2007–2008 ANNUAL REPORT

BENTON COUNTY Sheriff's Office

We will lead the way making Benton County a safer community

Message from the Sheriff

Last year I reported on the significant changes that had occurred during my first year in office. We continue to experience changes, but for the most part have settled into a pace that includes continued efforts to improve our customer service, response and professionalism.

We were fortunate that the voters of Benton County passed the Levy to Restore Limited Public Safety and Health Services in November 2007. It has given us the opportunity to restore law enforcement positions and eventually return to 24/7 coverage. Our challenge is that we have had a very difficult time recruiting good, qualified individuals. While the positions are available, we are being thoughtful and careful in the selection of individuals being offered jobs.

Applicants go through a strenuous process that includes a written high school equivalency test, a physical agility test, at least one interview board that includes a citizen representative, a thorough and extensive background investigation, a psychological exam and a medical exam. Successful recruits must then complete the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training's 16-week police academy. Following that course, the recruit is assigned a training coach who provides additional on-the-job training for about four months. Overall the entire process takes an average of one year from the beginning of recruitment until the day the deputy is riding solo in a patrol car.

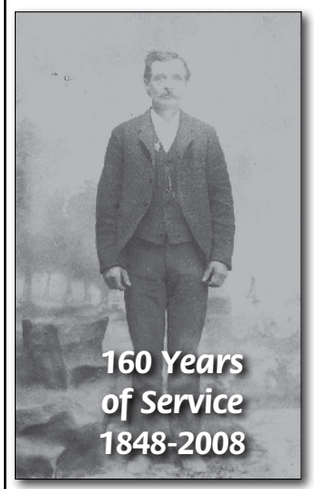
We began the recruitment process for seven restored positions shortly after the levy was passed and since then we have been able to successfully hire two individuals. However, we have also experienced two retirements, resulting in a zero net gain. We continue to maintain our selection standards as we actively recruit for these positions. I want to assure the residents of Benton County that we are hiring the most qualified individuals for the job.

We are fortunate to live in a county that is very supportive of the Sheriff's Office. That is evident by the variety of donations and services we receive from the community. A number of public and private woodland owners donate an average of $15,000 each year for our Forest Patrol program. Mr. Jack Lyford donated a Mark V Zodiac boat with a Yamaha motor and trailer to the Marine Patrol program and another particularly

SEE **SHERIFF'S MESSAGE/ 2**

The men and women of the Benton County Sheriff's Office, June 2008. *Photo by Ryan Gardner, Visual People Design*

A Tradition of Excellence



Peter Rickar, Sheriff, elected 1896.
Photo courtesy of Benton County Historical Museum

Starting in 1848 when F.W. Hofins was elected the first Sheriff of Benton County, the men and women of the Benton County Sheriff's Office have provided residents with 160 years of professional service.

This year was no exception as Benton County Sheriff's Office employees received statewide recognition for their expertise. The Oregon State Marine Board named the Benton County Sheriff's Office the 2007 Seasonal Marine Program of the Year. Gina Harris, Parole & Probation employee, was honored by the Oregon Department of Corrections and Sergeant Shawn Spevacek was recognized by the Oregon State Sheriff's Association.

Benton County citizens also honored our members this past year. From a veteran who thanked our deputies for their restraint during a late night encounter to a parent thanking them for their courtesy and help during a trying time with a mentally ill child, Benton County residents have expressed their appreciation for the professional level of service offered the community.

Our volunteers are also part of this tradition. This year members of the Sheriff's Posse rode in the 2007 Centennial Rose Festival Parade and when the television show Extreme Home Makeover came to the county and requested law enforcement coverage, our Reserve Deputies - all volunteers - stepped up to provide the needed help.

This year look for deputies wearing a special badge commemorating the past 160 years of service. Purchased with their own money, these badges are worn with pride.

Sheriff Simpson congratulates Marine Patrol Corporal Sprague Twedt who retires after 28 years of service.

Jennifer Collingsworth is promoted to Corrections Sergeant as Lt. Scott Jackson pins on her new badge.

New recruit Brent Iverson gets sworn in as a Patrol Deputy.

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

Corrections Division

The Corrections Division is responsible for operating Benton County's 40-bed jail, transporting all inmates and providing security for the Courthouse.

OREGON JAIL STANDARDS INSPECTION PASSED
In October, the Oregon State Sheriff's Association jail inspectors completed their audit and inspection of the Benton County Corrections Facility (BCCF). The BCCF passed the inspection with a 99% compliance rate on 400 standards.

The facility continues to look for cost-savings and depends heavily on volunteers to provide programs to inmates. The Old Mill Center has provided an intern to teach parenting classes and volunteers provide religious services and conduct Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings.

The facility purchased and installed a multi purpose fixed exercise station in the court yard for the inmate population. The addition of this equipment assisted the jail in meeting the Oregon Jail Standards and was purchased using profits from the sale of inmate commissary.

STATE RECOGNIZES SGT. SPEVACEK
Corrections Sergeant Shawn Spevacek was named "Outstanding Supervisor of the Year" by the Oregon State Sheriff's Association Jail Command Council. Spevacek was honored for his role in the development and supervision of the transport team and court security operations as well as his supervision of the jail day shift operations.

COURTHOUSE SECURITY
This past fiscal year Corrections Deputies assisted a total of 65,172 community members through the security station in the Courthouse. Over 3,000 restricted items were denied access to the building helping to ensure the safety of all who use our beautiful Benton County Courthouse.

Deputy Leslie Pomaikai provides security at the Courthouse.

OVERCROWDING KEEPS TRANSPORT DEPUTIES ON THEIR TOES
The jail continues to struggle with the issues of limited space and overcrowding. During the last year the transport unit shuttled a total of 1,213 inmates to various contract jails. Lincoln, Yamhill and Polk Counties rent beds to our county in order to house our inmates. A total of 20,989 miles were traveled in the process. Even with these tremendous efforts, the jail was still forced to release over 150 inmates throughout the year due to overcrowding.

Volunteers sew new patches onto Benton County Sheriff's Office uniforms saving the County close to $3000.00. From left to right: Nicole Dodson, Dianna Barr, Joan Sandeno, Edith Svensen, Chuck Svensen, and Jackie Grattan. Not shown: Phil Barr.

Sheriff's Message *Continued from page 1*

generous donation was the new electronic security equipment in the Courthouse. A local electronics company, who wishes to remain anonymous, donated the equipment after seeing how inconsistent the previous equipment operated. We are very grateful to our benefactors and recognize the cost savings not only to the Sheriff's Office, but to taxpayers as well.

We also have generous individuals who support us with their time. There are over 100 volunteers in our Search and Rescue units, many who work in the jail, Reserve Deputies who augment our law enforcement efforts, student interns in Parole and Probation and the giving volunteers with Support Services.

On behalf of the Sheriff's Office, I want to thank our generous supporters—volunteers, benefactors, and residents of the county who supported the levy. Your support is recognized and appreciated by all of us.

Diana L. Simpson
Sheriff

Support Services

Support Services provides administrative and management support to the agency (including planning, policy development, personnel management, fiscal management, etc.), alarm ordinance administration, and issuance of concealed handgun permits. The Civil Unit is also part of Support Services.

CELL PHONE PROJECT

In just one of the projects to reduce costs while increasing service and functionality, this year the Sheriff's Office changed cell phone carriers and added a text messaging function. This allowed for the elimination of most pagers and improved reception.

CIVIL UNIT
In Oregon, the Sheriff's Office is mandated by state law to provide civil and courts enforcement services. The duties of the Civil Unit include serving civil/criminal subpoenas, summons and small claims for civil actions, levying on and conducting sales of foreclosed real and personal property, carrying out evictions, serving restraining orders and processing abandoned vehicles. In February, after 16 1/2 years of serving the residents of Benton County, Chief Civil Deputy Joyce Oliver retired.

New Chief Civil Deputy Dean Barnes auctions a repossessed vehicle while Deputy Toby Bottorff stands by.

Emergency Management/ Search & Rescue

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

NEW DIVISION COMMANDER
In July 2007, Mary King joined the Benton County Sheriff's Office as the new Emergency Services Program Manager. King received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Gonzaga University. She holds a Wilderness and National Registry EMT-Basic certification. Prior to joining the Sheriff's Office, King administered search and rescue operations for Lassen Volcanic National Park.

VOLUNTEERS POWER THE DIVISION
The Benton County Sheriff's Office relies on over 100 volunteers to serve community needs during a search and rescue or otherwise significant incident. All Emergency Management/Search and Rescue (EM/SAR) volunteers belong to one of these major units:

- Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES/RACES)
- Benton County Crisis Response Team (BCCRT)
- Benton County Sheriff's Mounted Posse (POSSE)
- Benton County Tracking Unit (BCTU)
- Corvallis Mountain Rescue Unit (CMRU)
- Mary's Peak Search and Rescue (MPSAR)

EM/SAR volunteers activated on 20 missions during this past year. They also responded to support Sheriff's Office personnel on incidents such as a major windstorm, a rural homicide, plane crashes, and the marijuana eradication effort in south Benton County.

All volunteers must pass a background check and are held to state-established SAR certification standards. They are required to maintain training hours in their area of expertise and are held to the same ethical standards as all Sheriff's Office employees.

Benton County Search and Rescue Volunteers train with a National Guard Blackhawk crew on the proper techniques of medical evacuation .

Jackson promoted to Undersheriff

Lt. Scott Jackson, Benton County Jail Commander, was promoted to Undersheriff on July 1, 2008. Jackson has worked for the Benton County Sheriff's Office for thirteen years and during that time has worked his way through the chain of command to his most recent promotion. Jackson is scheduled to complete his yearly training requirement with the Army National Guard Reserves and attend training as a public information officer during July before taking on initial projects in his new role. One of his first projects will be to find a new jail commander. Sgt. Diana Rabago is currently acting in capacity.

In an announcement to the staff, Sheriff Simpson noted that as jail commander, "Scott has done a superb job of implementing new programs and policies and has also done an outstanding job of looking at ways to change business in order to save resources. I am delighted that Scott has accepted the challenge of Undersheriff as he brings great energy and knowledge to our leadership team. I believe the community and the Sheriff's Office will greatly benefit from his vision and hands-on management style."

Law Enforcement

Confiscated marijuana is lifted out of a remote section of the County by helicopter.

The Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement division provides law enforcement services to the unincorporated areas of Benton County which includes 679 square miles of land, 798 miles of roads and 65 miles of waterways. The division includes patrol, forest patrol, marine patrol, animal control, and investigations.

MARIJUANA ERADICATION

On September 20, 2007, deputies conducted a raid of a sophisticated marijuana grow located near Alsea Falls on Bureau of Land Management property. The marijuana grow was spotted due to the sharp eyes of deputies trained in the aerial identification of marijuana fields. These fields are becoming increasing prevalent in remote, inaccessible areas of Oregon. The raid resulted in the seizure and destruction of 7,951 marijuana plants, the largest seizure to date in Benton County history. During the raid, a single male was located in the area, asleep, with a shotgun stowed nearby.

SHERIFF'S AWARD OF MERIT

In a ceremony on September 13, 2007, six deputies were recognized for their courageous response to the Alsea area on the report of a shooting June 25th. As deputies responded to the remote location, additional information was received that a son had shot his father and was still on the family's property. The person calling 911 was the daughter of the victim and the sister of the suspect. The daughter stayed on the phone until deputies were able, despite danger to themselves, to get her safely out of the area. Deputies then searched the area looking for the suspect who was last seen armed with a rifle. In the early morning dawn, the suspect was observed in the tall grass just on the perimeter of the family compound. He was taken into custody without incident and on July 10, 2008 was judged guilty except for insanity and sentenced to spend the rest of his life under the supervision of the State Psychiatric Security Review Board.

RIDLER GRADUATES FROM FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY

In September, Lt. Greg Ridler, commander of the Law Enforcement Division, graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Attended by law enforcement leaders from throughout the United States and several foreign countries, this prestigious, competitive program consists of ten weeks of classroom, field and physical training. Classes focused on law enforcement leadership and legal updates while the physical aspect of the training included weekly runs of 4 and 5 miles and a capstone 6.2 mile obstacle course.

Parole and Probation

The Parole and Probation division supervises approximately 500 adult offenders in Benton County. Services available to offenders include substance abuse treatment, sex offender treatment, evidence-based cognitive programs, job search classes, and clean and sober housing at the Transition Center. Supervising officers enhance public safety by holding offenders accountable, enforcing the conditions of supervision, making treatment referrals, and imposing sanctions for violations. It is the mission of the Parole and Probation division to enhance public safety by reducing criminal behavior through the reformation of offenders.

Steven J. Oldenstadt

STEVEN J. OLDENSTADT INMATE PROGRAM ROOM

In February 2008, the day room at the jail was officially dedicated as the Steven J. Oldenstadt Inmate Program Room. Steve Oldenstadt worked in law enforcement in Lane and Benton Counties, serving as Chief Corrections Deputy with the Benton County Sheriff's Office from 1984 until his retirement in 2003. He passed away in July 2007. Steve was recognized across the state as a leader in community corrections who advocated for the rehabilitation of offenders through accountability, treatment and cognitive programming.

Parole and Probation Officer Tonya Wells, Vice President of the Oregon Criminal Justice Association (OCJA), recently announced that OCJA has created the Steve Oldenstadt Memorial College Scholarship Fund which will award $500 annually to one recipient who is preparing for a career in criminal justice.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

In May 2008, the Oregon Department of Corrections presented the Community Corrections Outstanding Service Award to Gina Harris. This award is presented to the community corrections employee, contractor, elected official, citizen or team of such individuals who displayed an uncommon commitment to the profession of community corrections or who performed responsibilities in a manner above and beyond normal duties that greatly assisted or enhanced community corrections. Only two such awards were given out this year and the Sheriff's Office is proud that one of our staff members was recognized for her exceptional abilities.

RECIDIVISM

The latest statewide three-year Parole & Probation recidivism rates indicate that recidivism for offenders supervised in Benton County continues to decline. The local recidivism rate is 25%, while the statewide average is 28.6%. Drug Treatment Court and the implementation of evidence-based supervision strategies have played a significant role in the reduction of criminal behavior in certain offenders.

Sheriff Simpson and District Attorney John Haroldson answer press questions about the Joel Courtney extradition.

Courtney Transport

On April 4, 2008, the Sheriff's Office was notified that the necessary court orders had been processed and Joel Courtney was ready to be extradited from New Mexico to Oregon. Joel Courtney is alleged to have kidnapped, sexually assaulted and murdered Brooke Wilberger on May 23, 2004. The Office developed a transportation plan for Mr. Courtney with the assistance of the FBI, but what started off as a flawless plan quickly began to unravel. The diligence and flexibility of the transport team ensured that plans were adapted quickly and easily in order to get Mr. Courtney back to Benton County as soon as possible. The mission was completed with no injuries, problems, attempted escapes or other issues associated with such a high profile individual. The transport team was made up of deputies from both the Law Enforcement and Correction Divisions.

Fiscal Year 2007-2008

By the Numbers...

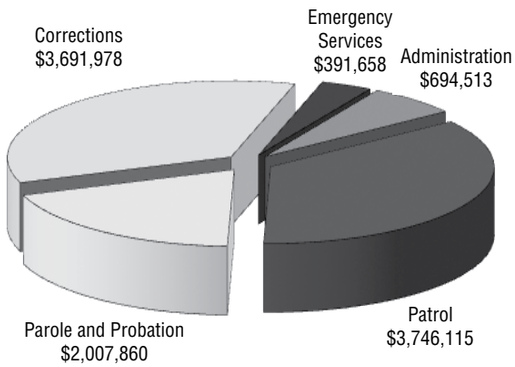
Offense	07-08
Murder	1
Rape	2
Robbery	9
Aggravated Assaults	20
Burglary-Commercial	36
Burglary-Residential	42
Burglary-Non-Residential	0
Larceny/Theft	193
Motor Vehicle Theft	21
Arson	7
Assault	173
Forgery/Fraud	76
Vandalism	200
Weapons Law Offenses	29
Sex Offenses	28
Kidnapping	4
Drug Offenses	92
DUII	68
Liquor Law Offenses	35
Disorderly Conduct	61
Trespass/Prowler	130
Runaway Juveniles	58
Offenses Against Family	10

Performance Outcomes	07-08
Calls for Service	5,311
Motor Vehicle Crashes	183
Fatal Vehicle Crashes	1
Arrests	1,210
Citations-Traffic	1,545
Warrants Served	251
Minor in Possession	52

Personnel Profile	07-08
Total Employees	76
Sworn Deputies	64
Women/Minorities	32%
College Graduates (AA or BA/BS)	65%

2007-2008 Budget

Total Budget $10,532,124.00



BCSO in the Community

From left to right: P & P Officer Tonya Wells, Corrections Deputy Leslie Pomalkai, Administrative Aide Gina Harris (Survivor), retired P & P Officer Tom Schultz, Lt. Gail Newman, Sgt. Jenna Morrison, and Sheriff Diana Simpson walk in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. 2) Sgt. Jeremy Jewel and Corrections Deputy Leslie Pomalkai load up school supplies for delivery to county schools. 3) Corporal Brian Morrisette helps a young citizen make important choices at Christmas during Shop with a Cop. 4) The 2007 Citizen's Academy class. 5) Deputy Randy Hiner fits a bike helmet. 6) Forest Deputy Corporal Jeff Wilcox educates young citizens on forest products.

During this fiscal year, Benton County Sheriff's Office employees performed over 1500 hours of uncompensated community service work. At minimum wage, the monetary value of the work performed in the community would come to over $11,925.00.

Sheriff's Office employees coached kids sports, raised money for the American Cancer Society, Special Olympics, ABC House, and CARDV, were Board Members for community organizations such as Community Alliance for Diversity and Leadership Corvallis, participated in Shop with a Cop, helping needy kids shop for holiday gifts, read to kids, donated over three large boxes of school supplies to County schools and much more.

With the help of a volunteer committee led by Nicole Dodson, Benton County Sheriff's Office employees are gearing up for the September 7, 2008 Chili Cookoff—a fundraiser sponsored by the agency in support of CASA—Voices for Children.

An important part of making Benton County a safer community is educating young people. Due to the efforts of Sgt. Clay Stephens who applied for and received a $1395 grant to purchase bike helmets, approximately 200 school kids from Kings Valley and Blodgett received bike helmets and some safe biking instruction this year.

Forest Deputy Cpl. Jeff Wilcox provided information about how his job protects the resources of Benton County to over 700 school kids at the 2008 Benton County Forest Expo.

Even adults got in on the action as 22 citizens completed the 2007 Citizen's Academy—expanding their knowledge about the services of the Benton County Sheriff's Office.

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	**766-6789**
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**