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Now you can 'Double Up' on fresh produce

La Grande's Market Place Fresh Foods increases access to fruits, vegetables through SNAP program

By SHANNON GOLDEN
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Liz Blake, the produce director at Market Place Fresh Foods, knows how to ensure her three children make good food choices — keep the fridge stocked with fresh fruits and vegetables.

For Oregonians who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, affording fresh produce can be a challenge. But with the help of Oregon Food Bank's Double Up Food Bucks program, La Grande's Market Place Fresh Foods is helping residents have access to fresh, local produce year-round.

"It just comes down to us wanting to make sure our community is fed," Blake said.

One in six Oregonians — more than 680,000 residents — receive benefits from the federally funded SNAP program. Blake estimated that approximately 25% of Market Place's customer base are SNAP recipients, using their Oregon Trail EBT cards to help prevent food insecurity.

Market Place partnered with Oregon's Double Up Food Bucks program in late April, joining the coalition of more than 25 participating stores. For EBT card users, coupons at the bottom of their printed receipt can be used during their next visit for free fruits and vegetables.

The programs work alongside SNAP

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Shannon Golden/The Observer

Fresh vegetables line the produce case at Market Place Fresh Foods on Fourth Street, La Grande, on Monday, July 11, 2022. SNAP recipients can now purchase twice as much fresh produce at the store with Double Up Food Bucks.

NOT ALONE

Justice lags for Indigenous survivors of domestic violence



Kathy Aney/Underscore.news

Merle Kirk, standing at a spot high above her nearby home on the Umatilla Indian Reservation, holds a portrait of her sister Mavis Kirk-Greeley, who died in 2009 after her boyfriend allegedly deliberately hit her with his vehicle on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation. The U.S. Attorney's Office dropped the case and no one has been prosecuted for the death.

By BRYCE DOLE and ZACK DEMARS • The Bulletin

MISSION — Desireé Coyote stared at the red and white confidential envelope she'd spent four days fearing to open. Inside was a police report from 30 years ago detailing the Indigenous woman's account of a sexual and physical assault.

Until May, she had no idea the report existed.

The police record documented what Coyote told tribal police. Coyote's ex-husband, William Cruz, from whom she had filed for divorce following years of alleged domestic abuse, came to her house on the Umatilla Indian Reservation and kidnapped her. She said Cruz drove her up to the foothills of Oregon's Blue Mountains, beat her and sexually assaulted her, according to the report.



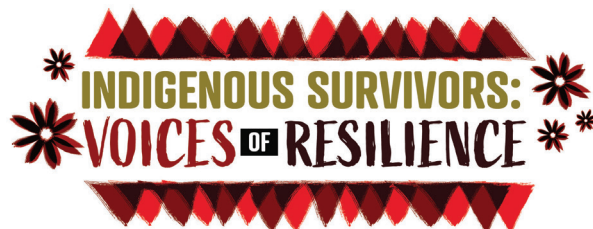
Coyote

She'd lost an earring that night, and she told a tribal officer where he could find it up in the tall grass on the hillside, the report says. A few months later, Coyote heard a knock at the door. The officer returned her earring.

It wasn't the first time Coyote, an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, reported Cruz's alleged domestic abuse to tribal police, she said. But since Coyote is Indigenous and her ex-husband is not, and the reported assault occurred in 1991 on tribal land, federal law barred the tribe or state from prosecuting him. Tribal police forwarded the case to the FBI, according to the police report.

"Nothing happened," Coyote said with tears in her eyes. Cruz never faced charges in the wake of Coyote's report. Coyote is not alone.

A study released this year estimated Indigenous people in Oregon reported experiencing domestic violence during the previous year at a rate more than three times



VOICES OF RESILIENCE: Indigenous women across the country have endured disproportionately high rates of violence stemming from systemic and cultural obstacles: Mistrust, limited policing, a lack of resources for support services and a dizzying array of jurisdictional issues for crimes committed on tribal land are all factors. This is the second installment of a two-part investigative project in partnership with Underscore News, a nonprofit publication focused on Native American issues. The series shows how obstacles to prosecution prompted Indigenous survivors to use their stories of trauma to empower others, inspired initiatives encouraging change and how evolving policies are shaping the legal landscape. Read the full series online at lagrandeobserver.com.



the state's average, and nationwide, Native Americans suffer higher rates of violence than other Americans.

Violence is more often committed against Indigenous people by those who aren't Indigenous than those who are, according to the most recent U.S. Department of Justice study. Most Native victims of violence, including 97% of women and 90% of men, have experienced violence committed by a non-Native person, while 35% of female victims and 33% of male victims have experienced violence committed by another Native person.

For Indigenous families, the struggle to prosecute crimes committed by non-Natives on tribal land has created lasting trauma. And a lack of crime data, high rates of cases being declined by federal prosecutors and meager resources for help leave some feeling abandoned, a consensus among tribal officials, advocates and survivors.

Violent criminal acts committed on tribal land by non-Natives have historically fallen through the cracks due to a dizzying jurisdictional maze that critics say

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WEATHER

Full forecast on the back of B section



Tonight
59 LOW
Clear



Sunday
88/52
Sunny and nice

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