

Volunteers, regular staff and sworn members of the Columbia County Sheriff's Office all participated in the five days of the Columbia County Fair.

Search and Rescue (SAR) volunteers, along with Volunteers In Partnership with the Sheriff (VIPS) helped man the sheriff's booth at the fair each day. SAR sponsored Blaze the Trail Cat's appearance during Kid's Day at the fair on Thursday July 16 (see photo). Blaze, official mascot of the Portland Trail Blazers, greeted children and helped generate interest in getting kids and their parents to complete child identification kits. Volunteers offered and completed child identification kits for parents. Free gunlocks were also distributed at the booth.

More than 50 volunteer applications were also given out. The sheriff's office continues to accept volunteers for a wide variety of tasks to help relieve the burden on sworn deputies and clerical staff.

Marine Deputies and Undersheriff Moyer worked during the CEPA Expo on Saturday at the fair. Undersheriff Moyer and Sheriff Dickerson also spent hours in the booth greeting fairgoers. Sheriff Dickerson was also a judge for the chili cook-off on Sunday, July 19.

Deputies responded to numerous calls at the fair, including a medical call on one of the rides at the fair on Friday, July 17. A 27 year-old female patient suffered cardiac arrest on one of the

rides. Deputies also responded to the fairgrounds early Sunday morning on a disturbance. Two subjects were arrested. Earlier in the week, an arrest warrant was also served at the fair.

"Our presence at the fair is a big event for the Sheriff's Office," Sheriff Dickerson said. "As the chief conservator of the peace for all Columbia County, I believe it is vitally important that we be here and be a part of as much as we possibly can. I am very pleased with the turnout from our SAR and VIPS volunteers. They carried a big part of the commitment to staff our booth and performed many vital functions during the week."

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Sheriff's Office Deputy and Deputy Blazer at the County Fair on July 16 at the base of the Sheriff's Office in Albany, Oregon.