



Linn County NEWS



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Stolen vehicles top DA's list of crimes for 2021

ALBANY — For the first time since Doug Marteeny became Linn County District Attorney in 2013, criminal offenses associated with methamphetamine and heroin were not at the top of a list of felonies and misdemeanors prosecuted by his 13 attorneys.

But that isn't because the use of illicit drugs in the county has gone down, Marteeny said, it's because Oregon voters passed a law in 2020 that made most crimes associated with the possession of small amounts of heroin and meth violations.

"The biggest change we saw was due to the legalization of hard drugs," Marteeny said. "The only way to correct that is up to the voters. We are masters of our own destiny. If voters want to see change, they can make it happen through the initiative process."

The Top 10 felonies in 2021 were: Unauthorized use of a vehicle, 101; first-degree theft, 97; unauthorized use of a weapon, 92; identity theft, 80; first-degree encourage child sex abuse (pornography), 75; felon in possession of a firearm, 74; unlawful manufacture of marijuana, 66; attempting to elude a police officer, 63; strangulation, 54; first-degree sexual abuse, 51.

"Unauthorized use of a vehicle is usually always in the top 10, usually in the top five," Marteeny said.

Marteeny said Honda cars and Ford pickups are usually among the favorite brands and they are often taken to the Portland area, where they are sold or chopped up for parts.

Marteeny said that since Oregonians legalized marijuana use and production, the state has seen a significant increase in

illegal industrial growing operations.

Criminal organizations tell farmers they want to lease the ground to grow hemp and then develop marijuana operations worked by illegal labors which can include human trafficking," Marteeny said. "They send their products to other states and leave behind an environmental mess. Plus, marijuana uses a lot of water to grow."

Marteeny said law enforcement officers are experiencing more crimes against them.

He said crimes against officers are up for the fifth year in a row.

The Top 10 misdemeanors in 2021 were: DUII, 321; reckless driving, 303; failure to appear on a citation, 180; fourth-degree assault, 179; reckless endangerment, 177; second-degree criminal mischief, 142; harassment, 115;



Doug Marteeny

Linn County District Attorney

menacing, 115; second-degree criminal trespass, 98; driving while suspended, 79.

Top 10 felonies 2021

1) Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle	101
2) Theft-1 st Degree	97
3) Unauthorized Use of a Weapon	92
4) Identity Theft	80
5) Encouraging Child Sex Abuse-1 st Degree	75
6) Felon in Possession of a Firearm	74
7) Unlawful Manufacture of Marijuana	66
8) Attempting to Elude a Police Officer	63
9) Strangulation	54
10) Sex Abuse - 1 st Degree	51

Top 10 misdemeanors 2021

1) DUII	321
2) Reckless Driving	303
3) Failure to Appear on Citation	180
4) Assault-4 th Degree	179
5) Reckless Endangerment	177
6) Criminal Mischief-2 nd Degree	142
7) Harassment	124
8) Menacing	115
9) Criminal Trespass - 2 nd Degree	98
10) Driving While Suspended	79

Crimes against law enforcement officers

