

Editorial Opinion

Naples Daily News

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MONTH

For many, scary world is in their home

Editorial Board
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The dirty outside world is pretty scary these days.

Red tide has persisted on and off for nearly a year, making it a daily uncertainty whether it's safe to go to the beach for fear of respiratory distress or the unpleasant sight of dead sea life washed up on the beach. In the Fort Myers-Cape Coral area and as far south as the Lee-Collier county line, blue-green toxic algae has spoiled waterways. Now there's a recent bloom that's turned Gulf waters brown along Collier's coastline.

Then there's politics, from the battle over a U.S. Supreme Court nomination to Washington, D.C., stagnated by polarized parties to candidates for high office in the state accusing one another of lying, deceit and corruption. Its omnipresent in the outside world as the Nov. 6 election approaches.

Yet October is a month to remember that, for some, scary is defined by what's within the walls of their residence. They can't look beyond the despair of living within those walls to fret much about the outside world. They live in physical, emotional and-or financial fear of an abusive, controlling or violent person.

In our scary world, this is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

All around us

The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence website offers some national and state figures of the magnitude of the problem:

■ 1.3 million women yearly are victims of physical assault by a partner.

■ On average, three women are killed by husbands or boyfriends every day in the U.S.

■ More than 100,000 domestic violence acts annually are reported to Florida law officers, based on the latest available data.

But that's the nation and state. It can't happen here in Southwest Florida where it's paradise, right? It can. It does.

Recent news reports chronicled violence in Collier County targeting two female teenagers who each had been involved in relationships. Last year there was a deadly case that ended in a murder-suicide of senior citizens in one of Collier's more affluent gated communities; authorities said domestic violence was in the home.

In a guest commentary publishing Sunday on these pages, The Shelter for Abused Women & Children reports that in 2017 in Collier there were 1,794 reports of domestic violence, or nearly five every day. Those numbers included two killings, 29 rapes and 317 aggravated assaults, the shelter reports.

The shelter provided a pin map showing where those 1,794 domestic violence calls came from that led to written reports by law enforcement officers. It's shocking documentation of a concentration of calls in every population center in Collier. No, this isn't a problem just in communities historically thought to be higher crime areas. It's pervasive.

Act on the act

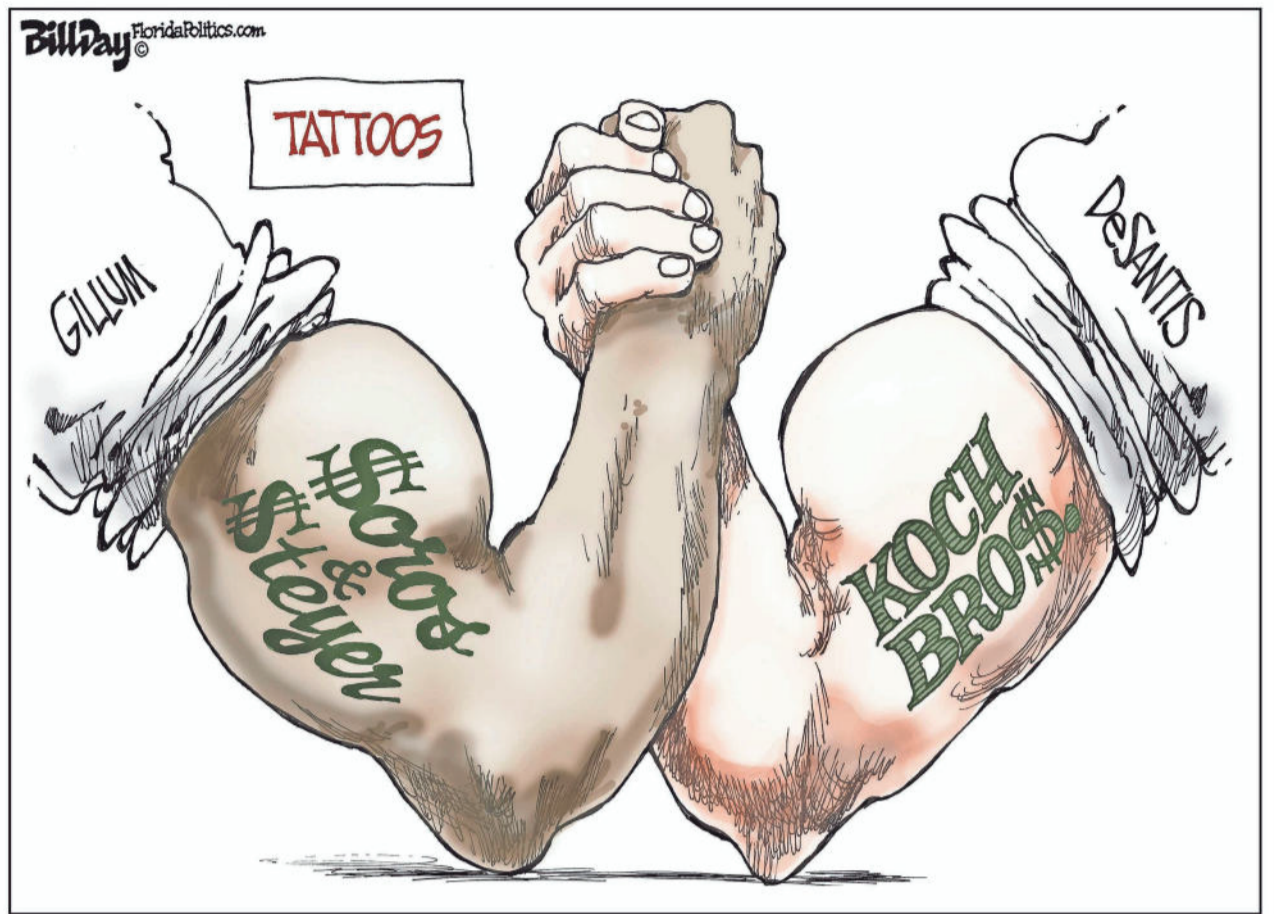
As the calendar turned to October and National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the clock shamefully was running out on the federal Violence Against Women Act.

Approved in 1994, the act was designed, in part, to provide money to social service agencies that support victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. The act was approved after a historic battle over a Supreme Court nomination in 1991 in which sexual harassment allegations were raised. Sound familiar?

The act was set to expire Sept. 30.

President Trump signed a bill keeping the government open that included extending the act's existence into early December.

October is a month for special attention to domestic violence. November is a month for elections. By December, we hope federal lawmakers are prepared to consider extending the act on more than a temporary basis.



LETTERS

Elitism keeping out municipal golf courses

Why has Collier County not had a municipal golf course in the last 90 years? I believe I have a one word answer: Oligarchy, defined as a power structure that allows a few businesses, families, or individuals to rule. Books and news articles have used this word to identify names of those who have supported Russian President Vladimir Putin and others government leaders around the world today and throughout history.

While other counties and cities over the United States and the world have had municipal golf courses for their common people, Collier County has had none.

For over many years our county commissioners have denied proposals to fund and add municipal golf courses to Parks and Recreation. Obviously, this has been the case since Collier County was named. Shame on them.

Collier has over 75 country club and private golf courses and many wonderful public parks for recreation and sports facilities, including a recently opened wonderful new \$9.2 million aquatic center. Where did this money and approval come from?

In the past three years, I have clipped many items published in Naples Daily News. To the many common people who have written about the need for affordable golf in Collier County, I believe the only way that Collier will have one will only come when the oligarchies want one.

I have gathered a lot of other information regarding the golf course history in Collier County, but will depend on our two Naples Daily News reporters and the Editorial Staff to investigate what happened since Tim Allen and Brent Batten wrote about this subject in March of 2016.

Edward Tappen, Naples

Ideology counts most for leftists

"I'm mad and I am not going to take it anymore"

Give the leftists credit. They are like bulldogs on a bone. They bite, they chew, they spew. They all tell the same tale of woe and despair as though the Democratic National Committee spoon fed them the information and they go out to the media, they all tell the same story and there is safety and believability when the story is repeated over and over again.

Christine Blasey Ford has been pictured with a placard saying that President Donald Trump is "Not my President." To me, she is a political activist who cares not about her family and cares only about her political stance. I for one would buy her a ticket, one way, to anywhere in the world, as she said that if Kavanaugh were to become a Supreme Court justice, that she would leave the country. Kavanaugh has repeatedly said that Roe v Wade is law.

The Democratic women in the Senate, starting with senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris, don't know the facts. In reality the facts are unimportant to them. Their prime concern is to protect Roe v Wade. The well-coordinated progressives will do anything to protect a woman's right to her body.

Feinstein had the letter from Ford since July and would not release it until Kavanaugh's confirmation was at hand. It is a stall tactic as the Democrats, with fingers crossed, hope they can prevent the Supreme Court from being tilted against them. She said she wanted to protect Dr. Ford, to which I say, "liar, liar, pants on fire." They care not about ruining a man's reputation and family. They only want to protect their own ideology.

Michael Zubrow, Naples

Passidomo fights identity theft

Identity theft can happen to anyone at any time. Since 2005, over one billion personal records have been exposed nationwide. No longer do you have to worry if your information is available to identity thieves, you can assume they already have it. As the methods and techniques used by identity thieves evolve it is crucial to have an advocate in Tallahassee. That advocate is state Sen. Kathleen Passidomo.

She began fighting for Floridians during her time as a state representative. As a representative, she successfully submitted a bill strengthening Florida Statute 817, fraudulent practices. This bill, which became law Oct. 1, 2015, finally made business identity theft a crime and increased the penalties for medical identity theft from a misdemeanor to a felony. She is also an active member of the Collier Identity Theft Task Force, a coalition of community members working together to combat identity theft in Collier County.

As senator, she has continued to advocate for identity theft victims as well as protecting the personal information of Floridians. After Hurricane Irma, she assisted constituents that were victims of Federal Emergency Management Agency identity theft, where someone applied for and received FEMA assistance using the identity of a local resident.

At some point, if it hasn't happened already, you will become a victim of identity theft. You will want to have an advocate in Tallahassee. In November, vote to re-elect Passidomo.

Carrie Kerskie, Naples

Don't misuse parking tags for the disabled

Many people, who are not the least bit handicapped, park in handicapped parking places just because they have a handicap tag that likely belongs to a handicapped family member. Apparently these folks look upon the family member's handicap tag as a convenience for them so they can park close to the store. Those red and blue tags are actually necessities for those on canes, walkers and crutches who have difficulty walking from the back of the parking lot. So I ask all of you with handicapped relatives, please leave the sticker at home when you go out alone and leave the handicapped parking places for those who actually need them.

Victor Caroli, Naples

Think of world before voting

Realizing that the USA is on a road to recovery, the economy is exploding, jobs are out there, our military is stronger and America is standing proud at last, how could any person vote for a Democrat and go back to the depressing years of President Barack Obama and "Dishonest Hillary (Clinton)" years. Think of the world you prefer before you vote.

Jeanne Romen, Naples

Doesn't believe Kavanaugh's denials

When someone is stone drunk, they often do not remember what transpired while they were inebriated. We know that Judge Brett Kavanaugh used to drink heavily, by his own admission and the book, "Wasted," by his friend, Mark Judge.

So how could Kavanaugh possibly be sure of what he did or did not do while in this altered state.

His roommate at Yale says that he used to get aggressive and abusive towards women while drunk. I believe that. I do not believe his denials, since his heavy drinking could certainly cause memory lapses.

Jude Richvale, Bonita Springs