

The Citizen-Reporter



SHERMAN COUNTY

A Sherman County Government Publication — December 2022

Sherman County Community Transit

At Sherman County Community Transit we are committed to providing personalized transportation services as we connect people with the destinations and services they need. Whether, it's transportation to a medical appointment, a community event, Veteran Services, or an essential shopping trip, we have it covered. Sherman County Community Transit strives to make a difference in the lives of our residents by providing safe, comfortable, and reliable services.

Offering daily non-emergency medical transportation and weekly shopping bus: Call to schedule your ride today! 541-565-3553

WE ARE HIRING:

Interested in joining our team of trained drivers? Part-time, flexible hours, equal opportunity employer. Inquire by phone or stop by our office at 500 Court St Moro, OR 97039

Mid-Columbia Center for Living News

Mid-Columbia Center for Living (MCCFL) is proud to welcome Sarah Spurgat, our newest Behavioral Health Specialist in Sherman County. Sarah recently moved from Colorado to The Dalles area. While in Colorado, she received her master's degree in Clinical Mental Health from Adams State University in Alamosa. She is also working toward her CDAC-1 (certified drug and alcohol counselor) which requires 1,000 hours of clinical experience.

Sarah will be providing mental health services, which include Comprehensive Diagnostic Evaluation and Assessment, medication evaluation and management, collaborative service planning, individual therapy, family therapy, group therapy, skills training, and peer mentoring. In addition, Sarah will also be providing substance use disorder services.

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RSV

With respiratory illnesses, including RSV, on a steep rise in recent weeks, North Central Public Health District encourages taking some basic steps to protect yourself and others.

- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Wash hands often
- Disinfect common areas touched often
- Keep children out of school and daycare when they are sick
- Consider wearing a mask indoors in public places throughout the RSV season, particularly if you are or have contact with older adults or children under 2.
- You can provide additional protection to children under 2 years (who are unable to mask) – in particular those under 6 months – by asking visitors to wear a mask
- If you or a family member are experiencing symptoms, call your doctor's office

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*Mid-Columbia Center for Living News
Continued from Page 2...*

She is located at 903 Barnett Rd, Room 107 (Klondike Room) in Wasco, Oregon. To book an appointment with Sarah, contact MCCFL for scheduling.

Sarah is thrilled to be able to serve the community of Sherman County and beyond in new role.

"Our region is so fortunate and excited to have Sarah provide behavioral health services in Sherman County. She brings experience, compassion and confidentiality to helping people. She will be a great asset to both community partners and people who need help." - Al Barton, Mid-Columbia Center for Living's Executive Director

RSV

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These steps remain the best protective steps to follow, since there is no vaccination against RSV.

Local schools are reporting increased absences, and hospitalizations are up sharply statewide. In the Gorge and Northwest Oregon, RSV cases tripled last week from the week prior. RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) is a common, seasonal respiratory virus that spreads through coughing and sneezing. It is the most common cause of severe lower respiratory infection

among infants and young children. Symptoms include fever, runny nose, cough, and increased work of breathing. RSV is transmitted through respiratory droplets, direct contact and touching contaminated surfaces.

RSV can cause severe illness in both young children and the elderly. Children younger than 2, and especially infants younger than 6 months, as well as children with underlying medical issues are at increased risk for hospitalization.

Adults 65 and older, as well as those with chronic heart and lung disease and those with weakened immune systems, are also at increased risk for hospitalization.

This year is also expected to be a worse than usual flu season, and COVID-19 is also expected to be on the rise in the winter months. Fortunately, there are vaccines available against the flu and COVID-19.

Flu vaccines and COVID-19 vaccines, including the updated booster, will be available at a free, walk-in 3-day vaccine clinic in The Dalles Dec. 15-17. It will run from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day at 523 E. 3rd St., (across from Sawyer's and Grinders Coffee.) No appointment, ID or insurance is needed for the clinic.



Senior Center Donation

The Sherman Co Senior Center would like to extend a special thank you to Wheatacres Ranch for their very generous donation of beef! With rising food costs donations such as these allow us to feed our patrons with delicious, local, high-quality beef and we are truly grateful to Wheatacres Ranch for their generosity! THANK YOU!

Calving Class for Beef Producers

OSU Mid Columbia Calving Class for Beef Producers – December 14th, 4:30 pm to 8 pm, CGCC The Dalles Campus, Building 2, 3rd Floor Lecture Hall (400 E. Scenic Dr.). Class provides hands on training for calving in beef and dairy cows, along with common calving problems and diseases, nutritional management, and other considerations. Free class with light dinner – register here <https://beav.es/5YS> or email jacob.powell@oregonstate.edu or call 541-298-3581.

**Happy Holidays from
County Court!**

**Judge Dabulskis,
Commissioner Bird,
and
Commissioner Miller**



Extension Afterschool programs

When school started this fall, the OSU Sherman County Extension folks resumed their "Extension Afterschool" programs for youth ages 7 and up. The free program, launched in fall 2020 even before the school was re-opened after COVID, is offered on Tuesday afternoons at the Extension Office. Sherman's "Extension Afterschool" program won state awards both in 4-H and Family Consumer Health programming by Oregon State in early 2022.

Each month has a different topic. September was a science and building focus, using 3DuxDesign plastic connectors to build a variety of cardboard projects. This included upright standing funny figures and robots, 3-D rooms, adding roofs using the angled connectors, and then expanding the basic rooms to a variety of different building projects. A total of 24 youth attended in September.

October focused on the National 4-H STEM Project, "Explorers of the Deep". This is a ready-to-use curriculum focused on the wonders of the ocean and how it can be explored. Our budding scientists put together plastic robot submarine explorers to play in the water and see how they would float. A total of 27 youth attended in October.

November's topic was "Camp Cooking"....which means a cooking class

focusing on foods families usually prepare while camping. These sessions have been very popular, with about 20 youth attending each Tuesday. The group has learned about nutrition and MyPlate food groups, reading food labels, preparing recipes, doing taste tests, and cooking food outdoors over hot briquettes. Several of the kids had never cooked before, so are learning great life skills.

December's focus will be creating toys and treats for our cat and dog family pets. Youths will work with fabric, recycled materials and cast-off clothing to make toys and fun activities, and use recipes to prepare several kinds of pet treats.

Afterschool programming offers many benefits to youth and their families. Whether offered by the school or local groups or youth programs, out-of-school activities are part of the social infrastructure of a community. These programs provide a safe, wholesome place for youth after school as well as giving kids exposure to many types of activities as well as encouraging development of life skills, new hobbies, creativity and enrichment.



Wasco School Events Center News

The holiday season is in full swing at the Wasco School Events Center! The Wasco School hosted its annual Wasco Holiday Bazaar on Dec. 3 with a packed auditorium. They will be hosting their monthly Movie Night from 5 to 8 on Friday, Dec. 9, with "Curious George: A Very Monkey Christmas" starting at 5, then "Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas" playing at 6, and "Elf" with Will Ferrell playing at 6:30. Moviegoers are encouraged to bring their own cozy blankets and floor pillows! Hot cocoa and treats will be available at the snack bar. The Sherman Kids Zone will be hosting its "How The Grinch Stole Christmas" Party at the Wasco School on Friday, Dec. 16, from 5 to 8 p.m. The Wasco School is working on getting heating units installed throughout the facility, so some spaces may still be a bit chilly. Guests are encouraged to dress warm when visiting the Wasco School. The facility still needs volunteers for a number of tasks, including event setup and cleanup and building maintenance. This would be a wonderful opportunity for high school students looking for community service hours. Wishing everyone a merry and bright holiday season!



Sherman County Board of Property Tax Appeals Notice of Session

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 10:00am, the Board of Property Tax Appeals (BOPTA) of the County of Sherman, State of Oregon will meet to:

- Hear petitions for reduction of the real market, maximum assessed, specially assessed, or assessed value of property as of January 1, 2022, or as determined under ORS 308.146;
- Hear petitions for reduction of value corrected under ORS 311.208;
- Hear petitions for waiver of penalties for late filing of real or personal property returns.

Petitions can only be accepted by the County Clerk's Office. Please mail or hand-deliver to:

Sherman County Clerk – BOPTA
500 Court Street
PO Box 243
Moro, Oregon 97039
Fax: 541-565-3771
Email: audreyr@co.sherman.or.us

Hand-delivered petitions must be delivered to the clerk's office by 5:00pm January 3, 2023.

Mailed petitions must be postmarked on or before January 3, 2023.

Faxed or electronically filed petitions must be received by midnight Pacific Standard Time January 3, 2023 as evidenced by electronic acknowledgement

of receipt produced by the County's fax machine or by email. Petition forms to file your appeal are available at the County Clerk's office and online at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/DOR/programs/property/Pages/property-appeals.aspx>

The board will meet at the Sherman County Courthouse in the Commissioners Meeting Room located at 500 Court Street in the city of Moro, Oregon. A schedule of hearings for those who request to be present will be posted 48 hours prior to the meeting on the door of the Commissioners Meeting Room at the Sherman County Courthouse, Moro, Oregon.

If you have requested to be present at the hearing, you will be notified of the date, time and place to appear. All other hearings will be scheduled as time allows. We request you provide your additional appeal evidence at least seven (7) working days prior to your hearing so that we may make copies for the board members and the Assessor's office. Please mail, hand deliver or fax your additional evidence. Please do not email your evidence. If you wish to present your additional evidence at the hearing, please bring five (5) copies of your evidence with you. In order to most effectively use the time allocated for your hearing, it is best to have all evidence prepared and available before the hearing begins. Contact the Board of Property Tax Appeals clerk for information.

Executive sessions may be held during the session as authorized by ORS

192.660 to consider documents and information made confidential under ORS 308.290, ORS 308.411, and ORS 308.413.

It shall be the duty of the persons interested to appear at the time and place appointed. The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. Anyone in need of special accommodations is asked to submit a request at least 48 hours prior to the meeting by contacting Kristi Weis or Audrey Rooney at 541-565-3606.

2022 General Election Results

The Certified results from the November 8, 2022 General Election are available online by visiting the **Sherman County Clerk Elections** page at www.co.sherman.or.us/archive-county-election-results/ or by contacting the Clerk's Office at 541-565-3606.

Trees can be fire hazards

Fresh cut trees look and smell great, but they can also be a fire hazard. Ensure your tree brings joy instead of disaster to your home.

- ◆ Water the tree daily
- ◆ Place it three feet away from any heat source
- ◆ Don't use light strands with frayed, pinched wires or loose bulbs

2022 Fall Grant Awards Announced by Cultural Coalition

Fall grant awards for 2022 have been announced by the Sherman County Cultural Coalition (SCCC) committing \$12,526.00 to projects that strengthen existing cultural resources or engage the community in the arts, heritage or humanities in Sherman County.

Nine project applications met the goals and priorities established by the Coalition in the Sherman County Cultural Plan. Successful applicants and projects are as follows: City of Grass Valley – *Annual Easter Egg Hunt*; City of Wasco – *Train Depot Upgrades*; Condon Chamber of Commerce – *Sherman County Harvest Fest*; Sherman County School – *Artist in Residence*; Sherman County Pickleball Club – *Rufus Outdoor Courts*; SC Wellness/SC Prevention – *Turkey Trot/5K Family Walk/Run*; Sherman Kids Zone – *Holiday Community Celebrations*; Sherman PTO – *Youth Events 2022-23*; Wasco School Events Center – *Monthly Movie Nights*.

Funding for these community projects was made possible with a grant award received from the Oregon Cultural Trust, matching funds generously provided by Sherman County and additional funds awarded this year to all Cultural Coalitions from the Oregon Community Foundation. Applications for the next grant cycle will be available in the

spring of 2023.

The Oregon Cultural Trust, with donations from Oregonians, funds 1400+ nonprofits in Oregon in the areas of arts, heritage, and humanities. When you donate to any of the 1400+ on the list, you can qualify for a state tax credit.

Visit <https://culturaltrust.org/> to learn how you can get involved and qualify for the tax credit.

For additional information on the Sherman County Cultural Coalition, please visit our website at <https://www.shermancountyculturalcoalition.com>.

Wheat Pesticide Workshop

OSU Mid Columbia Wheat Pesticide Workshop

– December 16th, 9 am to 12:30 pm, Sherman County Extension Office (66365 Lonrock Rd, Moro, OR 97039). Class covers pest management considerations for wheat farmers. A light lunch will be provided following the class sponsored by BASF. Class costs \$20 with 4 ODA pesticide credits anticipated. Registration is encouraged online: <https://beav.es/5YQ>, email jacob.powell@oregonstate.edu, or call 541-298-3581.

Happy Holidays!

Senior Citizen Donations Wanted

On December 20th we will be distributing winter bags to Senior Citizens of Sherman County.

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 December 17th. Suggested items are: toilet paper, Kleenex, hand soap, dish soap, lotion, bathroom spray, candles, flashlights, blankets, foil, kitchen sponges, lotions, Chap Stick, games, books, holiday decorations, tea, snacks and candy. You can also write cards to the seniors and we will add them to the bags.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the April and August Senior bags and/or sponsored an ambulance membership. We appreciate your generosity.

Winter Pesticide Training

OSU Columbia Gorge Winter Pesticide Training

– December 12th, 1 pm to 4:30 pm, CGCC The Dalles Campus, Building 2, 3rd Floor Lecture Hall (400 E. Scenic Dr.). Class covers pest management considerations for wheat and cherry producers. Class costs \$20 with 4 ODA pesticide credits anticipated, possibly WSDA credits as well. Registration is encouraged online: <https://beav.es/5YQ>, email jacob.powell@oregonstate.edu, or call 541-298-3581.

Sherman County Public/School Library

WINTER HOURS

Tuesday: 10:00 am—6:00 pm

Thursday: 10:00 am—6:00 pm

Saturday 10:00 am—4:00 pm

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.

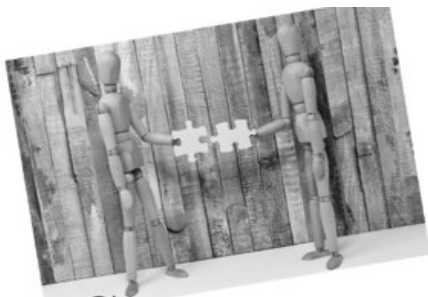
LIBRARY BOOK CLUB

JANUARY 5 @ 6:00pm

Join us for tea, dessert, and book discussion. January's book is *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt

We're starting a puzzle exchange

Leave a puzzle and take a puzzle



Instagram

“Follow” us on Instagram at ShermanCountypsl

FACEBOOK

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

Phone:
541-565-3279

Address:
65912 High School Loop
Moro, Oregon, 97039

Website:
ShermanCountyPSL.weebly.com/

Email:
shermanlibrary@sherman.k12.or.us

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

2-4 pm December 10th @ Library

2-4 pm December 17 @ Rufus

Pinecone Santa or Elf

Space limited—Please call to register at 541-565-3276



NEW NON-FICTION

Killer in the Kremlin

Daughter of Auschwitz

PlantYou

John Sweeney

Tova Friedman

Carleigh Bodrug

NEW FICTION

Suspect

The Book Woman's Daughter

Hell and Back

Scott Turow

Kim Michelle Richardson

Craig Johnson

NEW MOVIES

Sing 2

The Munsters 2022

The Bad Guys

Where the Crawdads Sing

Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore

BEST SELLERS

Killing the Legends

It Starts with Us

Mad Honey

Lightlark

Long Shadows

Fairy Tale

Dreamland

Our Missing Hearts

Verity

Bill O'Reilly

Colleen Hoover

Jodi Picoult

Alex Aster

David Baldacci

Stephen King

Nicholas Sparks

Celeste Ng

Colleen Hoover

The Judges Corner

This is the time of the year when we should be a little extra careful when driving. Even when the roads seem clear and it is warm, there can be icy spots. A few years ago on a day that was sunny and over 40 degrees all day, I hit a patch of ice one evening on Scott Canyon. After I bounced off the guard rail and came to a stop, I looked over at my daughter to see if she was alright and saw a little trickle of blood running down her cheek where she had poked herself just under her eye with a Happy Meal toy when we came to an abrupt stop. We were lucky! That was the only damage done beside a munched up pickup. So please don't ruin your holidays - the elections already did that for many. Be safe and have a great holiday season.

In a month or so, Clark Street, one of the main roads into Wasco will be having emergency repairs done to it. Be prepared to use an alternate route.

At the end of the year we will be saying Good-Bye and Good-Luck to several longtime county employees. Marnene W., Melanie C., Ross T., and Gary S. will be spending their days doing other things. The new face we are saying welcome to at the courthouse is Mia M. Also Theresa O. will be changing desks, moving from the Justice Court's office to the Treasurer's office.

The Sherman County Court realizes that getting out there and seeing what is going on throughout the county is important. While the last couple years has hindered us somewhat, we have visited/toured the following these past 4 years. Azure Standards warehouse, The Branding Iron, Biggs water project and sewer plant, CGCC resident hall and trades center, Cottonwood State Park cabins, Fair grounds arena, Finnegan and Rutledge bridges, Floated the Deschutes River observing weeds and the fire recovery, Grass Valley Hemp plant, county paving projects, NORCOR, Rufus Food Pantry and community school, Wind Turbine farms, both older, new, and during construction, Wy'East Solar farm, Solar broadband trailers, School during COVID, TC Energy Gas compressing station, Wasco Event Center, several county owned properties, Starvation Lane and boat ramp. The Court will try to continue learning and seeing what we can in and around Sherman County.

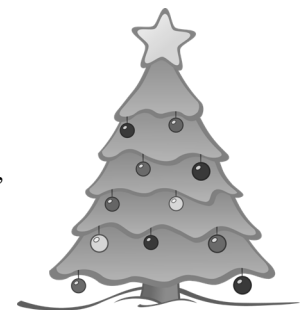
The Ford Family Foundation and Oregon State University Extension Service puts out a book every couple years with facts about each county titled "Oregon by the Numbers". What caught my eye as I looked over Sherman County facts are, (according to their data), we have a life expectancy of 80 years, our high school graduation rate is 92%, which is 10% higher than the state average, and 73% of our population has broadband availability. That 73% surprised me because we have been working hard to fill in the gaps, I thought it would be higher.

I attended the annual AOC conference in Eugene where I spoke about wind turbines, both the economic benefits and the problems and issues that go with them. The questions people ask when you are part of a panel can be very interesting. It was also nice to have a Director of the Oregon Department of Energy in the audience to help answer the questions I couldn't. This year at the "Taste of Oregon" portion of the event, we again gave samples of Bob's Texas T-Bones' Cinnamon rolls to attendees, jerky made by "The Twisted Cowboy" and CBD gummies from GVB. All were a hit.

A couple of years ago I just couldn't wait for things to return to "normal". I still seem to be waiting!

"Tis" the season to remember what Shania Twain said, "It's not a man's world, nor a woman's world, but our world."

Judge Joe Dabulskis





SHERMAN
COUNTY



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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
- Plastic tubs or plant containers

First Sort: Commingled:

- PAPER - newspapers, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, phone books, shredded paper in a paper bag, cereal & cracker style boxes (liner removed), cardboard tubes, 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.

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