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**LANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**NEWS RELEASE**



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**DATE/ TIME OF RELEASE:** 7/11/2018 10:15 am

**NATURE OF STORY:** Grants Fund Increased Patrols in the Area of the Oregon Country Fair

**LOCATION:** Hwy 126, Territorial Hwy and Suttle Road, Veneta

**DETAILS:**

The Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) will be conducting high visibility traffic enforcement patrols in the Veneta area during the Oregon Country Fair, held on July 13-15, 2018. Deputies will be focusing on DUII enforcement, as well as speeding, seat belt and cell phone use violations. Patrols begin Thursday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, and will continue through Monday, July 16<sup>th</sup> as attendees remain in the area campgrounds. The funding for these patrols is provided to LCSO through two Oregon Department of Transportation Traffic Safety grants administered by the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association, aimed at reducing the number of vehicle crashes and related injuries. This federally funded grant program provides overtime funding to participating Sheriff's Offices for DUII detection and apprehension, and traffic enforcement.

Annually, the Oregon Country Fair brings extremely high volumes of vehicle and pedestrian traffic to the area. Due to congestion in the area surrounding the Oregon Country Fair, the speed limit for Hwy 126 West near the event will be lowered to 45 mph during the Fair. Restrictions are also posted for no parking and no U-turns along Hwy 126 and Suttle Road during the event.

Drivers attending the event or traveling through the area should anticipate heavy traffic and congestion, and plan for extra travel time. Flaggers will be present on Hwy 126 (near milepost 45) at the Fair's main entrance during peak times to control traffic flow through the area.

The Lane County Sheriff's Office wants to remind drivers to slow down, wear your seat belt and drive sober without distraction.

**Prepared by: Sergeant Steve Sieczkowski**

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