Benton County Sheriff's Office

To provide professional service and protection with honor and integrity.

Message from the Sheriff

This last year has been one of the busiest and most challenging our Office has faced in many years. We started the year on the heels of a homicide in which a young man allegedly killed his girlfriend and their one-year-old baby. While completing the investigation of those homicides, another homicide occurred in September on Hurlburt Road in which a young man was shot and killed. Several of the suspects fled to the State of Washington leading our detectives to follow and make subsequent arrests with the help of local authorities. A total of five individuals were arrested in connection to the incident. Just two weeks later, we found Cody Myers' body in the Marys Peak area. Cody was the victim of David Pederson and Holly Grigsby's crime spree from Washington through Oregon and to California which resulted in four known deaths.

In the winter, we experienced the most severe flooding since 1996 in which the extreme conditions resulted in an activation of our Emergency Operations Center for flooding and landslides. A neighborhood was evacuated as a result of the landslides. Several weeks later, we experienced another flooding event, but thankfully not to the extent of the event around January 18th.

Throughout these events, every member of the Sheriff's Office stepped up in some capacity to help. Members did everything from staffing the phone banks during the natural disasters in January to providing some level of support to the homicide investigations. They even gave up personal plans and family time to report to duty to support the needs of the community at the time.

This last year we were able to add a few additional programs to benefit the community. The most significant is the School Resource Deputy Program. The current levy funds one deputy position for this program, but to enhance our coverage we split the time between two deputies. Studies have shown that having law enforcement involved in and having direct contact with schools results in less nuisance crimes such as vandalism and mischief and enhances the rapport and reputation of law enforcement with students.

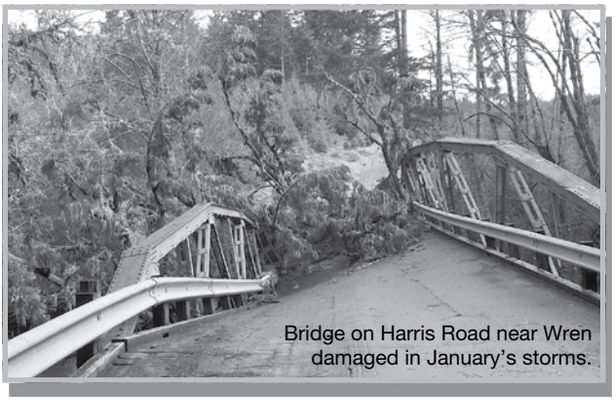
Another change within the Sheriff's Office is the command structure. We commissioned a study from graduate students at Oregon State University to look at our command structure and how we might accomplish better efficiencies, as well as become more similar to other Sheriff's Offices with comparable demographics and population. This resulted in a shifting of positions through the ranks and the expectation is a savings in overall personnel costs as well as better span of control and supervision throughout the Sheriff's Office.

In early June the Secretary of State's Office published "Oregon's Counties: 2012 Financial Condition Review" which describes the financial condition of all the counties in the State of Oregon. Page 15 lists each of the counties in order of county funding spent per capita on public safety. Benton County ranks 35th of all 36 counties in public safety funding. This is significant because it really underscores the value that Benton County residents are receiving for their tax dollars in the public safety arena.

We are constantly looking for ways to collaborate to reduce costs as well as looking for opportunities to become more cost efficient. One example is combining and scheduling in-house training that results in reduced overtime. Another example is testing patrol vehicles that are "V6" rather than "V8" to provide better gas mileage. We look at opportunities to purchase refurbished equipment with warranties rather than always purchasing new. Finally, we carefully and regularly scrutinize our budget to ensure every dollar is spent wisely and appropriately in order to assure you, the taxpayer, that you truly are getting the best value for your dollar.

Diana L. Simpson
Sheriff

Watch for the full annual report at:
www.co.benton.or.us/sheriff/



Bridge on Harris Road near Wren damaged in January's storms.

Emergency Services

This year Emergency Services, which includes both Emergency Management and Search and Rescue, was reorganized under the Law Enforcement Division. The unit includes a program manager, an emergency services planner (shared part-time with the City of Corvallis), a program assistant and over 100 volunteers.

Emergency response was put to the test in January when the County was hit with the worst flooding since 1996. Water flooded many parts of the county and broke historic high-water records for the Marys' River. In response, the County Emergency Operations Center was activated. Public safety workers monitored conditions, responded to reports of damage and flooding and established detours for closed roads. Marine deputies rescued a woman trapped on top of her car as flood waters rose. Evacuation orders were issued for both the northeast Corvallis neighborhood around Lancaster Drive and the Vineyard Mountain area. Although a landslide in the Vineyard Mountain area destroyed a home and threatened others, no one was injured. Oregon State University opened campus housing and provided food for the families who needed to evacuate. The Benton County Fairgrounds opened a shelter for large animals.

By the time the water finally began to recede on January 21st, county residents had suffered approximately $10 million in combined losses to private property, public infrastructure and agricultural crops. While there were a few injuries, there was no loss of life in Benton County.

In the aftermath, BCSO Emergency Services compiled data and documented the damage suffered. Although FEMA denied assistance to families devastated by the incident, funding was made available for some public projects and the damaged bridges, water systems and roads we all rely on are in the process of being repaired.

Search and Rescue is accomplished with the support of over 100 volunteers divided into volunteer units. Current units are:

- *Airwing*
- *ARES—Amateur Radio Emergency Service*
- *Benton County Crisis Support Team*
- *Benton County Tracking Unit*
- *Corvallis Mountain Rescue Unit*
- *Marys Peak Search and Rescue*
- *R3K9*
- *Sheriff's Office Mounted Posse*
- *Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue*

Law Enforcement *by Captain Greg Ridler, Division Commander*

Patrol Deputies are the first responders to emergency and critical incidents and are available 24/7 to respond to calls for help. Deputies initiate investigations, identify criminal activity, effect arrests, enforce traffic laws, educate community members and prepare cases for criminal prosecution.

On September 23, 2011, deputies were called to the scene of what turned out to be a murder. The victim was 22-year-old Giovanni Blancas-Frutero. As a result of diligent investigation and hundreds of hours of investigative work, five suspects were arrested and charged with Giovanni's murder. Less than a month later, deputies were once more involved in a multi-state murder investigation when the body of 19-year-old Cody Myers was found in Benton County.

Such violent acts are, thankfully, unusual for Benton County, yet the Sheriff's Office must be prepared to investigate them. This year we were able to expand our ability to prepare cases for criminal prosecution against those who use their computer or other electronic devices in the commission of their crime. Through a grant from the Department of Homeland Security, as well as a generous donation through The Sheriff's Foundation, we were able to purchase computer equipment and training to set up a Computer Forensics Laboratory. Deputy Christopher Dale runs the lab and received 192 hours of computer evidence recovery training from the U.S. Secret Service. This new capability has already helped us in preparing cases involving crimes such as theft by extortion, rape and the distribution of child pornography.

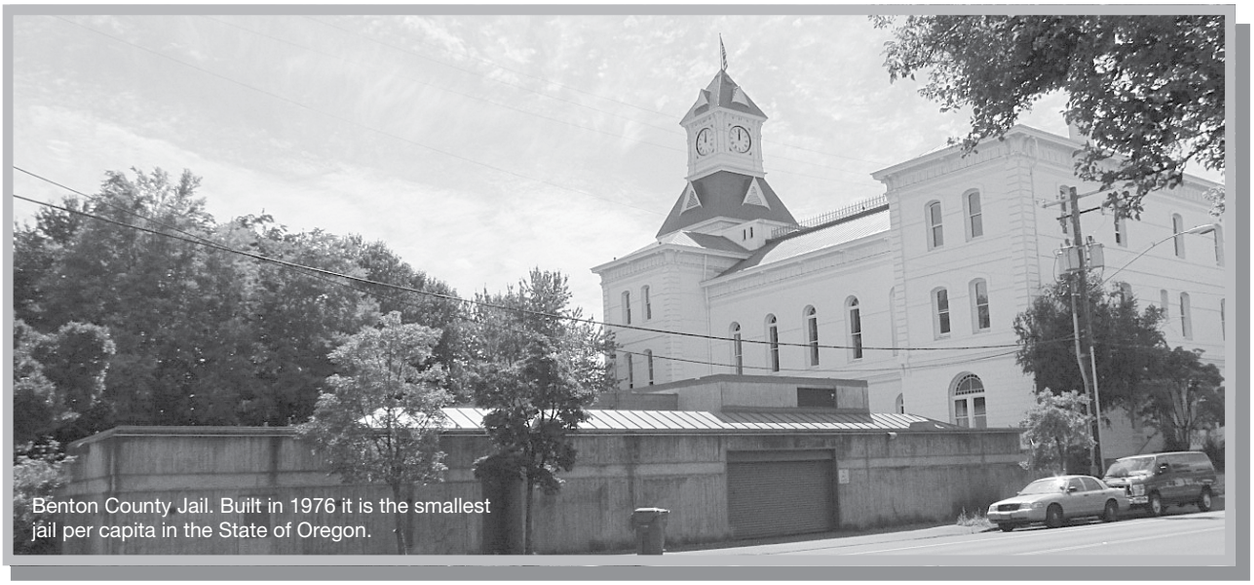
Also new this year was the return of our School Resource Deputy program aimed at fostering positive relationships between the deputies and kids, parents and the schools.

Deputy Cooper on patrol late at night to discourage criminal activity.

OFFENSE	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Murder	1	2*	2
Rape	3	6	2
Robbery	1	2	0
Aggravated Assaults	18	16	16
Burglary: Commercial	29	20	28
Burglary: Residential	29	32	42
Larceny/Theft	197	164	182
Motor Vehicle Theft	26	17	10
Arson	5	6	1
Assault	196	196	195
Forgery/Fraud	100	72	108
Vandalism	166	135	155
Weapons Law Offenses	38	53	45
Sex Offenses	28	33	26
Kidnapping	4	5	4
Drug Offenses	164	191	189
DUII	172	207	176
Liquor Law Offenses	33	37	14
Disorderly Conduct	81	88	66
Trespass/Prowler	159	169	171
Runaway Juveniles	36	27	37
Offenses Against Family	18	7	6

* Single incident.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Calls for Service Dispatched	5,461	5,659	5,412
Motor Vehicle Crashes	220	230	248
Fatal Vehicle Crashes	3	1	6
Arrests	1,643	1,981	1,815
Citations–Traffic	2,623	2,564	1,843
Warrants Served	444	531	497
Minor in Possession	38	81	14



Benton County Jail. Built in 1976 it is the smallest jail per capita in the State of Oregon.

Jail *by Captain Diana Rabago, Division Commander*

The Benton County Jail is the only jail in the county and the smallest jail per capita in the State of Oregon. Originally built in 1976 to house 27 inmates, it has been reconfigured to increase capacity to 40 beds. However, many factors come into play as to whether or not we can actually "fit" 40 inmates into the jail. Due to classification levels, crime severity, mental and behavioral status, and gender, the jail has to be segregated for the safety of both inmates and staff. As a result, our jail usually houses an average of between 28 and 34 inmates.

Transports

To alleviate some of the space issues, Benton County currently has contracts with Lincoln, Yamhill and Linn counties where we "rent" a total of 40 additional beds. To utilize these resources, we must transport inmates regularly between facilities. During fiscal year 2011-12 we transported 1,737 inmates a total of 19,321 miles.

JAIL ACTIVITY	FY 2012
Total Bookings	4,042
Forced Release	71 inmates
Facility Closure	145 hours, 39 minutes
Total Inmates Transported	1,737
Total Transport Miles	19,321 miles

Forced Release

Even with the additional contract resources, there are times when we can no longer accept new arrestees for lodging because there is not enough appropriate space available. As new offenders enter the jail, others must be released to make room. A Matrix Score System is used to objectively decide which inmates should be released. As a result, we are forced to release individuals back into the community who should be serving their sentences or awaiting trial. This past fiscal year we were forced to release 71 inmates.

Due to the jail size, managing bookings is also a challenge. The jail has only two holding cells that can be used for intoxicated, uncooperative or suicidal inmates. When these are full, the jail is closed to uncooperative arrests. During this past fiscal year, the jail was closed to new incoming arrests for a total of 145 hours and 39 minutes...the equivalent of about 18 work days.

Even with these challenges, jail staff ensure the dietary, medical and religious needs of inmates are met and that they are treated respectfully and fairly. This year staff professionalism was acknowledged when we received a 96% compliance rate on over 300 professional standards by the Oregon Jail Standards inspection team.

We also look for innovative ways to provide services in a cost-effective manner. This year we installed a lobby kiosk where friends and family can deposit funds into inmate accounts or post bail. Not only is this more convenient for inmates and their families, it also saved significant staff time in auditing inmate accounts. A secure website was also set up for inmates to receive screened emails. And, through the innovation of staff, this year we acquired a used magnetometer for improved court security at no cost to Benton County citizens.

Parole & Probation

by Captain Gail Newman, Division Commander

Editor's Note: Captain Gail Newman retired on June 30, 2012 following a 28-year career with the Benton County Sheriff's Office. Lieutenant Justin Carley was promoted to Captain effective July 1, 2012.

The Parole and Probation (P&P) Division of the Sheriff's Office supervises adult offenders on parole, probation and post-prison supervision. This fiscal year approximately 460 adult offenders were under supervision during any given month.

To enhance public safety, we use supervision practices that have been proven to reduce the likelihood that offenders will re-offend. The use of these "evidence-based" practices has resulted in a continued decline in recidivism.

Recidivism is defined, for state reporting purposes, as a felony offender receiving a new felony conviction within 3 years of beginning supervision. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, the recidivism rate for supervised felony offenders in Benton County was 21.2 percent. Five years ago, our recidivism rate was 26.6 percent. But those are just numbers. They don't take into account the lives impacted.

When an offender does not commit a new felony, then one less person has to deal with the trauma of being a victim of crime; of having their person or property violated.

The offender who does not re-offend, stays out of jail, has the opportunity to repair personal relationships, and can go on to be a productive member of society.

Through evidence-based supervision practices, higher risk offenders are identified and targeted to receive additional supervision, services and sanctions. Prioritizing resources for offenders who pose the greatest risk to re-offend is a key component in reducing recidivism.

Supervision of offenders holds them accountable for their actions and includes activities such as assessing offender risk, developing case plans, conducting residence checks, delivering cognitive rehabilitation programming, monitoring and collecting of court-ordered fees and restitution, imposing sanctions, monitoring for substance abuse and referring to treatment programs. This past fiscal year, P&P Officers collected $91,186 in supervision fees from offenders and ensured they paid $111,904 in court-ordered restitution, fines and fees.

Every day I am impressed by the skill and professionalism displayed by the members of this division. I am pleased that, as I retire, I will be turning command of the division over to Captain Justin Carley, a capable and experienced professional who joined the P&P team in 1996.

It has been my honor to serve with the members of this division and with the Benton County Sheriff's Office. They are truly changing lives.

BSCO Personnel Spot Light *by Undersheriff J. Scott Jackson*

Benton County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) personnel have once more proved themselves to be professionals who make Benton County a better place to live. Some standout examples include...

On September 4, 2011, Deputies Kyle Cooper and Adam Brenneman came to the rescue of a group of teenage girls rafting on an air mattress on the Willamette River. One girl was in imminent danger and, without the decisive action of both deputies, she would most likely have drowned. Her life was saved by the response of these two deputies and for their efforts they received the BCSO *Lifesaving Award*.

Also on September 4, 2011, while off-duty at a family picnic, Deputy Christopher Dale reacted in a positive and professional manner to a medical emergency. For his acts that day, Deputy Dale received the BCSO *Medal of Valor*.

Parole and Probation Officers Sarah Ingalls, Joel Pickerd and Ryan Roth developed and implemented a coordinated team approach to successfully transitioning offenders from state and local custody to the community. For their efforts they received the BCSO *Distinguished Service Award*.

The BCSO *Volunteer of the Year Award* usually goes to one individual. But this year it was awarded to the entire BCSO Tracking Unit for their outstanding performance in assisting the Sheriff's Office in two separate homicide investigations. Their assistance and teamwork with investigators played a critical role in the successful arrest of suspects in both incidents.

Lt. Clay Stephens received State recognition from the Oregon State Sheriff's Association (OSSA) as the *2011 Supervisor of the Year*. Read more about his award in the article below.

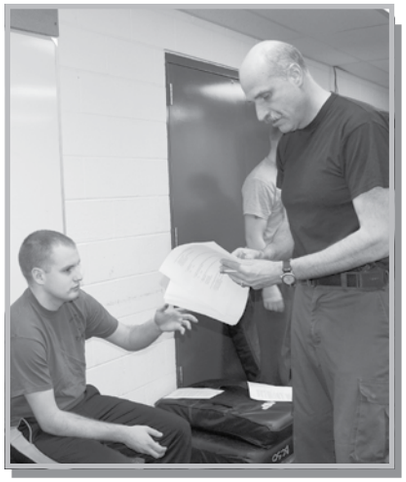
We are also proud of the fact that the Oregon State Senate voted unanimously to confirm Governor Kitzhaber's appointment of Sheriff Simpson to the Board of the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST). It is the Board's role to set the bar for the professionalism and trustworthiness of Oregon's public safety professionals.

BSCO Personnel Profile	2011-2012
Total Employees	78
Sworn Deputies	64
Women/Minorities	33%
College Graduates (AA, BA/BS or Masters)	70%
Community Service Hours Donated by BSCO Personnel	2,885 hrs.

Supervisor of the Year

State Honors Lt. Clay Stephens

This year, the Oregon State Sheriff's Association (OSSA) recognized BCSO Lt. Clay Stephens as the *2011 OSSA Supervisor of the Year*. This statewide honor is selected by an Awards Committee comprised of Sheriffs throughout the state who look for outstanding leadership, innovation, commitment and exceptional performance. Stephens was recognized for the extensive work he has done throughout his 25-year career. In addition to supervising a diverse group of deputies ranging in age from 21 to 55, Stephens revitalized the defensive tactics training team, is a critical member of the internal investigation team, runs the deputies' physical ability testing and oversees the Emergency Services unit. Additionally, he has been a statewide trainer for "Perspectives on Profiling" an award-winning ethics training program. Most importantly, Stephens is a positive role model who embodies the Sheriff's Office values of honor, integrity, ethics and professionalism.



Lt. Clay Stephens (right) hands out tests to deputies during training.

RESOURCE DIRECTORY...

Benton County Sheriff's Office
180 NW 5th Street, Corvallis, OR 97330

Emergencies Only	911	Detectives	541-766-6860
Non-Emergency	541-766-6858	Emergency Services	541-766-6864
General Information	541-766-6858	Jail	541-766-6866
Administration	541-766-6858	Parole and Probation	541-766-6887
Animal Control	541-753-0732	Records	541-766-6858
Civil	541-766-6814	Fax	541-766-6011

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

Click on "Emergency Alert" to sign up to be notified of emergencies in your area.

28 Years of Service

Captain Gail Newman, Retired

After 28 years on the job, Captain Gail Newman, the Division Commander for the Parole and Probation (P&P) Division, retired on June 30, 2012.

Gail started out as a volunteer with the Benton County Sheriff's Office. In 1984 she was hired as a Work Crew Coordinator. The following year she was appointed to the position of Parole and Probation Officer.

She was promoted to Sergeant in 1992 and in 1997 she was instrumental in developing the programs of the Day Reporting Center (DRC). The DRC was a "one stop shopping center" to meet the programing needs that assisted offenders in acquiring the skills necessary to become successful, law-abiding citizens. The DRC was used as a model for other counties around the state, in large part due to the innovation, collaboration and partnerships Gail developed for the rehabilitation of offenders. Unfortunately, the DRC closed in 2003 as a result of diminished state funding.

In 2004 Gail took over as the division commander for P&P. Under her leadership the office has implemented the latest state-of-the-art risk assessment tools in determining an offender's risk of re-offending. She has also implemented evidence-based practices and programs. As a result Benton County often leads the state in a variety of community corrections outcome measures such as the number of offenders employed, completing community service, paying restitution and completing treatment programs. During Gail's tenure, Benton County's recidivism rate—defined as a felony offender receiving a new felony conviction within 3 years of beginning supervision—continued to decline and was regularly below the statewide average.

Gail's talents also reached a broader audience through her work with the Oregon Community Corrections Directors Association. And in February 2012 her leadership was recognized by the Benton County Sheriff's Office when she was named the BCSO *2011 Employee of the Year*.