



MTEA NEWS

Hope from Tragedy: BuckleUpBlue4Lauryn

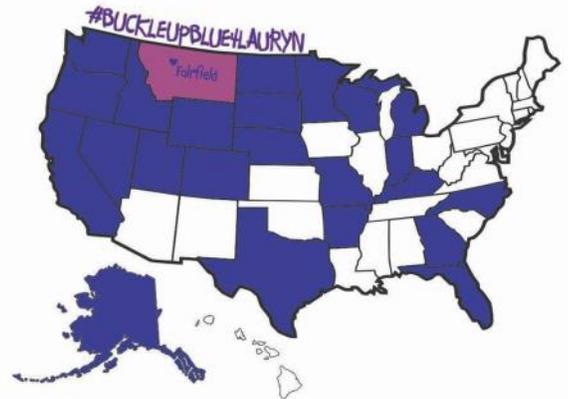
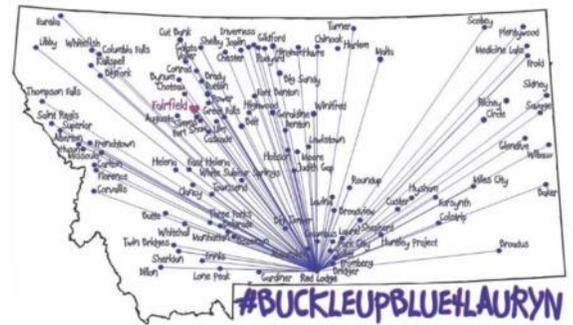


Fifteen-year-old **Lauryn Kate Goldhahn**, a member of the Fairfield Lady Eagle volleyball team, was the passenger in a vehicle that was involved in a rollover crash just one mile northwest of town on August 25. Lauryn, who was not wearing a seatbelt, was ejected from the pickup after it rolled two and a half times before coming to a halt as it struck a power pole. She was thrown a distance of around 50 feet, and suffered serious injuries that would eventually lead to her death. After hearing of Lauryn's death, the Red Lodge Rams volleyball team started the **#buckleupblue4lauryn** campaign.

Blue ribbons were handed out at schools and sporting events to be tied on steering wheels of vehicles to remind everyone to buckle-up. This campaign has quickly grown statewide in Montana and to neighboring states (see maps where ribbons have been sent).

Learn more about the **BuckleUpBlue4Lauryn** campaign on Facebook and watch the poignant video of her father, Pat Goldhahn, telling the difficult story of his daughter's last days. The family in Fairfield worked with the Montana Department of Transportation to help sponsor the campaign. During Teen Driver Safety Week in October, the Montana Capitol was lit up in blue.

"I'll be safe on the road today, so I can live, laugh and love tomorrow." #BuckleUpBlue4Lauryn campaign



NHTSA November 2016 Seat Belt Use

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports seat belt use in the U.S. reached a historic 90%. Their latest national survey found seat belt use higher in the West than in other regions and seat belt use **continued to be higher in the states with primary seat belt use laws**. Other significant increases in the last year are in rural areas.

http://www.nhtsa.gov/About-NHTSA/Press-Releases/nhtsa_belt_use_record_90_percent_11212016

3 out of 4 people who are ejected during a fatal crash die from their injuries.

Graphic courtesy of Utah Department of Public Safety. <http://highwaysafety.utah.gov/seat-belts-and-car-seats/primary-seat-belt-law/>



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MTEA News

This newsletter is published by the Montana Traffic Education Association in the fall, winter, and spring. MTEA, PO Box 637, Conrad, MT 59425. Jim Carroll, Executive Secretary, (406) 278-7856. Web: MTEAOnline.org.

MTEA News is mailed to members and active contributor/sustainers. The spring issue is mailed to all traffic educators in Montana to provide annual conference registration information.

To submit an article, photo, or letter to the editor, contact newsletter editor Steffani Grogan at sgrogan@forsyth.k12.mt.us.

Newsletter deadline for articles:

Fall issue—October 1

Winter issue—December 1

Spring issue—March 1

President's Message

Dear MTEA Members,



First, let me wish you all a safe holiday season. December came up quick and before we know it, we will be settling in for a much needed Christmas break.

I don't know about you, but I am very thankful that we have not had a lot of snow, it makes my drives a lot less stressful. I know parents want their children to learn to operate a vehicle safely in the snow, and I know there will be days I will have to take them, but for now, I have been very lucky.

At our last Executive Board meeting we discussed the conference evaluations. There were some comments as to WHY we have the conference when we do. Let me assure all of you that there is a lot of extensive planning going into the conference. We, as a board, want to provide you all with the best instruction, speakers, and time to share that we possibly can. The end of April seems to be the best option for this to happen. I know it is an inconvenience for some and we value your opinion. I compare it to my early days of elementary PE classes. If I ask the class, "What do you want to do today in gym class?" I will get 25 different responses. It is impossible to please everyone, but believe me, we are doing the best we can.

I hope you all have a wonderful December and spend quality time with your family. The spring conference will be upon us soon. I promise it will be a great one!

Thank you for your input—without it, we are not the great organization that we are. It is all of you that make us great!

Respectfully yours,

Jerry A. Olson, MTEA President (2016-17)

Jerry Olson is an art and driver education teacher at Great Falls High School and has taught driver education there since 2005. He was honored to serve as MTEA's 2012 Outstanding Traffic Educator of the Year and in 2013 was hired by the Office of Public Instruction as a Montana DRIVE advanced driving workshop instructor.



MTEA is on Facebook!

Search for Montana Traffic Education Association

Summary: Executive Board Meeting

Here's an overview of the Executive Board meeting held November 13, 2016 in Helena:

- Minutes, correspondence, and financial reports were reviewed.
- Miscellaneous reports from the Billings conference regarding speakers, meals, awards, door prizes, accommodations, and related costs were heard.
- A final review of the 2016 Billings conference took place using information from the post-conference evaluations and classification meetings.
- Newsletter, website, and Facebook reports were heard.
- Conference dates for the Pacific Northwest, MTEA, and ADTSEA conferences were discussed.
- President-Elect and Board assignments were discussed.
- The purchase of door prizes and awards for the conference was approved. Plans for the conference silent auction were discussed. Outstanding Traffic Educator of the Year and Contributor of the Year Awards and retirements were discussed.
- An OPI report was heard.
- The 2017 Legislative Session was discussed. Hiring of our lobbyist was also approved.
- Planning for the 2017 MTEA conference took place, with various speakers and break-out sessions being organized. Celebration plans to commemorate the 50th anniversary of MTEA with registration materials and special functions were discussed.

The next meeting was set for **January 29, 2017**, in Helena. Contact Jerry Olson, President, or Jim Carroll, Executive Secretary, as soon as possible to be included on the agenda. You can also send a note via the Contact page at MTEAOnline.org.



MTEA Membership

Did you know there are over 300 teachers around the state assigned to schools to teach Traffic Education? Of that amount, almost 200 of them are members of MTEA.

Encourage a colleague to join MTEA! Besides friendly colleagues, there are many benefits of membership:

- Annual Traffic Education conference (conference fees extra) that brings 200 teachers together with experts in the field, college credit or renewal units for professional development, and the latest research and resources for traffic educators.
- Three newsletters per year (Fall, Winter, Spring).
- \$5,000 AD&D/life insurance policy.
- Voting on and eligibility for board elections and annual recognition awards.
- A voice in the ongoing improvement of driver education in Montana through policy and legislative actions.

If you attended the spring conference in Billings, your membership in MTEA automatically renewed with your conference payment. If you know of someone who is not a current member of MTEA, encourage them to join. Contact Jim Carroll at the MTEA address and he will send an application form and letter to those people you identify as potential members.

Annual membership dues are \$45, payable to MTEA. Learn more about MTEA membership and download a membership form at MTEAOnline.org.

**AROUND THE BEND
AND OVER THE HILL
FOR 50 YEARS!**



Celebrate 50 Years of Professional Instruction and Guided Practice!

MTEA was founded in 1967. Next year will be our 50th Anniversary!

Tens of thousands of teen drivers have benefited from the dedication of our state's traffic educators.

We will celebrate and mark this achievement at our 2017 conference in Great Falls.

MTEA MILESTONES

1982—First MTEA and Driver Services joint conference.

1986—Initiates member recognition program.

1994—MTEA hires first legislative lobbyist.

1995—The Montana Legislature approves the Cooperative Driver Testing Program (CDTP) after being piloted by the Helena school district.

*MORE MILESTONES
TO COME*

Evaluating our Spring Traffic Education Conference

Member Feedback is Valued and Used

By Steffani Grogan, Forsyth High School and MTEA Board Member, Newsletter Editor

MTEA's executive board has reviewed your evaluations of the 2016 conference and plans to adopt conference changes based on the excellent feedback we received.

Location and timing were two big issues. The conference is already rotated around the three cities that have venues large enough to host us: Great Falls, Bozeman, and Billings. Travel distances are long for many members in the far western and eastern parts of the state no matter where the conference is held, so comments always come in to hold the conference in one of the other two locations. From the enrollment numbers each year, the size of the conference remains around 160 attendees no matter where the location. In other words, when we hold it in Billings, our eastern-most members are pleased; but not so happy when they have to travel to Great Falls.

The conference begins at noon on Sunday and concludes around 1:00 on Tuesday. This is the only way we can optimize everyone's time once a year and offer up to 16 OPI renewal units or one college credit.

People responded to the emotional stories of instructors who dealt with lost students, classroom activities provided in Rev up Tools, and Rich Hanson's humorous and inspirational closing keynote.

Planners want to offer more sectionals like car technology improvements, using cars from the last 50 years and motorcycle instruction. Last year's membership requested a motivating opening speaker who could relate to our organization's needs and many were also appreciative of presenters from around the country.



New ideas piqued the board's interest. Conference planners are considering a suggestion to color code new member conference name tags and moving classification meetings to Sunday, so MTEA veterans can welcome the new folks and hopefully increase and enhance their participation at the conference.

Feedback on the Roundtable session included positive comments on spreading the groups out so everyone could hear, great exchanges with co-workers, and having prepared questions. Of course, a few comments suggested that some members were still not comfortable with this process. Next year, the roundtable session will change, thanks to a suggestion by a member. We will use a technique called rapid fire or slam. All conference attendees will be asked to **bring his/her best lesson/practice idea from class/btw** to include in a three-minute report of his/her idea over the designated session time. Notes will be taken and published in the fall newsletter so everyone can benefit from the shared experience.

Your MTEA board works hard to make your conference experience a good one. We want you to take home an activity, an uplifting story, ideas from co-workers, or motivation to continue to achieve the extraordinary.

The Montana Traffic Education Association was founded in 1967, so we've been around for almost 50 years. Next year we plan to have a grand conference celebrating 50 years of changes and innovations.

Plan to join us at the spring traffic education conference in Great Falls, April 23-25, 2017.

Speed Limit Study on Montana Rural 2-Lane Highways

Montana's rural roadways have had a diverse speed limit history; ranging from reasonable and prudent to the current law of differential speed limits between commercial and passenger vehicles enacted on May 28, 1999.

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) recently studied the safety impacts of 70/60 differential speed limits for passenger vehicles (70 mph) and commercial trucks (60 mph) on rural two-lane highways. Speed limits were changed to a uniform 65 mph for all vehicles along 55 miles of two eastern Montana highways (MT-16 and MT-200) in April 2013.



Reducing the speed variability was expected to reduce platoon lengths and subsequent high-risk passing behavior. The MDT study found some safety benefits

and road users are generally supportive of uniform 65-mph speed limits on rural two-lane highways.

The findings support selective implementation of 65 mph limits on rural highways with high traffic volumes, high truck percentages, and limited passing opportunities (i.e. greater than 40 percent no passing zones and few passing relief lanes).

Excerpt from *MDT Solutions Project Highlights*, Summer/Fall 2016.
http://www.mdt.mt.gov/other/webdata/external/research/docs/library/NEWS_SUMMER_FALL16.pdf

Research on Wildlife along Montana's Madison Valley Highway Corridor

In November, the Montana Department of Transportation published a report documenting the effect of highways in the Madison Valley on wildlife mortality and movement patterns. Over a two-year period, researchers mapped cold and hot spots of elk, pronghorn, bighorn sheep, mule deer, and white-tailed deer carcasses.

Results indicate that animal carcass locations and movement patterns are generally influenced by existing development patterns, vegetation cover, terrain, and potential barriers near roadways. The report finds that the highway is not a complete barrier to elk movement, but it appears to significantly influence elk movement and habitat use.

The findings can guide transportation agencies to design highways that reduce or eliminate wildlife road mortalities and improve highway safety, while maintaining connectivity for wildlife.

Evaluating Wildlife Mortality Hotspots, Habitat Connectivity and Potential Accommodation in the Madison Valley, Montana: http://www.mdt.mt.gov/research/projects/env/madison_valley.shtml.



The world of driving safety is changing rapidly. New car safety technologies are being added to cars faster than any earlier generation.

Even features that have been around for years are getting smarter and changing into entirely new features.

But how do these safety features work? When should they be used? How can they help me? Do I have them in my car? And, how can I find answers to these questions?

MyCarDoesWhat is a national campaign to help educate drivers on new vehicle safety technologies designed to help prevent crashes. These technologies range from increasing the stability and control of cars to providing warnings about crash threats to automatically intervening to avoid or reduce the severity of a crash.

The campaign's website, MyCarDoesWhat.org, includes educational videos and other information about a variety of safety technologies including back-up cameras, blind spot monitoring systems, forward collision alerting and other systems that help drivers avoid or reduce the severity of a crash.



The National Safety Council and the University of Iowa partnered to launch *MyCarDoesWhat* to educate the public on how to best interact with these safety features to have better, safer driving experiences.

Mercury Cougar wins Motor Trend "Car of the Year" award.



Mercury Cougar was the 1967 Car of the Year

Favorite 1967 Tunes with Driving Themes

- ◆ *The Letter, The Box Tops*
- ◆ *On the Road Again, Canned Heat*
- ◆ *Expressway to Your Heart, Soul Survivors*
- ◆ *By the time I get to Phoenix, Glen Campbell*
- ◆ *San Francisco, Scott McKenzie*
- ◆ *She has Funny Cars, Jefferson Airplane (Side 2 of Somebody to Love)*
- ◆ *Funky Broadway, Wilson Pickett (Mustang Sally, 1965)*
- ◆ *The 59th Street Bridge Song (Feelin' Groovy), Harpers Bizarre*
- ◆ *I Can See for Miles, The Who*
- ◆ *Shiny Red Automobile, George Morgan*



The rock group Traffic was formed in 1967. So was the Montana Traffic Education Association!

Plan Ahead for the 2017 Spring Conference

Door Prizes and Silent Auction Gifts

Door prizes are given away at just about every break during the conference. MTEA buys door prizes with the proceeds from our 50/50 drawings, but we can always use more. Consider asking at least one business in your community if they would donate something as a door prize. Bring it with you when you arrive.

Our silent auctions are a huge success because of the great gifts donated and your generous bidding on them. The proceeds raised will help fund the David Huff Scholarship and offset the cost of future door prizes.

If you would like to donate something to the MTEA silent auction, please bring with you to the conference.

Teacher and Contributor of the Year Awards

Please consider nominating a fellow teacher and/or supporter of your program for the 2017 awards. Nomination forms for the MTEA Teacher of the Year and Contributor of the Year awards can be downloaded at the MTEA website or the MTEA link on the OPI Traffic Education website. Forms will not be mailed out unless you are unable to access the Internet.

Retiring from Teaching?

If you retired this year or have plans to retire from education soon and have been an active MTEA member, please send Jim Carroll a note at the MTEA address. We would like to honor you at the next spring conference.

Download the Service Recognition/Retirement Award form at MTEAOnline.org and send to Jim Carroll by April 1 (prior to the MTEA conference).

Retiring? You can still teach traffic ed!

If your retirement is based on a termination date of January 1, 2014 or later, **you must wait 150 calendar days before you can return to work as a working retiree** in a TRS reportable position. The 150 calendar day break begins on the first day following your termination.

To comply with IRS public pension qualification standards, an unmistakable interval of time between a member's retirement and their return to work as a retired member is necessary. The break-in-service requirement applies to all TRS members, including members employed by the University System.

For more information, visit the Teacher's Retirement System website: <http://trs.mt.gov/>

Share the Road Program from Motor Carriers of Montana

Share the Road is a highway safety program of the American Trucking Associations (ATA). Since 1986, the Share the Road program has been teaching the public how to share the road with large trucks. The program's goal is to reach as many people as possible and change driving behavior to save lives.

New Share the Road DVD is Available at No Cost

Motor Carriers of Montana is pleased to offer free DVDs of the updated Share the Road video (8:21 minutes) to traffic educators to use in their driver education courses. **To request a free DVD, call their office at (406) 442-6600.**



The Traffic Education Program at the OPI encourages teachers to request the video. It greatly enhances the Montana Teen Driver Curriculum distributed by the OPI. The video is very well done with excellent graphics and engaging and informative drivers from the trucking industry.

Invite a Semi to your School

Motor Carriers of Montana will bring a tractor-trailer to your school so students can sit in the cab to see what the truck driver can and cannot see from the driver's seat. They want to support Montana traffic education programs and invite instructors to contact their office at (406) 442-6600 to set up a program in their area.

The Share the Road Program is a regular feature at the annual spring traffic education conference, so educators can experience what their students would learn from a semi and truck-driver visit to their school.

For more information on the Share the Road Program:

Frank Molodecki, CDS
Fleet Risk & Safety Manager
Diversified Transfer and Storage
406-896-3431

<http://www.mttrucking.org/safety/share-the-road/>



Fran's Findings



In November, I travelled with traffic educator Harold Lair to Belgrade, Manhattan, Butte, and Deer Lodge to review traffic education programs. We found dedicated teachers with high standards for responsibility and performance. Here are a few of their good ideas and effective strategies:

- **Final Drive:** A schematic map of the final drive route is given to families so they can practice.
- **Seat Belts:** A Belgrade bus driver's crashed car was parked near the high school front door with a sign "I'm no crash dummy, I wore my seat belt." They have also done this with other vehicles.
- **Student Videos:** Student teams in Deer Lodge created short video projects that were emailed and shown on a smart board to the class. Their start-up procedure video shows a driver putting her phone in the glove box saying she puts it out of reach to avoid temptation.

After watching a video of parallel parking a pickup truck, a student was asked about his number of attempts. He said they filmed twice and his mother supervised. Mock cars made of plywood were set up on a back street for parallel parking practice on their own time and in their family vehicle. A camera is set up to record the practice.

At the request of a traffic education coordinator at one of the schools I visited, we updated two modules in the Traffic Education Curriculum. **Module 1—Parent Meetings** and **Module 5.4—Managing Risk** were revised with new statistics, graphics and resources. Visit



Contact Fran Penner-Ray (fpenner-ray@mt.gov) and Patti Borneman (pborneman@mt.gov) by email or call the OPI Traffic Education Office at (406) 444-4432 with any questions about Teen Driver Education in Montana. <http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/Drivered>

the OPI Traffic Education webpage (see link below) to find additions and changes in the OPI Traffic Education Curriculum. Let us know if you think any other modules and resources need updates. We are working on the BTW guide for new teachers.

Montana Traffic Education Content and Performance Standards were reviewed with the MTEA Executive Board on November 13, 2016. Traffic Education rule amendments in 2012 included information about Graduated Driver Licensing, distracted driving, and a required parent meeting.



We added the *Traffic Education Content and Performance Standards* in 2012 into ARM 10.13.401-409: 1) Laws and Highway System, 2) Responsibility, 3) Visual Skills, 4) Vehicle Control, 5) Communication, 6) Risk Management, 7) Lifelong Learning, and 8) Driving Experience. The standards outline structured learning and guided practice benchmarks for students to acquire and demonstrate legal and safe driving skills, habits, and responsibility. The MTEA board concurred the Traffic Education standards continue to represent quality driver education in a complex and changing world.

Winds of change (and a long-awaited snowstorm) might be blowing through the Capitol City and at the OPI, but Fran Penner-Ray and Patti Borneman will be here as we ring in the New Year with our focus on health, safety, and strengthening our partnerships with MTEA and other partners. We look forward to answering your questions and supporting schools and teachers who are helping students develop safe driving skills on the road to graduation and beyond.

Merry Christmas with warm wishes for peace, joy and safe travels for all Montana families.

MVD Road Test Appointments for Driver Education Students

All driver education students need to schedule their MVD restricted-license appointment as a **Driver Ed Road Test** and be prepared to drive. Please remind parents to schedule the appointment far in advance to make sure their teen's TELL permit doesn't expire before they apply for the restricted license.

Students need to practice driving for at least 50 hours and even those who have been waived should still plan to take the road test. The 10% of students who are randomly chosen will not know ahead of time. They will find out if they are among the lucky 10% when they arrive for their appointment at the exam station.

Make an online appointment or call the MVD Customer Care Center. At the prompts, choose **TESTING**, then **DRIVER ED**.



<https://dojmt.gov/driving/appointments/>

Or call (866) 450-8034



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Traffic Education Conferences in 2017



The **2017 Montana Traffic Education Conference** will take place **April 23-25, 2017** at the Best Western Heritage Inn, Great Falls. Visit: MTEAOnline.org. Register in March 2017.

The costs of attending the conference are an allowable expense for local program costs under OPI guidelines. *Earn one college credit or up to 16 OPI renewal units.*



Another great regional traffic education conference is the **2017 Pacific Northwest Driver & Traffic Safety Conference**. It will be held **March 3-5, 2017** in Portland, Oregon. Visit: <http://trouw.org/projects/tse>.



The **2017 ADTSEA conference** will be held **July 16-19, 2017** in Sacramento, California. The conference will provide you with a wealth of information and an opportunity to network with other professionals from across the United States. Visit the American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association website at <http://www.adtsea.org>.

MTEA has a scholarship program that will provide up to \$300 per person to offset ADTSEA conference costs. If you can't attend, at least consider joining ADTSEA, your national organization.



Plan Ahead for the 2017 State Legislature

The 2017 legislative session opens January 2, 2017 and MTEA will be there with the help of our lobbyist Jane Hamman, pushing for more funds for Montana's traffic education programs.

This is a good time to chat with your state representative and senator about traffic education and safety issues and about your own local traffic education program.

For more information, visit www.sos.mt.gov/elections.