

## HOLIDAY DRINKING



Bartender Desiree McKeowen pours a beer at Sauce Italian Grill & Pub in Adrian. TELEGRAM PHOTO BY MIKE DICKIE

# Fighting drunken driving

Countywide coalition program seeks to educate and train to protect public

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ADRIAN — Lenawee County residents are in the midst of the holiday season and that means celebrations, parties and for some this involves drinking alcohol.

Many people are responsible, but others are not.

Knowing this, some in the county have worked to raise their awareness so they can help ensure a safe and fun environment during the holidays.

## Drunken driving by the numbers

According to Lenawee Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition coordinator Leigh Jameson-Heise, between October of 2014 to

## Why this matters

The holiday season is a time for parties, celebration and sometimes stress. This environment can lead to an increase in the number of people who drink alcohol and drive, which then increases the chances of injuries or death.

February 2015 the state of Michigan saw its highest total number of crashes, including many that were alcohol-related.

In 2013, according to numbers for the state from michigantraffic-crashfacts.org, in 29.9 percent of the total crashes, the driver of the vehicle had been drinking alcohol.

Earlier this month, the Michigan State Police announced the results of preliminary reports that indi-

cated eight people lost their lives in eight separate traffic crashes during the 2015 Thanksgiving holiday weekend. In comparison, MSP said six people died in six traffic crashes during the 2014 Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

Data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration states there is a 35 percent daily increase for alcohol-related fatal crashes during Christmas and almost a 50 percent increase during the New Year's holiday.

Locally, some police departments see an increase in drunken driving during the holidays, and throughout the year.

Adrian Police Chief Vince Emrick

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