

Columbia County
SHERIFF



2020

Annual Report

To Conserve the Peace in Columbia County

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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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www.columbiacountyor.gov/sheriff



<http://www.facebook.com/columbiacountysheriff>

Sheriff

Dear Fellow Citizens of Columbia County:



Since I took office in January 2019, we have been continuing to work hard to improve relationships with residents and community partners. Thanks to the investment of taxpayers and the trust we have gained in our budget processes, we have been able to keep our jail not only operating but thriving with dedicated employees whose mission is to hold in custody those who threaten the peace of our county. We have been able to take a tiny Enforcement force of just four deputies and build it into a set of two Enforcement teams with their primary mission to make our county a safe place to live, work and recreate. We have created a Support Services Division that excels in customer service and in keeping the services from all three of our Divisions on track and accessible to you.

I truly feel blessed to have been elected as Columbia County's 33rd Sheriff. As a Columbia County resident myself, I have seen first hand the toll that crime can have on each resident of Columbia County. I am fully prepared to make sure Columbia County remains an amazing place to live, work and recreate!

Sheriff Brian Pixley Biography

Brian Pixley was born in Portland, Oregon in 1974, where he spent the majority of his young life. Brian graduated from David Douglas High School in 1992 before moving to Newport, OR, where he met his wife, Annette. Brian and Annette were married in 1994 and have three children.

Brian and his family moved to Scappoose in 2003 when he was hired as a Corrections Deputy for the Columbia County Sheriff's Office. In 2006, Brian was hired as a Patrol Officer for the Scappoose Police Department, but he returned to the Columbia County Sheriff's Office in 2010. While working at the Scappoose Police Department, Brian graduated from Eastern Oregon University earning a Bachelor's of Science Degree.

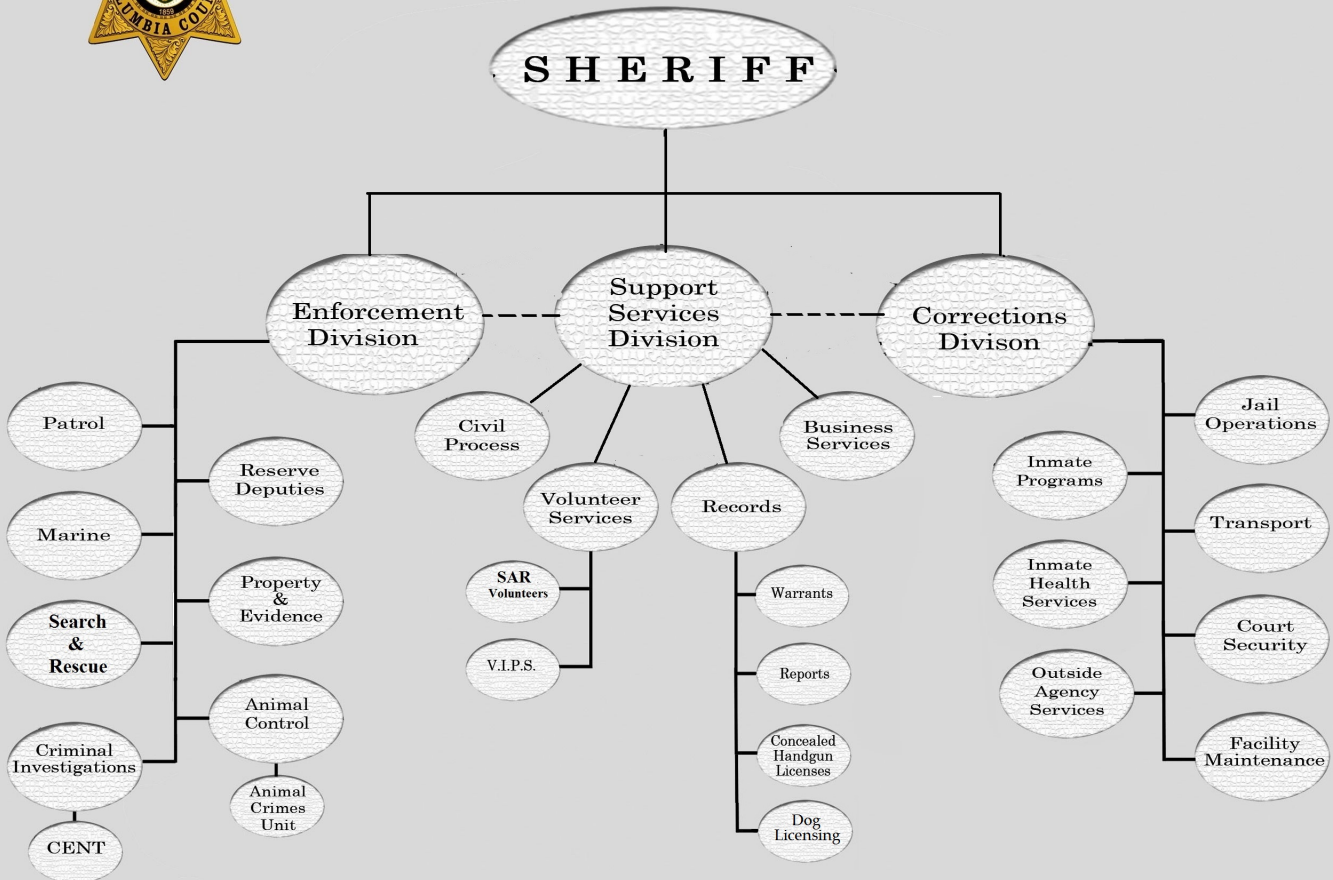
Since returning to the Columbia County Sheriff's Office in 2010, he has held the rank of Patrol Deputy, Marine Deputy as well as Sergeant and Lieutenant in both the Corrections and Patrol Division. Brian was elected by the citizens of Columbia County to serve as Sheriff on November 6, 2018.

Brian is a graduate of the Oregon Executive Development Institute, FBI-LEEDA, the Oregon State Sheriff's Association's Command College and the National Sheriff's Institute. Brian is certified to the Executive level in both Police and Correction's by the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training.

Organizational Chart



Columbia County



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.

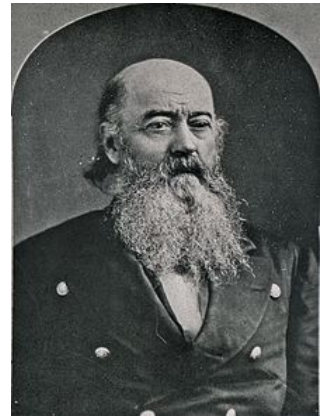
Thomas Jefferson once called the office of Sheriff the most important elected office in the county. No matter who actually sits in the office at any given time, this is a constitutional office with a wide variety of duties and authorities and a tremendous potential for defending the liberties of the people with broad powers. Those powers include 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.

Prior to 2014, the Sheriff's Office struggled due to funding problems that had 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 and 2020, voters renewed the levy to keep the jail going.



Joseph "Joe" Meek – Oregon's First Sheriff

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: 32.9 degrees
July: 78.1 degrees
- **Population:** 52,354
- **Assessed Value:** \$4,058,366,509
- **Principal Industries:** Agriculture, Lumber, Fishing, Tourism

	POPULATION		Area
	2018	2019	Sq. Miles
Columbia County	52,377	52,354	688.0
Clatskanie	1,815	1,646	1.3
Columbia City	2,031	1,882	1.2
Prescott	50	88	0.1
Rainier	1,982	2,113	4.9
Saint Helens	13,701	13,559	5.7
Scappoose	7,262	7,270	2.7
Vernonia	2,240	1,856	1.7
Unincorporated	23,296	23,940	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— for providing 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:** Brian Pixley
- **District Attorney:** Jeff Auxier

Columbia County Sheriffs 1854 - Present

Brian Pixley	2019 -Present	Millard Calhoun	1937-1937	Margaret Masquater, Alex Tardiff	1854-1894
Jeff Dickerson	2009- 2018			• County Assessor: Sue Martin	
Phil Derby	1997-2008	Oscar Weed	1929-1937	• County Clerk: Betty Huser	1882-1884
Pat Detloff	1996	John Wellington	1921-1929	• County Treasurer: Vacant	
George Hulit	1995-1996	Henry LaBare	1919-1921	• Justice of the Peace: Diana Taylor	1878-1882
Bruce Oester	1983-1994	Edward Stanwood	1915-1919	James Dart	1872-1878
Richard "Tom" Tennent	1974-1983	C. H. Johns	1914-1915	W. T. Williams	1870-1882
Fred Roediger	1974	Albert Thompson	1911-1914	Jackson Preacher	1866-1870
Roy Wilburn	1963-1974	Martin White	1904-1911	John Meyers	1864-1866
Spencer Younce	1959-1963	R. S. Hattan	1900-1904	Samuel Miles	1862-1864
John Evans	1958-1959	James Rice	1896-1900	James Gilbreath	1859-1862
Warren Forsythe	1953-1958	William Conyers	1894-1896	Benjamin Stevens	1854-1859

- 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

Sheriff's Calls for Service by Month in 2020

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1358	1149	1219	1048	1044	1092	1315	1375	1447	1299	1192	1226

Inmates Booked into Jail by Month in 2020

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
248	203	158	100	116	127	141	140	122	159	109	100

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" 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 Animal 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 Pixley 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 while also 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.

Sheriff's Strategic Plan 2016-2020

These strategic priorities provide direction for the Columbia County Sheriff's Office. Achieving these priorities includes a combination of established and new strategic goals. Together these strategic goals will ensure that the Sheriff's Office fulfills its mission of being conservator of the peace in Columbia County and our objective of keeping Columbia County a safe place to live, work and recreate.

Strategic Priority 1 Strengthen our service vision to provide the most effective law enforcement, jail, court, and civil process services to the community in the most efficient manner possible.

Strategic Priority 2 Continue to develop our work force in professionalism and motivation in public service. Empower our teams with problem-solving skills and motives. Integrate community-policing philosophy throughout the three divisions (Jail, Enforcement, Support), tying performance objectives and assessments thereof to partnership and problem-solving techniques aimed at preventing crime and eliminating the atmosphere of vulnerability, it creates.

Strategic Priority 3 Ensure the recruitment and hiring of only the best applicants according to the integrity, ethics, professionalism, commitment to the mission, and work ethic expected of every employee.

Strategic Priority 4 Value and support relationships to promote the mission and goals of the Sheriff's Office.

Strategic Priority 5 Match funding opportunities to gaps in our resources within the three divisions of the Sheriff's Office.

News Notes



Hometown Heroes

In 2019, the Columbia County Sheriff's Office began a project called, "Hometown Heroes". CCSO collected names of men and women from Columbia County that were currently on active duty serving overseas. CCSO then partnered with the American Heritage Girls and packed care packages for these local hometown heroes and sent them overseas. The community donated time, money and products to send these packages overseas to make our heroes feel a little love from Columbia County. Although COVID has slowed this program, it is still going strong.

CCSO Congratulates 3 Patrol Recruits and 1 Corrections Recruit Graduate from Basic Academy

In 2020, CCSO had three Enforcement Deputy Recruits graduate from the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training's (DPSST) 16 week Basic Police Academy. Kyle Beam graduated on 2/14/2020 and was awarded the Outstanding Health and Physical Fitness Award. Maria Trask and Chord Tozier both graduated on 10/22/2020, with Deputy Tozier receiving the Lee M. Brown Outstanding Shooter Award. Marjorie Laney graduated from DPSST's 6 week Basic Corrections Academy on 10/30/2020. All recruits have since completed their in-house training and are working independently, serving the residents of Columbia County.

Quarantine Birthday Celebrations During the Pandemic

In April 2020, CCSO Deputies began visiting children in Columbia County for their birthdays. During the months of April and May, CCSO helped over 200 Columbia County children celebrate their birthday, pandemic style. CCSO held birthday processions using CCSO vehicles and were able to leave a small gift bag for each child.

CCSO staff loved participating in these birthday processions because it helped us give back to our community in a positive way. We were able to walk away with a positive interaction for over 200 families in Columbia County. Thank you to everyone who participated.



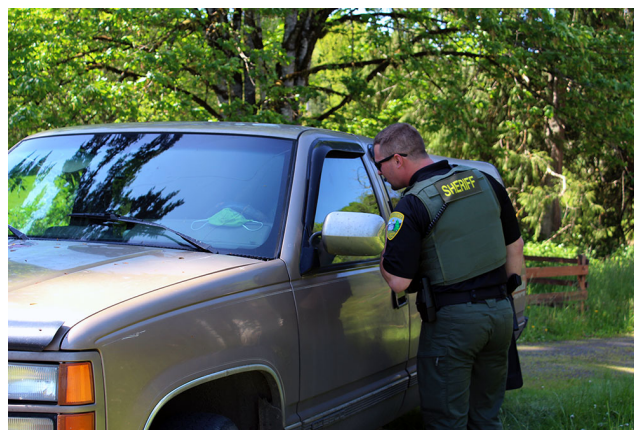
Enforcement Division

Patrol Unit

The uniformed patrol force is the face of the Sheriff's Office that the public sees most often. 9 patrol deputies, two sergeants and one lieutenant are augmented partially by the contract with the City of Clatskanie for police services, as the three deputies assigned to that contract devote 15% of their duties to patrols and enforcement outside of city limits in the Clatskanie area. In this way Clatskanie gets three full-time deputies at a reduced cost, and north county residents have additional deputies in unincorporated areas around Clatskanie.



Many of our Patrol Deputies are trained and have been appointed as Medicolegal Death Investigators (DME). Our DME's responded to 71 calls for service in 2020. They respond both in the county as well as inside city limits as necessary to investigate unattended deaths in Columbia County.



Patrol deputies are the first responders to crimes throughout Columbia County, and handled almost double the amount of calls per Deputy / Office than any other public safety entity in the county.

The patrol unit is responsible for responding to all calls for service in unincorporated areas of the County in addition to assisting local police departments and inside their cities. Usually, one or two deputies are responsible per shift for the 670 square miles that lie outside of city limits.

Patrol deputies made 263 in-custody arrests and transported numerous individuals to hospitals on mental health holds. The Patrol Unit also rendered over 400 outside agency assists for police and fire departments within and outside of the county.

Patrol deputies also assist with other Sheriff's Office functions such as search and rescue, jail transports and court security, when needed. Many patrol deputies are cross-trained to assist inside the jail when called upon. Members of this unit work well as a team, frequently responding as a group from their homes to incidents that are breaking quickly and threaten to overwhelm the few staff that might be on duty at the time. The team manages its own on-call schedule, and there is always a deputy and a supervisor from the unit available to respond from home if need be. Deputies in the unit have each others' backs and see themselves as part of the overall effort to conserve the peace in Columbia County.

Calls for Service - 2020				
	2017	2018	2019	2020
CCSO calls	19,126	18,782	16,242	15,126

In Custody Arrests - 2020				
	2017	2018	2019	2020
Arrests	223	702	374	263

**Not tracked in prior years

DUII Arrests - 2020				
	2017	2018	2019	2020
DUII Arrests	17	34	56	49

Total # Violation / Citations in 2020				
	Warnings\		Citations	Total Stops
	=-			
# violations cited	1080		371	1624

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 Oregon State Marine Board and also use Yamaha Wave Runner Personal Watercraft (PWC's) and inflatable boats to assist with enforcement, education, and search and rescue missions.

Marine deputies occasionally work with outside partner agencies, including the U.S. Coast Guard and bordering sheriff's offices on joint Columbia River Enforcement projects. One of those projects is "Operation Make Way."

Every year, when fishing season is in full swing, anglers find their favorite fishing spot and tie off in "hog lines" that extend well into the shipping channel. Ships using the channel do not have the ability to stop or change course to avoid colliding with smaller vessels, and boaters often have precious little time to weigh anchor and scurry out of the way of fast approaching ships.

Operation Make Way is a joint state and federal campaign aimed at changing behavior that could cost boaters their lives. Large ships can travel 1.5 miles in six minutes, but because they are so large, their speed appears much slower and it takes a considerable amount of time for them to change course. These large ships are also limited in how far out of the deep channel they can go before grounding themselves. Enforcement efforts are centered on prohibitions in Oregon law for anchoring "in such a position as to obstruct a passageway ordinarily used by other boats" (ORS 830.345).

Marine deputies also work to enforce "no-wake zones" on the Columbia River and the Multnomah Channel. Vessels going too fast in the water and leaving large wakes behind them can cause damage to houseboats or vessels tied up at docks. No-wake zones have been designated in various areas along the river, and deputies patrol these areas and take enforcement actions on violators.



Sheriff's deputies work with U.S. Coast Guard Personnel on special enforcement projects.

The marine unit also trains at the state Marine Law Enforcement Academy each year, sets waterway markers as provided through the Marine Board; provides hazard mitigation (e.g. abandoned boats); performs boat crash investigations, hull inspections and moorage checks; and performs regular maintenance on the boats the Marine Board provides to the Sheriff's Office to operate its boating safety program on Columbia County waters.

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

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. We have one full-time detective to take lead roles in investigating the most serious and in-depth criminal investigations while also helping out on Patrol as needed. 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.

CCSO detectives also support the Enforcement Division uniformed patrol members with expert opinion on search and seizure, case law, and prosecution strategies. Our detectives writes affidavits for warrants and serve many search warrants for vehicles, backpacks, cell phones, and other articles on which the follow up for patrol deputies is more time consuming. Our criminal Detective also followed up with 276 reports from the Child Abuse Hotline in 2020.

CCSO Investigators conducted investigations of numerous serious offenses in 2020, including:

Adam Sewald of Rainier was arrested following an investigation into a reported Arson on Price Road. It was learned through the investigation that Sewald set the trailer on fire before stealing a car and fleeing the location. Sewald was located a short while later and arrested on Arson I, Robbery III and UUMV.

A Police Chase leads investigators to several wanted felons, drugs and guns.

On April 11, 2020, an alert Deputy spotted a motorcycle whose rider was not wearing a helmet near the intersection of Bedell and Meissner Rd, the pursuit was terminated when the motorcycle turned into the woods at the end of a driveway. A subsequent investigation identified Jeffrey Davis of Rainier as the possible person that eluded CCSO Deputies. CCSO Investigators learned of a probable location for Davis, so a search warrant was written for the address on Bedell Rd. When the search warrant was served, Deputies located 5 wanted people, three firearms, methamphetamine and suspected Ecstasy and DMT.



Enforcement Division

Search & Rescue



Sheriff's deputies train with our Search and Rescue Volunteers and with partner agencies like the U.S. Coast Guard. The USCG helicopter shown at right with a CCSO deputy in the foreground training together

Oregon law places all search and rescue (SAR) operations under the sheriff of each county. In Columbia County, Chief Deputy Murphy 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. The average number of searches per year in Columbia County since 2016 is 8.4 and we responded to 13 SAR missions that equates to over 2000 volunteer man hours in 2020.

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 searchers assigned to Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue events are 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 scenarios.

SAR MISSIONS	
2016	13
2017	10
2018	3
2019	3
2020	13



The Columbia County Sheriff's Posse became fully operational in 2017 and has since joined CCSO's Search and Rescue team to assist as needed.

Enforcement Division

Animal Control

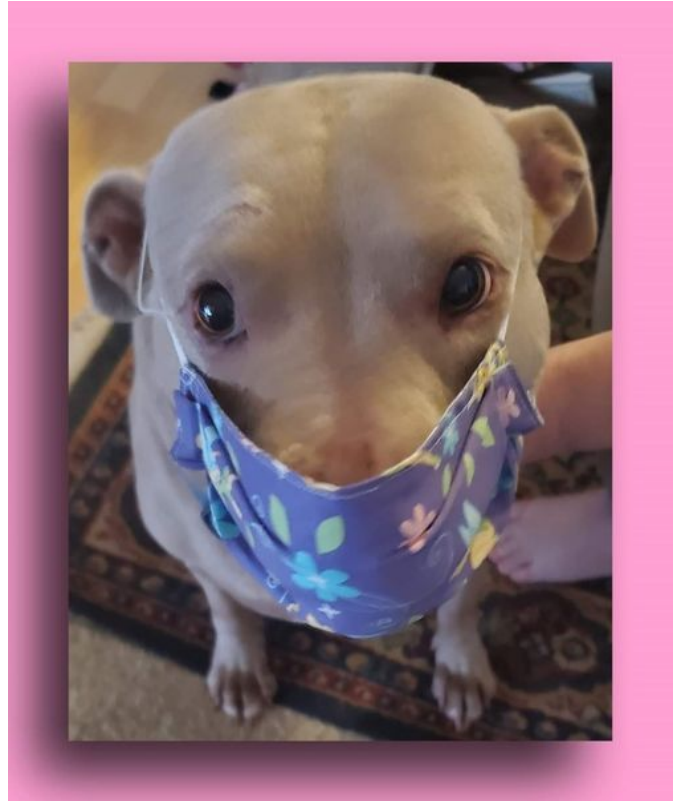
The Columbia County Animal Control Deputy provides state mandated animal control services to the county under Oregon Revised Statute 609. These services include licensing of dogs, investigations of animal bites, rabies investigations, dog nuisance complaints, dogs harming livestock and the apprehension of loose and stray dogs.

These services are partially funded by the licensing of dogs within the community. Donations for support of the program and for the care of the animals in the county's custody are always welcome. Please direct donations to the sheriff's office at 901 Port Ave, St. Helens, Oregon 97051.

As a member of the Sheriff's Office, the Animal Control Deputy has received specialized training to provide many additional animal-related services to the community, including the investigations of animal neglect, animal theft, livestock issues and many other issues that involve 4-legged creatures and their owners.

The Animal Control Deputy not only routinely assists deputies from the Columbia County Sheriff's Office, but also officers from city police departments as well as the Oregon Humane Society. He serves them by responding to and impounding stray dogs, assists with securing animals during the service of search warrants and also investigates claims of animal abuse and neglect. The residents of Columbia County are lucky to have an Animal Control Deputy that is as knowledgeable as the one we currently employ.

The County Animal Control Deputy uses his special skills in prosecuting animal related cases in Justice Court, acting as the prosecutor in the cases. This allows him to present information on animal behavior and to seek restitution under a wide verity of methods that are available. His knowledge of the animal laws and procedures allow for a one-stop resolution of many animal related issues.



Enforcement Division

Statistics

C-Com Call For Sheriff's Services by Category 2011 -2020

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	10 Year Average
Assaults	58	70	54	61	53	71	56	61	55	60	59.9
Robberies	1	3	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0.8
Burglaries	120	126	117	159	73	116	87	80	68	80	102.6
Thefts	258	247	253	249	228	244	242	240	272	107	23.4
Prowlers	38	32	39	45	41	69	46	35	45	21	41.1
Stolen Vehicles	60	66	51	61	61	50	44	51	48	56	54.8
Disturbances	139	129	144	187	178	227	200	214	249	237	190.4
Domestic Disturb	157	182	158	189	216	272	208	221	255	218	207.6
Criminal Mischief	115	115	90	96	64	110	80	94	118	135	101.7

Dog Control Statistics 2018 - 2020

	2018	2019	2020
Calls for Service	829	769	647
Dog Calls	651	631	538
Other calls	178	138	109
Dog bites	44	60	66
Assist Officers	44	33	35
Reports	384	374	344
Warnings	256	209	264
Citations	109	139	161
Animal Impounds	234	216	137
Euthanasia	2	11	8
Investigations	37	24	44
Returned to Owner			101

Corrections Division

Jail Operations

The sheriff is responsible to hold those who break the peace in the county responsible for their crimes, to the degree the county government provides the necessary funding to do so—providing lockup to offenders and arrestees sent here by the courts, the eight (8) separate law enforcement agencies and the community justice (parole and probation) department operating in this county. In 2020, The Columbia County Sheriff’s Office booked 1,733 inmates into the jail.

In late 2018, CCSO was able to negotiate a new contract with the USM, raising our bed rental fees from \$80 per day to \$92 per day per person. 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.

Inmate Services. Through our Medical Services Provider (including mental health services) we have 20 hours per week of in-house mental health services; we doubled our Tele-Psych hours from 4 hours per month to 8 hours per month; and in partnership with CCMH we added additional programs and classes for our inmates.

We have also partnered with CCMH to offer pre-release programming to help ensure inmates released from the Columbia County Jail are given every opportunity to be successful.

Our Life Lessons pod in the jail was put on hiatus due to the COVID pandemic. We have recently begun to re-introduce some additional classes back to our inmate population via remote meetings.

Our cognitive thinking program, Houses of Healing / Path to Freedom, continues to be a very popular program. We see a notable improvement in the behavior of the inmates who complete this program.

In August of 2020, we were able to implement a Corrections Emergency Response Team (CERT). The CERT is responsible for high risk transports and court hearings as well as cell extractions.

Staff Training Approximately 75% of the corrections staff have completed the 40 hour Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training. This is in addition to their DPSST required training of 40 hours, which all corrections staff completed in 2020. CCSO staff are certified in CPR/First Aid.

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				
	2017	2018	2019	2020
Custodies (Male)	2283	1683	2263	1347
Custodies (Female)	372	252	570	376
Custodies (unknown)	0	1	0	0
Average Stay (days)	29		23	24
Furloughed inmates*	23	17	19	19
Inmates Force Released	0	0	0	0
Book And Release	475	756	667	540
Average Daily Population	149	154	178	121
Meals Served	166,450	197,000	202,030	143,802
Inmate Medical Services	11,933	15,289	24,034	1,378

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

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 number of Civil Papers throughout the County, while at the same time taking on the responsibility for dog licensing countywide. With dog licensing included with our support responsibilities, information between licensing and enforcement flows more smoothly and helps ensure mistakes on our end are kept to a minimum.



Dog Licensing

We continue to offer licensing of dogs online. In 2020, CCSO issued 1151 dog licenses online and 2209 over the counter dog licenses. Our online dog licensing page is available through our website.

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 2020, we again processed more than 2200 concealed handgun licenses. The Sheriff's Office began renewing CHL's via the US Mail during the COVID pandemic. Oregon Revised Statute 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. Anytime someone applies for a CHL, the applicant will be required to:

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

Contact Information:

Phone: (503) 366-4611 ext.0

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

Papers Processed				
	2017	2018	2019	2020
Received	1611	1828	1457	985
Served	1484	1828	1225	806

Concealed Handgun Licenses Processed				
	2017	2018	2019	2020
CHLs	1904	2103	2107	2205

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) in addition to clearing them once served. A hard copy of the warrant is kept in the File Room and available for confirmation 24 hours per day / 7 days per week.



File Room managed by the Support Services Division

The Report Management System of the Sheriff's Office is operated in conjunction with 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. 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 each others ability to solve crimes throughout the state.

Warrants					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Entered	902	1090	985	946	1082
Cleared	970	1034	720	732	721

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. We take the utmost care 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 / evidence issues. Each year, the Evidence Room is audited by an outside agency 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 2020, there were 270 new cases and 1,218 pieces of evidence in those cases. The unit was able to close 359 cases in 2020. Some property needs to be archived when it is evidence in a homicide case. Currently, 1,918 case files have been archived that contain 6,021 pieces of evidence. All homicides, including suicides with associated property are 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.

Volunteer Services

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, 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). The Chief 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 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 2020. Team members train with SAR teams from other counties and have their own overnight training every spring. They also participate in advanced training in classes put on by outside entities.

Columbia County Sheriff's Posse

The Columbia County Sheriff's Posse was formed 4 years ago. The Posse is more of a ceremonial arm of CCSO, but several members have joined CCSO's SAR team, utilizing their horses on searches.



CCSO Posse Members Receiving the Charlie Davis Memorial Trophy, the Francis Chilton Memorial Trophy and the Frank Riley Perpetual Trophy from at the Oregon state Posse Banquet.

Reserve Deputies

The third branch of volunteers assisting the Sheriff's Office and its goals are our sworn, reserve sheriff's deputies.

Reserve deputies have been trained in a reserve academy and wear the uniform of a deputy sheriff when serving in that capacity. They generally 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 and contributed 662 hours in 2020, which saved taxpayers over \$23,000.

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, please call 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"

Dog Licensing..... Dog.licensing@columbiacountyor.gov

CHL..... ccso.chl@columbiacountyor.gov

Civil..... sheriff.civil@columbiacountyor.gov

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
St. Helens, OR 97051

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

On the Web: <https://sheriff.columbiacountyor.gov>