

# The Citizen-Reporter



## SHERMAN COUNTY

A Sherman County Government Publication — April 2022

### Justice Of The Peace Ron McDermid Announces August Retirement

After much consideration I have made the decision to retire as Sherman County Justice of the Peace effective August 1<sup>st</sup> 2022, with my last day in the office being July 29<sup>th</sup>. Events of the last two years have presented numerous challenges for us all and we have all successfully dealt with difficulties we could have never anticipated. I have become more mindful than ever of how precious life truly is and my retirement will allow me to spend more time with family and to pursue interests and activities that I have not had the opportunity for during the past 20 plus years. The timing of this transition will provide court staff the opportunity to prepare for the upcoming change and will allow our current justice court clerks, with more than 20 years of combined experience, to assist my successor in becoming familiar with the function of the court.

*Continued on Page 2 ...*

### Sherman Soil and Water Conservation District

The Sherman Soil and Water Conservation District and Sherman Area Watershed Council has a great funding opportunity to assist with the implementation of small-scale conservation projects on your property. The new biennium began August 30th, and the program is able to fund conservation projects through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Small Grant Program. Projects available for funding include spring and water developments, cross fencing, guzzlers, brush and juniper management among others. Small grants have a cost share rate of 75% with projects up to \$10,000, and a 50% cost share for projects between \$10,001 and \$15,000. Small grants cannot exceed \$15,000. Applications are reviewed monthly at SWCD board meetings by the Small Grant team. Once an application is approved and a grant agreement has been signed, the recipient has two years to

*Continued on Page 2 ...*

### Primary Election Set for May 17, 2022

The 2022 Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022. This is a closed party primary election; Registered Democrats will receive a nominating ballot for Democratic candidates, and registered Republicans will receive a nominating ballot for Republican candidates. All other party affiliations will receive a nonpartisan ballot. To verify your registration you can check online at [oregonvotes.gov/myvote](https://oregonvotes.gov/myvote), or contact the County Clerk's office. The deadline to update party affiliation or submit a new voter registration is April 26, 2022.

The state Voters' Pamphlet will be mailed out April 27, 2022 and Ballots will be mailed between April 27, 2022 and May 3, 2022.

**Postmarks now count!** Ballots received from the United States Postal Service after Election Day will be accepted if they are postmarked on or before Election Day and received by May 24, 2022.

*Continued on Page 2 ...*

***Justice of the Peace Ron McDermid Announces August Retirement Continued from Page 1...***

The appointment of the next Sherman County Justice of the Peace will be made by the Office of the Governor. This will be the fourth appointment of an Oregon Justice of the Peace made in recent years. Details of the appointment process were recently announced by the office of the governor and all pertinent information is available on the Sherman County website at [www.co.sherman.or.us](http://www.co.sherman.or.us).

I was originally appointed to the position in 2001 in a process that included a number of well qualified candidates. I am hopeful that Sherman County residents will thoughtfully consider whether they or someone they are acquainted with may have the necessary qualifications and desire for public service to be a successful Justice of the Peace. Persons interested in learning more about the Justice Court and the position of Justice of the Peace are encouraged to contact me directly and confidentially at 541-565-5008 or 541-980-2156.

During my remaining time in office I will continue to work for the well-being of the county and the Justice Court and will do all that I can to help assure that the transition has every opportunity to be successful. It has been my privilege to serve the people of Sherman County and I will be forever grateful for all of the support that I have received. - Ron McDermid, Sherman County Justice of the Peace

***Sherman Soil and Water Conservation District Continued from Page 1 ...***

complete the project. Call the SWCD 541-705-5070 or Watershed Council 541-705-5161 to learn more or apply. If there is a project you would be interested in implementing that is not listed, please, feel free to contact them.

***Primary Election Set for May 17, 2022 Continued from Page 1 ...***

Be sure to check with your local post office for last collection times to ensure your ballot is postmarked in time. Ballots received by drop box must be received before 8:00pm on Election Day or it will not be counted. Don't forget, if mailing your return ballot postage is already paid, you don't need a stamp! The following Sherman County positions will appear on the primary ballot, along with federal and state offices. State filed candidates can be found on the Secretary of State's Election Division website at <https://secure.sos.state.or.us>.

**County Partisan Offices**

**County Commissioner, Position 2:**

Democrat – No candidate filed  
Republican – Justin Miller

**Nonpartisan Offices**

**District Attorney:**

Wade M McLeod

**County Nonpartisan Offices**

**County Assessor:**

Drew Messenger

The following nonpartisan offices move directly to the General Election and will not appear on the primary ballot:

**Treasurer:**

Theresa Olsen

**Precinct Committee Person:** Only precinct and political parties with filed candidates are listed. Two are elected per precinct.

**Rufus:** Republican Party –

Kathy McCullough

**Wasco:** Republican Party –

Harry Macnab

**Grass Valley:** Republican Party –

Darren Padget;

Merrie von Borstel

**Kent:** Republican Party –

Carol von Borstel

Contact the County Clerk's office at 541-565-3606 or [elections@shermancounty.net](mailto:elections@shermancounty.net), if you have any questions regarding the status of your voter registration or the election process.



Check out the new Pod Cast. You can listen on Apple, Spotify, Google and Amazon.

## County-wide Cleanup May 7th

On May 7th, Sherman County residents are invited to bring one pick-up load of trash to the Solid Waste Transfer Station without paying a fee with some exceptions.

**When:** Saturday, May 7, 2022 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **NOTE: Station may close early if bin is full before 3 p.m.**

**Where:** Sherman County Solid Waste Transfer Site located at 72526 Welk Road between Highway 206 and Biggs Junction.

**How:** Upon arrival, wait for the attendant to direct you to the appropriate unloading site.

**Limited:** One trip per vehicle.

### Restrictions:

No household, hazardous, or medical waste will be accepted.  
No recycling.

### Fees are required for:

Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners \$10.00 each  
Appliances \$13.25  
Tires without rims \$12.46  
Tires with rims \$16.87  
Furniture \$13.25

### **You may also bring:**

YARD WASTE – Clean brush & trimmings under 6 inches in diameter  
CAR BATTERIES  
E-WASTE - Computer towers, laptops, monitors, televisions

### Please note:

Recycling will not be accepted on this day.  
Recycling will be accepted on any regular scheduled day:

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday and Saturday in Moro  
3<sup>rd</sup> Friday and Saturday in Wasco  
4<sup>th</sup> Friday and Saturday in Rufus  
Weekly Monday and Tuesday in Grass Valley

~ Waste Connections/The Dalles Disposal

## Mid-Columbia Community Action

Mid-Columbia Community Action has funding to help with utilities for low-income households! To schedule an appointment in Sherman County, call 541-298-5131 or try our new option to apply online at [www.mccac.com](http://www.mccac.com) today. We offer walk-in services at The Dalles office on Thursdays from 9am to 3pm (closed 12-1pm for lunch) for households with past due or shutoff notices or a crisis situation. Households with a crisis situation and a past due bill may be eligible to receive assistance even if they have already had assistance this year. For more information, please call 541-298-5131 or email [kbuckles@mccac.com](mailto:kbuckles@mccac.com).

For garbage services, if a household has either TD Disposal or HR Disposal service in their name, and has either a member of the household 60 or over or disabled, there is a small discount (\$3 per month/\$6 per billing cycle)  
AND  
If someone has the above garbage service in their name/ spouse's name and reaches the age of 85 they qualify for FREE GARBAGE. This benefit does not require an income screening and they are eligible for the remainder of their life but it must be renewed yearly. For more information or to sign up, contact MCCAC at 541-298-5131.

## Donations Wanted!!

On April 25<sup>th</sup> we will be distributing Spring bags to recipients of meals on wheels and residents of Sagewind Manor. You can help us fill these bags by dropping off donations to Dana at the Emergency Management Services building in Moro or County Court Office at the Courthouse. We are looking to fill 28 bags. Donations will be accepted until April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Suggested items are: toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex, hand soap, dish soap, baggies, foil, lotion, sunscreen, garden gloves, garden tools, garden seeds, flower seeds or bulbs, birdfeeders and bird seed, solar garden lights, garden/yard decorations ,puzzles, games, books, snacks and candy.



## PRE K—12th Grade **OPEN GYM**

**Providing a safe, welcoming environment for SC Youth to explore physical wellness**

**2nd and 4th Saturdays @ Wasco Event Center Gym**

**Structured, Age Appropriate Activities**

**Local Athlete Mentors**

**Contact [shermanwellnesscenter@gmail.com](mailto:shermanwellnesscenter@gmail.com)**

**[deannac@co.sherman.or.us](mailto:deannac@co.sherman.or.us)**

Join us for the next round of Open Gym: April 9 & 23  
Look for updates and schedules on Facebook

If you have any concerns or would like more resources, please contact Deanna Christiansen at Sherman County Prevention. 541-565-5036 or [deannac@co.sherman.or.us](mailto:deannac@co.sherman.or.us)



## Public Health Corner

Did you know that NCPHD does more than vaccines??

North Central Public Health District offers a variety of services to Sherman County residents!

### WIC

The Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a nutrition education program that helps families identify healthy nutrition choices that work for you. WIC is all about healthy babies, kids and families. If you are pregnant, breastfeeding or have a child under 5, WIC could be for you! All WIC appointments are over the phone at this time. Watch this walkthrough of a WIC appointment at <https://youtu.be/FK1d-kI2fxs>

### Home Visiting

Our Home Visiting team is here to support you during your pregnancy so that when you give birth, you have a healthy baby ready to grow and learn! A nurse will call you to talk about the services we offer to pregnant women and parents of infants to age 5.

For women we focus on prenatal care, nutrition, postpartum health, short and long term goals, like breastfeeding and further education, family planning, and connecting families to parenting and community resources.

For infants/children we also focus on health, nutrition, and well child care which includes weighing and measuring, breastfeeding, health assessments, developmental screening for early identification of delays and autism, and connection to playgroups and parenting resources.

### Environmental Health

Foodborne Illness Prevention Program: works in partnership with the food service industry and the public to reduce or eliminate the known causes of foodborne illness. The program provides technical assistance, training and education, works to ensure compliance, supports the statewide licensing and inspection schedule, and supports the Food Handler Card program.

Safe Drinking Water Program: administers and enforces drinking water quality standards for public water systems. Emphasizes prevention of contamination through inspections, technical assistance to water systems, and responding to containment alerts.

NCPHD regulates the installation, repair, and maintenance of septic systems on homes and businesses not served by community sewer systems.

For more information or to sign up for these services call NCPHD at 541-506-2600 or visit [www.ncphd.org](http://www.ncphd.org)

## Wasco School Events Center Wins Local Award

We are proud to announce that Wasco School Events Center was selected by the Oregon Frontier Chamber of Commerce (formerly Condon Chamber of Commerce) as the Sherman County Business of the Year. Representing WSEC at the awards ceremony were Board members Jessica Wheeler and Tom Lepinski.

This honor is a result of thousands of volunteer hours to upgrade and improve the school; our wonderful tenants, fitness center members, library patrons, and all those who have rented our auditorium and meeting room; donations – both monetary and items donated for silent auctions and rummage sales, as well as Mortenson Construction's donation of tables, chairs, a desk and several food items; and a County Court who saw the potential in having this facility to serve the people of Sherman County when they gifted the school to the City of Wasco in 2017. The County also provided SIP dollars to improve the building and help with expenses for six years. Thank you so much for your support.

The city library continues to add new books for your reading pleasure, as well as provide jigsaw puzzles for you to borrow. We are running out of space in the library, so we are not taking puzzle donations at this time.

With Covid restrictions easing considerably, the school has again become a hub of activity. Recent activity includes staff computer training for

McGregor (formerly Farm Chemicals), Wasco Electric Cooperative meeting and lunch for their Board of Directors, several birthday parties, a St. Patrick's Day event, and Missoula Children's Theatre, which put on two performances of "Alice in Wonderland" and starred many of our Sherman County youth. Sherman County Prevention has scheduled Youth Open Gym every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in the Events Center gym from noon to 4:00 p.m.

Please contact our office at (541) 993-6838 or 903 Barnett Street if you would be interested in: volunteering; grant writing; renting office space, our commercial kitchen, auditorium, or meeting room; or joining our Fitness Center, where you can work-out on a variety of equipment, learn how to play pickleball, or shoot baskets. Our Board meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m., and we welcome the public to attend and show their support for WSEC. With your involvement, we will continue to be an asset to all of Sherman County.

## Oregon Frontier Chamber of Commerce

The Oregon Frontier Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce Wasco School Events Center has been presented with our Sherman County Business Leader of the Year Award!

The date has been set for the first annual Sherman County Harvest Celebration, planned for Saturday, June 18, at the Sherman County Historical Society Complex in Moro. Enjoy children's activities and an artisan market

featuring local vendors, with food, beverages and live music. The fun kicks off at 4 p.m. and will continue throughout the evening.

This event is made possible with support from the Sherman County Court, Sherman County Cultural Coalition and your Chamber of Commerce. Sponsorships and volunteer opportunities are available. Please contact K'Lynn at 541-384-7777.

Save the Date for the annual Wasco Memorial Day celebration Monday, May 30! Volunteers, parade participants, float entries and flag bearers are needed. Contact your Chamber leaders for information.

Community Engagement and Volunteers Needed: The Condon Chamber of Commerce is rebranding as Oregon Frontier Chamber of Commerce and is proudly serving Gilliam, Sherman and Wheeler counties. Connect now and find out how you can get involved and contribute to upcoming community events!

## Looking to Get Rid of Hazardous Waste

On Friday, April 29th, the Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program will be hosting a free hazardous waste collection event. This event is open to households, ag producers, and small businesses!

Ag producers and small businesses MUST pre-register! This helps our contractor know what supplies to bring.

To register, contact: morgain-er@co.wasco.or.us, (541) 506-2529.

For more information, visit [www.tricountyrecycle.com](http://www.tricountyrecycle.com).

## Public/School Library Updates

### SPRING HOURS

Monday 2:00pm-4:00pm  
 Tuesday 2:00pm-6:00pm  
 Wednesday 2:00pm-4:00pm  
 Thursday 2:00pm-6:00pm  
 Friday 2:00pm-4:00pm  
 Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm

Curbside pickup available

### PICK UP AND DELIVERY

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

#### Phone:

541-565-3279

#### Address:

65912 High School Loop  
 Moro, Oregon, 97039

#### Website:

[ShermanCountyPSL.weebly.com/](http://ShermanCountyPSL.weebly.com/)

#### Email:

[shermanlibrary@sherman.k12.or.us](mailto:shermanlibrary@sherman.k12.or.us)  
 "Like" us on Facebook at Sherman County Public School Library

### NEW NON-FICTION

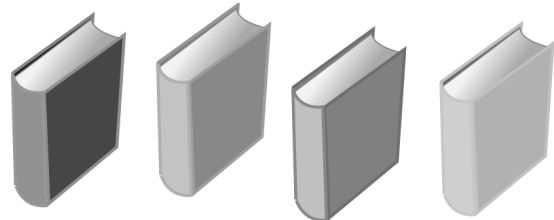
*The Power of Regret* by Daniel H. Pink  
*How To Be Perfect* by Michael Schur  
*South To America* by Imani Perry  
*Broken* by Jenny Lawson  
*Atlas of the Heart* by Brene Brown

### NEW FICTION

*How High We Go In the Dark* by Sequoia Nagamatsu  
*Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson  
*Before She Disappeared* by Lisa Gardner  
*Beautiful Little Fools* by Jillian Cantor  
*One Italian Summer* by Rebecca Serle  
*The Unsinkable Greta James* by Jennifer E. Smith  
*Shadows of Pecan Hollow* by Caroline Frost  
*One Night on the Island* by Josie Silver  
*West With Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge

### LIBRARY BOOK CLUB—May 5 6:00PM

Join us for tea, dessert, and book discussion. May's book is *Out of the Easy* by Ruta Sepetys.



## Sherman Development League

Sherman Development League (SDL) has announced the successful completion of grant awards for 2022 committing \$23,500.00 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 edu-

cational 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.

Three project applications met the re-

quirements and goals established by SDL. Included are projects proposed by the City of Rufus, City of Wasco and Little Wheats Daycare.

Since 2007, the Development League has awarded ninety-eight (98) grants totaling \$1,187,777.00, emergency funding in the amount of \$78,412.00 for eight organizations and provided several loans to private and public entities.

Applications for the next round of grant requests will be available in the fall of 2022. Requests for loans may be submitted at any time.



## The Judges Corner



We all have been watching the construction of the latest wind turbine project, Golden Hills. As I write this, Friday morning March 25, the new substation north of Demoss Park is getting energized according to the construction project manager. Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> of March, we will see the turbines starting to spin and doing their thing. If I have done my math right, Sherman County will be producing 1249 MW of renewable energy when the sun is shining and the wind is blowing. To put that into perspective, the homes in Seattle per use about 1200 MW of energy I've been told.

"Doing their thing" will be different for Sue Mabe, long time county employee. Sue will be retiring after working for the county in the extension office for 10,034 days. (Over 27 Years) She has helped many kids and their parents navigate through fairs, 4H, and the extension office. Sue will be missed by all and I hope she stops by once in a while to say hi.

Christian Ayars will be the new face at the extension office taking Sue's position in the Burnet Building. We're looking forward to having Christian as part of the team. Welcome Christian!

Another welcome is to, Lee von Borstel. Lee started working for the Sherman County road department with the retirement of Paul Bird. Good Luck Paul and have fun. Welcome Lee!

The Sherman County Court took a short recess a couple weeks ago during county court to witness the swearing in of the Sherman County Sheriff's office newest deputy, Kyle Burnet. Kyle was sworn in by Sheriff Lohrey in Commissioners Meeting room with family and county employees congratulating him after the ceremony. Thank you Kyle for stepping up and helping to keep Sherman County safe.

Representative Greg Smith called a couple weeks back to inform me that with the "Sine Die" of the legislative session, each of the four incorporated towns in Sherman County will receive \$166,666 for community projects and our fair grounds \$1,000,000. That will help!

Senator Merkley honored our local Sherman County museum by presenting a United States flag to Museum Director Patti Fields at the senator's annual town hall. The museum is remarkable!

I recently served on a committee with other county judges and commissioners to help prioritize which counties would get money and how much from the Oregon Department of Justice for the planning for, repairs, updates, and replacements of courthouses. It was a complicated process. All other members of the committee were from counties that needed funds from the state for their courthouse project(s). I silently thanked our previous county court members for their hard work in making our courthouse the facility it is.

Isn't it great to see faces again! So many things are happening. Kids are preparing for 4H animals, playing outdoor sports, participating in plays. Farm tractors are in the fields. The sounds of lawn mowers can be heard on nice days. Daffodils, violets and other flowers are blooming. Robins are everywhere. The smell of barbeques fill the evening air. Enjoy the spring days!

Sheriff Lohrey has the following quote framed in his office

"Can any one of you by worrying, add a single hour to your life?" MATTHEW 6:27

Judge Joe Dabulskis



# SHERMAN

COUNTY



## APRIL

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.
- Plastic bags

### First Sort: Commingled:

- PAPER - white and colored paper (staples OK), newspapers, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, phone books, paperback books, spiral-bound notebooks, cereal & cracker style boxes (liner removed), cardboard tubes, paper bags, egg cartons, milk cartons & juice boxes.
- PLASTIC - plastic bottles, #1 & #2 with a neck. Examples; beverages, milk jugs, shampoo, detergent, cleaners (rinse & remove caps)
- 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. No larger than 2' x 2' square

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



### The Solid Waste Transfer Site:

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

**The Dalles Disposal**  
1317 West 1<sup>st</sup> Street -The Dalles, 97058  
(541) 298-5149

### Self-Haul Recycling Depot Schedule:

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