

Elkhorn Media Group News stories – On air and on web

6-19-13

Open communication with kids key to drug prevention

Yesterday we told you about some common items teens are using to try and hide their drugs in plain sight. Robin Wortman with the Union County Safe Communities Coalition says it's important you know what's going on in your children's lives: "Be vigilant, talk to your kids...it's really important that you know where your kids are, what they're doing and who they're doing it with."

Experts say talking with your kids does produce results: "Make sure that you talk to them about alcohol and drugs because we know that parents talking to their kids is the number one way to prevent drug use."

The Safe Communities Coalition is working on bringing in an expert later this year to help parents understand some of the things to watch for in their kids.

6-18-13

Teens use common items to hide drugs in plain sight

No parent wants to think their children may be doing anything harmful or illegal, but the truth is many kids are involved in drug use- and they're doing it right in their own homes. Robin Wortman with the Union County Safe Communities Coalition says ordinary items found in teens bedrooms are often used for drugs: "If there is water bottles or a pop can that has holes cut in them, that might be used as a bong for smoking marijuana."

And kids often use common bedroom items to hide their drugs in plain sight: "Deodorant sticks or hairspray that have been around for a long time might be something that's being used to conceal something."

Wortman says it's important that you talk to your kids and establish trust with them.

Higher temperatures mean higher crime rate

The summer months mean warmer temperatures, and warmer temperatures mean a higher outdoor crime rate. La Grande Police Chief Brian Harvey says that with the seasonal change, there is a change in what crimes they are seeing at the police stations. Harvey says the crimes are not necessarily going to spike as much this year after the mild winter, but expect some form of rise. He also says alcohol related crimes are one of the kinds that jump up as well.