



Farm Bureau Welcomes State Attorney General

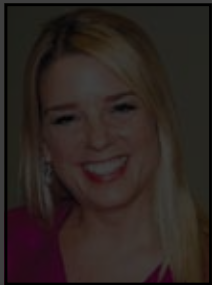
Hundreds Turn Out For Annual Agriculture Dinner And Meeting

Story and photos by Max Zimmerman

Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi brought her campaign against synthetic drugs to the Pasco County Fairgrounds on Oct. 3, telling the local Farm Bureau audience that their own children were being lured by the likes of Scooby-Doo.

The state's top law enforcer was the guest speaker at the annual Pasco County Farm Bureau meeting, chaired by State Sen. Wilton Simpson.

The 64th meeting of the county's agricultural base made for nearly a



Pam Bondi

packed house, estimated at more than 650 by Richard Kinney, the group's vice president. That turnout may have had more to do with food than politics because locally produced and catered pork, chicken and beef, potato salad and Cole slaw was served up by Land O' Lakes member Jim McBride.

Aside from the food, the star of the

evening was Bondi. She delivered an unvarnished recap of the accomplishments and challenges of her three years in office, an office she would like to retain in 2014.

She announced major successes against so-called pill mills, particularly thanking Pasco Sheriff Chris Nocco for his contribution in this cause.

Bondi said that when she took office, 98 of the highest 100 producing pill mills in the country were in Florida. Now, she said, "that number is down to zero and oxycodone deaths have been reduced by half."

But clearly, what bothers Bondi even more has been the proliferation of synthetic drugs which are now being packaged to lure children.

Holding up two packages of synthetic marijuana – one with a picture of Scooby-Doo, the other named Cotton Candy – Bondi railed about the pervasiveness of these products.

The main difficulty in combating these "drugs" is as soon as the state bans components found in the packages, the

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Military Order Of The Purple Heart Receives \$2.1 Million Donation

Funds Will Be Used To Help Provide Pain Management For Combat Wounded Veterans

by Joe Potter

Well over 1,000 combat wounded veterans across the United States will receive free assistance with pain management as the result of a \$2.1 million donation by LifeWave, a global health technology company based in San Diego, Calif.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart, an organization for combat wounded veterans, will be administering the assistance made possible through this generous

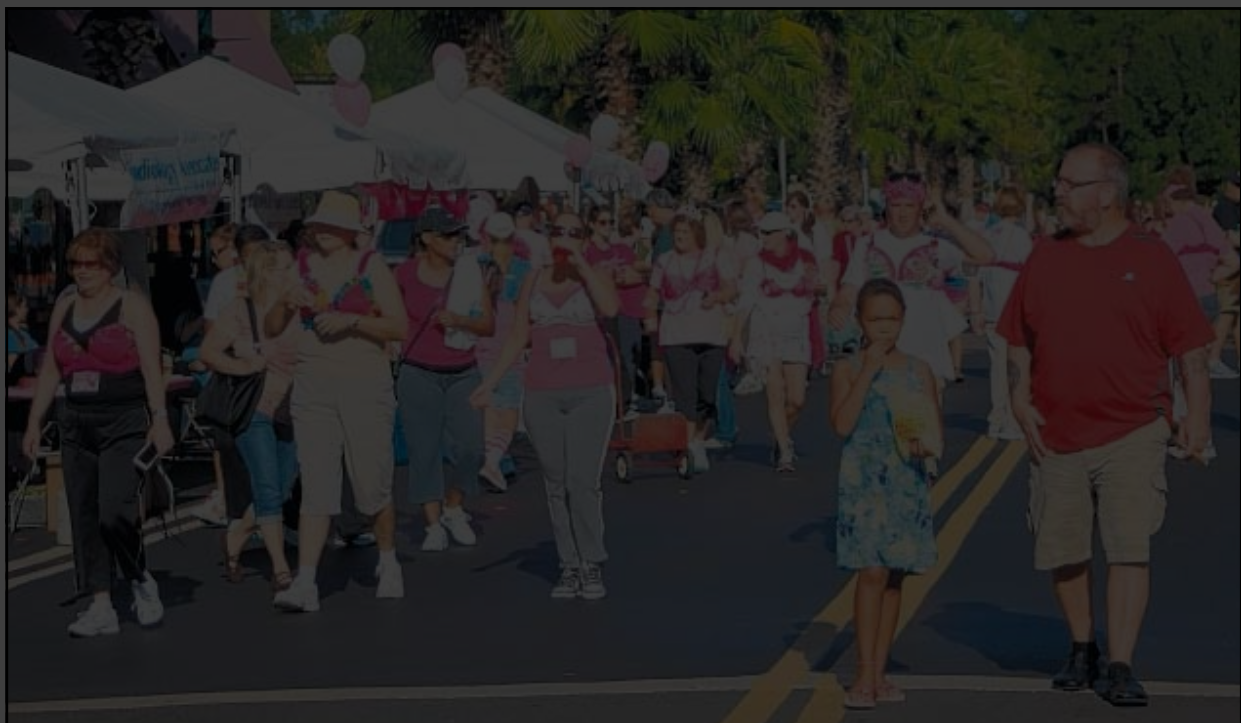


Commander Earl D. McMillan of the East Pasco Chapter 705 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart participates during Memorial Day ceremonies in Zephyrhills.

Photo by Tammy Sue Hane

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Pasco County Residents Needed To Make Strides To Finish Breast Cancer



The Pasco County Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk will be held Oct. 19 at The Shops at Wiregrass in Wesley Chapel.

Photo by Chris Drews

Story provided

The American Cancer Society turns 100 this year, and there would be no better gift than to have thousands of Pasco County residents participate in the Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer® fundraising walk.

The Pasco County event will be held Oct. 19 at The Shops at Wiregrass, 28211 Paseo Dr., Wesley Chapel, Fla., and will help the Society finish the fight against breast cancer. The walks, in nearly 300 communities across the country, help raise \$60 million dollars for the American Cancer Society each year to save lives from breast cancer.

Registration for the Pasco County Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk will open at 8 a.m. and the walk will begin at 9 a.m.

The dollars raised fund groundbreaking research to find, prevent, treat and cure breast cancer; ensure access to mammograms for women who need them; and provide free resources and support to the one in two

newly diagnosed women who turn to the Society for help and support, including transportation and lodging during treatment.

"Making Strides Against Breast Cancer unites us to walk together as the most powerful force to end breast cancer," said Jannah McDonald, American Cancer Society community representative. "When you join Making Strides, you are supporting the world's leader in the fight to end breast cancer. The money you raise helps the American Cancer Society do the most for people with breast cancer today to end the disease tomorrow."

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer is the largest network of breast cancer awareness events in the nation.

Sponsors of this year's Pasco County Making Strides event include:

Presenting Sponsor: Hyundai & Mazda of Wesley Chapel; Gold Sponsors: The Shops at Wiregrass, Janice L. DeLucenay; Silver Sponsors: Tower Radiology Centers, Duke Energy, Florida Cancer

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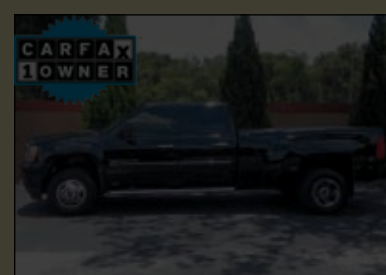
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City To 'Move Forward' On Home's Demolition

by Geoff Fox

The Dade City Board of Commissioners was ready on Monday night to speak with Jessica Martinez about a dilapidated structure that stands on land that she owns.

City officials had deemed the structure unsafe, and Martinez, according to City Attorney Karla Owens, wanted to appeal the ruling.

Martinez, however, did not show up for Monday night's meeting. Nor did she attend another recent

meeting, said Owens, who added that she had contacted Martinez by phone.

"I told her that if you don't come (to the meeting), we have to move forward," Owens said.

City Building Official Mike Barthle said that the building at 14608 10th St. has foundation and roof issues. The building is valued at just under \$4,600, and city officials said that it could cost just over \$3,400 to demolish the uninhabited house.

"It's basically unsafe," Barthle said of the house. "I'm

willing to work with anyone, but there's a time when we have to move on."

Owens agreed.

"This is two and a half months now that we've put this off - at her request, but she doesn't show up," she said. "We've done everything (that we're legally required to do). We've done everything we could."

The consensus of the board was to move forward with demolition proceedings, although it was not immediately known when that work might start.

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donation according to Commander Earl D. McMillan of the East Pasco Chapter 705 that meets in Zephyrhills.

McMillan emphasized that the assistance provided by the LifeWave donation will be provided nationwide. Local MOPH members unable to provide themselves with pain management remedies are urged to contact McMillan.

The local MOPH chapter meets at 6 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at DAV Chapter 65 located at 5325 Eighth St. in Zephyrhills.

The LifeWave donation will include health technologies designed to deliver these veterans fast, natural and drug-free relief. "LifeWave honors those brave men and women of the armed

services who defend the United States, often with their lives.. I am personally delighted that this partnership with the MOPH has occurred and we will be able to help those who are suffering in pain with our technology," said LifeWave founder and CEO David Schmidt.

The MOPH was chartered by Congress in 1958 and is comprised of

military men and women who received the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered in combat. MOPH's national headquarters is located in Springfield, Va. The order now includes about 45,000 total members.

For information, call McMillan at (813) 782-3425 or e-mail him at emcmillan1@verizon.net.

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manufacturers simply change the formula. According to her office, two years ago there were six compounds outlawed. Now there are about 140, she said.

Although she referred to her comments regarding synthetic drugs as "a public service announcement," she later admitted, "I'm clearly obsessed by this."

When asked if it would be better to allow medical marijuana or a decriminalization of the drug as a means to combat the prevalence of synthetic drugs, Bondi could not answer.

She said the issue is being studied by her office and that she could not comment on changing the state's marijuana laws. The pot issue is gaining traction in Florida as a 2014 ballot initiative for medicinal use is gaining the needed signatures.

Following Bondi's pitch, Simpson returned to the podium to succinctly wrap up the local bureau's business and adjourn.

Ted Schrader, a Farm Bureau board member and county commissioner, was pleased with the event held

at the Dan Cannon Auditorium.

"Here it is not even 8 p.m. and everybody's eaten, had a meeting and got to visit some people they haven't seen in a year." The meeting began a little later than the scheduled 6:30 p.m. starting time.

The most recent statistics from the University of Florida indicate that agriculture and its related industries generate \$1.05 billion a year while keeping nearly 25,000 people employed.

While cattle and citrus crops have dominated county agriculture in the past some new crops making inroads are soybeans, hay and wheat.



It was estimated that more than 650 people attended last week's meeting of the Pasco County Farm Bureau.

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Affiliates, Crowne Consulting Group; Health Education Provided by: Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel; Bronze Sponsors: BayCare Breast Centers, Florida Cancer Specialists; Pink Ribbon Sponsor: Brighthouse

Networks; Supporting Sponsors: Florida Medical Clinic- Foundation of Caring, HCA - Medical Center of Trinity, Oak Hill Hospital, Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point, Farrell Roofing.

Visit www.makingstrideswalk.org to help the Society continue saving lives. For more information about breast cancer, contact the American Cancer Society at 1-(800) 227-2345 or visit cancer.org.

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