

Home Security Update...

The home security class was attended by a fair number of Butte Falls residents in early June and these folks learned to safely and effectively shoot a hand gun, so things are poking along.

Every Oregon citizen should know their rights and responsibilities concerning home and personal defense. Oregon state law is pretty clear but you must read it and think about it before you assume you know what you are doing.

There is a big difference between protecting property and protecting yourself and others from physical attack and your home from illegal entry. That difference has to do with whether or not you can legally use physical force (but not deadly force like a gun) to protect property like your car, cattle, etc. outside of your home against theft and vandalism, and using deadly force (for example, a gun) to defend your home and the lives and safety of others. ORS 161.225 says: "(1)

A person in lawful possession of a premises (any building and any real property) is justified in using physical force upon another person when and to the extent that the person reasonably believes it necessary to prevent or terminate what the person reasonably believes to be the commission or attempted commission of a criminal trespass by the other person in or upon the premises. (2) A person may use deadly physical force...only: (a) In defense of a person (see ORS 161.219 below), or; (b) When the person reasonably believes it necessary to prevent the commission of arson or a felony by force and violence by the trespasser." To clarify, ORS 161.219 says: "...a person is not justified in using deadly physical force upon another person unless the person reasonably believes that the other person is: ... (2) Committing or attempting to commit a burglary in a dwelling; or, (3) Using or about to use unlawful deadly physical force against a person."

Every situation will be different in important ways and so every time a person uses force, especially deadly physical force, the circumstances must be investigated to be sure that it was lawful. That is, necessary and reasonable under the circumstances.

Hugh Simpson is willing to conduct a class necessary to obtain a permit to carry a concealed handgun. He needs to know how many people are interested so that he can schedule it. If you are interested in the class, phone Lowell Nicolaus at 865-3935.

Firehouse News and Views

New Fees for Emergency Service
As of June 1, 2005, the cost for emergency service and fire protection through the Butte Falls Fire Department will go up to \$125.00 to offset the rising cost of insurance and vehicle maintenance.

Illegal Burning
One person has gone to the hospital due to someone burning illegal material. Burn days are established for health reasons. Burn only on burn days to ensure proper ventilation and burn only legal material. Your neighbor(s) may have respiratory problems that will be worsened when you burn toxic material. Please be courteous and burn only wood, leaves and paper. Burning garbage, tires, plastic, etc., will result in a fine.

When you buy your permit at City Hall, the number to call regarding burn days is provided. Also on your permit is what you can burn. If you are found burning on a non-burn day you will be fined. And if you are burning toxic material at any time you will be fined.

2005 Fire Season
During fire season, which began June 27th, all burning guidelines change. Before you burn contact someone on the fire department or call 776-7007. As it gets hotter and fuels dry out, rules will change regarding burning and operating outdoor power equipment.

BBQ-Benefit - FUN IN THE PARK!
Our 5th Annual Firefighters Benefit and Firehouse Softball Tournament is in the planning stages! The date is set for August 6th and 7th. The BBQ and fun in the park (Live Music - Lady and the Tramps) will be held on the 6th with the tournament going both days. Lots of raffles! Win half of a pig (organically grown!) Help support your local fire department! See Darren Kinyon for softball information. Call 865-4383 for other questions.

Mercy Flights News
Did you know that if you live in the boundary of the Butte Falls School District you are a member of Mercy Flights, Inc.?

Your ground ambulance, helicopter, and fixed wing transports through Mercy Flights are free if you have insurance and if you don't have insurance, Mercy Flights will cover half of your bill! If you have questions about your membership, call Mercy Flights at 779-1019.

V.B.S.
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