



As I see it...

EDITORIAL

LONIE HUTCHISON, Statewide DUI Task Force Facilitator

As I count my blessings this Thanksgiving, safety belts will be at the top of my list.

In 1984 New York State was the first to pass a primary safety belt law.

My parents, residents of New York State, were involved in separate traffic crashes this year.

Both of them were wearing their safety belts, and thankfully both walked away from those crashes uninjured.

As it turned out, the crash

investigators determined that neither of my parents were at fault. A teenage driver ran a stop sign and hit my father's vehicle.

An elderly gentleman pulled away from the curb and failed to notice my mother's vehicle passing his.

Let's give thanks for safety belts!

Seat belts are a motor vehicle occupant's best defense against an inexperienced, inattentive or intoxicated driver.

Thanks, New York State, for passing your primary safety belt law. Thanks, Mom and Dad, for buckling up!

While 79% of Montanans wear their safety belts, three out of four of those killed in traffic crashes are not buckled up.

That's 158 of 217, or 73%, of fatalities. Many of those deaths could have been prevented.

Buckling up is a habit we can live with!

Task Force Exchange

In Memory of Mariah

Mariah Daye McCarthy was tragically killed on October 28, 2007 by an underage driver who had been drinking.



At the funeral services for the McCarthy family's beloved daughter and sister, Leo McCarthy issued a challenge to the Butte community and *especially* to Butte's young people.



We are asking Butte's **teens** to "**Accept Mariah's Challenge**" and apply peer to peer pressure to others to do the same.

We are asking **Law Enforcement** and Butte's **Judges** to "**Accept Mariah's Challenge**" by strictly enforcing existing laws and penalties that are available to use.

We are asking **retailers and tavern owners** to "**Accept Mariah's Challenge**" by self enacting more prohibitive alcohol sales thus eliminating sales to minors.

We are asking the **adults** of Butte to "**Accept Mariah's Challenge**" by acting more responsible with regard to the abuse of alcohol at home and in public.

Have you accepted Mariah's Challenge?

Visit www.mariahschallenge.com

Mobile Impaired Driving Assessment Center (MIDAC)

Submitted By MHP TROOPER KELLY MANTOOTH

The Montana Highway Patrol operates and maintains a 32 foot vehicle designed to enable law enforcement officers to process the impaired driver.

The primary mission is to reduce fatalities, injuries and loss of property due to DUI crashes within the state of Montana.

Many drivers who drink too much believe that they stand little chance of being detected and arrested. One reason is because of their choice of route home.

Studies have shown that increasing the perceived threat of detection is one of the strongest deterrents to drinking and driving.

The MIDAC unit increases that threat of detection by allowing law enforcement officers to work in a specific area and not have to transport the impaired driver long distances for processing, thus freeing up more time for the law enforcement

officer to work traffic in distant areas of the state of Montana.

The MIDAC is equipped with an Intoxilyzer 8000 and all forms associated with a DUI/DUID arrest.

With all fuel tanks full the MIDAC can stay on-station 24/7 for three days. The vehicle is equipped with fresh water, shower and restroom. An office area is available for writing reports.

The MIDAC unit is available for use by all law enforcement agencies but will be operated only by qualified MHP officers.

The contact person listed on the application will be notified if the MIDAC is available. Due to the number of requests received, there will be dates that the MIDAC is unavailable. An important consideration will be the availability of qualified MHP operators for the vehicle.

The MIDAC is not a prisoner transport or holding facility. An arrested subject is the responsibility of the arresting officer and not the MIDAC operators.

Once an officer is finished processing a subject, the MIDAC operator will burn a DVD of the processing and provide it to the arresting officer.

The arresting officer then is the responsible person for maintaining the DVD video evidence of the arrest.

Requests for use of the MIDAC must include:

- ★ Date of event
- ★ Description of event
- ★ Location of event
- ★ Number and names of law enforcement agencies involved
- ★ Contact person's name, title, work & cell phone numbers

Send requests to:

Kelly Mantooth
Montana Highway Patrol—MIDAC
P O Box 201401
Helena 59620-1401
kmantooth@mt.gov

Angie Mullikin
MDT State Highway Traffic Safety
PO Box 201001
Helena MT 59620-1001
amullikin@mt.gov

Questions? call(406) 444-7301



State's First Social Host Ordinance Passed

Submitted By YOUTH CONNECTIONS COALITION

Helena City Commissioners made Montana history July 7, 2008 by passing the state's first social host ordinance.

Helena's newest ordinance is a municipal civil law that holds hosts accountable if they allow underage persons (other than their own children) to consume alcohol at parties or gatherings on private property.

The new ordinance states that a social host is any person who knows or reasonably should know that an underage person is in possession of or is consuming an alcoholic beverage at a gathering on his or her premises. (Excepting MCA 16-6-305). Violators may face a \$300 fine.

Youth Connections Coalition took an active role in advocating pas-

sage of the Helena ordinance. **Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol (CMCA) is the best practice, model program** used to implement this environ-

A social host is any person who knows or reasonably should know that an underage person is in possession of or is consuming an alcoholic beverage at a gathering on his or her premises.

mental strategy to reduce and prevent underage drinking.

The CMCA social host campaign took three years of dedicated work.

Preparatory activities, included re-

search at the local and national level, two town hall meetings, focus groups with teens and adults, community presentations, dedicated book club reading, library chats, newspaper editorials, informational mailings and other focused capacity building within the Helena community.

Drenda Carlson, Youth Connections Director is pleased with the passage of this ordinance and

stressed the message it sends. "This ordinance will help our community send a clear message to our teens: underage drinking parties are unhealthy, illegal and unacceptable. Working together, we can make a real difference!"

Community members have applauded Youth Connections and its work to empower parents to make a difference in reducing teen drinking parties in Helena.

"This ordinance will help our community send a clear message to our teens: underage drinking parties are unhealthy, illegal and unacceptable."

*Drenda Carlson
Youth Connections Director*



Free Ride Programs for underage drinkers

Some DUI Task Forces support free ride programs for students.

What message does that send regarding underage (illegal) drinking?

Is providing safe rides home more important than mixed messages about underage drinking?

Could DUI Task Force monies perhaps be better used in support of alcohol-free events for students?

Please send in your comments on this month's "Hot Topic" for inclusion in the December issue of this newsletter.



Faith-Based messages

Partnering with your churches



There are numerous traffic safety faith-based materials available on the internet. Traffic safety clergy kits include information for sermons, bulletin announcements, and weekly reminders, plus Sunday school activities.

Simply go online and search for **“faith-based traffic safety messages.”**

In this quarter, the messages highlight the value of good decision-making to protect families and loved ones from danger on the streets and highways. This includes reminders about safety belts, child occupant protection, and drinking and driving to share with the congregations in your communities.

Continued support in spreading traffic safety messages in your community, helping educate both drivers and passengers to make safe, responsible decisions, is imperative in reducing traffic crashes, injuries and fatalities.

Sample Church Bulletin Message

Many families will be traveling home today after Thanksgiving visits. The roads will be crowded. No doubt, there will be some speeders, lane-changers, and impaired drivers along the way.

Everybody’s best defense against dangerous roadway conditions is buckling themselves and their children.

It’s a matter of community safety. Our community. Our safety. Let us live out our message of love with simple actions that can prevent injuries and death.

Helping alcohol retailers reduce their own risk

Alcohol Sales packets for retailers were recently hand carried by Missoula police officers to licensed establishments within the city limits of Missoula.

The packet is a quality publication that will likely be retained as a reference guide for managers and staff.

The packet contains:

- ★ A retailer survey
- ★ Ten suggested policies
- ★ Sample incident log
- ★ 50 signs of visible intoxication
- ★ *We Card* carding tips
- ★ RASS training schedule for Missoula County
- ★ Effective ways to deal with excessive drinkers

The packets were produced by the Alcohol Sales Committee of the Missoula Underage Substance Abuse Prevention Team of the Missoula Forum for Children & Youth.

The Missoula DUI Task Force will have additional copies printed for distribution to licensed establishments located in the county.

For additional information or to request one of the Alcohol Sales packets, please contact:

Mindy Gochis, Coordinator
Missoula Underage Substance Abuse Prevention Team
Phone: 406-721-3000 Ext. 1020
Email: mgochis@co.missoula.mt.us

The Alcohol Sales Committee of the Missoula Underage Substance Abuse Prevention team is an alliance of alcohol retailers, distributors and prevention specialists dedicated to four goals:

- ★ Increasing the number of retailers implementing best-practice sales policies.
- ★ Increasing attendance at Responsible Alcohol Sales Training.
- ★ Distributing prevention materials to retailers.
- ★ Publicly recognizing responsible businesses and sales practices.

Plan Now for National Youth Traffic Safety Month!

This may be a solution to that common teen mantra *"I'm bored...there's nothing to do."*

The National Organizations for Youth Safety (NOYS) coalition hosts *National Youth Traffic Safety Month* each May because it is an important time for teens to be focused on driving safety and take action to develop peer to peer education projects to address traffic crashes, the #1 cause of death for teens.

NOYS has teamed up again with The Allstate Foundation to bring you **Act Out Loud: Raising Voices for Safe Teen Driving**, a national teen-and school-led activism competition to help spread the word about safe teen driving.

With a **grand prize of \$10,000**, the **Act Out Loud** contest will identify and reward the nation's best teen-led, school-based safe driving projects. High schools nationwide are invited to enter the contest by submitting their project proposals at www.ActOutLoud.org.



Submissions will be accepted until February 17, 2009.

From the school nominations, the 20 best projects (based on creativity, communication of the issue and contest theme, and ability to reach the largest number of teens) will be selected.

The 20 selected school teams will each:

- ★ Be awarded \$1,000 to carry out their project
- ★ Receive a video camera to document their project
- ★ Receive toolkits with suggestions for executing the project and engaging local opinion leaders
- ★ Document their project through blog, photo, and video postings at www.ActOutLoud.org.

Visit www.ActOutLoud.org for more information.

Opportunity for Powerful Partnerships

The **Montana Community Change Project** funds six regions which collectively includes 18 counties and three reservations across the state.

Each of the counties/reservations will use an environmental prevention approach to address both of the project's alcohol-related focus areas:

- ★ Lifespan **binge drinking** with emphasis on underage binge drinking.
- ★ Lifespan **drinking and driving** with emphasis on underage drinking and driving.

The Montana Community Change Project is a needs-based program. The communities included in the project are among those with the very highest levels of binge drinking and driving rates in the state.

Communities included in this project are:

Blackfeet Reservation, Cut Bank and Heart Butte, Silver Bow, Madison, Beaverhead, Deer Lodge & Powell Counties, Sheridan, Roosevelt, Richland, Dawson, Wibaux Counties and Fort Peck Reservation, Flathead Reservation, Lake, Mineral, Sanders & Lincoln Counties, Hill, Blaine, & Phillips Counties, and Jefferson, Whitehall & Boulder.

This is a fantastic opportunity to collaborate with community stakeholders who are working towards the same goals as the County DUI Task Forces.

Reach out to the Community Change Project Coordinators and their team members—invite them to become involved as members of your DUI Task Forces!

For more information on the Montana Community Change Project and environmental prevention strategies, visit

www.mtccp.info

Putting a face to the common occurrence of teenage crash fatalities

Source: Impaired Driving Update – Fall 2008

“Last Call: One Second, Everything Changes” is a museum-quality traveling exhibit that consists of enlarged photographic images, physical artifacts such as the victims’ possessions and remembrance albums, a timeline of events, and police documents.

The combination of these elements creates an emotional reaction in observers, with the goal of behavioral change. This approach creates a powerful message that may deter high school-age students from driving after consum-

ing alcohol, and can help mobilize parents and community members to work together to prevent these tragedies.

Anthropologist Denis Foley and traffic engineer Andrew Wolfe teamed up with alcohol and drug prevention specialist Mac MacDevitt to put a face on the statistics involving teenagers and automobile crashes.

The exhibit travels to high schools, colleges and public buildings. It is intended to localize ve-

hicle crashes by illustrating a few regional crashes involving youth.

The exhibit has been viewed by over 10,000 students and adults throughout New York State. The exhibit and accompanying documentary film are funded through the New York State Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee, David Swarts, Chairman, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

For more information contact Mac MacDevitt at Mac@preventionteam.org

Update on Statewide DUI Task Force Association

By LONIE HUTCHISON, STATEWIDE DUI TASK FORCE FACILITATOR

At the annual Statewide DUI Task Force meeting in Helena on October 2, DUI Task Force coordinators and members discussed the pros and cons of establishing a statewide DUI Task Force Association.

It was the consensus that a **November 15** deadline be set for DUI Task Forces to make a decision whether or not they support establishing an association and whether or not they would participate as members.

I will have more to report on this once a quorum of DUI Task Forces has responded.

Intent and advantages

The intent and advantages of organizing a statewide DUI Task Force Association are to **share energy, enthusiasm, expertise, innovative ideas and optimism** that we will achieve a dramatic decline in alcohol-involved traffic crashes, fatalities and injuries in Montana **during our lifetime**.

Teamwork divides the task and multiplies the success.

– Author Unknown

DUI task force funding comes from driver license reinstatement fees, not state or federal funding. This means DUI task forces may communicate directly with legislators regarding proposals to make the state’s impaired driving laws more effective.

The December issue of the *Task Force Exchange* will include guidelines on how to track bills that would strengthen or weaken the state’s laws regarding impaired driving.



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Lonie Hutchison, Editor
Statewide DUI Task Force Facilitator
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*Wishing you a very
happy holiday
season and safe
travels!*

Lonie

To be added to the mailing list, please send an e-mail to hutchisonl@ho.missoula.mt.us or call 406-258-3880.

Indicate if you'd like to receive the newsletter via e-mail or in hard copy.



**A *CALL TO ACTION* FOR
DUI TASK FORCE COORDINATORS,
MEMBERS & COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS**

Please enhance the effectiveness of statewide efforts to reduce alcohol-involved crashes, injuries & fatalities in Montana by sharing your expertise, concerns, opinions, projects, challenges, successes, helpful websites, etc. with other traffic safety advocates in the state.

Please email or mail articles for inclusion in this newsletter to Lonie Hutchison using the contact information provided. Thank you for your dedication and support.



Montana DUI Task Forces
Task Force Exchange

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