



# Columbia County **SHERIFF**



## **2015 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Dedicated to Peace and Safety in Our Community!**

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## Mission

The Mission of the Sheriff is to conserve the peace in Columbia County.

## Vision Statement

It is the vision of the Columbia County Sheriff's Office to serve the citizens of our county with: effective and efficient public safety services; a safe, secure and efficient incarceration facility that contributes to a better quality of life; and, reliable court and civil process services. Each employee is enabled to solve problems by taking ownership and believing he or she can form partnerships with our citizens and fellow public safety providers to make our community an ideal place to live, work and recreate.

## Values

1. Employees are valued and empowered to do what is right.
2. Citizens are served effectively and efficiently.
3. The rights of all are upheld and protected.

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### *Cover Photo:*

***A Sheriff's Deputy operates the board in the Jail's Control Room. More like an air traffic control center, the Control Room manages access and egress to the jail for staff, visitors and thousands of inmates every year.***

# Sheriff & Undersheriff



Dear fellow citizens of Columbia County:

*With the jail running smoothly and a new program in the Enforcement Division to help us improve safety and enhance our effectiveness, 2015 was a year that saw the Sheriff's Office take several positive steps forward. Since March 2015, the jail has no longer been forced to release inmates due to staffing/funding concerns. We continue to hire staff to fill up the number we need to operate most effectively, but with the use of overtime, part-time help and creative scheduling, our jail has been able to reach its goal of 100 local beds available for adult custody arrests. We have also expanded programs to begin to address recidivism. The Enforcement team has also made a huge step*

*forward with the addition of our K9 unit. "Lars," our tracking K, broke on the scene with tremendous support and effectiveness. Our criminal investigation unit put many long hours into a suspicious death investigation, finally developing a suspect and charging him with murder. Our Support staff continues to do amazing work with concealed handgun licensing and civil process service, and our volunteers continue to be of tremendous help and support in our drive to be the premier public safety agency in our area.*

*Jeff Dickerson*

## Sheriff Jeff Dickerson Biography

Jeff Dickerson was born in California in 1960. He moved with his family to Oregon in 1972, attending Scappoose schools. He graduated from Scappoose High School in 1978 and from the University of Oregon School Of Journalism in 1982. He worked with his family business—a multi-state petroleum products inspection company before becoming an Oregon State Police officer in 1988. In 2014, he graduated from Liberty University with a master's degree in criminal justice/public administration and as a member of the Criminal Justice Honor Society.

As a state police officer, Jeff spent 20 years in a variety of assignments, gaining valuable experience as a DPSST certified instructor, Field Training Officer, Property and Evidence manager, and Detective, in addition to the 15 years he spent on the streets as a patrol officer. As a detective for more than four years, Jeff was assigned to a federal task force that went after armed career criminals all over the State of Oregon and was also deputized as a special Deputy U.S. Marshal. He also was the editor and publisher of the Oregon State Trooper magazine for 12 years, before relinquishing that work when he was elected Sheriff of Columbia County.

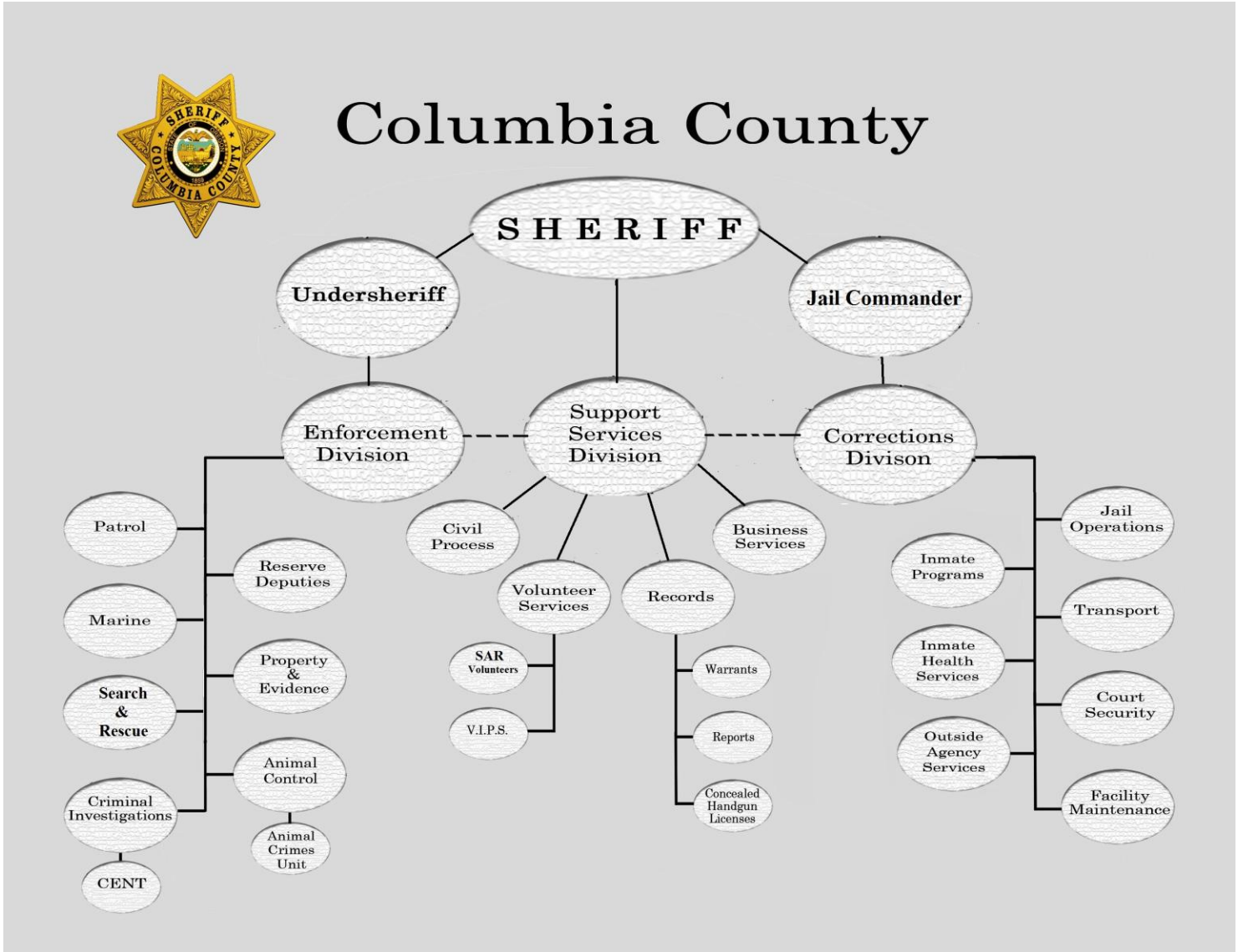
Elected in 2008 and re-elected in 2012 to his second four-year term, he has also been appointed by the Governor to serve on the State Interoperability Executive Council, working to improve emergency radio communications for first responders in our region. He is a graduate of the Oregon Executive Development Institute and the Oregon Sheriff's Academy. He is also certified as a law enforcement executive in Oregon by the state's Department of Public Safety Standards and Training.

## Undersheriff Andy Moyer Biography

Undersheriff Andy Moyer started in Law Enforcement as an Explorer Scout with the Oregon State Police (OSP) in Portland, Oregon. After high school, Andy served as an OSP cadet. In 1999, he went through the OSP recruit school and was assigned as a patrol trooper in St. Helens. He is a firearms and use-of-force instructor. Andy taught at OSP recruit schools as well as instructed seasoned troopers in the area of pistol, rifle, shotgun, and less lethal munitions. In 2003 he was elected to the board of the Oregon State Police Officers' Association as a region representative and later elected to serve as the vice-president of that organization. As vice-president of OSPOA, he lobbied the 2007 legislature for additional public safety funding. In 2009 he joined the Columbia County Sheriff's Office as the Undersheriff and is currently a member of the Oregon State Sheriffs' Search and Rescue Advisory Committee and the Enforcement Command Council for which he is a past chairman. Andy is a graduate of the Oregon State Sheriff's Association Command College, The International Public Safety Leadership and Ethics Institute, and The Oregon Executive Development Institute. He also served previously as the Jail Commander for Columbia County.



# Organizational Chart



The Sheriff's Office is a multi-faceted organization with wide-ranging responsibilities – many of which are mandated under the state Constitution and Oregon State Law. Together, the Sheriff, Undersheriff and Jail Commander oversee the operations of three intertwined divisions that depend upon each other to provide the highest possible level of service with the resources committed to the Sheriff's Office. .

# History of the Office of Sheriff

The history of the American Sheriff began in 1635, after the settlements in Virginia were well enough established to allow for the replacement of the military regime by a civil government. In 1649, in Jamestown, Virginia, the sheriff was empowered as the King of England's representative to keep peace.

Thomas Jefferson once called the office of Sheriff the most important elected office in the county. No matter who actually sits in the office at any given time, this is a constitutional office with a wide variety of duties and authorities and a tremendous potential for defending the liberties of the people as an elected official with broad powers— including the power to arrest, commit to prison, serve as the ministerial officer of the courts, and to carry out its directives, including relieving people of property upon court order and their personal liberties upon probable cause. As an elected official, the sheriff has always had tremendous authority and responsibility for protecting the rights of all.

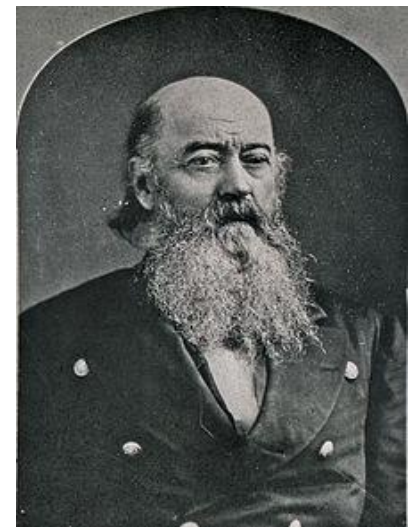
The first sheriff in Oregon was Joseph Meek, whose jurisdiction was in the area of Washington County in 1843. In 1854, the northern portion of Washington County was trimmed off to become Columbia County. Columbia County's first sheriff was Benjamin Stevens, who served from 1854 to 1859. R.S. Hattan, the 12th



sheriff in Columbia County oversaw the only hanging on the back steps of the Columbia County Courthouse in 1902. William Conyers served as sheriff during two separate periods: from 1878-1882 and from 1894-1896.

For many years the Sheriff's Office was located in the courthouse in St. Helens. In 2001, the Sheriff's Office was moved to its present location on Port Avenue in St. Helens, after the old jail – a 38-bed facility – was deemed to be inadequate and too antiquated for modern jail requirements.

In recent years, the office has been beset with funding problems that have caused short-term efforts to find efficiencies in the midst of decreasing resources. In, 2014, voters staved off the closure of the County Jail with the passage of an operating levy that helped keep the jail operating and holding 100 local prisoners.



**Joseph "Joe" Meek – Oregon's First Sheriff**

## Columbia County Sheriffs 1854 - Present

Jeff Dickerson	2009- Present	Millard Calhoun	1937-1953	Thomas Watts	1884-1894
Phil Derby	1997-2008	Oscar Weed	1929-1937	N. C. Dale	1882-1884
Pat Detloff	1996	John Wellington	1921-1929	William Conyers	1878-1882
George Hulit	1995-1996	Henry LaBare	1919-1921	James Dart	1872-1878
Bruce Oester	1983-1994	Edward Stanwood	1915-1919	W. T. Williams	1870-1882
Richard "Tom" Tennent	1974-1983	C. H. Johns	1914-1915	Jackson Preacher	1866-1870
Fred Roediger	1974	Albert Thompson	1911-1914	John Meyers	1864-1866
Roy Wilburn	1963-1974	Martin White	1904-1911	Samuel Miles	1862-1864
Spencer Younce	1959-1963	R. S. Hattan	1900-1904	James Galbreath	1859-1862
John Evans	1958-1959	James Rice	1896-1900	Benjamin Stevens	1854-1859
Warren Forsythe	1953-1958	William Conyers	1894-1896		

# County Facts

## Key Facts



- **Established:** January 16, 1854
- **Elevation at St. Helens:** 42 feet above sea level
- **Area:** 657 square miles (land)  
31 square miles (water)
- **Average temperature:** January: 39.0 degrees  
July: 68.4 degrees
- **Population:** 48,140 (July 1, 2009 estimate)
- **Assessed Value:** \$4,058,366,509
- **Principal Industries:** Agriculture, Lumber, Fishing, Tourism

## Points of Interest

- Beaver Power Plant – Port Westward
- Lewis & Clark Bridge at Rainier
- Lower Sauvie Island Game Reserve
- County Fairgrounds
- County Museums in St. Helens and Vernonia
- County Parks

## POPULATION

## Area

	2013	2015	Sq. Miles
Columbia County	49,850	50,390	688.0
Clatskanie	1,745	1,750	1.3
Columbia City	1,945	1,955	1.2
Prescott	55	55	0.1
Rainier	1,900	1,905	4.9
Saint Helens	12,895	13,095	5.7
Scappoose	6,700	6,745	2.7
Vernonia	2,065	2,065	1.7
Unincorporated	22,545	22,820	669.5

The Sheriff's Office is the primary law enforcement response agency for areas outside incorporated cities and within the incorporated City of Prescott—responsible for providing the primary law enforcement service to the largest number of citizens in our County.

The Sheriff's Office is the first responder for all public safety on the Columbia River. Geographically, approximately 98 percent of Columbia County is outside of cities covered by municipal police departments.

## Elected Officials

- **County Sheriff:** Jeff Dickerson
- **District Attorney:** Steve Atchison
- **County Commissioners:** Tony Hyde, Henry Heimuller, Earl Fisher
- **County Assessor:** Sue Martin
- **County Clerk:** Betty Huser
- **County Treasurer:** Jennifer Cuellar-Smith
- **Justice of the Peace:** Wally Thompson

## Sheriff's Calls for Service by Month in 2015

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1067	1130	1072	1164	1192	1291	1394	1465	1168	1286	1236	1322

## Inmates Booked into Jail by Month in 2015

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
219	194	215	206	211	198	209	212	177	186	190	165

# *Your Sheriff's Office Today*



The Columbia County Sheriff's Office exists to conserve the peace in our county through a wide variety of duties assigned to the Sheriff by the Oregon Constitution and Oregon State law. As an elected, constitutional office holder, the Sheriff is considered the "Chief executive officer and conservator of the peace" with duties that include:

1. To arrest and commit to prison all persons who break the peace, or attempt to break it, and all persons guilty of public offenses;
2. To defend the county against those who endanger the public peace or safety;
3. To execute the process and orders of the courts;
4. To execute all warrants delivered to the sheriff;

5. To serve as a ministerial officer of the courts;
6. To maintain custody and control of all prisoners incarcerated for the County,
7. To plan and conduct all search and rescue activities in the county.

In Columbia County, the Sheriff also oversees the control function for dogs (licensed and unlicensed) in the county.

With budget challenges facing the Office of Sheriff in our county, it takes creativity and an ongoing effort to find efficiencies that enable the sheriff to carry out each of these functions in the most wise and cost-efficient manner. Sheriff Dickerson is committed to carrying out his duties with these core principles at the center of all we do:

- A. Focusing on employee safety as a first priority at all times;
- B. Focusing on the legitimate, identified needs and priorities of the residents and visitors of our county;
- C. Demonstrating fiscal accountability by showing taxpayers a high return on the public funds entrusted to us;
- D. Contributing to the quality of life in our community by involving our citizens; and,
- E. Developing employee satisfaction by creating and maintaining an internal culture that values employee input, personal accountability, and recognition for a job well done;



# News Notes

## **Sexual Abuse Suspect Arrested in January**

Deputies responded to the 28000 block of Hirtzel Rd. just outside of Rainier around 11:53 a.m. today when the victim called 9-1-1, saying her former boyfriend had "burst into the door," grabbed her by the throat and tried to rape her. Deputies later found the suspect waiting for them at his residence and arrested him. Douglas Schaffner confessed to kidnaping and raping his former girlfriend. Schaffner later pled guilty to Strangulation, and Unlawful penetration in the First Degree and received 100 months in prison.

## **Clatskanie Area Man Burns House, Charged with Arson**

On February 20, the Sheriff's Office responded to a domestic disturbance that turned violent when the suspect used gasoline as an accelerant to burn down his own residence. Deputies and officers responding to the highly volatile situation in the Clatskanie area found at least one building on fire and the suspect behaving erratically in the yard before leaving the scene in a car. The suspect was hemmed in by responding law enforcement units, but threatened to ram their cars. Less lethal force was deployed to breach the vehicle, and they deployed a electronic stun device to end the incident and get the suspect in custody. Darren Loftesness, 53, later was found guilty of Arson and sentenced to 34 months in prison and four months in jail for DUII.

## **Enforcement Deputies Transition to Body Cameras**

In March, CCSO enforcement deputies—like their counterparts in the jail who had already done so in the previous year—transitioned to the use of Body Cameras on most public encounters. The delay on the enforcement side was due to the need for additional policy development on the enforcement side.

## **Burglary Suspect Identified by Attempt to Sell Stolen Items**

In March, sheriff's deputies solved a burglary and theft of digital equipment from a residence in which the victims were sleeping during the early morning hours on March 5. The next day, a break in the case led to the arrest of a 25-year-old Warren man and the recovery of the stolen property.

Investigators took Austin G. Brown-Oliver into custody on felony burglary and theft charges when the suspect's attempt to sell the stolen items on a social media site led them to the residence where he had been staying. Deputies recovered two laptop computers and two digital cameras missing from the burglary. Brown-Oliver was later convicted of Burglary First Degree.

## **Detective Arrests Child Sex Abuse Fugitive**

An alert sheriff's detective took a Washington State fugitive into custody in March on warrants for Child Molestation and Rape of a Child on Tuesday. The CCSO detective had matched the identity of the man wanted out of Lewis County, Wash. as an associate with a North County resident involved in an unrelated investigation. The arrest occurred in connection to a stakeout involving an unrelated investigation.

## **Deputy Receives Life Saving Medal after rescuing Elderly Woman from Burning Home**

Deputy Bill Goodwin pulled a 91-year-old Rainier resident from her burning home at 25246 Birchtree Street #25, Rainier on May 23. The home was subsequently destroyed by the fire. Deputy Goodwin heard fire fighting personnel being dispatched and was in the area of the fire. He arrived first and crawled on his belly through the flames to locate and assist the woman in evacuating the home.

## **CCSO Sponsors National Night Out Event**

Once again CCSO sponsored the family-friendly community event in conjunction with the National Night Out event in August. A movie and Italian Sodas provided by Fresh Start Espresso highlighted the event.

## **Sheriff's Office Establishes K-9 Unit in Enforcement Division**

In November, we welcomed "Lars," our 20-month Belgium Malinois canine officer and began a 10-week training program with him and his handler in January. We are so excited to have this newest member of our office! Lars originally came from Czechoslovakia. He was imported into the United States in October, 2015. Lars is a documented and titled Belgium Malinois who started his training around the age of 12 weeks.

## **Two murder investigations Conducted in 2015**

In March a shooting death occurred in Vernonia—Kirk Avila, 52, was arrested and is awaiting trial. In July, a suspicious death at an address in Goble was followed up with an 8-month investigation. Randy Pritchard, 49, was indicted for murder and is awaiting trial.



# Enforcement Division

## Patrol Unit

The uniformed patrol force is the face of Sheriff's Office the public most often sees. In 2015, four full-time deputies were primarily responsible for day-to-day calls for service, which continue to rise. With these four patrol deputies ten trained volunteer reserves also assisted as they were able. Three of those reserve deputies qualify as solo patrol deputies when they are on duty, qualifying them to patrol on their own. The other seven reserves accompany regular, sworn deputies when they are available.

The four patrol deputies were scattered throughout the work week in 2015 on two different shifts, providing for some overlap during peak hours, but generally allowing for one deputy per shift. These deputies respond to calls from dispatch and generate their own activities through patrols.

Self-generated activities are impacted greatly by the number of emergency and other calls for service received from the Columbia 9-1-1 Dispatch Center. With often just one deputy on duty, many of these calls cannot be answered at all once. Deputies and command staff review calls that have been triaged on a regular basis, to make sure every call gets answered—even if there is a delay by a few days. The most urgent calls always get answered first, and there is always a deputy or supervisor on call 24 hours a day, to handle the most serious calls—even if no one is actually on duty at the time.

### Enforcement K-9 Program Begun

After several months of planning, we welcomed "Lars," our 20-month Belgium Malinois canine deputy, who is handled by Deputy Ryan Dews. We picked up Lars November 13, and began a 10-week training program with him and his handler in January. We are so excited to have this newest member of our office!

Lars originally came from Czechoslovakia. He was imported into the United States in October, 2015. Lars is a documented and titled Belgium Malinois, who started his training around the age of 12 weeks. He comes to our sheriff's office with obedience, searching/tracking, officer protection, and suspect apprehension training.

Lars was tested along with 13 other dogs with similar skills. All of the dogs were either Belgium Malinois or German Shepherds between the age of 14 months and 3 -1/2 years.

We looked for a well rounded dog that was both social and inquisitive with a high play drive. Belgium Malinois are generally a healthier dog than German Shepherds; this was also a major factor in the selection process.

Lars tested the best out of 14 dogs tested in a two day



*At the end of 2015, the Sheriff's Office obtained its first tracking dog in many years: Deputy Ryan Dews and "Lars" at their graduation ceremony.*

process. We believe we selected an outstanding dog that will serve Columbia County for years to come.

### Call Triage Program Still Working Well

With more than 1,000 calls for service per month, the CCSO Call Triage program allows deputies to focus their energies on priority calls and reports. We cannot always be everywhere at once, with only one or two deputies on duty at any one time, but we focus our energies on the most serious calls and make sure we get our reports done on time for these calls. We also have a follow up call program to make sure every call we receive is followed up with at least a phone call. We thank you for your patience!

Calls for Service				
	2012	2013	2014	2015
CCSO calls	9,224	9,136	12,496	14,787

In Custody Arrests				
	2012	2013	2014	2015
Arrests	**	**	234	240

\*\*Not tracked in prior years

DUII Arrests				
	2012	2013	2014	2015
DUII Arrests	91	117	40	29

Total # Violation Citations in 2015				
	Hazardous Driving	Driver Viols*	Speed	Eqpt/Other
# violations cited	171	312	101	285

\*Driver violations include Suspended, Driving Uninsured, Open Container, Unlicensed, Uninsured, MIPs and Marijuana Possession.

# Enforcement Division

## Marine Patrol Unit

The Columbia County Marine Patrol Unit provides patrols on the Columbia River, Multnomah Channel, Gilbert River, Scappoose Bay, Sturgeon Lake, Vernonia Lake, Clatskanie River, and portions of the Nehalem River.

Marine deputies use patrol boats provided by the State Marine Board and also use Yamaha Wave Runner PWC's to assist with enforcement, education, and search and rescue. The PWC's allow deputies to get into small, shallow areas of our county waterways that are difficult or impossible to access by larger boats. The pair of PWC's were obtained by a federal grant at no cost to Columbia County.

The primary objective for the marine unit is safety in and around the water. All Search and Rescue (SAR) operations in Columbia County, including all water-based searches, begin as Marine Patrol Unit responsibilities. A marine deputy oversees Search and Rescue volunteers (see additional information on page 12 of this report). Our marine patrol deputies continue to be part of Scappoose Fire Department's Swift Water Rescue Unit.

Deputies attended more than 80 hours of in-water training to become certified in water rescues. Deputies certified in water rescue carry the necessary gear with them while on duty and are available to respond to water-related emergencies when the call comes out. Our local waterways are experiencing a large amount of dumped or derelict boats. These boats are not only an eye sore, they are often a threat to our environment by leaking and spilling fuel, chemicals, and raw sewage into the water. A vast number of these vessels are uninhabitable and present a major risk to anyone that comes in contact with them or the water around them. Often these turn into navigation hazards to other boaters and commercial traffic once they break anchor or break free from where they were tied. When our marine deputies encounter these types of vessels they require a thorough investigation to determine ownership. If they can determine ownership these incidents can often be treated as a criminal offense.

Marine deputies also work closely with the Oregon State Marine Board and Oregon Department of State Lands in these investigations. Our marine deputies participate in OSMB funded training across the state every year. They have specialized training in PWC operation, jet boat operation, prop boat operation, tide and current reading, safety and carriage requirements, search and rescue, swift water rescue, and assisting with medical and fire department calls on the water, just to name a few.



***Sheriff's Deputies train on Personal Water Craft (PWC) that enable them to get into smaller and shallower areas of County waterways that are less accessible to larger boats***

Marine deputies continue to be involved with community education events across the county and in our schools teaching water safety and awareness. We continue to use our volunteer reserve deputies to help with our marine patrol mission of waterway and boating safety. In 2015, we had one of our reserve deputies attend and graduate from the OSMB Marine Law Enforcement Academy, held in Madras, Oregon.

Program Hours				
	2012	2013	2014	2015
Water Hrs	1,980	2,486	1,918	1,814

Reported Water Incidents				
	2012	2013	2014	2015
Incidents	53	36	11	15

Additional Statistics				
	2012	2013	2014	2015
Inspections	1,216	762	454	567
Citations	95	145	55	76
BUII	7	8	2	2

# Enforcement Division

## Investigations

Criminal investigations are a major emphasis of the Enforcement Division. Prosecutors rely on a quality investigative report from us to present a case in court. Our lone, full-time detective and a patrol deputy assigned part-time to extended investigations make up the bulk of the Enforcement Division's in-depth investigation team. Our investigations frequently overlap with the Columbia County Major Crimes Team, providing innumerable hours of investigatory services on major criminal events within the county, including: Homicide and Attempted Homicide; Felony Assaults, and Police Use of Force cases.

Our full-time detective also supports the Enforcement Division with expert opinion on search and seizure, case law, and prosecution strategies. Our detective also authors and serves many search warrants for vehicles, backpacks, cell phones, and other articles that the Patrol officers do not have the time to follow up on.

CCSO Investigators conducted investigations of numerous serious offenses in 2015, including:

**Randy Pritchard** Christopher Heller was found unconscious on the dirt floor of a building in the Goble area. He had been hit in the head with a pipe. Heller died in the hospital one week later. CCSO investigators interviewed Randy Pritchard as a suspect and later provided enough information to the grand jury for an indictment. Pritchard is awaiting trial, in custody.

**Matthew Hanlon**, a registered sex offender, was charged with abusing a 7 year old boy at the home in Clatskanie, where he was staying. Hanlon pled guilty to Sex Abuse in the First Degree and was sentenced to 120 months in prison.



**Avila**

**Kirk Avila** was arrested for the murder of Jesse Depue in Vernonia Oregon. Our detective assisted Vernonia PD with the investigation. Avila awaits trial in the Columbia County Jail.

**Paul Daniels** was charged with raping an 11 year old girl seven years ago at the family home on Pittsburg road in Columbia County. Due to the victim being unable to continue the legal process, Daniels pled guilty to Sex Abuse First Degree, and was sentenced to 48 months in prison on a plea agreement.

**Gene Baska**, a retired Vernonia Police officer was arrested for three counts of Sex abuse and lodged in the Columbia County Jail. He later bailed out, and is awaiting trial.

**Douglas Schaffner** confessed to kidnaping and raping his prior girlfriend at her residence in Columbia County above Rainier. Schaffner pled guilty to Strangulation, and Unlawful penetration in the First Degree and received 100 months in prison.



**Schaffner**

**Brandon Sykes** was arrested for First and Second Degree Kidnapping, Assault 3, Assault 4, Parole violation, Menacing and other charges. With the assistance of the United States Marshals Fugitive Task Force, Sykes was taken into custody near Scappoose, Oregon and lodged in the Columbia County Jail where he is awaiting trial.

**Chris Frazier** This is a 2012 case that initially was investigated by the patrol unit. Chris Frazier went to Max and Dottie Havlick's residence and committed a Burglary. Frazier took about \$16,500 in One Hundred dollar bills that Dottie had been saving for the past 30 years. Frazier had left several bills that ultimately were discovered to have his fingerprints on them. Frazier left the area and fled to Southern California. In 2015 we contacted the DA's office and were able to obtain a nation-wide arrest warrant for Frazier. We contacted the United States Marshalls Fugitive Task Force in Los Angeles California and Frazier was taken into custody. He was allowed to post a bond and ultimately appeared in Columbia County Circuit court pleading guilty to Theft and returning over \$18,000 to the Havlicks.

**Mark Habel**. Acting on a tip from an out-of-state source, Columbia County Sheriff's deputies arrested Mark Habel, 46, St. Helens, on 18 counts of First Degree Sexual Abuse, 14 counts of Unlawful Sexual Penetration in the Second Degree, and 1 count of Contempt of Court. The charges stemmed from an investigation detailing the ongoing abuse of a single victim, who was under 18 at the time. Habel plead guilty to all 35 counts in February 2016. He was sentenced to 150 months on his

# Enforcement Division

## Search & Rescue



**Columbia County Volunteer Search and Rescue During a Training Exercise at Camp Wilkerson in Columbia County. Volunteers from around the county train to stay on top of the certifications necessary to be part of the Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team.**

Oregon law places all search and rescue (SAR) operations under the sheriff of each county. In Columbia County, a reserve enforcement deputy manages the mostly volunteer SAR team on behalf of the sheriff and keeps track of training and other state requirements for the team. Approximately 30 volunteers serve as the “ground searchers” for most search efforts in our county.

The SAR team responds to and assists citizens who are overdue, lost, injured, or killed during ground or marine recreational use of the outdoors. The Search and Rescue program is working to meet the Columbia County Sheriff's Office goal to protect the health, safety, and well being of all citizens. The primary customers are the citizens of Columbia County, although our SAR team has responded to requests from other sheriffs from time to time. The Sheriff's SAR team is also a critical part of the overall Columbia County Emergency Response Plan.

Volunteer SAR team members also stand ready to respond to other counties to assist. In turn, other counties also respond to assist the Sheriff's Office with Search and Rescue Missions that become more complex. In 2015, the team responded to several minor search events, but continued to train for major searches and events outside the county. SAR members also are able to assist the Sheriff in searching for evidence at crimes scenes.

SAR MISSIONS	
2012	14
2013	15
2014	5
2015	13

Each year, SAR members participate in annual training in tracking, survival and other techniques in order to keep up on their certifications. Oregon law requires that searches assigned to Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue events be trained in Search and Rescue techniques in order to participate as members. CCSO's volunteer searchers have thousands of hours of training and experience in real and training scenario search and rescue exercises.

The year 2015 included a relatively smaller number of call outs for the SAR team. They responded to 13 search and rescue call outs in Columbia County. 2015 saw most SAR callouts completed before the SAR teams could be fully assembled, as Deputies responding to the area of missing persons were able to locate and rescue a number of missing people in 2015.

# Enforcement Division

## Dog Control

In January of 2015, a dispute between neighbors over a loose dog ended with one neighbor shooting the neighbors dog causing the dog to be paralyzed in his back legs. The investigation found that the shooting was unwarranted and the shooter was charged with Animal Abuse under a county ordinance. CCSO Dog Control prosecuted the case and obtained a conviction for animal abuse, the shooter was fined and ordered to pay over \$3700 in restitution to the victim's owner for medical bills for the injured dog.

A key factor in the Columbia County dog control program is mediation versus citation, arrest or seizure of animals. These actions are left for cases that cannot be resolved by alternative means. The Columbia County Dog Control Officer frequently works with animal owners in all type of cases, from dogs running at large to large case animal neglect to find solutions to the issues and by working with owners to resolve the neglect issues. As shown in the dog photo on the upper right, an elderly female only needed advice and a little encouragement to return this dog to a healthy condition, which allowed her to keep the pet she loved but for which she was lacking the proper skills to provide adequate care.

Calls for Service	1,195
Dogs Impounded	339
Dogs Returned to Owner	255
Citations Issued	276
Dogs Euthanized*	58

\* The number of dogs euthanized is in congruence with our policy designed to seek the best welfare of the dog and public safety—with an emphasis on adoption. Only 8 of the 58 dogs were euthanized as “Unadoptable.” The remaining 50 euthanized dogs were euthanized at the request of their owners.



*Dog Control helped the owner of this dog to understand the need for better care for the dog.*



*In January of 2015, a dispute between neighbors over a loose dog ended with one neighbor shooting the neighbors dog, causing the dog to be paralyzed in his back legs. The investigation found that the shooting was unwarranted and the shooter was charged with Animal Abuse under a county ordinance. Dog Control prosecuted the case and obtained a conviction for animal abuse. The shooter was fined and ordered to pay over \$3700 in restitution to the victim's owner to cover medical bills for the injured dog*

# Corrections Division

## Jail Operations

The sheriff is responsible to hold those who break the peace in the county to the degree the County government provides the necessary funding to do so—providing lockup to offenders and arrestees sent here by the courts and the nine (9) separate law enforcement agencies and the community justice (parole and probation) department operating in this county. Thanks to the infusion of over \$2 million in voter-authorized additional funding, the jail has been brought back from the brink of elimination.

As funding has returned to the jail, the average stay in 2014 began going up almost immediately. Even though the average daily population went down, this was due primarily to a reduction in the number of U.S. Marshal prisoner holds. Local inmate numbers have reached the capacity set forth in the operational levy plan, as 100 local beds are now available. ***Since Spring of 2015, there have been no forced early releases. Sentenced inmates are serving their time, and those awaiting trial now do so until their trial unless they are bailed out or otherwise released through the courts.***

In 2015, all of our deputies completed their required 40 hours of training. Prior to the passing of the levy we did not have the funds to pay for outside training or to pay overtime to cover the post of a deputy while he or she was at training. In 2014 our deputies averaged approximately 26 hours of training each. With the addition of training bulletins from our risk management policy vendor, we have added tens of hours of additional training per employee per year .

We have doubled our Mental Health Provider hours. This has been very helpful as we have seen a significant rise in the number of inmates being housed with serious mental health issues.

Our Religious Services Volunteer is now performing quarterly baptismal services. This is something we couldn't do before the levy because we didn't have enough staff to provide the required security. All our services to inmates are designed to reduce recidivism and help make inmates blend in better with society.

Through our contacted food provider we have started an Inmate Worker Training Program. The program has two phases. Phase 1 covers basic food safety and sanitation regulations. After completing Phase 1 the inmate receives a Certificate of Completion and is eligible to move onto Phase 2. Phase 2 is a detailed training course covering all things related to food preparation. After successfully completing Phase 2 the inmate receives another Certificate of Completion, a detailed report showing all of the skills learned that can be provided to a potential employer and becomes eligible to receive an Oregon Food Handlers Card. There is written exam at the end of each phase.

## Transportation & Court Security

The Sheriff also is responsible for security at the Columbia County Courthouse and for transporting inmates to and from court, as well as to and from other jurisdictions.

The Transportation and Security Unit is managed and directed under a supervisor in the jail. Every year the unit transports hundreds of inmates to other jurisdictions. The unit also picks up inmates bound for our jail from other jails.

Security is provided to the courthouse on a daily basis. These duties fall under the Constitutional charge given to the Sheriff to be the “ministerial officer” to the courts.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY JAIL STATISTICS**

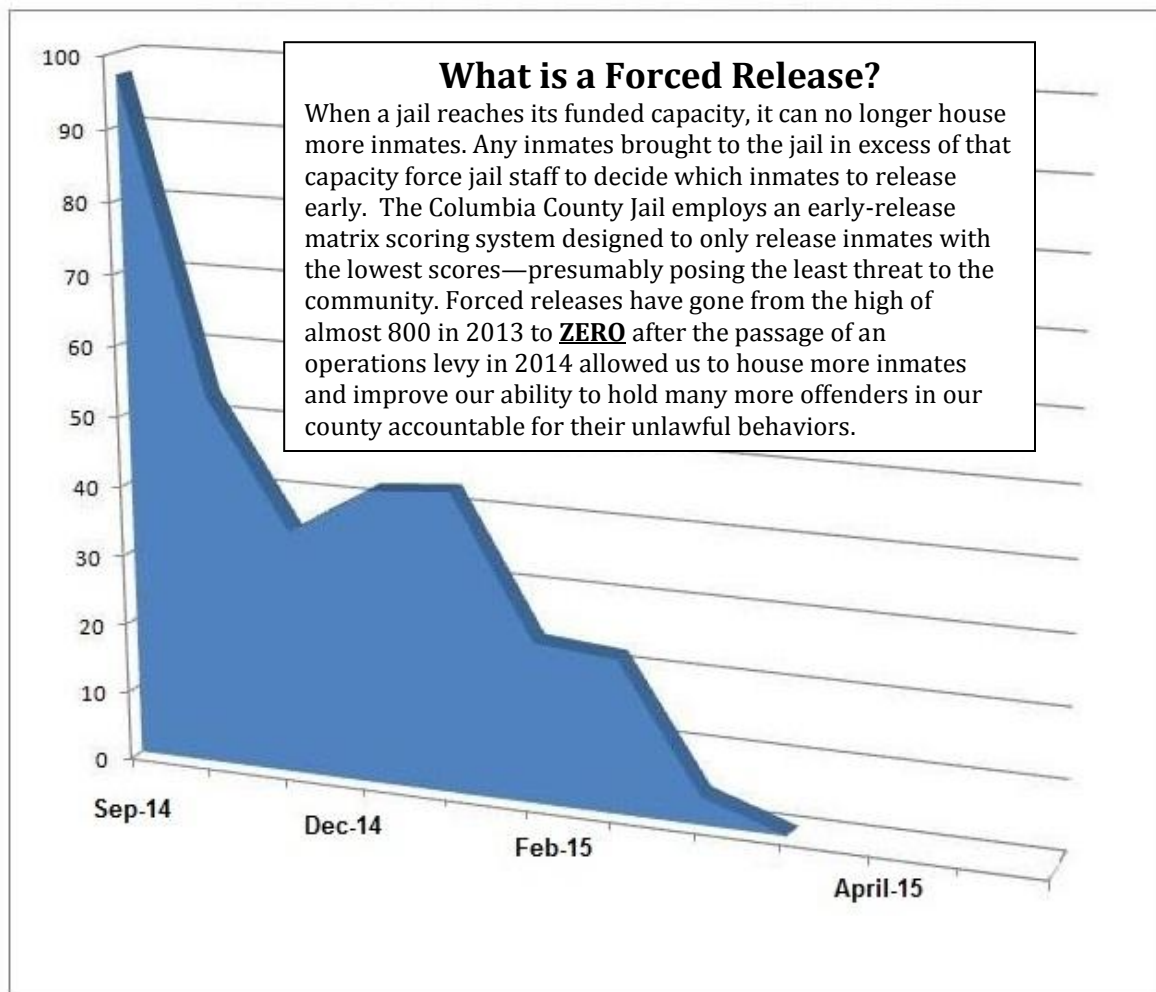
	2012	2013	2014	2015
Custodies (Male)	2,045	2,143	1,994	1894
Custodies (Female)	634	630	537	488
Custodies (unknown)			3	
Average Stay (days)	14	12	15	20
Furloughed inmates*	33	34	26	27
Inmates Force Released	582	791	748	97**
Book And Release	722	768	612	712
Average Daily Population	155	118	104	131
Meals Served	159,951	128,115	112,785	142,920
Inmate Medical Services	10,809	8,681	9,782	12,752

\*Furloughed Inmates are inmates released for treatment or other special programs

\*\*Last inmate force release occurred on March 12, 2015

# Jail Funding Means More Local Beds Filled & No More Force Released Inmates due to Scarce Resources

## Columbia County Jail - Forced Releases by Month



In March 2015, the Jail force-released its last inmate. Since that time, staffing levels have risen to an adequate level to hold all inmates that had been sentenced or arrested until either the completion of their sentence, or arraignment and court disposition. The change has been amazing. Initially, we saw inmates acting out in frustration over the new reality: They would not be force released, but would have to serve their sentences and/or be held unless bail was posted or they were released through the courts.

Prior to the passing of the operating levy in 2014, our jail had become a place where inmates knew they would not serve their sentences; where criminals committing crimes in the county knew there were not enough resources to hold them except for those committing the most serious of offenses. The courts had record numbers of no-shows for hearings when accused people learned that they would not generally be held, even if a judge issued a warrant. Prosecuting Attorneys never knew which defendant or any would show up for their court dates. Community Justice Services could not get very many community service workers trying to work off community service hours—as those convicted would merely fail to show up, and others would elect to serve full sentences, knowing they would be force-released without having to take community service hours.

But all that has changed thanks to the vote of the people in 2014. Now, Fail to Appear warrants have dropped significantly. Sentenced inmates are serving their time. Arrestees are always getting in front of a judge if they are unable to make bail. The court dockets are working more effectively, and attorneys are more assured that the defendants in criminal cases are going to show up. Community Justice Services again has people performing community service and a means for holding parolees and probationers accountable. The criminal justice system works far better when there is a fully operational jail in support of criminal justice goals.

# Support Services Division

## Civil Unit

Oregon law gives tremendous authority and responsibility to elected sheriffs to carry out the civil orders of the courts and deliver associated papers to respondents. Sheriffs—and only sheriffs—are the ones with a mandate to execute the civil law orders of the courts and of judicial officers.

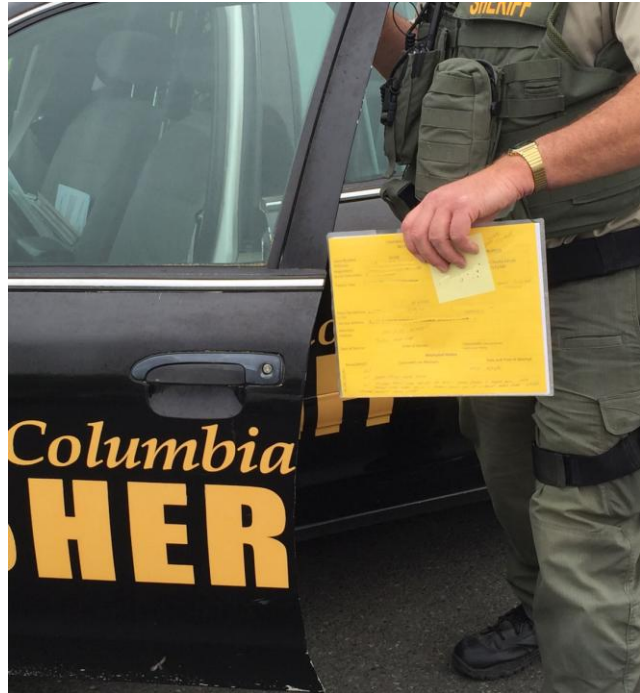
The Columbia County Sheriff's Office continues to set high marks in the service of civil papers, criminal and civil subpoenas, complaints, petitions, small claims notices, court orders, evictions, and restraining orders, and a number of different kinds of writs. The continuing trend in the civil unit is an increase in the number of papers served. In 2015, the unit process 1,730 civil papers—more than 33 per week. These civil papers are often putting deputies in direct contact with individuals and families who have struggled to make ends meet. Our aim is to serve these papers with compassion and firmness. We have a job to do on behalf of the courts, but we always try to find a way to treat people with respect and kindness in the process.

### Concealed Handgun Licensing & Fingerprinting

Fingerprinting is done for various statutory reasons, including employment in the criminal justice fields, teaching and other occupations requiring licensing. It is also required for concealed handgun licensing. After biographical data is entered into the LiveScan System, a person's fingerprints are "rolled" electronically. This process takes about 15 minutes per applicant.

### Concealed Handgun License (CHL) Information

In 2015, we processed almost 2,100 Concealed Handgun Licenses. The Sheriff's Office continued its CHL application services to include one Saturday per month. Oregon Revised Statutes establish specific requirements for the sheriff in the issuance of a CHL. This information is designed to assist understanding of the law and to facilitate the application process.



*A CCSO deputy with one of more than 1,500 civil papers served by the Civil Unit in 2015.*

A CHL is valid for four years. At the time anyone applies for a CHL, the applicant will be required to:

1. Complete CHL application
2. Provide proof of handgun safety competency (new applicants only)
3. Be fingerprinted (new applicants)
4. Be photographed
5. Pay appropriate fees:
  - a. New licenses for Columbia County Residents requires a check, money order or cash for \$65.
  - b. For renewal of CHLs for County residents, cash or check or money order for \$50.

Contact Information:

**Phone: (503) 366-4611 ext. 8**

**Online: [www.co.columbia.or.us/sheriff](http://www.co.columbia.or.us/sheriff)**

Papers Processed				
	2012	2013	2014	2015
Received	1,485	1,449	1,716	1,730
Served	1,457	1,447	1,563	1,570

Concealed Handgun Licenses Processed				
	2012	2013	2014	2015
CHLs	1,050	1,396	2,179	2,095



# Support Services Division

## Records Unit

The Records Unit of the Sheriff's Office is primarily responsible for processing, filing and distributing all reports of the Sheriff's Office, including criminal, jail and civil reports. The unit also makes copies of reports available to the public when they are cleared for release by the courts or district attorney. The Unit also manages the regular warrant procedures of the office: keeping all warrants on file, entering them into the statewide Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS). All warrants and reports are also entered into the Report Managing System, along with a hard copy that is kept in the Report File Room.

The Report management system of the Sheriff's Office is operated in conjunction with the The Regional Justice Information Network (RegJIN)—a regional database containing report information from many law enforcement agencies in our region, including the Portland Police Bureau and the Washington County Sheriff's Office. St. Helens Police and Scappoose Police also input into this database. The database enables investigators from around the region to share information on cases and police contacts and increase the ability to solve crimes. It also automatically transmits arrest data to the Oregon Uniform Crime Reporting system.



**Support Services manages thousands of criminal, civil and Jail records.**

Warrants				
	2012	2013	2014	2015
Entered	648	864	1,020	942
Cleared	629	771	949	959

## Property & Evidence Unit

The Sheriff's Office boasts a state-of-the-art property and evidence room designed to efficiently and effectively categorize property seized by deputies in either a criminal or civil case. Utmost care must be taken in the accounting, control and integrity of evidence and found property that comes under the control of the Sheriff.

The Property and Evidence Unit is staffed by a part-time Employee whose priority is focused on property and evidence issues. Each year, the Evidence Room is audited to assure the integrity of our evidence system.

The Evidence Technician serves on the Major Crimes Team as the evidence collection member of the team. This enables investigators to focus their attention on the investigation and leave the cataloging of evidence to the technician, who can respond to the crime scene and relieve investigators of that responsibility.

The Evidence Technician continues to clear the system of evidence and property from previous years while taking in new property from open cases. At the end of 2015, there were 728 open cases and 2,815 pieces of evidence in those cases. The unit was able to close 856 cases in 2015. Some property needs to be archived when it is evidence in a homicide case. Currently, 14 case files have been archived. All homicides, including suicides with evidence involved have the

associated property held for 99 years.

The unit also continues to have an account with a property clearing house. The clearing house takes property and evidence that is either unclaimed or forfeited to the sheriff by the courts, and sells the property on the open market—but only after every effort to return any unforfeited property to the rightful owner in accordance with the law. The sheriff, in turn is given credit for new product purchases of law enforcement related equipment, thus saving tax payer resources for other matters.

# Support Services Division

## Volunteer Services

Volunteers are of vital importance to the success of the Sheriff's Office and continue to play a major role in extending the capabilities of each of our operational divisions. Each year, volunteers provide thousands of hours of service for no wages, saving the taxpayer money but helping keep vital services in place.

### Volunteers In Partnership with the Sheriff (VIPS)

Some of the services provided by VIPS include:

- **Support Services Division**—Volunteers answer phones, serve as receptionists at the front window, take fingerprints, and provide clerical assistance to staff members. A volunteer chaplain assists employees and citizens as needed.
- **Corrections Division**—Volunteers perform clerical functions, answer phones and provide outreach services to inmates.
- **Enforcement Division**—Volunteers provide staff-hours to help fulfill requirements under the agreement with the State Marine Board for river patrols. They help with equipment needs and repairs and provide expertise in radio communications and water operations. They also perform special projects in support of enforcement goals and objectives, including traffic control at large events, operation of the radar reader board vehicle, and provide assistance to Animal Control programs and employees.

### Search & Rescue Volunteers

Search & Rescue (SAR) is almost entirely made up of volunteers (See Page 12). An enforcement deputy oversees the program and enforcement supervisors and deputies contribute to the needs of the SAR program, but the actual boots on the ground of most search and rescue events are filled by volunteers. A committee of SAR volunteers makes recommendations to the on matters particular to the SAR team. Team members are required by state law to go through annual training to be certified every year as part of the sheriff's Search and Rescue responsibilities. SAR volunteers participated in 13 missions both in and outside of Columbia County during 2015. Team members train with SAR teams from other counties and have their own overnight training in the spring. They also participated in advanced training in classes put on by outside entities.

### Reserve Deputies

The third branch of volunteers assisting the Sheriff's Office and its goals are our sworn, reserve sheriff's deputies. A total of 12 well-trained volunteers deputized to



**Search and Rescue volunteers train in tracking and carrying out injured parties**

assist our enforcement division in meeting the public safety needs in Columbia County. Reserve deputies have been trained in a reserve academy and wear the uniform of a deputy sheriff when serving in that capacity. They provide their own equipment and uniforms. They are required to provide 20 hours per month of service to keep their skills up and keep abreast of the needs of the Sheriff's Office. In 2015, reserves added 4,675 hours of service to augment those hours of our regular sworn force.

### CCSO Volunteers, Inc.

In 2009, volunteers at the sheriff's office formed a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization designed to help fund the various volunteer services at the Sheriff's Office. If you would like to donate to CCSO volunteers to keep their vital services going, you can send donations to CCSO Volunteers, Inc., 901, Port Ave., St. Helens, OR 97051.

## *Contact Information*

To Contact the Sheriff's Office, you may reach us through the following numbers:

<b>Emergency</b> .....	<b>9-1-1</b>
<b>Non-Emergency Dispatch</b> .....	<b>(503) 397-1521</b>
<b>Front Office (Main Line)</b> .....	<b>(503) 366-4611</b>
<b>Receptionist, Dial</b> .....	<b>"0"</b>
<b>Jail</b> .....	<b>"4630"</b>
<b>Criminal/Patrol</b> .....	<b>"4689"</b>
<b>Location/Business Hours</b> .....	<b>"1"</b>
<b>Corrections Division Information</b> ...	<b>"2"</b>
<b>Civil Unit</b> .....	<b>"3"</b>
<b>Volunteer Services Information</b> .....	<b>"6"</b>
<b>Warrants and Records</b> .....	<b>"7"</b>
<b>Concealed Handgun Licensing</b> .....	<b>"8"</b>
<b>Property &amp; Evidence</b> .....	<b>"9"</b>
<b>Marine Patrol</b> .....	<b>(971) 813-6121</b>
<b>Non-emergency Citizen Call/Tip Line.</b> .....	<b>(503) 366-4698</b>

A recorded line for non-emergency calls, when no deputy is immediately required.  
For emergencies, call 9-1-1.

**Address: Columbia County Sheriff**  
    **901 Port Avenue**  
    **Saint Helens, OR 97051**

*The Columbia County Sheriff's Office  
is also on FACEBOOK!*

**On the Web: [www.co.columbia.or.us/sheriff](http://www.co.columbia.or.us/sheriff)**