

Message of hope from Victims of Crime Services

By Sarah Frank
Victims of Crime Services

After viewing "Silent Message" some people may have had old pain resurface. Perhaps there are deep wounds that you don't know how to deal with, so you buried them with denial, work, alcohol/drugs or other unique ways. These unresolved wounds may have caused problems in your life. It's time, time to deal with these old wounds, feel the pain, mourn your loss of innocence and release it.

These are some questions that may be asked regarding sexual assault. How could we talk about such a forbidden subject? Who could we talk to and release these memories that haunt us? What if I don't want to get anyone in trouble or I'm afraid of the abuser? What if I am to blame? What if the abuser is/was a child? Will reporting help me? What if the abuser is not alive anymore?

If you have been sexually abused recently: Report immediately, don't shower, don't wash your clothing/bedding, be accurate, tell the truth from beginning to end, don't change your story even if you are afraid and most importantly don't blame yourself. Whether you are a male or female, child or adult, if someone hurt you, they are at fault, NOT YOU. Please join us as we help get the word out in our "IT'S NOT MY FAULT" campaign during the month of April.

The best way to deal with the subject is to first find a trusted person to talk to. This could be a Counselor, School Counselor, Trusted Community Member or other Spiritual Leaders/Members that you trust. If you would rather talk to a person that does not know you and is not from your local area call: the National Hotline 1-800-656-HOPE (4673) or the Oregon hotline at 1-866-399-7722. Call a prayer line 1-800-4PRAYER. If they are unable to help you find another person. Don't stop looking till you find the right sup-

port. We do offer a support group for survivors and you can talk to Viola or Sarah to find the dates and times. In April we will have survivors that will share their testimonies. Whatever you do, don't keep this poison inside of you.

What if the abuser is a family member and you don't want to get the abuser in trouble? It is common for victims to want to be loyal to their family/friends, even if they are hurting them. You must first believe that you are not to blame; the abuser is at fault, NOT YOU. The person that hurt you must stop hurting you, especially if they love you. If he/she denies the abuse and/or blames you for their wrong doing, they are thinking of only themselves and you need to get away from them immediately. What is stopping them from hurting others? Please don't protect someone that has hurt you. Ask yourself, has the abuse stopped and have they stopped hurting others?

What if I am afraid of the abuser? Instilling fear is common for an offender, especially in gang rape situations. Abusers are known to use guilt and threats of violence, abandonment or both to silence the child victim. Living in a small community where everyone knows everyone may make it harder to trust others. Be cautious, but don't stay silent, especially if you or others are still at risk. In my early stages of recovery I talked to COBRA at 475-1880, an outside Spiritual Leader and Carol Allison (Community Center). Victim's Of Crime can help you make a safety plan.

What if the abuser is/was a child? Assure they are not hurting other children. If the abuse happened in school report it to the teacher. Many have denied or ignored the capability of youth and children being abusive toward other children. There has been much focus on abuse of children by adults, and little on children sexually abusing other children. This is not about children who are exploring their own or other children's

bodies by touching or "playing doctor". We are talking about talking about severely aggressive children. There is little doubt that the sexual abuser's family life plays a big role in how children understand what appropriate sexual behavior is. Please teach your child about proper sexual behavior and/or correct sexual behavior that is aggressive and inappropriate for their age, if you don't they may learn to regard this as normal.

What if the abuser is no longer alive? This is a tough question. People may have placed the deceased on a pedestal causing others to strongly deny and not believe the victim. The victim may become isolated. The victim may also have to cope with unresolved anger/pain; they may grieve the loss of closure, the loss of confrontation or even reconciling. They may feel grief that the abuser will never have the opportunity to change. They may feel relief because they never have to see the abuser again. Writing a letter to the deceased may be helpful to you. FBI Agent Jason Ghetion said "Who says that Prosecution is going to heal the abuse?" Accountability helps, but you can heal whether or not you receive justice.

If I was abused as a child, but I'm now adult should I still report it? Most children that are sexually abused don't disclose till years later. If the abuser has access to children then you may want to file an informational report to your local authorities. There is no federal statute of limitation to child sexual abuse; this means that if the abuse happened in Warm Springs you can still report child sexual assault even if you are now an adult. However, prosecution can depend on evidence to prove the assault occurred. Don't turn a blind eye to your past, please help keep other children/adults from being hurt.

There is no sheet of paper with steps to healing. Healing is different for everyone and there is no list telling you how to feel today or what to do tomorrow.

You make your own path. There are tools that can help you on your path to recovery such as: testimonies from other survivors, Counselors, Therapists, books, journaling, music and faith. However there is one person that you must listen to and that is yourself. You are the expert in your healing journey.

The following workshops will be coming back to Warm Springs: Father's Heart Retreat and Crossing2Freedom. One still in the planning process is "Ride Out The Storm". Please watch for flyers. In May we are planning a trip to see Joyce Meyers in Spokane, WA (Joyce is a powerful woman of God that was sexually abused as a child). If you are interested in any of these activities call Sarah or Viola at 553-2293. (We also have some personally owned TD Jakes and Joyce Meyer DVD's and Video's that are available for you to watch).

You may choose this prayer or seek your spiritual leader to pray with you... "Heavenly Father, you know my heart, my pain and you know all things about me. Father I come to you today and ask you for guidance as I deal with the pain in my heart. I ask you to cleanse me, heal my broken heart and broken spirit. I release this to you today and I ask that your will be done in this situation". Thank you Lord, In Jesus Name... AMEN.

Please join us for a Prayer Walk on Monday, April 2, 2007 at 12:05 p.m. starting at Victims of Crime Services.

Warm Springs, Please support the businesses you see in the Spilyay Tymoo. They give back to the local community!.

Council

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At the same time as it set the administrative review in motion, Tribal Council also instructed other groups to explore a series of economic initiatives on the reservation.

In addition to reaffirming its commitment to the Bridge of the Gods Casino, Council asked for a draft uniform commercial code to help bring investment onto the reservation. Council also requested recommendations on four short-term economic projects, four longer term use and occupancy projects, and the possible consolidation of tribal resources through a single enterprise board.

As a last item, Council instructed the secretary-treasurer to secure funding to be set aside for use in economic development.

Ventures CFO Jeff Anspach gave a brief overview of the work of the uniform commercial code (UCC) committee.

He reported that the committee was ready to submit a secured transactions code drafted by the tribes' legal counsel, and would recom-

mend that the tribe adopt it.

Anspach also introduced the report on short-term initiatives. The committee, representing seven tribal organizations, began with a list of 36 project ideas. Applying criteria such as rate of return, number of jobs created, capital required, reservation impact, and project risk, the committee has pared the list to eight.

Kahseuss Jackson, Ventures' business development director, took Council through a brief overview of the projects still under consideration. The cut to four will be made before the final project and funding recommendations come before Council in mid April.

The final component of the presentation consisted in a status report from the committee evaluating the long-term use and occupancy projects. Here again, the committee began with several project ideas and has been evaluating them according to criteria. The initial list of nine has been narrowed to five. The committee will continue to gather information on these projects while preparing its final report to Council.

Eagles

(Continued from page 1)

Protecting the bald eagle and the golden eagle is something that has prompted a variety of laws and protection acts: the Bald Eagle Protection Act began in 1940 but expanded to include the Golden Eagle in 1962.

Plus, Calvin said, eagles are protected from illegal poaching internationally with the United States, Canada, Russia and Japan in a pact that was established to

prohibit international trafficking.

However, though eagles may still face problems. Calvin said there is the potential to have them de-listed from the Endangered Species List because the population has grown steadily.

A decision will be made about de-listing the bald eagle by this June.

If de-listed, the eagles would still be monitored for several years and protected by a variety of laws.

Letter to the editor

A thank you

Dear Nixyaawii and surrounding communities,

Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts. Your attendance, support, expression of love and show of respect at the dressing and funeral for our son, brother, grandson, nephew and uncle, Alex Minthorn.

It was the most beautiful funeral service, seeing the Longhouse filled on both sides; the sound of the drums, bell and songs filled the air and hearing all the voices in unison. The long testimonies words spoken from the heart in remembrance of our loved one; many of our family members expressed how good the service went.

There are so many to thank for their involvement with the whole ceremony that I'm not going to try and make a list - you and the Creator know the kindness, generosity, following through with the unwritten laws, the hugs and the expression of love for the family left behind. Many contributed to clean and wipe down the house, burn, run errands, all the food, baked goods, bottled water and pop donations to feed us and all the help, make lists of contribu-

tions and note all the phone calls and to just be there for company.

He sang his first song at the Longhouse, we conducted his first kill at the Longhouse, he started out pouring water at Feast and moved up to a server, he and his brothers were hunters for the Longhouse and he learned how to cook the meat and salmon over the pit. All the drummers/singers, dancers, cooks, servers, kitchen helpers, those who helped set up tables and chairs for the meals, watered the "wash," swept the floors and cleaned up the main area, all your names have been recorded by the Creator on your piece of paper. You will receive your reward when you least expect it, and we his family will forever be indebted to you for your work; words cannot express how grateful we are... Thank you.

The family members who traveled many miles to be here with us, you brought us medicine... to our hearts and minds. Armand and I are so very thankful to have the family and in-laws we have... Our love goes out to you all.

For a young man of 24 he left behind a legacy, all the sympathy cards we received most with written expression of what kind of person he was outside

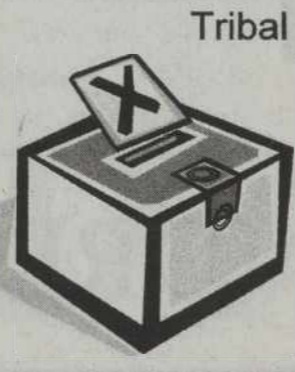
our home. All the memories he created by the interaction with us and all the verbal communication he conveyed to us face to face especially his big cheesy smile and laugh will comfort us in the days ahead. He will never be forgotten as in his own way he showed and told us how he honestly felt about us.

Armand Minthron, Marjorie Waheneka and families.

KWSO 91.9 FM
Tribal Council Elections 2007
Meet the Candidates Program

Tue 3/27	Wed 3/28	Thr 3/29	Fri 3/30	Sat 3/31	Sun 4/1
5am Agency District	5am Seekseequa District	5am Simnasho District	6am Agency District	6am Seekseequa District	6am Simnasho District
1pm Simnasho District	1pm Agency District	1pm Seekseequa District	Noon Simnasho District	Noon Agency District	Noon Seekseequa District
7pm Seekseequa District	7pm Simnasho District	7pm Agency District	6pm Seekseequa District	6pm Simnasho District	6pm Agency District

Tribal Council Elections are April 2nd





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