

Community rallies against abuse with several April events



Community members marched last week to raise awareness. Leslie Mitts/Spilyay

Community members recently gathered together for several events in honor of Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

A kickoff event was held on April 2. Community members and employees from CHET, Public Safety, CPS, the Senior Program, Diabetes Prevention and VOCS met at the courthouse for a prayer and public address, and then walked to the Community Center.

At the event, Wilson Wewa spoke of the increasing problem of child abuse

and sexual abuse, and said that in the past "A lot of the things like this were behind closed doors."

However, he added, now that people are starting to deal with the problems he believes solutions can be found.

CPS also hosted a walk on April 4. "Silent Message," a film about sexual abuse made by students from Madras High School, was shown on April 7.

Throughout the rest of April, there will be a "Darkness to Light" training for adults about recognizing and putting a stop to child sexual abuse on Monday, April 14 from 6 p.m. to 9

p.m. at the Family Resource Center.

CPS will be hosting an open house and lunch on April 30 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For questions or if you need help, VOCS is available at 553-2293. VOCS on-call advocates are available for response at any time of day, seven days a week through Tribal Police Dispatch or by calling 911.

Victims can also call the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800-656-4673.

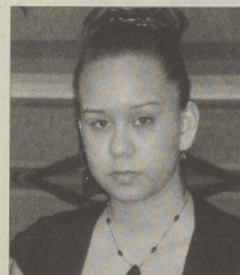
— by Leslie Mitts

Polk graduating with high honor

Tribal member Melinda Faye Polk will be graduating this spring from Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas.

Ms. Polk, daughter of Jessica Polk of Warm Springs, and Terry James of Taholah, Wash., will graduate Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Business Administration.

Her grandmother is



Melinda Faye Polk

Evelyn Polk-Capoeman, also of Taholah.

Graduation will take place at 10 a.m. on May 9, 2008 at the Haskell Stadium.

Ms. Polk wishes to inform the Warm Springs community of the event.

"I would be honored to have family, friends, and fellow tribal members in attendance," she said.

Joint committee meeting April 21

There will be a joint committee meeting at 9 a.m. on Monday, April 21 at the Agency Longhouse.

The meeting is sponsored by the Land Use Planning Committee.

If you have any questions, please call 553-2357.

The public is invited.

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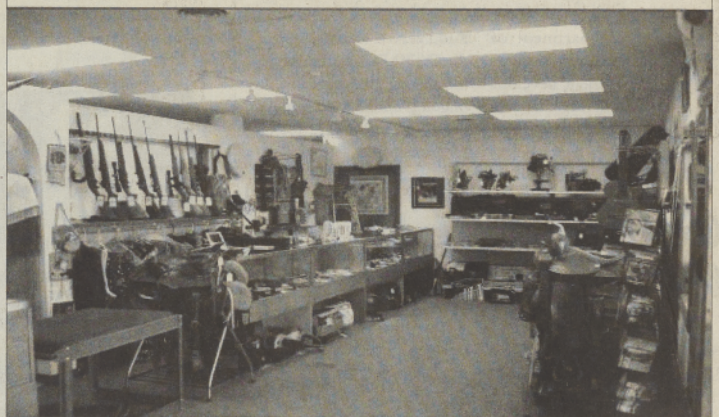
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