



MARSHALL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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"Safe 4 Spring"

- Sheriff Ted Kamatchus announced today the results of a traffic safety project the Marshall County Sheriff's Office has just completed. The project entitled "Safe 4 Spring" encompassed high visibility enforcement, education, and positive reinforcement as major components in the program.

The project, which took place from April 17th through April 24th, was geared towards educating the youth in Marshall County about traffic safety in an attempt to reduce the number of injuries and fatalities in the county. While Marshall County has continued to lower the number of accidents over the last few years, this was just another step in continuing the decline.

The high visibility enforcement of the project consisted of having extra cars on patrol around schools both before and after school. As a result of this enforcement the following violations were observed:

- * seatbelt violations (10)
- * stop sign/light (1)
- * other traffic violations (1)
- * registration (3)
- * dark windows (1)
- * equipment (3)
- * speed (19)
- * other moving violations (1)
- * driving while suspended (1)
- * OWI (5)
- * no insurance (4)
- * motorist assist (2)

The educational component reached students in the East Marshall and West Marshall School Districts. The schools' involvement in this program was imperative in being able to talk to the youth about age appropriate traffic safety issues. These issues included bicycle safety, motorcycle and all-terrain vehicle safety, school bus safety, alcohol use and operation of motor vehicles, and the importance of using seatbelts.

The positive reinforcement aspect of the program had two parts. With donations from local businesses and civic group, over 70 T-shirts were handed out to students driving to and from school. The shirts were designed with a logo stated "Seatbelts save lives." was well received by the high school students.

A child safety seat checkpoint was the other part of the positive reinforcement. The checkpoint was held on Saturday afternoon at Big K-Mart in Marshalltown. Through the course of the checkpoint car seats were inspected and parents were shown how to properly install their child seats. Everyone who attended the checkpoint was given literature regarding the proper use of child safety seats. Several questions were answered regarding proper fit for older

children.

A bicycle rodeo was held at both East Marshall and West Marshall schools. The bicycle rodeo educated kids about bicycle safety and an obstacle course was set up for riding skills. There were several bicycle-related items that were given out at both schools.

The final evaluation of "Safe 4 Spring" took place on Saturday, April 24th. Area schools were celebrating prom and like any other community, there was some concern over under age alcohol parties and alcohol related accidents. The sheriff's office did not have any alcohol-related accidents on prom night. This serves as a tribute to the students for celebrating wisely and making good choices.

Finally, Sheriff Kamatchus wanted to thank those businesses and organizations who made "Safe 4 Spring" possible. Special thanks to A&J Body Shop, Alley Silkscreen, Hogeland Body Shop & Salvage Yard, McAtee Tire Sales & Service, RACOM, Marshalltown Police Department, East Marshall Community School, and West Marshall Community School.

About Marshall County Sheriff's Office

The Marshall County, Iowa Sheriff's Office is headed up by Sheriff Ted G. Kamatchus. Sheriff Kamatchus is committed to keeping communities and neighborhoods safe in Marshall County.

For additional information or a sample copy, contact:

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