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Office of Highway Safety honors 2012 'Saved by the Belt' recipient

The Kentucky Office of Highway Safety (KOHS) presented the 2012 "Saved by the Belt" award to 23-year-old Lindsey Stovall of Owensboro during half-time of the University of Kentucky vs. Alabama basketball game on Jan. 21. The award recognizes Kentuckians whose lives have been saved by a seat belt when involved in a vehicle crash.

The "Saved by the Belt" award was presented by the family of Megan Miller, a teenager from Owensboro who died in March 2006 after being ejected in a vehicle crash. Megan's friend, Lindsey, never wore her seat belt but began to buckle up after Megan's death.

One month after Megan's crash, Lindsey lost control of her vehicle, hit a fence and flipped twice, landing next to a telephone pole. Before she exited the vehicle, Lindsey noticed a sticker that says "Buckle Up in Memory

of Megan Miller." That sticker was given to her by Megan's mother. It had been on her rear windshield but was now laying next to her on the floorboard.

"I walked away with a few scratches and bruises. Emergency personnel said I wouldn't have survived if I hadn't been wearing my seat belt," said Lindsey. "I know Megan was with me that day. She helped save my life."

"It only takes a few seconds to fasten a seat belt. Lindsey is living proof that those seconds can mean the difference between life or death," said KOHS Director Bill Bell. "With help from people like the Miller family and Lindsey, we hope to encourage everyone to adopt the habit of buckling up."

A "Saved by the Belt" award recipient will be selected each year by the KOHS. If you have been saved by the belt, you can access the guidelines and nomination form [here](#).

KOHS honors first

Ambassador Award recipient



Ron Welch, Jr., of Benton, received the first KOHS Ambassador Award for his exemplary driving record at a recent Marshall County Fiscal Court meeting. The award was created to honor business owners, civic leaders and individuals who are passionate about making a difference in the area of highway safety.

Welch worked in the transportation industry for over 40 years, 26 of those with Overnite Transportation Company, until he retired in 2003. Through years of personal and professional driving, Welch was never involved in a vehicle crash nor did he receive a ticket. Some might say he's been lucky, but Welch disagrees. "Anyone who worked with or for me in all those years in trucking will tell you my priority was daily safety," he said. "In all those millions of

miles by my co-workers, there were of course crashes in our business, but I never lost one of my drivers in a crash, and that was my daily prayer."

When asked what advice he would give Kentucky drivers, Welch said, "I believe the largest single cause of crashes is speed and inattention. There can be no talking on the cell phone, combing hair, fiddling with the radio or eating. Driving is a serious business, and you must always drive expecting the unexpected. Be aware of the equipment you drive, be well trained and don't drive impaired."

In his spare time, Welch enjoys playing golf and is active in his local church, where he serves as a Deacon, Sunday school teacher and a member of the Missions/Outreach/Evangelism ministry.

Did you know?

Free webinar Feb. 7 on walkability for older adults

Many communities are seeking a foothold to build interest in improving walkability or pedestrian safety. This often includes planning for an aging population and the growing desire to "age in place." The "NHTSA Pedestrian Safety Workshop: A Focus on Older Adults" increases both older pedestrians' safety knowledge and stakeholders' intentions to take actions to improve their community's walkability. [Click here](#) to register Walkability for Older Pedestrians: Using a Free NHTSA Workshop that Gets Results.



Lack of helmets, multiple riders contribute to pediatric ATV injuries

Nearly one-third of ATV accidents involve children, according to data from the American Academy of Pediatrics. Now, two studies presented at the 2011 American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference indicate that a lack of helmet use and multiple riders may play a role in these injuries. [Read more.](#)

Young riders not big or heavy enough to ride ATVs

The disproportionate percentage of injuries and deaths suffered by young riders on adult ATVs illustrates the risks of this mismatch, but a group of Illinois emergency medicine doctors and medical researchers have conducted a study pinpointing one of the causes: young riders don't have the physique to control adult-sized ATVs. [Read more.](#)





Director's Message

— Bill Bell

Welcome to 2012! Most of us had fond memories of 2011 and look forward to having a better year in the New Year. Unfortunately, some families will look at 2011 and say "good riddance" because they either knew someone or had a family member perish in a highway crash. True, Kentucky's highway fatalities decreased for a sixth consecutive year, down to 718. Injury crashes, motorcycle crashes and alcohol-related crashes are down as well. However, there is little time for celebration.

Over 700 families have experienced tragedy because of simple decisions not made (seat belt usage) or bad decisions made (impaired or distracted driving). Already in 2012, our highway fatality number stands at 46, which is higher than the same time the previous year. Sadly, this number includes two beautiful and bright young ladies from Spencer County who will always be 17-years-old. It also includes a friend of mine who chose to make a bad decision. Those who knew him closely are devastated.

Although these loved ones have left an indelible mark on our memory and will be deeply missed, we are not taking it lying down! As a matter of fact, Kentuckians

are taking it personally. A recent example is Kristin Young from Spencer County who has started two Facebook pages. [Buckle Up Spencer County](#) and [Buckle Up Kentucky](#) are only a week old and already have 1,280 and 320 members, respectively. Similar efforts are being initiated in other parts of the state such as the [Pike County Community Safety Team](#).

In Franklin County, Wanda and Edward Laslie are sponsoring a driving skills course in May for students at a local high school in memory of their son, Ben. Mrs. Laslie said, "I don't want other families to go through the grief of losing a child." So now, her mission is to help provide an opportunity for in-depth instruction for young drivers.

For Kentucky to keep highway fatalities on the decline, we need these grassroots efforts to take hold and spread. We need to build on our successes and affect our driving culture. Government leaders, corporate leaders, civic leaders and individuals need to work together and/or support the others' efforts.

So, here's to 2012 – the year of collaboration!



Holiday "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" cites over 1,200 drunken drivers

The holiday "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" enforcement effort, supported by more than 180 state and local law enforcement agencies, resulted in 1,211 citations for drunken driving. The annual, federally funded campaign was held Dec. 16, 2011 through Jan. 2, 2012.

The campaign's main objective was to keep drunken drivers off the road. In the process, officers at 340 traffic safety checkpoints throughout the Commonwealth also made 1,346 felony arrests and 1,185 drug arrests. They recovered 35 stolen vehicles, apprehended 1,808 fugitives and issued 2,805

seat belt citations. They also cited 9,037 drivers for speeding, 429 for reckless driving and 3,722 people for having no proof of automobile insurance.

In 2010, Kentucky recorded over 4,700 alcohol-related crashes, resulting in 139 deaths and more than 2,400 injuries.



Harvey Holbrook was a very polite person – service with professionalism! Good to see our tax dollars working for us. Keep this program.

Mike Rich was wonderful. He drove my family and dog to a hotel, gave us options for dinner and was just very pleasant. Having our car die on the side of the road 500 miles from home suddenly didn't seem so bad!

On January 2nd on NB I-75m mile marker 39 I blew out both front and rear right side tires. **Jason Meece** from your Safe Patrol vehicle pulled up and saved us from a horrible beginning that morning. He pulled both tires off and drove us around town to find a place open so we could purchase new tires then installed them. He was very courteous and helped set us at ease. Thank you for providing such a great service and hiring great personnel to make sure your program is a success.

Johnny Cantrell was literally a God-send. I sat on the roadside for 30 minutes and no one even stopped. He is very polite and a truly nice person. Thanks for hiring people like him – and thank you for offering this service!

Thank you very much. I don't know what I would have done without **Mike Thomas'** help. I had no phone, no money and was miles from anything. It was also very cold. Thanks again!

Mike Marshall was very caring. He went above-and-beyond the call of duty, helping our family while we were stranded. He should be recognized for his hard work and dedication.

Leroy Carroll was just great about helping us out. If he hadn't come to our rescue, we would have been stranded in the freezing weather all night. He was an angel sent to help us. Very kind and polite. He is the best. Thank you, Kentucky, for this angel.

My wife refers to **Mr. Jim Elliott** as an "Angel of Mercy." He helped us troubleshoot our problem, kept us safe from passing traffic and followed us to the nearest exit. Thank you, Kentucky and thank you Jim – professional, enthusiastic and a credit to the SAFE Patrol!

Scott Nevitt went out of his way to make sure I was safe while broken down at night in sub freezing temperature. He also waited until a tow truck arrived and moved me off the road. My family thanks you!

Mark Lawson was a great help to our family. Within five minutes of us pulling over to change a flat, he pulled up behind us and help us to quickly get back on the road. He was very nice and we are extremely grateful!

Incident Management totals for 2011

In 2011, the SAFE Patrol logged more than 29,867 activities, including motorists assists, aiding at crash scenes, tagging abandoned vehicles and removing roadway debris. The 511 Traffic and Travel system received a total of 444,295 phone calls and 380,981 website hits.

SafetySpotlight

Mike Rich, Mike Thomas and Scott Nevitt have been [SAFE Patrol](#) operators since the pilot program began in May 2006. Each has won the "Impact Award" on multiple occasions, given to drivers who go above-and-beyond the call of duty.



Mike Rich began with the Transportation Cabinet in 2001, working in District 3 Highway Maintenance. He currently patrols the Bowling Green area and feels blessed to have a job helping people in need. He truly feels the [SAFE Patrol](#) has helped to save lives on Kentucky roadways. Mike lives in Bowling Green and enjoys coaching youth sports and bowling.

Mike Thomas started his career with the Transportation Cabinet's District 3 Highway Maintenance in 1996. He currently patrols the Bowling Green area and believes the [SAFE Patrol](#) is one of the best programs the Commonwealth has developed. Mike lives in Bowling Green and enjoys hunting, fishing, cattle farming and raising vegetable gardens.

Scott Nevitt began working in District 4 and 5 Highway Maintenance within the Transportation Cabinet in 2000. He currently patrols the Elizabethtown area and likes interacting with other first responders he encounters on the job. He feels honored to help make a difference in someone's life. Scott lives in Magnolia and enjoys family activities and shooting sports.

Did you know?



Ford develops world's first digital child for virtual crash testing

Ford is developing one of the world's first digital human child body models as part of a pioneering program to make car travel safer for young people. "We want to better understand how injuries to younger occupants may be different," said Dr. Stephen Rouhana, senior technical leader for safety, Ford Research and Advanced Engineering. [Read more.](#)

78 percent of drivers admit to driving with child in improperly fitting seatbelt

Though no state laws currently require children older than eight years to use booster seats, a new study shows that more than half of these children would benefit from using one. According to the University of Michigan report, 78 percent of drivers admit that on most trips, their child passengers ride with an improperly fitting seat belt, a potentially deadly action that can easily be solved when children use a belt positioning booster seat. [Read more.](#)

More school bus safety tools now online

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration has created a new web page dedicated entirely to school bus safety. This extensive new resource is geared toward school transportation professionals and the public, and it features numerous training materials, such as training for school bus drivers. It also provides the latest news in school transportation and industry regulations as well as information on current issues like seat belts and safer bus-stop locations. [Read more.](#)



SUPER BOWL FANS DON'T LET FANS DRIVE DRUNK



The Super Bowl is America's most popular national sporting event. All across the country, millions of people gather to socialize and watch the big game, but remember – Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk.

If you are hosting a Super Bowl party:

- Make sure all of your guests designate their sober drivers before kick-off or help arrange ride-sharing with sober drivers.
- Find unique ways to recognize the designated drivers at your party:
- Give them a great spot to watch the game.
- Whatever non-alcoholic beverage they are drinking, make sure their glass is always full.
- Let them have the first pass at the buffet table.
- Make sure their cars are easy to access when it is time to start driving people home.
- Serve plenty of food.
- Offer a variety of non-alcoholic choices like soft drinks, juice and water.
- Serve one drink at a time and serve measured drinks.
- Only serve alcohol to guests over 21 years of age.
- Determine ahead of time when you'll stop serving alcohol, such as one hour before the party ends or at the end of the third quarter (just like NFL stadiums) and begin serving coffee and dessert.
- Add the numbers of local cab companies into your phone so they are just one touch away.
- Take appropriate steps to prevent anyone from drinking and driving.
- Be prepared for guests to spend the night if an alternative way home is not available.
- Remember, you can be held liable and prosecuted if someone you served ends up in a drunken-driving crash.

If you are attending a Super Bowl party or watching at a sports bar or restaurant, please follow these guidelines to make sure you enjoy Super Bowl XLVI responsibly:

- Designate your sober driver before the party begins.
- Avoid drinking too much alcohol too fast. Pace yourself—eat enough food, take breaks, and alternate with non-alcoholic drinks.
- If you don't have a designated driver, ask a sober friend for a ride home; call a cab, friend, or family member to come and get you; or just stay where you are and sleep it off until you are sober.
- Use your community's sober ride program.
- Always buckle up – it's the best defense against drunk drivers.
- For more information, please visit [NHTSA's Super Bowl XLVI Page](#).



Safety Summary: **MADD Kentucky**

by Kristen White, Victim Services Specialist

Founded in 1980 by a mother whose daughter was killed by a drunk driver, Mothers Against Drunk Driving® ([MADD](#)) is the nation's largest nonprofit working to protect families from drunken driving and underage drinking. [MADD's](#) mission is to stop drunken driving, support the victims of this violent crime and prevent underage drinking. To date, [MADD's](#) work has saved nearly 300,000 lives...and counting.

Where does Kentucky rank?

On November 16, [MADD](#) released a Report to the Nation which rates each state on its progress in the campaign to eliminate drunken driving. States were given a star for each of the following proven drunken driving countermeasures that had been implemented:

1. Requiring ignition interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers
2. Conducting sobriety checkpoints
3. Creating enhanced penalties for those who drive drunk with children in the vehicle (child endangerment penalties)
4. Participating in "no-refusal" activities for those suspected of drunk driving
5. Utilizing Administrative License Revocation (ALR) for drunk driving offenders

KY received three stars for conducting sobriety checkpoints, having enhanced penalties for child endangerment and utilizing ALR.

[Read more.](#)

Youth Program

[MADD KY](#) has a Youth Program Specialist who works with and helps establish MADD Youth in Action (YIA) Teams. YIA teams consist of youth and adults that organize events and awareness campaigns focusing on reducing underage drinking. Members increase support of limiting youth's retail and social access to alcohol, and enforcement of underage drinking laws.

The following are presentations that our Youth Program Specialist offers:

Power of Parents: It's Your Influence Workshop:

A 30-minute workshop for parents and other adults on starting conversations with youth about alcohol and reducing underage drinking in their communities.

Alcopops Presentation: A 15- to 20-minute presentation for adults about malt-flavored beverages with special appeal to youth. Adults learn how they can identify non-alcoholic from alcoholic beverages - it's often harder than one would think! Participants also learn about how these beverages are marketed to teens and how they contribute to binge drinking. We also cover some creative ways youth might conceal alcohol from adults.

Victim Services Program

[MADD KY](#) has two staff Victim Services Specialists and 12 Victim Service Volunteers who provide support for anyone who has been affected by an impaired driver throughout the state. We offer a wide selection of free literature, available in English and Spanish, for victims/survivors of crashes and a list of referrals for professional mental health counselors, clergy and civil attorneys. We work to provide court accompaniment to victims/survivors upon request and maintain a Victim Service Network that places victims/survivors in contact with other victims/survivors. We also provide information regarding Crime Victims Compensation and assistance in preparing a Victim Impact Statement.

Victim Impact Panels

[MADD KY](#) organizes Victim Impact Panels consisting of victims and survivors of impaired driving crashes who share their story with DUI offenders in an effort to help deter future offences. The panels - currently offered in Warren, Nelson and Marion counties - are organized when ordered by a judge.

Kentucky currently ranks fifth in the Nation for having one of the lowest percentages of DUI-related deaths. [Read more.](#)



EventCalendar

An up-to-date and detailed listing will be on our [Events Facebook page](#)

• February 8, 2012

Distracted Driving (D2) Simulator at North Oldham High School

D2 Simulator at Pineville Independent High School

• February 9, 2012

Safety booth at Jessamine County Early Learning Village

• February 15, 2012

Sweet 16 new driver presentation at Carroll County High School

Sweet 16 new driver presentation at Owen County High School

D2 Simulator at Frankfort Plant Board

• February 22, 2012

Distracted driving presentation at Home City Ice safety training conference in Lexington

• February 24, 2012

Sweet 16 new driver presentation at Pendleton County High School

Sweet 16 new driver presentation at Franklin-Simpson High School

Presentation at Dishman McGinnis Elementary School health fair

• February 28, 2012

D2 Simulator at Western Kentucky University health fair

D2 Simulator at The Allen Company

• March 1, 2012

Sweet 16 new driver presentation at Gallatin County High School

D2 Simulator at Mercer County High School

• March 7-10, 2012

Safety booth and presentation at Girls' Sweet 16 state basketball tournament

• March 8, 2012

Mature driver program at Independence Senior Center

• March 13, 2012

D2 Simulator at Trimble County High School

• March 14-17, 2012

Safety booth and presentation at Boys' Sweet 16 state basketball tournament

• March 15, 2012

Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Simulator at Leslie County High School

• March 20, 2012

Sweet 16 new driver presentation at Hickman County High School

• March 21, 2012

Rollover Simulator at Owsley County High School

• March 22, 2012

D2 and 3D simulators at Mercer County Academy and Mercer Central

Ghost Out at Todd County High School

• March 26, 2012

D2 Simulator at Healthy Lifestyle Course at University of Louisville

• March 27, 2012

D2 Simulator at Big Rivers Electric Corporation safety training

3D Simulator at Madison Southern High School

• March 28 - 29, 2012

D2 Simulator at Ballard High School

• March 30, 2012

Rollover Simulator and Sweet 16 at Todd County High School

Ghost Out at Woodford County High School

Ghost Out at North Oldham High School

• April 2, 2012

Safety booth at Frankfort National Night Out

• April 25-27, 2012



*The Galt House Hotel and Suites
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[For more information click here.](#)

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Cooperative Agencies



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