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DEPUTIES MAKE MORE DUI ARRESTS IN 2009 Checkpoint planned for this weekend

Mesa County, Colorado—According to Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), over 1.46 million drivers were arrested in 2006 for DUI. This is an arrest rate of 1 for every 139 licensed drivers in the United States. MADD also reports that someone is killed on average every 40 minutes by a drunk driver.

Drinking and driving is a choice that is too often made after the drinks start flowing. Designating a sober driver before a person consumes alcohol or calling a taxi cab for a ride home could possibly be the best decision made in life. With summertime upon us, the Sheriff would like to take this opportunity to remind people not to drink and drive. The financial burden of a first DUI offense can be about ten thousand dollars, and seriously hurting or killing someone in a DUI crash could mean prison.

“Our community has seen far too many deaths related to drinking and driving,” Sheriff Stan Hilkey said. “It is appalling that people continue to drink and get behind the wheel of a vehicle. People who make those poor decisions should consider themselves warned as deputies are working extremely hard to find DUI drivers all the time.”

DUI stats for the Sheriff's Office show the average age of DUI arrest is 30-years-old. And of the year to date DUI arrests in 2009, 82.5% are men. Year to date DUI stats in 2008 totaled 61 and for 2009 so far, 103 DUI arrests. This is a 59% increase in DUI arrests during the same time period from 2008 to 2009. For 2006, deputies arrested 166 people for DUI; In 2007, deputies arrested 159 and in 2008, 160 DUI arrests.

Deputies will have a DUI checkpoint running this weekend and details about that will be sent to the media on Friday.

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