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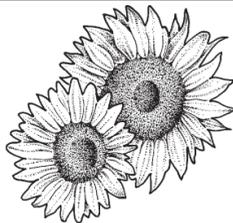
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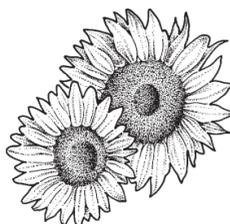


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Students support Red Ribbon Week



Grant Junior High Students (above) showed off their bracelets during Red Ribbon Week activities the last week of October. Tricia Korthanke and Brock Fairbrother (below), community prevention consultants from the Regional Prevention Center, gave a presentation on the dangers of smoking and smokeless tobacco on Friday, Oct. 31, at the junior high.

Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Dangers of drugs taught

By Sharon Corcoran
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"Color My World Drug Free" was the theme of Red Ribbon Week the last week of October, and students at Grant Junior High and Goodland's elementary schools had a colorful week of activities.

Grant students attended three assemblies on the consequences of involvement with drugs, alcohol and tobacco, received rubber bracelets and pencils and displayed a banner reading "Better Things to Do Than Drugs" for Red Ribbon Week Oct. 27-31.

Elementary school students received red ribbons, stickers and pencils with drug awareness messages from the Goodland Elks Lodge during the week. They were given to 149 third and fourth graders at Central Elementary, 236 preschool, kindergarten, first and second graders at West Elementary and Head Start and 203 fifth and sixth graders at North Elementary.

Grant students heard from Goodland lawyer Jeff Mason on Monday, Oct. 27, about the legal fight of getting involved with drugs and alcohol, said Brenda Linin, counselor and teacher at the junior high and the Students Against Destructive Decisions sponsor. He brought out that some of the laws have changed, she said, and also talked about how that can affect their driver's license because that is something the students are really interested in because they excited about getting one soon.

On Wednesday, Oct. 29, Bruce Gleason, a paramedic and Emergency Medical Technician at Goodland Regional Medical Center, talked to students about the effects of drugs and alcohol on the body.

He focused on drugs that are prevalent in the area, Linin said, that he has seen the effects of when people have come into the hospital or when he has gone to the scene of an accident.



He had pictures of the effects, she said, and the most graphic ones showed the rotting teeth and damaged skin caused by methamphetamine use.

Rounding out the assemblies were Tricia Korthanke and Brock Fairbrother, community prevention consultants from the Regional Prevention Center. Their presentation on Friday, Oct. 31, was on the effects of smoking and smokeless tobacco.

It was a really good program, Linin said, and Fairbrother is younger and "hip," so he was able to relate well with the students.

The bracelets were donated by the Elks,

she said, and the students wore a different color each day of the week. They were green, red, purple, yellow and orange, she said, and the colors were to go with the week's theme.

Both the Elks and the Prevention Center donated pencils, she said, adding that she gave the students stickers and ribbons she had on hand.

Prizes were given during the presentations, she said, and the students had crossword puzzles on what they learned at the assemblies they could do and turn in for prizes.



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