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**A Little Holiday Cheer Can Go a Long Way On Our Roads
This Holiday Season
*Remember: Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving***

[Gillette, WY]— As party-goers celebrate the holidays with friends and family, the Substance Abuse Advisory Council reminds everyone to keep the party off the road. Remember, *Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving*.

“After hearing about the dangers of drinking and driving time after time, most people have gotten the message. If you’re planning on drinking, you should always plan a safe way home,” said Kellie Furman, project coordinator for the Substance Abuse Advisory Council. “But sadly, millions of Americans still think they are invincible and choose to get behind the wheel after having a few drinks.”

“We know that the holiday season can be one of the deadliest and most dangerous times on America’s roadways due to an increase in drunk driving,” said Gillette Police Department Deputy Chief Sawley Wilde. “Don’t let your 2010 end in an arrest or worse death. Remember, whether you’ve had way too many or just one too many, it’s not worth the risk!”

It is important to remember that most adults in Campbell County drive sober and this should hold true for the holiday season. “We hope that the positive and healthy choice of always driving sober continues for everyone, especially at this time of year,” said Furman.

Preventing drinking and driving is a community responsibility; it is an issue taken serious by our local law enforcement agencies and citizens. Deputy Chief Wilde stated that citizen reports of suspected drunk drivers shows that prevention and enforcement is a priority for everyone. In 2009, there were 529 calls made to the Gillette PD reporting a suspected drunk driver. These calls resulted in 59 DUI arrests. “By strongly enforcing drunk driving laws, we are doing what the community has asked us to do: keep our roads, citizens and families safe,” said Wilde.

Furman recommends these simple tips for a safe holiday season:

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin;
- Before drinking, designate a sober driver;
- If you’re impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation;
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don’t hesitate to contact your local law enforcement. Call 682-5155 for the Gillette PD or 682-7271;

- And remember, most adults in Campbell County believe we should stop someone from driving drunk. If you know someone who is about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

For more information, please visit www.StopImpairedDriving.org or contact Kellie Furman with the Substance Abuse Advisory Council at 686-5234 or kellie@ci.gillette.wy.us.

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