

Investigators in the homicides that occurred in South Columbia County earlier this week have determined the deaths to be the result of a murder-suicide.

Following the results of an autopsy and an extensive investigation by the Columbia County Major Crimes team, investigators believe Deric James Fox, 41, inflicted a fatal gunshot wound on Carolyn Ann LeBlanc, 61, before turning the gun on himself and taking his own life as well.

"Investigators from three police agencies have assisted our office in coming to our conclusions in this case," said Columbia County Sheriff Jeff Dickerson. "The Oregon State Police along with help from the Saint Helens and Scappoose police departments have done an excellent job in their investigation."

The case will be submitted to the Columbia County District Attorney's Office for review, but, except for a few details yet to be finished up on, the Sheriff's Office is satisfied this investigation can come to a close.