**VOL. V, NO. 48 FREE** 

## ARCADIA OVEMBE ON OVEMBE OF THE CONTROL OF THE OWNER OW **NOVEMBER 28, 2024**



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Local

## GROSS, HICKOX AND SCHAEFER SWORN IN



Judge Guy Flowers, far right, swore in, from left, Commissioners Steve Hickox, Judy Schaefer, and Jerod Gross before the Nov. 19 meeting.

Before the Nov. 19 meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, Judge Guy Flowers swore in Jerod Gross, Steve Hickox, and Judy Schaefer. Gross was elected in the general election while Hickox and Schaefer faced no opposition. Later in the meeting, the Board elected J.C. Deriso and Steve Hickox as chairperson and vice-chairperson, respectively, and their terms began at the meeting's end. Incoming Chairperson Deriso presented a plaque of appreciation to outgoing Chairperson Gross who said, "Thank you for allowing me to serve. It's been fun."

**CAROL MAHLER** 

Photos provided

Independent Contractor carolmahler22acl@gmail.com

The meeting was the last one for County Attorney Don Conn who appreciated the month that he and the new County Attorney Valerie Vicente, of Nabors, Giblin, and Nickerson, P.A., worked together. "It's been extremely productive," he said. "You're in good hands. . . . It's

been wonderful working in this county" with a Board that works together and "that makes my job easier." He also praised the "wonderful" and "very dedicated" staff with a "great leader in Ms. [Mandy] Hines." In their comments, the Commissioners all appreciated Conn and welcomed

In addition, the Board approved a resolution to extend the Local State of Emergency declared on Oct. 8, 2024, and as Hurricane Milton impacted the County, disaster emergency response activities continue. As of meeting, 16,735 cubic yards of vegetative debris have been collected.

Purvis Gray & Co., LLP, issued a "clean" opinion in their audit of the 2022-2023 financial statement with three significant deficiencies-timeliness of

SEE COMMISSIONERS PAGE 14 >>

# DESOTO COUNT **SPORTS** PAGE 4 **STEVE KNAPP**

### **GOVERNMENT** MEETING SCHEDULE

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

**DESOTO COUNTY** 

**ALL COUNTY OFFICES CLOSED** NOV. 28<sup>TH</sup> - 29<sup>TH</sup>

In observance of Thanksgiving

**THUR** 

**DESOTO COUNTY** 

**ONLY COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING FOR DECEMBER** 

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

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







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

## FDOT INVITES COMMENTS ON PD&E STUDY FROM SR 70 TO SR 66



**CAROL MAHLER** 

Independent Contractor carolmahler22acl@gmail.com Photos provided

If you missed the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Public Visioning Workshop for the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study from State Road (SR) 70 to SR 66 on Nov. 19 at the Turner Agri-Civic Center, you still have a chance to comment in a self-guided Virtual Meeting Room available Nov. 20 through Dec. 4 online at https://swflroads.com/ project/455782-1.

The project study area is bounded by State Roads 70 and 66 plus US Highways 27 and 17 and includes portions of DeSoto, Hardee, and Highlands counties. Currently, the US highways are the primary connectors although some secondary roads exist. The project's goal is "to improve regional safety, connectivity, and movement of people and goods." The study is scheduled for completion in summer 2026 following the Engineering and Environmental Analysis in Fall 2024-Spring 2025; Public Alternatives Workshop in Spring 2025, and a Public Hearing in Spring 2026.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) used an innovative format for the Public Visioning Workshop. In addition to a video loop presentation (now available online), five color-coded activities with markers and stickers helped members of the public share their feedback.

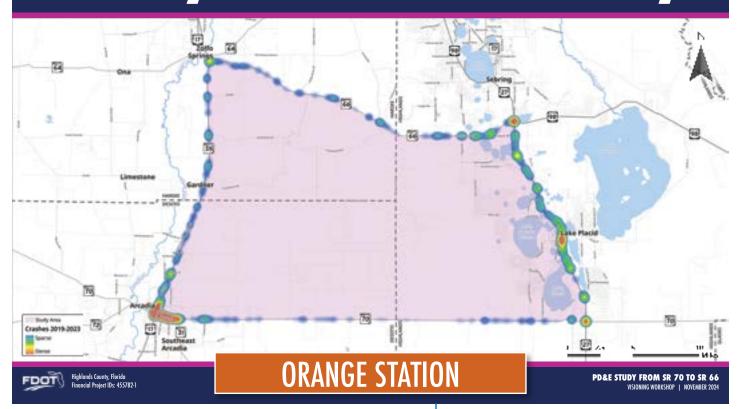
Safety, Traffic, and Multimodal was the orange station with attendees encouraged to identify high crash areas as well as current and future traffic. Also featured were the needs of cyclists and pedestrians.

The blue station was People and Goods Movement and encouraged people to consider origin and destination routes for both cars and trucks. Appropriately, the Natural Environment was the green station that highlighted "key environmental features that make our project area unique."

Participants were encouraged to map out a new route connecting SR 70 and SR 66 at Visioning, the purple station, and Wrap-Up and Final Comment was the yellow station featuring a survey to share "thoughts on safety, mobility, and transportation in the project area."

The PD&E Study from SR 70 to SR 66 was recommended by the Highlands County Feasibility Study completed in Oct. 2024. The feasibility study concluded that "Highlands County is growing . . . [and] US 27 serves as a major freight corridor." In addition, several portions of US 27 "have crash rates above the statewide average" and many segments are "projected to be over capacity by 2045." In addition, during major traffic disruptions on US 27, alternate routes are limited.

## Safety and Traffic Activity



Deputy Sheriff Capt, José Vitali talked with FDOT **Project Manager David Long who encouraged** people to consider challenges and constraints plus "where we should not build a road."

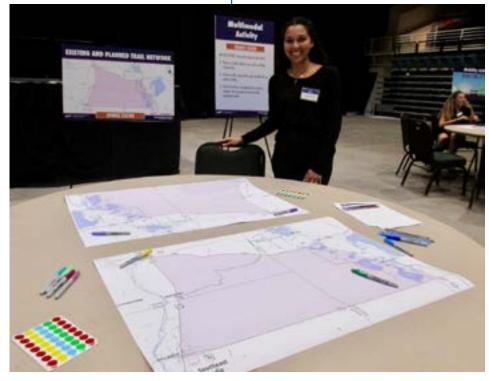
The project website is available at www.swflroads.com/project/455782-1 and includes an opportunity to join the mailing list for project updates. For questions or concerns, contact FDOT Project Manager David Long, PE at 813-334-7056 or online at: david.long@dot.state.fl.us

To help the public share feedback at the Public Visioning Workshop on Nov. 19, FDOT used activities at color-coded stations, including the orange station for safety and traffic activity.



Melody Joyner invited participants to draw a new route on a map of the study area at the Visioning Station. She asked, "Where would you place a road if you were queen for day?"

At the Public Visioning Workshop, Tosha Acosta invited attendees to highlight where future walking or cycling



## FDEP FINES CITY \$26,000 FOR SPILL



**CAROL MAHLER** 

Independent Contractor carolmahler22acl@gmail.com

At the Nov. 19 Council meeting, City Administrator Terry Stewart told Mayor Robert W. Heine, Jr., Deputy Mayor Keith Keene, City Council Members Luis Velasco and Judy Wertz-Strickland that the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection fined the City \$26,000.00 because 400,000 gallons of treated wastewater spilled on the ground when pumps at the Wastewater Treatment Plant burned up during Hurricane Milton. He assured the Council that "no one did anything wrong," the liquid was not "raw sewage," and that the repair had already been made.

Council Member Mike Hall was absent

FDEP will allow the City to offset the cost of the fine by paying for a new project, and Keene suggested one of the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** Recovery and Resiliency Partnership Projects (R2P2) projects that the Council accepted and approved at their July 16th meeting.

Stewart also reported that design for the new Wastewater Treatment Plant is 90% complete and based on the City's ownership of 102 Jordan Ave., so the City must acquire the property. Although the appraisal was \$133,614.00, the owner said she would not accept less than \$200,000.00. After discussing various options, the Council voted to offer \$180,000.00 plus closing costs.

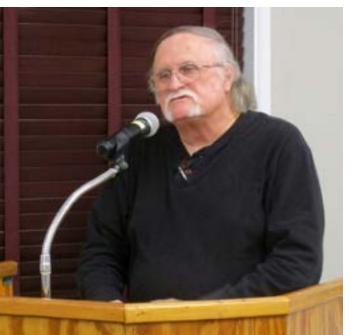
In Other Business

As the Dec. 31, 2024, deadline approaches to obligate \$1,236,282.72 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, the Council voted to shift the money from future to current projects: \$906,235.89 for paving roads; \$318,773.70 for the Florida Dept. of Transportation (FDOT) Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) Road Improvement Project for 12th Ave., and \$11,273.13 for the purchase of benches and tables for the pavilion at the Smith-Brown Recreation Complex/Louis C. Anderson, Sr., Park. Funds allocated in the budget for those projects will pay for future endeavors that the Council chose for ARPA funding.

The Council also approved an increase of \$774,338.00 for the Public Transportation Grant Agreement for Arcadia Municipal Airport terminal apron rehab and expansion funded by the FDOT and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA): the increased amount is the 10% state matching funds for the federal grant as well as the cost of environmental review/design and construction for the apron expansion.

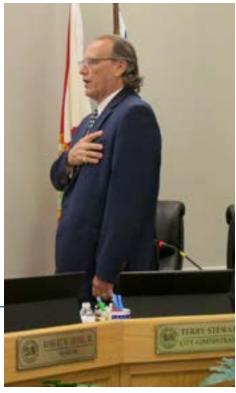
As Change Order 4 for Invitation For Bid (IFB) 2023-08 with Andrew Site Work, an increase of \$495,912.30 for a new grinder lift station at the SW corner of Maple St. and 12 Ave. and gravity sewer main extension as part of





Luke Wilson asked about the City vacating the right-of-way for Clark Lanethat he has mowed and maintained near his home on N.W. Mizell Ave. for 50 years—and he was directed to fill out an application.







After the mayor invited any public appreciation of Stewart, Chelsea Palmer expressed gratitude for his advice to her.

the SCOP project for Twelfth Ave. from Hickory to Maple streets and from E. Oak to N.E. Hickory streets was ratified by the Council. The funding will include \$350,000.00 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds; \$100,000.00 from the Wastewater Treatment Plant Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects, and \$45,912.30 from Utility Rehab and

To cure a title defect regarding the real property at 401 Citrus Ave., the Council authorized the mayor and city clerk to execute a Quit Claim Deed conveying any and all of the City's interest in Block R of A. W. Gilchrist's Subdivision.

As part of the Consent Agenda, the special event permit for the Miss Arcadia Scholarship organization to hold the Hometown Holiday Pageant and Holiday Heroes-to benefit Toys for Tots. Shop-with-the-Sheriff, and Shop-with-a-Cop programs-from 5:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Sat., Nov. 23, at the Tree of Knowledge Park.

Comments From Depts.

Assistant City Marshal Gary Evans reviewed the Arcadia Police Dept. report

for Oct.: 10 felony, 13 misdemeanor, five traffic, and four warrant arrests; 37 accident reports; 82 traffic and nine warning citations; responses to 735 complaints; seven criminal investigations with three closed and four open. He thanked Stewart for being "very supportive of the police department" and for "leading us out of a bad situation."

City Attorney T. J. Wohl also appreciated Stewart especially for making the "last nine years more pleasurable that the first three years" that Wohl served the City. He told Stewart, "You are leaving an amazing

Code Enforcement Director Carl McQuay reported that he opened 29 cases and closed 44 cases in Oct. with 13 scheduled for the next Special Master hearing. He also said that the property at 301 S. Dade is cleaned and ready to be placed on the market. Keene suggested that instead of hiring a realtor that the City sell it "by owner." The Council agreed, asking staff to bring some "comps"-comparable properties that have recently sold-to the next

meeting, so that the Council may set a price. McQuay said that he used some plywood stored in that house to board up the Verandah House for Bike Fest. He thanked Stewart for being a great

Council Member Luis Velasco thanked Stewart for serving the community. Keene said, "It's been a pleasure to work with you, and congratulations on a job well done." Mayor Bob Heine said of Stewart, "He mentored me, and he even learned from

Stewart reflected on the time he has worked for the City. In 2015 when he started, he knew that the City had some challenges, but he "did not understand how all encompassing and large those challenges were." He praised the councils with whom he has worked for their "wisdom, vision, and courage to make the right choices." He thanked the staff saying, "What a pleasure it has been to work with all of you."

### **THANK YOU TO OUR** DESOTO COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD (PRS) **BULLDOG YOUTH SPONSOR!** • MOSAIC • FPL PEACE RIVER

# BULLDOGS STUNNED IN 6-1 LOSS AT CHARLOTTE



STEVE KNAPP

The Bulldogs traveled to Charlotte High School last week to meet the Tarpons. The 8 Desoto seniors had never lost to Charlotte. The Bulldogs had a 8-4 lifetime record against the Tarpons and hadn't lost a game to them in over 4 years. That all changed on a cold and windy night as the Bulldogs dropped to 2-4 while the Tarpons improved their record to 6-1 with a 6-1 win.

The Tarpons took control of the game jumping out quickly with 5 goals in the first half. The Bulldogs scored on last week's athlete of the week Alan Valtierra's goal but the Tarpons matched that to make the final score 6-1. Valtierra has scored 5 goals in 15 minutes of play this season trailing team leader Andri Vargas who has 7 in 155 minutes on the pitch.

"We can't complicate this game. We have 4 or 5 passes to get to their 18 but we don't finish. We couldn't stop their passing lanes and need to have more communication. We can't have three guys go to the ball and leave 2 guys open. We have to make better passes, they press us as soon as we get the ball so we need to move the ball around and control it," said coach Fernando Zepeda.

If you look at the numbers over the past three years, you'll see the Bulldogs lost 9 players through graduation last year. The same number graduated after the 2022 season with 8 seniors on the team in 2021. Last year's graduates has had a big impact on the defense and the team isn't nearly as fast as they have been in the

Zepeda said, "We're less experienced and we're putting kids in different positions. We're doing everything we can and trying to fix what we need to fix."

There is a lot of work to do and the team will have a long break before their next game in early December. This year the 2-4 Bulldogs have given up 23 goals in 6 games. Last year the team was 17-3 and gave up just 23 goals in the entire season! In 2022 they finished



Players walk off the field at halftime trailing 5-0. Alan Valtierra (18) scored the lone goal for DeSoto in the second half.



DeSoto coach Fernando Zepeda talks to the team before the 6-1 loss at Charlotte.

with a 16-4 record giving up 25 goals and in 2021 they were 17-2 and only allowed 21 goals. They need to tighten up the defense and score more goals until the team can find the winning combination of players and positions.

### DESOTO COUNTY ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



## ESHAWN FOR

Being retired from General Motors I never thought I'd say this, but Ford looks pretty good. Of course I'm talking about DeShawn Ford the freshman on the DeSoto Bulldogs basketball team.

Ford was the key player in the opening night win 47-36 over the Imagine Sharks. He led the team with 18 points scoring in every quarter including a perfect 2-2 from the free throw line. Ford hit the first bucket to spark an 8-0 lead to open the game for DeSoto.

The Sharks fought back to tie the game at 13. It was Ford who broke that tie as the teams headed to the locker room at the half tied at 16. When the Sharks took an 18-16 lead early in the second half, it was Ford who tied it up. He scored 6 points in that quarter to give the Bulldogs a 28-26 lead

going into the final quarter.

The Bulldogs scored 19 points (three more than the entire first half) in the fourth quarter with Ford notching another 6. When a player missed an easy layup, it was Ford who followed it up with a put back for the score. Oliver Jeanette got injured and it was Ford who was the first one there to help carry him off the court. Wherever you looked Ford was doing something to help his team and teammates.

"When somebody needed help I tried to be there. If the team needed a leader I tried to step up. That win felt really good being a freshman and getting my first high school win. We looked good tonight but we have a lot of games to play and we just have to keep working and get better," said Ford.



DeShawn Ford drives to the basket for two of his 18 points in the 47-36 win over Imagine.



DeShawn Ford wins the opening tip for the Bulldogs in the season opener against the Imagine Sharks out of North Port.



Coaches Shawn Wolfe and Darrel Nicklow help DeShawn Ford off the court late in the game. Ford later said it was just a cramp and was OK.



DeShawn Ford was the first one to help teammate Oliver Jeanette off the court from an injury.



Freshman DeShawn Ford brings the ball up the court in the Desoto win over Imagine.

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### DESOTO COUNTY GAME OF THE WEEK



### BULLDOGS SLIDE PAST RED DEVILS IN SEASON OPENER



STEVE KNAPP

Sports Writer

The DeSoto JV girls soccer team had several shots on goal against Avon Park in their season opener, but only one counted. Offsides and a couple of kicks right at the keeper kept the game close.

The difference was a shot from Gabriela Cruz that rocketed past the keeper and held up as the only score in the game to give the Bulldogs a 1-0 win.

> Gabriela Cruz (11) joins her teammates after scoring the only goal of the game in the win over Avon Park.



Gabriela Cruz wears her grade number on her shirt as she dribbles towards the goal and scores the only goal of the game to give the Bulldogs a 1-0 win over Avon Park.





Assistant coach Dany Gonzales talks to the team during the second half water break. DeSoto went on to win 1-0 in the season opener.



The Lady Bulldogs watch the game from the sidelines just before the half time.

## **BULLDOGS CAN'T REEL IN SHARKS**



STEVE KNAPP

The Desoto Bulldogs had the Imagine Sharks on the hook but couldn't put them away in the 62-57 season opening loss. The Bulldogs jumped out to a quick 7-0 lead and maintained a three point lead after one quarter. They stretched that lead to 7 at the half 33-26.

DeSoto held an 8 point lead in the waning seconds of the third quarter when the Sharks drained a three pointer at the buzzer to tighten up the score at 48-43. That bucket set the tone for the rest of the game as the Sharks came out in the final quarter with two straight three's to take their first lead of the game 49-48.

Azir Blanding put the Bulldogs back on top 50-49, but the Sharks came back with a 7 point run to take a 56-50 lead that they never lost. Bryce Miller hit his third three pointer at the buzzer to finish the scoring as DeSoto suffered their first defeat 62-57.

The Bulldogs fell victim to cold shooting, turnovers and fouls in the 4th quarter and couldn't recover. It was their only quarter that they didn't score double figures. DeSoto had 26 turnovers in the contest.

"There is no way we should have lost that game. I told the team at halftime that we had to out rebound them in the second half and we didn't do it. We didn't take care of the basketball and that was one of the other things we talked about at halftime. We didn't finish the game the way we started. I liked how hard we played and our effort I'm proud of these kids, we just have to play DeSoto basketball, that's our brand," said coach Darrel Nicklow.

Rylan Unruh led the Bulldogs with 16 points with Marlon Taylor also reaching double figures with 11. Miller had 9 points, all on treys, and Blanding finished with 8. DeSoto won the rebound game 44-42 but only had 11 on the offensive board which greatly reduced the second chance shots.

The big difference was the three point goals. Imagine only shot 23% making 7 of 30 attempts. The Bulldogs shot 33% going 4-12. Miller hit three of them while the rest of the team was just 1-9. Those extra three buckets from downtown gave Imagine 9 more points with the final score just 5 points difference. That was the difference in the game, DeSoto had more layups while Imagine was able to hit the three's.

The last time the teams met was last December and Imagine blasted DeSoto winning by 48 points. The Bulldogs are definitely not the same team they were last year. They will be playing at the **Babcock Ranch Tournament tomorrow** and return home on December 2 to face Okeechobee. The Bulldogs will play four games next week with home games on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and on



Daymon Jones takes it to the hoop in the loss to Imagine.



Azir Blanding wins the opening tip as the Bulldogs go on a 7-0 run to start the game.



**Junior Azir** 

**Blanding smiles** 

as he watches 2

of his 11 points go through the net.

the road Friday at Avon Park. Junior Varsity games begin at 6 pm and varsity at 7:30.



Rylan Unruh splits the Imagine defense on his way to the bucket for 2 of his team high 16 points.



Eduardo Vasconcelos plays defense in the DeSoto loss to open the season.

## LINKS TO SUCCESS **OFFERS FREE FAFSA WORKSHOP FOR HIGH** SCHOOL STUDENTS AND PARENTS



College can be expensive, but free financial aid is within your reach! Links to Success is excited to help high school students in DeSoto County access grants and scholarships through the FAFSA-money you don't have to pay

This December, we're hosting FAFSA Night to help high school seniors and their parents complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®). At this workshop, experts will be available to guide you through the process of securing crucial financial aid to pay for your post-secondary education.

The workshop is scheduled for December 4th from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM at South Florida State College-**DeSoto Campus.** 

#### What to Bring:

- Social Security numbers for students and parents
- Alien registration numbers (if not U.S. citizens)

- 2023 federal tax returns and records of income
- FSA ID to sign the FAFSA electronically
- A list of colleges the student is considering

Parents are strongly encouraged to attend. Dinner will be provided for all participants, and students will have the chance to win a \$100 gift card and other exciting prizes!

Registration is required. Visit links2success.org/post-secondaryeducation-prep-program to sign up or learn more.

These workshops are free thanks to the generous support of our community partners, including the Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation and Lighthouse United Methodist Church of Boca Grande.

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### **BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES:** "THE CURSE OF CANAAN"

#### **DAVID VANAMAN**

Retired pastor and teacher **DeSoto Ministerial Association** 

To understand this, we have to do what the Bible tells us to do, study and correctly understand the words used (2 Timothy 2:15).

- 1) Under God's direction Moses, in his own style, wrote the first 5 books of the Bible.
- 2) Moses was not an eyewitness to the events in Genesis. God told him about them.
- 3) Some of the statements made are made in retrospect.

#### **GENESIS 9:20-27 - HAM'S SIN**

Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, & Japheth. The flood had just concluded, and the only thing left on Earth was the cargo of the Ark. Stop for a moment and think about this. Everything and

everyone Noah had ever known was gone. I am not excusing his response, but I do understand his emotional state.

Noah got drunk, fully intoxicated; and passed out in his tent. Now, we have to consider his sons. Shem was the eldest, and thus likely to be given the family leadership when Noah died (which turned out to be 350 years after the flood). Ham wanted to be the leader so he took matters into his own hands.

A somewhat confusing statement is read in verse 22 when Ham "saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brethren without". After seeing "Noah's nakedness", Ham went and told his brothers who then went in and covered their father's nakedness.

When Noah woke up, he realized what Ham had done, and cursed Ham's son Canaan. Moses said "a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren",

and then he pronounced blessings on Shem and Japheth. Canaan was prophesied to be a servant to Shem and Japheth. Japheth was prophesied to be a large people, and greatly helped by Shem.

To understand these prophesies, go to Leviticus 18. Moses is writing Leviticus as an eyewitness. The Israelites left Egypt, wandered the desert for 40 years, and are about to enter the land of Canaan. Remember who Canaan was, and ask yourself, "Why did Noah curse Canaan for something his father did?"

God, through Moses, warned Israel not to be like the Egyptians, and not to be like those in Canaan. The Canaanite culture was steeped in "seeing their fathers' nakedness." God then gave details. Leviticus 18:8 states, "The nakedness of thy father's wife shalt

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thou not uncover: it is thy father's nakedness."

So, what had Ham done that brought the curse on his not yet born son? Ham tried to get his son to be the son-ofinheritance by being the offspring of Noah's wife (his mother). Noah, seeing what Ham had done responded, "Hell

Later, when Joshua lead Israel into the land of Canaan, God ordered that the Zamzummim, Anakim, Horim, Avim, Caphtorim, and some others tribes be completely wiped out, destroyed. The tribes that lived in Canaan that practiced wickedness against Almighty God were to be utterly destroyed. We can see the beginning of a wicked heart when we read about Ham's sin against Noah right after the flood event and the salvation of eight people.

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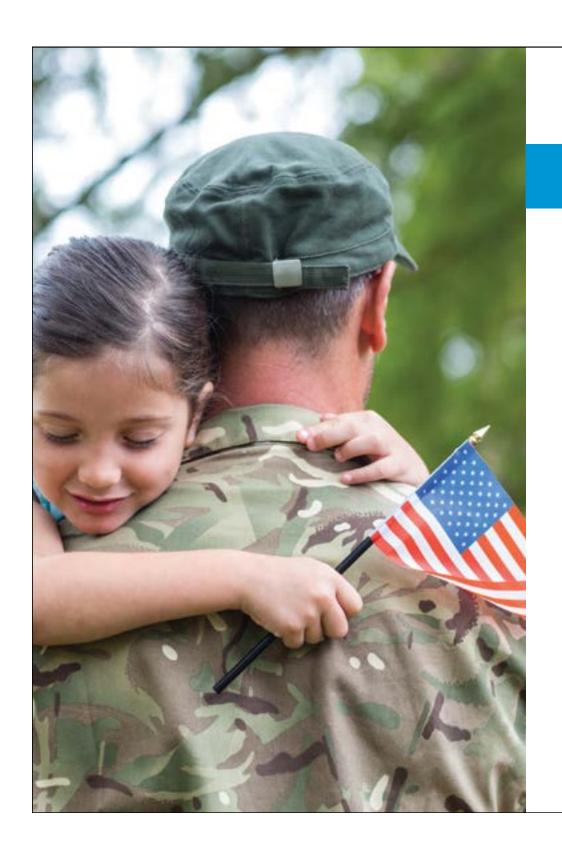
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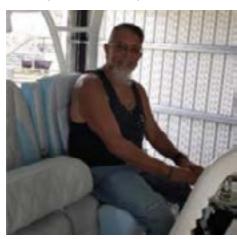


### **OBITUARIES**



#### **LARRY LOUIS TRIAY**

JAN 15, 1955 ~ NOV 7, 2024



Husband, Father, Brother, Uncle and Friend Larry, age 69 passed away peacefully on November 7, 2024 in Florida. He was born in Brooklyn, New York on January 15, 1955 to the late Carlos Triay Portela and Maria Antonia Santos. He was the younger of two children.

Larry is survived by two children: Olivia (Erik) Wasko and Oliver (Carolyn) Triay. His parents, originally from Cuba, moved to Florida in 1956 and settled in Hialeah, Miami. Larry is survived by his older brother Charles (Carolyn)

Triay of Arcadia, FL. He was a widow to his wife of 44 years, Louann Cooke Triay. Larry is survived by his grandchildren: Grayson, Carter, Lincoln, Riley and Kyree. Niece Nicole (Charles) Metzger, nephew Noah (Alana) Triay and niece Anne-Marie Driggers. Larry spent his last year and half of life with his loving companion, Clara Branco.

Captain Larry loved the ocean and spent his entire life doing what he loved, boating, fishing and lobstering. He lived a fulfilling life enjoying music, dancing and volunteering at an animal shelter. The mountains of Western NC were always calling him where he spent time with family and friends. We will miss him very much. He was loved by many friends and family.

Memorial Service
Ponger Kays Grady Funeral Home
50 N. Hillsborough Ave.
Arcadia, Florida 34266
December 7th, 12:00 pm

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

## **Pearl Harbor Memorial**

Ceremony

December 7, 2024 10:00 am

**Old Peace River Bridge** 

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**DeSoto County Historical Society** 

**Public Invited** 

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### **DESOTO COUNTY**

#### SHERIFF'S OFFICE



#### ARREST REPORT | 11/15/24 - 11/21/24

#### Alvarez-Mayora, Deibi Daniel:

Operate Motor Vehicle W/O Valid Lic 1St Conv

#### Arney, Sarah Marie:

Prob Violation - Prob Violation (X2)

#### Barajas, Bobby:

Amphetamine-Traffic - Or Methamphetamine 14 Grams Or Over (X4), Public Order Crimes - Use 2 Way Comm Device To Facil Felony (X2), Resist Officer - Obstruct Wo Violence, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use (X3), Drugs-Sell - Own Rent Structure Veh Know Sell Drugs, Marijuana-Possess - Not More Than 20 Grams, Drugs-Possess - Cntrl Sub Wo Prescription

#### **Boswell, Trevarian A'Braylon:**

Moving Traffic Viol - Driv While Lic Suspend Revocation Equiv Status

#### **Brown, Jason Adam:**

Violation Of Probation

#### **Burger, Leonard Monroe:**

**Out Of County Warrant** 

#### Campos, Adon:

Failure To Appear - Written Promise To Possess - Not More Than 20 Grams, **Appear** 

#### Carcamo, Kelly Marie:

And Or Use

#### Garcia, Jolanda Maria:

Possess Controlled Substance W/O Prescription, And Or Use, Prob Violation

#### **Gasper, Charlie Jesse:**

Touch Or Strike

#### **Gutierrez-Gonzalez, Francisco':**

Aggrav Battery - Aggrav Battery Cause Bodily Harm Or Disability, Kidnap-False Imprisonment - False Imprisonment Of Person

#### **Hudson, Reginald Maurice:**

Criminal Registration - Criminal Regristration - Not Arrest

#### Long, Joseph Elmer:

Sex Offender Registration - Sex Offender Registration

#### Morales, Ricardo:

Touch Or Strike

#### Patterson, Ezell:

Drugs-Traffic - Phenethylamines 10 Grams Or More, Possession Of Weapon - Or Ammo By Other State Felon, Evidence-Destroying - Tamper With Or Fabricate Physical, Marijuana-Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use, Weapon Offense - Commit 1St Degree Felony W Weapon

#### **Reaves, Clarence Marshall:**

Drugs-Produce - Mfg Ctrl Substance School/Park Schedule I, Moving Traffic Viol - Drive While Lic Susp Habitual Offender, Drug Equip-Possess - Drug Equip-Possess: And Or Use, Prob Violation - Prob Violation

#### Roblero Roblero, Oralia:

Operate Motor Vehicle W/O Valid Lic 1St Conv

#### Ryals, Da'rahjae Tyquan:

Drugs-Sell - Sell Ctrl Substance School/Park Schedule I (X2), Drug Equip-Possess - Drug Equip-Possess: And Or Use (X3), Drugs-Possess -Possess Controlled Substance W/O Prescription (X2), Marijuana-Possess - Possess Less Than 20 Grams Cannabis

#### Sykes, Shantel Oliva:

Ctrl Sub S.893.02(4) County Detention Facility, Traffic In Meth/ Amphetamine 14 Grams+, Possess Controlled Substance W/O Prescription, Possess Less Than 20 Grams Cannabis, And Or Use

#### Vaneck, William:

Possess Controlled Substance W/O Prescription, And Or Use

#### Vazquez, Rigoberto:

Possess Controlled Substance W/O Prescription, And Or Use, Driv While Lic Suspend Revocation Equiv Status

#### **Vicente Marcos, Edvin Federico:**

Prob Violation - Prob Violation

#### Weffer Betancourt, Andrea Laleska:

Moving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle W/O Valid Lic 1St Conv

#### Williams, Marcel Pierre:

Drugs-Sell - Sell Ctrl Substance School/Park Schedule I, Drugs-Possess - Possess Controlled Substance W/O Prescription, Drug Equip-Possess - Drug Equip-Possess: And Or Use

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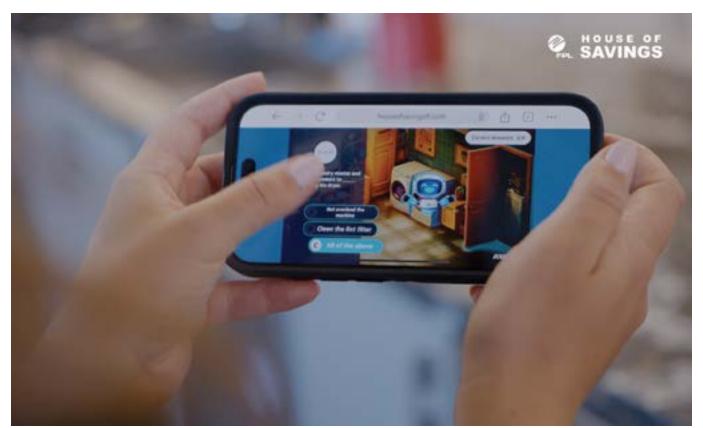
### TIPS FROM YOUR FPL ENERGY EXPERTS TO SAVE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

FPL Extends House of Savings prizing period through Dec. 22 for 25 additional winners

Ready to get in the holiday spirit and level up your home's decor while keeping your bill as low as possible? Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) is offering five valuable tips and free resources to help customers save this holiday season.

#### TIPS TO SAVE ALL HOLIDAY **SEASON LONG:**

- 1. Deck the halls with LED string lights which use 80% to 90% less energy and last 10x as long as incandescent. Consider adding solar powered lighting to your holiday décor, which uses zero energy.
- 2. Plug your lights and inflatables into an outlet timer and program them to turn off automatically when you're asleep. The fewer hours you run your decorations, the less energy you use.
- 3. If you opt for inflatables, consider a smart power strip to avoid phantom energy usage, which draws from decorations that appear off and can account for 5% - 10% of your energy usage.
- 4. Go energy free and supplement your holiday displays with



ornaments, wreaths, ribbons and chance to win a holiday-inspired pathway decorations.

5. Consider firing up the grill. Cooking outside will keep your home cool, allowing your A/C to take a much-needed rest. When cooking indoors, always use the smallest appliance needed for the task.

#### **NEW! HOUSE OF SAVINGS HOLIDAY CHALLENGE:**

25 Floridians will now have the

prize pack with the FPL House of Savings Challenge's seasonal prize period. Winners can choose between two different versions of the \$150 DIY Holiday House of Savings kits, featuring energy savers like holiday LED lights, outdoor smart timers and more.

In the Challenge, players help get a home's energy usage on track by answering questions about its energy consumption.

Those with the most correctly answered questions can become eligible to win a holiday-themed, energy-saving kit for their home or donate their prize to FPL's Care To Share program, dedicated to helping fellow Floridians in need.

#### COMMISSIONERS

FROM PAGE 1 >>

financial close and reporting, inventory management, and revenue recognitionand "no instances of non-compliance or other matters required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards." The Board accepted the statement as presented.

The Board also ratified Amendment 2 to the Settlement Agreement with Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC, extending the term that the applications filed by Mosaic in 2016 will remain valid from Dec. 31, 2025, to 2033, to "better align the timing of State and Federal permitting." In 2018, after the Board denied Mosaic's application for rezoning, Mosaic filed a "request for relief through the "Florida Land Use and Environmental Dispute Resolution Act" (F.S. 70.51), and a Settlement Agreement was executed in April 2019. Executed in June 2020, Amendment 1 removed "the requirement that experts wishing to testify in workshops formally submit qualifications and be accepted as experts by the Board and related matters."

#### **ROADWAYS**

The Board approved the following items concerning the County's roadways:

- a modification of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Annual Paving prioritization to exchange the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 roads with the FY 2025-2026 roads. The FY 2024-2025 roadways include 11 in Fort Ogden-Church Ave., SW Falcon Ave., SW Georgia St., SW Kentucky St., Liberty Ave., Marion St., SW Massachusetts St., SW Pickens Ave., SW River St., and SW Senate St.—with five existing railroad crossings, so the County wants to align the paving project with Seminole Gulf Railway's project to replace the crossings, partially funded by a U.S. Dept. of Transportation Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant;
- the annual striping project as prioritized by the Engineering Division: CR 760A from U.S. Highway 17 to State Road (SR) 31; NW Owens Ave. from SR 70 to SR 72; NE Fiveash St. from U.S. 17 to NE Turner Ave.; NE Washington St. from NE Turner Ave. to Open Grade; NE Burnham St. from U.S. 17 to Swisher Ave.; S. Shady Oak Ave. from SE Carlstrom Field Rd. to the end of maintenance;
- contract for \$187,870.00, funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with Gilliam Construction, LLC, for the SW Georgia St. Culvert Replacement necessitated by Hurricane Ian damage. Originally awarded to Diller Ventures, LLC, the lowest of seven responses to the July 30, 2024, Invitation to Bid, the contract was terminated because of difficulties, and awarded to the next lowest bidder-Gilliam Construction; and
- a work authorization for \$73,447.58 with Weiler Engineering for design services for SW Liverpool Road,



funded by the Florida Dept. of Transportation (FDOT) Small County Outreach Program (SCOP), for improvements from U.S. 17 to the railroad tracks, approximately 0.375 miles.

#### IN OTHER BUSINESS

The Board ratified the following items:

- a letter of engagement/one-year contract for \$157.500.00 with Purvis Gray & Co., LLP, for financial audit services of FY 2023-2024;
- grant agreement of \$70,000.00-\$58,000.00 in grant funds with \$12,000.00 in matching funds from the County-for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Florida Boating Improvement Program (FBIP) Deep Creek Park Phase I: Engineered Design and Permitting to add a floating dock and gangway plus replacement of the current singlewide boat ramp. Under the Consent Agenda, the Board renewed for another 20 years (until 2044) the Management Agreement for Deep Creek Park, approximately 22 acres, with Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), originally ratified on Jan. 13, 2004;
- purchase agreement of \$41,947.56 with Xerox for DocuShare-a digital document management system- including installation and configuration to increase transparency and "improve the County's response time for public records requests;"
- declaration of 11212 SW Cedar Ave. as surplus real property and authorization for staff to clean and prepare for sale the property for which the County accepted a deed in lieu of foreclosure for code enforcement violations from Justin Thomas Treworgy; and
- the public hearing date of Dec. 17, 2024, for the vacation of right of way for two properties: the unimproved segment of NE Oltmanns St. as requested by adjacent property owners Laurence Todd Coward and Michelle L. Coward, and a 60' x 450' portion of 3rd St. in Fort Ogden-including the 15' x 315' alleyway-requested by the Willie K. Campbell Trust.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Under the Consent Agenda, the Board

As agriculture is second only to the tourist industry in economic importance, the Commission proclaimed Nov. 27 through Dec. 4 as Farm-City Week, and, from left, Andy Neuhofer and Kenneth Harrison of the Florida Farm Bureau accepted the proclamation from Chairperson Jerod Gross.

Tiffany Mangold, CPA, of Purvis and Gray presented the County's 2022/2023 audited financial statements, comprising all fiscal activities of the County's governmental and proprietary funds for the Board as well as the **Constitutional Offices.** 

approved the following items:

- agreement with DeSoto Cares Homeless Services outlining the roles and responsibilities of both parties to use the \$1,020,000.00 **Community Development Bock** Grant Covid (CDBG-CV) to build up to ten 336-sq.-ft., one-bedroom homes as part of the "Tiny Town" project on 6.53 acres owned by DeSoto Cares in the City of Arcadia;
- agreement amendment for the first of three additional one-year terms with Fred Fox Enterprises to provide administrative services for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in partnership with DeSoto Cares to build tiny homes as transitional residences for homeless individuals;
- the bids for rehabilitation work of 1548 SE Highway 31 and 224 Columbia Dr. awarded to Jewel Contracting, Inc., as the lowest bidder at \$103,928.00, under the State Housing Initiative Program (SHIP) and Hurricane Housing Recovery Program (HHRP);

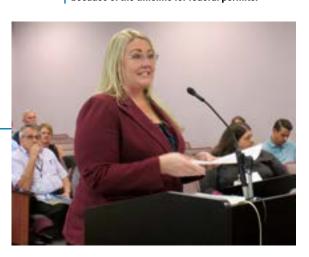
work authorization 24/25-01 for \$100,000.00 for General Engineering Services for Weiler Engineering Corp. to be the County's "Engineer of Record;"

contract extension with Weiler **Engineering for the Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation** (CDBG-MIT) for the County Road 769 Bridge Improvement project delayed because of title search to establish easement and right-of-way limits and the County's request for two design options;

agreement for \$49,943.00 with the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) for a cost reimbursement grant to enhance the County's Emergency Management program to ensure continued compliance with Federal regulations;



Shelley Thornton, Senior Permitting Engineer for Mosaic Fertilizer, explained that the company's request for an extension of time from 2025 to 2033 for their application filed in 2016 to remain valid is because of the timeline for federal permits.



- using the first of two additional oneyear renewals of an initial three-year contract, Contract Amendment #1 for \$46,890.69 with M & D Environmental Services, LLC, for Water and Gas Monitoring Services at the DeSoto County Landfill;
- agreement amendment for \$36,000.00 for the fourth of the five one-year renewal options with the Southern Group of Florida, Inc., for Lobbying Services and Networking of Grants with Appropriations with no changes to terms or cost;
- amendment adding \$24,981.00 in paving for a grant agreement with FWC for the FBIP Liverpool Park Project Phase II: construction of a new floating dock and total replacement of current boat ramp;
- agreement amendment with Phillips and Jordan, Inc., for a time extension to the Debris Removal Project extending it to Jan. 28, 2025 because of significant weather impacts due to Hurricanes Debbie, Helene, and Milton;
- agreement amendment for a time extension with Tetra Tech, Inc., to provide technical and administrative assistance for the Emergency **Watershed Protection Project** funded by the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) to remove debris from streams channels, and waterways; and
- appointment of Sarah Hipp, who is DeSoto Memorial Hospital's Marketing and Public Relations staff, to represent the County as a director on the Board of Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida, a 13-member board representing health consumers, medical providers and administrators.

## A COUNTRY CHRISTMAS COMES TO THE WILDSTEIN CENTER AT SFSC



AVON PARK, Fla. - Nov. 20, 2024 - William Lee Golden and The Goldens are scheduled to perform A Country Christmas at the Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts at South Florida State College (SFSC) in Avon Park on Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. "Expect some gospel music, holiday songs, and a little southern rock featuring William Lee Golden's famous baritone vocals," said Cindy Garren, director of cultural programs at SFSC.

William Lee Golden is a legendary figure in American music. Since joining the Oak Ridge Boys in the 1960s, Golden has become a member of the Grand Ole Opry, been inducted into both the Country and Music Halls of Fame, and won five Grammy Awards, one American Music Award, four Country Music Association Awards, four Academy of Country Music Awards, 10 Dove Awards, and the 2010 President's

The Goldens all-star band includes Golden's sons Chris and Craig and his grandchildren Elizabeth, Rebekah, and Elijah. The family band tours

when Golden isn't performing with the Oak Ridge Boys. Their music brings fresh interpretations to longtime favorite hymns and holiday songs.

William Lee Golden and The Goldens celebrated their first No. 1 single with "Come and Dine" off their "Old Country Church Gospel" album. The hymn is a favorite of the family, because it's an upbeat classic about feasting at the table with Jesus. "This is an exciting time for us as a family," Golden said. "I am so proud of The Goldens reaching No. 1."

"This is their only performance in Florida on their holiday tour," Garren said. "It's a rare treat for folks who love old-timev music, great harmonies, and musical excellence."

Tickets are \$30-\$45 plus a \$3 per ticket processing fee, and are available online at sfscARTS.org, by calling 863-



784-7178, or by visiting the Box Office at the SFSC Highlands Campus on 600 West College Drive in Avon Park. Groups of 12 or more can save 20%.

Upcoming performances include Menopause the Musical®- Cruising Through the Change, Always Loretta featuring Emily Portman and The Coalminers, Turnstiles - Music of Billy Joel, Lee Greenwood, Mutts Gone Nuts, The Drifters, So Good: The Music of Neil Diamond, and Three Dog Night.

For a complete list of shows, visit: sfscARTS.org.



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