

From the Sheriff's Desk . . .

by Jeff Dickerson,
Columbia County Sheriff



Sheriff announces tax levy

Sheriff announces tax levy aimed at providing dedicated patrol in Nehalem Valley and Additional Backup.

If you have not heard, it's official: A measure calling for a new tax levy to more adequately fund the Sheriff's Of-

fice will be on the ballot for the May 17 election.

The highlight for Nehalem Valley residents is that it will bring a specific, direct upgrade to our abilities from Vernonia to Mist and out to Apiary and down toward Chapman. Passage of the measure will place a deputy in the Nehalem Valley for 40 hours per week, and will add criminal investigators to the Sheriff's Office who will follow up on criminal events county-wide, including along highway 47 and 202, up and down Apiary Rd, and down toward Chapman on Scappoose-Vernonia Rd.

Soon after taking office – in 2009 – the Sheriff's Office budget was cut, along with 4 patrol and two detective positions. Response times in the Nehalem Valley

– indeed, throughout the county – went up dramatically and our ability to follow up on criminal events was severely reduced.

Last year, the Enhanced Law Enforcement Advisory Committee recommended that the County Commissioners put a measure on the ballot to strengthen the Sheriff's ability to respond to public safety incidents throughout the county. Two of the members of that committee were former Police Chief Frank Grace and former City Manager Bob Young. Together we looked at all the different options for improving the public safety response in the county, and the consensus was that strengthening the Sheriff's Office was the most cost-effective.

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