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Vernonia Police report for February

By Chief Jim Walters
Vernonia Police Department

During the month of February, the Vernonia Police Dept., responded to three (3) Domestic Violence Calls. Three individuals were arrested and transported to the Columbia County Jail regarding these incidents.

The Police Department has been receiving numerous complaints regarding dogs running loose. Six (6) animal complaints during the month of February resulted in four dogs being impounded by the Columbia County Animal Control. One citation was issued to a dog owner for Allowing Dog To Be a Public Nuisance. Remember to keep your dog on your own property. When the dog is off of your property you are required to have the dog on a leash.

Sometime between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. on February 26-27, six (6) vehicles were illegally entered and items were stolen. The Police Dept, took the reports on February 27th, 1995. The value of items taken from vehicles was well over $1000.00. All vehicles were unlocked, which allowed for easy access. The incidents are believed to be related and are still under investigation. To avoid having items taken from your vehicle, remember to lock them, take the keys out of the ignition and keep all valuables out of view.

February 27 at about 1:30 pm, the department responded to Washington Grade School regarding a fire in the boys bathroom. The Vernonia Fire Dept. determined that the fire was caused by Arson. After numerous interviews, a WGS student was arrested March 2. Further action will be forthcoming from the Columbia County Juvenile Department.

February activity:
Calls for service.....55
Cases.....41
Cases Cleared.....22
Traffic Citations.....55

VERNONIA FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE COMPANY REPORT FOR FEB., 1995

TYPE OF CALL	
Public Assist	1
False Alarm	1
Commercial Alarm, School	1
Chimney Fire	1
Medical Assist	5
Vehicle Fire	1
Mutual Aid	2
Structure Fire	2
Service Call	1
Search & Rescue	1
Illegal Burn	1
TOTAL:	17

Firefighters Responding	148
Equipment Responses	41
Hours on Incident Scene	21.75

OTHER	
Burn Permits Issued	19
Violation Notices Issued	1
Investigations	5
Inspections	2
Road Ord. Inspections	2
Fire Prevention Classes	2

Nuisance abatement citations issued

The Vernonia Police Department issued eight Nuisance Abatement Orders during January and February, according to Police Chief Jim Walters. Three of those served, complied with the orders. The other five, who failed to comply, were issued citations to appear in Vernonia Justice Court.

The city abatement ordinance requires police to notify property owners that they must clean up unsightly junk or garbage that could become a health hazard, because run-down areas tend to send a message of lack of respect and that, in turn, attracts an undesirable element, criminal mischief and hangouts for those who deal in criminal activities.

The Police Department will issue nuisance abatement notices on a regular basis in an attempt to improve areas at risk. The purpose is to improve neighborhoods, not create hardships for property owners.

"We hope that those property owners who are served and have questions or need help, will contact the Police Department," Walters said.

Once served with an abatement notice, the owner has 14 days to comply with the order. Failure to do so can result in the Vernonia Justice Court imposing a fine of up to $500.00 a day and each day following can be treated as a separate offense.

The court may also order the City to clean up the property and bill the property owner and/or renter.

Three point contest for Jamboree court

A three-point basketball shoot-out will be held Friday, March 17, at 7 p.m. in the Vernonia High School gym to benefit the Jamboree King & Queen's Court.

Four age categories and the entry fees are: students grades 5-8, $2.00; grades 9-12, $3.00; adults, 4.00; senior citizens, $3.00. Prizes will be awarded to the top three scorers in each of the categories.

For more information contact Tim Titus at 429-8250.

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