FREE VOL. VI, NO. 25

ARCADIA COMMUNITO **JUNE 26, 2025**



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Local

SISTERHOOD

CELEBRATES JUNETEENTH



From left, members of the Sisterhood of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church celebrated Juneteenth in the DeSoto County Library: Janie Brazell, Deborah Clifton, Bobbie Faison, Shalette Bessent, Deborah Clifton, Dezrene Jackson, Evelyn Dallas, and Sandra Peacock.



CAROL MAHLER Independent Contractor carolmahler22acl@gmail.com

The Sisterhood of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church celebrated Juneteenth with a "Juneteenth Walk" at the DeSoto County Library, 125 N. Hillsborough Ave., from noon to 2:00 p.m. last Thurs.. "The Walk" was a metaphor for "walking through history" or a timeline of "the journey" from Africans to African Americans.

Photos provided

Deborah Clifton, who organized the display, narrated the series of steps set up as dioramas: from happy and successful lives in Africa; through capture, transport on slave ships, and sale at slave auctions; field work on the cotton plantations and at other tasks, such as washing and cleaning; escape from slavery-the Underground Railroad, capture,



In the "The Juneteenth Walk" series of dioramas presented by the Sisterhood of Shiloh **Missionary Baptist** Church, Shimykah **Edwards liked the** first step-showing rich and successful Africans-before they were captured and enslaved. Standing with her is her grandmother Wanda Bailey.

SEE SISTERHOOD PAGE 14 >>

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GOVERNMENT MEETING SCHEDULE

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

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

JULY

DESOTO COUNTY

CANCELED PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

TUE 5:30P **Administration Building** 201 E. Oak Street, Suite 103 Arcadia, FL 34266

JULY

DESOTO COUNTY

8

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

TUE

Administration Building 201 E. Oak Street, Suite 103 Arcadia, FL 34266

JULY

DESOTO COUNTY

BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING

TUE

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/







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

CITY RECEIVES "CLEAN AUDIT" FOR 2024



CAROL MAHLER

Independent Contractor carolmahler22acl@gmail.com Photos provided

Julie Fowler, CPA, Signing Director with CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP, congratulated the City on a "clean audit" for their financial statements as well as the Federal and State grant awards for the fiscal year 2023-2024. The Council voted to accept the audit.

Fowler said that the City is in a good position financially with the ability to fund more than five months of operating expenses without any additional revenue. As for the Enterprise Funds, only the Municipal Airport showed a negative balance of unrestricted fundsmostly because of capital projects. The Water and Sewer and Solid Waste funds showed a positive balance of unrestricted funds.

The only "material finding" was minor: the schedule of Federal and State grant awards was missing an entry for the disaster recovery funds reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Fowler also note that the bank reconciliations error that had plagued the City for years was gone. She praised the City's staff saying "They are wonderful to work with."

Finance Director Teresa Conerly said, "Each year we are getting better," and she credited Juana Ruiz with solving the bank reconciliation problem. She assured the Council that changes have already been made to correct the grant schedule, and staff is being trained in new software to help with "contracts and project management." She offered "a big, big thank you to all of our staff." Her gratitude was echoed by Mayor Judy Wertz-Strickland, Deputy Mayor Luis Velasco, and Council Member Keith Keene.

ARCADIA POLICE DEPT.

The Council authorized the Arcadia Police Dept. (APD) to apply for the 2025 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Program for a 20th position. The grant provides \$125,000.00 over three years or approximately \$42,667.00 per year



or about half of the estimated cost for salary and benefits for a starting police officer in 2026-\$86,000.00. The Council will need to fund \$44,000.00 per year, and retain the officer for one year after the grant ends.

APD Capt. Kevin Joens said that the new position will solve some overtime issues as well as provide enhanced "community policing" especially for downtown events in addition visible patrol duties via car, bicycle, and foot. Primary responsibilities will include enforcing traffic and parking rules downtown; patrolling neighborhoods and business districts "to deter trespassing and thefts;" plus walking throughs parks and public spaces "to discourage vandalism and prevent damage, particularly related to homeless encampments."

Deputy Mayor Luis Velsaco questioned the ability of the APD to hire the 20th officer since the 19th officer position is still open. Joens said that he has an opportunity tomorrow to talk about the open position with recent graduates of the Sarasota Technical Institute Florida Law Enforcement Academy. The grant is a reimbursement, so if the City is unable to provide the matching funds or if APD cannot fill the position, then "the money stays with the State," Joens said.

On behalf of the City Marshal, Joens also thanked the Council for funding the training facilities that were recently used by APD as well as Tampa-based FBI

Mayor Judy Wertz-Strickland presented a certificate of appreciation for five years of dedicated service to Avier Johnson who works at the City's



Julie Fowler of CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP, reported a "clean audit" of the City's financial records for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 at the June 17 meeting.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

The Council voted to continue the lease with Team Arcadia for the rental of the building in McSwain Park, 16 S. Volusia Ave., and discontinue the requirement that Team Arcadia handle rentals of the building to others. According to Allen Reesor, the lack of a working kitchen plus only one restroom facility has discouraged many groups from renting the facility. Renovations of the structure were discussed as well as the need for treating termites. City Attorney T.J. Wohl will submit a lease amendment to reflect these changes at a future meeting.

Under the Consent Agenda, the Council approved a special event permit for Sky King Fireworks to hold a tent sale from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. from June 26 through July 4, 2025, and from Dec. 26, 2025, through Jan. 1, 2026, at 1400 E. Oak St.

COMMENTS FROM DEPTS.

Wohl reported on a meeting with City Administrator Beth Carsten, Keene, and Carol Mahler, Chairperson of the City's Historic Preservation Commission, and he will soon present a potential ordinance change to allow more administrative approvals for various exterior changes of structures in the Arcadia Historic District.

Senior Code Enforcement Officer Naomi Lantz reported 201 current cases and that the "Verandah House," 305 W. Oak St., is scheduled for a tax deed sale of \$22,373.10 on Aug. 6. Wohl said that the sale will "wipe out the mortgage" but the City's code liens will remain.

Carsten alerted the Council that the Florida Dept. of Transportation (FDOT) Small County Outreach Project (SCOP) grant project on Gibson St. is scheduled to start at the end of July and will cause

road closures. The Council agreed that Carsten could write a letter for Shawn Washington outlining his partnership with the City for improvements at the park on Martin Luther King, Jr., Dr.. She also reminded everyone of the Independence Day parade on July 4; the budget workshop at 3:00 p.m. on July 9; and the Florida League of Cities (FLC) Conference on July 14-16 in Orlando.

MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS

During a visit to the municipal airport, Council Member Robert Heine found that the new hangars still have a "water problem" and the County has not certified for occupancy the cabins in the pilot campground. Carsten said that the City is conferring with Hanson Professional Services to solve the hangar problem and that the County has published a brochure that includes the cabins. She will check with the County on the status of their use.

Keene described a visit to the Bartow Municipal Airport for the Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC) meeting and learning about the Airport's collaboration with the Polk County School District to introduce air traffic controller as a career for students and wondered if Arcadia could do something

Wertz-Strickland noted that Dee Washington—who had enthusiastically agreed to attend the FLC Conferencecould apply for the \$1,000.00 scholarship as had Velasco last year. At her request, the Council also approved donating the funds remaining from the FLC Ridge League dinner meeting that the City hosted-\$1,401.66-plus and additional \$598.34 for a total donation of \$2,000.00 to Gator Wilderness Camp School.

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HOMEGROWN PRODUCE

MAIN STREET RECEIVES \$25,000 AARP GRANT



CAROL MAHLER

Independent Contractor carolmahler22acl@gmail.com Photos provided

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) awarded a \$25,000.00 Community Challenge grant to the Arcadia Main Street (AMS) program as AMS Director Pam Ames announced at the City Council meeting on June 17. The following AMS members were also present: Pres. Sanjay Patel, Vice-Pres. James Lee, Starr McLaughlin, Jill Maassen, and City Council Liaison Judy Wertz-Strickland.

AMS received a Community Challenge Demonstration Grant in the category of "Enhancing pedestrian safety by creating safer streets and sidewalks, with a focus on people age 50-plus, with funding support from Toyota Motor North America." The AMS project "will install pedestrianfriendly wayfinding signage in downtown Arcadia. The signs will highlight key destinations, historical sites, and



Arcadia Main Street (AMS) Director Pam Ames announced that her organization had received a \$25,000.00 **Community Challenge Demonstration Grant from the** American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).



2025 AARP Community Challenge

Meet the **Demonstration Grant** Grantees!



The Arcadia Main Street Project to install way-finding signs in downtown is in the pedestrian safety category of the AARP Community Challenge Demonstration Grants.

cultural landmarks." The only other recipient of a grant in this category in Florida was the City of Hialeah.

These are two of "383 guick-action projects to help make communities more livable for people of all ages. . . . the highly competitive process drew 3,460 applications from local governments and not-for-profit organizations."

Since it was established in 2017, "the AARP Community Challenge has

invested \$24.3 million in 2,100 livability projects, with a focus on meeting the needs of adults age 50 or older, in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Washington, D.C.". This year marks the largest rural investment to date with 45% of funded projects located in rural communities, such as Arcadia aarp.org/livable-communities/ community-challenge

Ames said that she will need

100 volunteers to complete a "walk audit." They will register online to participate in the audit. AARP's "free printable, fillable, shareable forms and checklists for taking notes and making observations about a street or area's safe walkability" for a walk audit are available at aarp.org/livablecommunities.

PLETCHER'S ART GALLERY OPENS



CAROL MAHLER

Independent Contractor Photos provided

Kathryn and Marc Pletcher found Arcadia when they were searching for fossils. "We like small town, old Florida," she said. "Peace River was a huge draw, of course."

Marc said, "we had the aspiration of opening a small shop and that dream started snowballing." They purchased the building at 16 S. Monroe Ave. and opened Pletcher's Gallery to sell their work and "to provide a space for other artists to sell theirs."

Kathryn was still in high school when she relocated to Florida from Massachusetts, and Marc moved to the State about 25 years ago from Michigan. They met in a "clean room" environment where they were both involved in the manufacture of microchips. First, they lived in Kissimmee and then in Haines City. After their two daughters graduated from high school, they wanted to be near the beach, so they chose Charlotte County. It was much too busy, so they searched for "the country" and found

Marc also worked for 18 years as a Fed Ex courier in northwest DeSoto County. He said, "I fell in love with Arcadia through my job."

One of their daughters is a musician, and the other is an artist, so they know the importance of art. They hope that the gallery will show people that art is alive and thriving in Arcadia. They also recognize that art is therapy for some people, including some of the artists in the gallery.



 ${\bf Pletcher's} \ {\bf Art} \ {\bf Gallery} \ {\bf is} \ {\bf inviting} \ {\bf with} \ {\bf it's} \ {\bf high,} \ {\bf open-beamed} \ {\bf ceiling} \ {\bf and} \ {\bf colorful}$ displays. Marc says, "I'm constantly changing the gallery." Kathryn added, "We think diversity is the key."

Of course, they sell Marc's art,

including his nature photography. He

started shooting photographs in high

school using his father's Cannon AE1.

His father worked as a school principal

and used the camera to take wedding

pictures and portraits for a missionary

and that embarrassed my mom," Marc

photographs of Marc in "compromising

positions" as he tries to get the perfect

He said that in high school, he took

said, "so now I embarrass my wife."

However, Kathryn said that she has

art class "more than I should have-

every one of my electives was art." He

school, and although he had a baseball

In Feb., they enjoyed the DeSoto Arts

missed the opportunity to attend art

scholarship to a college, he only

attended one semester.

"He always had a long lens with him

company.

Opening the gallery has been a learning experience for the Pletchers, and that seems only natural for a selftaught artist. Marc said that he comes from a family of educators, and he hopes to also sell art supplies and work with the school system as well.

decorates a high shelf of the gallery along with plastic dinosaurs, and that's only part of the whimsical and appealing decor. A shelf designed to look like a piano keyboard-studded with butterflies-displays photographs and

board games or photographic slides-are for sale. "I like to make functional art,"

Kathryn and Marc work together to repurpose broken-down furniture. She has the idea of what to do with a particular piece-and sometimes strips off old finishes-and Marc figures out how to make her vision a reality.

They offer aprons, bags, purses, and other items made from plastic "water bags" that are used instead of water bottles in Haiti. The company employees women who otherwise might not have a source of income. Marc said his father did missionary work in Haiti, so having this work in the gallery is "kind of coming full circle."

They also have some of their fossils on display plus the work of seven or eight other artists. "We want to bring

Council (DAC) art show at the DeSoto Campus of South Florida State College that included work by students. When he was a student, Marc had a similar experience with his art on display at a college. He said, "It meant the world to me." He hopes to align with DAC to give art a "stronger presence in Arcadia."

Marc's old camera equipment prints. Others shelves-fashioned from

MISS DESOTO 10U ALL STARS

SETS SIGHTS ON TOURNAMENT



STEVE KNAPP

Sports Writer sports@peacerivershopper.com

With the state tournament coming up, the 10U All Stars were busy perfecting their game, even on Memorial Day weekend. Working on hitting, and fielding and other aspects of the game could prove to pay off in the All Star tournament in Winter Haven.











SHELBY HOLLINGSWORTH QUEEN OF THE BASEBALL DIAMOND



STEVE KNAPP

Sports Writer sports@peacerivershopper.com

Marilyn Monroe first said "diamonds are a girls best friend" in the movie Gentlemen prefer blondes. Some girls like the diamonds on their finger while others like the sparkle of the softball diamond. Shelby Hollingsworth is a young girl at DeSoto County and she loves diamonds, but not the kind other girls like.

The first time I saw Shelby playing was about 4 or 5 years ago. I saw a talented young little league pitcher on the mound with long flowing blonde hair just blowing the ball past her opponents. I remember telling the coach, "That boy has got something going on". I was surprised to hear him say, "That boy is a girl". I was intrigued from then on and kept an eye on her over the next couple

This past spring I saw her again, this time as a member of the DeSoto County baseball team. Yes baseball and not softball. I wondered how she would stack up against hitters from other schools and if she would be able to make the leap from little league to a high school team. I didn't have to wonder for very long.

She was taking batting practice and was sending shots in all directions. On the mound she still had that same pop and good stuff. When she was taking the field in the shortstop position, she came up with everything and made strong throws across the diamond. My question was answered quickly with a resounding Yes, she could make the leap.

I talked with the multi talented well rounded young lady and she answered my questions with well thought out answers. The first thing I wondered about was why did she choose baseball over softball?

"Growing up my brother and I started at the same time, we grew up practicing together and I was always at his games. His coaches were always supportive of me playing and I wanted to follow in his footsteps. The opportunities in baseball has brought me to many places and I have gotten to meet many people that I feel it wouldn't have been the same if I had played softball. I just hope I am able to help pave a small trail for future girls that hope to be able to play baseball."

With her on the hill and then at short when she isn't pitching, those aren't positions that you would put somebody if they didn't have a lot of skill on the field. She has played all over the diamond and doesn't really have a favorite position. She is just happy to be able to play the game no matter where she is on the field.

A person has to wonder if she would still be as good a player if she had chosen softball rather than baseball. Confidently Shelby stated, "I believe I would be able to adjust to softball with some work, but I think my ability to play



Her skills on the diamond haven't gone unnoticed as she has been offered some great opportunities for advancing her career. "I have had several opportunities in the past and also in the near future to play in some cool tryouts with partnerships of USA women's national baseball. During the summer I have the opportunity to go to Kansas City to begin the first set of tryouts to be able to make the women's national team. In addition to that I am looking into trying out for the WMLB (womens major league baseball) in the future."

With the possibility of turning pro some day, she isn't looking past the hard work that is needed. "I know it is a long shot to be able to make it to the league, I am trusting God's plan and if that is college, team USA or playing in the WMLB league, I plan to just keep working and being grateful that God gave me the opportunity to play."

She has been teammates with the JV players for many years as they advanced up the ranks in little league. She said, "I was very grateful for my teammates this year on JV and varsity, they never treated me any differently. It is always nice to play with the same kids you grew up playing with."

Last fall Shelby came out to the volleyball team midway through the season. It is something she plans to pursue. "I started volleyball for the first time mid season. With the help of coach Gilmore and coach Taylor I really enjoyed it and I'm looking forward to next season." She also is thinking about getting back into golf. Both are fall sports which could be difficult to manage practice and game times for both sports, but I wouldn't bet against her making it work.

She isn't just about sports, she is well rounded and has other interests off the court and diamond. "I like to workout, play with my brothers and I show steers, goats, and citrus trees throughout the year."

As I said at the beginning of this story, "That girl has got something going





Shelby Hollingsworth comes up with the ball from her shortstop position.

SPRING SPORTS AWARDS CEREMONY



The track team had a lot of people in attendance for their awards.



DeSoto tennis coach Mitchell Johnson gives the perseverance awards to Cristi Soto and Aaron Henning.



Tomiah Henry is flanked by her parents Tommie and Rayna as she shows her MVP award for track and field. She finished third in the region in both the 100m and long jump and earned a trip to the state tournament.

2025 DESOTO COUNTY

SPRING AWARDS

BOYS TRACK

CHARLIE WILKERSON Captain's Award

> I'VARION TICE **MVRunner**

CHRISTIAN QUINONES Coaches award

> **TYLER POWERS** Most Improved

LUC MORGAN Sportsmanship

BOYS WEIGHTLIFTING

ROBERT WISEMAN

Sportsmanship

BASEBALL

DAYLON WHITE MVP

HAGEN BRYAN Defensive MVP

ABEL NEDLEY Offensive MVP

LOGAN ADKINS Pitcher of the Year

COOPER HANCOCK Sportsmanship

GIRLS TRACK

TOMIAH HENRY MVR

SUJUD ELABED Coach Award

CAMILA TREJOS-BALDERAS Most Improved

> **BROOKELYN BROWN** Sportsmanship

SOFTBALL

JUNIOR VARSITY

MARINA MORALES Best Defensive Player

ALEXA RAMOS Best Offensive Player

ISABELLA BOSCH Most Valuable Player

VARSITY

LAYLA MORALES

2025 Offensive Player of the Year

ELLIE WHIDDEN

2025 Defensive Player of the Year

EMERY SKINNER

2025 Player of the Year

LILLY FULLERTON 2025 Coach's Award

CALEIGH JO DUKE

Courage Award

EMILY BERINI Sportsmanship

BOYS TENNIS

NOAH IVERSON Sportsmanship

EZRA MORENO

MVP

RYLAN UNRUH

Most Improved

AARON HENNING Perseverance Award

GIRLS TENNIS

MAILIE BONVILLE Sportsmanship

ISABELLA ZOLKOS MVP

CRISTI SOTO

Perseverance Award

ADELINE HOWARD

Clutch Award



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PASTOR ED HOME

Pine Level Church **DeSoto County Ministerial Association**

I don't know how many of you remember the 1991 film, "City Slickers" If you have not seen it, it is a great movie. But if you have seen it, you will remember the scene where the old cowboy Curly says,

Curly: Do you know what the secret of life is?

Curly: This. [holds up one finger] Mitch: Your finger

Curly: One thing. Just one thing. You stick to that and the rest don't mean @#%*.

Mitch: But what is the "one thing?" Curly: [smiles] That's what you have to find out.

Well folks, I have figured out that one thing. Hopefully you have too. It's following Jesus. Our life get's so much better when we follow Him and do things He asks us to do. We don't have to worry, we don't have to fear, we don't have trouble with relationships or finances, if we just do that one thing, follow Him. Jesus said in John 10:10:

...I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

John 10:10 (ESV)

We can have a full, abundant life, if we choose to follow Him. Following Him does not mean just showing up for one hour on some Sunday mornings. It means we give it all to Him. I love how the message version puts it, Romans 12:1-2:

So, here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life-your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life-and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.

Romans 12:1-2 (MSG)

Friends there is power when we do this. Once again, we read in Romans 8:11

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you

Romans 8:11a (NIV)

If you do this one thing, it will make all the difference in your life. Matthew 6:33 says:

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

Matthew 6:33 (NLT)

He will give you what? Everything! So, it really is about one thing.

GALLERY

FROM PAGE 3 >>

some art shows to town," Marc said, "like they have in Punta Gorda Fort Myers, or Cape Coral. We have enough talent around here for that."

The Pletcher Gallery will host a

reception for their current artists in the near future-watch their Facebook page Pletchers-on-Monroe/61554793648616 or Website pletchersonmonroe.com for more details. To contact them, visit 16 S. Monroe or online pletchersart@ yahoo.com or call 321-437-6259.



This dresser is an example of the "repurposed furniture" that the Pletchers craft: Kathryn envisioned it "painted paid," and Marc made it happen after he refashioned the broken bottom drawers as a drop door.



A temporary banner in the window announces a new business in downtown Arcadia: Pletcher's Art Gallery on Monroe.

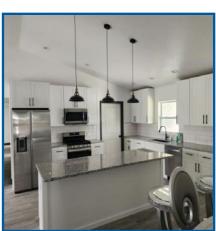


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OBITUARIES



IGNACIO OLGUIN MENDOZA



Ignacio Olguin Mendoza passed away on Saturday, June 14, 2025.

He was born on December 31, 1949, in Pinal de Amoles, Mexico to Leonardo Olguin and Elodia Mendoza.

He is of the Catholic faith. He enjoyed wood working. dancing huapangos, music and being outside. His greatest accomplishments in life were raising 7 children and fighting cancer. He will be remembered as a strong, thoughtful, kind and God loving man.

He is preceded in death by his son Gerardo Olguin of Indianapolis, IN.

He is survived by his wife Evelia Olguin Chavez; his daughters, Maria Sanchez of Burlington, NC, Serena Olguin of Indianapolis, IN, Apolonia

Lugo of Indianapolis, IN, Maria Diaz of Arcadia, FL, Leonardo Olguin of Indianapolis, IN, and Beatris Olguin of Indianapolis, IN.

There are 18 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. The Grandchildren are Elizabeth Oliva, Eduardo Olguin, Eva Olguin, Emily Olguin, Estefani Olguin, Carla Olguin, Esaul Olguin, Raymond Sanchez, Daisey Sanchez, Emmanuel Sanchez, Daniela Sanchez, Ramon Sanchez, Alan Olvera, Brianna Olvera, Valeria Olvera, Nathaniel Olguin, Teodoro Olguin, and Leonides Nieto.

The great-grandchildren are Luna and Antonio Sanchez, Ramiro and Sophia Rodriguez, Emilio Rodriguez,

Emma and Juliet Sanchez, Noah Rafael Oliva, and Zoe Oliva.

The Visitation was held on Thursday, June 19, 2025, from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM in the Chapel of Ponger-Kays-Grady Funeral Home, 50 N. Hillsborough Ave., Arcadia, FL 34266.

Online condolences may be made at www.pongerkaysgrady.com

Ponger-Kays-Grady Funeral Home & Cremation Services has been entrusted with the arrangements.





MARIANNE L. PERKINS

Marianne L. Perkins passed away on Friday, June 6, 2025. She was born on November 7, 1935, in Salt Lake City, Utah to Fred Wach and Stella (Ruston) Wach.

She came to this area in 1970 from Salt Lake City and worked at the DeSoto Middle School for 22 years. She loved taking care of church activities, going to dinners

and vocalizing with her brothers and sisters in the church. She was a member of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Church.

She is preceded in death by her daughter, Jessie Susan Perkins, and brothers Douglas Wach, Fredrick "Bill" Wach, and Butch Wach. She is survived by her husband Ronald P. Perkins of Arcadia, Florida, son Ronald M. Perkins of Arcadia, Florida and sister, Dorothy Reese of Perry, Utah.

There was a graveside service on Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at 11:00AM at the Joshua Creek **Cemetery. Pastor Terry Moe** officiated.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Tidewell Hospice House Arcadia, FL 919 N. Arcadia Avenue, Arcadia, FL 34266. Online condolences may be made at www. pongerkaysgrady.com



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DESOTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



ARREST REPORT

6/13/25 - 6/19/25

Brantley, Michael Prescott:

Drugs-Possess - Possess Controlled Substance W/O Prescription, Drug Equip-Possess - Drug Equip-Possess: And Or Use, Nonmoving Traffic Viol -Attach Registration License Plate Not **Assigned**

Castellanos, Nicole Lynn:

Out-Of-County Warrant - Out-Of-**County Warrant**

Dennis, Justin Scott:

Battery - Touch Or Strike

Fox, Jesse Martin:

Out-Of-County Warrant - Out-Of-County Warrant

Gonzales Rios, Jose Luis:

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

Hernandez, Luis Alberto:

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

Hyatt, William Donald:

Out-Of-County Warrant - Out-Of-**County Warrant**

Jueneman, Justin Mathew:

Moving Traffic Viol - Driv While Lic Suspend Revocation Equiv Status, Out-Of-County Warrant - Out-Of-**County Warrant**

Kinville, Joshua Elias:

Battery - Cause Bodily Harm

Lutz, Robert Ellis:

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

Perkins, Kristina Nicole:

Extort - Extort Or Threaten Another Person, Burgl - Burglary Of Unoccupied Dwelling Unarmed, Larc -Grand Theft 10K Less Than 20K Dols

Tapasak, Edward Ellis:

Moving Traffic Viol - Driv While Lic Suspend Revocation Equiv Status

Vaughan, Christopher Michael:

Dui-Unlaw Bld Alch - 0.15 Or Higher Or W Person Under 18 In Vehicle

Villalba, Yolanda:

Battery - Touch Or Strike

Washington, Stanley Bernard:

Fraud-Imperson - Know Intent Unlaw Posses 5 Or More Ident, Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Fail To Register Motor Veh

INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY FROM THE PUBLIC INMATE RECORDS OF THE DESOTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S THE POSTED INFORMATION IS ACCURATE, IT MAY CONTAIN FACTUAL OR OTHER ERRORS. ARREST INFORMATION MAY NOT REFLECT THE CURRENT INFORMATION. AN ARREST DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE INDIVIDUAL HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A CRIME. THE INFORMATION ON THIS REPORT SHOULD NOT BE RELIED UPON FOR ANY TYPE OF LEGAL ACTION. UNAUTHORIZED OR ILLEGAL USE OF THE INFORMATION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.





DESOTO COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER

David A. Williams, CFA

863.993.4866 • 201 E. Oak Street Suite 102, Arcadia, FL 34266

www.desotopa.com

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

SISTERHOOD

FROM PAGE 1 >>

return, and sometimes death; freedom through the Emancipation Proclamation and the U.S. Civil War; stereotypessuch as the "Mammy" featured on Log Cabin Syrup; and at the end, present change-especially the first African-American President Barack Obama who served two terms from 2009 to 2017.

In addition, other materials-such as books, magazines, and imagesabout African-American struggles and triumphs were also on display-plus a life-size cardboard cut-out of Obama.

Juneteenth is a contraction of "June Nineteenth," the day in 1865 when the Emancipation Proclamation was announced in Texas, the last of the Confederate States of America to surrender at the end of the Civil War. The first official Juneteenth celebration was held the next year, and celebrations have spread throughout the United States.

On June 17, 2021, Juneteenth became a federal holiday when President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act. In observance of the holiday, DeSoto County offices were closed except for the Library that welcomed the Sisterhood's Juneteenth Walk and "Juneteenth Stories" presented by the **DeSoto County Historical Society in the** Children's Wing.



Deborah Clifton, organizer of the Sisterhood's Juneteenth Celebration, stands with Dr. Matthew Redmon, pastor of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, 15 Alabama Ave., and his wife Andrea Redmon.



At the Sisterhood's Juneteenth Celebration, Shalette Bessent poses with the life-size cardboard cutout of Barack Obama and, from left, Keimarion Rivers, Jaekari Rivers, and Cameron Rivers.



From left, Allison Smith liked "From Crook To Cook: Platinum Recipes from Tha Boss Dogg's Kitchen" by Snoop Dogg; Patrice Johnson enjoyed the "African Proverbs and Wisdom" collection by Julia Stewart, and Samara Smith thought the life-size cardboard cutout of Barack Obama was the best.



Sandra Hill Peacock showed off a photograph of her grandmother Charlotte Summers holding Peacock's sister Charlotte Hill Carter in Arcadia published in "Black Women In the Image of God" edited by Dorothy Winbush Riley.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY DONATES TO HOSPITAL AUXILIARY



CAROL MAHLER

Independent Contractor Photos provided

At the June meeting of the DeSoto County Historical Society, President Adrian Cline presented a check for \$1,000.00 to the DeSoto Memorial Hospital (DMH) Auxiliary as a donation in gratitude for the use of the Hospital's "McSwain Room" for their monthly meetings. Cline thanked both the Auxiliary for their excellent work and CEO Vince Sica for fostering an environment that welcomes and encourages Auxiliary members.

DMS Auxiliary volunteers are the HAV's. "They are the wonderful team of volunteers who donate their time, skills, and talents to support our community hospital. They lend a hand wherever help is needed. They do everything from assisting the hospital departments to making stuffed Hug-A-Bears for young patients. . . . The HAV's operate the Gift Shop and are active throughout the year with fund-raising activities, which benefit patient-care programs at the Hospital" https://www. dmh.org/volunteer-opportunities-1



From left, DeSoto County Historical Society President Adrian Cline presents a \$1,000.00 donation to the DeSoto Memorial Hospital Auxiliary represented by Bob Siegel and Cindy Siegel, with Hospital CEO Vince Sica. Photograph courtesy of Carol Mahler.

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