E-cigarettes not a problem in Barrow Schools

By Andrew Lowndes

In recent months, the national media has paid a lot of attention to e-cigarettes. Headlines have questioned their safety and regulation. Parents worry that children and teenagers might be harmed. And there’s even consideration of a ban.

But in rural counties like Barrow, national trends may be slower to take hold.

“It’s not something that is rampant in our school halls,” said Principal Al Darby of Winder-Barrow High School. “I’ve seen them in, but not in the place where I had a problem,” he said. Still, the use of e-cigarettes is something that school officials look for, and the school board is considering a ban.

According to a recent survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 42.8 percent of respondents have tried e-cigarettes, twice as many as in the year before. But in rural counties like Barrow, national trends may be slower to take hold.

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When young adults do want e-cigarettes, they’re far more interested in flavors than tobacco content. But the upfront cost of these devices may be a barrier. The cost of a pen in price from $25 to $75. Refills on the other hand, are much cheaper: They go for as little as $5 and can be purchased online. Although it isn’t up front cost but later law to sell refills to minors.

For the older crowd, e-cigarettes are often marketed as a helpful smoking tool. The upstairs store in Winder sells kits of liquid cartridges ranging from 2.4 to 9 percent nicotine.

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With e-cigarettes, most of our customers are older, and teenagers might be quicker to quit,” Hajiani said. When young adults do want e-cigarettes, they’re far more interested in flavors than tobacco content. But the upfront cost of these devices may be a barrier. The cost of a pen in price from $25 to $75. Refills on the other hand, are much cheaper: They go for as little as $5 and can be purchased online. Although it isn’t up front cost but later law to sell refills to minors.

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Piedmont CASA recruits, trains and coordinates community members who advocate for children in foster care in Barrow, Jackson and Banks Counties.

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