

MONDAY, MAY 8, 2006

## Lewiston workshop helps teenagers improve driving

LEWISTON - A workshop to help teenagers focus their attitudes and become better drivers will be held at the Red Lion Hotel in Lewiston Thursday and Friday.

The workshop, from 8 a.m. to noon, is sponsored by the Idaho Department of Education and Idaho Transportation Department.

Kelly Glenn, the supervisor of driver education programs for the education department, pointed out that every day in the United States 5,000 young drivers are involved in traffic accidents, and 23 die. Driver education experts say teen attitudes toward driving contribute to these accidents.

"Teens can learn the technical skills of driving and the rules of the road, but their attitudes can override their knowledge and lead to dangerous behavior," Glenn said.

"This effort will help teachers understand how today's teens think and help teens recognize the impact of their attitude on their actions."

To assist teachers in helping teens recognize how their attitudes affect their driving, the state is providing a new program called "Drive" for use in driver education classrooms. Driver education teachers will be trained on the program this spring.

The workshop includes:

- A 67-second video geared toward teens that shows the "disconnect" between a teen's self perception as a driver and his or her behavior behind the wheel.
- A hands-on demonstration that allows students to become teachers and make their own decisions about what to do and what attitude to exhibit in critical driving situations.
- A presentation that shows the consequences of teen attitudes when driving a motor vehicle.