

Did You Know . . .

By Chief Mathew Workman
Vernonia Police Department



In the last *Independent*, Vernonia School District Superintendent Ken Cox

addressed the issue of a firearm being brought onto

school property by someone picking up a student. As Superintendent Cox mentioned, he spoke with me to let me know he was going to address the subject in his article. Since that time I have been visited by a citizen who researched the Federal Statute on-line and has some concerns regarding what they found out.

Many of you may not be aware of what this statute requires or prohibits, so let's do a

quick review. Federal Law 18 U.S.C. 922(q)(1) is part of the Gun Control Act of 1968. A general synopsis of 922(q) is as follows: it is generally unlawful to knowingly possess a firearm within a school zone (1000' from the grounds of a public, parochial, or private school), does not apply to possession on private property not part of the school grounds (e.g., licensed commercial business, residence, driveway).

Exceptions are as follows: individual is licensed by the State or political subdivision to possess the firearm; the firearm is unloaded AND is contained in a locked container or a locked firearms rack that is on a motor vehicle; the firearm is possessed by an individual for use in a school-approved program; the individual or his/her employer is possessing in accordance with a contract between the school and the indi-

vidual; the individual is law enforcement officer acting in their official capacity; or the individual is crossing school grounds to reach a public or private way, provided the firearm is unloaded AND they have permission from the school.

The concern of the citizen is that the way the federal law is written it could be considered a violation if someone was driving on Hwy 47 or on any of the

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