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Spilyay Tymoo

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VOCS makes difference in many lives

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

Ever wonder why Victims of Crime can't help victims of all crimes?

So have many other people, according to Mark Matthews, director of Victims of Crime.

The problem, he said, lies in the funding—Victims of Crime is funded by several grants that allow them to assist people who have been affected by "person crimes."

Person crimes involve crimes like assault, endangerment and abuse (among many others), while property crimes involve crimes such as arson, theft or trespassing.

The difference between the crimes is what makes the services of Victims of Crime available to some victims and not others—though they readily refer other services to those that they can't assist.

While they would like to help everyone involved in any kind of crime, Matthews explained, "We can't do that because of the constraints of the grant."

Victims of Crime employs five advocates, Matthews said, as well as an advocate supervisor.

Viola Governor is one advocate who works with those involved with elder abuse, while others like Sara Scott work with victims of assault and battery.

Their office isn't your typical office setting, either. Rooms are dedicated to storing clothing donations and there are play areas for children—that's because they used to use their facility as a shelter.

While they can't do that anymore because of liability issues, Matthews said victims can be transported and housed in off-reservation shelters.

In addition, he said, they can help if a victim has to go to court, or provide transportation to events like doctor's appointments or counseling sessions.

Rachel K. Smith works as the Victims of Crime investigator and batterer facilitator. Her job involves helping the abusers rather than those who are abused, and she believes they need to hear an important message.

"They come in complete denial," she said. After going through the program, Smith said, most of them change that attitude. "For the most part they want to talk; they need someone to talk to," she explained. "If I can get them to say something happened, I feel that I've accomplished a lot."

During the program (which focuses on creating a process of change for those who batter), Smith said, "We talk a lot about personal responsibility and choice."

(Continued from page 1)

Unfortunately, it's a program that may be cut due to funding issues.

But Smith believes in the program so much that she's willing to continue running it by volunteering her time.

"We also need to educate the batterers," she said. "It's a choice, but there are programs that help."

For victims, Matthews said, there is 24-hour access to advocates via an emergency phone.

"Advocates will go to the hospital in the middle of the night; they'll go to the scene," he said.

Those who choose to seek assistance through Victims of Crime sign a confidentiality agreement that states who they wish to share their information with—and that doesn't always include the police department, Matthews said.

See VOCS on 7

Trust case settlement eases budget cuts

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

Settlement of part of the trust case brought by the tribes against the federal government has reduced the need for some tribal government budget cuts over the next few years.

There is still a need, though, for some reductions, mainly because of a drop in timber revenue to the tribes.

The Tribal Council will meet with the membership in coming weeks at district meetings and a General Council meeting to discuss the proposed 2007 budget.

The Simnasho District will meet

on Monday, Oct. 16 at the Simnasho Longhouse. The Agency District will meet on Tuesday, Oct. 17 at the Agency Longhouse.

The General Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 30 at the Agency Longhouse. For the meetings, dinner is at 6 p.m. and the meetings start at 7 p.m.

Settlement of phase one of the trust lawsuit is expected to result in a \$20 million payment to the tribes.

The settlement money can be used over the next few years, from 2007 through 2010, in developing the annual budget.

Use of the settlement funds will help minimize impacts to the community of

the reduced timber revenue, said Ron Suppah, Tribal Council chairman. Intended use of the settlement money is described in the proposed tribal supplemental budget for 2007, posted late last month.

"The proposed budget projects increases for operation and economic development of \$42,419 and decreases in revenue sources of \$2.14 million, and decreases in program operations and other uses of approximately \$1.82 million, resulting in a deficit posted budget of approximately \$451,532," Suppah said in a budget letter to the membership.

The final budget will need to be balanced, so the \$451,532 deficit will have

to be eliminated.

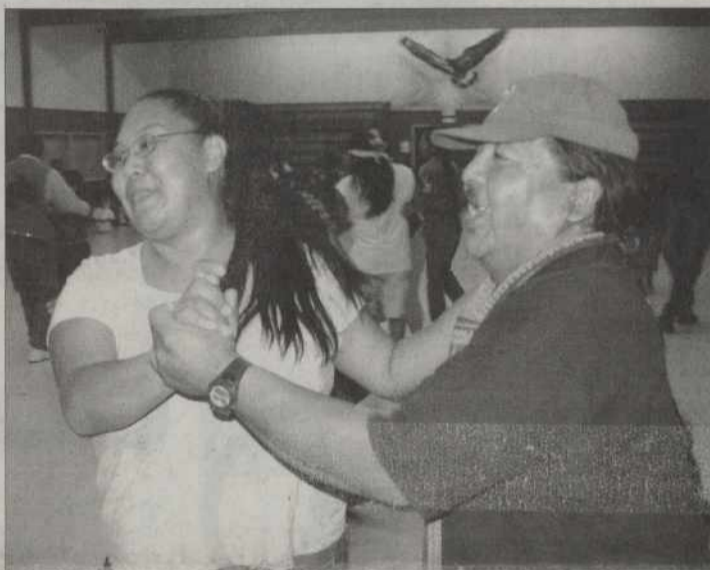
Tribal managers and directors are currently working on ways to eliminate the deficit.

The situation would have been much worse, in terms of budget cuts, had it not been for the settlement of phase one of the trust case, said Ray Potter, the tribes' chief financial officer.

There is some department reorganization proposed in the 2007. KWSO and the Spilyay, for instance, are moved to Government Affairs, and the Tribal Relations branch is eliminated. Records, Mail and Reception, and Vital Statistics are in the Administrative Services Center.



Garrett Jackson (above) enjoys the recent Indian Nite Out, as do Bill Katchia and Louella Heath (photo at right).



Photos courtesy of Joyce Oberley

New culture group at high school

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

A new after-school cultural group will soon allow female students to learn more about their culture.

Timur Gaston, title seven teacher at Madras High School, is bringing together students and Warm Springs community members in order to help girls learn about beadwork, dancing and more.

The first step, she said, is to hold an informational meeting and allow the group to choose a name.

Next she hopes to involve community members who have the knowledge to pass on to the students.

Foster Kalama, a liaison for MHS, runs a cultural group for boys that involves teaching them about playing the flute and drums (among much more), Gaston said. But the girls are currently lacking that kind of opportunity.

"I've had several girls say they're interested," Gaston said.

Several women from the community have expressed concern to school officials that the girl's cultural needs are not being met, according to Gaston. That concern is what led her to start up the group this year.

The group already has two sewing machines they acquired from the school as well as numerous craft supplies donated by Shirley Smith.

"What I need are other tribal members that are willing to give up an afternoon," Gaston said, because she needs people willing to instruct the girls and share any kind of knowledge that they have.

Many of the girls already have certain skills, she said, that they learned from parents or grandparents. But that isn't the case for everyone, Gaston added.

Part of the class will focus on making traditional regalia for those who don't have any or who have outgrown what they did have.

A main concern is how to get supplies—while Gaston said she is working on finding grants to cover the costs, she said that donations are always welcome and needed.

To become involved or to make a donation, contact Gaston at tgaston@509j.net or by phone at 475-7265, extension 390.

While e-mail is the best form of communication, Gaston asked that you wait to call until after 3:15 when school is out for the day.

Gaston also said the community members are welcome to attend the group once it begins meeting.

Film conveys serious message

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

Two standing ovations later, the students didn't look nearly as nervous as they had before the film began in Bend's Tower Theatre.

Students from Madras High School's youth development team, which is led by two Warm Springs students, premiered their new film "Silent Message" on October 4 to an audience that filled nearly every seat in the theatre.

The students, along with Bend-based Hudson Productions and various anti-crime agencies, began pre-production on the film nearly a year ago.

"Silent Message" focuses on child sexual abuse.

A 30-minute documentary on the making of the film aired before the film itself—documenting the labor that went into the project as well as several first-person accounts about

child sex abuse.

The emotion in the room was evident as a young girl spoke of experiencing years of abuse—something from the real world that reflects the reasons students chose to make "Silent Message."

The film features three characters from the same high school who each face different experiences with sexual abuse—"Clint," a star wrestler struggles with violent reactions after recent contact with his abuser (and father). "Maria" reaches out to counselors about her history of abuse only after realizing that her younger sister may be her father's next victim.

The third part of the film focuses on "Lily." A shy girl, Lily is still being abused regularly by an uncle. At the end of the film, Lily takes her own life after being raped at a party and discovering that she is pregnant.

Warm Springs resident Alyssia Meanus-Thompson stars in the film as Lily, along with several students from

the youth development team who worked as crew members or background actors on the film.

Community member Foster Kalama plays Lily's uncle—one who attempts to reach out to her because he suspects she is being abused.

Involved team members include Nick Katchia, Tonya Boise, Victoria Katchia and LaRonn Katchia.

In addition, community members Rebecca and Shelly Taylor and Rena and Marilyn Suppah were involved in the film.

A crowd of professionals was on hand to discuss the crimes involved with sexual abuse and how to seek help, while interviews with professionals in the victim's assistance and law enforcement fields aired during the documentary.

Following the film, members of the youth development team took the stage for a question and answer session.

See MESSAGE on 11

Gaming board considers Kah-Nee-Ta future

The Warm Springs Gaming Enterprise Board of Directors and management held their board retreat recently at Welches. One of the main purposes of the retreat was to discuss the future of Kah-Nee-Ta resort without a casino, and the next steps in the development of a master plan.

The directors must begin exploring options to enhance the appeal of Kah-Nee-Ta once the tribal casino moves to the Columbia River Gorge.

The hope is that by expanding or improving the resort, it would be able to achieve higher revenues, especially in the off and shoulder seasons, and do so in a manner that would yield a positive free cash flow, said Ken Smith, gaming board chair-

man.

The hope, he said, is that Kah-Nee-Ta would be able to finance its own recurring capital expenditures and expansion, which are necessary to keep Kah-Nee-Ta competitive in the market.

To begin with, significant funds will be needed for a "face lift" to bring the property up to standard.

"We need to determine potential products and services that will move Kah-Nee-Ta into a more competitive position in the market place," said Smith.

A number of ideas have been identified, such as condominiums/time shares, upgraded full service spa, expansion of the golf course and/or construction of a championship golf course, multi-dimensional water park,

family entertainment, expanded RV grounds/parks, airstrip or airpark, expanded defined trail system.

Jeff Ford, chief executive officer of Kah-Nee-Ta, was assigned to provide a report within 60 days on the costs that will be associated with developing more information on each option.

The gaming board also exchanged ideas related to the management priorities for 2007, followed by a report on the August 29 General Council meeting on the gaming enterprise.

The master plan for Kah-Nee-Ta is an ongoing process and the board will be seeking input from tribal members as the project moves forward.