

EditorialOpinion

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Help end the scourge of domestic violence

Your Turn

Linda Oberhaus
Guest Columnist

It was 2 a.m. Jennifer awoke to Jay's demand that she make him a sandwich. When she told him she was tired, he threw her to the floor and began punching her. Nearby in his crib, their three month-old son awoke to the screams and began to cry.

Jennifer struggled free, grabbed the baby and ran outside. A neighbor heard her cries and called 911. Jay grabbed Jennifer by the hair and dragged her back into the house. He threw her on the couch and told her if she ever ran from him again, he would kill her. He had Jennifer pinned against the wall when Sheriff's deputies arrived. Jay was arrested and officers told Jennifer about The Shelter. She arrived hours later.

At The Shelter, Jennifer received counseling and legal assistance. A judge granted her a 10-year injunction for protection. She and her son began to heal. Today she is piecing her life back together.

Although the names were changed, Jennifer's story is true. She is one of thousands of survivors served by The Shelter since it began in 1989 and among the one in four American women who suffer physical violence at the hands of spouses, intimate partners or family members during her lifetime.

During October's National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, The Shelter is calling on every Southwest Florida resident to take a stand for countless victims and survivors like Jennifer, their children and families, their friends and their communities -- impacted by domestic violence.

Although The Shelter is probably best known for protection, it is but one leg of our three-pronged mission to prevent, protect and prevail over domestic violence and human trafficking.

The Shelter's prevention programs work with young people to recognize the signs of unhealthy relationships and learn what they can do to keep themselves safe. Our Raising Gentle'men program helps young men and boys challenge traditional male stereotypes

Guest commentaries

A guest commentary can be 600 words or less on a topical subject. Authors must have considerable experience, public involvement or expertise in the subject matter. Due to the large number of guest commentaries we receive, these may be returned to the author with a recommendation to resubmit it as a letter to the editor within the guidelines for letters. Submit to letters@naplesnews.com.

to break the cycle of abuse. Our community and professional education programs provide employers, medical personnel, and first responders with the tools needed to recognize and provide assistance when they suspect abuse.

Jennifer's life might have been different had she learned the warning signs of an unhealthy relationship. Perhaps her employer or physician might have intervened had he or she known the signs of abuse and how to offer her assistance. Jay's life might have been impacted by a

Raising Gentle'men advocate. We will never know.

What we do know is domestic violence is not "somebody else's problem." Last year in Collier County, there were 1,611 calls to 911 regarding domestic violence. According to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the reported domestic violence offenses in Collier County included three murders, 41 rapes and 265 aggravated assaults. Chances are very likely you know at least one of these victims because domestic violence crosses all ethnic, economic and geographic boundaries. We cannot remain silent. We must take a stand to help victims and, ultimately, put an end to domestic violence and human trafficking in Southwest Florida.

Assistance is a phone call away. If you or someone you know is impacted by domestic violence, call The Shelter's crisis line at (239) 775-1101. If you want to learn how you can take a stand, call (239) 775-3862 or go online to naplesshelter.org.

Linda Oberhaus, CEO, The Shelter for Abused Women & Children

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Thursday, Oct. 3, the 276th day of 2019. There are 89 days left in the year.

On this date:

1942: President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Office of Economic Stabilization.

1961: "The Dick Van Dyke Show" made its debut on CBS.

1995: The jury in the O.J. Simpson murder trial in Los Angeles found the former football star not guilty of the 1994 slayings of his former wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and Ronald Goldman (however, Simpson was later found liable for damages in a civil trial).

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Singer **Chubby Checker** is 78. Singer **Gwen Stefani** is 50. Actress **Lena Headey** is 46. Singer **India.Arie** is 44. Singer **Ashlee Simpson** is 35. Rapper **A\$AP Rocky** is 31. Actor **Noah Schnapp** ("Stranger Things") is 15.

BIBLE QUOTE

Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God. 3 John 1:11

LETTERS POLICY

Note to readers: The Naples Daily News has revised its guidelines for letters to the editor. Letters can be 220 words or less. We might edit them for accuracy, clarity and taste, to eliminate personal attacks and prevent libel. We might reject letters or return them to senders, who can rewrite them for resubmission. The sources of statistics or assertions of facts that aren't common knowledge must be cited in the same sentences. No poetry, letter-writing campaigns or airing of personal grievances or complaints about businesses will be considered. Submissions must be made online via the form at naplesnews.com or by email to letters@naplesnews.com. Publication is limited to one letter per writer per month. For verification, letter writers must provide a home address and phone number, but only the community name will be published with the letter writer's name. The Daily News strives to print as many letters as possible, but not all letters will be published. Shorter letters are preferred so that more writers can be included. Priority also is given to letters about local events and issues.

Conservatives, confront danger that automation could pose to society

Don't let the left tell you that the only solution is bigger government

Tim Chapman
Special to USA TODAY

What will blue-collar jobs look like 20 years from now? Brian Bledsoe doesn't know, but he understands that change is coming. Automation could mean the end of jobs like his, and Republicans have a chance to help millions of workers who could soon need help.

Brian is a truck driver living near Dallas. He got behind his first big-rig wheel in the mid-2000s, after serving in the Army. He quickly took to it, telling my organization, Heritage Action for America, that he "sat in the driver's seat and didn't look back."

Brian is not alone: About 3.5 million people worked as truck drivers last year. As recently as five years ago, it was the most common job in 29 states, including eight of the 10 most populous.

Technological advances will increasingly threaten these jobs. UPS recently experimented with autonomous delivery vehicles between Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona, as well as a longer route from Phoenix to Dallas. Last month, in Virginia, the auto manufacturer Daimler put self-driving trucks on some public roads. The federal government also gave \$15 million to a Virginia group to research how best to incorporate autonomous trucks into the infrastructure system.

These advances are being spurred, in part, by the shipping industry's growing needs. Truck freight tonnage is expected to rise by more than a quarter over the next decade, yet there's already a shortage of more than 60,000 drivers, according to the American Trucking Associations. If necessity is the mother of invention, then trucking companies will continue to look for alternative ways to fill the worker gap. Automation is the logical choice.

Brian keeps a watchful yet concerned eye on these developments. A free-market conservative who volunteers with Heritage Action, he believes that innovation benefits customers. But he also knows that many of his fellow truck drivers aren't prepared for a future when their jobs won't exist, saying that most of them "will be up a creek without a paddle."

While he guesses that a driverless future could be anywhere from 15 to 30 years away, he urges younger drivers to "start developing other skills now," while they still can.

This is good advice, and not just for



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truck drivers. Recent estimates put 25% of U.S. jobs at high risk of automation.

The loss of good paying jobs is a palpable fear for people of all political stripes. Polling conducted by Heritage Action found that 82% of Americans believe that a significant number of jobs and careers won't exist in 10 years due to automation, as well as outsourcing. We also found that nearly 90% of Americans, including clear majorities of Republicans, Democrats and independents, support putting a renewed emphasis on job training programs. The question for Republicans is how to promote job training that works.

Reams of research show that federal job training programs fail to deliver meaningful results while costing a significant amount. Surveying decades of evidence, the White House Council of Economic Advisers concluded this year that such programs are "largely ineffective." Yet according to the same analysis, "studies consistently ... show" that private-sector training is effective.

This opens a door for Republican policymakers to offer creative and conservative ways to remove regulatory barriers and incentivize more business- and community-led job training programs.

President Donald Trump has taken some praiseworthy initial steps on this front. At his direction, the Department of Labor is developing a novel private sector-driven apprenticeship program. He has also established the Workforce

Advisory Board, which released in September a series of workforce proposals, including a business-led marketing campaign and better state-federal employment data sharing. Yet executive action alone is insufficient to address the growing need for workforce training. Congress, too, must rise to this challenge.

One worthy proposal is the Higher Education Reform and Opportunity Act. Introduced by Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, it would allow states to accredit new kinds of educational and training programs, such as those run by trade schools. Compared with the current one-size-fits-all federal accreditation system, this would spur the innovation needed to help people of all ages -- not just the young -- to obtain skills-based training. Workers facing job loss from automation may benefit the most from such bold policies.

Workforce development is slowly gaining traction on the Republican side of the aisle, while Democrats continue to advocate spending more money on existing programs. The evidence shows that more spending won't do much to help people like Brian Bledsoe and his fellow truck drivers. Like so many others, their industry is confronting technological disruption. To keep up and keep working, they need innovative policies that are at least as disruptive of the job training status quo.

Tim Chapman is the executive director of Heritage Action for America. Follow him on Twitter: @TimChapman.