

# YOUNG EAGLES ENJOY FREE FLIGHTS



**CAROL MAHLER**  
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Photos provided

As part of the “Young Eagles” program hosted by the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chap. 1226 on May 9 at the Arcadia Municipal Airport, Pilots Ralph Arwood, Andy Corsetti, Ron Keating, Dave McGregor, and Shelley Peacock flew eight youngsters: Caden Chaney, Cash Chaney, Waylon Davis, Clayton Iglehart, Ashton Lopez, Dillon Lundy, King Ward, and Dugan Watson, In 1992, EAA established the Young Eagles program to give young people “their first free ride in an airplane. It’s the only program of its kind, with the sole mission to introduce and inspire kids in the world of aviation.” Thanks to the program, more than 2.4 million “Young Eagles” have flown according to the EAA

Nine-year-old Dugan Watson said, “I liked that we were up so high, and I got to fly” the Aeroprakt-32 aircraft with Pilot Andy Corsetti. “I got to see my house,” Watson said. “It was very small.”



King Ward, 12 years old, said, “It was very cool. I like the view and flying the [Cessna 172] aircraft.” Pilot Shelley Peacock said, “He’s very good at the controls, and you can’t tell he’s never flown before.”

SEE EAGLES PAGE 12 >>



**DESOTO COUNTY  
SPORTS**  
PAGE 4  
STEVE KNAPP  
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# GOVERNMENT MEETING SCHEDULE

## CITY OF ARCADIA

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

MAY  
25

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In observance of Memorial Day

MAY  
26  
TUES  
11A

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Arcadia, FL 34266

MAY  
26  
TUES  
3P

DESOTO COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
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 13

DESOTO COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ARREST REPORT

See page 15

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# ORDINANCE PASSED FOR SPEED DETECTION SYSTEMS IN SCHOOL ZONES



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Photos provided*

At the May 5 meeting, on the second and final reading, the Council passed Ordinance 1116 creating Article IV of Chap. 98 of the City Code providing for the use of speed detection systems in school zones in accordance with State law. Red Speed conducted a speed study in Oct. 2025 and reported the daily average of those exceeding the speed limit by 10 miles an hour over the posted limit: for West Elementary, 913 on DeSoto and 863 on Brevard avenues; for DeSoto High School, 324 on Turner Ave.; and for DeSoto Middle School, 181 on E. Gibson St.. The number of daily violations for Memorial Elementary School on E. Oak St. was 67, well below the 100 average necessary to install the speed detection systems.

Red Speed Senior Account Manager Jeff DeFloth opined that after the ordinance passed, the City could have the speed detection systems in place by the start of the 1926-1927 school year. Any violation will incur a \$100.00 fine, and of that total, \$20.00 goes to the State; \$12.00 to the School District; \$5.00 to the crossing guard fund; \$3.00 to the Florida Dept. of Law Enforcement; \$39.00 goes to the Arcadia Police Dept. and \$21.00 goes to Red Speed.

DeFloth said that his company has installed about 1,000 cameras in Florida, including in Sarasota, Bradenton, Punta Gorda, Charlotte County—and soon in Venice. He said the cameras change the behavior of drivers with many governments reporting as high as a 96% reduction in violations. Red Speed will help the City make a public service announcement video, such as the one made for Sarasota County which the Council viewed during DeFloth's presentation.

In addition, the City passed Ordinance 1117 amending the Unified Land Development Code so that "Single Family, Existing" may be added to Section 4.10.00 Zoning Districts and Allowed Land Uses providing applicability and development standards for the reconstruction or replacement of single-family homes, including modular homes and mobile homes, that have been damaged or destroyed. The second reading will be at the May 19 meeting.

### IN OTHER BUSINESS

The Council adopted two resolutions to approve amendments to the Public Transportation Grant Agreements from the Florida Dept. of Transportation (FDOT) as the five percent "match" needed for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grants: \$12,642.00 for a total cost of \$252,836.00 for the Jet A. Fuel Facility, and \$95,000.00 for a total cost of \$2.1 million to rehabilitate



Jeff DeFloth, Red Speed Senior Account Manager, reviewed the use of speed detection systems in school zones in accordance with State law as well as the results of a speed study his company conducted in Arcadia in Oct. 2025.



Jeff Schmucker of the Central Florida Regional Planning Council presented the City-initiated text amendment to the Unified Land Development Code to help those with existing single-family homes to reconstruct or replace them if they are destroyed or damaged.



Alibaba Lumumba, president of the HCW Foundation, thanked the Council for the proposed sidewalks and paving on Alabama Ave.



The Council honored Mrs. Mattie Bell Clark for her long life of 90 years and wished her many more years, and Mayor Judy Wertz-Strickland presented the proclamation to her.



Mayor Judy Wertz-Strickland recognized and congratulated Sujad Elabul for receiving a \$1,250.00 vocational/technical scholarship from the Ridge League of Cities.



School District Outreach Coordinator Ashley Brown detailed dates for graduating seniors: Awards Night on May 7; Prom on May 9; Career and Technical Education (CTE) Awards and Band Concert on May 14; and graduation and last day of school on May 29.

for Taxiway Alpha. Thus, both projects will be fully grant-funded.

For Old City Hall, the Council approved the purchases from Office Furniture and Design Concepts (OFDC) using the Dept. of Management Service Contract of office furniture for \$35,860.60 and partition walls for \$41,218.57. OFDC will also complete the installation.

The Council declared the following items surplus and approved their disposal by auction: eight pieces of red light fixtures, Lincoln welder, Jobsmart sandblaster, DeWalt pressure washer, one-cylinder Lombardini engine, two poly tanks (1200 and 1000 gals.), and two water pumps—Gorman four-inch and Murphy six-inch. In addition, they declared scrap metal as surplus and approved its disposal as scrap.

### COMMENTS FROM DEPTS.

Assistant City Marshal Gary Evans distributed and reviewed the Arcadia Police Dept. (APD) Reports for March: four felony, eight misdemeanor, one juvenile, seven traffic, and one warrant arrests; 20 accident reports; 125 traffic and 161 warning citations; responses to 507 complaints; and five open and four closed criminal investigation cases; and for April: four felony, 10 misdemeanor, 0 juvenile, seven traffic, and one warrant arrests; 25 accident reports; 86 traffic and 120 warning citations; responses to 580 complaints; three open and three closed criminal investigations.

Airport Director Shelley Peacock announced the Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagles program from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Sat.;

145 operations were recorded and 850 gallons of fuel sold during the May 5 Taco Tuesday; and the Board of County Commissioners approved the Airport Master Plan—and the cabins.

Golf Course Director Jeff Gibson explained that nine holes were closed to "rest" the greens. His staff and the Jr. Golf Association are preparing for summer camps.

City Administrator Beth Carsten said that she had submitted the "consent order" to the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and she will meet with them on May 14. For the Gibson St. project, she is working with some repaving and the driveway for Arcadia Electric, 440 N. Brevard Ave..

The McSwain Park project is completed; however, the Splash Pad had to be closed because a part broke when workers tried to reprogram it to run for only four hours a day because of water restrictions. The YMCA has requested a ground-breaking for the rehabilitation of the Speer Center sometime in June.

When Alabama Ave. was being repaved, 1500 linear feet of sidewalk was discovered beneath the road, so it will be rebuilt along with the paving adding \$61,000.00 to the project that has 50% forgiveness. The new sidewalk will be built on the west side of Alabama from Bond almost to Harris streets. Watson, Citrus, Singleton, and Madison will all be paved.

Utilities Director Lee Snyder spoke about the water lines on Palmetto, S. Orange, Oak St. Mills Ave., Osceola Ave., Manatee Ave., and on Cypress St. from Hillsborough Ave. to Brevard Ave. "There's a lot of things everywhere,"

he said. Some driveways have been replaced on Oak St. as well as curbing on the south side.

As the City received no applications for the vacant seat on the Planning and Zoning Board, the Council agreed for staff to advertise for candidates.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

After being charged by Council Member Keith Keene to bring back a proposal about the Domestic Violence Task Force that she requested from the Council, Ashley Brown reported that she had found that the Safe Place And Rape Crisis Center (SPARCC) already has public education programs about domestic violence and could be part of a public forum.

#### Mayor And Council Reports

Deputy Mayor Luis Velasco asked about the City's Strategic Plan, and Carsten said it had not been reviewed in ten years. He asked about a charter review, and City Attorney T. J. Wohl suggested that the Council review both the Code and the Charter, and bring their concerns to him.

Council Member Bob Heine, Jr., reported that the lease agreement with Tampa General Hospital (TGH) will begin Sept. 1, and DeSoto Memorial Hospital will then be known as TGH-DeSoto. He was pleased with the commitment of \$45 million from TGH to bring new doctors and equipment to the Arcadia facility.

Mayor Judy Wertz-Strickland recognized May 3-9 as "Drinking Water Week" by thanking Snyder and his staff for all the work they do, noting that many go "above and beyond."

# CELEBRATE ARMED FORCES DAY:

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST, HAIR CUTS FOR HEROES



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Photos provided

Armed Forces Day is observed annually on the third Sat. in May, so celebrate with a pancake breakfast open to public from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on May 16 at the Arcadia Moose Lodge #1327, 1121 W. Oak St., for \$8.00 per person and free for veterans and their wives. Trudi Evans will provide entertainment. All proceeds will be used to buy gasoline gift cards for County residents who travel out of County for cancer treatments—a program coordinated by Strolling For A Cure.

Also in celebration of Armed Forces Day, the 3rd Annual Hair Cuts For Heroes—free hair cuts for veterans by Cosmetologist Missy Fountain—will also be 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on May 16, at the Arcadia Moose Lodge.

To combine U.S. Army, Navy, and Air Force days, Armed Forces Day was first held on May 20, 1950. The U.S. Marine Corps supports Armed Services Day but also celebrates Marine Corps. Day on Nov. 10 (<https://afd.defense.gov/History>).

“I do believe in America,” Fountain said. “We live in such a great town, and we celebrate each other. Our community comes together as one to honor our veterans because they have given us our freedom.”



In 2024, Cosmetologist Missy Fountain gave a free haircut to Boca Grande's Fire Chief C. W. Blosser during “Haircuts for Heroes” on Armed Services Day in the gazebo at the Tree of Knowledge Park. This year, “Haircuts for Heroes” will be held at the Arcadia Moose Lodge.



Trudi Evans will entertain during the Armed Forces Day Pancake Breakfast and 3rd Annual Haircuts for Heroes from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on May 16 at the Arcadia Moose Lodge.



Insurance Agents Charlotte Nymark and Joe Ducette will be available to discuss Medicare plans during the Armed Forces Day Pancake Breakfast and 3rd Annual Haircuts for Heroes from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on May 16 at the Arcadia Moose Lodge.



All proceeds from the breakfast will be used to buy gasoline gift cards for County residents who must travel outside of the County to obtain treatments for cancer. Strolling for a Cure coordinates the gift card program.

# STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

The DeSoto County Chamber of Commerce’s Early Bird was held Thursday, May 7th and was hosted by Gator Wilderness Camp School. The following students were recognized as Students of the Month for May (not all are pictured).



DHS

GABRIEL NUNEZ  
9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

MADISON FUGATE  
10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

MARISOL HERNANDEZ-LOPEZ  
11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

VANELY LAZARO HERNANDEZ  
12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE



DMS

BRYANNA LAURIANO  
6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

MALACHI TERRELL MOORE  
7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

SALVADOR ADRIAN FERRER  
8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

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# PEACE RIVER SPORTS

## DMS BOYS MAKING PROGRESS IN TIE WITH WILDCATS



**STEVE KNAPP**  
Sports Writer  
sports@peacerivershopper.com

The first time the middle school boys soccer team played Hardee, they got beat up pretty good in a 5-1 loss. In their rematch they tied the Wildcats 1-1 to show great progress this season. Andre Vanzie scored in the first 40 seconds of the game and the Bulldogs held off Hardee until the final ten minutes of the game when they scored the tying goal.



The DeSoto Middle School boys soccer team for 2026.



Andre Vanzie gets the ball away from the Hardee players. This was just after he scored the only goal for the Bulldogs in a 1-1 tie.



Jovanie Zapata Martinez reaches the ball at the same time as a Hardee player in the 1-1 tie.



Carlos Baltazar displays some pretty fancy footwork as he gets the ball past the Hardee defender.



Dilan Morales Dolores eyes the ball and gains control of the pass in Desoto's 1-1 tie with Hardee.



The team gathers at halftime to get some instructions from their coaches.



Andre Vanzie gets the defender turned around with his excellent dribbling skills.

The MVP's of the game were Mhammad Elebed and Jovanie Zapata Martinez.



DESOTO COUNTY

GAME OF THE WEEK

IT'S LIKE DEJA VU ALL OVER AGAIN

Sponsored by: 



**STEVE KNAPP**  
*Sports Writer*  
[sports@peacerivershopper.com](mailto:sports@peacerivershopper.com)

That is an Americanism attributed to the Hall of Fame great Yogi Berra. It is used to describe a frustrating or recurring event. The season ending loss for the softball team had that feeling as DeSoto has never beaten the Academy of The Holy Names and their season has come to end again at the hands of the Jaguars.

DeSoto had to play their best game of the season to pull an upset against the #2 team in the region. They didn't. The results were a 7-0 loss that is at least better than the 14-0 loss they suffered last year in Tampa that ended their season.

AHN has a very strong team which you need to have to be ranked second. They have 6 batters that hit .300 or better this season and 3 more just a hit or two away from reaching that mark. Their ace hurler is a sophomore named Adrienne Heinicka who has never allowed more than 3 earned runs in a game all season and has pitched two complete game shutouts and has had a hand in 5 other shutouts.

Heinicka was in the groove against the Bulldogs striking out 11 and went 3-3 at the plate. With that kind of pitching, defense and hitting it was going to be a big challenge to beat the Jaguars who were state champions just 3 years ago.

DeSoto was up for the challenge and kept the game scoreless after two innings. Starter Liv Evans gave up a hit in each of her 2 innings, but a line drive to Amiyah Smith at third ended an inning and shortstop Lacey Berini made two nice plays ranging to her left and getting the out at first. Later second sacker Layla Morales made a nice play on a line drive up the middle that she came up with and then doubled the runner off second to end the inning.

Good pitching along with good defense kept DeSoto in the game and all they needed was to get their bats going against the slants of Heinicka. Their defense left them starting in the third inning when the Jaguars scored their first run on a double to right center that the outfielder took the wrong angle on and just barely had it go over her outstretched glove.

A couple of throwing errors led to three runs in the 4th and again in the 5th inning to give AHN a 7-0 lead. The Lady Bulldogs committed 7 errors including a dropped pop up and their bats never did get started. They had 8 errors in their district championship loss to Lemon Bay the week before.

Ellie Whidden broke up the no hitter with a one out single in the fourth inning. Juliette Wolcott did the same in the 5th inning. Pinch hitter Caitlyn Zamora also came through with a one out single in the 7th inning. The JV call up hit a screamer over the corner of the bag at third for her first varsity hit in her only at bat to give her



The Bulldogs line up for the National Anthem in Tampa.



Junior catcher Ellie Whidden takes a hack at this pitch but lined the next pitch into right for the first DeSoto hit.



Juliette Wolcott makes the long stretch to get the runner at first.

a perfect 1.000 batting average.

Something that may have been missed by the average softball fan was the prudent use of the pitching staff by Head Coach Jinny Schaefer. It is a well known fact that the more times a batter sees a pitcher, the better they do against her. They know what kind of stuff the pitcher has and they have gotten used to the speed and motion.

There was a perfect example of that fact as the Bulldog hitters began to catch up with the Jaguars pitcher. The first 10 batter for the Bulldogs saw 9 of them strike out and the other out was a lazy pop back to the circle. When the Bulldogs faced the same pitcher for the rest of the game they only had two strikeouts and put the ball in play on several well hit balls.

Schaefer wasn't going to let that happen to her Bulldogs. Evans started and went just two innings and never saw the same batter twice. She was followed by southpaw Mya Goodnoe for two innings with senior Jo Duke and freshman Berini closing out the game with an inning apiece. Their hitters couldn't get used to the different pitchers and only scored one EARNED run on just 6 hits. Considering the number of hitters over .300 on their team, the strategy worked very well. Six of their runs were unearned and that was the difference in the game.

Schaefer said, "I am proud that we put up a better fight this year. We played much better but our defense let us down like it has many times this season. We've got a good group of players returning next season and we will be good again next year."



Seniors Liv Evans, Jo Duke and Lilly Fullerton get a final photo after their last game together.



Lacey Berini ranged to her left to come up with the ball and got the out at first. Second baseman Layla Morales turned a nifty unassisted double play the next inning.



Liv Evans drifts into right field for this pop up. Evans started in the circle then shifted to right field and finished the game at second as players moved around the diamond.

DESOTO COUNTY

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

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**STEVE KNAPP**  
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These players were the high scorers in their games last Saturday

in the S4G morning league. They are the future of Desoto basketball and

are getting better every week.



In the 9-10 division Jassiah scored 5 points and Kaiden picked up 7 in his team's 17-13 win.



In the 11-12 age group it was Marshall Schlachach with 9 points and Giovanni Jackson with 10 in the 41-18 win for the white team.



The 13-14 age bracket it was Jordan Summers with 14 points and Kaden Gatlin picked up 15 points to lead his team to a 27-22 overtime win.



The 15 and older division saw the black team beat the white team 70-47. Te'coy Campbell scored 30 points for the second week in a row for the black team while Nolan Hernandez led the white team with 15.

# YMCA SOCCER TAKES THE PITCH



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# ARCADIA ELKS LODGE CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY



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Photos provided*

On May 9, the the Arcadia Elks Lodge (B.P.O.E. 1524) celebrated their Centennial Anniversary with a party and distributed a Centennial Celebration booklet that included their history thanks to research by Keith Keene and Robert Vaughn. Keene related some of the history during the celebration party.

Keene recalled that he had served as lodge secretary for 13 years and during that time he appreciated the records of every person had had joined the lodge. He thought the roll read like a “who’s who of DeSoto County.” However those records were destroyed in one of the recent hurricanes. However, the minute book of the first year was miraculously found unharmed, and that information plus newspaper reports and assistance from the DeSoto County Historical Society helped to tell the story.

On July 15, 1926, the Arcadia Elks Lodge 1524 was chartered and became the 28th lodge in the State. The group first met in the County Courthouse, then in the Knights of Pythias Club Rooms at 22 W. Oak St. (the second floor of the Owen Parker Building), and finally in the old Masonic Hall, 17 N. Monroe



Robert Vaughn and Keith Keene researched some of the history of Arcadia Elks Lodge 1524 for the Centennial Celebration booklet and served on that committee with Jackie Hughes, Sam McLeod, and Lydia Yoder.



Elks Member Wendy Hunter chatted with City Council Member Dee Washington, a guest of Keith Keene at the Centennial Celebration.



In their stunning 1920s costumes, Gail Domedion and Ann Mathison enjoyed some of the appetizers at the Centennial Celebration.



Exalted Ruler Sam McLeod, newly elected, named the 2026-2027 Lodge Officers at the request of Emcee Brian Burns.



Members and guests filled the tables in the hall for the Arcadia Elks Lodge's 100th anniversary.



Before the meal was served, Michelle Potter, Kathy Apocada, and Pam Vowels visited at the Arcadia Elks Lodge Centennial Celebration.

Ave.. On the second floor of the DeSoto Auto Company, 15 S. Polk Ave., they established their own lodge. In 1936, they purchased the three-story brick building, 200-202 W. Oak St., built in 1914 by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) and Woodmen of the

World (W.O.W.). The Elks Lodge met on the third floor until they built the clubhouse at 1028 W. Oak St. in 1957. After cooking 50 lbs. of swamp cabbage for the meal, Brian Burns served as emcee of the program that included introduction of the current

officers by Exalted Ruler Sam McLeod. Dressed in their finest 1920s outfits, members and guests enjoyed each other’s company, delicious food, music by the Slick Willy Revival Band, and dancing.

With every generation, we get better at protecting our environment.

Reclamation ecologists like Ashlee work to return mined lands to productive use as wildlife habitats, public parks and more—so future generations can enjoy these lands for years to come.

# FORT OGDEN CONTINUES “MAY DAY” PICNIC TRADITION



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Photos provided

Although May 3 began with rain, about 60 residents and friends of Fort Ogden continued the annual tradition of the “May Day” Picnic in Kings Park now held on the first Sun. in May rather than on May 1. Under overcast skies, people signed the guest book, gave a donation, set up tables and chairs, and arranged their covered dishes on the buffet tables, kindly loaned by Fort Ogden Baptist Church. Everyone enjoyed a variety of delicious food, good company, and great conversations at this 131st event.

The sun appeared briefly before Trish Howard, the event organizer (aka the “mayor of Fort Ogden”), gathered everyone together for announcements. She noted with sadness the deaths of Carol Boggess and Gordon Hay. She said that about eight or nine years ago, she had taken over organizing the May Day picnic from Irma Hay with one year skipped “because of COVID-19. She thanked all those who helped and then introduced Ernie Gass who asked the blessing.

Erik Howard, chairperson of the Republican Party of DeSoto County, invited people to sign candidate petition forms for Commissioner Elton Langford, and School Board Member Asena Mott made the same request for herself. As noted as far back as the



Raymond Jones and Dianna Jones, who set up the elaborate Christmas light display near County Road 761, sat in chairs that protected them from the sun or the rain.



Long-time Fort Ogden Residents Carole Livingston, Mike Livingston, and Micah Duke attended the annual “May Day” picnic.

At the Annual Fort Ogden “May Day” Picnic, the buffet was set up in the King’s Park pavilion, and diners set up tables or used the picnic tables under the surrounding oaks.



At the May Day picnic, Mandy Vandervliet, LaDonna Westberry Kabrich, and Kylee Kabrich made name tags and signed the guest book.



At center, “May Day” Picnic Organizer Trish Howard, aka “Mayor of Fort Ogden,” welcomed everyone and made announcements: From left, Debbie Gass, Ernie Gass, who said the blessing, Howard, Michelle Potter, and Sheriff Jim Potter who donated the iced tea and water.



At right, Dorothy Westberry dished up some of the delicious food in the buffet line in the Kings’ Park pavilion at the “May Day” picnic.

# GARDEN CLUB KEEPS SPRING PLANT SALE TRADITION



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Photos provided

On Apr. 11, the Arcadia Garden Club held a Spring Plant Sale, and according to President Maria Pace, the event that has been a Club tradition “for decades.” Indeed, Kelly Pinto and Judy Laing drove from Cape Coral. “We come every year,” Lang said. “They have a different variety of plants,” Pinto added, “and their prices are good. They’re friendly up here.” Local residents also appreciated the plant sale. Brenda Barnes said that she has patronized the plant sale many times because of “the variety and little things you can’t find in the big stores . . . and the great people.” Pace said that part of the Club’s mission is “to protect and preserve native flora and fauna. We plant as much as can at the Garden Club as well as at the Community Garden” on the west side of DeSoto County Library, 125 N.

Hillsborough Ave., and “we grow them to sell.” Garden Club Member Nancy Johns said, “We have unusual plants, and plants for butterfly gardens. The fake nettle attracts the Great Admiral butterfly, and the White Twinevine attracts Monarchs, Queens, and Golden butterflies.” All proceeds of the event help the Arcadia Garden Club with its mission “to stimulate interest and provide education in gardening; to protect native plants, birds, butterflies, and other wildlife; and to encourage public planting to improve civic beauty.” For more information, call 863-354-0808 or online at [www.facebook.com/ArcadiaFloridaGardenClub](http://www.facebook.com/ArcadiaFloridaGardenClub) or [arcadiagardenclub2022@gmail.com](mailto:arcadiagardenclub2022@gmail.com).



From left, at the Spring Plant Sale, Garden Club Members Kelly Forbes, Sue Knight, and President Maria Pace talked about plants with Christina Robinson from Zolfo Springs.



Garden Club Member Nancy Johns described the various plants that attract pollinators, such as butterflies, and other Florida native wildflowers.



From left, Omar Carrera and Maria Ramirez talked about bougainvillea with Fabiola Perez who was setting up Fabi’s Plant Paradise and selling her homemade tamales.



Paulette Cook of L & K Flowers offered carnivorous plants called pitcher plants plus many other kinds of plants in addition to her harvest of homegrown bok choy.

# BROOKSVILLE GUN SHOW

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# BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES:

## “WHEN TRUST BREAKS” (GENESIS 3:1-24)

**PASTOR ABDIEL FUENTES**  
*First Christian Church*  
DeSoto County Ministerial Association

Trust is the quiet foundation of every meaningful relationship. When it holds, life flourishes. When it breaks, everything shifts—motives get questioned, fear creeps in, and hiding begins. Genesis 3 shows us that the fracture we feel when trust breaks didn’t start with us. It started in the garden, when mankind listened to another voice instead of the Word of God. God created the world with intention and goodness. He formed us in His image and invited us to live within His wise and loving design. His Word defined reality, and trusting Him brought life. Everything was rightly ordered. Everything was good.

Then came a subtle shift. The ruin of mankind didn’t begin with open rebellion—it began with a question: “Indeed, has God said...?”. Suddenly, God’s generous command was reframed as a restriction. His goodness was questioned. His character was impugned. A seed of suspicion was planted. And that’s still how temptation works (2 Cor 11:3). The enemy rarely denies God’s Word outright; he reframes it, nudging us to see God as withholding what is good.

Eve responded to the serpent, but she added to God’s command. Then came the contradiction: “You surely will not die.” And with that, the lie became clear—God was holding out, obedience was restrictive, autonomy meant freedom. But the real temptation wasn’t the fruit—it was the invitation to redefine reality apart from God (Prov 3:5-7).

Thus, Genesis 3:6 becomes the hinge of human history. Eve saw. She desired. She took. She ate. She gave. Adam ate, and desire overrode trust, just like it happens today (Jas 1:14-15). Dependence gives way to autonomy. Trust breaks—and everything else breaks with it. Shame appears. Fear replaces fellowship. Figurative Fig leaves are sewn. And with that, the God who once brought joy is now avoided.

Broken trust always leads to hiding—behind excuses, behind blame, behind self-protection, even behind silence. Yet, there in the ruins of it all, God did something astonishing. He pursued them. “Where are you?” wasn’t a reach for information—God already knew what happened. It was an invitation to honesty. The same is true today. God draws sinners out of hiding not to shame them but to restore them (Ps 34:18). We try to cover our shame, but fig leaves are never enough. So, God provides the

covering—garments of skin. A sacrifice. A foreshadowing of the gospel. What we cannot fix, God graciously provides through Jesus (Rom 5:6-8; 13:14; Gal 3:27; Eph 4:24).

And right in the middle of judgment, God makes a promise. The serpent will strike, but a Seed is coming—a Deliverer, a serpent crusher, wounded yet victorious. This is the first announcement of redemption, fulfilled in Jesus Christ (Gal 4:4-5; Heb 2:14).

At the cross, trust is fully broken—and fully restored. Jesus bears our shame (Isa 53:4-6), defeats the enemy (Col 2:15), and covers us with His righteousness (2 Cor 5:21). When trust breaks, God pursues (Luke 19:10). When shame overwhelms, God covers (Ps 32:1-2). When sin ruins, God promises redemption (Rom 8:1-4). And even now, in the ruins, God is restoring you through Jesus Christ (Rev 21:5).



2026

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Publishing May 29, 2026

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EAGLES

FROM PAGE 1 »

Website [eaa.org/ea/youth/free-ye-flights](http://eaa.org/ea/youth/free-ye-flights)

To participate, parents must register their children through the EAA young eagles website at [www.youngeaglesday.org](http://www.youngeaglesday.org). Opportunities to fly are limited by the EAA pilots who volunteer, and if available registrations are filled, parents may add their child to the wait list.

Airport Director Shelley Peacock said the next Young Eagles program is scheduled for June 13. She thanked all the volunteer pilots as well as the ground crew: Jim Brewer, her assistant Veera Fitzpatrick, Roy Plackis, and Ron Watson. Located at 2269 SE A.C. Polk, Jr., Dr.,



After flying with Pilot Andy Corsetti in his Aeroprakt-32 aircraft, 17-year-old Caden Chaney said, "That was amazing. I could see all the schools, and Walmart looked so small. You don't realize how small everything really is."



"It was amazing," 14-year-old Cash Chaney said after he flew with Pilot Dave McGregor in his Cessna 170 aircraft. "I saw the solar fields, Turner Center, Peace River Citrus Plant and Peace River Campground."



Fifteen-year-old Clayton Iglehart flew with Pilot Ron Keating in his Cessna 150 aircraft. "It was great," Iglehart said. "I saw Peace River, but I was not paying attention to the ground when I was flying the aircraft."

After flying with Pilot Ron Keating in his Cessna 150 aircraft, Dillon Lundy, 17 years old, said, "That was a pretty fun experience, and I recommend that everyone come out and try it."



"It was cool," Ashton Lopez, 14 years old, said after his flight with Pilot Ralph Arwood in his Lake Renegade aircraft. "I liked flying the airplane and seeing Peace River."

After his flight with Shelley Peacock in her Cessna 172 aircraft, eight-year-old Waylon Davis said, "It was fun. I saw six baseball fields and Peace River."



Airport Director Shelley Peacock gave a "safety briefing" to the parents, their children, ground volunteers, and City Administrator Beth Carsten, far left, at the Young Eagles Program last Saturday.



From left, Cash Chaney, Dillon Lundy, Caden Chaney, and Waylon Davis held up their certificates in the Arcadia Airport Terminal after their Young Eagles flights.



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Stay Safe!





# OBITUARIES

## CAROL JEAN BOGGESS



Carol Jean Boguess was born in East Hardwick, Vermont on March 2nd, 1935. In 1951 she moved to Naples, Florida. She graduated from Naples High School in 1953. She built

her life in Fort Ogden, Florida. Carol married the love of her life, Clayton Francis by Boguess Senior on May 7th, 1965.

She worked at Charlotte Regional Medical Center in switchboard, triage and medical records for 28 years.

Carol was a lifelong member of the First Baptist Church of Fort Ogden and spent decades serving as Acteen Leader, WMU Director, Sunday School and VBS Teacher and choir member. She loved Jesus and shared the gospel with everyone she came across. She drug her children and grandchildren to church any time the doors were open and left a legacy of faith that will transcend generations.

Granny Carol had a green thumb like no other and spent her free time caring for her many plants, she loved

orchids most of all. She could also be found out in the pasture, hoeing up the soda apples and taking care of her cattle. Her hobbies included cake decorating, baking, caring for her menagerie of animals, canning, crocheting, and sewing.

Carol Jean Boguess entered eternal life on April 30th, 2026, in her home, surrounded by her loved ones.

She is survived by her four children: Daniel Paul Fugate, John Julius Fugate (Deborah), Tammy Floye Frye (Bryan), and Clayton Francis Boguess Jr, eight grandchildren: Shane Fugate (Amanda), Amanda Taylor (Eric), Putter Fugate (Heather), Jacquelyn Farley, Leah Collier (James), Andrew Baker (Sydney), Phillip Frye (Jordan), Delaney Cole-Boguess, 14 great

grandchildren, along with the many others she adopted over the years.

Carol is preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Clayton Boguess Senior and grandson, Christopher John Fugate.

Pallbearers: Andrew Baker, James Collier, Mason Farley, Tommy Barnwell, Phillip Frye, and Tommy Beasley.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the First Baptist Church Children's Fund.

**Funeral Service was held on Friday, May 8th, 2026 at First Baptist Church of Fort Ogden.**

## KEVIN CLAY BROWN



The world became a little less bright on o May 7, 2026, with the passing of Kevin Clay Brown, 59, of Punta Gorda, FL. Born on May 18, 1966 in Iowa City, Iowa, he was a man of rare and genuine kindness, remembered by all who knew him as someone who lived to help others.

Kevin was the neighbor who always had the right tool, the friend who showed up before he was even

asked, and the family man who put everyone's needs above his own. He had a natural ability to make people feel seen and supported, truly embodying the spirit of a "nice guy" in every sense off the word.

While he enjoyed his time on the water, for Kevin, fishing was less about the catch and all about the experience. He loved taking the boat out, leaving the world behind for a few hours, and enjoying fishing with his family and friends. But no matter where he was, his heart belonged to his family. Nothing meant more to him than being surrounded by the people he loved, sharing a meal, a laugh, and the simple joy of being together.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Jennifer Brown; and his five children and their families: Jennifer Martin and her children, Carter and Taylor; Travis (Betsy) Harrison and their children; Aaron, Ethan, Jacob, and Natalie; Charles (Heather) Whatley, their children, Hannah, Mackenzie, and Amelia, and their grandchildren

Ryker and Maverick; Jessica (Tim) Shaver and their children, Sophia, Madison, and Parker; Tyler (Morgan) Brown and their children, Hudson, Carson, Emerson, and Addison. He is also survived by a community of friends who are better for having known him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Kenneth and June Brown, his sister Lori Brown, and his son

Nathan Simpson. Knowing they are reunited brings a small measure of peace to those he left behind.

**In honor of his generous spirit and to mark what would have been his milestone 60th birthday, a Celebration of Life will be held on May 18, 2026 at the Harbor Heights Park Civic Association building, 2530 Harbour Dr., Punta Gorda, FL at 3:00pm. Gone fishing.**



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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ARREST REPORT | 5/1/26 - 5/7/26

Antonie, Dieuluc:

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

Cantrell-Sarabella, Peter Conner:

Moving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle W/O Valid LIC 1st Conv

Criss, Amie Linnea:

Prob Violation - Prob Violation

Deloera, Esgar:

Moving Traffic Viol - Drive W LIC From Other State When FI LIC Susp; Moving Traffic Viol - Drive W/ DL Expired More Than 6 Months

Dewson, Nicholas Ryan:

Fail To Reg As Crim Reg - Convicted Felon Fail To Register

Eaton, Jessica Mae:

Out-of-County Warrant - Out-of-County Warrant

Fernandez, Jaimie Dawn:

Damage Prop-Crim Misch - Over 200 Dols Under 1000 Dols; Disorderly Conduct - Brawling Fighting Corrupt Public Moral Decency; Resist Officer - Obstruct Wo Violence

Fry, Brandi:

Battery - Touch Or Strike

Garner II, Thomas William:

Prob Violation - Prob Violation (x2)

Gonzalez, Isaac:

Prob Violation - Prob Violation

Gonzalez, Shannon Jean:

Prob Violation - Prob Violation

Grote, Kallista Lynn:

Trespassing - Trespass Fail To Leave Prop On Order Of Owner

Hernandez-Mexicano, Adrian:

DUI-Unlaw Bld Alch - DUI Damage To Property Or Person Of Another

Lopez Sullivan, Arcadia William:

Battery - Touch Or Strike; Damage Prop-Crim Misch - 200 Dols And Under; Disorderly Conduct - Brawling Fighting Corrupt Public Moral Decency; Drug Equip-Possess - Drug Equip-Possess: And Or Use; Drugs-Possess - Possess Controlled Substance W/O Prescription; Fraud-Illeg Use Credit Cards - Use More 2 Time 6 Ms Obt Gds Mney 100 Dol More; Larc - Lost Or Delivered By Mistake Credit Card; Moving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle W/O Valid LIC 1st Conv; Smuggle Contraband - Ctrl Sub s.893.02(4) County Detention Facility

Martin-Perez, Francisco Javier:

Drug Equip-Possess - Drug Equip-Possess: And Or Use; Fraud-Imperson - False ID Given To LEO; Marijuana-Possess - Possess Less Than 20 Grams Cannabis; Out-of-County Warrant - Out-of-County Warrant

Mathis, Michael Lee:

Battery - Touch Or Strike; Drug Equip-Possess - Drug Equip-Possess: And Or Use; Drugs-Possess - Possess Controlled Substance W/O Prescription (x2); Simple Asslt - Intent Threat To Do Violence

Padro, Axelis Omar:

Failure To Appear - Written Promise To Appear

Parrella Jr., Robert Allen:

Moving Traffic Viol - Driv While LIC Suspend Revocation Equiv Status; Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Fail To Register Motor Veh

Perez Cruz, Luis Miguel:

DUI-Unlaw Bld Alch - DUI Damage To Property Or Person Of Another; Hit And Run - Leave Scene Of Crash Involve Damage To Prop

Perez-Agustin, Mario Celestino:

Moving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle W/O Valid LIC 1st Conv

Perry, Julie Ann:

Amphetamine-Traffic - Traffic In METH/AMPHETAMINE 14 Grams+; Drug Equip-Possess - Drug Equip-Possess: And Or Use; Drugs-Possess - Possess Controlled Substance W/O Prescription

Ramirez-Sanchez, Aldo Jonathan:

Failure To Appear - Written Promise To Appear

Rios, Cameron Lee:

Out-of-County Warrant - Out-of-County Warrant

Rodriguez, Joel:

Failure To Appear - Written Promise To Appear

Ruiz Jr., Alfredo:

DUI-Unlaw Bld Alch - DUI Influence Of Alcohol Or Drugs; DUI-Unlaw Bld Alch - Refusal Submit DUI Testing

Sanchez Domingo, Oscar

Raymundo:

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

Scott, Johnathan Rae:

Trespassing - Trespass Fail To Leave Prop On Order Of Owner

Vasquez, Guadalupe Perez:

Disorderly Intox - Disorder Intox Public Place Cause Disturbance

Villa, Jose Armondo:

DUI-Unlaw Bld Alch - DUI Damage To Property Or Person Of Another; DUI-Unlaw Bld Alch - Refusal Submit DUI Testing

Warren Jr., Artavious Jermaine:

Failure To Appear - Felony Warrant

Williams Jr., Steve Lamont:

Drug Equip-Possess - Drug Equip-Possess: And Or Use; Drugs-Possess - Possess Controlled Substance W/O Prescription; Drugs-Sell - Sell Controlled Substance Schedule I; Public Order Crimes - Keep Pub Nuisance Structure For Drug Activity

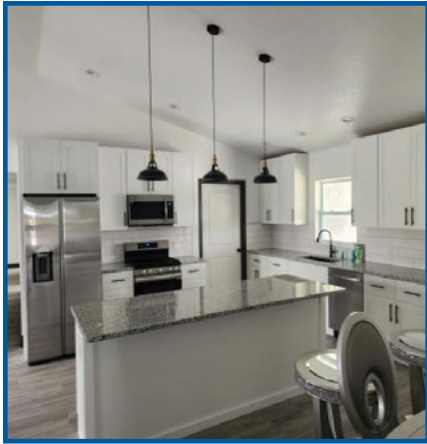
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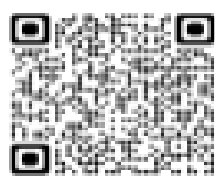
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