Did You Know...

By Chief Matt Workman Vernonia Police Department

The officers of the Vernonia Police Department were recently given helpful new tools. One is to assist the public and the other will provide tactical assistance when responding to incidents at Vernonia schools.

The first tool is a small card that lists several service agency phone numbers, including the district attorney, victim assistance, Help Inc., and senior services, to name a few. Officers will give out the cards to victims or anyone seeking helpful information and assistance.

The service agency cards are an idea borrowed from Nebraska, where the cards are routinely handed out by officers. The cards are printed at the department to save money, instead of by a commercial

nrinter

The second tool is copies of floor plans for Washington Grade School and Vernonia High School. The plans will aid officers when responding to incidents or emergencies at either school. In most of the recent school emergencies across the country, officers commented that a layout of the school would have been a tactical aid. The plans were pro-

vided by school maintenance supervisor John Lewis.

All VPD officers and reserves were provided with copies of the school floor plans to keep in their duty bags. Hopefully, the plans will never have to be used in a tactical situation, but it is always wise to be prepared and familiar with the schools, even when responding on non-emergency calls.

Police/Court Abbreviations

Abbreviations: A&D, Alcohol & Drug; DUII, Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants; BUII, Boating Under the Influence of Intoxicants; CCSO, Columbia County Sheriff's Office; DWS, Driving While License is Suspended; MIP, Minor In Possession of Intoxicants; MVA, Motor Vehicle Accident; PCS, Possession of Controlled Substance; ODL, Oregon Driver License; FTA, Failure to Appear in Court; NTSI, National Traffic Safety Institute; DA, District Attorney; VIP, Victim Impact Panel; FF&A, Fines, Fees and Assessments.

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