

FEBRUARY 10, 2026



Peace River SHOPPER

FREE Compliments Of Our Advertisers



Happy Valentine's Day!

The central graphic features two vibrant red roses with dark green leaves, positioned above the main title. Below the roses, the words 'Happy Valentine's Day!' are written in a large, flowing, red cursive font.

Serving DeSoto, Charlotte and Hardee Counties



Real Estate
Local Listings Inside!

**NEWS
and
MORE**
EST. 1996

For display advertising, contact Sales: **863.990.9813** or sales@peacerivershopper.com

FREE Classified Line: 863.491.6800 or prs@dancollins.biz



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Your **FREE SUBSCRIPTION** is now available! Be the first to read The Shopper from your inbox on Monday afternoon. Email: sales@peacerivershopper.com



Town & Country

PROPERTIES

of Florida, Inc.

Voted #1 Real Estate Brokerage Four Years Running!



Ronda Woppman

FLORIDA & GEORGIA BROKER

863.990.0768



FEATURES

- 2 Bedrooms
- 2 Bathrooms
- 2024 Manufactured Home
- .281 Acres
- Open concept
- Indoor laundry
- Stainless steel appliances
- 3 car Garage/ Shop
- Two Storage sheds
- Mature oak trees
- Covered front porch
- Not located in a flood zone!

LISTED AT
\$350,000

2837 NE PERSIMMON DR,
ARCADIA, FL 34266, MLS#A4675909



NEW PRICE

12406 GREEN GULF BLVD,
PUNTA GORDA, FL 33955, MLS# A4677392

FEATURES

- 3 Bedroom
- 2 Bathrooms
- 2 car garage
- 2,010 total SQFT
- .22 acre lot
- 2024 CB build
- Furnished
- Well & Septic
- Corner lot
- Near shopping, dining, boating and entertainment

REDUCED TO
\$299,000

9930 SE HOTH RD,
ARCADIA, FL 34266, MLS#A4678911



- 4 Bedrooms
- 2 Bathrooms
- Large shop
- Finished shop office breakroom and bathroom
- 10 acres
- Pond
- Chicken coop
- Barn
- Carport
- At the end of the road

LISTED AT
\$699,000



FEATURES

- 3 Bedrooms
- 2 Bathrooms
- Bonus room
- 3100+/- Sq Ft
- Exposed beams/ high ceilings
- Terrazzo floors
- Wood burning fireplace
- Dedicated dining room
- 2 car garage + detached shop
- Two large primary suites with Shared ensuite
- Newer upgrades & Utility items
- 2022 roof

REDUCED TO
\$364,995

**THINKING ABOUT BUYING OR SELLING?
WE ARE THE BEST AT HELPING YOU WITH THAT!**

WHY WE ARE VOTED DESOTO'S #1

- HONEST, RELIABLE, CARING. YOUR NEEDS COME FIRST
- WORLD WIDE WEB ADVERTISING
- PRINT & SOCIAL MEDIA ADVERTISING
- BILINGUAL AGENTS (HABLAS ESPANOL)
- PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY
- A WHOLE TEAM OF EXPERIENCED AGENTS
- HOME VALUE ESTIMATE BEFORE YOU LIST
- ACCESS TO MULTIPLE MLS PLATFORMS
- AGENT ACCESS 24/7
- EVENTS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- UP TO DATE MARKET KNOWLEDGE
- VOTED DESOTO'S #1 BROKERAGE FOR 7 YEARS RUNNING!
- \$0 CANCELATION FEE IF YOU'RE NOT SATISFIED WITH US... YOU'LL BE HAPPY YOU CHOOSE US!



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WEBSITE



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(863) 494-1739

www.townandcountrypropertiesflorida.com

521 E. Hickory Street • Arcadia, FL 34266

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Se Habla Espanol



TURNER REALTY COMPANY, INC.

Eugene H. Turner "Brother", Broker

863-494-4777

105 S. Brevard Avenue • Arcadia, FL 34266



For a complete list of properties for sale, please visit:

WWW.TURNERREALTY.COM

VACANT LAND

9.89+/- Acres



10613 SE Foster Ave., Arcadia, FL 34266

MLS# C7512470 \$250,000.00

Looking for nice homesite?

*High and dry acreage in DeSoto County
Mix of improved pasture and scattered oak trees
County-maintained road frontage*



10362 SE Mehl Ave., Arcadia, FL 34266

\$250,000.00 MLS# C7512425

*Peaceful country living
southeast of Arcadia, DeSoto County
High and dry land
Beautiful scattered oak trees
Ideal for a homesite or quiet retreat*



We have agents ready
to assist you
SEVEN DAYS A WEEK!



Ashley Grimaldi
813.546.0337



Kaye Mercer
863.990.7001



Kayla Shefler
863.303.4898



Maribel Carrillo
863.990.2853



Charla Miethke
941.336.9775



Peace River **SHOPPER**

DeSoto County's Weekly Publication

The Arcadia Community Local Distribution Locations

Ace Hardware
Anna's Restaurant
Arcadia Discount Liquor
Arcadia Do-It-Best Hardware
Arcadia Municipal Airport
Arcadia Municipal Golf Course
Arcadia Post Office
Arcadia Village
Before & After Hair Salon
Big Tree RV Resort
Champs
Circle K (Nocatee)
Circle K (North)
City of Arcadia
Collins Realty
Country Café
Crews Bank & Trust
DaVita Dialysis Center
DeSoto County Annex
DeSoto County Library
DeSoto County Property Appraiser
DeSoto County Tax Office

DeSoto Memorial Hospital
Dollar General (near Northside Shell)
Family Care Medical Center
Ft. Ogden Post Office
Habitat for Humanity
K & J Homegrown Produce
Marathon
MyShelly's Kitchen
Nocatee Post Office
Oak Street Deli
Publix
Publix Liquor
RMZRealty
Speedway
Toby's RV Resort
Walgreens
Wheelers
Wood Park Pointe
Yellow Deli

SALES / OFFICE MANAGER

Angie Duckett
sales@peacerivershopper.com
863.990.9813

CREATIVE DIRECTOR/AD DESIGN

Jackie Bierman

OPERATIONS/PRODUCT DESIGN

Jonathan Bruch

DISTRIBUTION

Jennifer Phillips

Contact us today to place your
FREE CLASSIFIED!

Call 863.491.6800

(This is a voicemailbox, we do not return calls that come in to this number. Leave a message with your ads 1) Category, 2) What you want it to say, 3) Price, and 4) Contact phone number.)
or email sales@peacerivershopper.com
Email ads to ensure accuracy. Limit 20 words per ad and two ads per household. Runs for 2-4 weeks (space permitting).

PAID CLASSIFIEDS

Paid Classifieds are for businesses, paid services, employment or classifieds over 20 words. Paid classifieds are \$15/week for 35 words or less. 15¢ per word over 35. Limit 50 words maximum.
Add a photo for \$5/week

ONLINE PHONE BOOK

SENT VIA EMAIL!
Contact Angie Duckett 863.990.9813 or email: sales@peacerivershopper.com for rates and more information

Peace River **SHOPPER**

DESO TO | CHARLOTTE | HARDEE

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

REMINDER: From the beginning, our Shopper's policy is not to publish anything negative about anyone. Please remember this when placing advertisement with us. We admit mistakes have happened, however we will strive to prevent this in the future. We reserve the right to use our discretion in selecting, editing and determining the duration of publication of all advertisements. The Peace River Shopper is not liable for omissions, misprints, typographical errors or the condition of any advertised items. The Peace River Shopper assumes no liability for any misinterpretation of the advertisements in this publication. Information printed in this Shopper does not necessarily reflect our opinion or values.

REDUCED!!



20 acres, zoned A-10 (agriculture), previous a blueberry farm. Bonus with the acreage is a 2010 3 BR 2 BA doublewide M-H. This home has a metal roof and brand new central air and heat unit. The kitchen has appliances and a large breakfast bar. There is an adjacent dining area to easily sit 6-8 diners. The bedrooms are split plat with a roomy Primary bedroom with sitting area and a private bath with both a tub and separate shower. Wonderful rear porch that is screened and overlooks the vast acreage. There is already a pond for your animals, a HUGE open pole barn and a nearby "greenhouse" and other storage areas. If, down the road, you might like to build your custom home, this property is TWO 10 acre parcels. Buyer can check with DeSoto County Building dept. for any information for possibility of building on the 2nd lot. Just think, a ready made In-Law home, rental, caretaker etc.

ASKING \$695,000! MLS#C7514180



Jean Vitali

📞 863.990.5106
✉️ jean1711@gmail.com
🌐 www.jeanvitali.com

COLLINS
MANAGEMENT & REALTY, INC.

Dan Collins, Broker

📞 863.494.6181
📍 223 E. Oak Street
Arcadia, FL 34266

MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY! ONE CALL DOES IT ALL!
NOTARY SERVICES BY APPOINTMENT; MOBILE POSSIBLE



ARREST REPORT 1/30/26 - 2/5/26

DESO TO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ANGELES-ASCENCIO,
BARTOLOME:
Larc - Other Theft, Fraud-
Imperson - False Id Given To Leo

BURNSED, MICHAEL LEE:
Trespassing - Trespass Occupied
Structure Or Conveyance

CASTILLO, RICARDO:
Contempt Of Court - Viol Injunction
Protection Domestic Violence

COLLINS, AUDREY SAMONE:
Possess Counterfeited - License
Plates Etc, Nonmoving Traffic Viol
- Fail To Register Motor Veh

DEGOEDE, JESSICA
ELIZABETH:
Veh Theft - Grand Theft Of Motor
Vehicle, Flee/Elude Police - Flee
Elude Leo With Lights Siren Active,
Resist Officer - Obstruct Wo
Violence, Burgl - Burglary
Unoccupied Conveyance Unarmed

FAVORS JR., ALBERT:
House For Other Agency

GARCIA, ANDRES ORDONEZ:
Disorderly Conduct - Affray, Drug
Equip-Possess - Drug Equip-
Possess: And Or Use

GARRETT, RICHARD LEE:
Dui-Unlaw Bld Alch - Dui Influence
Of Alcohol Or Drugs, Dui-Unlaw
Bld Alch - Refusal Submit Dui
Testing

GORDON, ELIZABETH C:
Failure To Appear - Written
Promise To Appear, Battery -
Touch Or Strike

HERNANDEZ JR., PEDRO:
Moving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor
Vehicle W/O Valid Lic 1St Conv,
Drugs-Possess - Possess
Controlled Substance W/O
Prescription (X2), Drug Equip-
Possess - Drug Equip-Possess:
And Or Use, Writ Of Bodily
Attachment - Non Criminal Arrest

HODGES, MATHEW LEE:
Larc - Grand Theft 750 Less Than
5K Dols, Burgl - Burglary Of
Occupied Dwelling Unarmed,
Fraud - False Owner Info Pawn
Items Less Than 300 Dols

JONES, WILFRED JERMINE:
Prob Violation - Prob Violation (X2)

MANGANELLI IV, ALFONSO:
Drug Equip-Possess - Drug
Equip-Possess: And Or Use

MARTINEZ-VASQUEZ, CESAR
HONEY:
Moving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor
Vehicle W/O Valid Lic 1St Conv

MARTINEZ, TAMMIE RENEE:
Aggrav Battery - Aggrav Battery
Cause Bodily Harm Or Disability

MCDUFFY, TATIANA
LEESHEIKE:
Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Fail To
Register Motor Veh

MORAZAN, YEISON:
Disorderly Conduct - Affray

MORAZES, BEAU WILLIAM:
Resist Officer - Obstruct Wo
Violence, Possess Forged -
Possess 10+ Forged Bank Bill/
Check/Draft/Note, Larc - Grand
Theft Of Firearm, Possession Of
Weapon - Or Ammo By Convicted
Fla Felon

PEOPLES, TIMOTHY ALAN:
Resist Officer - Obstruct Wo
Violence, Possess Forged -
Possess 10+ Forged Bank Bill/
Check/Draft/Note, Larc - Grand
Theft Of Firearm, Possession Of
Weapon - Or Ammo By Convicted
Fla Felon

RESENDIZ, PIERSON:
Drugs-Possess - Possess
Controlled Substance W/O
Prescription, Flee/Elude Police -
Flee Elude Leo With Lights Siren
Active, Drug Equip-Possess - Drug
Equip-Possess: And Or Use

STUCKEY, DAVID LELAND:
Out-Of-County Warrant - Out-Of-
County Warrant

TUCKER, KOSINSKI ONTROL:
Prob Violation - Prob Violation

TUMAX-ANDRES, MARCELINO:
Moving Traffic Viol - Driv While Lic
Suspend Revocation Equiv Status

VELAZQUEZ-TEHUINTLE,
GAUDENCIO:
Moving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor
Vehicle W/O Valid Lic 1St Conv

WATSON, RONALD EDWIN:
House For Other Agency

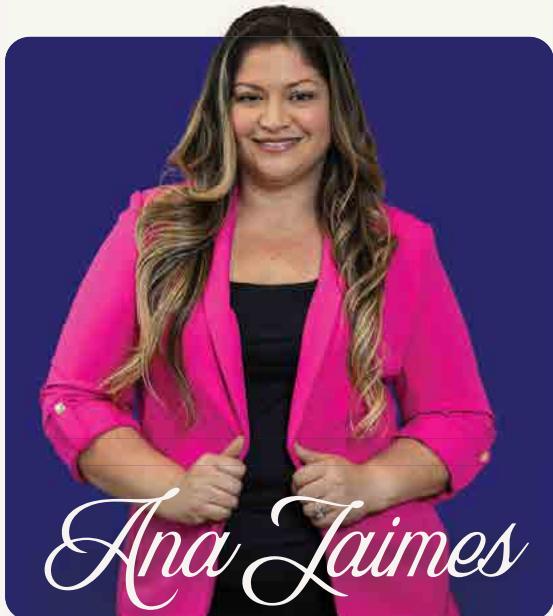
WELLS, STEPHEN JAMES:
Burgl - Burglary Of Occupied
Dwelling Unarmed, Damage
Prop-Crim Misch - Over 200 Dols
Under 1000 Dols

WILLIS, MYLES JAKOB ROBIN:
Drug Equip-Possess - Drug
Equip-Possess: And Or Use (X2),
Possession Of Weapon - Or Ammo
By Convicted Fla Felon



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.

PLEASE HELP US WELCOME



Ana Jaimes

E: lilijaimess2@gmail.com

P: 863-781-6839

Ana is a Realtor who proudly serves her community with integrity, hard work, and faith. Her story is one of perseverance, gratitude, and purpose. Guided by her father, whose tireless work ethic helped support Ana and her mother. She began her journey in this country working in the orange groves at just 16 years old. While she deeply respected and honored her father's dedication to agriculture, Ana knew in her heart that she was called to something more.

At a young age, Ana committed herself to learning the language, adapting to new challenges, and pursuing education so she could build the life she envisioned. With a strong work ethic and a genuine love for helping others, she has always been passionate about serving people in any way she can.

In 2019, Ana attended dental school, where she graduated with honors and began a successful career in the dental field. Even then, the dream of becoming a real estate agent never left her heart—it only grew stronger. In 2022, she followed that calling, returned to school once again, and earned her real estate license.

Today, Ana is proud to help members of her community achieve the dream of homeownership. She understands that the journey can sometimes feel challenging or even unreachable, and she is committed to walking alongside her clients every step of the way. When you work with Ana, you can rest assured she will apply her knowledge, dedication, and heart to help you find your dream home.

One of Ana's favorite quotes is, "Dreams do come true."

CHECK OUT ANA'S NEW LISTING

12224 WINDING WOODS WAY,
LAKEWOOD RANCH, FL 34202



3



2



2,288 SQFT

- OPEN - CONCEPT LAYOUT
- POOLSIDE PRIMARY SUITE
- HEATED SCREENED POOL
- SEMI PRIVATE OFFICE NOOK
- OPEN KITCHEN
- LAGOON VIEWS



Michelle Williamson
Broker



Brandi Long
Broker Associate



Bailey Patterson
REALTOR®



Jessica Vinson
REALTOR®



Gaby Bonville
REALTOR®



Ana Jaimes
REALTOR®

the
Williamson
Group REALTY INC.

1007 EAST OAK STREET

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CLASSIFIED ADS

*One Person's Junk is
Another's Treasure*



CONTACT US TODAY TO PLACE YOUR

FREE CLASSIFIED!

Call 863.491.6800 or email sales@peacerivershopper.com

Upgrade your classified and add a picture or logo for
only \$15 per week! Email ads to ensure accuracy.
Limit 20 words per ad and two ads per household.
Runs for 2-4 weeks (space permitting).

PAID CLASSIFIEDS

Call 863.990.9813 or email sales@peacerivershopper.com
Paid Classifieds are for businesses, paid services,
employment or classifieds over 20 words. Paid classifieds
are \$15/week for 35 words or less. 15¢ per word over 35.

CLASSIFIED ADS DEADLINE:
Every Thursday, 5pm

10

1.CARS & VEHICLES

ATVs
Bikes
Boats
Cars
Golf Carts
Motorcycles
Motorhomes
Campers/RV
Scooter
SUV
Travel Trailers
Trailers
Trucks
Vans
Parts & Accessories

22

6.REAL ESTATE

Commercial
Home for Sale
Land for Sale
Mobile Homes for Sale

24

7.RENTALS

Apt & Condo Rentals
Home Rental
Mobile Home Rentals
Office Space
Rooms for Rent
Vacation Rentals
Lots for Rent

28

8.SERVICES

Business Services
Boat Repair & Maint.
Caregiving
Cleaning
Lessons
Transportation
Wrecker Service

30

9.WANTED

Cars & Vehicles
Merchandise
Livestock
Pets
Real Estate
Rentals
Services

22

3.FARM & LIVESTOCK

Livestock for Sale
Feed & Supplies
FREE Livestock

22

4.PETS

Pets for Sale
Free Pets
Lost and Found
Pet Supplies

32

10.COMMUNITY

Auctions
Meetings
Lost & Found
Yard Sales



COLDWELL BANKER
SUNSTAR REALTY

kgamiotea@arcadiafloridarealty.com

863-494-3600

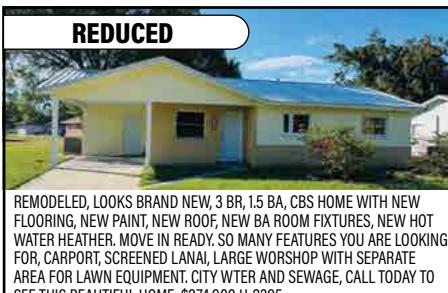
Each Office Is Independently Owned and Operated

5+ ACRES



FENCED 5.05 ACRES, WEST OF ARCADIA, OFF ST RD 70. CLEARED, PASTURE, PUMP HOUSE WITH WORKSHOP, WELL, ELECTRIC, SEPTIC TANKS, 12X28 STG BLDG. ZONED FOR HORSES & OTHER GRAZING ANIMALS, ALSO ALLOWS FOR MANUFACTURER HOMES. PROPERTY LINE HAS TREES, MAKING THIS A VERY PRIVATE PIECE OF LAND. WOODS ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE PROPERTY. 50 AMP RV PLUG SERVICE. SEVERAL CONCRETE SLABS ON THE PROPERTY FROM PREVIOUS HOMES, COULD HAVE BEEN SLABS FOR PORCHES OR PARKING AREAS. \$220,000, A-332

REDUCED



REMODELED, LOOKS BRAND NEW, 3 BR, 1.5 BA, CBS HOME WITH NEW FLOORING, NEW PAINT, NEW ROOF, NEW BA ROOM FIXTURES, NEW HOT WATER HEATER. MOVE IN READY. SO MANY FEATURES YOU ARE LOOKING FOR, CARPORT, SCREENED LANAI, LARGE WORSHIP WITH SEPARATE AREA FOR LAWN EQUIPMENT. CITY WATER AND SEWAGE, CALL TODAY TO SEE THIS BEAUTIFUL HOME. \$274,900 H-2395

Kathey L. Gamiotea

863-990-1000

FREE

DESOTO COUNTY MAPS

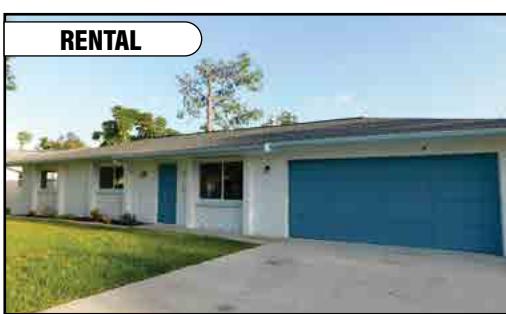
FREE
FLAGS

SUNNYBREEZE



SUNNYBREEZE, 2 BEDROOM 2 BATH MANUFACTURED HOME BUILT 2005. HOME IS WELL MAINTAINED, MOVE IN READY. LARGE KITCHEN WITH BREAKFAST BAR. ALL KITCHEN APPLIANCES INCLUDED PLUS THE WASHER AND DRYER. 15X40 CARPORT FOR 2 VEHICLES. 10X12 STG SHED, PLUS A STG SHED UNDER THE CARPORT. ENCLOSED 12X25 FLORIDA ROOM. MINUTES TO GOLF COURSE AND PUBLIC BOAT RAMP ON THE PEACE RIVER. APPROX 10-15 MINUTES TO I-75. \$196,000. M-504

RENTAL



**PT CHARLOTTE
RENTAL**

3 BRS, 2 BA HOME, ALL TILE FLOORS, LIVING RM PLUS FAMILY RM. NEW ROOF, LARGE SCREEN LANAI, OVERSIZED 2 CAR GARAGE, NO SMOKING. AVAILABLE DECEMBER 1ST. \$1,750 MONTH

RENTAL



3 BR 1 BATH HOME ON LARGE CORNER LOT. CITY WATER & SEWAGE, LIVING RM & DINING RM COMBO, SCREENED FRONT PORCH. NO SMOKING. \$1400 MONTH. R-13

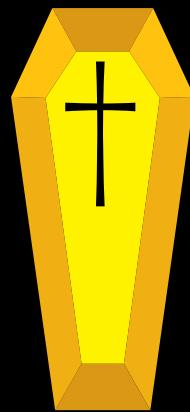


Florida Power and Light Company is proud to support the 98th Annual Arcadia All-Florida Championship Rodeo, a long-standing tradition in DeSoto County.

As part of our commitment to solar stewardship, FPL is exploring agrivoltaics – the co-use of land for solar energy production and agriculture – through projects such as our cattle grazing pilot at FPL Cattle Ranch Solar Energy Center.

We are excited to introduce the next generation to innovative solutions while celebrating the community's rich history.





THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

Cremations starting at **\$695**
Call 941-725-4357 or 863-491-9848
DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands & Charlotte Counties

See page
22
For more info

THE POOL CONNECTION

HENRY BLOSSER, Owner
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eckerd's pharmacy

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AMA and WINN DIXIE
PATIENTS!**

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SUPERVISED CBD PRODUCTS**
MEMORY PACKAGING AVAILABLE

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SHINGLES, TETANUS
VACCINES AVAILABLE**

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**710 N. BREVARD AVE.
ARCADIA, FL 34266**
Located Across From
Arcadia Police Department
WALK-INS WELCOME!

HOURS OF OPERATION

MONDAY	9am - 6pm
TUESDAY	9am - 6pm
WEDNESDAY	9am - 6pm
THURSDAY	9am - 6pm
FRIDAY	9am - 6pm
SATURDAY	10am - 3pm
SUNDAY	CLOSED

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BIKES

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Garage Kept, Cream
Puff, Deep Creek \$75.
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For boat or canoe, 8
speeds, like new, heavy
duty deep cycle battery
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BOATS

C-Dory 22 foot cruiser

Excellent condition.
Late model Yamaha
115hp 4 stroke low
hours and 9.9 Yam
kicker. Many extras and
trailer. LaBelle \$45,000
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out there, 77,500 miles.
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CARS

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Red, 51 mpg, like
new top, runs perfect
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CARS

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3.8 V-6 engine
203,000 miles SUPER
maintained. Older
ladies car. \$2500 OBO.
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info (941) 210-2164 or
(941) 322-2178

GOLF CARTS

EZ Go Cart

TNT 48 EZ Go Cart
asking \$2500. (810)
305-1934

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Excellent condition,
55,000 miles. Asking
\$6800 OBO. (863) 558-
1354

MOTORCYCLES

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6300 miles, asking
\$6000 cash. Is in very
good condition and is
very clean. (239) 963-
6439

MOTORCYCLES

2009 Motoguzzi V7 Classic

744cc. White, excellent
condition. Garaged,
Adult. #3500. Request
pics. (941) 830-6158

**CLASSIFIEDS
GET
RESULTS**

Did you purchase or construct a new home last year?

DEADLINE to file your application for Homestead Exemption is MARCH 1ST



To qualify for homestead exemptions, you **MUST** own and occupy your home as your primary residence and be a Florida resident as of **JANUARY 1ST**

FILE ONLINE

OR

FILE IN PERSON

Online Exemptions Applications are provided as a courtesy.

IMPORTANT

Please do **NOT** use the Online Exemption Application on **PUBLIC** computers, such as those at the public library or coffee shop. You will be required to provide **PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL** information, such as Social Security Number and Driver's License.

TO FILE ONLINE, VISIT:
desotopa.com/online_exemptions/

ADDITIONAL EXEMPTIONS

- Senior's Exemptions
(age 65 or older, limited income)
- Disabled Veteran's Exemption
- Widow's / Widower's Exemption
- Disability Exemption
- Exemption for Blind Persons
- Veteran's Combat-Related Percentage Discount
(age 65 or older)
- Deployed Military Exemption
- Exemptions for Surviving Spouse of Veteran or First Responder

If you have questions concerning the qualifications for these exemptions, please contact our office:

863.993.4866 • 815 N. Mills Ave., Suite 101, Arcadia
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm



OR

FILE IN PERSON

The application process can be overwhelming, due to the nature of the form supplied by the Florida Department of Revenue and the number of documents required to be provided.

**CALL TO SCHEDULE
IN-PERSON APPOINTMENT:
863-993-4866**

Each individual applying should bring **ALL** of the required documents listed below.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- Social Security Number
- Florida Driver's License or ID Card
(with current address)
- Florida Vehicle Tag Number
- Voter Registration
(if applicable)
- Immigration Information
(Residency, Passport, etc.)
- School Information where dependent children are registered
- Checking/Savings Account Statement
(leave in envelope)
- Paid Utility Bill
(with Service Address)
- Death Certificate for Spouse
(when applying for widow/widower's exemption)
- Copy of Trust
(for properties titled to Trusts)
- For disability exemptions, contact the office for the documentation required
(includes service-connected)

DESOTO COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER
David A. Williams, CFA, CCF
www.desotopa.com



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WE OFFER:

- Color Specialist
- Haircuts
- Perms
- Keratin
- Color Corrections
- Belayaging
- Microdermabrasion
- Chemical Peels
- Dermaplaning
- Brazilian Blowout
- Hair Botox
- Henna Eyebrows
- Acrylic & Gel Nails
- Pedicures
- Facial Waxing
- Facials
- Permanent Make-Up
- Brazilian Waxing
- Lash Extensions



NEW PHONE #

219 W. Oak St • Arcadia • 863.485.8575

Habla Español • Walk-Ins and Call-Ins Welcome!

Celebrating 22 Years of serving DeSoto County with the best in Jewelry, Gifts, Florals and Sweet Confections. Place your order today for Flowers, Chocolate Covered Strawberries, Cookie Bouquets, Gift Baskets and more!

Designers Choice

\$59.99 and up



\$89.99 and up

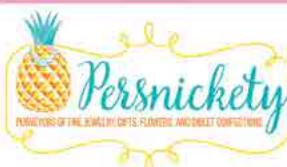
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TRAVEL TRAILERS

2012 MXT by KZ RV

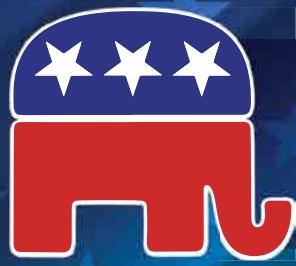
RV Travel Trailer & Hauler~Model MXT20. All Accessories fully functional. Sleeps 6, Dining, Kitchen & Full Bathroom. Exterior size: 24' X 8' X 10.5' (with AC). Interior height: 6'6". \$8000.00 or Best offer. (941) 787-9654

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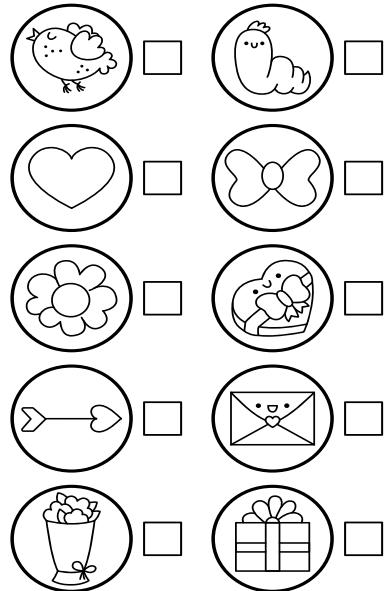
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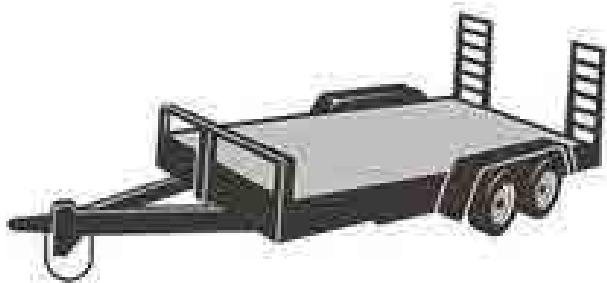


VALENTINE **seek & find**

**Find the objects
in the picture**



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1teaspoon table salt

2tablespoons granulated sugar

2/3cup unsalted butter, cut into 1 1/4-inch cubes

7tablespoons vegetable shortening; chilled

1/3cup iced water

Cherry filling:

6cups sweet cherries (pitted), or 6 cups pitted frozen cherries

3/4cup granulated sugar

1small lemon, zested to yield 1 teaspoon zest and juiced to yield 2 teaspoons juice

1/8teaspoon ground allspice

1/8teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/8teaspoon almond extract

1tablespoon brandy

3to 4 tablespoons quick-cooking tapioca

2tablespoons unsalted butter, cut into small pieces

Cherry Pie

For 8 servings

1. Mix flour, salt and sugar in a food processor fitted with steel blade. Scatter butter pieces over flour mixture, tossing to coat butter with a little flour. Cut butter into flour with five 1-second pulses. Add shortening and continue to cut it in until flour is pale yellow and resembles coarse cornmeal with butter bits no larger than small peas, about four more 1-second pulses. Turn mixture into medium bowl.
2. Sprinkle all but 1 tablespoon of the ice water over mixture. With blade of rubber spatula, use folding motion to mix. Press down on dough with broad side of spatula until dough sticks together, adding up to 1 tablespoon of remaining ice water if dough does not come together. Divide dough into two balls, one slightly larger than the other. Flatten each into 4-inch-wide disk. Dust lightly with flour, wrap separately in plastic, and refrigerate at least 30 minutes.
3. Remove dough from refrigerator; let stand at room temperature to soften slightly, about 10 minutes. Heat oven to 400 F. Toss fruit with sugar, lemon juice and zest, spices, almond extract, brandy, and tapioca; let stand for 15 minutes.
4. Roll larger dough disk on lightly floured surface into 12-inch circle, about 1 1/8-inch thick. Transfer and fit dough into 9-inch glass pie pan, leaving dough that overhangs the lip in place. Turn fruit mixture, including juices, into pie shell. Scatter butter pieces over fruit. Refrigerate until ready to top with remaining dough.
5. Roll smaller disk on lightly floured surface into 10-inch circle. Lay over fruit. Trim top and bottom dough edges to 1 1/2-inch beyond pan lip. Tuck this rim of dough underneath itself so that folded edge is flush with pan lip. Flute dough in your own fashion, or press with fork tines to seal. Cut four slits at right angles on dough top to allow steam to escape. If pie dough is very soft, place in freezer for 10 minutes before baking.
6. Place pie on baking sheet; bake until top crust is golden, 20 to 25 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 350 F and continue to bake until juices bubble and crust is golden brown, 30 to 40 minutes longer.
7. Transfer pie to wire rack; let cool to almost room temperature so juices have time to thicken, from 1 to 2 hours.

Tips:

If you prefer a less sweet pie or if the fruit is very sweet, use a lower sugar amount to your taste. If you like your pie juices fairly thick, or if the fruit is really juicy, then opt for the higher amount of tapioca. If you are using frozen fruit, measure it frozen, but let it thaw before filling the pie. If not, you run the risk of partially cooked fruit and undissolved tapioca.

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10
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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. 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!

7	9	8	4	1	5	6	2	3
2	5	1	6	7	3	8	9	4
3	6	4	9	2	8	7	1	5
5	1	2	8	3	7	9	4	6
4	3	9	5	6	2	1	8	7
6	8	7	1	9	4	3	5	2
1	7	3	2	5	9	4	6	8
8	2	6	7	4	1	5	3	9
9	4	5	3	8	6	2	7	1

9	4			3				
		6					5	
1				2			6	8
					4	3		2
4	3				6			
		1						
	6						1	
2	5				3		9	
	9			1			2	

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There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B.



4. Extra pumpkin on right

1. Wreath is missing 2. Man in window 3. Cat sitting on chair

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SUDOKU

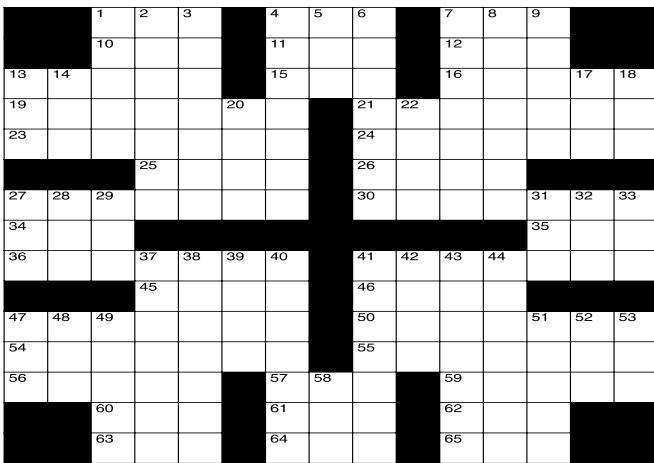
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9	6	1	2	8	3	7	5	4
3	7	8	5	4	9	2	6	1
4	5	2	6	1	7	3	8	9
6	8	9	1	3	4	5	7	2
6	3	7	9	2	5	6	4	8
1	3	2	4	7	6	8	9	1
5	2	4	6	3	7	1	8	9
2	4	6	8	9	2	4	3	6
7	1	5	4	3	6	1	2	7

		3	4					2
		5	8			2		
					7	1		
5	2		7					
				9				8
6		9						
4							3	
	7						2	6
9			2				7	

Level: Advanced



CLUES ACROSS

1. English TV station
 4. It fuels cars
 7. Where ships dock (abbr.)
 10. Indigenous people of Thailand
 11. Midway between northeast and east
 12. Small Milky Way constellation
 13. Fritz ___, Austrian chemist
 15. A Brit's grandmother
 16. Colombian city
 19. Visualize
 21. Charged
 23. People's assets
 24. Informative books
 25. Jeer
 26. You can do it with your horn
 27. Agents of your downfall
 30. Central Uganda city
 34. Supervises flying

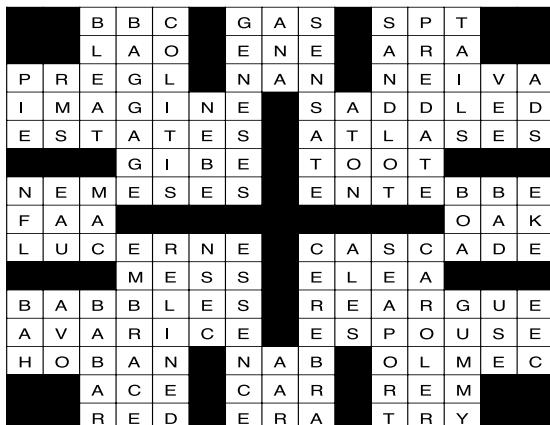
35. Type of tree
 36. Alfalfa
 41. Dishwasher soap brand
 45. Hall where military eats
 46. Ancient Greek City
 47. Speaks incessantly
 50. Discuss again
 54. Extreme greed
 55. Adopt or support
 56. Fantasy writer Russell
 57. Seize
 59. Early Mesoamerican civilization
 60. Noted pet detective Ventura
 61. Automobile
 62. Georgia rockers
 63. Color opposite green
 64. Amount of time
 65. Attempt

CLUES DOWN

1. Sheep sound
 2. Some can be emotional
 3. Inflammation of colon lining
 4. Origins
 5. Comedienne Gasteyer
 6. Perceived by the senses
 7. A place to play ball
 8. Occur before
 9. Animal body parts
 13. Thanksgiving dessert
 14. Root mean square (abbr.)
 17. 1960s teen idol Bobby
 18. Promotional materials
 20. One point east of northeast
 22. Piers Anthony protagonist
 27. Popular sports league
 28. Cologne
 29. Partner to cheese

31. Constrictor snake
 32. Not good
 33. Supplement with difficulty
 37. Hug with fondness
 38. Enforced again
 39. Small amount of time (abbr.)
 40. Substance
 41. Anterior parts of the brain
 42. Brews
 43. Where ships load cargo
 44. Holiday season singer
 47. "__ humbug!"
 48. Monetary unit of Macao
 49. Popular children's book elephant
 51. Glutinous
 52. Function
 53. Old world, new
 58. Swiss river

PUZZLE SOLUTION



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CARS & VEHICLES WANTED

[WANTED] Small Truck

In search of a 2000 to 2005 Chevy S10 or Ford Ranger in good condition. Call Ron. 617-823-2209.

HELP WANTED

[WANTED] VENDORS

Vendors wanted for Bazaar Yard Sale February 21, 2026 Craig's RV Park. Contact Natalie Faircloth (863) 990-0511

9. WANTED

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Junk Cars & Trucks

We looking to buy cheap junk cars and trucks. 863-263-8969

CARS & VEHICLES WANTED

Cash for junk cars

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CARS & VEHICLES WANTED

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Male for Female

Male looking for female mid 50s to 60s. (941) 416-5396

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Want room for rent \$500 or lower. Ask for Scott. (863) 260-5211



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Thursdays: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Fridays: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Visit allfaithsfoodbank.org/foodfinder for more information.

Additional services

Free application assistance for SNAP, Medicaid and TANF.

Free tax preparation for DeSoto County residents through United Way's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program:

**Jan. 27 – April 14. Appointments encouraged. Walk-ins welcome, but not guaranteed.*

Tuesdays: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. | **Thursdays:** 2–6 p.m.

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AND
YARD
SALE

FEBRUARY 21, 2026

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AVAILABLE**

9:00AM - 1:00PM

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ARCADIA, FL**



10. COMMUNITY

EVENT

Annual pancake Supper PSA

St. Edmund's Episcopal Church annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held in conjunction with First Presbyterian Church again this year on Tuesday, February 17th from 5 to 7 pm in Phrangle Hall at 209 W. Hickory Street. Parking is accessible from Oak Street due to road construction. Tickets are \$8.00 in advance from church members or at the door. Call 863-244-9135 for more information. (863) 244-9135

MEETINGS

Peace River Woodcarvers and Wood Burners

We have resumed meetings from 8-12 every Tuesday thru mid March. Trinity Arcadia Methodist Church, 304 Oak St. Arcadia. For info contact Dan Foster (810) 287-4315.

MEETINGS

BSA Troop 60 Meeting

BSA Troop 60 meets Monday 6:30 p.m. at 701 W Oak St (Scout House). For boys age 10 to 17. For more information call Scoutmaster Robert Higgins 863-993-5698

YARD SALES

Bazaar/Yard Sale

February 21, 2026 from 9 am to 1 pm. Craig's RV Park. 7895 NE Cubitis, Arcadia.

YARD SALES

Yard Sale

February 21st , 9 to 1. Little Willie's Park, 5905 NE Cubitis Ave., Arcadia throughout the whole park.

YARD SALES

Yard Sale

February 28 th ; 8 am – 1 pm. Donuts and coffee available, Sunrise Mobile Home Park, 2371 SE Hwy. 31



THE HOLY GODHEAD OF THE BIBLE EXPLAINED.

Folks the Bible tells us that God is a spirit. The book of John 4:24 gives further details. The Bible also discloses about Jesus' relationship to God. John 1:1-22 tells us Jesus was in the beginning at creation with God. John 14:7-12 says he that hath seen me hath seen the Father. John 10:30; these scriptures are saying Jesus and God are one. John 10:38; the father is in me and I in him. 1 Corinthians 8:5-6; God has revealed himself as one God existing in 3 divine persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

John 6:27 says all 3 beings are equal in being, glory and power. Each performs divine works, each receive divine honors, each possess his own personal characteristics and are distinguished from the others. Each being is called God and each possess all the divine qualities. John 14:28; Folks when you pray to God you are praying to all 3 beings.

WAKE UP AMERICA
BOB FERGUSON

GUESS WHO ?

I am a music producer born in Louisiana on November 26, 1975. I began my career as a Florida radio DJ in the 1990s. In 2008, I won the DJ of the Year Award at the Ozone Awards. I collaborated with Lil Wayne on one of my songs.

Answer: DJ Khaled

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to men's health.

S P T T R O E A



Answer: Prostate

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GUESS WHO ?

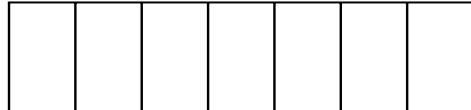
I am an actor born on December 3, 1968 in Indiana. I made my acting debut in a crime reenactment for "America's Most Wanted." I'm a star who made it big in the 1990s with various action movies, including a trilogy about mummies. After a hiatus, I made a strong comeback and even won an Academy Award.

ANSWER: Brendan Fraser

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to business.

L P A O L R Y



ANSWER: Payroll

HEARING TEST

WORD SEARCH

E	V	A	O	G	F	A	F	R	E	Q	U	E	N	C	Y	E	H	V	D
H	S	Q	N	V	N	T	S	S	M	S	B	S	N	B	N	P	V	Y	S
D	L	H	E	A	R	I	N	G	L	O	S	S	Q	A	T	C	E	Y	Y
S	Q	E	B	Q	B	Q	B	X	C	X	A	P	R	S	Q	Y	Q	L	G
Y	D	S	S	L	C	O	R	T	E	X	N	M	B	I	S	E	A	D	O
A	Y	S	E	L	C	I	S	S	O	L	M	G	Q	U	B	E	N	C	L
N	R	E	S	Y	H	I	N	R	B	R	E	O	P	E	T	P	L	E	O
P	N	C	U	X	P	P	I	R	M	L	S	B	A	I	Q	H	R	G	I
Y	R	O	E	M	C	F	N	C	O	O	U	H	Y	I	N	Y	C	V	D
O	G	R	O	Q	X	R	I	G	U	T	V	Y	A	N	A	O	E	G	U
L	D	P	T	E	P	N	N	N	N	T	R	C	G	I	L	C	D	M	A
P	I	T	C	H	A	Y	D	A	M	O	H	P	D	T	A	I	V	M	H
T	E	R	H	P	R	X	I	I	T	R	O	E	D	C	A	N	V	A	X
G	I	A	M	A	C	H	D	I	P	T	C	G	O	G	T	Y	B	O	I
G	D	Y	L	X	C	D	D	V	G	I	U	G	N	Y	U	A	M	X	G
E	T	O	F	A	L	U	Y	F	B	E	S	I	R	E	T	U	O	Q	M
Q	T	B	T	E	A	G	V	E	N	T	R	B	E	M	U	L	O	V	E
O	E	S	F	N	G	L	L	T	I	A	P	I	N	N	E	R	X	M	Q
Q	U	F	B	P	L	C	R	C	E	C	L	U	R	U	U	C	O	V	H
E	M	T	I	R	P	N	S	H	I	L	I	P	S	N	U	H	H	N	P

YARD SALES

Garage Sale

February 13 and 14, 8 AM to 5 PM, 11613 SW Lemon Ave., Arcadia

YARD SALES

Carport Sales

February 21, 2026; 8am-2 pm Arcadia Village (across from Walmart)



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AUDITORY

COCHLEA

CORTEX

DECIBEL

EUSTACHIAN TUBE

FREQUENCY

HEARING AID

HEARING LOSS

INNER

MIDDLE

NERVE

OSSICLES

OTOLARYNGOLOGIST

OUTER

PITCH

PROCESS

SOUND

TINNITUS

IMPANIC MEMBRAN

VOLUME



Our Community CHURCH DIRECTORY



<h2>Arcadia Church Of God</h2> <p>Pastor Nathan Headrick 1423 NE. Oak St., Arcadia, FL 494-4717 Church 423-504-4233 Pastor Sunday School 10:00am Sunday Worship 11:00am COME SHARE OUR FAITH</p>	<h2>Arcadia First Church of the Nazarene</h2> <p>132 W. Gibson Street, Arcadia (863) 491-1422 <i>Rev. Steven Johnson</i> Morning Worship ~ 10:45 am Sunday School ~ 9:30 am <i>Come and See</i></p>		<h2>Calvary BAPTIST CHURCH</h2> <p>Sundays Life Groups - 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship 10:45 AM</p> <p>Wednesdays Adult, Youth & Children's Ministries - 6:00 PM 48 N. 15th Avenue Arcadia, FL 34266 863-494-4345 www.cbearcadia.org</p>
<p>Peace River Shopper Avertise Here Contact Angie Duckett</p> <p>For details, email: sales@peacerivershopper.com or call: 863.990.9813</p>	<h2>Cowboy Church FELLOWSHIP</h2> <p>Sunday 9:00am 2418 SW CR 760A (On the corner of Welles & 760A in Nocatee) Call 863-212-5391 For Information Pastor Marlin Price Gathering Strays for Jesus</p>	<h2>First Presbyterian Church</h2> <p>209 West Hickory Street Welcome You to Worship At 11:00am each Sunday Traditional Families and children welcome. Sunday School 9:45am</p>	<h2>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH</h2> <p>Church Service 11:00am 1004 W. Oak St. Pastor: Anthony Arias</p>
	<h2>NOCATEE CHURCH OF GOD</h2> <p>4870 S.W. Hwy 17 Arcadia, 34266 863-494-1143 www.cognocatee.org Worshop 10:45 & 5pm</p>	<h2>NORTH HILLSBOROUGH BAPTIST CHURCH</h2> <p><i>Pastor Ellis Cross</i> SUNDAY: School - 10:00am Worship - 11:00am & 6:00pm WEDNESDAY: Bible Study - 6:30pm Youth Group - 6:30pm 863.494.3455 253 N. Hillsborough Ave. www.MYNHM.com ALL SERVICES AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE.</p>	<p><i>He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many will see and fear and will trust in the Lord.</i></p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Meeting and Bible Study 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>5104 NW Oak Hill Avenue Arcadia, FL 34266 863-494-6224 oakhillbaptistarcadia@gmail.com Pastor Tyson Bloor</p>
<h2>Seventh-day Adventist</h2> <p>2865 SE Ami Dr. 863-275-0552</p> <p><i>"Sharing the love of Jesus Christ and His imminent return"</i> Services every Saturday Servicios cada Sabado English Sabbath School 9:30 AM English Worship Service 11:00 AM Servicio Divino en espanol 9:15 AM Escuela Sabática en español..... 11:00 AM <i>Come worship the Lord on His holy day (Ex. 20:8-11)</i></p>		<h2>Trinity Arcadia Methodist Church</h2> <p>304 W. Oak St. Arcadia, FL 34266 863-494-2543 Sermons available on: www.trinityarcadia.com Sunday Worship: 9:30am Sunday School: 11:00am Bible Study: 6:00pm Pastor Louie Mabrey</p>	<p>Peace River Shopper Avertise Here Contact Angie Duckett</p> <p>For Details, email: sales@peacerivershopper.com or call: 863.990.9813</p>



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.

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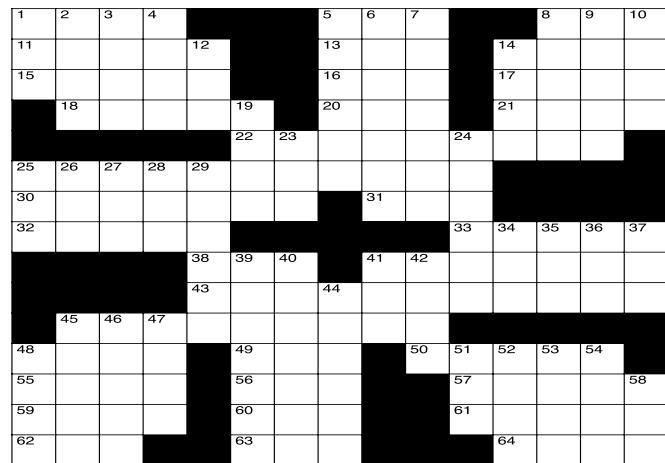


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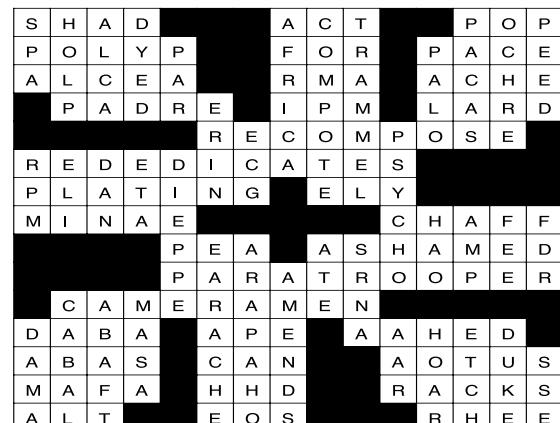
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Herring-like fish
- 5. Perform on stage
- 8. Soda
- 11. Small growth
- 13. In support of
- 14. Step taken when walking
- 15. Hollyhocks
- 16. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- 17. Feel pain
- 18. San Diego ballplayer
- 20. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 21. Fat from a pig's abdomen
- 22. Create again
- 25. Honors once more
- 30. Thin coating of gold
- 31. Welsh river
- 32. Japanese novelist Mizumura
- 33. Husks of corn
- 38. Green vegetable
- 41. Showing guilt
- 43. Soldier
- 45. Photographers
- 48. Language spoken in Nigeria
- 49. Mimic
- 50. Expressed pleasure
- 55. Ancient Greek sophist
- 56. Beverage container
- 57. Night monkey genus
- 59. Lace bugs
- 60. Hogshead (abbr.)
- 61. Frameworks
- 62. Keyboard key
- 63. Greek goddess of the dawn
- 64. Influential Korean independence figure

CLUES DOWN

- 1. A place to unwind
- 2. Helped (archaic)
- 3. Razorbill genus
- 4. Bleached
- 5. Continent
- 6. Fruit preserved in syrup
- 7. Impediment to one's freedom
- 8. Nocturnal rodents
- 9. Earthy pigment
- 10. Relieved oneself
- 12. Golf score
- 14. Tech hub ___ Alto
- 19. Sportscaster Andrews
- 23. Records electric currents
- 24. Popular Hitchcock film
- 25. Revolutions per minute
- 26. NY Giants legend
- 27. Sports radio host Patrick
- 28. When you hope to get somewhere
- 29. French seaport
- 34. Thai river
- 35. Rocker's accessory
- 36. Extra charge
- 37. Influential American president
- 39. Pain in the head
- 40. Great Plains people
- 41. Consumed
- 42. Soluble ribonucleic acid
- 44. Improves
- 45. Secret clique
- 46. Behind the stern of a ship
- 47. Dough made from corn flour
- 48. Fallow deer
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Grayish white
- 53. Engrave
- 54. College's Blue Devils
- 58. Midway between south and southeast

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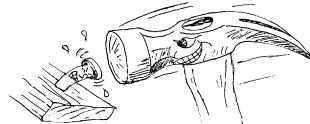
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Here's How It Works:

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. 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!

7	4	3	5	1	6	2	8	9
2	9	1	4	8	7	6	3	5
5	8	6	3	2	9	4	1	7
9	2	5	8	4	1	7	6	3
3	1	4	6	7	2	9	5	8
6	7	8	9	5	3	1	2	4
4	3	9	2	6	8	5	7	1
1	5	2	7	3	4	8	9	6
8	6	7	1	9	5	3	4	2

8						9		4
1							8	
	3	9						1
	7							4
								5
	2		8	4			6	3
		6	3			4		
					7	6	3	
				5	1			

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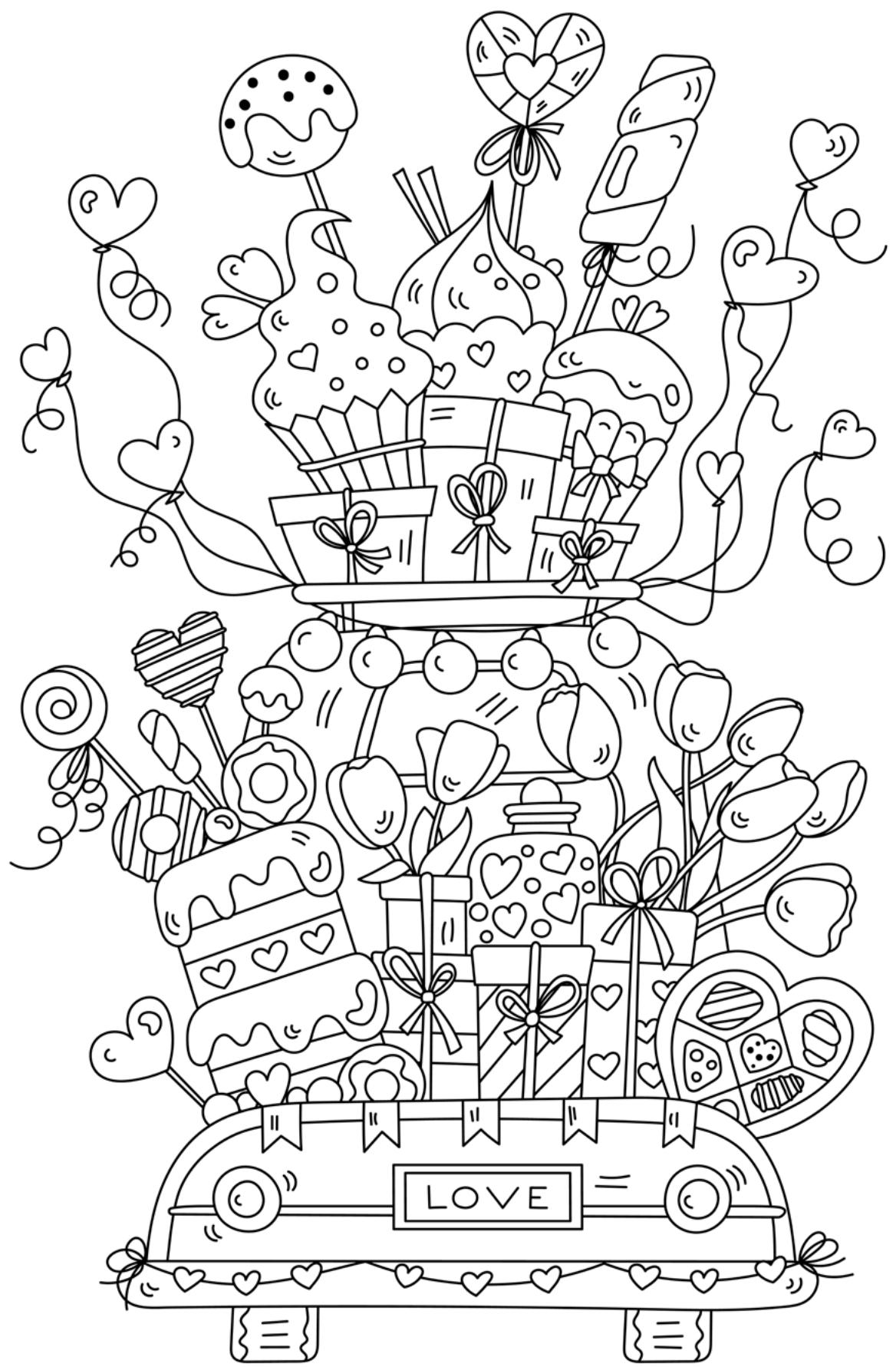
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Health FACT:

What is the name of the chart that eye doctors use to measure vision?

ANSWER: Snellen scale

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

REPCEFT NVOIIS

ANSWER: Perfect vision

Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20. The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

	4		13
9	0		17
	10	2	18
21	14	13	

6	10	2
6	0	8
6	4	3
3	1	2

solution

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

DEC
6

1884: The Washington Monument in Washington, D.C., is completed.

1897: London becomes the world's first city to host licensed taxicabs.

1967: Adrian Kantrowitz performs the first human heart transplant in the United States.

How they say that in...

English: Sight
Spanish: Vista
Italian: Vista
French: Vue
German: Sicht

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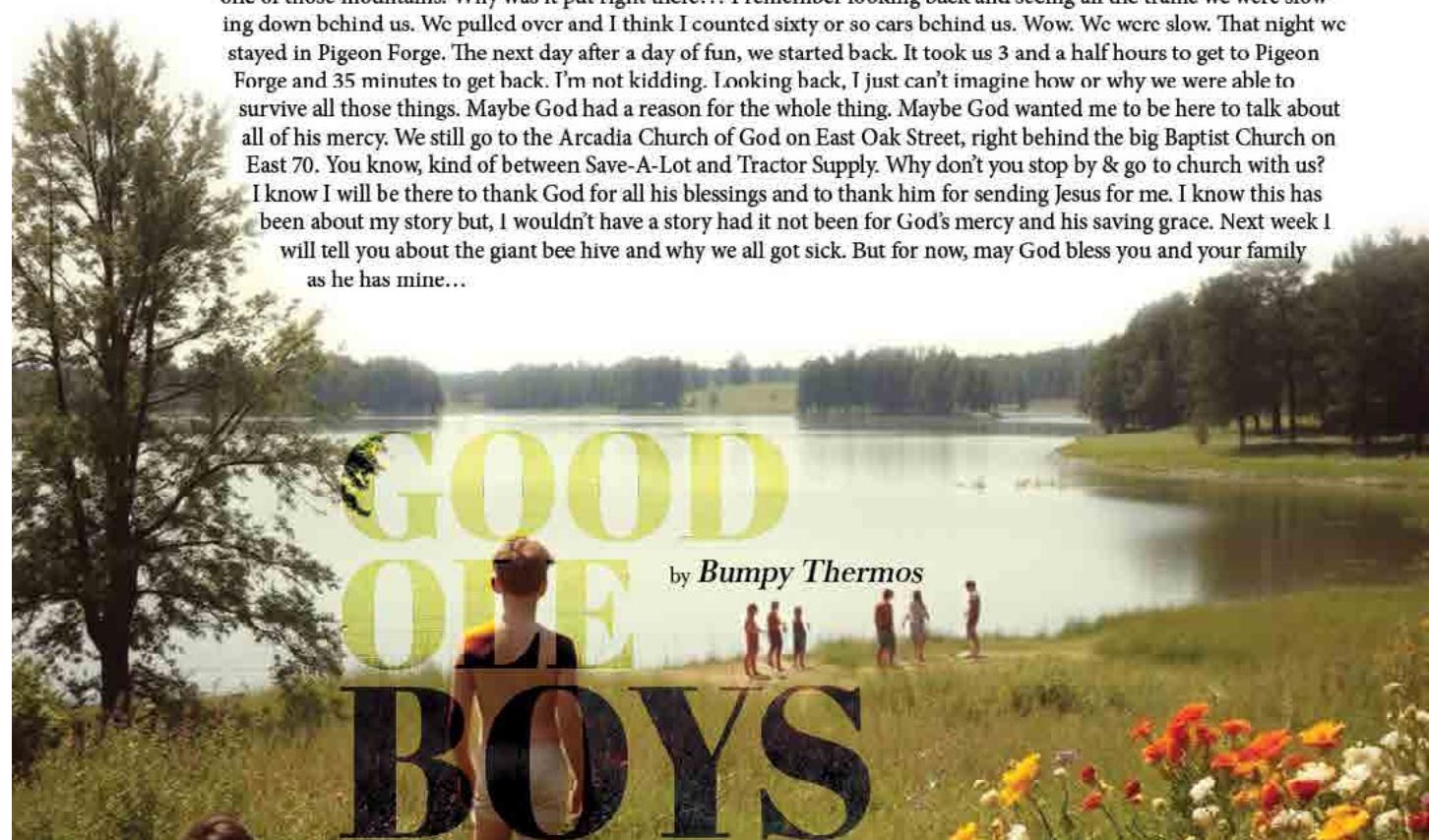
NEW WORD

FOCUS

pay particular attention to

Chapter 42

It was great to be home. It didn't take me long to realize that God had answered my prayers and got me out of that mess. You know, I was just not that good of a man for God to answer my prayer like that. I guess what the Bible says must be true, that he always loves us and is looking for ways to bring us back. It's funny how I just did not miss Winn Dixie. I took a few months off, and we went on vacation with our best friends Buster and Gail Hughes. Buster bought the old church bus and we took the seats out of it. The night before we left, he worked on the brakes all night. They just would not work. They would only slow you down, not stop you. Guess where we were all going on vacation. The mountains in Tennessee. Yep, mountains. That morning, we all got in that bus and took off, all 10 of us. My wife and I and both boys, Buster and Gail and their three boys and one girl. We had rented a cabin from one of our friends and had to be there in two days. Buster said we could get the brakes to work on the way up for sure. He said that we would stop at one of the rest areas and fix the problem. But guess what? We didn't know what the problem was. Thinking back, I'm not sure that was a good idea at all. Taking off on the interstate and heading for the mountains without good brakes. Well, we took off anyway. We started early, maybe about 3 in the morning or so. The first time we stopped was right after daylight at a rest stop in north Florida. We let everyone out to go to the bathroom and Buster and I started looking at the brakes again. The night before while he had been working on the brakes, he had replaced a one-way valve. After flushing about a half-gallon of brake fluid, we were trying to get the pedal to work instead of just getting hard. We sat down and started talking about what the problem might be. After a few minutes, we decided to check that valve. Yep, that was the problem. As soon as we flipped the valve, everything worked great. Now if we could just get the steering to work a little better. I mean, you could turn the steering wheel almost half way to the right or left before the bus would start to go that way. Crazy huh? Well, it is what it is. We were going on that vacation no matter what. For 6 years now, I had been moved from store to store and never had any time off. We needed this vacation. My family and I needed this vacation. It was going to happen. We were going to have a great time. Everything went as good as it could. We could only go about 55 mph tops on the interstate. So, boy did it take us a long time to get there. But we did. Only we were having a problem finding this place. Remember there were no GPS systems to use. We had to use a map. Yes, a map. We finally arrived, only to find the old cabin was up a very steep grade. Our poor bus just didn't have enough power by itself so, everybody got out of the bus and started pushing it up the grade with Buster giving the old bus as much power as he could and up the grade we went. The cabin was nice and had a small creek running right beside it. Boy did we have fun. One day we hear the boys yelling out back. Our oldest son Terry had jumped on a horse and was riding it all around the woods. How did he know that horse would even let him get on his back? I don't know. The next day everybody starting getting sick. Not bad, just a little stomach ache and throwing up a little. But we all got better and off to Pigeon Forge we went. What a ride. Along those roads at 35 mph and looking over the sides of the mountains wondering if we were going to die or not. Then this big sign saying "where will you spend eternity?" was at the turn of one of those mountains. Why was it put right there??? I remember looking back and seeing all the traffic we were slowing down behind us. We pulled over and I think I counted sixty or so cars behind us. Wow. We were slow. That night we stayed in Pigeon Forge. The next day after a day of fun, we started back. It took us 3 and a half hours to get to Pigeon Forge and 35 minutes to get back. I'm not kidding. Looking back, I just can't imagine how or why we were able to survive all those things. Maybe God had a reason for the whole thing. Maybe God wanted me to be here to talk about all of his mercy. We still go to the Arcadia Church of God on East Oak Street, right behind the big Baptist Church on East 70. You know, kind of between Save-A-Lot and Tractor Supply. Why don't you stop by & go to church with us? I know I will be there to thank God for all his blessings and to thank him for sending Jesus for me. I know this has been about my story but, I wouldn't have a story had it not been for God's mercy and his saving grace. Next week I will tell you about the giant bee hive and why we all got sick. But for now, may God bless you and your family as he has mine...





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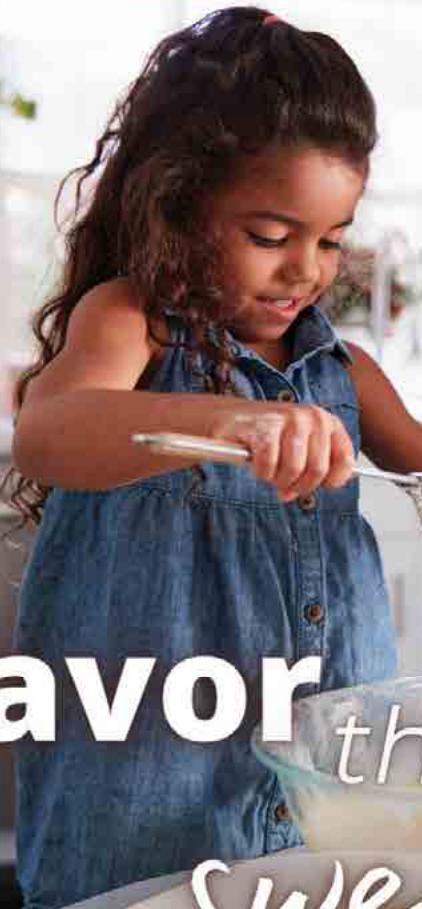
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