

what's doing



TZD hosts on-air alcohol drinking experiment

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"It gets out a great message," according to Sgt. Neil Dickenson of the Minnesota State Patrol.

He was referring to an event coming Dec. 21 at the KKIN radio station in Aitkin. KKIN 94.3 and the Aitkin County Toward Zero Deaths Coalition are putting together an on-air drinking experiment to test the level of alcohol it takes to become impaired.

Production Manager and host of a music show Andy Ellison will be the subject consuming alcohol on his program from 2-5 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 21, at the station located in Aitkin.

Providing information about alcohol consumption and the consequences of arrests for DWI will be Dickenson and state trooper Dion Pederson. They will be meas-

uring the alcohol and performing periodic tests to determine blood alcohol level.

Dickenson said the test is administered considering body weight and the intent is to get the subject quickly to the .08 blood alcohol content level that is the state's legal limit.

"Listeners should be able to hear changes in behavior and speaking ability as the consumption occurs," said Paul Bruggman, coordinator of the local TZD. He will be on hand also and has invited members of local law enforcement to weigh in during the program.

Bruggman said the idea for the experiment was raised by TZD member, Capt. Joe Dwyer, state trooper, who said the results of the test may encourage better decisions about driving, especially with the holiday season here.

It has been about eight



years since KKIN last hosted an alcohol experiment, said Tom Martin, general manager.

"If we can stop one person from driving drunk, we've done our job," Martin said.

Dickenson has been involved in several of these experiments, including Duluth and Cloquet. He is an instructor of field sobriety tests

for Hibbing Community College and has also taught at law enforcement programs at Fond du Lac Tribal College and Central Lakes College in Brainerd.

"This gets the word out about the dangers of drinking and driving," said Dickenson.