

## A person with dark hair and glasses, wearing a grey and blue striped long-sleeved shirt, is seated in a simulator. They are holding a black steering wheel with both hands. The simulator's display shows a large screen with a virtual environment featuring a road and a small inset window showing a different scene. The person is looking towards the screen.

**STEADY AS SHE GOES** – Wayne High School student Brandon Multari participates in a DUI Simulator on Thursday. *WCN photo by Nikki Dotson*

WAYNE - Wayne High School students got a crash course in what it feels like to drive under the influence on Thursday.

Students were given the opportunity to participate in The West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration's DUI Simulator, a system that allows participants to experience different levels of impairment in different situations.

Andrew Roy, a student at WHS, said the simulator is harder than you might think.

"It gets really difficult the farther you go, once you reach point six you can't steer," Roy said.

Public Health Educator Dan Pickens said the simulator takes a different approach of teaching

“Kids are going to hear the same old message, but the DUI Simulator puts a new spin on the approach,” Pickens said. “They actually want to do the simulator.”

The DUI Simulator was unveiled in 2010, and has been making its way all over the West Virginia since.

Every high school in the state gets the opportunity to host the simulator, and data is compiled to show trends in safety patterns from a survey that corresponds.

“The survey helps to find out safety patterns of teen drivers,” Pickens said. “It not only covers DUI, but not wearing a seat belt, texting and driving and other trends.”

Brandon Multari said the simulator experi-

ence is a very good way to teach the effects substances can have on you.

"It's pretty cool to see how you would act if you were drunk," Multari said. "It's a safe way to learn."

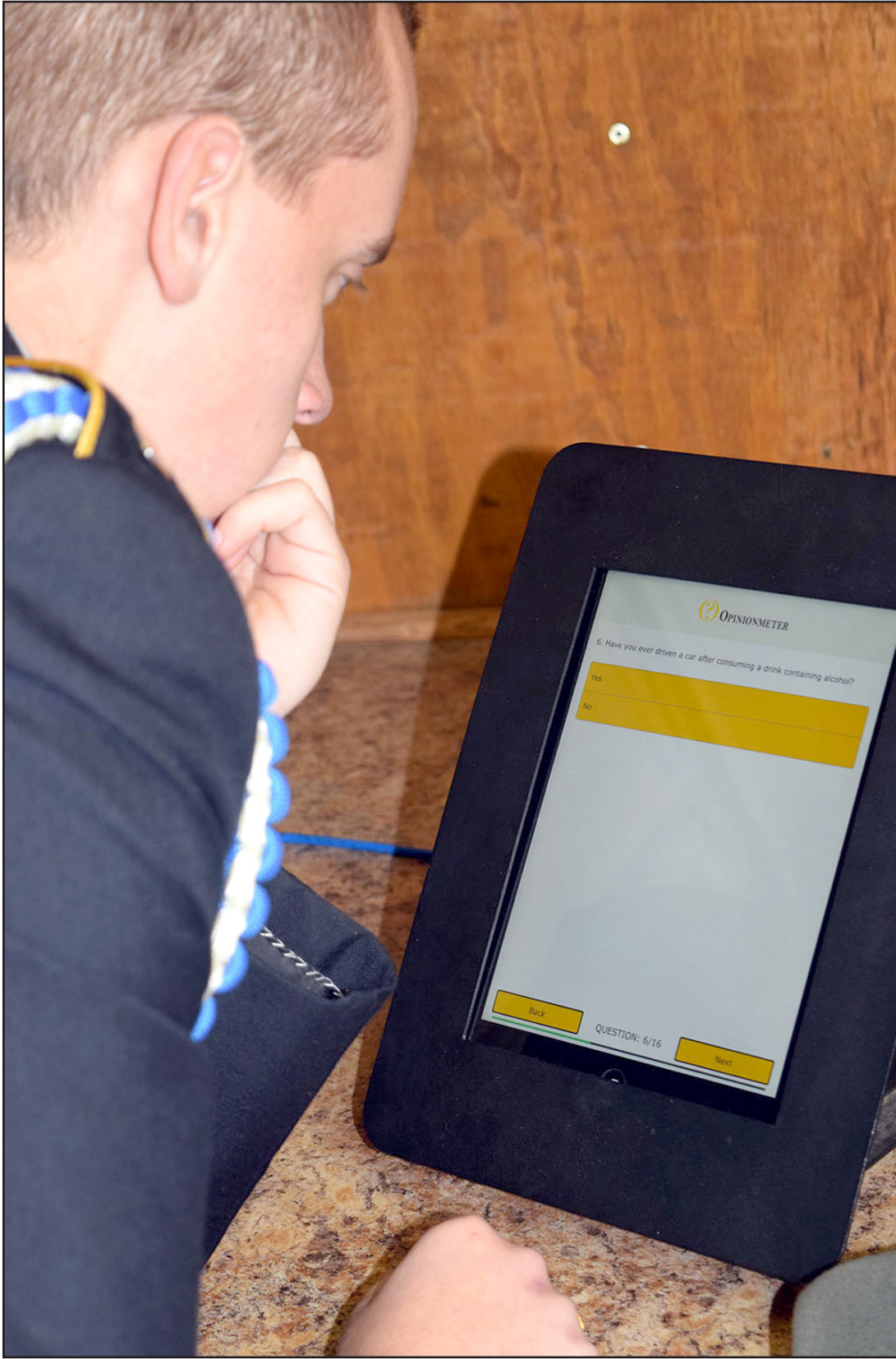
Michelle Blanton, English teacher at WHS, supports the idea of the simulator.

“It’s important for students to see what it feels like to be in those kind of situations,” she said.

Pickens said in a place where many people have been lost to DUIs, he's passionate about teaching teens the effects.

"It's something every parent worries about," he said. "It affects so many different people, and having kids of my own makes it a worry."

The DUI Simulator is sponsored by State Farm Insurance and the Governors Highway Safety Association.



**SURVEY SAYS – Wayne High School student Andrew Roy completes a survey after participating in a DUI simulator on Thursday.** *WCN photo by Nikki Dotson*

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forever and we will forget  
you never!*  
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I still hold you near and  
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