

Raising awareness of domestic violence

Domestic violence, also called intimate partner violence or family violence, is a critical problem on the reservation and throughout the U.S., with negative impacts on victims, families, employers and communities.

The nature of close-knit tribal communities can make it more difficult for victims of domestic violence to seek and get help. Rural tribal areas face challenges such as higher poverty, lower rates of health insurance coverage and less access to health care and human services providers.

All of these factors make the

problems facing domestic violence survivors more difficult to address.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the Victims of Crime Services Department (VOCS) has planned several activities starting with the Tuesday, September 30 evening kick-off event.

A dinner is set for 5:30 p.m. at the Agency Longhouse on Sept. 30. This will be followed by a Round Dance featuring the Star Horse Drum.

There will be an information table and written material available during the Round Dance,

plus 150 purple lights available for those residents who want to shine a purple light from their home every night in October. Purple is the color for Domestic Violence Awareness.

Other Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities include three noon-time community awareness walks. On Wednesday, Oct. 8, there will be the West Hills walk. The Oct. 15 walk will be at the Tenino apartments. And the Oct. 22 noon-time walk will be at the trailer court. Interested walkers should meet at the VOCS office at 11:50 a.m. and contact Sammy Bruised

Head at 553-2293 for additional information. Bottled water will be provided to all the walkers.

There will be a domestic violence community afternoon workshop on Tuesday, Oct. 21, and a domestic violence video night with dinner at the Family Resource Center at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 28.

Also in October, tribal community members will see at various offices and locations the traveling red Silent Witness silhouettes that will spend a week at various public locations on the reservation.

Crime on reservations focus of Senate hearing

(AP) — A U.S. Senate Indian Affairs Committee hearing is focusing on the lack of federal crime enforcement on Indian reservations.

The hearing chaired by North Dakota Sen. Byron Dorgan also focuses on ways to improve the justice system.

The Indian Affairs panel says the government has declined to

prosecute 62 percent of Indian country criminal cases referred to federal prosecutors between 2004 and 2007.

Federal statistics have shown American Indians are the victims of violent crime at 2.5 times the national rate, with rates of homicide and domestic violence much higher than national averages.

October awareness campaign adds 'Purple Light Nights'

This year the Victims of Crime Services has added Purple Light Nights to the Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Purple is the color for Domestic Violence Awareness. Purple Night Lights was inspired by the Covington Domestic Task Force of King County, Washington.

It is VOCS goal to get residents, and tribal and BIA offices

to take part in our efforts to promote Domestic Violence Awareness.

Everyone will have the opportunity to pick up their free light from us at our Domestic Awareness kick off dinner and round dance on Tuesday, September 30 at the Agency long house.

It is time to get involved. Domestic Violence affects everyone within our community

whether it is directly or indirectly, especially the women and children.

Putting up a purple night light will help to increase this awareness and show the community's support that domestic violence had no place in our traditions and has no place within our people now.

"Imagine Life Violence Free" is the ongoing theme of the Victims of Crime Services team. Let

it be our community's as well.

Thank you everyone for your participation and we hope to see many come out to support October's Domestic Violence Awareness month.

(Article submitted by Advocate Aurel Stinson, VOCS.)

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs is **accepting lease proposals** for the service station building by the Rainbow Market. Anyone wishing to submit a proposal should contact Urbana Ross, tribal land services administrator. She can be reached at 553-3271. Or by mail at CTWS Land Services, PO Box C, Warm Springs, OR 97761. Lease terms are negotiable.



Festival of Nations

at Cascade Locks Marine Park

Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 27-28, 2008

Saturday Events

8 a.m.: Third Annual Salmon Run.

10 a.m.: Opening Ceremonies. Vendor booths open to public.

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.: Children's hands-on activities, Warm Springs Culture & Heritage/Cascade Locks art coordinator.

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.: Speakers in Pavilion - Oral History - Stories.

1 p.m.: Stick Games.

Warm Springs Traditional Dancers.

2:30 - 3:30 p.m.: James Greeley, Native American flute.

4 p.m.: Conrad Fey, German music.

6 p.m.: Round Bustle Contest.

Sunday Events

10 a.m.: Vendor booths open to public.

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.: Children's hands-on activities. Warm

Springs Culture and Heritage/Cascade Locks art coordinator.

11 a.m.: James Greeley, Native American flute.

12 noon: Wasco Traditional Dancers.

1 p.m.: Stick Games.

2 p.m.: Korean Dancers.

3 p.m.: Paiute Traditional Dancers.

4 p.m.: Closing Ceremonies.

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