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## County hopes to find missing kids easier

by Megan VerHelst | Jackson County Chronicle

Officials from the Jackson County Sheriff's Department and the Brockway Police Department hope to implement a national program that could make it easier and quicker to find missing children in the county.

Brockway Police Chief Chris Eversum told the Black River Falls Board of Education at its regular meeting on Aug. 18 they hope to gain access to Safe Assured ID, a family safety program for county kids and adults alike, with a grant through the Lunda Charitable Trust .

"We have use for this because we have a lot of missing children in Jackson County," Eversum said.

Safe Assured is an identification program that provides families with identification for their children in the form of a mini-CD, photo data card and a prevention tips guide. The program works in conjunction with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

Eversum said the program would be good for the county because it allows pertinent information regarding missing children to be delivered to law enforcement and the media quickly, which is essential in locating missing children. It also allows people to see and hear the missing child.

The program could also reduce the amount of time it takes to find a missing child. Eversum said missing children in Jackson County are typically found within a day or two.

Eversum said if the money to start the program cannot be obtained through a Lunda grant, the sheriff's department will figure it into its budget.

"We want to run this so parents won't have to come up with the money," he said.

The county will pay for the first disc, but additional discs are \$10.

In other news, the future of a community survey seeking input from residents living within the Black River Falls school district is still undecided. The board formally disapproved the most recent draft of the seven-page survey at a special meeting Aug. 12.

The survey's purpose is to gain feedback on district services and facilities and what can be done to improve these things, but board members have expressed concern with the length.

Superintendent Paul Blanford said rather than replace or eliminate the survey, the board should continue to look for ways to change it and make it more appealing to district residents.

"We still need to get this information," he said.

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