

Columbia County
SHERIFF



2021

Annual Report

To Conserve the Peace in Columbia County

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Table of Contents

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.

Sheriff	4
Organizational Chart	5
History of the Office of Sheriff	6
County Facts	7
Your Sheriff's Office Today	8
News Notes	9
Enforcement Division	
Patrol Unit	10
Marine Patrol Unit	11
Investigations	12
Search and Rescue	13
Animal Control	14
Enforcement Statistics	15
Corrections Division	
Jail Operations	16
Transportation & Court Security	16
Support Services Division	
Civil Unit	17
Records Unit	18
Property & Evidence Unit	18
Volunteer Services	19
Contact Information	20

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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, and it has paid off. We have entered into a partial law enforcement agreement with the City of Vernonia that allows us to station a Deputy in the Nehalem Valley. We continue to come up with creative funding solutions that allow us to make the best use of our budget dollars. Our Enforcement Division is still hard at work, keeping our community safe while our Corrections Division excels in ensuring our Jail is safe, secure and the Adults in Custody are safe. Our Support Services Division has worked hard to ensure civil processes are entered and has been able to cut the wait time for concealed handgun licenses to a month or less. I couldn't be more proud of the team we have in place here at CCSO.

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.

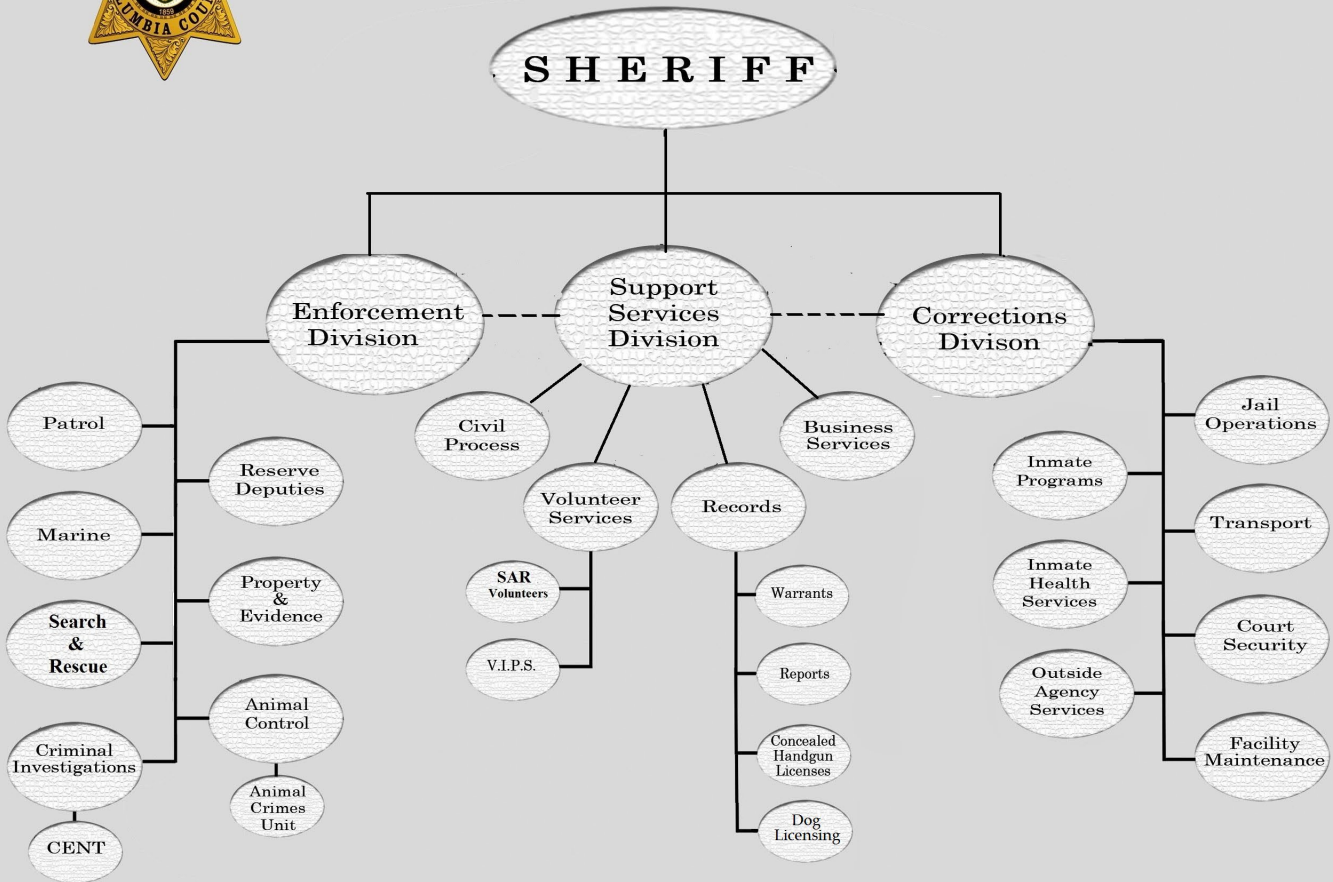
Since returning to the Columbia County Sheriff's Office in 2010, he has held the rank of Patrol Deputy, Marine Deputy as well as Sergeant and Lieutenant in both the Corrections and Patrol Division. Brian was elected by the citizens of Columbia County to serve as Sheriff on November 6, 2018.

Brian is a graduate of the Oregon Executive Development Institute, FBI-Law Enforcement Executive Development Association, 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.

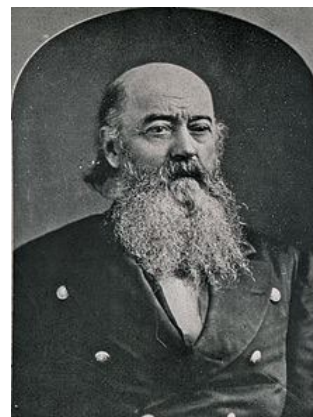
The first sheriff in Oregon was Joseph Meek, whose jurisdiction was in the area of Washington County in 1843. In 1854, the northern portion of Washington County was trimmed off to become Columbia County. Columbia County's first sheriff was Benjamin Stevens, who served from 1854 to 1859. R.S. Hattan, 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
	2019	2020	Sq. Miles
Columbia County	52,354	52,572	688.0
Clatskanie	1,646	1,824	1.3
Columbia City	1,882	2,110	1.2
Prescott	88	63	0.1
Rainier	2,113	2,022	4.9
Saint Helens	13,559	13,711	5.7
Scappoose	7,270	7,754	2.7
Vernonia	1,856	2,307	1.7
Unincorporated	23,940	22,781	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	1937-1953	Margaret Magwather, Casey Gaither	1881-1894
Jeff Dickerson	2009- 2018			• County Assessor: Andrea Jurkiewicz	
Phil Derby	1997-2008	Oscar Weed	1929-1937	• County Clerk: Debbie Klug	1882-1884
Pat Detloff	1996	John Wellington	1921-1929	• County Treasurer: Mary Ann Guess	1878-1882
George Hulit	1995-1996	Henry LaBare	1919-1921	• Justice of the Peace: Diana Taylor	1872-1878
Bruce Oester	1983-1994	Edward Stanwood	1915-1919	James Dart	1870-1882
Richard "Tom" Tennent	1974-1983	C. H. Johns	1914-1915	W. T. Williams	1866-1870
Fred Roediger	1974	Albert Thompson	1911-1914	Jackson Preacher	1864-1866
Roy Wilburn	1963-1974	Martin White	1904-1911	John Meyers	1862-1864
Spencer Younce	1959-1963	R. S. Hattan	1900-1904	Samuel Miles	1859-1862
John Evans	1958-1959	James Rice	1896-1900	James Gilbreath	1854-1859
Warren Forsythe	1953-1958	William Conyers	1894-1896	Benjamin Stevens	

- 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 2021 *Includes Clatskanie CFS

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1232	1126	1326	1249	1357	1532	1822	1632	1476	1565	1605	1895

Inmates Booked into Jail by Month in 2021

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
131	110	150	156	129	127	143	148	152	126	149	128

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 2019-2024

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.

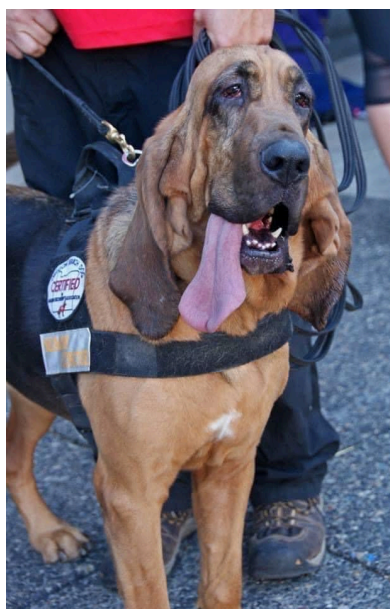
Strategic Priority 5 Match funding opportunities to gaps in our resources within the three divisions of the Sheriff's Office.

News & Notes



CCSO , MCSO, Cowlitz Fire Pull 4 Duck Hunters and their Dog from the Columbia River

On the morning of January 15 CCSO received the call of a capsized vessel with four people in the water. Sheriff Pixley and two deputies responded and located the people in distress. The Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue boat and Multnomah County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol assisted in the rescue of four duck hunters and one yellow Labrador Retriever. All persons and the dog were uninjured and transported back to Scappoose Bay Marina. This could have had a much different outcome if the persons involved had not been wearing life jackets. Please wear your life jacket and boat safely.



Columbia County Adds a K-9 Team to our Search and Rescue Team

In 2021, CCSO's Search and Rescue Team added an 11 dog K-9 team to the roster. These specially trained K-9 Teams are certified as a team and have been utilized both inside and outside of Columbia County on several search missions. This team includes 2 dogs that are specially trained to locate cadavers, 2 more that are trained in Urban tracking and a wilderness searching team.

CCSO to Deploy Small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS)

The Columbia County Sheriff's Office is adding to its list of available field options by launching a new program called Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Commonly referred to as a Drone, the program will launch in the coming weeks. The drones will be operated by trained deputies in situations where other means or resources are not available, or are less effective. They'll be used not only by deputies, but eventually by Search and Rescue teams.

A drone provides the operator a remote, wide, birds-eye view of a scene, a perspective previously not generally available to deputies. It allows the team to make more informed decisions at a scene while reducing risk. For instance, instead of sending deputies into a dangerous situation, a drone can be flown in, the area can be evaluated, and further decisions made without directly exposing deputies to that danger.



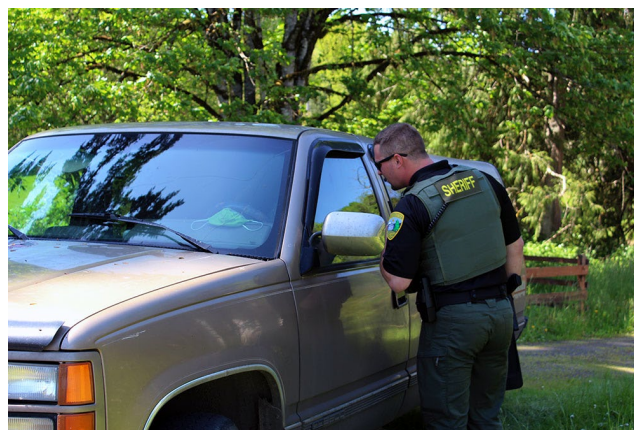
Enforcement Division

Patrol Unit

The uniformed patrol force is the face of the Sheriff's Office that the public sees most often. Seven patrol deputies, two sergeants and one lieutenant are augmented partially by the contract with the City of Clatskanie for police services, as the four additional 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 four 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 99 calls for service in 2021. 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 more calls per Deputy 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 inside their cities. Usually, one or two deputies are responsible per shift for the 670 square miles that lie outside of city limits.

Calls for Service - 2021				
	2018	2019	2020	2021
CCSO calls	15,126	16,242	15,126	17,817

Patrol deputies made 189 in-custody arrests and transported numerous individuals to hospitals for mental health holds. The Patrol Unit also rendered over 376 outside agency assists for police and fire departments within and outside of the county.

In Custody Arrests - 2021			
	2019	2020	2021
Arrests	274	263	225

**Not tracked in prior years

DUII Arrests - 2021				
	2018	2019	2020	2021
DUII Arrests	34	56	49	43

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

Total # Violation / Citations in 2021			
	Warnings	Citations	Total Stops
# violations cited	1772	519	2291

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 also write 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.

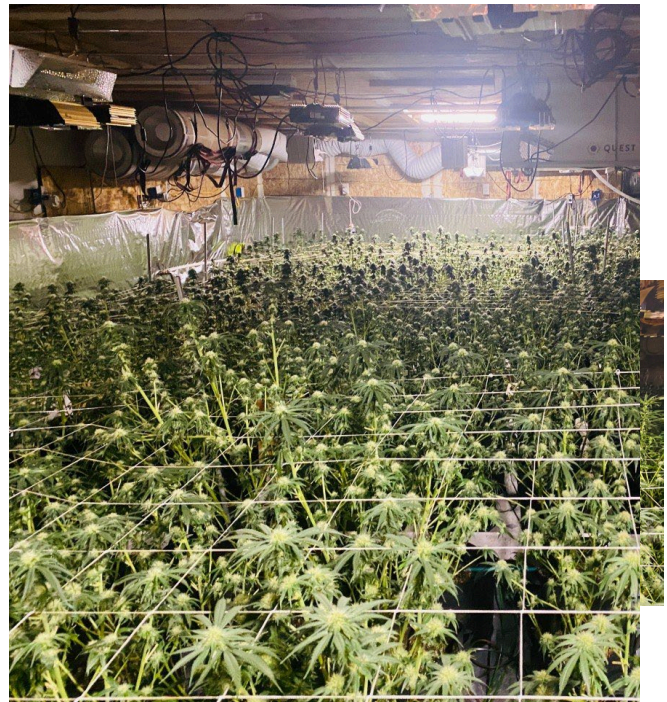
CCSO Investigators conducted investigations of numerous serious offenses in 2021, including:

A two-month investigation that resulted in a series of search warrants being served in the North Columbia County area on 04/13/2021. Deputies executed a search warrant in Rainier, OR. Investigators recovered several hundred dollars in cash, 5 firearms, 17.2 grams of heroin, drug transaction records and fentanyl test strips. 39 year old Tyler Powers of Rainier was arrested for Unlawful Delivery of a Controlled Substance, Unlawful Delivery of Heroin, Felon in Possession of a Firearm and Unlawful Possession of Heroin. 37 year old Brittany Schnelle of Rainier was arrested for Unlawful Delivery of a Controlled Substance, Unlawful Delivery of Heroin and Unlawful Possession of Heroin. Both Powers and Schnelle were lodged into the Columbia County Jail.

2 Large International Illegal Marijuana Grow Busted in North County

On September 8 and 9, 2021, CCSO Deputies assisted the FBI and OSP with Operation “New Green Dynasty”, this was for illegal marijuana grows across our state. This operation consisted of the service of 25 search warrants across Oregon and one in Texas. Two of these search warrants were served in Columbia County.

As a result of these search warrants, 32,999 plants were destroyed, 1504lbs of bulk marijuana, 23 firearms, 3 vehicles and \$353,000 was seized. In Columbia County, 12 individuals were contacted who are suspected of being indentured servants at these illegal grows. While this made a dent in the illegal marijuana manufacturing in Columbia County, we are still working several other cases.



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, Deputy Ron Larson 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 2017 is 8.4. In 2021 SAR had 13 SAR and 2000 hours.

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	
2017	10
2018	3
2019	3
2020	13
2021	13



The Columbia County Sheriff's Posse has joined CCSO's Search and Rescue team to assist as needed.

Enforcement Division

Animal Control

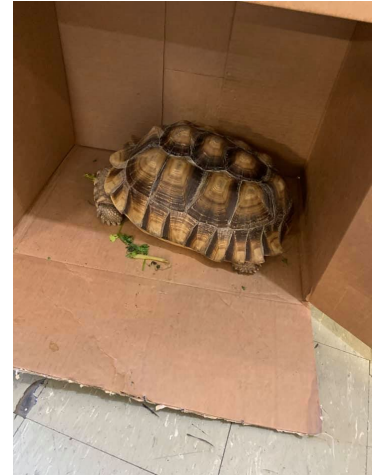
The Columbia County Animal Control Deputy provides state mandated animal control services to the county under Oregon Revised Statute 609. These services include licensing of dogs, investigations of animal bites, rabies investigations, dog nuisance complaints, dogs harming livestock and the apprehension 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 Officer that is as knowledgeable as the one we currently employ. We have also added a full time Animal Care Specialist to help our Animal Control Deputy with his day-to-day operations and ensure the animals in our care and custody are well taken care of. Together, they make a great team!

The County Animal Control Officer 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 variety 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 2012 -2021

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	10 Year Average
Assaults	70	54	61	53	71	56	61	55	60	56	59.7
Robberies	3	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0.8
Burglaries	126	117	159	73	116	87	80	68	80	59	96.5
Thefts	247	253	249	228	244	242	240	272	107	234	231.6
Prowlers	32	39	45	41	69	46	35	45	21	33	40.6
Stolen Vehicles	66	51	61	61	50	44	51	48	56	67	55.5
Disturbances	129	144	187	178	227	200	214	249	237	209	197.4
Domestic Disturb	182	158	189	216	272	208	221	255	218	240	215.9
Criminal Mischief	115	90	96	64	110	80	94	118	135	138	104

Dog Control Statiscs 2019 - 2021

	2019	2020	2021
Calls for Service	769	647	653
Dog Calls	631	538	543
Other calls	138	109	115
Dog bites	60	66	69
Assist Officers	33	35	39
Reports	374	244	254
Warnings	208	264	264
Citations	139	161	160
Animal Impounds	216	137	137
Euthanasia	11	8	10
Investigations	24	44	44
Returned to Owner		101	92

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 2021, The Columbia County Sheriff's Office booked 1,649 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 added two hours per week of in-house mental health services, going from 18 hours to 20 hours per week; 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 COVID. We have continued to provide classes to our inmate population via remote viewing / participation.

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 All of our corrections staff received annual training to maintain their certifications. We are attempting to get all of our staff through a 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 2021. Sworn CCSO staff are all 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				
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Custodies (Male)	1683	2263	1347	1317
Custodies (Female)	252	570	376	329
Custodies (unknown)	1	0	0	3
Average Stay (days)		23	24	28.9
Furloughed inmates*	17	19	19	25
Inmates Force Released	0	0	0	0
Book And Release	756	667	540	522
Average Daily Population	154	178	121	130
Meals Served	197,000	202,030	143,802	152,499
Mental Health Hours Provided to Inmates				1,156.42
CERT Call Out's				4

*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, both online and in person. In 2021, CCSO issued over 2300 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 2021, we processed more than 2800 concealed handgun licenses, that is a 24% increase over 2020.

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. 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				
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Received	1828	1457	985	1013
Served	1828	1225	806	831

Concealed Handgun Licenses Processed				
	2018	2019	2020	2021
CHLs	2103	2107	2205	2828

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 the ability to solve crimes.

Warrants					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Entered	1090	985	946	1082	1202
Cleared	1034	720	732	731	892

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 2021, there were 284 new cases and 1,230 pieces of evidence in those cases. The unit was able to close 217 cases in 2021. Some property needs to be archived when it is evidence in a homicide case. Currently, 2,268 case files have been archived that contain 7,409 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 2021. 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 5 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.



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 over 600 hours in 2021 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"

 Criminal/Patrol "4637"

 Dispatch "Non Emergency" "1"

 Enforcement Division / Animal Control "2"

 Corrections Division "3"

 Warrants and Records "4"

 Support Services Information "4"

 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>