

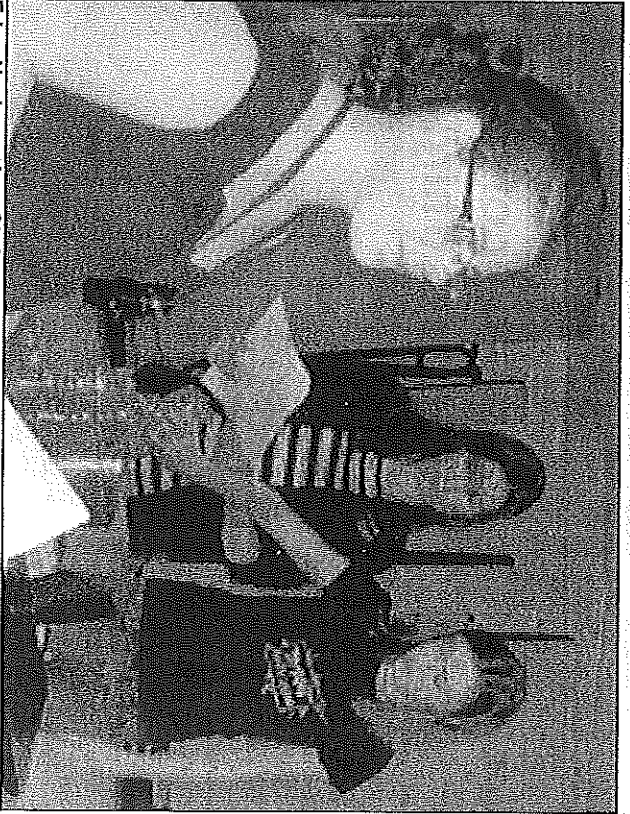
Cedar Mountain community hosts Parents Night Out with focus on dangers of smoking, alcohol

By Daniel McGonigle
 Publisher/Editor

Cedar Mountain hosted a Parents Night Out on Monday, May 9 and the focus was keeping kids off of tobacco.

The message was delivered by Cedar Mountain students as well as area tobacco prevention officials Ann Christensen with Start Noticing and Annie Tepfer, Renville Alliance for the Prevention of Alcohol and Drugs.

"My name is Maddie Huiras and I am a member of the STARS organization at Cedar Mountain. STARS, which stands for Students Thinking About Responsible Solutions, first began at Cedar Mountain during the 2007-08 school year. It was first known as SWAT (Students Working Against Tobacco) but it



Eden Nesburg, Ann Christensen and Maddie Huiras demonstrate the number of individuals who die in America each day as the result of smoking. That number is 1,200. Photo submitted.

was decided we wanted to focus on solutions to more problems, not just tobacco so we voted on our new name."

The students led the group of about 40 individuals in demonstrations regarding the dangers of tobacco use.

"Each year 4,000 kids under the age of 18 try tobacco," said Maddie Huiras. "We are here today to make you think twice about becoming part of that statistic."

Huiras poured 1,200 bb's to the top of a metal cup.

"That's how many people tobacco will kill today and every day," she said.

The crowd learned that tobacco causes more deaths than alcohol, drug overdose, suicide and homicide all combined. There are currently about

20 members of STARS at Cedar Mountain.

Social Host

Tepfer spoke directly to the parents gathered regarding being a "social host."

"A social host ordinance holds adults responsible for hosting, or in other words, knowingly providing a place for underage drinking to occur," said Tepfer. "It is often difficult for law enforcement to determine who provided the alcohol at teen parties. With social host liability, the focus is on where the drinking takes place, rather than who provided the alcohol."



They notice at Waynes

Because Wayne's agreed to remove all tobacco advertising below three feet in their stores, the Redwood County chapter of Start Noticing made them a new floor mat. The store was presented with the mat this past week by students Whitney Trebesch and Tawney Pendleton. Pictured with them from Mawnes is Cheryl Elshin. Photo by Ann Christensen.

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