

SWFLATODAY

KNOW AN EVERYDAY HERO? TELL US

We are accepting nominations for the "Everyday Hero of 2014." We want stories about area residents doing extraordinary things. Email submissions to: katherine.douglas@naplesnews.com with the subject line "Everyday Hero," or mail to Katherine Douglas, 1100 Immokalee Road, Naples FL 34110 before 5 p.m. Thursday.



NO 'IN THE KNOW' COLUMN TODAY

Tim Aten's column will return next Monday.

Naples police officer Mother, ex-wife continue pension fight

By Aisling Swift
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The court battle over at least \$100,000 in lifetime benefits for a Naples police officer who shot himself continues as the mother of his three children fights to keep at least half of what she says a 2013 divorce settlement provided.

Nina Diaz Monroig, 35, of Marco Island, the ex-wife of Naples officer Dave Monroig, filed a response and counterclaim last week in Collier Circuit Court against Ivette Monroig, the officer's mother.

Both Nina Diaz Monroig's lawyer, Ray Bass, and Ivette Monroig's lawyer, Richard Inglis, contend it would be unconstitutional to rule for the other side.

Monroig, 37, shot himself in the head July 9 after shooting and injuring his girlfriend, Naples Police Sgt. Amy Young, 40, in her Estero home, according to an autopsy and Lee sheriff's report.

The Monroigs ended up in court after their attorneys argued before the Naples police and general pension boards. They were working on a settlement to share half of the pension, but Nina Diaz Monroig then sought all, prompting the board's trustees to file a complaint last month to ask a circuit judge to determine the rightful beneficiary.

The board's attorneys believe the benefits should go to Ivette Monroig, 56, of Naples.

Although the divorce was final in August 2013, Dave Monroig never changed the beneficiary he designated when he was hired in 2004 — his ex-wife.

City pension board

See PENSION, 10A

naplesnews.com

Read previous coverage.

Naples Daily News 'Citizen of the Year' | Marco Island

Debra Shanahan honored for community service

By Cheryl Ferrara
Daily News Correspondent; 239-213-5329

One of Marco Island's most notable citizens leaned forward to hear her name called.

Then the room erupted into applause as Debra Shanahan was called to the podium to be honored as the Naples Daily News 2014 Citizen of the Year for Marco Island.

With Sunday's award, given at the Bistro Soleil on Marco Island, Shanahan became the first woman to win both the Marco Eagle Volunteer of the Year in 2010 and the Citizen of the Year. Since 1991, Dave Rice Sr. had been the only dual winner.

Shawna Devlin, vice president of advertising for the Naples Daily News, presented the award with T.J. Boone, manager of the Marco Eagle.

Boone took several moments to re-

veal Shanahan's identity, using a series of clues, including contributions to the community. When the focus narrowed to Shanahan, she appeared the most surprised.

That was in character, said Monte Lazarus, a past recipient. He described Shanahan as a person who accomplishes a great deal without seeking publicity or benefit.

Shanahan admitted her desire to play supporting roles until her recent marriage.

"I never wanted to be out front, then I married Dick Shanahan," she acknowledged after receiving the award.

Dick Shanahan is a former Collier County Commissioner and a previous recipient of the Citizen of the Year award.

In 2001, Debra Shanahan helped form

See CITIZEN, 12A



Debra Shanahan hugs her husband, Dick, after being named the Naples Daily News 2014 Citizen of the Year for Marco Island on Sunday.

Fundraiser for Shelter for Abused Women & Children and Options Thrift Shoppe



Jeanette Brum, a seasonal Naples resident from Toronto, looks at shoes Sunday during "Light Up Your Holidays," an Options Thrift Shoppe event to raise money for the Shelter for Abused Women & Children at the Naples Square Sales Gallery.

Light up — and dress up

Women help their wardrobes — and other women — at holiday shopping event

By Kalhan Rosenblatt
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Rickie Klein knew there was one thing she wanted for the holidays this year: a party.

But not just any party — a party with a purpose.

Klein, who is a guild member of the Shelter for Abused Women & Children and an Options Thrift Shoppe ambassador committee chair, teamed up with Naples Square Sales Gallery for the first-ever "Light Up Your Holidays" benefit Sunday.

"It was kind of spontaneous," Klein said. "I saw the space and said it would make a fabulous venue for a party, and (The Shelter for Abused Women & Children) is a fabulous organization."

For \$20, attendees could shop for new, high-end clothing and jewelry, snack on finger food, sip Champagne and socialize at the Naples Square Sales Gallery, all while helping the Shelter for Abused Women & Children and Options Thrift Shoppe, which is owned by the shelter.

"It was so close to the shelter, it just made perfect sense," said Wanda Cross, director

"(The best part) is knowing we're raising money for the shelter. Our goal is to one day put ourselves out of business and end domestic violence."

Linda Oberhaus, executive director of the Shelter for Abused Women & Children

of sales for Naples Square.

All 150 tickets had sold out by Sunday afternoon, and the floor was packed with eager shoppers hoping to make a difference.

Brand new necklaces, hats, shoes and dresses from designers such as Saks Fifth Avenue and Jimmy Choo lined the halls of Naples Square.

"(The best part) is knowing we're raising money for the shelter," shelter Executive Director Linda Oberhaus said. "Our goal is to one day put ourselves out of business and end domestic violence."

naplesnews.com

See more photos from the fundraiser and get a list of additional holiday-related events in the area.

Many attendees, as well as volunteers, knew someone the shelter had helped.

"My husband works as a physician, and he would see cases (of domestic violence)," said shelter volunteer and shopper Joanne Beightol. "We know people who have struggled with domestic abuse."

Beightol, who brought her daughter Caera, 16, along, said she came out to the "Light Up Your Holidays" benefit to "put her money where her mouth is."

"I like the fact that you're buying clothes for yourself but you're helping women and children at the same time," Caera said.

By 3 p.m. — the halfway mark of the two-hour affair — \$5,000 had been raised, exceeding the original \$4,000 goal. Klein said 100 percent of the money received from ticket sales would go directly to the shelter.

"We're already planning on doing this again

See LIGHT, 12A

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3 struck, killed after stopping to help driver who hit bear

CBS4 Miami

Three people were reported dead Sunday after they stopped to help a driver who had hit a bear on Snake Road, north of I-75.

The accident happened at about 7 p.m. Sunday, when the Broward County Sheriff's Office responded to a crash involving a bear.

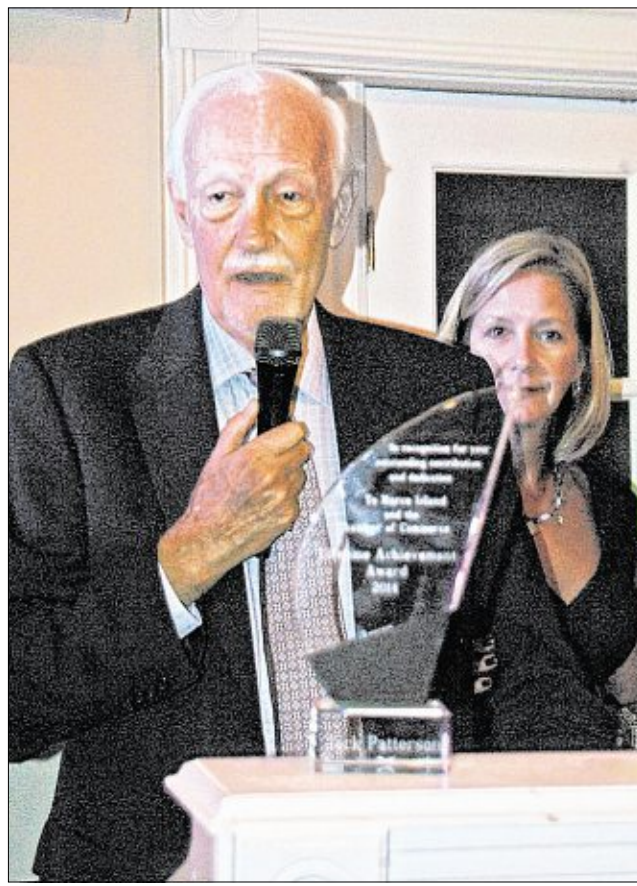
According to a Seminole Police

Department spokesman, a car hit a bear on Snake Road. A second car, the official said, stopped to assist.

Three people then were struck by a third car, and all were killed.

Several other people also were injured, the official stated, but it was unclear how many at the scene.

Snake Road is near mile marker 49 on Alligator Alley.



Jack Patterson speaks after receiving the Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Achievement award during the Marco Island Christmas Gala on Sunday.

CITIZEN
from 5A

the Marco Island Police Foundation and became its first executive director. She held the position until 2013.

For two years, she co-chaired the American Cancer Society's Imagination Ball with her husband.

In 2013, the ball raised \$83,000 for cancer research and to aid cancer patients. The event raised close to \$150,000 this year.

The couple also co-chaired golf tournaments for Christmas Island Style, the Police Foundation and the Marco Eagle Open, benefiting charities of Marco Island's Sunrise Rotary and the Marco Island Charter Middle School.

Debra Shanahan is president-elect of the Sunrise Rotary club and will become its president in 2015.

She also serves on the city's Code Enforcement Board.

The 2014 Marco Eagle Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Kathleen Reynolds, who helped establish The Sons and Daughters of Erin, a sponsor of the island's St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Achievement was awarded to Jack Patterson, a longtime member of the community and St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

LIGHT from 5A

next year," said Amy Schiffer contract data administrator for Naples Square. "We want to do tie-ins for other nonprofits. We're excited about giving back."

Carole Beauregard, of Naples, perused the clothing racks at "Light Up Your Holidays." As a member of the guild, she said she convinced

her girlfriends to come to the event. She also persuaded friend Ulrich Elben to donate his book, "Naples the Beautiful," which was sold for \$10 each.

"Every nickel counts for the shelter," Beauregard said.

Klein said she drove Kaydee Tuff, communications manager for the shelter, "bonkers" putting on "Light Up Your Holidays," but Tuff was grateful for

her persistence.

"(Klein) definitely deserves all the credit," Tuff said. "If it wasn't for her, this wouldn't have been possible."

For Klein, knowing she's able to be festive while giving back made the whole process worthwhile.

"You can feel the joy and happiness in the room," Klein said. "You can feel the energy of women helping women."

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Reg. \$72-\$75, after 2pm: \$36-\$37.50. Only at Macy's. Sweaters in merino wool/acrylic or cotton. ★ 943793.

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24.99 TASSO ELBA
Reg. \$75, after 2pm: 39.99. Only at Macy's. Sweaters in fine-gauge & French ribbed styles. Shown: ★ 1055165.

DOORBUSTER
12.99 PAJAMA SETS
Reg. \$42-49.50, after 2pm: \$21-\$24.75. Only at Macy's. From Charter Club & Jenni. Misses. ★ 1728550.

DOORBUSTER
60% OFF KIDS' SWEATSHIRTS
Doorbuster \$11.20-\$18. Reg. \$28-\$45, after 2pm: 19.99-21.99. From Glam Girl & Hybrid for girls' 2-16; Epic Threads for boys' 2-20. ★ 1741503.

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49.99 DIAMOND RING
Reg. \$200, after 2pm: \$70. Victoria Townsend 1/4 ct. t.w.* rose-cut in sterling silver (★ 1591934) or 18k gold over sterling silver (★ 1539715).

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