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

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**DATE/ TIME OF RELEASE:** 2-03-2019 / 10:30 P.M.

**NATURE OF STORY:** Lane County Sheriff's Office to Participate in Nation-Wide Seatbelt Enforcement Blitz

**DETAILS:**

From February 4<sup>th</sup> to February 17<sup>th</sup>, the Lane County Sheriff's Office will participate in the Click it or Ticket campaign focused on seat belt use, child restraints, speed and distracted driving. These patrols are funded solely through grant monies provided through the Oregon State Sheriff's Association and Oregon Department of Transportation. This is in conjunction with the nation-wide effort sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading nationwide cause of death for children ages one through twelve years old. In 2016, 1,992 children under twelve were injured in Oregon traffic crashes, 10 percent were reported not using a child restraint system. It is estimated that car seats may increase crash survival by 71% for infants under one year old and by up to 59% for toddlers aged one to four. Booster seats may reduce the chance of nonfatal injury among four to eight year olds by 45% compared to safety belts used alone.

In 2017 an Oregon law was passed requiring children to ride in a rear-facing safety seat until they are at least two years old. A child over age two must continue to ride in a car seat with harness or in a booster until they reach age eight or 4' 9" in height and the adult belt fits them correctly.

Grant funding will provide additional overtime for Seatbelt Enforcement Saturation Patrols throughout the year for holidays and local Lane County special events. The Lane County Sheriff's Office wants to remind motorist to buckle up and drive safely.

**Prepared by: Sergeant Tim Ware**

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