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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**South Central Public Health Receives Grant to Provide Activities at Mt. Harrison High School During National Drug Facts Week**

HEYBURN — Teenagers from Mt. Harrison High School have joined forces with other teens and scientists across the United States as part of “[National Drug Facts Week](#)” (NDFW). The week-long health observance, organized by the [National Institute on Drug Abuse](#) (NIDA), part of the [National Institutes of Health](#), takes place Monday, January 27, through Sunday, February 2. NDFW celebrates the inquisitive minds of teens by giving them a space (virtual or physical) to ask questions about drugs and to get scientific answers from experts. As part of the NDFW celebration, the Mt. Harrison Student Advisory Council is planning the following activities during NDFW:

- January 17-27: poster contest (winner announced on January 27)
- January 29: lunchtime “Fatal Vision Goggle” demonstration from the Idaho State Police
- January 30: lunchtime “Drug IQ Challenge” and signature banner
- January 31: assembly- local speaker: “Shattering the Myths about Drug Use”

About a third of high school seniors across the country report using an illicit drug sometime in the past year, and more than ten percent report non-medical use of a narcotic painkiller. While drugs can put a teenager’s health and life in jeopardy, many teens are not aware of the risks. Even for those teens who do not abuse drugs, many have friends or family who do and are often looking for ways to help them.

In Minidoka County, 24% of all 2012 arrests involved drugs or alcohol. Statistically, Idaho's drug use mirrors national use at 8%. However, among Idaho youth, the percent of students who report drinking alcoholic beverages, "huffing" (glue or aerosol cans), and using ecstasy are higher than the national average (YRBBS 2011). In addition, according to the Idaho State Police 2012 Drug/Narcotics Violation report, 19.8% of all "Group A" incidents involved suspicion of alcohol or drug use.

"We want teens to have the opportunity to learn what science has taught us about drug abuse and addiction," said Adria Masoner. "There are so many myths about drugs cluttering our popular culture. National Drug Facts Week is for teens to get honest answers about drugs so they can make good, informed decisions for themselves and share accurate information with friends."

South Central Public Health District was one of only three agencies in the country to receive a grant from NACCHO (The National Association of City and County Health Officials) to provide funding for these activities during NDFW.

For more information about NDFW activities at Mt. Harrison High School, please contact Adria Masoner at 208-678-8221.

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