

Did You Know . . .

By Chief Matthew Workman
Vernonia Police Department



I want to thank Vernonia Art Attack and Mike Snow for putting the graphics on the Police Camaro for free. It looks very sharp. I

also want to thank Emergency Responder Services, Inc. of Cornelius for donating and installing several lights and other equipment on the Camaro. Without the support of these businesses and the Vernonia Lions Club, a special duty vehicle like the Camaro would not be possible.

In the past two weeks I have received complaints about excessive speed, aggressive driving, and several near-accidents

on Hwy. 47 south of Vernonia. One citizen told me every evening when they return to Vernonia from work, Hwy. 47 becomes a virtual race track. Cars and truck routinely exceed 70 mph, pass where it is prohibited, and almost collide with vehicles turning off of and onto the highway. ORS 811.485 "Following Too Closely" makes it illegal to follow another vehicle without due regard to speed, other traffic, and condi-

tion of the road. Remember, you should be able to safely stop your vehicle if the vehicle ahead of you should have to make a sudden or emergency stop. Most people are telling me that people are following way too close on Hwy. 47. I have notified OSP and Washington County asking for enhanced patrols. Also, take care when traversing curves so as to not veer cross the center line. This too has almost caused

several accidents all over Columbia County.

My officers have seen a rise in the use of Meth in the Vernonia area. We continue to gather information on the use and distribution of this drug in our community. On December 12, 2005, 7:00 p.m. at the Vernonia Community Church ("A & State Ave.), the Vernonia Police Department and the Vernonia Drug-Free Community

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