



Hermiston Herald, File

A tent shelters volunteers from the rain at the seventh annual In Her Shoes experiential walk to raise awareness of domestic violence in Hermiston on April 24, 2021. The 2022 event is Saturday, April 30.

In Her Shoes event April 30 to promote domestic violence awareness

By ERICK PETERSON
Hermiston Herald

An upcoming activity will bring attention to the problem of domestic violence and sexual assault. Domestic Violence Services, Inc., is organizing the Eighth Annual DVS Walk “In Her Shoes” awareness event 9 a.m., Saturday, April 30.

It will be at Good Shepherd Health Care System, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston.

There has never been a bad time to talk about the subjects addressed at this event, according to Robbin Ferguson, interim executive director and fiscal manager at DVS. She added that there are things happening, though, that make domestic violence and sexual assault especially relevant.

“Economics has an effect on (the rate of cases),” she said. “The pandemic has had an effect on it, because there were more people at home and people who can’t get away from the situation.”

At the event, people will “take a journey through a real victim’s story and make decisions from the limited choices and resources they have,” Ferguson said. Attendees have the choice of receiving the stories on their phones or reading them in a printed book.

After hearing stories of domestic abuse, and saying what they would do in the same situations, attendees will hear the actual results.

According to Ferguson, the message of the event is that abuse hap-

pens, regardless of a victim’s actions.

“You may make the choice that you think is the best, but you still can be in a violent situation,” she said. “You can talk to your clergy, end up going back and talk to your friends. It’s real life. It’s very powerful.”

She added, domestic abuse and sexual assault happen to all races, ethnic groups and genders, which is another lesson she hopes the event will impart.

Ferguson said this is an event for people regardless of gender. Everyone will get something out of this, she said.

“Last year was stormy and rainy,” Ferguson said. That being the case, she said, attendance was down. This Saturday’s forecast, too, includes scattered showers. Still, she is hoping for a large turnout.

A DVS press release states that participants may register for free at the event. Also, bottled water, disinfecting wipes, sanitizer, disposable masks and gloves will be available. The first 20 registered participants will receive a DVS goodie bag. Also, there will be DVS merchandise for sale and raffle items.

Proceeds from the event, received from merchandise sales and the raffle, will go towards helping victims at emergency shelters in Pendleton and Hermiston, as well as the DVS Advocacy Centers in Pendleton, Hermiston, Milton-Freewater, Boardman and Ione.

For more information, visit dvs-or.org.

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