

Torrington The TELEGRAM

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E-EDITION LAST UPDATED: Friday, August 19, 2011 7:30:10 AM

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State crashes taking toll

Posted: Friday, Aug 19th, 2011
By Vicki Hood / Guernsey Gazette editor

Summer in Wyoming enters its final month this week. Kids are headed back to school, sports practices are gearing up and everyone is hustling to get in those last few weeks of recreation and vacation activities.

But for 37 families from Wyoming and other parts of the country, this summer has brought sadness. It has become the summer they lost someone forever.

Wyoming State Highway Patrol officers have been called to a total of 36 accidents involving at least one fatality since Memorial Day weekend. Those accidents claimed a total of 44 lives, from the very young to the elderly.

A total of 16 people were killed in 15 single vehicle mishaps, according to Patrol numbers. Only one of those 16 was wearing a seatbelt and the majority of those killed were thrown from the vehicle due to the lack of restraints used. Nine of the 15 involved a single pickup truck.

The highest single death toll came when four members of a family from Colorado Springs, Colo., were lost in a flash flood road washout in the Medicine Bow National Forest in July. Three people were killed in a head-on accident August 10 near Thayne.

It has been another very tough year for motorcyclists. Nine single fatalities were recorded as a result of accidents involving motorcycles; eight occurring between July 8 and Aug. 12

Of the 44 fatalities between June 18 and Aug. 15, 35 were killed since the July 4th weekend.

Based on this summer's statistics, it is evident seat belts save lives. With the Labor Day weekend to come, WHP will no doubt be enforcing speed limits, seatbelt requirements and watching closely for drivers who have been drinking.

You can also help keep our roads safer. The REDDI program is designed to give the

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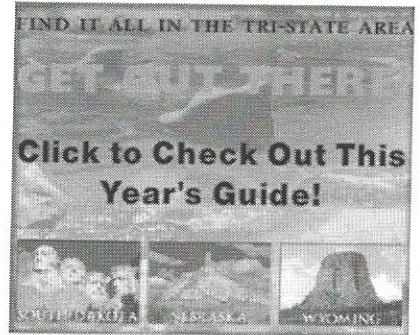
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public a readily accessible tool to report suspected impaired drivers by calling a toll free number of #HELP (cell phone), 1-800-442-9090, or 911. The reports are directed to the proper agency where the suspect vehicle is traveling and law enforcement officers are dispatched.

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