

New at the Palisades Center:

Club Libby Lu



PICTURED TOP TO BOTTOM: Makayla Kowalski-Lowe with her Libby 'du,' Disney superstar Christy Carlson Romano (center) poses with sisters Jaclyn (right) and Taryn Murphy.

The Palisades has scored another coup for shopaholics (and more importantly, their young daughters) with the addition of Club Libby Lu on the third floor (near Build-a-Bear). This tween-age wonderland, decorated with an array of pink princess merchandise (among other funky items like feather boas, angel wings, dress-up clothes, pillows, and cosmetics) opened to grand fanfare in early May with the help of local Make-A-Wish kids and Christy Carlson Romano, from the Disney Channel. The store caters to the ever-booming tween market (girls age 6 to 13)—a demographic that totals more than 20 million nationwide, according to recent Census data.

The store caters to girls by leaning heavily on interactive elements. Customers are known as VIPs (Very Important Princesses) and each receives "royal treatment" by allowing every one to play in the Libby Lab (where they can make their own body glitter, potions, and lip gloss); get a makeover at The Style Studio; or check out Libby's Room (where there are bedroom accessories, sheets, clothes, and more). The store can also host birthdays, where Club Counselors will give you a "rock'n Libby Du Makeover." Popular among the ladies: the oversized princess chair in the back where you rest your weary feet after all that shopping! (Level three of Palisades Center; 727-7092; clublibbylu.com).

—J.M.

WILD ANIMAL ETIQUETTE WITH MELISSA LEONARD

When the Rose family of Stonybrook saw a black bear in their yard recently, they must have thought they were being "punk'd." But when Ashton Kutcher failed to materialize, what did Daddy Rose do? Snap a few photos and feed the 400-pound monster jelly. What, no tea? While no one was injured, the truth is that offering guests jam sandwiches—whether or not they're bears—is just plain rude. Here, some other do's and don'ts when you're visited by a wild animal from the Discovery Channel.



Possum-ly Dead: It's always intriguing to see a possum, but what if one of the little omnivorous marsupials appears lifeless in your yard? First, ask yourself, is it really dead or just "playing possum"? Once you have done a quick, little shoo dance, wait at least four hours to see if it was just

spooked. If it still looks dead, then contact an animal-control service like Rid A Critter (367-4541) for removal.

Squirrel Shock: Your cat comes in from frolicking in the forest, appearing triumphantly with a baby squirrel (still moving) in his mouth. Before scolding the naughty little kitty, put on rubber gloves, pat his back (to make him release the prey), and carry the injured rodent into the yard—assuming it doesn't immediately bolt on its own.

Doh! a Deer: More local development means more majestic Bambi in our backyards. Unless you're Jack Hanna, remember to look but not touch. And even if your son is handy for photos, refrain from having him stand next to the pretty deer and play the role of Thumper. He may actually get thumped!

Melissa Leonard is a local etiquette coach and mother (establishyourselfny.com).

BODACIOUS BAG LADIES

Olivia Bradshaw (center) and Adoralynn Pagan (right) are by no means your typical pigeon-feeding garbage collectors—but after winning first place for their beach bag made of *The Journal News* plastic baggies in the statewide "I'm a Green Nation Celebration" competition, they could teach a real hobo a thing or two about versatility. Hailing from Saint Dominic's 853 School, a private day school in Blauvelt, the 6th graders bested classmates Clark Sanders and Fabian Meierdick, both of whom came in second. So, next time you see a pile of plastic, take the girls' lead and look at the bags, not as annoyances, but as poetic licenses. —J.N.

