**VOL. V, NO. 23 FREE** 

# ARCADIA COMMUNITA ARCADIA COMMUNITA COMM **JUNE 6, 2024**



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Local

# REPRESENTATIVE ROACH

TO SPEAK AT CHAMBER MEETING



Rep. Spencer Roach makes a point at the March 19 meeting of the Arcadia Rotary Club in the McSwain Room of DeSoto Memorial Hospital while Crystal Walter, Community Program Manager of Big Brothers, Big Sisters in DeSoto County, listens.



CAROL MAHLER

Independent Contractor carolmahler22acl@gmail.com Photos provided

Rep. Spence Roach will be the guest speaker at the Chamber of Commerce Early Bird and Legislative Wrap-Up Breakfast at 8:00 a.m., June 6, at MidFlorida Credit Union, 128 S. Brevard Ave. County Administrator Mandy Hines and City Administrator Terry Stewart will also give "local government" updates. The meeting is free and open to the public.

First elected in 2018, Roach represents District 76 that includes northeast Lee and and southeast Charlotte counties (including the City of Punta Gorda) plus all of DeSoto County. Having served three terms in the Florida House of Representatives, he has already announced on "X" that he will not seek a fourth term: ". . . I will leave the political office the same way I entered it: with my integrity intact, my conscience

clear, and my heart full." He doesn't yet know what he will do next, but he plans "to live under the laws that I helped pass, just as the Framers intended."

Born in Louisiana, Roach moved to Florida in 2000 and served from 1996 to 2016 in the U.S. Coast Guard and retired. He was deployed in the Middle East, and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, Coast Guard Commendation Medals, Coast Guard Achievement Medals, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals-all with "Operational Distinguishing Device."

Roach currently is the chairperson of the House Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law, and Government Operations Subcommittee; and is a member of the Select Committee on Hurricane Resiliency and Recovery; State Affairs Committee, Ways and Means Committee; Children, Families, and Seniors Subcommittee; and Choices and Innovation Subcommittee.

SEE REP. ROACH PAGE 18 >>

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STEVE KNAPP

sports@peacerivershopper.com

**DESOTO COUNTY SPORTS** 

PAGE 4



**GET YOUR INSIDE!** 

# **GOVERNMENT** MEETING SCHEDULE

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

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

JUNE

**DESOTO COUNTY** 

**REGULAR COUNTY** COMMISSION MEETING

TUE

**Administration Building** 201 E. Oak Street, Suite 103 Arcadia, FL 34266

JUNE

**DESOTO COUNTY** 

**PUBLIC WORKSHOP** (PLANNING 101)

TUE 1:30P

**Administration Building** 201 E. Oak Street, Suite 103 Arcadia, FL 34266

**DESOTO COUNTY** 

**REGULAR COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING** 

TUE 3P & 6:30P

Administration Building 201 E. Oak Street, Suite 103 Arcadia, FL 34266

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







**SALES INQUIRIES:** SALES@PEACERIVERSHOPPER.COM 863.990.9813

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

# COMMISSION APPROVES BURN BAN, PURSUES FORECLOSURE



**CAROL MAHLER** 

Independent Contractor carolmahler22acl@gmail.com Photos provided

At the May 28 meeting, the Commission approved a ban on outdoor burning because of the extremely dry conditions and gave County Administrator Mandy Hines the authority to lift the ban when indicated by the "drought index" (Keetch-Byram Drought Index or KBDI).

On Feb. 23, 2024, the County had initiated foreclosure of code liens against Justin Treworgy concerning property located at 11212 SW Cedar Ave., and "Suncoast Credit Union was joined in this action since they hold a mortgage on that property." When County Attorney Don Conn asked the Commission for direction, they opted to pursue foreclosure after negotiating with the Credit Union. Treworgy also agreed to give the County a deed in lieu of foreclosure, and that may be a second option.

#### IN OTHER BUSINESS

The Commission approved work authorization for Construction Engineering and Inspection (CEI) Services by AIM Engineering and Surveying for \$257,559.00 as a subcontractor with Weiler Engineering Corp. for the Florida Dept. of Transportation (FDOT) Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) resurfacing project on SW Welles Ave. from County Road (CR) 760A to U.S. Highway 17. The roadwork is part of the Local Agency Program (LAP) project for sidewalks on Welles within these limits and on CR 760A from SW Welles to Carlton Ave. The Commission approved the contract of \$1,382,467.00 with V & H Construction, Inc., for the three construction projects as well as the acknowledgement and acceptance of the FDOT LAP Supplemental Agreements of \$226,647.00 and \$327,438.00 for sidewalk construction services on CR 760A and SW Welles Ave., respectively, under the Consent Agenda.

The Commission ratified the change order of \$249.575.27 with Excavation Point, Inc., adding CR 760A at the Hawthorne Creek bridge to the Scope of Work for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Annual Road Paving as well as the contract for \$68,632.00 with McShea Contracting, LLC, for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Annual Striping Project.

The Sheriff's Office was approved to submit three grant applications: to the Community Oriented Policing Services COPS Hiring Program to fund four positions, and after four years, the County would have to fully fund the positions; under the Consent Agenda, to the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership to fund reimbursement of 50% of all law enforcement vests purchased; and the Next Generation 911 Core Services Implementation and Services that will "modernize emergency response capabilities, ensuring



The Commission proclaimed May as National Drug Court Month, and Commissioner Steve Hickox, far right, presented the proclamation to Jeremiah Stovall, Maj'deidre Fields, and Ashley Brown, with Commission Chairperson Jerod Gross in the background. "Since 2018 the DeSoto County Treatment Court has afforded the opportunity to address criminal activity by managing underlying substance abuse and mental health to 106 members of the community. To date, 33 individuals have graduated with great success."

effective response to a wide range of communication methods, including text, images, and video."

The Commission confirmed the County Administrator's appointment of Misty Servia to the position of Planning Director and approved her employment contract as well as a piggyback contract with C.A.P. Government, Inc. for building and fire-plan review and inspection services as needed until the fire inspector position is filled.

The revision of the Classification and Pay Plan was approved to reflect changes and additions in the following depts.: adding a Lead Permit Technician to the Building Dept., and reclassifying the Parks and Recreation Office Manager I as Officer Manager II; the **Development Services Director to** Planning Director; and a Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator to a part-time **Dual-License Treatment Plant Operator** "to assist in the operation, maintenance, and repair of water and wastewater treatment facilities and systems."

Under the Consent Agenda, the Commission adopted a resolution to "write off" all uncollected ambulance accounts-a total of \$594,892.25during fiscal year 2022-2023, and to submit an application to alleviate stormwater flooding in the Spring Lake area through a Hazard Mitigation Grant from the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM).

During her report, Hines received agreement from the Commission to give office space to Hope DeSoto in the Emergency Management Dept. and to allow for a storage container



President of Graciano Corp., Glenn Foglio said that he is excited to work on the Courthouse Exterior Restoration Project as approved by the Commission. The County canceled the previously awarded contract with Kalam/AG, LLC, because the company was unable to procure the necessary Payment and Performance Bonds

to be located on the Turner Center property to be used as Hope DeSoto's warehouse space. She also read letters of appreciation from Adrian Cline, president of the Desoto County Historical Society in praise of the Turner Center and staff before, during, and after Pioneer Day; and from Knud Hermansen in appreciation of Inspector Mike LaBarre and Permit Tech Supervisor Alison Shuman.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

The Commission approved the following minor plats:

Rivera Estates dividing 33.14 acres on County Road (CR) 660 in the Residential Single Family 1 (RSF-1)

zoning district and Rural/Agricultural land use category, into six parcels: four of five acres each; one of 10.37 acres and 3.140 acres;

Ogden 18 dividing 2.67 acres at 12485 SW Lexington Place into two lots: 2.307 acres and .712 acres in the Residential Multifamily Mixed (RMF-M) zoning district and Low Density Residential land use category; and

Garcia Hills, dividing 3.4 acres at 2635 SW Hillsborough Ave. into three lots: two one-acre parcels, and a 1.4-acre lot in the Residential Single Family-2 (RSF-2) zoning district and the Low Density Residential land use category.

## **GOLF CARTS ALLOWED ON ROADS IF COUNTY APPROVES**



**CAROL MAHLER** 

Independent Contractor carolmahler22acl@gmail.com Photos provided

At the May 29 public workshop, the Commission asked staff to develop a policy to regulate how Countymaintained roads with speeds posted at 25 m.p.h. or less may be designated for travel by golf carts at the request of a majority of those living on the road, plus a review of the roads so designated every ten years, and a revocation of permission if advised by

law enforcement. The Commissioners had also considered allowing all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and utility task vehicles (UTVs) (aka "side-by-side" vehicles) on county-maintained roads, but opted to continue to prohibit them-in accordance with State law-except for incidental agricultural use.

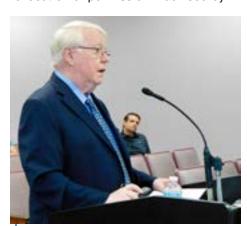
Currently, 26 roads are approved for travel by golf carts: since 2010, SW Aviary Rd., SW Bird Rd., SW Clematis Dr., SW Fox View Ter., SW Lemon Ave., SW Liverpool Rd., SW Marlei Rd., SW Oak Dr., SW Orange Ave., SW Panther View terrace, SW Parkway Rd., SW Pine Ave., SW Riverside Dr., SW Riviera Dr., SW Sunnybreeze Rd., SW Thornton Ave.: since 2012:

Carlton Ave. (between Neversail St. and County Road (CR) 760A), Dorminey St., Mango Dr., Mixon St., Neversail St., Provau Ave. (between Neversail St. and CR 760A) R&R Dr., Welles Ave., (between Neversail St. and CR 760A), and Willow St.; and since 2023, the portion of SW Reese St. west of SW Lettuce Lake Ave.

Golf carts traveling between sunrise and sunset on approved Countymaintained roads must have "efficient

brakes, reliable steering, safe tires, rearview mirrors, and red reflectors (front and back)." The County may approve after-hours travel if golf carts have "headlights, brake lights, turn signals, and windshields." Golf carts may cross a road from one mobile home park to another, and may travel on private roads, but not county, state, or federal roadways without approval.

The golf cart operator must be 18 years or older with a valid license or government-issued photo identification card, or under 18 years with a learner's permit or valid driver's license.



County Attorney Don Conn presented the public workshop, and he credited Joshua "Josh" Schueneman, General Counsel for the Sheriff's Office, with researching the topic.



Col. James Vitali of the Sheriff's Office also spoke at the workshop, and when questioned by Commissioner Steve Hickox, Vitali responded that law enforcement has not had any issues or complaints with any of the roads already approved for golf cart travel.



A 24-year resident of Arcadia Village (AV), Wayne Gallant suggested that the County consider allowing golf carts to cross from AV's entrance to the Wal-Mart shopping center. At present, residents must park near the entrance and walk across State Road 70 to shop.



A resident on Lettuce Lake Ave. for ten years, Kurt Ruby sold his golf cart and now uses a bicycle or electric bicycle. He encouraged the Commissioners to be "realistic about why we live where we live."



Emma Eaddy of Carnahan Ave. wanted to be sure her "low-speed" vehicle was allowed in her neighborhood where speed limits are 35 m.p.h. or less. She was assured that if it meets State requirements for equipment, license, and insurance, it does not need County approval.



Mike Livingston advocated for permitting side-bysides anywhere that golf carts are allowed.



Speaking as private citizen rather than a County employee, Kathy Heitman recounted being "run off the road by four-wheelers" in the Hidden Acres subdivision. She recommended that a majority of homeowners must agree to allow golf carts to travel Countymaintained roads.

## **CLEARING THE AIR ABOUT MENTHOL CIGARETTES**



#### **HEATHER FUGATE**

**Board Chair** Tobacco Free of DeSoto County

For generations, the tobacco industry has peddled addiction to our communities, conveniently masking harmful tobacco products with additives like artificial menthol. Menthol can be great when added to things like candies or chewing gum, but when smoked in tobacco products the combination can prove deadly.

Studies show flavorings like menthol make it easier to start smoking and harder to quit and make the products more appealing to children and young smokers. Menthol in cigarettes also allows the lungs to expand further, allowing more of the toxic and cancercausing chemicals to be absorbed into the body, leading to addiction, disease, and death.

Did you know more than one-third of all cigarettes sold today in this country are menthol? While adding menthol flavoring to cigarettes goes back 100 years, it has never before made up such a large percentage of the total number of cigarettes sold in our state and across the country. A recent study found menthol cigarettes were responsible for over 10 million new smokers across the country from 1980 to 2018. This equates to an average of 3 million life-years lost, and 378,000 premature deaths.

Menthol is directly responsible for slowing the national decline in the smoking rate. Studies show the smoking rate could be reduced by 15% if menthol cigarettes were no longer available, and an estimated 650,000 lives could be saved. In Florida, removing menthol from cigarettes would be effective in improving the health of all populations, especially those that use these products at higher rates than the general public.

With tobacco use being the leading preventable cause of death in Florida, action is already underway locally



to make a difference. The Tobacco Free Partnership of DeSoto County is providing education to youth and community organizations regarding the health effects of menthol tobacco products, with a particular focus on how tobacco companies are directing their marketing efforts towards Black Americans and individuals in low socioeconomic communities.

Let's face it - when it comes to menthol, it's not cool. And now is not a time to sit back and accept it. Support your community by educating yourself about menthol and finding

local partnerships to reinforce the efforts to clear the air for generations to come. It's time to unite our voices. We can work together to craft a future without dangerous menthol additives in cigarettes, preventing people from tobacco addiction and supporting people across our state who are ready to quit.

If you're ready to make a difference, find out what the Tobacco Free Partnership of DeSoto County is doing about menthol and how you can help by contacting the Tobacco Free Partnership at info@tfp-desoto.com.

# MICHELLE MERIDA

# RUNS TO A COLLEGE DEGREE



Some of the members of the track team were at the signing for Michelle Merida.



STEVE KNAPP

Sports Writer sports@peacerivershopper.cor

Michelle Merida has accomplished give to a big things in her life already. She has set a couple of school records in the 1600 l've and 3200 events in Track and Field and has had a very successful career on the Cross Country team. She will now take her skills to compete in cross country at South Florida State College.

A big accomplishment is simply just

who she is. Those that know her can't come up with enough words to describe her. Those that don't know her wouldn't believe whatever description you would give to describe the immensely popular

I've heard several descriptions such as "A Gift", "The complete package", and "remarkable young lady". They all fit along with dozens of other terms of endearment.

Merida will enter school this fall aiming towards a degree

in Environmental science and Environmental engineering. "I've always enjoyed the environment and always have been wanting to improve it and find ways in which we can protect it," said Merida.

Her cross country career wasn't even on her radar while in middle school. She played softball for 3 years and 2 years in both volleyball and basketball. She explained how she got into running.

"I was always the fastest on my team but I really didn't like running. I thought



Michelle Merida makes a joke while talking at the audience at her signing.

running for "fun" was something that wasn't even possible until I was taken out for a cross country meet. I saw the energy of the sport. That day I saw that running wasn't a lame sport but something that I actually really wanted to do and do my best in. Since then I have enjoyed various distances such as the one and two mile and 5k (3.1 miles). My favorite is the 5k which is the distance for cross country and the longest race in high school."



Cross country coaches Adrian Gonzalez and Julie Chidsey flank Michelle Merida at her signing to attend South Florida State College.

Michelle Merida's parents Alicia and Francisco were at their daughter's graduation ceremony.





Merida and her boyfriend Angel after the high school graduation ceremony.

# DESOTO CLASS OF 2024 LOSES A LOT OF ATHLETES

### A FIRST LOOK AT THE GRADUATING ATHLETES AS THEY GET THEIR DIPLOMA



Ryland Zepeda, cross country and track





Raegan Hancock, volleyball



Samantha Hershberger, volleyball



Will Joens, baseball



Hannah Jones, volleyball





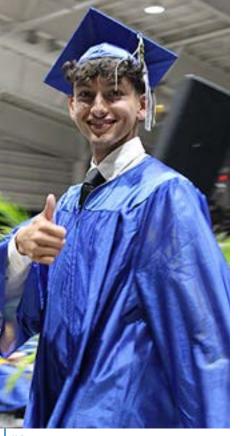
Esmeralda Cardenas-Garza, weightlifting



Alyssa Snow, volleyball



Trinity Wilson, cheerleader



JJ Buenrostro, soccer



Auselio Gutierrez-Velazquez, soccer

#### **GRADUATES**

FROM PAGE 5 >>>









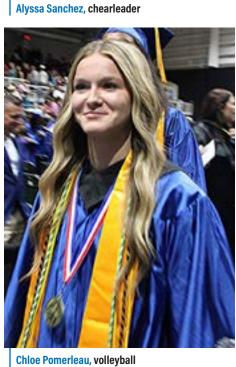


Joni Taylor, softball









**OZONE RAYS TAKE CHAMPIONSHIP** 









The Rays won the championship with a 10-6 record.

# THE LAST GOOD BYE



**STEVE KNAPP** 

Sports Writer

During high school you see your friends and acquaintances all the time. You think it will be the same after graduation but life gets in the way. You go in different directions, either into the workforce, college or the military and before you know it you've lost touch with so many friends.

Here are some photos of the 2024 graduates while they wait in the cafeteria before their ceremony. Some photos came from when the students walked behind the stage before getting to their seats and others were from when they were waiting for their name to be called.























# **DESOTO COUNTY A DESTINATION FOR TOURISTS IN 2024**

### DESOTO BED TAX REVENUES SHOW CONSISTENT UPTICK IN RECENT MONTHS



DeSoto County, Fla- DeSoto County is on the map for tourists and travelers from near and far this year.

Since December 2023, the county has had a consistent increase in Tourism Development Revenues, commonly known as "bed tax revenues."

For March 2024, collection reports listed at \$21,016, which tracks ahead of the previous year of \$20,772.

**Tourism Development Revenues** are part of the "Local Option Tourist Development Act." The statewide act allows for a tourist development tax within county boundaries for those renting, or leasing - for less than six months - living quarters or accommodations in any hotel, apartment, motel, resort, mobile home park, camp ground, recreational vehicle park or condominium.

In February 2024, collection reports accounted for \$24,274, up from the \$18,448 collected in 2023.

Overall, DeSoto County Tourism

revenues were up 3.2% for the first six months of Fiscal Year 2024 over the first six months of FY 2023.

Sanjay Patel owns Oak Park Inn in historic downtown Arcadia. He said he's had guests from as far as Oregon to as near as Okeechobee.

"Someone staying for five nights," Patel said, "they are going to be staying in Arcadia, they are going to eat in Arcadia, they're going to go to the event that is happening, which benefits the whole county and the businesses."

In the past year, Patel said he's had more guests staying overnight because of night life activities in the downtown area, such as live music at the Historic Heard Opera House and Neon Moon Saloon.

Downtown Arcadia has been known more for antiques over the years, but the historic district continues to evolve with more boutiques, restaurants, book shops and live music venues.

"There is a lot going on," he said. "This past weekend I had three reservations because of the Opera House. They have events and people performing and they go late into the night. They stay at my hotel within walking distance. Performers, they stay at my hotel. There were people who wanted to see the band perform and they were coming from Okeechobee and



staying the night here."

Nuggets Ranch RC Raceway on SW Dees Avenue attracts electric and nitro R/C car enthusiasts from all over the country. They often stay for three to five nights.

"We had one guest that came from Oregon," Patel said.

He added that visitors often stay at Oak Park Inn because they are seeing family or enjoying Peace River with fossil hunting, canoeing and airboat tours, or just antiquing in the downtown area.

"A lot of visitors are from the Midwest. some New York and those areas," Patel said. "It all depends. A lot of people that come during December are here to see family members who live in mobile homes, so they stay in the hotel."

For more information about DeSoto County Tourism, go to VisitDeSoto. com or contact Tourism Director Sondra Guffey at s.guffey@desotobocc.com or Tourism Specialist Daniel Sutphin at d.sutphin@desotobocc.com.



These class members spent eight months focused on different community topics and learned more from leaders and businesses throughout DeSoto County. We're proud to have a graduating member and to support the DeSoto County Chamber of Commerce as they educate, challenge and develop leaders who live or work in the County!





# **CALLING ALL HARD-WORKING AND AMBITIOUS NIGHT OWLS!!**

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#### MONDAY - FRIDAY 6:00PM - 6:30AM

#### **Batch Mixer Operator:**

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.

#### **Rotary Kiln Operator:**

Responsible for operating the industrial kiln that are used to dry, heat, and harden various materials. Monitor temperatures, conveyor settings, Maintain records and test data and communicate with Quality and Production managers. Basic maintenance, cleaning, and troubleshooting.

#### **Forklift Operator:**

Use equipment to lift heavy materials, goods, or equipment. Need to be skilled at maneuvering throughout the facility while adhering to all safety protocols. Basic maintenance, cleaning, and troubleshooting.

#### QC/Sealer Operator:

An important step in our manufacturing process, maintains the spray booth and associated equipment, and quality checks. Maintain records and test data and communicate with Quality and Production managers. Basic maintenance, cleaning, and troubleshooting.

#### **Extruder Operator:**

Responsible for setting up the machine that shapes the finished product. Mechanical skills are a must, and attention to detail. Maintain a clean work environment and follow safety regulations. Maintain records and test data and communicate with Quality and Production managers. Basic maintenance, cleaning, and troubleshooting.

#### **Robotic Packer Operator:**

Operating and basic maintenance of the packaging machine and ensuring that finalized products are ready for distribution. Meticulous attention to detail and the ability to troubleshoot minor problems. A solutiondriven individual who can prioritize and time efficient. Maintain records and test data and communicate with Quality and Production managers. Basic maintenance, cleaning, and troubleshooting.

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**MONDAY - FRIDAY** 7:00PM - 4:00AM

#### **Logistics/Customer Service** Administrator:

Must have a minimum of 2-years customer service experience in office atmosphere. Heavy computer skills required.

#### **Logistics/Customer Service** Manager:

This is a hands-on position where "rolling up your sleeves" is expected and required. Previous supervisory logistics/customer service in manufacturing or similar atmosphere is a plus. Heavy computer skills required.

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### **LEGAL NOTICE:**

Remote Connected Care is ceasing to practice in Florida effective **May 24, 2024**.

Patients can obtain a copy, or request transfer, of their records by contacting:

Remote Connected Care at (888) 222-0755 or 19387 US 19 North, Clearwater, FL 33764.

# SUDOKU

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Level: Advanced

#### **FUN BY THE NUMBERS**

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

#### **Here's How It Works:**

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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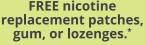
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### **OBITUARIES**



### NATHAN ALLEN "HAMBONE" HAMPTON



Nathan Allen "Hambone" Hampton age 41 passed away on May 21, 2024. He was born in Port

Charlotte, FL on August 20, 1982, to Jim Hampton and Linda Naomi English. He was a lifelong resident in the area. He considered himself "Mayor of Arcadia" self-appointed. He was of the Baptist faith.

He was a Truck Driver in the Construction industry, but also was well known for his Hambone Better BBQ truck business. He was always willing to jump in and help with fundraisers and other types of benefits to help the community. He was well known in this area for his BBQ. He enjoyed air boating, dancing, trucking and of course grilling.

He will be remembered as a loving husband, father, son, brother

and friend to all. He will be missed by all.

He is survived by his mother and father, Jim and Linda Hampton, wife, Shawnee K. Hampton and sons, Colton, Garrett, Landon, and Wyatt, Grandmother Rachel Hampton, mother-in-law Briana Davis, brothers, James, Robert, Kevin, and Jacob Hampton all from Arcadia, and Josh (Ariel) Hampton from Indiana, sisters Angel (Francisco) Solis from Georgia, Amanda (Devon) Scalf from Georgia, and Samantha (Mark) McCartha of Georgia, along with numerous nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his Pops Russell McDaniel, cousin

Lloyd Leon McKinney, and his maternal grandparents and paternal grandfather.

The Visitation was held from 10:00AM-12:00PM on Saturday, June 1, 2024, in the Chapel at Ponger-Kays-Grady Funeral Home, 50 N. Hillsborough Avenue, Arcadia, Florida with the service following at 12:00PM, with Pastor Steve Brantley and Pastor Joseph Longnecker officiating.

There will be a benefit for the family on June 15th at Reef N' Beef starting at 12PM.

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

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.

While I Breathe I Hope

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.

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#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

The DeSoto County Board of County Commissioners will hold a Public Workshop:

Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 1:30<sub>PM</sub>

(or as soon thereafter as it may be heard)

in the County Commission meeting Room 103

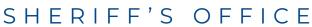
201 E Oak Street Arcadia, FL 34266

PLANNING 101 – BASIC PRINCIPLES AND GOVERNANCE IN THE PLANNING PROCESS IN UNINCORPORATED DESOTO COUNTY AND

DISCUSSION ON THE PLATTING AND SUBDIVISION REVIEW PROCESS IN UNINCORPORATED DESOTO COUNTY

If special accommodations are required in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals should contact the County Administrator's Office by calling (863)993-4800 at least forty-eight hours prior to the meeting.

### **DESOTO COUNTY**





#### ARREST REPORT | 5/24/24 - 5/30/24

#### Alahouzos, Alexander **Nicholos:**

**Prob Violation** 

#### **Birriel, Darvin:**

Battery - Touch Or Strike

#### **Davis, Mariah Haley:**

Larc - Petit Theft 2Nd Degree 1St Offense

#### Felton Sr., David Jubbar:

Burgl - With Assault Or Battery

#### **Foucher, Richard William:**

Aggrav Asslt - Weapon - W Deadly Weapon Without Intent To Kill, Burgl - With Assault Or Battery, Damage Prop-Crim Misch - 1000 Dols Or More

#### **Fugate, Daniel Paul:**

Burgl - Dwelling Structure Or Conveyance Armed, Burgl -Unoccupied Dwelling Unarmed, Larc - 20K Dols Less Than 100K Dols, Possession Of Weapon - Or Ammo By Convicted Fla Felon (X2), Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use, Larc - Grand Theft Of Firearm (X21)

#### **Greene, Vernon Kenneth:**

**Prob Violation** 

#### **Guillen, Romeo Gomez:**

Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle Wo Valid License

#### Hall, Zackery Dale:

**Prob Violation** 

#### **Hearns Sr., Marcellous Douglas:**

Battery - 2Nd Or Subsq Off

#### **Hodges, David Allen:**

Trespassing - Fail To Leave Property Upon Order By Owner

#### **Hyler, Sarah Nicole:**

Battery - Touch Or Strike

#### Leyva, Leopoldo Rojas:

Traffic Offense - Dui And Damage Property

#### **Marquis, Justin Michael:**

**Prob Violation** 

#### Martin, Lewis Raymond:

Aggrav Asslt - Weapon - W **Deadly Weapon Without Intent** To Kill

#### **Martinez, Rick Adam:**

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

#### McGuigan, William Charles:

**Prob Violation** 

#### **Mellott, Christopher Michael:**

Out-Of-State-Fug

#### Perez, Norbilia Miguel:

Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle Wo Valid License

#### Phillips, Sean:

**Out Of County Warrant** 

#### **Pilson, Evan Scott:**

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

#### Ramirez-Gaspar, Fortino:

Alter Identification On Weap -Remove Serial Number From Firearm, Marijuana-Possess -Not More Than 20 Grams

#### Ray, Devin Lee:

Impound Confine Animal Wo Sufficent Food Water (X2)

#### Sanchez, Jose Rueda:

Lewd Lascv Behavior - Victim Age 12 To 16

#### Skates, Larry:

Respassing - Fail To Leave Property Upon Order By Owner

#### **Tornez-Cano, Gonzalo:**

Traffic Offense - Dui And Damage Property, Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle Wo Valid License

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 SHERIFF POTTER

# STAY INFORMED AND SAFE: **2024 HURRICANE SEASON TIPS**



SHERIFF POTTER DeSoto County Sheriff

As of June 1st, the 2024 Hurricane Season has officially begun. It's crucial for everyone in our community to be wellprepared for potential storms. Reflecting on past experiences, we remember Hurricane lan, which struck Southwest Florida on September 28, 2022, as a Category 4 storm. It was the deadliest hurricane to hit the United States in this century, leaving behind extensive damage and ongoing recovery efforts.

During the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office dedicated 11,249.5 hours to recovery operations. Our team engaged in initial search and rescue,

followed by search and recovery missions. For weeks, staff members tirelessly navigated through debris and floodwaters, delivering essential resources and supplies to affected citizens. Support also came from law enforcement agencies across the state, who provided personnel, vehicles, and equipment to aid in the relief efforts.

Our law enforcement agency collaborates closely with other emergency response organizations during natural disasters. Typically, we send 4-5 personnel, including supervisors, deputies, and 9-1-1 telecommunicators, to assist at the DeSoto County Emergency Operation Center (EOC). These staff members play a vital role in coordinating missions, communicating with state officials, and securing additional

response support.

To ensure public safety, we work diligently with emergency response organizations to disseminate essential alerts and messages. For inquiries about road closures, evacuation zones, tuel availability, and storm-related concerns, please contact the EOC directly.

As we enter hurricane season, it is imperative for everyone to develop a comprehensive plan for their families, pets, and homes. Now is the time to gather sufficient water, food, and medications to last for an extended period. Ensure you have enough batteries, familiarize yourself with local flood and evacuation zones, and prepare for the worst-case scenarios.

Review your family reunification plan in case of separation, and make sure you have essential

emergency contact numbers and insurance information readily available. Keep your phones charged to receive timely notifications on storm paths and evacuation updates.

Stay connected with DeSoto County Emergency Management and sign up for alerts via their app. Additionally, download the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office App for updates and alerts during storms, available on Google Play and the Apple App Store.

Your safety is our top priority. Stay alert, stay safe, and be kind.

#### God Bless.

Sheriff James Potter

## **COMMISSION DIVIDED ON SOLAR ENERGY CENTERS**



**CAROL MAHLER** 

Independent Contractor carolmahler22acl@gmail.com Photos provided

At the May 28 public hearing, the Commission approved the development plan for Florida Power & Light's (FPL) Optimum Ranch Solar Energy Center (SEC) and to change the zoning at the approximately 15-acre Dorr Field Substation from Agricultural-10 (A-10) to Industrial Heavy and to adopt a special use exception to allow for 5.5 acres of outdoor storage. However, the vote was tied on the development plan for a 2004acre expansion of the Hawthorne Creek SEC since Commission Vice-Chairperson J. C. Deriso had recused himself because of "any possible or perceived conflict of interest." Commissioners Steve Hickox and Elton Langford voted to deny while Commission Chairperson Jerod Gross and Commissioner Judy Schaefer favored approval.

Serving 17,000 customers in DeSoto County, FLP built its first solar array as the DeSoto Next Generation SEC, commissioned by President Barak Obama in 2009-the largest in the nation at the time. In 2016, FPL's Citrus SEC was built nearby, and in 2018, included a large-scale application of "DC-coupled" batteries. In addition, the Wildflower SEC was built that year, the Cattle Ranch SEC in 2020, and the Rodeo Solar Energy Center in 2021. The latter was named in honor of the Arcadia All-Florida Championship Rodeo that FPL sponsors each year. FPL has owned these parcels since the 1960s.

Nearby, the Optimum Ranch SEC is 1,937 acres located at 6010 and 6020 McIntrye St., on three square miles or sections of property. Langford had asked FPL to concentrate their solar energy installations in that part of the County, so he voted for approval along with Gross and Schaefer. Hickox was opposed. However, he-and the others-voted to rezone and approve the special exception use of the Dorr Field Substation. They hoped that the storage facility would include equipment, supplies, and vehicles needed to repair transmission lines damaged by storms.

Dawn D'Amelia lives across McClelland Dr. from the Hawthorne Creek SEC, and she doesn't want any expansion. She said, "Enough of the solar!" Both Hickox and Langford agreed with her. Hickox said that it was difficult "to sit back and witness" huge plots of agricultural land used for solar energy. Langford suggested that if solar energy was that important, then every building in the state should be required to have rooftop photovoltaic panels. Instead, "agricultural land and heartland land" is becoming "acres and acres of wasteland." He was also concerned that FPL has become of the largest property owners in the county and the state.

Conn said that Florida Statute 163.3205(3) allows solar energy centers on any agricultural land, pre-empting any action by the commission. In addition, he noted that the County's



Meredith Frey, FPL Senior Project Manager, presented the development plan to expand the Hawthorne Creek Solar Energy Center, south of S.E. McClelland Dr. and west of S.E. County Road (CR) 763.



ordinance specifies that the buffer

shall be comparable to other uses.

Schaefer spoke in favor of additional

buffer for the property as suggested

by Interim Development Director John

Osborne. FPL Senior Project Manager

IN OTHER BUSINESS

reading, the Ordinance Amending

Sections 20-537, 20-126 through

to include parking area design and

development standards; for zoning

sections 20-136 through 20-140, adding

affordable residential uses as permitted

On first reading, the Commission

Amending LDR Sections 20-1650, 20-

include definitions, for zoning districts

solar facility as a permitted used, and for section 20-536, adding solar facility

to the table. Langford was opposed. Osborne said that the ordinance is

"keeping up with the Statute changes."

The Commission also approved

the Green Acres of Lettuce Lake Plat dividing 40 acres at the intersection of

SW Kissimmee Rd. and SW Reese St. into six five-acre lots and one eight-

The rezoning applications for

properties on Airport Rd. and 760A

to the July 23 public hearing.

owned by Land South were rescheduled

acre-parcel.

sections 20-126 through 20-147 adding

126 through 20-147, and 20-536: to

ratified three to one the Ordinance

landscaping.

uses.

Pam Sanchez, who owns property on Far Pointe Dr., inquired about improvement of the shell road that serves as the "back door" to the **Hawthorne Creek** SEC; however, it is not part of the development plan.

**FPL Project Manager Nick** Brown presented the development plan for the Optimum Ranch SEC.



Dawn D'Amelia, a neighbor of the Hawthorne Creek SEC, said "We all moved here because it was beautiful," but now she sees the solar panels despite the required buffer as evidenced by a photograph on her cell phone.





Amanda Reuters asked for a definition of "competent and substantial evidence," and County Attorney Don Conn specified documents for the record, facts, and expert testimony.



Ethan Bailey asked for clarification of total acreage for the Optimum Ranch SEC.



**FPL Project Manager Scott Childress presented** the rezone and special exception use applications for the FPL Dorr Field Substation expansion.



At the end of the hearing, Jeff Conti, attorney for FPL, asked about discussions with County staff to improve the Hawthorne Creek SEC buffer before the Commission considers the development plan in a future public hearing.

## WESSEL CONSTRUCTION HOSTS COMMUNITY MEETING FOR **NEW SEA TOW® VENICE FACILITIES**

#### **SUSAN COURTER**

Wessel Construction susan@wesselconstruction.com

VENICE, FL (May 23, 2024) - In a commitment to open communication, Wessel Construction hosted a community meeting on Thursday, May 23rd, to inform residents about the plans for new Sea Tow Venice facilities.

This gathering provided community members an opportunity to review the site plan and building renderings, learn more about the project, and ask questions about the new development. Pending city approval, a ground-breaking is expected before the end of this year.

The project plans include site development and the construction of two 5,000-square-foot buildings on a nearly one-acre lot located at 601 U.S. 41 Bypass S.

The first building will accommodate offices, warehouse space, and dedicated storage for Sea Tow Venice's new headquarters. This centralized space will enhance operational efficiency and management of equipment and resources. The second building, strategically positioned at the front of the property, will offer dedicated tenant spaces for lease to potential businesses.

"We're looking forward to getting started on the project," said Craig Marcum, Owner of Sea Tow Venice. "These new facilities will not only allow us to better serve our existing customers but also position us to improve our operational efficiency and continue to serve as a reliable resource for the Venice community."

Sea Tow Venice is proud to work with Wessel Construction for the design-build project. "Wessel Construction is a highly experienced contractor in the Sarasota County area, and our family has enjoyed a successful working relationship with them since we started this endeavor," added Marcum.

#### **ABOUT SEA TOW VENICE**

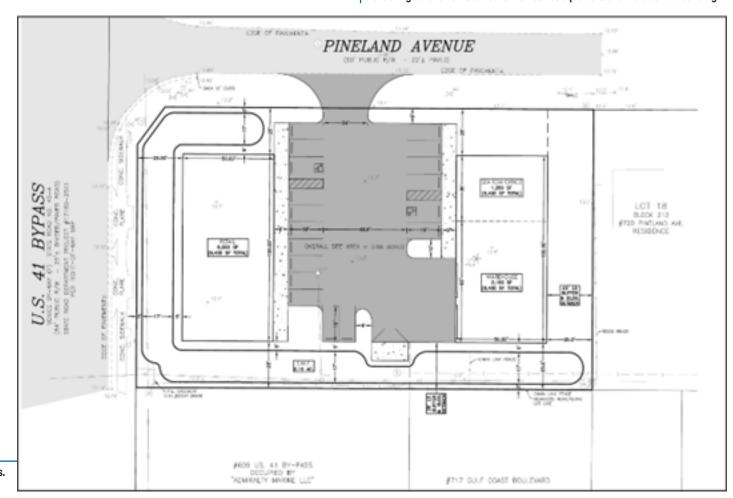
Sea Tow Venice is a locally owned and operated franchise dedicated to providing boaters with Peace of Mind on the Water™. Services include 24/7 towing,, jump starts, fuel delivery, covered ungroundings, disentanglements, and more.

Wessel Construction can be reached at 941-365-1145 or info@wesselconstruction.

Site plan for the new buildings.



Renderings of the new Sea Tow of Venice headquarters and multi-tenant building.



### **HELP SUPPORT** THE ARCADIA COMMUNITY LOCAL!

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

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

# **JUNE 2024 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, JUNE 2024:**

#### **BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH: THURSDAYS** (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS), 3-4:30 P.M.

1680 18th St., Sarasota, FL 34234 941-955-8834

#### **BOOKER MIDDLE SCHOOL: JUNE 3 & 17,** 5-6:30 P.M.

2250 Myrtle St., Sarasota, FL 34234 941-379-6333

#### **BRENTWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:** JUNE 10, 5-6:30 P.M.

2500 Vinson Ave., Sarasota, FL 34232 941-379-6333

#### **CHURCH OF THE PALMS:** MONDAY-FRIDAY (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS), 10 A.M. - 1 P.M. JUNE 14 & 28, 5-7 P.M.

3224 Bee Ridge Rd., Sarasota, FL 34239 941-924-1323

#### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH: JUNE 24, 5-6:30 P.M.

601 Honore Ave., Sarasota, FL 34237 941-379-6333

#### **GLASSER SCHOENBAUM CENTER:** JUNE 7 & 21, 9-11 A.M.

1750 17th St., Sarasota, FL 34234 941-379-6333

#### **GRACELIFE FOOD PANTRY: MONDAYS** (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS), 12-1:30 P.M.

1801 N. Lockwood Ridge Rd., Sarasota, FL 34234 941-539-9249

#### **GULF GATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:** JUNE 18, 5-6:30 P.M.

6500 S. Lockwood Ridge Rd., Sarasota, FL 34231 941-379-6333

#### **NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:** JUNE 27, 4:30-6:30 P.M.

3131 61st St., Sarasota, FL 34243 941-355-4729

#### **RIVERVIEW HIGH SCHOOL:** JUNE 4, 5-6:30 P.M.

1 Ram Way, Sarasota, FL 34231 941-379-6333

#### **SALVATION ARMY TUTTLE: FOOD PANTRY:** MONDAYS/THURSDAYS (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS) 12-2 P.M. SERVED MEAL: TUESDAYS (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS) 12-2 P.M.

1701 S. Tuttle Ave., Sarasota, FL 34239 941-364-8846

#### ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH: SATURDAYS (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS), 9-10:30 A.M.

2256 Bahia Vista St., Sarasota, FL 34239 941-955-6479

#### ST. WILFRED EPISCOPAL CHURCH: FRIDAYS (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS), 1-3 P.M.

3773 Wilkinson Rd., Sarasota, FL 34233 941-924-7436

#### THE HARVEST FOOD PANTRY: THURSDAYS (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS), 10 A.M. - 12 P.M.

3650 17th St., Sarasota, FL 34235 941-953-3559

#### **VAN WEZEL:** JUNE 22, 9-10:30 A.M.

777 N. Tamiami Trl., Sarasota, FL 34236 941-379-6333

#### **SOUTH SARASOTA COUNTY USDA DISTRIBUTION, JUNE 2024:**

#### 7TH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH: JUNE 11 & 25, 11 A.M. - 1 P.M.

4330 S. Biscayne Dr., North Port, FL 34287 941-586-1436

#### ATWATER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: JUNE 27, 5-6:30 P.M.

4701 Huntsville Ave., North Port, FL 34288 941-379-6333

#### **AWAKEN CHURCH:** TUESDAYS/THURSDAYS/SATURDAYS, 9 A.M. - 1 PM; WEDNESDAYS, 3-7 P.M.; FRIDAYS, 9 A.M. - 12 P.M.

4940 Pan American Blvd., North Port, FL 34287 941-200-2739

#### **COLONIAL BAPTIST CHURCH:** JUNE 6, 5-6:30 P.M.

2400 Taylor Ranch Trl., Venice, FL 34293 941-379-6333

#### **ENGLEWOOD ELKS LODGE:** JUNE 3, 10-11A.M.

401 N. Indiana Ave., Englewood, FL 34223 941-379-6333

#### **ENGLEWOOD HELPING HAND:** WEDNESDAYS & THURSDAYS (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS) 8 A.M. -1 P.M.

700 E. Dearborn St., Englewood, FL 34223 941-474-5864

#### FLY AWAY UNTO THE LOR **INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES:** JUNE 8 & 22, 2-3 P.M.

12450 Tamiami Trl. Unit F, North Port, FL 34287 941-237-9286

#### **GLENALLEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:** JUNE 20, 5-6:30 P.M.

7050 Glenallen Blvd., North Port, FL 34287 941-379-6333

#### GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL CHURCH: JUNE 5, 10-11:30 A.M.

1115 Center Rd., Venice, FL 34292 941-497-7286

#### LAMARQUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: JUNE 12, 5:30-7 P.M.

3415 Lamarque Ave., North Port, FL 34286 941-379-6333

#### LAUREL CIVIC ASSOCIATION: JUNE 6 & 20, 10 A.M. -12 P.M. & 4-6 P.M.

509 Collins Rd., Nokomis, FL 34275 941-483-3338

#### **NOKOMIS PARK COMMUNITY CENTER:**

JUNE 12 & 26, 11 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. 234 Nippino Trl., Nokomis, FL 34275 941-379-6333

#### **NORTH PORT CITY HALL:** JUNE 1, 9-10:30 A.M.

4790 City Hall Blvd., North Port, FL 34286 941-379-6333

#### **SALVATION ARMY VENICE:** MONDAYS/TUESDAYS/THURSDAYS/FRIDAYS (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS)

10 A.M. - 12 P.M. & 1-3 P.M. 1051 Albee Farm Rd., Venice, FL 34285 941-484-6227

#### ST. NATHANIEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH: JUNE 6 & 20, 10-11:30 A.M.

4200 S. Biscayne Dr., North Port, FL 34287 941-426-2520

#### TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: **TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS (EXCLUDING** HOLIDAYS), 9-10:30 A.M.

4365 State Rd. 776, Venice, FL 34293 941-492-6384

#### TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: **MONDAYS (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS)** 9 A.M. - 12 P.M.

4285 Wesley Ln., North Port, FL 34287 941-426-1734

#### TRINITY UMC CHURCH:

JUNE 5, 4:30-6 P.M.

4285 Wesley Ln., North Port, FL, 34287 941-379-6333

#### **VENICE MIDDLE SCHOOL:** JUNE 13, 5-6:30 P.M.

1900 Center Rd., Venice, FL 34292 941-379-6333

#### **DESOTO COUNTY USDA DISTRIBUTION, JUNE 2024:**

#### 7TH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH: JUNE 20, 10-11:30 A.M.

2865 SE Ami Dr., Arcadia, FL 34266 941-379-6333

#### **CATHOLIC CHARITIES DESOTO COUNTY** FOOD PANTRY: MONDAYS- PLEASE CALL FIRST; WALK IN ONLY.

JUNE 7 & 21, 9-11 A.M. - LAST NAME (A-M) JUNE 14 & 28, 9-11A.M. - LAST NAME (N-Z)

1210 E Oak St., Arcadia, FL 34266 863-884-2134

#### **DESOTO FOOD AND RESOURCE CENTER: MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS** (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS), 10 A.M. - 2 P.M. THURSDAYS, 2-6 P.M.

1021 E Oak St., Arcadia, FL 34266 941-379-6333

#### **SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE:** JUNE 11 & 25, 4:30-6 P.M.

2251 NE Turner Ave., Arcadia, FL 34266 941-379-6333

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# BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES: SITTING UNDER A FIG TREE

**PASTOR ED HOME** 

Pine Level Church
DeSoto Ministerial Association

"And on that day, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, each of you will invite your neighbor to sit with you peacefully under your own grapevine and fig tree." -Zechariah 3:10 (NLT)

I have never sat under a fig tree, but when I made a trip to Italy, one of the side trips we signed up for was lunch at an outdoor café served in the vineyard. It was beautiful, the food was great, but many of the travelers had a little too much of the wine that was flowing. One gentleman, who was on the trip was also from the town I lived in. On the bus trip back to our hotel, he became very obnoxious, began cursing, and making fun of our tour guides Italian accent. He was truly the ugly American on the trip, making the rest of us look bad. Someone finally got him to shut up long enough for him to pass out. He owned a furniture store, and I am proud to say that I have never darkened the door of his store.

At that point in my life, I was not attending church regularly, I was not reading my Bible, and on reflection now, I wonder how many of my

neighbors I rubbed the wrong way.

Jeshua had been standing before the Lord while Satan told of all the bad things about him. Jeshua was sunk. But the Lord said to Satan, "I, the Lord, reject your accusations. Then He said to Jeshua, I have taken away your sins."

I recall a time when I was trying to be funny, I was picking on a friend, a little, but something I said really hurt my friend. I felt guilty. I felt guilty for a long time. Every time I saw this friend, the guilt would come back, even though he never mentioned it. I would think about it in the middle of the night, and just feel sick. It took me about three years to finally come and officially apologize to my friend. The funny part was he did not remember the incident. He had forgiven me long ago, but my guilt was making me sick. He has since gone to be with Jesus, and I have a feeling that someday, when I see him again, we will sit under a grapevine or fig tree, remember that silly incident and laugh.

**Prayer:** Lord, thank you for your son, and what he did for us. Thank you also for friends, neighbors and even those who may rub us the wrong way. Lord, only you know their story. Help us to love as you love, without judging. In your name we pray, Amen.

#### **REP. ROACH**

FROM PAGE 1 >>

As the guest speaker at the March 19 meeting of the Arcadia Rotary Club, Roach talked about the legislative session, including a bill he sponsored for property insurance reform that would offer universal wind coverage to home owners that would be similar to the earthquake coverage available in California. He noted that property insurance rates have increased 103% in the past three years, and after Hurricane lan in 2022, many companies will no longer insure Florida homeowners. Democrat Hillary Cassel from Dania Beach co-sponsored the bill, and it

received one reading. He hopes it will be brought back to the legislature's next

"Stopping the bad bills is more important than advancing the good bills," he said, and one of those "bad bills" was term limits for county commissioners. He believes that such matters should be decided by local voters. He also reminded that the legislature's primary function is to balance the budget, and he made sure that some appropriations for DeSoto County were included this year.

For more information about the event, contact the Chamber of Commerce at 863-494-4033 or chamber@desotochamberfl.com.



After speaking to the Arcadia Rotary Club on March 19, Rep. Spencer Road toured downtown Arcadia, and when he saw Megan Bierman of Jypsie Soul Events struggling to carry a balloon stand into her store at 102 W. Oak St., he stopped to help her.



HERNANDO COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

6436 BROAD STREET. (US HWY 41)

JUNE 15TH & 16TH

SATURDAY 9AM-5PM & SUNDAY 9AM-3PM

**UPCOMING** 

PORT CHARLOTTE

JUNE 22ND & 23RD

**CHARLOTTE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS** 

2333 EL JOBEAN RD. • PORT CHARLOTTE, FL

SAT 9AM-5PM & SUN 9AM-3PM

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**Veteran OR Retired LEO** 2-Day Admission

ADULT (17 and Over) 2-Day Admission

100

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Saturday **AND** Sunday Come and go as you please on both days!



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