DATE/ TIME OF RELEASE: December 17, 2019  9:00 a.m.

NATURE OF STORY: Lane County Sheriff’s Office to Participate in Nationwide DUII Saturation Patrols

DETAILS:

Lane County Sheriff’s Office deputies are participating in a nationwide saturation patrol with a focus on reducing impaired driving and related vehicle crashes. These saturation patrols began on December 13th and will go through January 20th. These overtime patrols are funded by a grant administered by the Oregon Department of Transportation and allow the Sheriff’s Office to perform traffic enforcement that deputies would not normally be able to do without the special, allocated funding. This saturation is in conjunction with a nationwide effort to reduce drunk and impaired driving over the holiday season.

The U.S. Department of Transportation reports that over the past 5 years, an average of 300 people died in drunk driving crashes the week between Christmas and New Year’s nationally. In 2016, 781 people lost their lives in drunk driving related crashes in the month of December nationwide.

The Lane County Sheriff’s Office wants to remind motorists to drive safely during the typically hazardous conditions this time of year, drive sober, and utilize designated drivers, taxis or other public transportation if you choose to drink. With the passage of Oregon’s marijuana laws, this is also a reminder of the impairment marijuana creates of drivers, impacting their ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUII) applies to drivers under the influence of marijuana, as it does with alcohol.

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