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Shoppers not the only ones with a warm welcome for Nordstrom

BY CINDY PIERCE
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When Nordstrom comes to town, it's not just sophisticated shoppers who celebrate. Charitable and non-profit organizations in every Nordstrom community also heartily embrace the Seattle-based fashion retailer. Last month, for example, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and the Boston Ballet both reaped the benefits of the area's first-ever Nordstrom grand opening. So did The Tacoma Art Museum and the Museum of Glass in Tacoma, Wash., where the 40-year-old Nordstrom store reopened to much fanfare after extensive remodeling and expansion.

Next month, The Conservancy of Southwest Florida, The League Club of Naples and the Community Foundation of Collier County will add to their coffers as the chosen beneficiaries of a black-tie affair two nights before Nordstrom's 77,000-square-foot store in Waterside Shops opens to the public.

The store opens at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 7. The gala takes place Wednesday, Nov. 5. If it sells out — which is all but a sure thing, judging from tickets sales so far — The Conservancy, the League Club and the Community Foundation will receive about \$45,000 each.

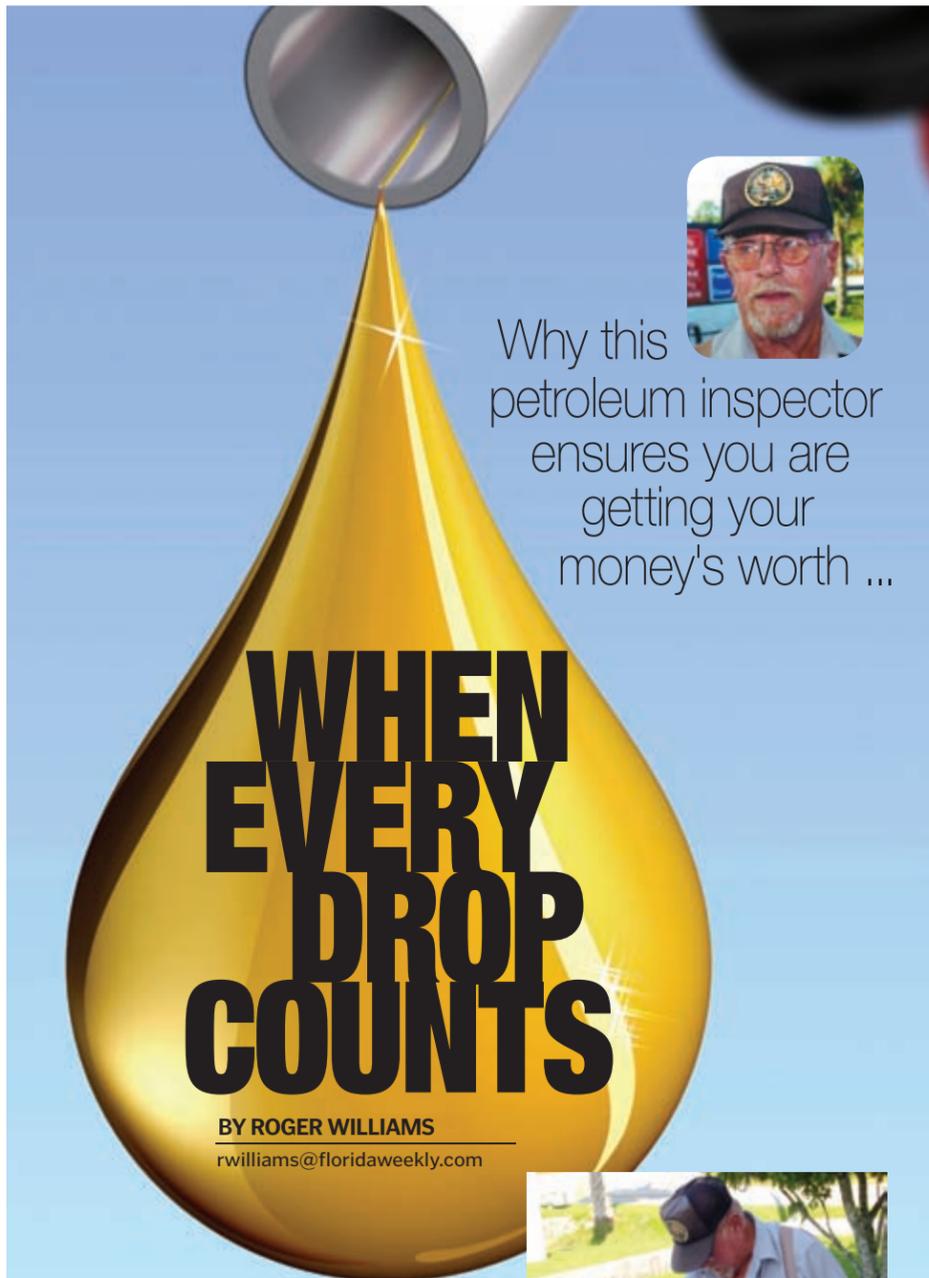
"The timing could not have been better," The League Club's Sandy Lasch said. "The current economy is making life more difficult for a lot of people, and we will be thankful to be able to increase our support and make life a little easier for those in need," she added.

Interest in the gala has been strong throughout the community since save-the-date cards were mailed in May. "The response has been amazing," said the Community Foundation's Susan Utz, whose office is in charge of tickets. The original plan was to sell 1,000 tickets at

SEE NORDSTROM A16 ▶

Also coming soon to Waterside Shops:

- >>A 20,000-square-foot expansion at Saks Fifth Avenue
- >>De Beers' jewelers' first Florida location
- >>Kate Spade
- >>Juicy Couture
- >>St. John
- >>Van Cleef & Arpels
- >>German fashion house Basler's first U.S. boutique
- >>Salvatore Ferragamo



BY ROGER WILLIAMS
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Why this petroleum inspector ensures you are getting your money's worth ...



How can you know what you got? Every day in Collier and Lee counties, and across Florida, there is one business that does two things few others can match in this economy: It remains robust and profitable for its practitioners, and (more to the point) it requires you to pay a hefty price while taking only on trust that you're getting what you pay for.

Envelope please. And the winning business is...GASOLINE! Dramatics aside, how do you know that you actually get a gallon of gas when the meter reads \$3.50, or \$3.75 or whatever price you pay at the pump?

And how do you know you aren't being "gouged" by higher-than-allowable prices during an emergency, such as a hurricane?

And how do you know your debit or credit card data won't be recorded and misused when you run a card through a new credit meter?



JIM MCLAUGHLIN / FLORIDA WEEKLY
Ron Cass makes sure when you buy a gallon of gas you get a full gallon of gas.

You know because Ron Cass (and others like him) says so.

Cass is a petroleum inspector in the state Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services,

SEE DROP, A8 ▶

INSIDE



Style-setters

Stepping out at the NCH Fashion Show and other stylish events around town. **C19, 20 & 21** ▶



Point and shoot

Miami photographer J. Tomas Lopez is at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts this week. **C1** ▶



Doctors' orders

Local physicians step into the spotlight for annual Steinway talent show. **C1** ▶



Advanced treatment

Medical center goes green from landscaping to lobby to electronic charts. **B1** ▶

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