



The Sheriff's Quarterly

A Public Service of the Lane County Sheriff's Office

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Lane County Sheriff Weighmaster Unit Weighing In



SHERIFF'S VOICE

I wish I had better news about the federal timber funding to counties this Spring, but I don't. The County remains uncertain what, if any, federal funding we'll receive. In response to this uncertainty, the Board of Commissioners spent a day goal setting and determined that the primary goal is to transition the organization to a new state of reality. This includes planning for the organization's ability to sustain itself after federal funding ends.

At this time, the County Commissioners have directed County Administrator, Jeff Spartz, to move forward with the "No Renewal" budget option and to begin implementing a reduction plan to meet the proposed budget

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The Sheriff's Office Weighmasters are responsible for protecting county roads, streets, and bridges from damage by overweight trucks through enforcement of state laws and county ordinances as they relate to truck weight, length and permit requirements. The Weighmasters are funded by the Lane County's Road Fund. The Weighmasters cover the entire county with three staff members: Weighmaster Dolores Smith, and Assistant Weighmasters Terry Gaeta and Russ Cottrell.

Road engineers have concluded overweight trucks can cause significant damage to the roadways and the roads are very expensive to build and maintain. In order to check on compliance, Lane County has four weigh stations: Row River Road, Marcola Road, Big Fall Creek and Clear Lake Road. Occasionally the county Weighmasters will assist at the Oregon State weigh scale stations. Trucks over 10,000lbs need to stop at all Lane County weigh stations to be checked for weight and safety compliance. The Weighmasters patrol and stop vehicles along the roadside for possible weight and safety



Chief Weighmaster – Deputy Dolores Smith

violations. Weighmaster deputies use portable scales, which permit them to conduct weight inspections in areas outside the four scale locations. Interestingly, the portable scales are relatively light and weigh only 36 pounds. The trucks are weighed to make certain they are in compliance with Oregon Revised Statutes.

The Lane County Weighmaster also conducts walk around inspections-- no crawling under the trucks. Last year 66% of safety inspections revealed some level of violation. They conduct safety inspections on all commercial vehicles over 10,000lbs, to make sure they are in compliance with the

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The Sheriff's Quarterly newsletter is issued quarterly as a public outreach service, edited by Charlene Sabini, a volunteer at the Lane County Sheriff's Office. We welcome your questions and concerns regarding the Sheriff's Quarterly. Please direct them to Jackie Mikalonis at 541-682-4115 or to jacqlyn.mikalonis@co.lane.or.us.

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as soon as it is practical to do so. This includes commencing the layoff process and other cost-saving measures.

The impact to the services the Sheriff's Office provides in Corrections and Police Services will be very grave. I've asked the County Administrator to discuss with the Board the idea of using reserves to keep us in business until we have an answer on the federal timber payments. I will be advocating for them to consider this as well as continuing to advocate for keeping our department intact and keeping the public safe.

The County Administrator will be delivering the Lane County FY 08-09 Budget Message on April 29. A public hearing will be held on that date as well. Please contact us with any questions or concerns you have.



CONTACT US :

- Adult Corrections 682-2101
- Civil (Serve Papers) 682-4156
- Custody Referee's Office 682-4201
- Police Services Admin 682-3729
- Non-Emergency # 682-4141
- Police Services Records 682-3775
- Jail Records 682-4263
- SO Administration 682-4434
- Towed Vehicles 682-4156

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Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. They look for visible safety violations such as no brake lights, defective turn signals, flat tires, and loads that aren't secured properly. The county Weighmasters may occasionally work with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Safety Division, Oregon Motor Carrier Officers and other police agencies. Sometimes you will see Weighmasters assisting county patrol deputies during weather emergencies or helping patrol with traffic control.

In addition, Lane County's Weighmaster responds to reports of abandoned vehicles. Spring and summer months are busy abandoned vehicles times. In 2007 there were nearly 1,000 abandoned vehicles reported in Lane County. The abandoned vehicles are towed by tow companies on Lane County's non preference tow list.

Permits are required for any movement of a vehicle of public roadways which are over statute: weight, length, width, or height. Permits are not only required by commercial vehicles, but also by the general public if transporting something over statute limitations such as a wide boat. If vehicles are traveling on state highways and Lane County roads, permits can be obtained through ODOT or Lane County. If traveling on Lane County roads exclusively, Lane County will issue the permit. Permits are issued for 10 days, 30 days, or on an annual basis depending on the permit issued. Lane County permits can be obtained at 3040 N. Delta Highway. Telephone 682-6902.



Forest Work Camp

Vocational Opportunities

The Forest Work Camp is a 95-bed alternative incarceration program in a rural setting for low risk offenders. The majority of the offenders assigned to the FWC are members of work crews. The crews work on Federal forest projects and provide services to governmental and non-profit agencies throughout Lane County. While incarcerated at the Camp, inmates may receive training in first aid, CPR, building trades and welding. Those assigned to the kitchen at the Camp take the food handlers exam and some receive credit towards certification from the Lane Community College culinary program. They also may be required to participate in alcohol and drug treatment or education programs.

The Forest Work Camp has a two-acre garden where many of the vegetables served at the camp are grown. The Camp has apple trees, blueberry plants, and chickens, producing food used for meals served at the camp.

Kitchen supervisor, Sue Nevin, says the kitchen program develops valuable, marketable skills to inmates re-entering the workplace, and develops a sense of pride, accomplishment and creativity as well. The FWC kitchen inmate workers prepare three meals a day for up to 95 inmates, 2,000 desserts for the annual Whitaker Neighborhood Thanksgiving Dinner, and for camp holiday dinners for inmates and families. Inmate workers also bake breads and other standard menu items from scratch. While there, they can also learn catering skills, including cake decoration and food tray assembly.

Ms. Nevin's greatest challenge? Retaining good kitchen help! Many inmates stay only a few weeks, and bakers are especially hard to keep. And, by the way, the food at the FWC is excellent.

Q

Q: If I see some kind of crime in progress or spot a drug operation, how do I report it?

A

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A: Lane County offers the "Sheriff's Tip Line", a series of contact methods for reporting crime directly or confidentially. You may call the direct reporting line at 682-4141, or the Tipline at 682-4167. To report a marijuana grow, call 682-8541 or 1-800-624-4405. You may also send a confidential e-mail to this e-mail address:

A

Q

soconfidential@co.lane.or.us.

A

WAKE-UP CALL**The Return of INET**

The Interagency Narcotics Enforcement Team was re-formed in January after sustaining cuts to its budget in 2004, but did not lack for accomplishments this February with a major discovery of a methamphetamine lab just west of Junction City, Oregon.

INET is an organization which operates countywide and includes one detective from each of five local agencies. The Eugene and Springfield police departments, the Lane County Sheriff's Office, the Oregon State Police and the DEA are part of INET. New financial resources from the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and the Oregon State Police have made the resurrection of INET possible.

INET spokespersons indicated that this was an "old-fashioned" type of production site and that such lab operations are returning to the older styled chemical mixes due to the crackdown on over-the-counter sales of pharmacy products containing pseudoephedrine. Without access to this chemical in an easy-to-use form, illegal labs are reverting back to the use of certain acids, solvents and bases that were more common in the 1960's through the 1980's. Oregon was the first state in the nation to ban the over-the-counter sales of cold medications containing pseudoephedrine.

According to INET, the lab found west of Junction City (on Bureau of Land Management property) was likely operating for two years. No arrests were made nor any finished product found on site at the time of discovery, though the investigation continues. Because the meth production operation took place underground, cleanup teams are especially concerned about groundwater contamination and seepage into a nearby creek situated just below the cave site. The BLM is now responsible for assessing and cleaning up the remainder of the site.

We'll be exploring more about INET in future issues of The Sheriff's Quarterly newsletter!

