The Humboldt Sun I

Wednesday, August 28, 2019

Winnemucca, Nevada www.news4nevada.com

Vol. 53, No. 61 • 75¢

Judge Montero delivers Truancy Court report Helping juveniles

By Michelle Cook

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Officials have seen a correlation between poor school attendance — truancy — and criminal acts. Some of those officials have been monitoring and trying to abate truancy through the Truancy Court program.

Sixth Judicial District Judge

Michael Montero presented the latest Truancy Court report to the Humboldt County School Board at the Aug. 13 meeting.

Judge Montero said the Truancy Court grew out his desire to have a positive impact on the lives of young adults. "As a new judge back in 2011," he said, "I was only on the bench two years [and] I was seeing what I thought was a pretty significant number of young adults [who] were in the criminal justice system." Judge Montero determined that some had attended school up to the ninth or tenth grade, others obtained their General Education Diploma.

Judge Montero said he was seeing a correlation between

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Helping juveniles build a bright future

Trauma-informed gender response reduces recidivism

By Ashley Maden

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Gender-specific programming
in invenile and adult correctional

Gender-specific programming in juvenile and adult correctional programs have been shown to result in reduced recidivism and higher effectiveness than mixed gender programs. Gender responsive programs have been developed as it has been found that many times girls travel a different path to problems than most of their male counterparts and have different needs.

Stephanie S. Covington, P.D., L.C.S.W. developed a training curriculum titled Voices: A Program of Self-Discovery and Empowerment (2nd Edition), which aims to explore gender differences between juvenile males and females and specifically addresses ways to provide trauma informed and trauma responsive services to help young women



Consultant Tammy Rothschild discusses helping at-risk youth who have a history of trauma utilizing gender-specific approaches to create an environment of healing and recovery.

develop a positive sense of self, build healthy relationships, deal with substance abuse, physical and emotional wellness, sexuality and planning for a positive future.

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ASHLEY MADEN • The Humboldt Sun

The covered area near the splash pad can currently be reserved for small private parties, the splash pad (back) is a public facility and cannot be reserved.

Public facility reservation process causes confusion

City to review in coming year

By Ashley Maden

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Are private parties able to claim public facilities? What is the policy regarding reservations?

In the coming year,

Winnemucca city council members will review these and other questions when they investigate current allowance of public facilities to be reserved for private parties, along with the process for special events held in public areas.

At the last city council meeting, City Manager Alicia Heiser identified an ongoing issue in

which members of the public have reserved the covered areas near the parks and other recreational areas, resulting in conflict amongst other individuals as to which areas are reserved and who has the area reserved.

Heiser said this has not historically been an issue until recently with the splash pad and — See RESERVATION, Page Five —

WPD urges drivers to slow down as school year gears up

By Michelle Cook

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The first few weeks of school are filled with excitement and the promise of new possibilities. However, this time of year, the traffic increases as school buses pick up students, while others ride bikes or walk, and harried parents fight for a spot to drop their kids off before work. In the rush to get to school or get to work it's easy to forget that driving safety rules still apply.

The Winnemucca Police Department urges drivers to slow down and use caution as the school year gears up especially before and after school hours. According to research by the National Safety Council, most of the children who lose their lives in bus-related incidents are four to seven years old, and they're walking. They are hit by the bus, or by a motorist illegally passing a stopped bus.

The most dangerous time for the school zone and beyond is the after-school period from 3-4 p.m. That's when more school-age pedestrians are killed by motorists than at any other time of day, according to the American Automobile Association.

A few precautions go a long way toward keeping children safe:

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TRAUMA

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Training Consultant Trammy Rothschild presented the one-day trauma informed training as part of Covington's Voices curriculum currently used by Humboldt County Juvenile Services. The training was brought to Winnemucca by juvenile services as part of their training curriculum and offered for free for the public.

Gender-specific programs are those that intentionally allow research and knowledge on female and male socialization and development regarding risks, strengths and needs to determine the most appropriate treatment and services while creating an environment based on safety, respect and dignity and acknowledging that gender does make a difference in service and development needs.

For example, the training speaks to differences in moral reasoning between girls and boys. It is said that girls often make moral decisions based on the relationships involved and whether they care about someone or someone cares about them. Boys are said to more often make moral decisions based on rules and laws involved rather than emotions.

Rothschild said that females tend to externalize success and internalize failure and males tend to internalize success and externalize failure.

Along with gender-specific responses in treatment services, trauma specific services are also designed to specifically address violence and trauma and related symptoms, with a goal of facilitating healing and recovery. Core principles of trauma-informed care include safety (physical and emotional), trustworthiness, choice, collaboration and empowerment.

Trauma may include a number of different experiences such as catastrophic injuries/illnesses, rape or assault, muggings, domestic violence, burglary, automobile accidents, immigration, natural disasters, terrorism events, witnessing violence such as a parent harming another parent, loss of a loved one and severe bereavements (even of a pet), combat/war, torture, kidnapping and intergenerational (cultural) trauma

The training points out that females and males experience different types of trauma and process it differently.

Females are said to be more likely to be abused by a family

member, three to four times more likely than boys to be victims of sexual abuse and abuse with girls tends to start earlier and last longer, whereas boys typically experience trauma in one event. It's also stated that 70-90% of system-involved girls have a history of victimization (emotional, physical, and/or sexual abuse).

In male trauma statistics, 77% of boys are said to be exposed to violence, 88% experienced a stressful event in the past year, 76% witnessed violence, 21% were victims of physical assault, 8.5% were victims of physical abuse and 3.4 were victims of sexual assault. Minority males are reportedly at a greater risk for violence, incarceration, poverty and have lower rates of high school completion.

When serving youth who have been through trauma, Rothschild said it's important for authority figures including parents, staff members in juvenile treatment programs and other adult influences to be on the same page regarding behavior intervention actions and assisting in positive behavior modification to ensure consistency.

Behavior interventions include verbal reminders, coaching, temporary privilege restrictions to overcome undesirable behavior in youth such as swearing, disrespectful body language and other negative behaviors.

Juvenile staff members also utilize client assistance plans which include a discussion with documented prompts following an incident exploring with the client/juvenile what led to a specific behavior, why a behavior occured, values and beliefs, alternatives, and cooperatively developing a plan to move forward in a positive manner. Juvenile service providers can also utilize temporary privilege and community restrictions to help curb repeated unsafe or undesirable behaviors.

Rothschild said that there are many different signs that a juvenile is in a trauma-related coping mode, including a neglect of reasonable hygiene practices. She said sometimes the best way to respond to a juvenile who is acting out of character is to just ask, "What's going on? How can I support you right now?"

Discussions and interviews with juveniles to gain a sense of what the juvenile needs to feel safe and other motivational interviewing techniques also contribute to a client-centered model of healing. Motivational interviewing communication skills include

asking open-ended questions, using affirmations, reflections and summarizations.

Open-ended questions include asking questions that generally cannot be answered with a yes or no and frames a question in a way that invites others to tell their story. Affirmations help juveniles and clients believe in themselves by recognizing their strengths and acknowledging behaviors that lead in the direction of positive change.

At the end of the training, Humboldt County Juvenile Services Director Pauline Salla said that one of her biggest takeaways from the training was that female juveniles are more effective in group settings and meetings if they are in an all-girl group, rather than a co-ed group.

Rothschild said that many times when boys and girls are in mixed groups or environments, actions are many times heavily weighted on gaining the attention or forming relationships with participants of the opposite sex, creating problems of drama and competitiveness between the other girls and taking the focus away from program participation and healing.

RESERVATION

(Cont. from Page One)

covered area adjacent to it. Individuals can call the city and reserve the covered area near the splash pad for a private party but not the splash pad. She said there has been some confusion as to what can be reserved and a few instances after hours that dispatch has even been called to involve law enforcement in resolving dis-

nutes.

In the future, Heiser recommended that public facilities be utilized on a first-come first-serve basis to avoid conflict and confusion with the reservation process. She said that it may be an option to allow companies to reserve an area for a private party with a fee, but that the public recreation areas will still be avail-

able to everyone.

Heiser said that historically the covered areas began being allowed to be reserved at some unknown point in the past. There is not a fee for reserving a public seating area.

City council members agreed to review the process and determine changes needed after this season has concluded to avoid additional confusion for areas that have already been reserved.

With regard to events held in public areas, many times they are annual events and officials agreed that it may not be necessary to publicly review an event that is held each year.

Heiser presented special event applications from neighboring municipalities and recommended a first-time public review before city council for special events, and an administrative review for recurring events after the first approval; both with a completed application for each event.

Both topics will be reviewed at a later date to be determined at a city council agenda, with the ability for members of the public to comment on the topic.

SLOW

(Cont. from Page One)

- Don't block the crosswalk when stopped at a red light or waiting to make a turn, forcing pedestrians to go around you; this could put them in the path of moving traffic.
- In a school zone when flashers are blinking, stop and yield to pedestrians crossing the crosswalk or intersection. Be aware that some guards walk to the middle of the intersection, stopping traffic on all sides.
- Always stop for a school patrol officer or crossing guard holding up a stop sign.
- Take extra care to look out for children in school zones, near playgrounds and parks, and in all residential areas.
- Don't honk or rev your engine to scare a pedestrian, even if you have the right of way.
- Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians.
- Always use extreme caution to avoid striking pedestrians wherever they may be, no matter who has the right of way.

If you're driving behind a bus,

allow a greater following distance than if you were driving behind a car. It will give you more time to stop once the yellow lights start flashing.

According to the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 484B.353 it is illegal to overtake and pass a school bus. It is a misdemeanor and subject to fines and suspension of a person's driver's license.

On most roads, bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as vehicles, but bikes can be hard to see. Children riding bikes create special problems for drivers because usually they are not able to properly determine traffic conditions. The most common cause of collision is a driver turning left in front of a bicyclist. When sharing the road with bicyclists, remember:

- When passing a bicyclist, proceed in the same direction slowly, and leave 3 feet between your car and the cyclist
- When turning left and a bicyclist is approaching in the opposite direction, wait for the rider

to pass

- If you're turning right and a bicyclist is approaching from behind on the right, let the rider go through the intersection first, and always use your turn signals
- Watch for bike riders turning in front of you without looking or signaling; children especially tend to do this
- Be extra vigilant in school zones and residential neighborhoods
- Watch for bikes coming from driveways or behind parked cars
- Check side mirrors before opening your door

If you're dropping off students, know what the specific drop-off procedures for the school year. Make sure you know them for the safety of all kids. The following apply to all school zones:

- Don't double park; it blocks visibility for other children and vehicles.
- Don't load or unload children across the street from the school.
- Carpool to reduce the number of vehicles at the school.

The Humboldt Sun Your Source for Community News

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Periodicals postage paid at Winnemucca, NV 89445 (USPS 917-480) ISSN: 1082-2976. POSTMASTER-Send address changes to: 1022 S. Grass Valley Rd., Winnemucca, NV 89445. Established Jan. 13, 1972. Published Wednesdays and Saturdays by Winnemucca Publishing, 1022 S. Grass Valley Rd., Winnemucca, NV 89445.

We reserve the right to refuse or edit material submitted to the newspaper for publication.

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