

Did You Know . . .

By Chief Mathew Workman
Vernonia Police Department



All of the Vernonia Schools are in full swing as are all of the fall activities in and around the schools. Remember to observe the 20 mph

Speed Zone between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Watch for numerous pedestrians before and after school as well as in the evenings, given the various activities occurring on campus. Be patient with all of the increased vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

On the topic of schools, the Oregon Attorney General Hardy Myers participated in the National School and Campus Safety Task Force that was

formed in an effort to reduce deficiencies and vulnerabilities to violence on school and college campuses. In a fourteen page report, the task force made recommendations that address threat assessment, protocols for dealing with the mentally ill, information sharing among law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders, and crisis response planning/communication.

Give the tragedy at Virginia

Tech and numerous high-profile school shootings, I paid particular attention to these recommendations. Even though we have a smaller school district you never know when or if an incident could occur. Some of the task force recommendations are as follows: need to establish a system to report disturbing behavior to teams, and that everyone is made aware of the reporting mechanism; state and federal law-

makers should examine and remove barriers of various privacy policies; increased funding to create, maintain, and update emergency plans at schools; schools should implement multi-point communication systems using existing technology to contact as many people as quickly as possible; mechanisms for anonymous reporting of perceived threats; and bullying prevention measures, in

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