

Silhouettes carry message of abuse prevention

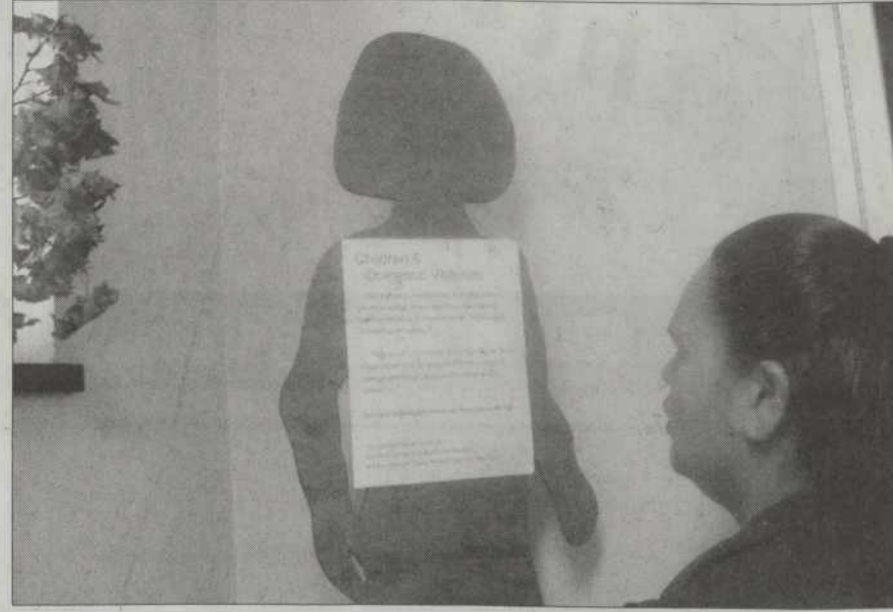
By Leslie Mitts
Splyay Tymoo

The red, wooden "people" you see around town have a message behind them: a message about Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The wooden silhouettes will be distributed throughout Warm Springs and in various locations in Madras this month, and many will move around in attempt to contact as many people as possible, according to Mark Matthews, director of Victims of Crime.

Each wooden cutout features a sheet of paper that explains domestic abuse or relates a personal account of someone from Oregon.

Matthews adopted the idea as part of the Silent Witness



Jacklyn Langley reads the domestic violence message at the Post Office.

National Initiative. In 1990, a group of women in Minnesota founded the program to speak out about domestic violence.

They came up with the idea

to use the free-standing, life-sized wooden figures in order to commemorate the women who had lost their lives due to domestic violence.

In addition, community

members may see a lot of purple in town this month as Victims of Crime uses the purple ribbon campaign to spread awareness.

The campaign began in 1994 with the goal of eliminating interpersonal violence.

Supporters wear purple ribbons to support the end of domestic violence—something that creators of the International Purple Ribbon Project believe leads to violence outside the home.

Matthews said they also hope to do a presentation about domestic violence at the high school.

Victims of Crime will cap off Domestic Violence Awareness Month with a family conference on Oct. 20.

Conference on domestic violence prevention Oct. 20

Families are invited to attend a conference about domestic violence on Oct. 20 as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

While the subject matter is serious, organizers of the event hope to bring incorporate some fun family time with a family night of entertainment.

The conference will focus on family violence and family wellness.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. at the Community Center.

After a general session at 9 a.m. with speaker (and tribal member) Caroline Cruz from the State Office of Mental Health and Addictions Services, the group will split into several different sessions.

Featured speakers will include Dr. Locker, Rachel Smith and Wilson Wewa.

Before a session begins, door prizes will be awarded throughout the day.

Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort is responsible for donating the door prizes.

The afternoon features additional sessions with speakers Elizabeth Nava and representatives from Best Care and Community Counseling. During this time a session on how family violence was dealt with in the past will feature speakers George Aguilar, Sr., Tessie Williams and Adeline Miller.

After dinner that evening, Carolyn Harvey will lead a rubber-band family exercise.

Finishing up the event will be a "family fun night" with Indian entertainer Mitch Factor beginning at 7 p.m.

So far, Matthews said, they expect a fairly decent turnout. According to Matthews, Jo De Goudy is helping to recruit about 40 teenage community members to attend the conference.

I.H.S., CHET, CPS, Community Counseling, Culture and Heritage, the Senior Program, Victims of Crime and the State Office of Mental Health and Addictions Services will host the event.

VOCS: 'We're here to help them and not to judge them'

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Victims can also receive financial support by applying to the Crime Victims' Compensation Program, and advocates can assist them through the process when it applies to their situation.

Safety information and information on what to do in certain situations is available to victims, as well as assistance with going to food banks or soup kitchens.

Advocate Ina Wainanwit said Victims of Crime is an excellent resource for those who

choose to seek help.

She said, "Some people don't know where to look. They just keep letting it happen, or they feel like they don't have anywhere to go."

"We're here to help them and not to judge them," she said.

Receptionist Simone

Danzuka echoed Wainanwit's sentiments.

"I think that the people who come here are stronger," she said.

"I think it's a big leap for them to come to Victims of Crime to get help."



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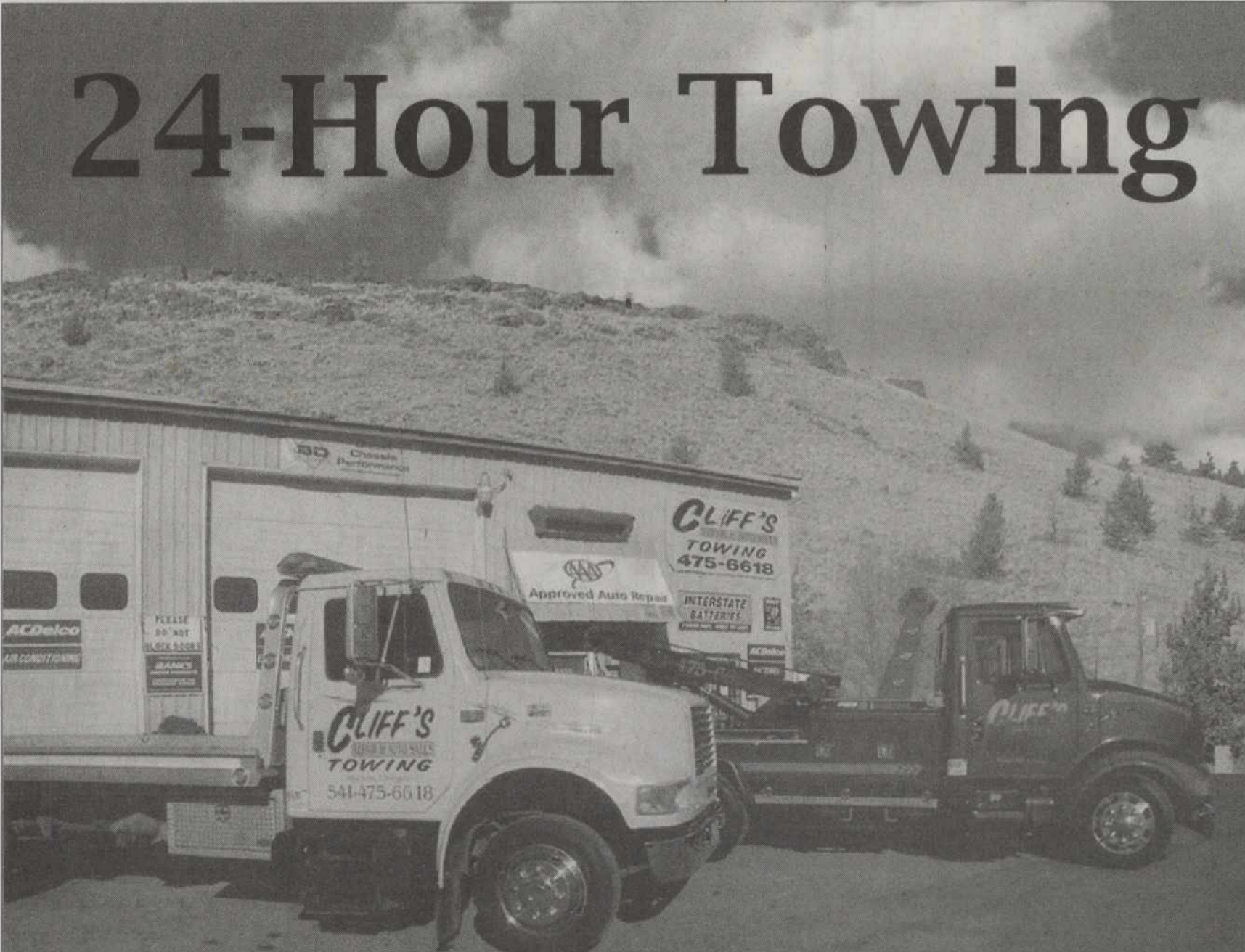
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