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SWFLAToday

Men fight plague of domestic violence

Collier organization raises awareness, gets attention, accoldes



Brent Batten Columnist Naples Daily News USA TODAY NETWORK - FLA.

Editor's Note: Brent Batten's column was inadvertently left off of Tuesday's Page 3A.

A group of Collier County men will take to the streets later this month to raise awareness about domestic violence.

Gentle'men Against Domestic Violence has been around since 2008, partnering with the Shelter for Abused Women and Children to combat violence in the home.

Last year, the group was recognized for the first time with a proclamation by Collier County commissioners.

Commissioners plan to do the same this year at their March 10 meeting.

After that, about 30 GADV volunteers will canvass three Collier County neighborhoods, handing out information about how to spot domestic violence and what to do about it in what they're calling the Take a Stand initiative.

"This year they (GADV) really wanted to walk the walk," said Kaydee Tuff, communications manger for the shelter.

"A lot of people, unfortunately, don't even recognize they are a victim of domestic violence. They think that's what family life is like," Tuff said. "People need to know there are services. There is a shelter," she said.

After being recognized at the commission meeting, GADV volunteers will fan out into three areas, Naples Manor, Naples Park and Golden Gate, all chosen because homes are packed tightly together, meaning more homes can be covered in less time, and because statistics show domestic violence calls are concentrated in those areas.

The volunteers won't look to confront or preach. They'll merely be hanging information packets on door knobs. If they encounter people with questions, they'll be happy to answer, but the event isn't meant to be

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Naples Senior Center wants to move, faces opposition

Liz Freeman

Naples Daily News USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Naples Senior Center wants to build a two-story complex off Oakes Boulevard but residents of Oakes Estates are objecting to requested zoning changes to allow the project.

The Collier County Planning Commission on Thursday will consider two petitions to amend the land use plan and zoning from residential to "community facility" to allow a 30,000square-foot senior center.

County planning staff is recommending approval. The Collier County Commission makes the final decision.

Naples Senior Center has outgrown its current leased space at 5025 Castello Drive in Naples and has a contract to purchase nearly 9 acres at the southeast intersection of Autumn Oakes Lane and Oakes Boulevard.

The center plans to purchase anoth-

er 5 acres immediately to the east of the

site for the new complex that would be open space and a buffer, according to petition documents. The senior center operates a variety of social activity, respite care and educational programs for people 60 and

older. The vast majority of activities

begin at 10 a.m. and end around 3 p.m.

with no evening or weekend programs. The plan is for 200 parking spaces. The center has committed in writing that it will not exceed 485 daily occupancy, said Jaclynn Faffer, president

and CEO of the nonprofit organization.

Faffer

The Oakes Estates neighborhood borders Autumn Oakes Lane to the north and Vanderbilt Beach Road to the south, with Oakes Boulevard as its western border and Logan Boulevard as its

eastern border. The neighborhood consists of 2.5-acre residential parcels.

There have been two neighborhood meetings and there is overwhelming opposition to the project, according to a Dec. 8 letter to the county from the Oakes Estates Neighborhood Associa-

The association has more than 220 letters of opposition, Tom Ellis, presi-

See CENTER, Page 8A

NATURE

REPORT HORSESHOE CRAB SIGHTINGS AND SAVE LIVES



Horseshoe crabs mate year-round, but more frequently in March and April, and right now thousands are mating on the south side of the Titusville Causeway east of the Max Brewer Bridge. On Monday and Tuesday, citizen scientists for the FWC Laurilee Thompson and Bill Klein were were logging and tagging horseshoe crabs on the north side of the causeway. They counted 5,000 crabs on the south side of the causeway. MALCOLM DENEMARK/FLORIDA TODAY

Tyler Treadway Treasure Coast Newspapers USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Horseshoe crabs have been around for at least 445 million years, since well before dinosaurs roamed

You can help keep these "living fossils" around even longer.

Report horseshoe crabs you see on beaches to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. and you'll help researchers target spawning sites throughout the state for protection.

You might help save some human

Horseshoe crabs' blue blood contains a compound (Limulus amebocyte lysate) that clumps up in the presence of small amounts of toxic bacteria.

In the medical industry, it's used to test the sterility of surgical instruments and drugs used in injections and vaccinations. So if you've ever gotten a shot or undergone surgery, thank a horseshoe crab for keeping

In the food industry, the compound is used for the quality control

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Investigator clears Marco Island police in personnel file investigation

Devan Patel

Naples Daily News USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

An outside investigator has cleared current members of the Marco Island Police Department of any wrongdoing after the department was accused of destroying, removing or misplacing documents in personnel files.

In a news release issued Monday af-

ternoon, police Chief Tracy Frazzano announced the findings of the investigation that were triggered after allegations were made by a now-former offi-

The city hired Ken Afienko to conduct the investigation after John Derrig attempted to have items removed last year and accused Capt. Dave Baer of placing malicious, unofficial documents in his file. Derrig also took issue with the city



Baer

decisions in his file, which overturned two of his previous terminations.

"Over my 13 years of my employment, there (were) several uninvesti-

gated and or slanderous documents placed into my personnel file," Derrig wrote in an email to human resources

not keeping arbitration manager Leslie Sanford. "These documents were never investigated per Florida Statutes, or the dispositions were never included because there was no merit to the complaint. These documents were placed inside my file to support the malicious agenda of the prior administration. These documents are insufficient on its face and should be re-

See MARCO, Page 16A

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Batten

Continued from Page 3A

accusatory.

Law enforcement officers will accompany the canvassing teams, Tuff said.

GADV is a local effort started by volunteers who described themselves as, "dedicated to creating civility and peace in our homes, neighborhoods, schools and communities.'

John Jordan, one of the founding members, said it's important that young men understand the issue. "One of our missions is working with boys and young men in the community, educating them on what a gentleman is," he

GADV, which is not part of a national organization, is "a groundbreaking initiative that calls on men to stand as equal partners with women to stop domestic violence and human trafficking. Each year, these crimes compromise the safety of thousands of Collier County citizens with tragic, destructive and sometimes fatal results," the shelter website states.

Tuff cited the case of Jose Alfredo Avila Pena, 50, as an instance of a domestic situation turning deadly.

Pena was adjudicated guilty Friday after pleading no contest to second-degree murder in connection with the death of a 28-year-old former girlfriend near Lely High School in December. He was sentenced to life in prison.

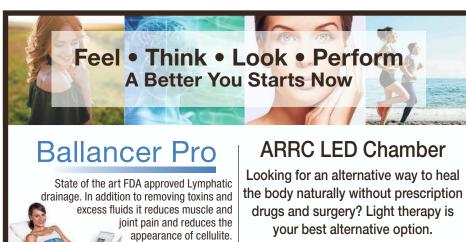
Linda Oberhaus, CEO of the Shelter for Abused Women and Children, said GADV has been an important adjunct for the shelter.

"I've enjoyed seeing the growth of the Shelter's Gentle'men Against Domestic Violence initiative over the past 12 years. Historically, domestic violence and human trafficking have been seen as women's issues. We were fortunate that in 2008, a group of dedicated men understood domestic violence not as a woman's issue, but as a male leadership issue.

"As a result, GADV has grown over the years to empower men in our community to stand with women as equal partners and become part of the solution. This is an exciting development and we have seen a growing number of younger men interested in partnering with us to ensure that our homes and our community are safe for all of our citizens," Oberhaus said in a statement in advance of next week's proclamation.

"Domestic violence is not just a woman's issue," said Dan Bennewitz, Take A Stand chairman. "Nationally, over 80% of domestic violence is perpetrated by men. It's up to men to speak out and stand as equal partners with women to stop domestic violence and human trafficking."

Connect with Brent Batten at brent.batten@naplesnews.com or via Facebook.



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Marco

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moved."

In his email to Sanford, Derrig also told city officials that other officers had the same experience.

"Prior to Sgt. Matt Goetz leaving our agency, he requested to view his personnel file," Derrig wrote. "During this review, he believes Capt. Dave Baer had maliciously placed documents inside his file. These documents were removed by Capt. Stoltenborg."

Goetz, who left the Marco Island Police Department for the Collier County Sheriff's Office, previously told the Naples Daily News that malicious notes were placed in his file without his knowledge and the ability to offer a re-

Frazzano wrote that the investiga-

tion did question document-removal procedures by former employees, who were not named in the release.

That finding was forwarded to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, which concluded: "there was no information that would substantiate a criminal act."

The department did not immediately respond to an inquiry seeking identification of the former employees.

Frazzano said the city has enhanced its internal document procedures and processes by purchasing a software program to monitor internal affairs reports and improve record-keeping for existing hard files.

The department is also working toward gaining accreditation status to implement best practices, she said.

Connect with reporter Devan Patel: @DevanJPatel (Twitter) or devan.patel@naplesnews.com



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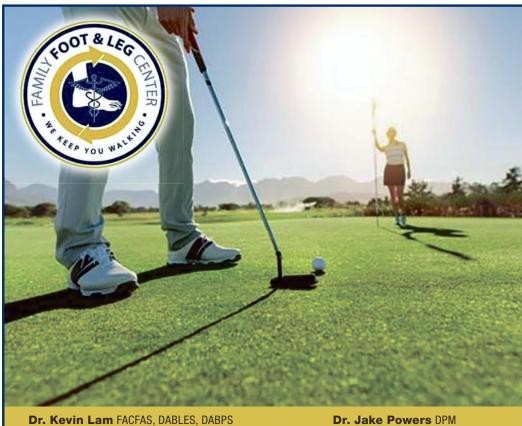
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