

# IDAHO STATE JOURNAL

## METH PROJECT RECEIVES DONATION

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POCATELLO—During a free family forum presented by the Idaho Meth Project and Portneuf Regional Medical Center at Highland High School Wednesday, Idaho's first lady Lori Otter accepted a check for \$25,000 from Monsanto in Soda Springs.

Plant manager Sheldon Alver presented the check and said the company is dedicated to maintaining a drug free workforce and community.

Pocatello City Councilwoman Eva Nye said the city supports the statewide program.

"This is the most important place you can be tonight," Nye said.

Chubbuck Mayor Steve England said the city was grateful to partner with Pocatello and the state to promote the anti-drug program and he urged teens to say no to meth.

"You're worth it and you're better than that," he said.

Otter said a number of parents expressed concern over the graphic nature of television ads aimed at discouraging methamphetamine use among teens. But she said few teens have complained about the public service announcements.

"Kids get it," Otter said.

Launched in Montana, the Meth Project proved to be an effective tool in battling methamphetamine.

The Idaho Meth Project is a non-profit group funded through public and private donations. The statewide program includes 800 volunteers and Otter said no general funds are used to support the program.

Otter, who serves as a board member for the Idaho Meth Project, announced the upcoming "Paint the State" event. The statewide art contest to further communicate the message, "Meth, not even once" will take place over the summer.

Det. Lt. John Ganske with the Idaho State Police said Idaho is among the top 10 states in the U.S. for meth trafficking. Ganske said meth varies in color from a yellowish powder to clear crystallized granules depending on its purity and costs about \$130 a gram. It is ingested by eating, snorting, smoking or injecting the drug.

Short term affects include paranoia, anxiety and hallucinations and many addicts become paranoid schizophrenics with continued use.

Long term affects are tooth decay, irreversible brain damage, muscle loss and depression. Signs of use are rapid eye movement and speech, weight loss and strange body odor.