

Partnerships point to success in targeting underage drinking

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BY: BECKY CRUM, Herald Reporter, Uinta County, WY

Community partnerships have made all the difference in fighting underage drinking in Uinta County, said Tera Lawlar, the Uinta County alcohol misuse and abuse grant coordinator for the past three years.

Lawlar said from the beginning the Evanston Police Department has been very helpful in supporting her goals and giving her advice and ideas.

Lawlar said she wants to recognize local law enforcement for making a difference in underage drinking and the misuse and abuse of alcohol. She said the comprehensive prevention program is doing so well as a result of the partnership with the EPD.

Lawlar said EPD has supplied support with compliance checks to make sure establishments aren't selling to minors, conducted party patrols, enforced DUI laws, and attended training and coalition meetings regarding the misuse and abuse of alcohol.

She said they offer assistance by driving people home after the renewal ball and encourage servers to be TIPS trained.

TIPS (Training for Intervention ProcedureS) is a training program that provides skills to help prevent DUI, intoxication and other alcohol-related incidents to people who serve, sell or consume alcohol. It supplies officers and others associated with alcohol the training to identify alcohol-related problems and knowledge about what they can do to prevent issues from happening.

"EPD has a TIPS training officer. They can go into establishments and train their servers so they are educated on proper procedures and how to legally serve alcohol. It protects the business and the server. It is free of charge to the liquor establishment and it is a win-win situation for everyone," Lawlar said.