

## Did You Know . . .

By Chief Mathew Workman  
Vernonia Police Department



The wet season has finally arrived with the beginning of Fall. Over the weekend there were several motor vehicle accidents that

were related to slick and slimy roads. Just this morning (October 1) there was a fatality on Hwy 30 near St. Helens. Please use extra caution and slow down on the wet roads covered with leaves and debris. Wet roads greatly reduce braking efficiency and decrease vehicle handling. I continue to get citizen complaints on reckless, speeding drivers on Hwy 47 going to and from Vernonia. The impatience being displayed by

numerous drivers and the less than optimal driving conditions of wet roads are a recipe for disaster. Please slow down and drive a proper speed for conditions.

The Vernonia Police Department recently participated in the 3-Flags Blitz Campaign by putting officers on enhanced traffic patrols. As part of the campaign, safety belt use surveys were conducted before and after the blitz. Pre-blitz

seatbelt usage in Vernonia was at 95 percent while the past blitz usage was at 96 percent. The very high seatbelt use percentages are a tribute to Vernonians' commitment to vehicle occupant safety. Through midnight of August 26, 2007, there have been 276 total deaths compared to 302 deaths in 2006. Use of safety belts greatly increases occupant survival percentages.

Besides the use of safety

belts by adults, the consistent and proper use of child restraints and safety seats greatly reduces death and serious injuries to children. The Child Safety Seat Resource Center (CSSRC) is now accepting applications for the Standardized Child Passenger Safety Technical Training Course in St. Helens. The course will train individuals to properly install safety seats, conduct standardized

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