MEDIA RELEASE

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HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE ANNOUNCES
WINNERS OF 2018 HIGH SCHOOL "BATTLE OF THE BELTS"

HUNTINGTON, WV - The WV Highway Safety Office announced today that Hannah High School and Wahama High School were the winning schools in the 2018 Battle of the Belts competition. Each year, schools compete to increase seat belt awareness and belt use by students at schools in the region. This year, Wahama High School had the largest increase of seat belt use (17.3%) and Hannan High School had the highest overall belt use in their final survey coming in with a perfect 100% belt use by their students and teachers.

Both schools won a free assembly with guest speaker, Ms. Cara Filler, a nationally known speaker that works with students to increase their awareness of traffic safety issues and the importance of personal choices. Ms. Filler has often been a guest speaker at the West Virginia SADD and SADD National Conferences and at many West Virginia schools throughout the past few years. For more information on Cara, go to https://carafiller.com/ .

Students conducted educational campaigns between October 8th and 31st. They then submitted reports to the highway safety office to determine the winning schools. Projects included seat belt use surveys, pledges to wear seat belts, school announcements, banner and poster competitions along with social media postings to increase awareness among the students.

The event is presented by the Region 2 Huntington Highway Safety Program. Schools in Cabell, Jackson, Lincoln, Mason, Putnam, and Wayne Counties were invited to participate in the "Battle" this year. This year's participating schools included Lincoln County High School, Point Pleasant High School, Winfield High School, and Buffalo High School as well as the winning high schools of Hannan and Wahama.