

A message from Warm Springs VOCS

The office of Warm Springs Victims of Crime Services—VOCS—wishes everyone a safe and happy February.

VOCS would like to take this time—as February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month—to share these recent statistics:

- About 1.5 million high school boys and girls in the U.S. admit to being intentionally hit or physically harmed in the last year by someone they are romantically involved with.
- Teens who suffer dating abuse are subject to long-term consequences like alcoholism, eating disorders, promiscuity, thoughts of suicide, and violent behavior.
- One in three young people will

be in an abusive or unhealthy relationship. Thirty-three percent of adolescents in America are victim to sexual, physical, verbal, or emotional dating abuse.

In our country 25-percent of high school girls have been abused physically or sexually. Teen girls who are abused this way are six times more likely to become pregnant or contract a sexually transmitted infection (STI).

Females between the ages of 16 and 24 are roughly three times more likely than the rest of the population to be abused by an intimate partner.

Eight states in the U.S. do not consider a violent dating relationship domestic abuse. Therefore, adolescents, teens, and 20-

some things are unable to apply for a restraining order for protection from the abuser.

Violent behavior often begins between sixth and twelfth grades. Seventy-two percent of 13 and 14-year-olds are 'dating.'

Fifty-percent of young people who experience rape or physical or sexual abuse will attempt to commit suicide.

If you or anyone you know is experiencing teen dating violence, please contact the Warm Springs Police Department, or Warm Springs Victims of Crime, phone 541-553-2293. Or come to our office located at 1108 Wasco Street.

Michele Gonzales, Advocate, Warm Springs Victims of Crime Services.



Jayson Smith/Spilyay

Look for Lincoln's Powwow results in the next Spilyay.

Community notes...

Pathways Home

The first of two classes for Pathways Home: A Native Homeownership Course will be on Saturday, February 22. The classes are at the Credit Enterprise conference room starting at 9 a.m. There will be four different modules during the first class:

You'll learn about Financing, Purchasing and Maintaining a Home; Building versus Buying; Mortgage Loans; and Budgeting, while gaining hands-on practice.

This course is required for anyone in the Community Action Team's Individual Development Account (IDA) program for home ownership. The second class will be on February 29. To sign up call 541-553-3148.

Education program for youth

AmeriCorps at Heart of Oregon Corps is now accepting applications

for the upcoming spring program, starting on March 2. Applications are due by February 25.

The AmeriCorps at Heart of Oregon Corps program is for three months, and is designed to engage young adults ages 17-24. Over recent, many young people from Warm Springs have completed the program, helping them graduate high school, move on to college, or develop career skills.

Members learn leadership and conservation skills through environmental projects on public lands, habitats and park infrastructure throughout Central Oregon, including on the reservation.

Members who complete the three-month term earn \$275 per week living stipend, and an award for college. To apply visit the website:

Heartoforegoncorps.org
Of call 541-633-7834.

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