



# Monthly Blotter

March, 2010

Vernonia Police Department

## Phone Numbers:

**Police Department:**  
(503) 429-7335

**Dispatch Center**  
(800) 696-7795

**Emergency: 9-1-1**

More Numbers

**District Attorney:**  
(503)397-0300

**Columbia County Sheriff's Office:**  
(503) 438-8439

**City of Vernonia:**  
(503) 429-5291

**Animal Control:**  
(503) 397-3952

**Juvenile**

**Department:**  
(503) 397-0275

## Schedule a Ride-Along:

Contact Captain Kay at  
(503) 429-7335

## VPD Web Site

[www.vernonia-or.gov](http://www.vernonia-or.gov)

## The American Police Hall of Fame and Museum

[www.aphf.org/museum.html](http://www.aphf.org/museum.html)

## Oregon Revised Statutes

**HB 2641, Online Communication** – modifies the definition of online communication for purposes of online sexual corruption of a child to include communication that occurs via telephone text messaging, electronic mail, personal or instant messaging, chat rooms, bulletin boards or any other transmission of information by wire, radio, optical cable, cellular system, electromagnetic system or other similar means.

**SB 303, Humane Agents Training & Certification** – allows Humane Society special agents who carry a Governor's commission to be considered police officers and to be certified by DPSST.

**HB 2315, DPSST Investigation Information Exempt from Disclosure** – exempts from disclosure, unless the public interest requires otherwise the records of the Department of Public Safety Standards & Training relating to an ongoing investigation of the fitness of a peace officer

Visit the ORS website at <http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors/> for more statutes.

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## Featured Article: *From American Police Beat* Ambush attacks on cops on the rise

In a year in which law enforcement fatalities are down overall, 2009 has been punctuated by intense bursts of violence against our nation's peace officers. The latest, particularly heinous incident occurred just after 8 am on Sunday in Washington state, when a gunman walked into a Pierce County coffee shop and open fired on four officers of the Lakewood Police Department who were going over plans for their upcoming shift. All four officers were killed in what area law enforcement officials are calling an execution.

No other customers or employees in the coffee house at the time were injured. Lakewood Police Chief Bret Farrar identified the four slain officers as Sergeant Mark Renninger, age 39, and Officers Tina Griswold, 40, Ronald Owens, 37, and Greg Richards, 42. All four were veteran law enforcement officers, with between 8 and 14 years of experience each, and all four had been members of the Lakewood Police Department since it was founded five years ago in the community outside Tacoma.

The officers were the first members of the relatively new police agency to be killed in the performance of duty. And Officer Griswold has the unfortunate distinction of being the first female officer in the United States to be killed this year. Chief Farrar stated, "This is a very difficult time for our families and our officers. The families will have many challenges ahead of them and we ask that their privacy be respected.

Please keep our families and Lakewood Police in your prayers." This latest violent incident was the fourth multiple-fatality shooting of law enforcement officers this year. On March 21, four members of the Oakland (CA) Police Department were fatally shot following a traffic stop and subsequent search. Just two weeks later, on April 4, three Pittsburgh (PA) Police officers were gunned down by a heavily armed extremist wearing a bullet-resistant vest and lying in wait for the officers, who had been called by the gunman's mother for a domestic complaint.

And three weeks after that, two Okaloosa County (FL) Sheriff's deputies were murdered while trying to arrest a man wanted in an earlier domestic incident. In addition to the four multiple-fatality shooting incidents reported above, there was a fifth incident this past July 26, in which two Seminole County (OK) Sheriff's deputies were shot and killed while attempting to serve an arrest warrant.

Therefore, 15 officers have been killed in multiple-fatality shootings this year, representing more than one-third of the firearms-related deaths this year in the U.S. The 15 officers shot and killed in these four incidents represent nearly 30 percent of the 44 officers who have been shot and killed so far this year, according to preliminary statistics from the NLEOMF.

The preliminary data show that total law enforcement fatalities are down more than 7 percent this year, driven by a dramatic, 23 percent drop in traffic-related fatalities. However, firearms-related deaths are up 19 percent so far this year, and the 11-month total of 44 is already five more than occurred in all of 2008.

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund extends our deepest sympathies to the families of the four officers killed today in Lakewood, WA, to Chief Farrar and all the members of the Lakewood Police Department, and to the citizens of Lakewood, who are coping with the loss of four of their dedicated protectors.

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## Good Police Work

On Thursday, 02-11-2010 at 7:38 p.m. during a traffic stop at Bridge and Rose, **Vernonia Police Officer Carahan** cited **Brittany Burr, 26**, of Hillsboro for defective lighting, and possession of Methamphetamine, along with **Taylor Flannigan, 24**, of Cornelius, who was also in the car, for possession of Methamphetamine. About 4-days later, and **as noted** on OregonLive.com on 02-15-2010, "Police arrested three people today accused of breaking into a Cedar Hills house where a methamphetamine lab was found in the basement Friday. Sgt. Bob Ray, spokesman for Washington County Sheriff's Office, said a caller reported about 10:30 a.m. that people were taking items from the house in the 400 block of Southwest Fernwood Way and loading them in a pickup. The house was posted with warning that it was condemned and should not be entered. A deputy spotted the truck and stopped it about a half mile away. A large air compressor, CDs and other items were found in the truck. Police identified the three as **Brittany Burr, 26**, of Forest Grove; **Taylor Flannigan, 24**, a transient; and **Martin Espinoza, 66**, of Vernonia. They were booked into the Washington County Jail on allegations of burglary and theft.

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## Noteworthy Question

Are you allowed to ride an ATV on public roadways covered with snow? ORS Chapter 821 offers more insights into the answer.

Visit <http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors/821.html> for more information.

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## Grand Jury Update

Sean Lorene Grittman, 19, of Vernonia, was indicted by a Columbia County Grand Jury on January 22, 2010 on one count of Burglary in the First Degree, ORS 164.225, a Class A Felony. Vernonia Police **Sergeant Mike Conner** appeared as the witness before the Grand Jury on this Vernonia Burglary case.

Want to know who was arrested? Click to visit one of these websites:

Columbia County Sheriff's Office  
[www.columbiasheriff.com](http://www.columbiasheriff.com)

Clackamas County Sheriff's Office  
[www.co.clackamas.or.us/sheriff](http://www.co.clackamas.or.us/sheriff)

Multnomah County Sheriff's Office  
[www.mcsos.us](http://www.mcsos.us)

Washington County Sheriff's Office  
[www.co.washington.or.us/sheriff](http://www.co.washington.or.us/sheriff)

Busted Newspaper (May Require A Fee)  
[www.bustedpaper.com](http://www.bustedpaper.com)



The following crimes or contacts occurred during the month of **February 2010.**

- 2/3/10 - Lewis Mayes (23) arrested for Probation Violation. Mayes was lodged at the Columbia County Jail. 2 juvenile females were taken into protective custody for Runaway out of Washington County and lodged in Washington County Juvenile.
- 2/4/10 - Male juvenile (17) taken into protective custody and lodged for a valid arrest warrant.
- 2/5/10 - Abandon Vehicle posted near the intersection of A street and East avenue.
- 2/7/10 - Justin Peters (23) arrested and lodged for a valid arrest warrant. Peters was transported and lodged at Columbia County Jail.
- 2/8/10 - Stalking report taken in the 100 block of D street. Referred to the D.A. for review.
- 2/8/10 - Marsha Molletty (59) cited for failure to renew registration near Lone Pine road.
- 2/10/10 - Male juvenile taken into protective custody for a valid arrest warrant out of Columbia County in the 100 block of North street.
- 2/10/10 - Assisted DHS with a reported child abuse investigation in the 100 block of A street.
- 2/11/10 - Reported theft of a purse taken from a customer near the intersection of Bridge and Madison street. Male juvenile suspect (13) and the wallet were recovered by VPD. All of the belongings of the wallet were also returned to the victim. Male juvenile referred to Columbia County Juvenile Department for Theft II.
- 2/11/10 - During a traffic stop, Brittany Burr (26) and Tylor Flanagan (24) cited for PCS Meth.
- 2/12/10 - Assisted Hillsboro PD in locating a suspect in a Forgery II and Tampering with Drug Records case. Joseph Walters (30) arrested and turned over to Hillsboro PD.
- 2/12/10 - Welfare Check requested for a subject who left a possible suicide note in the 900 block of Rose avenue. Subject was located in Washington County and was fine.
- 2/13/10 - Scott Benzel was arrested and lodged for probation violation - failure to report.
- 2/16/10 - Thomas West (49) cited for Parking in a Disabled Space at Vernonia Mini Mart..
- 2/17/10 - James Ferguson (72) cited for No Operators License near Mist drive.
- 2/18/10 - Assisted a Property Owner with a civil standby. Report sent to Columbia County D.A. office for PCS < 1 oz and Theft II of highway signs.
- 2/20/10 - Brittanie Roberts (20) cited for Violation of the Basic Rule near Lone Pine road.
- 2/22/10 - Report taken for Theft II of a wagon near Timber road. Still under investigation.
- 2/22/10 - Otis Armes Jr (41) taken into protective custody for civil detox.
- 2/23/10 - Assisted DHS in a possible child abuse investigation in the 1200 block of Rose avenue. Investigation closed.
- 2/24/10 - William Fallan (51) arrested and lodged for DUII near Highway 47 and Scappoose Vernonia Highway.

All requests for Juvenile Records or Reports relating to an incident should be directed to the Columbia County Juvenile Department

The Columbia County Juvenile Department handles all juvenile reports & records request. VPD blotter is designed to give a one-line summary of law enforcement contacts only. Home or street addresses may not be listed out of respect for victim's privacy. Request for complete reports should be made to Vernonia City Hall. Fees may apply as authorized by the Oregon law. Attorney fees may apply to some request. Reports involving investigations in progress may not be available. Other reports and/or records may not be available as allowed by business practices and law.