

ARCADIA THE COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY 22, 2024



BROUGHT TO YOU BY PEACE RIVER SHOPPER NEWS & MORE

Local

MOSAIC SUPPORTS ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK IN DESOTO



STEVE KNAPP
sports@peacerrivershopper.com

DESOTO COUNTY SPORTS

PAGE 4



Volunteers from Mosaic during a Mobile Pantry held at First Baptist Church Ft. Ogden in DeSoto County in September of 2023
Provided photo/All Faiths Food Bank

SARASOTA/DESOTO COUNTIES, Fla. – As it has since 2012, Mosaic is providing generous support to All Faiths Food Bank (AFFB) to help residents in need in DeSoto County. This year, Mosaic has awarded a grant of \$65,000 to AFFB for the food bank’s Backpack and Mobile Pantry programs, aimed at ending hunger in rural communities.

Mosaic’s support for AFFB in DeSoto County began in 2012 for mobile pantries and soon expanded to include support for the Backpack program, which provides students enrolled in DeSoto County schools with backpacks filled with nutritious foods for the weekends and during school holidays. Over the past 12 years, Mosaic has contributed more than \$795,000 to AFFB in support of these programs.

With the financial support provided by Mosaic, AFFB’s Backpack and Mobile Pantry programs reduced hunger and food insecurity for 4,000 residents of DeSoto County during the most recent funding year. Individuals and families obtained nutritious food on a regular basis from 89 mobile distribution sites located in their neighborhoods throughout the county. Approximately 60,000 pounds of fresh produce were distributed through the Mobile Pantry program in DeSoto County alone.

Additionally, Backpacks filled with healthy, ready-to-eat snacks were handed out to more than 3,100 children each week from 20 schools and child-focused programs.

SEE GRANT PAGE 18 >>



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

FEB 27	DESOTO COUNTY REGULAR COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING
TUES 3P & 6:30P	Administration Building 201 E. Oak Street, Suite 203 Arcadia, FL 34266
MAR 12	DESOTO COUNTY REGULAR COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING
TUES 9:00A	Administration Building 201 E. Oak Street, Suite 203 Arcadia, FL 34266
MAR 16	DESOTO COUNTY REGULAR COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING
TUES 3P & 6:30P	Administration Building 201 E. Oak Street, Suite 203 Arcadia, FL 34266

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

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

See page 5

Sponsored by:



HELP SUPPORT ARCADIA’S NEWEST PUBLICATION!
WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN MAKING OUR COMMUNITY BETTER, TOGETHER!
For advertising, contact Angie Duckett: sales@peacerrivershopper.com or call 863-990-9813
To participate as a Community Contributor, email: editorial@peacerrivershopper.com

SALES INQUIRIES:
SALES@PEACERRIVERSHOPPER.COM
863.990.9813

223 E. OAK ST. STE. 1
ARCADIA, FL 34266

SALES / OFFICE MANAGER
Angie Duckett

CREATIVE DIR / AD DESIGN
Jackie Bierman

OPS / PRODUCT DESIGN
Jonathan Bruch

ONE FORECLOSURE AND SIX CIVIL CITATIONS AUTHORIZED FOR CODE ENFORCEMENT LIENS



CAROL MAHLER
Independent Contractor
carolmahler22acl@gmail.com
Photos provided

At the Feb. 13 meeting, the Commission voted to foreclose on code enforcement liens totaling \$58,006.16 recorded against property owned by Justin Thomas Treworgy. Located at 11212 SW Cedar Ave., the property is not his homestead, and the Property Appraiser values it at \$37,853.00. The violations include unlicensed vehicles, work on the house without a permit, and occupancy of a Recreational Vehicle (RV) trailer with hookups to water and septic.

Sheriff Jim Potter reported that between Jan. 2021 and Oct. 2023, there were 72 Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) calls to the property and two death attributed to overdose. He noted that this case “is not someone collecting stuff in the yard,” but involves unlawful narcotics.

Commissioner Steve Hickox spoke in favor of the foreclosure especially because of the “thousands of dollars in first responders” expended on this property. He said, “I’m all for cleaning the county up.”

In his monthly report, County Attorney Don Conn noted that as a result of the code enforcement workshop on Jan. 23, six Civil Citations have been issued for three different properties, including the one in Lake Suzy, with repeat violations—arbitrated by the Special Magistrate and not corrected—that impact the neighborhood or present a danger or health hazard, or in which the County has incurred costs adjudged in excess of \$500.00. The cases have been opened with the county court, and now the property owners have to respond. Conn said, “If they don’t request a hearing, I will, on behalf of the County.”

Also as a result of the workshop, the Commission approved a revised Classification and Pay Plan that includes two positions added to the Code Enforcement Division of the Development Department: an additional Code Enforcement Officer “to aid in the investigation, inspection, and prosecution of all violations” and an Administrative Assistant to “perform a variety of administrative and clerical duties to support the department with Code enforcement operations by providing general information and assistance to the public.”

TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES

The Commissioners ratified the fiscal year 2024-2025 through 2029-2030 transportation projects priorities letter for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Five-Year Work Program. The letter includes projects

funded by FDOT’s Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) and Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP). The County’s Engineering Division uses this prioritization to submit applications to FDOT by March 15, 2024. As a Rural Area of Opportunity, the County requests the projects to be funded without any County matching funds.

In 2023, the County applied for two SCOP and two SCRAP projects, and one each was approved for Fiscal Year 2028-2029: \$4,789,5434.00 for NE Turner Avenue from State Road (SR) 70 to U.S. Highway 17 (US 17) and \$2,307,675.00 for NW CR 661A and NW Coker St. from SR 70 to CR 661.

The County will resubmit the two projects not chosen last year in each category: SCOP road and safety improvements for NW Owens Ave. from SR 70 to SR 72 and NW CR 660 (aka McIntyre St. and Moore Ave.) from US 17 to US 17; and SCRAP resurfacing of SW/SE CR 760A from US 17 to SR 31 and NW/NE Brownville St. from US 17 to NW CR 661.

In her County Administrator report, Mandy Hines reported that Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) mitigation funds had been received for the improvement of CR 769 bridge over Horse Creek, so the Board authorized a letter making a formal request to FDOT for the reallocation of that \$3.5 million to pave Kings Highway from SR 72 to CR 760.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Commission approved the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee’s (AHAC) 2023 Housing Incentive Strategies Report with three recommendations. It will be posted on the County’s Social Services Website and submitted to the Florida Housing Finance Corp. The County is required to have the AHAC because the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) program allocates more than \$350,000.00 per year to the County.

The recommendations include the following: Reducing the permit and planning fees for affordable housing under 80% Advance Metering Infrastructure (AMI) to builders who are using more than 90% Green Initiative; to allow affordable accessory residential units in residential zoning districts; and once the County has more waste water capacity, to consider affordable housing infrastructure reservations. The affordable housing incentive strategies will be used to update the Local Housing Assistance Plan (LHAP).

Under the consent agenda, the Commission agreed to the following two items: three technical revisions to the LHAP: adding “There can be no liens or judgments on or against the property with the exception of a mortgage” to the Owner-Occupied



A 20-year resident of Royal Park Estates, Bruce Pepe asked the Commission to approve the use of golf carts and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) in the subdivision near Horse Creek.



Having grown up in the subdivision, Matthew Reid joined Pepe in asking the Commissioners to grant permission for the use of golf carts and ATVs on the roads.



County Administrator Mandy Hines recognized the “phenomenal job” done by Purchasing Director Cindy Talamantez, who does the work of two people “in the amount of work we have going on”—contracts and bids—with a “super positive attitude. . . She’s a great team player and goes above and beyond her responsibility.” Talamantez responded, “It’s easy when you have a leader who is supportive.” Hickox added, “I’ve worked with Cindy . . . almost 20 years . . . I’ve worked with a lot of municipalities and counties and purchasing departments . . . in surrounding counties as well, you’re the best and most polite and pleasant I’ve ever dealt with.”

Rehab and Demolition/Reconstruction sections, and raising the homeless rental housing development strategy maximum award per unit from \$15,000 to \$45,000; and the request of DeSoto Cares Homeless Services, Inc., (DCHS) for a modification to the agreement for Bid #22-13-00RFP, reducing the maximum award from \$135,000.00 over three years to \$45,000.00 as DCHS “has been awarded other funds that they feel confident will be enough to complete” the “Tiny Town” project.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

The Commissioners approved the following business.

- The Architectural Services Contract, Change Order No. 1, with REG Architects, Inc. (REG), “to provide extended services until project completion on or before Dec. 31, 2024, for the DeSoto County Courthouse Exterior Restoration Project. Florida’s Division of Historical Resources awarded a \$500,000.00 grant for this project, and REG was selected in Feb. 2023 in response to Request For Proposals (RFP) 23-02-00 for services including damage assessment, writing a scope of work for restoration, and observation/ review of the restoration process or repairs. Additional state and local fiscal recovery funds added \$1 million to the project, and so required the change order.
- The Selection Committee’s choice of Risk Management Associates, Inc., (RMA) a wholly owned subsidiary of Brown and Brown, Inc., to provide brokerage services to secure employee benefits and assist in the management of its various insurance programs as one of four proposals submitted in response to RFP #23-32-00. RMA will be paid a percentage for each insurance as follows: 2% for medical, 3% dental, 10% vision, 10% life/voluntary life. RMA will provide “the review, analysis, recommendation, and placement of all fully insured and self-insured programs in the areas of group health, dental, vision, and life insurance coverage, as well as processing policy changes, endorsements, policy review and audits, utilization monitoring, and reporting requirements”—for insurances currently held for those “being sought during the term of the agreement.”
- The purchase for \$63,315.00 of the 2019 Caterpillar 926M LTE06011 Wheel Loader leased until April 18, 2024, under a total maintenance and repair agreement, at the Landfill. It will replace the current 2009 Caterpillar 930H as a back-up as the Landfill’s operating permit requires two loaders—one primary and one back-up. The 2009 Caterpillar will become surplus with an average resale value of \$30,000.00 to \$40,000.00.

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH: THE ARCADIA DODGERS



CAROL MAHLER

Independent Contractor
carolmahler22acl@gmail.com
Photos provided

A segregated baseball team, the Arcadia Dodgers played other African-American teams in towns throughout Southwest Florida in the 1940s and 1950s, and this photograph of the team in front of the Orange Liquor Store, is a treasured owned by Carl McQuay. His father, Willie McQuay, who played second base, is in the first row, sixth from left. Carl donated a digital copy of the photograph to the DeSoto County Historical Society (DCHS).

During World War II, Willie McQuay (1920-1992) served in the U.S. Army and played baseball. He returned to Arcadia and worked at Central Moloney, Inc., a business that manufactured electrical transformers. He first worked in the “core department” and later as a welder. His wife Geraldine Pope McQuay (1932-2008) worked at G. Pierce Wood Memorial Hospital.

In an essay published by DCHS in “Recollections II: A Collection of Historical Photographs, Documents, Letters, Diaries, Stories, Recipes, Sayings, and Other Memorabilia about Arcadia and DeSoto County, Florida,” Charlotte Hill Carter wrote, “The Sunday baseball games were a major sports and social event for African Americans in many small towns and cities across the country. Arcadia, Florida was no exception.”

For “home games,” the Arcadia Dodgers played on a baseball field at the corner of Hargrave St. and Hillsborough Ave. A row of Australian pines grew along the north and west edges. The crowd sat on wooden bleachers although many spectators lined the barrier fences. Those watching the baseball games had first attended church and eaten Sunday dinner, but according to Carter, “one of the café owners on Orange Ave. would bring sandwiches and drinks to sell to the crowd.”

The players were only allowed on the field for a game, but not to practice. Inez Langmaid told Carter that the team “practiced on a place called “the farm,” an area at the end of West Bond Street. According to the City of Arcadia’s map published in 1951, the area one block north of Bond Street was a subdivision known as “Joe Louis Farms,” and this may be the reason for the name.

For “away games,” the Dodgers “traveled on an old converted school bus to nearby towns, such as Bradenton and Fort Myers to play other African-American teams. . . . They left early Sunday morning and were gone all day.” Carter recalled the bus with “Arcadia Dodgers” painted on the side that was parked near the home of Wesley Atkins.



Courtesy of the DeSoto County Historical Society

Standing in front of the Orange Liquor Store, owned by Havana Reed at 151 S. Orange Ave., the Arcadia Dodgers baseball team may be front row, from left: Joe Blandin, “Poppa” Brown, and sixth from left is Willie McQuay; second row, fifth from left may be Grant McDaniel. If you can identify others in the photo, please contact Carol Mahler at carolmahler22acl@gmail.com or 863-445-0789. Photograph courtesy of the DeSoto County Historical Society.

Her husband Fred Carter, who lived in Fort Myers, was a member of the Fort Myers Cubs while he was in high school. In 1952, remembered that they played the Arcadia Dodgers on the field in Arcadia.

In McQuay’s photograph, the team is standing in front of the Orange Liquor Store, 151 S. Orange Ave., owned by Havana C. Reed (1900-1980). (Her husband Tom Reed, born in 1899, died in 1952.) The building no longer exists, but it was located just north of DeSoto Cares Homeless Service Center, 159 S. Orange Ave. She also owned and operated a tavern called “Havana’s Place” at 223 S. Alabama Ave.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The first professionally trained African-American historian was Dr. Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950), and he institutionalized the study of African-American history and worked to include African-Americans and their accomplishments in educational curricula.

In 1926, he established “Negro History Week” as the second week in Feb. to honor the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Woodson believed that history was made by ordinary as well as prominent people, but he also knew the success of “Negro History Week” would be improved by scheduling it during the traditional celebrations of Lincoln’s birthday—held since 1865—and Douglass’s birthday honored since his death in 1895. The week-long observance was later extended to a month, and since 1976, the U.S. Government has recognized Feb. as Black History Month.



ARCADIA DODGERS, CIRCA 1946-1953

Top row, left to right: Wesley Atkins, Sponsor; Jessie Bing, Sponsor; Charles Brown, “Smitty”; Grant McDaniel; James Reed; Bud Terrell; Booker T. Hill, Manager-Coach; Dan Jones, Manager-Coach. Bottom row, left to right: Joe Blandin; “Poppa” Brown; Wendell Campbell; Horace Hudson; Eddie Roe; Winifred “Brother” Jones; James Blandin.

Charlotte Hill Carter donated to the DeSoto County Historical Society a digital copy of the photograph of the Arcadia Dodgers that includes her father, Booker T. Hill. It was published with her essay in the Society’s book “Recollections II: A Collection of Historical Photographs, Documents, Letters, Diaries, Stories, Recipes, Sayings, and Other Memorabilia about Arcadia and DeSoto County, Florida.” Photograph courtesy of the DeSoto County Historical Society.



The first professionally trained African-American historian, Dr. Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950) also established “Negro History Week” in 1926 to include African-Americans and their accomplishments in educational curricula. Fifty years later, the week-long observance in Feb. became “Black History Month.” Photograph courtesy of the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site.



THANK YOU TO OUR BULLDOG YOUTH SPONSORS!

- DESOTO COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD (PRS)
- MOSAIC



PEACE RIVER SPORTS

"ONE SHOT SHORT"

SEASON ENDS IN REGIONAL FINAL SHOOTOUT



All eyes are on the net as JJ Buenrostro gets the ball past the keeper but it bounced off the post in the Bulldogs' closest shot of the game.



STEVE KNAPP
Sports Writer
sports@peacershopper.com

DeSoto soccer coach Fernando Zepeda tried to cheer his team up and to remind them of the great season they had. Seventeen wins has only been surpassed once at DeSoto High School. They scored an unbelievable 105 goals which will probably never be broken. Their season ended when they couldn't get goal number 106.

"One shot short." Zepeda told his team. That one shot could have been a couple that the McKeel keeper made a great save on. That one shot could have been any one of a dozen shots that just missed their mark left or right of the net. That one shot could have been the one that JJ Buenrostro got past the keeper and clanged off the post in regulation time. Whichever shot it was, it never came.

After a scoreless 80 minutes of excellent soccer, the teams went back on the field for two ten minute periods. Zepeda said to Buenrostro as he went onto the field. "Come on JJ we need you now more than ever, just one goal."

Earlier he told the team, "don't let this be your final 20 minutes of your career, just one goal and we will win it."

After 100 minutes neither team was able to find the back of the net and it went to penalty kicks to decide the winner. Each team had 5 shots and if they were still tied then a sudden death would determine the winner.

Zepeda said, "It was a group decision to have JJ go last because we know what the kid can do, he's done it 37 times already this year. We had confidence and we wanted him to close it for us, but the keeper read it and read it just right."

Buenrostro was the right choice to shoot last. He is the kind of player with ice water in his veins and would never

let the moment get too big for him. "Actually I didn't feel any pressure at all. I felt I could do it, I just made the shot and couldn't finish it for my team".

Buenrostro is that kind of player who will take the blame for a loss (couldn't finish it for my team) but celebrate the wins as "team wins". We may never see another player with so much athletic talent along with the respect of every one of his teammates and the humility that is becoming rare in sports. He may be the best high school soccer player I have ever seen. The opportunity to know him and be able to reach out to him through social networks when I have a question has been a big advantage. If a person can't say something good about JJ, then they don't know him.



Andri Vargas gives a good effort to control the ball and shoot. Vargas was the second leading scorer on the team and will be back next season as a senior.

With the final score 4-3, ironically it was the two leading scorers for the Bulldogs, Buenrostro and Andri Vargas that had their shots turned away.

Zepeda finished his recap to the team. It was hard for him to say goodbye to this special team. It wasn't easy for the players as they gathered their equipment and wanted to get away from where their hearts were broken.

"You played your hearts out. Nobody stopped, nobody gave up. I know it doesn't mean much now, but every team we played against tell us that we're the greatest team they have played. I can't tell anyone of you that you should have done this or done that, you did everything I asked you to do and left it all out on the field. To my seniors,

we know we didn't want it to end like this. Regional runner up is not what we were shooting for but remember there are hundreds of teams that would have wanted to be in your spot. I'm proud of you. I'm glad that everyone of you were on this team, everyone played a part. Keep your heads up, you are an amazing team. Talented, super talented. I love you guys and am proud of you, you have nothing to be ashamed of. It happens sometimes, just one shot short."



JJ Buenrostro comes off the field after regulation time prepared for overtime.

It is plain to see things weren't going well during the penalty kicks that led to the DeSoto loss in the regional finals.

Both teams played hard and gave everything they had. They left it all out on the field as witnessed by this play involving DeSoto's Jean Bettecherly.



You can read the emotions on the players faces during the penalty kicks.



DESOTO COUNTY

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



REVEL RODRIGUEZ

It's a common belief, but not actually proven, that pitchers have an early season advantage over hitters. Apparently Revel Rodriguez never got that message. Rodriguez has gotten off to a torrid start hitting a robust .833 over the two preseason games to win the honor of being selected DeSoto County athlete of the week.

In the win over Clewiston, he went 2-3 with his only out coming on a failed bunt attempt that got popped up. He blasted a single and a two base knock to drive in a run and score once. In the 4-3 loss to LaBelle, Rodriguez had two ropes down the line going 3-3 and scoring another run. He was 5-6 for the week with a ribbie and two runs scored hitting out of the nine hole.

He did more than just hit well, his glove was golden too. In the first inning of the game against the Cowboys, he made a nice leaping catch on a hump back liner to retire the hitter. The leadoff man in the second hit a rocket shot over the left field fence. Without Rodriguez' catch it would have been a two run blast and not a solo shot.

Later in the game he went horizontal to keep the ball in the infield to prevent a run from scoring. He wasn't done yet as the Cowboys were trying to up their lead with a man on second and two outs. The batter hit a ground ball heading for right field which would have scored another run. Rodriguez went far to his left and with a nice pickup and toss to first to retire the batter and leave the runner rounding third. While it doesn't



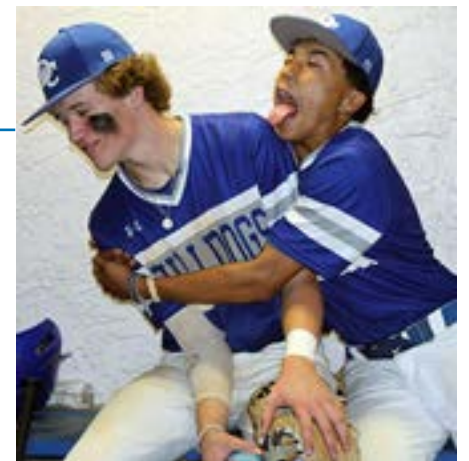
show up in the score book, he saved at least two runs to go along with scoring once himself.

Not only is Rodriguez a solid ball player but he also is a good influence in the clubhouse which is a valuable asset. His infectious enthusiasm and omnipresent smile gives him the leadership qualities that players like to be around.

Revel Rodriguez gives his mom a hug before the game and proceeded to go 3-3.



Revel Rodriguez has a good glove and good speed and can also play the outfield.



Revel Rodriguez keeps everyone on their toes in the dugout as he harasses Corbin Gilmore before the game.

Second baseman Revel Rodriguez swings some big bats for the Bulldogs going 5-6 in the first two games.



SUCCESSFUL SEASON ENDS WITH DISTRICT RUNNER UP TROPHY



Cherish Wiggins, Rihanna Downing, Janeris Bing and Izaria Anderson make up the talented freshman class which will be a lot of fun to watch over the next three years.



STEVE KNAPP

Sports Writer
sports@peacereivershopper.com

Many people would think that a team with an under .500 record such as the DeSoto girls basketball team had at 10-13 was a bad season. If you followed the team and saw what they did with what they had, you would consider it a remarkable season.

Three players from last year's team were gone this season. One was injured and missed the entire season, another one graduated and the third one transferred to another school. Those three players accounted for 40.3 points a game in the 2022-2023 season. That is a huge chunk of offense to lose.

Returning for the past season was a lone senior Keyara Montinat. She averaged 7 points a game in her junior year. Joining her were four freshmen, Cherish Wiggins, Rihanna Downing, Janeris Bing and Izaria Anderson. Rounding out the team were sophomores Isela Gonzalez, Jordin Campbell and Jaliyah Luther.

Only Luther saw any playing time appearing in 20 of the team 24 games and averaging under a point a game. Gonzalez and Campbell weren't even on the roster. Coach Ardine Primus was looking at a team with just two players returning with ANY varsity experience and had an average of just 8 points in offense.

Four untested freshmen who were making the big step from middle school ball to high school varsity and



Janeris Bing was a pleasant surprise making the transition from middle school to varsity basketball and averaging 9 points per game.

two sophomores with no high school experience and not a junior in sight gave the Bulldogs an extremely inexperienced and young team.

The team was so young that it could be said that Primus' main concern was diaper rash!

They started out of the gate with 5 straight wins to open the season. They surprised a lot of people (including one sports writer who shall remain nameless) and other teams who may have thought the team was lacking too much to be a threat. After that burst, they settled down to a more expected pace with 5 more wins in the next 18 games.

In those 23 games, the Bulldogs found their identity and laid the groundwork for next season. Montinat

became the team leader and the one the players turned to in times of trouble. She responded with patience as the team slowly developed. She carried the team on her shoulders with a 14 point average, more than double her output in her junior season.

Along the way, Montinat won the Athlete of the Week award along with setting the girls' team record with 7 three pointers in a game and guided the progress of the under class men. She was like having another coach on the court. Montinat missed her sophomore season and totaled 208 points in her other two years on the varsity. This season she scored 284.

Two freshmen developed into strong starters. Janeris Bing and Cherish

Wiggins both averaged 9 points a game. Wiggins had a hamstring injury that limited her playing time in midseason but still put 171 points in the Desoto books. She is a very talented athlete and would be successful in any sport she tries. Her motor is always running and never loafs on the court. She led the team in rebounds, blocks and steals. Wiggins finished just one assist behind Montinat who led the team.

Bing will surprise you as she can hit from anyplace on the court. She made 79 of 229 field goal attempts and will only improve over time. Bing was just under 20% on shots from beyond the arc making 12 of 66 attempts. She finished third in steals, assists, blocks and field goal %. She was strong at the free

throw line with 55% just barely trailing Montinat for the team lead.

With the development of Anderson and Downing over the course of the next year if they play club ball and continue to improve in the next season as they did in this season, the team will have an extremely strong nucleus for the next three seasons.

Primus sent a team letter after the season ended. These are the words she gave to the four freshmen. "This was probably one of the hardest challenges you have had to face in your young lives. You stood up to the challenge and took it on with all you had. I know it wasn't easy learning a new coach, new plays and new speed of the game, new teammates and new rules. But you DID it I really appreciate that."

Campbell missed the final 9 games of the season with an ankle injury and Gonzalez has developed into a strong bench player to give starters a rest or to come in the game in the event of foul trouble. Both will make next year's team a stronger team. Then there is Yahri Tyler who missed the entire season with an injury. She showed the area what she could do in her freshman year making



Freshman Cherish Wiggins is going to be a force to reckon with over the next three seasons.



Keyara Montinat was a key performer in the growth of the girls basketball team this season.

the All Area team and will be fun to watch next year.

The final sophomore is Jaliyah Luther who has filled in perfectly in the role that Genesis Goldwire played last season. I like the way Luther muscles her way around under the boards and scores her points from up close in the paint. That gave her the opportunity to lead the Bulldogs in field goal percentage with a strong 45%. She was second on the

team in blocks and rebounds. Look for a big season from her next year.

Primus reflected upon the season and said these words. "Many lessons learned this season that we will build upon during the off season. I am proud of the way they competed, their fight. My aim for the season was to focus on building confidence and chemistry. I knew I had to bring my young team up to varsity level with not much time

to work with. I am proud to say that I feel confident that this group now understands and appreciates what it takes to be in the position for a district title. Second place this season is a testament to the growth from game 1 to now. We have one mission, the District Championship."

So a 10-13 year must be considered a resounding success with more to come over the next few seasons.

MAY THE WEIGHTS FEEL LIGHT AND THE LIGHTS BE BRIGHT



This group decided on the name "Strong Six" to represent them in the regional meet.



STEVE KNAPP

Sports Writer
sports@peacriver shopper.com

In weightlifting at invitational or district and regional meets there is a light board for all three judges to record their vote to determine if the lift is good or not. If all three lights go on, then the lift is good.

There were plenty of lights on the board for the "Strong Six" DeSoto lifters who competed in the regional meet last Saturday at Lemon Bay. However there weren't enough to advance any of them to the state meet.

Megan Baum finished sixth in the traditional portion of the meet while Brasaya Wiley earned the same spot in the Olympic lift.



Jada Hall and Tomiah Henry flex while waiting their turn to lift at Lemon Bay.



While waiting for her event to begin, Tomiah Henry works on a self taught project.

DESOTO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL HIRES NEW HEAD FOOTBALL COACH



STEVE KNAPP

Sports Writer
sports@peacerrivershopper.com

Coach Lohrey is entering his 24th football season and his 13th year as a head football coach. He has multiple awards from the Florida Athletic Coach Association (FACA) for District Coach of the Year. His passion for Strength and Conditioning led him to the University of Oregon where he spent 2 years as a Strength and Conditioning Coach for multiple sports including football. Additionally, he's spent time as a collegiate football coach at Highland Community College where he became CSCS certified (certified strength and conditioning specialist.)

As a head coach he's led his teams to multiple playoff appearances and has experience as a coordinator on both the

offensive and defensive sides of the ball.

Coach Lohrey and his family are originally from Crystal River, FL and are excited to become Bulldogs.

Lohrey will be on campus March 4 in his first official day on the job. He said he is looking forward to meeting the community and athletes and becoming involved in all aspects of DeSoto County.

Coach Lohrey was one of over 25 applicants from as far away as Arizona and Idaho along with many instate coaches. The list was cut to 9 applicants of which 5 were interviewed since the other 4 had already accepted jobs at other schools. The people on the interview committee are well known and respected members of the community and they tabulated the scores of the candidates after each interview. This hire was NOT a one person favorite, it was the decision of the panel.



TROPHY

FROM PAGE 7 >>



Noella Amezquita and Brasaya Wiley talk with coach Rayna Henry before the regional meet begins.



Brasaya Wiley uses her legs and gets under the weights to make a good lift.

SHIPPING CONTAINERS
Expand Your Storage Options!



COME CHECK OUT OUR NEW INVENTORY!

Scan for a free quote!



ShedPro

1173 SW Hwy 17 Arcadia, FL 34266
(863) 303-4439 • ShedPro.Pro • ShedProLLC@gmail.com

STORAGE UNITS

★ **AVAILABLE** ★

RATES STARTING AT \$185.00 PER MONTH

RV/BOAT/OUTSIDE STORAGE AND PRODUCT ADVERTISING

PLEASE CONTACT US FOR DETAILS

COWPENS, LLC

The lovely Amy Smith, Mgr. - 863-303-1406

2242 SE HWY 70, ARCADIA, FL 34266 - BEHIND K & J'S HOMEGROWN PRODUCE

HELP SUPPORT THE ARCADIA COMMUNITY LOCAL!
For advertising, contact Angie Duckett: sales@peacerrivershopper.com or call 863-990-9813
To participate as a Community Contributor, email: editorial@peacerrivershopper.com

Join the Mission to Keep Florida Communities Safe



We provide evidence based Forensic Treatment.

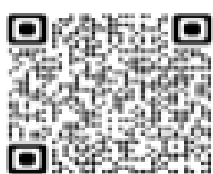
Walk-in interviews every Wednesday 9am-noon

*Wellpath Recovery Solutions/Florida Civil Commitment Center
13619 Hwy 70 Arcadia, Florida 34266 (10.5 miles east of Walmart)
(863) 491-4800 To apply please visit [Wellpathcare.com/careers/](https://www.wellpathcare.com/careers/)*

We have jobs and careers in security (\$21), nursing (\$23-38), direct care (\$15-16), mental health therapist, maintenance, food service and more...

We find the best fit for applicants based on their work history, attitude, education and interests. New employees receive intensive training and OTJ support.

YOU have choices! We offer DailyPay, regular paychecks, various health care plans (health, dental, vision), 401K, sponsorship for the Correctional Academy, full time and PRN, some sign bonuses are up to \$2000, air conditioned work environment, tuition reimbursement and more...



Florida Civil Commitment Center
13619 SE Hwy 70, Arcadia FL 34266 (863)491-4800



OBITUARIES

RAYFORD E. "BUDDY"



GRANT, JR.

Rayford E. "Buddy" Grant, Jr., aged 76, of Arcadia, Florida, passed away peacefully on February 11, 2024. Born on July 21, 1947, in Bremerton, Washington, Buddy was a cherished husband, father, and grandfather who lived his life with joy and warmth.

Buddy is lovingly remembered by his devoted wife, Sheila Grant, and their family. He was a proud father to his three daughters,

Jennifer (Todd) Durden, Jessica (Lee) Hildebrand, and Jillian (Ethan) DeLoach. His legacy continues through his seven adored grandchildren, Gannon (Mallory) Watson, Hayley Hildebrand, Beau, Gunnar, Raylan, and Rory DeLoach, who will carry forward the memories of his kind spirit and loving heart.

In honor of Buddy's wishes, the family will not hold services. His life was one of quiet dignity and love, and he will be deeply missed by all who knew him. The family wishes to express their heartfelt gratitude for the thoughts and prayers during this time.

We invite those who knew Buddy to cherish their memories of him and to celebrate his life in their own reflections. His was a life well-lived, filled with the simple pleasures of family and the happiness he found in each day.

**Our Father,
who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy
Name.**

**Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done
in earth,
As it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day,
our daily bread.
And forgive us
our trespasses,
As we forgive
them that trespass
against us.**

**And lead us not
into temptation,
But deliver us
from evil.**

**For thine is the
kingdom,
The power,
and the glory,
For ever and ever.**

Amen.



While I Breathe I Hope



Thank you, DeSoto County, for continuing to be an innovation leader in the Sunshine State! The FPL Prairie Creek Solar Energy Center is now using Arcadia's sunshine to deliver reliable energy at the lowest possible cost for the community.



Learn more about solar energy at [FPL.com/Solar](https://www.fpl.com/Solar)

DESOTO COUNTY

SHERIFF'S OFFICE



2/9/24 - 2/15/24

Alejo, Bardomiano:

Aggrav Battery - Offendr
Knew/Should Have Known
Vict Pregnant, Resist Officer -
Obstruct Wo Violence

Arteaga, Gabriel:

Nonmoving Traffic Viol -
Operate Motor Vehicle Wo
Valid License

Cameron, Jeffery Gene:

Marijuana-Possess - Not
More Than 20 Grams, Drug
Equip-Possess - And Or Use

Chinchilla-Melgar, Yanira Mercedes:

Fraud-Imperson - Attempt
To Use Id Of Another Person
Wo Consent, Fraud - Poss
Display Blank Forged Stolen
Dr Lic Or Id

Clark, Angela Jo:

Trespassing - Fail To Leave
Property Upon Order By
Owner

Clifton, Marcus Justin:

Battery - Commit Domestic
Battery

Conley, Crystal Jean:

Burgl - Unoccupied Dwelling
Unarmed, Larc - Petit Theft
1St Degree 100 Less 300
Dols

Foust, Mark Trey:

Nonmoving Traffic Viol -
Drive While Lic Susp 1St Off,
Battery - Touch Or Strike

Funez-Santos, Edwin:

Nonmoving Traffic Viol -
Operate Motor Vehicle Wo
Valid License

Guzelgunler, Erdem Ethan:

Obscene Communication
- Travel To Meet After Use
Comput To Lure Child (X2),
Veh Theft - Grand Theft Of
Motor Vehicle, Resist Officer -
Obstruct Wo Violence, Fraud-
Imperson - False Id Given To
Leo, Possess Counterfeited
- Drivers License Or Id Card

Hall III, Bobby Joe:

Prob Violation

Hill, Devin:

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

Hoban, Ronald Charles:

Failure To Appear - Written
Promise To Appear

Jorgensen, William Edward:

Failure To Appear - Written
Promise To Appear (X4)

Knorr, William Lee:

Prob Violation

Macario, Francisco Olvera:

Traffic Offense - Dui Alcohol
Or Drugs

Maldonado, Angel:

Failure To Appear - Written
Promise To Appear

McCall, Montel Jamal:

Battery - Commit Domestic
Battery, Larc - Petit Theft
2Nd Degree 1St Offense,
Damage Prop-Crim Misch -
200 Dols And Under

Moore, Bradley Garrett:

Marijuana-Possess - Not
More Than 20 Grams, Drug
Equip-Possess - And Or Use,
Marijuana-Possess - With
Intent To Sell Mfg Or Deliver
Schedule I, Battery - On
Person 65 Years Of Age Or
Older, Battery - Touch Or
Strike

Morales, Tiffany Nicole:

Battery - Commit Domestic
Battery

Nurse Jr, Ryan Oneil:

Larc - Petit Theft 2Nd Degree
1St Offense

Orellana, Jose Jonata:

Nonmoving Traffic Viol -
Operate Motor Vehicle Wo
Valid License

Ornelas, Eugene:

Possession Of Weapon - Or
Ammo By Convicted Fla
Felon, Drugs-Possess - Cntrl
Sub Wo Prescription, Drug
Equip-Possess - And Or Use

Orozco-Lopez, Jose Roman:

Nonmoving Traffic Viol -
Operate Motor Vehicle Wo
Valid License

Ponce, Ivan:

Battery - Touch Or Strike

Ramos, Guillermo Aponte:

Nonmoving Traffic Viol -
Operate Motor Vehicle Wo
Valid License

Randolph, Tamia Yvonne:

Marijuana-Possess - With
Intent To Sell Mfg Or Deliver
Schedule I, Drugs-Possess
- Cntrl Sub Wo Prescription
(X3), Marijuana-Possess -
Possess Marijuana Over 20
Grams, Drug Equip-Possess
- And Or Use, Public Order
Crimes - Keep Pub Nuisance
Structure For Drug Activity

Randolph, Victoria Alexandra:

Marijuana-Possess - With
Intent To Sell Mfg Or Deliver
Schedule I, Marijuana-
Possess - Possess Marijuana
Over 20 Grams, Drugs-
Possess - Cntrl Sub Wo
Prescription, Public Order
Crimes - Keep Pub Nuisance
Structure For Drug Activity,
Drug Equip-Possess - And Or
Use

Redding, Ronnie Lee:

Amphetamine-Traffic - Or
Methamphetamine 14 Grams
Or Over, Resist Officer - Flee
Elude Leo With Lights Siren
Active, Evidence-Destroying
- Tamper With Or Fabricate
Physical, Drug Equip-
Possess - And Or Use

Rivera, Johnny Thomas:

Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Drive
While Lic Susp 1St Off

Sadansinh, Dodiya Vinubahen:

Contrib Delinq Minor - Sell/
Barter/Deliver Tobacco To
Minor

Salcedo, Brian:

Marijuana-Possess - With
Intent To Sell Mfg Or Deliver
Schedule I, Drugs-Possess
- Cntrl Sub Wo Prescription,
Marijuana-Possess - Possess
Marijuana Over 20 Grams,
Possession Of Weapon - Or
Ammo By Convicted Fla Felon
(X2), Fail To Reg As Crim
Reg - Convicted Felon Fail To
Register, Drug Equip-Possess
- And Or Use, Public Order
Crimes - Keep Pub Nuisance
Structure For Drug Activity

Santos-Mendoza, Julio Cesar:

Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Operate
Motor Vehicle Wo Valid License

Scudder, Colleen Elizabeth:

Battery - Touch Or Strike

Swindle, Jackie:

Battery - Cause Bodily Harm

Thomas, Grady Marquil:

Larc - Petit Theft 2Nd Degree
3Rd Subsq Offense

Torres, Gabriel:

Trespassing - Fail To Leave
Property Upon Order By Owner

Vasquez, Agustin:

Prob Violation

Webb, Cody Tyler:

Prob Violation

White, Anthony Seymour:

Larc - Petit Theft 2Nd Degree
1St Offense

Williams, Timothy Gerrard:

Resist Officer - Obstruct Wo
Violence

Winhoven, Stephen Joseph:

Out Of County Warrant

Wright, Kevin Edward:

Aggrav Battery - Cause
Bodily Harm Or Disability,
Moving Traffic Viol - Reckless
Driving 1St Off

Yates, Monica Nichole:

Drugs-Sell -
Methamphetamine Wi 1000
Ft Worship/Busn, Drug Equip-
Possess - And Or Use



There's never been a better time to quit with Group Quit.

*Tobacco Free Florida's Group Quit Sessions (in-person or virtual) now offer participants \$25 - \$125 in gift cards for their attendance.**



GROUP QUIT

Free, expert-led in-person or virtual sessions for all Florida residents, regardless of insurance status. Upon class completion, participants are eligible to receive free nicotine replacement therapy such as gum, patches or lozenges.**

Pre-registration required

Call Gulfcoast South AHEC today at:

866-534-7909

*while supplies last

**if medically appropriate for those 18 years of age or older

Learn more about all of Tobacco Free Florida's tools and services at tobaccofreeflorida.com/quityourway.



GULFCOAST SOUTH
AREA HEALTH
EDUCATION CENTER



**Florida
HEALTH**

Realtor Showcase



RMZ Realty Inc

Oralia Ramirez, BROKER
863.494.2702
 oraliaramirez@gmail.com
 3263 NE Hwy 17 Unit #3
 Arcadia, FL 34266

"If You're Looking To Buy, Sell Or Invest In Real Estate, Give Us A Call"
 Hablamos Español

www.rmzhomez.com



United Country Real Estate | 
GULFLAND REAL ESTATE

Mac Martin, ALC, GRI, BA
 BROKER/OWNER
863.494.2100
 landpanther@gmail.com
 2019 Florida Land Realtor

National Marketing, Local Expertise®
 FOR YOUR *Lifestyle Property*

www.gulflandrealestate.com



COLLINS[®] MANAGEMENT & REALTY_{LLC}

Dan Collins, Broker

Jean Vitali REALTOR®
 Cell: 863-990-5106
 Office: 863-494-6181
 jean1711@gmail.com



223 E Oak St. Arcadia, FL 34266



DOW Realty Inc.

Been a Realtor for 46 years in Arcadia

Mary E. Dow BROKER/OWNER
863.494.6062
 marymarydow@gmail.com



11855 SE South Hog Bay Ave • Arcadia, FL

CUSTOM HOMES STARTING AT \$269,000!



NOW TAKING ON CUSTOM HOMES!

IF YOU HAVE THE LAND OR ARE THINKING OF PURCHASING LAND...

LET US HELP YOU GET YOUR DREAM HOME BUILT!



JEWELCONTRACTINGINC.COM

CALL ROGER AT: **863-990-5921**

OR AJ AT: **863-633-8345**

LAND GIFT TO THE SFSC FOUNDATION BENEFITS NEIGHBORHOOD CHILDREN



AVON PARK, Fla. – Feb. 16, 2024 – The After School Spot on Kenilworth Boulevard in Sebring will have a new and larger facility that will benefit neighborhood children thanks to Bob and Caroline Duncan.

During the November 2023 meeting of the South Florida State College (SFSC) Foundation Board of Directors, a parcel of land came up for discussion. Months earlier, 2 acres of land had been gifted to the Foundation through the estate of Larry Ross Johnson and now the Foundation Board was in search of a buyer.

The Foundation, typically, sells land that has been gifted through an individual's will. The ensuing funds are then used in any way the donor has stipulated through their will. It could be to create scholarships for SFSC students, to purchase needed educational equipment for the College, or to upgrade College facilities.

The buyer for the Johnson property came as a surprise to the Foundation directors. In fact, the buyer was a 15-year member of the Board of Directors, Bob Duncan. Duncan had become deeply interested in the property and purchased it for \$293,000. "My wife and I have our own foundation," Duncan said. "It's called the Duncan Family Foundation. Our Foundation bought the property."

Duncan has been a Take Stock in Children (TSIC) mentor through SFSC for the past 20 years. He was mentoring a student from Sebring High School who needed to perform community service hours so that he would be eligible for scholarships, such as Bright Futures. Dolores Breedlove, a TSIC college success coach, suggested that Duncan contact Regina Nicolais at The After School Spot in Sebring about community service work the student could perform for her facility. After speaking with Nicolais, Duncan was impressed with her and her mission to provide a safe haven for youth in the community.

The After School Spot was located at 3725 Kenilworth Boulevard, practically across the street from Sebring High School. The 550-square-foot facility has served as a safe haven for 35 to 52 children a day, ages 11 to 17 years old, since November 2021. The After School Spot needed a larger facility to accommodate neighborhood children and its programs and Duncan found a solution.

The After School Spot will soon move into a 1,400-square-foot house that sits on the 2-acre property at 3804 Kenilworth Boulevard. It is a two-bedroom house with a living room, den, kitchen, and one-car garage. Recently,



Bob Duncan (left); Jamie Bateman, SFSC vice president for institutional advancement and external affairs; and Don Elwell, SFSC Foundation president.

an old homestead that sat at the back of the property was demolished. Two trailers were removed. Nicolais' wish is to have a grand opening of the new facility no later than April 1, 2024, after repairs to the house are completed.

"Kids need a place to go," Duncan said. "My wife and I talked about doing something like what Regina does, but we're too old. I don't have the tolerance or the temperament to do what Regina does. When she came along, it was an absolute gift. Regina has the programs and the equipment. All she has to do is set it up and these kids are going to get a real education."

The slogan of The After School Spot is "Engage, Enrich, Empower." "We engage with students, enrich them with tools, and, in doing so, we empower them," Nicolais said. "We raise their self-esteem and their self-confidence by giving them something more – to believe in themselves."

Nicolais said that the facility presents young people with classes and activities in four areas: youth development, creative outlets, peer engagement, and independent life skills. Currently, she is partnering with Outschool, an online learning platform that has donated classes to The After School Spot. One class was, "Taming Your Inner Hulk," a program about anger management. Bank representatives have taught the students about checking and savings accounts, how they work, how to fill out a check, and so forth. Local auto mechanics have brought vehicles to the facility to show the students how to read a dashboard, how to check fluid levels, and how to put air in a car's tires. Other activities include movie nights, game nights, and painting classes.

Opening the larger facility across the street will give Nicolais an opportunity to offer more programs to the students. A swimming pool that previously sat at the back of the house was filled in with dirt. Local farmers will bring compost, top soil, and seeds. "We're going to launch an agriculture program, where they come out once a week and teach the kids to grow vegetables," Nicolais said.

She indicated that she received a \$5,000 grant from the Burlington Foundation to designate an entire room to provide media, music, and technology. "We'll put in a computer, a couple of microphones, a green screen, electric guitars, and some audio equipment," she said. "The kids will be encouraged to start their own podcast. Our podcast series is going to be interviewing local business owners once a week. Through the interviews, the students will be encouraged to chase their dreams, overcome obstacles, and understand how super important education is in getting them to where they want to go in life. In the meantime, they'll be developing a number of other skills that they can take with them."

The After School Spot will partner with a company called "I Train Now." "With their assistance, we'll do mock interviews and resume writing," Nicolais said. "They can also get children as young as 15 years old CPR certified."

Further, Nicolais plans to bring in tutors who have master's degrees and experience as high school teachers to concentrate on mathematics, science, and language arts. A social worker is scheduled to work with the young people for non-judgmental learning sessions on topics, such as body changes.

For Duncan, purchasing the property so The After School Spot can flourish was a way of giving back to those who helped him early in life. Duncan had told his high school football coach that after he graduated from high school, he'd just "go get a job." The coach recognized that Duncan was bright and encouraged him to apply to college. One of the people the coach guided Duncan to was a local pharmacist, who told him, "As a pharmacist, you'll never get rich, but you'll always have a job as long as you have a license."

That struck home with Duncan, who's father had lost his job when Duncan was 12 years old. He never wanted to experience being on welfare again, so he pursued a degree in pharmacy at what is now Ferris State University in Michigan. Residents of Highlands and Hardee counties know Duncan as the owner of Heartland Pharmacy.

"What's cool about this story is that I believe Larry Johnson would be tickled pink and pleased with how this all ended up," said Jamie Bateman, SFSC's vice president for institutional advancement and external affairs. "Larry Johnson was a coach who had a passion for making sure kids succeeded. In comes Mr. Duncan, who buys the property that Mr. Johnson willed to the SFSC Foundation, so it will continue to help kids stay off the streets, mature, and grow. The property is going to help students in a completely different manner than what he, likely, ever dreamed it could."

For more information about the SFSC Foundation or to make a donation, call 863-453-3133 or email foundation@southflorida.edu.

CROWN ROOF TILES IS EXPANDING!
Join our growing team, proudly manufacturing in Desoto County!



NOW HIRING!

DAY SHIFT M - F • 6:00am - 6:30pm

ROTARY KILN OPERATOR:

Operators are responsible for operating the industrial kilns that are used to dry, heat, and harden various materials. Monitoring the temperature, conveyor setting, quality testing of product, basic maintenance and troubleshooting to prevent and avoid downtime. Kiln operators must have a thorough understanding of how their kiln works to properly operate it. Hands-On Training

QC/SEALER:

Sealer is an important step in our manufacturing process, this operator will maintain the spray booth and associated equipment, as well as remove bad quality products before they are packaged. Hands-On Training

NIGHT PRODUCTION SHIFT M - F • 6:00pm - 6:30am

FORKLIFT DRIVER:

Operator a forklift to lift heavy materials, goods, or equipment. Operators need to be skilled in maneuvering through warehouses while adhering to safety protocols. They also inspect their forklift regularly and keep it clean and maintained. Requires excellent communication skills since operators frequently work with warehouse staff, truck drivers, and supervisors. Forklift Experience Required.

DAY SHIFT M - F • 7:00am - 4:30pm

MANUFACTURING MECHANIC:

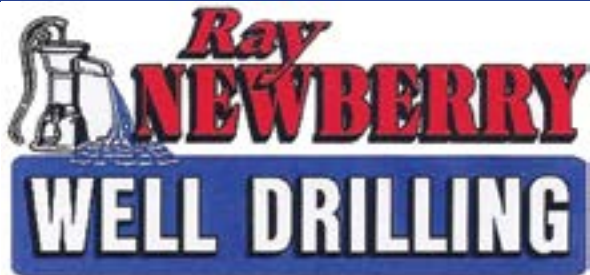
Mechanics install and inspect machines and electrical equipment and carry out preventive maintenance to ensure that industrial machines remain operational. Troubleshoot reported problems and resolve in a timely manner. Conduct repairs aiming for maximum efficiency and reliability. Excellent communication and problem-solving ability

MANUFACTURING ELECTRICIAN:

Performs a variety of tasks, including but not limited to, executing electrical wiring plans, installing fixtures and equipment, troubleshooting malfunctions, and repairing. Work with different electrical systems, tools, and safety regulations to ensure the efficient and safe distribution of electricity. Their responsibilities also include conducting inspections, replacing old wiring, and performing maintenance tasks to prevent system breakdowns and maximize electrical usability. Licensed or Completed Apprenticeship Required.

*We offer Competitive wages, hands-on training,
 family culture atmosphere,
 medical, dental, vision, 401k, PTO, and OT*
6018 SW HWY 72 • ARCADIA, FL

For All Your Water Needs



Water Treatment Sales & Service

- Pumps • Tanks • Aerators • Salt Delivery

863-494-6548 *Serving Desoto and Surrounding Counties*

Newberry A Trusted Name in the Water Industry for Over 50 Years.
Owned & Operated by a SWFWMD. Licensed Water Well Contractor. License #2881

Quality Storage Sheds for you!



As low as \$299 down!

FEATURED options:

- NEW! electrical packages
- Shelving
- Work benches



DESIGN your shed,
your way at
Shed4me.com

SouthCountrySheds.com
Email: Sales@SouthCountrySheds.com
1460 SW Price Child St. Arcadia, FL 34266

Call 863-491-8700 Today!
**Conditions apply*

HELP SUPPORT THE ARCADIA COMMUNITY LOCAL!

For advertising, contact Angie Duckett:
sales@peacershopper.com
or call **863-990-9813**

To participate as a Community Contributor,
email: editorial@peacershopper.com



**INTRODUCING
STUDIO SHEDS!**



HIRING POOL TECHS & HELPERS

Howard's POOL WORLD, Inc

Professional Pool People

NOW OFFERING HEALTH INSURANCE

POOL TECHS

Must have a clean valid FL Driver License.
Starting pay **\$18/hr**, no exp. necessary. 3 week
training. No phone calls at all.

POOL TECH HELPERS

Must have a clean valid FL Driver License.
Starting pay **\$13/hr**, no exp. necessary. 3 week
training. No phone calls at all.

Apply in person: **12419 SW CR 769 - Lake Suzy, FL**



THE LOUIS & GLORIA FLANZER PHILANTHROPIC TRUST

ARCADIA

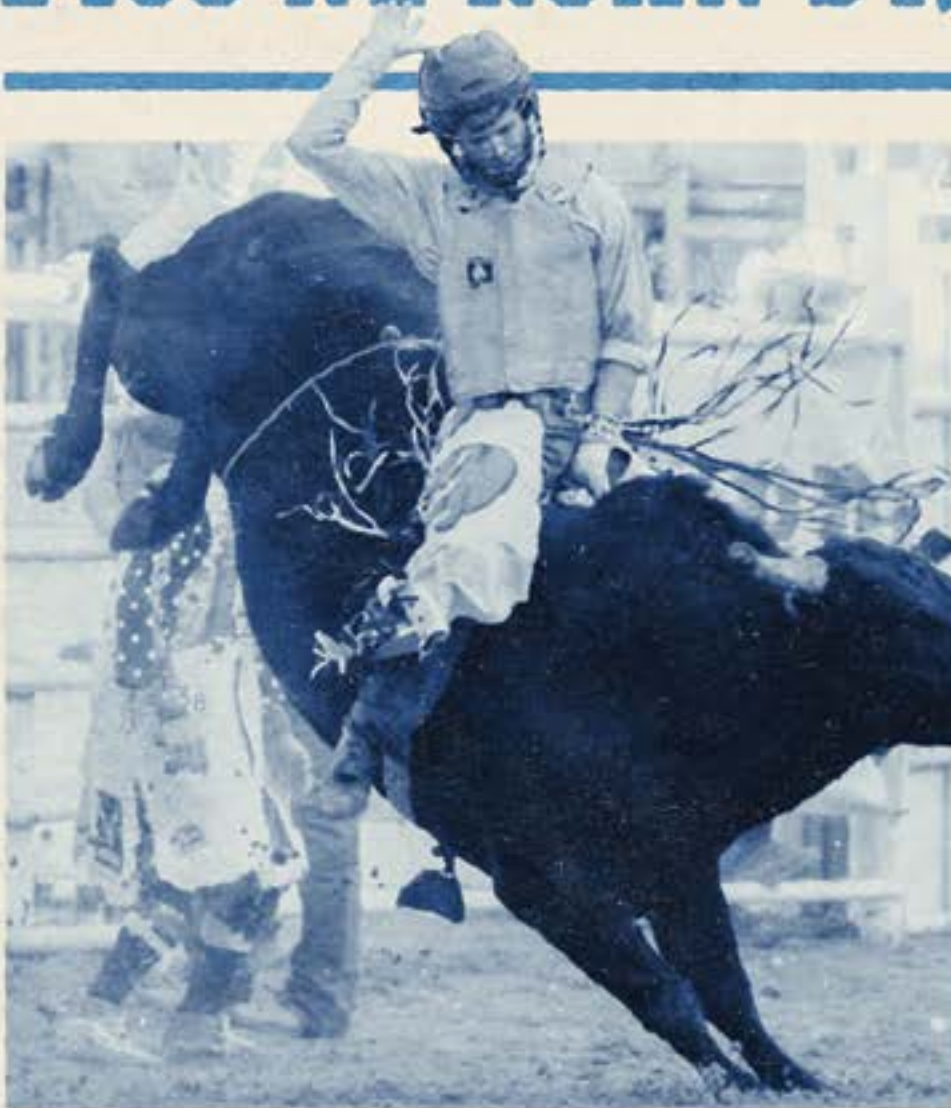
★ ALL-FLORIDA CHAMPIONSHIP ★

RODEO



MARCH **7-10** 2024

2450 NE ROAN ST, ARCADIA, FL



SCAN
THE QR CODE



OR PURCHASE
TICKETS AT
ARCADIARODEO.COM

★ OR CALL ★
800.749.7633



HISTORY NEEDED FOR 20TH ANNUAL PIONEER DAY



CAROL MAHLER

Independent Contractor
carolmahler22acl@gmail.com
Photos provided

In which church were your great grandparents charter members? Did your uncle own a business in Fort Ogden or Pine Level? How deep are your family's roots in DeSoto County?

If you can answer these or similar questions, the DeSoto County Historical Society needs you for their 20th Annual Pioneer Day and BBQ with the Arcadia American Legion Antique Tractor and Hit & Miss Engine Show on Saturday, March 23, at the Turner Center.

Pioneer Day is an opportunity for Arcadia and DeSoto County to show off its heritage—a chance for businesses, churches, clubs, families, schools, and other groups to share their history and current mission with residents and visitors.

Informational booths are free; if an organization wishes to sell one or more items, a booth costs \$25. For more information or to reserve a booth, please call the Society at 863-266-5774 or online at desotocountyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com or visit historicdesoto.org



Luke Wilson

James Mitchell "Acrefoot" Johnson (1850-1922)

DeSoto County Historical Society's 20th Annual Pioneer Day & BBQ

with the Arcadia American Legion sponsored Antique Tractor and Hit & Miss Engine Show

**March 23, 2024
Turner Center**

GRANT

FROM PAGE 1 >>

"There are unique challenges in DeSoto County that are amplified when people don't know where their next meal is coming from," said Nelle Miller, president and CEO of All Faiths Food Bank. "We are incredibly grateful for Mosaic's support and commitment to ending hunger and improving lives in DeSoto County."

"Our mission is to help the world grow the food it needs, and we know that starts in our own communities," said Heather Nedley, Director of Government and Public Affairs at Mosaic. "We're proud to see the positive impact this support has had in DeSoto County."

For more about All Faiths Food Bank or to find the food distribution schedule, visit allfaithsfoodbank.org.

ABOUT

ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK

All Faiths Food Bank is the only food bank and largest hunger relief organization in Sarasota and DeSoto counties, providing millions of meals each year in collaboration with nearly 200 agencies and programs throughout the community. All Faiths works not only to end hunger today but also strives to end hunger - forever - by helping families and individuals gain long-term food security, enjoy better health outcomes, and achieve self-sufficiency. All Faiths is rated 4 stars by Charity Navigator and is a member of the Feeding America and Feeding Florida networks.

HELP SUPPORT THE ARCADIA COMMUNITY LOCAL!

For advertising, contact Angie Duckett:
sales@peacershopper.com
or call 863-990-9813

To participate as a Community Contributor,
email: editorial@peacershopper.com

Wood Park Pointe I & II



Now Taking Applications

Come Enjoy The Tranquil Atmosphere And Beautiful Landscaping...

Income Restricted
Residents must be 62+ years, handicapped, or disabled.



600 West Gibson St., Arcadia
863-494-3230 - TDD 711

ARCADIA'S WELCOME SIGN RESTORED



CAROL MAHLER

*Independent Contractor
carolmahler22acl@gmail.com
Photos provided*

At the southwest corner of U.S. Highway 17 South and W. Hickory St. (State Road 70 West), Myron Wickey and his son August Wickey restored the welcome sign that Myron originally made in 2005. At the bottom of the sign, he added a hitching post, coil of barbed wire, and soon palmettos will be planted at the base.

On Sept. 27, 2022, a truck plowed into the sign between the support poles. They remained standing, but the lower half of the sign was wrecked. The day after, Hurricane Ian barreled through DeSoto County, so many people thought the storm damaged the sign.



From left, August Wickey and Myron Wickey stand in front of the "Welcome To Arcadia" sign that Myron restored after it was wrecked by a truck in 2022. Photograph courtesy of Carol Mahler.

Arcadia, Xfinity is now in your area

Experience powerful and reliable internet today

Xfinity Internet
75 Mbps

\$20 a month for 12 months

with no annual contract. Requires paperless billing and autopay with stored bank account.

Equipment, taxes, and other charges extra and subject to change. See details below.



📞 1-800-xfinity 🌐 xfinity.com 🏪 Visit a store today

Learn more about Xfinity, the home of the 10G Network, and our full suite of products at xfinity.com.

xfinity

Restrictions apply. Offer ends 3/21/24. Not available in all areas. New Xfinity Internet residential customers only. Offer requires enrollment in both automatic payments and paperless billing with bank account. Without enrollment, the monthly service charge automatically increases by \$10 (or \$5 if enrolling with credit or debit card information). The discount will appear on your bill within 45 days of enrolling in automatic payments and paperless billing. If either automatic payments or paperless billing are subsequently cancelled, the \$10 monthly discount will be removed automatically. After 12 months, or if any service is cancelled or downgraded, regular charges for internet service and WiFi equipment apply. Service limited to a single outlet. May not be combined with other offers. **Internet:** Actual speeds vary and not guaranteed. For factors affecting speed visit www.xfinity.com/networkmanagement. Call for restrictions and complete details or visit xfinity.com. © 2024 Comcast. All rights reserved.

PORT CHARLOTTE GUN SHOW

CHARLOTTE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
2333 EL JOBEAN RD • PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33948

MARCH 9TH & 10TH
SATURDAY 9AM-5PM & SUNDAY 9AM-3PM

**WE ARE THE BEST COMBINATION OF FFL
DEALERS AND PRIVATE COLLECTORS AROUND!**

All Federal, State, and local laws must be obeyed.
Guns, knives, accessories, ammo, parts, and so much more. Come
ready to buy, sell, or trade. We have new, used, and antique items.
And as always, **FREE PARKING!**

CHILDREN (16 and Under)
2-Day Admission

Free

ACTIVE Miliarty or LEO
2-Day Admission

Free

Veteran OR Retired LEO
2-Day Admission

\$1⁰⁰ off

ADULT (17 and Over)
2-Day Admission

\$10⁰⁰

WE HAVE TONS OF GUNS AND AMMO AVAILABLE!

Tickets sold at the door, Cash or Check Only, limit 1 discount per person

Saturday **AND** Sunday

Come and go as you please on both days!



2 GUYS

GUN SHOW



727-776-3442 • 2GuysShows.com