

**NEWS RELEASE****December 3, 2007**

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**Everett High students get important holiday reminder**

On Tuesday, December 4, 2007 at 8:19 AM, students at Everett High School will learn the tragic consequences possible from underage drinking and impaired driving. The Snohomish County DUI Task Force and the family of Hannah Zylstra are partnering to bring a school program to all of the school's 1,600 students - in an effort to prevent a repeat of what happened to the Zylstra family in December 2006.

Sixteen year-old Hannah Zylstra drank alcohol at a friend's house party, drove impaired, and lost control of her vehicle not far from her home. She died at the crash scene. Her parents were notified of her death on Christmas Eve. Her younger sister Emily, who was in the car with Hannah, will tell students about the day that changed her life; her father Fred will also speak to Everett High students.

"It is important that our students are safe and make good, safe choices - whether they are on campus or away from campus," said EHS Principal Catherine Matthews. "This program is an important one for students to hear, and we appreciate the county's help and the Zylstra family's courage to bring it to us. I too, have been personally touched by the devastation caused by driving impaired. My best friend and her brother were both killed in college by a drunk driver."

Tracy McMillan, Snohomish County DUI and Traffic Safety Task Force Coordinator said, "This family has started speaking for the Snohomish County DUI Victim Panel to try to save lives. They have also donated Hannah's car to the DUI and Traffic Safety Task Force, and we displayed it at the Monroe Fair this last August. They truly are making a difference and are an awesome family. It's just so tragic that it happened in the first place. Impaired driving is preventable - it is not an accident."

Hannah's car will be on display in front of Civic Auditorium the morning of the assembly. From there, the Navy will take the car to Naval Station Everett that afternoon. Although the Navy's plans are not final, Hannah's car will be displayed again on the station dock or on the deck of the USS Abraham Lincoln to help remind sailors to drive safe - all year and during the holidays.

The assembly was featured in the [December 5, 2007](#) edition of *The Herald* and the [December 12, 2007](#) edition of the *Everett Tribune*.

