

Denise Brown talk highlights need for domestic violence eradication

Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance sponsors fund-raising presentation

By JENNIFER NEWSTED
IVN Staff Writer
Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance (IVSHA) feels that the time for quiet work has ended. Besides establishing the Home Valley Center for Advocacy in the former

Dalton gave the audience a few statistics. “One in four women will be abused by the time she is 18. One in three women will be silent survivors of incest by the time she’s 18. “One in seven boys will

chological abuse. Her examples were the types of phrases that chip away at one’s self-esteem. She spoke about the escalation to hitting, punching, kicking, and throwing against a wall. She verbally illustrated the next phase if a victim is lucky enough to survive the violence; the honeymoon phase. The honeymoon phase is filled with “I’m sorry” and excuses, gifts and flowers. But the phase almost never results in the batterer taking responsibility for their violent behavior. Brown explained, “A taboo has been broken when somebody hits you once. It makes that second hit that much easier.” Some signs of an unhealthy relationship are not as obvious as others. According to Brown, red flags include: Has your partner ever hit you? Is your partner overly jealous? Does your partner get violent when drinking? Is your partner able to empathize? Does your partner have a Jeckyl and Hyde personality? Does your partner put you down? “For anyone trapped in an abusive relationship it’s like walking an emotional tightrope always just about to fall,” said Brown. “We have to do everything possible to stop this vicious cycle of domestic violence.

“It’s simple. Start in your own little community and venture out from there. Start working to get uniform laws,” Brown explained. The message Brown preached was strong. Domestic violence is a tragic situation for everyone in the household. Children raised in homes with domestic violence are often able to give details of the abusive events that their parents thought the children did not know about. Children also are likely to have symptoms of post-traumatic stress syndrome and can carry scars from witnessing this behavior well into their adult lives. When asked about the most recent O. J. Simpson headlines Brown said, “The only thing that changed this time around was that we didn’t have to go to a funeral. It brought back the media and the attention. It brought back everything that these kids had to live through 13 years ago. “The one thing I say is that everything happens for a reason. Every time he (O.J. Simpson) does something stupid, I have a chance to be on TV and talk about domestic violence. I don’t want to make light of it, but I truly believe that everything happens for a reason.”



IVSHA’s Chris Mallette and Denise Brown. (Photo by Jennifer Newsted, Illinois Valley News)

branch office of the bank with a generous grant from Home Valley Bank, IVSHA plans to continue its fund-raising efforts with a plan to purchase the property adjacent to the building as the home of a future safe house. On Saturday, Oct. 13, at the Grants Pass High School Performing Arts Center, IVSHA had speakers Mary Dunn Dalton, who runs Dalton House in Medford to assist battered women; and Denise Brown, sister of Nicole Brown Simpson, the late wife of O.J. Simpson. The women spoke to an audience of some 65 persons about domestic violence and the work they have done locally and nationwide to make the public aware of the problems and to assist victims seeking help to leave unhealthy environments.

be physically abused by the time they’re 18. Twenty-five percent of married women will experience at least one episode of violence by the time they end that relationship.” According to Dalton, these statistics are identical to the statistics from 1977. The differences now are that there are high statistics around lethality; more women are dying at the hands of loved ones. The second is that where it used to take between one and four episodes of domestic violence for a woman to leave, it now takes between seven to 10 episodes for a woman to leave the relationship for good. Denise Brown lost her sister on June 12, 1994. The famous trial that ensued and resulted without the conviction of O. J. Simpson caused Brown to make a promise to her sister so that she did not die in vain. Her promise to her sister was a pledge to dedicate her time and energy to community awareness through public speaking, helping pass legislation and challenging communities to stand up and not tolerate domestic violence.

She takes this promise seriously, and her calendar is currently booked with 15 speaking engagements between Oct. 4 and Nov. 15 that have her criss-crossing the country. Brown spoke about the cycle of violence. She addressed the need that abusive individuals feel to control another human being. She provided examples of verbal, emotional, and psy-

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The sense that someone else cares always helps because it is the sense of love.

- George E. Woodberry -

Barlow’s Rockydale pond permitted

By WALLY AIKEN
For IVN
The purview of Josephine County commissioners in land-use decisions seems to be at the center of a controversy concerning a Barlow Sand & Gravel LLC operation off Rockydale Road in rural Cave Junction. Barlow, of Grants Pass, was contracted to dig an approximate 4.5-acre pond on land owned by Little Elm Ranch just off Rockydale. The pond is to be an irrigation resource for an alfalfa-growing operation currently irrigated with water from the east fork of Illinois River.

An agricultural permit was issued to Barlow by county planner Mike Snider, but the volume of material to be removed from the site required that the state issue a mining permit. If material of more than 5,000 cubic yards is being removed, the state classifies the operation as a mine. Barlow obtained a mining permit as well, and began digging the pond two months ago.

During the county commission meeting Wednesday, Oct. 3 in Grants Pass, Illinois Valley resident Angel Navarro brought the situation to the attention of the commissioners. He stated that because the state required a mining permit for the operation, the county should be obliged to follow suit and require what is termed a conditional permit. A conditional permit is a much more involved process that can cost thousands of dollars. During the Wednesday, Oct. 10 meeting of the commissioners, Vice Chairman Dave Toler was asked what had been done concerning Navarro’s complaint. He

stated that a meeting had taken place with the commissioners, Snider, and Bill Peterson, an executive of Barlow all present to discuss the situation. He did not elaborate on what was discussed, but indicated that it was a more complex issue than was immediately apparent. In a later conversation with Peterson, Illinois Valley News was told that the meeting occurred on Sept. 20 and that he had been assured that all requirements

had been met to continue the operation. He added that the county’s role was in the land-use issue and that the pond was being dug for agricultural reasons, and thus required only the less-stringent agricultural permit. Some Rockydale residents have been upset by the number of trucks traveling on the road. A Barlow spokesperson stated that three trucks each are making approximately 15 round-trips daily, and contends that

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