

NEWS from BENTON COUNTY

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Benton County, Oregon

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Wilberger case reaches conclusion

A five-year ordeal came to an end for the family of 19-year-old Brigham Young University student Brooke Wilberger, who finally located and laid to rest.

Benton County District Attorney John Haroldson reached an agreement with the man who killed Wilberger – Joel Patrick Courtney – to put an end to the case. On Sept. 18, Courtney admitted to the murder and told authorities where to locate her remains. In exchange, the death penalty was removed as a consideration and Courtney will spend the rest of his life in prison, with no possibility of release. Wilberger's body was found in the Coast Range west of Corvallis, on private property, in the area described by Courtney.

Wilberger was a student at Brigham Young University when she was abducted from a Corvallis apartment complex on May 24, 2004. The Benton County community sprang into action, with hundreds of professionals and volunteers with Benton County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue looking exhaustively for the woman. The Corvallis Police Department led the investigation of the crime.

In November 2004, Courtney was arrested in connection with the kidnap and rape of a University of New Mexico student. Several similarities between the

two cases led local authorities to believe Courtney was who they were looking for. He was arrested in 2005 in connection with Wilberger's disappearance. Courtney currently is serving his 18-year sentence in New Mexico for his crime there and will spend the rest of his life in prison either in New Mexico or Oregon for Wilberger's murder.

About 10 of the family members attended a press conference in Corvallis on Sept. 21 to announce the conclusion.

"It might be hard for you to understand, but at this time we just really feel gratitude, even to Mr. Courtney," said Cammy Wilberger, Brooke Wilberger's mother. "Now he can go on with what's left of his life. Now we can strengthen our family and go on with our lives."

The horrific and heart-wrenching events brought the Benton County community together under a common cause. Community members organized a well-attended memorial service on Oct. 11 at the LaSells Stewart Center on the Oregon State University campus for everyone who felt a connection to Wilberger.

"Brooke Wilberger has become an icon for us, a symbol of Corvallis," Haroldson said. "And in that sense, we as a community are like a family."

correctional facilities provides technical assistance to counties or agencies looking to build new jail facilities. All expenses of attending the training were paid by the BOP. The four-day program covered the process of planning, constructing and staffing new jails. The need for a new jail in Benton County is well documented.

Continued on page 2

Officials attend program to learn about jail planning

Benton County Commissioner Jay Dixon and Sheriff Diana Simpson – along with Undersheriff Scott Jackson and Jail Commander Chris Schlegel – attended the National Institute of Corrections "Planning of New Institutions" program in August in the Denver area.

The program is sponsored by the Bureau of Prisons (BOP), a federal agency that in addition to administering federal

Following precautions can lead to a healthy winter

As Benton County continues to brace itself for what is expected to be a particularly severe flu season – with both H1N1 and seasonal flu cases – it is important to be cautious to keep from getting sick or spreading disease.

The best ways to keep from getting sick include:

- Getting vaccinated for both H1N1 and seasonal flu, as appropriate;
- Staying home when exhibiting symptoms of cold or flu;
- Covering nose and mouth with a sleeve or tissue when coughing or sneezing;
- Washing hands often, particularly before eating and after coughing or sneezing;
- Avoiding close contact with sick people; and
- Avoiding touching the eyes, nose or mouth.

It is advised that people follow these steps throughout the cold and flu season (October through April). In order to avoid overloading local clinics and health care facilities, it is recommended that individuals only seek emergency medical care if they exhibit any of the following flu symptoms:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath;
- Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen;
- Sudden dizziness or confusion; or
- Severe or persistent vomiting.

Among children, the following symptoms are signs that medical care is necessary:

- Fast breathing or trouble breathing;
- Bluish skin color;
- Not drinking enough fluids;
- Not waking up or not interacting with others;
- Being so irritable that the child does

- not want to be held;
- Flu-like symptoms improve, but return with fever and worse cough; or
- Fever with a rash.

Employers also are advised to come up with alternative plans to maintain operations in the face of increased employee absenteeism due to illness and other challenges that may accompany a severe flu season.

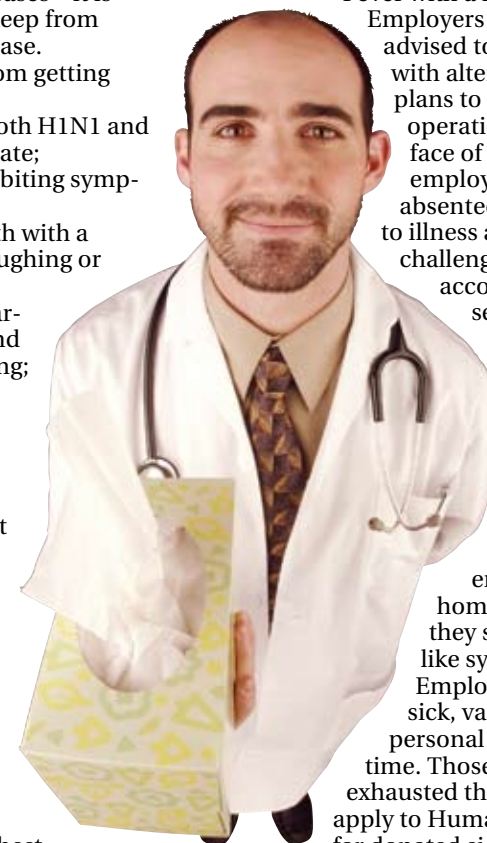
Benton County already has in place a plan allowing managers to send employees

home when they show flu-like symptoms.

Employees can use sick, vacation and personal leave for that time. Those who have exhausted their leave may apply to Human Resources for donated sick leave time from other eligible

employees.

"We encourage all employers throughout Benton County, both public and private, to make plans for how they will operate and continue offering products and services in the face of staff absenteeism due to illness," Commissioner Jay Dixon said. "This planning also helps to prevent the spread of illness and reduce the impact of H1N1 and the seasonal flu on Benton County residents."



Benton County is on sound fiscal footing

Benton County Government provides many services to residents with tax dollars, fees and sources of income. For the current biennium, which began July 1 and concludes on June 30, 2011, Benton County's net operating budget is \$151.3 million. Following is a breakdown by major program areas.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE \$36.3 Million

District Attorney's Office: Provides prosecution, victim assistance programs, child support enforcement, child abuse intervention and Adult Drug Court programs to maintain a safer and healthier Benton County.

Sheriff's Office: Provides law enforcement, patrols, parole and probation, courthouse security, corrections (jail opera-

tions) and Emergency Services in order to keep Benton County safe.

Juvenile Department: Provides justice services to juveniles including offender services, intensive supervision, juvenile accountability, Juvenile Drug Court and youth and family outreach to help positively influence the life paths of troubled juveniles.

State Court Space: The county is required by law to provide space for state court offices and courtrooms.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT \$45.6 Million

Public Works: Provides motor pool services, facilities operations and mainte-

Administrative Services: Provides internal services that keep Benton County running, such as computer and network support services, human resources, finance and other functions. It also provides essential services to the community such as Records and Filing, Elections, and Geographic Information Systems and tax collection.

Assessment: Appraises and assesses values for all real property, as well as personal property used by businesses operating within the county.

Board of Commissioners: The Board of Commissioners provides the legislative, quasi-judicial and executive functions of the county to ensure the legal and efficient administration of county affairs. The BOC

budget includes operating and maintaining the Law Library, which is open to all residents.

Community Development: Provides building regulation and code services to ensure that Benton County remains an excellent and safe place to live and do business, in harmony with the natural environment, through responsible development.

HEALTH SERVICES \$39.9 Million

Community Health Centers of Benton and Linn Counties: These centers provide low-cost medical care, based on a sliding scale relative to patient income, to people in Benton and Linn counties at four loca-

tions. These services include medical, dental and mental health treatment.

Health Department: Provides services that help keep Benton County residents healthy and promote public health through activities such as restaurant inspections, sewer inspections, preparing for public health emergencies, providing school nursing, disease prevention, mental health services and supports, maternal and child health and WIC services, developmental disabilities program and community mental health services.

NATURAL AREAS AND PARKS \$2 Million

Natural Areas and Parks: Maintains and operates Benton County's parks and natural areas including rental of parks facilities and camping areas, protecting natural habitat through Habitat Conservation Planning and operating Crystal Lake Cemetery near Corvallis.

COMMUNITY SERVICES/CULTURAL AND EDUCATION \$9.8 Million

Fairgrounds: Operates the Benton County Fair and Rodeo for community enrichment and enjoyment; maintains and improves the Benton County Fairgrounds as an attractive place for community events and other uses; and contributes to the overall local economy.

Benton County Oregon State University Extension Service: Provides a variety of up-to-date expert services and educational programs for gardening, natural resources, food preservation, 4-H and other activities geared toward enhancing community education and quality of life in Benton County.

Benton County Historical Museum: Benton County supports its operations through the Benton County Historical Society.

Commission on Children and Families: Coordinates community efforts to serve children and families through planning and initiatives that provide support to agencies and services.

PUBLIC WORKS \$13.8 Million

Public Works: Provides Engineering and Survey Services for construction, maintenance and operation of county roads and transportation systems; maintains safe and efficient bikeways, roadsides and drainage ways with sensitivity to public concerns, environmental impacts and nearby property owners; and supports special Transportation Advisory Committee, which arranges and coordinates transportation for seniors and people with disabilities.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND TRUSTS \$3.9 Million

Capital Improvements: This accounts for grants, donations and transfers supporting major maintenance or improvements to various departments' facilities and equipment.

Trusts: These, as part of the county's biennial budget, account for money that is donated or granted by public or private sources for different purposes and managed by the county.

Jail *Continued from page 1*

The Benton County jail, located adjacent to the Benton County Courthouse, is the smallest jail per capita in Oregon. With 40 beds, the jail is too small to serve the needs of a county with approximately 84,000 citizens.

"A new jail facility will not only keep Benton County offenders in our county, it will allow us to better determine what the offender needs in order to be successful in the community," Simpson said.

Benton County has approximately 75 to 80 incarcerated individuals on an average day, making it necessary to rent about 35 to 40 jail beds, every day from other counties. Between rental fees and high costs of transporting those individuals back and forth between facilities for court appearances, the current facility is not meeting the needs of Benton County as efficiently as a larger jail facility would. Due to lacking jail bed space Benton County often is forced to release individuals who are arrested and charged with less severe crimes, but who otherwise would be jailed if there were room.

The conference attended by the four Benton County representatives thoroughly covered the planning process and ultimately the successful construction and operation of a new jail. Concepts were taught through case studies, allowing participants to get hands-on experience in planning methods and making sure a new jail is designed to meet the operational and space needs of the jurisdiction and agency that will operate the facility.

"This gave us the information necessary to restart planning a facility to meet the needs of the Benton County community for years to come," Commissioner Dixon said. "It also gives us excellent perspective, as we move forward, on the best ways to build support for a new jail project, which is desperately needed here in Benton County."

Allocation of each dollar spent on Benton County services.



Benton County names new CCF Director

Benton County has tapped a board certified pediatrician to lead the Commission on Children and Families.

Angie Stambuk, of Corvallis, took over the post on Sept. 1. Stambuk is a graduate of Universidad de Chile in Santiago, Chile, where she received a Doctor of Medicine degree. She completed her internship and residency in pediatrics



Angie Stambuk

at White Memorial Medical Center in Los Angeles.

Stambuk is no stranger to the Mid-Valley, having served two years as a Family Advocate with Linn Benton Lincoln Educational Service District. She also has served as Student and Family Support Advocate for the Corvallis School District, working at Garfield Elementary School. Her former position was with Linn County Alcohol and Drug Treatment Program, where she served as a "Guiding Good Choices" instructor. Stambuk served as Medical Director for Valley Community

Health Center in Pleasanton, Calif., for four years. She also brings a long history of volunteer service, contributing to efforts benefiting local children.

"I've always been an advocate for healthy children and families," Stambuk said. "It is very exciting to find a position where I can use all my skills to make a difference in the lives of families and children."

The Benton County Commission on Children and Families – created in 1993 by the Oregon State Legislature – is a volunteer board comprising youth and adults appointed by the Benton County

Board of Commissioners to provide advice to government and non-governmental agencies on ways to improve outcomes for children, youth and families. CCF's mission is to create a healthy environment for children and families by advocating, facilitating and working to improve the lives of children and families in Benton County.

"This was a very competitive search with several exceptional candidates," Benton County Commissioner Jay Dixon said. "We are confident Angie Stambuk will provide quality leadership to the Commission on Children and Families."

THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO BE A BENTON COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER

The Benton County Board of Commissioners currently is seeking volunteers who reflect the County's diversity in the following areas:

Board of Property Tax Appeals

- 2 - Non-Office Holding Residents

Commission on Children & Families

- 1 - Non-Lay
- 3 - Lay

Emergency Medical Advisory Committee

- 1 - Physician/Health Care Provider

Environmental Issues Advisory Committee

- 1 – Resident of Benton County

Food Service Advisory Committee

- 1 – Member of the Food Service Industry

Historic Resources Commission

- 1 - Historic Resource Protection

Solid Waste Advisory Committee

- 1 - Resident of Adair Village
- 1 - Resident of Philomath
- 1 – Unincorporated Area of Benton County

Mental Health, Addictions and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee

- 4 – Representatives from: Law Enforcement/Courts; Local Advocacy Groups; Business or Community Service Organizations/ Assoc.; Service Provider Representatives; Allied Agencies/ Dept. of Human Services

Natural Areas and Parks Advisory Board

- 2 – Benton County Residents with interest or knowledge in natural areas/parks

Public Health Planning Advisory Committee

- 5 – Consumer Representatives
- 1 - Environmental Health Professional
- 1 - Licensed Dentist

Special Transportation Advisory Committee

- 1 – Member at large = persons with transportation expertise, public/private sector professionals, or other

To request an application or more information contact Teresa at:

Benton County Board of Commissioners
Benton Plaza
408 SW Monroe Avenue
PO Box 3020
Corvallis, OR 97339-3020
Phone: 541-766-6800
Email: teresa.farley@co.benton.or.us

To apply for a board or committee online, go to http://www.co.benton.or.us/documents/vol_application_fillable.pdf.

While active recruitment takes place year-round and is open, for screening and interview purposes, please return completed applications to the Board's office by:

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2009.

BENTON COUNTY ADVISORY BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Benton Community Health Center
Bicycle Advisory Committee
Board of Property Tax Appeals
Budget Committee
Charter Review Committee
Citizen Advisory Committees
Commission on Children and Families
Courthouse Preservation Committee
Courthouse Security Committee
Emergency Medical Advisory Committee
Environmental Issues Advisory Committee
Fair Board
Farm Board of Review
Food Service Advisory Committee

Fort Hoskins Technical Advisory Committee
Historic Resources Commission
Jackson-Frazier Wetland Advisory Committee
Law Enforcement Review Committee
Law Library Committee
Mental Health, Addictions and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee
Natural Areas and Parks Board
Planning Commission
Public Health Planning Advisory Committee
Roads Advisory Committee
Solid Waste Advisory Council/
Disposal Site Advisory Committee
Special Transportation Advisory Committee

BCSO Chili Cook-Off raises funds for SRF

More than 500 connoisseurs gathered to sample chili for a good cause Sept. 13 at the second-annual Benton County Sheriff's Office Chili Cook-Off.

The event, which featured 19 teams from around Benton County representing a variety of organizations, raised \$14,500 for Strengthening Rural Families. The Philomath Police Department won top honors for its meat chili for the second year in a row.

REACH Air Medical Services, Corvallis Fire Department, United States Coast Guard and Benton County Sheriff's Office Mounted Posse all participated to provide activities and demonstrations for those in attendance. The Benton County Board of Commissioners served on the panel of judges.

Each year the Benton County Sheriff's Office selects a non-profit organization to support with proceeds from the chili cook-off. Strengthening Rural Families – this year's beneficiary – serves the communities of rural Benton County including Alsea, Philomath, Blodgett, Kings Valley and Monroe. It is a collaborative effort of local schools, non-profit organizations, gracious funders, Linn Benton Community College and county agencies with locally based coordinators in each of the primary areas it serves.

The group brings programs and services to the places where families can best access them: their hometowns. More information about Strengthening Rural Families is available online at <http://www.ruralfamilies.org>.



[ruralfamilies.org](http://www.ruralfamilies.org).

"I am very proud of the Benton County community and all of our sponsors who dug deep into their pockets during these hard times and managed to help make this event outstanding for Strengthening Rural Families," said Nicole Dodson, Benton County Sheriff's Office volunteer and chili cook-off event coordinator. "I look forward to organizing next year's event and to keep making each year bigger and better!"

The third-annual Benton County Sheriff's Office Chili Cook-Off will be held in Fall 2010.

Patient Centered Medical Home: The focus is on you!

The Community Health Centers of Benton and Linn Counties are part of a national initiative to evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of Patient Centered Medical Homes.

Patients are assigned to medical teams and are better able to call, e-mail or talk with their personal team members in a timely manner. They are learning more about their health and what they can do to make a difference. In some cases, patient navigators are here to greet customers when they arrive, as well as help them through the appointment and follow-up to make sure that instructions are being followed afterward.

The Clinical goals for the Project are to improve the operational efficiency of clinics; improve quality of care; improve patients' health care experiences; improve clinical and staff experience; and reduce disparities in access and quality of care. Access and quality are important benchmarks in healthcare, and medical offices using best practices can reduce or eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in these areas.

The key features of a Patient Centered Medical Home include:

- Personal Physician – First contact, continuous and comprehensive care with an assigned physician or physician team.
- Team Care – Staff from the front

desk to the provider – including the nurse, medical assistant, social worker, accounting and checkout staff – collectively take responsibility for ongoing care of the patient.

- Whole Person Orientation – Benton County is fortunate that both the public health services (such as specialty mental health, health promotion, community health and environmental health) and the primary care clinics are under one roof. This means that a person can get comprehensive care in one place!
- Coordinated Care across all elements of the healthcare system.
- Quality and Safety are paramount.
- Enhanced access with open scheduling, expanded hours and new options for communication.

The Community Health Centers of Benton and Linn Counties already have some of these components in place. There is room for improvement in all areas, and by participating in this project the Health Centers will focus on improvement that is backed by research and metrics. The Health Centers will know if they are successful by looking at patient and staff satisfaction, improved health outcomes for patients and the organization's contribution to a healthy Benton County!

Benton County names new Fair Manager

The Benton County Fair Board is pleased to announce that Lonny A. Wunder, of Woodland, Calif., has taken over as Benton County Fairgrounds Manager.

Wunder, who last worked as manager of the Heidrick Ag History Center in Woodland, Calif., served eight years as CEO of the Yolo County Fair in California. He replaced Scott Stoller, who led the Benton County Fairgrounds for more than three years.

Wunder worked alongside Stoller during the fair over the summer to familiarize himself with the operation. Wunder took the post on Sept. 1

"I'm looking forward to working with a community and a board of directors that truly have the love of the fair in their hearts," Wunder said. "The Benton County Fair Board members and community

have worked hard over the past several years producing a master plan and I look forward to making their dream come true."

With experience as a member of the Western Fairs Association, California Fairs Service Authority and International Association of Fairs and Expositions, Wunder has a history of pursuing professional growth within the field.

"We had an excellent pool of candidates, and we had four finalists who all were excellent," Benton County Fair Board Chairman Eric Thompson said. "Out of those we picked a great candidate, and we are very confident that he will do an excellent job with the fair and fairgrounds. He has several years of experience at much larger fairs and we are excited to have him on board."

Home and landscape tips to protect from wildfire

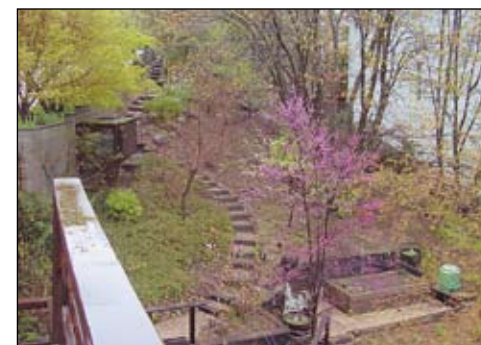
Did you know that four out of five wildfires in the United States are human-caused? There are ways that Benton County residents can help prevent wildfires, as well as protect their homes and properties from the threat of wildfire.

Brush pile burning is the main culprit in Benton County, and residents can be proactive by checking with local fire districts before burning yard debris.

Even in green Oregon, wildfires have catastrophic effects. Those who live in the Wildland Urban Interface – where homes are surrounded by woodlands and native vegetation – can observe these simple tasks to improve the defensibility of homes and properties:

- Remove dead leaves and pine needles from roofs and gutters, under the deck and around the home.
- Prune trees so the lowest limbs are 6 to 10 feet from the ground. Remove dead or overhanging branches.
- Keep firewood piles, propane tanks and other flammable items at least 30 feet away from the home.
- Create a "fire free" area within 5 feet of your home using nonflammable landscaping materials and low-growing, high-moisture plants.
- Keep your lawn and landscape healthy by mowing regularly and removing any dead or decayed plants.

To learn more about how to help your neighborhood be better prepared in case of wildfire, those interested can go online to <http://www.co.benton.or.us/cd/cwpp/protect.php>.



Landlords must disclose smoking policy to tenants

Beginning Jan. 1, Oregon law will require landlords to disclose their smoking policy to tenants as they sign lease agreements.

"The disclosure must state whether smoking is prohibited on the premises, allowed on the entire premises or allowed in limited areas on the premises," according to the law.

The new law will be useful to both Benton County landlords and tenants. This law clarifies that it is legal for landlords to adopt a no-smoking policy and gives renters the information they need to make a decision about where they will live.

This law allows landlords to adopt a no-

smoking policy for their properties.

To comply with the new law, landlords may use rental forms available from the Oregon Rental Housing Association. To learn more about the law or for additional sample forms, those interested can go online to www.smokefreehousinginfo.com.

The Benton County Tobacco Prevention Program is available to help landlords transition their properties to smoke-free residences. For more information, those interested can contact Sara Hartstein at the Benton County Health Department by phone at (541) 766-6250 or e-mail sara.hartstein@colbenton.or.us.