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Police to step up traffic enforcement this year

By Nick Bonham

Police are warning drivers who step on it that traffic enforcement will be stepped up this year.

Anyone who has driven Fourth Street in the past week may have already noticed a greater police presence. The traffic division of the Pueblo Police Department set speed traps at bridges on East and West Fourth streets.

On Saturday night, Sgt. Danny Rutherford and a crew of six traffic officers worked the area of East Fourth Street and Erie Avenue, clocking eastbound traffic coming over the bridge. Within an hour they issued 26 speeding tickets and 35 driving violations.

A couple days earlier, officers did the same thing, clocking westbound traffic on the West Fourth Street Bridge. Capt. Linda Grisham didn't have exact numbers, but said she expected results similar to Saturday's operation.

"That's something we're really going to concentrate on this year is traffic enforcement," Grisham said. "A lot of people don't realize they're speeding because they drive the same routes every day and it becomes normal to them. We hope they start monitoring their speed."

Officers aren't just looking for speeders, though.

"We have some major speeding areas out there that are pretty crazy, but we're going to do more stop-sign enforcement. We have some areas, around elementary schools, that we're going to concentrate more on."

Grisham said officers are going to beef up patrols at some of the city's most accident-heavy areas as well.