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PRESS RELEASE

Edwardsville—Madison County State's Attorney Tom Gibbons has announced that he is once again sponsoring an Anti-Drug Poster Contest in honor of 2014's Red Ribbon Week which runs October 23-31, 2014. Students in grades 3 through 5 are encouraged to submit posters which convey this year's Red Ribbon Week theme "**Love Yourself. Be Drug Free**".

Local elementary schools in Madison County are being notified about the poster contest. One winner from each grade will be chosen by a committee within the State's Attorney's Office. Besides having their winning entry displayed at the State's Attorney's Office, the winners will also receive a pizza luncheon for their class delivered by the State's Attorney. Last year's winners were from Columbus Elementary in Edwardsville (3rd Grade), St. Paul's in Highland (4th Grade) and Worden Elementary in Worden (5th Grade).

"I look forward each year to seeing all of the creative submissions from our local children," said State's Attorney Gibbons. "The contest is a great way to get them thinking about making positive choices in life. This year's theme also encourages our kids to respect themselves. It's important for them to understand that the good decisions they make now will play an important role in their lives as they grow up."

The Red Ribbon campaign began in support of a murdered DEA agent who was killed in 1985 by drug traffickers. Displaying a red ribbon demonstrates support of a drug-free America. The annual Red Ribbon Campaign, held every October since 1986, is one of the largest drug-prevention campaigns in the country. More information can be found at <http://www.nfp.org/>.

Posters must be on white poster board and artists should use crayons, watercolors, or markers. Posters will be judged on the basis of originality and on their effectiveness in presenting this year's theme. Posters are due at the State's Attorney's Office in Edwardsville by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 3, 2014. Full guidelines for the contest are posted on the Madison County State's Attorney's Office website at www.madco-sa.org.

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