



# WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Conserving the Peace Through Values Driven Service  
Sheriff Pat Garrett

## PRESS RELEASE

### Sheriff's Office K9 Teams Captures Violent Fugitive



August 25, 2015-Washington County Sheriff's Office K9s and their handlers assisted patrol with tracking and capturing Reiner Schmolling, Jr., 37, (booking photo shown) who had a felony warrant for a parole violation. Schmolling is also known for shooting a WCSO detective and killing a Hillsboro Police Department K9 during a standoff in 1997.

On August 24, 2015, the capture of Schmolling began when Washington County Sheriff's Deputies were called to assist the North Plains Police Department on a report of two males fighting. Although both males were gone upon officers' arrival, it was quickly learned that one of the males was Schmolling who had violated his parole and had a 'felony warrant with caution' due to the 1997 shooting incident. Two K9 teams were called out due to the possibility that Schmolling might be armed and his history of shooting at law enforcement. The K9s Chase and Tux (photo attached), and their handlers followed Schmolling's scent over city streets, surrounding fields of tall grass, through a creek, and deep into a wooded area west of town where they eventually found Schmolling hiding with his girlfriend. He was taken into custody without further incident.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office utilizes a wide variety of tactics and tools to serve and protect the community. One of its most successful resources is the K9 Unit consisting of five highly trained dogs and their handlers. These teams are responsible for apprehending suspects, searching buildings and vehicles, detecting narcotics, and protecting deputies and community members. Last year, the Sheriff's Office K9 unit responded to over 658 incidents. To help ensure a high rate of success and longevity, new 'recruits' are specially bred and trained. Each handler and dog must complete a minimum of 400 hours of training and pass the Oregon Police Canine Association Standards prior to being deployed.

In 2007 the City of Hillsboro opened its first off-leash dog park. The park was named in honor of Hillsboro Police K9 "Hondo," who lost his life in the aforementioned 1997 shooting. He is the only Hillsboro Police K9 to give their life in the line of duty. The dog park includes a plaque dedicated to his service.



*K-9 Chase (left) and Tux (right) with handlers*

Media interested in doing a story about the Sheriff's Office K9 program can contact Sergeant Bob Ray at 503-209-5613.