

Blitz to enforce Oregon’s child seat safety law in effect through Sunday, Feb. 17

Through Sunday, Feb. 17, Oregon law enforcement agencies are keeping a keen eye out to help ensure that motorists are correctly buckling up – themselves and their passengers.

Since Oregon’s child seat laws changed July 1, 2007, the emphasis will be on making sure that child passengers are buckled in correctly.

“We’re taking this opportunity to educate people about the child seat laws and remind them to buckle up

every person, every trip,” said Carla Levinski, manager of the Oregon Dept. of Transportation’s Occupant Protection Program.

Lack of safety belt use was a major factor in half of Oregon’s traffic deaths during 2007. More than a third of children injured in crashes were unrestrained, held on laps or using adult belt systems instead of appropriate child seats.

The enforcement blitz is a federally funded program ad-

ministered by ODOT’s Transportation Safety Division. The effort is through the Oregon State Sheriffs Association, Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and Oregon State Police Patrol Division, involving 27 sheriff offices, 63 police departments and OSP.

“Consistent, proper safety belt use is the single most effective way to protect people and reduce fatalities in motor vehicle crashes,” said Capt. Gerry Gregg, director of OSP Patrol Services Division.

Oregon’s new child seat laws established the following requirements:

*A child weighing less than 40 pounds must be re-

strained in a child safety seat.

*A child under 1 year of age or weighing less than 20 pounds must be restrained in a rear-facing child seat.

*A child of more than 40 pounds but under age 8 or less than 4’9” in height must be restrained in a booster seat that elevates them so that the lap/shoulder belts fit correctly.

Additionally, Oregon’s safety belt law no longer exempts commercial vehicles “designed or used to transport property.” Drivers and passengers in this category are now required to use proper safety restraints. This affects all types of trucks, vans, and passenger cars, including

those used for bulk transport, specialized delivery services, or movement of materials in conjunction with various projects or activities.

Since passage of the adult belt law in 1990, statewide crash fatality and injury rates in Oregon each have dropped 43 percent. During ‘07, Oregon belt usage went up to an all-time high of 95 percent (front seat occupants) and 97 percent (all seating), placing Oregon among the top five belt-use states. The nationwide belt use average for front seat occupants is 80 percent.

“Active enforcement practices and child seat

checkup stations have helped get the message across that using safety belts and child safety seats is critical to safe travel,” Levinski said.

“Continued education and enforcement are needed to maintain our high belt use and improve compliance, particularly with Oregon’s booster law, currently at 62 percent.

“To facilitate compliance with car seat laws and improve child passenger safety, ODOT has allocated \$200,000 to provide car seats and boosters for low-income families this year.”

ODOT will distribute funds through community programs.

One hurt in collision on bridge

A head-on collision with one driver suffering injuries occurred on an icy “first bridge” near milepost 29 on the south side of Cave Junction Friday, Feb. 1.

Reported injured in the crash, called in at 8:05 a.m., was Cave Junction resident Gilbert E. Van Tassell, 38, said Oregon State Police.

His Chevrolet Malibu and a Toyota pickup truck driven by CJ resident Justin Mason, 17, were involved. OSP said that the northbound pickup driver slid and veered

onto the lane for southbound traffic. Illinois Valley Fire District responded, and forced open the driver’s-side door of the Malibu to remove the driver.

Van Tassell was taken by American Medical Response ambulance to Three Rivers Community Hospital in Grants Pass. He was treated and released, said OSP.

He also was cited on a charge of driving while suspended, OSP reported.

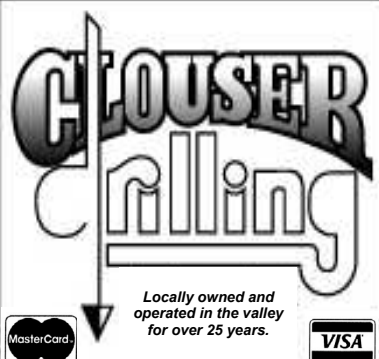
Both vehicles were towed from the scene. Traffic was temporarily hampered.



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Tales from the Police Blotter

Friday, Jan. 25

*On White Schoolhouse Road a man said that his daughter had been hitting him, he needed her to leave, and stop hitting him.

*An entire set of tree-cutting accouterments -- saw, gasoline, sharpening kit and chaps -- was reported stolen from a locked vehicle on Waldo Road.

*Several cars were reportedly broken into and damaged in the 600 block of Eight Dollar Mountain Road. Mental giants obviously were responsible.

*“Possibly mental,” a man was reported walking on the middle of Rockydale Road in the 1700 block, where he was almost struck by a motorist.

*When retrieving a vehicle stored at a Hogue Drive residence a woman noted that it had been damaged. Some people on-scene blamed her, and a verbal disturbance ensued. She said that they kicked her vehicle, damaging it further, before she drove away.

*Following an altercation on White Schoolhouse Road reported around 8 p.m., a caller wanted her daughter’s welfare ascertained, but she didn’t want her to return home. After a call to the Women’s Crisis Center, a room for the daughter was arranged at the Junction Inn.

*A valley woman, 50, was taken to Three Rivers Community Hospital in Grants Pass on a peace officer’s mental hold following her father’s report of abuse and threats.

*An intoxicated person was said to be responsible for phoning 911 from the 400 block of Daisy Hill Road at 8:46 p.m., but that person was no longer around when a deputy arrived.

*Rex Alan Denham, 30, was cited on a charges of driving under the influence of an intoxicant (DUII) and failure to maintain lane on Laurel Road at 9:43 p.m. Denham’s reported blood-alcohol contest was .19. His vehicle was impounded.

Saturday, Jan. 26

*A Selma couple said that a man, who claimed to be a hit man for the Mafia, was demanding money and TV tubes as payment for his work. The man, described as “mentally ill,” had not worked for the couple in years, they said.

*Some four or five gunshots were heard in Downtown Cave Junction at 8:10 p.m.

*Following a traffic stop on Redwood Hwy. in CJ, during which he was warned for defective head and tail lights, David Wayne Sheldon, 22, was lodged in Josephine County Jail on a warrant from Ashland Police Dept. charging failure to appear (FTA) on a charge of possession of a controlled substance (PCS).

*ODOT was advised that a large amount of trash was littering Redwood Hwy. near the Selma weigh station and that it needed to be cleaned up.

Sunday, Jan. 27

*Debris was removed from the roadway and damage to a city bench noted in Downtown CJ at 1:23 a.m.

*On Redwood Hwy. at milepost 26, Robert Scott Smilo, 50, was cited on a charge of DUII. His vehicle was impounded.

*An intoxicated man was found asleep in a vehicle with its engine running in Selma at 1:41 a.m. He was advised to not drive until he was sober.

*While chasing his runaway son through the woods on Walters Road, a man said that someone started shooting at him. He wasn’t sure where the gunshots were coming from.

*When located in Selma, a runaway boy was taken into protective custody.

*Colin Alexander Flynn, 23, was cited on a charge of driving with a suspended license (DWS) and warned for a defective headlight on Redwood Hwy. at Gold Canyon Drive at 6:41 p.m.

*On Norman Road a man said that his neighbor was yelling and screaming at 8:35 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 28

*A Cave Junction mother was advised to retrieve her son, who’d been picked up by Del Norte County Sheriff’s Office.

*A Kerby driver reported damage to her vehicle caused by rock-throwing youngsters.

*A valley resident reported that his 68-year-old father had been missing since traveling to California for a medical appointment. The missing man was located in Humboldt County Jail.

*Joseph Anthony Mazza, 20, was cited on a charge of DWS and warned for failure to signal a turn on Millie Street at 7:40 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 29

*He’d been talking to his girlfriend on her cell phone when she said, “Oh, my God,” and the line went dead, reported a concerned caller, who asked that deputies look for a possible motor vehicle accident somewhere between O’Brien and Cave Junction. The woman was located at the home of a friend, who had pulled her out of the situation, whatever it was.

Wednesday, Jan. 30

*A teen-aged friend of her daughter’s continues to harass her family, a rural Cave Junction mother said. She wanted to obtain a stalking order against the boy.

*Kenneth Robert Vineyard, 31, was cited on charges of DWS and driving without insurance on Caves Hwy. at 7:47 p.m.

*Frolicsome (that’s one description) youngsters in a small silver pickup truck were seen throwing snowballs at windows on W. Palmer Street at 9:30 p.m.

*Eric E. Johnson, 27, was cited on a charge of driving without insurance and warned for speeding in the 1100 block of Caves Hwy. at 11:10 p.m.

*Wendy May Owens, aka Wendy M. Damm, 21, was lodged in Josephine County Jail on warrants charging failure to appear on charges of PCS / methamphetamine. Owens also was cited on charges of DWS and no insurance.

Thursday, Jan. 31

*Angry with her physician’s office, a rural Cave Junction woman stated, “Fine, I’m just going to kill myself.” This earned her a visit from the sheriff himself, who determined that she didn’t mean it.

*A mother on Takilma Road said that while her 10-year-old daughter and a friend were playing outside around 3 p.m., a man in a light-blue four-door vehicle pulled up to the fenceline and tried to wave the girls over to him.

They ran home.

*Six gunshots were heard in the vicinity of Schumacher and W. Lister streets.

*Robert Calvin, 35, was cited on charges of DWS and failure to carry insurance on N. Redwood Hwy. at Lister Street at 8:38 p.m.

*A deputy tried to take a runaway girl into custody at a residence in Kerby, but after getting through a locked gate, the deputy found that no one would answer the door.

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3. Ample parking
4. Free public use of high speed internet computer resource room
5. On-site landlord to address building problems immediately
6. Reception area and waiting room
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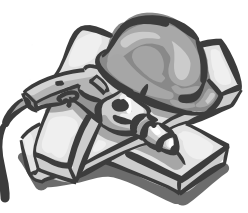
The monthly rental price includes, at no additional charge:

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Illinois Valley Family Coalition

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