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IMMEDIATE USE PRESS RELEASE

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INFORMATION: The Kalkaska County Sheriff's Office has observed an increase in drivers who are impaired by substances other than alcohol. In order to better serve the community and increase safety on our roadways, Sheriff Pat Whiteford has enlisted one of his deputies to obtain specialized training to combat this growing problem.

Deputy Kyle Beaver of the Kalkaska Sheriff's Office was selected from a pool of applicants throughout the state to become a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE). Deputy Beaver began in January and recently completed the training which consisted of three stages. The first two stages of this training took place over several weeks in Lansing, MI. The third and final stage required applicants to train in Phoenix, Arizona for one week, which consisted of numerous practical evaluations of individuals who were under the influences of various drugs.

After completing all of the training and demonstrating his knowledge of drug recognition, Deputy Beaver joined approximately 100 officers in the State of Michigan, who are certified as Drug Recognition Experts. This highly specialized training allows Deputy Beaver to now identify those individuals who are impaired and determine what drug category they are likely under the influence of. Additionally Deputy Beaver is able to testify in court as an expert witness in the field of Drug Recognition.

This training was provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) at no cost to the Kalkaska County Sheriff's office. As a DRE, Deputy Beaver will be available to surrounding jurisdictions. In order to determine what impaired drivers are under the influence of, Deputy Beaver will conduct an extensive evaluation of the subject. The evaluations include various steps, including taking the subjects pulse, blood pressure and estimating pupil size. The Kalkaska County Sheriff's Office believes that the additional training will help reduce the number of impaired drivers on the roadways and thus increase safety.

APPROVED BY:

PAT WHITEFORD, SHERIFF