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NEWS RELEASE

April 19, 2004

Contact: Matthew Taylor, Division of Educational Research and Service, UM School of Education, (406) 243-5367, www.soe.umt.edu/ders/isafe.

INTERNET SAFETY TRAINING FOR PARENTS COMES TO MISSOULA

MISSOULA —

Three cyber-predators have been arrested recently in Missoula for attempting to solicit sex from minors. In response to this, a town hall event featuring free parent training for Internet safety will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 24, at Missoula's Holiday Inn Parkside.

KECI-TV news anchor Heidi Meili will moderate the town hall, which is being sponsored by i-Safe America and the COPS in Schools grant at The University of Montana's Division of Educational Research and Service. Other supporters are KECI-TV, Big Brothers & Big Sisters and Internet Connect Services.

U.S. Sen. Conrad Burns will attend, as well as representatives from i-SAFE, UM, the FBI-Montana Cyber Crimes Task Force, the Missoula police department and Internet Connect Services. They will discuss critical Internet safety issues confronting our schools and communities.

More than 48 million children ages 5 to 17 regularly use the Internet in the United States, and that number is expected to rise above 77 million by 2005. A goal of the town hall meeting is to teach skills about acting responsibly and dealing with dangerous, unlawful online behavior.

I-Safe America is a nonprofit, government-funded Internet safety foundation.

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