

The Labor Day Weekend brought much activity to the small crew of deputies at the Columbia County Sheriff's Office. A string of burglaries in North County have been tied to a small group of known individual suspects, and patrol deputies took 7 intoxicated people off the roads and waterways in the county. Deputies arrested four boat operators for Boating Under the Influence of Intoxicants on the Columbia River Friday and Saturday and three additional motor vehicle drivers were arrested for Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants on Friday and Saturday, as well. Thanks to grant funding from the state Marine Board and the Oregon Department of Transportation, most of the sheriff's office's five enforcement and two marine patrol deputies were on duty for much of the weekend--and they were busy.

In addition to the seven alcohol-related vehicle and boat operation arrests, deputies also developed suspects in a string of burglaries occurring in North County. Items stolen from a number of properties in the area around Clatskanie have been returned, and the investigation is continuing.

Deputies also served arrest warrants, including the arrest of a man claiming to be an FBI agent and asking the residents of 33222 Hillcrest Drive near Scappoose to open their door to him just after midnight Saturday morning. Instead, the residents called 9-1-1 and a deputy responded to the scene. Roy G. Cheney, 43, Salem, was subsequently arrested on an outstanding hit and run warrant (see photo). Another warrant arrest over the weekend took place when Marine Deputies contacted a suspected BUII operator. Although he had been drinking, Glenn A. Bustos, 52, Woodland, Wash., was not impaired. He was wanted, though for Unauthorized Use of A Vehicle, Theft and Controlled Substance Charges. He was taken into custody without incident.

Two of the four individuals arrested for BUII over the weekend were arrested off of the same boat after one operator turned the control of the boat over to a second operator -- but both were impaired

"We put as many people out as we could over the holiday weekend, thanks to the additional funding," said Sheriff Jeff Dickerson. "We expected the weekend to be a busy one, and this turned out to be an extraordinarily busy weekend, even for the holiday. I'm extremely proud of our crew and the hard work they put in every day, as well as the extra effort we always seem to get when we need it."