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YOU'RE WATCHING DURANGO TV NEWS. I'M WENDY GRAHAM SETTLE.

A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED SPEAKER ON CREATING SAFER SOCIAL MEDIA ENVIRONMENTS IS GENERATING CONTROVERSY IN DURANGO, BUT NOT IN THE WAY HER SPONSORS EXPECTED. THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SERVING SOUTHWEST COLORADO HAS INVITED MONICA LEWINSKY AS ITS 2019 MAKING A DIFFERENCE SPEAKER TO ADDRESS THE TOPIC OF BULLYING IN CYBERSPACE. LEWINSKY WAS

THE CENTRAL FIGURE IN THE LATE 1990S SEX SCANDAL INVOLVING THEN-PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON. CLINTON INITIALLY LIED ABOUT THE AFFAIR WITH

LEWINSKY, BUT LATER ADMITTED HE HAD HAD AN INAPPROPRIATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE YOUNG INTERN AFTER LEWINSKY'S SECRETLY TAPED CONFESSION WAS RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC. CLINTON WAS IMPEACHED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, BUT WAS ACQUITTED BY THE SENATE AFTER A FIVE-WEEK TRIAL. THE EVENTS OCCURRED JUST AS THE WORLD WIDE WEB, E-MAIL, AND BLOGS WERE BEGINNING THEIR METEORIC RISE AS COMMUNICATION TOOLS, AND LEWINSKY SUFFERED THE WRATH OF THOUSANDS ONLINE.

Briggen Wrinkle: "SHE HAS AN AMAZING STORY TO TELL ABOUT BULLYING AND BEING KIND OF THIS FIRST CYBER BULLIED PERSON. AND WE'VE LEARNED SO MUCH FROM THAT THAT EXPERIENCE THAT SHE LIVED THROUGH AND NOW SHE'S BACK AND SHE'S TALKING ABOUT IT. AND IT IS SO WELL DONE, AND WE REALLY WANTED TO BRING IT TO LIGHT, AND WE THOUGHT CYBERBULLYING IS HARD WHY NOT BRING SOMEONE IN THAT COULD START THE CONVERSATION."

DESPITE HER EFFORTS TO REDEEM HERSELF BY BECOMING AN ANTI-BULLYING ADVOCATE, LEWINSKY'S ROLE IN THE CLINTON AFFAIR CONTINUES TO GENERATE CONTROVERSY. IN DURANGO, TICKET SALES ARE SLOW FOR HER PRESENTATION AT 7 P.M. ON TUESDAY, APRIL 23RD, AT THE COMMUNITY CONCERT HALL. WRINKLE SAYS

SHE HAS RECEIVED DOZENS OF NEGATIVE COMMENTS REGARDING LEWINSKY'S APPEARANCE IN DURANGO, BUT SAYS SHE BELIEVES EVERYONE DESERVES A SECOND CHANCE TO OVERCOME MISTAKES.

Brigen Wrinkle: "SHE WAS YOUNG WHEN THAT HAPPENED. WE KNOW NOW THAT THERE WAS NO WAY SHE REALLY COULD HAVE GIVEN CONSENT. IT'S THE MOST POWERFUL PERSON IN THE WORLD WAS THE PERSON THAT SHE WAS SEXUALLY WITH, AND SO WE CAN'T LOOK AT THAT AND SAY THAT THAT WAS AN EVEN PLAYING FIELD."

LEWINSKY'S PRESENTATION WILL COVER CYBERBULLYING, DEPRESSION AND SUICIDE FOLLOWED BY A PANEL OF LOCAL EXPERTS WHO WILL DISCUSS THE

IMPACTS OF BULLYING AND HOW TO TALK TO KIDS ABOUT BULLYING.

WRINKLE SAID THIS YEAR'S MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOPIC WAS PROMPTED BY THE HIGH SUICIDE RATE IN LA PLATA COUNTY.

Biggen Wrinkle: "IT'S A PROBLEM THAT'S BEEN AROUND FOREVER, BUT IT'S GOTTEN A LITTLE BIT MORE VICIOUS WITH SOCIAL MEDIA, BECAUSE THERE'S NOT A FACE-TO-FACE INTERACTION. BACK IN MY DAY, NOT TO AGE MYSELF BUT, WE WOULD GO OUT ON THE PLAYGROUND AND WE WOULD JUST DUKE IT OUT. NOW YOU CAN HAVE ANONYMITY YOU CAN SEND MESSAGES THAT YOU WOULDN'T SAY IN PERSON. IT'S SO VICIOUS. I WAS AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO FOR A MEETING AND THERE WAS A GROUP OF ADULTS TALKING ABOUT HOW THE NEW SAYING THAT TEENAGERS SAY TO EACH OTHER IS, "GO KILL YOURSELF", AND THEY SAID IT WITH SUCH A BLASE' LIKE YEAH THIS IS JUST WHAT HAPPENS. WE CANNOT ACCEPT THAT. WE HAVE TO ASK OUR CHILDREN TO BE KIND AND WE'RE REALLY TRYING TO TAKE A STEP BACK AND NOT JUST LOOK AT SUICIDE BUT THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS TO SUICIDE. CAN WE START EARLIER, SO THAT PEOPLE DON'T EVEN GET TO THE POINT WHERE THEY'RE CONTEMPLATING SUICIDE?"

YOU CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT LEWINSKY'S APPEARANCE IN DURANGO AND PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE AT [SWCOMMUNITYFOUNDATION.ORG](http://SWCOMMUNITYFOUNDATION.ORG).

THANKS FOR WATCHING THIS EDITION OF DURANGO TV NEWS. IF YOU LIKED THIS STORY, YOU CAN WATCH IT AGAIN ON OUR WEBSITE AT [DURANGOTV.COM](http://DURANGOTV.COM), WHERE YOU ALSO CAN FIND AN ARCHIVE OF ALL OUR PAST STORIES AND SIGN UP FOR OUR DAILY NEWSLETTER. IN THE MEANTIME, YOU CAN CATCH US ON DURANGO CABLE TV CHANNEL 15. I'M WENDY GRAHAM SETTLE FOR DURANGO TV NEWS.