

Animal control officer explains reasons for licensing your dogs

The deadline for obtaining a Columbia County Dog License is March 4, 1995. After that date, owners of unlicensed dogs will have to pay a penalty in addition to the license fee.

State law requires all dogs over the age of six months to have a rabies vaccination and be licensed with a local Animal Control Department.

Columbia County has not canvassed for unlicensed

dogs during the last two years, but plans to canvass throughout the county this year, starting in mid-March. Owners of dogs lacking a current license will be charged a \$50.00 penalty per dog, plus the regular license fee.

"We are not a Gestapo-type animal control, pinching every dog without a current license," said county animal control officer Chuck Klobes, "but dogs that are not licensed and have no current rabies shots create problems."

Dogs have to be impounded for various reasons, Klobes explained, including strays running at large, animals that chase or kill live-

stock and those that bite people. When the dogs must be held for long periods of time, it causes overcrowding at the county's kennel, then some of them have to be killed to make room for others.

"If the dogs we pick up had license tags, we could reunite them with their owners more quickly," Klobes said, "and some would not be taken to the shelter at all, but would go directly home."

"Almost all dogs wander at some time and a license is almost a guarantee to get them back to the rightful owner."

When a dog bites a person, if it doesn't have a current rabies shot, state law requires the animal to be im-

pounded for ten days, for observation. If the same dog has a license and a current rabies certificate on file with the county, it can be quarantined at the owner's residence, eliminating payment of impound and maintenance fees, without overcrowding kennel space for adoptable dogs.

Columbia County Animal Control is supported solely by license, impound, maintenance and adoption fees. It receives no property tax dollars. "By licensing your dogs," Klobes said, "you are also helping stray and homeless animals that are cared for at the animal shelter until they can be adopted."

For more information on dog licensing, call 397-3952 (recording), or the County Clerk's office at 397-3796. There is also a dog license application in this issue of *The INDEPENDENT*.

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Vernonia City Planning Commission will be holding a Public Hearing on March 2, 1995, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Library to take public comment on the following amendments to the Manufactured Home Ordinance (Ord. #640) and Zoning Ordinance (Ord. #478 as amended).

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE # 640

Article IV. EXTERIOR APPEARANCE STANDARDS shall be amended to read as follows:
IV. EXTERIOR APPEARANCE STANDARD

A. MANUFACTURED HOME CLASSIFICATION

Manufactured homes shall be classified as to acceptable compatibility or similarity in appearance with site-constructed residences as follows:

1. A manufactured home:

- shall have more than nine hundred and fifty (950) square feet of occupied space in a double-section or larger multi-section unit, and must be built within the past five years;
- shall be placed on an excavated and back-filled foundation which encloses the perimeter so that the manufactured home is not more than 12 inches above grade on the uphill side of the home. Exceptions to this provision may be granted by

Please see page 14

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Vernonia Council amends ordinance on firearm use

The Vernonia City Council Monday night approved an amendment to the city's ordinance on discharging firearms to ban the discharge of any weapon inside the city limits, except on a firing range approved by the police department.

In addition to standard firearms of all types, the ordinance also applies to pellet guns, BB guns, air guns and cross bows.

Police Chief Jim Walters received permission to use \$235 to send a student to the Oregon Kiwanis Law Enforcement Career Camp.

The camp is a joint effort of the Oregon Kiwanis and the Oregon Board on Public Safety Standards and Training. It provides selected high school youth with a one-week program on the basic elements, responsibilities and mechanics of the law enforcement system.

Tonya Crawford is the student selected to attend the camp. She is part of the Columbia County Cadet Program being developed this year in cooperation with the Oregon State Police and county high school students who are interested in law en-

forcement.

"Tonya has demonstrated a sincere interest in law enforcement and we would like to encourage her interest in a career in criminal justice," said Walters' written request.

The request to use department money was made because there is no Kiwanis Club in Vernonia that could sponsor a local student.

The council meeting that was scheduled for March 6 will be held, instead, on the 7th so council members will be able to attend the Community Center Project on the 6th.

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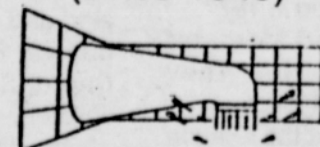
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