



Columbia County **SHERIFF**

2014 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: Columbia County Justice Facility

Sheriff & Undersheriff



Jeff Dickerson

Dear fellow citizens of Columbia County:

The 2014 Calendar Year marked a transitional time for your sheriff's office. With voter approval of a funding measure to keep the County Jail in business, we saw our ability to hold law violators in custody longer than in the past few years. Investigations produced numerous arrests for burglary, drug dealing, child abuse, and felony assault, and we were able to keep those suspects in custody more often and for longer periods while they were processed in the criminal justice system. One arrest involved the interdiction of a serial burglary suspect. After the arrest, the burglaries he was committing came to a screeching halt, as we were able to hold him in custody to face those criminal charges. Many other violators also were held accountable thanks to the increase in our jail budget. We still have a way to go to get all the staff we need to make our jail even more effective at impacting the crime rate in the county, but we continue to work to hire the right people to keep our jail running professionally and according to standards.

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.

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

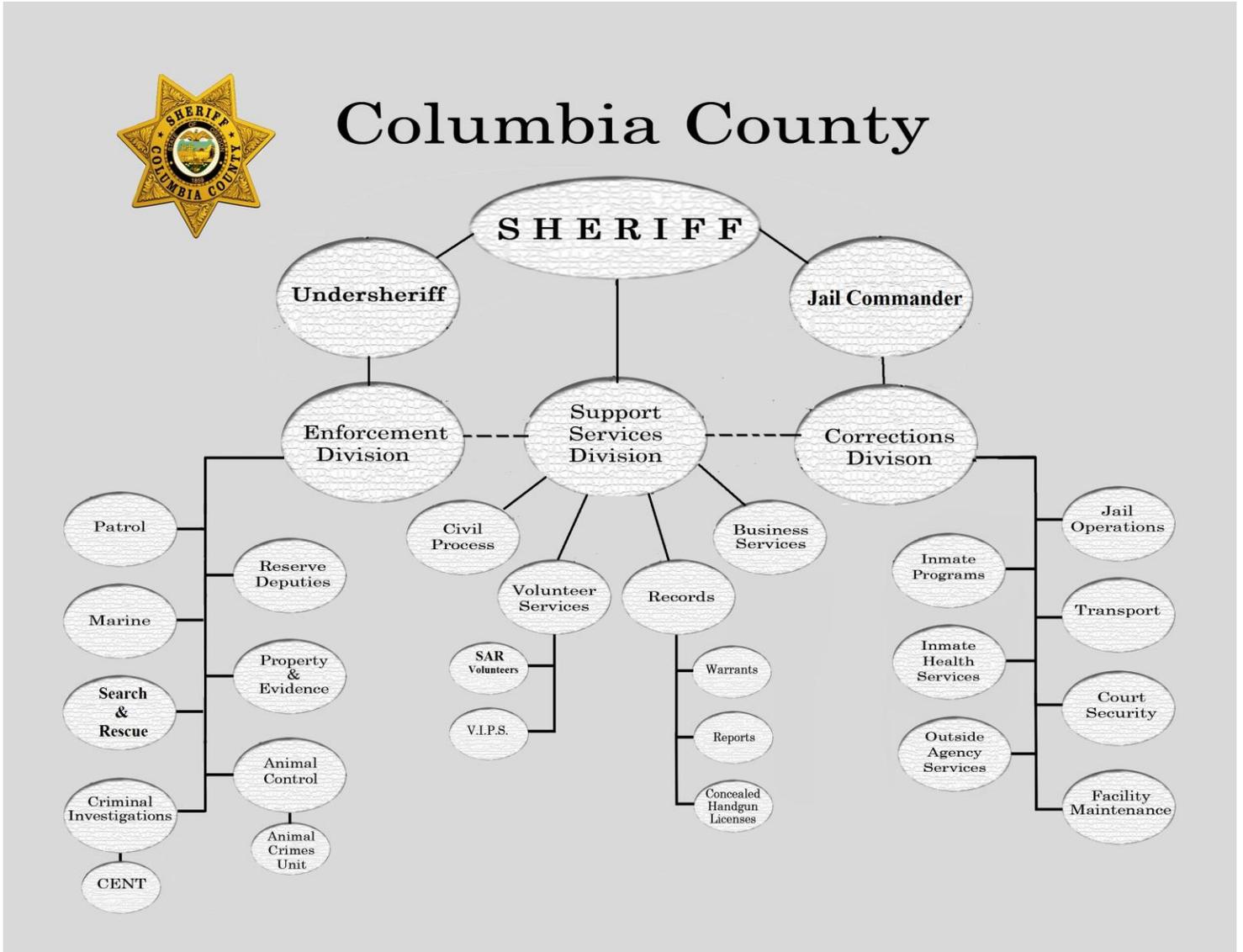
Elected in 2008 and re-elected in 2012 to his second four-year term, he has also been appointed by the Governor to serve on the State Interoperability Executive Council, working to improve emergency radio communications for first responders in our region. He is a graduate of the Oregon Executive Development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

Undersheriff Andy Moyer Biography

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



Organizational Chart



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

History of the Office of Sheriff

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



Thomas Jefferson once called the office of Sheriff the most important elected office in the county. No matter who actually sits in the office at any given time, this is a constitutional office with a wide

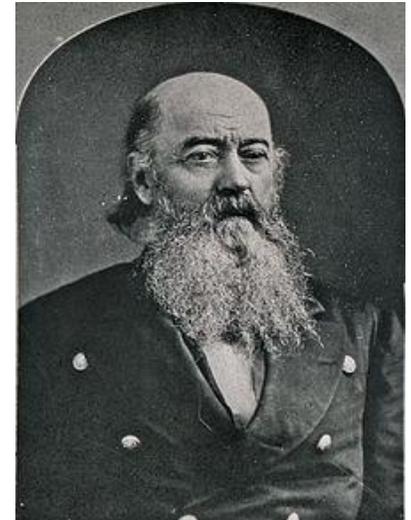
variety of duties and authorities and a tremendous potential for defending the liberties of the people as an elected official with broad powers—including the power to arrest, commit to prison, serve as the ministerial officer of the courts, and to carry out its directives, including relieving people of property upon court order and their personal liberties upon probable cause. As an elected official, the sheriff has always had tremendous authority and responsibility for protecting the rights of all.

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

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

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

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



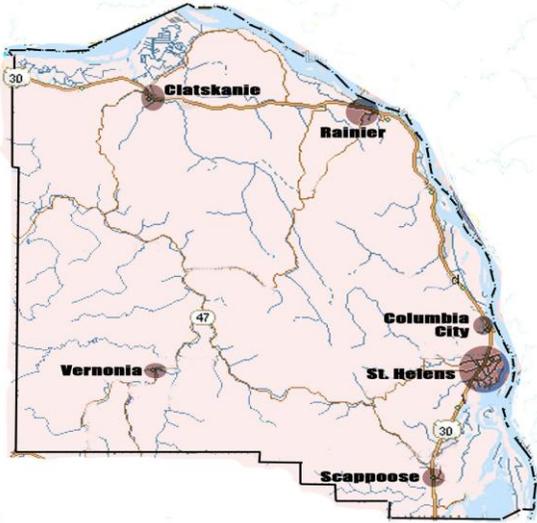
Joseph "Joe" Meek – Oregon's First Sheriff

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

	2011	2013	Sq. Miles
Columbia County	49,625	49,850	688.0
Clatskanie	1,740	1,745	1.3
Columbia City	1,950	1,945	1.2
Prescott	55	55	0.1
Rainier	1,895	1,900	4.9
Saint Helens	12,890	12,895	5.7
Scappoose	6,665	6,700	2.7
Vernonia	2,110	2,065	1.7
Unincorporated	22,320	22,545	669.5

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

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

Elected Officials

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

Sheriff's Calls for Service by Month in 2014

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
728	702	750	1177	1333	1298	1348	1403	1278	1285	1116	1217

Inmates Booked into Jail by Month in 2014

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
266	229	273	200	202	192	209	191	227	180	162	203

Your Sheriff's Office Today



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

1. To arrest and commit to prison all persons who break the peace, or attempt to break it, and all persons guilty of public offenses;
2. To defend the county against those who endanger the public peace or safety;
3. To execute the process and orders of the courts;
4. To execute all warrants delivered to the sheriff;
5. To serve as a ministerial officer of the courts;
6. To maintain custody and control of all prisoners incarcerated for the County,
7. To plan and conduct all search and rescue activities in the county.

In Columbia County, the Sheriff also oversees the

control function for dogs (licensed and unlicensed) in the county.

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

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

News Notes

Two Gang Members From Florida Arrested in February

Deputies and other law enforcement officers were led round the county in numerous pursuits of Florida gang members who had come here in January in a stolen vehicle to commit other crimes before heading east. After the vehicle they were driving crashed, the injured passenger was detained by one police officer, but the driver eluded custody. An off-duty CCSO deputy found the suspect in Rainier, and police responded to the scene to make the arrest.

County Reaches Agreement with Polk County for Jail Contingency

In February, Sheriff Dickerson completed an agreement with Polk County to take the 10 worst inmates of Columbia County should the jail close. Polk County agreed to house 10 inmates for a set fee of \$65 per night, with a \$75-per night charge for all other beds. When the jail operational levy passed in May, the agreement became no longer necessary.

Inmate Hospitalized After Breaking Jail Window

In February, an out-of-control jail inmate reacting to a video arraignment session with St. Helens Municipal Court violently smashed an enforced security window between him and the court verifier. Greg Hering, in custody on Municipal Court Charges, was charged with criminal mischief first degree and later sentenced to prison for the incident.

Passage of Jail Operations Levy May 20, 2014

After the first Jail Operations levy failed the previous fall, the jail was poised for closure. Passage the second time around meant the jail would continue to operate. Challenges remained in getting the staffing necessary to build jail population, but as the year closed out, the local population had doubled from 25 to 50, with the goal of building capacity in 2015 to 100 beds. Hiring jail staff continued to be a top priority, as the process for hiring qualified personnel is long.

Long-Time CCSO Volunteer Ron Hermo Passes Away June 17, 2014

When Ron Hermo succumbed to a protracted illness, it left a gigantic hole in the hearts of CCSO staff and his fellow Search and Rescue Volunteers. Hermo had served many years as a posse member and search and rescue leader. He had become the Search and Rescue Volunteer Coordinator for the Sheriff's Office and had become well known in SAR around the state.

CCSO leads multi-agency Manhunt for Assailant of RPD Officer – June 23, 2014

When the assailant who shot and wounded Rainier Police Officer Russ George fled to the Quincy Area, deputies and other law enforcement hemmed in the suspect, who eventually took his own life in a field located between Collins Rd and Collins Rd 1. Deputies set up a perimeter that was augmented with additional police officers and the Oregon State Police SWAT team. CCSO command also summoned air support from Portland Police. Hours into the standoff, a single gunshot was heard, and SWAT team members searching for the suspect found him lying dead in the field, the apparent

result of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Deputies Charge Woman with Stabbing Her Husband July 28, 2014

Columbia County Sheriff's deputies responded to Coop ("co-op") Road in the Clatskanie area on a disturbance call at 5:42 a.m. July 28, and learned that Tracy Mitchell, 40, had stabbed her husband, James C. Mitchell, 43. Ms. Mitchell was reportedly driving her husband to the hospital when deputies caught up with the vehicle and summoned medics. The victim had been stabbed in the neck and torso.

Burglary Spree Solved, Suspect Arrested, Jailed, Convicted, Imprisoned - August 2014

CCSO and SHPD investigators finally got the evidence (and a confession) that they needed to tie Alex Ross to multiple burglaries in the County. After he was taken into custody, burglaries in the County decreased significantly.

Massive SAR Effort In NW County September 21-23, 2014

CCSO SAR led a multi-agency effort to find a missing hunter in September. After three days of searching, the hunter was found deceased, more than a mile from his vehicle. The Sheriff's Office staff and volunteer searchers had begun combing the area within hours of learning the missing hunter was having a medical issue requiring immediate attention.

Man Who Charged Deputies, Officers with a knife, Sentenced to Prison December 2014

Rogelio Martinez was sentenced to 16 months in prison after he charged deputies and officers with a knife. Deputies fired rounds in self defense, wounding Martinez in 2013.

Enforcement Division

The Sheriff's Office employed only six sworn enforcement deputies plus one lieutenant in the Enforcement Division in 2014. Only sworn deputies can provide patrol services and have the authority to arrest. The funding for two of these positions comes from ***dedicated*** sources, which simply means that we have to assign those grant-funded positions to specific duties, and they can't be assigned to general patrol. The State Marine Board funds two marine deputy positions. Even though we cannot use these positions for general patrol, they still provide very valuable services to the County. A lieutenant provides supervision and also manages the call-triage procedure we discuss throughout this report. They also are available on call and on overtime to cover a wide variety of calls. CCSO enforcement deputies do a remarkable job of banding together to solve critical public safety problems in the county. They, along with our sworn reserve volunteers show up en masse when needed to solve crimes or address public safety emergencies in a concentrated way.

Patrol Unit

The uniformed patrol force is the face of Sheriff's Office the public most often sees. In 2014, Four Full-time deputies were primarily responsible for day-to-day calls for service, which continue to rise. With these four patrol deputies were eight trained volunteer reserves. Three of those reserves qualify as solo patrol deputies when they are on duty. The other five reserves accompany regular, sworn deputies when they are available.

The four patrol deputies were scattered throughout the work week in 2014 on two different shifts, providing for some overlap during peak hours, but generally allowing for one deputy per shift. These deputies respond to calls from dispatch and generate their own activities through patrols. Self-generated activities are impacted greatly by the number of emergency and other calls for service received from the Columbia 9-1-1 Dispatch Center. Many of these calls cannot all be answered 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.

Jail Crisis Takes Patrol Deputy Help

Enforcement activities have been hampered in recent years due to budget cuts. The loss of corrections deputies prior to the levy election in 2014 also placed demands on the Patrol Unit, as cross-trained deputies in the unit were needed to help fill holes in the jail schedule. This became particularly important after the passage of the jail operational levy in May 2014. With the passage of the levy, the public's expectation was that the jail would begin to recover from the brink of closure faster than was actually possible. The sheriff chose to balance those expectations against the needs in the Enforcement Division by directing more enforcement time in the jail.

This led to fewer patrol hours, and the pull out of patrol from grant-funded overtime for DUII and Seat Belt

Enforcement activities. The Sheriff reasoned it was more important to keep the jail viable while more corrections deputies were hired.

In the end, all calls for service were still covered—although a greater number of them went into the call triage system than before. There were greater delays in the response to non-priority calls, but all emergencies received a prompt Patrol Unit Response. Some of the reduction in DUII arrests can be attributed to a loss of patrol hours, as well.

Toward the end of the 2014 Calendar Year, new hires in the jail took some of the pressure off, and a new hire in enforcement is holding promise. The new Patrol Unit Deputy took the place of a recently retired Patrol Deputy, but had to wait for an academy class in Salem before beginning his coaching period. That new Patrol Deputy is expected to graduate in summer 2015.

Calls for Service				
	2011	2012	2013	2014
CCSO calls	10,245	9,224	9,136	12,496

In Custody Arrests				
	2011	2012	2013	2014
Arrests	**	**	**	234

**Not tracked in prior years

DUII Arrests				
	2011	2012	2013	2014
DUII Arrests	79	91	117	40

Total # Violation Citations in 2014				
	Hazardous Driving	Driver Viols*	Speed	Eqpt/Other
# violations cited	172	359	204	20

*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.

Some of the areas require deputies to use specialized boats called, "Catarafts." These boats are small pontoon boats powered by paddle. These are primarily used on the Nehalem River, Vernonia Lake, and Sturgeon Lake where power boats aren't allowed or able to operate. Most other areas are accessible by prop or jet boat.

The primary objective for the marine unit is safety in and around the water. All Search and Rescue (SAR) operations in Columbia County, including all water-based searches, begin as Marine Patrol Unit responsibilities. A marine deputy oversees Search and Rescue volunteers (see additional information on page 12 of this report).

In January 2014, our marine patrol deputies joined the Scappoose Fire Department's Swift Water Rescue Unit. Deputies attended more than 80 hours of in-water training to become certified in water rescues. Deputies certified in water rescue carry the necessary gear with them while on duty and are available to respond to water-related emergencies when the call comes out.

On February 21, 2014, a 911 call came out regarding two men in the water. This happened near Sturgeon Lake / Gilbert River, on Sauvie Island. Deputies responded by water and found a 27-year-old man severely hypothermic; his fishing partner was still missing in the water. The body of the missing 41 year old man was recovered by deputies a few hours later. Neither of the men was wearing Personal Floating Devices at the time of the incident.

Between March and April 2014, deputies responded to three capsized boat calls. These happened in the Multnomah Channel and Columbia River. Deputies were able to secure and clear these as navigational hazards in two of the cases. They were able to de-water one of the vessels for the boat owner by using a pump. No injuries were reported in all of these incidents.

In September 2014, deputies were part of a multi agency operation called "Make Way." This took place on the Columbia River between Rainier and Sauvie Island. Late summer and fall are specifically dangerous to fishermen and boaters because of the large number of salmon fisherman fishing near and in the commercial shipping channel. Numerous warnings were issued along with a few citations for extremely dangerous situations during this event.



Tillamook, Clatsop, Clackamas Counties, the Oregon State Marine Board, and United States Coast Guard took place in this event.

Deputies responded to numerous calls for service in 2014, from animal rescues on the Scappoose Dike and downed kite boarders on Sauvie Island to emergency tows and searches for overdue fishermen and boaters in the Columbia River. Though funding for water hours has fallen off, we will continue to be on the waters of our county, providing public education to ensure for a safe experience around our waters.

Program Hours				
	2011	2012	2013	2014
Water Hrs	1,541	1,980	2,486	1,918

Reported Water Incidents				
	2011	2012	2013	2014
Incidents	64	53	36	11

Additional Statistics				
	2011	2012	2013	2014
Inspections	1,366	1,216	762	454
Citations	50	95	145	55
BUII	3	7	8	2

Enforcement Division

Investigations

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

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

CCSO Investigators conducted investigations of numerous serious offenses in 2014, including:

Alexander Ross Ross—a heroin addict—was responsible for 30+ daytime forced-entry burglaries. CCSO investigated the burglaries which occurred in Columbia County outside of the city limits and collaborated with St. Helens Police on the others. Ross was arrested, he pled guilty to six of the burglaries, and was sentenced to 6 ½ years in custody.

Trisha Hadlock Assisted the US Postal Inspectors Office by writing a search warrant for Hadlock's residence on Apiary Road for stolen US Mail. Recovered stolen mail, presented to the grand jury where she was indicted for state crimes.

Leonel Marin-Torrez Torrez, a US Marshall prisoner assaulted a corrections officer in the Columbia County Jail.

Wesley Bonar Assisted the Redmond Police Department with the execution of a search warrant, and the arrest of two Columbia County residents for sex abuse.



Alexander Ross (left photo) arrested in summer 2014 following investigations into a crime spree in South County that peaked in the spring with dozens of homes being hit by burglars over a number of weeks. CCSO investigators teamed up with St. Helens Police to identify Ross as a prime suspect.

Rainier Middle School Conducted an investigation that involved a 12 year old student assaulting three of his fellow students with scissors, and telling them he was going to kill them one by one. Student was ultimately expelled, and case was referred to DHS **Mother had stolen his Adderall, so he was off his medication.

Maria Paschall Medics and a patrol deputy responded to Deer Island store where two women were unresponsive from an overdose of what they thought was heroin. 17.9 grams of pure Fentanyl was seized. Follow up investigation showed US Mail packages from Calgary, Alberta Canada were coming into Columbia County and distributed. OSP Crime lab identified this as the largest amount of Fentanyl submitted to them. Case referred to DEA Portland, Oregon.

Suspected Burglars and car thieves in the Rainier area. Investigators interviewed suspects, obtained confessions, recovered stolen property, and a stolen truck in Oregon and Longview, Washington. Two subjects with pending criminal cases.

Kristopher James Attempted homicide. Investigator obtained five search warrants in this case for vehicles, persons, and residences. Kristopher James was arrested, and later pled guilty to Assault 1. **Major Crimes case

Cliff Spain Burglar and metal thief. Assisted Patrol Deputy with search warrants. Recovered stolen metal pipes and metal sheeting for a bar. OSP and Washington County also had cases of burglary/theft. Detective brought all cases together and prosecuted in Columbia County. DA's office was able to obtain a guilty plea and Spain was sentenced to 2 ½ years in custody.

Enforcement Division

Search & Rescue



Columbia County Volunteer Search and Rescue members joined in the multi-agency search efforts for a lost hunter in the southwest corner of our County in September. The operation lasted over 50 hours as crews from five counties engaged in painstaking grid searches over the rough terrain in the area. Sadly, the missing man's body was found on Day 3 of the operation, roughly 1.5 miles away from where deputies had found his abandoned vehicle.

Oregon law places all search and rescue (SAR) operations under the sheriff of each county. In Columbia County, a full-time marine 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 40 volunteers serve as the "ground searchers" for most search efforts in our county.

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

Volunteer SAR team members also stand ready to respond to other counties to assist. In turn, other counties also respond to assist the Sheriff's Office with Search and Rescue Missions that become more complex. Just such an event occurred in September 2014 with the disappearance of a hunter in the southwest corner of the county.

SAR MISSIONS	
2011	8
2012	14
2013	15
2014	5

When a 37 year-old hunter with a medical condition became disoriented and lost in the Wolf Creek area located in Southwest Columbia County, Deputies and SAR volunteers responded immediately to the scene to begin searching. SAR teams from five additional county sheriff's offices arrived to assist us in looking for the missing hunter. In all, more than 50 hours of searching occurred in the rugged area where the individual's abandoned vehicle was located. In the end, the missing hunter was found deceased more than a mile from where searchers had found his vehicle.

The year 2014 included a relatively smaller number of call outs for the SAR team. They responded to 5 search and rescue call outs in Columbia County, including three missing person reports. SAR members also continued their proactive activities.

Enforcement Division

Dog Control

With the addition of the City of St. Helens dog control program to the County in 2014, enforcement activity in dog control has increased significantly. Roughly half of all stray dogs in the County come from the City of St. Helens, and our lone dog control officer has his hands full.

Dog owners carry the cost of dog control issues in Columbia County. Licensing of all dogs in the County is under the auspices of the County Clerk. The Columbia Humane Society contracts with the County for the care of strays and dogs that are seized for humanitarian or legal reasons. Our dog control officer is the enforcement arm of the County's dog control program.

The dog control officer investigates animal abuse and takes care of issues regarding stray and/or dangerous dogs. The dog control officer is also well trained in other animal control issues, but generally relies on the assistance of the Oregon Humane Society on the more complex animal control cases, due to a lack of resources. In 2014, Columbia County obtained a conviction for over 120 counts of animal neglect against a livestock operation in a joint operation between the sheriff's office and the Oregon Humane Society, with assistance from our Dog Control Officer.

The Dog Control Officer continues his training in the investigation of Animal Crimes, having obtained over 368 hours of specialized training in the investigation of animal related incidents. The following statistics for 2014 demonstrate how busy this unit is managing dog and other animal control issues throughout Columbia County:

Calls for Service	969
Investigations	55
Dog Bites	46
Citations Issued	326
Dogs Impounded	178
Dogs Euthanized	6*

* The low number of dogs euthanized reflects a policy designed to seek the best welfare of the dog and public safety—with an emphasis on adoption.



In 2014 with passage of the State's Anti chaining ordinance the Columbia County Sheriff's Dog Control officer continues to work with residents addressing the issue that tying your dog to the porch or staking it out on a hill side is not adequate shelter. This dog was removed and the owner was convicted in Justice Court for neglect.

Corrections Division

Jail Operations

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

As funding has returned to the jail, the average stay in 2014 began going up almost immediately. Even though the average daily population went down, this was due primarily to a reduction in the number of U.S. Marshal prisoner holds. Local inmate numbers increased by more than 100 percent over 2013 numbers by the end of 2014. Over time, the jail continues to hold more local prisoners for longer periods of time.

Additionally, inmates who had become accustomed to the “revolving door” justice system began to receive a reality check once the ability of the jail to hold more people began taking effect. The jail was able to hold on to a number of inmates that previously would have been force-released. These inmates were held until trial, found guilty and sent to prison. This scenario is building into the 2015 Calendar Year, as more and more inmates are being held to fulfill sentence requirements or as flight risks prior to trial.

In order to operate a constitutionally sound detention facility, we need a certain number of staff to manage the population at given levels. We also need enough resources to feed and house the inmates, as well as to provide the medical attention required by the Constitution.

Without the additional resources provided through the jail operational levy voters approved in 2014, the jail would have closed on June 1, 2014. Instead, courts have a place both to hold inmates who are a threat to leave before trial and to sentence individuals for crimes meriting sentences of less than one year.

Police officers and sheriff’s deputies still have a place to take people who are breaking the peace in the County and hold them until they can face a judge, sober up, and/or receive some help to overcome life-controlling problems that threaten the citizens’ peace and safety.

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 by the Corrections Division, under a jail operations lieutenant. Every year, the unit transports over 400 inmates to other jurisdictions.

The unit will also pick up inmates bound for our jail from other jurisdictions.

Security is provided to the courthouse on a daily basis, and occasionally to some outside court functions at the direction of the courts. These duties fall under the Constitutional charge given to the Sheriff to be the “ministerial officer” to the courts.

COLUMBIA COUNTY JAIL STATISTICS

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Custodies (Male)	2,058	2,045	2,143	1,994
Custodies (Female)	557	634	630	537
Custodies (unknown)				3
Average Stay (days)	19	14	12	15
Furloughed inmates	122	33	34	26
Inmates Force Released	27	582	791	748
Book And Release	652	722	768	612
Average Daily Population	179	155	118	104
Meals Served	196,267	159,951	128,115	112,785
Inmate Medical Services	12,744	10,809	8,681	9,782* (*Estimate)

Support Services Division

Civil Unit

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

The Columbia County Sheriff's Office continues to set high marks in the service of civil papers, criminal and civil subpoenas, complaints, petitions, small claims notices, court orders, evictions, and restraining orders, and a number of different kinds of writs. One notable trend is the increase in the number of foreclosures handled by our Civil Unit. In 2014, the unit processed an unprecedented 147 foreclosures—almost three per week—and an increase of more than a third over the previous year. The previous year (2013) had set the new record for sheriff's sales of foreclosed properties at 110. Calendar Year 2014 far-outpaced the previous record.

Concealed Handgun Licensing & Fingerprinting

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

Concealed Handgun License (CHL) Information

In 2013, another record was reached in the number of Concealed Handgun Licenses processed. 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 your understanding of the law and to facilitate your application process.



A CCSO deputy receives paperwork from the Civil Unit for process delivery. The civil unit processes thousands of state-mandated services each year.

Your CHL is valid for four years. At the time you apply for a CHL, you will be required to:

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

Contact Information:

Phone: (503) 366-4611 ext. 8

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

Papers Processed				
	2011	2012	2013	2014
Received	1,537	1,485	1,449	1,716
Served	1,410	1,457	1,447	1,563

Concealed Handgun Licenses Processed				
	2011	2012	2013	2014
CHLs	744	1,050	1,396	2,179

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.



Our property room contains thousands of items of evidence and abandoned property. Our part-time evidence technician works to keep the property moving in and out of the property room efficiently and effectively.

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 room 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 2014, there were 711 open cases and 2,458 pieces of evidence in those cases. The unit was able to close 643 cases in 2014. Some property needs to be archived when it is evidence in a homicide case. 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. The sheriff, in turn is given credit for new product purchases of law enforcement related equipment, thus saving tax payer resources for other matters.

Warrants				
	2011	2012	2013	2014
Entered	507	648	864	1,020
Cleared	416	629	771	949

Support Services Division

Volunteer Services

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

Volunteers In Partnership with the Sheriff (VIPS)

Some of the services provided by **VIPS** include:

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

Search & Rescue Volunteers

Search & Rescue (SAR) is almost entirely made up of volunteers. A marine 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 5 missions both in and outside of Columbia County during 2014. Team members trained with SAR teams from other counties in the spring and summer and participated in advanced training.

Reserve Deputies

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



The Sheriff's Office relies on volunteers to staff our front window and help with the processing of Concealed Handgun Licenses (CHL). Volunteers make the initial greeting, process initial paperwork and helped with inmate visitation. Above, one of our volunteers processes a CHL for a Columbia County citizen.

assist our enforcement division in meeting the public safety needs in Columbia County. Reserve deputies have been trained in a reserve academy and wear the uniform of a deputy sheriff when serving in that capacity. They provide their own equipment and uniforms. They are required to provide 20 hours per month of service to keep their skills up and keep abreast of the needs of the Sheriff's Office. They add patrol hours and additional manpower to enforcement when they are available.

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 at the following numbers:

Emergency	9-1-1
Front Office (Main Line)	(503) 366-4611
Receptionist, Dial	"0"
Jail	"4630"
Marine Patrol	"4689"
Criminal/Patrol	"4689"
Location/Business Hours	"1"
Corrections Division Information ...	"2"
Civil Unit	"3"
Volunteer Services Information	"6"
Warrants and Records	"7"
Concealed Handgun Licensing	"8"
Property & Evidence	"9"
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!*

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