



# ARCADIAN

Thursday, March 13, 2014 - 24 pages / 50 cents



A section of the Sun

## ST. PATTY'S DAY PETS



Bring home a good luck charm this St. Patrick's day by providing a furever home to a lucky pet.

PAGE 23

# DMH to pursue BOCC sales tax approval

By STEVE BAUER

ARCADIAN ASSISTANT EDITOR

In an effort to have the DeSoto Board of County Commission approve a half-cent sales tax without a public referendum, DeSoto Memorial Hospital is seeking legal clarification on whether it is a public hospital according to state statutes.

DMH CEO Vince Sica told board members during their Thursday meeting he had talked to three of the five Commissioners about the idea, as well as County Attorney Donald Conn. Sica said

Conn questioned whether the hospital would qualify as a true public hospital in the state's eyes, since it is not owned by the county.

"We fit every definition laid out in the statutes, except that we aren't owned by the county," Sica said. To get a definitive answer, the hospital will hire outside legal counsel to research the topic and provide clarification.

If the ruling comes back in DMH's favor, Sica said the hospital would attempt to have the BOCC pass the tax, which would require supermajority approval by the Commissioners. "We do

need to help educate them and know why we're asking for this funding, and the hospital's financial impact on the community," he said.

If the hospital is not deemed to be public, it would still attempt to get a sales tax referendum on November's ballot, although similar referendums in other counties have been soundly defeated. "The one in Bradenton recently was defeated miserably," Sica said. "But if we decide to go that route we would launch a campaign to educate the public on the benefits of having DMH available."

Sica said the hospital has also had

discussions with Manatee Rural Health about a possible partnership in which DMH would become MRH's call center for referrals. He also met recently with representatives from HCA Healthcare regarding potential affiliation opportunities. Sica said HCA had questions regarding DMH's finances that needed to be answered, but noted it was a positive meeting. "There might be an opportunity to affiliate ourselves with that organization, but at this point we're purely in the investigation stage," he said.

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## Rodeo draws big crowds for Wild West action



ARCADIAN PHOTO BY CRAIG GARRETT

Low Cassells gives a beautiful rendition of The Star-Spangled Banner to the cheers of the crowd. • Turn to page 12 for more photos.

ARCADIAN PHOTO BY THOMAS SIMMONS

The Calf Scramble invites kids to chase three calves to snatch a ribbon tied to each animal's tail, to claim a prize. It's a mad dash of eager children and running calves in the rodeo arena.



ARCADIAN PHOTO BY SUSAN E. HOFFMAN

Austin Gross, an Arcadia native now living in Malakoff, Texas, tries to hang onto Little Harry. There's nothing "little" about this bull.

Arcadian 50c



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# BOCC approves utilities extension for RV resort

By **STEVE BAUER**  
ARCADIAN ASSISTANT EDITOR

The DeSoto Board of County Commissioners voted 4-1 to approve water and wastewater extensions to the Thorton Creek Motor Coach Resort. Utilities Director Eddie Miller said the initial cost of the project is \$200,000, with final costs upwards of \$500,000. When asked by Commissioner Gabriel Quave what the expected payback time frame would be, Miller said his

department estimated 4.3 years. The board then approved the agreement, with Commissioner Elton Langford casting the lone dissenting vote. County Coordinator Mandy Hines told the board the county would be holding four "Community Conversations" in April. The events are meant to provide an opportunity for residents to meet with board members and staff and voice their opinions regarding jobs, housing, redevelopment

and other goals for the county to focus on. The meetings are being held as part of DeSoto County's involvement with the state Department of Economic Opportunity's Competitive Florida Partnership. Hines said the meetings will be held from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. on the following dates and locations: April 2 at Nocatee Elementary; April 3 at First Baptist Church in Fort Ogden; April 9 at the Turner Center Exhibit Hall; and April 10 at Kingsway Circle.

## Land Development Regulation schedule confirmed

County Attorney Donald Conn said dates for meetings regarding revisions to the county's current LDRs have been set, and will continue with a second workshop that will take place April 1. After that, Conn said public hearings on the matter will be held April 22 and May 27, with the May date including formal revision approval by the board.

# DMS mercury spill triggers cleanup, school closure

By **SUSAN E. HOFFMAN**  
ARCADIAN EDITOR

DeSoto Middle School was closed down as of Tuesday and will remain closed for the rest of the week, all because an eighth grade student brought some liquid mercury to school. School Superintendent Karyn Gary reported to the School Board Tuesday that a student had brought a "small amount" of

the element to science class. Some of the mercury reportedly spilled. According to Robert Turnipseed, associate director of instructional services, the incident was reported to the school nurse, who in turn contacted the DeSoto County Health Department for guidance. "The building was secured and the students who had been exposed had their hands washed according to EPA protocols," he said. The area where the spill

occurred – the eight grade science room and classrooms, along with the band/chorus room – were cleared. Jeff Crowley of U.S. EPA's Region IV office in Atlanta told the School Board the contamination was isolated to five or six rooms. The facts unfolded Monday afternoon and it was not clear whether and how much any of the toxic material was spilled, until experts arrived at the school to conduct tests. When it was determined

there might be some residual mercury and the school should be closed, the district initiated robo-calls to parents and others. It took longer for all the calls to be placed than they expected, and they also advised local media, law enforcement and others – including *The Arcadian*, which immediately posted notice of the

**SPILL | 24**

## DMH

FROM PAGE 1

### Numbers still lagging

DMH CFO Dan Hogan said February's numbers were down a fair amount, but the hospital has been able to reduce its expenses to offset the decrease in volume. "Inpatient numbers are still down, and we're not sure if that has to do with recent

changes to Medicare," he said. "We had a 10 percent decline in overall volume, and we haven't been able to pinpoint exactly why our snowbirds aren't showing up."

### A surprise offer

During the public comments portion of the meeting, Louis Badenhorst, who recently bought DeSoto Health and Rehab and owns several nursing homes across the country, introduced himself to the board and handed out a letter of intent offering to purchase DMH's management and lease the building.

The move was a surprise to both the administration and the board, as Sica said after the meeting the only conversation he's had with Badenhorst was the possibility of having him lease a part of the hospital's third floor for a Long Term Acute Care facility. He continued that Badenhorst hadn't given any indication he was interested in purchasing the hospital.

"Mr. Badenhorst provided us with a document that's titled 'Letter of Intent.' None of the hospital board or administration had any prior information other than what was provided this past Thursday," he said. "I reviewed the document on Friday, found it to be rather vague in some spots, and requested a meeting with him which is scheduled for Tuesday."

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## A closer look: Louis Badenhorst

By **STEVE BAUER**  
ARCADIAN ASSISTANT EDITOR

Louis Badenhorst turned more than a few heads during Thursday's DeSoto Memorial Hospital board meeting when he presented the board and administration with a letter of intent to purchase DMH's management and lease the building.



**BADENHORST**

A South Africa native who immigrated to the United States in 2001, Badenhorst has been heavily involved in managing and operating senior living and skilled care facilities since 1986. He recently purchased DeSoto Health and Rehab, which is one of several elderly care facilities he currently owns through his business, Pioneer Life Care in Lake Mary. Although he's a newcomer to the area, Badenhorst says he enjoys DeSoto County and is even considering purchasing property in the near future.

"I think this is a wonderful community, and my goal is to provide it with the best health care possible," he said. "I know some people are wondering what my

ulterior motives are, but there are none. Do a background check on me, research my past; I have nothing to hide."

### A diamond in the rough

Although he's never owned a hospital, Badenhorst said he noticed an opportunity to improve the hospital while reviewing its financial audits. At the time, he was considering whether to invest in opening a long term acute care facility on the building's third floor. "Looking through their records, it became clear things could be fixed there quickly," he said. "I have a very good background in turning things around and I saw some areas where there could be improvement. I could have the hospital profitable in a very short amount of time. I trust in myself and my abilities, and I know I can turn things around without having to beg for money from the county."

When asked for specific areas he feels could be improved, Badenhorst wouldn't go into detail but said generally the hospital needs to focus on areas that are successful and move away from those that aren't. "For example they had success with treating cancer

patients, but they've gone away from that," he said. "If something is working, you need to put more resources behind it to keep it successful and I see several opportunities where that can be accomplished. Sometimes it's good to have an outside view of things that maybe the current administration can't see, someone who can think outside the box. And that's what I can offer."

Although he's never owned a hospital, Badenhorst said he has several contacts and close friends who own large hospitals who would assist them. And although he wouldn't go into specifics, he says obtaining financing to purchase DMH isn't an issue. "It would involve both my own money and investors," he said. "I'm not going to show my bank statements to convince anyone funding is secured; that will all play itself out in due time, but that really is no obstacle."

### No major changes

Badenhorst says although there would be some restructuring involved, he has no plans to fire staff, particularly CEO Vince Sica. "There

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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

The Board of County Commission of DeSoto County, Florida will hold a Public Workshop on **Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at 5:30 PM** or as soon thereafter as it may be heard, in the County Commission Meeting Room 103, Administration Building, 201 East Oak Street, Arcadia, Florida as follows.

**TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE DESOTO COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS.**

If special accommodations are required in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals should contact the County Administrator's Office by calling 863-993-4800 at least forty-eight hours prior to the meeting.



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# VIEWPOINT

The Sun / Thursday, March 13, 2014

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Susan E. Hoffman — Arcadian Editor

E-mail letters to shoffman@sun-herald.com

## OUR VIEW

### Mayor needs to take control

It's no secret to anyone who has attended recent city council meetings that maintaining decorum and procedure are near the bottom of Mayor Alice Frierson's priority list.

Since being appointed mayor, she has struggled to take the reins during council meetings. She has allowed fellow council members and staff to speak out of turn, making little effort to require the public to approach the podium to identify themselves and speak up so they can be heard and recorded, and allowing discussions to veer wildly off course. In two instances, she tried to cut off people who were addressing the council during the public comment period. She was quickly reminded by City Attorney T.J. Wohl that she had to allow them their full allotted time to speak. (Besides, that's really disrespectful.)

She even tried to cut off another council member while he was in the process of speaking, saying she had the gavel and could cut him off at will.

But by far her worst offense is allowing both members of the public and staff to address the council at will in the middle of a discussion, treating the situation more like a town hall get-together rather than a formal government meeting. It's become such a regular occurrence that at the council's last meeting, when City Clerk Penny Delaney asked Marcia Brown to come to the podium and give her name and address for the record, Brown refused and said she would just talk louder so the council could hear her. Frierson didn't bat an eye and allowed Brown to finish her statement from the audience.

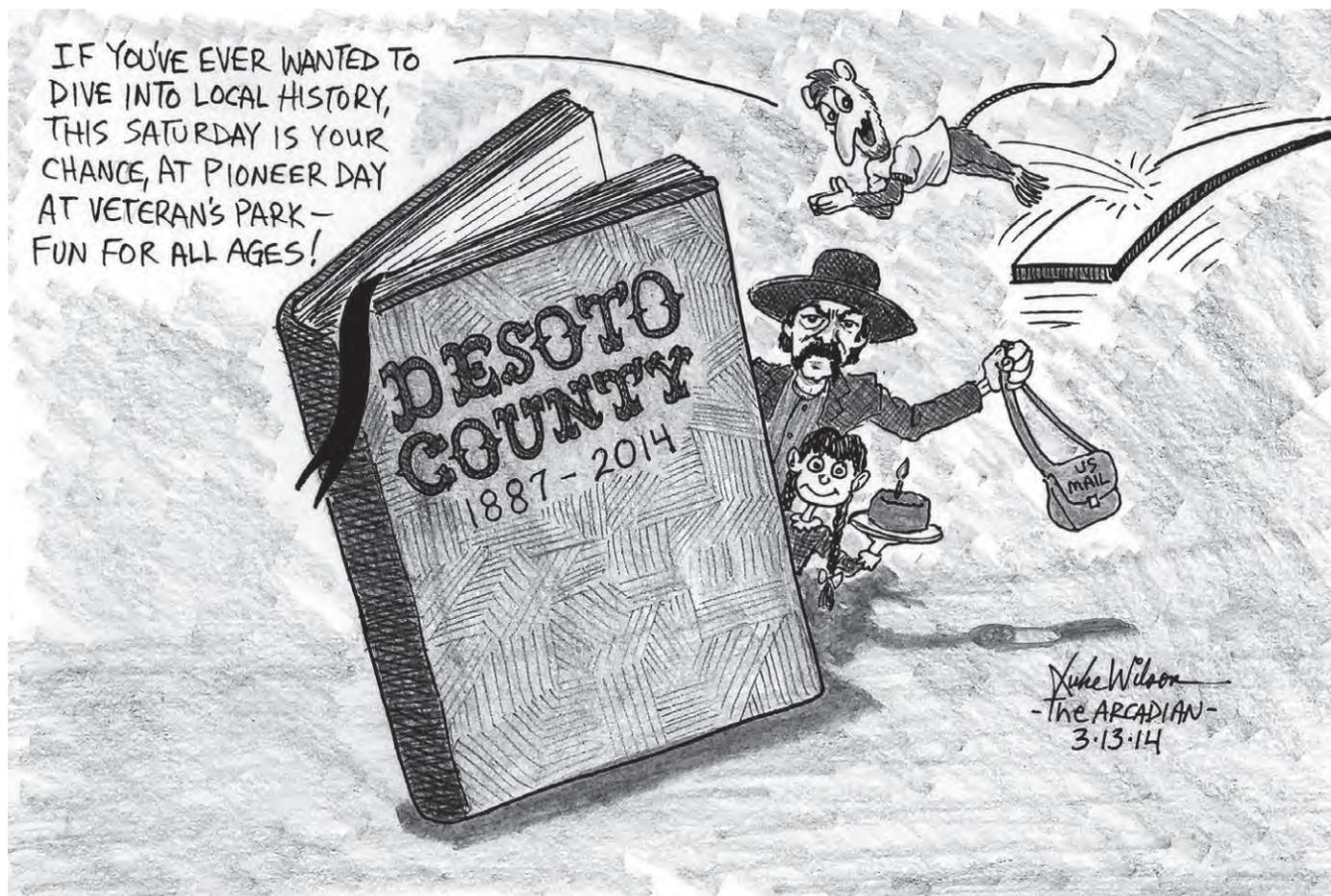
The reason anyone who addresses the city needs to come to the podium and identify themselves is important for several reasons. First, it allows Delaney to create an accurate, reliable record of the meeting's minutes, which is required by law.

Second, it allows the council to know whether the individual addressing the board is a city resident or not. Last fall, when it was discovered several people who addressed the council about the Arcadia Police Department budget weren't city residents, a sign-in sheet was placed on a front table for anyone who wished to speak. Besides a full name, people were also required to provide a full address. (Once the APD issue was resolved, the sheet quickly disappeared.)

Finally, it prevents the ridiculous back-and-forths that are occurring now, which have even included people in the audience having conversations with each other while the council looks on silently.

The city needs to take a page out of the county's book. The Board of County Commissioners meetings are structured and efficient, with Chairman Elton

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Accident scene disputed

Editor:

I was traveling east on State Road 70 on Tuesday about noon. I had just pulled out of the pawn shop on my way to Walmart, when I was broad-sided by a red truck that was making a left-hand turn from the westbound lane.

The gentleman gets out of his truck and says, "Where'd you come from?"

Naturally I was upset; I was just hit by a truck that I never expected to be

hit from. It was an accident, I realize that's why they are called accidents, but someone is at fault and someone isn't.

My left side from the back door down to the tailgate was smashed in. After listening to the elderly gentleman and his wife, the officer decided to give me a citation.

She decided by looking at the scene, which was nothing like the way it happened, that my truck hit his truck and I caused the accident. I always thought that the person in the through

traffic basically has the right of way.

I tried to give her my side of the story, but she didn't want to hear it. It wasn't debatable. His truck had small damage on his left front bumper; my truck is wiped out from the door down on the driver's side. You figure it out. How does this happen?

Now I have a \$161 careless driving ticket and repair deductible. I thought the law was there to help you. I think I'm going to take my chance with the Judge.

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## GRITS & PIECES

### Meet me at the corner of Heritage and Progress

It's that time of year again, for locals to get in touch with their roots and for visitors to learn about the heritage and history of DeSoto County at Pioneer Day. It will be celebrated this Saturday at Veterans Park, west of Arcadia next to the Peace River, and promises to be a day filled with fun, entertainment, learning, and fine food. And we've ordered the perfect weather for the day as well.

The origin of this great day took place in 2005, and the first gathering was in downtown Arcadia, at the Tree of Knowledge Park. Within two years, it had outgrown itself and was moved to McSwain Park. Sure enough, the crowds, vendors, craftsmen, entertainers, and demonstrators kept growing until it had to be relocated in 2010, to its current site, Veterans Park.

If you've attended in the past, you know how memorable (and delicious) the event is, and will want to come.



### Grits & Pieces

Luke Wilson

troubador55@embarqmail.com

First-timers will find lots of interesting historical displays, booths, and music that will transport them to another time — Arcadia and DeSoto County's early years, when it was carved from the palmettos and pines on the Southwest Florida prairie.

A favorite and very popular feature of Pioneer Day will be a barbecue rib cook-off. This mouthwatering competition pits teams of cooks against one another, applying their grilling talents and secret rubs and sauces that tantalize not only the judges, but all

who buy a rib dinner, so bring your appetite and be ready to treat your taste buds to something special.

This year's celebration will honor Harold McLeod, longtime member of the DeSoto County Historical Society. Pioneer Day was pretty much his "baby" as far as conception and much of the work that went into making it a reality. Harold served as a board member for many years and was personally responsible for many projects that have helped make the society the success that it is.

While we as DeSoto County residents will be reflecting back on our past, the future continues to plow through our community with the widening project of Highway 17. In just the past few weeks, several buildings have been razed to make way for it. They include the Church of God and

GRITS &amp; PIECES | 10

## LETTER SUBMISSION POLICY

Letters are welcome on virtually any subject, but we do have some rules. Please keep them to less than 250 words. Letters will be edited to length as well as grammar and spelling. All letters must be signed with full name - not initials. An address and telephone number must be included; they are not for publication, but must be provided so we may verify authorship if necessary. Due to the number of letters received, we reserve the right to run only one letter per person per month. The Letters to the Editor section is intended as a public forum for community discourse and the opinions and statements made in letters are solely those of the individual writers. *The Arcadian* takes no responsibility for the content of these letters. Please send or bring correspondence to the *Arcadian*, 108 S. Polk Ave., Arcadia FL 34266, or fax to 863-494-3533. Readers with access to the internet may e-mail Letters to the Editor at shoffman@sun-herald.com.

# Aviators appreciate Arcadia's airport

**SUBMITTED BY JACK TYLER**  
RAF FLORIDA STATE LIAISON

Among the many success stories of rodeo weekend is the one created by the Friends of Arcadia Airport. Some smaller communities don't appreciate the economic benefits — and let's not forget genuine good will — that their municipal airport can deliver to them. That's not true for Arcadia, thanks to the all-volunteer Friends of Arcadia Airport.

The national Recreational Aviation Foundation was invited to Rodeo Weekend

at the airport and members from Miami to Atlanta flew in to camp on the field, enjoy (no, let's say "be thrilled by") Arcadia's rodeo, and spend a wonderful weekend visiting Arcadia's shops and restaurants. And the hospitality extended well beyond the airport boundaries. Even the County Administrator, Guy Maxcy, went out of his way to make us feel welcome.

Airports can be far more than simply municipal facilities. They make tourism, shopping, fuel sales and a strong reputation for hospitality all

possible, as folks who can fly into an airport usually have a little discretionary income to leave behind, too. We could be wrong, but we doubt anyone in DeSoto County worked harder on rodeo weekend than the Friends of Arcadia Airport to host and make us feel welcome, as well as provide us the opportunity to benefit from what Arcadia has to offer.

Thank you, Arcadia. And thank you, Friends! We'll be back ... and it's a fact we wouldn't know to say that without the wonderful weekend we spent at Arcadia airport.



PHOTO PROVIDED

County Administrator Guy Maxcy came to the Arcadia Airport Saturday to greet visitors with the Recreational Aviation Foundation. Here he welcomes RAF State Liaison Jack Tyler.

# April Fools 5K Run/Walk to benefit schools

BY DR. RONALD SEVIGNY

On your mark, get set ... go! Registration for the Rotary April Fools 5K Run/Walk is now available online. This family event takes place on March 29 and will benefit the DeSoto County School District's AVID program and Rotary charities.

The April Fools Run/Walk, along with "Jesters," will take participants on a path through the beautiful Morgan Park on State Road 70.

People of all ages, and families with strollers, are welcome.

A portion of the funds raised will go toward the AVID program, which began this year in the DeSoto School District

to encourage middle school and high school students to attend college. It particularly targets those students who would be the first in their families to attend college.

The entry fee is \$20 before March 24; or \$25 on or after March 25; and \$10 for children 12 and under (no T-shirt). Early registrants will be assured of receiving a

race T-shirt in their requested size.

Registration for the race will be open on race day until 7:45 a.m. The race starts promptly at 8 a.m.

You can also register online at [www.7eeye.com](http://www.7eeye.com) — use the link at the top of the page to download the form. Call Ronald Sevigny with any questions at 863-414-3850.

# Benefit fundraiser a hit at Amvets #60



ARCADIAN PHOTOS BY JOHN BLACK, photoke@gmail.com

The Vietnam Brotherhood Echo Co. held a fundraiser on Feb. 22 to benefit Deborah "DJ" Wilson who needs kidney surgery. Here Bert Keller, left, and Pam Hurlson, right, shared the winning bid on a vacation at the benefit for Wilson, center.



Mike Brown of the Vietnam Brotherhood Echo Co. calls the Amvets his home. The Brotherhood sponsored a fundraiser on Feb. 22 at the Amvets Post #60 for Deborah Wilson, right, who needs kidney surgery.



A successful benefit was held for Deborah Wilson, left, who needs kidney surgery. Here she congratulates her sister, Julie Cincotta, who won a pair of special earrings in the raffle. The event included a poker run and a barbecue.



Bob Sidorski, left, Marie Sidorski, Gina Dyman and Robert Bailey Sr. join Deborah Wilson, standing, at a fundraiser held to help her with kidney surgery.

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# Arcadia's COMMUNITY CALENDAR

NOTE: All area codes are 863 unless otherwise indicated.

## ■ TODAY

- The DeSoto County Economic Development Advisory Committee will meet at 8 a.m. Thursday, March 13 at the DeSoto County Extension Office, 2150 N.E. Roan St.
- Arcadia-Desoto Habitat for Humanity, Inc. will hold its monthly board meeting on March 13, at the ReStore, 114 N. Polk Ave. The meeting is open to the public.
- The Assembly of Praise Ministries, 145 S. Orange Ave., is hosting a revival March 12-14, beginning nightly at 7 p.m. with Revivalist and Evangelist Lesley White. The community is invited to come and be blessed by the woman of God.
- DeSoto Memorial Hospital Foundation will hold its 8th annual Texas Hold 'Em Tournament on March 13 at the Elks Lodge in Arcadia. Players entry fee is \$150 including steak dinner and \$800 in poker chips. (Dinners are \$20 for nonplayers.) \$2,000 in prizes. Sponsors are being sought for donations and raffle items - call 494-8402 for details.
- TEAM Arcadia meets on the second Thursday of the month at 4:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Margaret Way Building, 23 N Polk Avenue. The purpose of TEAM Arcadia is to unite community organizations and coordinate community improvement efforts.
- DeSoto County Historical Society meets at noon every second Thursday monthly at the Family Service Center annex, 310 W. Whidden St., Arcadia. Lunch is available for \$6 at 11:30 a.m.
- Arcadia-DeSoto County Habitat for Humanity meets at 6 p.m. second Thursdays monthly at the Habitat ReStore, 111 N. Polk Ave. Call 494-4118 or desotohabitat@embarqmail.com for more information.
- Gastric bypass support group meets at 6:30 p.m. second and fourth Thursdays monthly at Mardis Citrus on U.S. 17 S. For more information, call 990-0082 or 494-5700.
- Relaxation Yoga Class every Thursday, 5 p.m.-5:15 p.m., registration and yoga tea; 5:15-6:15 p.m., yoga class. Health Dept., conference room, 34 S. Baldwin Ave. Drop-in \$7/class, 8-class package \$40 (\$5 per class). Bring your own mat. For more information, call Christine at 244-1925.
- DeSoto County Library story time is at 3 p.m. at 125 N. Hillsborough Ave., Arcadia. Call 993-4851 for more information.
- Cocaine Anonymous meetings are held every Thursday from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church. For information, call Curtis Clark at 244-2884 or Sandra Elmore at 352-476-8520.
- Faith Mission provides free lunches for anyone in need, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 1109 S.E. 9th St., Arcadia. Donations gratefully accepted.

## ■ FRIDAY

- The Photography Group of DeSoto Arts and Humanities Council meets the second Friday of each month 3:30 - 5 p.m. at the DeSoto Public Library. Free and open to the public. For more information contact Karen at ksmoke@embarqmail.com.
- St. Paul's Knights of Columbus will sponsor a fish fry fundraiser starting Friday and continuing every Friday (March 14, 21, 28; April 4, 11) during Lent, at the Parish Hall (next to Burger King). The menu includes fried

large batter-dipped fish fillet, dinner roll, hush puppies, coleslaw, dessert and beverage, for \$8 for adults, \$4 for children under 12, free for children under 5. Food and beverage will be served starting 4:30 p.m., continuing until 7:30 p.m. Open to the public. For more information, call 863-444-0082.

- Peace River Civil War Round Table meets at 1:30 p.m. second Fridays monthly at the Emerald Pointe clubhouse, 25188 E. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda. Lunch available. For more information, call 941-575-4269 or 941-639-0782.
- Arcadia Quilt Club meets from 9-11:30 a.m. Fridays at the Palace Dance Hall, 1627 N.E. Floridian Circle, Arcadia.
- Square Dancing classes are held at the Palace Square Dance Hall, 1627 N.E. Floridian Circle, from 7-9 p.m. every Friday. Robert at 813-601-1834 or Mary at 941-380-5336 494-2749 for information.
- Faith Mission provides free lunches for anyone in need, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 1109 S.E. 9th St., Arcadia. Donations gratefully accepted.

## ■ SATURDAY

- March 15 is the 10th Annual Pioneer Day and BBQ Rib Cook-off sponsored by the DeSoto County Historical Society. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at DeSoto Veterans Memorial Park. Booth spaces 15' x 15' are \$25 (free for nonprofits; artists and authors, \$25 or donate one signed book or work of art.)
- Classic car show in downtown Arcadia, 5 p.m.-9 p.m. the third Saturday of every month. Sponsored by Team Arcadia. Trophies, door prizes, and 50/50 jackpot. For more information call 494-2020.
- DeSoto County Library story time is at 10:30 a.m. at 125 N. Hillsborough Ave., Arcadia. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 993-4851 for more information.
- The Palace Promenaders meet for square and round dance from 7-9 p.m. every Saturday at the Palace Square Dance Hall, 1627 N.E. Floridian Circle. Art Miller, caller, and Jennie Martin, cueing. Call Jennie at 494-2749 or Mary at 941-380-5336 for information.

## ■ SUNDAY

- The Blackwood Brothers will present a concert at First Baptist Church at 6 p.m. March 16, 1006 N. Brevard Ave.
- Alcoholics Anonymous Serenity Group meets at Grace Lutheran Church, W. Oak St. (State Road 70) at 8 p.m. Sunday.

## ■ MONDAY

- Happy St. Patrick's Day to all our readers!
- The Sunnybreeze Quilt Show is Monday, March 17, at the Welcome Center off US 17, south of Ft. Ogden from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The public is invited to see handquilted quilts, and watch the ladies quilt.
- The DeSoto County Republican Executive Committee meets on the third Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Beef O'Brady's.
- The DeSoto County Fair Association meets at 7 p.m. third Mondays monthly in the fair office on Heard Street, Arcadia.
- AA "Brown Bagger" meetings are offered every Monday at noon at Trinity United Methodist Church, 304 W. Oak St.
- Women of Worship "WOW" Women's ministry meets at 6:15 p.m. Monday at Freedom Fellowship Christian Ministries, 1528 N.E. Turner Ave. All are welcome.
- A women-only G.I.R.L.S. AA meeting is held at St. Edmund's Episcopal Church at 6 p.m. on Monday at 327 W. Hickory St.
- Alcoholics Anonymous Second Tradition meets at St. Edmunds Episcopal Church at 8 p.m. Monday at 327 W. Hickory St.
- Al-anon, offering help for families of alcoholics, meets

at 7:30 p.m. on Mondays at Fort Ogden Methodist Church, 6923 S.W. River St. in Fort Ogden. Alcoholics Anonymous meets at the same time. For information call 941-426-7655 or visit www.district13soflal-anon.org.

- The DeSoto County Homeless Coalition Community Resource Center is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday at 1425 Martin Luther King St. The center provides referrals for mainstream resources, elderly food stamps (by appointment) and computer service. Salvation Army has office space on Wed. by appointment. For more information, call 491-5683.
- Prescription Assistance is at the DeSoto County Health Department Clinic Location: 1031 E. Oak St., Arcadia. Call to make an appointment or for more information, call 491-7580 ext. 256.

## ■ TUESDAY

- Arcadia City Council meets at 6 p.m. at the Margaret Way Building, 23 N. Polk Ave.
- The Nav-A-Gator is holding a job fair for the Hospitality Industry on March 18, 10 a.m.-noon. 9700 S.W. Riverview Circle, Lake Suzy.
- The DeSoto County Special Olympics committee meets at 3 p.m. on the third Tuesday every month at The Last Chapter Coffee Shop on W. Oak St. The meeting is open to anyone who is interested in coaching or working with adults or youth in sports. For more information, call Joyce at 873-8219 or 494-3440.
- DeSoto Memorial Hospital offers free blood pressure screenings from 3 to 4 p.m. in the DeSoto Memorial Hospital McSwain room. Call 494-8432 for details.
- DeSoto Amateur Radio Club meets at 7 p.m. third Tuesdays monthly. For information, contact PIO officer Marge Rikcer, call name KG4BWF.
- Freedom Fellowship Christian Ministries Support Group meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday at 1528 N.E. Turner Ave.
- Every Tuesday night, line dance class at the Palace Dance Hall (17N). Beginners welcome. \$3 donation. For more info, call Jennie Martin at 494-2749.
- Weight Watchers meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church, 1509 E. Oak St. For details visit www.weightwatchers.com and "find a meeting" or call 800-651-6000.

## ■ WEDNESDAY

- The DeSoto County Veterans Council meets the third Wednesday of every month at 11:30 a.m. For details, call Don Finkle at 494-1465.
- DeSoto County Homeless Coalition Mobile Pantry is on the first and third Wednesday of each month at the Smith Brown Gym starting at 9 a.m. until the food is gone. The only requirement is to be a DeSoto County resident. Sponsored by the All Faiths Food bank of Sarasota.
- The First Marine Division Association meets at 11:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday at Family Table Restaurant, 14132 Tamiami Trail, North Port. Call Carl Jones, 941-493-1408 for more information.
- Heartland Rural Health Network's Food Stamp Outreach grant program will have Angela Hendry come every third Wednesday to help seniors submit applications for food stamps. She will be at the Homeless Coalition Community Resource Center, 1425 Martin Luther King St., Arcadia, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Households should have at least one senior resident. Bring your ID, information on your income, assets, and expenses including medical. For more information call 863-452-0638.
- Community for Seniors meets from 12:30-1:30 p.m. every third Wednesday at TideWell Hospice and Palliative Care administration building on Arcadia Avenue. Open to anyone interested in being a new member. For more information, call Lori Coker at 990-1340.
- DeSoto County Traffic Safety Team meets at 1:30 p.m. third Wednesdays monthly at the DeSoto County

## ■ SPECIAL

- DeSoto County 4-H is starting its third annual citrus tree project. Youth age 5-18 may participate in this project by growing their own citrus tree to learn about the care of the tree, insects and diseases, the citrus industry and much more. If your child is interested, call the DeSoto County Extension Office at 993-4846 or email kpopa@ufl.edu no later than March 6 to reserve a spot.
- AARP needs tax volunteers in DeSoto County from Feb. 1 through April 14. Training is available. For details, visit www.AARPFoundation.org and click on "Tax Aide Volunteer."
- The Center for the Needy, at the corner of W. Pine St. and S. Orange Ave., is desperately in need of food, clothing, household goods (such as blankets, towels, cooking and eating utensils etc.), supplies — anything a person in need might require. The center is dangerously low on food, its shelves are almost bare, and they need to replenish supplies before the colder months. Any donations are gratefully accepted, including cash, to help those in real need in our community. For more information, call 863-444-0499.
- The DeSoto County Literacy Council is looking for volunteers for Adult Literacy and ESL (English as a Second Language), and GED tutors, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m., and 5-8 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Call 993-1333.

Commissioners room, 201 E. Oak St., Arcadia.

- Hearing Loss Association demonstrates amplified listening devices from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. third Wednesdays monthly at Charlotte County Cultural Center, 2280 Aaron St., Port Charlotte. For more information about HLA meetings, call 941-624-2947.
- Hour of Power Prayer time is held at noon at Freedom Fellowship Christian Ministries, 1528 N.E. Turner Ave.
- AA "Brown Bagger" meetings are offered every Monday at noon at Trinity United Methodist Church, 304 W. Oak St.
- Alcoholics Anonymous Serenity-Big Book meets at 8 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, W. Oak St. (State Road 70).
- Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion at Trinity Methodist Church, 304 Oak Street.
- "Art for Kids" is at 3 p.m. every Wednesday in the DeSoto County Library's children's wing. This program, sponsored by the DeSoto County Arts and Humanities Council, is for elementary school-aged children.

## ■ THURSDAY

- Nature Walks: Deep Creek Preserve, 8:30 a.m. March 20. With master naturalists John Phillips and Jamie Reynolds. Free.
- Peace River Audubon Society's 37th Annual Banquet and Fundraiser on March 20. Presentation by Dr. Jerome "Jerry" Jackson on Florida birds. Proceeds benefit PRAS Youth Education Fund. Cash bar at 5:30 p.m., Italian buffet dinner at 6 p.m. Kings Gate Country Club. Auction; photo contest winners. Public welcome. For information or reservations call Sandy at 941-575-0651; or email banquet1@peacriveraudubon.org. \$32/person.
- The DeSoto Amateur Radio Club meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month at the DeSoto County Emergency Operations Center, 2200 Roan St., Arcadia. Anyone interested may attend. Talk in for the meetings is at 147.180+ DARC repeater.
- Relaxation Yoga Class every Thursday, 5 p.m.-5:15 p.m., registration and yoga tea; 5:15-6:15 p.m., yoga class. Held in the Health Dept., conference room, 34 S. Baldwin Ave. Drop-in \$7/class, 8-class package \$40 (\$5 per class). Bring your own mat. For more information, call Christine at 244-1925.



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- 2 - Grilled Chicken Sandwich onion rings or fries .....\$6.99
- 3 - Philly Cheese or Chicken Philly onion rings or fries.....\$7.29

### MARCH 17 - ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Come dine with us  
on Monday March 17th  
for Corn Beef & Cabbage

### BREAKFAST SPECIALS • Monday-Friday ANYTIME

- 1 - Clock Touchdown Breakfast - 2 eggs, 2 pancakes, 2 links, 2 bacon .....\$5.29
- 2 - Breakfast Croissant with hash browns.....\$5.99
- 3 - Country Fried Steak & Eggs - 2 eggs, potato or grits & toast or biscuit.....\$6.89
- 4 - Any Omelet from regular menu with potatoes, pancake or toast .....\$6.99

### DINNER SPECIALS 24/7

- 1 - NY Strip Steak
  - 2 - Chicken Tenders
  - 3 - Roasted Turkey
  - 4 - Chicken & Shrimp
  - 5 - Liver & Onions
  - 6 - Grilled Tilapia
- 2 Dinners for One Price \$21.50**  
w/your choice of 2 Sides,  
Soup or Salad  
w/ pudding or Ice Cream



# Family Album

## Teens share underage drinking experiences in local forum

By LINDSAY TURNER  
DRUG FREE DeSOTO

### FAMILY ALBUM PHOTOS

Send us a photo to celebrate a birth, birthday, engagement, wedding, anniversary, etc. *The Arcadian* will run it free. We must have it no later than noon on Monday. Bring your photo to the office or e-mail to [Arcadian.editor@gmail.com](mailto:Arcadian.editor@gmail.com)

#### Happy 100th birthday



PHOTO PROVIDED

**Ethel Sapp Royse will celebrate her 100th birthday on March 19. She was born on March 19, 1914 in Indiana. She moved to Arcadia in 1972. Best wishes for a very happy birthday!**

Last month, the Drug-Free DeSoto Coalition partnered with Mothers Against Drunk Driving to present the Power of Parents workshop and student forum for the community. The research-based program aimed to educate parents and caregivers on how to effectively communicate with youth in their lives about the dangers of underage drinking.

The presentation began with an informative slide show and narration by Regional MADD Specialist, Monica Johnson. In her visual demonstration, Johnson provided statistics regarding actual teen drinking vs. perceived teen drinking. She shared several personal stories in which friends were severely injured or killed as a result of underage drinking. Following her presentation, Johnson opened the floor to questions and comments from community members.

Most would agree that the impactful portion of the presentation occurred



PHOTO PROVIDED

**Several students shared experiences with parents, school staff and others at a program last month, opening a dialog between youth and adults to address teen drinking issues.**

when the student panel, comprised of three girls and three boys — one middle school and five high school students — made themselves vulnerable to the harsh realities of underage drinking in DeSoto County.

By exposing real experiences, personal perceptions and challenging ideas to the adults in the room, parents, school officials, students and others had a meaningful dialogue that addressed various contributing factors to the

generally lax environment around the issue of underage drinking in DeSoto County.

Everyone received a free Power of Parents handbook and other substance abuse prevention awareness material.



# DeSoto Memorial Hospital

Growing to better serve you and our community...

## “THE MONEY NOT TAKEN”

The \$51 billion not yet accepted by the State of Florida can provide extended Health Care Coverage to the 3,942 hard working residents of DeSoto County. These residents in our community are not eligible for Medicaid because they are working but don't make enough to qualify for the subsidies offered in the Health Care Exchange (Obamacare).

**These hard working residents are employed and provide for their families. However, their annual income is less than 140% of federal poverty level. A single person earning between \$11,787 - \$16,105 or a Family of Four earning between \$24,089 - \$32,913, can not afford to buy health insurance.**

**But... if you earn as a Single person \$16,338 - \$46,680 or a Family of Four \$33,390 - \$95,400, you qualify for subsidies in the Health Care exchange.**

The Federal Deficit will not grow because the funding for this program has been made available through cuts in other programs (Medicare)

## “HOW BUSINESSES ARE AFFECTED”

**The total cost of treating those without health care coverage in Florida was almost \$3 billion last year. For business owners, this “hidden tax” raises health insurance premiums around 8% per year.**

**While the “hidden tax” is bad enough, Florida businesses with over 50 employees that do not provide health insurance to their employees will face monetary penalties in 2015.**

**Extending Health Care Coverage will help Florida businesses avoid the massive financial penalties they face if they are unable to provide employees with health care insurance through their companies.**

Information obtained from “A Healthy Florida Works”

# Holland files federal lawsuit against Sheriff's Office, former deputies

Jody Wayne Holland, 44, formerly of Arcadia, filed a federal lawsuit Friday against the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office and four DCSO deputies in connection with injuries Holland allegedly received while being detained in the DeSoto County Jail. He is reportedly seeking \$3 million in damages.



**HOLLAND**

Named in the lawsuit are Dale Scott, the deputy who initially arrested Holland on April 21, 2013, on charges of domestic abuse; Steven Rizza, the former deputy who allegedly beat Holland on May 25; former deputies Vincent Carlucci and Ashley Cross, who allegedly witnessed Holland being beaten and did nothing to stop it; and Ray Kugler, the former DeSoto County Jail captain who allegedly failed to transport Holland to the hospital for treatment after the injuries occurred.

The suit, filed in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida in Fort Myers, also names William Wise as DeSoto County sheriff under claims that Holland was falsely arrested and subjected to excessive force and injury.

Wise had not yet been served with a copy of the complaint and had no comment on the suit.

The complaint alleges Holland's then-girlfriend — who was working as a nurse at the jail at the time — filed a report with DCSO claiming Holland had abused her on April 20. On April 21, Scott interviewed Holland, who denied abusing the woman, and instead said they "had a day of fun and intimacy." Scott arrested Holland and booked him into the DeSoto County Jail on charges including battery and kidnapping.

While Holland was in jail, a domestic protective order was issued prohibiting him from coming near her or within 500 feet of her residence. Holland was subsequently released on May 15.

On May 25, the complaint states, the woman accused Holland of violating the injunction by coming near her residence; Holland insisted he was only at a nearby yard sale. Holland was again arrested, this time for violating the order, and booked in the jail.

After his arrest, the complaint states, Rizza "brutalized" Holland, including "repeatedly slamming (Holland's head) against a wall" and choking him. The complaint states

## POLICE BEAT

The information for Police Beat is gathered from police, sheriff's office, Florida Highway Patrol, jail and fire records. Not every arrest leads to a conviction and guilt or innocence is determined by the court system.

further that Carlucci and Cross observed Rizza beating Holland but did nothing to stop it.

Another jail nurse later examined Holland and reported the injuries to a doctor, who ordered that Holland be brought to the hospital. The nurse conveyed the orders to Kugler, who was then in charge of the jail, but he did not have Holland transported for treatment. The next day, when that same nurse saw Holland's condition, she again informed Kugler, who then had him brought to DMH.

The complaint against Scott alleges that Scott had no basis to arrest Holland on April 21, and all the subsequent injuries Holland suffered were because of the initial false arrest; therefore he seeks damages against Scott for false arrest.

The complaint charges Rizza with using excessive force, and charges Carlucci and Cross for failing to intervene. Holland claims his constitutional rights were violated and he is seeking damages against the three former deputies.

With regard to Kugler, the complaint states Kugler was aware of Holland's serious injuries yet disregarded the risks, constituting "more than gross neglect" and a violation of Holland's constitutional rights. As to DCSO, the complaint claims that the injuries suffered by Holland from the false arrest and battery occurred while he was in DCSO's custody, and that he will continue to suffer from these injuries in the future.

The complaint does not state an amount of damages sought, but published news reports indicate Holland is asking for \$3 million in damages.

Former deputies Rizza, Carlucci and Cross were initially suspended from their jobs at DCSO pending an internal investigation, and were later fired as of July 26. Rizza and another DCSO deputy, Jonathan Mause (who was not named in Holland's complaint), were indicted by a federal grand jury in January for falsifying records during a federal investigation, obstruction of justice and perjury to a federal grand jury. Mause was additionally charged with making a false statement to a federal investigator.

Kugler was placed on leave in July and subsequently retired. He pleaded guilty in federal court to one count of lying about the case during an FBI investigation, and was sentenced last month to three years of probation and 150 hours of community service.

Scott continues to serve as a deputy with DCSO.

## BBQ recovered, suspect found hiding in A/C duct

A stolen barbecue smoker has been recovered and the suspected thief was nabbed while hiding in an air conditioning duct.

DeSoto County resident Doug Tanner reported that a homemade barbecue/smoker attached to a trailer, valued at \$3,000, had been stolen from his property sometime on Feb. 13 or 14. When DeSoto County deputies began investigating the theft, they



**FLORES**

located a man who told them he had just purchased a smoker on a trailer for \$450 from Mathew Scott Flores, whom he has known for several years. Flores had told the man he was out of work and needed money. Flores, 26, lists an address in the 200 block of E. Imogene St., Arcadia.

When shown a photo of the BBQ the man bought, the owners identified it, and it was returned to the victim's home. On March 4, DCSO secured a warrant for Flores' arrest on charges including grand theft between \$300 and \$5,000, dealing in stolen property and trespassing.

Also, on Feb. 25, Arcadia Police responded to a report of a trailer stolen from a Bridle Path yard. A few days later, the man who had bought the smoker told APD he was afraid he may have also bought a stolen trailer from the same person. APD connected that report with the Bridle Path trailer. Again, Flores was identified as the seller; he had given the buyer a receipt signed with the name "Jermy Walker." APD found several addresses listed for Flores, including one in Charlotte County; when the suspect was not located at any of the DeSoto addresses, APD notified CCSO.

On March 11, Charlotte County Sheriff's deputies attempted to locate Flores at a friend's residence in Punta Gorda. According to CCSO's report, although the friend, Elizabeth Marie Reyes Andrade, 26, denied Flores was present at the house and refused to permit them inside, the deputy sensed she was not telling the truth. They had information he lived at this residence and knew he was also on probation for prior arrests in Charlotte County.

CCSO deputies entered the house and conducted a thorough search, eventually locating Flores hiding inside the air conditioning duct (where the air filter is located), which was closed and latched on the outside. They also found a loaded gun where Flores had been hiding.

He was arrested by CCSO on charges of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and on the DeSoto County warrant. Reyes Andrade was arrested on a charge of obstruction of justice, as deputies surmised the air conditioning vent could not have been locked by Flores without her help.

## The DeSoto County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests:

- Wendy Elizabeth Byrne, 46, 4700 block of N.W. Lions, Arcadia. Charge: out-of-county warrant. Purge: \$1,350.
- Carl Lee Crawford, 50, Lakeland, Fla. Charge: failure to support spouse or child. Purge: \$1,000.
- Justin Scott Dennis, 23, 800 block of Imogene St., Arcadia. Charge: felony domestic battery by strangulation. Bond: \$10,000.
- Jessica Marie Drake, 24, 1400 block of S.W. Rude Ave., Arcadia. Charge: violation of probation. Bond: none.
- Matthew Allen Waldron, 27, Newton, N.J. Charge: resisting an officer without violence. Bond: \$750.
- Katie Lynn Franco, 30, 9200 block of S.W. Richard Ave., Arcadia. Charge: battery. Bond: \$120.
- Martell Dion Harris, 23, 1800 block of S.W. Hendry St., Arcadia. Charge: driving while license is suspended. Bond: \$120.
- Brittany Nicole Howard, 26, 3200 block of Wallace St., Arcadia. Charges: possession of methamphetamine with intent to sell and possession or use of drug equipment. Bond: \$5,120.
- Richard Dale Lowe Jr., 34, 1000 block of S.E. 5th Ave., Arcadia. Charges: sale of methamphetamine and possession or use of drug equipment. Bond: \$5,120.
- Eleazar Delacruz, 28, 1600 block of 3rd Ave.,

Arcadia. Charge: disorderly public intoxication. Bond: \$120.

- Becky Lee Douglas, 43, 12400 block of S.W. Lexington Place, Arcadia. Charge: failing to obey police order to stop. Bond: \$2,000.
- Brian Attwood Graves, 24, 100 block of S. Hillsborough Ave., Arcadia. Charges: battery and possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana. Bond: none.
- Jose Luis Hernandez, 45, 1400 block of 3rd Ave., Arcadia. Charge: disorderly public intoxication. Bond: \$120.
- Maurice Allen Hurst, 34, 100 block of W. Myrtle St., Arcadia. Charge: driving while license is suspended. Bond: none.
- Carl Douglas McClelland, 33, 1200 block of S.E. Baker St., Arcadia. Charge: failure to support spouse or child. Purge: \$1,000.
- Quentin Stephun McNair, 37, Havana, Fla. Charge: out-of-county warrant. Bond: \$17,000.
- Juan Bautista Ramirez, 27, 1500 block of S.E. 2nd Ave., Arcadia. Charge: battery. Bond: none.
- Dominick James Ripa, 43, 700 block of N. Mills Ave., Arcadia. Charge: battery. Bond: \$1,500.
- Jason Charles Ross, 34, no address, Arcadia. Charges: driving while license is suspended, third or subsequent offense, and violation of probation. Bond: none.
- Alisha Nicole Seelmaar, 29, 1300 block of S.E. 3rd Ave., Arcadia. Charges: sale of methamphetamine and possession or use of drug equipment. Bond: \$5,120.
- Christopher William Shelton, 25, 4500 block of S.E. Tomlin Drive, Arcadia. Charges: leaving child in car unattended more than 15 minutes and driving while license is suspended. Bond: \$240.
- Eric Christopher Smith, 33, Spring Hill, Fla. Charge: possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana. Bond: \$120.
- Crystal Leigh Stott, 32, Port Charlotte. Charges: petty theft and violation of probation. Bond: none.
- Maria Christina Cerda, 34, 1400 block of S.E. Peach Drive, Arcadia. Charges: forgery or alteration of public record or certificate, illegal use of credit cards to obtain value under \$100 and petty theft between \$100-\$300. Bond: \$2,120.
- Adam Thomas Crum, 24, Port Charlotte. Charges: resisting recovery of stolen property and petty theft. Bond: \$620.
- J'mesa Lestar Gant, 23, 1200 block of S.W. Harlem Circle, Arcadia. Charge: petty theft, third or subsequent offense. Bond: \$1,000.
- John Micheal Guy, 48, 200 block of S. Pasco Ave., Arcadia. Charge: battery. Bond: \$500.
- Ruben Rosario Livio, 32, S.E. U.S. Highway 17, Arcadia. Charge: disorderly public intoxication. Bond: \$120.
- Ashley Michelle Beck, 28, Wauchula. Charge: violation of probation. Bond: none.
- Jaron Adams Hickman, 27, FCCC, State Road 70 East. Charge: felony battery, second or subsequent offense. Bond: none.
- Joseph Lawton O'Neil, 48, 1100 block of Hibiscus St., Arcadia. Charges: sale of methamphetamine within 1000 ft. of church or business, possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and possession or use of drug equipment. Bond: \$20,240.
- Antonio Reyes, 52, 1700 block of Plum Drive, Arcadia. Charge: driving while license is suspended, third or subsequent offense. Bond: \$1,500.
- Wilford Lee Smith Jr., 33, 1400 block of N.E. Hickory St., Arcadia. Charges: disorderly conduct (affray) and two counts of violation of probation. Bond: none.
- Antoin Darren Milner, 25, 300 block of N. 16th Ave., Arcadia. Charge: disorderly conduct (affray). Bond: \$120.
- Kristina Eve Marin, 44, 100 block of S.W. Harmony Drive, Arcadia. Charge: neglect of child without great harm. Bond: none.

## The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests:

- Robbie Wayne Ezell, 32, 4600 block of S.W. U.S. Hwy. 17, Arcadia. Charge: driving with a suspended license, third or subsequent offense, knowing abuse of temporary tag, and violation of driver's license law. Bond: \$8,500.
- Eleno Diaz, 48, 2100 block of Poinsettia Ave., Arcadia. Charge: driving without a valid license. Bond: \$1,000.

— Compiled by Susan E. Hoffman

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**OBITUARIES**

**Joan N. Boyette**

Joan N. Boyette, 94, of Sarasota, Fla., and formerly of Arcadia, Fla., and Bradenton, Fla., passed away Sunday, March 9, 2014.

She was born in Boaz, Ala., to John H. and Angela Brazzwell Wilson.

Joan was a former bus driver who loved all of the kids who rode her bus. She worked as a nurse for the former G. Pierce Wood Memorial Hospital for many years. Joan enjoyed fishing, caring for the sick, and spending time with her family. Joan was a Past Worthy Matron of the Order of Eastern Star in Arcadia. She loved her Lord and Savior, and was a member of the Assembly of God in Bradenton.

Joan is survived by her son, W. Lee (Susan) Boyette of Sarasota; brother, Jessie L. Wilson of Georgia, grandchildren, Courtney Boyette and H.L. (Denise) Boyette; nieces, Gloria, Robbie, Fran, Jan, Faye, Ann, Angela and Sonya; and nephews, Bill Wilson, L.P. Stallings and James Stallings. She was preceded in death by her parents; and sisters, Cora Boatwright, Arleatha Kimberly and Lola Stallings.

Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. until the graveside service at 11 a.m. Friday, March 14, 2014, at Oak Hill Cemetery. Online condolences can be made at [www.pongerkaysgrady.com](http://www.pongerkaysgrady.com).

Arrangements are by Ponger-Kays-Grady Funeral Home, Arcadia.

**History comes alive at 10th annual Pioneer Day**

By **CAROL MAHLER**

DESOTO CO. HISTORICAL SOC.

Where can you learn about when Arcadia was named, how to churn butter or weave baskets, and enjoy the best barbecue ever?

The DeSoto County Historical Society and Mosaic invite everyone to the 10th Annual Pioneer Day and Barbecued Rib Cook-off. The family-fun festival is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., March 15, at DeSoto Veterans Park, on State Road 70 just west of Arcadia. This event — held in honor of its founder Harold McLeod (1926-2013) — celebrates the history and heritage of southwest Florida.

Last year, the team from DeSoto County Volunteer Fire and Rescue won first place in the barbecue rib cook-off. The “Hambone BBQ” team from North Fort Myers Fire and Rescue scored second place, and the “Cracked Rib” team from Lee County Medical Services took third place. The “Boca Boys” from the Boca Grande Fire Department and the “Bottoms Up” team from Tice Fire and Rescue will also compete for unique first-, second-, and third-place trophies. Bebe Bradbury, president of the society, said, “These guys make the most bodacious barbecue you ever tasted!”

Cane syrup, homemade jams and jellies, strawberry shortcake, swamp cabbage, “gator bites,” and other special and traditional Florida foods will also be available.

“But do yourself a favor, and save room for those barbecued ribs,” Bradbury added.

New this year will be the Arcadia Albritton Coker Bake Sale. The society will offer the most tantalizing and scrumptious baked goods and homemade candy in honor of the woman who had a town named for her because she baked a birthday cake.

Coker will tell her story in person, and another historical legend will also make an appearance: Acrefoot Johnson. The far-walking, mail-toting giant serves as the festival’s mascot. In addition, many volunteers will be dressed in period costume to help recreate Florida’s frontier era.

Musical entertainment will include Lee James, the Anderson Brothers, and the Gulf Coast Cloggers sponsored by First State Bank, Member FDIC; the Fiddle Crabs — an old-time string band from Punta Gorda playing music popular in country towns of the 19th and 20th century, sponsored by the Williamson Group Realty; Barney and Nancy Meese sponsored by Peace River Tax Service; and the Suncoast Dulcimers of Charlotte County sponsored by Mary Margaret’s Tea

and Biscuit. Florida State Harmonica Champion Johnny Shannon will also perform.

Other sponsors include Arcadia Police; DeSoto County Chamber of Commerce; DeSoto County Sheriff; DeSoto County School District; Peace River Campground, and Womack Sanitation.

The festival will feature Civil War reenactors showing how to load period weapons plus demonstrations of pioneer skills and crafts, such as wood carving, spinning thread, soap-making, quilting, pine-needle basket-making, blacksmithing, and churning butter — with biscuits to sample the butter.

The Children’s Discover History Area will have a pitcher pump, cane pole fishing, candle-dipping, orange juicing, a fossil dig, and other hands-on experiences — plus old-fashioned toys and classic games. Pony rides will be available.

The festival will also showcase vintage automobiles, antique engines, a classic fire truck, Florida authors and artists, historical exhibits by area churches and other organizations, and animals — including rescued horses, pet skunks, chickens, miniature donkeys, and goats.

For information, call 863-494-6607 or visit [www.historicdesoto.org](http://www.historicdesoto.org).



PHOTO PROVIDED

**Evelyn and Leon Arthur, in period dress, offer information about the Confederate Cow Cavalry, Camp #2181, Sons of Confederate Veterans. This year, reenactors will be offering Confederate weapons demonstrations.**

**OBITUARY POLICY**

Obituaries are accepted from funeral homes only. There’s no charge for publishing an abbreviated death notice. Full obituaries and repeat death notices will be subject to an advertising charge.

Obituaries must be submitted to the Charlotte Sun; call 941-206-1000 for details. Please send e-mails to [obituaries@sun-herald.com](mailto:obituaries@sun-herald.com). The American flag accompanying an obituary indicates a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces.



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... And Make Your Choice from our Church Directory



Celebrative Worship  
Challenging Bible Study  
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Sunday: Life Groups - 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship: 10:45 AM  
Evening Small Groups - 5:30 PM  
Wednesday Activities - 6:00 PM  
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See Your Church in this spot For Only \$7.50 a week! Call Tami at **494-7600** for more details.

**First Baptist Church of Arcadia**  
1006 N. Brevard Ave.  
*Loving God, Connecting with People, Expanding His Kingdom*  
9:30 - Sunday School  
10:45 - Morning Worship  
6:00 - Evening Worship  
Wednesdays 6:00  
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[www.firstbaptistarcadia.com](http://www.firstbaptistarcadia.com)

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
209 West Hickory Street  
**Mission:**  
“Take Jesus with you wherever you go”  
**Worship:**  
9:45am Sunday School  
11:00am Traditional Worship  
Casual, Family Oriented

**Fort Ogden United Methodist Church**  
6923 SW River St.  
**863.494.3881**  
Sunday School 9:00am  
Sunday - Worship 10:00am  
(Nursery Children’s Church Provided)  
Mondays - A.A. & Al-Anon 7:30pm  
Wednesday - K-12 Ministry 5:30pm & Bible Study - 6:30pm

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2nd/4th Tuesday Support Group @ 6pm  
Wednesday Bible Study @ 6:00pm  
Thursday Choir Rehearsal @ 6:00pm  
Rev. Dr. Sharon T. Goodman, Pastor

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
1004 W. Oak Street  
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Morning Worship 11:00am  
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Prayer Meeting 6:30pm  
West on SR 70, left on SR 72, left on CR 661, 3.5 miles on right  
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Wednesday Evening: 5:30pm

**North Hillsborough Baptist Church**  
(253 N. Hillsborough Ave.)  
Pastor Ellis Cross  
**863-494-3455**  
Worship 11:00 AM  
Evening Worship 6:00pm  
Wednesday 6:30pm  
Thursday Youth Group 6pm

**Oak Hill Baptist Church**  
Arcadia, Florida  
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Sunday School 9:30 am  
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Wednesday 6:30 pm for Prayer Group, Youth & Children

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327 W. Hickory Street  
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**863-494-0485**  
[www.EpiscopalArcadiaFL.com](http://www.EpiscopalArcadiaFL.com)  
**HOLY EUCHARIST Sunday 8 & 10 am**  
Misa en español Dom 6pm

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“To know Christ and to make Him known”  
304 W. Oak Street • 494-2543  
Sunday Morning Worship Starting at 9:30 am  
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Sun. 4:30 p.m. UMYF  
Wed. 6:30 pm Bible Study  
Nursery Available  
Pastor Jim Wade  
View Service at: [trinityarcadia.com](http://trinityarcadia.com)

*May the Lord fill your heart with love.*

# The mother with a singing heart

When Susanna Annesley married young Samuel Wesley, she probably didn't expect to give birth to 19 children, eight of whom would die at birth. Nevertheless, as her life unfolded, making motherhood her main responsibility, Susanna learned to draw on her faith in God to gain strength to carry her through every trial and the world still benefits from her amazing example.

Eighteenth century England was a difficult setting in which to raise a family. One historian describes the conditions then as religiously stagnant and morally corrupt.

Churches were of little help to struggling families. Most sermons of that period are said to have lacked warmth and enthusiasm and were but dry, cold, colorless talks on morality. Furthermore, many ministers hobbled with the rich, neglecting their poorer parishioners.



Roger Campbell

Samuel and Susanna raised their children in a coarse and brutal society. Drunkenness was common, which, not surprisingly, compounded the problems of crime, poverty and domestic violence.

Susanna's husband became the pastor of a church in rural Epworth, England, increasing her responsibilities to include serving in the church and setting a good example for the women in the congregation.

There must have been times when this mother of so many felt like

throwing in the towel; like giving up in the face of her many duties. But Susanna had discovered a great stress reducer that carried her through the pressure periods: she had learned to give her daily difficulties to her Lord and expressed her secret of successful living and mothering in what has become one of her best known quotes: "Give others the sunshine. Give Jesus the rest."

Samuel had a happy wife and his children had a happy mother.

When Susanna's 18th child, Charles, later wrote the well known hymn "Oh For A Thousand Tongues To Sing My Great Redeemer's Praise," he was drawing on his childhood memories. He had grown up under the loving influence of a mother who was known for praising rather than pouting no matter what was going on around her. Susanna's faith and discipline paid off. Her 15th and 18th children (John and

Charles) shook their century for God and the tremors of that historic spiritual earthquake still rumble through churches around the world."

So deep was Susanna's devotion to her Lord that she prayed daily for her children to serve Him and her prayers were eventually answered. John and Charles finally entered into the genuine faith their mother had longed to see in them and for which she had prayed. They became the prime movers in what is now known as the Wesleyan Revival, a movement that changed their nation, impacted the world and gave birth to the Methodist Church.

Today, millions around the world worship God singing hymns composed by two men whose mother had a sunny disposition and a singing heart.

— Roger Campbell is an author, broadcaster and columnist who was a pastor for 22 years. He can be reached at [rcministry@ameritech.net](mailto:rcministry@ameritech.net).

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## The wearin' of the green ...

It's a special day for all Irishmen, and, with a maiden name of Cullen and grandparents named Ryan, we definitely need to acknowledge March 17th. We're always inspired with that well-known Irish blessing:

- May you always have work for your hand to do;
- May your pocket always hold a coin or two;
- May the sun shine bright on your window pane;
- May the rainbow be certain to follow each rain;



From a Senior Viewpoint

Lois Hendricks

[loistom@embarqmail.com](mailto:loistom@embarqmail.com)

May the hand of a friend always be near you;

And may God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

And of course, this day also deserves a special meal. After considering all the possibilities (potato leek soup, corned beef and cabbage meatloaf, or shamrock cupcakes), I think we'll dine on a proven favorite: corned beef and

cabbage sandwiches.

And my recipe is a bit "Americanized." Instead of the traditional rye bread, we prefer whole wheat buns, and, instead of shredded cabbage, we sometimes substitute deli coleslaw (already sauced), but be sure and use thin-sliced corned beef and you can add a bit of shredded onion if you like it a bit spicier. So simply assemble your sandwich, corned beef, then coleslaw, between a whole wheat bun ... then bake until warm in your oven (5 to 7 minutes) — how easy ... and tasty.

And of course, you'll be wearing green, and perhaps ending your meal with a dish of green sherbet. Could you ask for more?

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

**Join Us For A Picnic**  
Lots of Food and Good Music!  
Free Admission  
Free Parking

**Saturday, March 22, 2014**  
**12 noon - 5:30pm**  
**First Christian Church of Arcadia**  
34 El Verano Ave., Arcadia  
863-558-0982 / [firstchristianchurchofarcadia.com](http://firstchristianchurchofarcadia.com)

## LETTERS

### FROM PAGE 4

Thanks for listening. I'm just frustrated that someone had to pay and she felt it should be me.

Priscilla McDaniel  
Arcadia

### Airport had successful fly-in

Editor:

Friends of Arcadia Airport would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the volunteers that made the 1st. Rodeo weekend fly-in a great success. City Administrator Tom Slaughter and the City Council, Guy Maxcy and the County Commission, Judge Hall and Katie Willis with the Rodeo Association and Robin Youmans at Allied Portables were all part of the solution to making this event happen.

Along with local government and corporate supporters there is a need for many hard working volunteers that work the actual event which in this case

involved four days to set up, prepare food for meals each day and then clean up after all the pilots flew home. Special thanks go to Joyce Chase, Ross and Paige Clark, Beth Wolverton and Dave Hutchinson who all worked the entire weekend making sure everything went off without a hitch. The Nocatee Circle Singers provided a great evening of song on Saturday that was a big hit. Thanks to them all for making this a great weekend for the visiting pilots. We have already received many thank you emails from those pilots saying that they had a wonderful time visiting Arcadia and promise to come back to see us again.

Local events like this are vital to economic development in small communities. The under wing camping weekend attracted pilots from as far away as Atlanta and Miami to attend the Rodeo and spend time shopping on Oak Street. We hope this is a first step to making our airport a destination airport that will attract pilots to visit DeSoto County from all over the state.

George Chase  
Friends of Arcadia Airport

## GRITS & PIECES

### FROM PAGE 4

First Baptist Church in Nocatee, two long-closed businesses that stood north of there — Buck Weaver's gas station/general store and the Heidelberg Bar & Grill, plus Tex's Auto Repair (which was once Ed's Garage, and before that, M.J. Parrish's used car business), the Hi-Way Motel (formerly the Rush-In Motel), and a portion of the Knight's Inn Motel. We can't have progress without

change, even if it comes with a nostalgic, emotional price. Think of the many other businesses and homes that have come and gone here since DeSoto County's creation in 1887 — each was special and meant something significant to someone, and today's changes are no different.

I'd say the timing of all this change, plus the celebration of history at Pioneer Day is a wonderful coincidence. It's like yesterday meets today at the crossroad of Heritage Street and Progress Avenue, and the road toward a brighter tomorrow awaits us all.

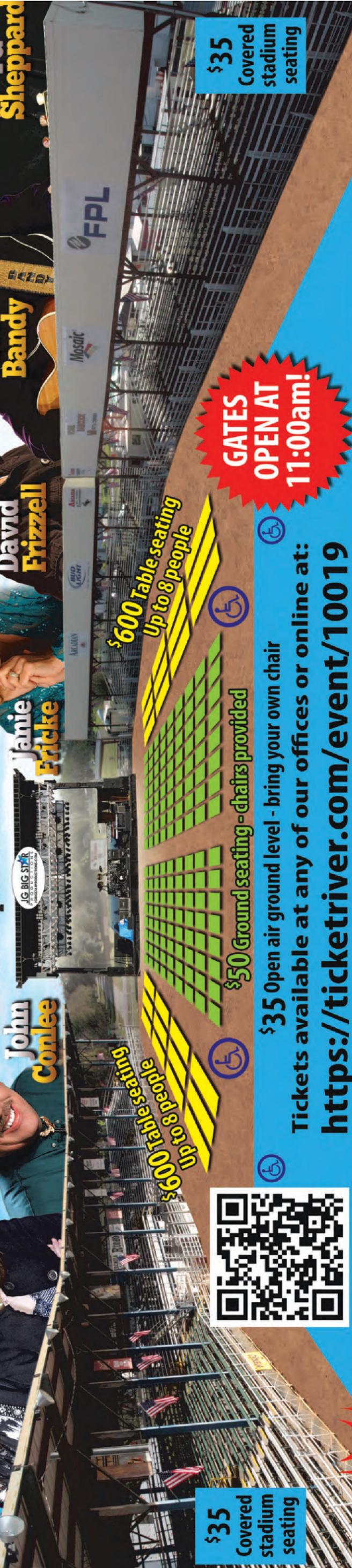
# Six Gun Country Music Showcase

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 Gates open at 11am



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Covered stadium seating



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Up to 8 people

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Up to 8 people

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**GATES OPEN AT 11:00am!**

Tickets available at any of our offices or online at:  
<https://ticketriver.com/event/10019>

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 Lake Placid  
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 Lake Placid, FL 33852  
 863-465-2521



**Lake Wales News**  
 Lake Wales' HomeTown Newspaper Since 1926  
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**\$35** Open Seating  
Only in designated areas

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\$5 parking to benefit local boy scouts. No refunds or exchanges. No outside food, beverages or coolers allowed. No re-entry. Price includes tax. If you are in need of special assistance please notify us at time of ticket purchase.

# Horses, bulls, dancehall girls fill Arcadia rodeo for fun-packed weekend



ARCADIAN PHOTO BY SUSAN E. HOFFMAN

In Team Roping, as the header's loop settles around the steer's head, the heeler gets ready to lasso the hind legs.



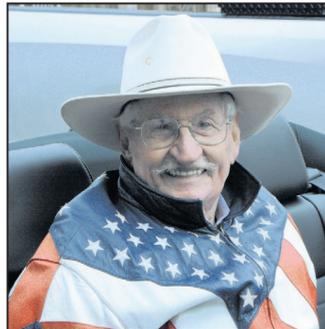
ARCADIAN PHOTO BY SUSAN E. HOFFMAN

A tie-down roping contestant dismounts and races to the calf to tie up three of its legs quickly.



ARCADIAN PHOTO BY THOMAS SIMMONS

One of the youngest riders in the parade, Carlton Pearce sits astride her horse, accompanied by her mother, Lacy Pearce.



ARCADIAN PHOTO BY THOMAS SIMMONS

Carl Sharp, Florida Cowboy Poet, serves as Marshal for Saturday's Rodeo Parade in Arcadia. Sharp is a popular entertainer at cattle associations and cowboy gatherings across Florida.



ARCADIAN PHOTO BY SUSAN E. HOFFMAN

A barrel racer works in unison with her horse as they round the barrels to make good time.



ARCADIAN PHOTO BY KELLEY BAKER, skfshowcattle@aol.com

Alan Frierson of O'Brien, Florida, tries to outlast Back Woods for eight seconds for his ride to count in Friday's Saddle Bronc event.



ARCADIAN PHOTO BY SUSAN E. HOFFMAN

Bullriding takes a special set of skills to hang onto a one-ton angry animal trying to shake the rider off.



ARCADIAN PHOTO BY KELLEY BAKER, skfshowcattle@aol.com

Joshua Moore of Parrish, Florida, is ranked No. 4 in the Southeastern Circuit in the steer wrestling event.



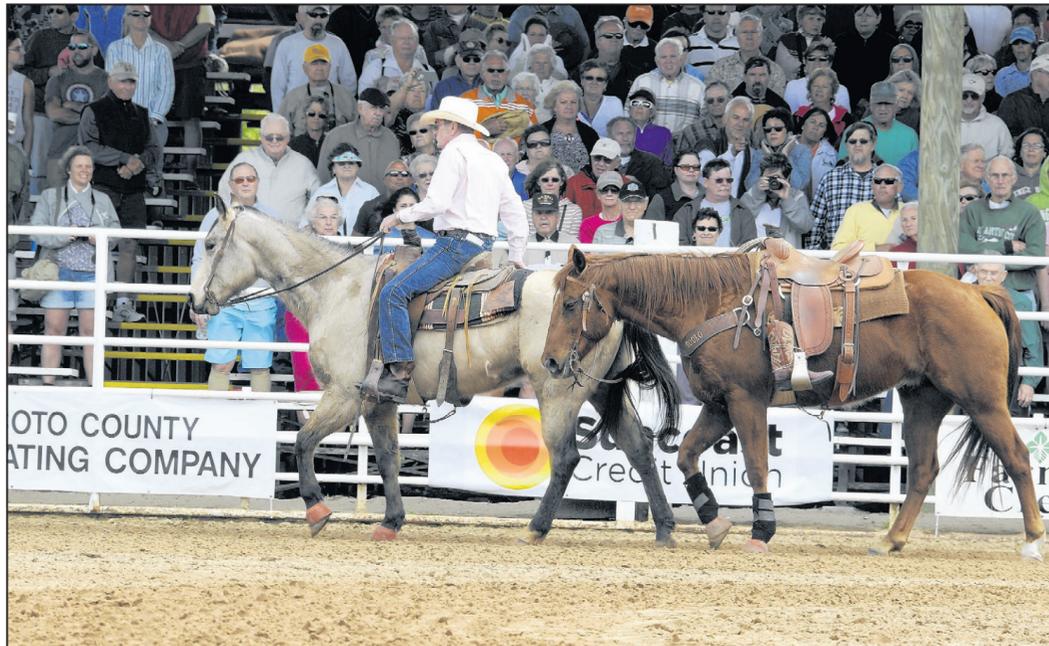
ARCADIAN PHOTO BY KELLEY BAKER, skfshowcattle@aol.com

Kenny Westrope Jr. from Hazlehurst, Miss. rides Strobe Light, trying to hang on for the requisite eight seconds.

The Arcadia All Florida Saddle Club executes the Quadrille, one of the most dangerous performances on horseback that is akin to an equine square dance. It requires precise timing and control as the horses and riders gallop past each other in exact formations.



ARCADIAN PHOTO BY THOMAS SIMMONS



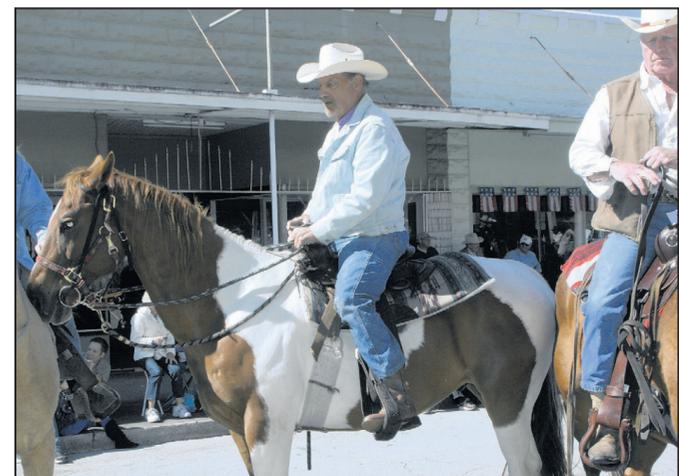
ARCADIAN PHOTO BY KELLEY BAKER, skfshowcattle@aol.com

Terry Welles leads the riderless horse, with backward boots in the stirrups, in honor of his brother, Kayo Welles, who passed away last year. Another riderless horse honored Ellis Hudson who also died last year. Both men were leaders and staunch supporters of the Rodeo Association.



ARCADIAN PHOTO BY SUSAN E. HOFFMAN

The All Florida Saddle Club executes the Quadrille with precision. Part of the performance requires riders to race at each other at a gallop, timed perfectly to just miss each other.



ARCADIAN PHOTO BY THOMAS SIMMONS

Steve Stapp, left, rides Takoda, a blind horse, with help from George Pratt. Stapp is raising funds for the care of his horse which he adopted from Jasmine's Dream Ranch & Rescue.

## Key hits missing in Lady Bulldogs loss

BY STEVE KNAPP  
ARCADIAN SPORTS DIRECTOR

The DeSoto County varsity softball team kept knocking at the door, but it never opened. The Lady Bulldogs' 3-1 district loss to Lemon Bay was hard to take. Statistically the Lady Dawgs won the game but the scoreboard said differently.

The Bulldogs scored first in the third inning on an RBI ground out by Lauren Rotering to score Debbie Brown. The Mantas countered by scoring twice in the fourth without a hit. An error, two walks and a hit batter forced in the tying run and the Mantas added another run to erase DeSoto County's lead.

Starting pitcher Amber Reid led off the home half of the fourth with a double, but was stranded there as the next three Bulldogs flew out, struck out and grounded out to end the inning.

After the Mantas added an insurance run in the fifth, the Bulldogs mounted a rally. They had runners on the corners with one out, but another

strikeout and fly out ended the inning.

### Missed opportunities

The Bulldogs outhit the Mantas 5-3 but couldn't get the big hit at the right time to score more runs. "We had runners on but couldn't get the big hit when we needed it," said Coach Billy Hines. The Bulldogs stranded seven runners on base during the game.

Reid pitched a good game, scattering just three hits and whiffing five. She seemed to get stronger as the game went on, retiring the final 10 batters she faced.

"We were getting on base but couldn't get that key hit," Reid said. "I've been struggling lately but I felt good tonight. I was hitting my spots."

The Bulldog defense was strong, especially at the hot corner where Shelby Cross stopped everything in sight and made strong throws across the diamond to keep the Mantas off the bases. The Bulldogs will return to action March 17 as they travel to Punta Gorda in a rematch against the Tarpons.



ARCADIAN PHOTOS BY STEVE KNAPP, sbigdaddyknapp.com

DeSoto County's Amber Reid pitched a strong game against Lemon Bay. Reid struck out five and scattered three hits in the 3-1 loss.



Bulldog third baseman Shelby Cross had an outstanding night, stopping several potential hits down the line. The Bulldogs came up short against Lemon Bay 3-1.



ARCADIAN PHOTOS BY STEVE KNAPP, sbigdaddyknapp@aol.com

Jayla Cowell completes her tour around the bases after hitting a long home run to left field. Her teammates greet her at the plate as DeSoto County defeated Lemon Bay 5-3. Cowell also struck out 11 Mantas in the complete-game victory.

## Cowell leads JV girls over Lemon Bay

BY STEVE KNAPP  
ARCADIAN SPORTS DIRECTOR

DeSoto County's junior varsity starting pitcher Jayla Cowell fanned 11 Lemon Bay hitters in the team's 5-3 win, and said that wasn't even her best game of the season! She recorded 13 strikeouts against Sebring. "That game I hit my spots better and just felt more in control than I did tonight," she said.

It would be hard to imagine her in more control than she was against the Mantas. Cowell gave up four hits but was tough when she needed to be. An example of that came early, when two singles and a walk loaded the bases with no outs in the second inning. Cowell blew her fastball past the next two hitters as they hit nothing but air. The last out was a harmless bouncer to first to end the inning.

### Off to a fast start

Meanwhile the Bulldogs scored early to take a 4-0 lead. Hannah Lambright started the game with a nicely placed bunt for a hit. Cowell followed with a single and Allyson Krause knocked in Lambright with a base hit (Krause has gone six-for-seven in her last two games). Cowell scored on a wild pitch and Krause came home on a screaming line-drive single by Sierra Martin.

Katie Game singled to lead off the second inning and went to second on an error. Game scored on a base hit by Emily Dyal. From that point on the Bulldogs sent 11 straight batters to the plate and nobody could get on base. Nine of those outs were on ground balls, including seven straight at one point in the game.

### Cowell stifles rally attempt

The Mantas battled back and scored twice in the third on a walk and single followed by a ground out and a passed ball. They scored their final run in the fifth on a walk and then a double, which was the only extra base hit allowed by Cowell.

The Bulldogs were clinging to a one-run lead with two outs in the final inning and 11 straight hitters had been retired by the Mantas. Cowell then hit a long home run over the left field fence. The boys on the baseball team said it hit the batting cages, which is quite a poke!

"I saw it take off and I thought, 'Oh yeah it's gone,'" she said. "When I got to first I thought maybe it hit the fence but then I saw it and thought, 'OK, it's gone.'" It was her first homer in high school.

"Jayla has a lot of big things for her

JV GIRLS | 17



DeSoto County junior varsity coach Wade Huckaby talks to his team in the clubhouse after a game. The Bulldogs won two of their three games last week.

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In honor of our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we are offering our 8-class, anti-bullying program as a free service to our community.

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# JV baseball falls to Community Christian

BY DAVE BREMER  
SPORTS WRITER

After starting their season with two disappointing losses to Port Charlotte, DeSoto's junior varsity baseball team hoped to get their first win of the season against Bayshore Community Christian.

"Unfortunately we're 0-2 but we played much better the second time against Port Charlotte, and hope to get a win tonight," third baseman Chase Higgins said before the game. Had the Dawgs executed on the field, they probably would have gotten their first W, but poor execution and missed chances resulted in a 13-8 loss.

Neither team scored in the first inning even though both pitchers struggled early with control. Bayshore scored five runs off two hits and four DeSoto errors in the second, while the Dogs scored three runs off one hit and two Community Christian errors to make it 4-3 heading into the third inning.

Between innings



PHOTOS BY DAVE BREMER

From left: Johnathan England, Mike Daniels, Logan Stevens and Chase Higgins talk strategy before the team faced off against Community Christian. The Dawgs lost the game 13-8.

Bulldog pitcher Hunter Browning expressed his displeasure with what he said was uneven umpiring behind home plate. "I'd put the ball right in the catcher's glove on the inside corner of the plate, but I couldn't get the call," he said. Coach Fullerton

was more concerned with Browning's pitch count as he was nearing 60 pitches after just two innings, and was hoping the third inning would go quickly. It didn't happen.

Seven runners came to the plate, and Bayshore scored three more

runs off three hits. The Bulldogs battled back to score four runs in the bottom of the third when they scored four runs off two hits and two errors. Only down by a run and with Colby Scott pitching in relief for the Bulldogs, the team had a little more life as they took the field to start the fourth inning.

With two outs and the

bases loaded, however, two consecutive Bayshore singles and passive defensive play by the Bulldogs brought in four runs, leaving DeSoto down 12-7. Both teams scored one more run in the fifth to make the final 13-8.

Coach Ryan Fullerton was clearly disappointed with his team's play. "We didn't execute; we didn't

make the routine plays, we had mental mistakes and errors," he said. "This is nothing like how we played against Port Charlotte. We just have to keep working and see how things go in our next game (Lake Placid)."

Hopefully things will get better for this young Bulldog team.



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the  
Classifieds!**



Colby Scott leads off third base and scores on a wild pitch against Community Christian. It was not enough, however, as the Bulldogs lost 13-8.

## Tennis team preps for rematch



ARCADIAN PHOTO BY STEVE KNAPP, sbigdaddyknapp@aol.com

From left: Vivianna Maldonado, Eliza Reyes, Elizabeth Pacheco and Yaletza Palafox get photo bombed as they wait for their match at Port Charlotte to begin. The Lady Bulldogs' final match of the season is March 25 when they host Avon Park. DeSoto County beat Avon Park in their first match.

## Rotary April Fools' 5k Run/Walk

**Race Site:** Morgan Park **Age Groups (M & F)** 10 & Under 11-14 15-19 20-24  
 Saturday - March 29, 2014 at 8:00am 25-29 30-34 35-39 40-44 45-49 50-54 55-59  
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Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 M or F Race Day Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Incomplete or Unsigned Entry Forms Will Not be Accepted**

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**Participant's Signature:** (Parent/Guardian if under the age of 18) \_\_\_\_\_

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# Eighth graders fall in opener

BY DAVE BREMER  
SPORTS WRITER

Eighth grade volleyball coach Nora Cail teaches power volleyball to her team. "We're not always successful, but we try to set up the ball for an attack," she said. At the eighth-grade level if your opponent focuses on simply returning the ball, mistakes while trying to set up the ball can be costly. Against their first game of the season against Lake Placid, the DeSoto Middle School Panthers couldn't quite put enough attacks away, and lost in two sets 25-23 and 25-16.

Behind two Hannah Rogers service aces the Lady Panthers jumped to a 10-5 lead in the first set, forcing a Lake Placid time out. DMS held the five-point lead at 18-13 thanks to some sharp serving by Shea Lipe and attack kills by Malysa Jeter. Lake Placid returned the favor, tying the game at 18 with five straight service points of their own. Each team then exchanged side outs until Lake Placid scored the final two points for a 25-23 win.

The first-set loss seemed to take some of the spark out of the Lady Panthers in the second set. Down



Shea Lipe shows good form in setting the ball during the Panthers game against Lake Placid.

11-7 going into the fifth rotation, Jeter momentarily surged the Panthers ahead 12-11 with five service points. The lead quickly vanished, however, as Lake Placid scored five straight points and never looked back as DeSoto struggled to keep their serves in down the stretch, dropping the



Hayleigh McCall, Malysa Jeter and Keirstyn Berrera prepare for a serve from Lake Placid. The Panthers lost the match in two sets.

second set 25-16.

Most of the Panthers' mistakes came from missed opportunities on free balls given to them by Lake Placid. Cail knew they let the game slip away a little bit but was pleased with the aggressive play. "The girls played aggressive and we had opportunities. We played power volleyball and lost some points but that's OK," she said. "Some of our

attacks were soft and with time we hope to hit with a little more power."

Middle hitter Heather Murphy agreed. "I'm still working on my approach steps in the jump," she said.

The Panthers are optimistic for the rest of the season. As one player stated after the game, "We're not going to be like last season, we are going to be 9-1 for the year."

## Winter Reception honors student athletes



PHOTOS BY DAVE BREMER

Sarah Bennett receives the Academic Award from Athletic Director Jarrett Zolkos for maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA during the girls basketball season.



Prince Powell receives the Academic Award for boys basketball from Athletic Director Jarrett Zolkos during the Winter Sports Reception.



Girls varsity basketball coach Joe Davis lets his two seniors, Ladeja Dennis and Tishonna Riley, give a few words of wisdom to their underclassmen teammates at the Winter Sports Reception.



Boys' varsity soccer head coach Tracy Hay hands Oscar Ponce the Most Improved Award at the Winter Sports Reception.

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Ladeja Dennis receives the State Farm Sportsmanship Award from agent Don Knoche during the Winter Sports Reception.

# Seventh graders learn volleyball basics

**BY DAVE BREMER**  
SPORTS WRITER

Newly appointed seventh grade volleyball coach Kelly Mercer was a bit nervous going into the season, as she would be coaching for the first time. The former DeSoto High School volleyball player took on the challenge of putting a team together from scratch. With more than 30 seventh graders trying out for the team and fewer than 15 practices before the team's first game, Mercer had her hands full.

After selecting the team, Mercer's biggest hurdle was teaching the players basic volleyball skills—which by itself takes hours of instruction and repetition—yet still figuring out how to fit in the rules, team play, strategy and transition of the game before competition began.

Despite the time restraints, Mercer did an excellent job of focusing on skill development and keeping the game play as simple as possible. The most glaring weakness during the team's first match against Lake Placid was the process for substituting players in the game.

"We forgot to work on that" Mercer later admitted. As for skill development, a parent who observed some early practices summed it up best: "If you had seen them the first practice to now, it was a pretty impressive improvement!"

## Game action

As their first game against Lake Placid was about to begin, the girls said they were more excited than nervous. Mercer said she was more concerned the girls were properly prepared to play. Those worries faded quickly as the score stayed close during half of the first set. A Stephanie Whitmore service ace forced Lake Placid to call a time out with the Panthers down 20-17. Lake Placid then scored five out of the next six points to win the first game 25-18. The second set wasn't as close as Lake Placid jumped to an early 10-3 lead and cruised to a 25-13 victory.

The excitement and smiles remained for Mercer and the players after the game. Mercer said, "It's all new to them and therefore we were very timid and

hesitant out there. It just takes more reps and more time."

They may have lost the game, but

the team and the coach seem to have a good attitude and perspective on what they need to do.

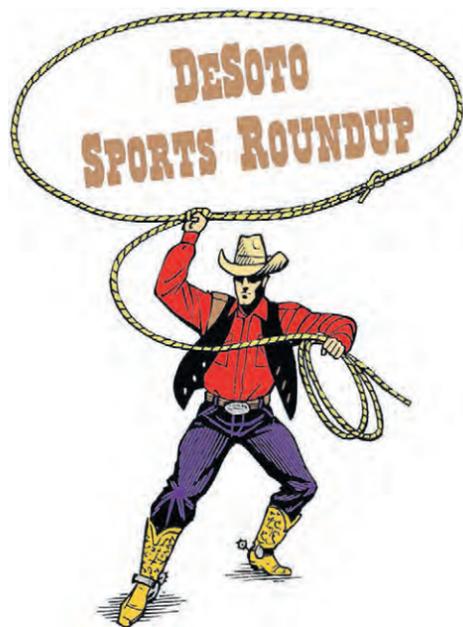


Seventh graders Harley Boden and Callie Cassels prepare to receive a serve during recent game action against Lake Placid. The Panthers dropped both sets in the match.



PHOTOS BY DAVE BREMER

Annie Cortez and Sophia Sokolosky (4) get ready to switch in the front row in a game against Lake Placid. The seventh grade team lost in two sets



**BY STEVE KNAPP**  
ARCADIAN SPORTS DIRECTOR

The boys' and girls' tennis teams lost to Port Charlotte and the girls also lost to Hardee. The girls' team is very young and inexperienced but is showing signs of improvement.

The varsity baseball team had a rough week, dropping a game to Hardee 9-2 and getting shut out by district foe Lemon Bay 6-0.

The junior varsity baseball team was the only DeSoto County team to beat a Hardee team last week, as they edged the Wildcats 6-4.

- The varsity softball team struggled with three losses last week. They lost to Lake Placid and Hardee, and also came up short against Lemon Bay to end the week.

- The JV softball team fared a little better as they went 2-1 during the week, with their only loss coming at the hands of Hardee. They beat Lake Placid 14-6 and edged Lemon Bay 5-3.

## Upcoming games

- The varsity baseball team will travel to Port Charlotte today to meet the Pirates. They will host Avon Park at 7 p.m. next Tuesday and Bayshore at 4 p.m. on March 18.

- The JV baseball team will visit Avon Park Monday.

- The JV and varsity softball teams will travel to Punta Gorda to take on the Tarpons Monday.

- The track and field team will continue their road meets with a meet today at Moore Haven, and at Charlotte at 9 a.m. March 22 for the Tarpon invitation. They finish their season March 27 at North Port.

- The boys' tennis team will be home tonight for a 4 p.m. match with Avon Park, and will finish their season March 24 at home against Hardee.

- The girls' tennis team will host Avon Park at 4:30 p.m. on March 25.

- The weightlifting team will travel to Venice on March 19 and Avon Park on March 24.

## JV GIRLS

FROM PAGE 14

in her future. She had 11 strikeouts and you can't be any more proud of her than that," said coach Wade Huckaby. "She is hitting her location a lot better. They didn't get any earned runs off her. I'm really looking for some big things from her in the next couple of years."

Cowell seems to pitch better when there are runners on base. "I think she likes runners on but I don't," Huckaby said.

During her bases-loaded, no-out jam in the second inning she could hear music blasting from the baseball field. Cowell was calmly mouthing the words to the song and doing a little dance on the mound. From the dance she went into her delivery as if she were just playing catch with a friend. No pressure, no problem—unless you are



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# Early birds rope in breakfast at Chamber meeting



ARCADIAN PHOTOS BY JOHN BLACK, photoke@gmail.com

Mayte Rivera-Libores, 7th grade Student of the Month for DeSoto Middle School, accepts her plaque from Karen Gustinger.



Cynthia Barrera, Kathryn Knoche and School Superintendent Karyn Gary congratulate Alexandra Steele, 10th grade, as the sophomore student of the month, She is the daughter of Daron and Victoria Steele.



School Superintendent Karyn Gary and Karen Gustinger congratulate Jesus Zamora-Paniagua for being named the 8th Grade Student of the Month from DeSoto Middle School.

Cynthia Barrera, Kathryn Knoche and School Superintendent Karyn Gary congratulate Mishel Mandujano for selection as the Senior Student of the Month. She is the daughter of Adela Manruquez. Not pictured is Jaim Westberry, Junior Student of the Month, the daughter of James and Karen Chancey.



Cynthia Barrera, Kathryn Knoche and School Superintendent Karyn Gary congratulate Jennifer Ann McMannis, 9th grade, as the Freshman Student of the Month. She is the daughter of Deborah McMannis.

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**NOTICE OF ACTION 3116**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CIVIL ACTION  
CASE NO.: 4-2010-CA-000888  
DIVISION: 2  
BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP FKA COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS SERVICING LP, Plaintiff,  
vs.  
WANITA L. SCHNEIDER, et al, Defendant(s).

**NOTICE OF ACTION**

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST, WANITA L. SCHNEIDER A/K/A WANITA LOIS SCHNEIDER A/K/A WANITA SCHNEIDER, DECEASED  
**LAST KNOWN ADDRESS:** UNKNOWN  
**CURRENT ADDRESS:** UNKNOWN  
**PAMELA S. GARTZ, AS HEIR OF THE ESTATE OF WANITA L. SCHNEIDER A/K/A WANITA LOIS SCHNEIDER A/K/A WANITA SCHNEIDER, DECEASED**  
**LAST KNOWN ADDRESS:** 64 South Lake Street Bergen, NY 14416  
**CURRENT ADDRESS:** 64 South Lake Street Bergen, NY 14416

**ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS**  
**LAST KNOWN ADDRESS:** UNKNOWN  
**CURRENT ADDRESS:** UNKNOWN  
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in DESOTO County, Florida:

**EAST 1/2 OF LOT 32; ALL OF LOTS 30 AND 31, AND THE WEST 1/2 OF LOT 29, BLOCK D, RIDGEWOOD SUBDIVISION, A SUBDIVISION ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 5, PAGE 85, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA.** has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses within 30 days after the first publication, if any, on Ronald R Wolfe & Associates, P.L., Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 4919 Memorial Highway, Suite 200, Tampa, Florida 33634, and file the original with this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or petition. This notice shall be published once each week for two consecutive weeks

**NOTICE OF ACTION 3116**

in the The Arcadian. WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court on this 21st day of February, 2014.  
Mitzie McGavic  
Clerk of the Court  
By: /s/ B. Wynn  
As Deputy Clerk  
**\*\*See Americans with Disabilities Act If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the DeSoto County Clerk's Office, 115 East Oak Street, Arcadia, Florida 34266, (863)993-4876, at least seven (7) days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than seven (7) days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.** Published 3/6/14 & 3/13/14 234766 3011112

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY  
CASE NO. 2013CACA000526AXMA  
REVERSE MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS, INC., Plaintiff,  
vs.  
JAMES AARON JOHNSON, ET AL Defendants.

**NOTICE OF ACTION**

To the following Defendant(s): ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, CREDITORS, DEVISEES, BENEFICIARIES, GRANTEEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING AN INTEREST BY, THROUGH UNDER OR AGAINST THE ESTATE OF LEMMUREL JOY JOHNSON  
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property: THE FOLLOWING LOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, SITUATE LYING AND BEING IN THE COUNTY OF DESOTO, STATE OF FLORIDA, TO WIT: LOTS 7, 8, 9 AND 10, BLOCK F, EL DORADO PARK, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF W 1/2 OF SW 1/4 OF SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 38 S, RANGE 25 E, has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, on McCalla Raymer, LLC, Jessica D. Levy, Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 225 East Robinson Street, Suite 660, Orlando, FL 32801 on or before April 11, 2014, a date which is within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice in the Arcadian and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. WITNESS my hand and seal of this Court this 10th day of march, 2014.  
Clerk of the Court  
By: /s/ B. Wynn  
As Deputy Clerk  
Published 3/13/14 & 3/20/14 338116 3014454

**NOTICE OF ACTION 3116**

ELEANOR J. GODBOUT, Respondent.

**NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE**

TO: ELEANOR J. GODBOUT, last known address: unknown  
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to the Petitioner, THOMAS P. GODBOUT, whose address is, 1076 SW Cindee Street, Arcadia, FL 34266 on or before April 4, 2014 and file the original with Desoto Clerk of Court, 115 East Oak Street, Room 101, Arcadia, FL 34266, before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in this petition. Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request. You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Notice of Current Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915). Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed to the address on record at the Clerk's office. Dated: February 26, 2014 MITZIE W. MCGAVIC CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT  
BY: /S/ M. Harris  
Deputy Clerk Published 3/6/14, 3/13/14, 3/20/14 & 3/27/14 131159 3011090

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS 3120**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

File No. 142014CP000018CPAXMA  
Division Twelfth  
IN RE: ESTATE OF Donald Richard Coker a.k.a Donald R. Coker Deceased.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of Donald Richard Coker a.k.a. Donald R. Coker, deceased, whose date of death was January 24, 2014, and whose social security number are xxx-xx-4958, is pending in the Circuit Court for DeSoto County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 115 East Oak Street, Arcadia, Florida 34266. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below. All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF THE COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL



# Six Gun Country Music Showcase feature artists

## Moe Bandy: The rodeo clown who turned America upside down

By **CRAIG GARRETT**  
ARCADIAN CORRESPONDENT

He entered the world as Marian Bandy. But he got famous as Moe, the rodeo clown and extraordinarily gifted country singer who will be appearing with other music legends on March 22 at the Six Gun Country Music Showcase.

Moe Bandy's signature vocals are so authentic, in fact, one man's father wanted to name his son Bandy, but "my mom didn't let him," the man posted online under Moe Bandy's "Cowboys Ain't Supposed to Cry" video. Another equally enthusiastic fan posted this about Bandy's performances: "This is Real Country Western Music!!"

Bandy represents authentic, a traditional voice in country music. His story-telling is back-dropped by steel guitar, fiddle, piano and harmonica, a

### MUSIC YOU MAY KNOW

- Bandy The Rodeo Clown
- Till I'm Too Old to Die Young
- Americana
- It's a Cheating Situation
- Just Good Ol' Boys
- Barstool Mountain

comfort drifting like a summer memory over four decades in country music. "I enjoy performing more now than 30 years ago," Bandy says. "I see (the audience) singing along. They know the words. It is a very special feeling."

A legend now, Bandy's musical journey took time to gain speed. Like 10 years. He was in sheet-metal work, bull-riding, performing in San Antonio honky-tonks. To speed the process, Bandy spent his savings for studio time in Nashville, recorded, returned to Texas, and back to the beer joints. He



MOE BANDY

enjoyed the struggle, he says. Things changed in the 1970s when his "I Just Started Hatin'

### A MINUTE WITH MOE BANDY:

**Question:** What was home like?

**Bandy:** My mother played piano, my dad guitar. We played parties and family outings. It was good.

**Question:** You played?

**Bandy:** Fiddle, a little bit. I did talent contests as a little kid. Somebody must have been impressed.

**Question:** What did you learn from Merle Haggard, Buck Owens, the big boys?

**Bandy:** They taught me to walk on stage, to talk to the people in the audience. It was like going to school. Now it's in my DNA.

### MEET MOE BANDY

**Name:** Marian (Moe) Bandy Jr.

**Hometown:** Meridian, Mississippi

**Notable awards:** Academy of Country Music Most Promising Male Vocalist 1976, ACM Song of the Year 1979, ACM Vocal Duet of the Year 1979, Country Music Association Vocal Duet of the Year 1980, ACM Vocal Duet of the Year 1980, Video of the Year 1985

Cheatin'" song played on the radio. BOoom — an overnight sensation: Honky-tonk to opening for Merle Haggard. "Bandy the Rodeo Clown," written by Lefty Frizzell, whose brother David appears with the Six Gun Showcase, cemented Bandy's place in country music legend.

Bandy uses humor to describe his early success. "With one hit song, I would open for Buck Owens and the Buckaroos," he says. "I'd play a medley of my one hit. And then cover songs I hoped the other performers on stage weren't doing ... I've always

said I was a 10-year overnight success."

As Bandy's solo career gain global traction, he moved sharply into a new direction, teaming first with Joe Stampley (Good Ol' Boys), in the late 1970s forming a brief duet with fellow Six Gun Country Music Showcase legend Janie Fricke. The duo had a CMA song of the year in 1979 ("It's a Cheatin' Situation").

Moe Bandy is excited to visit Arcadia, to join his fellow music legends for the one-day show. "We're all friends," he says. "They cheer you on, and you cheer them on. It's just fun."

### BANDY THE RODEO CLOWN

Who was once a bull hooking son of a gun  
Now who keeps a pint hid out behind chute number one  
Who was ridin' high till a pretty girl rode him to the ground  
Any kid knows where to find me

I'm Bandy the rodeo clown  
In the ridin' and the ropin' I was closin' in on number one  
Now in dreams at night I ride on that silver saddle I never won.  
Since she left me the whiskey takes me to the

rodeo grounds,  
Where the cowboys think I'm handy I'm Bandy the rodeo clown.  
(Chorus)  
I could ride em all  
The bulls and the broncs knew I was boss  
But the ride that woman took me on

broke a whole lot more  
Than this old cowboy's bones.  
While the tears on my makeup melt my painted smile into a frown.  
The crowd thinks I'm a dandy I'm Bandy the rodeo clown

## Janie Fricke: Legend's early music included duets, pop jingles

A Janie Fricke and Moe Bandy duet is song magic. As are country ballads with Janie Fricke and Johnny Duncan, Janie Fricke and Merle Haggard, Janie Fricke and Charlie Rich, Janie Fricke and Charlie Pride.

You get the point. And her early performance career is a great story. Remember the jingle, "For the seafood lover in you?" Even then, her rich voice washes over you like warm breezes.

Janie Fricke is a part of the Six Gun Country Music Showcase on March 22. Other Six Gun performers, which include Moe Bandy, along with David Frizzell, Carrie and Debbie Moore, John

### FROM JANIE FRICKE'S "IT AIN'T EASY BEIN' EASY"

Surely you can sit down for a while  
Maybe you can even smile  
And I'll try to pretend that you love me again  
But it might take me a little while  
I know you'll be

holding me tight  
You'll know when the moment is right  
When I was broken in two it was all because of you  
But baby I need you tonight  
(Chorus:)  
It ain't easy being

easy  
Oh no  
You're the one who took my heart and my soul  
You walk away and left me out of control  
It ain't easy being easy  
Oh no

Conlee and T.G. Sheppard, will be in the wings when she performs. She's that good. Don't believe it? Watch Janie Fricke and Moe Bandy online perform "It's a Cheating Situation."

That video prompts a flurry of fan postings.

"Janie Fricke you are my idol," writes one web poster. "You are the best entertainer of all time ... and the top female vocalist ever ... Blessings to you and your family all the day long ... your fan Brenda." Another Janie Fricke fan gushes: "Please tell her," the poster writes, "that I love Carrie Underwood, Kelly Clarkson, Jennifer Nettles,

### JANIE FRICKE AT A GLANCE

**Hometown:** South Whitley, Indiana  
**Lives:** Dallas, Texas  
**Born:** Dec. 19, 1947

and all the other newcomers (female country singers), but in this man's humble opinion, she was THE BEST EVER ... Tell her that for me, would ya?? Thanks."

Janie Marie Fricke (pronounced Frickie) is from Ft. Wayne, Indiana, where she learned piano, performed at school proms and FFA functions. She sang in coffeehouses, the Indiana University campus (earning a degree in elementary education), modeling her performance style on folk legends Joan Baez and Joni Mitchell. Transitioning to Memphis, she performed backup harmony and sang jingles for Coca-Cola, United Airlines and the iconic Red Lobster ditty. "Ronnie Milsap did the same to get his start," Janie Fricke says.

Janie Fricke's career skyrocketed singing alongside country legends like Merle Haggard, Crystal Gayle, Mel Tillis, Loretta Lynn and Eddie Rabbit. Her solo career flourished with a string of hit performances that includes "Don't Worry 'Bout Me Baby," "It Ain't Easy Bein' Easy," and "Tell Me a Lie." She was



JANIE FRICKE

nominated for a performance Grammy for best female/country vocalist three times, sang film themes, and has traveled worldwide in her distinguished career. Ultimately, Janie Fricke will be remembered as one of country's finest women performers.

## OUR VIEW

FROM PAGE 4

Langford (and formerly Commissioner Jim Selph) running a tight ship that

allows for constructive and orderly dialogue among commissioners, staff and the public. Everyone, staff included, must address the BOCC from the podium and identify themselves (even if they've previously spoken).

When Frierson was appointed mayor,

she was hesitant to take on the role, saying she would need the council's help to fulfill her obligations. But this is one responsibility she must shoulder herself. She was given a gavel for a reason, and it's meant to be used for more than just opening and adjourning

meetings. Just because most of the city's meetings are attended by a familiar crowd, that's no excuse for not enforcing basic meeting protocol. If Frierson can't do better than her current efforts, then perhaps it's time to pass the responsibility to someone else.

# Why the whip-poor-will calls

An old farmers' adage is "when the whip-poor-will calls it's time to plant the corn." In Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' autobiographical "Cross Creek" she wrote: "The first whip-poor-will may call in late February or early March. I cannot guarantee his accuracy as a weather prophet, but I have never known frost to come after that first plaintive heart-tearing cry."

Like many, she did not realize at first that our spring through fall resident bird is not the whip-poor-will, but chuck-will's-widow. Both birds begin to arrive here in late February to early March. The whip-poor-will is a migrant and stops here only briefly on its way to the northeast and midwest states. It does not nest here. Chuck-will's-widow breeds here and stays until early October, when they fly south to the West Indies, Mexico, or South America. The whip-poor-will winters in our area south to Honduras.

The scientific family name Caprimulgidae means 'goatsucker,' but it is a myth that they will rob goats of their milk. Another name for this unusual and distinctive family of birds is 'nightjars'.

Both birds are helpful insect eaters. They are seldom seen; their voice is their identifying characteristic. These birds are known by what their distinctive call sounds like.

Listen closely and you can distinguish between these two birds. The whip-poor-will's call is three notes with accent on the first and third syllables. Chuck's call is four notes, with the accent on the third syllable. The first syllable may be almost inaudible or an inhaled rasp, but the accent is always



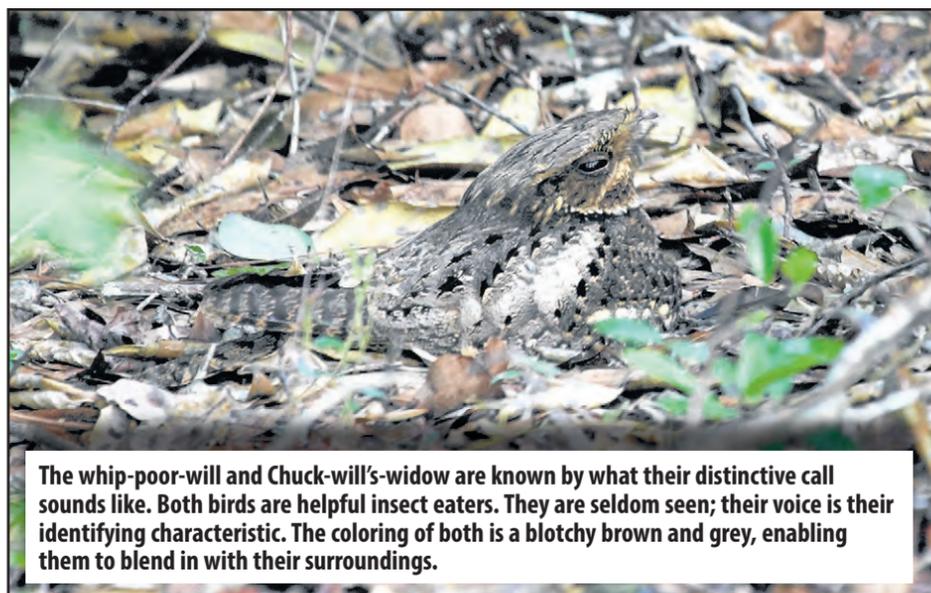
Over the Garden Gate

Al & Karen Smoke

ksmoke@embarqmail.com

on the 'wid.' Chuck may also make a single note sound like a frog's croak or a hard tongue cluck — often preceding the longer call. Both birds call only during the mating season, from early March to the end of August, and are silent the rest of the year. They will frequently call numerous times from dusk to dawn, without stopping between calls. But to hear the whip-poor-will in summer you'll have to go north. Usually we hear the whip-poor-will only a few times in spring; chuck-will's-widow calls through the summer.

Rawlings relates in "Cross Creek" of hearing the call during a full moon when her orange trees were in bloom, and going out to the grove and dancing with her dog and cat. We can attest that if one does alight near your bedroom window and begins its incessant calling you might as well get up and dance as you won't get much sleep. One ornithologist in South Carolina noted counting 837 consecutive calls.



The whip-poor-will and Chuck-will's-widow are known by what their distinctive call sounds like. Both birds are helpful insect eaters. They are seldom seen; their voice is their identifying characteristic. The coloring of both is a blotchy brown and grey, enabling them to blend in with their surroundings.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY COMMONS WIKIMEDIA.ORG (DICK DANIELS)

The whip-poor-will is the smaller of the two birds and is about the size of a blue jay. Chuck-will's-widow is about the size of a large dove or pigeon. Both are entirely nocturnal and rarely seen during the day when they are at rest on the forest floor. Chuck-will's-widow is sometimes seen perched lengthwise on a branch. We have only occasionally startled one when walking in the woods.

The coloring of both is a blotchy brown and gray, enabling them to blend in with their surroundings. They have a tiny vestigial beak, but their mouth opens to a gaping 2 by 3 1/2 inches. The huge mouth is surrounded by bristles that help to funnel in insects. Their wings have rounded tips and they usually fly close to the

ground, scooping up moths, beetles and other insects. Occasionally a small bird is taken accidentally, but they do not prey on songbirds. At night their eyes reflect red.

These birds do not build a nest. Usually two eggs are laid on the bare ground. During the day the parents rest nearby. Eggs are whitish with splotches of lavender, brown and buff. Two clutches may be laid. If the eggs or young are disturbed, the parents may move them to a safe location by scooping them up in their mouth. The young are faintly patterned with mottled colors so they blend with the leaf litter, and can fly short distances even before fully feathered.

CALLS | 23

THE  
**BLACKWOOD BROTHERS**

IN CONCERT  
**First Baptist Church**

**1006 N. Brevard Ave**  
**Sunday**  
**March 16th**  
**6 PM**

## DeSoto students learn the value of local agriculture



Some of the many 4th graders from DeSoto County Schools learn first hand how citrus products are grown, harvested and made into sellable products during AgVenture held at the Turner Center in Arcadia on March 7. The program was planned by Kristie Popa, 4-H agent for DeSoto County. Some of the community organizations participating were Joshua Citrus, Florida Department of Forestry, Mosaic, Florida Sweet Peaches, Portable Home Gardens, Bethel Farms, Dakin Dairy, Quinn Cattle Company, DeSoto County Young Farmers Association, Parker Blueberries, DeSoto County Historical Society, and beekeeper Mark Negley.

ARCADIAN PHOTOS BY THOMAS SIMMONS



Members of DeSoto County 4-H Clubs help with the AgVenture event. Pictured are Katie Turner, Haylie Barnhill, Aubree Patton, Kori Davis, Haylei Macall and DeSoto County Princess Callie Cassels. The 4-H clubbers helped the participants get to their next presentation and kept things moving smoothly.

# These pets need the luck o' the Irish

These pretty pets asked an Irish leprechaun to help find them good homes. They are available at DeSoto County Animal Services, 2048 N.W. McKay Street, or call 863-993-4855 for more information.



ARCADIAN PHOTOS BY SUSAN E. HOFFMAN

Baby Girl is a 4-year-old Golden Retriever/cur mix. She is partially house-trained and knows some basic commands such as sit, stay and paw. If she is the pot o' gold ye have been looking for, give a call to the DeSoto County Animal Shelter.



If you'd be wanting a little Irish Spring in your step, Panda is your girl. She's a 13-month-old Border Collie with a sweet personality and great leash skills. She is great with children, doesn't mind cats (although she might try to herd them!), she gets along with chickens, and she is a smart dog who learns quickly.

Here's another Irish redhead, a medium-haired male cat called Marmalade. He's one year old, neutered, and people friendly although he's a tad nervous in new situations. He has luxurious thick fur and pretty golden eyes.



Roada has a bright Irish smile, which is amazing considering what she's been through. She was found by Animal Services staff after being run over by a truck. They didn't know if she would make it, but now she's a lively and lovable mix between a German Shepherd and Tervuren (Belgian Shepherd) — from which she gets her lovely dark leg and face markings. And she has a natural bob tail. She will bond quickly with her new owner as this dog has a lot of love to give.



Liza is a female tuxedo Siamese mix. She is a year old, loves people, and gets along well with other cats. She has lovely markings and gold/green eyes.



When Irish eyes are smiling, these three adorable black lab mix pups will be happy. Two females and one male, named Tootsie, Tinky and Tubs, would love a new home for St. Patty's Day. They are nine weeks old and are marked with white bibs and toes.



If it's an Irish redhead you'll be lookin' for, Red may be your boy! He is a lovable, energetic red-nose pit bull. He's two years old and very playful. He does not get along well with cats — he believes they were created for him to chase — and he can use a little leash work but he is partially house-trained.



Scruffy is a 6-month-old male Briard with unusual chocolate coloring. He's very energetic and lovable. He gets along well with other dogs, but anything else that runs, he will likely chase. Scruffy will be about 50 pounds when full grown.

Three beagle-mix puppies, 10 weeks old, are available for adoption. Called Larry, Moe and Joe, the three would love to have the luck of the Irish and find new homes! They are all males and would make fun and lovable companions.



## CALLS

FROM PAGE 22

Goatsuckers live near field margins where they feed on many crop-destroying pests. They were once much more numerous, and populations continue to decline, perhaps because of the widespread use of pesticides.

Nighthawks are in the same family, and are not related to hawks. They're also known as bull-bats because of their acrobatic bat-like flight. They are also one of our spring-through-fall residents.

Nighthawks have angled pointed wings with a white bar on the underside. They have a very distinctive flight; wings swoop down in deep strokes, and they glide on upraised wings. Males will often dive sharply and then pull up with a rushing or booming sound. They may be seen flying during the day and also often around bright lights at night. Their call is an eerie pinging whistle. They also lay their eggs on bare ground, or in urban areas sometimes on gravel rooftops.

Listen for these signs of spring and see if you can distinguish between the calls of the whip-poor-will and chuck-will's-widow.

50456735



Join us for a meeting of The Tobacco Free Partnership of DeSoto County.

The partnership will be discussing how to reduce secondhand smoke exposure and youth access to tobacco products.

March 18, 2014  
3:45-4:45PM  
The Last Chapter Coffee House  
15 West Oak Street  
Arcadia, FL 34266

Please RSVP via email at [info@tfp-desoto.org](mailto:info@tfp-desoto.org)



# SPILL

FROM PAGE 2

school closing on its Facebook page. "We have been working all day with assistance from the Health Department," Gary said Tuesday. "EPA did some initial screening today and they cleared several areas including all school buses." Cleanup at the school was to continue Wednesday, and the school set up a checkpoint at the bus loop for a few hours in the morning and again in the evening, where parents could bring clothing, shoes, books and any other material about which there was any concern, and have it examined to assure it was not contaminated. Turnipseed said the investigation was thorough, involving sinks, drains, trash cans and lockers. "EPA has been wonderfully supportive," Gary said, and she also praised the assistance and fast action of the Health Department. The student who brought the material

to school appeared to have done so without realizing the how hazardous mercury can be. The school district is currently seeking permission for EPA to investigate the student's home to assure there is no contamination there.

For the latest updates, visit the school district's website at [www.desotoschools.com](http://www.desotoschools.com). For specific details on the health risks of mercury visit <http://1.usa.gov/1qupfrB> for an EPA reference. *The Arcadian* will continue to post updates on its Facebook page.

## Water Authority payment dispute

School Board Attorney Bucky Waldron said the school district and county commission may have a disagreement concerning money paid to the county by the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority.

Waldron said from 1999 through 2012, the authority paid money to DeSoto County because, as the host county, DeSoto (and the school district) are

losing the taxes they might otherwise have collected on the sizable properties constituting the authority's treatment plant and reservoirs. The annual payment was split between the county and the school district, and meant a \$375,000 payment to the schools.

The agreement establishing this payment was modified in 2005 to change the formula for calculating the payment, but otherwise the money kept coming to the school board for another seven years. Waldron said the Interlocal agreement between county and schools expired in 2003 but nevertheless the payment continued.

But in 2012 the county came up with a new interpretation of the agreement under which it felt it no longer had to share the payment with the school district; it could keep the full sum (around \$750,000) for itself.

The county has no present plans to reevaluate its position.

Board Member Ronny Allen said, "If the county tells you they won't raise the issue unless the school district forces them to, then we need to force it."

Attorney Connie Collins spoke to the water authority and learned the authority had no specific intention of stopping any payments to the schools. The 2005 change in the agreement was intended only to simplify how the tax payment was calculated. The schools are not even a party to that agreement.

The School Board agreed that Waldron will ask the county to put the issue on the agenda for its next meeting. "The county needs to know we're serious," he said.

## Athletic unity

Board Member Rodney Hollingsworth asked about the progress in considering whether to change the middle and elementary school mascots and colors to match the Bulldogs of the high school. Some members reported calls from their constituents agreeing it would promote more unity and pride in the district. Members agreed the principals and athletic directors should begin developing plans to convert their school colors and mascot, which it is recognized may take a few years to accomplish.

# LOOK

FROM PAGE 2

are a lot of great employees at the hospital, and I would go from department to department and find ways to make each more efficient," he said. "I will not go around firing staff; I want them to know that if I came aboard I'll be there

to help them, not get rid of them."

And although he admits he took both the DMH board and administration by surprise, he hopes to convince them he has the hospital's and the community's best interests in mind with his proposal.

"I see a lot of value in Vince, and I want to sit with him and see if we can reach some sort of agreement," he said. "Between me, Vince and the doctors, I'm sure we can quickly

restructure what needs to be done to ensure DMH is here for the community for the long run." Badenhorst and Sica have yet to discuss the issue, but they are scheduled to meet Tuesday.

And if he and DMH can't come to agreement, Badenhorst says there will be no hard feelings, and he would continue improving his facilities to help the community. "I'm here for the

long haul. We've increased our beds by 10 percent, and we're hiring more staff," he said. "I certainly don't need to do any of that, but I want to so I can help improve the health care for local residents, and I will continue to do so regardless of the hospital outcome. But my main hope is that we can have a mutual goal to make this hospital a success, and I see no reason why it won't work."

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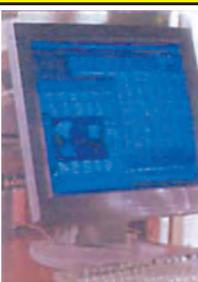
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