

ARCADIAN

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A section of the Sun



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INSERTED IN TODAY'S ARCADIAN

Admin Maxcy dies suddenly

By **STEVE BAUER**

ARCADIAN ASSISTANT EDITOR

DESOTO COUNTY — DeSoto County Administrator Guy Maxcy died suddenly Tuesday following surgery.

Maxcy was recovering from knee replacement surgery at Fawcett Memorial Hospital in Port Charlotte when he reportedly suffered heart complications. He was 60.



MAXCY

"It certainly let the air out of my sails," said DeSoto County Commissioner Buddy Mansfield. "I spoke to him Sunday and joked with him, telling him not to overdo it after the surgery. It's just heart-wrenching, and when I heard the news my first thoughts were of his wife and family."

Maxcy served as interim county administrator beginning May 2011, filling the role of former administrator Jan Brewer, who had been fired. He was eventually offered the permanent position from the county that October.

After his hire, Maxcy told the board,

"I'm just blessed to be here, and I plan on working my tail off."

"We're all saddened by the sudden passing of our administrator and friend," said DeSoto Commissioner Bob Miller. "Many times Mr. Maxcy shared with me his love of his position as county administrator. He exemplified a genuine loyalty to the employees, staff and directors. My heartfelt condolences go to his wife and family. We will be by their side and support them in every way possible in this time of sorrow."

Prior to his time with DeSoto County, Maxcy served as a Highlands County Commissioner for 18 years, in addition to being a successful insurance executive and small business owner. He was also closely affiliated with the Florida Association of Counties and helped found the Small County Coalition of Florida.

"Guy was always a bright light in the county family," said Chris Holley, executive director of the association of counties. "He served faithfully as a Highlands County commissioner for 18 years; served as president of the FAC in 2003-04 and ended his career as the DeSoto County Administrator, ensuring the county

operated smoothly every day. He was a powerhouse of knowledge and camaraderie, always willing to offer his support or expertise to help a friend succeed."

At its interview meeting Tuesday night, City Council observed a moment of silence in honor of Maxcy, and County Commissioner Bob Miller offered a prayer in his memory.

Maxcy's death comes as the county is working on revising its Land Development Regulations, which ironically was his first task when hired in 2011.

Maxcy is survived by his wife of 39 years, Jacque, and their three children. He was the owner of Maxcy Group insurance agency in Sebring, and was born and raised in Highlands County.

Funeral arrangements are being made through the Morris Funeral Chapel in Sebring. The viewing will be held from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday with the service following at 2 p.m., at the Highlands Today Center, 781 Magnolia Ave., in Sebring. Burial will follow at Pinecrest Cemetery in Sebring. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that donations be made in his memory to the Bible Fellowship Church, 3750 Hammock Road, Sebring FL 33872.

Candidate wrap-up

By **STEVE BAUER**

ARCADIAN ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Arcadia City Council completed interviews of its five administrator candidates. The interviews took place the past two weeks, and were conducted in person and via the online video chat program Skype. Each candidate received a list of 31 questions prior to the interviews, with the council asking follow-up questions as needed. Below is a brief summary of each candidate's background and education, as well as highlights from their interview. Candidates are listed in the order in which they interviewed. The council has tentatively planned to make its final decision at its May 6 meeting.

Dennis Murphy Sr.
Current city: Punta Gorda
Interview: In person
Education: Bachelor of Science,

FINALISTS | 21

DeSoto High prom lights up the night



ARCADIAN PHOTOS BY JOHN BLACK, photoke@gmail.com

A bus arrives at the Turner Center Saturday night, bringing 38 students to their prom in style. See more photos from the prom on pages 12 and 13.



Savannah Christianson, Prom Queen 2014, steps through a black light tunnel to make her entrance.

Arcadian 50c



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Hospital board pushes for half-cent sales tax

By **SUSAN E. HOFFMAN**
ARCADIAN EDITOR

DeSoto Memorial Hospital continues to grasp for solutions to its financial difficulties. Among the options is a possible half-cent sales tax which DMH is exploring.

The topic came up during Dr. Steve Mishkind's report to the board on April 24, explaining he held a special meeting of all allied health personnel to discuss their concern over the hospital's financial future.

"The general consensus of the medical staff is that the hospital should not be sold," Mishkind said, referring to one option the board addressed previously to keep the hospital open.

The medical staff preferred to undertake a proactive campaign to promote the hospital's good points, rather than reacting to negative publicity. "Negativism is counterproductive and perceived as defensive."

They agreed the negativity began when the hospital started to transition from a private to a public entity. "It appears glaringly obvious to all of us," he said. "This hospital, and the community, are better served by a private board and hospital."

Mishkind said the medical staff would like to meet with the board to exchange ideas. "You will find a set of partners to move this hospital to a whole other realm," he said.

Board member Dan Presilla said, "If

you (the doctors) buy the hospital and sell stock, I'll buy \$20,000 now."

A meeting for the doctors and the board will be held on May 22.

Only a band-aid?

Board member Dr. Vaidy Nathan said he was working to convince the DeSoto Board of County Commissioners to approve a half-cent sales tax to benefit the hospital. "I asked them all to come tour the hospital," he said. "These guys are wonderful. They all appreciate the hospital and the doctors and board."

"As (DMH is) a public hospital, the board can approve a half-cent sales tax. They are willing to support that."

At least one commissioner, however

— Bob Miller — said while he supports the hospital and the service it provides to the community, he does not share Nathan's conviction that the half-cent tax would save DMH. "It's like putting a band-aid on a machete wound," he told *The Arcadian*. "It won't sustain the hospital; it won't raise close to the \$2.2 million they need."

Attorney Connie Collins reported a request for an opinion had been sent to the State Attorney General to confirm whether the hospital can request the county commissioners directly to approve the half-cent sales tax for DMH, without having to submit the question to a public referendum. That request is

HOSPITAL | 17

Planning a trip? Make the library your first destination

By **KAREN SMOKE**
DESOTO COUNTY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The DeSoto County Library Advisory Board will meet today at 4:30 p.m. in the library conference room. The public is welcome to attend. Board members are appointed by the board

of county commissioners as citizen representatives to advise both the BOCC and the library director. Your input about library programming and purchases is welcome. We would appreciate hearing from you about what is important to you; it is your library and we are here to meet your needs to

the best of our ability.

The DeSoto County Library Association also has a meeting coming up on Monday, May 5. Anyone interested in our library is welcome. The meeting will be held at 5 p.m. at the library. The library is closed on Monday, so knock loudly or call 863-244-8764 to be admitted. The DCLA is a support group for the library and provides many extras for the library. The association funds acquisitions, programs and events at the library, in-service training for staff, and more. The association publishes a free monthly newsletter that is sent by email to library patrons. Email des_cnty_lib_assoc@hotmail.com to get on the mail list.

What's your summer destination? Whether you're planning a trip, or staying home, make DeSoto County Library and reading a part of your life. We have many books on travel, or can

help you locate information on the Internet. If you're staying home, come in and chill out and check out some great books. Library card holders can download thousands of free e-books through www.myhlc.com. You can also download dozens of current magazines through www.Zinio.com. Library staff will show you how to set up an account.

School will be out soon. Studies show that students who actively participate in reading over the summer outperform their peers. Summer is time for fun reading; let your children select the books that interest them. Schedule a time for reading every day, but don't insist children read what you think they should be reading. Read together as a family.

A summer reading program for

LIBRARY | 3

Tree T-Pee featured on Shark Tank update

If you had the chance to see Arcadian Johnny Georges' debut on Shark Tank last fall, you may be curious about what he's been doing since investor John Paul

DeJoria agreed to invest in Georges' Tree T-Pee. Find out what the Arcadian businessman has been up to since the show first aired in November by tuning

in to "Shark Tank: Swimming with Sharks" at 8 p.m. Friday on ABC. Georges took the Tree T-Pee on a coast-to-coast farm tour, and ABC cameras were along.

NOTICE OR RE-SCHEDULING PUBLIC HEARING ON AND SETTING WORKSHOP ON LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

The Board of County Commissioners of DeSoto County, Florida will hold a Land Development Regulations Workshop on Tuesday, May 27, 2014 at 9:00 A.M and is rescheduling the second Public Hearing on the Land Development Regulations from May 27, 2014 to Tuesday, June 24, 2014 at 6:30 P.M. or as soon thereafter as it may be heard, in the County Commission Meeting Room, 103 Administration Building 201 East Oak Street Arcadia, Florida. At the Public Hearing on June 24, 2014 the Board will consider the adoption of an ordinance as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA REVISING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS, APPLICABILITY, AND EFFECT ON EXISTING LAND DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS; PROVIDING FOR ADOPTIONS OF SPECIFIED REVISIONS TO ORDINANCE 2012-01, INCLUDING THOSE RELATED TO NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING, MINOR SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS AND MINOR VARIANCES OF SETBACKS, DEVELOPMENT ON PROPERTY WITH CODE VIOLATIONS, IMPROVEMENT PLANS, USES ALLOWED IN VARIOUS ZONING DISTRICTS, BUFFERING, INTERPRETATIONS, CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS, NONCONFORMING STRUCTURES, REGULATION OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES, PARKING OF VEHICLES AND OTHER MATTERS, PROVIDING FOR REPUBLICATION OF ORDINANCE 2012-01 AS AMENDED HEREBY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A complete copy of the draft ordinance may be inspected and copied at the Office of the County Administrator in Suite 201 of the above-stated address between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday..

Members of the public are advised that if any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at a board meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceeding, and that for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record included testimony and evidence upon which, the appeal is made.

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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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DESOTO COUNTY
Utilities Department
2170 NE Roan Street
Arcadia, Florida 34266
Phone: (863) 491-7500 Fax: 491-7506

Free Burn - Switch from chloramines to free chlorine

The method of water treatment utilized by Desoto County Utilities to its customers will be temporarily switched from chloramines to free chlorine on May 19, 2014. We will switch back to chloramines on June 2, 2014. This short-term free chlorine change is part of our routine maintenance program to optimize water quality in the water transmission/distribution system. Those impacted by this drinking water maintenance program only include Desoto County Utilities customers that live along Hwy 17, SR 760A, Hwy 31, and Hwy 70.

Users of kidney dialysis machines and owners of aquatic life are urged to contact their respective industries for more information about water testing and treatment that may be appropriate for free chlorine rather than chloramines. Desoto County Utilities customers may experience a slight difference in taste and/or smell in the water during this temporary change in treatment. This is normal and does not indicate a problem with the water.

For more information, please contact Desoto County Utilities Customer Service at (863) 491-7500.

50456859

County raids alleged puppy mill; two people arrested

By **SUSAN E. HOFFMAN**
ARCADIAN EDITOR

NOCATEE — More than 50 dogs, including two mothers with nursing puppies, were confiscated from a suspected puppy mill in rural Nocatee Thursday by DeSoto County authorities.



MACAULEY



DOWER

The dogs were being kept in shocking conditions, according to Debbie Merkin, DeSoto County Animal Control supervisor. Most of the kennels had no food or water, or only dirty, black water. Feces were piled up inches deep, and some of the dogs were being kept in kennels no larger than a pet carrier.

The DeSoto County Sheriff's Office stated in an arrest warrant that the animals were being bred for a puppy mill, selling "designer dogs" for up to \$3,000 each. Thursday morning, deputies arrested Andrew David Macauley, 29, of the 2500 block of Southwest Salerno Drive, Nocatee, on charges of forging veterinary health certificates, obtaining property by fraud under \$20,000, and failing to inoculate dogs prior to transporting them for sale — all felonies. Macauley was released from the DeSoto County Jail Thursday evening after posting \$9,500 bond.

Chelce Lillian Dower, 26, of the 1000 block of Southwest Fletcher Street,

Arcadia, also was arrested Thursday in Charlotte County, in connection with the alleged puppy mill. Facing the same charges as Macauley, she was released from the Charlotte County Jail Friday after posting \$9,500 bond.

Authorities have suspected the existence of a puppy mill for some time, but were able to investigate the case only when a woman contacted Merkin earlier this year after she bought a "designer" puppy that became very ill within days.

Her puppy, a "Pomsky" — a cross between a Pomeranian and a husky — proved to be infected with giardia, a parasite that can cause violent diarrhea, nausea and cramps in dogs, sometimes causing bloody stool. She said she had purchased the puppy from Dower for \$2,000 through a website, www.littlearcicangels.com.

The website claims to be a "Hobby Breeder ... Dedicated to bringing Smart, Healthy, Quality dogs to the people who love them. ... We are dedicated to breeding the HIGHEST quality of dogs possible, and only breed sound, extremely healthy and well-tempered dogs."

The buyer soon connected with others who purchased puppies from the same site that became very ill shortly after they were received. One woman paid \$5,000 for two puppies, one of which started having seizures the day she brought it home.

Although the puppies had been delivered to buyers with health certificates, authorities could not determine whether the certificates given in fact



SUN PHOTO BY SUSAN E. HOFFMAN, shoffman@sun-herald.com

DeSoto County Animal Control Supervisor Debbie Merkin, left, and Animal Control Director Jorge Hernandez describe the conditions under which 56 dogs - including mothers with puppies - were being kept at a suspected puppy mill in Nocatee.

went with those particular dogs. A veterinarian who had issued certificates for other dogs for Macauley and Dower confirmed that some of the papers issued with puppies were not valid.

The warrant indicates the DCSO in January had another case of a sick puppy sold from the same location with invalid certificates, but as the complainant never filed an affidavit, no charges were filed. The Sheriff's Office also filed charges in December against

another resident of the same address for shooting an airsoft gun at the dogs. At that time, some 30 dogs were seen on the property.

Difficult conditions

It took the entire Animal Control staff four trips with three vehicles to remove 56 dogs from the site and bring them to the Animal Control offices. The Sheriff's Office, Florida Department of Agriculture and state veterinarian

Can we get some help here?

During one of the recent Community Conversations, one person asked about opportunities to volunteer for various local organizations. She was interested in taking part in some activities but did not know what was available. So The Arcadian volunteered to start compiling a list of organizations and groups that are looking for volunteers who might be able to give of their time and talent. Following is the initial list.

If you are involved in a group or organization that would welcome some volunteer help, send the information to shoffman@sun-herald.com. List the name, contact information (phone, emails, address and website), the type of activities the group does, and what role(s) do volunteers play (or what jobs can they help with). We plan to update this list periodically, so get your information to us and we'll include it.

Meanwhile, here are a few to get you started:

1. DeSoto Arts and Humanities Council promotes the arts and artists in DeSoto County. The group can use volunteers year-round for our Art for Children program at DeSoto County Library on Wednesdays at 3 p.m. We can use volunteers year-round for help in maintaining databases and

other computer work. We hold three art shows per year, and can use help before, during and after the shows (help with art intake, arranging show, greeting visitors etc.). If you have an interest in the arts, contact Secretary Karen Smoke at desotoartscouncilinfo@gmail.com, visit www.desotoartscouncil.org, or leave a message at 863703-0373.

2. DeSoto County Animal Control cares for animals (mainly dogs and cats) in DeSoto County. From capturing strays and holding surrendered pets, to holding dogs implicated in bite cases, to raiding puppy mills, Animal Control has to feed, house and keep clean a variety of domestic animals. Volunteers can help bathe and walk dogs and keep their quarters clean, and chores such as laundry. If you love animals and would like to help out, give them a call at 863-993-4855.

3. The Guardian ad Litem program uses volunteers to represent children who may be involved in the legal system, often by being the victims of decisions made by adults. The program aims to ensure that the child's best interests are considered in any legal case; and the volunteer ensures the child is not overlooked. Call Sandee Woods at 863-993-4638 for more information.

4. DeSoto County 4-H desperately

needs volunteers willing to work with youth or to work in the office to assist in coordinating programs etc. 4-H consists of opportunities for youth to gain life skills. 4-H currently has animal clubs, cooking, canning, community service etc., and are open to starting new clubs and camps in the future. Anyone interested should call Kristie Popa at 863-993-4846 or e-mail kpopa@ufl.edu.

5. The DeSoto County Literacy Council is looking for tutors for adult literacy and English as a Second Language classes. For details call Susan at 993-1333.

6. Volunteers are needed to help children in the community! If you enjoy working with kids, can commit to a volunteer schedule (1-2 hrs/wk between 2:30-4:30 p.m.), can work with different school subjects and can be a positive role model for children, then call Laura Rodriguez at 494-1068 or email laurarodriguez@embarqmail.com. You must pass a background check and must complete a volunteer orientation.

7. 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.

LIBRARY

FROM PAGE 2

grade school students will focus on fun science-oriented activities. Children will be encouraged to keep a reading log and a party with prizes and ice cream for all participants will be held at the end of the summer.

Fun summer activities for all ages will include an "Itty Bitty Art" and photography contest. Information on the

contests will be available at the library soon. We are looking for people who are interested in sharing their expertise with the community. Whether you are a crafter, knitter, gardener, history buff, chess player, or Scrabble lover, we can use your skill. We would truly appreciate your assistance. Stop in and talk to Linda Waters.

We are continuing to develop our collection of honor books, puzzles and board games. As you complete your spring cleaning, think about donating to your local library.

HOLLINGSWORTH NOT RUNNING AGAIN

School Board member Rodney Hollingsworth told *The Arcadian* on Wednesday he does not intend to run again for the School Board. He said at this time he is not prepared to offer a statement explaining his decision, but will probably do so in the near future.

Hollingsworth, who represents District 1, has been a member of the School Board for many years.

PUPPY | 24



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VIEWPOINT

The Sun / Thursday, May 1, 2014

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

OUR VIEW

Administrator workshop is a good idea

Our view: a workshop would let council discuss the candidates in public and make an intelligent choice.

More than six months have passed since former Arcadia City Administrator Judi Jankosky turned in her resignation. We are now on the brink of choosing her successor. This will be, without a doubt, one of the most important decisions City Council will ever make.

Since Ed Strube's generation-long tenure, we've had a string of administrators, some of whom lasted only a short time: Markae Rupp, Lawrence Miller and Jankosky, along with Joe Fink (now a City Councilman) and Tom Slaughter who served as Interim Administrators.

We think it's important for Arcadia to choose someone for the job who is likely to last more than a year or two in the position. Council needs to review carefully the credentials, backgrounds, and the answers to questions given by each of the five top candidates, and then consider whether the candidate has both the brains and the character to last in this difficult position.

Council is to be commended for approaching the search in a methodical way; we are especially pleased they used Skype to interview the out-of-state candidates so they could get a feel for how they interact. Seeing someone's demeanor is important; it gives you a sense of how they would deal with staff, council, the public and other officials.

Someone suggested — and we have to agree, it is a good suggestion — that council should have a public workshop before making its final decision. We don't want to delay the decision, and we hope Council can vote on its choice when it meets on Tuesday. But there are many reasons a workshop would be good.

First, it would give them a chance to discuss each of the candidates. That might be especially helpful for one of the council members who did not sit through all of the interviews from start to end.

Second, it would benefit the public to hear council members exchange views. There were disappointingly few members of the public who came to watch the interviews, but this would be another chance for people to learn more about the candidates.

Some of the candidates are very impressive. Both their credentials and their accomplishments make them attractive candidates. We were also impressed that some of the candidates obviously did a lot of homework to get to know the city and its issues — their well reasoned responses to questions show they had studied the particulars and could come up with creative suggestions.

Having been able to see them in person or via Skype, we feel some would be able to work well with staff and the public: they were down-to-earth, articulate and practical. Frankly, we were

OUR VIEW | 22

NEWS ITEM: COUNTY'S TOP MAN TAKEN UNEXPECTEDLY



DESOTO COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR GUY MAXCY

Luke Wilson
-The Arcadian-
5.1.14

AS WRITER WALTER LIPPMAN SAID, "THE FINAL TEST OF A LEADER IS THAT HE LEAVES BEHIND IN OTHER MEN THE CONVICTION AND THE WILL TO CARRY ON."



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Attention: Coming RV haven

Editor:

The DeSoto County Board of County Commissioner, in the proposed new Land Development Regulations, is opening the county to become an RV haven.

Tired of living in an RV park on a small lot? Want to live in a secluded 10-acre area?

Under the proposed special exemption of the new LDR, buy, rent or lease a 10-acre lot, pass the fire inspection,

get a septic system and electricity and you are set for life.

In-staters and out-of-state RV owners wanted and welcome.

All that is required is that you tell the Code Enforcement that you are recreating; there is no time limit, as long as you are recreating. No house taxes, and minimal taxes on everything else.

Maybe no school taxes since you aren't in a house or maintaining a domicile.

The life of Riley by the courtesy of

the BOCC and the county taxpayers who own a house or business.

It should be the responsibility of the Board of County Commissioners to listen to the voices of the majority and not kowtow to a minority of people who are able to bring influence to bear.

My opinion.

Lester Smith
Arcadia

LETTERS | 5

GRITS & PIECES

Finding ourselves on the hunt for something

You might be searching for a mate, or at least a mate for a lone sock you found in the dryer. Or it could be that pair of glasses that is resting on top of your head. Perhaps you're in search of self, even. At any rate, we're always looking for something and often find stuff we weren't even hunting in the first place.

Have you ever said you'll get around to doing something when you find time to do it? Too bad we can't go back and dig through all the time we've thrown away over the years, right? Minutes discarded become hours and day, then weeks and months. And eventually a lifetime in some cases.

As a kid I was always looking for something, whether it was blackberries to sell for a quarter per quart, shark teeth along the creek beds, discarded soda bottles to redeem for



Grits & Pieces

Luke Wilson

troubador55@embarqmail.com

two cents each, or just looking for new ways to aggravate my siblings. I was pretty good at finding all of that stuff. Currently my searching is directed at family members who have gone on before me, on the ancestry.com website, and that's been as frustrating as it's been fun. Never thought I'd be digging around in graveyards, but at least it's not literally.

When we were kids, we were always looking for something. Remember playing Hide and Seek?

A good trick back then, to get rid of the kid who nobody wanted to hang out with, was to start the game, and then when it was time to hide, he'd be the only one doing so, while the rest of the gang would run off and do something else. Not that I was ever a part of such behavior, of course.

Just recently, millions of kids (and some adults) were on the hunt for Easter eggs. Seems everybody uses plastic eggs these days, while I remember dying and decorating boiled eggs, back in the day, that were hidden for us to find. And sometimes there was that one last egg that was successful in staying hidden, until it was found months later, rotten and stinking.

Some folks believe they're on a mission to find the meaning of life.

GRITS & PIECES | 5

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.

Veterans meeting at Elks Lodge

BY JACKIE TUCKER

The Veterans Council of DeSoto County meets monthly at the Arcadia Elks Lodge 1524, located at 1024 West Oak Street (on State Road 70 across from Lake Katherine). Council

meetings are now held at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month. All veterans are invited to attend and be a part of the veterans programs in the community. For more information, call Jackie Tucker at 863-993-0083.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY JACKIE TUCKER

A special presentation was given to Joe McKenny for his dedication and service to the Veterans Council of DeSoto County. Col. Tom Damron, right, president of the council, gives the award to McKenny.



DeSoto County Sheriff Will Wise was the guest speaker for the DeSoto County Veterans Council April meeting.



Col. Tom Damron, president of the Veterans Council of DeSoto County, along with his wife Sandy, donated a large American flag to the county to honor veterans. Receiving the flag are DeSoto County Commissioner Jim Selph, County Veterans Service director Lee Gallagher, and former Commissioner Ronald Neads, vice president of the council.

GRITS & PIECES

FROM PAGE 4

Well, it's succeeded in eluding everybody else since the dawn of time, so what makes someone believe they're going to locate it now? Then there are those who say they're searching for themselves. I will admit that I have actually found myself a number of times during my life — found myself in a predicament, that is.

Where's Waldo? Do you know the way to San Jose? Where's the beef? Where in the word is Carmen Diego? Where have all the flowers gone? See? There's no shortage of stuff to locate. In fact, just last week, our county commissioners seem to have found \$1.8 million hiding in a fund. Hopefully, now they'll find a good use for it.

Thank goodness we have Google to help us. Hey, if you ever wonder where Chuck Norris is, don't bother. Here's Google's answer: "Google

won't search for Chuck Norris because it knows you don't find Chuck Norris, he finds you. Your search — Chuck Norris — did not match any documents."

Life can and will be a searching adventure for us all. In the great Lost and Found of the universe, sometimes we're on the lost side and sometimes we're on the found side, depending on whatever we're in the middle of. Hopefully we'll all find our way eventually, whether it's in search of self, true love, a needle in a

haystack, or if we're having to kiss a lot of frogs in search of that proverbial prince (or princess).

Once upon a time, we delighted in finding what was in the box of Cracker Jack, or fought over the prize in the cereal box. Too bad life can't be as simple as that throughout all our lifetime. I guess the best we can hope for is to find a way to love those around us, despite our differences, find it in our hearts to forgive and forget, and find time to spend with those who matter most to us.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 4

Our businesses help citizens

Editor:

We are blessed to live in Arcadia, where even the businesses care for and help the citizens.

Some of these caring, helping businesses include Burger King, McDonald's, Pizza Hut, Reef & Beef, Subway, Sweetbay, Terra Fried Chicken and Walmart.

One of the ways these businesses care for and help our citizens is to supply free food for Habitat for Humanity construction volunteers and high

school volunteers during times they are working for Habitat for Humanity.

Our little town of Arcadia is so blessed, as evidenced by the presence and work of the aforementioned businesses, volunteers and Habitat for Humanity.

Mary White
Arcadia

Our nation is being destroyed

Editor:

I believe it's time for the electorate of this nation to wake up and if the awakening has to start within a city as small as Arcadia, so be it. We must heed the words of Joseph Stalin during World War II: "We'll never have to engage the United States militarily, because they

will destroy themselves through their political and educational system."

This present administration — forget Democrat, Republican, Conservative etc. — is leading this country down the road to oblivion. All citizens, be they black, white or Hispanic, better wake up. This president we have now is the epitome of narcissism.

He is not a leader; he does not know what he is doing. Has anyone ever asked themselves, how did a man without experience of any kind get to be president of the United States?

Obama and his administration — not all Democrats and Republicans — is bent on destroying our constitutional form of government. It's been a long time coming but Stalin was right. The anti-Americans put their chess

piece in place and are relying on an ignorant electorate to obtain their goals.

Those who are still alive since World War II know exactly what I am talking about.

Here's a small example: We have two human landfills in the country — New York and California, with New York being a virtual cesspool.

I know these comments are harsh, but I have 85 years of watching. In the 64 years I have been voting for either Republicans or Democrats, I have never witnessed such a disgusting, degrading administration.

This letter is not meant to be anti-Democratic, just anti-administration, a sad testimonial to a great nation.

George Pratt
Arcadia

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Arcadia's COMMUNITY CALENDAR

NOTE: All area codes are 863 unless otherwise indicated.

TODAY

- Nature Walks: Morgan Park, 8:30 a.m. May 1. Free.
- May 1 is the Day of Prayer in DeSoto County. The public is invited to gather at noon at the DeSoto County Commission Chambers to join in the observance of the National Day of Prayer.
- The Chamber of Commerce Early Bird Breakfast Meeting is May 1 at the Family Service Center.
- The DeSoto Arts and Humanities Council Board of directors meets on the first Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m., at The Arcadian, 108 S. Polk.
- Team Arcadia is holding a special meeting at 4:30 p.m. today at Mary Margaret's Tea & Biscuit to discuss the signs at Lake Katherine.
- Chamber of Commerce Early Bird Breakfast is at 8 a.m. the first Thursday monthly. Each month's location will be announced.
- The 4-H Stitch in Time sewing club meets every first Thursday at 5 p.m.
- Relaxation Yoga Class every Thursday, 5 p.m.-5:15 p.m., registration and yoga tea; 5:15-6:15 p.m., yoga class. Come enjoy an hour of serenity focused on breathing, gentle yoga poses, peaceful stretching and quiet relaxation. 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.
- DeSoto County Library story time is at 3 p.m. at 125 N. Hillsborough Ave., Arcadia. Call 993-4851 for more information.
- Temple Beth El - North Port Jewish Center, 33840 South Biscayne Drive, North Port, hosts an American Contract Bridge League every Thursday, at 1 p.m. at the temple. The cost is \$6 per session. We will be participating in "The Common Game." For reservations call Shelli Wetherson at 941-497-7184.
- 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.

- Alcoholics Anonymous Second Tradition meets at 7 p.m. at St. Edmund's Episcopal Church, 327 W. Hickory St.
- 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.
- ACCESS office is open from 1-4 p.m. today at Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church, 319 S. Lee Ave., Arcadia. Call for appointments at 494-0320.

FRIDAY

- Assembly of Praise Ministries will hold two nights of "Radical Praise" at 7 p.m. May 2 and 6 p.m. May 3, with Pastor Harriet Baker, Christ Holiness Anointed Ministry of Homestead, Fla. Join Pastor Johnnie Rhyne, Pastor Mitchell Watson and Dr. L.L. Dixon at 145 S. Orange Ave.
- 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.
- Friday Night Live - the City Takers for Christ presents "Friday Night Live" with Rev. Troy Rowe, every Friday. Come and experience what God is doing in this season through His word and praise and worship. 37 W. Magnolia St. (across from SunTrust drive-through). For information call 244-4341.
- 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.
- Sabbath service begins at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Beth El, 3840 S. Biscayne Dr., North Port. Oneg Shabbat follows.

SATURDAY

- DeSoto Memorial Hospital is sponsoring a 5K Walk/Run and a 10K Run on May 3 at the Turner Center Exhibit Hall. Entry fee is \$25/person or \$40/2-person team. Entry deadline to assure a T-shirt is noon on April 25. Registration is 6:30-7 a.m. for the 10K run on May 3, and race starts at 7:15 a.m. Registration for the 5K Walk/Run is 7-7:30 a.m. and race starts at 7:45 a.m. Proceeds benefit the DMH Foundation.
- Boaters Get-Together meets at 1 p.m. on the first Saturday of every month at Nav-A-Gator Grill, 9700 S.W. Riverview Circle (off Kings Hwy/C.R. 769). For more information, call 941-627-3474.
- The Olde Town Market and Main Street Farmer's Market are held the first Saturday every month in downtown Arcadia from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. through April. Fresh produce, pickled products, jams,

jellies, homemade granola bars, baked goods, fresh and dried herbs, arts, crafts, woodworking, quilts, sewing, plants and other goodies. For vendor info call the Arcadia Main Street office at 494-2020.

- DeSoto County Library story time is at 10:30 a.m. at 125 N. Hillsborough Ave., Arcadia. The first Saturday of every month is Book Buddies, when children read to dogs. 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.
- Sabbath service begins at 9:30 a.m. at Temple Beth El 3840 S. Biscayne Dr., North Port. Kiddush will follow.

SUNDAY

- The 120th annual Fort Ogden May Day Picnic for all current and past Fort Ogden residents will be held starting at 1 p.m. May 4 at Kings Park, 6294 S.W. River Street. Bring a covered dish to share, folding chair and card table if possible. Sheriff Will Wise will provide iced tea and water; pulled pork and BBQ chicken will also be provided. Bring any memorabilia you have, and a prize will be given for the oldest newspaper item or photo. For details, call Irma Hay at 863-494-4908.
- Mount Ephraim Baptist Church will hold its Homecoming at the church starting at 10:30 a.m. on May 4. A covered dish dinner on the grounds will follow for fellowship and reminiscing old memories. A sing will be held after the meal. The church is at 2865 S.W. County Road 661 (Owens). Call 494-0307 for details.
- Telephone Reassurance and Friendly Visitors available to those over 55 and homebound. Phone Senior Friendship Centers at 863-494-5965 to sign up for these free services, staffed by trained volunteers who have had background screenings. Phone also if interested in becoming a volunteer for either program.
- Alcoholics Anonymous Serenity Group meets at Grace Lutheran Church, W. Oak St. (State Road 70) at 8 p.m. Sunday.

MONDAY

- 4-H county council, leaders and volunteers meet at 6 p.m. the first Monday of each month at the DeSoto County Turner Center extension office.
- The AA G.I.R.L.S. business meeting is held the first Monday at 7:15 p.m. at St. Edmund's Episcopal Church, 327 W. Hickory St.
- The Arcadia Garden Club meets at noon on the first Monday of each month Oct. through June at its office, 1005 W. Magnolia St. Bring a covered dish to share.
- 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

- Links to Success is excited to participate in the "2014 Giving Challenge" through the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. The 2014 Giving Challenge is from noon May 6 to noon May 7. You can donate in "honor" of any member of Links to Success Board of Directors. The board member receiving the most money raised in their honor, will receive a pie in the face. Donations will support the 2014 Leadership and Career Conference for DeSoto Middle School students. You can also donate online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/T7SH9ZZ>.
- Arcadia City Council meets at 6 p.m. at the Margaret Way Building, 23 N. Polk Ave., Arcadia.
- 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.weight-watchers.com and "find a meeting" or call 800-651-6000.
- The DeSoto Amateur Radio Club meets at 8 p.m. Tuesday (except the third Tuesday) of the month, on the 147.075, W4MIN repeater with a pl of 100. All amateurs are invited to participate.
- Faith Mission provides free lunches for anyone in need, at 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 1109 S.E. 9th St. Donations gratefully accepted.
- DeSoto County Library holds story time at 3 p.m. Tuesdays at 125 N. Hillsborough Ave., Arcadia. Call 993-4851 for more information.
- The Peace River Woodcarvers meet from 9 a.m. to noon every Tuesday, starting Nov. 12, at the Speer Center, U.S. Highway 17 North, Arcadia. For information, contact Bill or Mary Morse at

SPECIAL

- Free Spanish-English class, Monday through Thursday, 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Nocatee United Methodist Church, 4502 S.W. Welles Ave. For information, call 494-3881.

207-418-4687.

- ACCESS office is open from 9 a.m. to noon today at Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church, 319 S. Lee Ave., Arcadia. Call for appointments at 494-0320.
- Alcoholics Anonymous Second Tradition meets at 8 p.m. at St. Edmund's Episcopal Church, 327 W. Hickory St.
- 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.
- Suncoast Community Blood Bank is open from noon to 6 p.m. today at 710 N. Brevard Ave. (U.S. 17 North), Arcadia. For more information, call 993-9366.

WEDNESDAY

- 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 AA Serenity Group Business Meeting is held at 7:15 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month at Grace Lutheran Church, 1004 W. Oak St.
- The Arcadia Writers Group meets from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month at the Arcadia Village Clubhouse. For more information, call Sarah Hollenhorst at 244-1663.
- The Retired Law Enforcement Association of Southwest Florida meets first Wednesday monthly at the Fraternal Order of Police Hall, 23300 Harper Ave., Port Charlotte. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m.; meeting is at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 941-423-0902.
- 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.
- The Arcadia Eagles, 150 S. Polk Ave., now offers Bingo from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday evenings.
- 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

- Project Graduation volunteers will meet at 6:30 p.m. May 8 at the DeSoto County Extension Office, 2150 N.E. Roan Ave.
- The DeSoto County Veterans Council meets the second Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at Arcadia Elks Lodge. For details, call Tom Damron at 491-1404.
- 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.
- American Red Cross Youth Corps of DeSoto County meets second Thursdays monthly from 3:30-5 p.m. at DeSoto County High School. For more information, call at 494-2348.
- 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. Come enjoy an hour of serenity focused on breathing, gentle yoga poses, peaceful stretching and quiet relaxation. 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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- 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.
- Alcoholics Anonymous Second Tradition meets at 7 p.m. at St. Edmund's Episcopal Church, 327 W. Hickory St.
- ACCESS office is open from 1-4 p.m. today at Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church, 319 S. Lee Ave., Arcadia. Call for appointments at 494-0320.

Remembering Our Military



Memorial Day Special Section

On Memorial Day, we honor the men and women of the Armed Forces who have given their lives for their country. We invite you to honor your family, friends and neighbors in the military by sending your thoughts and prayers to those fighting abroad, or a note of remembrance to a fallen military hero.



You may submit your photos and messages by email: tjewell@sun-herald.com or US Mail to Memorial Day Special Section, 108 S. Polk Ave., Arcadia, FL 34266. All submissions will be featured in our Memorial Day edition on Thursday, May 29. Deadline for submission is Friday, May 23, 2014 by 5:00 pm.

National Day of Prayer observed in DeSoto

By CINDY SIEGEL

DESOTO COUNTY MINISTERIAL ASSOC.

As our nation struggles with continued economic insecurity, vast health-care reform, and countless challenges to our constitutional rights, citizens of the United States are preparing to exercise their freedom to gather, worship, and pray. Millions will answer the call to prayer on May 1 in observance of the 63rd annual National Day of Prayer. Organized events will be held

in thousands of public venues where intercession will be made for America and its leadership.

This year's theme, "One Voice United in Prayer," is based on Romans 15:6.

The DeSoto County Ministerial Association invites you to join with leaders across our county on Thursday 2014 at noon in the chambers of the Board of County Commissioners as we gather to join in this national and local observance. In order to involve and engage attendees, Fr. Vincent Clemente,

Pastor of St. Paul's Catholic Church, has developed an agenda of prayer and praise which will last approximately one-half hour. We invite all to attend.

Pastor Brian Russell, President of the DeSoto County Ministerial Association, said, "Today, perhaps more than ever, we are drawn to prayer for the restoration of our communities and our country. Let us not take for granted our right to gather for prayer and that we live in a community where both our county and city leaders have proclaimed May 1 as an

official day of prayer. Therefore, we must unite and join leaders across our county to pray for the healing and fruitfulness that God wants for us all."

The National Day of Prayer tradition predates the founding of the United States of America, evidenced by the Continental Congress' proclamation in 1775 setting aside a day of prayer. In 1952, Congress established an annual day of prayer and, in 1988, that law was amended, designating the National Day of Prayer as the first Thursday in May.

In RV blood drive, everybody wins

SUBMITTED BY SUNCOAST BLOOD BANK

Seasonal residents once again rallied to save lives with SunCoast Blood Bank during the 15th Annual RV Challenge. Twelve RV parks and communities in DeSoto County competed to see which community could donate the most blood.

This year's competition was the most successful RV Challenge to date, collectively donating 432 units to SCBB — a 138 percent increase over the previous year's challenge. The overall winner was Live Oak RV Park with 111 units of blood and platelets donated. Scott Bush, CEO of SCBB, and Vince Sica, CEO of DeSoto Memorial Hospital, recognized blood drive organizers by presenting them with a plaque during the awards breakfast hosted by DeSoto Memorial Hospital.

Blood collected from the RV Challenge is used to serve the needs of local patients," said Katheryn Ferry, Director of Laboratory Services for Desoto Memorial Hospital. "Every day blood is in demand. The hospital is grateful for the dedicated donors who participate in the annual RV Challenge. Without their help, we would not be able to provide lifesaving transfusions to our patients."

SunCoast Blood Bank is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization providing a reliable supply of safe blood products and services to the community for over 60 years. SCBB provides 100 percent of the blood products and services for DeSoto Memorial Hospital and several other hospitals and clinics throughout DeSoto, Sarasota, Manatee and Charlotte counties. For SCBB donor locations and more information, visit www.scbb.org or call 1-866-97-BLOOD.



Karen Hall representing Riverside RV Resort, with Sue Stellini holding Riverside's trophy, and Katie Campbell, also of Riverside. Riverside RV Park had the most registrations.



Scott Bush, CEO of SunCoast Blood Bank, with Woody and Sue Marshall holding the trophy for Live Oak RV Resort for the Most Units Collected, along with Teresa Taft of SCBB.



Scott Bush, CEO of SCBB, Vincent Sica, CEO of DeSoto Memorial Hospital, Dan Hogan, CFO of DMH, and Jason Carney, COO of SCBB.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

Downtown market returns on first Saturday



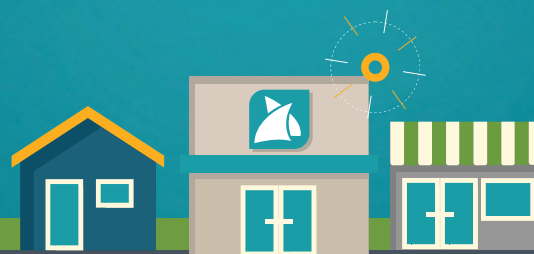
ARCADIAN PHOTO BY JOHN BLACK, photoke@gmail.com

Maggie and Kevin Rauscher from Melbourne, Fla. traveled to explore the town of Arcadia and loved the downtown market place. Lowell Miller of Crystal Nectar Apiaries in Arcadia shows his locally grown honey, produce and bakery products. The Old Town Market, which is held on the first Saturday of every month, takes place on May 3 in the Tree of Knowledge Park and features produce, crafts and other goodies.

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Offer Code: PAR0414

50466640

It's almost time for hurricane preparations

With June 1 being the official start of our six month hurricane season here in Florida, we will be bombarded with information and suggestions about what to do before, during and after a hurricane. For anyone who has been through a severe hurricane, these warnings are certainly well worth heeding. What I want to share with you today is another situation with which you may have to deal any day now, before a storm is even on the weather maps.

I'm speaking of the folks who approach you at your home, claiming to be licensed home builders, home repair contractors or landscape contractors. They then proceed to frighten you by saying they have noticed some area of your home or property that should be corrected immediately, before a storm hits, to avoid severe consequences later. It might be loose shingles on a roof, an unstable carport, a tree with



C.A.S.E. Manager

DeSoto County Sheriff's Office



Phyllis Schwartz

overhanging limbs or similar potential problems.

Your reaction to these people should be the same as it would be any other time of the year. Don't panic and be taken in by their scare tactics. Don't sign any contract or give them any money to start a job. Don't be certain they are really licensed by the state or local government simply because there are official numbers on a truck. Anyone can purchase these numbers in an office supply store and affix them to a truck. Ask to see the actual license.

If you believe the problem they point out is potentially dangerous, have someone you trust look at it before deciding to have any work done. Get three written estimates for the work. Make sure the estimates include the materials to be used, deposit required final cost, completion date and penalty for late completion. Also, any guarantees by the contractor should be included.

Talk with friends, family and neighbors who have had similar work done. Were they satisfied? Would they recommend the contractor? Should you have a job done, do not make final payment until the work has been inspected by the agency that issued the permit for the work, if one was required. The contractor may be satisfied, but it is the inspector's approval that matters.

Those of us who lived here during Hurricane Charley remember well how we were inundated with people eager

to help us clear debris, cut trees and limbs, fix windows, replace roofs, repair carports and the like. Many of these people were legitimate, kind-hearted folks from churches and organizations or just being genuinely helpful and caring. Others were opportunists who were out to make a fast buck and took advantage of our misery. The people I spoke of earlier in this article are the same type of opportunists only they are not waiting for a storm. They want to frighten us before an even hits. Let's show them we've smartened up since Charley.

For more information on these and other scams and frauds, the C.A.S.E. (Communities Against Senior Exploitation) Program, sponsored by the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office, is available to anyone in the community. Call Sheriff Wise or Lt. Curt Mays at 863-993-4700 and they will be glad to assist you.

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

- Madeleyn Garcia Alanis, 21, Sarasota. Charge: battery on an officer, firefighter or EMT. Bond: \$2,500.
- Marcus Andrew Baker, 24, 2400 block of S.W. Alice Ave., Arcadia. Charge: failure to appear. Bond: \$2,000.
- Lucas Allen Colson, 34, Avon Park. Charges: theft and resisting recovery of property, and petty theft, third or subsequent offense. Bond: \$5,500.
- Anthony Jerome Lee, 39, 300 block of Volusia Ave., Arcadia. Charges: possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana. Bond: \$120.
- Josue Deleon Perez, 32, no address, Arcadia. Charges: trespass and disorderly public intoxication. Bond: \$370.
- Alejandro Tinoco, 30, Bowling Green, Fla. Charge: violation of probation. Bond: none.
- Consuelo Valdiviez, 33, Bowling Green, Fla. Charge: failure to appear. Bond: \$2,000.
- Elizabeth Arjueta, 20, Sarasota. Charge: disorderly conduct/affray. Bond: \$120.
- Benigno Pantoja Arreguir, 41, Sarasota. Charges: possession of cocaine, possession or use of drug equipment and disorderly conduct/affray. Bond: \$5,240.
- Jose Fuentes Castro, 21, Sarasota. Charge: trespass. Bond: \$120.
- Julian Henry Cobb II, 54, 7800 block of S.W. Albritton St., Arcadia. Charges: resisting officer by failing to accept citation or post bond, DUI with alcohol or drugs, DUI with property damage and refusing to submit to DUI test after license is suspended. Bond: \$3,000.
- David Jubar Felton, 18, Orlando.

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.

Charge: battery. Bond: Released on recognizance.

- Amigdio Zapa Galvan, 37, 100 block of E. Oak St., Arcadia. Charge: driving without a valid license. Bond: \$120.
- Juan Nunez Germosen, 29, Stonegate Apts., Arcadia. Charge: driving without a valid license. Bond: \$120.
- Miguel Gonzalez, 59, 300 block of N. Manatee Ave., Arcadia. Charge: battery. Bond: released on recognizance.
- Harrington Ledell Huff, 31, 1900 block of Heron Cove, Arcadia. Charge: battery. Bond: \$1,500.
- Robert Michael King, 53, 1600 block of S.W. Reynolds St., Arcadia. Charge: out-of-county warrant. Bond: \$5,000.
- William Earnest Noles Jr., 40, 3000 block of S.W. Harvey Ave., Arcadia. Charge: battery. Bond: \$750.
- Luciano Hernando Reyes, 22, 400 block of N. 16th Ave., Arcadia. Charge: disorderly conduct/affray. Bond: \$120.
- Michael Adam Thorpe, 28, 11500 block of S.W. Courtly Manor Drive, Lake

Suzy. Charge: producing marijuana. Bond: \$5,000.

- Mauricio Velasquez, 32, Okeechobee. Charge: DUI with BAC .15 or higher or with person under 18. Bond: \$1,500.
- David Joseph Chambers, 18, 1300 block of S.W. Bittersweet Road, Arcadia. Charges: possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession or use of drug equipment. Bond: \$1,120.
- Jose Medina Jr., 40, 3300 block of S.E. Montgomery Circle, Arcadia. Charges: two counts of uttering a false instrument. Bond: \$3,000.
- Timothy Daniel Backer II, 33, 3900 block of N.E. Ashley Terrace, Arcadia. Charges: petty theft, second offense, and resisting an officer without violence. Bond: \$1,250.
- Michael Tyrone Bryant, 41, Tampa. Charge: failure to support spouse or child. Purge: \$500.
- Richard Dale Lowe Jr., 34, 1000 block of S.E. 5th Ave., Arcadia. Charges: possession of methamphetamine with intent to sell or deliver, possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana, possession or use of drug equipment and dealing in stolen property. Bond: \$3,740.

- Eric Christopher Smith, 33, Spring Hill, Fla. Charge: failure to appear. Bond: none.
- Anthony Don Washington, 21, 1300 block of N.E. Oak St., Arcadia. Charges: dealing in stolen property and violation of probation. Bond: none.
- Rhonda Danell Warram, 38, Punta Gorda. Charges: possession of methamphetamine with intent to sell or deliver and possession or use of drug equipment. Bond: \$2,620.

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

- David Phillip Nelson, 34, 8400 block of S.W. Gulf Ave., Arcadia. Charges: failure to register motor vehicle and habitually driving while license is revoked. Bond: \$4,000.
- Brandon Lawrence Povia, 19, 10700 block of S.W. County Road, Arcadia. Charge: failure to appear. Bond: \$5,000.
- Jose-Carlos Hernandez-Sicura, 25, 600 block of Magnolia St., Arcadia. Charges: driving without a valid license and violation of probation. Bond: none.
- Omar-Pablo Trejo-Hernandez, 32, 200 block of Volusia Ave., Arcadia. Charge: driving without a valid license. Bond: \$1,000.

— Compiled by Susan E. Hoffman

Regional planning council meets in DeSoto



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JACKIE TUCKER

The Central Florida Regional Planning Council held its annual DeSoto County meeting in the County Commissioners' chamber recently. Front row, from left: Ron Handlry, Highlands Co., Commissioner; J.P. Powell, City of Winter Haven; Pat Huff, City of Bartow and Ridge League of Cities; Elvie Posey, Okeechobee Co. Commission; back row: Norman White, council attorney; Robert Heine, City of Arcadia; Jackie Tucker, DeSoto Co. gubernatorial appointee; Pat Steed, Executive Director; Neda Cobb, City of Wauchula; Ray Domer, Okeechobee Co. Commission; Buddy Mansfield, DeSoto Co. Commission; and Clayton Williams, City of Okeechobee.

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OBITUARIES

George W. Deen

George W. Deen, 84, of Port Charlotte, Fla., died Tuesday, April 22, 2014.

He was born May 19, 1929, in Brooksville, Fla.

George lived most of his life in Wauchula, Fla., Arcadia, Fla., and Port Charlotte. He was currently a member of the Berean Baptist Church in Port Charlotte, and a former member of Calvary Baptist Church in Arcadia.

George is survived by his wife, Yvonne B. Deen of Port Charlotte; his daughter, Diane Deen (Jeffery) Newell of Hobe Sound, Fla.; his four grandchildren, Melissa (Daniel) Burns of Port Charlotte, Michael E. Deen II of Largo, Fla., Melinda Deen (Zachary) Garner of Largo, and Rachel N. Newell of Hobe Sound; and his great-grandson, Robbie Farmer of Port Charlotte. He was preceded in death by his son, Michael E. Deen of Arcadia, July 11, 2007.

A memorial service was held Saturday, April 26, 2014, at Berean Baptist Church of Port Charlotte. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Berean Baptist Church, 17377 Godwin Ave., Port Charlotte, FL 33948.

Barbara A. Fort

Barbara A. Fort, 92, passed away Thursday, April 24, 2014, in Arcadia, Fla.

She was born Aug. 5, 1921, in Roanoke, Va., moving to Charlotte County, Fla., from Vinton, Va., as a small child.

Barbara was a graduate of Charlotte High School, Class of 1939. She retired from the DeSoto County School system after 36 years of faithful service as a bus

driver and a cafeteria worker. Barbara enjoyed crocheting, knitting, reading and traveling with her family. She was an active member of First Baptist Church of Fort Ogden, Fla.

She is survived by her son, Charles Fort of Fort Ogden; daughter, Ethel (James "JR") Keene of Fort Ogden; two sisters, Betty Jean (Dave) Yates of California, and Virginia Jenkins of Tampa, Fla.; five grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren. Barbara was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 63 years, Jeff Fort; her parents, Albert and Maria Donaldson Hurst; and three brothers, Donald Hurst, Ronald Hurst and Charles Hurst.

Visitation was conducted Sunday, April 27, 2014, at the chapel of Ponger-Kays-Grady Funeral Home, 50 N. Hillsborough Ave., Arcadia. Funeral services were held Monday, April 28, 2014, at First Baptist Church of Fort Ogden, with the Rev. Wayne Earnest officiating. Burial is at Fort Ogden Cemetery. Online condolences may be made at www.pongerkaysgrady.com.

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

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. The American flag accompanying and obituary indicates a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Rangerettes prepare for regional competition




PHOTOS PROVIDED BY JACKIE TUCKER

The Rangerettes thank everyone who supported them in their recent fundraisers. They are working to purchase new uniforms, shoes and equipment for the Regional Competition they plan to attend on May 10. Helping at the car wash are Brianna Wilson and Emma Ransom, front, and Angel Victor in back.




Helping Ken Shatney with the cookout held along with a car wash at the Bank of America are, from left, McKenna Shatney, Hannah Jacobson, Anastasia Wilson and Adrianna Bradshaw. They are raising funds to attend a regional competition in May.



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Sunday School 9:00am
Sunday - Worship 10:00am
(Nursery Children's Church Provided)
Mondays - A.A. & AI-Anon 7:30pm
Wednesday - K-12 Ministry 5:30pm & Bible Study - 6:30pm

Mt. Ephraim Baptist Church Homecoming Sunday
May 4th - 10:30 am
A covered dish dinner on the ground will follow for fellowship and reminiscing old memories.
2865 SW Co. Rd. 661 (Owens)

Grace Lutheran Church
1004 W. Oak Street
494-7008

Pastor David E. Nabinger
Saturday Prayer Service Starting at 4PM
Sunday School 8:45 AM
Sunday Worship 10 AM
All Welcome!

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Morning Worship 11:00am
Evening Worship 6:00pm
Wed. Fellowship Meal 5:45pm
Prayer Meeting 6:30pm
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Thursday Youth Group 6pm

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Wednesday 6:30 pm for Prayer Group, Youth & Children

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May the Lord fill your heart with love.

Praise God — brighten every day

A retired businessman once told me how damaging negative comments could be to a committee evaluating people for different levels of employment. He said the first evaluation usually proved to be the most important. If the speaker contributed even a few words of praise about the person being considered, the other committee members would often also make positive observations. On the other hand, if the first comment was critical, those that followed would generally be the same.

Consider the losses in life when praise is missing from personal relationships.

A wife keeps her house in order for years and hears few words of praise and recognition for her efforts. Her husband seldom takes her in his arms to whisper words of love and appreciation, then wonders why she's unhappy or so often depressed. A husband and father labors



Roger Campbell

hard to provide for his family. Finally, after life is past, people gather at his funeral to talk about how faithful he had been. Some of these kind comments, made in time, could have built his confidence and recharged his lagging vitality. A few words of praise might have even extended his life.

A family works faithfully in their church, serving on the board or various committees, singing in the choir or using their talents in other areas. Then one day they are gone, having decided to try another church.

Diagnosis? Discouragement! They concluded no one cared.

While it's true that all service for the Lord should be its own reward, we're all human enough to appreciate encouraging words from others.

Praising God should be the highest priority in life.

The Psalmist declared, "I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth" (Psalm 34:1).

When we're occupied with praising God, we'll have no interest in putting down others. C.H. Spurgeon, the still highly regarded 19th century English minister and writer, said we ought to praise God more and blame neighbors less. These practices naturally follow each other: as we give ourselves to thoughts and words of praise, we'll be less likely to blame others for our difficulties.

David's resolution to praise God continually is the Old Testament

verbalizing of Paul's call to fill our minds with things that produce praise (Philippians 4:8).

Praise is the voice of thanksgiving, going beyond just appreciation of material things to adoration of the Lord, the giver, and a thankful heart will keep an otherwise critical tongue under control.

A.W. Tozer, the noted author of numerous worship classics wrote: "Now as a cure for the sour faultfinding attitude, I recommend the cultivation of the habit of thankfulness. Thanksgiving has great curative power. The heart that is constantly overflowing with gratitude will be safe from those attacks of resentfulness and gloom that bother so many religious persons. A thankful heart cannot be cynical."

Praise pays.

In praising God, we brighten every day. And in praising people, we help weary ones along their way.

Little Red Riding Hood through the ages

By IRENE POOSER

20TH CENTURY LITERARY CLUB

The Twentieth Century Literary Club met on April 17 in the beautifully decorated pavilion at the home of Lynn Ellen Shelfer. Ladies were welcomed by Lynn, co-hostess Terri Womack and family pet Jet in his blue bandanna into an area perfect for a French Garden Party in keeping with the "Oh, The Places You Will Go" theme. Most of the ladies wore their most fashionable hats. Tables were

arrayed with crisp linens and white bird cages adorned with trailing ivy and candles.

Delicious appetizers of baked Brie with orange, pineapple and cherry marmalade and assorted crackers were served with sparkling white grape juice. The dinner buffet featured chicken salad croissants, ratatouille, spring green salad with French Vinaigrette, crusty baguettes with Borsain garlic herb cheese, Quiche Lorraine, Quiche Florentine, sweetened ice tea and

Meyer lemon infused water. Desserts of chocolate eclair cake and Madeleines were served on beautifully flowered French china. Discussions followed on the favorite dishes that were offered in the evening's meal.

President Connie Bateman chaired the business meeting and expressed the club's appreciation to Lynn and Terry for a wonderful meal and an outstanding evening. Appreciation was expressed to Ruth Dunn for her representation of the club at the Arcadia Literary Club's

centennial celebration. Plans are being made to change some of the hosting schedules for next year. Following roll call and reading of the club minutes, a card was circulated for senior member Dorothy Sellers as she recuperates from a recent fall.

Phyllis NeSmith presented a fascinating program on the evolution of the fairy tale "Little Red Riding Hood" as recorded in The Trials and Tribulations of

RED | 17



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A little lady named Addie

My mother was a remarkable woman ... barely five feet tall, the mother of 12 children, she was often described as "feisty," but I remember her as the most efficient manager I've ever known.

She was in charge and made it her job to know what everyone was doing, as well as schedules for future events. When I think of her responsibilities — the everyday chores of cooking, cleaning, sewing, gardening and all related household tasks, in addition to keeping track of her large family and appointments and achievements — I shake my head in wonder. Discipline, for her, was simple. She was the "go-to" person who kept us all in line. With her arms folded in front of her, she would stare at the wrong-doer: "That's not how we do things in this house; don't let it happen again," and it wouldn't.

Her one break from that busy schedule came every afternoon, when the evening meal was planned and her weary body needed a rest. Then she would retreat to our parlor where her piano was housed. The small room had French doors, which she usually closed before she sat down for some overdue relaxation. Prior to her marriage, she had been an organist for the Sunday services at church so many of the songs she remembered were hymns. She would sometimes sing along with the melody; I'm sure that's why she insisted the doors be closed. It was a brief respite of relaxing privacy.

When I was enrolled at St. Mary's elementary school, I learned that one of the nuns was giving piano lessons, and asked Mom if I could enroll. She was very pleased that I was interested and my evenings now included piano "homework" as I practiced on Mom's piano. A thrill I'll never forget was the



From a Senior Viewpoint

Lois Hendricks

loistom@embarqmail.com

Spring recital when Mom and I sat side by side and did a piano duet.

Mom did not drive, so my dad assumed the chore of grocery shopping for the family. And, even with Mom's extensive garden produce, that was a large order each week, and it always included one special item ... a bag of candy. We all shared a "taste" when unpacking the groceries but the remainder of the bag was stored high on a shelf in the pantry to be dispensed later, in small quantities, for those youngsters who had performed well or achieved some goal, or treats for some visiting youngster.

Mom had only one "vice" that I remember, and that was cards. Our family was especially fond of the game of euchre, and Mom was a formidable challenger. When relatives or friends stopped by, a card game usually was the entertainment of the evening, and it was not unusual for Mom to be on the winning side. And, on our picnic forays, always a special outing to a nearby park, a deck of cards always was included, just in case there was a lull to fill.

I think what impresses me most in remembering "little Addie" was her simple approach to life, and how successful it was. A priority of hers was helping out, whether it was for a church or school function or if

ADDIE | 17

Prom Promise illustrates dangers of drinking, driving

SUBMITTED By CINDY HEFLIN
DeSoto FIRE RESCUE

On Friday, the students from DeSoto County High School witnessed firsthand what could happen if they chose to drink and drive.

While the events unfolded in front of them, DeSoto County Fire Rescue, along with community partners, enacted a scene of what could occur. The demonstration began with parents helping their daughter prepare for prom night, and ended with a horrific car which killed the daughter, while one driver — who chose to drink and drive — was arrested and taken away in

handcuffs to the county jail by Florida Highway Patrol. Other patients involved were taken to DeSoto Memorial Hospital or flown out by Aeromed.

After watching the Prom Promise program, some of the students stated they had chosen to celebrate prom in a different manner other than drinking and driving.

DeSoto County Fire Rescue thanks the following agencies for volunteering their time to make this program a huge success: Aeromed, Arcadia Police Department, Darrel's Road and Wrecker, DeSoto County High School, DeSoto County Sheriff's Office, DeSoto County School Board, DeSoto Memorial

Hospital, Florida Highway Patrol and Ponger/Kays Funeral Home, with a

special thank you to Jared Zolkos and Cynthia Barrera from DCHS.



Firefighters secure the surviving injured passengers for transport in the Prom Promise drama staged for DeSoto high school students Friday.



ARCADIAN PHOTOS BY JOHN BLACK, photeke@gmail.com

At Friday's Prom Promise, DeSoto firefighters and law enforcement investigate the scene of a crash caused by a drunk driver, in a staged drama intended to urge students not to drink and drive during the next night's prom.



Parents of the girl who was killed in a wreck caused by a drunk driver identify their daughter during the Prom Promise, intended to demonstrate to students the dangers of drinking and driving.

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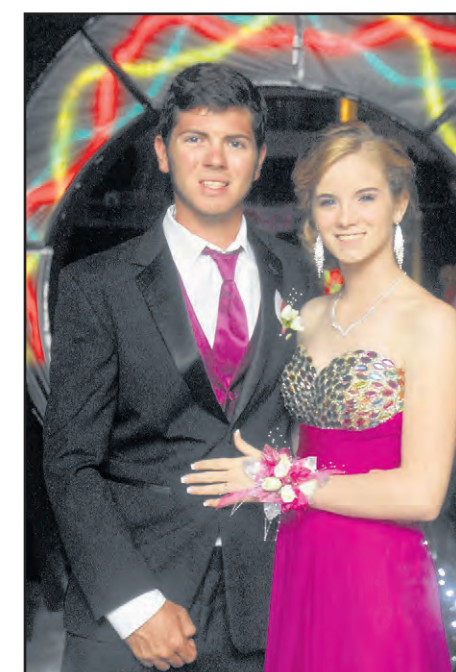
Students rock the night away for the 2014 prom



Bradley Roberts and Savannah Christianson enjoy their first dance of the night as King and Queen of the prom.



Students enjoy their special evening at the 2014 prom.



Adreanna White and Justice Anderson enjoy the moment passing through the blacklight tunnel.



Destiny Payne, Jamara Edwards, Nereida Garcia and Mishel Mandujano pose on the runway like high-fashion models in their gorgeous gowns.



Brandon Reyes and Hailey Allen were the first couple to arrive at the Turner Center for the prom.



Marco Avila, Sierra Pelham, Ernesto Aions, Lucila Ruiz, Bianca Santos and Lorena Contreras make their entrance through the tunnel of light.



Diego Martinez accompanies Jessica Davies through the tunnel of light to enter the magical world of the junior-senior prom.



Michael Pelham, Tristian Duncan and Austin Tompkins show off their best dance moves.



Bailey Lyons and Jacob Dewey were first off the bus that brought 38 couples to the prom in style.



DeSoto County High School Principal Nelson Stephenson, School Superintendent Karyn Gary, Tod Baldwin and Kathrine Knoche said this year's prom had the highest attendance ever.

ARCADIAN PHOTOS BY JOHN BLACK, photoke@gmail.com



Dequan Richardson, right, gets a smile out of DeSoto County High School principal Nelson Stephenson at the 2014 prom, held at the Turner Center.



Aimee Kortzendorf, Jacob Sutton, Lyndsey Hoppel, Brandon Driggers, Kayla Earnest and Kyle Roberts look forward to a fun evening of dancing the night away.



Bubbles create a special atmosphere for couples dancing at the 2014 junior-senior prom.



The setting sun is a fitting background for Corey Char, Debbie Brown, Bay Hale, Shania Manwell, Amber Reid and Claude Blosser, arriving at the Turner Center for the prom.

DeSoto SPORTS EXTRA

The Sun / Thursday, May 1, 2014

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Tompkins signs with Graceland University

By **STEVE KNAPP**

ARCADIAN SPORTS DIRECTOR

DeSoto County High School football star Austin Tompkins officially became a Yellowjacket April 10, as the big lineman chose Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa.

"It was a good fit for me," Tompkins said. "They're small but it's big for me. I'm still a country boy. It's a long way from home but it's my first step in becoming a man."

The school, which was founded in 1895 and only has 1,000 students, has a rich football legacy. The school's first

football team took the field in 1910 and in its first two years went 10-0-1, outscoring opponents 108-5. The program has fallen on hard times lately, averaging just two wins a season over the past six years and struggled through a 1-10 record last year.

Tompkins plans to focus his studies on physical therapy and athletic training. He knows what he's talking about when he says he likes rehabilitating athletes. He injured a shoulder weightlifting and had to have surgery on it. As a result, he missed the first four Bulldogs varsity football games this past season and had to work hard

on getting his shoulder back into shape.

With that rehab experience, his love of the game and knowledge of the sport, Tompkins could get into coaching football, which is something he'd like to do someday.

"He's a great kid, he started for us four years mostly on the offensive side of the ball. He's going to leave a big hole on the line for us to fill," said Bulldogs varsity football coach Matt Egloff. "You get used to having guys like that around and then they're gone. Graceland got a great kid. He's a hard worker, never complains and he'll be good in class. I think they just got a super athlete and young man."

DeSoto County line coach Richard Koonce said, "He's one of the hardest working kids I've had. He came in as a boy his freshman year and is leaving as a grown man. He's been a leader every year he's been here and has gotten better every year. He deserves every bit of this scholarship he got here today."

After his family and friends posed for photos with him at the signing ceremony, Tompkins had a big smile on his face and said, "I'm excited."



ARCADIAN PHOTOS BY STEVE KNAPP, sbigdaddyknapp@aol.com

Austin Tompkins was the leader on the offensive line as a four-year starter. His "king" status came after a game against Southeast last fall.

DCHS to hold spring banquet, free physicals

The spring sports reception will be held Tuesday, May 6, at 3 p.m. in the DeSoto County High School cafeteria. All student-athletes and their families who participated in spring sports are invited to attend.

The high school will

also be offering free physicals May 29 from 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. in the high school gymnasium. The physicals are for high school and middle school athletes who plan to participate in sports during the next school year.

Every student-athlete participating in a sport must have a current physical on file. Students must be accompanied by a parent/guardian to fill out necessary paperwork, and should also bring a copy of their birth certificate.

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Austin Tompkins signs his college scholarship papers with his family sitting with him. From left: Aubrey Tompkins, Keith Tompkins, Patty Tompkins and Carolyn McGloflin-Williams. Representing the University is Director of Admissions Kevin Brown.

DeSoto Youth Football plays spring games

By **STEVE KNAPP**

ARCADIAN SPORTS DIRECTOR

The DeSoto Youth Football teams played their first game of the spring season as they hosted the Port Charlotte Pirates last Saturday. The Pirates had three teams from their Pop Warner Program at the game. The Bulldogs only had enough players to field two teams but several players played "up" in their age group and played two games.

Colby Carroll and Johnny Holland were the "iron men" of the day for the Bulldogs as they played in all three games!

The DYF team had been working on drills and skills during the spring and had the opportunity to play another team at the end of the training session.

The DYF program allows players of



ARCADIAN PHOTO BY STEVE KNAPP, sbigdaddyknapp@aol.com

Eleven-year-old Nazir Gilchrist isn't using the hidden ball trick as he loses the ball behind his back early in the game against Port Charlotte.



ARCADIAN PHOTOS BY STEVE KNAPP, sbigdaddyknapp@aol.com

Nine-year-old Jayden Rogers follows Lildreco Tompkins around the right side in the 18-0 loss for the DeSoto Youth Football Bulldogs.



The 9-12 DeSoto Youth Football team after their game against Port Charlotte.

FOOTBALL

FROM PAGE 14

any size to play as long as they fit into the age qualifications set down by the league. The Pop Warner League that the Pirates play in uses a weight and age formula for eligibility.

The Bulldogs were bigger than the Pirates, but the Pirates had already played five games in their season and had only one loss. They used their experience to shut out the Bulldogs in their first game 18-0. The Pirates had players up to 12 years old on the team while several players for the Bulldogs were only 9.



Bulldogs quarterback Jayden Rogers pitches the ball in the game against Port Charlotte last Saturday.

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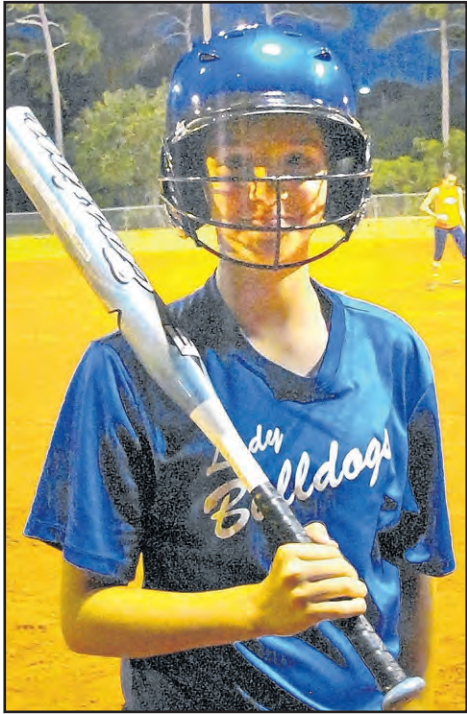
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Miss DeSoto squad ends season with loss



Miss DeSoto Fast-pitch Softball coach Mike Cross talks to the team after their season-ending 8-5 loss in Englewood. The Bulldogs gave up five runs in the bottom of the fourth inning in a five-inning game to erase a 5-3 lead.



Juliana "Ju-Ju" Cobb waits for her turn at bat in the season finale for the Miss DeSoto Fast-pitch Softball team.

ARCADIAN PHOTOS BY STEVE KNAPP, sbigdaddyknapp@aol.com

Miss DeSoto pitcher Michaela Cross puts a late tag on Cami Pike in the final game of the season April 24.



Sabrina Martin scores on a wild pitch in the 8-5 loss to the Englewood Bombers.



Trinity May takes a cut at a pitch in the April 24 softball game in Englewood.

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HOSPITAL

FROM PAGE 2

still pending.

Meanwhile, Sica said the hospital is obligated under state law to report to the Governor notifying him of certain financial circumstances. Under Florida Statute §218.503, a local government entity must tell the governor when it is unable to pay short term loans, make bond debt service, transfer withholding taxes or social security payments, or other defined financial conditions. The board approved the hospital to make that report.

Under the statute, it is not clear what

the governor will do with that information. The law states the governor is to determine whether the public entity needs state assistance to resolve the problem. If so, there are several options, including a review of the hospital's budget by the governor, a state loan, a prohibition against issuing bonds or taking on other debt, and possibly establishing a financial emergency board to oversee the activities of the hospital.

Sica said if the Florida legislature would pass Medicaid expansion, it would bring billions of health-care dollars to the state and probably solve DMH's financial problems. But while Gov. Scott appeared to be leaning in that direction, Florida Republicans continued to oppose accepting the

federal money because of the strings attached to it. Otherwise, Sica hopes relief can be found when the hospital reports its situation to the Governor.

Glass half-full or half empty

From the audience, veterinarian Dr. Mike McNulty thanked the doctors for opposing the sale of the hospital, "but it is almost an uphill battle." Federal law made the emergency room the new family doctor, he said, and that is the main contributor to the hospital's debt. "DeSoto is the poorest county in Florida. ... We have a grossly disproportionate percentage of indigents, and 90 percent of the debt is from ER care.

"We have to get that half-cent tax,"

he said. "I'm a realist: is the glass half full? Well, some clown came along and drank half the glass.

"But if the county is talking about moving the rodeo to the Turner Center and having this big complex, will the hospital get anything?" McNulty said he argued against funding the Turner Center initially because "it's a white elephant, an albatross. Do you put money into a site like the rodeo where it's only used two days a year, when people use the hospital every day?"

"The whole level of mentality you all have is what I call 'hickabilly.'"

But Nathan came to the county's defense, saying the commissioners "do see it now because I convinced them of that."

RED

FROM PAGE 10

Little Red Riding Hood, edited by Jack Zipes. The book reflects changes in the times and the storyteller as evidenced by the over 150 versions developed. It was first preserved as a folk tale along with many others through southeastern France, Italy and Germany. "Little Red Riding Hood" is accepted as the most widespread and notorious tale

through the ages as it cautions little girls to be careful, to not go out alone and to beware of strangers. Charles Perrault is credited with first making the transition of folk tales into the fairy tale genre in 1697. His graphic version was the first Phyllis read to the club; followed by a 1926 Yiddish-American parody by Milt Gross presented by Phyllis in dialect. The changes in the tale in the 1939 James Thurber version were evident, but not as apparent as the 1965 Anneliese Meinert story complete with sports cars, highways,

a dieting Granny, hearing aids and dentures. Phyllis' program presentation was, as always, a delight for the club.

Suggested books for reading were The Doll by Taylor Stevens, The Target by David Baldacci, Written in My Own Heart's Blood: A Novel a new book in the Outlanders Series by Diana Gabaldon, and Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline. Shelly Baumann shared a special story of personal friends who rescued a very special dog, Riley. Riley and his rescuers were featured on the Ellen DeGeneres Show; Shelly owns a copy of

the book telling his story and recently "autographed" by Riley himself.

The annual May picnic will be at 5:30 p.m. on May 15 at the home of Connie Bateman. Members will bring assorted salads and the officers are responsible for desserts.

Ladies present were Shelly Baumann, Frances Pooser, Stephanie McAnly, Connie Bateman, Marcia Brown, Ruth Dunn, Linda Waldron, Nora Cail, Lynn Shelfer, Lavenia Carter, Debbie Hackney, Phyllis NeSmith, Terri Womack and Irene Pooser.

ADDIE

FROM PAGE 10

someone just needed a hand over a rough spot in their lives. An example is the free lunches she would hand out to any worker who stopped at our

farm looking for employment. With our large family, we usually didn't need outside help, but a homemade-bread sandwich with some cookies and an apple would make the job turndown less painful. And she had a big heart for children too; her many grandchildren were her delight.

Her deep faith in God was inherent,

and in Lent our family gathered each evening to say the rosary, on our knees on the hard wood floor, usually with Mom leading. Church services, of course, were very important Sunday morning events.

More than anything, Mom set a special example for her large family. Life is not all work, but the work that

is required to make that life livable is also what makes it satisfying, with such wonderful enhancements as a piano, or perhaps a game of cards to sweeten the pot.

And, although Little Addie's no longer here to receive our hugs, we remember her on this special day: "Happy Mother's Day, Mom."

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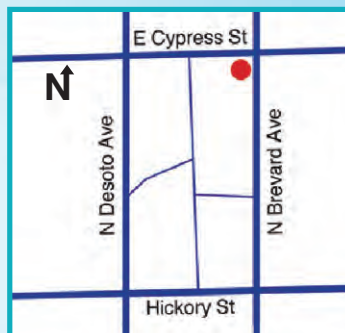


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Armadillos are beneficial creatures

You would think an animal that eats fire ant eggs by the tens of thousands would be a welcome visitor, but armadillos are cursed more often than they are praised. But the armadillo is a beneficial creature, and not only because they eat many insect pests.

If you've found your lawn and planting areas pockmarked with numerous 3- to 5-inch deep funnel-shaped holes you can bet you have been visited by an armadillo. And if you have ever been walking in palmetto woods and heard a sound that surely must be a huge animal crashing through, you can bet it was no more than a pair of amorous armadillos.

Many folks have never seen a live armadillo, since they are mostly nocturnal. They will come out after a rainstorm, but they are most commonly seen as road kill.

Dasyus novemcinctus, the nine-banded or long nosed armadillo, is not a Florida native. In the early 1900s they migrated into the Florida panhandle from Texas; others were introduced to the east coast. Today they're found throughout Florida, except for portions of the Everglades, Big Cypress Swamp and the Florida Keys. They are occasionally found as far north as Missouri and South Carolina, but they do not tolerate cold weather.

Adult armadillos weigh from 8 to 12 pounds. Their body is covered with a shield-like shell with flexible joints made up of hundreds of horny scales. Only the ears and belly area are unprotected. When startled, armadillos often leap high into the air, and then run quickly to a nearby burrow. There is



Over the Garden Gate

Al & Karen Smoke

aandksmoke@gmail.com

only one species of armadillo that can curl into a ball, but the nine-banded armadillo will curl as tight as possible if it is unable to escape a predator.

Armadillos have poor eyesight and hearing, but a keen sense of smell, which helps them locate food. They forage for insects, spiders and small amphibians. They eat many harmful insects such as army worms, grubs, mole crickets and fire ant eggs. They also will excavate yellow jacket nests. The armadillo has no front teeth, and only peg-like molars at the back of the mouth.

Armadillos prefer shady areas with soft moist soil for locating food and digging their burrows. An armadillo may have several different burrows with multiple entrances, but usually only one burrow is used for raising young. They have four toes on their front feet and five on the back and are equipped with strong claws. They walk on the tips of their feet and leave



PHOTO PROVIDED BY COMMONS WIKIMEDIA.ORG (TOM FRIEDEL)

The nine-banded or long nosed armadillo is not a Florida native. In the early 1900's they migrated into the Florida panhandle from Texas, others were introduced to the east coast. Today they're found nearly throughout Florida.

three-toed tracks that resemble bird footprints.

Preventing armadillos from digging up your lawn is difficult. Control methods include reducing food sources, fencing and elimination. Armadillos love well irrigated lush lawns, and using an insecticide to eliminate lawn pests often only causes them to excavate more diligently for food. A low fence with 8 to 12 inches of the wire buried will keep them out of gardens. Trapping is difficult because they don't seem to be attracted to most bait. Mealworms or spoiled fruit might attract them, and covering the trap floor with dirt or leaves helps. The best method is to place the trap near the entrance to the burrow with boards positioned to funnel the animal into the trap. But then, what do you do with the armadillo? Because it is not a native animal it is illegal to release them. They may be humanely killed, but it is also illegal to hunt them with a light.

Armadillos mate in July and August, but implantation of the fertilized egg is delayed up to four months, with young born in February or March. Armadillos are unique in that the litter always consists of identical young of the same sex. A single fertilized egg divides into usually four embryos. The young are fully armored, but the scales are soft at birth. They are sexually mature at about a year.

Because of their unusual multiple reproduction, armadillos have been used in medical research since the mid-1800s. They also have a weak immune system and low body temperature, making them an ideal medical research test animal for diseases such as leprosy, typhus and trichinosis. They are also used for research on multiple births, organ transplants and birth defects. When used for drug testing, two of the identical individuals may be kept as a control.

The nine-banded armadillo's susceptibility to Hansen's disease or leprosy was discovered in the late 1960s. In humans the disease mainly affects the skin, but in armadillos the disease



PHOTO PROVIDED BY COMMONS WIKIMEDIA.ORG (VALD LAZARENKO)

Armadillos have poor eyesight and hearing, but a keen sense of smell, which helps them locate food. They forage for insects, spiders, and small amphibians. They eat many harmful insects such as army worms, grubs, mole crickets and fire ant eggs. They also will excavate yellow jacket nests.

penetrates deeper, affecting the organs.

Armadillos in the wild may carry the disease, but leprosy has not been found in wild armadillos in Florida. The risk of getting the disease from an infected animal is very low. Leprosy is not common in this country, but it's believed about a third of the cases in the United States may result from contact with infected armadillos. The cases are concentrated in Louisiana and Texas, where some people hunt, skin and eat armadillos.

These prehistoric looking mammals evolved more than 60 million years ago. Back then there were armadillos as big as rhinoceroses. Just be thankful we don't have to contend with the excavations of those monsters, and appreciate what these lowly creatures do to survive, and how they are helpful in many ways.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY COMMONS WIKIMEDIA.ORG (NASA-KEN THORNSLEY)

Armadillos are unique in that the litter always consists of identical young of the same sex. A single fertilized egg divides into usually four embryos. Because of their unusual multiple reproduction, armadillos have been used in medical research since the mid-1800s.

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NOTICE OF ACTION 3116

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO: 2013-CA-000112 BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.; Plaintiff, vs. J. FELIX RAMOS AKA J. F. RAMOS; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF J. FELIX RAMOS AKA J. F. RAMOS; 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; JAMES C. MOHN; DONNA A. MOHN; DAVID WESTBURG; UNKNOWN TENANT #1 IN POSSESSION OF THE PROPERTY; UNKNOWN TENANT #2 IN POSSESSION OF THE PROPERTY; NOTICE OF ACTION To the following Defendant(s): UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATES OF J.F. RAMOS

AKA J. FELIX RAMOS AKA FELIX RAMOS MARTINEZ, DECEASED Last Known Address UNKNOWN YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property: LOT(S) 9, BLOCK 25, KING AND BAKER SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE(S) 105, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDED OF DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA, TOGETHER WITH ONE (1) 1983 LIBE MOBILE HOME BEARING IDENTIFICATION NO. 10L16487, TITLE NO. 40767197, FLA220867 WHICH IS AFFIXED TO AND MADE PART OF REAL PROPERTY. a/k/a 1179 THRID AVE SE ARCADIA, FLORIDA 34266 has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of you written defenses, if any, to it, on Marinosci Law Group, P.C., Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 100 W. Cypress Creek Road, Suite 1045, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309 on or before May 30th, a date which is within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice in the DESOTO SUN HERALD 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 demand in the complaint. This notice is provided pursuant to Administrative Order No. 2.065. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in a court proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance: Please contact DeSoto County Jury Office, 115 East Oak Street, Arcadia, Florida 34266. Telephone: (863) 993-4876. If you are hearing or voice impaired, please call 711. WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this 15th day of April, 2014. MITZIE W. MCGAVIC As Clerk of the Court By /s/ N. Daughtrey As Deputy Clerk Submitted by: Marinosci Law Group, P.C. 100 W. Cypress Creek Road, Suite 1045 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309 Telephone: (954) 644-8704 Telefacsimile: (954) 772-9601 Published 5/1/14 & 5/8/14 322095 3034708

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 12TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 2013CA000428AXMA NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC D/B/A CHAMPION MORTGAGE COMPANY, Plaintiff vs. FAITH J. MICHALAK, et al., Defendants NOTICE OF ACTION TO: GEORGE N. RAPTIS, 41 BOUNDARY BLVD APT 103, ROTONDA WEST, FL 33947 GEORGE N. RAPTIS, 14885 SW PEMBROKE CIRCLE SOUTH, LAKE SUZY, FL 34269 GEORGE N. RAPTIS, 7315 SEAN LN NORTH, FORT MYERS, FL 33917 UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF GEORGE N. RAPTIS, 41 BOUNDARY BLVD APT 103, ROTONDA WEST, FL 33947 UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF GEORGE N. RAPTIS, 12885 SW PEMBROKE CIRCLE SOUTH, LAKE SUZY, FL 34269 UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF GEORGE N. RAPTIS, 7315 SEAN LN NORTH, FORT MYERS, FL 33917 AND TO: All persons claiming an interest by, through, under, or against the aforesaid Defendant(s) YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following described property located in DeSoto County, Florida: LOT 14, BLOCK 2, OF FIRST REPLAT IN PEMBROKE SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 9, PAGES 80 THROUGH 80C 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, if any, to this action, on Greenspoon Marder, P.A., Default Department, Attorneys for Plaintiff, whose address is Trade Centre South, Suite 700, 100 West Cypress Creek Road, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309, and the file original with the Clerk within 30 days after the first publication of this notice in the ARCADIAN on or before May 23, 2014, 2014; otherwise a default and a judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT on this 24th day of March 2014. Mitzie W. McGavic As Clerk of said Court By: /s/ B. Wynn As Deputy Clerk Important In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities act, persons needing a reasonable accommodation to participate in this proceeding should, no later than seven (7) days prior, contact the Clerk of the Court's disability coordinator at DeSoto County Jury Office, 115 East Oak Street, Arcadia, FL 34266, 863-993-4876. If hearing or voice impaired, contact (TDD) (800)955-8771 via Florida Relay System. Published 4/24/14 & 5/1/14 146548 3031344

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2014 DR 0205 Autumn D. German Rivera, Petitioner and Wily's German, Respondent NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE TO: Wily's German 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, Autumn German Rivera whose address is, 209 N. Monroe Avenue, Arcadia, FL 34266 on or before May 23, 2014 and file the original with the clerk of this Court at 115 E. Oak St. 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: April 21, 2014 MITZIE W. MCGAVIC CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT BY: /S/ N. Daughter Deputy Clerk Published 4/24/14, 5/1/14, 5/8/14, 5/15/14 131159 3030473

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 3120 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA CASENO.: 142014CP000028 IN RE: THE ESTATE OF BETTY L. PHILLIPS, Deceased. PROBATE DIVISION JUDGE: JAMES S. PARKER NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE TO CREDITORS The administration of the estate of BETTY L. PHILLIPS, Deceased, File No. 2014CP000028, 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 INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT: All persons on whom this notice is served who have objections that challenge the validity of the Will, the qualifications of the Personal Representative, venue, or jurisdiction of this court are required to file their objections with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All creditors of the Decedent and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is served within three months after the date of the first publication of this notice must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the Decedent and persons having claims or demands against the Decedent's estate must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS, DEMANDS AND OBJECTIONS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. PAUL BENNETT SEUSY, P.A. Attorneys for Petitioner 203 West Oak Street Arcadia, Florida 34266 863-491-7285 Office 863-491-8262 Facsimile E-Mail: paul@paulseusy.com By: Paul Bennett Seusy, Esquire Florida Bar No. 0690252 Personal Representative:

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS 3120

Robert D. Phillips, Sr.
3550 13th Street
Moline, Illinois 61265
Published 4/24/14 & 5/1/14
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The date of the first publication of this Notice is April, _____, 2014

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE 3122

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2012 CA 000382 GMAC MORTGAGE, LLC, Plaintiff, vs. STEVEN G. HANCOCK; et al., Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT SALE WILL BE MADE PURSUANT TO AN ORDER OR FINAL SUMMARY JUDGMENT. Final Judgment was awarded on February 4, 2013 in Civil Case No. 2012 CA 000382, of the Circuit Court of the Judicial Circuit in and for DESOTO COUNTY, Florida, wherein, GMAC MORTGAGE, LLC is the Plaintiff, and STEVEN G. HANCOCK; JAN A. HANCOCK; AND UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION are Defendants. The clerk of the court, Mitzie W. McGavic, will sell to the highest bidder for cash at Desoto County Courthouse, 115 Oak Street, Arcadia, FL 34266 at 11:00 a.m. on May 22, 2014 the following described real property as set forth in said Final Summary Judgment, to wit:

PARCEL "A": THE N 1/2 OF THE S 1/2 OF THE SE 1/4 OF THE NE 1/4 OF SW 1/4 OF SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 38 SOUTH, RANGE 25 EAST. SUBJECT TO ROAD R/W ALONG THE EAST SIDE. SUBJECT TO RESERVATIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND EASEMENTS OF RECORD IN THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA. ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

Aldridge | Connors, LLP
Attorney for Plaintiff(s)
1615 South Congress Avenue
Suite 200
Delray Beach, FL 33445
Phone: 561.392.6391
Fax: 561.392.6965
BY: /s/ Sarah M. Barbaccia
Fla. Bar FBN 30043
Primary E-Mail:
ServiceMail@aclawllp.com

IMPORTANT

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 5/1/14 & 5/8/14 334261 3034705

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO:

14-2013-CA-000075
JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
Plaintiff,
vs.

LUIS O. ALVAREZ; SHANNON ALVAREZ; UNKNOWN TENANT I; UNKNOWN TENANT II; DESOTO COUNTY, A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, and any unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, and other unknown persons or unknown spouses claiming by, through and under any of the above-named Defendants,

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE 3122

Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the undersigned Clerk of the Circuit Court of DeSoto County, Florida, will on the 27th day of May, 2014, 11:00AM at 115 East Oaks St, Arcadia, FL 34266, offer for sale and sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for cash, the following-described property situate in DeSoto County, Florida:
LOT 5, BLOCK "D", FOREST PINE ESTATES, AS PER MAP OR PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA, IN PLAT BOOK 9, PAGE 20.

pursuant to the Final Judgment entered in a case pending in said Court, the style of which is indicated above. Any person or entity claiming an interest in the surplus, if any, resulting from the foreclosure sale, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens, must file a claim on same with the Clerk of Court within 60 days after the foreclosure sale. WITNESS my hand and official seal of said Court this 16th day of April, 2014.

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.

Mitzie W. McGavic
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
By: Crystal M. Henderson
Deputy Clerk Published 5/1/14
109392 3034723

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 12TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION

CASE NO.
2013CA000268AXMA
BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.
Plaintiff,
vs.

ROSA LINDA MARTINEZ; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ROSA LINDA MARTINEZ; DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA; FORD MOTOR CREDIT COMPANY; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY; Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated April 16, 2014, and entered in Case No. 2013CA000268AXMA, of the Circuit Court of the 12th Judicial Circuit in and for DESOTO COUNTY, Florida, wherein BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. is Plaintiff and ROSA LINDA MARTINEZ; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ROSA LINDA MARTINEZ; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY; DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA; FORD MOTOR CREDIT COMPANY; are defendants. I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash AT SOUTH DOOR OF COURTHOUSE., at 115 EAST OAK STREET, ARCADIA IN DESOTO County, FLORIDA 34266, at 11:00 A.M., on the 27 day of May, 2014, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit: LOT 4 AND THE NORTH 6 FEET OF LOT 5, TROPICAL HOMES SUBDIVISION, AS PER MAP OR PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT IN AN D FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA, IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 73.

A person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. Dated this 16 day of April, 2014
MITZIE MCGAVIC
As Clerk of said Court
By /s/ Crystal M. Henderson
As Deputy Clerk
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 provisions of

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE 3122

certain assistance. Please contact the Desoto County Clerk's Office, 115 East Oak Street, Arcadia, FL 34266, Phone No. (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. Submitted by:
Kahane & Associates, P.A.
8201 Peters Road, Ste.3000
Plantation, FL 33324
Telephone: (954) 382-3486
Telefacsimile: (954) 382-5380
Designated service email: notice@kahaneandassociates.com
Published 5/1/14 & 5/8/14
221363 3034718

NOTICE OF SALE 3130

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA Case No.: 14 2009 CA 000696 Section: PENNYMAC CORP. Plaintiff, v.

JOSEPH PURSELL; 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; MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC.; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; STATE OF FLORIDA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; JOHN DOE N/K/A PEDRO MARTINEZ; JANE DOE N/K/A MARCH E. FOX-MARTINEZ. Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order of Final Summary Judgment of Foreclosure dated December 11, 2013 entered in Civil Case No. 14 2009 CA 000696 of the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit in and for DeSoto County, Florida, wherein the Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest bidder for cash on the 22nd day of May, 2014, at 11:00 a.m. at the South door of the DeSoto County Courthouse, 115 East Oak Street, Arcadia, Florida 34266, in accordance with Chapter 45 Florida Statutes, relative to the following described property as set forth in the Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 18 AND THE SOUTH 1/2 OF LOT 16, BLOCK 4, TIER 4, A.W. GILCHRIST'S EAST END ADDITION TO ARCADIA, AS PER MAP OR PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT, IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA, IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 27, AND RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK C-5, PAGE 48.

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

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.

Dated at ARCADIA, Florida this 9th day of April, 2014

/s/N. Daughtrey
Mitzie W. Gavic
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT DeSoto County, Florida
RWELL, JR., ESQ., 400 NORTH TAMPA STREET, SUITE 3200, TAMPA, FL 33602 Published 4/24/14 & 5/1/14 329037 3031498

NOTICE OF SALE 3130

NOTICE OF SALE

Rainbow Title & Lien, Inc. will sell at Public Sale at Auction the following vehicles to satisfy lien pursuant to Chapter 713.585 of the Florida Statutes on May 22, 2014 at 10 A.M.

AUCTION WILL OCCUR WHERE EACH VEHICLE/VESSEL IS LOCATED

2005 Dodge Neon
Vin# 1B3ES56C45D236098
Lien amount: \$2,621.40
a) Notice to the owner or lienor that he has a right to a hearing prior to the scheduled date of sale by filling with the Clerk of the Court.

b) Owner has the right to recover possession of vehicle by posting bond in accordance with Florida Statutes Section 559.917.

c) Proceeds from the sale of the vehicle after payment lien claimed by lienor will be deposited with the Clerk of the Court. Any person(s) claiming any interest(s) in the above vehicles contact:

Rainbow Title & Lien, Inc.
954-920-6020

ALL AUCTIONS ARE HELD WITH RESERVE

Some of the vehicles may have been released prior to auction LIC# AB-0001256
Published 5/1/14 325727 3034712

Get the Word out - Advertise in the Classifieds!

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case Number: 2012 CA 698

KEVIN A. NEHRBOSS AND JESSICA NEHRBOSS, Plaintiffs, v.

ANN PELHAM, A SINGLE WOMAN, PETER J. BOUGHTON, DECEASED

LEONARD BOUGHTON, JOHN BOUGHTON, JUNE HERNANDEZ, JANICE DOZIER CHARLES BOUGHTON, PETER JAMES BOUGHTON, WARREN BOUGHTON JOHN BOUGHTON, DECEASED AND ANY ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES

CLAIMING THROUGH, UNDER AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS 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.

CLERK'S NOTICE OF SALE UNDER F.S. CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS GIVEN that under a final judgment dated APRIL 16, 2014 in Case No. 012 CA 698 of the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit in and for DeSoto County, Florida, in which KEVIN A. NEHRBOSS and JESSICA NEHRBOSS are Plaintiff and ANN PELHAM, A SINGLE WOMAN, PETER J. BOUGHTON, DECEASED

LEONARD BOUGHTON, JOHN BOUGHTON, JUNE HERNANDEZ, JANICE DOZIER CHARLES BOUGHTON, PETER JAMES BOUGHTON, WARREN BOUGHTON, JOHN BOUGHTON, DECEASED, are Defendants, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at DESOTO COUNTY COURTHOUSE 115 Oak Street, Arcadia, FL 34266, at 11:00 AM, on JUNE 3, 2014, the following described property set forth in the Order of Final Judgment:

Lot 33, PINK CREEK ACRES, an unrecorded plat also being described as:

The West 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of NW 1/4 of section 30, Township 37 South, Range 24 East, Desoto County, Florida. Subject to a 30 foot easement along West side for road drainage and utilities.

WITNESS my hand and seal on April 24, 2014 FOR THE COURT AND THE CLERK OF DESOTO COURT, MITZIE W. MCGAVIC

LAW OFFICES OF REID & AGEE, PLLC
By: David C. Agee, Esquire
FL Bar No.: 0695343
P.O. Box 6202
Bradenton, FL 34205
Tel. 941.756.8791
PUBLISHED 4/24/14 & 5/1/14
356280 3029625

OTHER NOTICES 3138

NOTICE OF INTENT TO DEMOLISH

The structure(s) located at:
1802 SW Duke St.
Arcadia Florida 34266,
Parcel
#01-38-24-0190-0030-0100

1448 SE Peach Dr.
Nocatee Florida 34268
Parcel
#06-38-25-0120-00M0-0060

4313 SW HWY 17.
Arcadia Florida 34266
Parcel
#23-38-24-0410-00B0-0130

4495 SW HWY 17.
Arcadia Florida 34266
Parcel
#23-38-24-0242-0130-0100

9738 SW Short Dr.
Arcadia Florida 34266
Parcel
#22-39-23-0093-00C0-0010

have been deemed to be dilapidated structures by the DeSoto County Building Official per DeSoto County Ordinance No 2000-11 (Demolition and Removal of Dilapidated Structures). The Owner or other interested parties for the said structure are hereby notified that the County of DeSoto Florida, will proceed to have the structure(s) demolished (30) thirty days from the date of this Notice if said structure is not substantially repaired or demolished and debris removed from the property by this date. A lien will be placed against the property to recover all cost of the demolitions and removal of debris. If as a result of this Notice, the Owner of the structure wishes to repair the structure, notice is hereby given that the repairs must be made only after acquiring the appropriate permits. If as a result of this Notice, the Owner of the structure wishes to demolish the structure, notice is hereby given that the demolition must be done only after acquiring the appropriate permit. To request an extension of time, the Owner must contact the Building Official, Lester Hornbake at 863-993-4811 within 30 days of the date of this notice. An affected Owner has the right to seek judicial relief from this action. The affected Owner should file the appropriate Petition in the court of the jurisdiction within (30) days of this notice.

Published: Sun 4/24/14 & 5/1/14
Arcadian 5/1/14 & 5/8/14
101305 3031088

UBS Financial/ Thornhill Group are the sponsoring the event. Conley Thornhill of UBS Financial/ Thornhill Group as well as Steve Hamic and Erica Scheipsmeier of Hamic, Jones, Hamic & Sturwold, will be the keynote speakers. Growers are urged to not only educate themselves but their office staff, especially bookkeepers or anyone responsible for financials or tax preparation. For more information, call Katie Marks at 863-494-0061 or email oj@prvcitrus.org.

Peace River Valley Citrus Growers Association's mission is to promote, protect, and enhance the ability of its members to produce citrus profitability and efficiency. PRVCGA represents commercial citrus growers in Desoto, Hardee, Manatee, Charlotte and Sarasota counties. The association has approximately 250 grower members and 150 associate members. For additional information contact the association at 863-494-0061.

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Citrus growers learn about tax issues

Citrus growers are invited to join Peace River Valley Citrus Growers Association for a luncheon at the Tuner Exhibition Hall, 2250 N.E. Roan St., where the second Spring Grower Round Table will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on May 8.

The topic will be Tax Implications from Obama Care for Growers. Drastic changes to the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 and the Affordable Health Care Act have created confusion for agricultural employers. This meeting will help you understand your requirements for full-time and part time employees. It will also delve into the tax consequences you need to prepare your company to address this new federal legislation

UBS Financial/ Thornhill Group are the sponsoring the event. Conley Thornhill of UBS Financial/ Thornhill Group as well as Steve Hamic and Erica Scheipsmeier of Hamic, Jones, Hamic & Sturwold, will be the keynote speakers. Growers are urged to not only educate themselves but their office staff, especially bookkeepers or anyone responsible for financials or tax preparation. For more information, call Katie Marks at 863-494-0061 or email oj@prvcitrus.org.

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Donate your Boat, Car, Truck, RV, Plane, or Real Estate to help people needing organ transplants on MatchingDonors.com

1-800-385-

FINALISTS

FROM PAGE 1

geology/chemistry, University of South Florida; Bachelor of Science, surveying and mapping, University of Florida

Background: GIS/MSBU/IT director for the Charlotte County Board of Commissioners; City of Punta Gorda administrative services director; City of Punta Gorda director of growth management.



MURPHY

Highlights: Though not a DeSoto resident, Murphy's name may be familiar to many. He was the co-owner of Pies & Plates restaurant in Punta Gorda, and often serves as a referee for many DeSoto County High School games. He notes that his biggest accomplishment is helping to rebuild Punta Gorda in the aftermath of Hurricane Charley, exceeding the city and county's expectations in terms of rebuilding and long-term development/growth.

When asked about his management style, Murphy said his upbringing in a military family and education as an engineer have instilled a deadline-driven attitude, with an emphasis on being detail-oriented. "As an engineer I admit I can be anal retentive, and I ensure any numbers of other items are checked and then re-checked," he said. He added that during his time working in Charlotte County, he learned the most efficient leaders were those who chose to stay clear of politics. "I'm a facilitator. I learned a long time ago to stay out of the political game," he said. "Many times in a position such as this, you need to take a breath, count to three, and make sure staff knows its job is to work at the direction of the city council. The administrator needs to stay out of the politics, and understand their main responsibility is to enforce the policies set in place." When a council member asked him if he had a problem saying no, Murphy responded, "I have two kids and six grandkids; I can so no with the best of them."

When asked what the city's biggest weakness is, Murphy said he recently toured the area and the answer was clear. "It's obvious your streets need to be addressed," he said. "I also noticed liability issues with several of your trees pushing up against the sidewalks." Murphy said if hired he would immediately look for grants and state funding to help expedite the process. He also mentioned discussing a district tax (voter approval required) that would be used solely for infrastructure repair. "This is something the residents of Deep Creek approved years ago, and for them it has worked out very well," he said. He continued that his vision for Arcadia in seven years would be to have all the sewers and roads fixed. "I see that as a reasonable goal for this city in that time," he said. "The first two years alone would be focused on a design and coming up with a schedule. Infrastructure is a quality of life issue, and my goal if hired would be that by the time I left this position, I will have convinced residents that the city has provided them with good bang for their buck."

Murphy said he was willing to relocate within the county, and would ideally be with the city for seven years, at which time he would retire.

Stephen Holsinger

Current City: Willows, Calif.

Interview: Skype video chat

Education: Bachelor of Science, psychology, St. Francis College; Masters in Business Administration, Nova University

Background: City of Cape Coral Human resources director/fleet and warehouse manager/personnel specialist; Nye County, Nevada general services director; City of Cloverdale, Calif. interim city manager; City of Cloverdale, Calif. assistant to the city manager; City of Willows, Calif., city



HOLSINGER

manager.

Highlights: Holsinger told the council his people skills were his strongest asset, along with his ability to foster relationships with neighboring communities. He cited several examples where he was able to grow the city of Willows due to partnerships with the county or nearby cities. "You can't be on an island and survive in this economy," he said. He added the city should be partnering with the county to help it fix its roads. "The city and county engineers should be working together to come up with a pavement management process, and there should be discussions regarding a fuel tax, sales tax or grants to help fund the repairs," he said. "Arcadia is not only the county seat, but it's the only incorporated city in DeSoto; they should be investing heavily in you because it's in their best interests."

Regarding his management style, Holsinger said he relies on a strong staff to assist him in his job. "I strongly believe in a policy of openness and honesty," he said. "I like people with me, not for me. I want people who trust in me and can carry me across the finish line, not the other way around."

When asked where he saw Arcadia in seven years, Holsinger had an interesting answer. "I don't think it's my choice, the community's voice should lead the way," he said. "Things like strategic planning initiatives are great, but what are the residents' opinions? I want to give the community what it wants, not what I want." He did mention the large amount of land to expand; the city airport and antique district were great assets that he would use to market the city to potential developers.

Holsinger noted he owns property in Punta Gorda and plans on retiring there in five years, which is the shortest commitment from any of the candidates. The council had no follow-up questions for Holsinger, and adjourned the meeting after the interview.

Paul Poczobut Jr.

Current city: Ada, Minn.

Interview: Skype video chat

Education: Bachelor of Science, information systems management, University of Maryland; Master of Public Administration, Troy State University (Pacific Division)

Background: U.S. Navy; City of Greensburg, Kansas, administrator/clerk; City of Turner, Ore., administrator/recorder; City of Taylor, Ariz., assistant town manager; City of Orland, Calif., city manager; City of Ada, Minn., city administrator.

Highlights: Poczobut told the council that after researching the city, he believes Arcadia needs to work on developing a team concept. "I've read what you have been through, and one of the first things I would do is to get the staff trained in the area of customer service," he said. "It's the city's biggest problem; you need to get them that training and have the employees feel like they're part of the team and not individuals. They need to know the money in their pockets from their paychecks is there because of the citizens." And like Holsinger, Poczobut said he would encourage partnerships with other communities, and rely heavily on organizations such as the chamber of commerce.

Poczobut said the biggest accomplishment of his career was cutting the city of Orland's budget by 25 percent during the economic recession without reducing staff or services. "That had to be one of the biggest obstacles I've been faced with as an administrator," he said. He added that he is a proponent of zero-based budgeting, noting, "It should be done every five years. Keeping a close eye on the budget is key. The administrator is the leader, but needs to work closely with the finance director and department heads. There should be a budget evaluation done monthly so there are no surprises."

When asked how he would fix Arcadia's street issues, Poczobut said the first step is to form a master plan. "There's nothing



POCZOBUT

more disconcerting to me than having a master plan that sits on the shelf. That happens a lot in city government, but it won't with me. You must be transparent in the process, and if you are going to use taxpayer money, you better make sure you spend it where you said you would."

Poczobut told the council they would be hard-pressed to find a more dedicated candidate, and committed himself to becoming a long-term member of the community. "My wife and I have family (in Florida) and I want to help the city," he said. "I wouldn't have applied if I couldn't do this job, and do it well," he said. "I promise you I won't use this as a stepping stone. It's my belief that you will never find anyone more dedicated to their job than me." The council had one follow-up question for Poczobut, and adjourned the meeting after the interview.

Ernest Hewett III

Current city: Arcadia

Interview: In person

Education: Bachelor of Science, animal science/pre-veterinary medicine, University of Florida; Master of Science, agricultural and extension education, University of Florida; Ph.D. in agricultural engineering, Michigan State University



HEWETT

Background: Professor; irrigation design engineer; agricultural consulting engineer; engineer extension associate; application equipment engineer; City of Arcadia special projects coordinator; consulting systems engineer.

Highlights: Although Hewett interviewed with the council in person, he chose to read his answers off a prepared script, only varying from his printed answers on a few occasions. In response to the council's question as to why he should be chosen as the next city administrator, Hewett cited his engineering background, stating that engineers are taught critical thinking skills, which will "improve efficiency and productivity of almost any work scenario." He also cited a list of 11 community leaders who he claimed endorsed his candidacy for the position, ranging from Margaret Way to former city administrator Edward Strube, to Sheriff Will Wise and Marshal Matt Anderson. In response to a question regarding the city's recent struggles to find a permanent administrator, Hewett answered, "Yes, statistically speaking, with your string of bad luck, you might have a better chance of winning the Powerball lottery than choosing the right administrator." He continued that the endorsements from the 11 individuals listed was proof that "their recommendation should definitely increase your odds of getting it right this time." At least one individual Hewett referenced on the list, however, told the *Arcadian* they only gave Hewett permission to use them as a reference, and was never contacted regarding any formal endorsement.

Hewett said his management style is based off a system of authority and chain-of-command when not abused, and that team building is vital to success.

"I do not believe in targeting employees, especially for personal reasons." He added his years of experience as an educator have provided a strong background in evaluating employee performance.

In response to a question asking what he sees as the city's biggest problem, Hewett suggested it was public perception. "I know you want me to say finances, infrastructure and roads, but these all have been exaggerated by previous administrators and finance directors," he said. "While they are a concern they can be overcome with a competent administrator." When asked where he sees Arcadia seven years from now, Hewett responded, "I suspect without my assistance the city will likely be where it is today." Hewett also cautioned the council on developing its master plan, saying, "With my assistance and by developing a master plan in cooperation with DeSoto County, the city could be light years ahead without destroying the friendly, small-town flavor that still thrives or becoming another

North Port."

After Hewett finished his prepared statement, the council adjourned without asking any follow-up questions.

Thomas Slaughter

Current city: Punta Gorda

Interview: In person

Education: Bachelor of Science, liberal arts, University of Wisconsin-River Falls; Master of Science, urban and regional planning, Florida State University



SLAUGHTER

Background: U.S. Army; Charlotte County, planner; City of North Port, senior planner; City of Venice, development services division manager; City of Arcadia, planner; City of Arcadia, interim city administrator.

Highlights: Slaughter, the final candidate to interview, has served as interim administrator for the city since former administrator Judith Jankosky led a massive exodus of city staff this past October.

He told the council he believed his background as a planner and his time as interim gave him an advantage in terms of city administration. "There's no better jack-of-all-trades job than being a city planner," he said. "I've had the opportunity to deal with a variety of subjects, and my skill set is more than adequate for many of the challenges the city faces. I'm structured but I get bored with too much repetition. That's why I got involved in city government; there is always something new to be addressed."

Slaughter said one of the biggest challenges the city faces is the small number of staff members with education levels beyond high school. "We have three degreed people on this staff," he said. "Compared to the staff at the county level, for example, we're lagging. Smart people make smart decisions, and I'd like to see the staff get additional training, and in the next seven years see the number of staff members with college degrees double or even triple. The management team needs to step up its game." He also noted there needs to be improvement in customer service and dialogue between staff and council. "This is a friendly community, and our staff need to reflect that in the service they provide," he said.

When asked about his management style, Slaughter said he considers himself straightforward and transparent. "When an employee comes in for a performance review, they should never be surprised by my answers," he said. "I strive to meet with my staff as often as possible, and to help them grow into their positions. I've told each of them that they don't need to be loyal to me, they need to be loyal to their positions and their community."

In terms of his role preparing the budget, Slaughter said it should be a shared responsibility between the council and staff. "I've never seen a successful city that's not balanced," he said. "In the past the staff haven't been asked to engage, and this year they will be. It's important for department heads to be directly involved in this process, and that's a change we need to make."

Slaughter said his experience going through the chaos that ensued after last October's exodus only strengthened his belief that the city has a bright future. "My first thought after they left was that it was their loss; we'll move forward and succeed," he said. "We have so much to offer, and I want to be a part of bringing stability here and seeing our plans for future development come to fruition."

Before the interview ended, Mayor Alice Frierson asked Slaughter what he would go back and change, if he could, since being named interim administrator. "I've learned that what works in one community isn't necessarily a perfect fit for another," he said. "There were times I was premature making certain spending decisions. There were situations where some (people) felt left out of the equation, and I've learned sometimes you need to slow down so everyone can be involved in the process."

Elks install new officers for the year



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY JACKIE TUCKER

The newly installed Arcadia Elks Lodge 1524 officers for 2014-15 are, from left (front): Joseph Newton, Nancy Higginbotham, Mary Lyne (past Exalted Ruler), David Smith, Ken Shatney; (back) Jackie Tucker (past Exalted Ruler), Louis Wilson, Ken Camp, Bill Blocker (Exalted Ruler), Keith Keene (past District Deputy) and Kevin Durrance.



Jackie Tucker receives the award for The Elks Volunteer of the Year presented by past Exalted Ruler Pete Nicolas.



Butch Truman of the Deep Creek Elks, and past district deputy, installs Bill Blocker as the new Exalted Ruler at the Arcadia Elks Lodge.



The late Joe Newton Sr. was awarded the Elk of the Year title by Arcadia Elks Lodge 1424. He was a strong supporter of the Elks and its youth programs and active in fundraising over the years. His son, Joseph Newton Jr., at center, accepts the award on his father's behalf from Keith Keene, past District Deputy, and Brian Burns, Florida State Elks President.



Billy Wooten, center, received the Officer of the Year award from Keith Keene and Brian Burns.

Ken Shatney receives a plaque "For Outstanding Service," presented by past Exalted Ruler Pete Nicolas.



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

New food distribution site

Arcadia Housing Authority is the latest partner with All Faiths Food Bank. Arcadia Housing Authority is the only distribution site in DeSoto County for the Sprout Mobile Farm Market sponsored by All Faiths Food Bank. What a great way to eat healthy!

On the second and fourth Friday of each month from 10 a.m. to 11:30

a.m., at AHA's north side parking lot, a truck will be handing out free fruits and vegetables to low-income clients in Arcadia/DeSoto County. Three to five volunteers are needed each time. If you are interested in helping, call AHA at 494-4343.

Manatee Rare Fruit Council tree sale

More than 4,000 plants of all varieties and sizes will be offered at

reasonable prices at the Manatee Rare Fruit Council's tree sale on Sunday, May 18. This year marks 26 years of producing the best and largest Rare Fruit Sale on Florida's west coast.

The sale will again be held at the Bradenton Area Convention Center, 1 Haben Blvd., in Palmetto. More vendors, more variety, more space with air conditioning, free parking and free admission. Sale hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Many additional plant-related items will also be sold, including the council's specially formulated Fruitilizer plant food, cookbooks, honey and more. Nurserymen from all parts of Florida will offer best varieties of every kind of fruit tree at this once-a-year event. Come and make your yard not only beautiful, but productive and

enjoyable. Visit the club's website at www.mrfc.org for more info, including a searchable archive of data on fruit propagation.

The Manatee Rare Fruit Council is a non-profit group working to introduce, propagate and distribute the many rare tropical and sub-tropical fruits that thrive in our unique Southwest Florida climate. Tree Sale proceeds support the council's Fruiting Plant and Tree Display at Bradenton's Palma Sola Botanical Park. A self-guiding tour using your Smart Phone is available. Visit this little gem before the sale, and make a wish list. The council holds monthly meetings at the Manatee Fairgrounds on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. Visitors and guests are welcome and encouraged.

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OUR VIEW

FROM PAGE 4

impressed with the caliber of some of the candidates who are seeking this job, and we are confident that among them are one or more who could help lead Arcadia away from the brink of financial disaster and toward a more promising future.

A workshop could be scheduled for an hour on Monday evening or even Tuesday before the council meeting. That would put council members, we hope, in a good position to make a choice Tuesday night. The faster we get

a good candidate on board, the faster we can start moving forward again, rather than just marking time as we have been for the past six months.

Finally, we hope council has done its own homework by checking the references, education, background and other investigation we recommended for each of the candidates. As we said before, had thorough background checks (not just criminal records) been done with a prior administrator before hiring, she probably would never have been offered the job. We strongly urge Council not to make the same mistake this time.

Let's do it right this time. Please don't blow it.

Goat show draws exhibitors, vendors from around the state



ARCADIAN PHOTOS BY JOHN BLACK, photeteke@gmail.com

Zachary and Joshua Seiler of Myakka City discuss strategies before they enter the show ring. Both have previously won Grand Champion in their classes.

Nicole Kaster from Englewood leads the first round of the LaMancha showmanship event, followed by Kelly Lowrimore, from Palmetto. The American Dairy Goat Association-sanctioned event held Saturday at the Turner Center attracted both exhibitors and vendors with a variety of goat milk products.



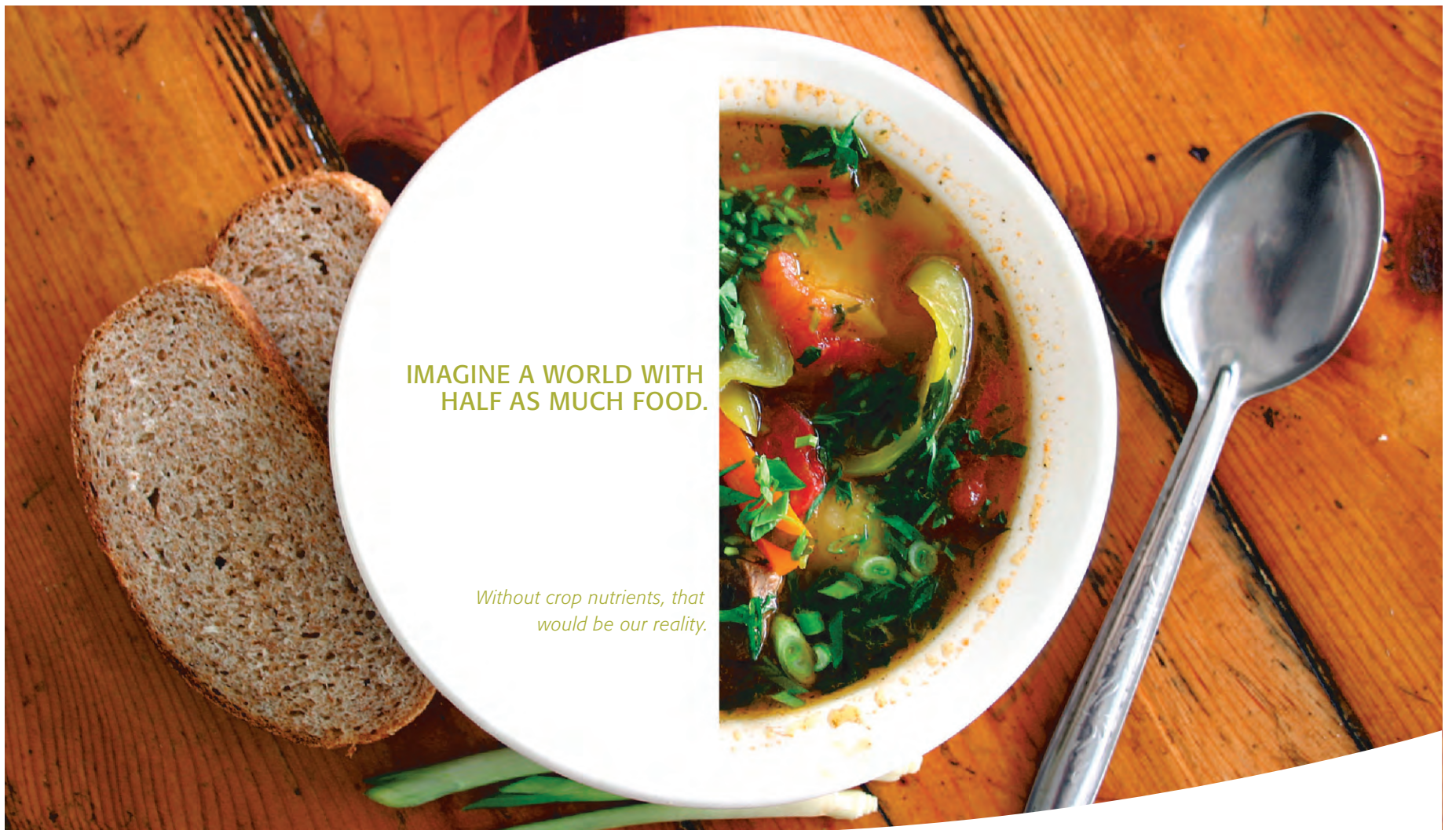
Faith Seiler of Myakka City grooms her La Mancha goat "Lucille," polishing her hooves to get ready for the show ring. A 4-H showmanship event was part of the day's events, which included an American Dairy Goat Association show.



Clinton Rose, from Fort Myers assists Valerie Avine from Cape Coral, teaching her how to lead her goat "Cupcake." A 4-H showmanship class was part of Saturday's dairy goat show in DeSoto County.



Deedra Earl from Hidden Palms, Palm Bay, Fla. grooms her Nigerian dwarf goat for the competition. A nationally recognized dairy goat show was held Saturday at the Turner Agri-Civic Center.



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*Source: Agronomy Journal



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PUPPY

FROM PAGE 3

reportedly assisted in this case. Merkin said the office would be grateful if someone donated a horse trailer that could be used in cases like this in the future.

"There were unsanitary conditions and noxious odors, and lots of flies," said Jorge Hernandez, director of Animal Services in DeSoto County. "Most of the kennels had no water or food; those that did, the food was old." Workers faced difficult conditions in removing all the animals safely.

Merkin said the dogs were not aggressive, but apparently had not been well-socialized and were wary of humans. Among them were huskies, Shiba Inus and some designer mixes.

The dogs were brought to Animal Services, and are being treated with antibiotics. Two mothers with puppies were among the confiscated animals. They have fleas and hookworms, many have upper-respiratory problems, conjunctivitis of the eyes, and some were dehydrated, requiring IV fluids. The owners were reportedly breeding and selling animals without the required registration.

Merkin and Hernandez prepared a petition to the court seeking custody of the animals, which was filed Wednesday with Judge Don Hall by County Attorney Don Conn. If the petition is granted, the county would secure legal custody of the dogs. Only after the county secures custody can it start adopting out some of the animals. But until that happens, none of the dogs is available for adoption and there is no waiting list.

"Debbie and her staff did an excellent job under bad conditions," Hernandez said. Having this many dogs in the county kennels is a challenge, but Merkin and her staff have been working hard to keep the animals fed, watered and clean, as well as receiving medication. Several have been bathed



ARCADIAN PHOTOS BY SUSAN E. HOFFMAN, shoffman@sun-herald.com

A "Pomsky," a cross between a Husky and a Pomeranian, looks out from its temporary kennel at the Animal Control office. A total of 56 dogs were confiscated by DeSoto County after an alleged puppy mill was raided last week.

to reduce flea infestations and others have been groomed to remove matted fur. They are also still caring for the other animals which were already in their kennels, and must still respond to emergency calls such as bite cases.

Email: shoffman@sun-herald.com



A mother husky with seven nursing pups was reportedly being kept in a small kennel the size of a pet carrier. Some of the puppies were dehydrated and required antibiotics.



A Husky/Pomeranian puppy, known as a Pomsky, is a "designer dog" that could sell for up to \$3,000. Several puppies and adult dogs were confiscated from an alleged puppy mill in Nocatee last week.



One of the 56 dogs and puppies confiscated during the raid of an alleged puppy mill looks out the gate of its pen with curiosity. Most of the dogs, said Animal Control Supervisor Debbie Merkin, had not been socialized and were wary of humans.



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