

DUNN RECALLS MEETING THE LATE JIMMY CARTER



CAROL MAHLER
*Independent Contractor
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Photos provided*

As proclaimed by President Joe Biden, Jan. 9 is a special day of mourning for our 39th president, Jimmy Carter, who died on Dec. 29. Ruth Reynolds Dunn, a lifelong resident of DeSoto County, recalled when she and her late husband Rudolph Dunn enjoyed a Sunday-School lesson taught by Carter.

After Ruth and Rudolph were married in Feb. 2006, they planned the trip for “that summer.” Ruth said that they started making arrangements in April, but the date they were given was July 23. They traveled to Georgia and stayed in Americus because no accommodations were available in Plains.

They arrived on Friday and toured Carter’s boyhood house and the farm where he grew up. They also spent several hours in the high school that Carter attended—now a museum. They had heard that Carter often visited both locations, but not while they were there. “We also knew that he bicycled a lot,” Ruth said, “and we were hoping to see that.”

She said, “We loved Plains. It was so much fun. We were downtown looking and looking, and it was so pleasant. Then the police arrived and told us that Rosalynn Carter wanted to take some lady friends to the tea room, so everyone had to clear the streets, and we did.”



From left, Ruth Reynolds Dunn poses on July 23, 2006, with former President Jimmy Carter (1924-2024), his wife Rosalynn Carter (1927-2023), and Ruth’s late husband Rudolph Dunn.

Finally, Sunday arrived and they reported at 8:30 a.m. to the Maranatha Baptist Church. “The first thing we saw was the security, the Secret Service men, and the dogs,” she said. Cell phones and bags were not allowed in the church. She said, “The leader of the church told us what we could and could not do. . . . Everyone helping was very friendly and welcoming, but they had a schedule to keep.”

Arrangements had been made months in advance, so the Dunns were surprised that they had a seat “way in the back” of the sanctuary. As the church only seats 250 to 300, they had no trouble seeing or hearing Carter as he talked. Then Pastor Jeff Summers led the service.

After the final hymn, everyone went outside and lined up to get a photograph taken with the Carters. They had to give their cameras to one of the church members who photographed them.

As the Dunns felt that every restaurant in Plains would be full, they drove back to Americus to eat Sunday dinner. They carried with them the photograph, a Sunday bulletin, and their memories of former President Jimmy Carter.

The Dunns saved the bulletin from when they listened to a Sunday School lesson taught by Jimmy Carter in Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, Georgia. Inside the bulletin is an order form to purchase an audio or video cassette of the lesson taught by Carter, and on the reverse side, to order audio tapes for a series of lessons taught by Carter—a total of 36 in 2005.

Maranatha Baptist Church



148 Georgia Highway 45 North
P.O. Box 307
Plains, Georgia 31780
Telephone: (229) 824-7896
Web site: www.maranathachurchplains.org
E-mail: maranath@sowega.net
Pastor: Rev. Jeff Summers

MARANATHA (“Come, Lord”), I Cor. 16:22

THRIFT STORE BEGAN WITH “A LITTLE BLACK DRESS”

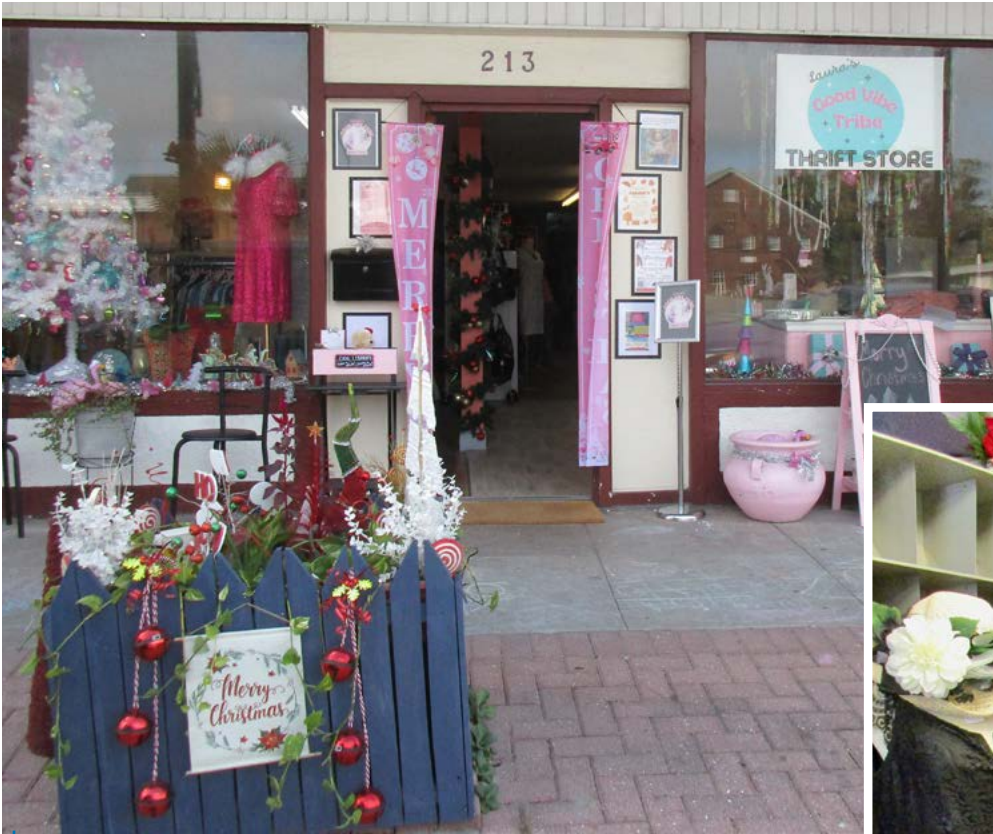


CAROL MAHLER
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Photos provided*

When Laura Partridge found out that high school senior girls could not graduate unless they wore a black or blue dress, she held a Black Dress Event. “Every woman needs a little black dress,” she said. More than 100 black dresses were donated, and more than 50 high school seniors accepted one of them. “I’m going to do it again this year,” she said.

She opened a not-for-profit organization called Mixed Emotions Craft Studio, Inc., because of her belief in the positive effects of arts and crafts on mental health. However, after the Black Dress Event, she and many of the women who helped her, renamed the organization, “Laura’s Good Vibe Tribe Thrift Store.” It opened at 213 W. Oak St. on July 13, 2024.

“It’s women helping women,” she said. “. . . This community is amazing, especially all the women.” The shop offers clothes, shoes, and accessories plus pre-packaged arts and crafts supplies. She works hard to keep the prices reasonable and donates clothes and hygiene products to those who need them.



Laura’s Good Vibe Tribe Thrift Store is located at 213 W. Oak St. in downtown Arcadia.

The organization’s mission is “to empower women through stylish expression, unwavering support, creative outlets, and accessible resources during life’s pivotal moments.”

The donations she receives are very high quality, and the sales fund the non-profit. She works with the Arcadia Center for the Needy, 163 S. Orange Ave., and

trades clothing that their clients need for clothing their clients can’t use. For more information, call 863-263-4598 or check online at: facebook.com/p/Lauras-Good-Vibe-Tribe

Laura Partridge shows off two of the “little black dresses” that inspired her to start Laura’s Good Vibe Tribe Thrift Store.



FLY-IN FOR FLAPJACKS



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Photos provided*

Nearly 50 people braved temperatures in the 40s last Sat. to eat a pancake breakfast, hosted by Experimental Aircraft Assoc. (EAA) Chapter 1226, at the Arcadia Municipal Airport, 2269 SW A.C. Polk, Jr., Dr. Flapjacks, scrambled eggs, bacon, juice, and coffee were available for \$8.00.

“That’s a pretty good turnout considering it was 43 degrees at 8:00 a.m.,” Airport Director Shelley Peacock said. She invites everyone to fly-in or drive-in for the next breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., on Sat., Feb. 1.

EAA’s “Young Eagles” program follows immediately from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., and “Young Eagles” kids may eat breakfast for free. Then volunteer pilots take the kids flying in a general aviation aircraft. Registration is required.

For more information, call 863-494-7844 or check online at arcadia-fl.gov/departments/arcadia-municipal-airport-x06 or speacock@arcadia-fl.gov or facebook.com/arcadiax06



Airport Director Shelley Peacock thanked the volunteers who worked at the pancake breakfast: from left, Jack Scott, Jenifer Mohny, Jim Mohny, Lynna Welker, Kim Jones-Beilstein, James Bedell, and Veera Fitzpatrick. Bedell and Fitzpatrick are also airport employees.

From left, Lynna Welker and Veera Fitzpatrick serve pancakes, scrambled eggs, and more to Lee Bennett and Ed Altomare. Bennett flew Altomare as his passenger in Bennett’s Mooney M20 from Hidden River Air Park in Sarasota.



The rising sun brought welcome warmth to those eating a pancake breakfast in Aviation City, the pilot campground at Arcadia Municipal Airport, last Saturday. The event will take place from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on the first Sat. of the month: Feb. 1, March 1, and April 5, 2025.



Having eaten their breakfasts, pilots and passengers enjoyed conversations near the fire pit at the Arcadia Airport: from left, Jaxson Yoder, Nic Yoder, Kaden Yoder, Sam Kurtz, John Beiler, and Dave Kauffman, who flew the Yoders in his Mooney Acclaim from Sarasota. With Kurtz as his passenger, Beiler piloted his RV-7 Van’s Aircraft from Venice.

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DRAGONS SLAM DMS
BOYS BASKETBALL 33-10



STEVE KNAPP
Sports Writer
sports@peacerivershopper.com

A loose ball
draws attention
in the Bulldogs
33-10 loss to
Lake Placid.



Jacob Tanner is in traffic
as he tries to get a shot
against Lake Placid.



Riley McCray hauls in a rebound and looks for a
teammate in the loss to Lake Placid



Kasson Johnson drives to the hoop for the Bulldogs.



The boys basketball team walk off the court after pregame warm ups against Lake Placid.



Oswaldo Hernandez looks for somebody to pass to in the loss to Lake Placid.

Ja'Michael Hairston gets off a shot with the defender in his face against Lake Placid.



DESOTO COUNTY

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

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FORMER ATHLETES HONOR
COACH FRED FIELDS



Coach Richard Bowers gets fired up as he talks about DeSoto County athletics.



A formal photo of the many players who gathered to honor the late coach Fred Fields.

Many former athletes who were influenced by the late and great DeSoto coach Fred Fields, honored him at halftime of the DeSoto basketball game against Ft. Meade last week. Coach Richard Bowers gave a short speech and current basketball coach Darrel Nicklow was given gifts for his many contributions to the current athletes of DeSoto County.



Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bowers were in attendance to honor legendary coach Fred Fields.



Some of the people who were influenced by coach Fields gather to hear Coach Bowers speak.

SECOND HALF COMEBACK NOT ENOUGH IN 24-17 LOSS



The varsity Bulldogs basketball team pose for a team photo with the middle school team. They were in attendance to cheer the young Bulldogs on.



STEVE KNAPP
Sports Writer
sports@peacerrivershopper.com

The DeSoto County Middle School girls basketball team trailed by 14 at the half against Lake Placid. They outscored the Dragons 14-7 in the second half but it was too little too late as the Bulldogs suffered their first home defeat 24-17. Aniya McMillan led the comeback scoring all 10 of her points in the second half.

Lucinda Felix drives to the hoop for the first 2 points in the game.



Kailyn Vazquez is left alone and takes a long shot from three point land in the 24-17 loss to Lake Placid



The team gets last minute instructions before taking the court against Lake Placid.



Lucinda Felix and Jayla Tobias battle the Dragons for a rebound.

Molly Kreft goes to the hoop in the second half comeback that fell short as the Bulldogs lost 24-17.



DESOTO COUNTY

GAME OF THE WEEK

Sponsored by: 

JUNIORS EDGE SENIORS IN POWDER PUFF FOOTBALL



STEVE KNAPP
Sports Writer
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Junior Nariah Wiley had a pick six and rushed for another touchdown as the Juniors beat the Seniors 12-6 in the annual Powder Puff game. For the seniors Emery Skinner had a long run inside the 4 yard line and the score came on a 4 yard touchdown pass to Mailie Bonville.



GREAT PERFORMANCES COMING TO THE WILDSTEIN CENTER IN 2025



AVON PARK, Fla. – Dec. 28, 2024 – Goodtime Tuesday Matinees begin Tuesday, Jan. 21, and run until March 18 with a 1:30 p.m. curtain.

“We have a variety of performances on Tuesdays and our Build Your Own ticket package offers discounts up to 22%,” said Cindy Garren, director of cultural programs. “Groups of 12 or more can save up to 50% on some shows, so we encourage folks to gather their friends and neighbors to save on single ticket prices.”

TUESDAY MATINEES INCLUDE:

- The Four C-Notes who recreate the music of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons on Jan. 21 at 1:30 p.m. Created by John Michael Coppola, best known for his appearance in Chicago’s long-running production of the Broadway smash hit Jersey Boys, audiences can expect vintage dance movies and a trip down memory lane with songs like “Walk Like a Man,” “Let’s Hang On,” and “Can’t Take My Eyes Off of You”
- Tony Monaco and Turnstiles, who are back by popular demand, deliver a Billy Joel tribute that will have hardcore Joel fans on their feet and singing the hits. Sponsored by Pete and Dale Caldwell, the performance is scheduled for Jan. 28
- The Drifters; Phat Cat Swinger, an 11-piece rockabilly, swing band from Hollywood; Bachelors of Broadway with the music from West Side Story, Man of the La Mancha, The King and I, Phantom of the Opera, and more; Phil Dirt and The Dozers; One Night in Memphis; and The Bronx Wanderers

Performances in 2025 also include an intimate evening of songs and stories from Loretta Lynn with the original Loretta Lynn band, **The Coalminers**, is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. With over 60 years of touring, recording, and writing country classics, Loretta Lynn is the most-awarded lady in country music. “This is the only family-authorized and approved Loretta Lynn tribute,” added Garren. “Emily Portman, who portrayed Loretta



in the musical “It’s Only Make Believe” for over 20 years, provides the vocals.”

The Farewell American Tour of country icon, **Lee Greenwood**, is coming to Highlands County on Friday, Jan. 24. Throughout his expansive career, Greenwood has earned multiple Country Music Awards and American Country Music Awards, a Grammy Award for top male vocal performance, and a multitude of other prestigious awards. He’s had seven No. 1 hits and 38 singles including songs like “Dixie Road,” “Somebody’s Gonna Love You,” “It Turns Me Inside Out,” and “Ring on Her Finger, Time on Her Hands.”

His stand-out hit, “God Bless the U.S.A.” has been in the top five on the country singles chart three times; the only song in any genre of music to achieve that feat. Known for his stand-out patriotism and support of the U. S. Military, Greenwood has been honored with the Congressional Medal of Honor and has entertained troops on over 30 USO tours.

Lee Greenwood’s performance is sponsored by Heartland Endodontics, Spiegel Chiropractic Clinic, Sharion Hudson/The Purple Iris Tea Room, MidFlorida Credit Union, Michele and Terry Heston, Drs. Vinod and Tarlika Thakkar, and Heartland National Bank.

A free concert is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 30 at 1:30 p.m. “**The Charlie Redd Band** performs jazz, swing, and pop music with a saucy style,” said Garren. “We encourage



homeschool parents to bring their children to a live music concert in a beautiful Performing Arts Center. After the show, visit the Museum of Florida Art and Culture on campus.” The band is led by vocalist Charlie Redd, with Doug Andrews on keyboards, drummer Louie Nagy, and bassist Martin Rimoldi.

A Build Your Own Ticket package offers a 10% discount when buying three or four shows, a 15% discount when buying five to seven shows, a 20% discount when buying eight to 10 shows, and a 22% discount when

buying 11 or more shows. Discounts are based on the number of shows purchased, not the number of tickets.

The Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts is located on the Highlands Campus of South Florida State College located at 600 West College Drive in Avon Park. Tickets are available online at sfscARTS.org, by phone at 863-784-7178, or by visiting in person, Monday through Friday, 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. There is a \$3 per ticket processing fee on all tickets.

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With a legacy rooted in nine generations of bareback riding expertise, Olissio Zoppe launched this spectacular touring production in 2005. His vision has since transformed into a global sensation, delivering unforgettable experiences to audiences worldwide.

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Tickets are on sale now, with prices starting at \$20 for children (ages 3-12) and \$45 for adults. Don't miss your chance to be part of this unforgettable journey. Visit <https://tickets.cirquemaceo.com> and secure your spot today

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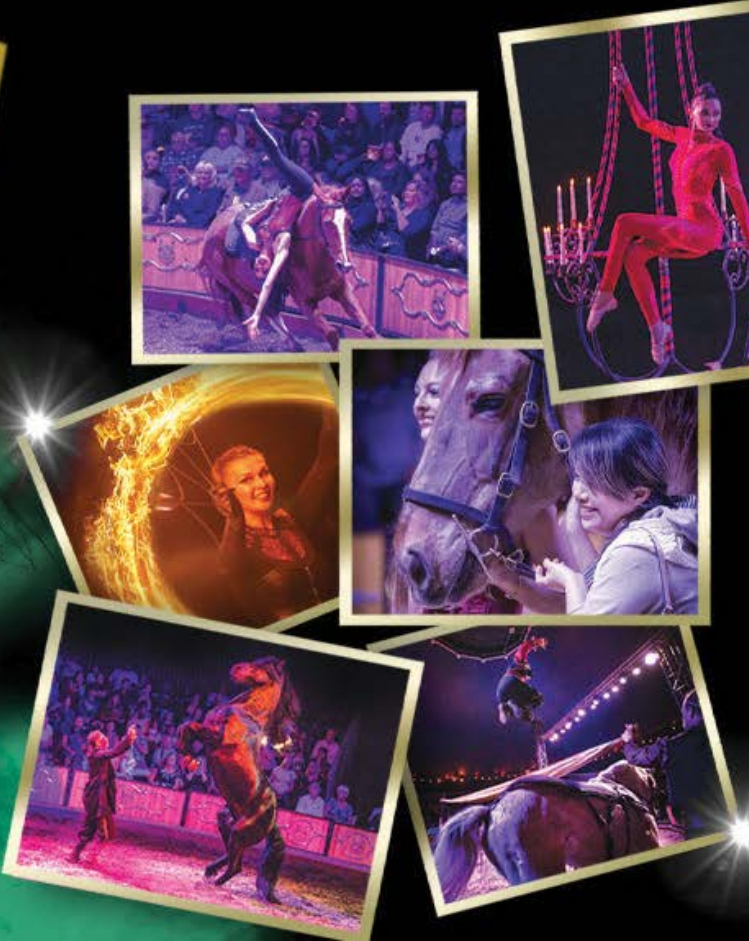
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WHO CUSTOM ENGRAVES CONCRETE?



CAROL MAHLER
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Charlie Brown owns a laser engraver the size of a compact car, and he is not afraid to use it. So when a customer asked him to custom-engrave a slab of concrete, he took on the job because his machine is designed to cut granite, slate, or other rock. However, it turned into a labor-intensive task, as he kept having to trace over the lines. “I didn’t realize concrete was so hard,” he said.

You can see his work around Arcadia: the wooden symbol for Florida Farmhouse Coffee, 103 W. Oak St.; the history display inside Rosé Cafe, 12 N. DeSoto Ave.; and the signs at Morgan Park, made from the bed slats of long-time Park Caretaker Betty Keen (1932-2023).

His wife Monica Brown is a painter, and she often paints what he engraves. They own the historic home at 108 W. Walnut St., and when C & T Fence Company installed the new picket fence, Charlie engraved some of the pickets with the company’s name and telephone number. The company reported that a prospective customer called them after reading their telephone number on the fence.

C & M Custom Creations is upstairs in the Heard Opera House, 106 W. Oak St., and open on Sat. only, and occasionally on Sun. They will soon move to a new location at the back of Myshelly’s Kitchen 15 W. Oak St., when that space is ready. For information, call 207-479-9556.



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In 2025, we're excited about the opportunity to continue serving you and powering the possibilities!





OBITUARIES



LENA PATRICIA “PAT” WAGNER



Our beloved mother, Lena Patricia “Pat” Wagner died on December 17, 2024. She was 99. Pat was the heart of our home and family. She raised 3 children in a happy and loving home to be independent and thoughtful adults. Steven Foglia, Brad Foglia (Marcia), Elayne McCoy (Chuck). She was married to George Wagner who proceeded her in death in 2023. Pat had 7 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. She will be

truly missed yet she will live in our hearts and memories always.

A celebration of life service will be held at Cross Creek RV Park clubhouse on January 15, 2025 at 11am.

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES: TRUE BELIEVERS ARE DOERS

DR. ALLEN REESOR

Professor of Comparative Religion
at South Florida State College
DeSoto Ministerial Association

When we think of Christian faith, we often focus on getting the wording correct, making sure our language is orthodox, and defining how someone enters God’s kingdom correctly. We ask, “Did they jump all the hoops in the right order?”

The apostle James wouldn’t agree with those criteria as being true faith. In James 2, he discusses the meaning of faith and what we should expect from a person of faith. He points out that true faith is seen not heard. Faith is seen in the way we: treat people (vv 1-9), show mercy (vv 10-13), take care of those in need (vv 14-17), and demonstrate our trust in God; like Abraham and Rahab. He ends the chapter saying, “26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

I know that there are days when I spend more time talking about what I believe than I do addressing the opportunities given me to be impartial, show mercy, care for the needy, and trust God. You may be like me, just talking about what needs to be done rather than doing what needs to be done. This error often stems from our uncertainty that God has our back. Do we believe that God is our guarantor, that we can live with confidence in

divine sufficiency?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in The Cost of Discipleship, in part defined “cheap grace” as “... grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ.” By extension, cheap faith is faith without discipleship, faith without the cross and faith without Jesus Christ. Discipleship costs time, effort, and risks criticism. The cross costs pain, suffering, and rejection. Following Jesus Christ costs our personal ambition, and self-gratification (Matthew 16:25 “For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it”).

It is time for Believers to be Doers, it is time for the faithful to step up. There are plenty of opportunities to demonstrate an actionable faith, a faith that doesn’t just talk about a problem but takes steps to address the problem with the resources God has provided. Five loaves and two small fish can feed the multitude when we have faith in what Jesus can do with them.

Is it time for the churches in DeSoto County to step up to the plate? Let’s be Christ-like doers, not just church-attending talkers. Faith without works is dead (James 2:26).



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SHERIFF'S OFFICE



ARREST REPORT | 12/27/24 - 1/2/25

Billings, Cameron:

Flee/Elude Police - Flee Elude High Speed Or Disr Safety Pers Prop, Moving Traffic Viol - Operate Motorcycle W/O License, Moving Traffic Viol - Possess More Than One Valid Drivers License

Browdy, John Henry:

Marijuana-Possess - Possess Less Than 20 Grams Cannabis, Drug Equip-Possess - Drug Equip-Possess: And Or Use

Couture, Diamante Larisa:

Moving Traffic Viol - Driv While Lic Suspend Revocation Equiv Status

Crenshaw, Rebecca Ann:

Obstruct Criminal Invest - False Info To Leo Re Missing Person Or Felony

Dufresne, Veronica Darlene:

Conservation-Animals - Cause Cruel Death Pain And Suffering, Resist Officer - Obstruct Wo Violence

Estes, Richard Dale:

Moving Traffic Viol - Driv While Lic Suspend Revocation Equiv Status, Resist Officer - Refuse To Accept Sign Citation Or Post Bond

Gonzalez-Lopez, Selene:

Battery - Touch Or Strike

Gonzalez, Flor Ya'dira:

Prob Violation - Prob Violation

Hall, Kimberly Rebecca:

Traffic Offense - Dui Alcohol Or Drugs, Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Drive While Lic Susp 1St Off

Hansen, Linsay:

Battery - Touch Or Strike (X2)

Hernandez, Noah Cristiano:

Drugs-Possess - Cntrl Sub Wo Prescription (X2), Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use (X2), Prob Violation, Battery - Touch Or Strike, Evidence-Destroying - Tamper With Or Fabricate Physical, Neglect Child Without Great Bodily Harm

Lavinder, Jacob Earl:

Assault - Aggravated W Intent To Commit A Felony

Lopez-Barrio, Cipriano Aurelio:

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

Murphy, Justin Lelon:

Prob Violation - Prob Violation

Nelson, Casey Brandon:

Battery - Touch Or Strike, Resist Officer - Obstruct Wo Violence

Nicaragua, Kaeden:

Resist Officer - Obstruct Wo Violence

Ortiz-Cruz, Jose:

Failure To Appear - Written Promise To Appear

Polk, Akenaton RaeVonte:

Marijuana-Possess - Possess Less Than 20 Grams Cannabis

Rangel, Alexander Carlos:

Resist Officer - Obstruct Wo Violence

Rangel, Jose Cruz:

Resist Officer - Obstruct Wo Violence

Rangel, Michelle:

Battery - Touch Or Strike

Simmons, Dana Marie:

Drugs-Possess - Cntrl Sub Wo Prescription, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use

Suggs, Jennifer Elaine:

Larc - Grand Theft 750 Less Than 5K Dols

Thomas, William Douglas:

Moving Traffic Viol - Dwlsr Or Revocation Equiv Status

Washington Sr., Anthony Don:

Battery - Touch Or Strike, Obstructing Justice - Hinder Witn Commun Info To Leo/Judge Misd Proc

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Questions? Email Sondra Guffey at s.guffey@desotobocc.com or Daniel Sutphin at d.sutphin@desotobocc.com



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UNVEILING THE HIDDEN DANGERS: LOCAL EFFORTS TO COMBAT TOBACCO USE AMONG YOUTH



The Tobacco Free Partnership of DeSoto County, in partnership with Drug Free DeSoto, recently showcased its Hidden in Plain Sight trailer, offering an eye-opening experience for parents. The interactive exhibit demonstrated the creative and often surprising ways youth may conceal tobacco products, including electronic vaping devices.

Parents who toured the trailer gained valuable insight into the risks their children face and how to recognize potential warning signs. From disguised vape pens to ordinary objects with hidden compartments, the exhibit highlighted the tobacco industry’s relentless efforts to appeal to youth.

The Hidden in Plain Sight trailer serves as a powerful tool to raise awareness and spark conversations between parents and their children about the dangers of tobacco and vaping. As vaping continues to rise among teens nationwide, initiatives like this are crucial in empowering families to make informed decisions and stand against the tobacco industry’s influence.

Community Partnerships Made It Possible

The success of the Hidden in Plain Sight trailer is a testament to the power of community collaboration. The DeSoto County Sheriff’s Office (DCSO) has been a vital partner, assisting with enforcement efforts and supporting youth education.

The success of initiatives like Hidden in Plain Sight relies on collaboration with community partners. The DeSoto County Sheriff’s Office (DCSO), a longtime member of the Tobacco Free Partnership, plays a vital role in these efforts. From enforcing underage tobacco sales laws to helping spread awareness, their partnership strengthens our mission to protect local youth.

Additionally, the DeSoto County Chamber of Commerce Leadership DeSoto Class 14 played a significant role in making the trailer a reality by fundraising for its creation. The DeSoto County Health



Department also contributed by donating several items featured in the bedroom setup, enhancing the trailer’s realism and impact.

These partnerships have been instrumental in bringing this valuable

resource to the community and ensuring its continued success in educating families. The goal is for this to be a community wide tool. If you’re interested in joining our efforts or having the Hidden in Plain Sight trailer at your event, please

contact Jodie DeLoach at jdeloach@quitdoc.com.

Together, we can protect the next generation from the dangers of tobacco and vaping.

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EAGLES

FROM PAGE 1 >>

opportunity,” Maya Mazor said. She was invited to the United States seven years ago because of her accomplishments in playing the violin and singing.

“Everything is possible in America,” her husband Magic Mazor said. Their youngest son David was born in the U.S, and their son Antoni was the Young Eagle.

Jim Lyons, president of EAA Chap. 1226, said that the Arcadia Airport is very inviting. “People can sit on the porch and watch the planes,” he said. He’d like to see the Chap. go beyond the Young Eagles program as at the Sebring Airport. EAA Chap. 1240 raised enough funds to construct a 100’ x 100’ steel building. The Chap. buys a kit airplane, and students assemble it with supervision from Chap. members—in the building. The finished aircraft is sold, and the money is used to buy another kit. That’s what he’d like to see happen at Arcadia Airport.

His 20-year-old daughter Claire Lyons has about two more months of flight training to get her pilot’s license. She does her flight training in Florida, and she lives and works as a fashion designer in Chicago. Her business is Claire’s Aviation Shop, selling “handmade WWII Authentic Upholstery and Aviator Helmets that can be customized by size, color, and embroidery. All items are made to order, and hand made with the highest quality and authenticity in mind” (www.facebook.com/people/Claire-Aviation-Shop/61566491444625). She will have her designs on sale at Taco Tuesday on Jan. 28 in Arcadia.

Registration for the Young Eagles program on Feb. 1 at the Arcadia Airport will open the week of Jan. 27, and Airport Director Shelley Peacock encourages parents to register early at: EAAChapters.org.



The Mazor family drove from Riverview, Florida, so their eight-year-old son Antoni could be a Young Eagle at the Arcadia Airport last Sat.: from left, David Mazor, Magic Mazor, Maya Mazor, and Antoni Mazor.



Fourteen-year-old Bella Ramirez of Arcadia enjoyed her second Young Eagles flight with Ralph Arwood in his Lake Renegade. She was impressed at the quality and quantity of technology in his aircraft.



“I definitely want to do it again,” 13-year-old Emmy Eggers said, after flying with Jake Dever. He traveled from a little town about an hour outside of Macon, Georgia, for the Young Eagles program at the Arcadia Municipal Airport.



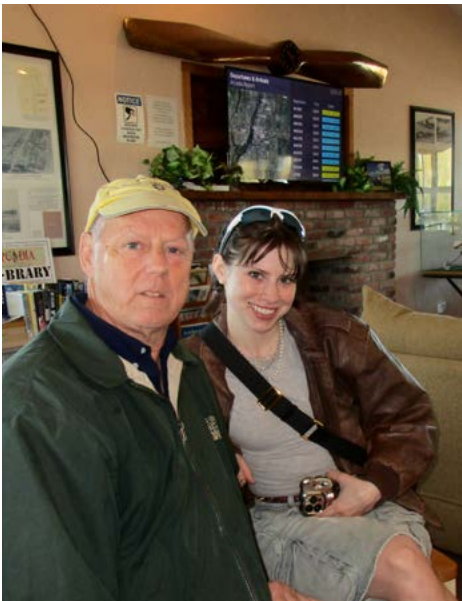
After his first flight with Pilot Jonathan Vargas, 16-year-old Trayson Salas said, “I was surprised how easy it was to control the aircraft.” He is trying to convince his father, Roy Salas—owner of Family Air Conditioning in Arcadia—to buy an aircraft.



From left, Brantley Lewis flew with Dave MacGregor in his Cessna 170A, and Kayla Lewis, center, used a camera loaned by one of the pilots to take photos of the Young Eagles for their families.



Young Eagles program volunteers take a break in the chairs on the porch of the terminal: from left, Kaylee Welker, Shelley Peacock, Roy Plackis, and Jose Hernandez. Plackis traveled from Naples to help out, and Hernandez owns and operates the Taqueria Queretaro food truck at the Airport’s popular “Taco Tuesday” event.



President Jim Lyons said that EAA Chap. 1226 is not new, just reactivated at the Arcadia Airport. His daughter Claire is learning to fly in Florida although she lives in Chicago where she works as a fashion designer.



Ryne Eggers was eager to have the same experience flying that his brother had, so Joe Douglas gave him a ride in his Cherokee Piper 235. “When I realized I was flying the plane,” Eggers said, “that was the best.”



“I liked that I could see everything from above,” 17-year-old Kiva Incavido of St. Petersburg said. “It was very beautiful.” Ralph Arwood flew her in his Lake Renegade aircraft from Naples.



Jon Garguilo and Brennen Lomski debriefed after their flight. Garguilo rented an aircraft in Sarasota to participate in the Young Eagles program at the Arcadia Airport.



Eight-year-old Umar DeLeon from Orlando fist-bumps with Pilot Jake Dever from Eastman, Georgia. Dever is training to be a commercial jet pilot, and he said that DeLeon “knew more about the aircraft than half my classmates.” DeLeon’s mother said that her homeschooled son is taking a flight course with Embry-Riddle University as well as other online aviation education.

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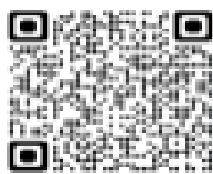
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