

## From the Sheriff's Desk . . .

by Jeff Dickerson,  
Columbia County Sheriff



### Let's promote a safe and sober spring and summer

April showers have brought May flowers. The grass is growing (I have less time these days to fight back the jungle that might otherwise be called a "yard"). The sun is starting to warm up this hemi-

sphere. And before we know it, we will be closing the books on another high school prom and graduation season.

For me, this is the 22nd spring season since I first swore an oath as a law enforcement officer to uphold the constitutions of the United States and of Oregon. And it seems that not one of those seasons has gone by without the avoidable tragedy due to alcohol consumption by the youth somewhere in our neck of the woods.

Many young people die or are critically injured while driving or riding in a motor vehicle after having consumed alcoholic beverages. Too often, the adults in their lives – who should be serving as role models for

these young people – are the ones directly or indirectly responsible for putting intoxicating beverages into their hands. Assaults, domestic disputes and other crime rates swing upward when substance abuse runs rampant.

It is generally against the law to provide alcoholic beverages to anyone under 21 years of age (with the exception being a parent who provides consent to a minor to possess the alcoholic beverage and is present with that minor child in a private residence). But for various reasons, young people continue to have easy access to intoxicating liquor. The biggest reason is that adults are providing the liquor to them. This is highly irresponsible.

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