## Let's focus on how we can help the victims

She was wearing black combat boots, blue jeans and a hoodie university sweatshirt when she was sexually assaulted.

She was not drinking, and she knew her attacker. They were friends.

Samantha Oyler agreed to record her story as part of a national campaign called, "What Were You Wearing?" to put a name on a crime that goes unreported too often.

She also wanted to help dispel the myth that somehow what someone is wearing contributes to that person being sexually as-

To hear Samantha's entire story, go to http://www.famservices.com/what-wereyou-wearing/ . You can also go to Marion City Hall, Marion General Hospital, Marion Public Library, Sender Cafe, Gas City Hall, Indiana Wesleyan University and Marion High School and see other examples of clothing vic-



A SLICE OF LIFE Linda Wilk



tims were wearing when assaulted.

Samantha was a sophomore at Ball State University when she met her attacker. He was a fellow college student, who she met on social media. They started talking, then met in person and began hanging out, on campus and off campus.

The night she was sexually assaulted Samantha became a statistic. She became one of six American women who has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime, according to RAINN (Rape, Abuse

Entrance to Rosie's Little Italy at 3909 S.

the recipes that have been

handed down through three

generations to run a carry-

out-only business, much as

he and his daughter, Diana

Wilson, have done for past

year. Carry-out and some

Incest National Network).

After the assault, she said she did not know what she wanted to do. She did not want him to get in to trouble, but she did want him to know that what he did was not right. She decided to report it to the Title 9 Coordinator at Ball State University. A hearing was held and even though it was not a criminal trial, her attacker brought an attor-

"His attorney asked me if I had been drinking, what was I wearing," she said. "Not that any of that came in to play. I know people will ask. I was not drinking. I wore combat boots, jeans and then a Ball State hoodie."

Although it was in November 2015, Samantha said it is still difficult to talk about what happened to her as she sat shaking as she told her story for the interview that was taped.

When it first happened, she said she became determined not to

let what happened beat her. She had really good grades the first semester after the attack, even making the deans list.

Then due to circumstances surrounding the disciplinary hearing with her attacker, the hearing had to be redone a second time.

That left Samantha feeling kind of helpless. She started failing her classes, until realizing for her counseling and talking about what had happened was of critical importance for her healing.

"I talked about it a lot," she said. "Sometimes I felt as if I was talking in a black hole."

Despite it being difficult to discuss, Samantha said she would talk to anyone today who wanted to know because of the importance of debunking the myths around sexual violence.

"This could happen to anyone, at any time, "she said. "A lot of people assume this is a stranger, preying on you, statistics show it is someone you know."

About 85 to 90 percent of sexual assaults reported by college women are perpetrated by someone known to the victim; about half occur on a date, according to the National Institute of Justice.

It is also important to put aside any pre-conceived notions someone might have about why a person may be sexually assaulted.

Which again, is why as we focus on Sexual Violence in April, we need to remember, that "What You Were Wearing?" is not an appropriate comment to make to a victim.

"We need people to speak up, in any way you can,' she said. "It's hard and it hurts, and it is scary."

So, instead of asking about clothing, let us focus on how we can help. Let us have those hard conversations and make sure we know what local resources are available to those in need.

In Grant County we have a Sexual Assault

Response Team comprised of representatives from Hands of Hope, a division of Family Service Society, Inc., Marion General Hospital, Grant County Sheriff's Department, Marion Police Department and the Grant County Prosecutor's Office. It is members of this team who are working locally to encourage anyone who has been sexually assaulted to report the attack, no matter the circumstances surrounding the incident.

It does not matter if you were drinking when it happened. It does not matter if you knew the person or if it was a stranger, and it does not matter what you were wearing. All that matters is that consent was not given. You need to believe people care and are there to support you For help or more information call Hands of Hope's 24-hour helpline at 765-664-0701 or go to https://www.facebook.com/INHandsofHope/.

## Rosie's Little Italy to relocate, become carry out only

By Ed Breen

Probably isn't one person in a hundred who could tell you the street address of Rosie's Little Italy restaurant in Marion. But they all know where it is: South on the Bypass, just south of 38th Street. Southeast corner of 39th Street and Western

Avenue.

Western Ave., Marion. In fact, it is 3909 S. Western Ave. and it has been there since 1959 and, sadly, it is to go away as a dine-in

restaurant. "The last year with Covid has been devastating," said Tony Columbus, the owner who has been a part of the restaurant since 1966, when he got a job fresh out of high school as a busboy. With a couple of exceptions here and there – the Holiday Inn and the Meshingomesia Country Club for a few years – he has been there ever since. Now he is trying

to sell the building, but keep

catering.

He said he is looking for "something smaller" for the retooled business. The 39th Street building can accommodate 110 to 125 customers and Columbus hopes to find someone who wants a large venue with a long history.

Most of the recipes and the restaurant tradition begin with his grandmother, Sarah Columbus, who came to the United States and Indiana from Sicily. But it was her daughter, Rose Pavlick, who started the restaurant and from whom the business got its name.

It all began in 1949 when she decided to open a restaurant a long way from the Bypass location. Roise's

**Suzy Shaffer** 

Little Italy opened that year in a building at 202 E. Charles St., in the heart of what was then the Active Products industrial neigh-

borhood.

All went well for a decade and in 1959 the Columbus family built the current home of Rosie's at what was then the southwest edge of town. It fronted on Western Avenue, then a two-lane street before the bypass came along.

See Rosie's, Page 12



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