

Columbia County Sheriff's Deputies received awards for distinguished service and life-saving from the Oregon State Sheriff's Association December 4. Firefighters from Columbia River Fire and Rescue also were recognized at the State Sheriff's Association's annual award banquet in Bend.

Deputy Bill Haas and Reserve Deputy Tyler Miller were recognized with the state association's Distinguished Service Award for their bravery in facing down a knife wielding suspect in St. Helens in July. Undersheriff Andy Moyer and Lt. Dustin Hald received the sheriffs' life-saving award--along with firefighters Tom Mounq and Nolan Gerety--for the four men's quick action in saving a drowning pair on the Columbia River in July.

Sheriff Dickerson was on hand for the awards and congratulated his deputies and the firefighters for their exemplary public service. "These individuals represent the best of Columbia County," the sheriff said. "To a man, they are committed public servants and valuable members of our public safety teams in the county. I am honored to be associated with each one of them."

On the following evening, Undersheriff Moyer and Lt. Hald also received life-saving awards from the Oregon State Marine Board for their actions on the river in July. The Marine Board provides the funding of equipment and staff to put deputies on the river. "It is a very successful program, both for the marine board and for us," said the sheriff. "The county benefits by having a public safety rapid response on the river, as well as the enforcement of boating laws that keep people safe on one of the largest rivers in the country."