

## Cops plan seat-belt safety blitz

*by Bend Weekly News Sources*

Law enforcement agencies from the Tri-County area are joining the state of Washington, Oregon State and the Province of British Columbia law enforcement agencies in a 14-day "Passenger Restraint Enforcement Blitz" from February 5, 2007 through February 18, 2007.

Local agencies include the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, Bend Police Department, Redmond Police Department, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Madras Police Department, Crook County Sheriff's Office, Prineville Police Department, and the Oregon State Police.

Participating agencies will provide regular and overtime enforcement of child restraint, safety belt and other moving violations. Officers have had the opportunity of participating in specialized training in protection strategies. The enforcement is funded by overtime funds through the Oregon Department of Transportation.

The child restraint and seatbelt usage rate for children under one year of age in 2006 in the State of Oregon was approximately 94%. Safety belt usage in the State was approximately 96%. Prior to the enforcement and after the enforcement, agencies will conduct usage surveys to determine pre and post enforcement levels.

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