

## Victims program has greatly expanded services

By Marie Calica

*(Tribal Court Associate Judge Marie Calica was manager of Victims of Crime Services for almost nine years. Her article below concludes a three-part series on the early years of the VOCS program.)*

Domestic violence is not a Native tradition, nor is assault and battery, sexual abuse and child molestation.

I was hired as the Victims of Crime Services manager in April 1997, and at that time there were three staff members: a manager, a women and children's service coordinator, and a 7-hour daily advocate, and three volunteers.

The next year the staff increased and was able to provide more services and had over 200 clients. Last year there were 514 crimes and 3,977 types of services provided.

The additional staff was funded by grants that were submitted to the Department of Justice, and completing the job descriptions for the clarity as to what position(s) would be doing once hired.

After the approval of the grants applied for, the VOCS program was able to focus upon the many needs of the victims: crisis intervention, victim assis-

tance, court advocacy, investigation, prosecution, staff and volunteer training, community education, community conferences, support groups, and victim compensation.

The program now offers 24-hour safe shelter for the victims of crime, and has developed strong professional working relationships. This is vital for the success of the program in meeting the needs of victims, clients and the community. Honesty, respect and trust are the basic foundation for team building.

I expected to help provide positive and confidential services that respond to the needs of the victims of crime regardless of economic or social circumstances, or kinship, because these are our people and to some degree our families.

The VOCS main goal is to strengthen the services that are currently needed to help the community of the Warm Springs Reservation to be safer and healthier, and provide consequences for the offenders.

The VOCS program does enhance a more intensive case coordination and case management by working closer with law enforcement immediately after contact, regarding the crime, and then providing the services needed for the victim(s).

### Goals of program

The following are the VOCS goals that are followed and have strengthened the services to victims:

Professionally strengthen the teamwork and relationships with the VOCS staff.

Increase awareness and educational activities to help prevent/reduce crimes against women and children.

Enhance working relationships with courts and law enforcement to better serve victims of crime.

Propose tribal policy regarding victims of crime.

Improve and monitor victim needs by case management, and staff follow-up.

Improve offender accountability.

Conduct thorough aggressive investigations.

Increase advocacy and support services for victims and their secondaries.

Enhance the safe shelter and protection for victims and their secondaries.

Offer more education and awareness regarding the VOCS program.

Offer more education to the community regarding domestic violence.

Increase access to medical services for victims of crime.

Increase access to other programs and services for victims of crime.

### Importance of funding

I enjoyed working as the VOCS manager, increasing the amount of staff by writing grants for the funding and getting approval from the Department of Justice and the state grant, the amount received from the tribal budget is very low, so the grants for funding are very much needed. The grant submitted to Housing and Urban Development for the transitional housing was approved and to be built this coming year, to be completed in 2006. The timeline was to be sooner, however, three time-extensions were requested and endorsed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This housing is a real need for the services of victims.

I will always continue to support the valuable Victims of Crime Services program, and I miss the VOCS staff, but I'm doing the best I can presently in the position of Tribal Associate Judge. Keep up the good work, VOCS staff, in providing the services to the victims.

Thank you all for your support.

## Huckleberry thicket could get forest service protection

MEDFORD, Ore. (AP) - The U.S. Forest Service has proposed a plan to protect 9,500-acres of a huckleberry thicket in Southern Oregon considered sacred to generations of American Indian tribes.

The administrative designation would recognize the cultural and historical significance of the area, dubbed the Huckleberry Patch by locals, and would require a management strategy to protect the shrubs.

"Huckleberry production is low compared to historic levels," said Amy Amoroso, director of natural resources for the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians, who helped the Forest Service develop the project's environmental assessment. "We would like to increase huckleberry production in this area."

The thicket was once vital for amassing a winter food supply, including deer meat, hazelnuts, roots, huckleberries and other berries, said tribal chairwoman Sue Shaffer.

The huckleberry, a cousin to blueberries, is unique to the high mountains of the Pacific Northwest. They usually ripen in early fall.

About 4,700 acres of the protected area are in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. The other 4,800 acres lie in the Umpqua National Forest, officials said.

The supervisors of both forests are expected to decide on the proposal in December or January followed by a 45-day appeal period.

### Fathers' group hosts dinner

A fathers' group for men who want to learn how to be closer to their children has scheduled a spaghetti feed for all fathers, grandfathers, uncles and others who are guardians of children. The gathering will be from 5:30 to 7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 7, at the Warm Springs Early Childhood Center.

Child care is provided, snacks will be available, and spaghetti will be served.

## Births

### Nellie Kayreen Badroad

Vena Badroad and Ted Umtuch are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Nellie Kayreen Badroad, born November 7, 2005.

She joins her three sisters Amy Jo Umtuch, Marlene and Lilli Tias, and her brother Tom Tias.

### Kyree Langley

Aaron W. Langley and Danni Alise Lawrence are pleased to announce the birth of their son Kyree Langley, born November 11, 2005.

Father's parents are Larry and Stella Langley of Warm Springs. Mother's parents are Stacy Logan and Lowell Thompson of Warm Springs.

### David Ruiz

Sergio Ruiz and Veronica Ruiz are pleased to announce the birth of their son David Ruiz, born November 4, 2005. David joins sisters Ivette, Jennifer and Azucena. The father's parents are Matias Ruiz and Nazaria Campos of Mexico. The mother's parents are Gabriel Alvarado and Octavio Gonzalez, of Mexico.

# Wrangler Cafe

...now this is REAL Bar-B-Q!!!

Sat. Night  
Thick  
Beef  
Short Ribs

Southern style cookin' & hospitality! We know you deserve great food and service~We care about doing it right!

Wed. Beef  
& Pork  
Ribs

**SMOKED ON SITE DAILY!**

Beef Brisket  
Turkey Breast  
Chicken  
Pulled Pork  
Ribs  
Sausage

**BEST OF SALAD BARS!**

**STUFFED BAKED TATERS!**

**Take Out Welcome!**

Mon-Fri 11:30 to 8:00

Sat 11-7

35 'd' STREET  
MADRAS, OR 97741

## Cliff's Repair & Auto Sales

24-Hour Towing - 475-6618

Free towing w/engine or trans replacement from Warm Springs & Madras area

**Have your battery and anti-freeze**

**checked for**

**WINTER**

**We do coolant system flushes**



475-6618

330 S.W. Culver Hwy  
Madras, OR 97741

Free Battery Check  
& Installation  
with purchase