



State of New Mexico

Department of Public Safety

January 22, 2008

Contact: Peter Olson
(505) 827-3361

Wrong Way Drunk Driver

Santa Fe—Several calls from citizens helped State Police catch a wrong way driver on I-25 north of Santa Fe on Saturday. These callers notified police that a white or yellow 4 door Oldsmobile was traveling north in the southbound lanes near mile marker 297.

State Police officer Isaac Valerio found Raynaldo Ortiz (6/12/36) stopped just on the side of the roadway at about 5:52 pm on January 19th. When the officer approached the vehicle he could smell alcohol and it looked like Mr. Ortiz was still driving, moving the steering wheel back and forth in spite of the fact that the car was stopped and the transmission was in park. Officer Valerio turned off the car and asked the driver for his license and registration, he then noticed a bottle of Jim Beam in the car.

Mr. Ortiz was asked to get out of the car but said he wouldn't because he didn't trust the police. He then started to cuss in Spanish and tried to get a second set of keys from his pocket to start his car to drive away. Victor Apodaca, a US Forest Service Law Enforcement officer who stopped to assist officer Valerio, helped remove Mr. Ortiz from his car.

The driver was not willing to perform any field sobriety tests nor did he comply with a breath test later at the State Police office in Santa Fe.

He was arrested on charges of aggravated DWI, resisting a police officer, no insurance and other charges.

###