

## Did You Know . . .

By Chief Mathew Workman  
Vernonia Police Department



As Summer comes to a close I am reminded that fall is right around the corner as the sports athletes are working

hard to get into shape. With the Fall sports also comes the return of school days, increased traffic around the school campus, and the 20 mph school speed zone from Grant Ave. to California Ave. Please be mindful that even though school is not in session yet, there are numerous students and kids around the school campus participating in sports, signing up for activities, or utilizing the school facilities. Drive cautious-

ly and be vigilant for increased pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Look for future discussions on parking and traffic flow changes.

The first topic I want to touch on is an increase in the misguided and phony Amber Alert text messages. Several law enforcement agencies, including the Oregon State Police, are reporting that false Amber Alerts are being received by people in the Bend and

Willamette Valley areas. The phony messages described two children from Bend who had been kidnapped and were possibly in a Jeep Liberty. The message asked that the recipient send it to others. The phony messages could put children in real danger, forwarding inaccurate information and tying up information lines. Do not forward Amber Alert messages. Check their validity at [www.oregonamberalert.com](http://www.oregonamberalert.com) or listen to the ra-

dio if you are in a vehicle. Legitimate Amber Alert text messages are never asked to be forwarded but are updated or cancelled regularly.

The Oregon High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) recently released its annual drug threat assessment report. The report indicates that Oregon exceeds the national per capita average for the illicit use of marijuana, methampheta-

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