



A Safer Business Community with Bend Patrol Services

by ABBY METZGER CBN Feature Writer

It's no secret—people inside and outside of Oregon's borders are clamoring to relocate to Bend. Sunny days, boundless recreation opportunities and a high density of business opportunities partially account for the population influx. With so many attractive aspects in one city, it's easy to overlook Bend's surprisingly high crime rate. In fact, The overall crime index for Bend is above the national average.

Nick Thompson, a retired police officer, decided to address the needs of a growing city by starting Bend Patrol Services, a private security business focusing particularly on the business community that began operations this month.

After six months of research and planning, Thompson realized Bend was desperate for a patrol service. "The police here do a great job," he said. "The problem is they can't keep up with demand." He and a team of former and current police officers are taking responsibility for Bend's safety by offering patrol services that include **private property traffic and radar enforcement**, alarm response and bike, nightly business and problem-oriented patrol. Using real-time web-based technology, Bend Patrol Services can inform enterprises the status of their assets.

In addition, the new business is one of the few who can do armed, undercover work. "We want to bridge the gap between law enforcement and security," Thompson said.

It's not the career he imagined himself to be in, but Thompson's background lends itself to the field. He's guarded for George Bush Senior and a former governor of California. His credits even border heroic acts of crime solving, as he's caught a professional pharmacy burglar and investigated hundreds of other burglaries.

Bend Patrol Services works 8pm-4am, seven days a week, 365 days a year, but they can accommodate special situations. "Our goal is to be one of the most professional and well-equipped patrol companies in Central Oregon," Thompson said.

Safer streets and less crime are obvious benefits of having Bend Patrol Services in operation, and Thompson says the community response has been amazing. Beyond a reduced crime rate, the new patrol service provides business owners peace of mind, and with a safer business arena, current and prospective residents can further indulge in Bend's quality of life.

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