



Sign In | Learn about NewsWorks

Listen to WHY? | Latest Newscast



NBC10 weather
 Temps to go from spring to summer
 June 6

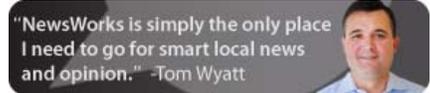
Benefits reform
 Eligibility changes in Pa. unemployment
 24 minutes ago

Pink slips
 300 staff layoffs at Philly schools by Friday
 6:40 am

THE FEED: BREAKING NEWS BLOG



- [Home](#)
- [Speak Easy](#)
- [Health + Science](#)



Powered by WHY? and You

- [Arts + Culture](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [New Jersey](#)
- [Delaware](#)
- [NW Philadelphia](#)
 - [Roxborough/Manayunk/East Falls](#)
 - [Mt. Airy/Chestnut Hill](#)
 - [Germantown/West Oak Lane](#)

In Princeton, actions speak louder than words when demonstrating dangers of drunk driving

June 3, 2012

By Bonnie Schultz, for NewsWorks

Like 0

Rate This:

(4 votes)

[Ask a question](#)



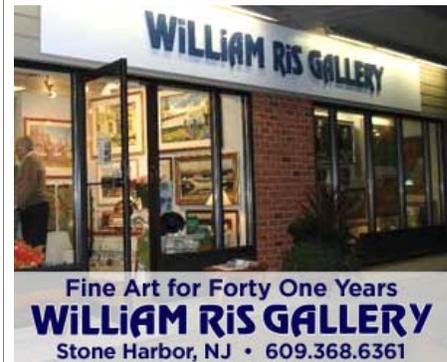
High school students in Princeton watch as their fellow students and emergency responders act out the scene of what an accident involving alcohol might look like. (Bonnie Schultz/for NewsWorks)

Students were silent as Gary Snyder, principal of Princeton High School, read student Catherine Huber's "obituary."

For Huber's friends and fellow students, it all seemed real. But Huber didn't really die; instead she was playing

They know that this is something they shouldn't do — high school kids do drink, but if we can keep them safe, we'll do it. Kids have said 'I don't want to drive to the prom, let's take a limo',

© 2012



the part of the victim in a crash reenactment staged the day before prom to show students the dangers of drunk driving.

"It was surprisingly emotional, even with knowing it wasn't real. I was very tearful," parent Janet Eisenberg said. Eisenberg's son, Jacob, played one of the students in the car driven by the drunk driver.

According to Candice Singer, research policy analyst for the National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependency (NCADD), a Youth Risk Behavior Survey from 2009 shows students in New Jersey have experienced binge drinking at a slightly higher average than students nationwide. According to the survey, 26.7% of New Jersey students experienced binge drinking compared to the 24.2% national average.

Dealing with the problem in New Jersey

Princeton High School is dealing with the problem by trying to show as realistically as possible the consequences of drinking and driving.

The crash reenactment was coordinated by Wendy Jolley of Princeton Drug and Alcohol Alliance and board member of **Corner House**, a Princeton-based agency involved in prevention, education and support for young people and their families regarding issues of substance abuse.

Principal Snyder opened the reenactment by telling the students that "this is a community that cares about you and hopes that this is a message and a lesson that you learn and take seriously over the next hours, days, weeks, months and years."

Six teenagers from area schools were involved in the crash reenactment, one couple in the first car and two couples in the second car that included the drunk driver.

The staged crash involved two cars in a head-on collision, with one young woman in a prom dress lying on the roof of the first vehicle, bloodied. The whole scene was covered with a tarp, and a hush fell over the crowd when police officers removed it.

The 911 call was played over a loudspeaker as was the subsequent narrative by Greg Paulson, Deputy Director of Princeton First Aid and Rescue Squad.

Capital Health paramedics arrived to provide advanced life support, cardiac monitoring, IVs, breathing tubes, and medication, performing a cardiogram on the "deceased patient" on top of the car to confirm that there was no heart activity and provide for pronouncement of death.

The crash reenactment ended with Huber zipped into a body bag by morticians from Hodge Funeral Home, and the "drunk driver," played by PHS student Handy Pierre, given a field sobriety test and arrested.

"Kids come up to me after an event saying I will never drink and drive, and I will make sure my friends won't either. In past years we have even had kids faint and have had to take them to the hospital. There's no talking, no laughing, the kids take it very seriously," said Jolley.

"They know that this is something they shouldn't do — high school kids do drink, but if we can keep them safe, we'll do it. Kids have said 'I don't want to drive to the prom, let's take a limo', and their parents say, 'absolutely' to keep them safe."

Are crash reenactments working?

Other towns in central New Jersey have their own crash reenactments. According to Corner House Executive Director Gary DeBlasio, Lawrence Township not only stages a crash reenactment but follows it with a mock trial of the underage DWI defendant.

According to Sergeant Thomas Murray of Princeton Township Police, so far in 2012 there has been only one underage drunk driving arrest that resulted in an arrest and conviction. For Princeton Borough, Officer Nicholas Sutter said that there were five arrests in 2011 but only one underage drunk driving arrest for 2012.

In 2010, there were **298 arrests** for underage drunk driving in New Jersey, according to **The Century Council**. However, underage drunk driving fatalities that same year **decreased by 65%**, and underage drunk driving fatalities have **declined 57% nationally** from 1991 to 2010.

New Jersey has seen nearly a **78% decrease** since the 1983 decision to raise the drinking age to 21.

[« More from New Jersey »](#)

[Support local journalism. Make your gift today. Become a member.](#)

comment

and their parents say, 'Absolutely' to keep them safe.

Wendy Jolley, Princeton Drug and Alcohol Alliance



Students and emergency responders act out the scene of an accident involving alcohol. Organizers say the reenactment is aimed at demonstrating the dangers of driving while under the influence. (Bonnie Schultz/for NewsWorks)

More Info:

- DISCUSSION [Keeping repeat drunken-driving suspects off N.J. roads](#)

Top Stories

With jury in place, Sandusky trial to begin Monday

June 6 - Mary Wilson

Five men and eight women have been picked to serve on the jury for the trial of Jerry Sandusky in Bellefonte, Pa. The former Penn State assistant football coach has been charged with sexual abuse of [More »](#)

Costs of reorganizing Rutgers campuses 'huge,' university trustee says

June 6 - Phil Gregory

As officials of Rutgers University met Wednesday to talk about the proposal to realign the state's higher education system, one trustee sounded a warning to taxpayers. [More »](#)

Pa. moves to settle \$3.8 billion debt with U.S.

June 6 - Scott Detrow

Pennsylvania has been borrowing money from the federal government to pay out unemployment compensation claims since 2009, and has run up a nearly \$4 billion tab. The commonwealth is finally paying off its debt. It's effectively [More »](#)

Michelle Obama fires up crowd at Philly campaign rally

June 6 - Dave Davies

NOW HEAR THIS.
NEWSWORKS TONIGHT.
WEEKDAYS AT 6 PM ON WHYY-FM.

newsworks

BLOGS

BEHIND THE LINES

Tony Auth



Whose Memorial Day is it, anyway?: Got any special plans for the weekend? Memorial Day is [More »](#)

Your

| | |
|--|---|
| <input type="text" value="Karen"/> | Name (required) |
| <input type="text" value="woolywild@yahoo.com"/> | E-mail (required, but will not display) |
| <input type="text"/> | Subject (required) |

2000 characters left



To prove you're a person, enter this string of characters below before clicking Submit.

Can't read it? [Click Here to Refresh](#)

NewsWorks has discussion guidelines to foster lively, civil dialogue. Please [read them](#). By entering a comment, you agree to observe the guidelines.

If you register or log in to NewsWorks, you won't need to fill in your name and email address each time you comment--and you'll earn [Ben Bucks](#).

Submit

DAVE DAVIES OFF MIC

Dave Davies



First lady in Philly today as poll shows Obama widening lead in Pa.: First lady Michelle Obama makes a campaign stop at the [More »](#)

NOTES FROM HEL

Helen Ubiñas



A playground grows in Southwest Philly: Lisa Wilmer isn't one to sugarcoat things. The principal of Comegys [More »](#)

NATIONAL INTEREST

Dick Polman



Wisconsin wisdom: Scott Walker, the embattled Wisconsin Republican governor, survived last night. [More »](#)

CENTRE SQUARE

Chris Satullo



If the Dream is threadbare, let's weave a new one: Is the American dream in tatters? Depends on what you think [More »](#)

BRANDYWINE TO BROAD

Jan C. Ting



Wisconsin recall decided by Obama voters for Scott Walker: Fascinating results from the bitter Wisconsin recall election in which [More »](#)

GROUND LEVEL

Nicole Juday



Hummers: Last week we saw the first swooping dart of the [More »](#)

[More Blogs »](#)

PARTNERS

- [theArtblog.org](#)
- [Azavea](#)
- [Committee of Seventy](#)
- [DVAEYC](#)
- [The Fallser](#)
- [G-town Radio](#)
- [LaSalle University - GermantownBeat](#)
- [Leadership Philadelphia](#)
- [NBC10 Philadelphia](#)
- [NEastPhilly.com](#)
- [NewCORE](#)
- [NJ Spotlight](#)
- [Penn Project for Civic Engagement](#)

- [Philadelphia Business Journal](#)
- [Philadelphia Daily News](#)
- [Philadelphia Weekly](#)
- [The Philadelphia Public School Notebook](#)
- [PhilaPlace.org](#)
- [PlanPhilly.com](#)
- [Technically Philly](#)
- [Temple Multimedia Urban Reporting Lab](#)
- [University of the Arts](#)
- [WURD Radio](#)

WHYY

- [Homepage](#)
- [Audio](#)
- [Video](#)



NEWSWORKS

- [About Us](#)
- [How We're Funded](#)
- [Terms of Service](#)
- [Advertise](#)
- [Privacy Statement](#)
- [Jobs at NewsWorks](#)
- [Discussion Rules](#)
- [RSS Feeds](#)
- [Podcasts](#)
- [Membership](#)
- [Events](#)

WHYY - [Email NewsWorks](#)

Built by [Delmarva Group, LLC.](#)