

# Columbia County Sheriff's Newsletter

## Two Canine Teams Now Working for Sheriff's Office

With the addition of another canine deputy donated to Columbia County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), we are now glad to have two canine teams working to keep our county safer! A narcotics detection dog and his handler have been added to the Sheriff's Office canine teams. The new canine unit will be assigned to the jail and the newly revitalized Columbia Enforcement Narcotics Team (CENT).

The newest addition is a German shepherd donated to the Sheriff's Office by the Clatskanie Foundation. "Odin" was previously assigned to duties with the Clatskanie Police Department, but will now ply his trade helping keep drugs out of the jail and assisting the CENT team with criminal cases.

Odin and his handler Jacob Anderson give the Sheriff's Office a 1-2 punch in taking a bite out of crime in Columbia County. Our tracking Canine "Lars" with his handler Deputy Ryan Dews has already made a big impression with a high rate of captures in his first six months of work. Odin will bring additional detection capabilities with his training in narcotics detection.

## Jail Levy Renewal Discussions

The Sheriff and Board of County Commissioners have begun discussions on a path forward for renewing the jail levy for another four years. After reviewing budget numbers and including projections for continued US Marshal bed rentals, it appears no increase in the rate will be needed. In fact, it appears that if the rate stays the same at \$0.58 per thousand dollars in assessed value, and as long as US Marshal use of the facility continues to drive the overall cost to taxpayers down, we will be able to keep the jail in business for the next four years.

This is good news for county taxpayers and especially good news, considering that in 2018, the County will have paid off the cost of building the new jail and will be able to reduce the tax burden by \$0.38 per thousand once the building is paid off.

## Posse Being Reconstituted

The Sheriff's Posse is being reconstituted, and is inviting interested individuals 21 and older who love being around horses to consider joining the Posse. Questions can be emailed directly to CCMS.Posse@gmail.com

## CENT Team Reinvigorated Under Sheriff's Office

The St. Helens Police Department had for many years been the host agency for the Columbia Enforcement Narcotics Team (CENT). Budget cuts in recent years forced many agencies to withdraw from the team, and the team became inactive. Now, with renewed interest in developing the team, the Sheriff's Office is taking a leadership role in re-establishing CENT as a narcotics investigative unit with a focus on street crimes investigations.

To reach the CENT team, call (503) 397-1167. If there is no answer, leave a message. Anonymous tips are also welcomed, but the more information we can get from callers that will

help us verify criminal activity, the more we will be able to accomplish.

## City of Clatskanie and Sheriff's Office Discuss Contract Service

The Sheriff's Office and the City of Clatskanie are still in discussions regarding the possibility of the City contracting police services to the Sheriff's Office. The City is looking for a way to maximize scarce public safety dollars through partnering with the Sheriff and leveraging economies of scale. We are pleased to offer our assistance to the City in whatever way makes the most sense to the mayor and city council. We believe this partnership can provide opportunities for the City to maintain an adequate policing presence, even with reductions in their budget, while at the same time expanding the Sheriff's Office presence in North County. While talks continue with the City, it is not expected that services could begin before fall. The City needs time to work out the contract and budget issues with the County, and once that is settled, the County will need a few weeks to make the transition before operations can begin full scale. In the meantime, the Sheriff's Office has an augmentation agreement to respond to calls inside the City as our staffing is capable of responding. During the July 4 holiday, CCSO deputies and reserves added extra staffing for the City's Heritage Days celebration.

## High Profile Arrests

Deputies have made a number of high profile arrests already this summer. On June 25, CCSO Deputies arrested Kodiack Stone, 26, of Beaverton on attempted murder charges after an investigation into reported gunfire on Highway 47 outside of Vernonia on June 23. Soon after, a 79-year-old Clatskanie man was behind bars and charged with two counts of Sodomy First Degree, seven counts of Sexual Abuse First Degree and one count of Attempted Sexual Abuse First Degree after indictments on those charges by the Columbia County grand jury. Two victims testified before the grand jury on Thursday, June 23.

## Newest Deputy

Our newest Enforcement Deputy graduated from the Public Safety Academy in Salem on Friday, July 15. Michelle Vandenburg began work as a Corrections Deputy with us in 2014, and was reassigned to the Patrol Unit when an opening was created with the addition of a fifth patrol position in our new budget. Adding another deputy increases by another 25 percent our ability to cover the 688 square miles of our County!

## Columbia County Sheriff's Office

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VERNONIA'S  
**voice**  
reflecting the spirit of our community

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## Cedar Side Inn

### Jamboree Weekend

Friday, August 5 - Freedom Street Band - 9 pm

Saturday, August 6 - The Basinbillies - 9 pm

### Karaoke

Every 2nd & Last Friday

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