

Team fighting problem of elder abuse

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

Elder abuse is something that is far too common, according to the committee that is trying to combat the issue locally.

The Elders Multi-disciplinary Team was originally established after the tribes partnered with the Department of Human Services and received some grant funding to help prevent elder abuse, according to Wilson Wewa from the Senior Program.

According to Wewa, "Our group comes together to discuss potential cases that might end up in court or have a propensity to be repeated."

The team partners the Senior Program with IHS, Victims of Crime Services, BIA Social Services, Tribal Social Services, Housing and various other departments to help those citizens who may be victims of elder abuse.

Each month the team holds a closed meeting to discuss issues that are kept completely confidential.

Elder abuse is something that has a very broad range, according to Viola Govenor, who

works with victims of elder abuse through Victims of Crime Services.

In some instances elders are the subjects of theft or physical abuse, but often other problems can indicate another type of elder abuse.

Wewa said the team has reviewed issues regarding physical abuse, emotional abuse, financial abuse, and even self abuse.

Self abuse, he said, would involve cases where a senior citizen isn't taking medication that is prescribed to them.

Even dehydration during the summer can indicate self abuse, he added.

"Dehydration is the door to a lot of other ailments," Wewa explained.

Govenor and Wewa agree that financial abuse is exceptionally common.

"Financial abuse is probably the most prevalent in Warm Springs," Wewa said.

Govenor said financial abuse could include family members who take food from a senior citizens home or who stay with an elderly family member without contributing to the house-

hold income.

"They just take them for granted," she said.

According to Wewa, the problem usually lies in the close connection between the elderly victim and the perpetrator.

"Because of the love that many of our seniors have for their children and their grandchildren, they become a victim," he explained.

Wewa added, "That's when it falls into the realm, also, of emotional abuse."

"It's worse than being physically hit, I think, to have emotional pain," Govenor said. "You carry it around in your heart and it hurts, it's painful. This is what most of our elders go through."

Other cases can involve families who throw parties after their elderly family member has gone to bed for the night, Wewa said.

"Sometimes they think that isn't a problem because the elder isn't objecting to that action," he said, but that isn't the case.

According to Govenor, it's a problem that often isn't explored because senior citizens don't want to upset their family members.

Seniors ask for increase in bonus

A group of 15 seniors met with Tribal Council last week, suggesting that the year-end bonus be increased.

Lyle Rhoan Sr. spoke of the financial hardship that many seniors experience. Winter brings higher bills with the need for heating, he said.

Many seniors, he said, rely on the bonus to make it through the winter months.

Elton Greeley, director of the Senior Center, was asked to be a spokesman of the group that met with Council. Greeley said that the seniors who attended the meeting would like to see an increase in the bonus. At the same time, Greeley said, his department has received information from tribal management that the tribes are still struggling financially.

Eagle Tech opens tech center

Eagle-Tech Systems has opened its new technology center that features 12 state of the art computers. The computers are available to new and existing small business owners, students and anyone else who is interested. The center will feature Internet access and general computer use, as well as provide a meeting place for the Warm Springs Area Chamber of Commerce.

In the future, computer trainings will be available. The center will be open Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

It is located in the old clothing factory at 4202 Holliday Street. For more information, contact Arlissa Rhoan at 553-3276 or Daniel at dberumen@eagletech.org.

Forum to promote business, entrepreneurs

Eagle-Tech Systems will host an informational meeting on Nov. 28 entitled "What's New in Warm Springs."

The hour-long information session aims to lay groundwork for business and entrepreneurial development, as well as provide insight into the developments of several projects in Warm Springs' business sector.

Community members can learn how these projects will benefit them—which will include an update on the new Tech Center, a message from the Chamber of Commerce, and a question and answer session. Appetizers will be provided. The event will take place from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Old Clothing Factory at 4202 Holliday Street. For more information, call 553-3276.

Community Cleanup

There is a planning meeting this week for an upcoming community clean-up project.

The planning meeting is from 10 a.m. to noon this Wednesday, Nov. 22 in conference room 3 of the administration building. Community involvement is requested.

Next deadline to submit items to the Spilyay Tymoo is Friday, Dec. 1.



Jasper Jack and Fawntan Arthur took some time out from their Head Start B2 class to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal on Nov. 14 at ECE.

Fish commission announces Internet site dedicated to Celilo Falls project

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission has unveiled a new online blog as part of its Celilo Legacy project.

The blog will serve as a clearinghouse for public discourse, information, events, activities, and memorials that will mark the passage of 50 years since the inundation of Celilo Falls.

Celilo Falls was inundated by The Dalles dam on March 10, 1957.

"There is tremendous interest in Celilo Falls right now among the educators, media, arts communities, historians and the public," said Jeremy FiveCrows, CRITFC editor and webmaster.

"By hosting this blog, we hope to provide links between these groups and open a dialogue among them. By coordinating these efforts and offering this resource, we can show how meaningful Celilo Falls was to the tribes, indeed to the entire region."

A blog is an online journal providing opinion, commentary or news on a particular subject. The Celilo Legacy blog features an online journal, photo album, and calendar. The journal will include announcements, historical stories and essays, a photo

album of Celilo Falls photographs, and a calendar listing Celilo-related events happening throughout the region leading up to beyond the March 10th anniversary.

"Celilo Falls evokes images, emotions and passions for many people in this country. This blog is intended to give people an accessible forum to express as well as listen," added FiveCrows. "Visitors have the ability to make comments on the entries and are encouraged to add their own perspectives, stories, and announcements."

Located between Oregon and Washington, Celilo Falls was a unique natural feature formed by the Columbia River approximately 100 miles East of present-day Portland, Oregon. During high water, nearly one million cubic feet of water per second - five times the flow of Niagara Falls - would pass over the basalt rocks, creating a roar that could be heard many miles away.

For centuries, the salmon caught here drove tribal economies and created one of the Western Hemisphere's great market places.

On the morning of March 10, 1957, the gates of The Dalles Dam closed and choked back the Columbia River.

Six hours later Celilo Falls was gone.

Primary contributors for the Celilo Legacy blog are: Jeremy FiveCrows (Nez Perce), CRITFC publications editor and webmaster; Charles Hudson (Mandan-Hidatsa), CRITFC public information manager; Elizabeth Woody (Warm Springs), renowned author, poet and the director of the Indigenous Leadership Program at Ecotrust; and Carol Craig (Yakama), author and outreach director for the Yakama Nation Fisheries Department.

CRITFC's Celilo Legacy project is an outreach effort that uses the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Celilo Falls' inundation to educate people about the past historical importance of Celilo Falls and gather oral histories from those who fished there, discuss the effects of the falls' inundation on the tribes and salmon today, and open a region-wide dialogue in the hopes that we can all work together to prevent such an act of environmental, cultural, and biological violence from ever happening again.

The blog is accessible by going to www.critfc.org and clicking on the "Celilo Legacy blog" image, or by simply entering "www.critfc.org/celilo" in your browser.

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