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MEDIA RELEASE

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St. Patrick's Day Safe Driving

As the celebrations for St. Patrick's Day are approaching, Sheriff Knudson is committed to traffic safety efforts in Rock County. Sheriff's Office Patrol Bureau Deputies are trained to detect alcohol impaired drivers and drivers who are impaired by prescription medication and illicit drugs.

Our goal is to discourage individuals from making the dangerously irresponsible decision to drive while impaired. Drivers impaired by alcohol, prescription medication or any type of drug, are dangerous drivers who jeopardize everyone's safety on our roadways.

This St. Patrick's Day, the Rock County Sheriff's Office will direct additional resources to combat impaired driving. Here are a few tips to keep you and our community safe during the upcoming St. Patrick's Day weekend.

- If you plan to consume alcohol, always choose a sober designated driver before you start drinking.
- Sober designated drivers should make sure everyone in your vehicle is buckled up – every seat, every trip. Watch your speed, be patient and alert.
- If you're feeling buzzed, you're likely over the 0.08 BAC limit and should not drive. Take public transit, a taxicab, ride service, or ask a sober friend to drive you home.
- Download WisDOT's free Drive Sober mobile app at <http://witrafficsafety.org/drivesober> that includes a blood alcohol estimator, designated driver selector, and find-a-ride feature that uses a smart phone's GPS to identify transportation alternatives.
- Report impaired drivers to law enforcement by calling 911. Provide as much detail as possible on the driver, vehicle and location.

An OWI conviction can cost about \$10,000 when you include fines, attorney fees, court costs, lost work time, higher insurance rates, car towing and repairs. Worse yet, impaired drivers involved in a crash can hurt or kill someone else or lose their life. Make responsible choices so we can all safely celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

Troy J. Knudson
SHERIFF

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