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ARCADIA COMMUNI **OCTOBER 31, 2024**



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CAROL MAHLER

Independent Contractor carolmahler22acl@gmail.com Photos provided

On Oct. 24, Fox 4 New Reporter Victoria Scott interviewed Deputy Mayor Keith Keene about the YMCA Programs "coming soon" to Arcadia. He recalled talking in 2022 with Mike Horan, CEO of Ajax Paving Industries of Florida, Inc., and Treasurer for YMCA of Southwest Florida. Horan asked Keene-who was serving as mayor-about the possibility of the YMCA offering programs in Arcadia, and Keene enthusiastically welcomed the idea.

City Administrator Terry Stewart identified the Speer Recreation Center as a possible location, and the YMCA agreed to a partnership to rehabilitate the historic structure. The City received a half-million-dollar grant from the State's Dept. of Historical Resources and the YMCA received the same amount from the Federal Dept. of Education. The \$1 million in grant funding will preserve the historic structure and renovate the interior for the YMCA to use for their early learning, youth development, and food programs, plus activities for families.

The YMCA posted renovation plans and photographs of the Speer Recreation Center to announce to the community its partnership with the City to renovate the historic building. Photograph courtesy of Carol Mahler.



Fox 4 New Reporter Victoria Scott interviewed Deputy Mayor Keith Keene in front of the new sign at the Speer Recreation Center announcing the YMCA programs soon to be offered in Arcadia. Photograph courtesy of Carol Mahler.

> The Speer Center was built as a National Guard Armory in 1938 by the Work Progress Administration (WPA) as part of President Franklin Roosevelt's "New Deal" program during The Great Depression. During World War II, it was named "Fort Smith" in honor of the Smith brothers. Brigadier General Stanhope Chesterfield Smith (1895-1969) served as commander

> > SEE YMCA PAGE 16 >>

IMPORTANT VOTER INFORMATION

SAMPLE BALLOTS • PAGE 10-11

Mark Negley



GOVERNMENT MEETING SCHEDULE

CITY

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS OCCUR THE **IST AND 3RD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED**

Margaret Way Building 23 N. Polk Ave., Arcadia, FL 34266

DESOTO COUNTY

TRICK OR TREAT AT THE TURNER CENTER

2250 NE Roan Street Arcadia, FL 34266

DESOTO COUNTY

BOCC CLOSED FOR VETERANS DAY

MON

DESOTO COUNTY

NOVEMBER'S ONLY COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

TUE 3P & 6:30P **Administration Building** 201 E. Oak Street, Suite 103 Arcadia, FL 34266

Active dates and times are subject to change. County: http://desotobocc.com/calendar City: https://arcadia-fl.gov/events/







SALES INQUIRIES: SALES@PEACERIVERSHOPPER.COM

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CREATIVE DIR / AD DESIGN Jackie Bierman

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RIVERSIDE RV RESORT PUD AMENDED



CAROL MAHLER

Independent Contractor carolmahler22acl@gmail.com Photos provided

At the Oct. 22 public hearing, Commissioners Steve Hickox, Elton Langford, and Judy Schaefer approved the approximately 303-acre Riverside Recreation Vehicle (RV) Resort Planned United Development (PUD) Amendment for 330 RV and 467 manufactured home (MH) lots—a density of two dwelling units per acre, plus supporting amenities and associated infrastructure. Board Chairperson Jerod Gross was opposed, and Vice-Chairperson J.C. Deriso absent.

This change was a "down-zone" from the original PUD, approved by Resolution 2014-95, for 1,058 single-family and multi-family units with a density of about 3.5 residences per acre. The development will be managed by the group that is building it.

The plan includes enhanced buffers and separate entrances for RV and MH lots with nearly 116 acres of open space (40 more acres than required) plus about 52 acres of wetlands and wetland buffers. "Type A" buffers with specifically enhanced screening will be installed next to neighboring residents plus some berms and/or fences as well as stormwater ponds on the site perimeter.

Amenities will be clustered away from neighbors near the main entrance for RV lots on Kings Highway. That entrancewith existing residences on either side of the parcel-will have a "Type B" buffer with an 8' opaque fence and/or berm combination. The other entrance will be on Peace River St. across from Welch's Subdivision, with a possible secondary access on property next door to 10028 SW Peace River St.

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) has already granted an environmental resource permit for the previously approved 1,055-unit residential project, so the proposed plan will require the permit modification that will comply with new stormwater regulations. The only endangered or threatened species identified on the property is the gopher

DeSoto County Utilities will provide both potable water and wastewater treatment, and construction may begin with the 200 wastewater Equivalent Residential Units (ERUS) already secured through a County utility agreement.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

As requested by CEB Land Management Services, LLC, the Board approved a resolution to amend the Future Land Use Map designation of about 1.5 acres at 5241 SW U.S. Highway 17 from Low Density Residential to Commercial as well as the rezoning of that parcel and an adjacent property at 5163 SW U.S. Highway 17-totaling almost three acres-from Agricultural-10 (A-10) and Commercial Neighborhood to Commercial General.

As requested by Eugene H. Turner &



Soon to be living in his new home, 8532 SW U.S. Highway 17, adjacent to the Turner property, Joseph Stein wondered how digging dirt is considered agriculture?

> Eugene Turner, Jr., said that the dewatering pumps would be no louder than the irrigation pumps he used in the former citrus grove.





Living next to the proposed Kings Highway entrance to the RV lots, Gerard Couture noted that the creek flows through that parcel, so "that property is soaking wet."



Living on Welch Ave., Carolyn Hall was concerned about two entrances/exits on Peace River Street. She has waited a half hour to turn left onto Kings Highway from Peace River St.



Claudia Bruce said that she has paid taxes for 19 years, and yet nothing is done about the overwhelming traffic. "I feel like we're not being taken care of," she said.



A resident on Peace River St., Steve Bair shares two boundaries with the proposed Riverside RV Resort. He said, "A traffic light and four-lane road are needed for this size development."



If the Florida Dept. of Transportation (FDOT) requires a "turn lane" for the Kings Highway entrance, James Hobbs said it will be located in front of his home.



James Johnson objected to the planned development because he thought that the infrastructure to support it was not yet in place.



A neighbor, Andrea Phillips extolled the peaceful community and had concerns that it would diminish or disappear with the development.



Representing the owners, Todd Rebol, P.E. asked that condition #3 be deleted as it is duplicated in #25, and that the internal sidewalks in condition #23 be replaced by a 10 mph speed limit.

Son, Inc., the Board approved a Future Land Use Map Amendment changing the designation of approximately 216 acres on the east side of U.S. Highway 17 north of Collins St. from Low Density Residential

to Rural/Agriculture. If this amendment is granted, then the Board also approved a special exception use with conditions for a "Type-III Excavation" of about 41 acres acres as well as a "Type III Excavation

Permit" for the planned "borrow pit."

The Board tabled until the Nov. 19 meeting the Future Land Use Map amendment and rezoning proposed by Hudson Land & Cattle, LLC.

BIKE FEST BEGINS WITH FRIDAY NIGHT FUN



CAROL MAHLER

Independent Contractor Photos provided

Arcadia Main Street (AMS) invites everyone to a Beer and Poker Walk from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Fri., Nov. 1, in downtown Arcadia. For \$20.00, participants may sample a variety

GRAND PRIZE FOR BEST

POKER HAND

of beers available in about a dozen downtown stores.

In addition, those purchasing items in the shops will receive a playing card. A grand prize will be awarded for the best five-card poker hand brought to the Arcadia Main Street office at 17 N. Polk

"This event extends Bike Fest to an almost a two-day event," AMS Director

> Pam Ames said. Bert's Arcadia Bike Fest 2024 is 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sat., Nov. 2, and historic downtown Arcadia will welcome thousands of motorcyclists and their machines. Enjoy a bike show hosted by "Full Throttle Magazine," plus live music, food trucks, local restaurants and shops.

"We have more vendors and more nonprofit organizations in this year's event than ever before," Ames said. For more information, check online at arcadiamainstreet.com or on Facebook.



Motorcycles filled historic downtown Arcadia during Bike Fest hosted by Arcadia Main Street (AMS) last Nov., and you may enjoy the fun during Bert's Arcadia Bike Fest 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., this Sat., Nov. 2. Photograph courtesy of Carol Mahler.

AMS is also hosting some "Friday Night Fun" with a Beer and Polker Walk from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Fri., Nov. 1, in historic downtown Arcadia.



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- >> VIN verification will be reinstated, so customers won't have to leave the office to get this service.
- >> I will work to provide the application for a concealed weapons license.
- >> I will offer more driving test appointments.
- >> I will create a solid foundation for career longevity. It would be an honor to serve as Tax Collector for many years to come.

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GUT CHECK TIME FOR BULLDOGS



STEVE KNAPP

Sports Writer sports@peacerivershopper.com

The final two games of the season for the Bulldogs football team is the toughest part of their schedule. After a 44-0 loss to Hardee last Friday, they will host Booker and travel to Mulberry. Booker has scored more than 29 points (DeSoto's season high) 6 times and Mulberry is 7-1. Those are two strong teams and DeSoto is missing a couple of key players because of injury. This is the time of the year when everybody has a few bumps and bruises. Charlie Wilkerson missed the last game with strep throat, Chris Lincoln was also out of the game. Sam Cuellar, who scored two touchdowns last week has a broken collarbone and is done for the season. All three play on both sides of the ball and are play makers.

It will also be an opportunity to see what kind of team they are. Are they going to come out like some wild animal and play with intensity and mistake free football and surprise their final two opponents? Will they revert to last season and not be committed and make mistakes that continue to put them in a position where they won't be successful?

There was a closed door meeting with the players and coaching staff after the game. Later I asked coach Lohrey about what was the general message behind the meeting.

Lohrey said, "I wanted them to know that we are in this thing together. Football is such an emotion game. When things are going good everybody is happy and united and it is easy to come to practice. They talk about brotherhood and do the right things in school. When things aren't going so well that's when you'll find out how tight you are. I am committed to turn this thing around and I want them to come in here Monday committed to get this program back to the standard that it should be."

The first step in the final 3 games of the season didn't start out so well. The Hardee Wildcats put a beating on the Bulldogs 44-0. The game should have been much closer but the Bulldogs never got anything going on offense or defense. It was their first "running clock" game of the season after having seen 8 of those games last season.

The offense gained a total of just 70



The Bulldogs enter the field on Senior Night against Hardee.

yards with 37 of those yards in the air. Of those 37 yards more than half (19) came on Julian Quezada's first catch of the season. Running back Jamil Brown was the leading ground gainer with 20 yards. Quarterback Rylan Unruh was a respectable 6-9 in the air but spent most of his time scrambling to find a receiver. He didn't have the luxury of dropping back and looking at his options.

DeSoto won the toss and elected to receive which many coaches will do just to make a statement early in the game. Then they gave up two touchdowns to fall behind 16-0 after the first quarter.

The Bulldogs may have set or tied a football record by kicking off twice in the first quarter yet not scoring a point. They gave up two safeties. The first one came when Unruh was tackled in the end zone. That drive was typical of how the night went. They fumbled the kickoff, which has happened many times this season, and took possession on their own 10. An illegal procedure penalty backed them up five yards and then came the safety.

The second one was on a bad punt snap that sailed over Quezada's head and rolled into the end zone. Had they deferred when they won the coin toss



Tyler Powers brings down the Hardee runner with Rylan Unruh and Evan Roe in pursuit.



Jesus Camacho got popped by 3 players on this kick return but put his hand down to regain his balance and pick up a few more yards.

they would have kicked off 3 times in a quarter and never scored!

The best offensive drive of the game came midway into the second quarter when Hardee jumped off side to give the Bulldogs their first first down of the game. Quezada's catch moved the ball to the 19, but the Bulldogs coughed it up on the next play and the Wildcats recovered. The halftime score was 23-0.

The second half wasn't any prettier. Hardee had three straight runs of 17,

19 and 10 yards to move to the Bulldogs' 9 yard line. Evan Roe is the leader of the defense and leading tackler on the team. He stuffed the running back for a 3 yard loss on the next play. Hardee scored on the next play to take a 30-0 lead.

Later in the guarter another bad



snap to the punter was chased down by Quezada and he was brought down on the 1 yard line. Hardee punched it in and the running clock began at 37-0.

"When we're coming off a season like we had last year, it is easy to settle for moral victories. I don't want to do

that. I want to set the bar high. If we settle for moral victories that is a poor mentality to have when you're trying to reestablish a program. Then you start to settle for moral victories. I'm down now. Really down and I am more committed to turn this thing around than I ever was.

Quarterback Rylan Unruh fakes to Jamil Brown and rolls out in the loss to Hardee.

We're going to just keep on fighting and working to give this team and community the team they deserve," said Lohrey.



Rylan Unruh drags the Hardee player for a short gain while Blake Gross puts a block on former Bulldog Braden Moran.

DESOTO COUNTY

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



There is a total of 15 "athletes of the week" in this edition. These seniors have seen the mountain top with back to back district championships in 2021 & 2022. Then they struggled through a win less season in their junior year. While they haven't seen a lot of success on the field in terms of wins and losses, they have started the long process of rebuilding of the football program.

It hasn't been easy to get the football program back on track, but many of these seniors have played an important role in rebuilding the program. Some of the seniors have only played for a season or two yet they wanted to be a part of turning the program around.

It would have been easy to quit playing or transfer to another program, but these 15 athletes have worked hard and stuck it out and have earned the title of "Athletes of the Week".



DESOTO COUNTY

GAME OF THE WEEK



DESOTO SEASON ENDS WITH LOSS TO BOCA CIEGA



STEVE KNAPP

Sports Writer sports@peacerivershopper.com

Whenever the number 4 and 5 seed volleyball teams meet in a regional quarterfinal, you'd expect a close match. That is just what the fans got in Arcadia last week however it didn't go the way the Bulldog fans would have wanted. The Bulldogs scored 25 points in three of the sets but still lost the match.

DeSoto was playing their best volleyball of the season winning 7 of their last 8 matches and all 7 wins were by 3-0 sweeps. They picked a bad time to not continue their high level of play as they didn't play as well as they had been playing and fell to the Boca Ciega Pirates in 4 sets 25-27, 25-18, 25-27 and 23-25.

DeSoto had a nice 11-5 lead in the first set but watched that melt away as the Pirates scored 9 unanswered points to take a 14-11 lead. The teams exchanged leads with the Bulldogs taking a 24-23 lead and needing just one point to win the first set. Boca Ciega came back to pull out an exciting 27-25 win.

DeSoto regrouped in the second set after falling behind 13-6. The Bulldogs scored 18 of the next 22 points to even the match at a set apiece with a 25-18 win. The third set was close all the way with neither team able to take charge and get a run going. The third set ended just as the first set did with the Pirates on top 27-25.

In the match deciding set the Bulldogs looked as if they were going to force a fifth set by taking a 22-18 lead. That's when the wheels fell off as the Pirates scored on 4 DeSoto hitting errors, a block and an ace to advance to the semifinals with a 25-23 win.

"They had stronger hitters so our blockers weren't blocking well tonight. We lost that first set on our errors. We were making bad passes and didn't communicate on a couple of balls. Two seniors were really on tonight as Emery (Skinner) and Kirra (Hoffmeier) and played really well. Yahri (Tyler) was on point tonight until she got hurt. But we have a young team and to win the district in my first season as head coach was one of our goals," said Bulldog coach Danielle Taylor.

Taylor said Hoffmeier was "Phenomenal" and she did have a great night especially when Tyler was out of the rotation. She picked up the slack. "This was definitely my best game I ever had. It really sucks now that my high school career is over," said Hoffmeier.



Boca Ciega puts up a double block on Yahri Tyler who had a big game attacking the ball.



Kirra Hoffmeier comes off the court after the Bulldogs' set win over Boca Ciega. The senior said it was her best game she ever had.



Jordin Campbell passes the ball on a serve receive in the loss to Baca Ciega.



Kirra Hoffmeier had a nice game on defense too as she puts up a block on a Pirate shot.



Izaria Anderson gets into a shot in the loss to Boca Ciega in the regional quarterfinals.

BULLDOGS FINISH SEASON WITH BACK TO BACK SHUTOUTS



STEVE KNAPP

Sports Writer sports@peacerivershopper.com

The DeSoto Middle School softball team finished their season strong blanking Hill-Gustat 15-0 on senior night and then knocking off arch rival Hardee the next night in another mercy rule shortened game 10-0.

The win over Hardee looked a lot different than their 9-7 loss earlier in the season to the Wildcats. After the win over the Eagles on Monday night, coach Jinny Schaefer got her team ready for the big season finale.

"We can enjoy tonight's win but you know they are not a real strong team. Tomorrow we will play Hardee and everybody needs to bring their "A" game. We had to adjust against a slow pitcher tonight but Hardee will have a faster pitcher tomorrow. We have to be ready for a better pitcher. We need to start strong and play better defense," said Schaefer.

The Bulldogs did everything Schaefer asked for. They started with 5 runs in the first inning just as they had done the night before. They added 3 more in the second and finished the game in the bottom of the 4th scoring 2 more runs to end the game. They also played much better defense just as Schaefer asked.

"You guys understand the potential you have right? I have so much confidence in you guys, you are a dominant team. Last night's team and tonight's team were completely opposite yet we played our game and you see what happened. It has been a good season," said Schaefer.

The top of the Bulldog order did most of the damage picking up 6 of the 7 base knocks. Leadoff hitter Lacey Berini (who FINALLY took a pitch after swing at 4 first pitches in her previous 5 at bats) was 2-3 and scored twice. The second batter in the lineup was Ava Eggers who also scored twice on a 2-2 plus a walk performance.

Amiyah Smith was 1-1 with a walk and hit by a pitch also dented the dish twice. That put those batters on base 8 out of 9 plate appearances. Only Eggers will return next season as the other two will be on the high school team.

THE BEAUTY OF THE GAME

For those that think softball/baseball is a slow moving sport or think that it is simply "hit the ball, field the ball, throw the ball, catch the ball" type of game, let me show you an example of the inner workings of the game.

This shows the difference between a "softball coach" and a person who "coaches softball". In the first inning with Eggers (who is an excellent baserunner) on second and Smith on first who is nursing a hamstring pull and could only move in a slow jog.

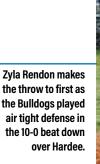
The batter was a right hander so you think that if she pulls the ball on the ground to the left side, it would be an easy double play going to third to get the lead runner and then to second to get the injury plagued Smith. (I don't think that would have happened because I don't believe Hardee was watching Smith hobble to first and at that skill level the players don't think about that sort of thing).

Schaefer didn't put the team in that possible inning ending situation that would have nullified 4 of the 5 first inning runs. Eggers executed a perfectly played delayed steal of third. That allowed Smith to jog into second on the next



The DeSoto Middle School softball team finished a good season with back to back shutout mercy rule wins.

Ava Eggers fields a comebacker and makes the throw to Lilyana Palafox to get the out.





Third sacker Caitlyn Zamora watches a pop up sail over the backstop in the 10-0 win over Hardee.



Ava Eggers scores the 9th run of the game on a wild pitch.

Sure enough the batter hit a slow roller to short who had no other option but to throw to first and let Eggers score. Smith advanced to

pitch since middle school teams don't challenge

a runner at second with a runner on third.

third and scored on a sacrifice fly. Without that steal of third, it could have easily been a double play on that grounder to short.

There is the difference between a "softball coach" and a person who "coaches softball".



Lilyana Palafox gets rung up trying to stretch her run scoring single into a double in the 10-0 win over Hardee.

JIM BLUE ADVOCATES "LOCAL POWER"



CAROL MAHLER

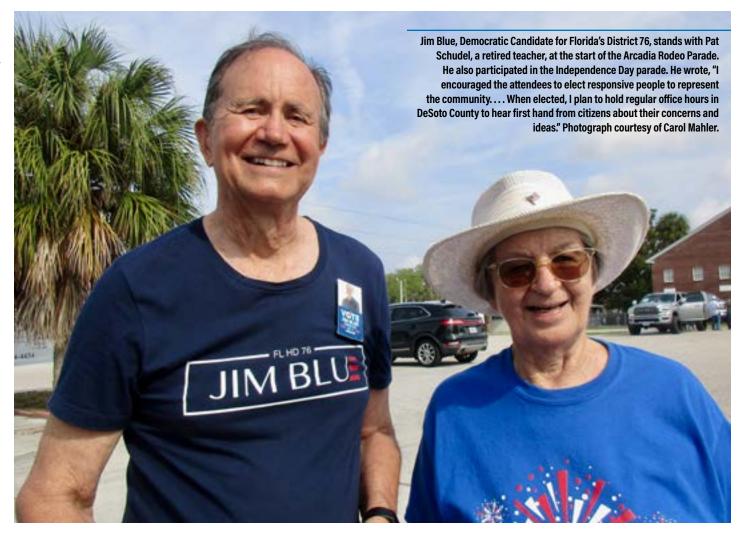
Independent Contractor carolmahler22acl@gmail.com Photos provided

A candidate for Florida House of Representatives District 76, Jim Blue spent most of his life reporting the news rather than being in the news. After 44 years as a television news director and anchor mostly in Ohio, he retired to Punta Gorda. He wants to be the voice of the citizens in DeSoto County, north Lee County, and south Charlotte County—including Punta Gorda and Babcock Ranch.

Jim Blue wrote, "When I decided to run for Florida House District 76, which includes all of DeSoto County, I wanted to learn more. So I contacted Glen Coone, a Democrat and longtime resident with deep roots in the community. He gave me a tour of Arcadia, including the neighborhoods seldom visited by tourists. From Glen I learned a great deal about the challenges and the charm of the town and its rural base.

"Last Fall I attended DeSoto County's legislative day hosted by outgoing Representative Spencer Roach and Senator Ben Albritton. I was appalled when both legislators ignored a plea by Arcadia Mayor Robert Heine, Jr., to have Governor DeSantis name new members of the DeSoto Memorial Hospital Board. . . . This experience confirmed my view that DeSoto County is too often ignored by the legislators elected to represent the community."

As the County's biggest strength,



Blue identified "the pride residents take in their community" as well as their willingness "to work to make their community prosperous." He also noted support for public education "as strong school systems are a major determinant in a community's economic health."

He wrote, "Continuing to build education programs around agriculture will certainly help to attract people who are looking for a rural lifestyle and want to work in agriculture. . . . A vital agricultural business climate, combined with a strong

sense of environmental stewardship, has great potential for the county."

Blue's stand on other issues is available on his Website: jimblue. com: "The core of my campaign is local power" aka "home rule." That means the city council and county commission decide local issues without interference from State laws. He wrote, "In recent years, the Florida legislature has passed numerous preemption laws, taking away local control—especially when it comes to land use issues. I will vote against such

preemption bills. It's important to keep local law making as close to those most impacted as possible."

As the sixth poorest county in the State, DeSoto County is very different than the prosperous coastal counties of Lee and Charlotte County that make up District 76. Blue mentioned "water" and "climate" issues as shared challenges and "opportunities to forge regional partnerships." He noted, "The citizens of the three counties in District 76 have many issues in common."

HURRICANE DEBRIS REMOVAL BEGINS IN CITY AND COUNTY



CAROL MAHLER

Independent Contractor carolmahler22acl@gmail.com

At a special meeting on Oct. 22, the Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County so that the County will provide debris removal services in both the County and the City. The County ratified the MOU at their regular meeting earlier in the day.

Debris removal will start on Oct. 28, and residents will be notified through the governments' Facebook and Websites.

City Administrator Terry Stewart thanked Assistant City Administrator Beth Carsten for "helping to put this together." He reminded everyone that the contractor will not pickup "mixed loads," so yard debris must be separated from any damaged building materials divided from any ruined household items. In addition, the debris must not be placed over or around fire hydrants.

Gov. Ron DeSantis announced that the offer of assistance because the sooner

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) had issued a major disaster declaration for Hurricane Milton which includes public assistance for "Category A" debris removal. However, the City's contractor for debris removal and monitoring services had already mobilized in Georgia plus North and South Carolina, so they will be unable to provide services in Arcadia until three or four weeks from

However, the County's contractors are ready to begin, so the County made the offer of assistance because the sooner

that the services are complete, the more likely FEMA is to fully reimburse the costs. According to the MOU, if the County does not receive reimbursement for the services in the City, then the "City shall reimburse the County all reasonable and necessary costs and expenses incurred by the County for the Services."

Council Member Luis Velasco wondered about the likelihood of FEMA not reimbursing the County, and Stewart assured him it was possible but not probable.

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Florida Civil Commitment Center

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November 5, 2024 DeSoto County, Florida

> Boleta para la elección oficial general 5 de noviembre de 2024 Condado de DeSoto, Florida

Instructions: To vote, fill in the oval completely next to your choice.
Use only the marker provided or a black or blue pen.
If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot. Do not cross out or your vote may not cour to vote for a write-in candidate, fill in the oval and print the name clearly on the blank provided for the write-in candidate.

Instrucciones: Para votar, rellene completamente el óvalo 👁 que está al lado de su selección.

Usar únicamente los dispositivos de marcación proporcionados o un bolígrafo negro o azúl. Si comete un error, solicite una nueva boleta. No tache su voto o es posible que no sea Para votar por un candidato por escrito, rellene el óvalo y escriba el nombre claramente en la línea en blanco proporcionada para el candidato por escrito. **President and Vice President** Shall Justice Meredith Sasso of the Supreme Court be retained in office? No. 1 Constitutional Amendment (Vote for 1) ¿De Debera Meredith Sasso Mantener en su Puesto el Juez de la Corete Suprema? Presidente y Vice-presidente N.º 1 Enmienda Constitucional (Voté por 1) Partisan Election of Members of ODonald J. Trump District School Boards Yes/Sí Proposing amendments to the State No/No ─ Kamala D. Harris **DEM Second District Court of Appeal** Tim Walz Corte de Apelación del Distrito nonpartisan election and to specify Chase Oliver hat the amendment only applies to that the amendment only applies to elections held on or after the November 2026 general election. However, partisan primary elections may occur before the 2026 general election for purposes of nominating political party candidates to that office for placement on the 2026 general election ballot. Mike ter Maat Shall Judge Anthony K. Black of the Second District Court of Appeal be retained in office? Claudia De la Cruz **PSL** Karina Garcia Debería el Juez Anthony K. Black Randall Terry la Corte de Apelación del Cuarto Stephen Broder Distrito, ser retenido en su puesto? Peter Sonski ○ Yes/Sí Elección Partidista de Miembros Lauren Onak de Juntas Escolares de Distrito O No/No Shall Judge Edward C. LaRose of the Second District Court of Appeal be retained in office? Rudolph Ware los miembros de una junta escolar distrital sean elegidos mediante una elección partidista en vez de una elección portidista en vez de una que la enmienda solo se aplica a las idadicios de la companya Debería el Juez Edward C. LaRosa de la Corte de Apelación del Cuarto Distrito, ser retenido en su puesto? **United States Senator** (Vote for 1) O Yes/Sí Senador de Estados Unidos O No/No (Voté por 1) con el fin de nominar a los candidatos de partidos políticos para ese oficio para su inclusión en la boleta de las elecciones generales de 2026. Shall Judge Susan H. Rothstein-Youakim of the Second Rick Scott District Court of Appeal be retained in Debbie Mucarsel-Powell DEM O Feena Bonoan ¿Debería el Juez Susan H. Rothstein-Youakim de la Corte de Tuan TQ Nguyen ○ Yes/Sí NPA Apelación del Cuarto Distrito, ser retenido en su puesto? O Ben Everidge ○ No/No ○ Write-Ir O Yes/Si No. 2 Constitutional Amendment Article I, Section 28 ○ No/No Representative in Congress N.º 2 Enmienda Constitucional Tax Collector (Vote for 1) Artículo I. Sección 28 (Vote for 1) Representante en el congreso del Distrito 18 Recaudador de Impuestos Right to Fish and Hunt (Voté por 1) (Voté por 1) Proposing an amendment to the Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to preserve forever fishing and hunting, including by the use of traditional methods, as a public right and preferred means of responsibly managing and controlling fish and wildlife. Specifies that the amendment does not limit the authority granted to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission O Susan D. Pooley Scott Franklin O Andrea Doria Kale O Esmeralda Manriquez DEM Superintendent of Schools District 27 (Vote for 1) Superintendente de Escuelas (Vote for 1) (Voté por 1) Senador del Estado Wildlife Conservation Commission under Section 9 of Article IV of the Distrito 27 (Voté por 1) O Bobby Bennett State Constitution REF Ben Albritton O Jermaine Andrews DEM Derecho a Pescar y Cazar O Phillip R. Carter DEM Se propone una enmienda a la Constitución estatal para preservar constantemente la pesca y la caza, State Representative constantemente la pesca y la incluso por medio de métodos medio preferido para gestionar y controlar responsablemente los peces y la vida silvestre. Especifica que la enmienda no limita la Representante Estatal (Voté por 1) autoridad adjudicada a la Comisión O Vanessa Oliver REF O Jim Blue DEM Artículo IV de la Constitución estatal Justice of the Supreme Court O Yes/Sí Juez de la Corte Suprema O No/No Shall Justice Renatha Francis of the Supreme Court be retained in office? De Debera Renatha Francis

Article X, Section 29

N.º 3 Enmienda Constitucional Artículo X. Sección 29

Article IX, Section 4 and Article XII Artículo IX, Sección 4 y Artículo XII

Constitution to require members of a district school board to be elected in a partisan election rather than a

Constitución estatal para requerir que que la enimenta solo se aprica a las elecciones celebradas a partir de las elecciones generales de noviembre de 2026. Sin embargo, las elecciones primarias partidistas pueden suceder antes de las elecciones generales de

tradicionales, como derecho público y de Conservación de Pesca y Vida Silvestre en virtud de la Sección 9 del

PLEASE VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT VOTÉ AMBOS LADOS DE LA BOLETA

No. 3 Constitutional Amendment

Adult Personal Use of Marijuana Adult Personal Use of Marijuana

Allows adults 21 years or older to possess, purchase, or use marijuana products and marijuana accessories for non-medical personal consumption by smoking, ingestion, or otherwise; allows Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers, and other state licensed entities, to acquire, cultivate, process, manufacture, sell, and distribute such products and accessories. Applies to Florida law; does not change, or immunize violations of, federal law. stablishes possession limits for personal use. Allows consistent legislation. Defines terms. Provides effective date. The amendment's financial impact primarily comes from financial impact primarily comes from expected sales tax collections. If legal today, sales of non-medical today, sales of non-medical marijuana would be subject to sales tax and would remain so if voters approve this amendment. Based on other states' experiences, expected retail sales of non-medical marijuana would generate at least \$195.6 millio annually in state and local sales tax revenues once the retail market is fully operational although the timing revenues once the retail market is fully operational, although the timing of this occurring is unclear. Under current law, the existing statutory framework for medical marijuana is repealed six months after the effective date of this amendment which affects how this amendment will be implemented. A new regulatory structure for both medical and nonmedical use of marijuana will be needed. Its design cannot be fully

Autoriza que los adultos de 21 años de edad o mayores posean, comprer o utilicen productos y accesorios de marihuana para consumo personal que no sea medicinal mediante el tabaquismo, por ingestión o de otra manera; Centros de tratamiento de manera; Centros de tratamiento de marinuana medicinal y otras entidades con licencia estatal, para adquirir, cultivar, procesar, fabricar, vender y distribuir dichos productos y accesonos. Se aplica a la ley de la Florida; no cambia, tampoco protege contro la visilanziana de lavara. contra las violaciones de leyes federales. Define los límites de rederales. Define los limites de posesión para uso personal. Da consistencia legislativa. Define los términos. Define la fecha de vigencia. El impacto financiero de la enmienda proviene en primer lugar de la recaudación impositiva futura sobre las ventas. Si hoy es legal, las ventas de marihuana con fines no medicinales estarían suietas al medicinales estarían sujetas al impuesto sobre las ventas v seguiríar impuesto sobrie las vertidas y segurir siéndolo si los votantes aprueban esta enmienda. Según las experiencias de otros estados, las ventas minoristas futuras de marihuana no medicinal generarían menos \$195,6 millones anuales en ingresos por impuestos estatales y ingresos por impuestos estatales y locales sobre las ventas una vez que el mercado minorista esté en plend

el mercado minonsta este en pieno funcionamiento, aunque no está claro el momento en que esto ocurrirá. Según la ley vigente, el marco legal existente para la marihuana medicinal queda derogado con efecto seis meses después de la fecha de esta enmienda, lo que afecta la forma len que se implementará esta en que se implementará esta enmienda. Se necesitará una nueva estructura regulatoria para el uso medicinal y no medicinal de la inteciniar y no inteciniar de marinuana. No se puede conocer su diseño en su totalidad hasta que actúe la Legislatura; sin embargo, los costos regulatorios probablemente serán compensados por las tarifas regulatorias. No se pueden predecir portos costos y aborros potenciales

regulatorias. No se pieden predecir otros costos y ahorros potenciales. SE ESPERA QUE ESTA PROPUESTA DE ENMENDA CONSTITUCIONAL TENGA UN IMPACTO NETO POSITIVO EN EL PRESUPUESTO ESTATAL. ESTE IMPACTO PUEDE RESULTAR EN LA GENERACIÓN DE INGRESOS ADICIONALES O UN INCREMENTO EN LOS SERVICIOS GUBERNAMENTALES.

O Yes/Si O No/No No. 4 Constitutional Amendm Article I. New Section

N.º 4 Enmienda Constituciona Artículo I. Nueva Sección

Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion

No law shall prohibit, penalize, delay, or restrict abortion before viability or when necessary to protect the patient's health as determined by The patient's healthcare provider.
This amendment does not change the Legislature's constitutional authority to require notification to a parent ór guardian before a minor has an abortion.

Financial and State Budget Impact

Statements The proposed amendment would result in significantly more abortions and fewer live births per year in Florida. The increase in abortions could be even greater if the amendment invalidates laws requirin parental consent before minors undergo abortions and those ensuring only licensed physicians perform abortions. There is also uncertainty about whether the amendment will require the state to subsidize abortions with public funds itigation to resolve those and other incertainties will result in additional costs to the state government and state courts that will negatively impact the state budget. An increase in and state brought. An Increase in abortions may negatively affect the growth of state and local revenues over time. Because the fiscal impact of increased abortions on state and local revenues and occurs consists. nonmedical use of marijuana will be needed. Its design cannot be fully known until the legislature acts; however, regulatory costs will probably be offset by regulatory fees. Other potential costs and savings cannot be predicted. THIS IMPACT OF THIS AMEDIAN IN THE STATE BUDGET. THIS IMPACT ON THE STATE BUDGET. THIS IMPACT MAY RESULT IN GENERATING ADDITIONAL REVENUE OR AN INCREASE IN GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

linguna ley prohibirá, penalizará etrasará o restringirá el aborto antes de su viabilidad o cuando sea necesario para proteger la salud de la paciente, según lo determine el proveedor de servicios de salud de la paciente. Esta enmienda no cambia a autoridad constitucional de la Legislatura para exigir notificación a uno de los padres o tutor del menor antes de que una menor tenga un

Declaraciones del impacto del presupuesto financiero y estatal

La enmienda propuesta daría como resultado un número significativamente mayor de abortos un número menor de niños nacidos vivos anualmente en Florida. El aumento de los abortos podría ser aún mayor si la enmienda invalida las leyes que requieren el consentimiento parental antes de que las menores se sometan a abortos y aquellas leyes que garantizan que únicamente los médicos autorizados practiquen abortos. También existe incertidumbre sobre la cuestión que suscitará la enmienda sobre el requerimiento del estado de subsidia los abortos con fondos públicos. Los litigios para resolver esas y otras incertidumbres generarán costos dicionales para el gobierno y los ribunales estatales que impactarán negativamente el presupuesto estatal. Un aumento de los abortos puede afectar negativamente, a lo largo del tiempo, el crecimiento de los ingresos estatales y locales. Debido a que no se puede estimar precisamente el impacto fiscal del aumento de los abortos en los ingresos y esche estables y lecales ingresos y costos estatales y locales, el impacto total de la enmienda propuesta es impreciso. EL IMPACTO FINANCIERO DE ESTA ENMIENDA NO PUEDE
DETERMINARSE DEBIDO A LAS
AMBIGUEDADES E INCERTIDUMBRES QUE RODEAN EL IMPACTO DE LA ENMIENDA.

○ Yes/Sí O No/No

Article VII, Section 6 y Article XII N.º 5 Enmienda Constitucional Artículo VII, Sección 6 y Artículo

Annual Adjustments to the Value of Certain Homestead Exemptions

Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to require an annual adjustment for inflation to the value of current or future homestead exemptions that apply solely to levies other than school district levies and office train scripor distinct reviews and for which every person who has legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another person legally or naturally dependent upon the owner is eligible. This amendment takes effect January 1,

Aiustes Anuales al Valor de Determinadas Exenciones Impositivas Para Viviendas Familiares

Se propone una enmienda a la Constitución del Estado para exigir un ajuste anual por inflación al valor de las exenciones de propiedad actuales o futuras que se aplican únicamente a gravámenes distintos de los impuestos del distrito escolar para los cuales toda persona que tenga un título legal o equitativo sobre bienes inmuebles y los mantenga es elegible la residencia permanente del propietario, o de otra persona que dependa legal o naturalmente del propietario. Esta enmienda entra en vigencia el 1 de nero de 2025

O Yes/Si

○ No/No

No. 6 Constitutional Amendment N.º 6 Enmienda Constitucional

Repeal of Public Campaign Financing Requirement

Artículo VI, Sección 7

Proposing the repeal of the provision in the State Constitution which requires public financing for campaigns of candidates for elective statewide office who agree to campaign spending limits.

Derogación del Requerimiento de Financiamiento de Campañas Públicas

Se propone el rechazo de la disposición de la Constitución del Estado que requiere el financiamier público de las campañas de los candidatos que busquen oficios estatales electivos y que se adhieran a los límites de gastos de campaña.

O Yes/Si

○ No/No

PLEASE VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT VOTÉ AMBOS LADOS DE LA BOLETA

EARLY VOTING:

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21ST - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND

Monday - Friday • 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM | **Saturday & Sunday •** 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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Style 2 ID-16A McSwain Building- 2117
Official General Election Ballot **G16A** November 5, 2024 DeSoto County, Florida

> Boleta para la elección oficial general 5 de noviembre de 2024 Condado de DeSoto, Florida

Instructions: To vote, fill in the oval completely next to your choice.
Use only the marker provided or a black or blue pen.
If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot. Do not cross out or your vote may not count.
To vote for a write-in candidate, fill in the oval and print the name clearly on the blank line provided for the write-in candidate.

Instrucciones: Para votar, rellene completamente el óvalo
que está al lado de su selección Usar únicamente los dispositivos de marcación proporcionados o un bolígrafo negro o azul. Si comete un error, solicite una nueva boleta. No tache su voto o es posible que no sea

Si comete un error, solicite una nueva boleta. No tache su voto o es posible que no sea contado. Para votar por un candidato por escrito, rellene el óvalo y escriba el nombre claramente en la línea en blanco proporcionada para el candidato por escrito.			
President and Vice President (Vote for 1) Presidente y Vice-presidente (Voté por 1)		Shall Justice Meredith Sasso of the Supreme Court be retained in office? ¿De Debera Meredith Sasso Mantener en su Puesto el Juez de la Corete Suprema?	No. 1 Constitutional Amendment Article IX, Section 4 and Article XII N.º 1 Enmienda Constitucional Artículo IX, Sección 4 y Artículo XII
Donald J. Trump JD Vance	REP	Yes/Si	Partisan Election of Members of District School Boards
Kamala D. Harris Tim Walz		No/No Second District Court of Appeal Corte de Apelación del Distrito	Proposing amendments to the State Constitution to require members of a district school board to be elected in a partisan election rather than a nonpartisan election and to specify
Claudia De la Cruz	PSL	Shall Judge Anthony K. Black of the Second District Court of Appeal be retained in office?	that the amendment only applies to elections held on or after the November 2026 general election. However, partisan primary elections may occur before the 2026 general
Stephen broden	CFP	¿Debería el Juez Anthony K. Black de la Corte de Apelación del Cuarto Distrito, ser retenido en su puesto?	election for purposes of nominating political party candidates to that office for placement on the 2026 general election ballot.
Peter Sonski Lauren Onak	ASP	○ Yes/Sí ○ No/No	Elección Partidista de Miembros de Juntas Escolares de Distrito
Rudoiph ware	BRE	Shall Judge Edward C. LaRose of the Second District Court of Appeal be retained in office?	Se propone enmiendas a la Constitución estatal para requerir que los miembros de una junta escolar distrital sean elegidos mediante una
Write-In Escrito		¿Debería el Juez Edward C. LaRosa de la Corte de Apelación del Cuarto Distrito, ser retenido en su puesto?	elección partidista en vez de una elección no partidista y se especifica que la enmienda solo se aplica a las
United States Senator (Vote for 1)		○ Yes/Sí	elecciones celebradas a partir de las elecciones generales de noviembre
Senador de Estados Unidos		○ No/No	de 2026. Sin embargo, las elecciones primarias partidistas pueden suceder
	REP DEM	Shall Judge Susan H. Rothstein-Youakim of the Second District Court of Appeal be retained in office?	iantes de las elecciones generales de 2026 con el fin de nominar a los candidatos de partidos políticos para ese oficio para su inclusión en la boleta de las elecciones generales de 2026.
○ Tuan TQ Nguyen○ Ben EveridgeN	LPF NPA NPA	¿Debería el Juez Susan H. Rothstein-Youakim de la Corte de Apelación del Cuarto Distrito, ser retenido en su puesto?	○ Yes/Sí ○ No/No
Write-In Escrito		○ Yes/Sí	No. 2 Constitutional Amendment
Representative in Congress District 18 (Vote for 1)		No/No Tax Collector	Article I, Section 28 N.º 2 Enmienda Constitucional Artículo I, Sección 28
Representante en el congreso del Distrito 18 (Voté por 1)		(Vote for 1) Recaudador de Impuestos (Voté por 1)	Right to Fish and Hunt Proposing an amendment to the
○ Scott Franklin R	REP	O Susan D. Pooley REP	State Constitution to preserve forever fishing and hunting, including
O Andrea Doria Kale D	ЕМ	-	by the use of traditional methods, as
State Senator District 27 (Vote for 1) Senador del Estado		Superintendent of Schools (Vote for 1) Superintendente de Escuelas (Voté por 1)	a public right and preferred means of responsibly managing and controlling fish and wildlife. Specifies that the amendment does not limit the authority granted to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Distrito 27 (Voté por 1)		· · ·	under Section 9 of Article IV of the State Constitution.
○ Ben Albritton R	REP	,	Derecho a Pescar y Cazar
	ЕМ	City of Arcadia	Se propone una enmienda a la
State Representative District 76 (Vote for 1)		City Council Members	Constitución estatal para preservar constantemente la pesca y la caza, incluso por medio de métodos tradicionales, como derecho público y

(Vota por hasta 3)

O Robert W Heine Jr

O Chelsea Palmer

O Luis A. Velasco

O Dee Washington

de Arcadia

DEM

Representante Estatal

O Vanessa Oliver

Justice of the Supreme Court

¿De Debera Renatha Francis

Shall Justice Renatha Francis of the Supreme Court be retained in office?

Mantener en su Puesto el Juez de la

Juez de la Corte Suprema

Voté por 1)

O Jim Blue

○ Yes/Sí O No/No

Article X, Section 29

N.º 3 Enmienda Constitucional Artículo X. Sección 29

medio preferido para gestionar y controlar responsablemente los peces y la vida silvestre. Especifica que la enmienda no limita la autoridad adjudicada a la Comisión

de Conservación de Pesca y Vida

○ Yes/Sí

○ No/No

PLEASE VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT VOTÉ AMBOS LADOS DE LA BOLETA

Silvestre en virtud de la Sección 9 del

Artículo IV de la Constitución estatal

Adult Personal Use of Marijuana

Allows adults 21 years or older to possess, purchase, or use marijuana products and marijuana accessories for non-medical personal consumption by smoking, ingestion, or otherwise; allows Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers, and other state licensed entities, to acquire cultivate process other state licensed entities, to acquire, cultivate, process, manufacture, sell, and distribute such products and accessories. Applies to Florida law; does not change, or immunize violations of, federal law. Establishes possession limits for personal use. Allows consistent legislation. Defines terms. Provides effective date. The amendment's financial impact primarily comes from expected sales tax collections. If legal today, sales of non-medical marijuana would be subject to sales expected sales tax collections. In legal today, sales of non-medical marijuana would be subject to sales tax and would remain so if voters approve this amendment. Based on other states' experiences, expected retail sales of non-medical marijuana would generate at least \$195.6 million annually in state and local sales tax revenues once the retail market is fully operational, although the timing of this occurring is unclear. Under current law, the existing statutory framework for medical marijuana is repealed six months after the effective date of this amendment which affects how this amendment will be implemented. A new regulatory structure for both medical and nonmedical use of marijuana will be needed. Its design cannot be fully become until the foreigned transparent.

Autoriza que los adultos de 21 años

de edad o mayores posean, comprer o utilicen productos y accesorios de marihuana para consumo personal que no sea medicinal mediante el tabaquismo, por ingestión o de otra manera; Centros de tratamiento de manera; Centros de tratamiento de marihuana medicinal y otras entidades con licencia estatal, para adquirir, cultivar, procesar, fabricar, vender y distribuir dichos productos y accesorios. Se aplica a la ley de la Florida; no cambia, tampoco protege contra las violaciones de leyes federales. Define los límites de rederales. Define los limites de posesión para uso personal. Da consistencia legislativa. Define los términos. Define la fecha de vigencia. El impacto financiero de la enmienda proviene en primer lugar de la recaudación impositiva futura sobre las ventas. Si hoy es legal, las ventas de marihuana con fines no medicipales estarían suietas al medicinales estarían sujetas al impuesto sobre las ventas v seguiríar Impuesto sobre las ventas y seguirian sicindolo si los votantes aprueban esta enmienda. Según las experiencias de otros estados, las ventas minoristas futuras de marihuana no medicinal generarian al menos \$195,6 millones anuales en ingresos por impuestos estatales y locales sobre las ventas una vez que el mercado minorista esté en pleno I mercado minorista esté en pleno el mercado minorista este en pieno funcionamiento, aunque no está claro el momento en que esto ocurrirá. Según la ley vigente, el marco legal existente para la marihuana medicinal queda derogado con efecto seis meses después de la fecha de esta enmienda, lo que afecta la forma len que se implementará esta en que se implementará esta enmienda. Se necesitará una nueva estructura regulatoria para el uso medicinal y no medicinal de la medicinal y no medicinal de la marihuana. No se puede conocer su diseño en su totalidad hasta que actúe la Legislatura; sin embargo, los costos regulatorios probablemente serán compensados por las tarifas regulatorias. No se pueden predecir otros costos y ahorros potenciales. SE ESPERA QUE ESTA PROPUESTA DE ENMIENDA CONSTITUCIONAL TENGA UN IMPACTO NETO POSITIVO EN EL PRESUPUESTO ESTATAL. ESTE IMPACTO PUEDE RESULTAR EN LA GENERACIÓN DE INGRESOS ADICIONALES O UN INCREMENTO EN LOS SERVICIOS GUIBERDAMENTAL ES

GUBERNAMENTALES.

O Yes/Sí O No/No

No. 4 Constitutional Amendm Article I, New Section

N.º 4 Enmienda Constituciona Artículo I. Nueva Sección

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Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion

No law shall prohibit, penalize, delay, or restrict abortion before viability or when necessary to protect the patient's health as determined by the patient's healthcare provider.
This amendment does not change
the Legislature's constitutional
authority to require notification to a parent or guardian before a minor has an abortion.

inancial and State Budget Impact

The proposed amendment would result in significantly more abortions and fewer live births per year in Florida. The increase in abortions rioriua. The increase in abortions could be even greater if the amendment invalidates laws requiring parental consent before minors undergo abortions and those ensuring only licensed the state of the ensuring only licensed physicians perform abortions. There is also uncertainty about whether the amendment will require the state to subsidize abortions with public funds. Litigation to resolve those and other incertainties will result in additional costs to the state government and state courts that will negatively impa the state budget. An increase in abortions may negatively affect the growth of state and local revenues over time. Because the fiscal impact of increased abortions on state and nonmedical use of marijuana will be needed. Its design cannot be fully known until the legislature acts; however, regulatory costs will probably be offset by regulatory fees. Other potential costs and savings cannot be predicted. THIS PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT IS ESTIMATED TO HAVE A NET POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE STATE BUDGET. THIS IMPACT MAY RESULT IN GENERATING ADDITIONAL REVENUE OR AN INCREASE IN GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

Wert ime. Because the fiscal impact of increased abortions on state and local revenues and costs cannot be estimated with precision, the total impact of the proposed amendment is indeterminate. THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THIS AMENDMENT CANNOT BE DETERMINED DUE TO AMBIGUITIES AND UNCERTAINTIES SURROUNDING THE AMENDMENT'S IMPACT.

Enmienda Para Limitar La Interferencia Gubernamental en El Aborto

Ninguna ley prohibirá, penalizará etrasará o restringirá el aborto antes de su viabilidad o cuando sea necesario para proteger la salud de la paciente, según lo determine el proveedor de servicios de salud de la paciente. Esta enmienda no cambia a autoridad constitucional de la Legislatura para exigir notificación a uno de los padres o tutor del menor antes de que una menor tenga un

Declaraciones del impacto del presupuesto financiero y estatal

La enmienda propuesta daría como resultado un número significativamente mayor de abortos un número menor de niños nacidos vivos anualmente en Florida. El aumento de los abortos podría ser aún mayor si la enmienda invalida las leyes que requieren el consentimiento parental antes de que las menores se sometan a abortos y aquellas leyes que garantizan que únicamente los médicos autorizados practiquen abortos. También existe incertidumbre sobre la cuestión que suscitará la enmienda sobre el requerimiento del estado de subsidia los abortos con fondos públicos. Los litigios para resolver esas y otras incertidumbres generarán costos adicionales para el gobierno y los tribunales estatales que impactarán negativamente el presupuesto estatal. Un aumento de los abortos puede afectar negativamente, a lo largo del tiempo, el crecimiento de los ingresos estatales y locales. Debido a que no se puede estimar precisamente el impacto fiscal del aumento de los abortos en los ingresos y costos estatales y locales, el impacto total de la enmienda lei impacto total de la enimienda propuesta sei impreciso. EL IMPACTO FINANCIERO DE ESTA ENMIENDA NO PUEDE DETERMINARSE DEBIDO A LAS AMBIGUEDADES E INCERTIDUMBRES QUE RODEAN ILLEMATOR DE LA ENIMIENTA DE LA EL IMPACTO DE LA ENMIENDA.

Article VII, Section 6 y Article XII N.º 5 Enmienda Constitucional Artículo VII, Sección 6 y Artículo

Annual Adjustments to the Value of Certain Homestead Exemptions

Proposing an amendment to the Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to require an annual adjustment for inflation to the value of current or future homestead exemptions that apply solely to levies other than school district levies and for which every person who has legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another person legally or naturally dependent person legally or naturally dependent upon the owner is eligible. This amendment takes effect January 1,

Aiustes Anuales al Valor de

Se propone una enmienda a la Constitución del Estado para exigir un ajuste anual por inflación al valor de las exenciones de propiedad actuales o futuras que se aplican únicamente a gravamenes distintos de los impuestos del distrito escolar y para los cuales toda persona que tenga un título legal o equitativo sobre bienes inmuebles y los mantenga es elegible la residencia permanente del propietario, o de otra persona que dependa legal o naturalmente del propietario. Esta enmienda entra en vigencia el 1 de la 2025 enero de 2025.

O Yes/Si

O No/No

No. 6 Constitutional Amendment

N.º 6 Enmienda Constitucional Artículo VI, Sección 7

Repeal of Public Campaign Financing Requirement

Proposing the repeal of the provision lin the State Constitution which requires public financing for campaigns of candidates for elective statewide office who agree to campaign spending limits.

Derogación del Requerimiento de Financiamiento de Campañas Públicas

Se propone el rechazo de la disposición de la Constitución del Estado que requiere el financiamier público de las campañas de los candidatos que busquen oficios estatales electivos y que se adhieran a los límites de gastos de campaña.

O Yes/Si ○ No/No

○ Yes/Sí

O No/No

PLEASE VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT VOTÉ AMBOS LADOS DE LA BOLETA

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DeSoto County Supervisor of Elections

MARK NEGLEY

201 E. Oak Street, Suite 104, Arcadia, FL, 34266



COUNTY PROCLAIMS RED RIBBON WEEK AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH



CAROL MAHLER

Independent Contractor carolmahler22acl@gmail.com

At the Oct. 22 meeting, Board
Chairperson Jerod Gross with
Commissioners Steve Hickox, Elton
Langford, and Judy Schaefer proclaimed
Oct. 23 to 31 as "Red Ribbon Week" and
October as Domestic Violence Awareness
Month, extended the local state of
emergency, and approved an agreement
for county attorney services with
Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson, P.A.. ViceChairperson J.C. Deriso was absent.

The National Family Partnership is sponsoring the National Red Ribbon

Campaign "offering citizens the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to drug-free lifestyles—i.e., no use of illegal drugs, no illegal use of legal drugs" by wearing and displaying red ribbons during the week of Oct. 23 to 31, 2024.

Of the 106,515 domestic violence offenses reported in the State of Florida in 2020, 344 occurred in DeSoto County. "Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center (SPARCC) provides free services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children in DeSoto and Sarasota counties." SPARCC works to stop the crime of domestic violence through awareness and education, encouraging citizens to actively engage in public and private efforts to talk about domestic violence and how to prevent it plus how to help survivors find the services they need.

The Board extended the State of Local Emergency declared in Resolution 2024-77 on Oct. 8 in anticipation of Hurricane Milton that "caused property damage and flooding especially in low lying areas" on Oct. 9 because "the County continues to be engaged in disaster emergency response activities."

After winning a large contract, Vose Law Firm, LLP, withdrew their application for county attorney services, so the Board



Commissioner Judy Schaefer presented the Red Ribbon Week Proclamation to Hunter Schaefer, Chairperson of the Tobacco Free Partnership of DeSoto County (TFPDC) Heather Fugate, Jensen Fugate, and Cole Fugate.

approved an agreement for \$180,000.00 annually with the law firm of Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson, P.A.. Valerie Vicente was designated as the County Attorney, Brad Weissman as Deputy County Attorney, and Alain Boileau and Kerry Parsons as Assistant County Attorneys.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Board approved the following items under the Consent Agenda.

 The Classification and Pay Plan reflecting the adopted budget with the following changes and additional positions: in the Admin.
 Dept., the Special Projects Director will become a Public Information Officer/Communications "for developing, implementing, and managing dissemination of public information and messaging" and an Assistant County Administrator to "carry out special projects, functions, and activities . . . with personal attention to administrative details;" a Community Engagement Specialist to "develop community relationships and engagement and provide programming" especially outreach services for the Library; and a Facilities Maintenance Specialist I for the Turner Agri-Civic Center:

Agreement amendment of

\$100,000.00 with The Weiler Corp. for engineering services and to serve as "engineer of record" until Oct. 19, 2025, as the second and final one-year renewal of the initial 2020 three-year agreement;

- Contract amendment with
 Consolidated Productions Group,
 Inc. for utility emergency repair
 services renewing for the final
 and fifth year the 2019 one-year
 contract "with no changes or price
 increases;"
- Agreement for education services for \$3,828.00 with the University of South Florida Board of Trustees





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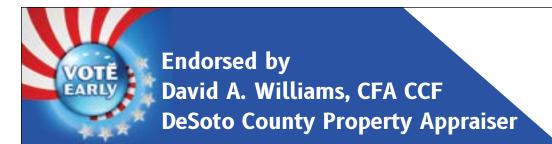
- for services of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to provide "no-cost, one-on-one business consulting to existing and aspiring business owners plus in-person and virtual training and educational events"; and
- Declared as surplus and removed from inventory for sale or disposal the following items: as trade-intwo APX 6000 handheld radios, four Motorola 2015 APM 6000 700/80002.5, four Motorola 2.5 Green portable radios; damaged or worn-out-HP Laserjet 4700DN printer, Dell T130 server, foaming machine, CD A500 sound system, portable PA sound system, Paragon Classic Pop 20 popcorn maker; and no longer needed-three Dell N3048 48 port switches and two Dell Sonicwall network security appliances 2600.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

County Administrator Mandy Hines reminded the Board that because of the Thanksgiving holiday, they will only hold one meeting next month: 3:00 and 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 19. She also received Board consensus on keeping 11' travel lanes for the four-lanes of Kings Highway as presented by the Florida Dept. of Transportation at the Oct. 15 workshop as it will take time and money to redesign.



Board Chairperson Jerod Gross gave the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation to SPARCC Victims Advocate Ariana Perdigon.



To The Voters of DeSoto County, Florida

Many of you have asked my position on the upcoming election for DeSoto County Tax Collector. I have had the opportunity to work alongside both candidates. I feel that there is a clear choice in this race. which is why



I am endorsing Esmeralda Manriquez for DeSoto County Tax Collector.

Esmeralda has 20 years experience in customer service; along with experience in titles and tags, hunting and fishing licenses, driver's licenses, property taxes, bookkeeping, budget and management. For the last four years she has served as my office's Exemption Coordinator, which includes the duties of bookkeeping, annual financial audit, budget preparation, and exemption administration. Her expertise in property tax is unmatched, with her knowledge from both the collection and appraisal perspective.

Stability in leadership is key in a constitutional office. A change in leadership due to retirement every four years is disruptive. I prefer to elect an individual that will be able to serve for several terms and restore the level of services to those that were in place when Kathryn Hill was Tax Collector.

Being an elected official in a small county requires the individual to wear many hats and have a wide base of experience and I feel *Esmeralda is the best individual for this position*.

Sincerely,

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES

AMANDA REUTER

Chaplain, US Army Reserve **DeSoto Ministerial Association**

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me - practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you" (Philippians 4:8-9)

In the summer of 2004, I moved to Maine to start a new job as a Head of School. The family would be along at the end of summer after we secured housing there, so I spent the summer living with several families connected to the school. One particular week I decided to tackle Tolstoy's War and Peace. It was an exhilarating journey

through the Napoleonic Wars in Russia. Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" rang in my head the entire time.

Twenty years removed from that summer, I often think about that particular week. Too often we consider the absence of war as bringing peace. And it does to some measure, though it is always a tenuous peace.

Paul is writing to the church at Philippi to address many significant matters. Near the end of the letter, he addresses one specifically. War has broken out in the congregation – well, at least between Euodia and Syntyche. Paul exhorts these women to "agree in the Lord" (4:2) and asks the rest of the church to "help these women...whose names are in the book of life" (4:3).

We've all been involved in conflict resolution, and if you are like me, are constantly checking the urge to slap some sense into one or both parties.

Paul's encouragement is far better. He begins in verse 4 to remind the church (and us) that the Lord is the only source of peace. So, he first encourages us to "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice." We are to find the source of our joy in the Lord, so start looking for it. And when we begin to truly find our joy in the Lord, we find the grace to "not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (4:6). If we understand that the Lord is the source from whom all blessings flow, we will entreat him with thanksgiving in all things, which brings joy and freedom from worry.

But there is one more thing that knowing the Lord brings which is the resolution to the conflict in verse 2. "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts

and your minds in Christ Jesus" (4:7). When faith is borne in our hearts by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit, we have peace with God. Christ's atoning death has satisfied the wrath of God against us, and we find our names written in the book of life with, as the hymn writer Augustus Toplady wrote, "in marks of indelible grace."

And that all leads to the passage I quoted above. If "the peace of God... will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus," then we must meditate on those things the true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commend able, excellent, or praiseworthy." But before we have the opportunity to define these things, Paul brings us back to the word of God - "what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me..."

So, let us set our hearts and minds on the Lord Jesus, for he alone is our peace.

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OBITUARIES



FRANCIS EDGAR (FRANK)



Francis Edgar (Frank) Sherman: A resident of DeSoto County for the past 40 years, died peacefully on October 7th, 2024 at the Lakewood Ranch Tidewell Hospice House in Florida.

Frank was born on March 22, 1944 in Binghamton, New York to Percy James Sherman and Ruth Pembleton.

He is preceded in death by his late wife, Johnnie Bell Johnson-Sherman, and survived by 6 Stepchildren.

Raised as an orphan, Frank had a great affinity for his family of fellow veterans. His love for and service to his fellow veterans was always first and foremost in his mind.

Frank served his country

in Vietnam as a Navy SeaBee, and was a member of the Navy SeaBee Veterans of America, Inc., and a member of the Vietnam Brotherhood, American Legion, VFW, and the DAV.

Frank was a member of the National Association County Veterans Service Officers.

He served as a Veteran's Service Officer with both the DAV and later with the VFW, and had a reputation for helping many veterans receive compensation benefits from the VA.

His hobbies were word puzzles and putting together model cars, boats and airplanes and then giving them as gifts to his fellow residents

and staff at the Arcadia Oaks where he was a long time resident. Frank had an amiable personality and a generous nature.

Frank's final wishes were to be interred at the Sarasota National **Veteran Cemetery where a service** will be held at the Pavilion on November 1, 2024 at 11:00 am.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations might be sent instead to the Veteran's **Organization or Veteran's Charity of** your choosing.

YMCA

FROM PAGE 1 >>

of the National Guard unit in Arcadia during World War II. Owner and pharmacist of the Arcadia Drug Store, he later served as councilman, mayor, and state representative, and the State Road 70 bridges crossing Peace River are dedicated in his honor.

His brother Capt. Rupert Augustus Smith (1899-1944) had commanded the Arcadia National Guard in World War I until he was promoted to Major and assigned elsewhere.

After a new armory was built in 1968, the property reverted to the City, and Paul P. Speer (1892-1972) suggested that it be used as a recreation center. After his death, it was dedicated "in memory of a man who served with untiring devotion for over 45 years and whose accomplishments were exceeded by none," according to the plaque in the building. He served on the City Council (1927-1929, 1958-1959, 1969-1971) and as Mayor (1929-1931, 1959-1967), as well as City Recorder (1937-1947).



The National Guard armory was named "Fort Smith" during World War II to honor the Smith brothers: Rupert Augustus Smith who commanded the Arcadia National Guard in World War I and Stanhope Chesterfield Smith who commanded the unit in World War II. Photograph courtesy of the DeSoto County Historical Society.

The Speer Recreation Center is dedicated to Paul Preston Smith who as Mayor of Arcadia rode a horse in the first Arcadia rodeo parade in 1929. He also served as a Councilman and as City Recorder, for a total of 45 years. Photograph courtesy of







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SHERIFF'S OFFICE



ARREST REPORT | 10/18/24 - 10/24/24

Bernabe, Reiner Villena:

Traffic Offense - Dui Alcohol Or Drugs

Blandin, Romill Theo:

Amphetamine-Traffic - Or Methamphetamine 14 Grams Or Over (X2), Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use (X3), Marijuana-Possess - Not More Than 20 Grams

Boone, Anthony Tyrel:

Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Drive While Lic Susp 1St Off, Marijuana-Possess -Not More Than 20 Grams

Brown, Shawn Everard:

Cocaine-Sell - Wi 1000 Ft Of Specified Area Sched Ii, Public Order Crimes - Use 2 Way Comm Device To Facil Felony, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use (X2), Drugs-Possess - Cntrl Sub Wo Prescription, Flee/Elude Police - Flee W Disregard Of Safety To Persons Or Prop, Prob Violation

Camacho, Armando Rosas:

Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle Wo Valid License

Carrasco-Mendez, Carlos Alberto:

Burgl - Unoccupied Structure Unarmed, Larc - Grand Theft 300 Less Than 5K Dols, Fraud - Utter False Instrument, Retail Theft (Value \$100 Or Less) 1St Ofns - Pursuant To 812.015

Cooper, Alandre Daren:

Cocaine-Sell - Wi 1000 Ft Of Specified Area Sched Ii, Drug Equip-Possess -And Or Use, Cocaine-Possess - Wit Sell Etc Wi 1000 Ft Specified Area Sch li, Public Order Crimes - Use 2 Way Comm Device To Facil Felony, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use, Prob Violation

Daniels, Nelson:

Marijuana-Possess - Possess Marijuana Over 20 Grams, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use

Diaz-Camacho, Andres:

Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle Wo Valid License

Duarte, Brian A:

Traffic Offense - Dui And Damage Property, Hit And Run - Leave Scene Of Crash Involve Damage To Prop

Faulkner, Rusty Lee:

Damage Prop-Crim Misch - Over 200 Dols Under 1000 Dols

Garcia, Jolanda Maria:

Prob Violation

Gross, Amanda Kay:

Neglect Child Without Great Bodily Harm

Harvey, Roger Allen:

Trespassing - Fail To Leave Property Upon Order By Owner, Trespassing -Fail To Leave Property Upon Order By Owner

Hernandez, Claudio Mendoza:

Aggrav Battery - Offendr Knew/ Should Have Known Vict Pregnant

Hill, Moriah Brandisue:

Traffic Offense - Dui And Serious Bodily Injury To Another, Traffic Offense - Dui And Damage Property (X2)

Kelty Jr., Edward:

Prob Violation

Lindsey, Brandon Ray:

Out-Of-State-Fug

Lupo, Stephen Daniel:

Battery - Commit Domestic Battery By Strangulation

Lutz, Robert Ellis:

Drugs-Possess - Cntrl Sub Wo Prescription, Drug Equip-Possess -And Or Use

McHenry, Autumn Kacin:

Burgl - Unoccupied Dwelling Unarmed, Larc - Grand Theft 300 Less Than 5K Dols, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use

Mosely, Jarris Winfred:

Synth Narcotic-Possess - Wit Sell Mfg Del Wi 1000Ft Worsh/Busn Sch I/Ii, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use, Drugs-Traffic - 4 Grams Less 30 Kg Other Cntrl Subst, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use, Cocaine-Possess - Possess Cocaine, Evidence-Destroying - Tamper With Or Fabricate Physical, Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Drive While Lic Susp 1St Off

Palafox, Alexis Abraham:

Battery - Touch Or Strike, Drugs-Possess - Cntrl Sub Wo Prescription, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use

Persacketti, Joseph:

Battery - Commit Domestic Battery

PLAISIMOND, JUNIOR BIGLAUWICK:

Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Drive While Lic Susp 1St Off

Prestenback, Oscar John:

Battery - On Staff Of Sex Viol Pred Facility, Battery - On Staff Of Sex Viol Pred Facility, Battery - On Staff Of Sex **Viol Pred Facility**

Preuhs, Nicholas Charles:

Cocaine-Sell - Wi 1000 Ft Of Specified Area Sched li

Rachel, Rusty Wayne:

Possession Of Weapon - Or Ammo By Convicted Fla Felon

Redding, Candi Seare:

Drugs-Possess - Cntrl Sub Wo Prescription, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use, Drugs-Possess - Wit Sell Etc 1K Ft Specified Area Sch lii Iv, Public Order Crimes - Use 2 Way Comm Device To Facil Felony, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use, Drugs-Possess - Wit Sell Etc 1K Ft Specified Area Sch lii Iv, Public Order Crimes - Use 2 Way Comm Device To Facil Felony, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use

Rivera, Josephine Colon:

Battery - Touch Or Strike, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use

Scott, Demetri Lucas:

Trespassing - Fail To Leave Property Upon Order By Owner, Marijuana-Possess - Not More Than 20 Grams, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use

Soliz, Stephen Alfredo:

Resist Officer - With Violence, Battery - Touch Or Strike, Battery - By Person Detained In Prison Or Jail Facility (X2), Disorderly Conduct - Brawling Fighting Corrupt Public Moral Decency

Torres, Gabriel:

Battery - Commit Domestic Battery

White, Lavar:

Marijuana-Possess - Not More Than 20 Grams, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use (X3), Fail To Reg As Crim Reg - Convicted Felon Fail To Register, Amphetamine-Traffic - Or Methamphetamine 14 Grams Or Over (X2)

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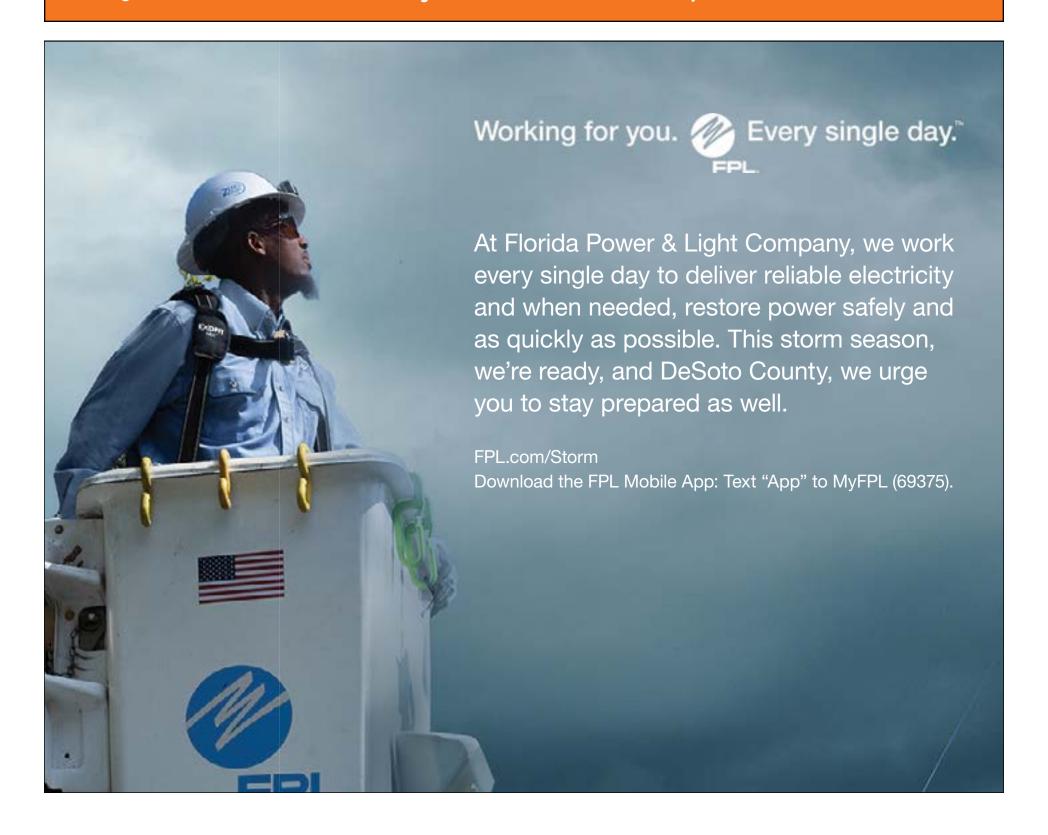


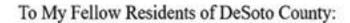


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Beginning in 1990, under the leadership and direction of former tax collector Quitman Brown, I began my tenure with the DeSoto County Tax Collector's Office. While working for Mr. Brown, I served as a Tag and Title Clerk. Upon his retirement, Kathryn J. Hill was elected to serve as Tax Collector, and I was privileged to continue my employment as the Department of Motor Vehicles Supervisor. I continued in that position until my election in 2020, by the people of DeSoto County, to serve as DeSoto County Tax Collector. I have dedicated over 34 years to serving the people of this community, and as I prepare to enter retirement, it is time for me to pass this opportunity on to someone else.

I am honored to endorse Susan "Sue" D. Pooley as candidate for the office of DeSoto County Tax Collector. Initially hired by Kathryn J. Hill, Susan has acquired a great deal of experience working with local, county and state tax, tag, and title operations. Susan is instrumental behind the scenes and works intricately with the budgeting process; maintains audits, which allow the office to remain compliant with state statutes; handles the distribution of funds to the taxing authorities and is responsible for balancing and bringing in the tax roll. She has remained employed by this office for over eleven years. She is detailoriented and has been a great asset during my time as DeSoto County Tax Collector. Additionally, Susan has over 40 years of experience in accounting and finance and has been a small business owner for 44 years. Susan is well-equipped to manage all daily operations of the office and is knowledgeable in the operation of each department.

Susan earned a Bachelor of Art degree in Accounting from the University of South Florida. She is a Certified Florida Collector's Assistant and has certifications in Records Management and Cybersecurity. She and her husband of 46 years have been DeSoto County property owners since 2005 and full-time residents since 2011. Aside from being a proud American, Susan is a strong Christian woman who will bring integrity, accountability and experience to this position and office.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you for the last 34 years. It has been an honor and privilege to do so, and I will always be grateful for the people I have met, the friendships formed, and the memories made.

I am confident that if elected, Susan will continue to maintain the same standards that you are accustomed to when you enter the DeSoto County Tax Collector's Office, and that the transition will be as smooth and seamless as possible. When you cast your ballot on November 5, 2024, remember to Vote for Sue!

God Bless,

Debra L. Burtscher

DeSoto County Tax Collector



Email: susan.d.pooley@gmail.com



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