

## Sheriff's Office Uses Creativity *continued from page 8*

Reserve Deputy program, and is currently in the background investigation stage on adding three additional reserve deputies to the four very active reserves serving in the Enforcement Division. Reserve deputies augment and expand the capabilities of the Sheriff's Office.

"Our Reserve Deputies average close to 250 hours every month -- thousands of hours per year," says Lieutenant Hald. "Our reserves are an important part of our volunteer program. Last year, all Sheriff's office volunteers put in 6,708 total hours, and this year, they are

on pace to put in well over 8,000 hours of volunteer, community service."

"Our volunteer programs are the highlight of an attitude that is growing among our staff," says Sheriff Dickerson. "And that attitude is one of a can-do nature. We have a team here that is growing together to embrace our mission and find creative ways to solve problems in the myriad ways they present themselves in the three Divisions of the Sheriff's Office: Enforcement, Corrections and Support Services."

Part of that creativity is the call-

triage system that has enabled deputies to have more time to investigate serious crimes without having any dropped calls. In times past, deputies going from call to call would not be able to keep track of them all as they stacked up each day. The new system allows deputies to put many non-emergency calls on hold until someone (a deputy, supervisor, or the sheriff) can get to the call for follow up at a later time.

As a result, some calls are being handled with some delay, but every call is being answered. A higher percentage

of emergencies are getting a quicker response and a higher percentage of criminal investigations are being completed throughout the county.

"These are difficult economic times for many sheriff's offices around our state and nation," the sheriff says. "By empowering employees to be creative in their jobs, and by building bridges to volunteers and outside resources, we continue to provide the best service possible with the resources we have in Columbia County."

## ShoeString Players Present St. Helens Haunted Tours

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Marshall, Brandon Cutshall, Sierra Gregory, Amelia Henderson, Toni White, Joseph Schulkowski, Robert Gatlin, John Miller, Lobster Lamp, and Patrick Birkle. The show is directed by Brian Vaerewyck, with Byron Ohler, Colleen Ohler, Lindsey Summerfelt, Cheyenne Johnson, Jeff Nelson, Joe Nelson, Bill Cade helping with the ghostly sounds, magical special effects, lighting, and fantastic props. Vera is in charge of security.

"One of my favorite characters is, Molly, she toys with the audiences nerve's and carries a strange look alike doll of herself. She is one to watch carefully on the tour, she is a bit psychotic," says director Brian Vaerewyck.

Tickets are available at Bertucci's, St. Helens Book Shop, and [www.SSCPMusicals.com](http://www.SSCPMusicals.com) for \$5. Tickets will also on sale at the door for \$10. We are really encouraging presale tickets.

For more information see [www.SSCPMusicals.com](http://www.SSCPMusicals.com) or "Like us" on Facebook.

The Shoestring Community Players has been producing plays and other performances in Columbia County for 30 years. Formed from a dedicated

group of "Reader's Theater" performers, SSCP was officially founded in 1982. The first production was Brigadoon, performed at the St. Helens High School Olmscheid Auditorium. SSCP has consistently produced productions and performances since that time, tapping into the rich and "undiscovered" talent Columbia County and its surrounding areas have to offer. We perform Revues, Musicals, Dramas, Comedies, Children's Theater, and any other type of production that captures the attention of the community. SSCP is, in fact, recognized in the Cultural Inventory of St. Helens in the Columbia County Cultural Coalition Summary. ShoeString was also recently recognized by the National Endowment of the Arts for its participation in the "Big Read" for its performance of "The Persian" a Sam Spade play. We have been a long-standing, well-respected community group. SSCP is a fully non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, relying on volunteers for every aspect of our operation. Our mission is to support theater and arts through successful productions and participation by the entire community.

**ATTENTION!**

**Community Action Team Veteran's Services Presents:**







### The Veteran's Town Hall Meeting

**October 25, 2012**

**7-8:30 PM**


**Columbia River Foursquare Church**  
555 Commons Drive, St. Helens  
(across from the DMV)

## We want to hear what You have to SAY!

**There will also be**

- Updates on Services available to Veterans in the County
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- Brochures/Information on Veteran's Benefits



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