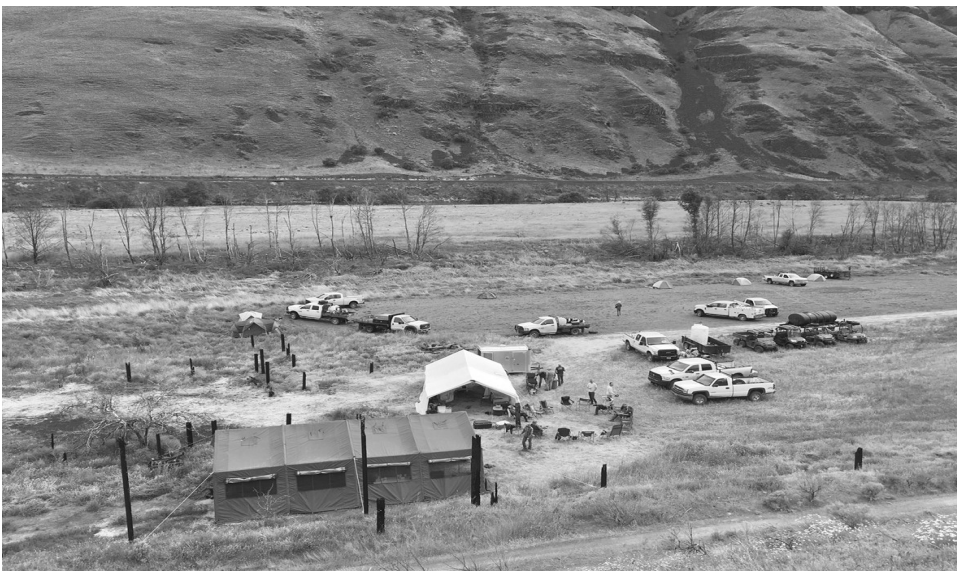
While all fund-raising has been restricted this past year, the Board is optimistic about resuming our annual fall fund raiser. An Open House is tentatively being planned for later this year, and we hope to have all our tenants in attendance showcasing their room. Stay tuned for more details.

Tenants currently located at the Events Center include: Sherman Food Bank, Wasco Library, Mid-Columbia Center for Living, Leaps & Beats Dance Studio, North Central ESD, Pure Romance by Talese, and Body Power Zen. There is a group working on a KidZone, which will be modeled after WonderWorks in The Dalles. They will have more information available about it when it gets closer to opening. There is also a classroom ready to rent, and on more classrooms is being painted, and will soon be available. Coffee Mondays continue weekly from 10 – noon, and everyone is welcome to drop in to have some coffee, treats, and conversation.

There are many opportunities for volunteers at WSEC: library, grounds keeping, office assistance. If you have some spare time and would like to help out, contact our Business Manager, Linda Bird, at 541-993-6838, and she will set you up.

Why not consider renting our auditorium for your next event: family reunion, meeting, bridal/baby shower, birthday party, wedding. Our rates are reasonable, and we have a PA system, screen, coat racks, and large coffee pots available. In addition, for a small fee, we have tablecloths for you to use.

The Board is amazed and proud of how far we've come in the last four years, and want to thank everyone who has had a hand in helping us get to where we are today: staff, volunteers, donors, grant providers. We wouldn't be where we are without all of you.



A picture of Lower
Deschutes Cooperative
Weed Management Area
“Weed Camp”

See article on next page

Lower Deschutes Cooperative Weed Management Area

Two weeks ago we embarked on the first major coordinated partner event in over a year. It was an extremely productive event led by ODFW. Planning for this event had begun last June and with persistence and adaptable preparations, “Weed Camp” took its final shape eleven months later. An event of this magnitude could only take place with the cooperation and involvement of partners committed to the same objective as I, the restoration of the habitat within the Deschutes River ecosystem. I am fortunate and grateful to be part of such a group, and I hope there are many more events like this in our future.

Timing for the event was perfect. Rush Skeletonweed was barely bolted, and its rosettes along with the Scotch Thistle’s were very apparent. The weather was perfect, until Thursday when the Deschutes winds blew us back home. Over the 4 days, 21 dedicated individuals from Monmouth to Bend, everywhere in between, and as far away as La Grande came together to help us in our battle against the formidable noxious weeds on the Deschutes.

Prior planning paired with an army of willing and able backpackers made efficient and effective work of the areas we were targeting. In fact, the large group made such quick work of the pre-planned areas that we bolstered ourselves under the twilight of the

Deschutes and the ominous lights of Starlink to tackle Sayrs Canyon. Sayrs Canyon is part of the Harris Canyon complex and was home to a dense stand of healthy and robust Rush Skeletonweed plants. Not able to get closer than ¼ of a mile from the opening of the canyon due to the road being washed out, the crew pushed on over a mile from our fill station. It was a site I will not soon forget. Not one time did anyone express any negativity. It was amazing to witness the amount of dedication and upbeat attitudes that everyone exemplified while performing this type of grueling work. I think they would still be there had I not called it.

When the book was written on “Weed Camp 2021”, 4 days of positive upbeat attitude fueled by great food and good times, 4 RTV’s, 1 Raft, 11 pickup trucks, 1000’s of gallons of water, and a level of dedication from 21 people that is insurmountable treated 14.02 acres with backpack sprayers while traversing 15 miles and 394 acres of state and federally managed public lands, and Private lands.

Sherman County Board of Property Tax Appeals Board Openings

The Sherman County board of Property Tax Appeals (BOPTA) has openings for the 2021-22 tax year. These positions are open to **nonoffice-holding residents** of Sherman County. A nonoffice-holding resident can’t be: a member of the county governing body, a member of the governing body of any taxing

district within the county, an elected official within the county, a person employed in or hired by the county or any taxing district within the county, a former county assessor, or any appointee acting in the place of the assessor that held the office or was appointed during the tax year subject to appeal to BOPTA, or a person previously employed in or hired by the office of the assessor during the tax year subject to appeal to BOPTA.

Board members hear petitions for reduction of the real market, maximum assessed, specially assessed, and assessed value of property placed on the roll by the county assessor as of January 1, 2021. The board will also consider requests to waive penalties assessed for the late filing of real and personal property returns.

An initial training session is required for new members and for those members returning after a break in service. Board members are required to attend training approved by the Department of Revenue at least every other year unless no petitions are filed. The BOPTA board generally meets for one or two sessions during the year between February and June. The one-year term ends on June 30, 2022.

If you are interested in being considered for the BOPTA board, please contact the Clerk’s office, 541-565-3606, no later than Friday, October 1, 2021. BOPTA pool members will be appointed by the county governing body on October 6, 2021.

Sherman County Public/School Library

SUMMER HOURS (Starting June 15)

Tuesday 11:00am—7:00pm
 Thursday 11:00am—7:00pm
 Saturday 10:00am—4:00pm

The library will be open for walk-ins and curbside service during all of our open hours. Masks are still required for entry into the library at this time.

PICK UP AND DELIVERY

Books and materials can be dropped off and picked up from various locations. Please call the library for pick up and drop off locations in Sherman County.

COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN

Countdown to Kindergarten is a community school readiness program for children entering Kindergarten in fall 2021. Each week targets an early literacy skill during Storytime and provides fun and engaging activities for children to put each skill into practice with their parents. Please call the library to register your child and pick up **free program essentials** by June 10.

Google Meets

June 15 at 6:00 pm
 June 22 at 6:00 pm
 June 29 at 6:00 pm
 July 6 at 6:00 pm
 July 13 at 6:00 pm

In person at Sherman Elementary
 July 20 at 6:00 pm **Kindergarten Round-Up in Mrs. Macnab's Classroom**

Phone:

541-565-3279

Address:

65912 High School Loop
 Moro, Oregon, 97039

Website:

ShermanCountyPSL.weebly.com/

Email:

shermanlibrary@sherman.k12.or.us

FACEBOOK

“Like” us on Facebook at Sherman County Public/School Library.

2021 SUMMER READING PROGRAM

ENJOY the benefits of summer reading with “Reading Colors Your World.” Summer reading is critical for students to retain knowledge and skills learned in the previous year.

Sherman County Public/School Library invites youth of all ages to participate in our summer reading program. Get started by picking up a reading log at the library starting June 8. All youth 0-14 are welcome to participate!

Completed and returned reading logs by August 3 will be awarded a certificate, free ice cream voucher for one of our local markets, and a free day-pass to OMSI! Also, don't miss the opportunity to participate in our fun program and be entered into our summer raffle for an Amazon Kindle Fire!

GRAB AND GO CRAFT KITS

We will continue to offer the popular Grab & Go Craft Kits throughout the summer. Craft Kits are FREE for all ages, even grown-ups! Watch for flyers, our website, and our Facebook page and go grab your kit.



The Judges Corner

I have spent quite a bit of time this past couple months getting chilled to the bone watching my grandson play baseball in minors little league. I wish I could write “chilled and soaked” because a good rain is much needed. That being said, the Sherman County Court has declared a state of drought emergency and has requested Governor Brown to declare a state of drought emergency for Sherman County and contact the United States Department of the Interior and the United States Department of Agriculture to issue a Drought Declaration for Sherman County.

With the conditions as they are, please be careful and cautious to help prevent any catastrophes. On the same note, things will be kind of crowded in the northern half of the county this summer and fall with construction of the Golden Hills Wind project. Be prepared. At a meeting I went to, it was stated that some of the turbine blades will be 283 feet long. I am not sure which roads they will be traveling on, but there will be delays.

As of this writing, Senate Concurrent Resolution 11, (SCR 11) recognizing and honoring Deputy Douglas Eugene Smith is on the Senate President’s desk awaiting disposition. Senator Hansell helped move this forward. Thank you Senator Hansell.

Sherman County will be receiving some ARPA funds from the U.S. Treasury. (American Rescue Plan Act). These funds must be used in a certain way, reported on, and have a deadline when they must be spent. Infrastructure improvements and upgrades are the current plans of the Sherman County Court as use of these funds. We are attending workshops and conference calls to learn of appropriate uses.

U.S. Senator Ron Wyden will be having a regional town hall online 1:30 Thursday, the 3rd of June. Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Sherman, Gilliam, and Wheeler Counties will participate. If you wish to ask questions the link can be found online.

Welcome aboard Marine Deputy Glenn Palmer. Deputy Palmer will be working to keep our river areas of the county safe this summer.

The Sherman County Court would like to say “Thank You” to the community members who volunteer to serve on budget committees. Sometimes this is not an enjoyable job and difficult decisions have to be made. The time commitment is just a small part of the process. Again, we “Thank You” for what you do.

The Memorial Day celebration in Wasco was outstanding, from the giant flag to the lowest fly over yet, it was something to be proud of. Thanks to all the people who help make it happen.

The fish stories coming out of Rufus and the annual catfish derby are: It was the largest turn out ever with over 100 contestants. The heaviest fish—14 lbs, caught by a Rufus resident. The kid’s biggest—8.7 lbs, caught by a 6 year old. Live music and dinner also could be enjoyed.

Seniors—Congratulations. This is something you have all worked hard for. Everybody is proud of what you have accomplished under the craziest of circumstances. Good Luck with all you choose to do.

In place of a quote here is something to think about, I was driving when a billboard caught my attention, the words written on it stated,

“Life is Unpredictable, Prepare for it”

Judge Joe Dabulskis



SHERMAN

COUNTY



June

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Moro, OR
Permit No. 4

500 Court Street, P.O. Box 365
Moro, Oregon 97039
<http://www.co.sherman.or.us>

Postal Patron

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.



The Solid Waste Transfer Site:

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

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

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