

2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT

BENTON COUNTY

Sheriff's Office



Message from the Sheriff



This last fiscal year has been a year of great accomplishment. We became State Accredited through the Oregon Accreditation Alliance, a goal of mine since prior to becoming Sheriff. Additionally, in January the entire Sheriff's Office came together to develop our new Mission, Vision, and Values, and we have developed new plans per legislative directive and new programs to meet a variety of needs.

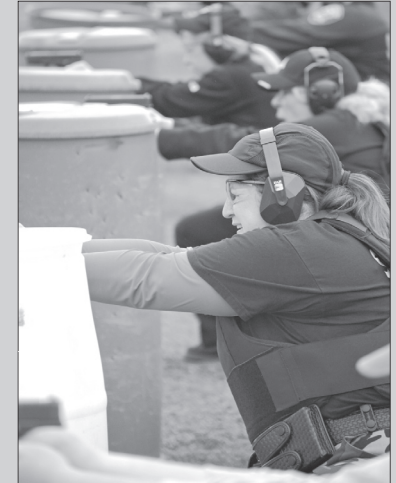
Other accomplishments include Undersheriff Scott Jackson graduating from the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training Basic Police class and finding his replacement as Jail Commander. Chris Schlegel came to us from Yamhill County where he had twenty years experience in Corrections. We have filled all of the law enforcement deputy positions authorized by the successful passage of the recent levy and those new deputies are either still in the Basic Police academy or in field training.

We implemented a new Career Development program that helps members of the Sheriff's Office identify their career goals two years, five years, and ten years into the future. This results in not only more efficient use of training dollars, but allows deputies to focus and train in a specialized area. The result should be less turn over and more longevity and loyalty to the Benton County Sheriff's Office.

We continue to look at ways to improve efficiencies at the Benton County Corrections Facility and believe we have exhausted all possible remedies. We remodeled the booking room which provided more safety and security for the booking deputies, but also added additional holding cells.

Parole and Probation (P&P) faced significant cuts through the State of Oregon Department of Corrections budget as they receive most of their funding through a grant from the State. With the difficult state budget, two deputy positions have not been filled until we could determine what the final budget might be. The State budget for P&P is not as dire as we expected and we anticipate filling at least one position.

Emergency Management/Search and Rescue has been busy with the planning efforts around the Cascadia Peril exercise and Swine Flu. We have outstanding volunteers associated with the different Search and Rescue (SAR) units and truly appreciate their dedication and willingness to contribute their personal time to make Benton County a safer place. Through a partnership with the Sheriff's Office, the SAR units were able to purchase and



To provide professional service and protection with honor and integrity.



Committed to meeting the public safety needs of the citizens of Benton County, the men and women of the Benton County Sheriff's Office operate out of five divisions. LAW ENFORCEMENT focuses on patrol and investigations; CORRECTIONS operates the jail and courthouse security; PAROLE AND PROBATION supervises offenders; EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/SEARCH AND RESCUE coordinates community disaster planning and conducts search and rescue operations for lost persons; and SUPPORT SERVICES administers the Civil Unit, concealed handgun licenses, and provides the leadership and administrative services necessary for the efficient and effective operation of the Sheriff's Office. All five divisions operate within the Sheriff's Office mission "to provide professional service and protection with honor and integrity."

Come visit us online at: www.co.benton.or.us/sheriff/

Sheriff's Office Earns State Accreditation

This year the Benton County Sheriff's Office was awarded state accreditation through the Oregon Accreditation Alliance (OAA). Formed in 2001 under the direction and authority of the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police, the Oregon State Sheriff's Association, and the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials, OAA supports the continued improvement of law enforcement by establishing rigorous professional standards and auditing for their compliance.

The standards identified by OAA include areas such as use of force, use of firearms, recruitment, fiscal management, complaints, training, and community relations. An on-site audit was conducted in February by retired Albany Police Chief and current OAA Executive Director Joe Simon. During the two-day audit, Director Simon reviewed the Benton County Sheriff's Office's policies and practices to ensure all 100 accreditation standards were being met. In his final report, Director Simon noted that the Benton County Sheriff's Office was "a well run professional agency" in compliance with all applicable standards and he recommended the agency for accreditation. Accreditation was awarded by OAA's Professional Standards Committee after a review of the report.

"This has been a long, arduous journey for the Benton County Sheriff's Office, but one well worth the effort" said Sheriff Diana Simpson. "The audit and subsequent accreditation simply documents and confirms we are a professional organization that utilizes the best practices in the industry. This was truly a team effort by all members of the Sheriff's Office and without everyone's commitment to the process, we would not have achieved our goal."



Law Enforcement

With the successful passage of the levy in November 2007, the Sheriff's Office began the process of recruiting for law enforcement deputies. The process for hiring has been methodical and careful, selecting only those individuals who meet our high standards.

This group of new deputies in the Law Enforcement Division can best be described as motivated and committed. Despite the lengthy recruitment process and subsequent training, we have found them to be quick learners who are enthusiastic and excited.

A great deal of time and effort has been expended to ensure these deputies receive current and applicable training in their chosen career and that they are educated in the ways of BCSO philosophy of professionalism and respectful treatment of the people in Benton County.

With the addition of these new deputies, the increase in activity can be measured in several areas, including written reports, citations and extra patrol requests fulfilled. Increased efforts were also made in the area of community safety. For example, for the fiscal year of 2008-2009, Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUII) arrests increased 58% over the previous fiscal year.

Detectives were busy investigating an increased number of sex offenses (21%) and burglaries (58%) over the same period last year. Additionally, a major heroin distribution operation was investigated by the Street Crimes Unit and resulted in numerous arrests.



Recruit Deputy Christopher Dale (right) prepares to go on patrol with his field training instructor, Deputy Ben Drongesen.

Several significant incidents last year included a fatal bicycle versus log truck accident one day, and the next day a serious farming accident where the victim lost both arms.

In an effort to inform citizens of the progress BCSO has made, Sheriff Diana Simpson and Law Enforcement Division Commander Lt. Greg Ridler gave well attended community presentations to community groups at the Summit Grange and the 53rd St. and Harrison Neighborhood Association. The Sheriff's Office has also developed an Auxiliary Unit staffed by volunteers who have revitalized our Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Watch programs. They also have plans to develop additional programs that will offer opportunities for residents to feel safer and more protected in their homes.

Emergency Management/Search & Rescue



Public Works Director Roger Irvin (above left), acting as Incident Commander during the spring exercise, "Cascadia Peril," confers with Emergency Manager Mary King.

Benton County Search and Rescue has always provided patient care to those injured in non-urban areas. Shown here (left) are volunteers treating a simulated aircraft trauma patient in Starker Forests during training in May. The "patient" was stabilized and then evacuated approximately ¾ mile to a helicopter landing zone for further transport.

During the past year, the Division of Emergency Management, Search and Rescue, was extremely busy. Sheriff's Office staff and volunteers responded to over 30 search and rescue missions, logging over 4,000 volunteer response hours!

On April 24 - 27, local emergency managers and the Benton County Incident Management Team conducted a full scale exercise entitled Cascadia Peril. Cascadia Peril assumed that a magnitude 9.0 subduction zone earthquake had taken place off the coast of Oregon. Incident responders then dealt with the likely effects such an earthquake would have on our residents. Specifically, incident response focused on mass patient care, emergency communications, bridge inspection and debris management. Many lessons were learned that will improve a local response to a real earthquake event or to other emergencies which may arise in the county.

This fiscal year Benton County Emergency Management also facilitated the purchase of a reverse 9-1-1 system. Benton County entered into a contract with Everbridge, Inc. to provide emergency mass notification services to the public in Benton and Linn counties. Should a large scale incident arise, county residents will be able to receive notification via a phone call or a text message to a cell phone.

Sheriff's Message *continued from page 1.*

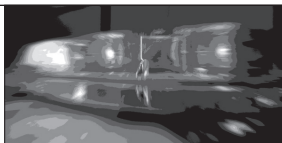
outfit a new Search and Rescue mobile unit that carries passengers as well as equipment to remote search destinations.

The Sheriff's Office has made great progress and improvement in a number of areas. The members of the Sheriff's Office are loyal, motivated and committed to serving the residents of Benton County. They collectively developed the values of the Sheriff's Office: professionalism, honor, integrity and ethics, and they embrace these values on a daily basis.

Thank you to the residents of Benton County for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your Sheriff. It is an honor to work for you and an honor to work along side the members of the Sheriff's Office.

Diana L. Simpson, Sheriff

DEADLY FORCE



& the Peer Support Team

The Legislative Assembly's 2007 regular session passed Senate Bill 111 which appoints Sheriffs and District Attorneys as co-chairs of a local "Planning Authority," a committee charged with developing a plan about the use of deadly force by deputies and officers in the county.

Benton County's SB111 Planning Authority included District Attorney John Haroldson, Sheriff Diana Simpson, Corvallis Police Chief Gary Boldzsar, Corvallis Police Officer Brett Roach, Oregon State Police Lt. Mark Cotter, and Nick Bonomo, citizen member. The plan developed by this group was approved by the Oregon Attorney General's Office and subsequently implemented July 1, 2008.

The plan is designed to provide directives and guidance on how to respond to a deadly force incident involving a law enforcement officer. It includes all of the requirements outlined in statute as to how the incident will be investigated, who will investigate, releasing information to the public, how the District Attorney may review the incident, what mental health benefits are available for the involved deputy or officer, and so on. The plan is a public document and available to the public.

Following the formation and subsequent training on the plan, it became apparent that the Sheriff's Office did not have the capability to respond to the needs of a deputy directly involved in a deadly force incident. The immediate and accumulated consequences of exposure to a critical incident can result in high levels of turn over, inefficiency, long-term emotional difficulties, and other life disrupting problems. Having a peer trained in crisis intervention available to respond in a deadly force incident would provide the involved deputy with someone to confide in and lean on for support. This capability would also be useful for any traumatic or crisis event involving members of the Sheriff's Office and their families.

Based on this, we began the development of the Peer Support Team (PST) with the help of Chaplain Todd Pynch and John Reiman, a volunteer with the Sheriff's Office Crisis Response Team (this group is part of Emergency Management that responds to crisis intervention in the community). Members of the PST were identified from within the Sheriff's Office and 8 deputies and 2 dispatchers are attending training to become certified in peer support and crisis intervention.

The Sheriff's Office values every member of the Office and this effort to provide additional support is simply one way we can attend to the health of those members who are exposed to stressful or traumatic events.

Parole & Probation

The Parole and Probation Division supervises approximately 470 adult offenders residing in Benton County, prioritizing resources to those offenders who pose the greatest risk to the community. Supervision includes, but is not limited to, office contacts, residence checks, monitoring and collection of court-ordered financial obligations, imposition of sanctions, referrals to treatment, and monitoring for substance abuse.

The mission of the division is to enhance public safety through the reformation of offenders and the reduction of criminal conduct. One measure of the division's effectiveness is the recidivism rate...how frequently individuals re-offend. During this past fiscal year, Benton County's overall recidivism rate remained at or below the statewide performance benchmark.

Those offenders who suffer from mental illness are at particular risk to re-offend if they do not get the programs and services needed to ensure stability in the community. During this fiscal year, the Sheriff's Office developed and implemented the Mental Health Transition Program. This program

is designed to cut costs through supervision rather than incarceration. Supervised by a Parole and Probation Officer who works closely with mental health counselors and other community partners, the Mental Health Transition Program provides intensive supervision and, in some cases, transitional housing for those offenders who suffer from mental illness.

Offenders in the program are referred to a variety of social service agencies to develop the resources necessary to remain in the community. These services may include assistance in obtaining Social Security benefits, supportive housing, employment, budget management, and medication management. Subsidy funding is used to ensure that mental health medications are available to all indigent offenders participating in the program. Program participants are closely supervised to monitor mental health treatment status, medication compliance and compliance to the conditions of supervision.

The overarching goals of the program are to reduce recidivism and re-incarceration and to improve the quality of care for individuals in the criminal justice system affected by mental illness.

Corrections Division

Most everyone assumes a jail is open for business 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and will accept new prisoners as they are brought in by the arresting officer or deputy. So having to close the jail, even for a short time, isn't in the best interests of the community. Our local jail is an exception in that we do have to occasionally close the jail to new prisoners for several reasons. One unusual example occurred last February when an inmate flushed a shirt down the toilet that backed up the sewer system. The result was sewage pouring into the booking room and down the hallway to the dayroom. The facility was shut down for several hours so the mess could be cleaned up and the facility made safe for deputies and inmates. During that time, we were unable to accept any new prisoners regardless of the charges.

Inmates flushing atypical items is not unusual for a jail and occurrences like this happen in many jails and prisons nationwide. The closure, however, was a result of the ill-designed sewer system in our facility which is only one of many problems in the deteriorating and aging building. The design of the Benton County jail, although more than satisfactory 20 years ago, is greatly deficient in handling the numbers of inmates coming in, the needs of the inmates who briefly are lodged here, and the staff who supervise them.

This past year we processed over 3200 inmates. Since the jail holds a maximum of only 40 inmates, we logged over 17,000 miles transporting inmates to contract jails and prisons. While this relieved some issues with housing, transporting inmates can be dangerous and is a scheduling challenge, particularly if the inmate is pretrial and needs to meet with his or her local attorney.

The size of the jail also causes other problems. The medical unit, which deals with mental health clients, substance abusers and geriatric inmates, is the size of a home laundry room. A doctor, nurse and inmate have very little room to conduct business. With few housing units and little flexibility in how they can be used, classi-

fication of inmates (maximum, medium and minimum security) is difficult. And then there are times when we simply have to shut down the facility because we can't take any more prisoners until we move some out.

To relieve some of these problems and increase efficiencies, this year we upgraded our jail management records system, installed a computerized system control panel, and redesigned the booking room to add two more temporary holding cells. But we seem to have reached the limit of ways to improve efficiencies. Corrections deputies, while conducting business in a respectful, professional way, are constantly challenged with making decisions that are in the best interests of the facility, meet the needs of our law enforcement partners, and minimize potential liability. Unfortunately, sometimes that means closing down the facility in order to maintain safe and secure operations.



Lt. Chris Schlegel was named the new Benton County Corrections Facility Jail Commander in November of 2008. He replaced Scott Jackson who was promoted to Undersheriff. With 20 years experience in Corrections, Lt. Schlegel was most recently the Administrative Sergeant of the Yamhill County Sheriff's Office.

By the Numbers...

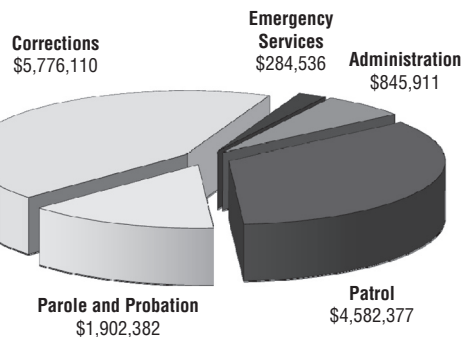
Offense	08-09
Murder	1
Rape	4
Robbery	0
Aggravated Assaults	23
Burglary-Commercial	57
Burglary-Residential	43
Burglary-Non-Residential	57
Larceny/Theft	229
Motor Vehicle Theft	17
Arson	7
Assault	171
Forgery/Fraud	64
Vandalism	173
Weapons Law Offenses	30
Sex Offenses	34
Kidnapping	5
Drug Offenses	113
DUII	108
Liquor Law Offenses	33
Disorderly Conduct	47
Trespass/Prowler	138
Runaway Juveniles	39
Offenses Against Family	14

Performance Outcomes	08-09
Calls for Service	5,244
Motor Vehicle Crashes	208
Fatal Vehicle Crashes	4
Arrests	1,372
Citations-Traffic	1,410
Warrants Served	296
Minor in Possession	57

Personnel Profile	08-09
Total Employees	78
Sworn Deputies	64
Women/Minorities	32%
College Graduates (AA or BA/BS)	60%

2008-2009 Budget

Total Budget \$13,391,316.00



Patrolling the Rural County

What do the Alpine Market mural; a young girl's brownie vest and the Monroe High School Dragon have in common? They were all recovered through the extra effort of Benton County Sheriff's Office patrol deputies.



In July 2008, the theft of the Alpine Market mural was reported. Investigating Deputy Toby Bottorff took steps to make sure that the local newspaper ran a story of the brazen theft and a picture of the local landmark. The publicity paid off and the mural was returned a few days later.

In November, a mother of an 8-year-old girl lost her

daughter's Brownie vest along Highway 20 when they had stopped and changed a flat tire. The mother did not have an exact location, but was able to give a general description of the area. The family had expressed little hope of recovering it. The mother contacted the Sheriff's Office to see if anything could be done. Deputies Jim Hardison and Tom Harrison were out at night, searched the described area and were successful at finding the vest and insuring its return to the little girl. The return of the Brownie vest, with all her merit badges intact, really made one young girl's day.

In December, the Dragon sculpture atop Monroe High School's cupola was stolen. Through diligent investigation, Deputies Ben Drongesen and Greg Goller tracked the sculpture to a locked basement closet in Eugene. The suspect was arrested for the theft and the dragon was retrieved and returned to the school.

Making a Difference in the Community

By Nicole Dodson

The 2nd Annual *BCSO Chili Cook-Off* will be September 13, 2009 at the

BENTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

With the 2nd Annual Benton County Sheriff's Office Chili Cook-Off just around the corner, Sheriff Simpson asked me to say a few words about community volunteering. I've been volunteering with the BCSO over the past two years...I've replaced uniform patches, worked in Corrections with booking and administrative files and sat on hiring boards.

One day during a conversation with the Sheriff I casually asked her if the BCSO had ever had a cook-off to raise money for a local non-profit. Since they hadn't, the Sheriff encouraged me to take it on and see what I could come up with. I'm happy to report that the inaugural BCSO Chili Cook-Off raised over \$11,000 for CA-SA—Voices for Children! This year's event will benefit Strengthening Rural Families which works to assist rural families and communities in Benton County by providing family education and support programs.

One of the things I noticed while working on the Chili Cook-Off was how willing Sheriff's Office employees were to give of their own time to help make the community a better place.

During this fiscal year, BCSO employees performed over 2000 hours of uncompensated community service work. They spent personal time to help kids shop for holiday gifts, to raise money for a variety of programs, to coach sports, to serve on non-profit Boards and, yes, even to cook chili!

RESOURCE DIRECTORY

Benton County Sheriff's Office

180 NW 5th Street • Corvallis, OR 97330

Emergencies Only	911	
Non-Emergency	766-6858	
General Information	766-6858	
Administration	766-6858	
Animal Control	753-0732	
Civil	766-6814	
Corrections Facility (Jail)	766-6866	
Detectives		766-6860
Emergency Management		766-6864
Parole and Probation		766-6887
Records		766-6858
Fax		766-6011