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Wednesday Wire: Dec. 12, 2012

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Mike Schrunk retires after 32-year career as Multnomah County District Attorney

Mike Schrunk remembers his first stint in the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office back in 1970. He had spent three years in Vietnam as a captain with the U.S. Marines after earning a law degree from the University of Oregon Law School.

"That's when I got a job as a baby DA," he recalls. "I prosecuted a ton of cases and then I left to try private practice, including civil cases and criminal defense work."

As a criminal defense attorney, he represented killers, armed robbers and rapists. In 1981, the then 38-year-old Schrunk - who grew up in North Portland and graduated from Roosevelt High School - started his job as district attorney.

And now, 14 police chiefs, eight county sheriffs, five mayors and more than a couple dozen county board members later, Schrunk is closing the final chapter of his 32-year career as district attorney. "It's time," he says. [[Read more](#)]



Mike Schrunk

Kicking off the FY 2014 budget process and the General Fund forecast

Last week, the county's Budget Office presented its FY 2014 General Fund five-year forecast to the Board of Commissioners -- the first step in preparing our FY 2014 budget. The forecast projects General Fund expenditures will exceed revenues by \$5.2 million in FY 2014 (which starts July 1, 2013). This represents a gap of 1.33 percent of General Fund expenditures.

Passage of the Library District will reduce required General Fund support of the library, and, after adjusting for increased property tax compression, should free up an additional \$8.1 million of ongoing General Fund.

This leaves our General Fund in relatively good shape. However, with the federal fiscal cliff (or as we would say, the austerity slope) approaching and the need to raise the federal debt limit around the corner (again), we expect to be asking department's to prepare 1 percent reductions for FY 2014 in case the economy worsens. Looking out to FY 2015 and FY 2016, our General Fund revenues and expenditures are roughly in-

line. [\[Read more\]](#)

Support available for county employees coping with Clackamas Town Center tragedy

In light of the tragic events involved in Tuesday's shooting at Clackamas Town Center, Human Resources wants to remind all employees about our Employee Assistance Program, which is offered free as part of the county's benefits package.

Counselors, through provider Unum, are available to talk via telephone or in-person to our employees if someone has a connection to the tragedies or just finds such awful news overwhelming.

For more information, contact your Human Resources representative.

Running together for fun, fitness and our community



Multnomah County's Jingle Bell team.

On Dec. 2, 17 county employees from the Multnomah Building, including Commissioners Deborah Kafoury and Judy Shiprack, joined together as a Multnomah County team for the Jingle Bell 5K Walk/Run for the Arthritis Foundation.

Although many who participated in the event were already runners, several employees used the race to kick-start their fitness goals.

"I never saw myself as someone who could run, so this was a big commitment and I wasn't sure if I could do it," said Liz Smith Currie, an adviser to Commissioner Kafoury. "Setting the race as my goal, I got an iPhone app that helped me get off the couch and train for the 5K." [\[Read more\]](#)

Two toasts for Dr. Gary Oxman

Mark your calendars: the Health Department is planning a series of events in December and January to honor Dr. Gary Oxman. The Tri-County Health Officer has announced he will retire on Jan. 31, 2013.

On **Tuesday, Dec. 18**, the Multnomah County Health Department will host a staff celebration for Oxman from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Pine Room of the Lincoln Building, 421 S.W. Oak St., Portland. Staff are advised to let supervisors know if they plan to attend.

On **Thursday, Jan. 17**, the Board of County Commissioners will formally acknowledge Oxman's work at the board meeting, which begins at 9:30 a.m. in the Multnomah Building at 501 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd., followed by a public reception in the anteroom. All are invited. [\[Read more\]](#)



Dr. Gary Oxman

Plan for retirement with health and life insurance session on Jan.

14



Employees, spouses and domestic partners are invited to attend a presentation in January on retirement planning, which focuses on health and life insurance.

The session on the County Retiree Health Insurance Program will be from **4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 14** in the Multnomah Building board room. Information provided will include: enrollment requirements, the medical premium subsidy age and years of county service requirements, and how Medicare may impact health insurance coverage. [[Read more](#)]

Hitting the wall with holiday treats? Find and share healthy recipes with co-workers

It's the most delicious time of year with holiday baking, plenty of parties and potlucks. But if you're feeling a bit too full – or looking for some healthy alternatives for dinner at home tonight-- visit our [recipe swap](#).

Staff from across the county are invited to share the lighter, fresher and healthier dishes they love. You can submit your potluck favorite or open house treat at cwpp@multco.us. We'll be posting submissions to this [Commons page](#) throughout the season.

The Employee Wellness program website has links to a number of handy e-tools, including a calorie counter and a food and activity diary. [Click here](#) to check out Employee Wellness resources.



Give the gift of health and safety during the holidays

The holidays are upon us and with them come a multitude of hazards at work and at home. Did you know that each year more than 10,000 people in the United States are treated in hospital emergency rooms as a result of falls, cuts, shocks and burns related to holiday decorating? If you decorate for the season, the National Safety Council urges doing so with care, especially if you use candles or electrical items that have the potential to start fires. The council's data show that December and January are the peak months for fire-related fatalities, and 80 percent of fire deaths occur inside the home.

Read the rest of the [December edition of Safety Tip](#).

Department of Community Justice hosts blood drive

Employees can donate blood on site during the American Red Cross blood drive



from **8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 18** at the Multnomah Building, suite 250.

Make an appointment by visiting the [American Red Cross' website](#). Enter **commjust** where it asks for the sponsor code. If your last visit to the site was before Nov. 21, 2011, you will need to register in the new system by clicking "Register Now."

Upcoming trainings: 'Hire the Best' and 'Laws Related to Diversity and Hiring'

One of the most critical management challenges is hiring the right people with the right skills in the right jobs. January is the month to think about this key supervisory competency. "Laws Related to Diversity and Hiring" (**9 to 11:30 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 17, Multnomah Building**), taught by the county Attorney's Office and Central Human Resources, introduces managers to key legal parameters, so that they can be creative and resourceful in attracting and hiring diverse employees - without breaking any laws.

"Hire the Best" (**9 a.m. to noon, Wednesday, Jan. 23, Multnomah Building**) introduces managers to the best practices in recruitment and interviewing, including articulating the right skills sets for vacant positions and using behavioral interviewing techniques to vet applicants.

Both short classes usually fill up quickly. Interested managers and supervisors can sign up on the [online training calendar](#).

Wednesday Wire is going on holiday; no Dec. 26 edition

There will be no Wednesday Wire on Dec. 26. Submissions received between Dec. 17-28 will appear in our Jan. 2 edition. Thank you for your cooperation.



Jobs of the week: New postings as of Dec. 7

Check out all the latest postings for jobs at Multnomah County.

New competitive openings:

[Direct Clinical Services Child Psychiatrist, Manager 1, Southeast Health Clinic](#), [Nursing Supervisor, La Clinica de Buena Salud](#), [Policy & Communications Analyst, Sr.](#) and [Public Health Vector Ecologist](#).

New internal openings:

[Office Assistant Sr., North Portland Health Clinic, Bilingual Spanish](#)

Detailed information regarding these opportunities and how to apply can be found on the [Multnomah County jobs website](#).

Pet of the week: Tyler



Pardon me, is that lap taken? I'm Tyler, a short-haired gentleman cat - you might have noticed my silky, luxurious black fur and tidy white shirtfront, collar and gloves. I'm a big boy at nearly 14 pounds, but am fit and athletic. My tipped ear shows I was previously neutered by the Feral Cat Coalition, but don't mistake me for feral, I'm a well-socialized lover of people. I'm low maintenance and playful. Give me a string or ball to chase and I'll get to work. I'm no dummy and, at about 7 years old, I know the difference between a cat box and a scratching post. I'd probably do best in a home with kids over the age of 10. My foster mom didn't have a chance to introduce me to her dog and other cat (I was in upper respiratory infection isolation), but I didn't show any reaction to barking, and my confident manner makes it seem likely that I'd do well with

others given the appropriate introductions.

Check out [Tyler](#) or see more [adoptable pets](#).

Submit news and events

We're looking for news about employee **awards, recognitions, retirements, events** of general interest or other information that is relevant to all Multnomah County employees.

Please submit news and events to the Wednesday Wire [online](#). If you'd like your submission to appear in the next week's edition, please send your submission **before Friday at 5 p.m.**

Submissions are subject to review and editing for grammar, clarity, length and appropriateness. Unfortunately, we are not able to include all submissions in upcoming editions. Thank you!

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