



# THE NEWS-PRESS LOCAL

## CAPE CORAL

## Judge issues protection order for Sawicki

STACEY HENSON  
SHENSON@NEWS-PRESS.COM

A day after her former husband was arrested for domestic assault, a Miami judge issued a protection order for Cape Coral Mayor Marni Sawicki.

According to court records, Judge Martin Zilber, of the 11th Judicial Court, issued the order during Kenneth D. Retzer's pre-hearing. Documents also indicated Retzer would hire a private attorney.

Retzer, 48, of LaBelle, was arrested for assault early Saturday. He was bleeding from the head when Miami police interviewed him after responding to a domestic disturbance call at the Fontainebleau Hotel on Miami Beach.

Zilber also set bail, although the specific documents were inaccessible Sunday night.

The victim was not identified in the police report other than to say the victim and Retzer had been in a relationship since 2013.

Sawicki had posted on her Facebook page that she was attending the 85th annual meeting of the United States Conference of Mayors in Miami this weekend, and had attended a press conference at the hotel on Friday.

A call placed to Sawicki's cellphone on Sunday afternoon was not answered and a message not returned.

The police report indicates officers found the victim sitting on a bed, blood splatter on the sheets around her, and punch marks above the bed and in the wall near a window.

The victim had swelling around her left eye and chin, and red marks around her neck.



Sawicki

her throat. He then struck her. She scratched his face and bit his finger.

One of the officers reported he obtained from the victim a 15-minute video of Retzer in which he was acting erratic. That video did not show any violence.

Police confiscated two firearms, one belonging to Retzer, which was in his vehicle, and one belonging to the victim.

Retzer was treated and released at Mount Sinai Hospital before being taken to jail.

Sawicki and Retzer have had a tumultu-

ous relationship, including a marriage that lasted two months.

On May 18, 2016, Sawicki filed a restraining order against Retzer after what she called a three-year, on-again-off-again relationship turned sour. Sawicki said that she feared to go to a council meeting because of Retzer. However, the restraining order was dismissed and the couple married on June 28. The couple filed for divorce in September.

According to a Cape Coral Police Department report, police arrived at Sawicki's residence shortly after 1 a.m. Nov. 1 after a 911 call by an "uncooperative male," later identified as Retzer.

Retzer can be heard cursing on the 911 call, saying that he was leaving Sawicki's house and then hung up.

Sawicki announced in March that she would not run for re-election.

## EXPANSION



THE NEWS-PRESS FILE PHOTO

Gartner is growing and looking to build a new campus.

## Gartner to get more room, and employees

CASEY LOGAN  
CLOGAN@NEWS-PRESS.COM

A top Gartner executive says the company plans to nearly double its presence in Southwest Florida in the next five years.

That came as Craig Safian, chief financial officer, gave details about the company's plans to begin construction in August on a new campus on airport-owned land near the Gateway area of Lee County to accommodate workforce growth.

The IT consulting firm expects to occupy the 143,000-square-foot facility — to be arranged over two interconnected buildings — in September 2018. Such a space, although arranged differently, is about the size of the Costco at Gulf Coast Town Center.

Gartner bills itself as the world's leading research and advisory company. It helps business leaders across all major functions and in every industry and size with the insights they need to make the best decisions. It has more

See Gartner, Page 6A



SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-PRESS

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## LEE COUNTY

## Hearing set for today on housing in sensitive area

BILL SMITH  
BSMITH@NEWS-PRESS.COM

After months of behind-the-scenes talks between the developer and county planning staffers, a proposal for a 1,460-unit housing development in an environmentally critical area of Lee County will be aired publicly for the first time today.

The project, called Verdana by its developer Pan Terra Holdings Ltd., would be located between Corkscrew Road and the Collier County line, about four miles east of Corkscrew and Alico roads.

Public comment will be taken at the meeting, at 8:30 a.m. in Room 118 of the county Administration East Building, 2201 Second Street in downtown Fort Myers.

The property is part of the county's Density Reduction/Water Resource area, created decades ago to protect the region's drinking water supply.

As have other developers proposing projects for the sensitive area, Pan Terra is stressing what it claims are environmental enhancements that are better for water quality than continued use of the land for agriculture.

Pan Terra has a name for it: "Environmental Enhancement and Preservation Community."

Delisi Inc., the Wellington engineering firm working on the project, says its plan "would convert an active citrus grove into a property that is primarily restored to its natural habitat and hydrology, with compact residential neighborhoods in areas outside of the restoration footprint."

Currently, the property is used for citrus farming and is authorized to use more than 2.4 million gallons of water per day. The landowner claims that the use of water on the site will drop by 90 percent.

The Local Planning Agency for Lee County must decide whether to recommend that the county commission send the proposed Lee Plan changes to state officials for review.

State review is a mandatory part of approving changes in the Lee Plan, which establishes land uses for property in the unincorporated part of the county.

Like other major developments in

See Land, Page 6A

## Would it be smart to ban smartphones for kids?



Pamela Hayford  
PARENTING

Should we ban the sale of smartphones for kids younger than 13?

A dad in Colorado is proposing just that. USA Today reported this week that Denver dad Tim Farnum and his

group Parents Against Underage Smartphones, or PAUS, are proposing a state ballot initiative that would ban the sale of smartphones for the under-13 crowd, require retailers file reports about it every month and fine those who repeatedly sell the phones to underage kids.

On one hand, I understand Mr. Farnum's frustration. I have two kids, ages 12 and 15, and they get lost in screens, too. I've seen them get frustrated when torn away from the de-

VICES, even throwing attitude when asked to do something that interrupts their playtime. Those behaviors get swift consequences, usually no more electronics privileges for the day or week, depending on the severity of the offense.

My husband and I essentially banned cellphones before age 13 for our own kids. Yet, I can't support legislating the age a child can have a smartphone.

First, every child is different. Every

family is different. Every situation is different. Despite our rule, we gave our 12-year-old a flip phone in April, because we were going to a big Star Wars convention in Orlando and we wanted her to be able to contact us if we got separated. Granted, we only bought a month's worth of minutes, and it was a flip phone, not quite as addictive as a smartphone, but I could see where a smartphone might have been better.

See Parenting, Page 9A

**In brief**

**Lehigh Acres man dies, was driver in I-75 crash on June 1**

Joseph Migot Turtulien, 44, of Lehigh Acres, died Saturday from injuries he received in a June 1 crash on Interstate 75 in Charlotte County. Turtulien was the driver of a Ford pickup and, along with six of 16 passengers, was seriously injured in the

early morning crash. Five people were inside the cab and 10 were in the bed of the pickup. Nine people received minor injuries. The names of the six seriously injured passengers were not listed in the report. The single-vehicle wreck occurred around 6:45 a.m., northbound on I-75, just south of the U.S. 17 exit.

**Land**

Continued from Page 3A

southeast Lee in recent years, the Verdana project has been put on a fast track, with changes to the Lee Plan being considered at the same time as the zoning changes.

Commissioners voted to send the proposal for planning agency review without waiting for completion of a \$317,000 traffic study of Corkscrew Road. In February, the commission extended the deadline for completion of the study.

By rushing the project through zoning and Lee Plan changes at the same time, the likelihood increases that the matter will come up before the county hearing examiner, before the traffic report is released.

The hearing examiner acts in an advisory capacity to the county commissioners.

If the scenario arises that the traffic report is released after the hearing examiner's proceedings, and before the commission votes, commissioners could be barred from considering the results of the report. County rules provide that the public can-



COUNTY APPLICATION GRAPHIC  
Location of proposed Verdana community, located across from The Place at Corkscrew and extending to the Collier county line.

not present new information to the commission once the hearing examiner renders their advice.

It is the third major housing development in the DR/GR in recent years, joining the Place at Corkscrew, being built across from the Verdana property, and Pepperland Ranch, which is awaiting a recommendation from a county hearing examiner.

**Gartner**

Continued from Page 3A

than 13,000 associates serving clients in 11,000 enterprises in 100 countries.

"We have designed our products and services to help our clients solve their mission-critical priorities, so the things that are most important to that individual, these executives," Safian said in an exclusive interview. "We provide research and insights."

Gartner employs more than 1,200 people in Lee County and anticipates growing to more than 2,300 associates by 2022.

"Everywhere you look, we're growing, and that's just to keep pace with the overall growth of the business," he said.

Gartner's average compensation package for employees in Lee County includes \$58,500 per year in salary, plus benefits worth another \$9,500, according to the company.

The Gartner campus will be situated on almost 19 acres, with the company having the option to build more facilities on additional acreage. Gartner's capital investment is pegged at about \$20 million.

The new campus will be on Paul J. Doherty Parkway, less than a mile from Gartner's existing offices at Daniels Parkway and Gateway Boulevard.

The new offices, to be called Gartner Campus North, will include a full-service gym, restaurant and ample parking. The existing offices will be known as Gartner Campus South.

"I think the primary difference is this campus is going to be purpose-built for exactly how we're going to be using it," Safian said. "We can really do it the way we want, with a more modern look. This one will be even a slight notch above what we have."

Does the company ever foresee closing the "north" campus and moving all local operations to the "south" campus?

"We haven't gotten there, but our view on growth is we are absolutely going to need both campuses over the longer term," he said.

The new facility will be large enough to accommodate 800 new employees, who are expected to be hired over the next five years. Sales roles will dominate, with other hiring to be done in client service, research and finance.

"We've found building critical mass in centers of excellence, it drives production, it drives efficiency," he said. "We're growing the key functions in Fort Myers as fast as we possibly can."

Economic incentives have helped to fuel Gartner's growth here.

Most recently, the Lee County Commission in May approved \$1.8 million in incentives. The state will contribute \$3.48 million through the Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Program, for a total of \$5.3 million.

These pay-upon-performance incentives will be dispersed on a per-job basis as new hires come online and Gartner pays taxes. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity will verify the performance requirements and issue the tax refund payments over an eight-year period.

"Why grow here?" Safian said. "It's predominantly market driven. If you think of what we're doing in Fort Myers



SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-PRESS  
Gartner currently has 1,200 employees in Lee County, and anticipates adding 1,100 more in the next five years. Its new campus will sit on 19 acres.

on the sales side, we are serving mid-sized enterprises out of our sales center in Fort Myers."

Such enterprises by Gartner's definition have \$100 million to \$1 billion in annual revenue.

"We have an enormous untapped market opportunity in the Americas — businesses that do not buy anything from Gartner," he said. "This is why we're focused in Fort Myers."

Gartner, which hires a premium on training, often hires bright younger workers who are right out of college or in their second job for such sales roles.

"They learn how to sell professionally and make a lot of money," said Safian, noting the company offers incentive programs and career ladders. "We're developing the next generation of leaders from a selling perspective."

Jim Wall, spokesman for CareerSource Southwest Florida, said it was evident at the regional career fair in May how attractive the company is.

"There was a line of 20 people deep to talk to them," he said. "It's a company with the type of atmosphere our younger professionals want. We always worry about what is available to keep our younger workforce here. Gartner is the lead on that."

"Gartner is also a fine example of where expansion of local companies rather than always looking for relocation of new companies is really going to benefit the area," Wall said.

Safian said service roles will be key as the company expands. Researchers, for example, will ensure clients have access to the best intellectual property.

The offices in Lee County are on track to employ more than any other in the company. Its office in Arlington, Virginia, now employs the most since a recent acquisition, followed by headquarters in Stamford, Connecticut. There are no plans to relocate the headquarters here.

Gartner earlier this year acquired Arlington-based CEB for \$2.6 billion. CEB was a publicly traded consulting firm that sold management advice and training services to large companies worldwide. The combined company is a consulting giant, with revenue of about \$3.3 billion.

"What they did is what we do," Safian said. "Where Gartner primarily services tech, supply chain and marketing organizations, they are serving the HR function, the finance function, the sales and marketing function, and the legal function. We will now have services that will address mission-critical priorities for virtually every member of the C-suite."

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