

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY FUELS LOCAL YOUTH BASEBALL TEAM'S WORLD SERIES JOURNEY

ARCADIA AMERICAN LEGION AND AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS PRESENTED
DESOTO COUNTY YOUTH BASEBALL \$500 DONATION



AMERICAN
LEGION
RIDERS

ARCADIA, FL – The American Legion K Post 11 and the American Legion Riders Chapter 11 presented a \$500 check to DeSoto County Youth Baseball to help send 11 boys to the Diamond Youth Baseball USA World Series in Lexington, South Carolina.

The local boys, ages 9 and 10, will compete as Team Florida, a AAA team in Division II. The team will be competing throughout the week of August 1 – 6, 2025 against teams representing other states. The local DeSoto County Youth Baseball organization is raising funds to offset the travel costs for each of the boys and their immediate family members.

“The Arcadia American Legion is proud to support our local youth baseball team in their

From left: Brian Rowman; Jay Mothershed; John Fernandez, Director, American Legion Riders Chapter 11; Levi, DeSoto County Youth Baseball player going to the World Series; Kandis Drymon, a team mom; Ron Jones, Commander, American Legion K Post 11; Jeff Hoffer; Erin Hoffer

accomplishments,” said Ron Jones, commander of American Legion K Post 11 of Arcadia. “This will be an experience of a lifetime for these boys, and we are proud of their teamwork, dedication and determination.”

Founded in 1919, The American Legion is the nation’s largest wartime veterans service organization, committed to advocating for patriotism, service and support for veterans and their families. One of the organization’s four pillars is focused on children and youth, including supporting community programs that assist with physical, educational and emotional needs of children.

The DeSoto County Youth Baseball’s All Star Team, led by Coach Troy Corillo, first competed in Frost Proof earlier this year for the district championship, where they went undefeated. They then went on to



DESOTO COUNTY
SPORTS
PAGE 4
STEVE KNAPP
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GOVERNMENT MEETING SCHEDULE

CITY

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS OCCUR THE
1ST AND 3RD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED

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

AUG 5	DESOTO COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
TUE 5:30P	Administration Building 201 E. Oak Street, Suite 103 Arcadia, FL 34266
AUG 11	DESOTO COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION MEETING
TUE 1:30P	Administration Building 201 E. Oak Street, Suite 103 Arcadia, FL 34266
AUG 12	DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING
TUE 9A	Administration Building 201 E. Oak Street, Suite 103 Arcadia, FL 34266

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

Realtor Showcase
See page 11

DESOTO COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
ARREST REPORT
See page 13

SEE LEGION PAGE 14 >>

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3 TO 2 VOTE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL OF PLATS



CAROL MAHLER
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Photos provided*

At the July 22 meeting, the Board of County Commissioners approved in a three to two vote a resolution "authorizing and directing staff to administratively approve plats and replats . . . through an administrative process that does not require action by the governing body," as provided in Chap. 2025-164, Laws of Florida. Gov. Ron DeSantis signed the legislation on June 20, effective on July 1, leaving "inadequate time to amend the Land Development Code, in accordance with established procedures." The County Administrator will serve as the Administrative Official with signatory authority for plats and replats.

Commissioners Jerod Gross and Elton Langford were opposed, and Commissioner Judy Schaefer made the motion "against my better judgment." Langford said that the Commissioners "were elected by their peers to govern this County," and this rule is "stripping us of doing our duties." County Attorney Valeria Vicente agreed and said it is a pre-emption, so that if the plat or replat meets the code, it may be approved unless the plat includes property dedicated to the public. The Planning and Zoning Board will review the code amendment on Aug. 5, and it will be on the agenda when the Board meets on Aug. 12.

In addition, the Board asked staff to raise the request for right-of-way property acquisition for County Road (CR) 769 (aka Kings Highway) from \$5 to \$15 million when they approved the proposed Legislative Priority general policy and project requests, including full funding of Ad Valorem Offsets for Fiscally Constrained Counties; Preservation of Home Rule Authority; Opposition to Unfunded Mandates;

Meaningful Local Involvement; State Aid To Libraries; Affordable Housing with State Housing Initiative Program (SHIP), Florida Dept. of Transportation (FDOT) Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP)/Small County Outreach Program (SCOP), and Health Dept. funding; plus the following project requests: \$5 million for wastewater disposal; \$250,000.00 for acquisition of 12-14 acres for a new jail; \$1 million for a fire tower truck; and \$175,000.00 for an animal services adoption building. The legislative delegation will meet on Aug. 11.

In other business, Vice-Chairperson Steve Hickox recused himself from the vote when the Board approved the "accounts and warrants drawn according to schedule(s) of Bills Payable June 24, - July 7, 2025."

CONSENT AGENDA

The Board approved the following items under the Consent Agenda:

- agreement for a Federally funded Small Cities Community Development Block Grant for \$750,000.00 for housing rehabilitation;
- Florida Dept. of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Office of Criminal Justice Grants (OCJG), State Financial Assistance grant of \$698,952.00 for Law Enforcement Salary Assistance for Fiscally Constrained Counties in FY 2025-2026;
- FDLE Justice Assistance Grant-Countywide (JAG-C) of \$43,490.00 is split 60-40% with the Sheriff's Office and the Arcadia Police Dept., and the Sheriff's Office will use the \$26,094.00 to purchase additional license plate reader pole cameras;
- FDLE Justice Assistance Grant-Direct (JAG-D) of \$5,246.00 will be used to rotate out "some of the aging rifles and to purchase suppressors" for the Special Weapons And Tactics (SWAT) team;
- "Exhibit A" supporting salary and fringe benefits of \$205,137.43



The Board declared the week of July 20 through 26, 2025, as Pretrial Service and County Probation Supervision Week, and encouraged "all citizens to honor these community corrections professionals and to recognize their achievements." From left, Probation and Pretrial Officer Karina Govea, Director Raquel Orta, Vice-chairperson Steve Hickox, and Officer Jo Cross.



The Board declared the week of July 20 through 26, 2025, as Pretrial Service and State State Probation Supervision Week, and encouraged "all citizens to honor these community corrections professionals and to recognize their achievements." From left, Probation Specialist Amy Harrison, Senior Officer Bianca Childs, Vice-chairperson Steve Hickox, and State Probation Circuit Administrator Stephanie Detroia.

for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026 to reaffirm the memorandum of understanding between the County and University of Florida Board of Trustees; and

- the holiday schedule for calendar year 2026.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

County Administrator Mandy Hines gave honorable mentions to Finance Director Peter Danao for completing a Dept. Of Government Efficiency (DOGE) request received on July 11 that required a spreadsheet and many hours of extra work, and to Purchasing Director Cindy Talamentez for keeping up with all the construction projects with

special appreciation for her "project management skills."

The Board approved the \$12,000.00 purchase of a used ambulance from Manatee County to serve as the County's "reserve" rescue vehicle as the County currently has none. Vice-Chairperson Steve Hickox asked about the recent drowning on Peace River, and Public Safety Director Chad Jorgensen said that his staff was on the scene within eight minutes, but it was two hours before the first rescue vessel arrived. The rescue boat approved for Public Safety in the FY 2025-2026 budget will not be in service for another eight months.



The Board issued a proclamation recognizing and congratulating the DeSoto County Youth Baseball 10U All-Stars for their Dedication and Achievement in Winning the Title of "2025 Diamond Youth Baseball AAA Division 1 State Champions": front row, from left, Mario Chavez, Gerardo Campos, Jeremiah Smith, Santiago Hernandez, Mateo Ponce, Gael Hernandez, Mason Avila, Waylon Turnbull, Humberto Chavez, Levi Drymon, and Caiden Carrillo; second row, from left, Coaches Mario Chavez and Bernardo Hernandez, Commissioner Judy Schaefer, Chairman J.C. Deriso, Coach Troy Carrillo, Commissioners Elton Langford and Jerod Gross, and Vice-chairperson Steve Hickox.

COUNTY REALLOCATES PROPOSED TAXES



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Photos provided*

At the second budget workshop on July 22, the Board of County Commissioners proposed tax assessments to fund public services, so that the ad valorem (aka property) taxes may be reduced as much as possible. Chairperson J. C. Deriso called it a “reallocation” of the taxes, so that people will pay about the same amount as last year, but as fees rather than a percentage of their property’s value. Commissioner Elton Langford said that each public service should be funded by its tax assessment rather than from the General Fund.

The Truth In Millage (TRIM) notices will be mailed on Aug. 19 proposing the same millage rate as last year: 7.6153 mils; the law enforcement Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU) will be 2.9406; fire protection services and emergency medical services (EMS) will be full-cost recovery (\$155.00 and \$180.00 per household, respectively), a six percent increase in the curbside garbage collection rate (from \$228.13 to \$239.30), with the same assessment (\$45.50) for the landfill as last year. The Board may lower these rates, but they may not raise them.

Property Appraiser David Williams discussed the issue with the Board. He said, “I commend you and the City Council because “you have been in tune with your constituents.” He said other local governments set high millage rates and keep them high even when they were not necessary. Commissioner Elton Langford said, “I don’t think we’ve ever taken advantage of our tax payers.”

Womack Sanitation requested an increase in the collection and hauling fee that the County assesses taxpayers. Between 2019 and 2025, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for garbage collection in the month of May has fluctuated from 2.9 to 7.9. Womack requested a six percent increase, the CPI for May 2025. In comparison, the City will raise their garbage hauling rates 12% in Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

The County-wide budget for Fiscal Year (FY) is about \$179 million with approximately \$36 million in grant funding. The General Fund is \$67.5 million, and \$24.5 million of that pays for the Constitutional offices: Clerk of Court, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector, Supervisor of Elections, and the Sheriff’s Office. The tentative budget hearing is at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 8.

Having reduced his budget by nearly \$2 million, Sheriff Jim Potter brought a not-quite \$20 million budget to the second budget workshop. Chairperson J.C. Deriso thanked him for cutting expenses. He replied, “I live here, and I want a balanced budget, too.”



Clerk of Courts Nadia Daughtrey said that the increase in operating expenses in her budget is because she is issuing “so many tax deeds.” Her budget also includes a two percent Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)—the same as all county employees.



Property Appraiser David Williams said he may be one of the first to move to the new building on N. Mills Ave., and since he has two servers, the new one will be set up in the new location while the old one is used in the present office.



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Aubrey Womack narrated a powerpoint presentation about her family’s business, Womack Sanitation, that provides “dependable, efficient, and cost effective solid waste collection for the residents of DeSoto County.”



Brian Wagner, Senior Budget Coordinator, gave an overview of the County’s budget before the Constitutional Officers each explained his or her budget.



Supervisor of Elections Debbie Wertz was able to hire another full-time staff member and have two workers for the salary previously paid to one. However, she has additional expenses for training, travel, and to build a new Website.



Tax Collector Susan Pooley said that the State has to move her equipment and files, so it will require her office to be closed on a Thurs. Fri., and maybe the following Mon, Her budget actually decreased because an employee retired, but it does not include about \$30,000.00 in moving expenses.



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PEACE RIVER SPORTS

SO HOW WE DOING IN DESOTO COUNTY SPORTS?



STEVE KNAPP
Sports Writer
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With the school sports seasons all finished and put in the record books, I wondered how are we doing? Are we going in the right direction? Are the teams getting better? The answer is YES, the teams are doing better than in the previous school year and good things are ahead for the athletic department. I will be greatly surprised if the sports department doesn't finish over .500 for the 2025-2026 school year.

Some sports like weightlifting the goal is to beat yourself and improve on your own record. DeSoto didn't have enough participants in some sports to win so we will look into the records of 8 of the athletic teams. Fall sports include volleyball and football, winter has boys and girls soccer and basketball with spring sports on the diamond with softball and baseball.

In the 2023-2024 school year those 8 teams had a combined 59-106 record. That is a .357 winning percentage meaning roughly for every game they won, they would lose 2. In the 2024-2025 year their record was 73-90 for a .447 winning percentage. It may not seem like much but it is a definite step in the right direction to reach a .500 mark and then build from there.

With 14 more wins and 16 fewer losses than the year before, if the teams can duplicate that gain they will be over the .500 mark with an 87-74 record for 2025-2026. Can they make that big of a gain next year? Without a doubt it is within reach.

In the fall, the football team will definitely improve on their 1-9 record and could jump up to a .500 record. Volleyball lost some good players through graduation, but with a solid core coming back and a lot of promising JV players ready to step in, I am sure they will get over the .500 mark as they fell just 2 games short of that last season.

In winter sports, the boys basketball team saw the second biggest gain in wins with 6 more than in the previous year. They needed 5 more wins last year to get over .500 and have a very good chance of reaching that mark this season.

Girls basketball had the biggest gain in wins with an outstanding 21-7 record after finishing 3 games under .500 the previous season. It is a tall order to expect them to reach those same heights next season, but barring any major injury it is well within their reach to get to the final 4 in the state. With 2 first team All Area players returning and one second teamer coming back, this will be an exciting and fruitful year for the girls basketball program.

The boys soccer team had an off year while in a rebuilding process putting them at 8-9 last season. They should rebound nicely this upcoming year and regain their status as a local powerhouse in boys soccer. The girls soccer team had one more win than the previous season and could build on that to get closer to that magical .500 mark.

Spring sports saw the baseball team lose several close games that easily could have gone the Bulldogs' direction. With 3 more wins than in 2024, if they can duplicate that improvement they will be right at .500 in 2026.

The Lady Bulldogs softball team was the only team that finished over .500 in each of the past 2 seasons winning 3 more games in 2025 than in 2024. They lost 4 girls through graduation, but have a little help coming up from the JV team and a freshman class that could contribute next spring as well. The next few years will see players who have played for coach Jinny Schaefer before and have learned how to play the game properly both physically and mentally. I see big things in the future for DeSoto softball.



DESOTO BALLERS FALL AT CHARLOTTE 54-43



STEVE KNAPP

Sports Writer
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The DeSoto Bulldogs took part in a two day tournament at Charlotte High School playing 2 games each day. Their first game was against the host Tarpons. Using several members of the S4G team, the young team did very well against the Charlotte JV team. DeSoto trailed 19-15 at the half. Charlotte extended their lead in the second half for a 54-43 win. Sophomore Nolan Hernandez and junior Olivier Jeanette each had 7 points with sophomore Levi Shaver close behind with 6.



“SAY IT AIN’T SO JOE”



STEVE KNAPP
Sports Writer
sports@peacerivershopper.com

The 1919 World Series between the Chicago White Sox and Cincinnati Redlegs changed the world of major league baseball forever. The heavily favored White Sox were under the ownership of Charles Comiskey, who was regarded as rather tight with his money. The players felt underappreciated and under paid. This combination made it easy for gamblers, possibly led by the mob, to convince 8 Chicago players to “under perform” in the series so the gamblers could make a killing in bets for Cincinnati.

The most well known player was “Shoeless” Joe Jackson who has been regarded by many to be one of the top 10 hitters in the history of the game. Jackson got \$5,000 from a teammate and when he discovered it was from gamblers he tried to give it back. The player wouldn’t take it back.

Jackson led both teams in hits in the series and led both teams with a .375 batting average. Despite all of that, new appointed Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis banned all 8 players for life despite being acquitted in court.

Jackson was the most famous and a big fan favorite. As he walked down the courthouse steps after the verdict, a young fan with tears in his eyes said “Say it ain’t so Joe”. The newspapers caught the line and it became famous with the story of the 1919 Black Sox scandal.

July 2nd I was walking from our cruise ship to get on a tour bus in Athens. With a little time to kill I went through some facebook posts. Tami Jewell, a former employee with me at The Arcadian newspaper posted that Joe Gallimore had died.

I was surprised and immediately thought it must be a different Joe Gallimore. When I saw the obituary and photo, with teary eyes I thought “Say it ain’t so Joe”. With a dark cloud over my head for the entire day I thought about our time together at The Arcadian and as radio broadcasters for the DeSoto Bulldogs football team.

The first time I met Joe was when I was asked by the Charlotte Sun if I wanted to be the sports man for DeSoto County. I went to the office and met the editor Sue Hoffman. When I heard someone in the back office say “Is that our new guy”, I and went to the back room to meet Joe.

He said something like, “I heard you were pretty good and to just let you do your thing and we will be OK”. I knew I was going to like him right away. He shook my hand and I believe broke a couple of my knuckles.

In the movie “Cool Hand Luke” they talked about Paul Newman’s smile as “that old Luke smile”. For the first time I saw that “Joe Gallimore smile” and twinkle in his eyes. I knew he was some kind of special guy.

He told me to do whatever I thought was right. If there ever was a problem with something I did, we would have a “talk” about it. We never had that talk. He was the reason I could cover so many DeSoto County games without a worry about overdoing it. He liked my style of writing. He said many writers give the meat and potatoes of a story, but you give an appetizer, soup, salad, meat and potatoes along with dessert and an after dinner drink. He said he liked the feeling of the stories as just two guys talking about a game along with some interesting information thrown in.

We did have many talks after hours in his office and an occasional dinner. We were a lot alike. I’ve always had a side hustle going on while working at General Motors. I was teaching, coaching, running a baseball card show business and later writing for a weekly paper in Michigan. It never seemed like one project was enough for me, or Joe.

When he ran his music business JG Big Star promoting music shows in the state, we would talk about artists, venues and side hustles that went along with the business. We had big ideas and both needed a sounding board to run them by.

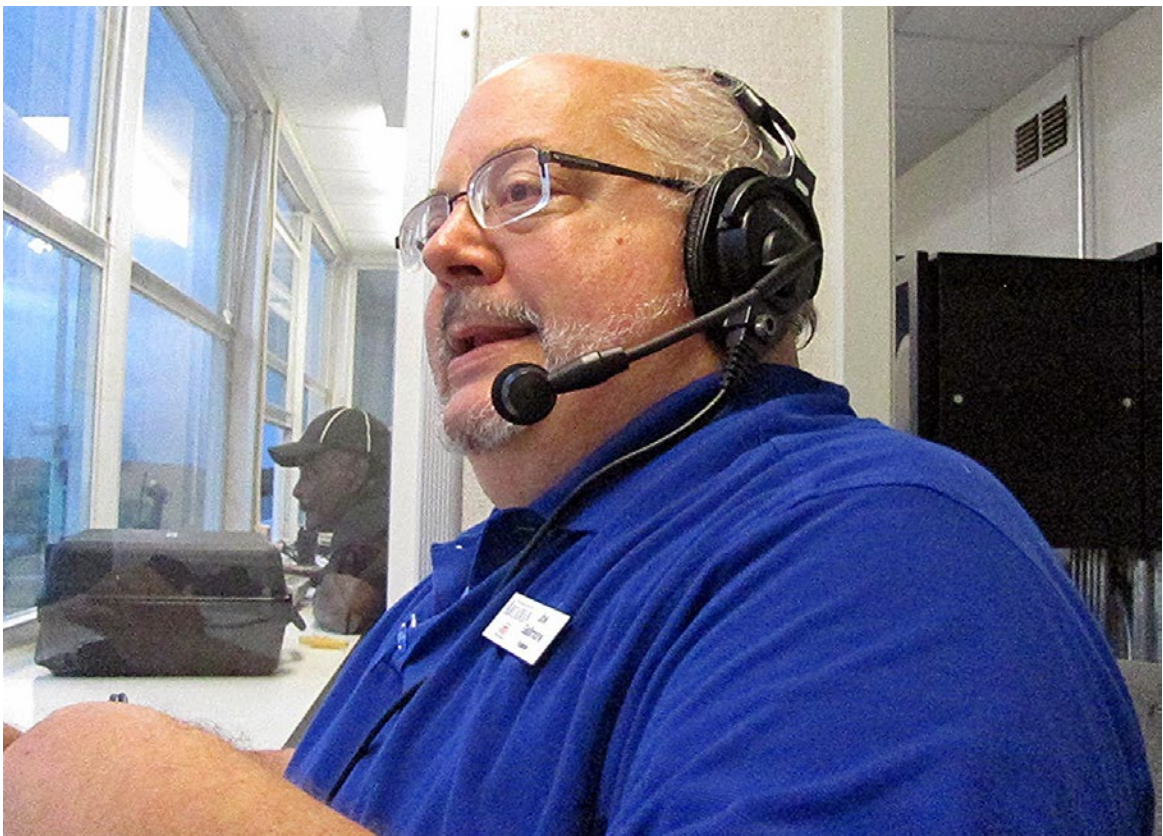
A couple of years later Joe asked me if I would want to do the radio broadcasts with him as the color man for the DeSoto football games. I believed we did it about 3 seasons and we had so much fun. Both of us were fairly large bodied men so he said we gave the “broadest football coverage DeSoto has ever had”.

After the road games we would stop for something to eat and just enjoy our conversations, not only about the game, but life in general. One particular game we did in a rain storm at Avon Park. There was no room in the press box so we held umbrellas over our heads while sitting in a nearly empty bleachers. That game came up in conversations as a big memory.

Joe got busy with his business and had to step out of the broadcast booth since many of his shows were on Friday nights. I stayed another year, but without Joe, it just wasn’t the same.

After that it was an occasional phone call or message always with the plan to “get together” for lunch. That never happened. He was 9 years younger than me so I always thought we had plenty of time for that “lunch”.

His memory will stay with me for the rest of my life and maybe some day we’ll meet in that “big press box in the sky.” I was saddened to be so far away when



The ultimate professional, Joe Gallimore doing what he loved.



Joe Gallimore and I had so much fun covering the football games and telling stories during the game.



There is that Joe Gallimore twinkle in his eyes.

In good weather Joe liked to get closer to the field during the broadcasts to get a better feel of the game.

I heard the news and a little angry at myself for not getting together with Joe. I was sad to hear of his death, but happy to have had him in my life as a real friend.



DONALD "JOE" GALLIMORE

04/16/1959 - 06/28/2025

Our friend and co-worker Joe Gallimore passed away on June 28th. While most Sun Events patrons won't recognize the name, Joe was the creator and original visionary behind our Sun Events concerts business.

I've never met anyone who could work as long and as hard as Joe Gallimore. And never complain. Joe had an engine that never idled. Always laughing, often at himself and whatever situation he was in.

Joe was our publisher in Arcadia for many years. He usually got about 3 hours of sleep at night because his mind was so busy with great promotional ideas, for us, for the city, for the county, and for an events business he started on his own called JG Big Star Productions. Joe decided to mostly give up JG Big Star Productions and come to Sun Events full-time and help us build our concert business.

The first year we did one concert, then two, then four, then eight, then sixteen, then thirty-two, and then sixty-four. And then we noticed Joe was beginning to lose steam. A mountain of a man with endless energy had to sit in a chair while the bands did their sound checks.

No one knew, but his kidneys were failing him. The man who never tired and could outwork any other person I ever met had a body that would no longer accommodate his tremendous will and energy.

After too many years on dialysis, Joe lost over 100 pounds and qualified for a new kidney. It was this year, and I thought, finally, Joe's body can support the boundless optimism and will to win inside him. And then, he passed away.

For a man who gave us so many shows, so many moments of joy, this is his final encore. And like all great performers, he leaves the stage having given us everything he had.



I would like very much to thank my very good friend Joe Gallimore. He has been part of the family since I was a kid. He and my brother Charlie were best friends and roommates and were best man at each other's weddings. Charlie dated his sister Julia for a time. Several years ago, Joe started booking California Toe Jam through his concert promoting company, JG Bigstar Promotions. He has given our band countless wonderful opportunities over the years through JG Bigstar and more recently with Sun Events. Here's me, Charlie and Joe, many moons ago, in the front room of the house on South Commerce. Thanks, Joe, for being such a stand-up guy and truly good friend.

Love you, man!

-Harry Havery, California Toe Jam Band

SFSC GRADUATES 36 CADETS FROM THREE PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAMS



AVON PARK, Fla. — July 9, 2025 — South Florida State College (SFSC) honored 36 graduating students from three Public Safety Programs in a ceremony on Monday, July 7 on the SFSC Highlands Campus in Avon Park.

The 13 cadets from SFSC’s Fire Science Academy are: Diana Cuello, Peter Duffy, Jesus Inciarte-Fuenmaya, Kristian Gonzalez, Emily Jestes-Hagen, Kendall King, Donovan Lusby, Nicholas Camacho Medina, Chloe Mason, Alex Muirhead, Eric Puente, Danayja Sturn, and Zacharia Ward.

The 11 cadets from the Paramedic program are: Jayden Acker, Jalon Borders, Miguel Garcia, Wayland Hayes, Trina Hipp, Zane Little, Aleecia Rhoden, Lydia Rosario, Muhammad Shehadeh, Jaylen Sullivan, and Landon Yock.

The 12 cadets from the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program are: Rylee Arthion, Noah Browning, Ashlynn Collins, Franchet Flint, Jaqueline Navarrete, Lysmariz Olivero, Alexandra Ross, Sheldon Rossin, Erick Salas, Christopher Sartin, Caden Storts, and Briseda Torres Ponce.

Steve Ashworth, director of the



Public Safety Program, was guest speaker during the ceremony.

Special recognition was given to seven cadets: From the Fire Science class, Eric Puente was recognized for having the highest GPA. Kendall King and Nicholas Camacho Medina were recognized for their leadership. From the Paramedic class, Zane Little was lauded for having the Highest GPA in Lecture and Landon Yock for having the Highest GPA in Lab. From the EMT class, Alexandra Ross was honored for having the Highest GPA in Lecture and Jaqueline Navarrete for Highest GPA in Lab.

Graduates of the Firefighter Career Certificate program have completed 492

contact hours of training. A cohort of cadets enroll in the Firefighter I course, often with the expectation of continuing through to Firefighter II training. Firefighter II training is required for those who wish to be employed as professional firefighters in Florida.


The paramedic graduates completed an 11-month College Credit Certificate course offered through SFSC’s Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program. Paramedics work as part of an emergency response team called out to traffic accidents, fires, and other life-threatening situations.

The EMT graduates completed the 16 weeks of training, or 300 contact hours, in the program. Upon completion of the


program, graduates are eligible to apply to take the Florida EMT State Board Exam. EMTs function as part of an emergency rescue and transportation team by responding to emergency calls through a dispatch system, operating emergency vehicles safely, assessing scenes of accidents or illnesses, setting priorities for treating patients based on their degree of illness or injury, providing pre-hospital emergency care to treat trauma, shock, wounds, and other medical issues.

For more information about any of SFSC’s Public Safety programs, contact the SFSC Advising and Counseling Center at 863-784-7131 or visit southflorida.edu.


AMERICA’S FAVORITE THREE-RING CIRCUS IS COMING TO ARCADIA




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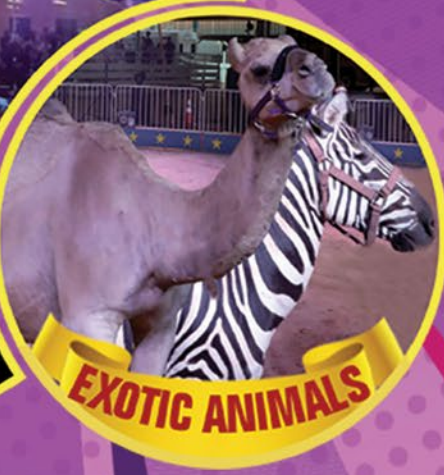
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ONE COUPON PER ADULT - CHILD AGES TWELVE AND UNDER

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES: QUIT PLAYING CHURCH (JAMES 1:19-27 NLT)

PASTOR ABDIEL FUENTES

First Christian Church of Arcadia
DeSoto County Ministerial Association

How many times have you nodded through a sermon, even shouted a few “amens,” felt spiritually full, then walked out and went right back to the same old mess? If this is you, James doesn’t let you off easy: hearing God’s Word without living it is self-deception. It’s not faith; it’s fiction. You’re not transformed—you’re just playing church. And while that performance might fool some people, it doesn’t fool God because he cannot be mocked.

Still cursing to fit in at work? Still gossiping like there is no tomorrow? Let’s be real—no shift, no change, no fruit. Someone may ask you, “What was the sermon about?” and all you’ve got is “Uh... Jesus?” We’ve all been there. But James says that’s not just forgetfulness—that’s willful ignorance. That’s ignoring the mirror God just held up, and it’s dangerous to do.

Genuine faith is evident through your words, how you manage your anger, your private battles, and in your public witness. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God requires. So, stop excusing your temper

like it’s part of your personality. Stop quoting scripture by day and “throwing shade” by night. That’s not maturity. That’s spiritual cosplay. And here’s the thing: if your faith isn’t changing the way you speak, the way you love, the way you respond to and lead others, it’s not just weak—it’s worthless. Like a gym membership you never use—no one’s buying it. Genuine faith transforms. It moves you to speak with care, act with compassion, and treat others—especially the overlooked and vulnerable—with dignity. If the message you hear on Sundays doesn’t change your Mondays, what was the point?

So, let’s talk about your mouth—that unruly thing that reveals the temperature of your heart. Culture says, “Speak your truth, clapback louder”—but God says, “Control your tongue.” Sharp words might win arguments, but they destroy homes and end friendships. If you can’t hold your tongue, you can’t lead your life. Choose gentleness. Choose wisdom. Choose patience. Real power is self-control.

Words aren’t just sounds—they’re

signals. If your mouth is wild, it’s not just a communication issue—it’s a character issue. If emotions rule over you, outrage defines you. That’s not strength—it’s sabotage.

Rid yourself of filth, anger, and duplicity—and humbly receive the Word that saves. Don’t just read it. Receive it. Let it take root, because if you’re not changing, you’re just playing a part. Nodding to sermons while living like none of it matters is more than lazy—it’s dangerous. It blinds you to who you truly are, and it keeps you from the life God is calling you to. So, watch your

mouth. Master your emotions. Get serious about obedience. Faith without application is empty. And if your religion doesn’t impact how you speak, serve, and love, it’s not based on genuine belief at all. Time to stop pretending. It’s time to live the Word.

Here’s the takeaway: Faith isn’t about collecting spiritual facts—it’s about letting truth shape how you live and who you become. The challenge: Don’t just know what God expects—do something with it. Start taking small, consistent steps toward absolute obedience.



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OBITUARIES



BRADFORD B. FOGLIA



Bradford B. Foglia, 74 of Arcadia, FL passed away unexpectedly in Atlanta, GA on July 7th, 2025.

Brad was born in De Quoin, IL on March 15, 1951. He served in Marine Corps from 1968-1974 during the Vietnam War. He eventually moved to Madison, WI and later met and married the love of his life Marcia on July 10th, 1987. They moved to Florida in 1999 where Brad worked at the DeSoto County Jail, for Heartland Coach and then Georgia Pacific, where he retired.

Brad's passions in life were baseball, his family and animals. He loved baseball, whether it was on TV, at a little league game, or going to a MLB ballpark, it was always something for the entire family to talk about and enjoy together. He loved the Atlanta Braves. He was

a season ticket holder for several years for spring training in North Port. Before his passing, he was able to travel to Atlanta and go to a game with his wife. It brings his family peace that he was able to enjoy what he loved with whom he loved most.

Brad will be greatly missed by all that knew him. He had a big heart and would help anyone.

Brad is survived by his wife, Marcia; children, Lorraine (Lee) Riese, Madison, WI., Jessica (Jamie) Goiffon, North Port, FL., and Jason (Tiffany) Foglia, North Port, FL; grandchildren, Cade, Jalen, Cole, Rayanna, Jett, Rowan, Audrina, Reagan and Riley; and eight great-

grandchildren; siblings, Steven Foglia, Decatur, IL and Elayne (Chuck) McCoy, Arcadia, FL. He is further survived by other relatives, friends and his boy Maxx.

Brad is reunited in death with his parents, Louis Foglia and Pat (George) Wagner along with other family members.

At his request, there will be no celebration of life. He will be laid to rest at the National Cemetery in Sarasota, Fl at a later date. If you would like to make a contribution in his name, you can do so to the Arcadia Animal Shelter.

FREDRICK WILLIAM "BILL" RICHARD



At age 83 Bill passed away peacefully with his wife, Mary by

his side in the I.C.U. under Hospice care at DeSoto Memorial Hospital on June 19, 2025 at 1:47 AM. Dr. Sami Rajha and Dr. Bassam Altajar took good care of Bill. I want to thank DMH staff in ER, ICU & Rehab Center for the good care they gave Bill.

Bill graduated from Danbury, Connecticut University with a BA in Pharmaceutical. Bill was born to Helen Grube and Frederick Richard on 1/27/42 in Danbury, Connecticut. Bill retired from truck driving with Yellow Freight Company in Wilmington, Ohio, came to Florida in 2007 and met and married this love of his life on May 19, 2008 (17 years).

Bill leaves behind family in Ohio; son Eric and daughter-n-law Gena Richard, one granddaughter Denise, grandson Blake. He was preceded in death by his mother and father, one daughter and one son.

Bill's favorite sport was Rays Baseball. He was very proud of his garden growing in pots; peppers of all kinds, tomatoes. He would give to his neighbors. He took many trips in his motorhome through many states, camping in state parks, ship cruise to Mexico, plane to Las Vegas.

Bill was a member of the Moose Lodge, Amvets, Eagles. He loved playing cards with friends. Bill was a

very proud man.

Leaves to cherish step-children Tony (Barbara) Sutton, Priscilla (Chuck) Merhant, Clyde Johnson; all in Arcadia, FL and Barbara (Eddie) Hamm, Riverview, FL and Mike Fox, Holiday, FL.

Bill's last wish was no service & to have his cremated ashes scattered close to family & friends. Bill is missed dearly by his wife Mary and his friends.

Cremation by Ponger-Kays.

JONI MARIE (CRIBBS) KALINOWSKI



Joni Marie (Cribbs) Kalinowski, 67, of Arcadia, FL

Joni Marie Kalinowski, a passionate humanitarian, devoted mother, and vibrant community member, passed away the evening of July 9, 2025, at the age of 67.

Born in North Tonawanda, New

York, to Harry and June Cribbs, Joni carried the values of compassion, creativity, and resilience throughout her life. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband and artistic partner, Timothy (Timmy Joe) Kalinowski, and her younger brother Robert.

Joni is survived by her two children, daughter Brandi (married to Shadow) and son Alfred, and her cherished grandson AJ, whose life partner Nicole shared four great-grandchildren with Joni: Jayden, Nova, Nyomi, and Austin. Her loving family also includes her niece Cora (married to Micah) and their four children—Adeline, Ophelia, Silas, and Isla—whom Joni embraced as her own grandchildren. She is also remembered by her two sisters, Jean Smith and Julie Dikeman, close friend and cousin Barb Nott and a

circle of friends and family, pets, and communities who held her close.

A late-in-life scholar, Joni earned her Master's degree in Interdisciplinary Social Work in 2020, graduating with honors as a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Her dedication extended far beyond the classroom—Joni was a tireless volunteer and fierce advocate for the homeless, always committed to bringing dignity and warmth to those in need.

She and her husband graced local stages in both Western New York and Florida, sharing their love of storytelling and performance with the communities they adored. Offstage, Joni found joy in quilting, caring for her animals, playing games with loved ones, and simply being present with family and friends.

A memorial service will be held on August 9, 2025, at 3 p.m. at the Hickory Street Church of Christ, 710 W. Hickory Street, Arcadia, FL. Flowers may be sent to 4875 NW Hickory Street, Arcadia, FL 34266, and will be donated to Tidewell Arcadia Hospice following the service. Donations in Joni's memory may be made to Springville Center for the Arts (<https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?donation=sca>) or Habitat for Humanity (<https://secure.habitat.org>) Printed cards from Habitat can be sent to 4875 NW Hickory Street, emailed cards to Brandi.kalinowski@hotmail.com.

The service will be broadcast live via Facebook on her daughter's page (Brandi Kalinowski) allowing loved ones near and far to join in celebrating her remarkable legacy.



DESOTO COUNTY

SHERIFF'S OFFICE



ARREST REPORT | 7/18/25 - 7/24/25

Aguilar-Gonzalez, Miguel Angel:

Trespassing - Trespassing Structure Or Conveyance, Writ Of Bodily Attachment - Non Criminal Arrest

Brantley, Dayton Lee:

Sex Asslt - Sex Bat 18 Yr Or Older By Prsn 18 Yr Or Old

Carmona, Cristian:

Veh Theft - Grand Theft Of Motor Vehicle, Resist Officer - Obstruct Wo Violence

Corhn, Aimey Delene:

Prob Violation - Prob Violation

Delacruz Jr., Gerard Alexander Gomez:

Battery - Touch Or Strike, Battery - On Person 65 Years Of Age Or Older

Dominguez, Cristian Saldana:

Eh Theft - Grand Theft Of Motor Vehicle, Hit And Run - Leave Scene Of Crash Involve Damage To Prop, Moving Traffic Viol - Driv While Lic Suspend Revocation Equiv Status

Eady, Tristen Nevaeh:

Cruelty Toward Child - Abuse Child Without Great Bodily Harm, Damage Prop-Crim Misch - 1000 Dols Or More, Aggrav Asslt - Weapon - W Deadly Weapon Without Intent To Kill, Battery - Touch Or Strike

Ganske, Justin Ray:

Burgl - Burglary Of Unoccupied Dwelling Unarmed, Larc - Petit Theft Merch Farm Transit Prior Conv, Moving Traffic Viol - Dwlsr Or Revocation Equiv Status, Drugs-Possess - Possess Controlled Substance W/O Prescription

Garcia-Pizano, Julio Cesar:

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

Garcia, Clemente Mendoza:

Condit Release Violation - Violation Of Condition Of Release

Harmison, James Allen:

Obscene Material-Possess - Poss Photograph Of Sexual Performance By Child (X42), Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use

Howard, Nicholas Micheal:

Stolen Prop-Deal In - Dealing Traffic Stolen Property, Veh Theft - Grand Theft Of Motor Vehicle, Larc - Grand Theft \$20,000 Or More Less Than \$100,000, Veh Theft - Grand Theft Of Motor Vehicle

Howard, Trina Joann:

Trespassing - Trespassing Structure Or Conveyance

Kurtz, Chad Louis:

Failure To Appear - Written Promise To Appear, Burgl - Burglary Of Unoccupied Dwelling Unarmed, Stolen Prop-Deal In - Dealing Traffic Stolen Property (X2), Veh Theft - Grand Theft Of Motor Vehicle, Drug Equip-Possess - Drug Equip-Possess: And Or Use, Resist Officer - Obstruct Wo Violence, Fraud - False Owner Info Pawn Items Less Than 300 Dols, Burgl - Burglary Unoccupied Conveyance Unarmed, Larc - Grand Theft 750 Less Than 5K Dols

Lopez Velazquez, Jessica Nicole:

Veh Theft - Grand Theft Of Motor Vehicle

Pruett, Cameron Edward:

Weapon Offense - Missile Into Dwelling Veh Building Or Aircraft, Cruelty Toward Child - Abuse Child Without Great Bodily Harm, Aggrav Asslt - Weapon - W Deadly Weapon Without Intent To Kill, Resist Officer - Obstruct Wo Violence, Drugs-Possess - Possess Controlled Substance W/O Prescription (X2), Drug Equip-Possess - Drug Equip-Possess: And Or Use, Counterfeiting Of - Unlawful Reproduce Identification Card

Romero, Ryan:

Battery - Commit Domestic Battery By Strangulation

Sanchez, Fernando Vega:

Contempt Of Court - Viol Injunction Protection Domestic Violence

Santiago-Ignacio, Eduardo:

Dui-Unlaw Bld Alch - 0.15 Or Higher Or W Person Under 18 In Vehicle, Moving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle W/O Valid Lic 1St Conv

Shaver, Joe Bob:

Drugs-Possess - Possess Controlled Substance W/O Prescription, Drug Equip-Possess - Drug Equip-Possess: And Or Use

Smith, Tashawna Denise:

Disorderly Intox - Disorder Intox Public Place Cause Disturbance

Stroman, Jatariyana Jafaye Lynette:

Moving Traffic Viol - Driv While Lic Suspend Revocation Equiv Status

Tafoya, Jennifer Christine:

Trespassing - Trespassing Structure Or Conveyance, Drug Equip-Possess - Drug Equip-Possess: And Or Use, Amphetamine-Traffic - Or Methamphetamine 14 Grams Or Over , Marijuana-Possess - Not More Than 20 Grams, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use

Tomas-Perez, Pablo Salazar:

Failure To Appear - Written Promise To Appear (X2)

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LEGION

FROM PAGE 1 »

Brooksville to compete in the regional championship, in which they only lost one game and won. They then went on to compete in the state competition in Okeechobee, where they only lost one game and won the ability to represent Florida at the Diamond Youth Baseball USA World Series.

“We are so very proud of these boys,” said Kandis Drymon, a team mom of Levi, one of the players. “To date, we’ve had to pull everything out of our own pocket for expenses, including uniforms, equipment and more. We’re so thankful for the contribution from

the American Legion and the American Legion Riders.”

Drymon said that each of the boys and their family members are asking community organizations and individuals for donations. In total, the organization is in need of about \$25,000 to offset the cost of the

boys travel, new uniforms, Florida pins (that the boys then swap with other players as mementos) and more. Those interested in donating can reach out to Drymon via text at (941) 302-7745.

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GUESS WHO ?

I am a performer born in Indiana on January 29, 1982. I got my start doing local theater while in school. Eventually, I moved to Los Angeles to pursue a musical career. I was an “American Idol” runner-up, and released an album in 2009.

Answer: Adam Lambert

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WE CAN'T STOP TALKING ABOUT THIS: DEFENDING AGAINST CYBER SCAMS



SHERIFF POTTER
DeSoto County Sheriff

We can't stop talking about those folks who are trying to scam us. I have written about the many types of scams on many past occasions. We plan on covering the many different types of scams in upcoming articles. A week does not go by without me looking at a report of a good person being scammed or a scam scheme being attempted. So, let's talk about "Cyber Scams" this week. In this digital age, where online shopping and virtual connections have become integral parts of our lives, it's crucial to remain vigilant and proactive to stay safe through digital presence.

Cybercriminals are professionals at exploiting your trust, preying on unsuspecting individuals seeking the best deals or connecting with loved ones online. By using

various tactics, from phishing scams to fraudulent websites, they often aim to steal your personal information or financial assets.

ONLINE SHOPPING PRECAUTIONS:

Before clicking add to cart, exercise caution. We advise you to stick to reputable websites with secure payment options. You can verify the website's legitimacy by checking for HTTPS in the URL and looking for secure payment symbols, like padlocks or trust seals.

Avoid clicking on suspicious links in emails or pop-up ads offering unbelievable discounts. If a deal seems too good to be true, it probably is! Take a close look at reviews and ratings, and avoid sharing sensitive information through unsecured platforms or public Wi-Fi networks.



FRAUD AND SCAM AWARENESS:

Be cautious of unsolicited emails, texts or calls requesting personal or financial information. Cybercriminals often pose as trusted entities, such as banks, government agencies or online stores, to fool individuals into providing sensitive data.

We can assure most legitimate organizations won't ask for

passwords, social security numbers, or credit card details through unsolicited communications. Always verify the authenticity of the sender by contacting the organization or company directly.

Be Safe, Be Kind, and God Bless.
Sheriff James Potter

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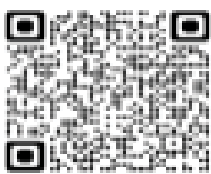
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