

From the Sheriff's Desk . . .

by Jeff Dickerson,
Columbia County Sheriff



Sheriff's Office Observing Preparedness Month

September is "National Preparedness Month," and Governor Ted Kulongoski has joined Oregon to the national observance by his official proclamation last month. In the aftermath of the terrorist

attacks on our nation in 2001, communities in Oregon and across our great nation have taken steps to train, educate, prepare and equip constituents for disaster events. Your sheriff's office has been a vital part of that effort since I took office in 2009.

It is a vital point that preparation for disaster is the best antidote for when it strikes. From the beginning of my administration of this office, I have sought to continuously build upon our disaster response capabilities. One of the first things we did was to associate our volunteer outreach with the national Citizen Corps program developed following the 9/11 attacks. Going beyond terrorist attacks, the Citizens Corps program is designed to prepare volunteers to assist and augment

government services in the heat of all kinds of different emergency situations, so that more resources are available to help bring order to chaos in a relatively shorter amount of time. We have also sought to work disaster preparedness groups to educate the public about its own responsibilities before a disaster strikes.

People living in the Nehalem River Valley know all too well how quickly things can go bad and have learned the importance of depending on one another when the arm of government services are slow to be able to respond.

There is the message I believe we need to take
Please see page 19

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