

# ARCADIA THE COMMUNITY

NOVEMBER 9, 2023

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# Local

# BIKE FEST

## “GETS BETTER EVERY TIME”



**STEVE KNAPP**  
sports@peacervershopper.com

**DESOTO COUNTY SPORTS**

PAGE 4



Local restaurants were packed and area hotels full, including the downtown Oak Park Inn, where visitors had a balcony view, far right, of the 4th Annual Bert's Arcadia Bike Fest.



**CAROL MAHLER**

Independent Contractor  
carolmahler22acl@gmail.com  
Photos provided

“This is marvelous,” Terry Stewart, City administrator and motorcycle enthusiast, said of last Saturday’s 4th Annual Bert’s Arcadia Bike Fest. “It seems to get better every time. Everyone has a smile on their face, and that means they are enjoying the event.”

Pam Ames, interim director of Arcadia Main Street, said, “We’re so pleased with the turnout! We had to enlarge the vendor area for this event, so we are growing.” She thanked event sponsors: Bert’s Black Widow Harley-Davidson and Fran Haasch Law Group, plus Mosaic, Comcast/Xfinity, City of Arcadia, Discover DeSoto, and Crown Roof Tiles.

SEE BIKE PAGE 2 >>



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

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>NOV 18</b>    | <b>DESOTO COUNTY SCHOOLS</b>   |
| <b>SAT</b>       | <b>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY NOV 18-26</b><br>Students Return<br>Monday, November 27, 2023  |
| <b>NOV 18</b>    | <b>DESOTO COUNTY</b>   |
| <b>SAT 7AM</b>   | <b>TURKEY TROT</b><br>desotobocc.com/calendar/event/2606<br><b>MORGAN PARK</b><br>1100 W Hickory St., Arcadia, FL                                  |
| <b>NOV 20</b>    | <b>DESOTO COUNTY</b>   |
| <b>MON 3PM</b>   | <b>DESOTO COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION</b><br>desotobocc.com/calendar/event/2482<br><b>COUNTY ADMIN BUILDING</b><br>201 E Oak Street, Arcadia, FL |
| <b>NOV 28</b>    | <b>DESOTO COUNTY</b>   |
| <b>MON 6-8PM</b> | <b>HOLIDAY SHOWCASE</b><br>desotobocc.com/calendar/event/2607<br><b>TURNER CENTER</b><br>2250 NE Roan St., Arcadia, FL                             |

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

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## BIKE

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- “Full Throttle Magazine” held a Ten-Class Bike Show, awarding first and second prizes in each class, plus Judges’ Choice and Best-In-Show awards. Soul Circus Cowboys performed music at the Tree of Knowledge Park gazebo stage, with an opening show by the Carnival of Souls duo.
- “It’s amazing that all these people came to Arcadia!” Arcadia Main Street Volunteer Linda Williams said. “Bike Fest has such a big impact on our downtown shops.”
- Council Member Judy Wertz-Strickland said, “I think it’s a great event and greatly affects the economy in the City and the County. Our hotels are filled to capacity, and I’m sure the restaurants are filled as well.”
- For information, call 863-404-2020 or online [eventsarcadiamainstreet@gmail.com](mailto:eventsarcadiamainstreet@gmail.com) or [arcadiamainstreet.com](http://arcadiamainstreet.com).

Vendors lined both sides of Polk and Monroe avenues between Hickory and Oak streets as well as Magnolia and Oak streets.



Jill Maassen and René Collins volunteered to sell t-shirts at the Arcadia Main Street booth on Polk Ave. during the 4th Annual Bert’s Arcadia Bike Fest.



Traffic was blocked from the streets downtown and motorcycles filled the parking spaces in front of the historic buildings.



Linda Williams and Council Member Judy Wertz-Strickland served as volunteers for the event. Wertz-Strickland said, “I also donated my time these last three weeks to help Arcadia Main Street. This festival is quite an undertaking.”

# OBSERVE VETERANS DAY ON SAT. AND MON.



### CAROL MAHLER

Independent Contractor  
[carolmahler22acl@gmail.com](mailto:carolmahler22acl@gmail.com)  
Photos provided

In 1921, to commemorate the end of World War I at 11:00 a.m., on Nov. 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month), an unknown soldier who died in that conflict was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. The observance became known as “Armistice Day,” and received its official name by Congressional resolution in 1926.

On Nov. 11, 1947, Raymond Weeks, a veteran of World War II, organized a “National Veterans Day”—with a parade and other activities—in Birmingham, Alabama. In 1954, Congress passed a bill to change Armistice Day to Veterans Day as proposed by U.S. Rep. Edward Rees of Kansas and signed into law by President Dwight Eisenhower.

In 1968, Congress passed a law changing the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Mon. of Oct., and ten years later, in 1978, returned the holiday to the original date of Nov. 11 ([va.gov](http://va.gov)).

In that tradition, DeSoto County will host a Veterans Day Service at 11:00 a.m. on Sat., Nov. 11, on the lawn of the courthouse, 115 E. Oak St. Please bring a chair.

The Peace River Shopper will present the Veterans Day Parade starting at 10:00 a.m. on Mon., Nov. 13, in downtown Arcadia: on Oak St., starting



The DeSoto County Veterans Memorial was built in front of the south entrance of the DeSoto County Courthouse, 115 E. Oak St., near the lawn where the Veterans Day Observance will be held. Photograph courtesy of Carol Mahler.

at the intersection of Monroe Ave. and continuing to the intersection of Volusia Ave. These events are free and open to the public.

# SARASOTA GUN SHOW

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# PEACE RIVER SPORTS

## DRAMATIC COMEBACK KEEPS MISS DESOTO 8U PERFECT



Softball mom Jackie Bierman captures Sophie Zepeda's 3 run blast from behind home plate during the first inning against North Port



Jolene Bierman warms up for the nail-biting 12-11 win against North Port



Sophie Zepeda clears the bases with this first inning blast to drive in 3 runs.



**STEVE KNAPP**

Sports Writer  
sports@peacerrivershopper.com

The Miss DeSoto 8U (Neyna) softball team were just three outs away from their first loss of the season. They were 4-0 with all their wins coming against the North Port teams but it looked like the last North Port team had their number.

Trailing 11-9 and having been held scoreless in two of the first 4 innings, it looked like their cold

bats and a plethora of uncustomary errors would finally do them in.

The top of the order started the last inning rally. It took just 4 batters to score three times and pull out an exciting 12-11 win.

Bree Rizzo led off with a two base knock which was followed by a run producing single by Kaylee Miller. Sophie Zepeda, who had emptied the bases in the first inning with a bases loaded hit, singled to put the tying run in scoring position and winning run on base with no outs. Zuli Torres put the game on ice with a shot up the alley as both runners scored to give the Bulldogs their 12-11 win.

"The top of our order is our bread and butter and I knew they would come through for us," said coach Neyna Zepeda.



Pitcher McKinzly Tovar comes up throwing on this ground ball back to her.



Photo by Jackie Bierman



The Miss DeSoto 8U team pulled out a thrilling 12-11 win to remain unbeaten.

Bree Rizzo waits for the throw at first in the win over North Port.



Zuli Torres tracks her drive that drove in the game winning run in a 12-11 win.



Kelsey Ducette pounces on a tapper in front of the plate to throw out the runner.

DESOTO COUNTY

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



# MARQUEZ ANGELES

Marquez is the definition of what hard work and dedication can get for an athlete. He is one of the hardest working athletes you'll meet. After practice many times he will continue on the golf course until it is too dark to see the ball. He is out there nearly every day and has become a student of the game.

Marquez's hard work paid off last year he was named the Boys Golfer of the Year in an area that covers schools in Charlotte, Sarasota and DeSoto County. He is the odds on favorite to win it again after this season's performance.

He won the district title after a three hole playoff. He was tied for the regional title and again faced a three hole playoff. This time he finished second. This past week he competed at the state tournament. Check the Peace River Shopper facebook page for results today.

After the golf season is over, Marquez will be seen on the powerhouse boys soccer team and he has an interest in tennis in the spring. The junior will be working hard on some sport. It's not his nature to rest.



# BYE BYE BUCK BULLDOGS SHUT OUT 48-0



Jaxon Roberts outruns the defense after catching a swing pass in the season ending loss to Hardee.



**STEVE KNAPP**

Sports Writer  
sports@peacereivershopper.com

The Buck Carlton trophy had a short two year residence in DeSoto County but went back to Hardee with a Wildcat thumping of the Bulldogs 48-0. In the 105 games between the two schools, the Wildcats now have a 63-37-5 advantage.

Hardee scored on the first play with a 60 yard run giving them a 7-0 lead with just 14 seconds off the clock. The Bulldogs came back with perhaps their longest drive of the season when they marched 72 yards down to the Wildcat one yard line. They lost two yards on a 3rd and goal and then a fourth down pass missed its mark in what was the best scoring opportunity of the game for DeSoto. The quarter ended with Hardee on top 7-0.

The Wildcats broke the game open with 41 points in the second quarter. They scored on a 19 yard pass just six seconds into the quarter. DeSoto fumbled the ball away on their own 45 and Hardee cashed in on a 12 yard touchdown run two minutes and 19 seconds after their previous score.

Then the flood gates opened up for Hardee. A bad snap resulted in the Wildcats taking over at the DeSoto 24. Again it was the first play as Hardee opened up their lead to 27-0 on a 24 yard touchdown pass.

Less than two minutes later Hardee scored again when a high snap sailed

over punter A J Villagomez' head and was scooped and walked into the end zone to go ahead 34-0 midway in the second quarter. It was the second straight week the Bulldogs gave up a touchdown on a bad snap over the punter's head. Two more scores on a 14 yard pass and 2 yard run gave the Wildcats a 48-0 lead at the half and a running clock for the second half.

There were plenty of clean uniforms on the field for the second half as both teams emptied their benches. Neither team could score as they played between the 30's for most of the second half.

Their were a few bright spots for the hapless Bulldogs other than their 72 yard drive. The Bulldog air game was the best it had been all season with Jesus Camacho hauling in a couple of nice throws. The first one was an over the shoulder catch in tight coverage that got the Bulldogs to the four yard line. Jaxon Roberts made a nice one handed catch in double coverage and Sam Cuellar came down with a couple of passes.

DeSoto had 130 yards in the air and 179 total yards for the game. The Bulldogs also had very few penalties as they have tightened up over the course of the season. They turned the ball over 3 times all on fumbles and were just 1-8 on third down conversions.

The Bulldogs kept playing hard as they enjoyed watching some of the lesser used players get some action. Harper Erickson drew cheers and congratulations when he made a tackle



for a loss for just his second tackle of the season. Every positive play was greeted by the Bulldog players with cheers. They kept playing hard all the way to the final horn.

As the seniors took an emotional walk through a path of teammates, they shook hands with every one as they realized their high school career was over. Jake Owens has the unusual distinction of being the only member of a win less team in his freshman and senior years, and district champ in his sophomore and junior seasons.

DeSoto ended their worst season on record going 0-10 with 7 shutouts. They scored a touchdown in two games and three against the defenseless Bayshore Bruins in a 50-21 loss. They scored a total of 35 points while surrendering 445 in essentially 9 games. The average score was 44-3 and they faced a running clock in every game except the Bayshore game.

The Lemon Bay game was stopped by weather with the Mantas ahead 28-0 in the second quarter. The Booker game was halted by gun fire with the Bulldogs on the short end of a 40-0 score early in the second quarter. Those teams, which both by the way are playing in post season play, would have put at least another 40 points on the board if the game was played in its entirety. DeSoto had a streak of 15 scoreless quarters.

The previous winless team was in



Harper Erickson (58) gets congratulations from his teammates after making a tackle for a loss. The adrenaline must have been running high as he jumped off sides on the next play.

Jesus Camacho "lays the lumber" on the Hardee runner. Camacho also had a good night on offense as a receiver.



2020 and were 0-11 and shut out 5 times. They scored 65 points while surrendering 420 for an average score of 38-6.

An interesting fact is that Jake Owens had the distinction of playing on two winless teams in his freshman and senior seasons and two district champion teams in his sophomore and junior seasons. No other Bulldog can make that claim.

# SPRIT WEEK CELEBRATIONS

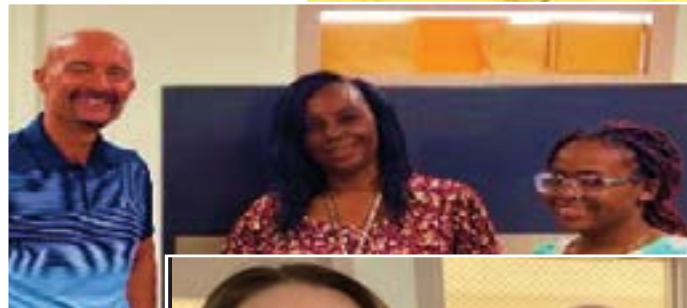
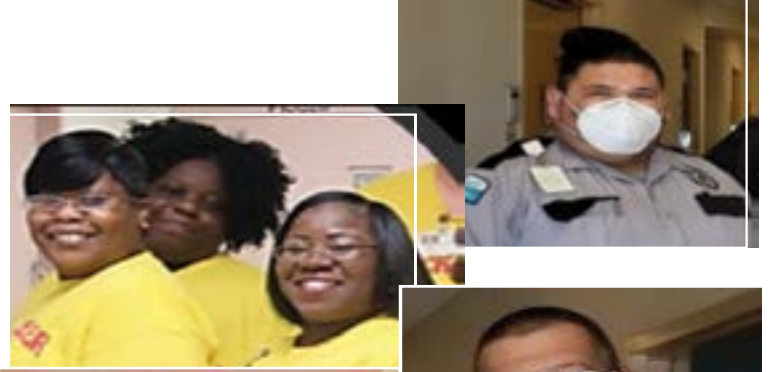


# SPRIT

FROM PAGE 7 >>



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# SEATS IN COMMISSION BOARDROOM REFURBISHED



**CAROL MAHLER**

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Photos provided*

At the start of the Oct 24 County Commission meeting, after asking everyone to silence or turn off their cell phones, Chairperson Judy Schaefer said, "Last time I brought up the subject, so I'm going to bring it up one more time to make sure that you know. These are nice new seats that we have, so if you chew chewing gum, please either learn to swallow it (don't put it under the seat), or put it in your pocket, and let your wife find it."

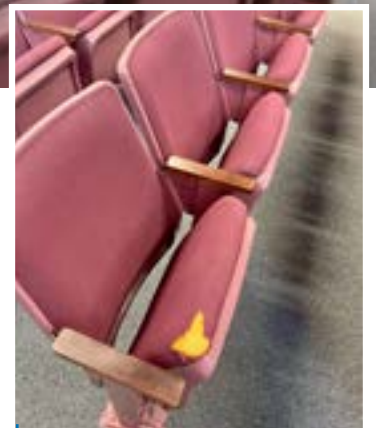
Originally installed in the Boardroom in 1995 during the construction of the Administration Building, some of the audience seats showed significant "wear and tear." Purchasing Director Cindy Talamantez said that several companies were contacted for estimates to recover the chairs. However, "The Cushion Doctor in Sarasota (cushiondoctor.com) . . . not only had the best price . . . but [also] offered . . . to replace the fabric on the chairs onsite." This service reduced the project price by eliminating travel and transport plus removal and reinstallation of the chairs. The cost was \$13,920.00 to remove and replace the



fabric for the 116 audience chairs.

After the staff met with Jon Cruzion, owner of The Cushion Doctor, they selected a fabric that matched the room's color scheme and scheduled the refurbishment for a week without a meeting. Workers started on Aug. 28 as Hurricane Idalia tracked along the Gulf Coast, finally making landfall in North Florida on the Aug. 30. Talamantez wrote, "They chose to push through and complete the installation rather than reschedule."

Every Monday morning, the County's Leadership Team meets in the Boardroom: from left, Emergency Management Director Rick Cristoff, Finance Director Peter Danao, Animal Services Director Jorge Hernandez, Finance Director Peter Danao, Building Division Director Lester Hornbake, Facilities Director Harry Akins, Road and Bridge Director Troy Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director Tara Anderson, Social Services Director Lauri Benson, Environmental Services Director Nathan Persons, Interim Extension Director Katelyn Mulinix, Public Safety Director Chad Jorgenson, Utilities Director Greg Harris, Economic Development and Tourism Director Sondra Guffey, Library Director Linda Waters, and Talamantez. Photograph courtesy of Carol Mahler.



After 28 years, the fabric on some seats in the County Commission boardroom had torn, so staff contracted with The Cushion Doctor: Sarasota Upholstery Services to recover them. Photograph provided.



## DESOTO COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

### NOTICE OF DELEGATION MEETING



TO: All Agencies of Local Government and Interested Parties

FROM: Representative Spencer Roach, Chairman, and Senator Ben Albritton

SUBJECT: DeSoto County Legislative Delegation Meeting and Public Hearing

DATE: November 20th, 2023

LOCATION: DeSoto County Administration Center, 201 East Oak Street, Arcadia, Florida in the County Commission Chambers

The DeSoto County Legislative Delegation will convene on Monday, November 20th, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. to conduct local business, including a public hearing on local bills and other issues. The meeting will be at the DeSoto County Administration Center, 201 East Oak Street, Arcadia, Florida in the Board of Commissioners Chambers.

This annual public meeting is an opportunity for citizens, elected officials, local governments, and other organizations to address the Delegation before the start of the 2023 Legislative Session.

If you would like to be placed on the printed agenda please complete and return the attached Presenter's Information Form by 5:00pm on Monday the 13th, 2023. If you are unable to return the form electronically, you may mail it to 3436 Marinatown Lane Suite 6, North Fort Myers, Florida 33903 to be received on or before the aforementioned date.

Public Comment cards will be available on the day of the meeting affording you time to speak. Those completing a card at the meeting will be heard in the order in which it was received and will be allotted three minutes to speak.

If you intend to submit handouts for the legislators to review and do not submit them in advance, you will need to bring four (4) copies to the meeting for distribution.

If you would like more information regarding this meeting, please contact Spencer Roach at [Spencer.Roach@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Spencer.Roach@myfloridahouse.gov) or by calling Representative Roach's office at 239-656-7790.

We look forward to seeing you on November 20th.

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# ARCADIA GARDEN CLUB CELEBRATED “THANKFUL FEST”



**CAROL MAHLER**

Independent Contractor  
carolmahler22acl@gmail.com  
Photos provided

“We love connecting with the community through our plant sales,” Spring Pace said. “It’s wonderful to see so many people mingling and being friendly.”

Busily attending to one request after another, Arcadia Garden Club President Maria Pace asked her very capable daughter to talk about the event. Spring said, “We work very hard to cultivate our plants and share them with everyone.”

Treasurer Kelly Forbes noted, “We also have 22 vendors with a great assortment of plants, crafts, crystals, candles, gems, jewelry, creative yard art, and more.”

Member Dawn Raye Cain said, “I think we have a larger variety of plants and vendors than we have ever had before.”

The Club had hotdogs for sale in the club house plus delicious home-baked delights. Dorathea Parker McCall, who has been a member for more than two decades, said, “We used to have these events all the time. Now we’re trying to get back to doing them again.”

Nani’s All Natural Snow Cones & Snacks also had tasty treats available, and children enjoyed a free bouncy house sponsored by Splash ‘N’ Blast Rentals.

Maria Pace wrote, “We called it ‘Thankful Fest’ because gratitude is a powerful and healing emotion. We are grateful to the community for supporting us and helping to make the club successful again.”

She also thanked the DeSoto High School JROTC students led by Lt. Col. Ron Baynes, (U.S. Army, retired) and Boy Scout Troop 60 led by Scoutmaster Ken Shatney, plus Riven Oak Farm—the Club’s “growing partner.”

All proceeds of the event help the Arcadia Garden Club with its mission “to stimulate interest and provide education in gardening; to protect native plants, birds, butterflies, and other wildlife; and to encourage public planting to improve civic beauty.” For more information, call 863-354-0808 or online at [www.facebook.com/ArcadiaFloridaGardenClub](http://www.facebook.com/ArcadiaFloridaGardenClub) or [Arcadiagardenclub2022@gmail.com](mailto:Arcadiagardenclub2022@gmail.com).

Tracy Dillon of Riven Oak Farm, a “growing partner” of the Arcadia Garden Club, talks about the vegetable seedlings she had for sale at the Thankful Fest.



From left, Spring Pace, Kelly Forbes, and Dorathea Parker McCall of the Arcadia Garden Club gathered inside the clubhouse that has a new roof thanks to a \$20,000.00 grant from the William G. & Marie Selby Foundation ([selbyfdn.org](http://selbyfdn.org)).



Arcadia Garden Club President Maria Pace, fourth from left, talked with a woman visiting one of the vendors set up inside the clubhouse.



The Arcadia Garden Club offered an abundance of vegetation for sale, including native, rare, succulents, vegetable, and house plants.



Naturalist Andy Firk of the Bamboo Grove Farm, right, presented a display of both native and edible plants for sale during the Arcadia Garden Club’s thankful fest last Saturday.



## Guess Who?

I am a singer born in Arizona on August 15, 1989. My brothers and I made appearances on hit TV shows like "Hannah Montana" before becoming known as a pop music group. I was the lead singer, but left the group to be a solo artist.

*Answer: Joe Jonas*



**On Veterans Day, People for Protecting Peace River (3PR) remembers and honors our late Vice President, Navy Chief Leon Dean, retired, and all veterans who have served our country.**  
[protectpeacriver.org](http://protectpeacriver.org)



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# OBITUARIES

## BEVERLY CHARLENE JONES



Beverly Charlene Jones passed away early Saturday morning peacefully in her sleep, October 21, 2023. She was born on April 7, 1959, to David and Jerry Nathe in Dade City, Florida.

She had lived in the community of Arcadia, since she was a small child and left to follow her work career. She was a member of the 1st Presbyterian Church. In high school she belonged to 4H, Sub Debs, and The National Honor Society.

Later in life, she moved back to Arcadia and became involved with American Legion Riders, Auxiliary and the Order of the Confederate Rose. She loved the brew coffee

group and her many many friends. She had a heart of gold. Beverly enjoyed swimming, boating, traveling, camping, and fishing. She also loved blues music and loved dancing.

Beverly is preceded in death by her father David Nathe and son, Shawn Winhoven.

She is survived by her husband Ronald Jones, her mother Jerry Fisher Nathe, son Steven Winhoven and brother David (Jeb Bush) Nathe of South Carolina.

In lieu of flower donations, we ask for donations for the following charities:

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America: 322 8th Avenue, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10001. Checks should be made payable to "Alzheimer's Foundation of America". Or the Bills Paper Angels Mission.

**Funeral service was held Friday, November 3, 2023, at 2:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church, located at 209 W. Hickory Street, Arcadia, Florida 34266. The Rev. Dr. William Browne officiated.**

**Celebration of Life will be at The American Legion in Arcadia, Wednesday November 8, 2023, at 6 pm.**

**Online condolences may be**

**made at: [www.pongerkaysgrady.com](http://www.pongerkaysgrady.com).**

**Ponger-Kays-Grady Funeral Homes & Cremation Services have been entrusted with the arrangements.**

## MELVIN CARL CHRISTIANSON



Melvin Carl Christianson age 74, passed away on Monday, October 30, 2023, in Bradenton, Florida. He was born on November 23, 1948, in Minneapolis, Minnesota to Troy Clay Christianson and Mary Ellen Albritton Sulfridge.

Melvin enjoyed horseback riding, classic car events and frequenting his favorite local food

establishments. He was a member of the Cowboy Church. He served on the board of the Florida Cracker Trail Association for two years and was a member of the Florida Arcadia Saddle Club for many years.

He is preceded in death by his parents Troy Clay Christianson and Mary Ellen Albritton Sulfridge.

He is survived by his sons, Joshua Paul Christianson of Bradenton, Florida, Benjamin John Christianson of Pensacola, Florida, his daughter Sharon Marie Chewning of Bradenton, Florida and his sister Audrey Fay White of Arcadia, Florida. There are also three grandchildren.

**There will be a Memorial Service on Saturday, November 18, 2023, at 1:00 PM in the chapel of Ponger-Kays-Grady Funeral Homes. Pastor Ellis Cross will be officiating.**

**Online condolences may be made at: [www.pongerkaysgrady.com](http://www.pongerkaysgrady.com).**

**Ponger-Kays-Grady Funeral Homes & Cremation Services has been entrusted with the arrangements.**

## MEDICARE HELP

# Right Where You Need It

My experience as a local, independent agent has taught me that everyone's situation is unique. Your healthcare needs, your finances and where you live and seek care are all things that need to be considered when choosing the best-fit Medicare health plan for you. As part of this community, my goal is to help each of my clients make a decision they can feel good about and schedule a one-on-one appointment to learn more about plans in your area.



**Charlotte Nymark**  
[cisinym@gmail.com](mailto:cisinym@gmail.com)

**(863)473-5460**

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# DESOTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



10/27/23 - 11/2/23

**Bernadac-Gonzalez, Jairo:**

Prob Violation (X2)

**Carver, Jason Duane:**

Drugs-Possess - Cntrl Sub Wo Prescription, Possession Of Weapon - Or Ammo By Convicted Fla Felon, Marijuana-Possess - Not More Than 20 Grams, Resist Officer - Obstruct Wo Violence, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use

**Cox, Michael Joseph:**

Failure To Appear - Written Promise To Appear

**Deweese, Teila Estell:**

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

**Elsberry, Shari Deeann:**

Disorderly Intox - Disorder Intox Public Place Cause Disturbance

**Flores, Sharon Ann:**

Larc - Retail Theft 300 More Dols Others Distract

**Gelakoska, Nathaniel Willam:**

Failure To Appear - Written Promise To Appear

**Hernandez, Abel Moy:**

Larc - Petit Theft 2Nd Degree 1St Offense

**Hernandez, Gloria Izabell:**

Retail Theft (Value \$100 Or Less) 1St Ofns - Pursuant To 812.015

**Jennings, Leslie Fitzhenry:**

Prob Violation

**Jones, Wilfred Jermine:**

Larc - Petit Theft 2Nd Degree 1St Offense, Battery - Touch Or Strike, Aggrav Stalking - Follow Harass Cyberstalk Death Injury, Drugs-Possess - Cntrl Sub Wo Prescription, Marijuana-Possess - Not More Than 20 Grams

**Lowe, Patricia Lacy:**

Battery - Touch Or Strike

**Lucas, Bryan Jeffery:**

Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Drive While Lic Susp 1St Off

**Lugo, Mario:**

Battery - Touch Or Strike, Damage Prop-Crim Misch - Over 200 Dols Under 1000 Dols, Obstructing Justice - Tampering In Misdemeanor Proceeding, Kidnap-False Imprisonment - Adult

**Lukach, Edward William:**

Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Fail To Register Motor Veh

**McCumber, Jason Michael:**

Battery - Touch Or Strike, Trespassing - Fail To Leave Property Upon Order By Owner

**Moore, Earl Lester:**

Possession Of Weapon - Or Ammo By Convicted Fla Felon

**Morales Hernandez, Eugenio:**

Conservation - Viol Fwc Rule Or Order Level Two

**Murray, Jesse Dustin:**

Prob Violation, Burgl - Occupied Structure Unarmed, Contempt Of Court - Viol Injunction Protection Domestic Violence, Damage Prop-Crim Misch - 200 Dols And Under, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use

**Reed III, John William:**

Prob Violation

**Velasquez-Perez, Leon Magnolo:**

Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Drive While Lic Susp 1St Off

**Williams-Chestnut, Leona**
**Brendell:**

Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use

Information on this report is provided for informational purposes only from the public Inmate Records of the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office. While every effort is made to ensure that the posted information is accurate, it may contain factual or other errors. Arrest information may not reflect the current information. An arrest does not mean that the individual has been convicted of a crime. The information on this report should not be relied upon for any type of legal action. Unauthorized or illegal use of the information is strictly prohibited.

## NEWS FROM THE DESK OF SHERIFF POTTER

# STAYING SECURE: ENSURING A SAFE AND JOYFUL HOLIDAY SEASON



**SHERIFF POTTER**  
DeSoto County Sheriff

As we approach the holiday season, I want to take a moment to remind our community of the importance of safety, both at home and while you're out and about. The holidays are a time of joy, togetherness and celebration, but it's also a time to bring awareness about unique safety challenges that we all can face.

The safety of your loved ones and yourself within the comfort of your home is most important. This season, oftentimes we see an increase in home burglaries, so we advise you to please take the necessary precautions to secure your property. Ensure all doors and windows are locked when you're not at home. If you're planning to travel during the holidays, ask a trusted neighbor to keep an eye on your home, pick up your mail and create the illusion that someone is present.

Decorating your home is a cherished holiday tradition, but it's important to do so safely. Be cautious when using holiday lights

and decorations, and always follow manufacturer instructions. Check for frayed wires, replace any damaged decorations, and don't overload electrical circuits. Remember to turn off decorative lights and blow out candles before going to bed or leaving the house.

When it comes to holiday shopping, whether in-store or online, be vigilant. In crowded shopping centers, keep a close eye on your belongings, and don't leave valuable items visible in your car. When shopping online, only use reputable websites and be cautious of potential scams or fraudulent deals. Remember to protect your personal and financial information by using secure, trusted payment methods.

If you're planning to travel, whether by car, plane, or any other means, ensure that your vehicle is in good working condition and that you're well-prepared for the journey. Take your time, obey all traffic laws and avoid driving under the influence of



alcohol or drugs. Always wear your seatbelt, and make sure children are properly restrained in car seats or booster seats.

Finally, let's not forget the importance of looking out for one another during the holiday season. If you see something that doesn't seem right, don't hesitate to report it to us. We're here to keep our community safe, and your assistance can make a significant difference in preventing crime.

The holiday season is a time for joy, gratitude and kindness. By prioritizing safety in our homes and while we're out and about, we can ensure that this special time of year is filled with happy memories and cherished moments. Together, we can make this holiday season one to remember for all the right reasons..

Be Kind, Be Safe, God Bless.  
Sheriff Jim Potter

# DESOTO COUNTY TURNER CENTER TO FEATURE 'HOLIDAY SHOWCASE'

*Church groups, performers, other organizations still needed for fun, family event*

DeSoto County, Fla—DeSoto County is hosting a “Holiday Showcase” this November and December, featuring local gospel choirs, hand bells, youth groups, bands, dramas, church choirs and more.

The event is open to the public and performers are still needed.

The events are planned for 6-8 p.m., Nov. 28, and Dec. 5, at the same time.

The showcase will be held at the Turner Agri-Civic Center, 2250 NE Roan St., Arcadia.

Through ticket sales, \$5, the event also offers fundraising opportunities for organizations. To learn more on that opportunity, and to join the celebration, contact Turner Center Coordinator Eric Hamilton, 863-990-3778, e.hamilton@desotobocc.com.

Join us, along with the DeSoto County community, to ring in the holidays together and showcase your group’s talents in front of an audience of friends, neighbors and more.

The Turner Agri-Civic Center is a county-owned facility available for events ranging from live entertainment and public functions to agricultural events, weddings and more.

The “Holiday Showcase” is an indoor event.

For more information about the showcase, or to rent the Turner Center, go to [www.DeSotoBOCC.com/departments/turner\\_center](http://www.DeSotoBOCC.com/departments/turner_center) or call 863-993-4807.

# SFSC NURSING STUDENTS WIN PRESTIGIOUS AWARD



SFSC Nursing students with their Diamond Chapter Award



AVON PARK, Fla. – Nov. 3, 2023 – During the Florida Nursing Students Association (FNSA) Convention in Kissimmee, Fla., on Monday, Oct. 23 and Tuesday, Oct. 24, the South Florida State College (SFSC) Student Nurses Association was presented the Diamond Chapter Award. The FNSA is a student-run organization that represents over 5,000 nursing students across Florida.

“The Diamond Chapter Award is a prestigious award given to chapters that have demonstrated excellence in education, service, advocacy, and leadership,” said Candy Jones, the Student Nurses Association adviser and Nursing instructor. “All colleges across Florida are eligible as long as they meet the requirements.”

To win the Diamond Chapter Award,

college chapters must meet specific criteria. The college must: be a member of the FNSA or National Students Nurses Association (NSNA), submit an annual report and a portfolio of all activities and achievements that it acquired over the past year, participate in FNSA events and initiatives throughout the year, promote nursing as a profession, and mentor new students. For example, SFSC’s second-year Nursing students will mentor its first-year Nursing students. Also, members of the chapters must engage in community health service projects and legislation.

“For a small college, going up against larger institutions, such as Keiser University, the University of Central Florida, and Florida Atlantic University, this is significant for us,” Jones said.

During the Convention, three SFSC Nursing students were installed as members of the 2023-24 FNSA executive board. Mikala Armioia is

now president of FNSA and serves as the SFSC Student Nurses Association president. Clara Sooknanan begins her second year as second vice president of FNSA and is vice president of the SFSC chapter. As FNSA second vice president, she will be responsible for planning next year’s FNSA convention. M’Alee Sauvey is the FNSA treasurer and serves as treasurer of the SFSC chapter.

“The students learn about health care policy and get to experience legislation through the executive board,” Jones said. “And they have a house of delegates. This year, SFSC had four delegates in the house, who can speak for SFSC and vote on resolutions that are written by other students. Typically, resolutions are concerned with something that will improve health care as a whole. The students can speak on the pros and cons of the issue and then they vote on whether to pass the resolution or not.”

Because the SFSC chapter is

relatively small and its students hold three positions on the executive board, SFSC Nursing students have more of a voice than they might otherwise.

“Student resolutions can be anywhere from something to do with Nursing students to changes they would like to see in nursing,” Jones said. “For instance, one resolution was about caring for inmates. They can write resolutions and present them when they go to Tallahassee or Washington, D.C. to try to make a change. So, our students could potentially have an influence in Florida for Nursing students or nursing as a whole. We can also collaborate with other nursing school programs just by having those members on the board. And the students can have an influence on the advancement of nursing schools and changing policies.”

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# CITY CUTS RIBBON AT GRAND RE-OPENING OF PARK



**CAROL MAHLER**

*Independent Contractor  
carolmahler22acl@gmail.com  
Photos provided*

Deputy Mayor Keith Keene praised the work that has been done at the Smith-Brown Recreation Complex/Louis C. Anderson, Sr., Park located on Martin Luther King, Jr., St.. He said, "I'm so happy the City Council came together to make this happen."

Council Member Judy Wertz-Strickland thanked everyone for attending the event and "the community for receiving this project."

City Administrator Terry Stewart also praised the Council for "having the vision and courage to do things like this" despite obstacles, such as COVID-19 and its effect on supply chains and construction costs. "What a journey it has been," Stewart said.

He credited Shawn Washington for kicking off this project with his request to the Council to improve the park and make it a safe place for children. He affirmed that the Council is committed to roofing the picnic pavilion and repairing the lights for the ball field—items that were cut from the list to lower the cost of the project's first phase.

Noting that Nov. 3 is the 54th anniversary of his first day of working in government, Stewart said, "We don't get things done without trust. I have worked hard to build trust with our Council and staff . . . and we are building trust in the community."



Cutting the ribbon at the Grand Re-opening of the Smith-Brown Recreation Complex/Louis C. Anderson, Sr., Park included, from left, Public Works Director Steve Underwood; County Commissioner Jerod Gross; County Administrator Many Hines; City Council Member Amber Collins; City Administrator Terry Stewart; the Rev. Louis C. Anderson, Jr.; Building-A-Village Members Shawn Washington and June Walls; City Council Member Judy Wertz-Strickland; City Employee James Bibbs, Deputy Mayor Keith Keene, City Marshal Quinn Jones, and Sheriff Jim Potter.



From left, Louise Eckhouse and Carlos Gonzalez, Park Project Manager, representing C&T Contracting Services, Inc., talked with Assistant City Administrator Beth Carsten at the Grand Re-opening of the park on Nov. 3. As she looked around the park, Eckhouse said, "What a change! I remember when I placed the order for that playground equipment."



From left, City Administrator Terry Stewart credited Shawn Washington with kicking off the park improvement project. Washington, in turn, recognized the Building A Village Team, including June "Jimmy" Walls and others unable to attend the ceremony.



Front row seats at the ceremony at the park included, from left, Public Works Director Steve Underwood, Council Members Amber Collins and Judy Wertz-Strickland; Deputy Mayor Keith Keene, and County Commissioner Jerod Gross.



Gathered on the new basketball court to celebrate the grand re-opening of the park located on Martin Luther King, Jr., St. are from left, Sheriff's Secretary Shaneka Coone, Sheriff Department Victims Advocate Al Jeana Hoskins, Detective Frank Matos, City Marshal Quinn Jones, Lt. Troy Carrillo, Sgt. Danielle Rios, Assistant City Marshal Gary Evans, Building-A-Village Member June "Jimmy" Walls, Code Enforcement Officer Naomi Lantz, Code Enforcement Director Carl McQuay, and Building-A-Village Member Shawn Washington.

# Realtor Showcase



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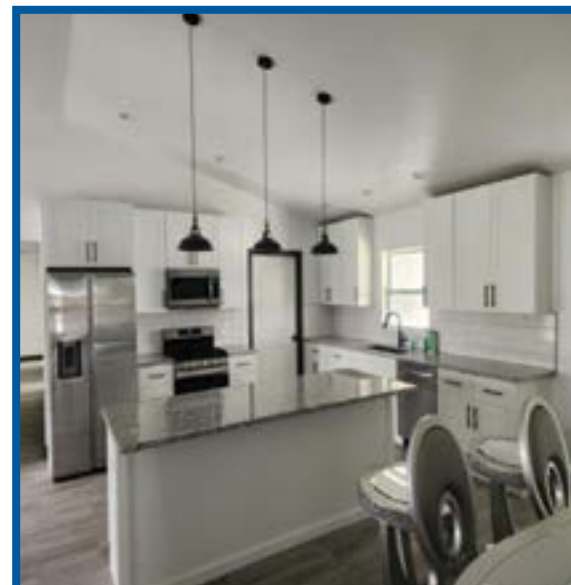
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# NOVEMBER 2023 USDA FOOD DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULE



## SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Additional food assistance sites can be found at <https://www.allfaithsfoodbank.org/foodfinder/>

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services contracts with All Faiths Food Bank to distribute free U.S. Department of Agriculture commodities.

Eligible residents will receive nine to 12 free commodities.

Distribution will be at these sites; *schedules are subject to change:*

### NORTH SARASOTA COUNTY USDA DISTRIBUTION, NOVEMBER 2023:

- BETHLEHEM BAPTIST:**  
THURSDAYS, 4:00 PM-5:30 PM  
1680 18th St Sarasota, FL 34234, 941-955-8834
- BRENTWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:**  
NOVEMBER 13, 2023, 5:00 PM-6:30 PM  
2500 Vinson Ave., Sarasota, FL 34232  
941-379-6333
- BOOKER MIDDLE SCHOOL:**  
NOVEMBER 6 & 20, 2023, 5:00 PM-6:30 PM  
2250 Myrtle St., Sarasota, FL 34234  
941-379-6333
- CHURCH OF THE PALMS:**  
MONDAY-FRIDAY, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM  
NOVEMBER 10, 2023, 5:00 PM-7:00 PM  
3224 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota, FL 34239  
941-924-1323
- FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH:**  
NOVEMBER 27, 2023, 5:00 PM-6:30 PM  
1031 S Euclid Ave., Sarasota, FL 34237  
941-379-6333
- FRUITVILLE ELEMENTARY:**  
NOVEMBER 15, 2023, 5:00 PM-6:30 PM  
601 Honore Ave, Sarasota, FL 34232  
941-379-6333
- GLASSER SCHOENBAUM CENTER:**  
NOVEMBER 3 & 17, 2023, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM  
1750 17th St, Sarasota, FL 34234, 941-379-6333
- GRACELIFE FOOD PANTRY:**  
MONDAYS, 12:00 PM-1:30 PM  
1801 N Lockwood Ridge Rd, Sarasota, FL  
34234941-539-9249
- GULF GATE ELEMENTARY:**  
NOVEMBER 21, 2023, 5:00 PM-6:30 PM  
6500 S Lockwood Ridge Rd, Sarasota, FL  
34231941-379-6333
- RIVERVIEW HIGH SCHOOL:**  
NOVEMBER 7, 2023, 5:00 PM-6:30 PM  
1 Ram Way, Sarasota, FL 34231, 941-379-6333
- ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH:**  
SATURDAYS (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS)  
9:00 AM-10:30 AM  
2256 Bahia Vista St, Sarasota, FL 34239,  
941-955-6479
- ST WILFRED EPISCOPAL CHURCH:**  
FRIDAYS (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS)  
1:00 PM-3:00 PM  
3773 Wilkinson Rd, Sarasota, FL 34233  
941-924-7436
- THE HARVEST FOOD PANTRY:**  
THURSDAYS (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS)  
10:00 AM-12:00 PM  
3650 17th St, Sarasota, FL 34235, 941-953-3559

### SOUTH SARASOTA COUNTY USDA DISTRIBUTION, NOVEMBER 2023:

- 7TH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH:**  
NOVEMBER 14 & 28, 2023, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM  
4330 S Biscayne Dr., North Port, FL 34287  
941-586-1436
- AWAKEN CHURCH:**  
TUESDAYS/THURSDAYS/SATURDAYS, 9:00  
AM - 1:00 PM; WEDNESDAYS 3:00 PM - 7:00  
PM; FRIDAYS, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM  
4940 Pan American Blvd., North Port FL 34287  
941-200-2739
- COLONIAL BAPTIST:**  
NOVEMBER 7, 5:00PM - 6:30 PM  
2400 Taylor Ranch Trl 34293, 941-379-6333
- ENGLEWOOD ELKS LODGE:**  
NOV. 6, 10 AM-11 AM  
401 N. Indiana Ave., Englewood, FL 34223  
941-379-6333
- ENGLEWOOD HELPING HAND:**  
WEDNESDAYS -THURSDAYS (EXCLUDING  
HOLIDAYS) 8:00 AM-1:00 PM  
700 E Dearborn St, Englewood, FL 34223  
941-474-5864
- FLY AWAY UNTO THE LORD  
INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES:**  
NOVEMBER 11, 2023, 2:00 PM -3:00 PM  
12450 Tamiami Trail Unit F. North Port, FL  
34287, 941-237-9286
- GLENALLEN ELEMENTARY:**  
NOVEMBER 16, 2023, 5:00 PM-6:30 PM  
7050 Glenallen Blvd., North Port, FL 34287  
941-379-6333
- GOOD SHEPHERD:**  
NOVEMBER 1 & 15, 2023, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM  
1115 Center Rd, Venice, FL 34292, 941-497-7286
- LAMARQUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:**  
NOVEMBER 8, 2023, 5:30 PM-7:00 PM  
3415 Lamarque Ave, North Port, FL 34286,  
941-379-6333
- LAUREL CIVIC ASSOCIATION:**  
NOVEMBER 2 & 16, 2023, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM  
& 4:00 PM-6:00 PM  
509 Collins Rd, Nokomis, FL 34275  
941-483-3338
- NOKOMIS PARK COMM CTR:**  
NOVEMBER 8 & 22, 2023, 9:00 AM -10:30 AM  
234 Nippino Trl, Nokomis, FL 34275  
941-379-6333
- NORTH PORT CITY HALL:**  
NOVEMBER 11, 2023, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM  
4970 City Hall Blvd, North Port, FL 34286  
941-429-7000

- SALVATION ARMY VENICE:**  
MONDAYS/TUESDAYS/THURSDAYS/FRIDAYS  
(EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS) 9:00 AM-12:00 PM &  
1:00 PM -3:00 PM  
1051 Albee Farm Rd, Venice, FL 34285  
941-484-6227
- ST NATHANIEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH:**  
NOVEMBER 2 & 16, 2023, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM  
4200 S Biscayne Dr, North Port, FL 34287  
941-426-2520
- THE CENTER OF HOPE:**  
TUESDAY-THURSDAY, 8:00 AM-11:00 AM  
2455 Shamrock Dr, Venice, FL 34293  
941-412-9044
- TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:**  
TUESDAYS, 9:00 AM-10:30 AM  
4365 State Road 776, Venice, FL 34293  
941-492-6384
- TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:**  
MONDAYS (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS) 9:00 AM-  
12:00 PM  
4285 Wesley Ln, North Port, FL 34287  
941-426-1734
- TRINITY UMC CHURCH:**  
NOVEMBER 1, 2023, 4:30 PM-6:00 PM  
4285 Wesley Ln, North Port, FL, 34287  
941-379-6333
- VENICE MIDDLE SCHOOL:**  
NOVEMBER 9, 2023, 5:00 PM-6:30 PM  
1900 Center Rd. Venice, FL 34292, 941-379-6333

### DESOTO COUNTY USDA DISTRIBUTION, NOVEMBER 2023:

- 7TH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH:**  
NOVEMBER 16, 2023, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM  
2865 SE Ami Dr, Arcadia, FL 34266  
941-379-6333
- CATHOLIC CHARITIES DESOTO COUNTY  
FOOD PANTRY:** FRIDAYS, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM  
1210 E Oak St, Arcadia, FL 34266, 863-884-2134
- DESOTO FOOD AND RESOURCE CENTER:**  
MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS, 10:00 AM-2:00  
PM THURSDAYS, 2:00 PM-6:00 PM  
1021 E Oak St, Arcadia, FL 34266, 941-379-6333
- SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE:**  
NOVEMBER 14 & 28, 2023 4:30 PM-6:00 PM  
2251 NE Turner Ave, Arcadia, FL 34266  
941-379-6333