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PRESS RELEASE

Subject: Ukiah Police Department reminds community of motorized e-bike and scooter safety.

Date: 12/8/25

The Ukiah Police Department (UPD) has recently received multiple complaints regarding groups of young children operating electric scooters and electric bicycles in an unsafe manner. Reports indicate these devices are being ridden at high speeds, failing to stop at stop signs, being operated after dark without lights, and in some instances nearly causing traffic collisions.

At UPD, we want the children in our community to have fun and enjoy the many outdoor activities available. However, safety must remain our top priority. Parents and guardians should be aware that it is **illegal to operate an electric scooter on a public roadway without a valid driver's license or instruction permit**, and **electric bicycles must follow the same laws as pedal bicycles** under California law.

To help keep our youth safe, please keep the following points in mind:

- **Age:** Children under 16 are not permitted to operate Class 3 e-bikes on public roads. All electric scooter operators must have a valid driver's license or learner's permit.
- **Obey all bicycle laws:** E-bikes are subject to the same rules and responsibilities as traditional bicycles.
- **Speed:** Remind kids to use caution and slow down, especially when riding in neighborhoods, or through parks where pedestrians may be present.
- **Helmet required:** Riders under 18 must wear a properly fitted and fastened helmet—no exceptions.
- **Reckless or unsafe riding is illegal:** Children can be cited for operating any bicycle recklessly or for riding an electric scooter that they are not legally allowed to operate.
- **Stop signs:** Remind young riders to come to a complete stop at stop signs and to ride as though drivers may not see them.

UPD encourages parents to review these laws with their children and ensure all scooters and bikes are operated safely and legally. We will continue to monitor the affected areas and work closely with families to prevent accidents and injuries. If necessary, enforcement action will be taken. Our priority is keeping children safe and avoiding a tragic outcome.

For questions or additional information, please contact the Ukiah Police Department.