

Morning News

Blackfoot, Idaho

Blackfoot Morning News Meth Project Holds Family Forum

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By: Leslie Mielke

The Idaho Meth Project is conducting a free family forum for parents, ‘tweens and teens 7 p.m. Wednesday, at Highland High School Auditorium, 1800 Bench Road, Pocatello. The objective of the forum is two-fold:

- encourage conversations between parents and children
- create ongoing and open community dialogue about the negative effects of Methamphetamine use

The forum features the dramatic story of Tesja Erickson, a Pocatello resident and Idaho Meth Project volunteer. She will tell the sobering story of how she became a Meth addict as a youth.

First Lady Lori Otter, board member for the Idaho Meth Project and the national Meth Project Foundation, will participate in this event. Detective Lieutenant John Ganske from the Pocatello Police Department will also speak at the forum.

Attendees will also have an opportunity to speak with healthcare experts and law enforcement officials about the effects Meth has on both the individual user and the community as a whole.

Captain Mark Cowley of the Bingham County Sheriff’s office said, “We’ve seen a decline in the number of young people using Meth as a first time drug because of public awareness.

“All of law enforcement is stepping up—DARE officers educating seventh graders; narcotics officers detecting Meth and patrols,” Cowley said.

Meth is made of chemicals that are mixed, derived and distilled, Cowley said. “You never really know what chemicals are in it.

“It can be deadly the first time you try it, the 10th time or the 100th time,” Cowley said. “It’s unpredictable.”

The Idaho Meth Project is a nonprofit organization that implements a range of advertising and community-action programs to reduce Methamphetamine use.

Launched in January 2008, the Idaho Meth Project leverages a proven model that combines extensive research with a hard-hitting, integrated media campaign.

The Idaho Meth Project is affiliated with the Meth Project, a national nonprofit organization headquartered in Calif., aimed at reducing the first-time Meth use through public service messaging, public policy and community outreach.