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“...The Good Fight”

Oregon Department of Justice Domestic Violence Prosecutor Newsletter

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Imagine that you are a victim of rape, and that your rapist’s attorney has subpoenaed all of your cell phone records for the stated purpose of contacting everyone you know and asking them questions about you.

Imagine that your young-adult son was killed by an impaired driver, and that you generously agreed to his staying out of prison as long as he quits using controlled substances or alcohol. Subsequently, you learn that he has continued to use controlled substances and alcohol and that two probation-violation hearings have been held – without any notice to you – at which everyone who did get notice and was present agreed that he could remain on probation.

Imagine that you are elderly. One night, a belligerent, drunken stranger starts kicking at your front door. Obviously frightened, you call the police, and he is arrested. Later, when you check on the status of your case, you learn that the defendant has been allowed to plead guilty to another charge, which did not require him to acknowledge having harmed you or to pay for the damage to your door.

All of these things have happened to crime victims in Oregon since the Oregon Crime Victims Law Center (OCVLC) opened in July 2009. They could have happened to us. They could have happened to you, because crime – like cancer – can be terrifyingly and devastatingly random.

But the victims described above were not alone. As crime victims, they had rights, *and* they were able to obtain no-cost legal representation from OCVLC to assert and enforce those rights because long-time crime victims’ advocates – including former Attorney General Hardy Myers – had the foresight to create OCVLC and obtain our initial funding.

Two years later, OCVLC has provided the victims whose situations are described above and numerous other crime victims across Oregon with free legal help in asserting

and enforcing their rights in state, federal and tribal courts.

In addition, OCVLC has:

- Provided crime victims with non-legal advocacy services, such as helping them to find safe housing or to obtain copies of police or other reports or information to which they were entitled.

- Educated hundreds of prosecutors and defense attorneys, victims’ advocates and others about crime victims’ rights and the role that crime victims must be allowed to play in the criminal-justice system.

OCVLC’s first stage of operation culminated on May 27, 2011 when we won the first-ever appeal, to the Oregon Supreme Court, of a trial court’s denial of a crime victim’s rights. (*State v. Barrett*, <http://www.publications.ojd.state.or.us/S059423.htm/>).

In that case, the Oregon Supreme Court, ruling unanimously, held that when a victim has made a timely request to be notified of the defendant’s sentencing proceeding, the trial court must do the sentencing over if that right is violated.

As we move into our third year, OCVLC’s goals are all about expansion. Expanding our staff and the number of volunteer attorneys and non-attorney volunteers who help us leverage our actual staff. Expanding the number of people who are personally and financially committed to the continued development of crime victims’ rights in the face of limited federal and state resources.

We look forward to your being a part of this exciting time in our history.

Submitted by Cristina Damiani, Administrative Director, and Janine Robben, Legal Director



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OF NOTE:

A column featuring DV cases tried by local prosecutors so we can learn from each others' accomplishments, strategies, and, trial challenges.

Domestic Violence Death is Murder : State v. Fitzhugh

- Prosecuted and Written by Josh Marquis, Clatsop Co. DA

The Clatsop County District Attorney's Office just completed the prosecution of 40-year old Christopher Fitzhugh for systematically beating to death his 43-year old "fiancé" Evelyn Decker. Fitzhugh beat Evelyn with his hands and feet over a one-week period in July, 2010.

Fitzhugh is doing 30 years of Measure 11 time for Murder by Abuse. Twenty-five of those years is for Murder, with an additional five years for one of the two Assault 2 charges to which he pled guilty. The challenge, as in most DV death cases, was to get past a manslaughter charge because it would have been almost impossible to prove an intentional act. The sentence then, as happens all too often, would have been as little as 6 or 10 years for this brutal crime. The case benefited from very good police work followed by some creative pleading, in which we charged Fitzhugh with Murder by Abuse for recklessly causing Evelyn's death under circumstances that showed extreme indifference to the value of human life. Also, Evelyn was a "dependent person" as the law defines it, and Fitzhugh was Evelyn's legal custodian, and his abuse and neglect caused her death. All those facts combined enabled us to get a Murder conviction without having to prove an intentional act.

The facts were all too familiar, horrible and sad. Astoria police detectives Andrew Randall and Sgt. Eric Halverson drove through Alabama, Mississippi, and the Gulf Coast collecting information on Fitzhugh. According to their exhaustive investigation, Fitzhugh had been hooking up with slightly older women since he was 15. He would isolate them, use them financially, and viciously beat them. The abuse was consistent and often eerily similar, but almost no one called the cops. In 25 years Fitzhugh had never been prosecuted, in some cases due to his Southern-fried charm. Many of his victims were still so scared, even after those many years the women agreed to meet my investigators only in neutral locations, hiding their home addresses.

Fitzhugh met Evelyn Decker in 2007, after she inherited a substantial estate from her late mother. Decker soon ran through all of Evelyn's money but she struggled to maintain the façade of a middle-class life. They ended up in a housing project where Evelyn did everything to keep the place spotless. Fitzhugh was insanely jealous and began violently assaulting her. Over three occasions in 2010 Evelyn took herself to three different emergency rooms or urgent care centers with injuries that she told doctors were the result of "slipping in the shower," "tripping over the dog," or "having a cabinet fall on her." The last visit was on July 22, 2010, when Evelyn refused to take off her shirt for a female ER doctor.

Evelyn called 911 on July 25, 2010. The recording captures Fitzhugh taking away the phone and telling dispatchers that it was a "wrong number," and refused to say where the call came from. At the time of Evelyn's death no one had seen her for three days. She had 14 broken ribs and absolutely no food in her system. There was no evidence Fitzhugh had ever allowed her to take a Vicodin prescription that she had just filled to ease her pain. Evelyn died an agonizing death. Evelyn was probably brain dead when Fitzhugh called 911 on August 1. He spoke to officers for hours until he was told he was likely to be arrested for Assault.

We made it clear we were willing to go to trial absent a 30-year real-time sentence. The family was kept actively involved in the case and they agreed, understanding a jury might decide to convict Fitzhugh of manslaughter, or worse, second degree manslaughter. I was surprised when, after two days of settlement talks mediated by an out-of-town judge, Fitzhugh agreed to the 30-year sentence. He reserved the right to appeal solely the issue of whether Evelyn was a dependent person, his lawyers claiming that the definition applied only to people born disabled or permanently and completely disabled. My theory was that Fitzhugh beat Evelyn so badly she couldn't eat, summon help, or go to the bathroom, and that he took over every part of her life and then allowed no one could see her because he'd be arrested.

We flew in Evelyn's son and sister from Nevada for the formal sentencing, and many family members drove in from Cowlitz County. Their victim statements were angry but eloquent.

Co-Counsel in this case was Clatsop Co. Sr. DDA Dawn Buzzard. Investigators Randall and Halverson from Astoria PD were assisted by agents from Oregon DOJ who spent dozens of hours both at the crime scene and doing analysis in prep for trial. Dr. Joann Sefanelli, MD, was the District Medical Examiner at the time of the murder; she subsequently left that post and went to work as a DA's investigator and played a critical role in the case.

The case worked because we treated it like an aggravated murder even if we knew it was unlikely to go there. DV violence that leads to death under these violent, inhumane circumstances is more than manslaughter and the resolution of this case illustrates that it should and can be treated as such.

Have Fun, Do Good!

DV Awareness Month Activities and Fundraisers—Take your pick!

The Women's Resource Center Presents:

FIRST ANNUAL SOUP FOR THE SOUL: "Bring Your Own Bowl"

Featuring Community Soup Makers : **Friday October 7, 2011**,
Seaside Convention Center 6:00 to 8:00 PM

A CARNIVAL of Fun for FAMILIES Promoting Healthy Relationships

Tickets Available At: Lucy's Books, Deja Vu Thrift Store,
Astoria/Warrenton Chamber, Seaside Chamber, Cannon Beach
Chamber , Sunset Empire Parks & Recreation (Pool)

Tickets: \$12.00 Per Person Tickets: \$25.00 Per Family 3 Or More
All Proceeds Go To Support The Hutchens House Safe Home
Project is in partnership with United Way and the Clatsop County
Domestic/Sexual Violence Council.

The Marion County Domestic Violence Council Presents:

5th Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Walk/Run

Saturday, October 8, 2011

Minto Brown Park Shelter, Salem, Oregon Race Begins at 9am.
For more information visit:
<http://www.mcdvcouncil.org/register.html>

A Benefit for Bradley Angle :

To commemorate Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the
heroism of survivors, we're teaming up with the fabulous
performers of Darcelles XV for a one-night only special. It's a drag

show, superhero style! Join Darcelle, Poison Waters, and friends
for a happy-hour of song, wit, and celebration to benefit our life-
altering programs. You're invited!

Friday, October 7 at Darcelles XV, 208 Northwest 3rd Avenue
Portland, OR 97209 Doors at 6pm, Show 6:30-7:30
\$15/person, 21+, Tickets at: www.BradleyAngle.org

A Benefit for Womenspace's:

Second Annual Every Home a Safe Home Open House & Silent
Auction. **Friday, October 21, 2011**, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM at 1577
Pearl Street, Suite 400

Featuring Cafe Yumm! Catering and King Estate Oregon Wines
Over 70 silent auction items/packages! For more information visit:
<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=zdmdc7eab&oeidk=a07e4mb815y4af7afd9>

HAVEN and the Domestic Violence Council presents:

An Evening of Light

Tuesday, October 18, 2011—6:30pm Wasco County Courthouse
Steps The Dalles, Oregon.

The evening brings to light this tragic statistic that 1 in 5 women
are victims of Domestic Violence and honors those who are
survivors of DV. For more information visit:
<http://www.haventhedalles.org/pdfs/CandleLightVigil.flyer.9.11.pdf>



Purple Ribbon...

Over the years, a number of sources have been credited with
originating the use of purple ribbon as a unifying symbol of
courage, survival, honor and dedication to ending domestic
violence.

Although the exact history of the purple ribbon is difficult to
pinpoint, across the country, families and friends of victims
have adopted the purple ribbon to remember and honor their
loved ones who have lost their lives at the hands of a person
they once loved and trusted. Shelters and local battered
women's programs use the purple ribbon to raise awareness
about the crime of domestic violence in their communities.

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Legal Update: State V. Ryan

State v. Ryan, ___ Or ___, ___ P3d ___ (September 9, 2011) (Multnomah) (AAG Janet Klapstein). Defendant was convicted of violating a stalking protective order (SPO), ORS 163.750(1), for writing delusional missives to a journalist, with whom he fantasized a "Romeo and Juliet" relationship and winning a Nobel Prize. Although the letters were not overtly threatening, they had a sinister tone when coupled with defendant's mental illness. After dozens of these notes, calls, and letters, and after her friends at work unsuccessfully tried to stop defendant from contacting her, the victim obtained a SPO, which defendant did not challenge. But defendant did not cease writing, and he began to send them to members of the victim's family, continuing to press his interest in her and fantasizing about him becoming a parent figure to her son. In one of the letters, defendant stated that he knew that the victim wished to have "a love so strong ... it would grow in splendor and last until we die." This communication, and more, resulted in his conviction. At trial and on appeal, defendant contended that because the charged conduct consisted of communications, it was constitutionally privileged under Art. I, § 8—he asserted that the state was obliged to prove the speech was threatening in nature, as is required for issuance of a SPO.

The Court of Appeals agreed, ruling that to be criminally punishable, his communications must have made it "objectively

reasonable for the victim to believe that he or she is being threatened with imminent and serious physical harm," and must be "objectively likely to be followed by unlawful acts."

Held: Reversed; conviction reinstated. [1] "[A] defendant who seeks to challenge a conviction under ORS 163.750 on free-speech grounds first must successfully attack the underlying [SPO]. Because defendant conceded the validity of the [SPO] in this criminal proceeding, his communications to the victim in violation of the order were not protected by Article I, section 8." [2] An SPO may permissibly limit all contact with the victim, and the mere fact that the legislature has narrowed the category of speech subject to prosecution to those communications that cause "reasonable apprehension regarding personal safety" of the person protected by the order simply "reflect[ed] some sensitivity to free speech rights by requiring that the state prove an additional element."

Note: The concurring opinion noted that the SPO's no-contact order was "content neutral," and the prosecution for violation of such an order serves a different purpose than the issuance of the order at the outset.

<http://www.publications.ojd.state.or.us/S059065.pdf>

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"It's the gazelles. They got a restraining order."

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LOCAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

October 26-28, 2011 Newport, Oregon:

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BOOT CAMP II

For more information contact:

erin.s.greenawald@state.or.us

October 21, 2011 McMinnville, Oregon (8am-5pm):

2nd Annual Domestic Violence Summit FREE Conference

- Hosted by Yamhill County Domestic Violence Task

For more information visit:

www.domesticviolenceresources.org

November 2-4, 2011, Portland, Oregon:

Roots of Change: Social Justice and Media today!

- Hosted by the Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force.

For more information visit:

<http://rootsofchangeconference.eventbrite.com/>

NATIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

October 5, Washington, DC:

"Perspectives from Women of Color on Domestic Violence, Economic (In)stability, and Community" - Hosted by the Center for American Progress, the Center for Family Policy and Practice and the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence.

<http://app.mx3.americanprogressaction.org/e/es.aspx?s=785&e=234865&elq=83ed79edae0a4e88974055f069ffc213>

October 14 at 10:30 AM (CST) (8:30 AM PST, 11:30 AM EST)

(Webinar): "Engaging Communities in Sexual Violence Prevention" - Hosted by Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA)

http://www.ncdsv.org/images/TAASA_SVPreventionWebinars_10-2011.pdf

October 18 (webconference, 1:00-2:30 pm ET):

"Adapting Prevention Programs to Fit Your Community: The Fourth R" - Hosted by the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance.

For more information:

http://www.ncdsv.org/images/VSDVAA_AdaptingPrevPrgrmsFitYourCommunity_10-18-2011.pdf

November 15 (webinar, 11:30–12:30 pm CT):

"Just the Way We Do Things Here: Changing the Culture of Your Court" - Hosted by WATCH. For more information:

<http://www.watchmn.org/training>

INFO, INFO, INFO: RESOURCE IDEAS FOR THE DV DDA

Check out the variety of interesting websites and tools available to you completely free!

Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence Video Lending Library:

A library of over 200 videos available to the public. The videos cover an unlimited number of DV related topics and trainings tailored to all areas of DV professionals including law enforcement, advocates, prosecutors, and general outreach. Take advantage of this fantastic resource.

http://www.ilcadv.org/resources/lending_library/Video%20Catalog%20fy09.pdf

DV Resources Available from the DOJ:

Strangulation resource material:

This brand new comprehensive training video features national experts on the subject of strangulation from detection through prosecution of strangulation cases. It's a "must-do" training for any professional who works with victims of Intimate Partner Violence.

Other resources:

A three part video series on Domestic Violence.

- "Power and Control: Domestic Violence in America"
- "Domestic Violence Law Enforcement: It Started in Duluth"
- "Domestic Violence and Health Care Practices in Action"

New DV Video Resource:

"Telling Amy's Story" is based on a timeline of events leading up to a Domestic Violence homicide that occurred in central Pennsylvania in 2001.

"You can't stay in your corner of the forest waiting for others to come to you. You have to go to them sometimes."

-Winnie The Pooh

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Looking Back: A Brief Overview of State and National Milestones in the History of Prosecution of Domestic Violence

Oregon:

1975 – First Domestic Violence Shelter opens on the West Coast, Bradley Angle.

1977 - Oregon adopted the Family Abuse Prevention Act, among the first four states in the country to do so.

1977 – Oregon becomes the first State to enact legislation mandating arrest in Domestic Violence cases.

1978 – John Rideout of Oregon is the first man indicted for marital rape, but is acquitted. Later he was jailed for harassing his wife after they broke up.

1978 – The Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence was founded.

1991 – The Oregon Legislature passed HB 2994 which allows police officers, when responding to a Domestic Violence call, to determine who the primary aggressor in the incident is and make an arrest based on that determination.

1993 – The Oregon legislature codified the definition of DV in ORS 135.230.

1997 – The Oregon legislature voted to approve a state version of the “Family Violence Option” proposed by the feds to amend welfare laws to provide for screening for Domestic Violence and provide more options for families coping with Domestic

Violence.

1997 – The Oregon legislature amended ORS 163.160 to provide increased penalties (increased to a C Felony) for the crime of assault if there is previous assault conviction involving the same victim or if the assault was committed in the immediate presence or witnessed by a minor child.

1999 – The Oregon legislature amended ORS 163.160 to provide increased penalties if perpetrator was previously convicted of multiple DV assaults.

1999 – Attorney General Hardy Myers formed the Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force.

2002 – DHS/OHA DV Council is formed

2003 - The Oregon legislature codified ORS 132.586 allowing accusatory instruments to plead Domestic Violence as an element of a crime.

2010 - The Gateway Center opened in Multnomah County

2011 - The Oregon legislature passed a bill to increase penalties for the crime of Strangulation in certain circumstances.

National:

1975 – Most U.S. states allow wives to bring criminal action against a husband who inflicts injury upon her.

1987– National Coalition Against Domestic Violence establishes the first national toll-free Domestic Violence hotline.

1990s – States begin to clarify statutorily that Battered Women’s Syndrome can be the basis for a recommendation for parole or a grant of clemency, and mandate training on Domestic Violence and BWS for the parole board. Prosecutors begin to use BWS to obtain convictions of batterers. It is also used as a defense when women kill their batterers.

1993 – The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention established the Family Violence and Intimate Violence Prevention Team within the Division of the Violence Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. The Center begins to fund community-based prevention efforts, studies on causality and consequences of Domestic Violence, evaluation programs, public education, and training.

1994 – The federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) created the first legislation acknowledging Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault as crimes and provided federal resources to encourage coordinated community responses to Domestic Violence.

2005 – VAWA was reauthorized

Oregon Firearms and Domestic Violence Task Force Provides Training for Judges and Court Staff All Around the State

The Oregon Firearms and Domestic Violence Task Force implemented five regional trainings for Oregon judges and court staff in the month of September. The training subjects included data entry protocols and procedures, forms completion (federal firearms findings and judicial notification), overview of firearms and domestic violence laws, model surrender protocols, courthouse safety, customer service in DV cases, and in-depth coverage of firearms and DV issues (for judges only). The trainings were held in Salem, Portland, Bend, Baker City, and Medford. To encourage and facilitate attendance by judges, their staff, and court staff, the Task Force offered the training in both a morning session and an afternoon session in each city, except Baker City. Each three-hour training session began with a joint session for both judges and staff during the first half and then split for the second half into judges only and staff only sessions. There were more than 140 total attendees from all around Oregon. The trainings were a great success.



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Use Your Voice to End Domestic Violence

As part of the Domestic Violence Awareness Month campaign The Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence provided this tip sheet of helpful hints for DV agencies and organizations when talking to the media about related issues. Visit their website for more information.

Preparation:

- Learn as much as possible about the person interviewing you.
- Preview the program on which you will appear so you are familiar with its structure.
- Arrive early to get familiarized with the setting.

Remember the Audience:

- Talk to the people who are seeing or hearing your story; THEY are the audience, NOT the interviewer.
- Be conversational; imagine you are having a conversation with a new acquaintance.
- Avoid unfamiliar or uncomfortable language usage.
- Avoid jargon.

First Impression Counts:

- Make your first words the most important. Short attention spans mean people lose interest quickly. Get to the point while they are still paying attention.
- Start with your conclusion, then fill in relevant facts or anecdotes, and then repeat the conclusion; if necessary draw contrast.

Know Your Message:

- Go into the interview with one or two key points you want to make; stick with them.
- Remember the importance of being concise and sticking to the message. The more you deviate from your message, the more convoluted the message becomes.
- Avoid jokes – they are rarely received in the manner in which they are intended.

Take Control:

- Use your words; do not allow the interviewer to put words in your mouth.
- If you do not like the question, change it with your response.
- Do not be afraid to admit you do not know the answer to a question. Instead, offer to find

the answer.

- Do not repeat negative charges made against you or your cause.
- Never try to muddle through an unclear topic. Ask for clarification before responding.
- Never reply to an accusation by saying “no comment.” You will appear to be guilty or hiding something. If you can’t answer, explain why.

Look ‘Em in the Eye:

- Eye contact counts. Look at the reporter questioning you – NOT into the camera. A good rule of thumb is always look at the person who is speaking.
- If you are interviewing through an IFP, look directly into the camera.

Posture: Relax without being Sloppy:

- Sit straight without being stiff. Leaning forward from the waist a bit – this body language leaves the impression of being engaged.
- Cross your legs at the ankle.
- Beware of swivel chairs – sit AND stand still.

Gesture: Keep it Simple and Small:

- Keep gestures within a triangle from the bottom of your chin to between your shoulders.

Wardrobe Counts:

- There are two dominant colors to avoid in your suit or dress – bright red and bright white – ecru or off-white reads better on camera.
- Avoid distractions: busy patterns, reflective fabrics. Solids or simple, distinct patterns are best (no pinstripe shirts, houndstooth checks or herringbone weaves).
- Avoid short skirts; skirts should fall at or below the knee.
- Be careful with jewelry. Large shiny pieces will reflect light, causing a distraction. Tight-fitting pieces can jangle and be picked up by

the microphone. Small and tight-fitting jewelry are best.

- Dress appropriately for the interview setting. A sit-down studio interview dictates business attire, an outdoor interview at an interactive site dictates more casual clothing.
- If in a seated television interview, pull the back of your jacket down and sit on it to ensure crisp shoulder and necklines.

Makeup:

- Everyone benefits from translucent powder.
- Camera lights tend to wash out your complexion - foundation, blush and lipstick are essential!
- Wear slightly more makeup than you normally would
- Avoid colors that are too bright (lime green, teal, etc.), glossy or frosted lipstick.
- Take advantage of the station’s makeup artist (if they have one)

Practice Makes Perfect:

- Anticipate questions you might be asked, rehearse answers out loud.
- If possible, videotape interviews/speeches and review tape to note where improvements may be needed.

Make Yourself at Home:

- Make sure you are comfortable in your chair, make sure it doesn’t squeak or swivel; if there is a problem, ask for help.
- Don’t be afraid to ask for water.
- Assume everything you say, from the moment you enter a news organization, is on the record.
- Introduce yourself to the technicians; talk with your interviewer about what questions will be asked and what issues will be discussed.

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Oregon Department of Justice
Domestic Violence Newsletter

610 Hawthorne Ave NE, Suite 210
Salem, OR 97301

Phone: 503-378-6347
Fax: 503-373-1936
E-mail: erin.greenawald@doj.state.or.us

**SEEN, HEARD, NOTED, AND
QUOTED:**

There is no job more interesting than the one that we do. And as they say, truth is stranger than fiction. So, if you have a funny or disturbing anecdote you'd like to share, send it my way!

They Did What?!

(Fort Worth Texas)

*A Tarrant County juror was sentenced to two days of community service after he pleaded guilty to four counts of contempt of court.

Jonathan Hudson's wrongdoing? The 22-year-old friended and messaged the defendant on a civil case about a 2008 car wreck. Texas law prohibits jurors from discussing cases on social media sites.

(Southeastern Wisconsin)

* Waukesha Police used a taser to stun a fleeing suspect because they couldn't quite get a grasp on him — what with him being naked and soapy and all.

The incident began with a report of domestic disturbance, and when police

arrived at the home there was a couple in the shower, naked. The man lunged at police, then slipped from their grasp due to the water and lather and escaped out of the residence.

After a chase and a taser blast, the man was charged with obstructing an officer, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

* Police in Caledonia questioned a suspected drunk driver just before 2 a.m. one day in mid-August.

"How long have you been drinking?" they asked.

"High school, 2005," he responded.

Based on that exchange, it might have been surprising his blood-alcohol level was only .24. He was arrested.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month History

Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) evolved from the "Day of Unity" in October 1981 conceived by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The intent was to connect advocates across the nation who were working to end violence against women and their children. The Day of Unity soon became an entire week devoted to a range of activities conducted at the local, state, and national levels.

The activities conducted were as varied and diverse as the program sponsors but had common themes: mourning those who have died because of domestic violence, celebrating those who have survived, and connecting those who work to end violence.

In October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed. That same year marks the initiation of the first national domestic violence toll-free hotline. In 1989 the U.S. Congress passed Public Law 101-112 designating October of that year as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Such legislation has passed every year since with NCADV providing key leadership in this effort. Each year, the Day of Unity is celebrated the first Monday of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

– Adapted from the *1996 Domestic Violence Awareness Month Resource Manual* of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

A PROCLAMATION

During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we recognize the significant achievements we have made in reducing domestic violence in America, and we recommit ourselves to the important work still before us. Despite tremendous progress, an average of three women in America die as a result of domestic violence each day. One in four women and one in thirteen men will experience domestic violence in their lifetime. These statistics are even more sobering when we consider that domestic violence often goes unreported.

Read the full proclamation by President Obama by accessing the link here:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/10/03/presidential-proclamation-national-domestic-violence-awareness-month>

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