

Columbia County Sheriff's Deputies today arrested a registered sex offender for new crimes that had been occurring between him and a family member for the last month at a location south of Scappoose.

In custody with charges of Coercion (4 counts), Sex Abuse First Degree (4 counts), Unlawful Sexual Penetration (4 counts) and Sex Abuse Third Degree (4 counts) is Karl Gottsberger, 45, Scappoose.

Deputies responded to the suspect's address after a neighbor called in a report saying the victim had reported to her the abuse. The suspect was not at home at the time of the report, but deputies began searching in various locations the suspect was known to frequent, and was located at the Scappoose Public Library. A sheriff's deputy took Gottsberger into custody without incident.

An interview with the victim produced evidence indicating Gottsberger had unlawfully coerced the adult victim to submit to the abuse against her will. Gottsberger is a registered sex offender. The sheriff's office's last contact with the suspect was in January, when he was arrested by the state police for failure to register as a sex offender. The sheriff's office also had the assistance of the Oregon State Police in this investigation.