2006–2007 ANNUAL REPORT

BENTON COUNTY Sheriff's Office

We will lead the way making Benton County a safer community

Sheriff's Message

This has been a year of significant change for the Benton County Sheriff's Office; some changes quite substantial while others more subtle. Between a new Sheriff, cuts in the budget, loss of personnel, and co-location with the Corvallis Police Department, all of us in the Sheriff's Office have been affected.

I was elected as the new Sheriff in November, 2006. Shortly after taking office on January 2, 2007, we began work on the 2007-09 biennium budget, facing a 20% cut in our general funds with the loss of the federal forest payments. Rather than recruit and train for unfilled positions, only to have to lay off at the fiscal year end, I started the reduction of 24/7 patrol coverage in April. This means rural areas of the county no longer have law enforcement coverage four hours every morning. Other Sheriff's Office divisions were also affected by the budget cuts and everyone has felt the pinch.

In January, we moved divisions within the Law Enforcement Building in order to co-locate with the Corvallis Police Department. Patrols from both agencies combined in one large room; detectives and investigations located in one central area, and administration in another common area. The end result and expectation is better communication and coordination.

Another change is this Annual Report which previously had been published early in the calendar year. Because the County works on a fiscal year, we found that our statistics didn't mesh with the county budget reports. We now will align all statistical gathering and reporting to a fiscal year.

Change affects everyone differently. For some it can be quite threatening but for others it can be encouraging. If those experiencing the change are ready to accept and embrace it, the result can be success. I am proud to say the personnel of the Benton County Sheriff's Office have responded well with the changes. We are all committed to doing our very best for Benton County residents and that is clearly evident by the dependability, determination, and diligence demonstrated by every member of the Sheriff's Office.

Diana L. Simpson
Sheriff

Parole & Probation Division

Corrections Division

Law Enforcement Division

"We are committed to providing the most responsive, professional, and accountable services within the resources provided."

Support Services Division

Emergency Management / Search & Rescue Division

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

Law Enforcement

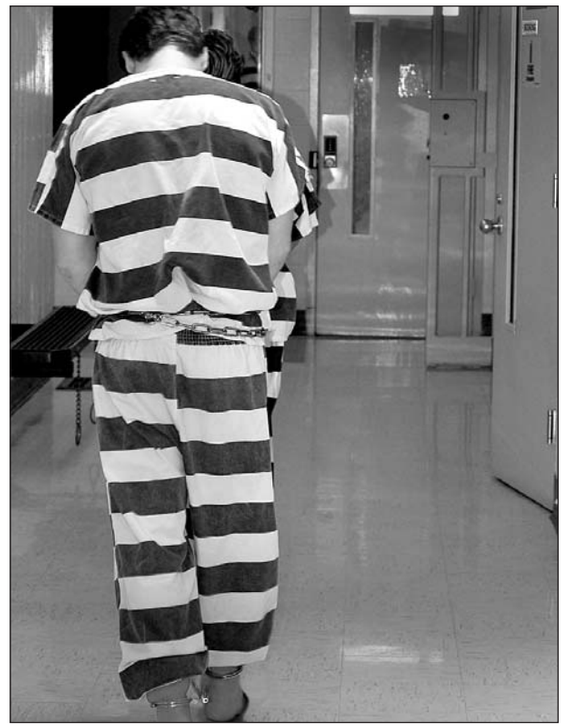
The Law Enforcement division is responsible for patrolling all of Benton County, covering 679 square miles of land area, and 798 miles of roads. We have 16 deputies working two shifts to protect citizens from crime and traffic accidents. The division also includes one marine deputy, one forest deputy and two detectives.

NEW PATROL SCHEDULE. Because of the reduction in federal forest payments to Benton County and resulting budget cuts, we are unable to continue providing 24/7 patrol coverage. On April 1, 2007, the Sheriff's deputies began a new patrol schedule that left the county's rural areas without patrol coverage for about four hours in the early morning. Two deputies have been assigned to an "on-call" status during the early morning hours to respond whenever incidents occur that are life threatening or involve significant property crimes.

MARINE PATROL. The marine deputy patrols 30 hours per week for 23 weeks in the summer and is responsible for ensuring boater safety on over 65 miles of Benton County waterways. Our marine patrol is 80% funded by the State Marine Board.

Inmates in Stripes

In this last fiscal year, our inmate uniforms came due for replacement. As a cost-saving measure, the more typically-used orange uniforms were replaced with black and white striped uniforms. Since few counties in the state use this style uniform, they are easily recognizable as belonging to us. This has greatly reduced the loss of uniforms which was occurring as a result of the frequent and multiple inmate transports to and from contract beds in other counties.



Parole and Probation

Our Parole and Probation division supervises approximately 500 adult offenders in Benton County. It is the mission of this division to enhance public safety by reducing criminal behavior through the reformation of offenders.

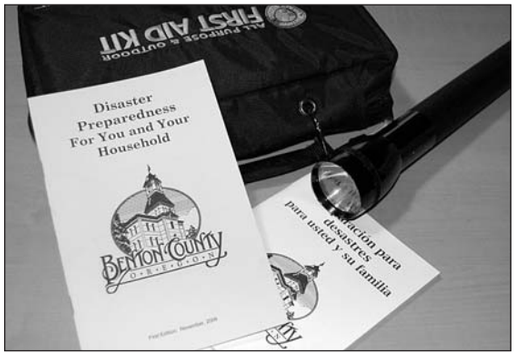
WORK CREW. Parole and Probation, in partnership with the Natural Areas and Parks Department, oversees the Benton County Corrections Work Crew. In operation since 1984, the work crew is an effective alternative to incarceration for non-violent offenders. This fiscal year, work crew participants completed 1,197 shifts, saving $174,762 in incarceration costs.

RESTITUTION. This fiscal year, we collected $136,700 in restitution, fines and other court-ordered financial obligations from offenders.

SUPERVISION OF SEXUAL OFFENDERS. Seventy offenders (eleven of those designated as predatory offenders) were supervised for sexually related offenses during this past fiscal year.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS. Our Parole and Probation division participates in the multi-jurisdictional Drug Treatment Court (DTC) staffing team. Individuals who successfully complete DTC are diverted from incarceration in local jails or state prisons. To date, 70 individuals have successfully graduated from this intensive treatment program.

Emergency Management



The Emergency Management division provides coordinated and collaborative planning for community disaster response as well as overseeing search and rescue operations throughout the county.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION. The first edition of "Disaster Preparedness for You and Your Household" was published this year. This booklet provides critical information to help residents prepare for emergencies. A grant allowed publication of the booklet in Spanish.

PLANNING. Throughout this fiscal year, our emergency management staff made presentations and provided consultations centered on the many lessons learned in Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. These efforts especially addressed the needs of the most vulnerable of our community members, targeting multi-residential senior and healthcare settings.

SEARCH AND RESCUE. Approximately 100 talented search volunteers are trained, equipped and ready to provide life-saving services to Benton County. For example, in November 2006 our search teams spotted a mushroom hunter, nearly 10 hours overdue and without emergency provisions, by the faint glimmer of his iPod. Cold, wet and exhausted, the young man was returned safely to his waiting family.

Peirson Tops in State

Peggy Peirson was named Oregon's Emergency Manager of the Year at the May 9, 2007 annual conference of the Oregon Emergency Management Association (OEMA).

Peggy has been the Emergency Coordinator for the Benton County Sheriff's Office since 1996, and was the interim Emergency Manager from November 2006-July 2007. Peggy immersed herself into fulfilling both roles (Emergency Manager and Emergency Coordinator) and maintained the high standards required for success. She added emergency planning, presidential declaration, public assistance outreach, and search and rescue volunteer management to her existing duties of emergency coordination.

In addition to this award, Peggy also received the OEMA Service Award for Leadership in the Emergency Management Profesion.

Benton County Sheriff's Office K-9 "Bus" (pronounced "Boos") holds certifications with the Oregon Police Canine Association (OPCA) in Narcotics Detection and Patrol. Both certifications were renewed this past year.

Corrections

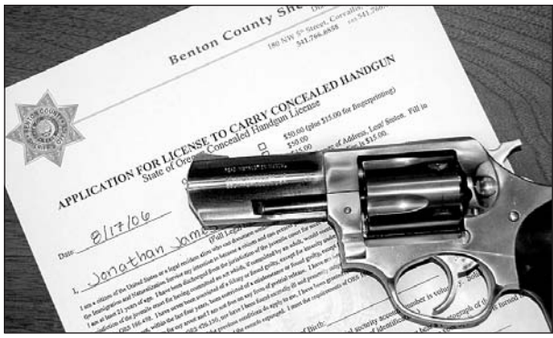
The Corrections Division is responsible for operating our 40-bed jail, transporting all inmates, and providing security for the Court House.

COURT HOUSE SECURITY. This past fiscal year Corrections Deputies processed approximately 96,260 individuals through court security screening and stopped approximately 4,253 prohibited items from entering the building.

JAIL. This fiscal year 3,595 inmates were processed into the Benton County Corrections Facility. Due to the lack of capacity in our jail, we house inmates in out-of-county jail beds funded by a voter-approved levy. Approximately 1,600 inmates were transported to and from contract beds traveling over 17,000 miles with no accidents nor injuries.

Significant cost savings (annual estimate of $60,000) were achieved this fiscal year by changing inmate meal service vendors.

And an investment in upgrading 20-year-old surveillance technology greatly reduced liability and improved the safety and security of our corrections facility.



Concealed Handguns

Under Oregon law, the Sheriff's Office is responsible for issuing concealed handgun permits. Currently in Benton County there are 1,942 individuals with active concealed handgun permits.

A number of criteria must be met before an individual receives a concealed handgun permit. The application may be denied if the Sheriff has reasonable grounds to believe that the applicant has been, or is reasonably likely to be, a danger to self or others, or to the community at large due to the applicant's mental or psychological state.

A concealed handgun permit may be revoked if the holder is arrested and/or convicted of a misdemeanor or felony, or found mentally ill and subject to an order prohibiting them from purchasing or possessing a firearm.

CONCEALED HANDGUN PERMITS ISSUED FY 2006-2007

New	260
Renewed	530
Transfer	28
Other	28
Total	846

Fiscal Year 2006-2007

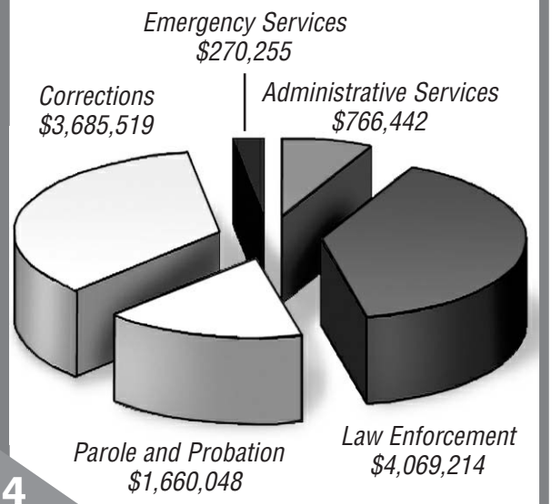
By the Numbers...

Offense	06-07
Murder	2
Rape	4
Robbery	1
Aggravated Assaults	13
Burglary-Commercial	42
Burglary-Residential	51
Burglary-Non-Residential	27
Larceny/Theft	264
Motor Vehicle Theft	36
Arson	6
Assault	234
Forgery/Fraud	101
Vandalism	218
Weapons Law Offenses	35
Sex Offenses	27
Kidnapping	5
Drug Offenses	160
DUII	166
Liquor Law Offenses	38
Disorderly Conduct	75
Trespass/Prowler	164
Runaway Juveniles	63
Offenses Against Family	15

Performance Outcomes	06-07
Calls for Service	5,700
Motor Vehicle Crashes	288
Fatal Vehicle Crashes	9
Arrests	1,365
Citations-Traffic	2,557
Warrants Served	424
Minor in Possession	43

Personnel Profile	06-07
Total Employees	75
Sworn Deputies	62
Women/Minorities	33%
College Graduates (AA or BA/BS)	80%

2006-2007 Budget	
Total Budget	$10,451,478.00



Forest Patrol

This fiscal year our forest deputy, working in the more secluded areas of Benton County, made 32 arrests for trespass while in possession of a firearm and 41 arrests for unlawful cutting/transport of forest products. The deputy enforces laws on both private and public lands and is partially funded by private timber and woodland owners.

Reserve Deputies

Our reserve deputy program provides us with additional personnel for routine Sheriff's Office activities. All of our reserves are volunteers who go through many of the same selection and training requirements of a full-time Deputy Sheriff.

Reserves are commissioned as special deputies and may perform such duties as assisting in routine patrol, crowd control at special events, performing security checks of vacant homes or businesses, transporting prisoners and being on-call for assistance in the event of an emergency.

BCSO Personnel: Making a Difference

Both on the job and off, Benton County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) personnel are making a difference in Benton County.

At the 2006 BCSO Awards ceremony the Sheriff honored 14 individuals for their significant contributions to their divisions, the organization and the county. From researching a new corrections restraint system, to providing stand-out investigative skills, to saving a life, all awards recognized how BCSO personnel embody the core values of the Sheriff's Office.

Off the job, BCSO employees are active in the community. For example, they raised money and participated as a team in the CARDV Mother's Day Run/Walk for Safe Families and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. During this fiscal year, BCSO employees donated nearly 900 hours of community service.

BCSO employees are recognized at the 2006 Awards Ceremony. Awards included Employee of the Year recognition, Division Employee of the Year, Distinguished Service awards and a Life Saving Award.

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***