



# Parents learn dangers of underage drinking

Effective communication with your teenage children can lower their chances of experimenting with alcohol, a group of parents learned Thursday morning.

During her presentation at the monthly meeting of Brownfield Independent School District's Parental Engagement Committee, VOICES Community Coalition spokeswoman Tosha Chambers listed some of

the ways to help prevent underage drinking, as well as some of the potential consequences for choosing to drink anyway.

For example, a citation for minor in possession or consumption of an alcoholic beverage could result in fines up to several hundred dollars, as well as a loss of a driver's license or a requirement to attend community-service and alcohol-education programs. Adults who provide alcohol to minors could face similar legal sanctions, she added.

To lower the odds that your child will try alcohol, Chambers suggested educating them about the dangers of drunken driving and underage drinking and providing alternative ways for them to occupy their time.

"Create alcohol-free activities in the home, and teach your children never to ride in a vehicle with someone who has been drinking," she told about 15 people in the school administration building's board room.

Terry County juvenile probation officers Kendra Kevil, Karina Stults and Steve Rivas also updated the Parental Engagement Committee about some of the other substance-abuse concerns they had witnessed

among local youth. Some of those were synthetic marijuana and "bath salts," which were responsible for several recent trips to Brownfield Regional Medical Center.

"It tears up their bodies, and it's really dangerous," Kevil said.

Directed by BISD community liaison Mercie Martin, the Parental Engagement Committee meets the third Thursday morning of each month to discuss education-related topics. While Chambers was the featured speaker for Thursday's meeting, other presenters speak on a variety of issues. Past topics have included healthy eating and how to prepare high school students for college.

"The more involved you are with your children's education, the better they will be," Martin said. "...It involves our children and our community, and we can make it better if we all get involved."

Attendance varies at each of the Parental Engagement Program meetings, but all parents with children in any of BISD's six campuses are welcome to stop by.

For more information, call Martin at 637-2591 or simply attend the next meeting, scheduled for April.

(LEFT) VOICES representative Tosha Chambers lists some of the dangers of underage drinking. Chambers was Thursday's featured speaker of the monthly meeting of Brownfield ISD's Parental Engagement Committee.

## News Briefs

**Softball coaches needed** - Sign up to coach Terry County Girls Softball by calling Ben Carreon at 891-0956 or JoAnna Dawson at 448-8954.

**Art Show** - The awards ceremony for the Brownfield Art Association's Spring Art Show will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday, March 23 at their headquarters, 1103 W. Main St.

**Marketing workshop** - "Advertising: The Who, What, Where, When, Why of Advertising," the second in a new series of marketing workshops, will be held from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, April 5 at City Hall.

Admission is free and lunch will be provided. RSVP to 637-4060 by April 3.

**Rainwater working** - The South Plains Underground Water Conservation District will host a rainwater-harvesting workshop at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 18 in the Terry County Showbarn. RSVP to 637-7467 by March 28.

**Readers** - The *Brownfield News* will try to publish information about upcoming nonprofit events that are open to the community. Call Josie with news tips at 637-4535 or email josie@brownfieldonline.



Susana Unger, right, recently graduated from the Brownfield Education Center. Susana is one of the first students in the state to have completed all of the End-of-Course STAAR exams. She is shown with Brownfield schools Superintendent Jerry Jones.

# EASTER EGGHUNT

*The HUNT is on....*

03/24/13

10. \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
 11. \_\_\_\_\_ Parents Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 12. \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Girl: \_\_\_\_\_ Mail or drop off completed entry form to:  
 Brownfield News  
 409 W Hill St • PO BOX 1272  
 Brownfield, TX 79316

Boy: \_\_\_\_\_

Entry deadline: March 26, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. - One entry per person per newspaper the contest is run in. Winners will be selected by random from pool of completed correct entries. Must be 18 or under to enter.

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