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PRESS RELEASE

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What is the Opioid Epidemic? You Need to Know

The newly formed Cherokee Area Opioid Taskforce will hold special presentations of "What is the Opioid Epidemic?", a community awareness program, on Wednesday, October 17th at the Remsen Middle School, and Thursday, October 18th at Washington High School in Cherokee. Each program will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The keynote speaker, Rod Courtney, is a retired parole officer who lost his son to overdose and now represents C.R.U.S.H. (Community Resources United to Stop Heroin). He and his wife will share their story. A group from each high school will present a readers theatre presentation on addiction, how it impacts victims, friends, families and communities.

Jackson Recovery Center Prevention Specialists will also be on hand to share information on addiction and resources available. There will be time for questions from the speakers, law enforcement and community partners at the end of the presentation.

A medication drop box will be available at the program for safe disposal of any unused medication.

In addition, the What You Don't See-Iowa Mobile Training Trailer will be on site one hour before and after the presentation. This mobile training trailer is designed to simulate a "typical" teenager's bedroom, complete with all the paraphernalia and imagery one would expect to see but not to necessarily understand from today's younger culture. In the room, attendees will learn the meanings of signs, symbols & clothing, common hiding spots and other precursors that can be a tip to otherwise unsuspecting parents. For more information, visit <https://whatyoudontsee.com/>.

The evening presentations are intended for adults only and are open to the public. Complimentary babysitting and light refreshments will be provided.