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THE COMMUNITY

MAY 25, 2023

PRS

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Local

DESOTO COUNTY
ANNOUNCES 4TH OF
JULY FREEDOM FEST

Free event to feature bounce houses, water slides, live music, wrestling, fireworks & more



DeSoto County— May 19, 2023 – DeSoto County announced that it will present a free all-day event for the community this Independence Day called Freedom Fest, held at the Turner Agri-Civic Center, 2250 NE Roan St, Arcadia.

On July 4, 2023, the gates open at 12 p.m. with the event continuing through the county’s annual fireworks show at 9 p.m. at the same location. The

firework celebration is produced by Explosive Touch Enterprises, LLC.

Indoor and outdoor festivities are planned throughout the day, offering fun for the whole family – kids, toddlers and adults – thanks to Freedom Fest organizers like Wet & Wild Party Rentals.

Wet & Wild offers multiple entertainment options, such as bounce houses, water slides – and massive combinations of both – dunk tanks, a mechanical

SEE **FREEDOM** **PAGE 2** >>



STEVE KNAPP
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DESOTO COUNTY
SPORTS

PAGE 4



GET YOUR
PUBLIX
WEEKLY
ADS
INSIDE!

GOVERNMENT
MEETING SCHEDULE

CITY

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS OCCUR THE
1ST AND 3RD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED

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

MAY 29	DESOTO COUNTY MEMORIAL DAY OFFICES ARE CLOSED
MON	
JUNE 13	DESOTO COUNTY COUNTY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
TUES 9A	201 E Oak St. Suite 103 • Arcadia desotobocc.com/calendar/event/2541
JUNE 17	DESOTO COUNTY FREE VACCINE CLINIC FOR PETS - TURNER CENTER
SAT 10A-12P	250 NE Roan St • Arcadia desotobocc.com/calendar/event/2542

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

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

See page 7

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SALES / OFFICE MANAGER
Angie Duckett

CREATIVE DIR / AD DESIGN
Jackie Bierman

OPS / PRODUCT DESIGN
Jonathan Bruch

FREEDOM

FROM PAGE 1 »

bull and much more. They also provide activities for smaller children and toddlers such as a trackless train.

“We are excited about having this free event available for families this Fourth of July,” County Administrator Mandy Hines said. “We’ve talked about it for a number of years now, so it’s great that we can finally make this happen for our community. We want to make the Turner Center a place for our community members to go for family fun, and to let it serve as a local destination for everyone.”

Adding to the excitement, local radio host and promoter Mark Anderson from 104.5 “Mark in the Morning,” will bring in live music from regional country bands, as well as an independent professional wrestling show.

“These are some of the best independent wrestlers in the state,” Anderson said.

A variety of food trucks and other vendors will also be on-site throughout the day.

“Even though the county has had fireworks here at the Turner Center for decades,” Anderson added, “we’ve never had a true all-day celebration. We

hope this is something we can build off of for future family-oriented events.”

The DeSoto County Turner Agri-Civic Center offers 90 acres of opportunities to residents and guests. Facilities include a large air-conditioned arena, exhibit hall, barns, paved parking, and helpful staff. Staff can be reached by calling 863-993-4807.

For more information about the event, go to VisitDeSoto.com or find it on Facebook at Facebook.com/DiscoverDesoto.

Wet and Wild Party Rentals is a family-owned business that provides everything from water slides, bounce houses, obstacle courses, and foam parties to concession machines, tents, tables, chairs and entertainment equipment. More information about Wet & Wild can be found at Wetandwildpartyrentals.com or by calling 941-441-8301. They can also be found on Facebook at Facebook.com/wetandwildpartyrentals.



ARCADIA AIRPORT RUNWAY NAMED FOR PAT HANGE



CAROL MAHLER
Independent Contractor
carolmahler22acl@gmail.com
Photos provided

Arcadia Airport Runway Named for Pat Hange

At the May 16 meeting, the City Council approved the request of Airport Director Shelley Peacock that Runway 6/24 be named for Ms. Pat Hange, a pilot, flight instructor, glider pilot instructor, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certified license inspector, and FAA certified aircraft mechanic, who was recently honored for having more than 50 years of flying without an accident. She and her partner, Harriett Hamilton (1919-2005) operated Lenox Flight School at the airport in the 1970s and 1980s. Skilled glider pilots, they were inducted into the “United States Soaring Hall of Fame” in 2003.

The Council accepted the Florida Department of Transportation’s (FDOT) offer of an additional \$272,037.00 to the original Public Transportation Agreement of \$169,069.00 for a total of \$441,106.00 to purchase and install Runway End Indicator Lights (REIL) and Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) lights for runway 6/24.

Assistant City Administrator Beth Carsten introduced Teresa Conerley, a resident of DeSoto

County, as the new Finance Director. Carsten presented the finance report noting that 94% of the property taxes due to the City have been collected. In addition, the City has received reimbursement of nearly \$2.5 million of Hurricane Ian expenses from the insurance company and the Federal Emergency Management Act (FEMA).

IN OTHER BUSINESS

Two ordinances passed on second reading. Ordinance 1093 amended the Land Development Code with definitions for artisan production, micro-brewery, micro-winery, and micro distillery and added those permitted uses with specific development standards. Ordinance 1094 amended the Unified Land Development Code “to allow accessory structures to be located within the side yard on residentially zoned property.”

City Marshal Quinn Jones requested an additional \$8,460.00 for the cost of repairing and remodeling the old Florida Highway Patrol building—now the Arcadia Police Department’s headquarters. The City had approved \$60,000.00 for the project in the budget, but cost of building materials has increased the estimate. Council Member Mike Hall asked to review the list of building materials rather than only the list of tasks, so the Council



At the May 16th City Council meeting, the Council approved naming reconstructed Runway 6/24 for Pat Hange, right, who stands beside Airport Director Shelley Peacock.



From left, Assistant City Administrator Beth Carsten introduced Teresa Conerley as the City’s new finance director.

voted to table the request until they could review the itemized list.

Jones also reported that the signs warning of an autistic child had been posted on Orange Ave. and his officers had been working on traffic enforcement. Council Member Amber Collins asked about counseling services for officers who experience and/or witness a traumatic event, and Jones said his department uses a service from Fort Myers. Collins said that she thought that the county fire department used someone local, and Stewart said he would contact them.

The Council voted to approve the proposed changes in section 15.25 of the City's Personnel Policy. These changes were proposed to clarify the health insurance benefit for former City of Arcadia Firefighters who transferred to DeSoto County when the two departments merged in June 2006. As the health insurance company will not allow them to be added to group health plan, they "may opt to approach the City for reimbursement of healthcare benefits . . . at the percentage previously established based on length of service with the City of Arcadia." The retirees are required to sign up for Medicare as soon as they qualify.

A list of items valued at \$200.00 or less—some damaged by Hurricane Ian—were declared surplus and approved for disposal either as scrap or for auction. Collins asked about the damaged dumpsters stockpiled in the Public Works yard, and Stewart explained that the cost of transporting them is more than the value of the scrap metal. After discussion, he offered to contact South Florida State College to find out if the welding program would be able to cut up the dumpsters to make their disposal more cost effective.

Council Member Judy Wertz-Strickland invited everyone to the ceremony conducted by the Arcadia Rotary Club at 10:00 a.m. on Memorial Day, Mon. May 29, at Oak Ridge Cemetery, to honor the 23 British cadets who died in southwest Florida while training to be pilots during World War II.

She reminded Council members that their financial

disclosure on Form 6 must now be completed online, and she suggested an ordinance to prohibit smoking in public parks, as proposed to her by the Tobacco Free Partnership of DeSoto County (tfp-desoto.org) and the QuitDoc Foundation (quitdoc.com). After discussion about enforcement, the Council chose to take no action.

Code Enforcement Officer Carl McQuay reported three applications approved in the Lien Amnesty Program and that he had issued a "work stop" order for 114 W. Oak St. that shares a common wall with the Heard Opera House. Council Member Keith Keene complimented McQuay for his excellent work.

The Council approved a request from Arcadia Main Street to continue the Second Saturday Market Place from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Oct. 2023 through May 2024 in downtown Arcadia.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

City Administrator Terry Stewart reported that Public Works Director Steve Underwood found the powder coating flaking off on some of the new playground equipment at Louis C. Anderson, Sr., Park, so he did not accept the construction project as completed.

The box culvert over Jordan Branch at the intersection of S. Dave Ave. and W. Magnolia St. is cracked, so the repairs there will be more extensive than previously reported. As the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is repaving Magnolia (State Road 70 East), they have accepted responsibility of the reconstruction of the intersection as part of their project.

The "clubhouse" at the City Mobile Home Park has been declared unsafe for human habitation because of damage from Hurricane Ian. The City agreed to co-sponsor a centennial anniversary celebration in Jan. 2024 for the Park—originally established as the Arcadia Tourist Camp and location of the Tin Can Tourists' Annual Convention between 1924 and 1931.

Stewart also announced a vacancy on the Historic

Preservation Commission, and the Council agreed that the position be advertised and that they could bring any recommendations for a new member to the June 20 meeting.



At the request of the HCW Foundation, Mayor Robert W. Heine, Jr., left, proclaimed May 20th, as "Emancipation Day," and James Lee Faison, III, accepted the proclamation on behalf of the organization.



Nancy Erickson, right, was recognized for her dedicated service to the City of Arcadia, ARC DeSoto, Inc., and DeSoto County Special Olympics, and congratulated on receiving the 2022 Annette Lynch Lifetime Achievement Award for Coaches from Special Olympics North American on April 1, 2023. She was selected from more than 135,000 other coaches.



Mayor Heine proclaimed the week of May 14 through 20 as National Police Week, established by the U.S. Congress in 1962 to pay "special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others." Marshal Quinn Jones, at right, accepted the proclamation and asked for a moment of silence to remember the deceased officers.



Jolene Rice asked the Council about rezoning her property at 10 Harris St.—now in a residential neighborhood—for use as an engine-repair business in keeping with its original construction as service station.



At the May 16th City Council meeting, Mayor Heine, left, presented Officer Jobie Bates with a certificate of appreciation for five years of service.



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BULLDOGS PLAY ISLAND COAST AND CARDINAL MOONEY IN SPRING GAME



The water tank is a very popular place during workouts.



STEVE KNAPP
Sports Writer
sports@peacershopper.com

Tonight the DeSoto Bulldogs football team will begin the “Jeff Lee” era of Bulldog football. They will travel to Island Coast to take on the Gators of Island Coast and the Cougars from Cardinal Mooney in their spring game. It will be a good warm up game for the inexperienced Bulldogs who have many questions to be answered. Hopefully the game will provide some insight as to what the Bulldogs will need to work on once fall practice begins.

There have been nearly 40 athletes at the spring practices as they learn a new system and terminology that comes with a new coach. The cupboard was pretty bare when coach Lee took over the reigns of the Bulldog team. Graduation took away the entire backfield and a lot of talented players on defense. With eager players from last year’s JV team that only had one game, there are many open positions available and they are working hard to earn a starting role. Coach Lee said, “I can tell you, they are a whole lot better than they were 6 days ago when we started workouts. We are a little short on depth but I like what I see out here.”



AJ Villagomez, who also is a starter on the Bulldog soccer team, works on his kicking in solitude.



The receiver fights for the extra yard to reach the first down marker while the defense brings him down.



Coach Jeff Lee sends in a play with quarterback hopeful Braden Moran.



Defensive stalwart Hunter Zirkle tries to strip the ball from the running back during a team scrimmage.



The birthday boy Dylan Johnson leaves practice with a smile on his face.



Jamil Brown brings down the tackling dummy with a vicious hit.



Coach Jeff Lee reminds the team that today was Dylan Johnson's birthday and they serenaded him with their version of Happy Birthday.



Coach Lee put in a fake fumble (illegal) play where the center faked a snap and ran with the ball as Braden Moran delivers an Oscar worthy performance of a fumble.



The pass is just too high for Hunter Zirkle to come down with. Zirkle, who is a finalist for All Area Player of the year, may see some time on the offensive side of the ball.



The defense worked on a "pursuit" drill to get used to everybody swarming after the ball.



Joe Davis talks to the team as they have their post practice stretch.



AJ Villagomez, who also is a starter on the Bulldog soccer team, works on his kicking in solitude.

DESOTO COUNTY VOLLEYBALL CLINIC

PHOTOS BY:
STEVE KNAPP



STEVE KNAPP
Sports Writer
sports@peacerrivershopper.com

The DeSoto County High School volleyball coaching staff put on a 3 day clinic for players at all skill levels. On the final day the potential varsity and junior varsity players went over some of the basic skills as a refresher course and to work on skills that haven't developed yet. Many middle school girls attended the camp to learn what is needed to become a volleyball player at the high school level. Over 30 girls attended the camp.



DeSoto head volleyball coach Dave Bremer talks to the over 30 campers as they dismiss for the day.



Four of the campers and probable varsity players next season, put on their best smiles even though they were working hard.



Even during the practice phase of the drills, there is always time to smile for the camera.

You have to keep an eye open and your head on a swivel as the campers work through their drills.

Campers filled the air with balls as they work on passing the ball.



The girls have a drill to learn how to get low to dig shots.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



STEVE KNAPP
Sports Writer
sports@peacerivershopper.com

Congratulations to four members of the DeSoto County softball team for making the post season All Area Softball team.

Kali Patton was named to the first team while Daysha Izaguirre, Carlisha Redding and Emery Skinner were all named to the second team. All three second team players will return next season while Patton will graduate this year.

Patton had a .544 batting average and got a hit in all but 3 games this season. Patton flexed her muscles with 4 homers while having an on base percentage of .653.

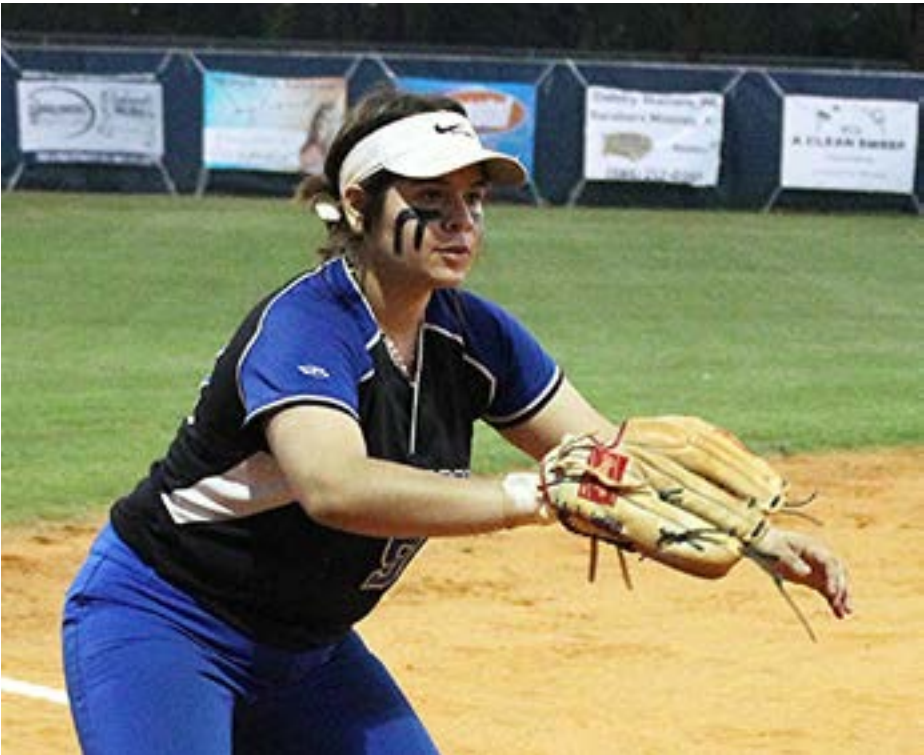
CLARISHA REDDING



KALI PATTON



DAYSHA IZAGUIRRE



EMERY SKINNER



Notice of Certification of Tax Roll

Pursuant to Sections 193.122 and 197.323, Florida Statutes, David A. Williams, Property Appraiser for DeSoto County, Florida hereby gives notice that the final certification for the 2022 DeSoto county Tax Roll was made to the Tax Collector on May 22, 2023.



David A. Williams, CFA
DeSoto County Property Appraiser



DESOTO COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER
David A. Williams, CFA

863.993.4866 • 201 E. Oak Street Suite 102, Arcadia, FL 34266

www.desotopa.com

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

COUNTY
TO HONOR
VETERANS ON
MEMORIAL DAY



CAROL MAHLER
Independent Contractor
carolmahler22acl@gmail.com
Photos provided

The DeSoto County Board of County Commissioners invites everyone to a Memorial Day ceremony at 11:00 a.m. on Mon., May 29, at the County Courthouse Veterans Monument, to honor all veterans—men and woman who have given their lives in the service of our country—especially those veterans considered to be from “DeSoto County, and are included in the list of names from the monument in front of the courthouse.”

The American Legion Honor Guard will perform a rifle salute, and Veteran Eric Erickson will sing the National Anthem. Veteran Service Office Steve Rickard will emcee and introduce guest speaker Pastor Lonnie J. Walker. The event is free and open to the public.



Built at the west entrance to the DeSoto County Courthouse, 115 E. Oak St., the Veterans Monument will be the location of the Memorial Day ceremony sponsored by the county commissioners. Photograph courtesy of Carol Mahler.



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DHS A-TEAM STATE RUNNER-UP

ANDREW HAGAN
Content Provider

The DeSoto High School Academic Team finished Runner-Up in Division 3 of “The Commissioner’s Academic Challenge,” a tournament recognized by the Florida High School Athletics Association (FHSAA) as the championship tournament for the State of Florida. The tournament was held April 21-22 at the Omni Resort at Championsgate, in Orlando.

Students on the team included Kara Blosser, ninth grade, Manansingh Chhabra, a foreign exchange student from India in the eleventh grade, tenth graders Eliazar Montoya-Vazquez, Roy Ortiz, Maritza Tovar, and Wyatt Werner. Coaches were Andrew Hagen and Alyssa Serena. Coach Larry Bailey died a week before the tournament after his third battle with cancer, and the team dedicated their performance this year to his memory.

This year Desoto County defeated Calhoun, Franklin, Putnam, Monroe, Sumter, Suwannee, Union, Wakulla and Walton counties. Several of these counties have multiple high schools and some of them field all-star teams. Columbia took first place, and Hardee

County, which had previously had formidable teams, has been a no-show at the tournament for the last two years.

DHS Academic Team began in 1986 when Kay Mann organized a team to compete at the first Commissioner’s Academic Challenge, and soon after, drama teacher John Schudel joined as co-coach. By 1993, DeSoto emerged State Champions, and again in 1997 and 1999, when Coach Schudel led Team Florida to win Nationals.

This year’s second place finish is the team’s third State Runner-Up under Coach Schudel’s protege, Andrew Hagen. Hagen led the team to the Final Round in eight of the last ten attempts. This year was Coach Alyssa Serena’s second final and first trophy.

The Academic Team has no official try-outs, and encourages interested students to show up in room 510 after school. Middle School students are encouraged to join the Middle School Academic Team.



From left: At the awards presentation is Coach Andrew Hagen, Maritza Tovar, Kara Blosser, Wyatt Werner, Roy Ortiz, Manansingh Chhabra, Eliazar Montoya-Vazquez, and Co-Coach Alyssa Serena. Photograph provided.

NEWS FROM THE DESK OF SHERIFF POTTER



SHERIFF POTTER
DeSoto County Sheriff

Hey DeSoto County, School is out for summer!

Whether you are out on the water, visiting local parks, or traveling elsewhere, we are kicking off the season with some helpful safety tips to remember when you’re out and about during the summer months.

Living in the sunshine state, we face the heat all year round, and temperatures can get scorching during the summer months. Prevent heat-related illnesses, injuries and death during hot weather by staying in air-conditioned locations as much as possible. When you are outside, drink plenty of fluids even when you don’t feel thirsty to prevent dehydration.

Did you know 53% of hot car deaths happen because someone forgets a child in a car? Never leave your children or pets in the car. Rolling the windows down or parking in the shade does little to change the inside temperature of the vehicle. A child’s body temperature can rise three to five times faster than an adult. If you see a child alone in a vehicle, make sure the child is okay and responsive. If not, call 9-1-1 immediately.

With temperatures skyrocketing, you’ll probably be searching for ways to cool down! Whether it’s the river, pools or driving out to the gulf coast, if you’re planning to take a dip, I encourage you to swim safely.

“I only looked away for a second.”

Drowning is the leading cause of injury-related death for children ages one to four, and the second leading cause of unintentional death for children ages five to 14. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports there are an estimated 4,000 fatal unintentional deaths every year in the United States. That equates to an average of 11 drowning deaths per day.

There are certain reported factors that make drowning more likely, such as not being able to swim, location, drinking alcohol, lack of close supervision or not wearing life jackets. Drowning is a major public health issue, and you can do your part to prevent it.

1. Learn basic swimming and water safety skills. Children who have had swimming lessons should still have constant supervision when in or near water.
2. Designate a responsible adult to supervise closely when children have access to water.
3. People of all ages and swimming

abilities should wear a life jacket while boating. Those who need swimming assistance can also wear life jackets.

4. Learn CPR, you could save someone’s life in the time it takes for emergency responders to arrive.

Safe Summer Traveling

If you are traveling for vacations this summer, there are some important safety tips to keep in mind. Remember where your family is staying is private information. Although it can be exciting to share your plans with your friends and family, remember to avoid publishing your location on social media platforms. When traveling, do not discuss your trip with anyone on the way or at the airport. If you are taking a road trip, remember to take extra safety precautions and drive safely. You can refer to my previous article, “Keeping you Safe on the Road,” for more driving safety tips.

While staying away in a hotel or rental home, remember it’s the little things that can increase your chances of being a victim of a crime. When you check in, familiarize yourself with the room, including any emergency exits. Don’t open the door unless you know the person! Even if the person claims to be an employee, call and verify with the front desk before opening the door. If you are traveling with children, give

them a hotel business card to help them remember the name, address and phone number for where you are staying. Place all valuables in the deposit box or room safe. Do not leave them in your vehicle. And remember to always lock up your vehicle before heading in for the night, especially when you’re on vacation.

If you see something suspicious, say something. Call 9-1-1 immediately and notify the hotel management staff. We are here to protect YOU.

Be Kind, Be Safe, God Bless.
Sheriff Potter

Here are some helpful resources to refer to:

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Boating Regulations:
<https://tinyurl.com/5cy2x648>

Arrive Alive this Summer
<https://tinyurl.com/yc2567va>

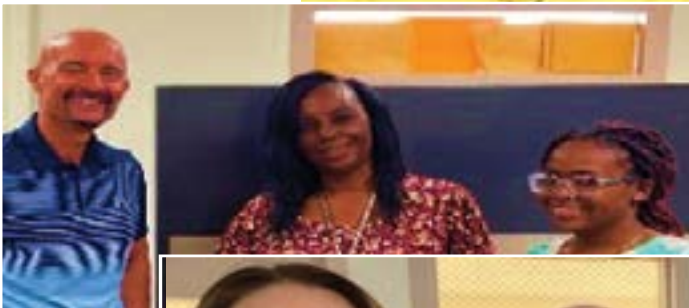
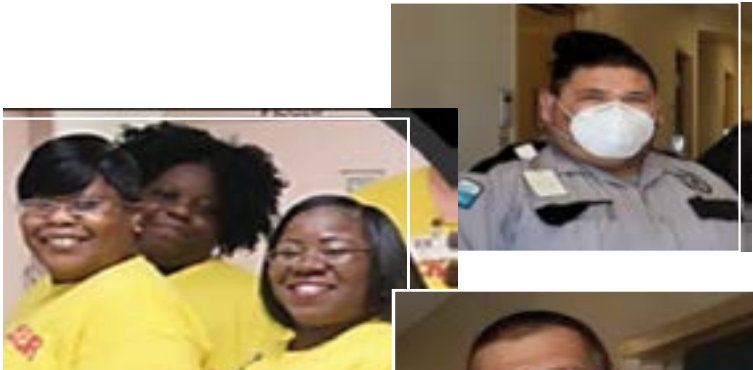
Bicycle Safety
<https://tinyurl.com/2da4tuxr>

Motorcycle Safety and Share the Road campaign
<https://tinyurl.com/yeyadhrk>

National Weather Service
<https://tinyurl.com/mvbcx548>

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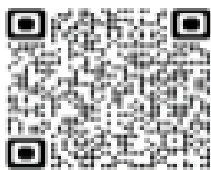
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OBITUARIES



PATRICK DAVID PETERS



Patrick David Peters, age 83, passed away on May 8, 2023. Patrick was born on October 13, 1939, in Breese, Illinois. He lived in Illinois for 71 years and in Indiana for 6 years and lived in Florida for 6 years. He attended some college

and worked in the Information Technology Industry as an IT Specialist.

He started and owned a computer sales and service company as well as being a successful insurance salesman. He spent 30 years in the IT industry. He was also a Navy Veteran and was a member of the First Baptist Church of Fort Ogden.

He enjoyed fishing, deer hunting, music, gardening, playing the game of pool, and playing a game of Phase Ten.

His family and friends will remember him as a gentle soul and a good man. David always said “living in Florida is like living in paradise”.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Shirley Peters and his parents, Cloyde and Anita Peters.

He is survived by his loving wife, Barbara Peters as well as a daughter, stepchildren and brother, nine grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and a niece Lanae Deconcini. His daughter is Christine Peters of Monticello, Illinois. His stepchildren include stepdaughters Tara (Jeff) Swearingen of Urbana, Illinois, Stacey (Rodney) Poole of Ft. Myers, Florida, and Jill (John) Brooks of Warrenville, Illinois, Teresa (Chuck) Nelson of Easton, Maryland stepsons, Wes (Kim) Robbins of Alva, Florida, Michael (Angela) Oakley of Fisher, Illinois, Richard (Julie) Oakley of Venice, Florida and

his brother Rex (Dannie) Peters of Edwardsville, Illinois.

There was a visitation on Friday, May 19, 2023, at 10:00AM-11:00AM at the First Baptist Church of Fort Ogden, 6831 S.W. Senate Street, Fort Ogden, FL. The Funeral Service followed at 11:00AM with Pastor Wayne Ernest officiating. A graveside service with military honors took place on Monday May 22, 2023, at 12:30 pm at Sarasota National Cemetery.

Online condolences may be made at: www.pongerkaysgrady.com.

Ponger-Kays-Grady Funeral Homes Arcadia have been entrusted with the arrangements.

JOHN NEWBURN CROY



John Newburn Croy, age 75 of Arcadia, Florida, passed away on Monday, May 15, 2023. He has been a resident of Arcadia, Florida for 66 years. John graduated in 1996 from Florida Southern. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree and was employed as Assistant Warden with the Department of Corrections.

He was a member and a Deacon of the First Baptist Church of Arcadia. He enjoyed fishing, golfing and boating.

He will be remembered by his family and friends as a wonderful provider, friend, loving husband and father and grandfather.

He is survived by his wife Marie Morton Croy, and children Susan (Timothy) Alley and Kimberly Croy both of Arcadia, Florida. He also has many nieces and nephew. He had 10 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren who are, Jaiden Bartlett, Brittany Croy, Deven Bartlett, Case Wooten, Carsen Bartlett, Holly Croy, Landon Shaver, Brant Alley, Trenton Alley, and Kiptyn Alley. His great grandchildren include Austin Gross Jr., Grayli Gross, and Beckett Alley.

He is preceded in death by his mother Lena Gertrude Croy, his father Robert Ira Croy, five brothers

Robert Croy, Ray Croy, Carol Croy, Larry Croy and Laurence Croy. Also, five sisters Dorothy Williams, Iris Garner, Laura Croy, Vivian Pinder and Annette Davis.

Visitation was on Saturday, May 20, 2023, at the First Baptist Church of Arcadia, in the Gym facility at 10:00AM – 11:00AM. The Service followed at 11:00AM with Pastor Sam Letson and Jerry Waters officiating.

Online condolences may be made at: www.pongerkaysgrady.com

Ponger-Kays-Grady Funeral Homes Arcadia have been entrusted with the arrangements.

AIDA IRIS OCASIO MELENDEZ



Aida Iris Ocasio Melendez was born on December 10, 1943, in Coamo, Puerto Rico. She died on May 14, 2023, in her home surrounded by her loving family.

Aida was known by her family as Mami, Mama, and Mamita. She was a wife for 60 years and a wonderful homemaker. She loved to take care of her family. Aida enjoyed dancing and listening to music.

Aida was preceded in death by her mother Francisca Melendez, her father Florencio Ocasio, and a daughter Iris Nereida Morales Ocasio.

Aida leaves behind one brother, Alberto, three sisters, Gloria, Bernardina, and Hilda. Also, her spouse Nicolas Morales Ortiz and five children, Miriam E. Morales Ocasio (Alfredo Gomez), Jose H. Morales Ocasio, Raul Morales Ocasio, Nicolas Morales Ocasio (Maricruz Alvarado) and Samuel Morales Ocasio. She also leaves behind 9 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren. She was a remarkable woman and a joy to be around. She will be forever missed and live on through her family.

Visitation was held on Monday, May 22, 2023, from 10:00AM – 12:00PM in the Chapel of Ponger-Kays-Grady Funeral Home, 50 N. Hillsborough Avenue, Arcadia, Florida 34266.

The Funeral Mass was held on May 22, 2023, at 1:00PM at St. Paul’s Catholic Church, 1330 E. Oak Street, Arcadia, Florida 34266.

Online condolences may be made at: www.pongerkaysgrady.com

MARIANNE MCKENZIE



Marianne McKenzie, 91, of Pittsburgh, PA & Arcadia, FL passed away peacefully in the arms of Jesus on Friday, May, 12, 2023. She was born in Pittsburgh, PA to John and Anna Takach.

She loved raising her 4 children. She loved cooking big meals for every holiday because she knew that it would bring the whole family together, she loved people and everyone knew Marianne McKenzie from her bubbly voice as the announcer at Walmart in Florida where she joyfully worked for 35 years. She loved telling stories about working as a soda-jerk at

Isaly’s in Pittsburgh, being a dance instructor in Pittsburgh & meeting famous people while working at the Fontainebleau Hotel on Miami Beach in Florida. She loved her children, the sun, beach & palm trees & she loved Jesus.

Marianne will be dearly missed by her children; son Chris Boyle (Kelly Baker), daughter Maryanne “Angel” (Samo) Mernik, son Eddie Boyle, daughter Alicianne ”Faith” (Rob) Rau; Grandchildren, Danny, Jessica, Eddie, Patrick, Ivan & Anna; Great Grandchildren, Parker, Hudson, Myellah & Mateo; Her brother Herky “John” Takach sister Helen Guthrie.

She was preceded in death by Avery (Mac) her loving husband, her brothers Mikey Takach & Georgie Takach. John & Anna Takach her loving parents. Whom she is joyfully reunited with.

My family would like to extend a special thank you to Avenue of Medina nurses, nurse assistants & physical therapy team for taking exceptional care of our mom to give her the best chance at a recovery. Their loving nature and constant round the clock care, was truly something to admire.

Services will be announced at a later date.

DESOTO COUNTY

SHERIFF'S OFFICE



5/12/23 - 5/18/23

Birkholz, Angela:
Prob Violation (X2)

Burger, Leonard Monroe:
Out Of County Warrant

Childs, Robert James:
Battery - Touch Or Strike

Cole, Sharon Marie:
Prob Violation

Dean, Alfreda Ramona:
Prob Violation (X2)

Faircloth, John Allen:
Battery - Touch Or Strike

Fellows, Jennifer Lynn:
Drugs-Possess - Cntrl Sub Wo Prescription, Drugs-Possess - Cntrl Sub Wo Prescription, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use, Drugs-Health Or Safety - Poss Harmful New Legend Drug Wo Prescription

Fritz, William De Oliveira:
Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Drive With Expired Lic For More Than 4 Mos

Galvan Rodriguez, Maria:
Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle Wo Valid License

Gant, Jakeem Reshard:
Battery - Touch Or Strike, Burgl - Unoccupied Dwelling Unarmed, Lewd Lascv Behavior - Victim Age 12 To 16 (X3), Contrib Delinq Minor - Sell Distribute Use Minor Obscene Material (X2), Obscene Communication - Travel To Meet After Use Comput To Lure Child (X3)

Golden, Nadine Lois:
Marijuana-Possess - Not More Than 20 Grams, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use, Out Of County Warrant

Grisham, Stevi Nikole:
Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Drive While Lic Susp 1St Off

Hallman, Austin Lee:
Burgl - With Assault Or Battery (X2), Damage Prop-Crim Misch - 200 Dols And Under

Harmon, Michael Justice:
Failure To Appear - Written Promise To Appear

Henson, Connor Lee:
Failure To Appear - Written Promise To Appear

Hyde, Joseph Gary:
Drugs-Possess - Cntrl Sub Wo Prescription, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use, Out Of County Warrant

Jimenez Lopez, Luis Manuel:
Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle Wo Valid License

Jones, Alicia Gianetta:
Drugs-Possess - Cntrl Sub Wo Prescription, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use

Jones, Thirus Charles:
Possession Of Weapon - Or Ammo By Convicted Fla Felon, Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Drive While Lic Susp Habitual Offender

Kaufman, Jeremy Bryan:
Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Drive While Lic Susp 1St Off

Killmon, Susan Elizabeth:
Failure To Appear - Written Promise To Appear (X3)

Lee, Ileene Renae:
Stolen Prop-Deal In

Lee, Rajshin:
Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle Wo Valid License

Litzel Jr., Michael Allen:
Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use, Marijuana-Possess - Possess Marijuana Over 20 Grams

Lopez-Cordero, Jesus Antonio:
Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle Wo Valid License, Out Of County Warrant

Martinez, Tricia:
Cocaine-Traffic - 28 Grams Less Than 150 Kg Cocaine Or Mixture, Weapon Offense - Commit 1St Degree Felony WWeapon, Smuggle Contraband Into Prison - Control Subs Defined Provisions Of S.893.02(4)

Maybell, Quillan Leche:
Marijuana-Possess - Not More Than 20 Grams, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use, Drugs-Sell - Methamphetamine Wi 1000 Ft Specified Area, Public Order Crimes - Use 2 Way Comm Device To Facil Felony, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use

Merchant, Julious Robert:
Battery - Commit Domestic Battery, Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Operate Motorcycle Wo License, Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Operate Motorcycle Wo License, Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Fail To Register Motor Veh

Nesmith, Lanaija Raymon:
Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use, Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Drive While Lic Susp 1St Off, Marijuana-Possess - Not More Than 20 Grams

Nolley, Dawn Marie:
Burgl - Unoccupied Dwelling Unarmed, Larc - Petit Theft 2Nd Degree 1St Offense

Ohle III, Edward Henry:
Larc - Petit Theft 2Nd Degree 1St Offense

Plott, James Louis:
Failure To Appear - Written Promise To Appear

Poveromo, Charles Wesley:
Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle Wo Valid License

Quave, Jason Whidden:
Prob Violation

Redden, Brianna Marie:
Criminal Registration (Not An Arrest)

Rembert, Calvin:
Resist Officer - Obstruct Wo Violence, Prob Violation

Sanchez, Nathan:
Resist Officer - Flee Elude Leo With Lights Siren Active

Santiago, Nelson:
Criminal Registration (Not An Arrest)

Scott, James Travis:
Criminal Registration (Not An Arrest)

Simes, Charles Wilburn:
Out Of County Warrant

Torres, Alejandro:
Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle Wo Valid License

Watkins, Clarice Elaine:
Drugs-Possess - Cntrl Sub Wo Prescription, Marijuana-Possess - Not More Than 20 Grams, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use

Williams, Randy Joe:
Obscene Material-Possess - Poss Photograph Of Sexual Performance By Child

Worth, Boyd Levi:
Drugs-Possess - Cntrl Sub Wo Prescription, Evidence-Destroying - Tamper With Or Fabricate Physical, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use

Worth, James Wesley:
Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use, Drugs-Possess - Cntrl Sub Wo Prescription, Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Drive While Lic Susp Habitual Offender

Wright, Danny Gene:
Battery - Touch Or Strike, Trespassing - Fail To Leave Property Upon Order By Owner

UPCOMING EVENT

BRITISH CADETS TO BE REMEMBERED AT OAK RIDGE CEMETERY



CAROL MAHLER
Independent Contractor
carolmahler22acl@gmail.com
Photos provided

Everyone is invited to honor and remember the 23 British cadets who died in Southwest Florida while training to be pilots during World War II and are buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery. Sponsored by the Arcadia Rotary Club, the 67th annual ceremony starts at 10:00 a.m. on Memorial Day, Mon. May 29. The event is free and open to the public.

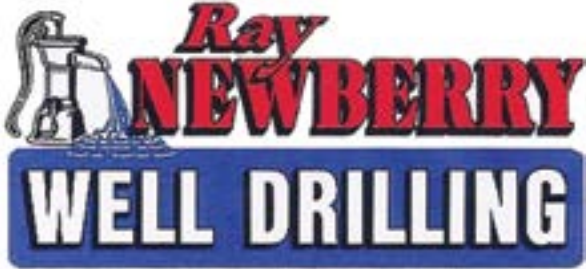
The ceremony includes an invocation, keynote address by Christopher Nind, raising of the flags, songs, and bagpipe music by Ross Allen. Rotary Club Members Judy Wertz-Strickland and Sondra Guffey will also participate. Volunteers from the crowd usually place the flags and “poppy crosses” at each grave when the deceased cadet’s name is read.



At the service for the deceased British cadets buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery, volunteers from the crowd stand in front of a tombstone and place a flag and “poppy cross” as the pilot’s name is called. Photograph courtesy of Carol Mahler.

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