



**HEATHER S. BENJAMIN**

Information & Communication  
Manager/PIO

Direct Phone: (970) 244-3929

Cell Phone: (970) 986-0950

Heather.Benjamin@mesacounty.us

March 12, 2009

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## IRISH OR NOT, DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK DUI saturation patrols and checkpoint planned

Mesa County, Colorado—Starting tomorrow deputies will participate in Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT) St. Patrick's Day 'impaired driving enforcement' period. From Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, deputies will be increasing their on-duty patrol numbers with designated deputies on DUI patrols only and participating in a local DUI checkpoint with other local law enforcement.

The Sheriff's Office will saturate the County with additional deputies every day of the campaign, with nearly double the number of deputies on the street for St. Patrick's Day. Deputies earn overtime and volunteer for this saturation period, paid through the 2009 Law Enforcement Assistance Fund (LEAF) grant from CDOT. The Sheriff's Office received \$35,000 for 2009 efforts to participate in the 'impaired driving enforcement' activities.

DUI stats for the Sheriff's Office:

2009 YTD: 42 DUIs

2008: 160 DUIs

2007: 159 DUIs

2006: 166 DUIs

###