

It is pretty clear that locked gates that limit physical access to your home and motion lights that spotlight intruders are simple, really work and cost absolutely nothing once they are installed. But they do require some up front effort and money to install in the first place. If you are tempted to just get a dog and have done with it, then let's think about it. Maintaining a well-trained watchdog of the right breed under the right circumstances in or near your home can be a very useful asset especially if your gate has stopped someone or your motion lights have someone spotlighted and your dog wakes you up to investigate. A loud dog is going to be heard by a perp too and so this strongly adds to his incentive to leave. All to the good. And, dogs can also be great and funny companions who brighten your day in many loving ways. But if you just get a dog and do nothing about access to your property and nothing about lighting around it, you are relying completely on an animal with its own particular characteristics, faults, and limitations. This is not a smart move as you will see.

ATTACK DOGS VERSUS WATCHDOGS: Attack dogs are either naturally aggressive breeds or breeds that can be attack trained. Fine, but who do you want them to attack? Only strangers? Okay, how about little kids who wander in? How about people asking directions? Delivery people? And nobody's perfect, so what if they misidentify someone? Good attack dogs don't necessarily make a lot of noise for long before they attack and so you might not even know it when the attack happens around your house. Allowing a dog to make YOUR decisions for you is worse than stupid. To protect yourself from the legal consequences of the dog attacking the wrong person, you must LIMIT the movements of the dog and that defeats the whole purpose because it limits what it can see or smell or hear before it can warn you. Watchdogs just detect intruders and then make a lot of noise about it. You get warned and can take over. They come in all sizes and many are very affectionate and good with kids. So, choose a watchdog, not an attack dog.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: There is a lot of information available on what kinds of watchdogs to get, how to train them and where they are available. For example the web site www.BarkingDogs.net ranks different breeds of dogs from poor watchdogs to great watchdogs with just about everything in between. Great watchdogs that make a lot of noise, are good with children and make good companions are: **Miniature Schnauzers, White Terriers, and Scottish Terriers. Rottweilers, Pinschers, and German Shepherds** are often less good with children and can be obstinate but they also can be good watchdogs. Dogs NOT to use as watchdogs are: **bloodhounds, Newfounlands, Bassets.** That same web site also has a nifty set of instructions concerning how to train your dog to be a good watchdog and information on quieting your dog or that of a neighbor and what the law says about barking dogs, etc. Well worth a look. Also, the Jackson County Animal Care and Control Center near Phoenix (Phone 774-6654) does a really professional job of matching dogs they have with needs you have. They do a very good job of caring for their dogs and so none will be ill or have parasites. All will have been spayed/neutered, most will have all of their shots. Most of those a year or more old will also be house trained and many will know simple commands like coming when called, etc. The costs for adopting a dog are very reasonable (something like \$60.00). The other place to look into is the Rogue Valley Humane Society in Grants Pass (479-5154). Feeding and vet. bills, of course, come extra and forever, but if the dog does his duty it is well worth it.

Although it is probably a waste of time and money, I feel that I ought to alert you to another possibility. It is to purchase an electronic device that detects motion outside of your home and then sets off a recording of a vicious dog barking and snarling. Like any other kind of house alarm system it will certainly wake you up every time anything moves outside your home and give you a chance to see what is going on (provided you have installed motion lights so that you can see out there). It is also loud enough to scare a sneak thief away from wherever it is located. But the problem is that it cannot be trained. Since it barks at everything, you will sooner or later start ignoring it or turn it off or turn the volume down and so its whole purpose is defeated. Also, people can find out that there isn't any real dog there and might still walk right in. Even so, they still cost about \$100.00 each and you will want one for the back as well as the front of the house.

Next time, we'll talk about "No Trespassing" signs and try to review the law to see where you might be if you did everything you reasonably could to prevent a gunfight at your home, but one happened anyway.

Butte Falls Community Bible Church...



Annual Thanksgiving Service

No. 6th at 10:00 AM

*Turkey Dinner Following
Bring a Side Dish or dessert
and come Join us for a great
time of Fellowship!*

865-3389

Pastor Don Pedrick-Speaking

Do You Know how the Bulletin is financed? The City and Big Butte Historical Society have a partnership and have been working together to make sure the town has a paper. The city pays for the printing and the BBHS pays for the postage. (We won't mention the behind the scenes time and work that it takes to put it together...) The idea was for the BBHS to have a full page each month to put out their information. This rarely happens because we always have so much other good stuff to print. So, we are just asking to please keep your news as short as possible while getting your information all in.

Deadline is the 20th..

Call Lori 865-3262

Or Cory 865-3310

Or dhinc@highstream.net

With information

Thank you!

DISCOUNT AND FREE DRUG PROGRAM

These free programs match low-income people with public and private assistance and help them obtain free or discounted medicine. As the issue of prescription drug prices continues to capture the media's attention, the number of new programs promising to 'cut your prescription costs' will certainly explode. As with many issues, awareness, caution and information are essential even for government-sponsored programs. Most programs require you to supply personal details you may wish not to share over the Web. Do not pay for access to these programs without knowing what you're getting into.

PARTNERSHIP FOR PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE... <http://www.pparxor.org> or call 1-888-477-2669. This program will check your eligibility for assistance from individual pharmaceutical companies. The Partnership then matches each applicant, on a case-by-case basis, with programs that they are eligible for.

THE MEDICATION FOUNDATION... <http://www.medicationfoundation.com/prog.aspx?o=state&a=OR&i=219>. This group provides information on many programs. Oregonians who lost their prescription coverage based on their survival priority level or as a result of the 2003 budget cuts.