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# WAKE UP AMERICA

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## America—In Love With Their Guns

On June 12th from the James S. Brady Briefing Room, President Obama addressed the Orlando night club shooting as one of the worst tragedies in American history and a reminder of how easy it is for anyone to get their hands on a weapon to shoot people in a school, church, or a movie theater and now a night club. Is this the kind of country we want? I remember not long ago when everyone was saying, “Obama... he’s going to take away our guns!” Eight years later, Americans are packing more guns than any country in the world.

You have to wonder if Obama ever thought that mass shooting briefings were going to be a major part of his job, as this makes his 16th mass shooting address briefing. The saddest part is that every time this happens, it feels like America has already decided that this is exactly what kind of country we want.

Every time it plays out the same way. We’re shocked, we mourn, we pick out and profile homophobics, radical Islam, Muslims, and racists, and then we move on as if everything is normal. But it’s not normal at all doing the same thing over and over again and not doing anything to change it. This is what psychiatrists call insanity.

I remember when I was a kid and I never learned to tie my shoelaces, and when I ran around without tying my shoelaces, I would fall down, crying out, “Mommy, Mommy! I fell down and hurt myself!” She would pick me up and say that I tripped because I would not tie my shoelaces, and over and over again I would fall down, and over and over again my mom would say, “You need to learn to tie your shoelaces.”

But what I wanted to say is, “Why are you bringing up my shoelaces into this conversation, blaming my shoelaces for something that the sidewalk did to my knees? You keep saying that there is a connection with untied shoelaces and me falling! And I don’t know why you’re violating my right to keep my shoelaces untied!”

*Continued on Page 4*

## Treat Your Pets Like Royalty

*Anne Childers, Staff Writer*



Royal Pets Market & Spa provides everything a pet parent could ever want and need to keep the family pet well groomed, properly fed, and healthy. All these excellent services are conveniently located under one roof in Carrollwood, Palm Harbor, and St. Petersburg. The same great products, amenities, and service are available in all three locations. One visit to the 18,000 square foot store will convince you. A full line of foods and nutritional supplements, treats, toys, and products are available seven days a week, during regular business hours.

The staff of friendly associates is well trained and ready to assist you from 7:00am – 8:00pm daily, and all staff members participate in continuing education.

The on-site Veterinary Hospital is full service and offers everything from wellness pet checkups and shots to surgery and radiology. A membership health care plan for cats and dogs offers several enrollment options. After an initial enrollment fee, a monthly fee provides routine veterinary visits and wellness exams, tests, annual vaccines and blood work.

“All pets that enter shall leave as royalty” sums up the philosophy of a business featuring every first-class amenity a furry monarch could wish for. Luxurious boarding suites, indoor and outdoor day camps, an opulent grooming salon, and a spa all stand at the ready to pamper four-legged patrons.

Check Facebook online at <https://www.facebook.com/RoyalPets> and/or [www.royalpetsmarket.com](http://www.royalpetsmarket.com) for a full detailed listing of all addresses, phone numbers, products and services, sale items, and upcoming classes and events.

In Carrollwood, call 813-448-6744 for additional information and be sure to ask about the Royal Rewards Program to receive shopping discounts and other benefits such as expedited check-in at the resort.

Royal Rewards Program adoptive pet owners receive a free bag of food along with a waived enrollment fee in the Wellness Plan at the veterinary center.

Watch for the Royal Pets ad in this edition for additional coupons and specials!

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## Red Cross Offers Tips for Coping

The thoughts and deepest sympathies of the entire American Red Cross family are with the people of Orlando and those affected by the June 12th tragic shooting. The Red Cross has been in Orlando, providing comfort and support.

Red Cross mental health volunteers were also onsite at a family assistance center to help support loved ones struggling to come to terms with this tragedy. Local Red Cross volunteers were also supporting the City of Orlando's Family Emergency Hotline (407-246-4357) by answering phone calls and providing information.

### Coping and Preparedness Tips

This is a difficult time for everyone affected, and it's important for people to connect with and support each other. The Red Cross offers the following tips to help people stay strong:

- Events like this can cause feelings of uncertainty and anxiety since no one knows what could potentially happen next. Remember that it's okay to feel nervous.
- Stay informed but limit media exposure of the events, especially for children. Children are especially vulnerable to stress reactions related to media.
- Parents should let children talk about their fears and then reassure them about their safety. Talk with them in ways that they can easily understand. Let them guide the conversation; share details only when they ask about them.
- Be patient with yourself and others. It's common to have any number of temporary stress reactions such as anger, frustration and anxiety.
- Spend more time with family and friends and offer your support. Hug one another and listen.
- Take care of yourself. Eat healthy, drink plenty of water and get enough rest.
- To reach out for free 24/7 counseling or support, contact the Disaster Distress Helpline at 800-985-5990 or text "TalkWithUs" to 66746.

After traumatic and emotional events like those this weekend, people want to know what to do, and preparing yourself and your family for future emergencies can help bring peace of mind.

Register for a Red Cross First Aid and CPR/AED course at [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) so that you can be better prepared to help in future emergencies. People can also download the free Red Cross First Aid App that puts free and simple lifesaving information in the hands of smartphone and tablet users. The app is available in app stores by searching for American Red Cross.

### How to Help

This tragedy shows that emergencies can happen in any community at any time. Right now, the Red Cross has what it needs to support this event both financially and with supplies.

While the Red Cross is not accepting financial donations designated specifically for this event, we always need the public to help support the nearly 66,000 other disasters we respond to every year around the country. Donations for Red Cross Disaster Relief are used to help people and communities prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters big and small. Visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) for more information.

### About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) or [cruzrojaamericana.org](http://cruzrojaamericana.org), or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.

## The Well—A Women's Training Ministry

By Karen McBride



- Fervent - Overcome temptation and fear and navigate overwhelming schedules.
- Relationships: A Mess Worth Making - Learn about the deeper issues that drive our reactions and make our relationships less than God designed them to be.
- Growing in Christ - Learn to grow and mature, that we might know God, become like the Son, and do the work of the Holy Spirit.
- The Kingdom of God - Learn and explore more about God's Kingdom and how to participate more fully and effectively within it.

In addition to Bible studies, The Well holds conferences throughout the year. The next conference, "Renovated, A Wife According to God's Design," will be held on September 16-18, 2016, at the Daytona Beach Resort and Conference Center. For more information, go to <http://renovatedwife.com>.

The Well meets at the First Baptist Church of Lutz, located at 18116 N US Highway 41 Lutz, FL 33549. For more information on The Well, please go to the website online at <http://www.thewellbiblestudy.org>.



The next session of Bible studies starts August 9-11, 2016. Topics include:

- The King Jesus Gospel - Recover and reclaim the beauty of the original Gospel.
- The Pursuit of God - Draw into a deep abiding relationship with our loving God.
- The Bait of Satan - Avoid the victim mentality and practice forgiveness.
- The End of Me - Transform us according to His image and mission.

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~ Mike and Julie Byrnes, Apollo Beach

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I cannot say enough about my recent experience with George at Daytona International Speedway. His patience in working with a novice driver such as me should be commended. The way he was able to talk me through the ins and outs of racing / driving was amazing. Although I was quite nervous my first few laps around the track, it quickly became apparent why George came so highly recommended. He guided me through each part of the process. His expertise made me feel privileged just to sit in the same car with him, let alone coach me through a track exceeding speeds of 160 mph. The other amazing part was his service and disposition. George was down to earth, very sincere and I walked away feeling like I had just received 5 star service for 2 star pricing.

~ Todd Wahl — St. Petersburg, Florida

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## Tampa City Council Special Election

The City of Tampa notified Supervisor of Elections Craig Latimer of the accepted resignation of Council Member Lisa Montelione, which will create a vacancy in Tampa City Council District 7.

The Supervisor of Elections has developed a timeframe to fill this vacancy that will allow the Special Municipal Election to be conducted concurrently with the regularly scheduled General Election on November 8. This means the race will be included on the General Election ballot for voters residing in City of Tampa District 7.

**Dates And Activities:**

June 21, 2016 - Applications for candidacy may be received by the Supervisor of Elections. See City of Tampa Charter 8.06. Candidates who have made the application for candidacy may circulate petitions. See City of Tampa Charter 8.06.

August 26, 2016 - Petitions due to the Supervisor of Elections. See City of Tampa Charter 8.11.

September 5, 2016 - Qualify period begins. See City of Tampa Charter 8.21.

September 9, 2016 - Qualifying period ends. See City of Tampa Charter 8.21.

October 11, 2016 - Registration closes for the election. See FS 97.055.

November 8, 2016 - Special municipal election. See City of Tampa Charter 8.21.

December 6, 2016 - Special runoff election, if necessary. See City of Tampa Charter 8.21.

Dates are subject to change. Any changes will be posted at [VoteHillsborough.org](http://VoteHillsborough.org).

## Hope is Coming!!

Hope Effect Day School, that is! Long ago, God gave us a vision of a high quality, lower cost faith-based early childhood education center, one designed to reach the families in our neighborhood who struggle to afford quality care for their children. In partnership with Morningstar Church, we are in the process of finishing construction and getting licensed for an August launch. We will be offering a 5 day full-time program for children age 1-4 years.

For more information, please contact Desirae Hamrick by email at [dhamrick@hopeeffectdayschool.org](mailto:dhamrick@hopeeffectdayschool.org).

## Pet Tips Valarie White, Owner, Paradise Paws

The holidays are a great time to spend with your whole fur family! While you are preparing your menus and day's events, don't forget to plan ahead for your fur babies as well. While this is an exciting time, it could also be a scary time and they will look to you for guidance. Holidays that display fireworks are especially scary. You know your pet best. Be prepared. Here are just a couple suggestions.

Do they need a quiet room away from all of the noise or are they better suited to stay with you? If you are their comfort, be careful not to reward them for being scared. We know it's hard, but don't snuggle them too tight, it's best just to be there and try to ignore the nervous behavior. If quiet is their preference, prepare a space with dim light, a soft bed, blankets, and some soothing classical music.

# Faith Outreach Academy

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# JESUS is not our Religion, he is our Savior...

*Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1*

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. "The Big Bang" Genesis 1:3 "Let there be light..."*

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