

Underage drinking, town hall meeting set

by Mary O. Esparza,

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staff writer

ALTUS — Jackson County is one of hundreds of communities nationwide that will hold an Underage Drinking Prevention, National Town Hall Meeting on March 30, at the Southwest Technology Center, to discuss and raise awareness about the issue of underage drinking . The Jackson County Community Health Action Team is sponsoring the event. Parents, teachers, officials, youth and other community members will be educated about the impact that underage drinking has on the community and they will develop possible ways to address this issue. Town Hall participants will hear from a local perspective how underage drinking is impacting our community. Areas that will be discussed include: Cost of underage drinking in relation to the parents, child, family, retail owner, and sales person, current and possible legislation to address underage drinking, and finally will begin developing a plan for Jackson County to address this very serious issue. New data shows that approximately 29 percent of youth ages 12 to 20 have used alcohol illegally. By the time they reach eighth grade, 41 percent of adolescents have had at least one drink, and almost 20 percent report having been “ drunk”. The meeting will begin at 6 with refreshments and the program immediately following. Panelists include representatives from Oklahoma High Patrol, Emergency Medical Service, Alcohol Beverage Law Enforcement Commission, Altus Police department, and Judge Dan Deaver and Representative David Braddock. Participation is needed. For more information, contact Brandi O’ Connor with the Jackson County Health Department at (580)-482-7308.