

The Citizen-Reporter



A Sherman County Government Publication — October 2010

Oregon Rural Tourism Studio Register Now!!

Oregon's Rural Tourism Studio, offered by Travel Oregon starting this October in the John Day River Territory (Gilliam, Wheeler and Sherman Counties), is now open for registration! With tourism industry workshops and education specialized for the region, the program will help rural communities stimulate their local economies, protect and enhance local resources, and foster pride in the place they live. Community leaders, tourism entrepreneurs, tour operators, lodging property owners, outdoor enthusiasts, restaurateurs, event producers and anyone with an interest in strengthening the local economy through tourism are invited to participate in the program!

The Rural Tourism Studio brings eight days of training on:

- **tourism development** and strategies for creating unique visitor experiences from local assets
- **sustainable tourism** principles to ensure that we protect and enhance the community, its culture and our natural assets as we develop the industry
- the rapidly expanding niche market of **nature-based tourism**
- **cultural heritage** tourism to expose visitors to the local history and culture
- **marketing** businesses (and your community!) on a shoestring
- **fundraising** to support tourism development efforts

Events during the program will give participants an opportunity to tour their region as a visitor for deeper insight on local tourism liabilities and assets, and to learn about resources to support small business development.

Workshops will take place in Condon, Moro and Fossil. Please visit website for details. There is a \$5 fee for each workshop to help cover meal costs. Register for all 8 workshops for \$35. Events are free! It is recommended that participants attend all workshops and events to get the most out of the program. Participants who attend 6 or more workshops will receive a certificate of completion from Travel Oregon.



The following workshops and events will be offered as part of the program:

Oct 12, 2010 4pm-8pm	Community Tourism Planning – Part 1 [Location: Condon] <i>Tourism industry overview, trends & community asset mapping</i>
Oct 13 9am-4pm	Community Tourism Planning – Part 2 [Location: Condon] <i>Set a path for sustainable tourism, refine your destination's brand</i>
Nov 2 4pm-8pm	Agritourism Development [Location: Moro] <i>Explore ways to add value to your agricultural business</i>
Nov 3 9am-4pm	Cultural Heritage Tourism Development [Location: Moro] <i>Learn how to share the rich stories and culture of your region</i>
Nov 4 Times TBD	Event: Tourist for a Day [Starting point TBD] <i>Experience your region – the good and the bad - from a visitor's perspective</i>
Dec 7 9am-4pm	Nature-Based Tourism Development [Location: Fossil] <i>Develop new ways to engage visitors with ecotourism & adventure travel</i>
Dec 7 6pm-9pm	Event: Evening for Entrepreneurs [Location: Fossil] <i>The motorcycle traveler: how to attract riders and keep the dollars local</i>
Dec 8 9am-4pm	Creating & Producing High Impact Events [Location: Fossil] <i>Harness the potential of a well-planned event</i>
Jan 11, 2011 9am-4pm	Rural Tourism Marketing on a Shoestring [Location: Condon] <i>Learn about existing marketing channels to promote your tourism business & enhance your marketing plan</i>
Jan 12 9am-4pm	Fundraising for Tourism Projects & Teaming for Success [Location: Condon] <i>Find money for your projects & form community action teams</i>
Jan 12 5pm-7pm	Event: Community Tourism Kickoff! [Location: Condon] <i>Participants share their vision of tourism for the region and celebrate completion</i>

Space is limited to 35 participants. The program has been designed specifically for this tri-county area, but surrounding communities are welcome to participate as space allows. Register online at <http://Industry.TravelOregon.com/RTS>. For questions, contact Jessica Metta at the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District at 541-296-2266 or Jessica@mcedd.org.

Oregon's Rural Tourism Studio program is designed to assist rural communities interested in sustainable tourism development. As a result of the program, Travel Oregon hopes to see an increase in high-value, authentic experiences for travelers across the state. This will help contribute to community livability, a healthy environment and will strengthen Oregon's position as a premiere North American tourism destination.

Oregon's Rural Tourism Studio is offered in partnership with the John Day River Territory Partnership, the Condon Chamber of Commerce, Gilliam County Economic Development, Mid-Columbia Economic Development District, Wilson Ranches Retreat B&B, Oregon Paleo Lands Institute, Paleo Adventures, Sherman County, Arlington Chamber of Commerce, the Sherman County Historical Society and the Eastern Oregon Visitors Association. For more information about the program, please contact Travel Oregon's Sustainable Tourism Development Manager, Kristin Dahl, at Kristin@TravelOregon.com or 503.378.2104.

~ Kristin Dahl, Travel Oregon

Tri-County Veterans Service Officer: Schedule Changes

Tri-County Veterans Service Officer Bryan Hunt announces a schedule change effective October 25, 2010:

Monday: Outreach activities; home visits by appointment

Tuesday: Gilliam County Courthouse, Condon – Circuit Judge Office, 541-384-6712

Wednesday: Sherman County - Senior/Community Center, Moro; 541-565- 3408

Thursday: Wheeler County - Family Services Building, Fossil; 541-763-3032

Office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (closed for lunch 12pm-1pm)

Note: The Veterans Service office will be closed the week of October 18-22 for a fall training conference. Please call the respective office for your county and leave your name, phone number and a short message. Calls will be returned on Monday, October 25th.

~ *Bryan Hunt, Tri-County Veterans Service Officer*

Updated Rural Addressing Signs

You may have noticed the newer blue and white rural addressing signs around Sherman County. Sherman County 911 Communications is in the process of replacing the old brown signs with the new signs.

If you still have a brown sign, please contact Shawn Payne at 541-565-3100, so she can arrange to have the sign replaced with the more visible blue signs.

~ *Shawn Payne, Emergency Services*



An Event of the Century

At this writing the rainfall total for the month of September at the Experiment Station in Moro stands at 2.61 inches and we still have 8 more days to add to that total. Of course, most of that fell over the weekend of September 17-19 (2.36 inches to be exact).

And while we have month-to-date totals around the county running from 1.80 inches to 3.45 inches, there is no question Sherman County received a lot of rain this September.

So when a grower asked me when was the last time we had 2 inches in September, it sent me running to check the totals at the Sherman Experiment Station which has recorded them since September of 1910, its first year of business.

The long term normal total for the month is .60 inches and we haven't seen that since 1995. Looking back, there were only 15 times since 1910 that we've exceeded 1 inch in September and six of those fell in the first 10 years of record.

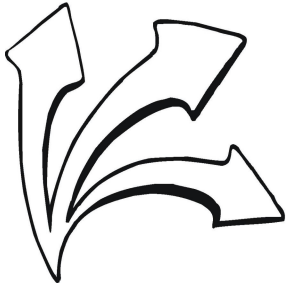
Growers with long memories will recall the 1.36 inches in September of 1971, 1.42 inches (1982), 1.11 inches (1985), 1.52 inches (1986) and 1.02 inches (1995). But to date, only one other month has exceeded 2 inches of precipitation at the Sherman Station. And that goes all the way back to 1911 when it dumped 3.53 inches.

So while we haven't seen the wettest September, we have experienced what is truly a century event.

~ *Sandy Macnab, Sherman County Extension*

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Sherman County Ambulance personnel will be wearing pink gloves while providing patient care during the month of October.

Planning Department News



Sherman County was recently re-designated an Enterprise Zone by the Director of the Oregon Business Development Department. The enterprise

zone designated was acknowledged as a re-designation and continuation of the expiring zone that has been in effect since 1999.

Public Hearings, consultations with the four city councils and a taxing district meeting were held in preparation of the application for the enterprise zone. The application was submitted to the state in April of this year.

What is An Enterprise Zone

Enterprise zones are discrete areas up to 12 square miles in size that are sponsored by one or more local governments. Various types are found throughout the world. Oregon's version has been in existence since the mid-1980's. Each zone designation lasts up to 11 years. State law permits up to 59 to exist now.

They are intended to offer property tax relief and other incentives to induce additional investment and employment by non-retail businesses in areas meeting certain measures of economic hardship. They have proven to be Oregon's key offering in the pursuit of business growth and expansion. Their effectiveness is due to a short-term but immediate benefit for the business project's cash flow.

The Sherman County Enterprise Zone consists of 3.1 square miles, with areas within the cities of Rufus, Wasco, Moro, Grass Valley and Biggs Junction with focus on the industrial sites.

For more information on this program contact Georgia Macnab in the Sherman County Planning Department at 541-565-3601.

Planning Commission

The County Planning Commission has also heard several land use proposals including two zone changes, two non farm dwellings, two expansions of existing rock quarries, two additional rock quarries and a road vacation.

The current Planning Commission consists of Dan Pehlke, Don Hilderbrand, Don Richelderfer, Ray Smith and Roger Whitley.

~ Georgia Macnab, Planning Department

“Check Out” Energy Savings

Borrow a Kill A Watt monitor from Sherman County Public/School Library. Energy Trust and your local library are joining forces to make Kill A Watt monitors available for check-out. By finding out how much energy your electric devices are using and then making energy-saving adjustments, you can take charge of your electricity use and lower utility costs year-round.

Each monitor comes with advice on how to use the Kill A Watt monitor and how to apply what you learn so that you can start saving energy. We list the types of devices in your home that are likely to use more energy than you realize and the devices that continue to use energy even when they appear to be turned off.

Energy Tip: Borrowing, rather than buying books, is a good way to reduce energy usage and conserve resources.

~ Arla Melzer, Public/School Librarian

City of Wasco

3rd Annual Wasco Halloween Fun House
Sunday October 31st, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Old Wasco Fire Hall

Join Us for a Safe and Fun-filled

Halloween Night!!

North Central Public Health District Serving Sherman County

In these difficult economic times, family budgets are being stretched tighter and tighter. You may not be aware that North Central Public Health District (NCPHD) serving Wasco, Sherman and Gilliam Counties has services available to all citizens that might ease that tightening a bit.



Women's Health services that are offered at our clinic include: annual physical exams complete with breast and pelvic exams, and health counseling, lab testing and follow-up, family planning, health education and access to birth control. Exams are by appointment. Walk in services are available in our clinic during regular hours. We offer a variety of low cost birth control methods including birth control pills, IUD's, Depo-Provera injections, condoms, foam and natural family planning. Our nurses will help you determine what method is best for you and your lifestyle. Through the Oregon CCARE program, many of our services may be free to qualified applicants. This quick screening is done at the clinic. Eligibility, once established, is good for one year. Clients may also use the Oregon Health Plan or private insurance. A sliding scale is available for clients who do not qualify for CCARE or who do not have other insurance coverage. You will receive care even if you cannot afford to pay. If you are on the Oregon Health Plan you do

not need a referral to come to our clinic. Clients are encouraged to bring a social security number, photo ID and birth certificate along at your first visit if you have them.

NCPHD also serves the three counties with the Oregon Nutrition and Health Screening Program commonly known as WIC. This program provides the following services to eligible families:

- ◆ Nutrition Education - The program provides nutrition education and counseling to pregnant women, new mothers and children. The main focus is prevention and improved health.
- ◆ Breastfeeding promotion and support
- ◆ Monthly Food Vouchers - WIC participants receive monthly vouchers for specific food prescribed to meet their individual needs. Foods that are high in protein, calcium, iron and Vitamins A and C. Vouchers are redeemed at contracted local grocery stores.

Many pregnant, post-partum, or breastfeeding women, infants, or children under 5 years of age who live in Oregon are eligible.

Immunizations are available on a walk-in basis Monday-Friday, 8:30am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-5:00pm. We can bill private insurance for vaccines your child receives in our clinic. You are eligible for free vaccine if you have no insurance, have OHP, are an American Indian or Alaskan Native, your insurance doesn't pay for childhood vaccines or your co-pay or deductible is not affordable.

For more information about these and other public health programs, call 541-506-2600 or visit our website www.wshd.org.

~ Teri L. Thalhoffer, RN, BSN, Director North Central Public Health District

Fall Weed Control

Fall is an excellent time to spray many hard-to-control weeds, specifically perennials such as Russian knapweed and Canada thistle. The following is an excerpt from Techline, a Weed Management Services publication out of Helena, Montana:

Fall Application of Milestone to Control Key Invasive Weeds

“Fall is an excellent time to control invasive weeds with Milestone. Late summer and fall rains in many areas of the West in 2010 will provide land managers with a good opportunity to extend their application season.

Russian Knapweed - Milestone at 5 or 7 fluid ounces per acre is highly effective for controlling Russian knapweed. Unlike other herbicides, applications of Milestone can be made on Russian knapweed through late summer and until after the foliage has died back (leaves are brown and dead!) in fall. Milestone is taken up by the foliage, through the root crown or from the soil into this noxious weed. Milestone will provide residual control of plants that try to re-grow and emerge after initial application.



Canada Thistle - Field research has shown that fall applications are extremely effective with Milestone at labeled rates of 5 to 7 ounces per acre. Tank

mixing with another herbicide is not necessary; Milestone alone will control Canada thistle. University of Nebraska research reports Canada thistle is actually more susceptible to herbicides when applied in the fall following a frost. Applications can be made in the fall as long as there is live Canada thistle foliage. Even though the leaves will begin to senesce, generally there is still excellent efficacy up to late October as long as there is some green foliage”.

Rush skeleton weed would also be a good candidate for fall applications with Milestone. Milestone is a non-restricted product with low use rates and no activity on desirable grasses. **ALWAYS** Read and Follow the Label directions.

For more information on these or other weeds, contact the Sherman County Weed District at 541-565-3655.

~ Rod Asher, Weed Department

Library Programs & New Materials

Saturday, October 23, 1:00 pm: Oldies Music from the '50s and '60s with DJ Bob Jones

Monday, October 25, 5:00 p.m.: Author Rick Steber (courtesy of SC Cultural Trust)

Saturday, November 13, 2:00 pm: Classical Guitar Duo

Saturday, December 4, 2:00 pm: Native Flute and Dance with Foster Ko-Na-Kalama

Programs are provided by Libraries of Eastern Oregon. For more information please call 541-565-3279.

NEW MATERIALS

Come in and check out our new Bestsellers: “Wicked Appetite” by Janet Evanovich and “Safe Haven” by Nicholas Sparks. Also, new children’s books with CD’s were purchased with donations in memory of Dominick Fus. Kids will enjoy titles such as “Ellison the Elephant”, “Walk through the Jungle”, “Clifford’s Good Deeds”, “Snow”, “Driving My Tractor”, “Port Side Pirates!” plus many more.

~ Arla Melzer
Public/School Librarian



Winter Storm Preparedness

Prepare your home and family:

- Prepare for possible **isolation in your home** by having sufficient heating fuel; regular fuel sources may be cut off. For example, store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove.
- **Winterize your home** to extend the life of your fuel supply by insulating walls and attics, caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows and installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic.
- **Winterize your house, barn, shed or any other structure that may provide shelter** for your family, neighbors, livestock or equipment. Clear rain gutters; repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that could fall on a house or other structure during a storm.
- **Insulate pipes** with insulation or newspapers and plastic and allow faucets to drip a little during cold weather to avoid freezing.
- **Keep fire extinguishers on hand** and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them. House fires pose an additional risk, as more people turn to alternate heating sources without taking the necessary safety precautions.

- **Learn how to shut off water valves** (in case a pipe bursts).
- **Know ahead of time what you should do to help elderly or disabled friends, neighbors or employees.**

Prepare your car:

Check the antifreeze level

Install good winter tires

Maintain at least a half tank of gas

Place a winter emergency kit in each car that includes:

- ▶ Shovel
- ▶ Windshield scraper and small broom
- ▶ Flashlight
- ▶ Battery powered radio
- ▶ Extra batteries
- ▶ Water
- ▶ Snack food
- ▶ Matches
- ▶ First aid kit with pocket knife
- ▶ Necessary medications
- ▶ Blanket(s)
- ▶ Tow chain or rope
- ▶ Road salt and sand
- ▶ Booster cables
- ▶ Emergency flares

For more information, please go to www.ready.gov.

~ Shawn Payne, Emergency Services

Mental Health Services

Mid-Columbia Center for Living continues to provide mental health services for residents of Sherman, Wasco and Hood River Counties. Primary staff in Sherman County are Tracey Walette, LPC and local Sherman County resident Doris Hubbard. Tracey provides counseling and therapy services to adults and children at the Sherman County Senior Center in Moro. Doris' expanded role is as a case manager for residents to Sherman County. Case managers are charged with seeking out and assisting the most vulnerable or mentally ill adults and children in the county. Often these clients are at risk of going to a psychiatric hospital far away from home without ongoing services. Case managers assist with a variety of activities including maintaining client medications, keeping clients in their homes, assuring the clients bills are paid and helping with daily activities and wellness.

Please contact Tracey or Doris at 541-296-5452 if you know of any resident of Sherman County with mental health problems who could benefit from mental health services

~ Al Barton, MS, LPC, Mid-Columbia Center for Living



SHERMAN

COUNTY

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

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

Postal Patron

Recycle - It's Easy!!

First Sort: Commingled:

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

Second Sort:

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

Third Sort:

- Corrugated cardboard - flattened.

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

Self-Haul Recycling Depot Schedule:

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

Do Not Recycle:

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

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

The Solid Waste Transfer Site:
72526 Welk Road
Open every 2nd & 4th Saturday
12 noon until 4 p.m.

