



## Kansas has recorded its lowest number of traffic fatalities since 2015



Kansas roads in 2024 are experiencing a notable improvement in safety, with Governor Laura Kelly reporting fewer than 400 traffic fatalities in 2023, the lowest since 2015. The data reveals a decline from 410 deaths in 2022 to 388 in 2023, marking a three-year trend of decreasing traffic fatalities. Governor Kelly attributes part of this success to investments in infrastructure, including the 10-year, \$10 billion Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program. Efforts to enhance road safety, such as the Drive to Zero Coalition and the Kansas Strategic Highway Safety Plan, have contributed to reducing deaths and serious injuries on the roads. Secretary of Transportation Calvin Reed highlights initiatives like behavioral safety messaging, low-cost engineering improvements, and the establishment of Safety Corridors as key factors in this positive trend. While achieving zero traffic deaths on Kansas roads remains a challenging goal, these improvements are significant steps in the right direction.

[READ MORE](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

04/4/24 - 04/6/24  
KANSAS AG EXPO  
HUTCHINSON, KS



04/8/24  
SOLAR ECLIPSE AT BIG BRUTUS  
WEST MINERAL, KS

04/13/24  
TULIP FESTIVAL AT THE LAKE  
TOPEKA, KS



04/16/24  
DILLON LECTURE SERIES  
HUTCHINSON, KS

04/26/24  
SPRING ARTWALK FESTIVAL  
PITTSBURG, KS



BRETZ INJURY LAW

## What's going on?

There is plenty to do in Kansas! Click the button below for more events in your area.

[EVENTS NEAR ME](#)



## Kansas Drive to Zero

Getting 7 hours of sleep every day is the only way to protect yourself against the risks of driving when you're drowsy.

Many teens do not get enough sleep, which puts them at risk of being in a drowsy-driving crash. Tell your teens to call you or another trusted adult to drive if they are sleepy.

Avoid drinking any alcohol before driving. Consumption of alcohol increase drowsiness.

Check your medication's labels to see if drowsiness is listed as a side effect. If you take medications that could cause drowsiness, use public transportation or let a friend or family member drive.



**DROWSY DRIVING**

Drinking coffee or energy drinks might help you feel more alert, but the effects last only a short time. You still may have "micro sleeps" or brief losses of consciousness that can last 4-5 seconds. At 55 mph, you travel more than 100 yards while asleep. If you start to get sleepy while driving, grab 1/2 a cup of coffee and pull over for a 20-minute nap in a safe place.



Drowsy driving is dangerous because it impairs alertness, reaction time, and decision-making abilities, increasing the likelihood of accidents. When drivers are tired, cognitive functions are compromised, leading to reduced concentration and slower reflexes. This can result in delayed responses to hazards on the road, such as sudden stops or obstacles, increasing the risk of collisions, leading to loss of control of the vehicle, and potentially catastrophic accidents. The best way to prevent drowsy driving is to get plenty of rest before you hit the road.

## Matt's Monthly Minute

If you've been injured, it is important to know what to do so that you don't minimize your claim. Here are five common mistakes that can hurt your claim.

### Giving A Recorded Statement

The insurance adjuster for the at-fault party will ask you for a recorded statement. Don't do it. Once the adjuster has your recorded statement they will use your own words against you. This is extremely important. Never give a recorded statement.

### Believing What the Adjuster Says

If the adjuster says you don't have a case, you are partially at fault, or they are not going to pay your claim – DO NOT believe them. Talk to an experienced lawyer before you make the decision to take a lowball settlement.

### Not Taking Pictures

Don't forget to take pictures if you are able. Photograph the accident scene, the other person's car, their driver's license, and their insurance papers – all are important. Try to preserve as much of the evidence as you can. Memories fade, and people tell different stories, but pictures do not lie. You should take pictures of all your injuries, and continue taking pictures during your recovery.

### Skipping Medical Appointments

This is something we see too often. People miss their doctor's appointments, don't make their therapy appointments, or decide they just don't feel like going. To an insurance adjuster, if you don't make medical appointments a priority, then you must not be really hurt. If your case goes to trial, that is exactly what the insurance company's lawyer is going to tell a jury and it's enough to ruin your case. It is equally important that you follow all doctor's instructions. If you are told to follow up after being released from the hospital, or an MRI is recommended make it happen! The same argument will apply. If you do not follow treatment instructions, the insurance company will suggest that you are not truly injured.

### Representing Yourself

The biggest mistake that can hurt your claim is trying to represent yourself. Navigating the claims process can be tricky which is why you hire an experienced lawyer to do it for you. When you have an experienced lawyer advocating for you, they will speak to the insurance company on your behalf and prevent your own words from hurting your claim.

If you've been injured, call us today. We are happy to answer any questions you have about the process and are here to make sure you get the most out of your claim.

- Matthew L. Bretz

## Community News

### Match Madness generates hundreds of thousands of dollars for community organizations



Match Madness is an annual fundraising event in Salina that has raised nearly \$5 million over 12 years. This year, it aims to involve more community members and charities. With matching funds totaling \$313,000, Match Madness seeks to raise \$1 million this year. Read more [here](#).

### Kansas correctional facility introduces 'Closet 4 Success' program aimed at supporting recently released individuals.



A Kansas prison's "Closet 4 Success" program provides clothing and hygiene items for recently released inmates. The initiative has garnered over 1,000 donations and aims to expand to offer hygiene products for all released inmates, with hopes of inspiring similar initiatives in other facilities. Read more [here](#).

### Disney On Ice welcomes athletes from the Kansas Special Olympics



Disney On Ice returned to Wichita, with the stars of the show meeting athletes from Special Olympics Kansas at the Wichita Ice Center. The athletes had the chance to interact with their favorite Disney characters, watch them demonstrate their skating skills, and ask questions. Read more [here](#).

## Birthdays & Work Anniversaries



### Jessica Ediger - Registered Nurse

Help us celebrate Jessica on her 8-year anniversary with Bretz Injury Law. Jessica, our registered nurse on staff, reviews all medical records and is an integral member of our team.



### Casey Ensz - Marketing and Intake Director

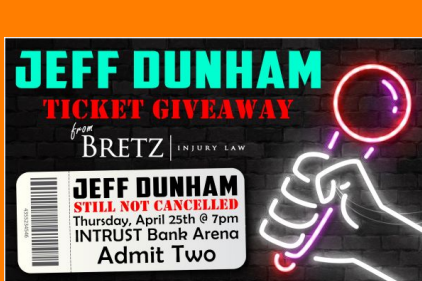
Blow out those candles! We have the pleasure of celebrating Casey's birthday this month, which falls on April 12th. Happy birthday, Casey!



### Amy Sons - Receptionist

This month, we congratulate Amy, our receptionist, on her 3-year mark with Bretz Injury Law. Thanks for all you do, Amy!

## March Giveaway Winners



### Jeff Dunham Ticket Giveaway

#### Winner: Dani Allison

Dani won two tickets to see Jeff Dunham in his "Still Not Cancelled" tour at INTRUST Bank Arena! She also won a \$30 gift card for dinner before the show.



### Springtime Lawn Care Giveaway

#### Winner: Michelle Blackburn

Michele won a lawn trimmer, hedge trimmer, pole saw combo, and a \$40 gift certificate to Stutzman's Greenhouse!



### Kick Back & Relax Giveaway

#### Winner: Alex Stong

Alex won two zero-gravity lounge chairs, a HydroFlask soft cooler, and two Bretz Injury Law stainless steel tumblers!



### Josh Turner Ticket Giveaway

#### Winner: Camille Tafolla

Camille won two tickets to the Josh Turner Greatest Hits Tour at The Cotillion in Wichita! She also won a \$25 gift card to Texas Roadhouse to grab a bite before the show.

Giveaways are posted Mondays on the Bretz Injury Law Facebook page. Visit [www.facebook.com/bretzinjurylaw](http://www.facebook.com/bretzinjurylaw) to enter for your chance to win!

## Featured Recipe: Blueberry Lemon Loaf

### Ingredients:

- 1 lemon
- 1 tablespoon confectioners' sugar
- ¾ cup white sugar
- ½ cup melted butter
- 2 eggs
- ¼ cup sour cream
- ½ cup milk
- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 ¼ cups frozen blueberries

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease a 9x5 inch loaf pan.

Grate the zest from the lemon onto a small plate. Cut the lemon in half, and squeeze the juice from both halves. Make a topping by whisking together 1 teaspoon of the lemon zest, 1 tablespoon of the lemon juice, and the confectioners' sugar in a small bowl. Set aside.

Whisk together the white sugar, melted butter, eggs, sour cream, the remaining lemon zest, and the remaining lemon juice in a large bowl until evenly blended. Stir in the milk; set aside.

Whisk together the flour, baking powder, and salt in a separate large bowl. Remove 3 tablespoons of the flour mixture and set aside. Make a well in the center of the flour mixture; pour the milk mixture into the well and stir the batter just until combined.

Fold the frozen blueberries into the reserved 3 tablespoons of the flour mixture, then fold the blueberries into the batter. Pour the batter into the prepared pan.

Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean, about 60 minutes.

Remove from oven; immediately poke holes all over the top of the loaf with a toothpick, and pour the topping evenly over the loaf. Cool in the pan for 10 minutes before removing to cool completely on a wire rack.

For more delicious spring recipes, visit [www.allrecipes.com/gallery/top-recipes-april-2024](http://www.allrecipes.com/gallery/top-recipes-april-2024).

[Full Recipe](#)



Questions? Email the editor at [stephen@bretzinjurylaw.com](mailto:stephen@bretzinjurylaw.com).



Bretz Injury Law | 3 Compound Drive  
Hutchinson, KS 67502

