Did You Know...

By Chief Mathew Workman Vernonia Police Department



Mother Nature continues to want to extend the Winter season here

in the Vernonia area and the rest of the Pacific Northwest with another round of snow and ice. Both Oregon and Washington extended the use of studded tires until April 5. Normally the deadline to remove the studded tires is April 1. Make sure you have your studded tires removed or you could be subject to a \$145 fine according to ORS 815.160.

I have done previous articles

and talked at length on Internet Safety for both children and adults. I even assisted Representative Brad Witt with his work on HB3515 which made it a crime for predators to solicit a minor on the Internet. The Oregon Attorney General's office released some more good news recently when they announced a nationwide agreement with MySpace to better protect children on the very popular web site, including the creation of a broad-based task force to explore and develop age and identity verification technology. Beside developing on-line identity authentication tools, other specific changes and policies include: allowing parents to submit their child's email addresses so MySpace

setting up profiles, making default setting "private" for profiles of 16 and 17 year-olds, promising to respond within 72 hrs to inappropriate content complaints, and committing more staff and/or resources to review and classify photographs, discussion groups, eliminate links to pornographic web sites, and

making it more difficult for adults to contact children.

The State of Oregon was one of the first states to respond to reports that registered sex offenders were using My-Space to contact potential victims. Remember that there are numerous web sites similar to MySpace that can be potential

safety hazards for both children and adults. As a responsible parent/adult we must take an active role in our children's lives by educating them of the dangers on the Internet, as well as being aggressive in monitoring your child's on-line activities, accounts, and who they are connecting with.

LNG opposition group to meet

Landowners along proposed liquefied natural gas pipeline routes are invited to a public information meeting sponsored by the Columbia River Clean Energy Coalition. The meeting will be tonight, Thursday, April 17 at 6:00 p.m., at the Clatskanie River Inn, 600 E. Columbia River Highway (Hwy. 30) in Clatskanie. All people interested in LNG pipeline issues are welcome.

Two LNG terminals and pipelines are proposed for Oregon along the Columbia River, at Warrenton and at Bradwood. Many landowners have already been contacted by Palomar Gas Transmission, Northern-Star, or Oregon LNG Terminal and Pipeline.

"LNG pipelines require huge easements, restrict future use of the land, and yet still require landowners to pay full property taxes, even if the land's resale value decreases," said Schmidt.

At this meeting landowners can establish another chapter of Oregon Citizens Against the Pipeline (OCAP). Maps, LNG information, and NO LNG buttons will be available at the meeting. OCAP groups are active in Yamhill and Washington Counties. Washington State has its own very effective landowners group, Landowners and Citizens for a Safe Community. Another Oregon group, the Northwest Property Rights Coalition, is based in Birkenfeld.

can prevent anyone from using

those email addresses from

Speakers at the meeting will present updates about the proposed projects, including the state and federal oversight, legal challenges, and a summary of action taken by OCAP. Not all landowners along the proposed routes have received letters from the companies, so people attending the meeting are encouraged to bring others who might be affected.

For pipeline information, contact Olivia Schmidt at oliviariver@gmail.com or Dan Serres at dserres@gmail.com and 503-890-2441. For other NO LNG information, contact Laurie Caplan at 503-338-6508 or lcaplan@pacifier.com.



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