

Civil legal help for victims continues

Civil legal assistance for on-reservation victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking will continue through August of 2010.

Warm Springs Victims of Crime Services made this announcement after receiving an extension of the office's current Warm Legal Assistance for Victims grant.

The Legal Assistance for Victims grant project makes available civil legal services and representation in tribal legal matters to eligible victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking arising as a consequence of their abuse or violence.

The U.S. Department of Justice funds the Legal Assistance for Victims grant through its Violence Against Women Office. This is a two-year grant.

Gwen Leonard is the Civil Legal Advocate employed by the grant, and her office is located in the Victims of Crime Services office building.

Leonard appears in court with eligible clients who need assistance with restraining orders, divorces, modifications of family and civil orders, guardianships and other civil legal matters arising from a situation involving violence or stalking.

Restraining order cases are the most frequent type of the case where Leonard appears in tribal court as a spokesperson.

Leonard also observes at arraignment and other tribal court hearings those person-crime cases relating to Victims of Crime Services (VOCS) and



Gwen Leonard, civil legal advocate.

Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) subject matter.

Mark Matthews, VOCS director, is the LAV grant supervising attorney. He assists Leonard with supervision, advice, and will substitute for Leonard when she cannot appear in court.

"Gwen Leonard is a great spokesperson and legal advocate for her clients," said Matthews. "She understands the issues that her clients face because of her background as a victims advocate supervisor, and as a grandmother and community mem-

ber." Leonard has attended several trainings, including two trainings for legal advocates taught by the National Institute of Trial Attorneys, and seminar taught by the Southwest Center for Law and Policy since being hired in January 2007 as the LAV Civil Advocate.

Potential clients who need civil legal assistance from the LAV program must first have a confidential intake by a VOCS staff member.

If the potential client has legal problems due to domestic

violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, then that person will be referred to Leonard.

She will then determine if the potential client is eligible for LAV legal services.

According to Office on Violence Against Women guidelines, LAV legal services cannot be provided to those individuals who need legal representation for criminal defense, or if their children are taken into protective custody.

Also, the LAV advocate cannot assist clients in off-reservation courts.

Leonard will make a referral to either Oregon Legal Services in Bend, tribal Legal Aid, or off-reservation attorneys for those individuals who are not eligible for the Warm Springs LAV civil legal assistance services.

The VOCS Advocate Supervisor, Sammy Bruised Head, will assign a victim advocate to work with the client and Leonard with non-legal services and assistance.

The victim advocate may assist the client with emotional support, information or referral, or personal advocacy.

Referrals to the VOCS Evening Women's Support Group, Warm Springs Community Counseling and other public service agencies are common.

You can call 553-2293 during office hours if you need civil legal assistance due to the result of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking.

Thank you for supporting the businesses you see in the Spilyay Tymoo.

Births

Sequoia Shannie Aeloe VanPelt

Chet Ralph VanPelt and Breanna Kikana Knouf of Warm Springs are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Sequoia Shannie Aeloe VanPelt, born on December 7, 2008.

Sequoia joins brothers Isaiah VanPelt, 7, and Thomas Knouf, 2; and sisters Margaret VanPelt, 5, and Amber VanPelt, 3.

Grandparents on the father's side are Wanda VanPelt and the late Chester VanPelt of Warm Springs.

Grandparents on the mother's side are Joyce and Keith Charley of Warm Springs.

Kailee Daniella Mora

Daniel Mora and Leann Wolfe of Madras are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Kailee Daniella Mora, born on December 14, 2008.

Grandparents on the father's side are Jose and Aurora Mellado of Madras.

Grandparents on the mother's side are Flossie Wolfe and the late James L. Wolfe Sr., of Warm Springs.

Donnie Benard Polk Tewee

Cody Tewee and Lucille "Meredith" Polk of Warm Springs are pleased to announce the birth of their son Donnie Benard Polk Tewee, born on December 19, 2008.

Donnie joins sister Rashawna Polk Tewee, age 2 years and eight months.

Grandparents on the father's side are the late Benard Tewee and Merle Kalama, of Warm Springs.

Grandparents on the mother's side are Annette (Holliday) Polk, and Dixon Polk Sr., of Warm Springs.

Great grandparents on the mother's side are Lucille Schuster and James Teeman, and Donnie Holliday, of Warm Springs.

Great great grandmother is Evelyn D. Sam of Warm Springs, and the late Ellisch Schuster of Toppenish, Wash.

Great great grandparents are Sherman Holliday and the late Velma (Bean) Holliday of Warm Springs.

Also, great great grandmother is Alberta (Yallup) Lillie of Wapato, Wash., and the late Leonard Polk Sr., of Wapato.

Great great grandparents on the father's side are Florene and Harvey Scott, and the late Howard Tewee, all of Warm Springs; and Viola Kalama and the late Nick Kalama of Warm Springs.

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