



MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

ANDERSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

SHERIFF PAUL N. WHITE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prom and Graduation Time

Spring is an exciting time of year for high school students with ceremonies, proms, and graduation celebrations to attend. The Anderson County Sheriff's Department wants to remind our youth and their parents to celebrate safe.

Our young students headed to the prom and from graduations are reminded not to drink and drive. According to the Center for Disease Control, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death and injury in teenagers nationwide. Even though teens are less likely than adults to drive after drinking, their crash rates are substantially higher. Deputies will be out in force on prom nights and after graduations. DUI, illegal drugs, and underage drinking will get you a ride to jail.

The Sheriff Department also reminds teens that getting caught drinking under the age of 21 can result in losing a driver's license, getting suspended from school, ejected from sports teams, and even banned from graduation ceremonies.

Establishments that sell alcohol are reminded to ID. Underage sales and purchases will be prosecuted. Sheriff's deputies will conduct an information campaign with our local beer permit holders to remind them of the importance of carding to ID all beer purchases. Spot checks of beer sellers will also be done and not only will the clerks who sell beer be cited but underage purchasers will be charged as well.

The Anderson County Sheriff's Department, in cooperation with the Tennessee Highway Patrol and our local police agencies, will be conducting checkpoints and saturation patrols throughout the prom and graduation weeks. This effort is supported by a grant from the Governor's Highway Safety Office.

For more information on underage drinking prevention, please visit:

<http://www.stopimpaireddriving.org/youth-programs.htm>.

Sheriff Paul White