

Ribaya Dogs Find Sanctuary

The story of pit bull dogs involved in the attack of farm animals has come to an end, but it was not the end that many thought would happen to the animals in this case. The dogs were seized from a farm in Scappoose July 3rd, 2009 after attacking and seriously wounding a calf. After the seizure of the dogs, it was determined that the dogs were owned by Mr. Ribaya, who has long history of being involved in animal fighting.

After a public hearing on the matter, the County Board of Commissioners imposed the maximum fine possible on Mr. Ribaya and ordered the two dogs to be euthanized. The dogs were held and cared for by the Columbia County Animal Control during the several month long appeals period. During that time, the dogs demonstrated highly

aggressive behavior to other animals, but not to humans.

In January 2010, The Columbia County Circuit Court ruled in the favor of the County Board of Commissioner's order to have the animals euthanized pending a 30-day grace period for Mr. Ribaya to file an appeal of the Circuit Court order. During this appeal time, Ms. Bethany O'Driscoll with Ananda Farm Sanctuary of Saint Helens, Oregon offered to try and locate a suitable Sanctuary for the animals. After consideration of the offer, the Board of Commissioners agreed to allow for additional time for Ms O'Driscoll to locate a suitable placement for the dogs. Because of the characteristics of the dogs, this task was not easy.

A suitable location for place-

ment of the dogs was found. On February 24th, 2010, after being spayed and neutered, the dogs were transferred to the Olympic Animal Sanctuary in Forks Washington. This Sanctuary was found to be experienced in sheltering dogs with similar histories as the Ribaya dogs. The Sanctuary plans for life time care of the dogs and does not re-place the dogs.

This case has raised public awareness of the issue of animal fighting in Columbia County and the need for coordination between the Columbia County Sheriff's Office, the Columbia County Animal Control Program and Oregon Humane Society Investigators on incidents involving possible dog fighting and other animal abuses. These agencies are in the process of

developing a coordinated strategy for responding to future incidents involving aggressive dogs and the training of dogs and other animals for the use and participation in illegal animal fighting events.

This incident underscores the fact that Columbia County is not immune from the problem of dogs and other animals being trained for fighting purposes. But the County's experience with this incident has provided the basis for better agency cooperation in response to future incidents and awareness of resources available for the humane placement of even very aggressive dogs and other animals.



Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD To Receive New Apparatus

Mist-Birkenfeld Rural Fire Protection District is the recipient of an Assistance to Firefighters Grant totaling \$210,000 toward the purchase of a new Water Tender. The cost of the new unit is expected to be between \$230,000 and \$236,000, with the fire district providing the cost of the apparatus above that provided by the grant.

The grant was requested in April of 2009 to replace a 1976 Ford 4000 gallon water tender that is unsafe to drive under emergency conditions. "The opportunity to replace it is a real blessing," said Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD Chief, David Crawford. "Our firefighters will operate safer, the district will be better served, and our surrounding emergency service providers who depend on our help will get it faster and more efficiently."

The new Water Tender will be a 2010 International 7600 Chassis with a 410 hp diesel and an Allison automatic transmission. "It will carry 3000 gallons of water that can be dumped from the rear or either side from the driver's seat," said Crawford. "It will have an on-board 3000 gallon portable tank that can be quickly set up to hold a full load of water and then allow the unit to quickly get back to the fill site for more. It also has an on-board 750 gallon-per-minute pump in case it

needs to supply an engine directly. Finally, it will come with three pre-connected hose-lines that can be used when needed."

It is difficult for Rural Fire Protection Districts to find money to replace apparatus. "When the only available way is to increase the tax load of the already struggling community, capital replacement of equipment takes a back seat to local economics," said Crawford. "Occasionally, grant opportunities like the Assistance to Firefighters Grant become available, making it possible to replace old, unreliable, unsafe equipment. It is almost the only way most rural districts are able to ever see a new engine or water tender."

This is the fourth Assistance To Firefighters Grant the Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD has received.

The thirty-three year old truck that is being replaced was originally owned by Don Soderback as a dump truck. It was retired in 1990 and purchased by the fire district for conversion to a Water Tender. According to Chief Crawford, it had more than 210,000 miles on it at that time, much of it off-road. The Malloy Company got the contract for the conversion, and in 1991 it was placed in service. "For more than 19 years, it served the community, keeping the fire engines supplied with water," said Crawford. "However, its age

began to show as the cost of keeping it going increased dramatically. More importantly, it became unsafe to drive."

The new Water Tender is expected to arrive sometime around August of 2010.

In addition, the Mist-Birkenfeld Rural Fire Protection District Board of Directors have awarded a contract to Pacific Emergency Apparatus for a new ambulance. The new unit will replace the fifteen-year-old ambulance currently in service. "Transport times from our district are forty-five minutes to one hour under the best of conditions," said Chief Crawford. "The second ambulance is held in reserve and ensures quick and reliable service in the case of a second call."

Funding for the new ambulance is provided by the funds paid for emergency transports. "Recognizing that the ambulance would need to be replaced every fifteen years or so, the district created a reserve fund to provide for its replacement," explained Crawford. "One hundred percent of the receipts from every ambulance transport is set aside to fund the cost. As a result, ambulance replacement is fully funded by its usage, without resorting to additional taxes."

Opportunity for Artists: St. Helens Arts & Cultural Commission Requests Proposals For Street Banners

The St. Helens Arts & Cultural Commission seeks artists interested in creating decorative street banners as part of the commission's Gallery Corridor Project. Aluminum banners are to be mounted on poles and placed along Old Portland Road, Columbia Blvd. and Gable Rd. in St. Helens. Future phases of the project call for more banners and placement of complementary art projects throughout the city.

Selected artists will receive a \$1000 for each banner they are commissioned to create. A 2' by 6' aluminum sheet, donated by Pacific Stainless Products in St. Helens, will be provided to commissioned artists for execution of the banner design. Paints and cover coats must ensure weatherability. While the commission is open to creative strategy and concept, they do have an interest in historical content and kinetic design.

Banners should correspond with the City's 20/20 Vision Statement, tourism messaging and target audiences and conform to requirements set forth by City ordinance. See related documents online or request more information from John Walter at 503-397-4544, ext. 102. Requests for Proposals can be found on the City's website at www.ci.st-helens.or.us, or can be requested by phone at 503-366-8218.

Interested artists are asked to submit a proposal by Monday, April 19, 2010, at 5:00 p.m., either in person at 265 Strand St., in St. Helens, or via mail to the attention of Kathy Payne, City Recorder, at the City of St. Helens, P.O. Box 278, St. Helens, OR 97051. Facsimile and e-mail submissions will not be accepted. Incomplete proposals and those received after the deadline will not be considered.

