



Columbia County **SHERIFF**

2016 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:

Deputies (Regular and Reserve) Patrolling inside the fairgrounds during the 2016 Columbia County Fair

Dear Fellow Citizens of Columbia County:



Bolstered by the confidence you have placed in our operations, 2016 was a banner year for the Sheriff's Office. Voters cast their votes resoundingly for continued jail operations, keeping us in the business of providing safe, secure and humane housing for those who violate our community's peace. The community also assisted us in quickly piecing together some major criminal cases throughout the year! Also, the City of Clatskanie began contract services with our Enforcement Division, helping us to provide additional Sheriff's Office strength to North County residents in the process.

We see our mission as a partnership with those we serve, and your support for this office over the years has made us proud of (and grateful for) our community.

Thanks to your support and understanding, the Office of Sheriff in our County continues to make big strides toward our aim to be the premier public safety agency in our County. No matter how far along we are in fulfilling our goals, the challenge will always remain to constantly strive to be our best for the good of the communities we serve.

As I begin my third term as your elected sheriff, my heart is full of gratitude to the voters of Columbia County who have stood behind me through thick and thin as my staff and I labor together to ensure our County is a safe place to live, work and recreate. As you peruse our annual report, I hope you catch a vision for how much is accomplished on your behalf by our dedicated staff and volunteers!

Jeff Dickerson

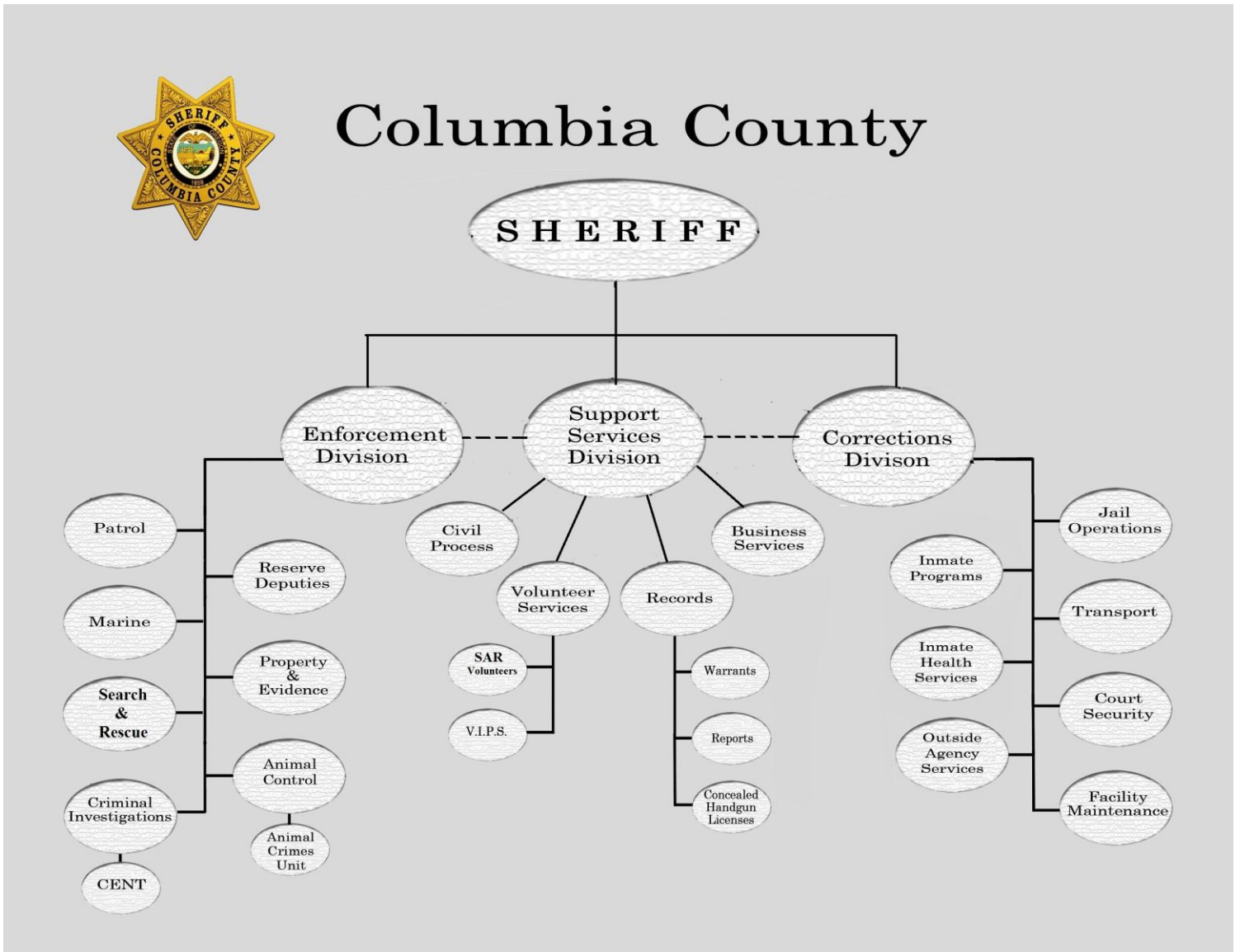
Sheriff Jeff Dickerson Biography

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 and in 2016 to his third 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.

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. The Sheriff deputizes trusted administrators and supervisors to 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



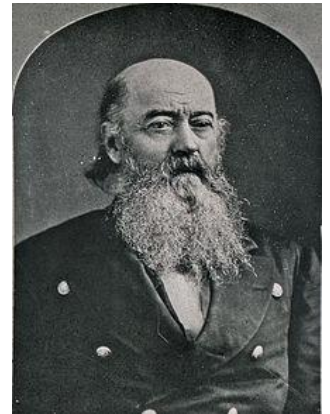
liberties of the people as an elected official with broad powers— including the power to arrest, commit to prison, serve as the ministerial officer of the courts, and to carry out its directives, including relieving people of property upon court order and their personal liberties upon probable cause. 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 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. In 2016, voters renewed the levy to keep the jail going.



County was trimmed

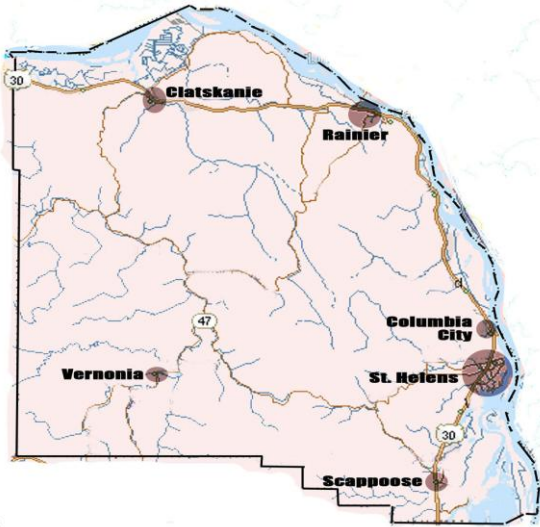
Joseph "Joe" Meek – Oregon's First Sheriff

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	50,795	688.0
Clatskanie	1,745	1,750	1.3
Columbia City	1,945	1,965	1.2
Prescott	55	55	0.1
Rainier	1,900	1,905	4.9
Saint Helens	12,895	13,120	5.7
Scappoose	6,700	6,785	2.7
Vernonia	2,065	2,065	1.7
Unincorporated	22,545	23,150	669.5

The Sheriff's Office is the primary law enforcement response agency for areas outside incorporated cities and within the incorporated Cities of Prescott and Clatskanie—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:** Henry Heimuller, Margaret Magruder, Alex Tardif
- **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 2016

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1441	1476	1525	1550	1599	1690	1800	1730	1474	1460	1542	1278

Inmates Booked into Jail by Month in 2016

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
171	197	205	195	227	217	197	249	223	200	211	178

Your Sheriff's Office Today



Sheriff Dickerson (left) presents life-saving awards in a County Commissioners' Meeting to three corrections employees who performed life-saving techniques to rescue two different inmates from suicide attempts.

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" in the County, 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.

Executing the duties of the Office of Sheriff in our county 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, and focusing also on citizen and inmate safety as another high priority;
- 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

Paddle Boarder Drowns off of Sauvie Island

Deputies responded to Collins Beach in May 2016 on the report of a female paddle board operator who had fallen off the board in the Columbia River. Ho Khuong Vo Dang, 28, Portland was presumed drowned after marine deputies--with the help of our partners with the Multnomah County SO, Portland and Scappoose fire agencies, and the US Coast Guard--suspended the search for her body that evening. It wasn't until March 2017 before her body was found in the River in Pacific County, Washington.

Beaverton Man arrested after Shots Fired

In June, Deputies arrested 26-year-old Kodiack Stone after reports that the suspect fired a number of shots at a victim he knew from a previous encounter. Stone was later convicted of a felony in this case and sentenced to prison.

Clatskanie Man Arrested on multiple Sexual Abuse Offenses

In June, CCSO criminal investigators arrested Carl Cline, 79, Clatskanie on multiple charges of Sodomy and Sexual Abuse. The case came after a referral from a school resource officer from a high school outside of Columbia county. Two victims were identified who later testified before a Columbia County grand jury. He was later indicted and remains in custody pending trial in the Columbia County Jail.

Sheriff's Office Begins Dog Licensing Management in July

With the new fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, the Sheriff's Office--in an effort to streamline the way licensing is handled on both the issuance and enforcement levels--began overseeing the licensing of dogs in the County. The effort is to improve the way licenses are obtained and to make it easier for the public to comply with the law. Since taking over dog licensing, citizens can now license their dogs at the same time they get their rabies from participating veterinarian clinics, from the Animal Shelter or even online.

Burglary -- ID Theft Suspects Taken into Custody

Thanks to the work of an alert patrol deputy making a traffic stop, evidence of stolen mail and documents taken during burglaries of several homes were located inside the vehicle. The find led to search warrants and the arrest of three suspects charged with Burglary, Theft, Identity Theft and Drug Possession charges.

Boat Crash on Multnomah Channel Leaves two Seriously Injured

Marine Deputies responded to the Multnomah Channel in June 2016 after a licensed guide/outfitter operator drove his boat into a smaller craft operated by two men angling in the channel. The collision was nearly head-on, and the two men in the smaller vessel were injured. Life saving efforts by the guided fishing tour operator kept the two men onboard the smaller vessel from going down with the sinking boat. Marine Investigators conducted the crash and worked with the Marine Board on reconstructing the crash.

Woman's Body Found off of Pittsburg Rd. leads to arrest of Three Local Suspects

In September, a woman's body was found discarded off the roadway on Pittsburg Rd. Apache Rose Hightower had been missing from the Portland area when a driver found her body and called 9-1-1. Deputies quickly determined this was a homicide, and the lengthy investigation that ensued (with the help of our partners) concluded with the indictment of three local suspects. These suspects remain in custody at the time of this report, pending trial.

CENT Investigators Take down Clatskanie Drug Dealer

A 2-week undercover narcotics investigation culminated in the arrest of a Clatskanie man in October on charges of Delivery of Methamphetamine. Randy Houle, 27, was convicted and sentenced for delivery of Methamphetamine and Delivery of Controlled Substance within 1000 feet of a school.

Patrol Deputies Nab Inmate Worker who Walked Away

An inmate worker entrusted with the ability to work during the day on the outside of the jail as part of his sentence on drug possession charges, walked away from his duties, but wasn't free for long. Enforcement Deputies found him hiding in a residence on Tide Creek Rd. and brought him back to jail.

Sheriff's Office Begins Clatskanie Patrols November 1

In November, the Sheriff's Office began patrolling the City of Clatskanie under an agreement with the City. The unique contract has the Sheriff's Office picking up part of the cost in order for deputies assigned to the City to go outside the City when needed to take Calls in the General Clatskanie area.

Enforcement Division

Patrol Unit

The uniformed patrol force is the face of the Sheriff's Office that the public most often sees. For much of 2016, four full-time deputies and a sergeant were primarily responsible for calls for service, which continue to rise. With these five 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 and sergeant were scattered throughout the work week in 2016 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.

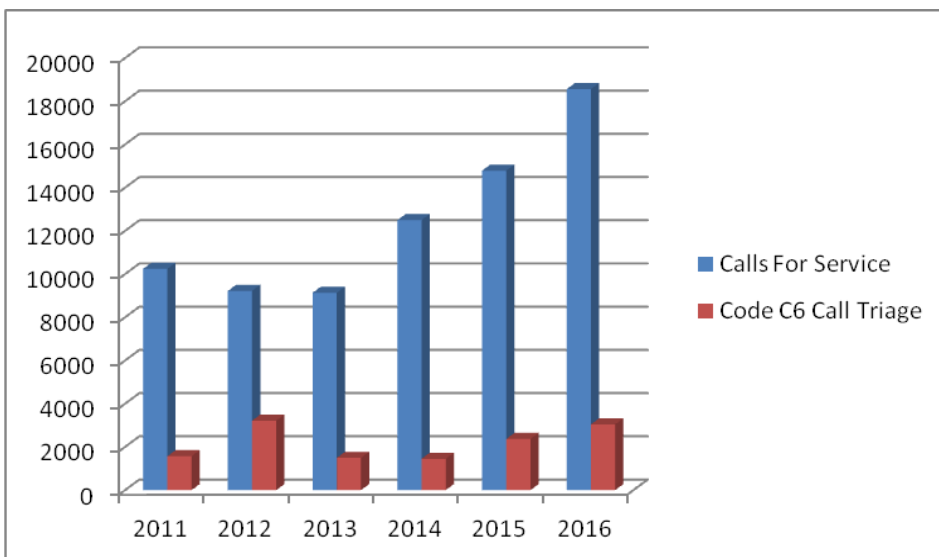
With often just one deputy on duty, many times calls cannot be answered all at once. Deputies and command staff review calls that have been triaged on a regular basis, to make sure every call gets answered—even if there is a delay by a few days. The most urgent calls always get answered first, and there 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. Even with calls increasing every year in recent years, our deputies still manage to respond to most calls for service as the chart above demonstrates.

Expansion of Patrol Unit at the end of 2016

After several months of planning, we began providing contracted police services inside the City of Clatskanie. This is the first such law enforcement contract in Columbia County and is somewhat unique in that it provides for a sharing of resources between the City and the County.

The County subsidizes the cost of each deputy assigned to the Clatskanie Station, which allows those deputies to handle calls outside the City when necessary. In turn, the City receives additional management and call coverage from the Sheriff's Office, even when deputies paid for by the City are not on duty.

Deputy activities within the City showed a marked



Calls for service are triaged, with Deputies prioritizing the most serious calls and delaying (Code C6) a small percentage. The chart above shows that even with increasing call loads, deputies respond right away to most of them.

increase over recent years in the City from the day the Sheriff's Office began patrols. For the six month period leading up to the transition, Clatskanie Officers were generating under four activities per day to close to 3 times that amount every day once the City began to be patrolled by deputies on November 1, 2016.

Traffic Citations

Hazardous driving citations were up over the previous two years by almost 10 percent; DUII arrests stayed constant; Speeding and various driver violations were up significantly over the previous year; and Equipment/other violation citations fell markedly over the previous year.

Calls for Service				
	2013	2014	2015	2016
CCSO calls	9,136	12,496	14,787	18,565

In Custody Arrests				
	2013	2014	2015	2016
Arrests	**	234	240	313

**Not tracked in prior years

DUII Arrests				
	2013	2014	2015	2016
DUII Arrests	117	40	29	28

Total # Violation Citations in 2016				
	Hazardous Driving	Driver Viols*	Speed	Eqpt/Other
# violations cited	191	565	168	189

*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 and inflatable boats 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 potential criminal investigations. While we rely on volunteers to assist us in our searches, Patrol and Marine Patrol deputies are always on hand and at the forefront of Search and Rescue efforts with the help of those volunteers. 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 continued to find a number of dumped or derelict boats. These boats are not only an eyesore, 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



Sheriff's Deputies use inflatable vessels occasionally to go in flood waters or other shallow-water locations. The Marine Unit leads Search and Rescue efforts on the water and deputies often wear dry suits to help--particularly in cold water Search and Rescue or other events.

assisting with medical and fire department calls on the water, just to name a few.

CCSO Marine deputies also participated in "Operation Dry Water" as part of a nationwide crackdown on boating under the influence of intoxicants. (BUII). Deputies focused their activities on the week prior to the Independence Day Festival, with the desired effect being to demonstrate zero tolerance for BUII offenses.

Program Hours				
	2013	2014	2015	2016
Water Hrs	2,486	1,918	1,814	1,756

Reported Water Incidents				
	2013	2014	2015	2016
Incidents	36	11	15	76

Additional Statistics				
	2013	2014	2015	2016
Inspections	762	454	567	7,571
Citations	145	55	76	213
BUII	8	2	2	1

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 made up the bulk of the Enforcement Division's in-depth investigation team. Our investigations frequently overlap with the Columbia County Major Crimes Team and the Columbia Enforcement Narcotics Team (CENT) providing innumerable hours of investigatory services on major criminal events within the county, including: Drugs and Narcotics Trafficking; 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 2016, including:

Stephanie Toney, Jesse Lane, Charles Vernon.



These three suspects were developed during the investigation into the murder of a Portland woman, whose body was found dumped off of Pittsburg Rd. in the St. Helens area. The victim, Apache Hightower, 24, was found beaten to death down an embankment from the roadway on September 20. Within weeks, investigators following leads in the case were able to bring charges against the three suspects. They were awaiting adjudication on these charges at the time of this report.

Larry Van Dolah This case was developed based on illegal marijuana sales to New Jersey

from St. Helens. Investigators were building bank fraud and money laundering cases involving this suspect prior to his death in Portland in 2017.

Kodiack Stone, was believed to be attempting to kill an individual involved in a different investigation in which Stone knew someone who died. The victim was driving on Highway 47 near Lone Pine Rd., when the suspect fired a shot at the victim, which went through rear window of the victim's pickup truck. Investigators contacted Stone later and charged him with Attempted Murder. He later pled no contest to the charge and was sentenced to 29 months in prison.

Andrew Jones, Linda Strawn -- Both were found to be part of an extensive burglary and mail theft ring in and around Columbia County. From January to March a St. Helens area homeowner reported at least three different burglaries at his vacant property on Barger Rd. that had stored tools, personal documents and collectible memorabilia.



Andrew Jones



Linda Strawn

A breakthrough in the case was made when a CCSO Deputy assisted St Helens Police Officers during a traffic stop of Andrew Jones in a convenience store parking lot. Jones' vehicle was seized as evidence. St Helens Police Department executed a search warrant on the vehicle and seized heroin, methamphetamine, psychedelic mushrooms, and stolen property.

While working with St. Helens Police Department, Patrol Deputies executed search warrants at 255 S 16th Street, 920 Plymouth Street, and Linda Strawn's vehicle. During the search warrants, Deputies and Officers recovered stolen property from the mentioned burglaries as well as several burglaries from different storage units at private storage facility. Stolen mail was seized from people living on Sauvie's Island all the way to Rainier.

The suspects were later indicted and found guilty. They were sentenced to 60 months in prison.

Randy Houle was arrested on multiple drug charges out of the Clatskanie area. CENT investigators conducted a 2-week undercover operation that led to the arrest of Houle and three other suspects. Houle was charged with Delivery of methamphetamine and Oxycodone. He was sentenced to 30 days in the Columbia County Jail.

Enforcement Division

Search & Rescue



Sheriff Dickerson (front) and SAR Liaison Deputy Bill Goodwin with Search and Rescue Volunteers Board Members (from left): Aaron Lee, Terry Martin, Robert Wisner and Rick Blackburn. The Volunteer SAR Board coordinates planning and training for Search and Rescue volunteer members throughout the year.

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 25 volunteers serve as the “ground searchers” for most search efforts in our county.

The SAR team responds to and/or 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 2016, the team responded to several search events, and 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 crime scenes.

Each year, SAR members participate in annual training in tracking, survival and other techniques in order to keep

SAR MISSIONS	
2012	14
2013	15
2014	5
2015	13
2016	10

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.



Sheriff’s Search and Rescue Members joined with Clatskanie Fire and representatives from volunteer organizations to review safety procedures in regard to helicopters during SAR events.

Enforcement Division

Dog Control

Oregon law requires all dogs within the County to be licensed at the age of 6 months (or within 30 days of residing in the County). The County Dog Control Officer enforces this requirement along with other dog control laws in Oregon Revised Statutes found in ORS 609.

The County Dog Control program is partially funded by the licensing of dogs within the community. Donation support helps provide for medical and other animal care services not normally covered by the County budget process. Everyone can help this program by being a responsible dog owner, including the licensing of the dogs in your possession.

In many cases the Sheriff's Dog Control Officer works with dog owners to resolve care issues, but in some cases the Officer will remove the dogs from a location when it appears that the owners cannot provide the proper care or the animal is in risk.

In 2016, a Vernonia area case involved a dog that was found to be emaciated and left outside in the snow and cold, without shelter. Neighbors reported the general decline and poor treatment of the dog. The investigation found that the owner of the dog had abandoned the dog to the care of persons that were living on the property.

In this case the dog was removed from the location and with proper care gained 19 pounds in two weeks. The person found to be responsible for the care for the dog in this case was successfully prosecuted for animal neglect.

In October of 2016, The Sheriff's Dog Control Officer aided the Oregon State Police and Clatskanie Police with the investigation of a reported livestock attack in which the offending animals were not witnessed committing the act of killing and injuring several sheep.

The Dog Control Officer applied specialized skills and the knowledge of animal behavior to determine the owners of the dogs involved and successfully prosecuted the case in court. His expertise in these type of cases provided for over \$3000 in restitution being awarded to the animals' owners.



Dog in need of better shelter in Vernonia area.



In October, 2016, dogs suspected in the killing and injuring of several sheep in the Clatskanie area were identified with the help of the Columbia County Sheriff's Office Dog Control Officer. The DCO used his expertise in animal behavior to identify the offending dogs, which led to a successful prosecution in court.

Enforcement Division

Statistics

C-Com Call For Sheriff's Services by Category 2007 -2016

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	10 Year Average
Assaults	69	53	55	62	58	70	54	61	53	71	60.6
Robberies	1	1	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	1	0.9
Burglaries	103	101	96	94	120	126	117	159	73	116	110.5
Thefts	273	263	235	229	258	247	253	249	228	244	247.9
Prowlers	15	27	40	37	38	32	39	45	41	69	38.3
Stolen Vehicles	72	98	81	70	60	66	51	61	61	50	67
Disturbances	118	94	98	107	139	129	144	187	178	227	142.1
Domestic Disturb	185	157	185	190	157	182	158	189	216	272	189.1
Criminal Mischief	168	176	121	135	115	115	90	96	64	110	119

Dog Control Statistics 2016

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Calls for Service	101	98	104	106	95	96	89	101	37	108	105	94	1134
Dog Calls	85	89	89	106	86	96	71	91	37	92	105	84	1031
Other calls	16	9	15		9		18	10		16		10	103
Dog bites			3		2			9		3		5	22
Assist Officers												5	5
Reports	30	37	41	35	36	35	41	36	16	56	33	29	425
Warnings		10	17	15	16	20	16	22	5	25	25	11	182
Citations	56	25	9	20	18	25	14	11	2	20	23	1	224
Neglect Investigations				5	4	2	3		3	3	18	6	44
Animal Impounds	20	6		15	7		6	8		9	8	10	89
Euthanasia	7	3	4		4	4		7	6	4	3	7	49
Follow up Investigations			14	10	9	8	13	12	5	14	6	10	101
Cases referred to OHS	2	1	2	3					1			2	11
Kennel Inspection			4			1			1		1		7

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 eight (8) separate law enforcement agencies and the community justice (parole and probation) department operating in this county. Thanks to the infusion of over \$2.25 million in renewed voter-authorized additional funding, the jail continues to operate with the ability to hold all inmates lawfully committed to our facility.

Since funding returned to the jail, the average stay has continued to increase. 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 2016, all of our deputies completed their required 40 hours of training. All jail supervisors and five deputies also completed 40 hours of Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training. The jail's canine handler and his partner, "Odin" completed the 10-week canine academy and are a fully certified drug detection team; as well as Odin's

handler completing the 78-hour Drug Enforce Agency investigator's course.

Inmate Programs

In partnership with Community Justice, we started a cognitive thinking program called Houses of Healing. It is a 12-week program designed to help inmates understand why they make the decisions they make that often result in being arrested and incarcerated and helps them develop better decision-making skills in all aspects of their lives.

Also, we now offer a parenting skills building program, also in partnership with Community Justice. This program is designed to help inmates improve all of their parenting skills but it is specifically designed to help parents who are incarcerated maintain and strengthen their parental bonds. This is a 10-week course offered to both male and female inmates (separate sessions).

The Pathways Inmate Worker program, offered through our Food Services Provider, continues to be a very popular and successful inmate program. We have had dozens of inmates complete phase 1 – which covers basic food safety and sanitation regulations and practices. We have also had seven inmates complete phase 2 – which is a detailed course covering all things related to food preparation.

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 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

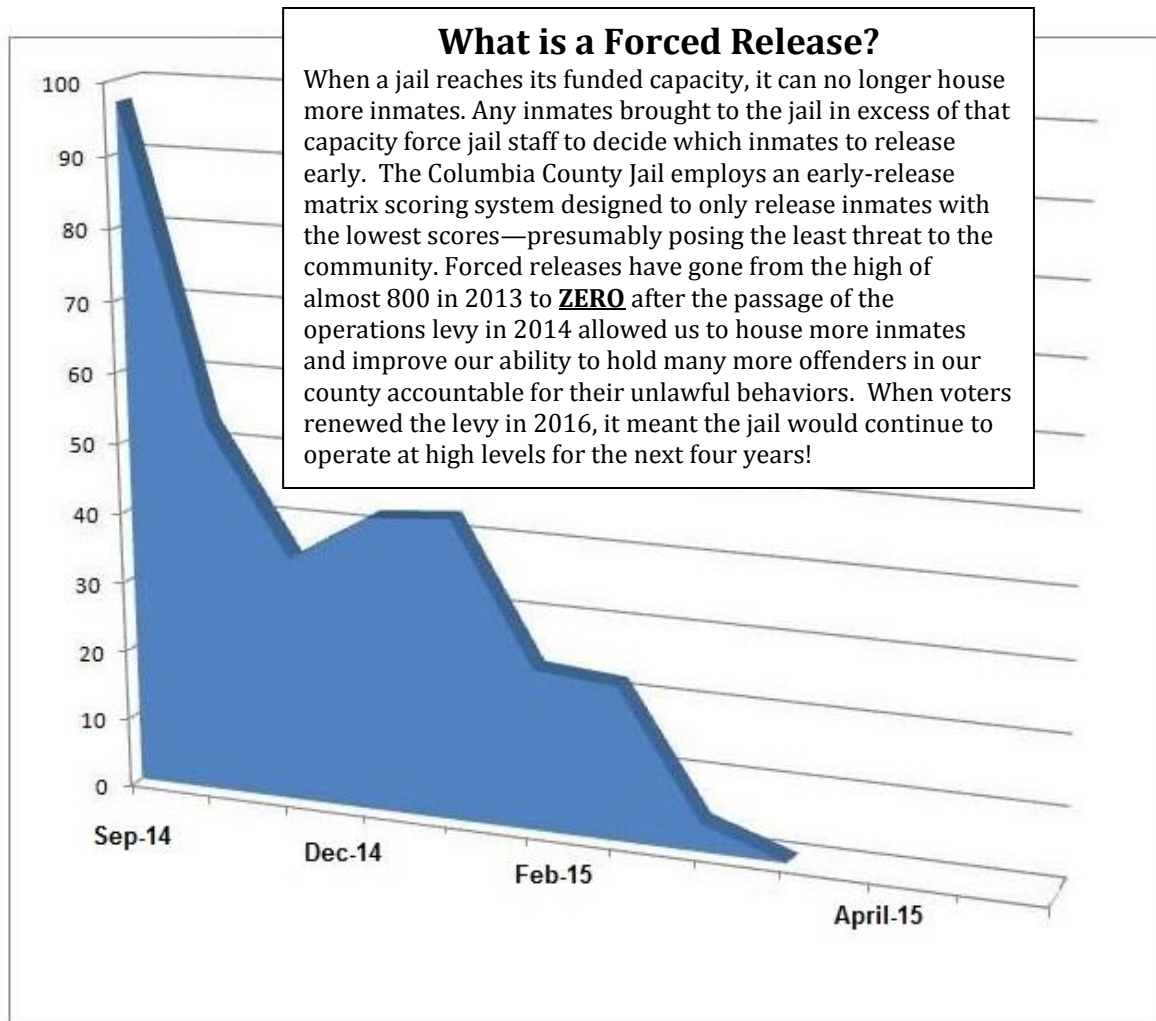
	2013	2014	2015	2016
Custodies (Male)	2,143	1,994	1894	1780
Custodies (Female)	630	537	488	611
Custodies (unknown)		3		
Average Stay (days)	12	15	20	21
Furloughed inmates*	34	26	27	49
Inmates Force Released	791	748	97**	0
Book And Release	768	612	712	655
Average Daily Population	118	104	131	152
Meals Served	128,115	112,785	142,920	165,440
Inmate Medical Services	8,681	9,782	12,752	18,705

*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, arraignment and court disposition or release by the court and given a court date prior to adjudication.

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 if 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 and their vote to renew the levy in 2016. Now, Fail to Appear warrants have dropped significantly. Sentenced inmates are serving their time. Arrestees who have the required probable cause affidavits accepted by the courts 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 Sheriff's office continued to serve a large amount of Civil Papers throughout the County, while at the same time taking on the responsibility for Dog Licensing County Wide. The purpose in adding dog licensing to our responsibilities was to streamline the service of our enforcement program with dog control and the licensing of dogs.

Dog Licensing

The year 2016 saw the Sheriff's Office expand the licensing of dogs to vendors outside the County Government. Participating veterinarian offices and the local humane society animal shelter also provide licenses. The Sheriff also commissioned the licensing of dogs online to begin as soon as practicable, and that program is expected to begin in 2017.

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 and sex offender registration. 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 2016, we processed more than 2,427 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 CHL is valid for four years. At the time anyone applies for a CHL, the applicant will be required to:



Front Office Staff in our Support Services Division process thousands of cases every year.

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.

Phone: (503) 366-4611 ext.0

Online: www.co.columbia.or.us/sheriff

Papers Processed				
	2013	2014	2015	2016
Received	1,449	1,716	1,730	1,736
Served	1,447	1,563	1,570	1,538

Concealed Handgun Licenses Processed				
	2013	2014	2015	2016
CHLs	1,396	2,179	2,095	2,427

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.



Property Room Clerk examines rifle seized as evidence.

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 2016, there were 918 open cases and 3,831 pieces of evidence in those cases. The unit was able to close 135 cases in 2016. Some property needs to be archived when it is evidence in a homicide case. Currently, 656 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 taxpayer resources for other matters.

Warrants					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Entered	648	864	1,020	942	902
Cleared	629	771	949	959	970

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, and provide clerical assistance to staff members. A volunteer chaplain assists employees and citizens as needed.
- Corrections Division—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 13). 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 10 missions both in and outside of Columbia County during 2016. 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 10 well-trained volunteers deputized to assist our enforcement division in meeting the public safety needs in



A couple of the Volunteer Reserve Deputies who helped us out during last year's County Fair

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 2016, reserves added 5,188 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:

Emergency **9-1-1**

Non-Emergency Dispatch **(503) 397-1521**

Front Office (Main Line) **(503) 366-4611**

Receptionist, Dial **"0"**

Jail **"4630"**

Criminal/Patrol **"4637"**

Dispatch "Non Emergency" **"1"**

Enforcement Division **"2"**

Corrections Division **"3"**

Warrants and Records **"5"**

Support Services Information **"6"**

Tip Line **"4698"**

Marine Patrol **(971) 813-6121**

Non-emergency Citizen Call/Tip Line **(503) 366-4698**

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 and
TWITTER!*

On the Web: www.co.columbia.or.us/sheriff