

ARCADIA

THE COMMUNITY

SEPTEMBER 26, 2024



BROUGHT TO YOU BY PEACE RIVER SHOPPER NEWS & MORE

Local

BULLDOGS WIN!!!!!!

UNRUH'S 3 SCORES ENDS 14 GAME LOSING STREAK



Besides scoring three times on offense, Rylan Unruh was all over the field on defense making tackles like this.

DESOTO COUNTY

GAME OF THE WEEK

Sponsored by:



STEVE KNAPP

Sports Writer  
sports@peacerrivershopper.com

You knew it would be coming soon. The progress that the DeSoto Bulldogs football team has made since the nightmarish 2023 season finally came to fruition last Friday night with a 29-26 win over the Bayshore Bruins.

Every week they have been getting better. They have averaged 23 points in their last three games and had a big lead against Avon Park that they couldn't hold. Against the Bruins they again had a lead 13-0 at the end of one only to see themselves trailing 20-13 at the break. Unlike the game with the Red Devils, this time the Bulldogs fought back to regain the lead and hold on for the win.

It had been 679 days since the Bulldogs last victory. It was a 34-7 win over a strong Estero team. In that game LilDreco Tompkins scored three times giving him 8 in the previous 3 games. Last Friday Rylan Unruh scored three times giving him 7 tuddys in the last three games.

Unruh got the Bulldogs on the board first with a 3 yard rush with the point after giving DeSoto a 7-0 lead

with 6:30 left in the quarter. A muffed kick return by the Bruins gave them the ball on their own 5. Aaron Langley laid the lumber on the running back and caused a fumble that must have gone 10 feet in the air. Senior Tyler Powers caught it and went untouched into the end zone from 10 yards out to give the Bulldogs a 13-0 lead.

The Bruins scored 20 unanswered points in the second quarter to take a 20-13 lead into halftime and give Bulldog fans flashbacks of the Avon Park game. The Bulldogs didn't quit as they got a big break in the third quarter when the Bruins punter couldn't handle a high snap and gave DeSoto possession on the Bayshore 15.

Unruh punched it in with 4:14 left in the quarter to draw within a point. As the Bulldogs lined up for the kick to tie the game, the Bruins jumped off side to move the ball to the 1 ½ yard line. DeSoto coach Cliff Lohrey quickly called a play and caught the Bruins flat footed as Unruh scored the 2 point conversion to take a 21-20 lead.

DeSoto also had a bad punt exchange that gave the Bruins life on the DeSoto 2 yard line. The Bulldogs put up a good goal line stand to nearly keep the Bruins out

SEE WIN PAGE 7 >>



DESOTO COUNTY SPORTS

PAGE 4

STEVE KNAPP  
sports@peacerrivershopper.com



Publix  
GET YOUR PUBLIX WEEKLY ADS INSIDE!

GOVERNMENT MEETING SCHEDULE

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

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

OCT 8	DESOTO COUNTY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
TUE 5:30P	District Office Board Room 530 La Solona Avenue Arcadia, FL 34266
OCT 15	DESOTO COUNTY SCHOOLS NO SCHOOL
TUE	Professional Learning & Records Day
OCT 22	DESOTO COUNTY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
TUE 5:30P	District Office Board Room 530 La Solona Avenue Arcadia, FL 34266

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

Realtor Showcase  
See page 11

DESOTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
ARREST REPORT  
See page 13

HELP SUPPORT ARCADIA'S NEWEST PUBLICATION!  
WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN MAKING OUR COMMUNITY BETTER, TOGETHER!  
For advertising, contact Angie Duckett: sales@peacerrivershopper.com or call 863-990-9813  
To participate as a Community Contributor, email: editorial@peacerrivershopper.com

SALES INQUIRIES:  
SALES@PEACERRIVERSHOPPER.COM  
863.990.9813

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

SALES / OFFICE MANAGER  
Angie Duckett

CREATIVE DIR / AD DESIGN  
Jackie Bierman

OPS / PRODUCT DESIGN  
Jonathan Bruch

# OLD TRADITION DEDICATES NEW FIRETRUCK



**CAROL MAHLER**  
Independent Contractor  
carolmahler22acl@gmail.com  
Photos provided

Last Thurs., Public Safety Director Chad Jorgensen dedicated the new firetruck with a “Push-In” ceremony, a tradition that dates to the nineteenth century, at Fire Station 1, 25 W. Cypress St. in Arcadia.

In the 1800s, fire-fighting equipment was hauled by horses, and they excelled at pulling the wagon or carriage from the garage or barn. However, they were not used to return the conveyance because horses naturally turn around rather than walk backwards. Therefore, the firefighters—often joined by neighboring townspeople—propelled the rig back into the fire station. So the tradition developed that new fire-fighting equipment was dedicated by a “Push-In” Ceremony—literally, the firefighters pushed the new apparatus into the fire station.

Jorgensen noted that the 2024 Pierce Enforcer was more weight—weighing 49,900 lbs., plus its tank full of 1,000 gallons of water, for an estimated total of 58,000 lbs. It is a heavy rescue truck with airbags and tools for extrication plus a telescopic scene light which will rise up to ten feet above the truck.

So, with the assistance of the truck’s 500 horsepower engine and Firefighter Engineer Aaron Wertz driving the truck in reverse, the firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), support staff, and Jorgensen “pushed” the new fire truck into Fire Station 1.

Jorgensen also called for piping—music played on the bagpipes—a tradition dating from the mid-19th century when primarily Scottish and Irish immigrants accepted the most difficult and unwanted jobs—including serving as firefighters and policemen.

Before the ceremony, Wertz introduced the new truck, detailing its capabilities, compartments, customizations, detailing, paraphernalia, and more—noting that fully equipping the truck is a work in progress. The tools in the truck allow paramedics to give Advanced Life Support until the patient is able to be transported. The basic truck was purchased for \$1,426,078.00 from Ten-8 Fire Equipment in Bradenton.

The County has also upgraded its ambulances with the purchase of three Freightliner Rescue Trucks, the last one in 2022, and the other two in 2019 and 2018. EMT Adam McClain said that the new vehicle, “helps us not to hurt ourselves.” He explained that the chassis may be lowered for workers to slide in the stretcher. In addition, Paramedic Ben Solomon showed the special track on



After the “Push-In” Ceremony, Public Safety Personnel gathered in front of the truck parked in Fire Station 1: from left, Support Team Member Gary Larson, Volunteer Chief Tim Backer, Battalion Chief Lewis Wells, Paramedic Chris Cane, Lieutenant Dan O’Connor, Training Lieutenant Tom Bonner, EMT Lindsey Decker, Fire Chief Chad Jorgensen, EMT Mo Shehadeh, Paramedic Luke Turner, Paramedic Anthony Rodriguez, Fire Inspector Kathy Heitman, EMT Andre Katz, EMT Adam McClain, Lieutenant Don Little, Fleet Mechanic Ricky Mercer, Lieutenant John Haney, and Deputy Chief Harvey Sweeting.



EMT Aaron Wertz gave a “tour” of the new truck. Born and raised in Arcadia, Wertz was inspired to become a firefighter by his Uncle Dave Glenn, who worked for Bonita Springs Fire and Rescue.



EMT Adam McClain and Paramedic Ben Solomon explained the advantages of the three Freightliner Rescue vehicles acquired in 2022, 2019, and 2018.



When asked if they would be serving on the new fire truck, Training Captain Phil Brown and Deputy Chief Harvey Sweeting said, “The older firefighters are passing service on the new truck to the younger generation.”



As he helped “push-in” the new fire truck, Lt. John Haney held his daughter Reagan Haney, and afterwards, they paused for a moment with his wife Cassie Haney.



Last Thurs., Public Safety Director Chad Jorgensen, left, and his personnel “pushed” the new Pierce Enforcer fire truck into Fire Station 1 during a “Push-In” dedication ceremony—a 19th century firefighting tradition.



Public Safety Director Chad Jorgensen explained the origin of the “Push-In” Ceremony, dating from when horses hauled fire fighting equipment. From left, Lt. John Haney with daughter Reagan Haney, Lt. Don Little, EMT Mo Shehadeh, EMT Lindsey Decker, EMT Adam McClain, Jorgensen, Paramedic Ben Solomon, and Training Lieutenant Tom Bonner.

the inside floor that guides the stretcher in the center of the vehicle for access to the patient on all sides instead of only right side as in the old Ford “F Series” ambulances.

McClain also pointed out that he can stand up in the new Rescues instead of bending over as in the old trucks. Solomon pointed out the shoulder

harnesses and the clear-door storage cabinets that are identically stocked in all three vehicles, so the same materials are in the same locations no matter which Rescue you are working in.

He also noted the LED lights better illuminate an accident scene than did

the old conventional headlights.

Purchasing Director Cindy Talamentez wrote that the fire and rescue trucks “are considered specialty equipment and are all custom built and go through a rigorous engineering process prior to being built.”

# COUNTY RESOLUTION OPPOSES AMENDMENT 4



**CAROL MAHLER**

Independent Contractor  
carolmahler22acl@gmail.com  
Photos provided

At the Sept. 10 meeting, the Board of County Commissioners adopted a resolution—sponsored by Commissioner Elton Langford—opposing Amendment 4 to the Florida Constitution. On the Nov. 5 ballot, the amendment states, “Limiting government interference with abortion.— Except as provided in Article X, Section 22, no law shall prohibit, penalize, delay, or restrict abortion before viability or when necessary to protect the patient’s health, as determined by the patient’s healthcare provider.”

Julie McDonald of Punta Gorda, Debbie Healy of Cape Coral, Robert Reynolds of Estero, as well as DeSoto County residents Trish Howard, Paul Schlem, and Lonnie Walker spoke in favor of the resolution as did each of the commissioners.

In addition, the Board adopted two resolutions as requested by Tax Collector Debbie Burtcher: to exclude tax notices which are \$5.00 or less and not to extend the tax roll for any parcel for which the tax amount is \$5.00 or less; and for the Property Appraiser to extend the tax roll until the Value Adjustment Board hearings are completed.

**IN OTHER BUSINESS**

The Commissioners approved the renewal for fiscal year 2024-2025 of all lines of coverage with Public Risk Insurance Advisors and Preferred Government Insurance Trust for Property and Casualty Insurance including Firefighter Cancer and Death Benefits coverage through Florida United Badges Insurance Services for a total of \$1,704,357.50. The overall premium increase of 8.64% resulted from claims as well as growth that includes higher payroll because of the salary study and Cost Of Living Adjustment (COLA) plus new vehicles in the fleet—including two fire trucks and a boom truck.

Using an agreement with Manatee County signed in 2024, a piggyback contract of \$32,400.00 with EWT Holding III Corp. doing business as Evoqua Water Technologies, LLC, for Corrosion and Odor Control Services for leased equipment for Lift Station #7 was ratified by the Commissioners.

In addition, they approved the fifth amendment—“automatically extended from year to year after April 30, 2024, unless the City or County notifies the other in writing of its desire to terminate”—to the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Arcadia and the County for the City to purchase “flush water through two interconnects at the rate of \$1.00 per thousand gallons for the first 250,000 gallons per day of flush water; \$3.90 per thousand gallons for 250,001 to 500,000 gallons; and \$6.00 per thousand gallons in excess of 500,000 gallons per day. Also, the



Speaking against Amendment 4, Julie McDonald said that she conducts a Bible study in her church for women grieving after an abortion.



A registered nurse, Debbie Healy opposed Amendment 4 expressing concerns about the definition of a “healthcare provider.”



Paul Schlem countered Amendment 4 and used part of his comments to pray for the nation not to support abortion.



The County proclaimed Sept. as Attendance Awareness Month. and Chairperson Jerod Gross presented the proclamation to Marla Smith of the Patterson Foundation, the regional accelerator for the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading.



Robert Reynolds was against Amendment 4 because it may result in the public subsidy of abortions.



Public Safety Director Chad Jorgensen invited everyone to the 9/11 Commemoration Ceremony at 9:00 a.m. on Sept. 11 on the east lawn of the courthouse.



Trish Howard recounted her family story and said that if abortion were legally available, her grandmother may not have been born in 1927.

County will pay \$2.62 per thousand gallons to the City for surplus water if needed on an emergency basis.” This agreement benefits both the County and City because the County flushes its potable water system to maintain residual chlorination within the system through two points of connection with the City, and the City may use the flush water to augment its potable water supply.

They also approved the State Housing Initiative Program (SHIP) annual report for fiscal year 2021-2022 and interim year 2022-2023 as required by the Florida Housing Finance Corp. to ensure funds are expended appropriately and follow all guidelines. The chairperson was also authorized to sign the Local Housing Incentives Certificate.

The Commissioners amended the Planning and Zoning Fee Schedule to recover the actual costs of publishing

legal notice, mailing notice, and the posting of signs concerning development applications that are under review when the actual cost exceeds the stated fee currently set forth in the schedule.

Vice-Chairperson J.C. Deriso said, “The more notice, the better,” and Chairperson Jerod Gross agreed and suggested the additional use of social media.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Under the Consent Agenda, the Commissioners approved the following items:

- Resolution and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Agreement acknowledging and accepting FDOT Local Agency Program (LAP) funds of \$486,226.00 for sidewalk construction on C.R. 760A from U.S. Highway 17 to S.W. Shores Ave.



The Reverend Lonnie Walker, pastor of the Nocatee Church of God, also spoke against Amendment 4.

- Small County Waste Grant Agreement, the second step of many needed to qualify for reimbursement funding up to \$93,750.00 from the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for one piece of equipment each leased from Caterpillar Financial Corp., Ring Investments, and Santander Leasing, LLC, for the Landfill, as “this State funding has been used for several years to help pay equipment costs.”



THANK YOU TO OUR  
BULLDOG YOUTH SPONSOR!

- DESOTO COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD (PRS)
- MOSAIC • FPL



# SATISFIED AND MAKING PROGRESS IN LOSS TO TARPONS



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

Sophomore Izaria Anderson goes up for one of her 5 kills against Ragan Davis and Ava Hall in the 3-1 loss to Charlotte.

DeSoto juniors Jordin Campbell and Yahri Tyler can't get up high enough for a double block on Sammy Vega's kill shot.

Entering into the volleyball match with Charlotte last week, the DeSoto Bulldogs had lost 22 straight sets to the Tarpons. The last time the Bulldogs won a set was August 24, 2021. There isn't a player on the current roster who was on the team at that time.

Charlotte's best record with any team they have played more than 15 times is against the Bulldogs. They own a 30-3 record against the Bulldogs. They have been sweeping the season series for a long time including 4 wins over DeSoto in 2016 alone.

The last time the Bulldogs came out on top of the Tarpons was on October 8 and September 3 with identical 3-1 wins. The year was 2009! All of the current Bulldogs either weren't born at that time or were just learning to walk!

That information has been provided

so you can understand why coach Danielle Taylor said, "I asked for one thing tonight. I know that Charlotte is a stronger hitting and blocking team than us and when we played them at their house we had a big serving problem. So I told them I want to get the serve in play and win a set. They did what I asked and now I have to raise the bar to win 2 sets."

After dropping the first set 25-15, the Bulldogs were aided by 16 Charlotte errors to get an overtime win 26-24 which is the same score in the last set win for the Bulldogs over Charlotte.

"I told the girls that this is a game of errors. Whoever makes the least amount of errors will win. After you win a set against a team like that, that is when you apply the pressure and we didn't do that," said Taylor.

The Tarpons roared back with

convincing wins 25-8 and 25-10 to take the match. Charlotte has a strong team with 5 seniors and a lot of experience playing together which includes their beach volleyball team. They had a big height advantage over the Bulldogs and have a deep roster. They have a full JV team and a freshman team which contributes to their reputation as one of the area's stronger teams over the years.

It may take a little time, but with Taylor raising the bar to 2 wins next

season, the next step will be to get another win. DeSoto is a young team with a very good middle school team that will be restocking the varsity team that will lose 3 players to graduation this season.



DESOTO COUNTY

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Sponsored by:  
**Mosaic**

RYLAN UNRUH & MARQUEZ ANGELES



Rylan Unruh slips a tackle and picks up a first down in the 29-26 win over Bayshore.



Rylan Unruh scores one of his 3 touchdowns against Bayshore and gives the ball back to the referee.



Marquez Angeles grabs his clubs before the match against Hardee.



Marquez Angeles sets his ball against Hardee. He shot an all time best 5 under par 31 against Hardee.



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

Rylan Unruh has been the undisputed leader of the DeSoto football team. He plays the most critical position on the field as the Bulldog quarterback. When the team is on defense you'll find Unruh out on the field making tackles

behind the line and breaking up passes downfield. He led the team to a suspenseful 29-26 victory last Friday night at Bayshore High School. Unruh scored three touchdowns and a two point conversion to personally score 20 of the team's 29 points. He also excels in the classroom as a junior at DeSoto. Marquez Angeles, a senior, was named DeSoto County athlete of the

week last week and topped it with a better performance this past week. He had a big week leading the team to a third place finish at the Crutchfield/Hawkins Invitational. No DeSoto golf team has ever finished that high. He shot par and finished third just a stroke behind the two leaders who tied. He was first in his flight. Angeles then went out the next match and shot a personal best 5 under par 31 to give the team their

second win over Hardee in less than two weeks. Both athletes are great examples of leaders both on the field, in school and in the community. They both led their teams to a great victory and also achieved personal records in the same time. They are two worthy recipients of the athlete of the week award.

# GOLFERS TAKE THIRD IN PRESTIGIOUS TOURNAMENT



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

The DeSoto boys golf team had their best finish ever in the Crutchfield/Hawkins Invitational tournament last Monday. Led by senior and All Area golfer Marquez Angeles the team finished a strong third. They were comfortably ahead of the fourth place team by 8 strokes and just 3 strokes out of second place. Marquez, last week's COMMUNITY athlete of the week, shot a par 72 just a single stroke behind the medalist. He finished first in the second flight. Rounding out the team were Daylon White, Austin Henning, Waymon Killmon and Carter Hendrickson.

The next day the Bulldogs ran their season record to 5-1 beating Hardee for the second time in two weeks. Angeles shot a career best 5 under 31. White also shot under par with a 34.



Austin Henning carries his bag to the team meeting before the Bulldogs' win over Hardee last week.



The DeSoto boys golf team finished third in the Invitational last week. Jeff Gibson is the coach. Team members include Daylon White, Austin Henning, Waymon Killmon, Marquez Angeles and Carter Hendrickson.

Daylon White tees off on the first hole against Hardee last week.



Waymon Killmon holds the third place trophy the team earned at the Crutchfield/Hawkins Invitational last week.

# JV VOLLEYBALL FALLS SHORT AGAINST COWGIRLS



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

The JV volleyball team took the first set against the LaBelle Cowgirls 25-20 but were unable to get either of the next two matches and lost 2-1. The Bulldogs built up an 18-11 lead in the first set only to see the Cowgirls rally to tie the match at 20. The Bulldogs got their offense going again with 5 straight points to pull out the win. Karen Quintana put the game away with a serve that hit the top of the net and rolled over to drop in front of the Cowgirl defense. The next two matches went to the Cowgirls 25-8 and 15-9.



The disappointed DeSoto volleyball team shakes hands after a 2-1 loss to LaBelle.



Rhadassa Caldas comes up with a block against LaBelle.



Freshman Rhadassa Caldas gets up high for this kill shot.



The Bulldogs come off the court after their 25-20 first set win over LaBelle.



Julianne Irby passes the serve to a teammate in the loss to LaBelle.



## Florida Power & Light Company

is proud to sponsor the Arcadia Rodeo Association and the Louis and Gloria Flanzer Philanthropic Trust 11th Annual Arcadia Fall Rodeo!

Dust off your boots and cowboy hats and get ready for an unforgettable experience featuring bronc riding, barrel racing, bull riding and more.

We're excited for the most ELECTRIC event in Southwest Florida, as we work together with the communities we serve.

October 19-20, 2024

Mosaic Arena  
2450 NE Roan St.  
Arcadia, FL 34266



WIN  
FROM PAGE 1 »

of the end zone. Chevy Wheeler brought down the running back for a 3 yard loss and an incomplete pass brought up a third and goal from the 5..

Unruh made a hard tackle to force a fumble on the next play with Bayshore falling on it just a few inches from pay dirt. On a fourth and goal, the Bruins found the end zone to regain the lead 26-21.

The final drive of the game started on a long kickoff return by Jesus Camacho to the DeSoto 45. Unruh then took the team on his back. He ripped off a 20 yard gain to the Bayshore 35. After Jamil Brown was stuffed with a 3 yard loss, Unruh called his own number twice to get back 10 of the 13 yards needed for a first down.

Facing a 4th and 3 with just 1:40 left in the game, Lohrey called for Unruh to use a hard count to draw the Bruins off sides and get an easy first down. The Bruins nose guard couldn't hold his water and entered the neutral zone to keep the Bulldogs' drive alive. That key play of the game is the sort of thing that has happened against the Bulldogs in the past that have hurt them. Finally it worked for the boys from DeSoto.

With a fresh set of downs, Unruh didn't waste any time and skirted the right side for the 24 yard trip to the end zone to give the Bulldogs the lead. Unruh was hit at the five yard line and dragged the defender with him into the end zone for the score. Chris Lincoln tacked on the two point conversion to make the score 29-26.

The game wasn't over yet since there was plenty of time on the clock and the Bruins have a fast strike offense while the Bulldogs have been known to give up the long play all season.

Lohrey didn't want a deep kickoff which could have been returned so he called for a squib kick. As it turned out the ball landed in no mans land and turned into a successful onside kick when Wheeler jumped on the ball like a hungry man on a ham sandwich.

"We called for a squib kick just to keep it on the ground as opposed to kicking deep, it wasn't intended to be an onside kick," said Lohrey.

The prettiest formation in football is the "victory formation" and that is how the Bulldogs lined up to finish the game.

For many of the players it was their first win on the varsity football team. Unruh said, "It feels great, we've been wanting one for a long time." Senior lineman Blake Gross said, "I feel awesome. I didn't play last year because I didn't get along with the coach. I'm so glad to be back, I missed it."

Coach Joe Davis told the team that it



Senior Tyler Powers scores on a "scoop and score" to give the Bulldogs a 13-0 lead in the first quarter. It was Powers' first score and win in his high school career.

Sam Cuellar (28) and Evan Roe bring down the Bruin ball carrier in the 29-26 win.



Tyler Powers (4) and Aaron Langley are greeted by their teammates after Langley had a big hit to cause a fumble that Powers scored on to give the Bulldogs a 13-0 lead.



Rylan Unruh was all over the field in the win over Bayshore. Besides scoring three times, he also knocked down this pass.



Jamil Brown (right) gives Tyler Powers a chest bump after the big defensive touchdown. Desoto won 29-26 to break a 14 game losing streak.



Cliff Lohrey proudly holds the game ball given to him for his first win as the DeSoto football head coach.



Desoto coach Joe Davis congratulates Chevy Wheeler after he recovered the kickoff to cement the 29 to 26 win for the Bulldogs.

was more important to win the game like they did because they had to fight and come back to win it. Davis presented Lohrey with the game ball. "Sorry it took so long to get this for you but here is the

game ball for your first win as the DeSoto football coach."

Lohrey told the team, "We didn't make it easy. We did some dumb things that we've got to correct. Whoever said it's

an ugly win hasn't won anything. Would you rather win ugly or lose pretty? We did some things that kept them in it, you've got to get that killer mentality. All the coaches are proud of you."

HELP SUPPORT THE ARCADIA COMMUNITY LOCAL!

For advertising, contact Angie Duckett:  
sales@peacerivershopper.com or call 863-990-9813

To participate as a Community Contributor, email:  
editorial@peacerivershopper.com

# COUNCIL APPROVES LAND PURCHASES FOR NEW WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT



**CAROL MAHLER**  
Independent Contractor  
carolmahler22acl@gmail.com  
Photos provided

At the Sept. 17 meeting, the Council approved two “walk-on” or non-agenda items to purchase property for the new wastewater plant: the 70-acres on N.W. Livingston St.—lots 1 through 6 in Johnson Ave. Estates—for \$1,120,000.00 from Land South DeSoto, LLC, for a reclaimed wastewater spray field, and the Jordan Ave. parcel—Lots 21 through 25, inclusive, Block E, J.W. Whidden’s Subdivision— for \$70,500.00 from James O’Leary.

City Attorney T. J. Wohl explained the challenges of the latter transaction because two banks held mortgages on the property. Noting that he does not do any business with Crews Bank, City Attorney T. J. Wohl praised the institution—especially President Justin Fussell—for “going above and beyond to make this happen.”

In addition, the Council approved and executed Amendment 1 to Grant Agreement #L0004 with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), so that the balance of the \$1.5 million grant to acquire the 70-acres on Livingston St., may be used to purchase the Jordan Ave. parcel and other property needed for the new wastewater treatment plant. Instrumental in obtaining the grant, Senator Ben Albritton and the FDEP agreed to allow this use of the remaining funds.

Stewart announced that he would send a letter to the listed owner of 102 Jordan Ave.—the other land needed to construct the new wastewater treatment plant.

### IN OTHER BUSINESS

The Council ratified Resolution 2024-14 authorizing the City Administrator to submit a grant application to the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Resilient Florida Program for a \$1.3 million construction grant to replace 2,900 linear feet of water main on 12th Ave. from Maple St. south to State Road (SR) 70. Although the grant was submitted with a



George F. Young, Inc., designed the extension of an 8” water main along SE Maple Dr. from SE West Ave. to the Municipal Airport as well as south from the Airport’s entrance to SE 12th Place (aka Airport Estate St.) from SE Airport Ave. to the dead end. Image provided.

Jane Watson asked about the overgrown conditions at Oak Ridge Cemetery as well as the benches downtown. Photograph by Carol Mahler.

draft resolution by the Aug. 30 deadline, FDEP agreed to accept the approved resolution.

City Administrator Terry Stewart explained that the replacement is necessary because the thin-wall pipe—considered substandard today—is 50 years old and buried too close to the surface. George F. Young, Inc., the engineering firm for the current 12th Ave. construction project, donated the design for the water main replacement. The firm also specified a Geomat—a flexible woven material used for erosion control—to shield the current pipe until it is replaced.

Council Member Mike Hall expressed concern that pipe may be damaged during the construction and asked who would be responsible. City Attorney T. J. Wohl noted that the City’s contracts specify that liability as the construction company’s.

The Council approved and executed

the first amendment to the agreement with MLD Architects for Architectural and Engineering Services for the City Hall Repair, Restoration, and Renovations, dated Sept. 19, 2023. As requested by the State’s Division of Historic Resources, the amendment updates Exhibit E: Proposed Tentative Timeline and includes an additional “Exhibit H: Special Clauses.”

The public hearing to set the City’s final millage rate and 2024-2025 budget will be at 6:00 p.m. on Sept. 23.

### MUNICIPAL AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS

As recommended by staff and Hanson



Professional Services’s Project Engineer, the Council awarded two Invitation for Bids (IFB) for improvements at the Municipal Airport.

IFB 2024-05 for the Arcadia Municipal Airport Terminal Apron Rehabilitation and Expansion for \$1,531,560.00 went to Dickerson Infrastructure, Inc., of Fort

SEE LAND PAGE 18 >>

## SHIPPING CONTAINERS

Expand Your Storage Options!



COME CHECK OUT OUR NEW INVENTORY!

Scan for a free quote!



**ShedPro**

1173 SW Hwy 17 Arcadia, FL 34266  
(863) 303-4439 • ShedPro.Pro • ShedProLLC@gmail.com

## For All Your Water Needs



### WELL DRILLING

Water Treatment Sales & Service

- Pumps • Tanks • Aerators • Salt Delivery

## 863-494-6548

Serving Desoto and Surrounding Counties

Newberry A Trusted Name in the Water Industry for Over 50 Years.  
Owned & Operated by a SWFWMD. Licensed Water Well Contractor. License #2881

# BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES: JONAH

**DAVID VANAMAN**  
*Retired Pastor and Teacher*  
Desoto Ministerial Association

Jonah is a short book that gives an account of which I am sure you are familiar. But taking a closer look we see several important lessons.

**1:1-2**

Nineveh, a major city of the Assyrian empire, was a very wicked city. God told Jonah to go and warn them of his coming judgment.

**First lesson:** God gave Jonah a job to do; and the reason for it. God is not capricious.

**1:3-5**

But Jonah hated the Assyrians because they had conquered Israel and were not too nice about it. Jonah refused to go, and took a ship going as far as from Nineveh as possible. God stirred up the sea so hard that the seasoned sailors were afraid

the ship was going to sink. They started throwing the cargo overboard. While all that was happening, Jonah was fast asleep in the belly of the ship. He was at peace with his disobedience and unaware of the danger it caused others.

**Second lesson:** Your personal comfort with your own sin does not change the reality of its evil consequences on you and others.

**1:6-13**

Finally, Jonah confessed to the sailors that he was the reason for their troubles. He provided them with the solution. “Cast me forth into the sea”, Jonah said. The sailors decided to see if they could get out of the situation some other way, but they rowed in vain.

**Third lesson:** Given an undesired solution, we often try to fix things “our way” often making it worse and more wearisome than before.

**1:14-2:10**

Seeing their efforts were pointless, the sailors threw Jonah overboard. As Jonah floundered in the churning waters, he was swallowed up by a great fish. After 3 days and nights, Jonah repented of his disobedience and God told the fish to spit him out.

**Fourth lesson:** God’s way is the only way out of trouble.

**3:1-4**

God again told Jonah what to do, and Jonah obeyed. In English it was one of the shortest sermons ever spoken, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown”. Only 8 words!

**Fifth lesson:** God’s job for you is specific, individual, and powerful.

**3:5-10**

The pagan population of Nineveh repented and God spared them the destruction he planned.

**Sixth lesson:** God wants everyone to truly repent, do right, showing himself to be merciful.

**4:1-11**

While sitting in the hot sun pouting and mad at God for not killing those he hated, Jonah was provided shade by a vine-tree from God. Jonah was pleased with the shaded comfort. Then God sent a worm to kill the vine leaving Jonah in the heat of the sun again. At this, Jonah got even angrier and wished to die. God spoke with him, “you have pity for the vine. “Why not for the 60,000 people of Nineveh?”

**Seventh lesson:** We need to see with God’s eyes. How out-of-line are you with God’s point of view?!

## HELP SUPPORT THE ARCADIA COMMUNITY LOCAL!

For advertising, contact Angie Duckett: [sales@peacerivershopper.com](mailto:sales@peacerivershopper.com) or call 863-990-9813  
To participate as a Community Contributor, email: [editorial@peacerivershopper.com](mailto:editorial@peacerivershopper.com)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Vote for Sue!

ELECT




SUSAN D. POOLEY


FOR

DESOTO COUNTY

TAX COLLECTOR

★ EXPERIENCE ★ ACCOUNTABILITY





- I’ve had the honor to serve the **DESOTO COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR’S OFFICE** for 11+ years. 8 years under Kathryn J. Hill and 3+ years under Debra L. Burtscher.
- 40 years of experience in the accounting and finance fields in various rolls including the construction industry, CPA firm, Ray-O-Vac manufacturing as well as a sole proprietor offering independent bookkeeping service.
- BA DEGREE IN ACCOUNTING from the University of South Florida, Tampa 1978.
- CERTIFIED FLORIDA COLLECTOR’S ASSISTANT

QUIT TOBACCO

with GROUP QUIT

There’s never been a more important time to quit.

Free expert-led sessions to help you quit all forms of tobacco.



Virtual Group Sessions -OR- In-Person Group Sessions



Develop your personalized quit plan.



FREE nicotine replacement patches, gum, or lozenges.\*



More than DOUBLES your chances of success!

\*If medically appropriate for those 18 years of age or older

Pre-registration is required.

CALL TODAY:

866-534-7909

Sponsored by:



GULF COAST SOUTH AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER



Tobacco Free Florida.com



FLORIDA HEALTH

Learn more about all of Tobacco Free Florida’s tools and services at

[www.tobaccofreeflorida.com/quityourway](http://www.tobaccofreeflorida.com/quityourway)

# PARADE CELEBRATES MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY



**CAROL MAHLER**  
*Independent Contractor  
carolmahler22acl@gmail.com  
Photos provided*

A parade celebrating Mexican Independence Day danced down Oak St. on the evening of Sept. 15. Organized by the Comité de Fiestas Patrias of Azteca Promotions, the parade entries included dancers in traditional Mexican costumes, decorated vehicles and floats, equestrians, mariachi bands, and more.

Participating in the parade were Esmeralda Manriquez, candidate for tax collector, and City Council Member Luis Velasco, who was appointed to the Council to fill the term of Amber Collins and who now seeks election.

This parade was the second held in Arcadia to celebrate Mexican Independence Day, traditionally observed on Sept. 16, the day when Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla asked his congregation to fight for independence from Spain. Although his rebel army invaded Guanajuato, he was later captured and executed in 1811. After ten years of fighting, Mexico gained independence when the Treaty of Córdoba was signed on Aug. 24, 1821.

Before the parade began, the Mexican Independence Day Queen Zoila Cruz was crowned along with Princesses Mayren Mondragon and Jimena Ramirez as well as Azteca Queen Natalie Young. Arcadia Police Sgt. Danielle Rios assisted with the crowning as did Deputy Sheriff Col. James Vitali. Organizer Rufino H. Rodriguez, Manager of Azteca Promotions, conducted the ceremony, with help from the Mariachi Invasor de Mexico band.

Bailes Y Danzas Folcloricas de Mexico performed in their traditional Mayan costumes to the beat of the drums.



Wearing masks and dressed as royalty, a group celebrated Mexican Independence Day by walking in the parade on Oak St.



Members of Danza San José of Bradenton capered in their traditional costumes.



These women swung their traditional full skirts as they danced in the Mexican Independence Day parade.

Crowned as Queen Azteca, Natalie Young rides in a float following the band Mariachi Invasor de Mexico.



Members of Danza Guadalupana Santo Santiago Apóstol paused for a moment at the start of the Mexican Independence Day parade.



Dancers and drummers of the Danza de Matlachinos Guadalupana de Santa Cruz traveled from Palmetto, Florida, to participate in the parade.

Wearing masks and serapes, members of the Grupo Raíces de Mi Tierra cavorted in the parade.



Many floats showed both the Mexican and U.S. flags in the parade.



Equestrians—many on so-called “dancing horses”—riding in the parade recalled the early days of Arcadia when horses were common on Oak St.



# Realtor Showcase





**United Country**  
**Real Estate**  
GULFLAND REAL ESTATE

**Mac Martin**, ALC, GRI, BA  
*BROKER/OWNER*

**863.494.2100**  
landpanther@gmail.com  
2019 Florida Land Realtor


**National Marketing,  
Local Expertise®**

FOR YOUR *Lifestyle Property*

[www.gulflandrealestate.com](http://www.gulflandrealestate.com)

**DOW Realty Inc.**





Been a Realtor for  
46 years in Arcadia

**Mary E. Dow** *BROKER/OWNER*  
**863.494.6062**  
marymarydow@gmail.com

11855 SE South Hog Bay Ave • Arcadia, FL





**RMZ Realty Inc**

**Oralía Ramirez**, *BROKER*  
**863.494.2702**  
oraliamirez@gmail.com

[www.rmzhomez.com](http://www.rmzhomez.com)



**COLLINS<sup>TM</sup>**  
**MANAGEMENT & REALTY<sub>LLC</sub>**

**Jean Vitali** *REALTOR®*  
**Cell: 863-990-5106**  
**Office: 863-494-6181**  
jean1711@gmail.com

Dan Collins,  
Broker



223 E Oak St. Arcadia, FL 34266

**CUSTOM HOMES**  
**STARTING AT \$269,000!**



**NOW TAKING ON  
CUSTOM HOMES!**

IF YOU HAVE THE LAND  
OR ARE THINKING OF  
PURCHASING LAND...

LET US HELP YOU  
GET YOUR DREAM  
HOME BUILT!



**JEWELCONTRACTINGINC.COM**  
CALL ROGER AT: **863-990-5921**  
OR AJ AT: **863-633-8345**

**FREE TILE SHOWER UPGRADE  
THROUGH THE MONTH OF OCTOBER!**



# OBITUARIES

## LOIS EASTMAN CASTEN



Lois Eastman Carsten, age 81, died in Arcadia, Florida on September 5, 2024.

Born on July 20, 1943, in Cherryfield, Maine, Lois was the daughter of the late Joseph and Florence Eastman. Raised in Wiscasset, ME with her two brothers, Edward and James, Lois later moved to upstate New York with

her family. Despite leaving Maine in her twenties, her love for New England and seafood never waned.

In Mt. Upton, NY, at the First Baptist Church, Lois met Robert “Teddy” Carsten, the love of her life. They married in 1967 and moved “up the hill” to Guilford, where they lived at Deer Valley Farm and raised five children. Lois worked with Teddy on the farm, managing their retail health food stores for many years. Her devotion to her family was unwavering; she was always involved in her children’s lives, never missing a basketball or volleyball game, whether home or away.

A talented musician, Lois played the accordion, flute, and piano, with a particular gift for the piano. She used her musical talents to serve the Lord, playing as the church pianist in every church she attended, starting in her teen years and continuing 65 years to Oak Hill Baptist, Arcadia.

From 2012 to 2019, Lois served as a Crossing Guard in Arcadia, where she was always ready with a smile and a wave.

Lois loved to travel and enjoyed meeting new people. Her children fondly remember her making new friends wherever she went. She was deeply caring, taking on the role of caretaker for both her parents and later for her husband. Despite limited means, she found ways to save and provide Christmas gifts for families in need.

Lois loved being a “Nana.” She cherished her time with her grandchildren.

Lois is pre-deceased by her parents Joeseoph and Florence Eastman; her husband, Robert Carsten; her son, Paul (Karyn) Corsentino; and Sister-in-Law, Patricia Eastman.

Lois is survived by her brothers, Edward Eastman of Auburn Hills, MI,

and James (Johnnie Rae) Eastman of Troup, TX; her children: Beth Carsten of Arcadia, FL; Christine (Jeff) Buchold of Cincinnati, OH; Allen Carsten of Arcadia, FL; and Laura Carsten of Manhattan, NY. Grandchildren: Breanna Buchold, Sophia Buchold, Jonathan Pinkney, and Zaria Berry; Sister-in-Law Joan Carsten Smith, as well as many nieces and nephews in New York, Colorado, Michigan, Texas, North Carolina, Ohio, and Florida. Lois has many faithful friends from times spent in upstate New York, Gladewater, Texas, and Arcadia, Florida. She will be deeply missed.

**A Memorial Service will be held at Oak Hill Baptist Church, 5104 NW Oak Hill Ave, Arcadia, Florida, on Saturday, September 28, 2024. Visitation will be at 10:00 a.m. with the Memorial service to follow at 11:00 a.m.**

<p>Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth,</p>	<p>As it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,</p>	<p>As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.</p>	<p>For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.</p>
--	--	--	---

# 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.





DESOTO COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE



ARREST REPORT | 9/13/24 - 9/19/24

**Arthur III, Glen Douglas:**  
Failure To Appear (X2)

**Bair, William P:**  
Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle Wo Valid License

**Bates, Marvin Lee:**  
Battery - Touch Or Strike, Resist Officer - Obstruct Wo Violence

**Bautista-Marquez, Alberto:**  
Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle Wo Valid License, Resist Officer - Obstruct Wo Violence

**Camacho Miranda, Erick:**  
Obscene Communication - In State Person Elec Trans Child Porno, Obscene Material-Possess - Poss Photograph Of Sexual Performance By Child

**Chaney, Dusty Lamar:**  
Resist Officer - Flee Elude Leo With Lights Siren Active, Resist Officer - Obstruct Wo Violence, Drugs-Possess - Cntrl Sub Wo Prescription, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use, Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Drive While Lic Susp Habitual Offender

**Coker, Wesley Martin:**  
Out Of County Warrant

**David Montiel Delacruz, Jose:**  
Retail Theft (Value \$100 Or Less) 1St Ofns - Pursuant To 812.015

**Diaz-Camacho, Andres:**  
Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle Wo Valid License

**Figueroa-Ramos, Jose Luis:**  
Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle Wo Valid License

**Fox, Jesse Martin:**  
Out Of County Warrant

**Frederick, Joseph:**  
Battery - Touch Or Strike, Obstructing Justice-Hinder With Comm Info To Leo/ Judg Fel 2Nd Proc-No Weapon

**Hernandez-Lopez, Ruli Glen:**  
Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle Wo Valid License

**Hodges, David Allen:**  
Trespassing - Fail To Leave Property Upon Order By Owner

**Hylar, Sarah Nicole:**  
Prob Violation

**Julian, Robert Allen:**  
Prob Violation

**Kersey, Boyd Carlston:**  
Aggrav Battery - Cause Bodily Harm Or Disability, Larc - Petit Theft 2Nd Degree 1St Offense

**Kirsch, Angel Marie:**  
Prob Violation (X2)

**Layport II, David Wayne:**  
Traffic Offense - Dui And Damage Property

**Long, Juan:**  
Traffic Offense - Dui And Serious Bodily Injury To Another, Traffic Offense - Dui And Damage Property (X4)

**Maness, Levi Robert:**  
Aggrav Battery - Cause Bodily Harm Or Disability

**Medina, Carlos:**  
Retail Theft (Value \$100 Or Less) 1St Ofns - Pursuant To 812.015

**Miller, Kristen Caroline:**  
Intimidation - Send Written Threat Conduct Mass Shooting, Drugs-Possess - Cntrl Sub Wo Prescription, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use, Aggrav Battery - Person Uses A Deadly Weapon, Damage Prop-Crim Misch - 200 Dols And Under

**Morr, Caleb Ryan:**  
Trespassing - Fail To Leave Property Upon Order By Owner

**Moyet-Gonzalez, Jose Martin:**  
Prob Violation

**Nuse, Christopher Barrett:**  
Disturbing Peace - Breach Of The Peace

**Ramirez, Carlos Roberto:**  
Veh Theft - Grand Theft Of Motor Vehicle, Flee/Elude Police - Flee Elude Leo At High Speed, Damage Prop-Crim Misch - 1000 Dols Or More, Resist Officer - Obstruct Wo Violence, Damage Prop-Crim Misch - 1000 Dols Or More (X3)

**Ray, Brittany Michelle:**  
Failure To Appear - Written Promise To Appear

**Rose, Robin Tina:**  
Prob Violation

**Salazar, Karen:**  
Battery - Touch Or Strike

**Sharp, William Daniel:**  
Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Drive With Suspended Revoked License

**Shields, Amanda Marie:**  
Cocaine-Traffic - 28 Grams Less Than 150 Kg Cocaine Or Mixture, Drugs-Possess - Cntrl Sub Wo Prescription, Smuggle Contraband - Introduce Into Detention Facility, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use

**Tirajara Medina, Ferniel Josue:**  
Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle Wo Valid License

**Torres Lopez, Gavino:**  
Dui-Unlaw Bld Alch - .15 Or Higher Or With Person Under 18 1St Off, Drugs-Possess - Cntrl Sub Wo Prescription

**Velasco-Ramirez, Samuel Antonio:**  
Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle Wo Valid License

**Worley, James Curtis:**  
Battery - 2Nd Or Subsq Off

Information on this report is provided for informational purposes only from the public Inmate Records of the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office. While every effort is made to ensure that the posted information is accurate, it may contain factual or other errors. Arrest information may not reflect the current information. An arrest does not mean that the individual has been convicted of a crime. The information on this report should not be relied upon for any type of legal action. Unauthorized or illegal use of the information is strictly prohibited.

NEWS FROM THE DESK OF SHERIFF POTTER

RIDING TO REMEMBER:  
2024 BROTHERHOOD RIDE FOR FALLEN HEROES



SHERIFF POTTER  
DeSoto County Sheriff

Every year, brave men and women of the Brotherhood Ride come together to honor the sacrifice of first responders who have lost their lives in the line of duty. This year, we are proud to announce that two of our own will be participating in this meaningful event once again: DeSoto County Sheriff's Office's Sergeant Joseph Santos, our School Resource Deputy at DeSoto County High School, and Ricky Mercer from DeSoto County Fire Rescue. These men will join other dedicated cyclists in a journey of remembrance and support for the families of fallen heroes.

The Brotherhood Ride was born out of tragedy, in the wake of an unforgettable event on June 18, 2007, when nine Charleston

firefighters lost their lives in the line of duty. That day shook the firefighting community to its core, and in the quiet halls of a fire station, among the empty shoes of those who would never return, a group of firefighters promised to ensure that these men would never be forgotten. They wanted to offer financial support and emotional solidarity to the families left behind. From that moment, the Brotherhood Ride was established as a tribute to these fallen heroes.

In its first year, the Brotherhood Ride saw firefighters cycling nearly 600 miles from Naples, Florida, to Charleston, South Carolina, to honor the Charleston Nine. The ride symbolized the enduring pain felt by the families and the ultimate sacrifice made by these firefighters. Since then, the Brotherhood Ride has evolved into an annual tradition, expanding its mission to honor fallen first responders from across the country, including firefighters,

law enforcement officers, and emergency medical personnel.

Over the past 15 years, the Brotherhood Ride has honored the memory of 707 first responders, traveling over 12,000 miles through 16 states. These cyclists, driven by a spirit of Brotherhood, have raised over \$840,000, directly supporting the families of those who made the ultimate sacrifice. This incredible journey is made possible by the generous support of sponsors, donors and local communities, as well as the dedication of the riders who take part.

Here in DeSoto County, we are honored to support Sergeant Santos and Ricky Mercer once again as they ride for our community. Their participation in the 2024 Brotherhood Ride reflects the strength and commitment that first responders share.

As we support them on their journey, let us also take a moment to remember the countless heroes

who have fallen. Their legacy lives on in the families they've left behind and in the continued work of organizations like the Brotherhood Ride, ensuring they will never be forgotten.

We'd like to say a special thanks to the Arcadia Elks Lodge #1524 for hosting the 2024 Cycling for Fallen Heroes Fundraiser on Saturday, September 21. We encourage our community to support the Brotherhood Ride in any way you can. Whether through a donation or simply by spreading awareness, every little bit helps to honor the memory of these fallen heroes and support their families.

To donate or learn more about how you can get involved, please visit [www.brotherhoodride.com](http://www.brotherhoodride.com), or contact their team directly.

Together, let's stand with our first responders and show that their sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Sheriff James Potter

ADVERTORIAL

# GET READY FOR STORM SEASON WITH FPL’S HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

At Florida Power & Light Company (FPL), safety is the cornerstone of our commitment to customers and employees. It is not a matter of if, but when the next hurricane will hit our state, which is why it’s important to be proactive in planning for the six-month-long hurricane season. FPL urges Floridians to be prepared this storm season and to be aware of potential safety hazards at all times. Below is a checklist for what to do before, during and after a storm. For more tips, visit [FPL.com/storm](#).

### CREATE AN EMERGENCY PLAN WITH YOUR FAMILY

- Determine if your home or business is in a flood and/or evacuation zone and review evacuation routes.
- Determine your backup power source or make arrangements to relocate if a storm warning is issued.
- The [Division of Emergency Management](#) recommends keeping gas tanks at least half full during hurricane season. For electric vehicles (EV), make sure to maintain a 50%-80% charge at all times.
- Contact your local emergency management office if you or anyone you know has special

needs, in case of evacuations. Apply for our [Medically Essential Service](#) if someone in your home is dependent on electric-powered, life-sustaining medical equipment.

### BUILD AN EMERGENCY KIT

- Stock up on non-perishable food, bottled water, medications, flashlights, batteries and a first-aid kit.
- Don’t forget phone chargers, power banks and important documents in a waterproof container – including insurance policies, health cards, birth certificates, Social Security cards, a list of important phone numbers and medications and a copy of your FPL bill.

### PREPARE YOUR HOME

- Install an approved hurricane shutter system over windows and doors or have alternate coverings such as plywood.
- Store outside objects inside, fasten doors and windows, cover valuables and furniture with plastic and move away from windows.
- Turn off and unplug any unnecessary electrical equipment, including pool equipment.

- Set your refrigerator and freezer to their coldest settings ahead of time to keep food fresh longer in the event of a power outage.
- DO NOT attempt to trim any vegetation growing on or near any overhead [power lines](#). Only hire qualified professionals to trim trees and other vegetation near power lines. Visit [FPL.com/trees](#) for more information on our tree trimming policies.
- Look up and note the location of power lines before you begin working on a ladder. Be sure that ladders or scaffolds are far enough away so that you – and the ends of the tools you’re using – don’t come within 10 feet of power lines.

### STAY SAFE AND INFORMED

- If you use a portable generator, read and follow all the manufacturer’s instructions. Be sure to set it up outside – not in your home or garage – and connect appliances directly to it. Do not wire your generator directly to your breaker or fuse box, because the power you generate may flow back into power lines and cause injuries.
- Bookmark [FPL.com](#) and save 1-800-4-OUTAGE (1-800-468-8243) to your cell phone to



- report and check the status of your restoration.
- Stay far away from and do not touch any downed power lines or flooded and debris-laden areas that may be hiding downed power lines.
- Follow local news and [@insideFPL](#) for updates on storm conditions and heed warnings.

## NOTICE OF VOTER REGISTRATION BOOK CLOSING DESOTO COUNTY • STATE OF FLORIDA

(published pursuant to Florida Statutes 97.055)

Florida Law requires the voter registration books to close 29 days before each election. The book closing date for the November 5, 2024 General Election is October 7, 2024 at 5PM. Any questions pertaining to the registration of voters or elections for DeSoto County should be directed to the DeSoto County Supervisor of Elections office at (863) 993-4871.

We are taking requests for Vote by Mail ballots to be mailed out the first week of October.

**MARK F. NEGLEY**  
**SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS**  
**DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

## AVISO DE CIERRE DEL LIBRO DE REGISTRO DE VOTANTES CONDADO DE DESOTO • ESTADO DE FLORIDA

(publicado de conformidad con los Estatutos de Florida 97.055)

La ley de Florida exige que los libros de registro de votantes se cierren 29 días antes de cada elección. La fecha límite para las elecciones generales del 5 de noviembre de 2024 es el 7 de octubre de 2024 a las 5 p.m. Cualquier pregunta relacionada con el registro de votantes o las elecciones para el condado de DeSoto debe dirigirse a la oficina del Supervisor de Elecciones del condado de DeSoto al (863) 993-4871. Estamos aceptando solicitudes para que las boletas de Voto por Correo se envíen por correo la primera semana de octubre.

**MARK F. NEGLEY**  
**SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS**  
**DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

# Join the Mission to Keep Florida Communities Safe



We provide evidence based  
Forensic Treatment.

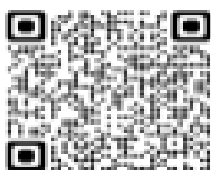
**Walk-in interviews  
every Wednesday 9am-noon**

*Wellpath Recovery Solutions/Florida Civil Commitment Center*  
*13619 Hwy 70 Arcadia, Florida 34266 (10.5 miles east of Walmart)*  
*(863) 491-4800 To apply please visit [Wellpathcare.com/careers/](https://www.wellpathcare.com/careers/)*

We have jobs and careers in security (\$21), nursing (\$23-38), direct care (\$15-16), mental health therapist, maintenance, food service and more...

We find the best fit for applicants based on their work history, attitude, education and interests. New employees receive intensive training and OTJ support.

YOU have choices! We offer DailyPay, regular paychecks, various health care plans (health, dental, vision), 401K, sponsorship for the Correctional Academy, full time and PRN, some sign bonuses are up to \$2000, air conditioned work environment, tuition reimbursement and more...



**Florida Civil Commitment Center**  
13619 SE Hwy 70, Arcadia FL 34266 (863)491-4800

# STORAGE UNITS

## ★ AVAILABLE ★

RATES STARTING AT  
\$95.00 PER MONTH

### FIRST MONTH FREE!

RV/BOAT/OUTSIDE STORAGE  
AND PRODUCT ADVERTISING

PLEASE CONTACT US FOR DETAILS

**COWPENS, LLC**

The lovely  
**Amy Smith, Mgr. - 863-303-1406**

2242 SE HWY 70, ARCADIA, FL 34266 - BEHIND K & J'S  
HOMEGROWN PRODUCE

# DeSoto County *Ahead*


Celebrate DeSoto and Register Now!!!

## SAVE THE DATE!


**What:** A Community Update Dinner  
**Date:** Thursday, November 7, 2024  
**Time:** 4:00p – 6:00p Resource Fair  
6:00p – 6:45p Dinner  
6:45p – 7:30p Program  
7:30p – 8:00p Networking  
**Location:** Turner Agri-Civic Center  
2250 NE Roan St. Arcadia, FL, 34266

ALL ARE WELCOME


DeSoto County Ahead will showcase community organizations, valuable resources, and meaningful presentations by various community changemakers. The event aims to foster connections, promote learning, encourage the exchange of ideas, and ensure that each person leaves with a renewed sense of hope and inspiration, as well as steps to propel positive change within our community. \*Dinner is provided by The Patterson Foundation.




REGISTER HERE  
bit.ly/DeSoto-Update




People



Organizations



Communities



THE PATTERSON  
FOUNDATION

# LOST DOG!!

## \$5,000 REWARD IF FOUND AND RETURNED



Her name is Ruby, Female, Blue Merle French Bulldog, missing on 9/23/24 from the intersection of:  
**SW SENATE ST. AND SW MADISON AVE. IN FORT OGDEN.**

CALL/TEXT, RAMSEY: **863-244-7889**  
OR DAWSON: **863-231-2077**

## Quality Storage Sheds for you!



**SouthCountry Sheds**

As low as \$299 down!  
FEATURED options:  
- NEW! electrical packages  
- Shelving  
- Work benches  
- Ramps

DESIGN your shed,  
your way at  
Shed4me.com

SouthCountrySheds.com  
Email: Sales@SouthCountrySheds.com  
1460 SW Price Child St. Arcadia, FL 34266  
Call 863-491-8700 Today!

## RECLAIM YOUR GARAGE! BUY A SHED!

The stuff goes in the shed  
& the car in the garage!

**Shed After!**

**Garage Before**

**Garage After Shed, Wow!**

# LARGO GUN SHOW

LARGO EVENT CENTER (FORMERLY MINNREG HALL)

6340 126TH AVE. N. • LARGO, FL 33773

OCTOBER 12<sup>TH</sup> & 13<sup>TH</sup>

SATURDAY 9AM-5PM & SUNDAY 9AM-3PM

UPCOMING

NEW DATE

BROOKSVILLE SHOW

NOVEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup>

HERNANDO COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

6436 BROAD STREE. (US HWY 41)

SAT 9AM-5PM & SUN 9AM-3PM

PORT CHARLOTTE SHOW

NOVEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> & 10<sup>TH</sup>

CHARLOTTE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

2333 EL JOBEAN RD.

SAT 9AM-5PM & SUN 9AM-3PM

**WE ARE THE BEST COMBINATION OF FFL DEALERS AND PRIVATE COLLECTORS AROUND!**

All Federal, State , and local laws must be obeyed.  
Guns, knives, accessories, ammo, parts, and so much more. Come ready to buy, sell, or trade. We have new, used, and antique items.  
And as always, **FREE PARKING!**

CHILDREN (16 and Under)  
2-Day Admission

**Free**

ACTIVE Miliarty or LEO  
2-Day Admission

**Free**

Veteran OR Retired LEO  
2-Day Admission

**\$1<sup>00</sup> off**

ADULT (17 and Over)  
2-Day Admission

**\$10<sup>00</sup>**

**WE HAVE TONS OF GUNS AND AMMO AVAILABLE!**

*Tickets sold at the door, Cash or Check Only, limit 1 discount per person*

Saturday AND Sunday

*Come and go as you please on both days!*



2 GUYS

GUN SHOW



727-776-3442 • 2GuysShows.com

AMENDMENT 4  
FROM PAGE 3 »

- State-funded Agreement with the Sheriff’s Office for the first year of Next Generation (NG911) Core Service Implementation and Services in the amount of \$96,203.23 after a State Grant for NG911 of \$198,062.88 for the second through fifth years was awarded.
- Contract amendment extending the lawn maintenance services at the Administration Building, Courthouse, and Library for \$39,670.00 with Zamora’s Lawn and Landscape (ZLAL) for an additional year using the second of the one-year renewals extending the contract to Sept. 24, 2025, with no changes or price increases.
- Pre-Storm Work Authorization Agreement with BlueSky Restoration “to provide rapid deployment of resources in advance of a storm as well as a streamline disaster recovery process.” The agreement

will assist BluSky in knowing ahead of time “which resources should be staged nearby and what types of initial services are needed for pre-storm planning” as Preferred Priority Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Program uses a member-centric emergency response partnership with BluSky Restoration and Engle Martin “to ensure that each member receives top-priority service without delays.”

- Two-month contract time extension—through Nov. 28, 2024—for the Debris Removal Project with Phillips and Jordan, Inc., funded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service Emergency Watershed Protection Debris Removal Program as heavy rainfall during June 10-19 and Aug 3-8 for Hurricane Debbie prevented debris removal until the water receded.

The Office of Criminal Justice Grants Subaward Management questionnaire—to be reviewed for compliance with the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)—required of all recipients seeking federal

- financial assistance from the Florida Dept. of Law Enforcement (FDLE).
- Contract Extension with Public Consulting Group, LLC., that provides for assistance with complying with the Florida Certified Public Expenditure Program for Emergency Medical Transportation (PEMT) program requirements, under a piggyback contract through Palm Beach County updated to provide for an extension until Aug 19, 2029.
  - Amendment to the Agreement with Truist Bank for banking services extending the initial three-year agreement signed on Oct. 1, 2021, using the first of two one-year renewals.
  - Revised Classification and Pay Plan adding an Accounting Specialist II part-time position in the Administrative Services Dept. to provide support to the payroll functions and to assist with meeting the daily requirements and deadlines.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

County Administrator Mandy Hines reported that during the historic courthouse restoration, four corroded structural steel lintels had to be replaced for \$104,000.00. As that task was outside the scope of work, the Graciano Corp. offered to removed other tasks for a zero-cost change order: removing salt deposits from the brickwork and resealing it; caulking, priming, and painting the windows; and redoing the ornate lamps. The Commissioners concurred.

As the only offer received for the lot at 1410 S. Hillsborough Ave. in 30 days was lower than the asking price, the Commissioners agreed to continue offering it for sale for an additional 30 days including advertising it in the “Peace River Shopper.”

They also agreed to extend the search for a county attorney through Sept. 30.

LAND  
FROM PAGE 8 »

Pierce. Ajax Paving Industries of Florida, LLC, of Venice, Florida, and Cobb Site Development, Inc., of Wauchula, also submitted bids.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) grants are fully funding the project that provides a 2” overlay of new asphalt and new pavement of 6” limerock base and 3” asphalt paving. The existing connection to Taxiway “A” will be removed and constructed in another location with new taxiway edge lighting. Aircraft tide-downs, pavement markings, and drainage improvements are also included.

IFB 2024-06 for the Arcadia Municipal Airport Security Improvements for \$341,488.46 went to Semco Construction, Inc., of Bartow. NetPlanner Systems, Inc., of Tampa, also submitted a bid. A FDOT grant will fund the project that consists of constructing four security gates including furnishing gate and fence materials, concrete maintenance slabs, electrical and associated work for four existing

security gate locations.

The Council approved Contract SA-39 with George F. Young, Inc., for the engineering design of the Airport Water Main Extension Project to extend an 8” water main along SE Maple St. from SE West Ave. to the Arcadia Airport. In addition, the water main will extend south from the airport entrance to SE 12th Place and on SE 10th Ave. to the dead end. The Arcadia Rural Infrastructure Grant, D0265, will fund the \$429,910.00 cost of the project, with construction scheduled for completion in Dec. 2025.

Deputy Major Keith Keene asked about improving the drainage on Maple Ave. during construction, and Stewart said it was not included in the project. He promised to discuss with the County’s Road and Bridge Depts. how the north-south ditch is prone to flooding.

REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Code Enforcement Director Carl McQuay reported 31 cases opened and 42 closed. After the Special Master’s hearing on Sept. 12, liens were filed on three properties. When informed that the City intended to foreclose on 301 S. Dade, Jack Pine, the owner, offered to give

the property to the City. The dilapidated structure at 201 S. Orange Ave.—most famously known as Burton’s Barbershop—is in the abatement process and will be demolished.

Jane Watson spoke about the overgrown condition of Oak Ridge Cemetery, and Stewart reminded everyone that the City’s burial ground is not a “perpetual care” cemetery. The City tries to maintain the common areas, but the families are responsible for upkeep on their plots. The City has only one of two workers assigned to cemetery maintenance, and with the rainy weather, that employee fell so far behind that the City called in the landscaping company who maintains the rest of the City’s properties to lend assistance one time.

Wohl noted that families buy the land where their loved ones are buried, so the City does not own the plots.

“That’s technically true,” Stewart said. However, when an old grave cover recently collapsed, the City “stepped up and did the right thing” by spending the money to repair it.

During his comments, Deputy Mayor Keith Keene talked about maintaining

his family’s plots, and noted that in the past, those who were mowing sometimes accidentally damaged the graves, so some families had installed “Please don’t mow” signs. He also imagined that many plots had no family members left, so he wondered if a fund for “perpetual care” could be established to help with that situation?

Stewart said that it might be possible to do so. He noted that the price for a plot has not changed in 20 years.

Council Member Judy Wertz-Strickland commented that she had been contacted by a woman who did not live locally and wanted to find someone who would weed-eat her family’s plot.

Watson also mentioned the downtown benches and wondered where the six plaques memorializing her family members had gone? Stewart said that Arcadia Main Street had partnered with Gator Wilderness Camp to refurbish the broken benches, and when they were returned, they would be anchored to the sidewalk. He told her he didn’t know about the plaques, but he would find out and report back to her.

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

Level: Advanced

# SUDOKU

**ANSWERS:**

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

**HERE’S HOW IT WORKS:**

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

*Proudly Manufactured in DeSoto County, Florida*

# JOIN THE TEAM!



***We're offering a **CAREER**, not just a job, in addition to.....  
Competitive wages, Medical, Dental, Vision, life insurance, 401k, Paid-Time-Off,  
guaranteed Over-Time, and Hands-On-Training***

**DAY SHIFT** 6am - 6:30pm

**MOLD CLEANER:**

\*Temporary 8-week position. Must be able to stand for 12 hours, lift 40-50lbs, attention to detail. Potential for full-time offer, Show us what you're made of!.

**MIXER OPERATOR:**

State-of-the-art, brand-new batch plant, must be comfortable with computers, as well as hands-on, physical work. Attention to detail a must, and taking pride in your work, hands-on training provided.

**FORKLIFT OPERATOR / PLANT SUPPORT:**

Assist with forklift duties as needed, and plant machine operators where needed; getting tools, covering lunches, assisting with projects, general cleaning, or maintenance.

**NIGHT SHIFT** 6am - 6:30pm

**EXTRUDER OPERATOR:**

Responsible for operating the machine that forms the product into the final shape. Attention to detail and taking pride in your work. Machine/Hand Tool 'know-how' helpful, all training is hands-on. If you have the right attitude and aptitude, we can teach you a lifelong career skill!

**LINE PRODUCTION MECHANIC:**

Dedicated Shift mechanic. Main goal...keep the line running mechanically; Polycord repair, machine jambs, gearbox/motor troubleshooting and/or installation, Conveyor belt adjustments, sensors out of alignment or malfunctioning, etc. This is a very brief mention of a few items. Please stop by with your application for a plant tour, if selected for an interview!

**DAY SHIFT** 7am - 3:30pm

**PALLET REPAIR:**

Here at Crown Roof Tiles, we recycle and re-use our returned pallets, but sometimes they need a board or 2 replaced. Hands-on training provided, prior use of a nail gun, hammer and nails, and/or crow bar are helpful. Must be able to stand 8 hours, and lift 50lbs - 100lbs. Opportunity to cross-train the right person for our yard department for loading trucks. Forklift experience is preferred, but not required for this position.

**DAY SHIFT** 6am - 4:30pm

**YARD FORKLIFT OPERATOR:**

Seeking experienced Forklift driver for loading Tile pallets onto flat beds. Other duties include, cleaning, inventory control, product consolidation, etc.

**Apply in person at:  
6018 SW Highway 72  
Arcadia, FL 34266**

**Any questions, please call:  
Human Resources,  
863-993-4004 x108**

*If you are selected for an interview, please dress appropriately for a plant tour in a manufacturing environment, Close toe shoes, no tank tops. If are applying for a forklift position and are selected for an interview, please be prepared to show off your skills with a 5-10-minute skill assessment.*

PAID FOR BY DESOTO COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



# OFFICIAL 2024 AMENDMENT GUIDE

✓ **Amendment 1: Yes**  
Partisan Election of Members of  
District School Boards

✓ **Amendment 2: Yes**  
Right to Fish and Hunt

✗ **Amendment 3: No**  
Adult Personal Use of Marijuana

✗ **Amendment 4: No**  
Abortion Amendment. Amendment  
4 is deliberately deceptive.

✓ **Amendment 5: Yes**  
Annual Adjustments to the Value of  
Certain Homestead Exemptions

✓ **Amendment 6: Yes**  
Repeal of Public Campaign  
Financing Requirement

ELECTION DAY: **Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>**

LEARN MORE BY VISITING: **Florida.GOP**

