Elected Officials Take Oath of Office

On Thursday, December 29, 2016, newly and re-elected Sherman County officials were sworn into office during a brief ceremony at the Sherman County Courthouse.

New to office is Joe Dabulskis, Sherman County Commissioner, elected to serve a four-year term. Re-elected officials include Brad Lohrey, Sheriff, and Jenine McDermid, Clerk, both re-elected to serve four-year terms.

Congratulations to all, and thank you for your service to Sherman County!

Newly-Elected Sherman County Commissioner Represents Sherman County on Local and Regional Boards and Committees

Long-time Wasco resident Joe Dabulskis is Sherman County’s newly-elected commissioner. Sworn into office on December 29, 2016, Commissioner Dabulskis joined Sherman County Court for his first official session on January 4, 2017. During the past month, he has been working hard to successfully transition into his new role.

Sherman County Court divided and reassigned court boards and committee assignments. Commissioner Dabulskis will be involved in many local and regional boards and committees. Locally, he will participate on the Biggs Service District Board and Budget Committee, on the Public Contract Board of Review, on the Sherman County Budget Committee, on the Sherman County Board of Property Tax Appeals as an alternate, on the Sherman County Weed Advisory Board, on the Sherman County Rural Road Advisory Committee as court liaison, on the Sherman County Public/School Library Board, on the Sherman County Wasteshed as court representative, on the Soil & Water Conservation as court liaison, as Fair Board court liaison, as the Sherman County School District court liaison, and as the Ambulance Service Area Plan Advisory Committee court liaison. Regionally,

Continued on page 2
Commissioner Dabulskis will represent Sherman County at Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) on policy and legislative committees, on the Eastern Oregon Rural Alliance, on the Lower John Day Area Commission on Transportation, at Frontier Regional 911, and on National Association of Counties steering committees.

In addition to representing Sherman County locally and regionally, Commissioner Dabulskis will be attending the County College program through AOC. County College is a training tool for new commissioners. Commissioner Dabulskis will learn about the legal and ethical responsibilities that come with his new position. He will also be introduced to public meeting and record laws and parliamentary procedure. A variety of classes will be offered to teach new commissioners about community and economic development, finance, human services, infrastructure, public works, and public safety. Commissioners will also learn about leadership and management.

If you would like to contact Commissioner Dabulskis, you can find his contact information on the Sherman County website at co.sherman.or.us under the Board of County Commissioners page.

- Sherman County Court

Below: Sheriff Lohrey raises his right hand as he is sworn into office.

Photo courtesy of Jeremy Lanthorn.

Citizens of Sherman County,

It has been about a month since I have taken office. Foremost, I would like to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve you as your new county commissioner. It has been a month of learning, with whirlwind meetings, schooling, and meeting new people.

I look forward to serving you, and if you see me out and about, don’t hesitate to stop, say hi, and voice your thoughts.

Again, thank you.

Joe Dabulskis

Pictured above: Commissioner Joe Dabulskis

Get to know Commissioner Dabulskis!

Who is in your family?

I have been married to my wife Jeanne for 27 years and have three kids: Julie, Mic, and Amy.

What is your volunteer and occupational experience?

I have volunteered as a baseball coach, to present at museums about taxidermy, at the grade school teaching students how to make jerky and root beer, and to orchestrate trail rides that benefit St. Jude’s Hospital.

Occupationally, I have been trained in everything from private first class infantry to company commander in armored cavalry, and from emergency medical technician to paramedic. Twenty years ago, I moved to Sherman County to finish paramedic schooling and stayed to raise my family here. Now I farm my wife’s grandmother’s ranch, Holzapfel Ranch.

Favorite quote?

I try to be the person I want my kids to be.

What do you hope to accomplish as Sherman County Commissioner?

To put Sherman County first.

People would be surprised to know...

...that they should be careful when talking to me because it could be my identical twin brother!

Below: Commissioner Dabulskis and Clerk Jenine McDermid sign the Oath of Office.

Photo courtesy of Jeremy Lanthorn.

Above: Commissioner Dabulskis raises his right hand as he is sworn into office by Judge Thompson.

Photo courtesy of Jeremy Lanthorn.
**Public/School Library Updates**

**FALL/WINTER HOURS**
- **Monday**: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday**: 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday**: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- **Thursday**: 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- **Friday**: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- **Saturday**: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**MITTEN TREE**
Thank you Sherman County community members and school district staff and students for turning Sherman County Public/School Library’s Mitten Tree into a beautiful giving tree. Our school and community donated 80 hats, 64 pairs of gloves and mittens, 7 scarves, 2 pairs of socks, 8 ear warmers, 1 pair of boots, and 11 blankets to the Sherman County Food Bank. Your generosity is sincerely appreciated!

**TECHNOLOGY HELP**
Help is available with Microsoft Office software, Facebook, e-mail accounts, smart phones technology, and more! Stop by or give us a call to make an appointment.

**STICKS IN STACKS**
Social crafting starts at 6:00 p.m. Instructional assistance for knit, crochet, and spinning will be available at 7:00 p.m. Bring your knitting, crochet, spinning, quilting, cross-stitch, etc. All fiber arts are welcome.

**NEW FICTION BEST SELLERS**
- “Precious and Grace” - Alexander McCall Smith
- “Killing the Rising Sun” - Bill O’Reilly
- “True Faith and Allegiance” - Mark Greaney
- “All the Gallant Men” - Donald Stratton
- “Sad Animal Facts” - Brooke Barker

**DISCOVERY KITS**
Come in and check out buckets that contain “Early Learning Kits” for teachers, parents, and caregivers of children. They include read-aloud books, books for emergent readers, video, and hands-on materials for young ones to enjoy. Teacher guides and early learning tip sheets are included.

**LIBRARY WEBSITE**
Learn about upcoming library events, and search the Sage catalog for books, DVDs, and books on CD on our website: www.scpslibrary.wixsite.com/scpsl. The website has links to booklists, educational games for kids of all ages, news, local services, Learning Express Library, OSLIS, and Library2go. Library2go offers ebooks and audiobooks to borrow and download onto your favorite device.

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

**LIBRARY BOOK CLUB**
Join us for tea, dessert, and book discussion. Please call or e-mail the library for times and dates.

**“Tell me what you read and I’ll tell you who you are” is true enough, but I’d know you better if you told me what you reread.”**

- François Mauriac

- Marylou Martin, Library Director
Sherman County Encourages Rental Housing Development

After hearing many stories of new employees hired by Sherman County businesses or organizations who would like to live in Sherman County but can't find rental housing, Sherman County explored options to help spur the development of additional rental housing within the county. A new rental housing incentive program will contribute up to $5,000 per new rental housing unit constructed as an incentive to developers. A developer could choose whether these funds are used as a direct contribution upon completion of the development or used to buy down the interest rate that other lenders (bank or otherwise) charge. This pilot program will be available to incentivize six new units in Sherman County on a first-come, first-served basis.

Sherman County also offers low or no-interest construction loans to developers of rental housing that do not qualify, or only partially qualify, for funding from a traditional housing lender. A developer could access both the loan program and incentive program. The county’s loan would be repaid within a short period when permanent mortgages provide the capital to repay the construction loan. This program is not to compete with private sector lending.

These programs are being offered in partnership with Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD), which also has unique loan funds set aside for the development of Attainable Housing, serving the middle housing market of 60-120% median family income. For more information about these programs, contact Jessica Metta, Sherman County’s Economic Development Coordinator with MCEDD, at 541-296-2266 or jessica@mcedd.org.

- Jessica Metta, MCEDD

Sign Up for Sherman County’s Mass Notification System

As a reminder to all Sherman County citizens, the Sherman County Office of Emergency Management has teamed up with Frontier Regional 911, Gilliam, Jefferson, and Wheeler counties, to implement an Emergency Notification system designed to provide emergency notifications to residents and businesses in the four counties.

The emergency notification system gives Sherman County emergency management the ability to deliver pre-recorded emergency notifications and information messages. The system utilizes home phones, cell phones, texts, and electronic mail messaging. The system within Sherman County is called Frontier Regional Alert.

The system, known as Frontier Regional Alert, alerts residents about severe weather events, power outages, floods, wildfires, and much more. Messages can be sent to individuals using a variety of contact mechanisms, including cell phones, landlines, emails, and text messaging in minutes. Citizens listed in the 911 database (phone books) are automatically subscribed by landline. However, you are strongly encouraged to “opt in” and self-register in order to provide additional information.

The Frontier Regional Alert logo can be found on the Sherman County home page at www.co.sherman.or.us. To opt in, simply click on the Frontier Regional Alert logo and go through the sign-up procedures. If you don’t have an email address and would like to receive alerts by cell phone or text message, or if you need any other assistance with registering, please contact Shawn at Sherman County Emergency Services at 541-565-3100.

- Shawn Payne, Emergency Services Director

To Sign Up for Notification Alerts:
1. Go to co.sherman.or.us
2. Click on the logo at the right side of the home page
3. Choose the sign up option at the bar on the top of the page
4. Follow directions and fill in the required information
5. Begin receiving notifications when they are sent out

South Sherman Fire & Rescue District Survey

To apply for funds to finance the construction of a new fire hall, South Sherman Fire & Rescue District must provide demographic information to the State of Oregon. Portland State University (PSU) will be assisting the District to conduct a confidential survey in February/March. If you receive a survey in the mail, please fill it out and return to PSU as soon as possible to help us apply for funding the new fire hall. An individual’s response to the survey items will never be directly linked to personal information to ensure confidentiality is maintained throughout the survey process. If the project is funded, there will be no tax dollars or tax increase associated with financing the improvements. Questions? Contact Glenn Fluhr at 541-333-2525.

- Jessica Metta, MCEDD
Notice of Election of District Board Members

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Tuesday, May 16, 2017, an election will be held in Sherman County, Oregon for the purpose of electing board members to fill the following positions and terms, including any vacancy which may exist on the boards of the following districts:

KENT WATER DISTRICT:
Position 1 – 4 Year Term
Position 2 – 4 Year Term
Position 3 – 4 Year Term
Position 4 – 4 Year Term

MORO RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT:
Position 1 – 4 Year Term
Position 2 – 4 Year Term
Position 3 – 4 Year Term
Position 5 – 4 Year Term

NORTH CENTRAL ESD:
Zone 3 (Rufus & Wasco) – 2 Year Term
Zone 4 (Moro, Grass Valley & Kent) – 4 Year Term
Zone 7 (At Large) – 4 Year Term

NORTH SHERMAN COUNTY RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT:
Position 1 – 4 Year Term
Position 4 – 4 Year Term
Position 5 – 4 Year Term

SHERMAN COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT:
Position 1 – 2 Year Term
Position 3 – 4 Year Term
Position 4 – 4 Year Term
Position 5 – 4 Year Term

SHERMAN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT:
Zone 2 (Wasco Precinct) – 4 Year Term
Zone 3 (Moro Precinct) – 4 Year Term
Zone 4 (Grass Valley Precinct) – 4 Year Term

This election will be conducted by mail. Each candidate for an office listed above must file a Declaration of Candidacy, including a $10 filing fee, or file a Declaration of Candidacy and a Petition for Nomination with signatures of eligible Sherman County voters at the Sherman County Clerk’s Office no earlier than February 4, 2017, and no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 16, 2017. The Sherman County Courthouse is located at 500 Court Street in Moro, Oregon.

- Jenine McDermid, Clerk

Biggs Service District Water System Project Update

The Biggs Service District water improvement project entails a complete municipal water system for Biggs, including supply, storage, distribution, and metering. County Court verified the funding amount for the project, including a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) loan for $1,100,000, a USDA grant in the amount of $500,000, and a district contribution of $512,100, totaling $2,112,100. The court authorized Judge Thompson to sign the USDA application. The funding application and Environmental Report are complete and ready for submission. Depending on when funding is secured, the project should start in 2017 and will hopefully be complete by December 2017.

Brad Baird, Anderson Perry & Associates informed the court the USDA requires entities to use the maximum loan term. If the county does not have a bond counsel, the USDA has one that can be used. Brad asked if the county prefers a Revenue Bond or a General Obligation Bond. A Revenue Bond would have all repayment coming from water rates. A General Obligation Bond would be repaid through assessment or tax. Judge Thompson stated the county would like a Revenue Bond. Brad also asked if the district has the authority to require mandatory hookup for water users in the district. The USDA typically has mandatory hookup clauses. Currently, there is no mandatory hookup in place, but the court supports putting one in place for the water project.

Both private well owners in Biggs have expressed to Brad they would be willing to sell their wells to the district to be used as back-up wells. This is something that will be looked into, as having at least one back-up well is ideal.

At his next meeting with the court, Brad will present bonding information and a Mandatory Connection Resolution. Funding-related paperwork will be can be expected at most future court sessions.

- Sherman County Court

Soil and Water Conservation and Watershed Council Joint Annual Meeting to be Held in February

The Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District & Watershed Council are hosting their Annual Meeting & Outreach Workshop together! Come join us for an evening of good company, food, and entertainment for Valentine’s Day!

What: SWCD & Watershed Council Joint Annual Meeting & Soil Health Workshop
Where: Grass Valley Pavilion
When: February 14th, 2017
5:30pm social hour, 6:00pm dinner
Food & Drink: Paradise Rose Chuck Wagon Catering & Moody Tollbridge Winery (cash only)
Speaker: Jill Clapperton—soil health
Cost: Prime Rib Dinner—$18.00 a plate, kids 3 and under eat free

Please call 541-565-3216 x 3 to RSVP no later than February 8th so we can plan accordingly.

- SWCD & Watershed Council Staff
Elected Officials and Court Appointments

Sherman County provides opportunities for community participation in which citizens can become involved in their county government. Board and commission members are appointed by the Sherman County Court and serve specified terms. Each board or commission meets once or twice a month (or as needed), depending on specific requirements.

**Sherman County Elected Officials and Term Expiration Dates**
- Gary Thompson—January 2019
- County Judge
- Tom McCoy—January 2019
- Commissioner
- Joe Dabulskis—January 2021
- Commissioner
- Wade McLeod—January 2019
- District Attorney
- Jenine McDermid—January 2021
- County Clerk
- Marnene Benson-Wood—January 2019
- Treasurer
- Brad Lohrey—January 2021
- Sheriff
- Ross Turney—January 2019
- Assessor
- Ron McDermid—January 2021
- Justice of the Peace

**Sherman County Board of Property Tax Appeals**
- Justin Miller
- Jeanne Kuettel
- Gary Thompson - Chairperson
- Mike Smith - Alternate
- Jenine McDermid – Clerk

**Sherman County Budget Committee**
- Debbie Hayden – Budget Officer
- Larry Hoctor
- Forest Peters
- Kyle Blagg

**Sherman County Fair Board**
- Ted Saby
- Bert Perisho
- Bryce Coelsch – Vice Chairperson
- Tom Rolfe - Chairperson
- Shandie Johnson
- Jennifer Zimmerlee
- Rick Jauken
- Beth McCurdy - Secretary

**Sherman County Local Community Advisory Council**
- Sheri Sharp
- Teri Thalhofer
- Caitlin Blagg
- Teresa McCallum
- Jayne Burnett
- Delores Richter
- Hayli Eiesland
- Melody Stafford
- Tom McCoy
- Mike Smith
- Wes Owens
- Mark Corey
- Barb Seatter
- Karl Richter
- Cindy Brown
- Sarah Reser

**Sherman County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council**
- Amber DeGrange
- John Folliard
- Alyssa Winslow
- Gary Thompson
- Katie Paul
- Wes Owens
- Shawn Payne
- Wade McLeod
- Barbara Seatter

**Sherman County Planning Commission**
- Ryan Thompson
- Forest Peters
- Ray Smith
- Bryan Cranston
- Roger Whitley

**Sherman County Public/School Library Board**
- Janet Pinkerton
- Sheri Carlson
- Larry Hoctor
- Lowell Smith – School Dist Rep
- Jane Kirkpatrick – Honorary Member

**Sherman County Rural Road Advisory Committee**
- Brad Eakin
- Rick Johnson
- John Williams
- Gary Macnab
- Robert Olsen
- Gary Brown
- Marvin Thompson
- Mark Coles - Road Master

**Senior Center Advisory Board**
- Dorothy Benson
- Sue Lissman
- Deanna Padget
- Sharon Spencer – Chairperson
- Dan Aldrich
- Brian Hulke
- Sharon Chard
- Judge Thompson – Liaison

**Sherman County Surveyor**
- Daryl G. Ingebo

**Special Transportation Committee**
- Linda Cornie (Alternate)
- Randy Hilderbrand
- Bonnie Whitley - Secretary
- Mary Adams
- Henry Brown
- Jeanne Kuettel (Alternate)
- Judge Thompson – Liaison

**Weed Control District**
- Rory Wilson
- Bryan Peters
- Trevor Fields
- Commissioner Dabulskis – Liaison

- Sherman County Court

The next Watershed Council business meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 14 at 8am at the SWCD Office.

The SWCD business meeting will follow at 8:30am.
4-H Begins a New Year—Enroll Now!

Yahoo! It’s a new year in 4-H in 2017! Kids, it’s time to join Sherman County 4-H and get enrolled now. The enrollment deadline is Wednesday, February 15. Clubs will begin meeting, and we want you ready to go. Enrollment is $28/youth, with a discount for multiple children from one family.

4-H is a national, state, and local youth development program coordinated by state land-grant universities as an educational and outreach tool to develop good citizens in our country.

4-H is a youth development program where kids get to do things usually only adults do, like “learning by doing.” For example, they will care for and raise livestock, take photographs for exhibition, learn how to cook a variety of foods, participate in clinics and workshops to learn more about livestock or healthy living, sew their own clothing or craft items for home, make money and keep track of records, cook outdoors and learn how to can fruit or make jerky, be part of an organization and participate in meetings, and more!

4-H also means spring break and summer camps, fun outdoor adventures, youth leadership opportunities, 4-H Summer Conference at the Oregon State University campus in Corvallis, and travel opportunities nationally and internationally. Learn more about 4-H: http://oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu/about/general-info.

4-H is for youth ages 9 to 19 (as of September 1, 2016). The divisions are: Juniors ages 9-11 (yes, this includes older 3rd graders); Intermediates ages 12-14; and Seniors ages 15-19 (and still in high school).

CloverBud 4-H is for kids ages 5-8 as of September 1, 2016, and is simply for fun gatherings and learning activities. If your child is of that age and you’d like to lead a CloverBud group or gathering, let the Sherman County Extension Office know.

Current Sherman County 4-H clubs and leaders are:

Goat—Miranda & Ryan Owens
Beef—Sandi & Doug Martin
Sheep—Stephen Fritts
Swine—Samantha Roberts-Smith & Brennah Sarkkinen
Horse—Jill Jones
Poultry—DeeAnn Ramos & Jen McLeod
Rabbit/Guinea Pig—Melissa Montesanti
Junk Drawer Robotics—DeeAnn Ramos
LEGO Robotics—Andrew Pflaum & Deanna Christiansen
Shooting—Dowan Jones
Sewing—New leaders needed...ours “retired”!
Photography—Jeremy Lanthorn (New leader - thank you!)
Cooking/Baking—Marylou Martin & Jeanne Kuettel
Outdoor Cooking/Food Preservation—Cindy Brown

Adults, if you have a wonderful hobby or interest that you would like to share with youth, consider holding a workshop at the Extension Office or volunteering to be a club leader. A minimum of 6 4-H club meetings are required each year, and the folks at the Extension Office help you with all the paperwork and scheduling tasks.

We especially would like adults with an interest in crafts, sewing, knitting/crocheting, gardening, carpentry, welding, fishing, shooting, outdoor activities, or science/technology to give our Sherman kids more opportunities.

- Cindy Brown, 4-H and Healthy Living

Wasco Streetscape Program in Action

Nine 4ft x 4ft decorative blocks have been hung outside some of the businesses in Wasco. When the weather warms up, six more blocks will be installed. This is all part of Wasco’s streetscape program to encourage tourism to our little corner of Oregon. For more information, please contact Carol Mackenzie, City of Wasco Mayor, at 541-442-5515.

- Carol Mackenzie, City of Wasco Mayor

Sherman County Website Updates

Attention Sherman County businesses! Please review business listings on the Sherman County Website at co.sherman.or.us under the agri-business tab. If your business listing needs updates and/or corrections, please contact Lauren Hernandez at lhernandez@co.sherman.or.us.

If your business is not included in the directory for your community and you would like it to be, please provide your business name, address, contact information, and a brief description of products and/or services provided.

Thank you for your help in keeping our website current and relevant.

- Sherman County Court
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.

**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

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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
10 a.m. until 2 p.m.