

Two file for Wasco County commissioner

■ **Mark Gibson**
The Dalles Chronicle

Two candidates have filed for Wasco County Commission, position #2, and will be on the May 19 primary ballot.

Incumbent Steve Kramer will face a challenge from local attorney Marcus Swift for Wasco County Commission, position #2, in the May 19 primary election. Both candidates filed as nonpartisan.

Steve Kramer, a resident of Dufur and 2020 chair of the county commission has a background in self employment in the private sector, and served two terms on the Dufur city council, two terms on the Dufur Park and Recreation District board and

two terms on the board of the Port of The Dalles prior to first running for commissioner in 2012. He studied business and forestry at Chemeketa Community College for two terms, and is a graduate of Ontario High School, according to his filing with the Wasco County Clerk.

Marcus Swift is a resident of The Dalles working as an attorney and small business owner of Overland Law, LLC. His prior government experience includes service with the Wasco County Planning Commission; as a



Steve Kramer

public defender; a community affairs specialist; a legislative aide for the Oregon House of Representatives; and as a park ranger with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, according to his filing with the Wasco County Clerk.

Swift is a graduate of Crofton High School, has a bachelor's degree in marketing management from Bellevue University and a Juris Doctorate from Roger Williams University School of Law.

Running unopposed are Assessor Jill Amery; Clerk Lisa Gambee, Sheriff Lane Magill and Treasurer Elijah Preston.

A revised city charter for the City of The Dalles will

also be on the May 19 ballot. The charter was last revised in 1994, and changes are meant to bring the charter up to date with current state law and city administration practices.

According to the notice of measure election filed with the County Clerk, the revised charter "specifies a general grant of powers consistent with state law; a council/manager form of government; elimination of council districts; nomination and election of councilors and the mayor at large with



Marcus Swift

terms established on a staggered basis; establishment of a four-year term for the mayor beginning with the 2022 biennial election; establishment of the office of city attorney as the chief legal officer of the city government with the ability to assign duties of the office by contract; revision of procedures for adoption of ordinances; elimination of the provision providing that the mayor and councilors shall not receive compensation for serving as public officials; and other matters."

The filing deadline was March 10.

Registration open

Although you must be 18

years of age to vote, anyone 16 or over can register to vote. If you have an Oregon driver's license, permit or I.D. number issued by the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles, you can register online. If not, you will need to submit a printed form and deliver it in person so your signature can be recorded. Details and links can be found on the Wasco County website, click on "departments/clerk" from the home page. You may register at any time, but your voter registration card must be post-marked or delivered by the 21st day before the election you intend to vote in, which will be Wednesday, April 29 for the Tuesday, May 19 election.

Paddler returns to Columbia on 22-river trek

Stops planned at Memaloose, The Dalles and Rufus areas

■ **By Kirby Neumann-Rea**
The Hood River News

Journalist and voyager Neal Moore is used to the strange looks and skeptical questions when he tells people he is paddling the Columbia River on the first stage of a solo canoe expedition overland to New York City.

"Why would you want to go to New York City?" a Montana rancher once disbelievingly asked Moore. In Hood River this week, he got similar reactions.

"I tell people, it's not New York City itself—that's the destination. It's what I find along the way."

"I'm on the lookout for stories that connect and unite us, not divide us," said Moore, who embarked aboard his fully-laden 16-foot canoe from Astoria on Feb. 9.

Moore chronicles his adventure on 22 Rivers.com—a reference to the number of

routes he plans to follow, along with some overland portaging, to reach Astoria, Queens, New York, a commercial district in the New York City borough of Queens, in about two years.

Moore said his timeline is open-ended, due to encounters with weather and water conditions he must prepare for and the range of human contact he relishes.

With "22 Rivers, 22 States and 7,500 Miles Across America By Canoe," Moore was en route east this week from Hood River after spending four days here. He planned stops in the Memaloose and The Dalles areas, and then to Rufus, where he will connect with his friend Gus Herrera, who runs Gorge Outfitters.

The new cross-country paddle is his second attempt; in April 2018 he traveled through Hood River and by autumn 2018 made it as far as North Dakota before his second boat—and second set of portaging wheels—gave out and he decided to regroup.

This year, he considered returning to the same location in the Dakotas and picking up where he left off, but preferred to do the entire

route uninterrupted—more or less. Moore did break up his journey three weeks in getting a ride from Cascade Locks back to Astoria in order to attend the annual Fisherpoets gathering there. He had friends reading at Fisherpoets, and learning about peoples' lives and experiences on the river is part of Moore's ongoing journey as a freelance journalist, film-maker and explorer.

"I know the recipe I found in Hood River County is that of collaboration and people trying to connect with each other. In this part of the world, all up the Columbia, I'm finding that the salmon and all that it means is the central defining point," Moore said.

He has also traveled the length of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers solo by canoe and has written extensively on the experiences, including his book "Down the Mississippi."

Moore, 48, is a California native who has lived and worked in Cape Town and a total of about 16 years in Taipei, Taiwan, as a teacher and journalist.

He returned to Taipei in autumn 2018.



Canoeist Neal Moore loads his gear at Port of Hood River on Monday morning, March 9, with plans to spend another week or so in the mid-Columbia before taking the river east and north to Canada. Kirby Neumann-Rea photo

Back on the Columbia and with 21 more rivers to touch, north and east, Moore plans to assemble new stories along the way as well as circle back with people from Hood River County that he met and blogged about two years ago. Frequently asked if he plans a book or other compilation of his journey, Moore said he

is open to the prospect but "I'm mainly in this for the experience."

He said he enjoys reconnecting with friends he made on the first third of the intended trans-continental route, and meeting new people and telling their stories.

His 22 Rivers route will take him to Trail, B.C., via the

Columbia and then south again via the Pend Oreille River, connecting with the Missouri and Mississippi, then working through a maze of southeast U.S. and Appalachian rivers back up through the Ohio River system, the Great Lakes, and down the Hudson—to Astoria, Queens.

State Health Authority reports new coronavirus cases

■ **By Les Zaitz**
Oregon Capital Bureau

Life in Oregon underwent a dramatic change Thursday, as Gov. Kate Brown banned large gatherings, major universities shifted to remote classes for 80,000 students, local schools were urged to cancel events and medical professionals will ramp up testing for the novel coronavirus.

Locally, School District 21 announced Thursday that all in-season athletic practices and club meetings may proceed as normal; however, all athletic contests, club tournaments, band concerts and other gatherings are canceled or postponed. (See related story page B3.)

Maryhill Museum of Art canceled programs but will still open March 15.

Additional concerts and events have also been canceled, including St. Pat's at St. Pete's on Saint Patrick's Day. Closures are posted online at www.thedalleschronicle.com and will be updated as

information is received.

As of 1:53 p.m. Thursday, no cases of the virus had been confirmed in Wasco County.

The developments are unfolding as Oregon health officials on Wednesday announced that six more people have tested positive for COVID-19, including two residents at a veterans' nursing home in Lebanon.

Statewide, Oregon has recorded 21 presumptive cases in 11 counties with health officials warning more are likely.

And in Washington, the Trump administration and Congress are considering pumping money into the American economy. President Donald Trump has suggested stopping payroll taxes and deferring income tax payments. In a speech to the country Wednesday night, Trump also announced a ban on travel to the U.S. from Europe with the general exception of U.S. citizens.

The governor was

scheduled to hold a news conference in Portland Thursday to provide details on new state restrictions and steps state and local governments are taking to address the outbreak, now considered a global pandemic by the World Health Organization.

"It's time for us all to do what we can to slow its spread and take care of one another," Brown said in a statement Wednesday evening.

She is banning all gatherings of 250 people or more for the next four weeks.

"A gathering is defined as any event in a space in which appropriate social distancing of a minimum of three feet cannot be maintained," her statement said.

Brown also announced new guidance for Oregon's local schools that will touch every student, teacher and parent.

"To keep schools open, all non-essential school-associated gatherings and group activities should be canceled

— such as group parent meetings, field trips, and competitions," Brown said.

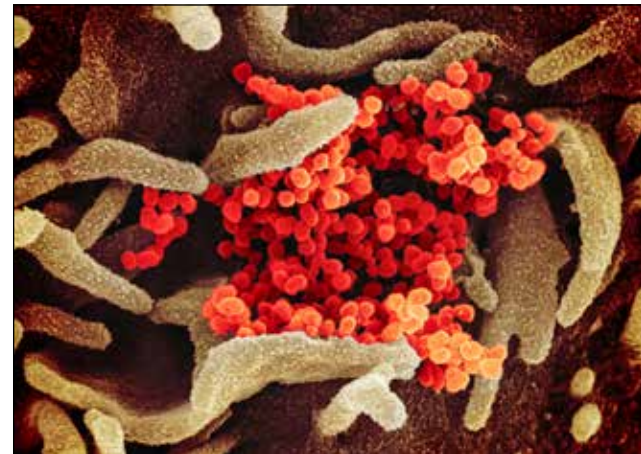
The Salem-Keizer School District, the state's second-largest, announced that it was suspending "all school-based assemblies and events, off-campus field trips, and professional development meetings and events."

The district also said no one would be allowed into sporting events "with the exception of essential personnel and credentialed media."

Workplaces across the state should modify their practices as well, Brown said.

Employers should use "distancing measures including an increased physical space between employees in offices and worksites, limited in-person meetings, limited travel, and staggered work schedules where possible."

The new restrictions follow the state's decision to greatly restrict visits to Oregon's 670 nursing homes, residential care facilities and other licensed care centers. More



This undated electron microscope image made available by the U.S. National Institutes of Health in February 2020 shows the Novel Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, orange, emerging from the surface of cells, green, cultured in the lab. Also known as 2019-nCoV, the virus causes COVID-19.

than 30,000 Oregonians live in such settings. The state has said only essential visitors should be allowed in — after screening — and that includes friends and relatives for end-of-life visits or visits otherwise considered vital to a resident's care.

Brown also reached out a second time to federal

officials, seeking more medical equipment and supplies and money to deal with everything from deep cleaning of schools to providing child care for first responders, steps she said were "critically necessary."

Mark Gibson contributed to this report.

WEATHER FOR THE DALLES, OR | MARCH 14 - 20, 2020

Today	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
38° / 26°	38° / 22°	44° / 22°	49° / 25°	54° / 31°	57° / 30°	60° / 33°
Snow at times; 1-2"	Cold with periods of sun	Chilly with clouds and sun	Sun, but chilly	Plenty of sunshine	Cloudy	Clouds yielding to sun

Actual High/Low

Mar 5 - 11	
Thursday	62/30
Friday	59/40
Saturday	54/40
Sunday	56/30
Monday	60/27
Tuesday	64/28
Wednesday	57/42

Updated 3.12.20, 7:30 AM PDT
 Data from Accuweather.com