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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over

Community Partners Join Forces to Prevent Impaired Driving

With the German American Festival set to draw tens of thousands of attendees to Oak Shade Grove in Oregon this weekend, the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department's Traffic Safety Program, in partnership with Lucas County Safe Communities, law enforcement, and transportation providers, are urging festivalgoers to plan for a safe ride home.

WHO: TLCHD Traffic Safety
Lucas County Safe Communities Coalition
Lucas County Sheriff's Office
Oregon Police Department
German American Festival leaders
Childers Transportation

WHAT: Press event to promote traffic safety by designating a sober driver.

WHEN: Thursday, August 21 at 1:00 p.m.

WHERE: Oak Shade Grove
3624 Seaman Rd, Oregon, OH 43616

In 2024, alcohol was a factor in over 9,000 crashes in Ohio, causing more than 300 deaths and thousands of injuries. In Lucas County alone, the Ohio State Highway Patrol reported over a dozen alcohol-related fatalities.

"Too often, people think they're okay to drive after just a few drinks, but even a small amount of alcohol can impair judgment and reaction time," said Natalie Haase, Health Educator for TLCHD's Traffic Safety Program. "We want everyone to enjoy the festival and to make it home safely."

To help reduce impaired driving, local law enforcement will step up patrols around the festival throughout the weekend, enforcing Ohio's zero-tolerance laws for alcohol- and drug-impaired driving.

Transportation options, including Childers Transportation and rideshare services, will be available to help ensure a safe trip home.

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Karim Baroudi, MPH, REHS
Health Commissioner

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