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Missoula County

Media Release

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Missoula County DUI Task Force to be Awarded State Farm Good Neighbor Citizenship Program Grant

On Monday, May 1 at 12 p.m. on the University of Montana Oval, State Farm representatives will present a 2017 State Farm Good Neighbor Citizenship Program Grant Award in the amount of \$5,000 to Lonie Hutchison, DUI Task Force Coordinator, to support peer-led activities targeting young drivers in Missoula County. The event is sponsored by the Missoula County DUI Task Force and the UM Curry Health Center. Guest speakers will include Kevi Berger, Mrs. Montana 2017, a steadfast seat belt advocate, as well as officers from Missoula's law enforcement agencies.

“The most dangerous year in a teen’s life is the year they start driving,” said Lonie Hutchison, Coordinator for the Missoula County DUI Task Force and Buckle Up Montana Coalition. “Montana’s young drivers have the highest crash rate of any age group in the state, and they lose their lives to motor vehicle crashes more than any other cause.”

Also taking place on the Oval from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. will be a “Choose Your Ride” peer-to-peer DUI prevention outreach event organized by a group of UM students known as PROS (Peers Reaching Out to Students), supported in part by the grant from State Farm. Light refreshments will be available as well as an opportunity to attempt navigating an obstacle course on oversized tricycles while wearing a pair of fatal vision goggles.

There will be a variety of “ride” options on display: taxies, Uber, U-Dash, ambulance, police, sheriff, Montana Highway Patrol and UM Police vehicles to remind folks that the ride option they choose is in their hands. The bottom line is: “You Booze, You Cruise, You Lose.”



The Missoula County DUI Task Force represents a diverse cross-section of the community. The task force is appointed by the Missoula County Commissioners to promote a healthier and safer environment by reducing the number of alcohol-related traffic crashes. The task force works on environmental and enforcement strategies, public education, awareness and legislation.