

**ONTARIO POLICE DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT
2011**



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

It is my pleasure to bring you the Ontario Police Department 2011 Annual Report. As you're newly appointed Chief of Police, it is important to me to provide information on the police department to our elected officials, citizens and community partners.

It is also important to me that the Ontario Police Department has employees who are well trained, well equipped and has a high degree of integrity and professionalism.

I am proud of the work the thirty-two dedicated employees of the Ontario Police Department do on a daily basis. They give a lot of themselves and their families to protect the City of Ontario.

In this annual report, you will find statistics, accomplishments, milestones and activities performed by the department in the year 2011. I always caution those reviewing statistics to not take them at face value, but to look into why a statistic is the way it is. I will attempt to identify factors for some of our statistics in order to give you a full picture.

I would also like to thank our Office Manager, Sheri Smith for helping me produce this report.

I welcome any comments, suggestions or questions you might have of the Ontario Police Department.

Sincerely,

Mark Alexander
Chief of Police
Ontario Police Department
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PERSONNEL

The Ontario Police Department has thirty-two employees. Employee positions are as follows:

- Chief of Police
- Office Manager
- 4-Patrol Sergeants
- 14-Patrol Officers
- 2-School Resource Officers
- 1-Detective assigned to the High Desert Drug Task Force
- 1-Gang Enforcement Officer
- 1-Code Enforcement Officer
- 6-Telecommunicators
- 1-Part-time Telecommunicator

Chief Mike Kee retired from the Ontario Police Department in September of 2010. Captain Mark Alexander was appointed as Interim Chief of Police until July of 2011 where he was appointed Chief of Police.

The City budget for 2011-2013 was adopted in June of 2011. The Police Captain position was eliminated in that process in order to maintain patrol officer staffing levels. The Police Captain had been a long-standing position that provided substantial administrative support to the Chief. Job tasks of the Captain have been taken over by the Chief, Patrol Sergeants and often being assisted by Patrol Officers.

The department had also paid 1/3 of the part-time wages of employee Julia Rodriguez for front desk reception services. This position was cut during the budget process as well. Walk-in customers are now directed to a lobby phone for police services.

During the 2010-2011 school year, the Ontario School District cut one of two School Resource Officers (SROs) from their budget. The Ontario Police Department had provided one officer for the Middle School and one officer to the High School. The School District re-instated the second SRO for the 2011-2012 school year. Ramon Rodriguez transferred from Detective to SRO and is the current Middle School SRO. Officer Ridg Medford is serving in his fifth year as the SRO for the High School.

Historically, the Police Department had one detective assigned to investigate person crimes and one detective assigned to investigate property crimes. A Patrol Officer would be an initial responder to an investigation and might forward a case to a Detective for follow-up. Patrol Officers are now conducting full investigations of cases they respond to.

The thirty-two employees of the Ontario Police Department have over a combined 410 years of service and experience they bring to the City.



2011 OFFENSE STATISTICS

Activity	2011	2010
Calls for Service	10,092	10,794
Traffic Stops	3368	2511
Cited Traffic Violations	1869	1470
Motor Vehicle Crashes	380	385
Arrests	1285	1321
Arrests w/ Use of Force	14	14
Citizen Complaints	3	8
Cases to Dist. Attorney	761	N/A
MIP	32	35
DUII	32	35
Death Investigations	27	21
SRO Cases (School Year)	186	89
Vandalism	443	490
Disorderly Conduct	274	387
Drug Laws	135	123
Motor Vehicle Theft	21	33
Fraud	20	36
Offense Against Family	27	24
Larceny	906	851
Burglary	254	179
Weapon Offenses	3	12
Assault	112	114
Homicide	0	1
Sex Crimes	34	30
Sex Offender Registry	293	278



Explanations and significant cases-

Motor Vehicle Crashes: We are within the average number of motor vehicle crashes in the City of Ontario from the past several years. If you were to average two vehicles per crash (Some are single vehicle crashes, some have multiple vehicles) and conservatively account \$1000 damage per vehicle, this would equal \$560,000 in property damage. Injury crashes and lost work time could make this number even higher. Enforcement from traffic stops and citations did not decrease the number of crashes in 2011. ODOT traffic counts at East Idaho Avenue at East Lane show 24,600 vehicles passing through that intersection per day.

Arrests/Traffic Stops/Use of Force/Complaints: Approximately 12% of our calls for service end in arrest. For every use of force incident, officers handled 720 calls that required no use of force. Good employees, good training and good policies and procedures keep use of force and citizen complaints low. No lawsuits have been brought upon the department for several years.

Cases to District Attorney: 761 cases were presented to the District Attorney for consideration of prosecution in 2011. These are misdemeanor and felony cases that are heard in Circuit Court in Vale, Oregon. Lower level misdemeanor cases are heard in Justice Court, in Ontario and are treated as violation. We started tracking the number of cases sent to the District Attorney in mid 2010, so we do not have full numbers for 2010.

Death Investigations: Most of the Ontario Police Officers are appointed Deputy Medical Examiners who investigate deaths under the direction of the County Medical Examiner. Oregon law requires investigations under certain conditions. Most of our investigations are deaths due to natural causes when not under the care of a physician.

The Ontario Police Department investigated the death of 27 year-old Israel Zuniga on January 3rd after his body was discovered in the parking lot of Trebar Kenworth on SE 9th Avenue. The investigation was conducted with the assistance of the Oregon State Police Crime Lab. An autopsy would later show Israel died from hypothermia.

On June 29th at about 1:40 a.m. an Ontario Police Officer found 55 year-old Ralph Beitz lying on the roadway in the 400 block of SE 8th Ave. Mr. Beitz appeared to have a head injury and was transported to St. Alphonsus in Ontario. He was later air lifted to Boise and died of his injuries the following day. An investigation ensued with the assistance of the Oregon State Police Crime Lab. It was found Mr. Beitz was under the influence of alcohol and suffered from medical issues. There was no evidence that a crime had been committed.

Officers Brian Wickert and Wade Douglas attended training to become appointed as Deputy Medical Examiners in December.



SRO Cases: As mentioned, the 2010-2011 school year had only one SRO. The 2011-2012 school year has had two SRO's. The two SRO's are generating more activity than the year prior. My hope is that with the presence of the officers, activity will eventually decrease.

Motor Vehicle Theft: One of our vehicle thefts was a carjacking on August 12th. Thirty-four old Shannon Lindsay, of Boise took the vehicle at knifepoint from a victim who had stopped at J&J Corner Store. Shannon was subsequently apprehended in the State of Idaho after a pursuit. The pursuit ended in a crash and Shannon was transported to a medical facility after stabbing himself.

Fraud: In May, Officer Jason Cooper started an investigation into a bank embezzlement case. Between November 9th, 2010 and March 22nd, 2011 Jeanette Abbott (aka: Hollars), was employed as the Chief Financial Officer with a local bank. It is alleged that Jeanette committed the theft by conducting several financial transactions for her own personal financial gain, totaling a loss amount of \$93,749.40.

Specifically, it is alleged that Ms. Abbott used the bank's money by conducting various bank transfers and generating corporate bank checks to pay off personal loans and/or credit card debt; both within the bank and outside financial institutions.

Because of the intensive work in this case done by the officer, the investigation qualified and was accepted for Federal prosecution. The investigating officer worked this case from the beginning, as opposed to it being assigned to a detective as before mentioned.

Larceny: One of our cases was Organized Retail Theft. Between June 2011 and September 2011, twenty-three year old Marco Carrillo took a total of \$5,326 dollars worth of goods from the Ontario Wal-mart store. On at least three occasions, Marco was assisted by thirty-six year old Michelle Guzman, both of Ontario. The majority of the merchandise was computers and home entertainment equipment. With the assistance of Leads Online, officers were able to locate a majority of the merchandise after it had been sold at a local dealer of regulated property. Leads Online is a subscription-based service that allows officers to check for stolen property throughout the United States.

Assault: The police department investigated three stabbings in 2011.

On June 11th, an officer came upon a fight in the parking lot of a local bar. A 24 year-old male from Ontario was stabbed in the chest. He was taken to St. Alphonsus in Ontario and later taken to Boise for further medical assistance. An uncooperative victim hampered the investigation.

On August 21st, a 21 year-old Homedale, Idaho man was stabbed during a fight in the parking lot of a local bar. The victim sought medical assistance at the West Valley Medical Center in Caldwell. He was later taken to St. Alphonsus in Boise where he was later released. The suspect has not been identified and the investigation is currently closed.

On November 9th, two individuals were involved in an altercation on a public roadway in the NE part of Ontario where both received stab wounds. Both subjects are affiliates of rival gangs. One was treated and released at St. Alphonsus in Ontario and the other would be air lifted to Boise. Both were ultimately released and the investigation remains open.

Sex Crimes: In late March and early April of this year, the Ontario Police Department assisted the Oregon Department of Justice with a Child Pornography case involving 67 year-old Robert Kilby, of Ontario. Kilby was found guilty of 23 counts related to possession of child pornography. Kilby is faced a sentence of up to 1248 months (104 years).

Sex Offender Registry: Those who have been convicted of crimes requiring registration, must register annually or when an address or occupation change

DRUG ENFORCEMENT

The Ontario Police Department participates in the High Desert Drug Task Force, which includes personnel from the Malheur County Sheriff's Office, Fruitland Police Department, Payette Police Department, Weiser Police Department, Payette County Sheriff's Office and Washington County Sheriff's Office. The Ontario Police Department provides one full-time employee to the Task Force.

Drug Enforcement Activity for 2011

Marijuana plants seized: 451
Marijuana seized: 3209.9 grams
Methamphetamine seized: 1293.1 grams
Cocaine seized: 1.2 grams
Heroin seized: 0
Guns seized during execution of search warrants: 49
Vehicles seized: 2
Cash seized: \$15,433
Arrests/Indictments (Excluding current cases): 46
Search warrants served: 23
Total cases: 65

Earlier in the year, four Ontario Police Officers assisted the Idaho State Police in a drug investigation that led into Ontario. Due to their involvement, the officers were subpoenaed into Federal Court in Boise. Two defendants were found guilty of drug trafficking after being caught with 357 grams of pure methamphetamine that was headed to Ontario from Arizona. One defendant was looking at a minimum mandatory of 20 years federal time and the other a minimum mandatory of 10 years.

On December 14th, members of the High Desert Drug Task Force and Ontario Police Department executed a search warrant at a home in Ontario as the result of a drug investigation that had been taking place for several months.

As a result of that investigation, Nicholas Reed Young, was arrested for two counts of Unlawful Delivery of Methamphetamine Within 1000' of a School, one count of Unlawful Delivery of Marijuana Within 1000' of a School, two counts of Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine, one count of Unlawful Possession of Marijuana Within 1000' of a School and two counts of Unlawful Manufacture of Methamphetamine Within 1000' of a School.

At the time of his arrest, suspected methamphetamine was found on Nicholas Young's person, resulting in another count of Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine.

During the execution of the search warrant, property from motor vehicles was located, clearing several theft cases and resulting in several more charges.



GANG ENFORCEMENT

The Ontario Police Department has one full-time Gang Enforcement Officer. The Gang Enforcement Officer not only investigates gang related offenses in Ontario, but coordinates with other Local, State and Federal Agencies throughout the Treasure Valley. The Gang Enforcement Officer provides gang awareness training for law enforcement, educators, and anyone else interested in learning more about gang issues in the area.

The City of Ontario and Malheur County have a Gang Designation ordinance. Individuals engaged or identifying themselves as being part of a criminal gang affiliate can be designated as such by a police officer when a standard of proof can be met. The designee has a four-step appeal process once provided written documentation of the proposed designation. The designation stays with a person for four (4) years and can be renewed if the individual continues criminal gang related behavior. There are currently 17 designated adults and 63 designated juveniles in Malheur County.

There are currently six active gangs in the Ontario area:

LIL Valley Lokotes

Blythe Street

Nortenos

Dominguez Varrio

West Side SPLS – 18 St SPLS

Brown Magic Clique – BMC/Surenos

In January, a two-year investigation into the BMC gang was concluded with the arrest of 30 members on Federal Racketeering charges. The Gang Enforcement Officer had been a vital part of that investigation. The Ontario Police Department had various contact through the years with each of these individuals. Within the Racketeering, gang members had committed weapon offenses, drug offenses, assaults, murder, attempted murder and graffiti. This investigation and arrests made a significant impact to the BMC organization. As of this date, sentencing for some of the individuals is still pending.

The Gang Enforcement Officer worked with the Boys and Girls Club of Western Treasure Valley to initiate a mentored based anti-gang program, entitled “TAGs” (Targeted anti gangs).

In April, the Ontario Police Department partnered with Malheur County Commission on Children and Family, The Boys and Girls Club of Western Treasure Valley and the Four Rivers Cultural Center to bring Detective Victor Castro, of the Hillsboro, Oregon Police Department for a two-day gang awareness program for the community. Detective Castro gave presentations to students, service providers and the community with programs in both English and Spanish.



Also in April, a substantial graffiti case was adjudicated that the Gang Enforcement Officer had worked on for about a year, starting in 2010. A 17 year-old male had been charged with 33 counts of Criminal Mischief that had occurred throughout the year. The male was convicted of one felony count and two misdemeanor counts of Criminal Mischief. The juvenile will be on probation for up to six years, fined and ordered to pay restitution to twenty businesses and home owners totaling over \$7300.00.

The Gang Enforcement officer was invited to attend the Northwest Gang Investigators Conference in Eugene in April as well. He spoke at the conference about gang enforcement in rural communities.

The Police Department began investigating a gang related shooting, which occurred in a residential neighborhood on August 18th. The investigation led to the arrest of Daniel Miranda, who fled to Colorado. The majority of the investigation was completed on the 24th, where reports were submitted to the District Attorney.



CODE ENFORCEMENT

The Ontario Police Department has one full-time Code Enforcement Officer, Lynsey Hansen. Funding for the officer is split with Public Works. The Code Enforcement Officer addresses animal offenses, weed and garbage violations, parking violations and graffiti removal. Summertime is especially busy for Code Enforcement. The Department used to employ a seasonal assistant during this time. That funding was cut during the 2011-13 budget process and did not exist in 2011.

The City of Ontario maintains a dog-lodging contract with Ani-Care to lodge and dispose of dogs found running at large in the City. Disposal is through adoption or euthanasia. The City requires dog owners to have their dogs licensed. One benefit of dog licensing is to have your dog returned if found at large.

Ontario City Councilor Norm Crume continues to provide his time with graffiti removal in the City. Councilor Crume operates cleaning equipment and will remove graffiti as time and weather allow.

A new provision in City Code for obscene graffiti was implemented in 2011. The City can remove graffiti that is obscene or contains profanity or racial remarks in a timelier manner if the property owner is unresponsive to removal requests.

The Code Enforcement Officer provides liability waiver forms for graffiti removal that Councilor Crume provides. The Code Enforcement Officer revamped the forms this year for property owners to give consent for removal of any graffiti up to one year per property. This has helped to streamline the removal process.

Officer Hansen attended the following training in 2011:

- Oregon Code Enforcement Association annual conference
- Spanish for Law Enforcement
- Verbal Judo

CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

Offense/Call for Service	Total for 2011
Dogs Running at Large	303
Dogs transported to Ani Care	118
Dog a Public Nuisance	60
Animal Neglect/Cruelty to Animal	18
Weed offenses	170
Garbage offenses	49
Junk Vehicle offenses	15
Parking over 72 Hours	38
Other Parking citations	63
Total cases for 2011	715



9-1-1

The Ontario Police Department has one of the two 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP's) in Malheur County. Funded partially by State 9-1-1 taxes, the Ontario 9-1-1 PSAP operates 24-7-365 employing 6.75 full-time employees. Staff answers 9-1-1 phone calls and provides dispatch services for police, fire and ambulance services. Staff performs a variety of records and data entry services for the police department along with window services for the public.

The Mission of the Ontario 911 PSAP Center is to provide prompt, courteous communications to our customers to the best of our ability. Our standard is excellence. Our model of success is teamwork. We are always there and always ready.

At the direction of the Oregon State Legislature during the 2011 Session, the Oregon Military Department (responsible for Oregon Emergency Management (OEM) and oversight of the statewide 911 program) was tasked with submitting a report analyzing the 911 system in Oregon. The OEM contracted L.R. Kimball Company to provide an analysis of Next Generation 9-1-1 options. The Ontario 9-1-1 PSAP participated in a survey by L.R. Kimball as one of the smaller PSAP's in the State. Their report is being presented to the Oregon Legislature during their 2012 Special Session.

In February, the Ontario 9-1-1 PSAP required full evacuation for four days due to intrusive construction within Ontario City Hall. During the evacuation, Ontario 9-1-1 Telecommunicators worked out of the Malheur County 9-1-1 PSAP. Phones and radio were transferred to Malheur County's center as well. This event gave the opportunity to fully understand what it takes to relocate, as this had never been done before.

In 2011, 9-1-1 Telecommunicators handled 4473 9-1-1 calls and 53,945 non-emergency and business calls.



9-1-1, What's your emergency?

TRAINING

Members of the Ontario Police Department participated in over 2,300 hours of training in 2011. Employees are required by the State to have yearly training hours in specific categories to maintain Police Officer and Telecommunicator certifications. Training involved the following areas of instruction:

- First Aid
- CPR
- AED
- Emergency Vehicle Operations
- Active Shooter
- Defensive Tactics
- Policy and Procedures
- Legal updates
- Legislative updates
- Firearms
- Domestic Violence
- Communications
- Taser
- Child Safety Seat Technician
- 9-1-1 issues
- DUII Investigation
- Gang Investigation
- Technology/Computer Investigations
- Death Investigation
- Leadership and Supervision
- Child Abuse Investigation
- Social Media
- Juvenile Crime
- Drug Recognition
- Traffic Safety
- MILO

Police Officers and Telecommunicators can hold Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, Supervisory, Mid-Management and Executive Certificates.

Officer Jeremy Jones was awarded his Intermediate Police Officer Certificate in August.



ONTARIO POLICE BOARD

Since July of 2002, the Ontario Police Department has maintained the Ontario Police Board. A committee comprised of 15 citizens from the community, this group volunteers their time to learn about the criminal justice system on a monthly basis. Monthly presentations give this group a realistic idea of what the police department does and the challenges we face. Chief Mark Alexander hosts the group and strives to dispel the inaccuracies police television shows give society. New members are always welcome.

The Ontario Police Board heard presentations on the following topics:

- Overview of Policies and Procedures
- Overview of the Ontario Police Department
- Gang Awareness and current issues with local gangs
- Fingerprinting
- Department Tour
- Overview of the Malheur County Sheriff's Office, presented by Sheriff Wolfe

VEHICLES

The Ontario Police Department maintains 18 vehicles, which are as follows:

- 8-Patrol cars
- 1-Supervisor SUV
- 5-Unmarked vehicles
- 1-Code Enforcement pickup
- 1-Motorcycle
- 1-Vehicle for Malheur County Victim Advocate/Traffic Safety Coordinator
- 1-SUV for transport of graffiti removal equipment

Total miles driven in 2011: 174,714

Total miles driven in 2010: 179,220

Two police cars were involved in crashes in 2011. One was able to return to service quickly. The second was involved in a crash on November 2nd and sustained substantial damage. Our insurance company elected to repair the vehicle, which was returned to service on February 1, 2012.

The Police Department obtained a 2002 Ford Expedition from a donation by the Linn County Sheriff's Office in 2009. The vehicle was used as a K9 vehicle until that program was abolished. After unsuccessful attempts to donate the vehicle to the Nyssa Police Department, the vehicle was donated to the Ontario Recreation Department. Not being an adequate vehicle for them, the Police Department took possession of the Expedition in 2011 to be used solely for the transportation of graffiti removal equipment.



EQUIPMENT

The Ontario Police Department was able to issue each officer a Taser. Officers previously would share equipment, which is less desirable for equipment care and accountability.

The Ontario Police Department participated in a gun trade-in program with Glock. Service weapons were replaced with new firearms at no cost.

Former Chief Rick Stokoe, of the Nyssa Police Department, coordinated the purchase of surplus mobile data terminals (MDT's) to be installed in patrol vehicles. Twenty (20) of these computers were purchased by the department from Idaho State Police. Ontario Police Department, Nyssa Police Department and the Malheur County Sheriff's Office all received MDT's.

GRANTS

2011 was the 7th year the Ontario Police Department has managed the grant to fund and employ the Malheur County Traffic Safety Coordinator program. This \$33,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation pays wages for a part-time employee and supports a variety of traffic safety events. Dave Steifvater has served as the County Coordinator since the inception of the program.

The police department closed out three Federal Justice Assistance Grants that were started in 2009. The grants totaled just over \$115,000 and were used to purchase in-car video cameras, radio equipment and video equipment for interview rooms. The grant funding was shared with Nyssa Police Department and the Malheur County Sheriff's Office.

The police department was awarded and is managing a \$17,000 federal grant to purchase a computer server for a records management system shared by the Ontario Police Department, Malheur County Sheriff's Office and Nyssa Police Department.

The police department received \$12,000 in grant funding to pay overtime for seatbelt and speed enforcement under the Three Flags program funded by the Oregon Department of Transportation.

The police department received \$6,000 in grant funding to pay overtime for DUII enforcement funded by the Oregon Department of Transportation.

The police department is managing a \$3500 grant to fund car seats and fitting station in a grant funded by the Oregon Department of Transportation.

The police department was awarded \$1680 in grant funding from the Oregon Department of Transportation to purchase a radar unit.



DONATIONS

The Ontario Police Department received four donations in 2011. The Trust of Bonnie Johnson gave the department \$1,000. The Ontario VFW gave \$250. The Ontario American Legion gave the department \$200 and the employees of the Malheur County Soil and Water Conservation District, USDA Farm Services Agency and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service gave \$20 from a weekly competition they held each Friday.

OREGON STATE POLICE CRIME LAB

Law enforcement in Malheur County is going to have to get used to doing business a little different after the closure of the Ontario Oregon State Police Crime Lab at the end of 2011. We have been very fortunate to have this service in our back yard. The Ontario Lab and Pendleton Lab are scheduled to consolidate into one lab in LaGrande. Until a location can be established in LaGrande, crime lab services will now be obtained out of Pendleton. Law enforcement will now need to transport or mail evidence and will need to anticipate driving time from Pendleton to respond to crime scenes in Malheur County.

ON THE JOB INJURIES

Three officers were injured in the line of duty in 2011. In August, an officer injured his knee while apprehending a suspect. In August, an officer injured his back when he was involved in a motor vehicle crash. In November, an officer sustained injury when he was involved in a motor vehicle crash. Each officer recovered and returned to work.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Several programs were presented to a variety of groups through the year. The following were provided:

- Ontario Kiwanis Club- Overview of the Ontario Police Department and Gang Awareness.
- Ontario Lions Club- Overview of Ontario 9-1-1 PSAP with Telecommunicator Julie Walker.
- Project DOVE- CARES (Community Awareness Rape Education) presentation with Officer Tomas Elizondo.
- Malheur Federal Credit Union- Robbery prevention and response with Officer Tomas Elizondo.
- Treasure Valley Relief Nursery- Robbery prevention and response with Chief Alexander.

On April 30th, the Police Department participated in the national Drug Take Back program to collect unused prescription drugs. The department would again participate in the program on October 29th.

On August 11th & 12th, the Ontario Police Association assisted The Family Place by updating the outside of their facility. Funding was obtained by a grant from Modern Woodmen of America and the Boyd Fund. Staff and family members helped by building fence, pulling shrubs, planting flower beds & a few other miscellaneous tasks. The Family Place is a private, non-profit agency that offers a variety of counseling services, free community parenting classes, individual private parenting classes, and relationship classes for adults and teens.



Examples of work done at the Family Place

Thanks to Officer Phelps, Officer Douglas, Ordinance Officer Hansen and Telecommunicator Walker who joined Chief Alexander at K-Mart on December 3rd for Shop with a Cop. Ontario Police Department has participated in this program for several years.

TEEN DRIVER SEMINAR

On November 16th, School Resource Officer Ridg Medford held a Teen Driver Seminar at Ontario High School. This was a very successful program that he partnered with several businesses in town. Teen drivers and some parents attended 14 different stations where they learned things such as putting on tire chains, visibility concerns, vehicle maintenance, and laws relating to driving and MIP.

A lot of time and effort went into putting this together. Congratulations to Officer Medford for spearheading this and making the program happen.

We really appreciate the businesses that helped along with Malheur County Traffic Safety Coordinator Dave Stiefvater, Senior Trooper Scott Skinner from the Oregon State Police and Ontario Police staff that assisted with the program.

The Malheur County Traffic Safety Commission would later recognize Officer Medford for his efforts during their annual “Shining Star” award ceremony.



Above: Les Schwab showed how to install tire chains.



Right: Hometown Toyota demonstrated the proper way to install tire chains.



Ontario Police & Child Safety Seat Education

The police department managed a \$3,500 grant to fund car seats, technician certification and equipment for the child safety seat fitting station held at City Hall from 4:00-6:00 PM the second Thursday of every month. This grant is funded by the Oregon Department of Transportation and allows our Safe Kids nationally certified car seat technicians to educate and service families in need of child safety seats.

The Child Safety Seat Technician Team in Malheur County worked with 84 families in need of child safety seat education. A total of 108 car seats were checked and 52 new seats were provided to families in need. This was all done through 12 fitting stations held at Ontario Fire & Rescue, one car seat clinic held in Payette, Idaho at the Hanigan Chevrolet Dealership and one car seat clinic held at the Hanigan Motors here in Ontario.



Ontario Police Office Manager Sheri Smith is a Nationally Certified Car Seat Technician Instructor and our Safe Kids Malheur County Coordinator. The Ontario car seat fitting station and other car seat clinic events are organized by Sheri and registered through Safe Kids U.S.A. We currently have 15 Child Safety Seat Technicians in Malheur County, one of which is newly certified technician, Ontario Police Officer Greg Bakken.



Officer Greg Bakken attended Child Safety Seat Technician training in Enterprise, Oregon (June 2011)

We are proud and honored to provide this necessary program through the Ontario Police Department to the families of Malheur County. Our goal is to provide education and assistance to keep children safe in and around vehicles in our community.

TRAFFIC SAFETY SCHOOL

In early 2005 the Ontario Police Department began a project to provide a traffic safety school to local traffic violators sentenced from the Ontario Municipal and Justice Courts. After several months of research a curriculum was developed and approved by the Court. Since that date we continue to enhance the course and update information as traffic laws continue to change.

We currently hold two traffic school classes a month, one in English and one in Spanish. The class is four hours in length and covers a variety of traffic law information. Ontario Traffic School is voluntary and often times are offered by a Court in order to give a violator the opportunity for the violation to be held off of a violator's official State driving record. The cost of the class is \$45. Students may be given the option to attend from area Municipal Courts, Justice Courts and Juvenile Departments. We also accept students from the general public who are interested in keeping informed on general traffic laws.

The instructors, one being Office Manager Sheri Smith, are well schooled in traffic law and have a genuine interest in traffic safety. The class is interactive and students can enjoy lively dialogues concerning driving and traffic enforcement. Some of the topics discussed include such things as:

- Seat belt laws;
- Child safety seat laws;
- Driving under the influence of intoxicants;
- The proper response to traffic control devices;
- Driving distractions / Cell Phone Use;
- Road rage;
- School zones; and
- General rules of the road.

This year a total of 18 traffic school classes were held, 12 English and 6 Spanish. A total of 279 students attended.

This year the Ontario Traffic School curriculum was shared with Baker City as they began a project to create and offer traffic school in their community.

Office Manager Sheri Smith was awarded a "Shining Star" award in 2011 for her dedicated work with Traffic Safety in our community.



CONCLUSION

This report highlights the many activities of the Ontario Police Department. Further information can be found on the City of Ontario website, located at www.ontariooregon.org. The Ontario Police Department can also be found on Facebook and Twitter.

