

Today's weather



HIGH: 56
LOW: 35

Sunrise: 6:39
Sunset: 8:14

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DRUG, SUICIDE PREVENTION

Students' efforts honored

Sara Crawford
The Gazette

MEDINA — To celebrate the accomplishments made in the past year by local community members, Medina County Share held a breakfast on Friday to honor the county students and individuals who have made an impact on preventing drug use, violence and suicide.

Medina County Share is made up of individuals representing Medina County school districts, agencies and organization with the goal of collaboratively working to promote nonviolent, drug-free living for the kids in the county.

Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court Judge Kevin Dunn presented the Share Cluster Community Award to Susana Lewis, his chief magistrate.

"She's made an effort to make life better for everyone who comes in contact with her," he said.

Lewis has served as the Medina County Probate and Juvenile Court chief magistrate since February 2015, previously serving as a magistrate for the court since 2005.

She is running as a Republican candidate in the primary election for Wadsworth Municipal Court judge against Tom Morris.

During her acceptance speech, Lewis said that there were so many people in the room who also deserved the award and she was honored to be chosen.

See **STUDENTS**, A5



SARA CRAWFORD / GAZETTE PHOTOS

ABOVE: Sixteen Medina County students were chosen by their schools and recognized on Friday as outstanding seniors. **RIGHT:** Students were challenged by Alternative Paths to create a bumper sticker regarding suicide prevention. In first place was Rhett McMullen and in second was Logan Forbes, both from Cloverleaf High School.

16 students

The students honored at the Medina County Share breakfast include:

- **Travis Bloom** of Black River Schools
- **Jessica Kozik** of Black River Schools
- **Alessandra Galvan Flores** of Brunswick Schools
- **Maevy McGinnis** of Brunswick Schools
- **Rasmia Alnadi** of Buckeye Schools
- **Nicole Wutz** of Buckeye Schools
- **Kaylann Cherry** of Cloverleaf Schools
- **Alexis Crow** of Cloverleaf Schools
- **Hailey Kelps** of Highland Schools
- **Andrew Tecco** of Highland Schools
- **Brooklyn Catherwood** of Medina County Career Center
- **Koen Wilk** of Medina County Career Center
- **Paul Ceccoli** of Medina Schools
- **Jenna Shubrowsky** of Medina Schools
- **Solomon Callaghan** of Wadsworth Schools
- **Mya Garcia** of Wadsworth Schools

STUDENTS

From A1

Lewis reflected on her time as a magistrate, saying that it has been a wonderful experience working with all of the kids that she has been able to.

Four students from the middle schools and high schools were awarded for their participation in Alternative Paths' two contests for suicide prevention.

At the middle school level, students were tasked with creating a poster, which will then be placed among Alternative Paths' community partners to display.

In first place is Mackenzie Walti and in second is Mya Galdun, both from Buckeye Junior High School.

At the high school level, Alternative Paths held a bumper sticker contest that it will then use as stickers, magnets and decals.

In first place is Rhett McMullen and in second is Logan Forbes, both from Cloverleaf High School.

In addition to the four students recognized for their entries in the suicide prevention contest, 16 students from eight Medina County school districts were chosen as outstanding seniors by their districts' counselors and prevention specialists for their dedication to prevention.

"They are also students who truly demonstrate in their daily lives that they support prevention in our community," said Connie Sureck of Medina County Public Library's Brunswick branch.

The 16 students honored at the breakfast previously sent videos, sharing their involvement within their school districts regarding prevention, with many teaching younger students about the impor-

tant of staying drug-free.

After the 16 videos were played, Brooks called forward the two students recognized from Medina Schools to speak on what inspired them to join the different prevention groups within their schools.

Ceccoli said after joining the HUDDLE club for more superficial reasons, he quickly learned that he wanted to help the kids and inspire them to lead better lives as they grow up.

"I'm a firm believer in the ideology that we can learn just as much from kids as they learn from us," he said.

As he watched the elementary school kids he worked with flourish and as he dove deeper into prevention education, Ceccoli said that it reminded him that life is precious and that people should do what they love and are passionate about.

Following Ceccoli, Shubrowsky reflected on the reasons that led to her becoming a prevention leader.

She remembered when she was an elementary school student, excited for the HUDDLE leaders to come to speak to her class, making her want to do the same thing. Shubrowsky remembered losing someone close to her to a heroin overdose but being too young to really understand why they were gone.

"For all the different reasons I became a prevention leader, by far the most important reason was to raise awareness and break the stigma around drug use, mental health and suicide," she said. "Drug use, mental health and suicide will never go completely extinct in our community. So the best we can do is to bring awareness and prevention to each of these concerns."

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