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DUI PATROLS AND EDUCATION SET FOR THE WEEKEND

The Missoula Police Department will conduct a DUI Saturation Patrol and educational event on Saturday, Oct. 17, in an effort to combat impaired driving. The educational event will begin at 10 a.m. at Eastgate Shopping Center on East Broadway. Officers will be working near the parked Montana Highway Patrol's mobile impaired driver assessment center with informational brochures about DUI laws and penalties. They'll be available to answer questions from the public.

The DUI emphasis will begin in the afternoon and will run through Sunday morning. The emphasis will be on reducing and eliminating DUI-related injury crashes throughout the Missoula area.

The saturation patrols will be conducted by officers who are working extra shifts, rather than on-duty officers. There will be as many as two additional officers working these extra patrols Saturday night, with a focus on the downtown and bar areas, and some patrols in areas where there are reports of numerous house parties. The officers who conduct these patrols will be aggressively looking for impaired drivers and will process and arrest all impaired drivers they encounter.

This is a continued effort by Missoula law enforcement to address driving under the influence of alcohol, underage drinking, over-serving, and injury crashes as part of the comprehensive Alcohol Enforcement Plan. The object of the plan is to reduce the listed behaviors, but more specifically this part of the plan will address the frequency of driving under the influence of alcohol and DUI-related crashes.

This is the latest in a string of DUI saturations by the Missoula Police Department over the past few years. Police Department staff members hope that continued patrols and education efforts can have an even greater effect on reducing impaired driving and DUI-related injury crashes.

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