

The MADDvisor



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Graduation: Party Safe, Party Sober



I have spent nearly four decades in rural Eastern Nebraska and Western Iowa as a principal, coach or superintendent, and during this time, I have seen over 1600 students graduate from the four communities. Graduation is one of the most exciting happenings in any family as it is for the school and community. However, graduation parties are a double edge sword for many, both in and out of education. The parties are a celebration of this great event, but it appears for many that alcohol is a prerequisite. I question the need for alcohol at these important events as much as, if not more than, Tom Osborne has questioned the need for alcohol to watch a sporting event. There are too many young people around both the football game and the graduation party. The idea that alcohol is needed at either event sends a strong message to young people, and that message is clearly stronger than any of the advertisements against underage drinking. If parents want to give a message to their child, let it be that our families and communities can do without alcohol at a graduation party.

*Edward A Rastovski
Wahoo Public School
Superintendent*

Nebraska Happenings



- May 11, Law Enforcement Memorial Dedication, Grand Island, 10:00 am
- May 18, Victim Impact Panel, Holiday Inn & Suites, Scottsbluff, 7:00 pm
- May 28, 10th Annual Law Enforcement Awards Reception and Training, Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, Training: 1:00-4:00 pm; Reception
- June 9, State Operations Council Meeting



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Victims' Rights Week

In tribute of Victims' Rights Week, MADD Nebraska invited members to decorate a bell in honor and memory of a loved one. The bells were displayed at the State Capital Building during Victims' Rights Week. Thank you to each and every one of you who made a contribution. Our office received a variety of bells that came in all shapes and sizes. Each bell conveyed an image of how that family was affected by drunk driving. We received many heartfelt comments on the display.

Cyndee McCarthy, State Victim Advocate



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From the Executive Director. . .

It may be Mother's Day, but all of us have little ones that we care for whether they are nieces, grand children or the neighbor kid next door. You don't have to be a mother to have compassion; I have learned that from my sister-in-law. At every family event she is always there to help me with the kids, food, and a loving smile. This Mother's Day I want to extend a thank you to every woman who supports us, shows up to volunteer, and ensures that we push our mission forward.

You don't have to be a mother to know that drunk driving is unacceptable, that victims need care and support during a tough time of unexpected impact, and that our youth need to be told that underage drinking is illegal.

For all of our loved ones young and old, I thank the women that support us here at MADD on a daily basis. We may not always see you, but we always know we can count on your support. That is the biggest gift of all!

With true respect,



