

NEWS from BENTON COUNTY

At Your Service...Every Day since 1847



May 24, 2013

Benton County, Oregon

Volume 5, Issue 2

Sheriff's Office undergoes leadership transition Budget process nears conclusion



Retiring Sheriff Diana Simpson

There's going to be a new Sheriff in Benton County starting July 1, but a familiar face will be taking over the office.

Sheriff Diana Simpson has announced that she will retire on June 30. She gave 30 years of service to the county. The Benton County Board of Commissioners voted 3-0 on May 17 to appoint Undersheriff Scott Jackson as her successor, under condition of a favorable background check. As the appointed Interim Sheriff, Jackson will serve the remainder of the four-year term begun by Simpson and then will have the option to stand for election in November 2014.

Jackson started with the county in 1995 as a corrections deputy, rising to lieutenant and being named jail commander in 2006. He became undersheriff in 2008. Jackson holds a bachelor's degree in management and communications from Western Baptist College and is working toward a master's degree in criminal justice administration from Western Oregon University. He also worked for the Arizo-



Interim Sheriff Scott Jackson

na Department of Corrections from 1991 to 1995. A veteran, Jackson served in the United States Army from 1983 to 1991, rising to the rank of sergeant. Between 2003 and 2008 he was a staff sergeant with the Oregon National Guard in deployments during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Simpson recommended that the commissioners appoint Jackson to fill the vacant seat when she announced her retirement.

"Many factors contributed to my decision to retire," Sheriff Simpson said. "I have achieved many of my goals and made significant changes within the Sheriff's Office. It is now time for someone with fresh ideas and perspectives to step in and so I'm recommending to the Board of Commissioners that they consider Undersheriff Scott Jackson be appointed as the next Sheriff."

The Benton County Board of Commissioners expressed admiration for the Sheriff and her accomplishments.

"Sheriff Simpson is highly regarded by her peers statewide," Commissioner Annabelle Jaramillo said. "In a recent conversation with retired Tillamook County Sheriff Todd Anderson, he commended Sheriff Simpson as one of Oregon's best. Her integrity and hard work rise to the highest levels of professionalism. My colleagues and I agree; we will miss her."

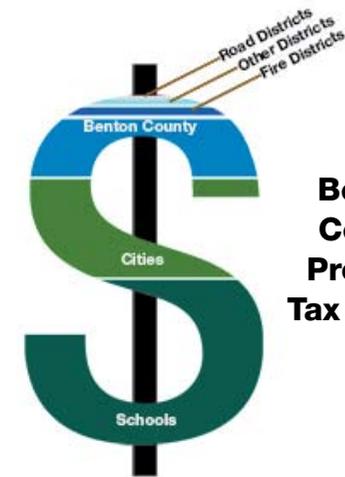
Simpson was sworn in as Sheriff after winning her first election in 2006. She ran unopposed in 2010 and is now nearly 2 ½ years into her second term. Commissioner Jay Dixon – who has a background in law enforcement – said he has enjoyed working with the Sheriff over the past several years to continue making Benton County a safer, better place to live.

"She has done an absolutely marvelous job for the people of Benton County and the state," Dixon said. "I will miss her, as will many others."

Simpson faced many challenges when starting as Sheriff. The county experienced large losses in federal timber revenue and it resulted in significant cuts to the Sheriff's Office. The law enforcement division reduced patrol hours and were no longer able to provide 24/7 patrol coverage. With the successful passage of the operating levy in 2007, around-the-clock patrol coverage was restored after several years of rebuilding the law enforcement program.

"I am proud of the many achievements the Sheriff's Office has accomplished in the last 6 ½ years," Sheriff Simpson said. "We have twice received state accreditation, which says we meet best practices and industry standards, and we have reduced our citizen complaints significantly, indicating we are doing much better in providing courteous service and response. My only disappointment has been not being able to see a new jail built."

Budget process nears conclusion



Benton County Property Tax Dollars

The Benton County Board of Commissioners is scheduled to complete adoption of the county's 2013-15 biennium budget on June 18. The budget covers the period from July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2015.

The Budget Committee is completing its review of the proposed \$185 million two-year budget. A summary of the committee's approved budget will be published in The Gazette-Times and on the county's website in the first week of June.

The Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing, at noon on June 18, at the Board of Commissioners meeting room, 205 NW Fifth St., in Corvallis to receive public comment on the budget. They may make limited changes to the Budget Committee approved budget, or adopt the budget without changes.

Also on June 18 the six county service districts, for which the Board of Commissioners sits as the governing body, will conduct final public hearings prior to adopting their budgets.

The County Library Service District, like the county, adopts a biennial budget. The other five districts adopt annual budgets.

To view the latest information on dates and agendas, or to see documents describing the proposed budget of the county or service districts, visit the county website at <http://www.co.benton.or.us/budget/>.

Record-breaking year for drug take-back event



BCSO Auxiliary Team volunteers Juan Ramos, left, and Vito Racanelli greet residents as they drop off their medications.

More than 800 pounds of expired and unwanted medications were collected on Saturday, April 27, by the Benton County Sheriff's Office. They filled 24 boxes which,

when stacked up, made a wall 7 feet tall by 12 feet wide.

"The purpose of offering a drug take-back event is to help keep unused drugs from being misused and also to keep them out of our water system," Sheriff Diana Simpson said. "This year we collected nearly four times what we've done in previous years."

In 2012 the Sheriff's Office collected 208 pounds of medications. This year, approximately 400 vehicles came through the drop site where both prescription pills and over-the-counter medications were collected.

So many households brought their medications to the event that the Sheriff's Office reached capacity and had to close a few minutes early. Medications collected must be safely stored and secured in evidence until they can be destroyed, and secure storage space is limited.

"We couldn't have offered this event without the support of our partners – the Philomath Police Department and Benton County Fairgrounds – and our Sheriff's Office volunteers," Simpson said. "Our certified Reserve Deputies provided law enforcement security for the event and were supported by volunteers from our Auxiliary Team and Search and Rescue."

This is the fourth year the Benton County Sheriff's Office has offered a Drug Take-Back Event at the fairgrounds. The first year the Sheriff's Office initiated the program and received special authorization from

the DEA to collect the medications. For the past three years the Sheriff's Office has taken part in the national DEA drug take-back initiative.

Collecting unwanted medications is a public safety issue. A number of national studies indicate that the intentional abuse of prescription drugs, particularly among teens, is growing. Additionally, there is an environmental concern. Disposing of medications by flushing them down the toilet or throwing them into the trash is discouraged because it can lead to drinking water contamination.

Both the Benton County Health Department and Corvallis Public Works Water Treatment Division received grant funding to help publicize the event. The Health Department translated flyers into Spanish to reach that population.

Prepare your home for wildfire season



Wildfire season in Benton County is arriving ahead of schedule this year, as evidenced by the residential burning ban enacted on May 8, more than a month ahead of the expected date of June 15. A few wildfires already have occurred locally, and conditions will become much drier before the autumn rains arrive.

The vast majority of homes lost or damaged in wildfires are not lost due to proximity of the fire front, but are the victims of embers – small burning pieces of wood materials carried through the air, sometimes a mile from the fire front! What does this

mean to you? When these embers land in dry leaves, plants, grass or pine needles, a fire will result. Now is the time to clean your roofs and gutters of leaves and pine needles. Now is the time to create the defensible space that can protect your home in the event of a wildfire-generated ember storm. Remember, a home can be lost to a wildfire even though the fire is not close enough to see the flames!

Defensible space is a 30- to 100-foot zone surrounding your home that breaks up the continuous path of vegetation that could carry wildfire to your home. And it gives firefighters a safe zone from which to fight a wildfire. Defensible space – keep it lean, green and clean. It's worth the effort! More tips - visit Benton County's "Protect Your Home" website for more details on protecting your home from wildfire: www.co.benton.or.us/cd/cwpp/protection.

Have you done everything you can? If you'd like a free professional evaluation of your home's defensible space, call Oregon Department of Forestry at 541-929-9165 or Benton County at 541-766-6819, or email chris.bentley@co.benton.or.us.

A message from the Benton County EIAC

The Benton County Environmental Issues Advisory Committee (EIAC), in partnership with the Benton County Health Department, conducted a phone survey of Benton County food vendors (including restaurants) on their use of polystyrene (Styrofoam) food containers during fall 2012.

This survey was conducted to determine the magnitude of polystyrene use to help develop an action plan to decrease its use. Globally, the world's oceans are contaminated with plastics which never decompose. They just become smaller pieces suspended in water columns. These small pieces are consumed by ocean organisms, leading to their premature death commonly through starvation.

Most ocean organisms examined have ingested plastics. Single use items such as plastic bags and polystyrene products are of most concern and can be replaced easily with less toxic products. While single-use

plastic products from Benton County are not a major source of global ocean pollution, individual local actions are needed worldwide to eliminate this problem. These products are a major source of litter and landfill volume, and are contaminants in the local recycling stream.

EIAC reports that approximately 71 percent of food vendors in Benton County do not use polystyrene containers. There is also minimal use of polystyrene within restaurants. EIAC concludes that there is currently little justification for regulations.

The EIAC encourages the public to show their appreciation for food vendors who use non-polystyrene food containers, as well as ask vendors using polystyrene containers to consider changing. Compostable food containers are now readily available in the Corvallis area. A more extensive list can be found at www.co.benton.or/pw/committees/eiac.php.

News from Benton County

Published quarterly and distributed in The Gazette-Times, The Democrat-Herald and other mailer publications, as well as at Benton County office locations and events. Publication is created by Public Information Officer Rick Osborn. To subscribe for an electronic copy via e-mail, please contact us at pioinfo@co.benton.or.us.

Board of Commissioners	766-6800	Human Resources	766-6081
Chief Operating Officer	766-6800	Community Health Centers	766-6835
Public Information Officer	766-6082	Juvenile Department	766-6810
Assessment Department	766-6855	Natural Areas and Parks	766-6871
Commission on Children and Families	766-6751	OSU Extension Service	766-6750
Development Department	766-6819	Public Works	766-6821
District Attorney	766-6815	County Clerk/Records	766-6831
Elections	766-6756/766-6277	Sheriff's Office	766-6858
Fairgrounds	766-6521	Tax Collection	766-6808
Health Department	766-6835		

Visit Us Online! www.co.benton.or.us

OSU Extension Service offers gardening advice



Find the answers to your gardening questions and learn about new plants and better practices at an OSU Extension Master™ Gardener Plant Clinic.

Good conservation starts right under your feet

Home gardeners can make a positive impact on the environment right in their own backyard.

“Smart home horticulture will help land-owners modify water and soil temperatures; enhance water conservation and wildlife habitat; reduce runoff, fire incidence and pests; improve nutrient use and recycling,” said Barb Fick, OSU Extension community horticulture faculty member.

Information and advice on sustainable gardening is available in the Benton County Extension office, which moved to a new location at 4077 SW Research Way in southwest Corvallis this year. Residents are encouraged to drop by the office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and bring their questions, plant, soil and insect samples.

Master Gardeners provide research-based horticulture information to help Benton County gardeners and other community land managers with their conservation and growing practices.

The OSU Extension Service trains a corps of volunteers who in turn provide a diagnosis and recommendation service.

The volunteers – known as OSU Extension Master Gardeners – receive an 11-week training program in botany, soil science, insect and disease identification and control, care and culture of ornamental plants, small fruits, lawns, home orchards and vegetables and diagnosis of plant problems.

HOW TO FIND OSU EXTENSION SERVICE

(541) 766-6750

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/benton>
4077 SW Research Way, Corvallis, 97330
HOURS: Mon-Fri 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

In the OSU Extension Community Horticulture program, you will learn how to grow and care for plants using sustainable and research-based techniques, produce your own food and meet other gardeners. If you like to teach, become a Master Gardener™ volunteer. Bring your gardening questions to the Master Gardener™ Plant Clinic in the Benton County Extension office or at community events. If you would like to access research-based gardening information, visit OSU Extension Publication website at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/> and click on “gardening”.

Gardening advisors are easy to reach

In addition to the plant clinic held at the OSU Extension office, Master Gardener volunteers will answer gardening questions at the community farmers’ market, the Benton County Fair and at Master Gardener events. For a complete list of upcoming events, those interested can go online to <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/benton/gardening>.



New Monroe Community Library open for business

purchase to sponsoring the Community Development Block Grant that put the project’s funding over the top.

Philanthropist John Gray’s challenge grant encouraged others to give. An anonymous donor through the Wichita Falls Community Foundation helped get the project started, as did a donation from Margaret Hull. The Library Foundation, the Friends of the Library and a bequest from

Margaret Hull provided the furnishings for the new building. Many other foundations and organizations gave financial support along the way, along with a long list of individuals who gave to the new library. Architect Lori Stephens and construction company 2-G put much care into the physical creation of the building.

Community members will have a chance to celebrate the hard work that went into creating the Monroe Community Library at a Grand Opening event scheduled from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. – with the dedication ceremony set for 1 p.m. – on Saturday, June 8, at the library.

The new Monroe Community Library is owned and maintained by the city of Monroe, with books and staffing provided by the county library system. The new library is a great example of the “It Takes a Village” concept because so many individuals and groups were involved in making it a success.

Fundraising for the building was spearheaded by an unbelievably dedicated group of volunteers, the South Benton Library Project, part of South Benton Community Enhancement. Their leader, Roger Irvin, gamely took on the project as it blossomed into something greater than he – or anyone – could have imagined. Irvin is Benton County’s Public Works director.

The group wrote grants, held fundraisers and raised visibility about the need for a larger facility in Monroe. Mayor Frank Thayer has been a steadfast champion of the new library from the beginning.

Benton County played a key role with the project, from negotiating with the railroad for the property



NORTH & NORTHWEST

OXO CONNECTOR
be driven

to play to explore to discover

Touring northwestern Oregon is now fun and easy. NxNW Connector, managed by the NW Oregon Transit Alliance, makes travel within five counties seamless. Leave your car behind and enjoy the ride to the coast, the valley or the city.

powered by

CC Rider the bus

To plan your next trip, visit www.nworegontransit.org

The 2013 Benton County Fair & Rodeo celebrates centennial



The Benton County Fair and Rodeo is celebrating its 100th anniversary July 31 through Aug. 3.

The 2013 Fair opens on Wednesday, July 31, with the authentic talent of country music group **Gloriana** and Thursday night we welcome 2012 CMA and ACM Vocal Duo of the Year **Thompson Square**. Friday features one of the greatest hard rock bands of all time, **Blue Oyster Cult**. All of those shows will be on the main stage. Saturday afternoon features **The Trail Band** followed by evening performances from perennial favorites **Johnny Limbo and the Lugnuts**, making their 26th appearance on the Benton County main stage.

There is something fun for everyone at the fair including Funtastic Traveling Shows Carnival, NPRA Rodeo, Walk on the Wild Side Exhibit, Super Science "Puzzle Mania", Wool Busters "Mutton Bustin", Dr. Solar, Magic with Hart Keen, BAM Karaoke, a variety of regional and local entertainment on the Oak Grove and Community Stages and so much more!



Gloriana

8 p.m. on Wednesday, July 31

2009 "Fan-voted American Music Award for breakthrough Artist and the "Nationwide On Your Side" honor at the CMT Awards.

Best-selling debut Country act of 2009. Gloriana debuted at No. 2 on the Billboard Country Albums chart and No. 3 on the Top 200 chart and spawned the Gold certified hit single "Wild At Heart".

2010 Academy of Country Music's Award for Top New Vocal Group and nominated for a Teen Choice Award for "Choice Country Group."

2011 Released Single "(Kissed You) Good Night" ranked at No. 2 on the US Billboard Hot Country Songs chart, at No. 34 on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart.

2013 their newly released current single "Can't Shake You" is currently Top 25 on

the charts and climbing. The trio is on the road performing headlining shows across the country in support of their critically acclaimed second studio album, *A Thousand Miles left Behind*.

Thompson Square

8 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 1



2012 CMA and ACM Vocal Duo of the Year. GRAMMY nominated No. 1 Platinum + radio smash, "Are You Gonna Kiss Me Or Not".

Thompson Square earned three fan-voted American Country Awards for Single of the Year by a Group, Single of the Year by a New Artist and Music Video of the Year by a New Artist. "Are You Gonna Kiss Me Or Not" also earned two GRAMMY nominations for Best Country Song and Best Country Duo/Group Performance of the Year as well as an American Music Award Nomination for "New Artist of the Year."

Thompson Square's follow-up smash, "I Got You," earned the duo a fan-voted 2012 CMT Music Award for "Duo Video of the Year." In November 2012, Thompson Square's peers crowned them with the CMA's Vocal Duo of the Year award. Now, the much-anticipated release of, "If I Didn't Have You," marks the duo's lead single from its upcoming sophomore album.

Blue Oyster Cult

8 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 2

For nearly four decades, Blue Oyster Cult has been thrilling hard rock fans worldwide with powerful albums loaded with classic songs. Indeed, the Long Island, N.Y.-based band is revered within the hard rock and heavy metal scene for its pioneering work. Blue Oyster Cult occupies a unique place in rock history because it's one of very few hard rock/heavy metal bands to earn both genuine mainstream critical acclaim as well as commercial success. The band is cited as a major influence by other acts, such as Metallica, and Blue Oyster Cult was listed in VH1's countdown of the greatest hard rock bands of all time.

The Trail Band

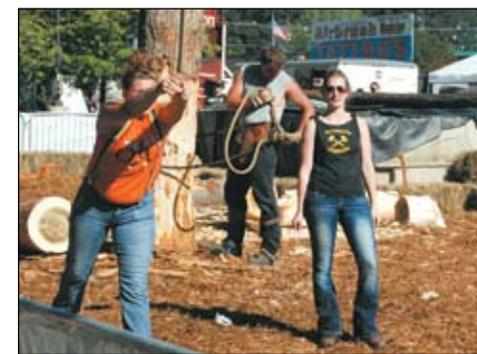
3 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 3

The Trail Band is an 8-piece ensemble that creates an energetic blend of brass and string arrangements of traditional and original music featuring five great vocalists including Quarterflash's Rindy Ross. Hundreds of public and private appearances across America and Japan, plus seven successful albums, have established The Trail Band as the premiere historic music ensemble from the Northwest.

The band was formed by Marv Ross in 1991 at the request of the Oregon Trail Council to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the trail. In 1998 The Trail

Band was presented the Meritorious Achievement Award by the Oregon-California Trails Association. In 1999 producer Marv Ross was presented an Alumni Award of Excellence from Western Oregon University for The Trail Band's contributions to history, education and music.

In 1994 The Trail Band created a new show, *Christmas with the Trail Band* - a holiday concert reminiscent of the parlour orchestras and townsquare brass bands of the last century. In 1998, the band presented a new show and album, *Immigrant Dreams*, featuring music and stories of those who came west to America from Ireland, Scotland, Romania, Mexico, France, Spain,



album titled *Making Spirits Bright*. In 2003 The Trail Band released its eighth recording, *Oregon Stories*, a contemporary collection of original songs tracing the lives of Northwesterners and their relationship to the land.

Johnny Limbo and the Lugnuts

7 and 9 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 4

Starting as a party gag in 1978, Johnny Limbo and the Lugnuts has become one of the most popular bands to perform the classic hits from the '50s and '60s. The Lugnuts' fame has spread beyond the Pacific Northwest, dazzling audiences from Washington state to Washington, D.C. The band emphasizes showmanship, creating a never-ending energy on stage.

For more information regarding the Benton County Fair and Rodeo, please visit: www.bentoncountyfair.net.



Greece and other countries during the turn of the century. In 1999 The Trail Band debuted a new show and accompanying album, *Lewis & Clark*, and in 2001 the band released its seventh recording, a Christmas

County seeks Teen Hosts for annual Fair and Rodeo

Benton County is seeking 20 young people in the seventh through 10th grades to make an impact in this year's Fair and Rodeo.

The Teen Host Program, in its eighth year, allows youth to volunteer for a job that provides them an opportunity to learn about the business of the fair, build leadership skills and have fun. Participants act as helpers who greet and direct guests, assist fair staff with promotions and contests and serve as informational guides.

Teen Host Program participants will

serve at least three four-hour shifts during the Benton County Fair and Rodeo - scheduled July 31 through Aug. 3 - as well as complete two training sessions, from 1 to 4:30 p.m. on July 16 and 17 at the Fairgrounds Conference Room. Participants earn free admission to the fair for their efforts.

For more information, or to apply, those interested can contact Nancy Swain at 541-766-6088 or email nancy.swain@co.benton.or.us. Completed applications are due by June 7 and applicants will be notified of selection by June 21.

Marque al 211

0 marque 866-446-3010

R

Renta y pago de servicios públicos

S

Servicios de salud

C

Clinicas

I

Información para usted y su familia

V

Vivienda

R

Refugios

Sabemos de servicios comunitarios. Gratis. Confidencial. En vivo.

www.211info.org

Visit Us Online! www.co.benton.or.us