

# OHA's Turn In Poachers (TIP) Fund Pays Record \$24,200 in Rewards

The Oregon Hunters Association's (OHA) Turn In Poachers (TIP) reward fund paid a record \$24,200 in rewards to informants in poaching cases last year, according to a report delivered to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission by OHA State Vice President John Gander on February 9 in Portland.

The rewards were paid in 50 separate fish and wildlife violation cases reported to Oregon State Police Offices throughout the state, including three in Columbia County.

Both the number of cases and reward sums easily eclipsed all previous marks in the program's 32-year history. Reward cases in recent years have typically numbered from 20 to 35, and total reward amounts averaged approximately \$10,000 annually.

OHA in 2017 increased the standard reward amounts, which now range from \$100 for birds, fish, and furbearers to \$500 for deer, elk, and antelope, and \$1,000 for bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and moose.

OHA State Coordinator Duane Dungannon, whose OHA Office issues the reward checks, believes the increased reward amounts likely contributed to the sharp increases in cases as well as the sum of rewards.

"Obviously increasing the amounts of each reward will result in a greater total paid for the year, but the jump in the number of TIP cases – where a caller requests the reward – suggests there's more going on," Dungannon said. "The rewards offered are included in news releases published in local media when a poaching case occurs and police are looking for leads, so members of the public can see that we're offering them some sizable sums to do the right thing."

An increased level of public awareness may be a factor, as well, according to Lieutenant Craig Heuberger of the Fish and Wildlife Division at the Oregon State Police headquarters in Salem.

"I think it is a combination of different things," Heuberger said. "We are doing a better job of advertising the TIP program through social media such as our monthly newsletter, Twitter, and Facebook. When we make a TIP case and are able to promote it, we try to channel that information out to the public every chance we get."

"Internally we have changed the administration of the TIP program to make it easier for the Troopers to get the information they need to promote the TIP program to the public, and we have also streamlined the reporting mechanism to make it easier for Troopers to turn the documentation in that is needed to facilitate a TIP request to OHA."

Started in 1986 with start-up funds from OHA and Leupold & Stevens, the TIP fund is largely self-sustaining as the result of courts ordering convicted violators to pay restitution to the fund. The \$23,917 restitution paid to the reward fund in 2017 nearly equaled the reward amounts paid for the year.

Poaching will be a major emphasis in the current state legislative session that recently opened. One bill would better enable courts to apply the penalties already in place for poaching. In addition, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will present a proposal for a poaching public awareness campaign, mandated by a budget note requested by OHA and attached to the agency's budget when it was approved last year.

OHA chapters and other conservation groups sometimes pledge additional amounts in particularly heinous poaching cases. Reward offers have exceeded \$17,000 in a few cases, including one involving a recent north-east Oregon bighorn sheep poaching and another in a southern Oregon elk killing and wasting spree that took place for an extended period of time. When the reward of \$17,500 was offered, the elk killing stopped.

OHA (oregonhunters.org) is the state's largest Oregon-based pro-hunting organization, with 10,000 members and 26 chapters statewide. Its mission is "Protecting Oregon's wildlife, habitat, and hunting heritage."

## How the TIP Program Works

Callers can remain anonymous and still collect a reward from OHA if the information leads to a citation. TIP hotline: 1-800-452-7888 or dial \*OSP (24/7) TIP email: TIP@state.or.us (monitored

weekdays 8:00 am to 5:00 pm) Use the TIP hotline on weekends and evenings.

## Standard rewards:

Bighorn sheep, mountain goat, moose: \$1,000.  
Elk, deer, antelope: \$500.  
Bear, cougar, wolf: \$300.  
Habitat destruction: \$300.  
Illegally obtaining Oregon hunting or angling license or tags: \$200.  
Game fish, shellfish, upland birds, waterfowl, furbearers: \$100.



## Vernonia Community Annual FATHER & DAUGHTER COUNTRY BALL

Dads dust off your best country duds and daughters dress up like the princesses you are and come for a fun filled, magical, memory making evening of dancing. There will be sweets for the sweeties and drinks as well as crafts tables, and more.

**When:** Saturday, March 10, 2018  
6 to 8 pm

**Where:** Grace Family Fellowship (Big Gym)  
957 State Avenue, Vernonia

**Cost:** \$5 Per couple

## For more information contact:

Jon Nelson 503-602-0615

Rose Nelson 503-602-0616

Visit our Facebook page: Fatherdaughtercountryball

This dance was created so that our little, or maybe not so little anymore, girls can celebrate for one night with the most important man in their lives, whether it is Dad, Grandpa, or any significant male.

There will be  
games and a  
raffle for prizes

Dads & Daughters  
of all ages  
are welcome

## Columbia Humane Society Featured Pet



Dolly is my name and being as cute as can be is my game. I came to the shelter from another shelter. I get along ok with other dogs, however I don't put up with any bull. I am a bundle of love and I love to be with my people. The shelter has me on joint supplements as the vets have found that I don't have the best hips. I also am on a specialized food as I kinda have a tricky tummy. I walk great on a leash. I know how to lay down, sit, and come when I am called.

Please note that the kennels at CHS are not open to the public. If you are inter-

ested in meeting a dog please either call or email. We will be very happy to talk to you about our adoption process and how we can help you in your quest to find that perfect pet for your family. CHS is committed to our pets and we want to be sure that proper placement is made not only for our animals' sake, but also for our adopters. For this reason our adoptions are not always first come first served. If we have several applications on one animal we will weigh our options and make the choice that is the best fit for the pets.



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is proud to be serving the community of Vernonia.

For family medicine and urgent care needs make an appointment or come right in. We're here for you!

## For an appointment:

(503) 429-1953 or toll-free (800) 356-0460

**Adventist Health**  
Tillamook Medical Group

1005 Cougar Street, Vernonia  
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