

MEDIA RELEASE

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ODPS DIVISIONS TEAM UP TO INCREASE SAFETY IN LAWRENCE COUNTY

Ohio State Highway Patrol and Ohio Investigative Unit focus on OVI and underage drinking

(COLUMBUS) – In an effort to combat drunk driving and other illegal activity over the weekend, the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) and Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) conducted a joint enforcement effort in Lawrence County. OSHP focused on state routes and highways and OIU agents worked liquor permit premises and other entertainment venues.

Several local events took place over the weekend including school proms and the “Rock-n-Roll Rally” held at Hanging Rock All-Terrain Vehicle Club. While these events are positive community traditions, they also offer the opportunity for drinking and driving.

“This was a very busy weekend in Lawrence County,” said Lt. Michael Gore. “As a result of the high visibility and strict enforcement, there were no crashes over the weekend related to the events.”

The patrol arrested seven people for operating a vehicle while impaired. In all, troopers from the Ironton Post stopped 227 vehicles during the enforcement and issued citations to more than 100. OIU agents charged one individual with possession of drug paraphernalia and another person with carrying a concealed weapon. For the weekend, agents charged a total of 15 individuals for underage alcohol violations and two additional people on charges for consumption of beer or intoxicating liquor while in a motor vehicle.

“We are pleased that these two divisions worked together for this joint enforcement effort,” said Ohio Department of Public Safety Assistant Director George Maier. “Partnerships within our agency and with our local safety partners are key to successful operations.”

In 2007, there were more than 15,000 alcohol-related crashes on Ohio’s roads, resulting in 473 fatalities and almost 9,000 injuries. The Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) works to reduce deaths and injuries on Ohio’s roads through the efforts of its eight divisions including the enforcement efforts of the OSHP and Ohio Investigative Unit.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol is an internationally accredited agency whose mission is to protect life and property, promote traffic safety and provide professional public safety services. The Ohio Investigative Unit enforces local, state and federal laws with emphasis on liquor, food stamp and tobacco offenses, further offering educational guidance and professional assistance to law enforcement agencies and the general public.

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