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WBTV Speak Out: Stopping Repeat Drunk Drivers

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Posted: Aug 12, 2010 1:30 PM EDT
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By Tony McMehan - email

'Speak Out' is an expression of opinion from the Editorial Board of WBTV, and is presented by General Manager, Nick Simonette.

Look at this face.

Now... hear this voice:

(MICHELLE ARMSTRONG)

'If you are bailing him out and giving him another try to kill someone like he killed my child.

I mean, how many times are you going to bail him out, you know?

You're giving him the gun to murder somebody.'

Michelle Armstrong is beside herself.

Why shouldn't she be?

Police say her 17-year old daughter, Laura, was killed by a repeat-repeat drunk driver.

Howard Pasour had three previous drunk driving convictions.

One in 2002... two in May of 2008.

You have to be kidding me.

Somebody please explain how he -- or any other drunk driver with previous DWI's -- is allowed back out on the road?

Two local state reps, Wil Neumann and Tim Moore, say they're looking into changing laws so repeat drunk drivers don't kill anyone else.

Here's one idea, guys.

Make people charged with drunk driving wear alcohol monitoring bracelets for longer than 60 days.

State law currently says two months is the max.

But from what we can tell -- the bracelets work.

They sense any alcohol in your system.

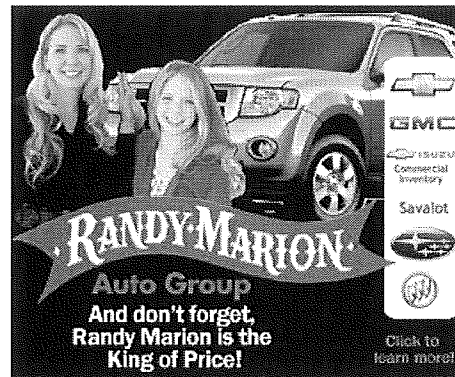
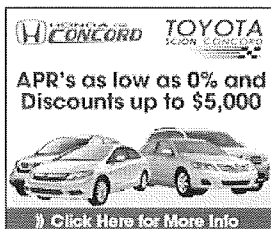
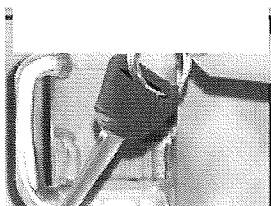
Officers say in PAY-sour's case, when he had on the bracelet he didn't drink.

A few months after having the bracelet removed?... ..Laura was dead.

Is extending the time of an ankle bracelet the end-all answer to keeping drunk drivers off the road?

No.

But it's a start



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