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FOCIS NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2016

National Domestic Violence Hotline turns 20

By James Barragan - American-Statesman Staff www.mystatesman.com

The National Domestic Violence Hotline launched two decades ago, and Catrina Wilson remembers the joy of seeing its phone number featured prominently on the first pages of the phone books that were distributed to millions of American homes.

Now, as the hotline celebrates its 20th anniversary Sunday, Wilson, the chairwoman of the hotline's board, marvels at its expansion from a phone service to a dating abuse texting service, an online chat service and a leading advocate for teaching teens about healthy relationships.

Since taking its first call in 1996, the hotline has become the leading service in the country for people suffering from domestic violence. Next month, the hotline, which is based in Austin, is expected to take its 4 millionth call.

"It speaks to how valuable it is to women, men and children who are living in abusive relationships," said Katie Ray-Jones, the hotline's chief executive officer.

Two decades into its existence, Ray-Jones said, the hotline is just as necessary now. For better or worse, she said, high-profile instances of domestic violence in the country have brought attention to the issue that have sparked the conversation and grown the number of people exposed to the hotline's services.

When Oprah Winfrey first highlighted the issue on her show and listed the hotline as a resource, the volume of calls to the service spiked and never dipped back to previous numbers, Ray-Jones said.

National Domestic Violence Hotline turns 20, cont.

But there's still more work ahead, Ray-Jones said. Often, people who know domestic violence victims know there is a problem but don't know how to address it. Teaching friends, family and co-workers how to help domestic violence victims is pivotal going forward, she added.

"We need to make it everybody's business because a lot of times victims don't know about resources or that they deserve better," Ray-Jones said.

MariBen Ramsey, secretary of the hotline's board, said it is also important to teach people that anyone can be a victim of domestic violence. She told the story of a woman who made a large donation to a women's shelter she used to work for two decades ago.

"We called her up to say thank you and she said, 'You know, when my husband hits me I can go to the Four Seasons. Not every woman can. So here's the check for the women who can't,'" Ramsey recalled.

Despite the progress the hotline has made in helping victims, it still needs to educate people about prevention rather than intervention, Ray-Jones said.

Going forward, the hotline is focused on teaching teens, who suffer from abusive relationships at a rate of one out of three, about model behavior for healthy relationships.

As Ramsey looks back at the effect that hotline has had, she said there is still more work to be done, but is encouraged by the progress that has been made. "Every call that gets answered," she said, "there's a life we may be changing or saving."

If you or someone you know is suffering from domestic violence,
call 1-800-799-7233 or 1-800-787-3224.

Tennessee Coach Called Sexual Assault Whistleblower a Traitor, Lawsuit Claims

The player says his coach shamed him for assisting a woman reportedly raped by his teammates.

By Lydia O'Connor, www.huffingtonpost.com

The University of Tennessee football coach told an athlete he was a traitor to the team for assisting a woman who said she was raped by two of his teammates and for encouraging her to report her rape, according to a new legal filing in a sexual assault lawsuit against the school.

Wednesday's filing alleges that in November 2014, after team member Curt Maggitt beat up teammate Drae Bowles as vengeance for helping the woman, Coach Butch Jones told Bowles that he "betrayed the team," but later called him to apologize, according to documents obtained by The Tennessean.

That filing is part of a lawsuit filed by six female victims against the school earlier this month alleging that UT officials turned a blind eye to the school's male students and athletes raping women and assaulting those who supported the women, and then helped the accused students get good lawyers. There are now a total of eight women named as plaintiffs in the lawsuit, after two more came forward Wednesday.

Coach Jones had already been named as a defendant in the lawsuit for condoning the school's rape culture and promising to "handle things inside" when athletes were arrested for underage drinking, providing alcohol to minors, driving under the influence and felony theft.

Bowles' claims about Jones' comments come one day after the football coach and 15 other UT coaches held a press conference to say there is no problem with the campus's athletic culture. "We are raising these kids and they're kids," Jones said at the press conference. "Have we had some individuals make some poor choices? Absolutely. ... It's our job to hold them responsible."

UT's lawyer, Bill Ramsey, said the new filing would not change the school's response to the lawsuit. "The University has reviewed the amended complaint filed today by the plaintiffs and we continue to stand by our actions," he said in a statement sent to The Huffington Post. "The facts, as opposed to allegations in a complaint, will demonstrate that the University acted properly in the matters at issue.

We have continuously worked hard to improve our processes and our procedures to ensure that we are doing all that we can to prevent incidents of assault, to support victims of assault and to pursue justice while ensuring due process for those accused. We will vigorously defend all claims in the amended complaint."

She Saved a Puppy ... And Found the Strength to Leave Her Abuser

By Hudson Hongo www.thedodo.com

When she took in a tiny husky three years ago, Amanda Trop thought she was adopting a puppy named Kyro. In reality, however, she was bringing home the dog that would give her back her life.

"To this day he still is the one who rescued me," writes Amanda, "not the other way around."

At the time, Amanda was trapped in a relationship with a controlling, abusive boyfriend. After he isolated her from her friends and family, Amanda says, the man she began dating when she was just a teen started hitting her, leaving her with black eyes and bloody noses.

"He'd come home from work stressed or upset and I ended up being his punching bag," Amanda told KIRO 7 News. "You get beaten down and you feel stuck and trapped. I don't think anybody that hasn't been in this situation would know how that feels."

After volunteering to help raise a litter of huskies abandoned by their mother, however, Amanda found something worth living for in a "chunky puppy" named Kyro.

"He became pretty much my only source of happiness," said Amanda.

At first, Amanda says outings with Kyro became an excuse for temporarily escaping her abuser, but when the helpless puppy also became a target of her boyfriend's rage, she knew she had no choice but to finally leave him for good.

She Saved a Puppy ... And Found the Strength to Leave Her Abuser, cont.

"It's like, 'it's not okay to hit me but it's especially not okay to hit him,'" said Amanda, "that's kind of when everything changed and turned around."

Since then, Amanda has been documenting her new life of adventure with Kyro on Facebook and Instagram and encouraging others caught in the cycle of abuse not to give up hope.

"It has not be easy to relive the memories of the past abuse, but my goal is to help inspire others that are in (or were in) situations like mine," writes Amanda.

"You will find yourself again. I found my four-legged knight, who knows where yours is waiting?"

Unfortunately, Amanda is not alone: According to some studies, over 70 percent of women in domestic violence shelters say their abuser has threatened, injured or killed a pet.

To get help escaping an abusive situation, visit the National Domestic Violence Hotline's website or call 1-800-799-SAFE. Or, to learn how you can increase protections for animal-owning victims of domestic violence and their pets, visit the ASPCA's website.

Teen arrested for alleged sexual battery on The Esplanade

www.chicoer.com

Chico >> A 14-year-old boy was arrested Monday for allegedly grabbing a woman's breast outside of a business on The Esplanade, police said.

Chico police responded about 10:05 a.m. to the 2300 block of The Esplanade, following a report from a female caller who said a male approached her from behind, grabbed her breast and then ran west behind a nearby business, according to a press release.

Officers found a person matching a description of the male walking west on Mission Ranch Boulevard shortly after, according to the release.

The person was identified as a 14-year-old boy, according to a press release. The boy was identified by the female caller and subsequently arrested on suspicion of misdemeanor sexual battery.

The teenager was booked into Butte County Juvenile Hall in Oroville, according to the release.

The victim was not injured during the incident, according to the release.

The Chico Police Department reminds people to be vigilant and aware of their surroundings, and it asks residents to report suspicious behavior or activity.

The Chico police can be reached at (530) 897-4900.

HAPPENINGS

ANGER MANAGEMENT GROUP

Wednesdays, 6-7:30pm. Co-ed six week group, start date contingent upon sign-ups. must be a FRTH registered patient. Full attendance required for a certificate. \$40 fee for non-native clients. (No couples & NOT for Court Mandates). Contact Tom @ 532-6811, ex 270

POSITIVE PARENTING & POSITIVE PARENTING OF TEENS

is done on an individual basis as space and time allow. \$30 fee for non-native clients. For info or sign up, Contact Mark @ 532-6811 ex 249.

FOCIS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Women's Support Group Tuesdays 3 p.m. to 5p.m. Self-validation & processing of abusive relationships. Intake assessments must be done before entry into the group. For info, contact Brittany@ FOCIS PROGRAM, 532-6811 ex 270.

[NEW GROUP]

BRAVE AT HEART CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

For anyone who has been touched by Cancer Meetings every 3rd Wednesday starting Feb 17th 2016 6:30 to 7:30 pm Call Ashley, 532-6811 ex.272

GUYS TAKE CHARGE GROUP

Thursday afternoons, 3:30 to 4:30 Guys from 10 to 13 are invited For info or sign-up call Ashley, 532-6811 ex 272

THURSDAY CRAFT GROUP

Explore both Modern & Traditional forms of beadwork. Thursday afternoons from 3:00pm to 5:00pm in the South Conference room, call Mark @ 532-6811 ex 249. for info or sign up.

RED ROAD TO WELLBRIETY MEETING

For those that have suffered alcoholism and drug addiction and other forms of

self-defeating behaviors, you can walk the 12 steps of the Red Road to recovery.

WEEKLY MEETINGS ON WEDNESDAY @ 6.00 PM

@ FEATHER RIVER TRIBAL HEALTH

530-534-5394

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

LOCAL DV SERVICES

FOCIS PROGRAM SERVICES

Advocacy Services, Restraining Order assistance, court accompaniment, Community education and in-service training, Crisis intervention services, Women's Talking Circles, Resource information & referral service. Feather River Tribal Health 530-534-5394 ext. 270

Catalyst DV Services

24-hour hotline for DV intervention & referrals, Emergency Shelter, Children's Program at HAVEN, Transitional Housing & Household establishment Drop-in centers, Individual counseling, Support groups, Restraining Order assistance & Court Accompaniment, Community Outreach. 24-Hour Hotline 800-895-8476 Oroville Drop-in Center 530-532-6427

SHARP (Self Help and Referral Program)

Self Help center that provides general assistance to people who do not have attorneys. Assistance is provided in the areas of family law, guardianships, evictions, small claims, name changes, and restraining orders. 1675 Montgomery Street Oroville, 530-532-7015



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