

Prosecutors, sheriff to field questions

Forum in Wardsville to be first in a series

By RYAN SMITH
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Cole County Prosecutor Bill Tackett and Sheriff Greg White will be in Wardsville Friday morning to answer questions in the first of a series of open forums with residents around the county.

The idea behind the forum, which will be held at 11 a.m. Friday at the Lions Club in Wardsville, is mainly one of communication, Tackett said.

"In the past there's been little communication between the prosecutor and these small communities in the county," said Tackett. "It seems natural to me to do this and answer questions about what they like or don't like about what we're doing."

Tackett said he would like to set up similar forums every couple of weeks in Taos, Centertown, Russellville and other places.

A lot of the discussion Friday is expected to involve the issue of underage drinking.

Tackett and White have worked together recently to add a provision to a bill in the Legislature that calls for school districts to establish new policies for students who drink on, or off, school property.

The bill has several deterrents to teenage drinking, including the possibility of teens losing their driver's licenses or being excluded from specific extra-curricular activities at school.

Tackett noted that various team and club captains from Blair Oaks were being released from school to attend the forum.

The forum will be broadcast live on KLIK radio from 11 a.m. to noon, but the officials will remain afterward for more questions.

Tackett's four assistant prosecutors also will be at the forum.