

ARCADIAN

Thursday, May 15, 2014 - 24 pages / 50 cents



A section of the Sun



After a 45-day remodeling job, the Arcadia McDonald's has reopened with a new look

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County names Hines interim admin

By STEVE BAUER

ARCADIAN ASSISTANT EDITOR

The DeSoto Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved County Coordinator Mandy Hines to serve as interim administrator until a permanent replacement is hired. The move is the result of the sudden death of Administrator Guy Maxcy on May 5.

Commissioner Bob Miller suggested Hines also receive a salary and benefits package equal to Maxcy's while she serves as the interim, saying she should be compensated for the additional workload. "We should take our time

with this (administrator search), and if Mandy is going to be the interim, I'd like to see her receive appropriate compensation," he said.

Commissioner Jim Selph cautioned that because of Hines' added responsibilities and tireless work ethic, it might be necessary to provide her with additional help. "I know Mandy; she just won't drop her other duties, but something will end up being sacrificed because of that," he said. "At some point if this search process drags out, we might need to find a way to get her help."

Hines said several members of the

staff had already offered their assistance, and she appreciated the commissioners' support and confidence.

County Attorney Donald Conn suggested Human Resources Director Don Kesterson prepare a job description and qualifications list. The board could then formally approve the language and decide on advertising options at the next meeting.

Sales tax for indigent care

Representatives from DeSoto Memorial Hospital asked the board to allow a 1/2-cent sales tax referendum

on November's ballot. The tax is expected to generate \$1 million yearly and could be used only for indigent care.

Dr. Vaidy Nathan, who is also a member of the hospital's board of directors, said DMH needs the additional money to prevent the hospital from closing, noting the lack of medical services in the county would be devastating for residents and businesses. "The closure of the hospital means that no one will have access to medical care, and it will have a trickle-down effect on the entire county," he said. "Not only would you

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Regional water plant — billions of gallons served

By SUSAN E. HOFFMAN

ARCADIAN EDITOR

At the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority's annual tour and barbecue last week, they had a chance to tout a \$1.5 million grant from the State of Florida toward its current renovation and expansion project.

The Authority's Executive Director, Patrick Lehman, said it is in the middle of a \$12.8 million project in which they are rehabilitating tanks and equipment that date back to General Development days.

"When General Development went bankrupt in 1991, the tanks and equipment they had built in 1979 were transferred to this authority, which was formed to serve DeSoto, Charlotte and Sarasota counties and the city of North Port," Lehman said. The treatment plant is located on S.W. Kings Highway in DeSoto County, just south of County Road 761, and covers more than 300 acres. A large reservoir is located on adjacent property owned by the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

The current project includes sand-blasting, repairing and sealing two large concrete tanks, called clarifiers, along with sand filters and related equipment. Lehman pointed out the metal pipes and equipment which, over the years, had rusted and decayed.

"We have invested more than \$300 million over the last 10 years," he said. One of the features of that investment is the one-mile-square reservoir, which stores 6 billion gallons of water.

PRMRWSA is financing some of the current renovation work with money



Patrick Lehman, executive director of the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority, points out the areas served by the authority and the plans for additional pipelines.

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

Raw water enters a series of large tanks, called clarifiers, where chemicals are mixed to coagulate contaminants before it flows into filters for further treatment and disinfection. The Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority can treat up to 48 million gallons of water daily and operates 65 miles of pipelines to deliver water in DeSoto, Charlotte and Sarasota counties.

it held in reserves. DeSoto County will owe \$150,000 toward that cost, but Charlotte County users will pay much of the balance. Charlotte County uses about 10 million gallons of the 24.5 million gallons of water the authority delivers every day, but the renovation,

Lehman said, will cost the typical Charlotte household only about a penny a day.

The plant takes water out of the Peace River through four large intake pumps. The authority is limited on when it may take water from the river

— no withdrawals are allowed during low-flow periods, so the river and estuary habitats will be protected. But when the river is high, more than 100 million gallons per day may be

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Board, doctors clash on how to save hospital

By **SUSAN E. HOFFMAN**
ARCADIAN EDITOR

ARCADIA — When the DeSoto Memorial Hospital board of directors met last Thursday with doctors and allied medical associates, the atmosphere quickly became contentious.

The special meeting was slated following the April 24 regular board meeting, when Dr. Steven Mishkind told the board the doctors were vigorously opposed to the board's plan to try to sell the hospital. Thursday's gathering was intended to let the medical staff express their concerns and submit any ideas they had to save the hospital.

Chairperson Janie Watson said, "We did go forward with the (Request

for Proposal) to sell the hospital. We're open to anything — a buyer, lessor, partner, joint venture, affiliate, anything to continue the vision of this hospital."

Saying the board understood the doctors' concerns, Watson said, "We could make the 'Physicians' Perspective' a regular item on the agenda."

She added it would be helpful if the doctors could join board members in going out in the public, such as attending Chamber of Commerce events, to make their views known.

Dr. Kayum Mohammadbhoy said, "First we have to decide what we're looking for. We used to have a facility that provided excellent care for years. If it is sold, we can't assure we can

continue to provide that care." He cited the hospital in Wauchula which was sold, and now does not provide the kind of care DeSoto has been providing. "We need to hold onto the hospital to provide that care," he said.

Dr. Mohan Narayanan said a large hospital corporation is not going to care about a small hospital in a small town like Arcadia. He also noted laboratory testing is more frequently being referred to facilities other than the hospital for tests that could be done here.

But he mentioned some needs the hospital has to fulfill, such as coding, which he believes is not being "done to the level it should be" to capture Medicare benefits and expedite collections.

Referrals at issue

Board Member Dan Presilla questioned whether doctors are performing some of their own tests and procedures rather than referring them to the hospital. Dr. Wael Alokheh answered, "You can't ask me to take from my own business to give it to the hospital. We have a business to run also."

"You're telling the board not to do some things but you're unwilling to do some things to help us, like referrals," Presilla said.

Alokheh, however, said the doctors have to keep their own office

HOSPITAL | 8

Challenge raised over 10 teachers fired without cause

By **SUSAN E. HOFFMAN**
ARCADIAN EDITOR

DeSoto County School Superintendent Karyn Gary exercised her discretion and authority to dismiss 10 DeSoto teachers without cause.

Gary said under a 2011 amendment of the Florida statutes, for teachers hired after July 1, 2011, the district may issue probationary contracts, and teachers working under a probationary contract may be dismissed without cause. (Teachers under an annual contract, after the probationary period, can be dismissed only for "just cause," under the law.)

But at Tuesday's School Board

meeting, Tom Morgan, president of the DeSoto County Teachers Association, told School Board members the fired teachers should be given a reason why they are not being asked to return for the next school year. "They could work on improvements if they knew why they weren't being renewed," said Morgan. "If the problem is not their teaching, then what is it, and can't it be dealt with in other ways?"

Morgan said, "This district is willing to turn away proven teachers for unknown reasons." He urged the School Board to give the fired teachers a second chance and review Gary's decisions.

School Board member Ronny Allen asked for a list of the teachers who are

being dismissed.

Gary later said, however, because the law allows probationary teachers to be fired without cause, the School Board cannot reverse the decision. If she were to give a cause, Gary said, it could be harder for those teachers to find a job elsewhere with that on their record.

Graduation requirements

School Board Member Rodney Hollingsworth questioned a letter that had been sent out by high school Principal Nelson Stephenson to graduating seniors. The letter stated seniors were required to attend the awards night and the baccalaureate or they would not be allowed to attend graduation ceremonies.

Gary said that sentence was supposed to have been deleted and a corrected version of the letter is being sent to seniors.

The School Board discussed the proposed Lake Suzy Academy — a K through 8 public school that would focus on science, technology, engineering, arts and math — and learned 135 students have expressed interest in attending the school if it opens for the 2014-15 school year. It is expected to be on the agenda for approval during the next meeting, on May 27.

Ann Daniel reported Donny Stiner competed at the State Science Fair with 26 other students in his category and placed fifth for sound science and procedure, for which he won a cash award.

Board Member Bill Stanko said, "Fifth in the state is a big achievement. He is going up against private schools. He did a great job."

Daniel urged more students to try out for the science fair next year because \$1.7 million in scholarships are awarded.

Homeless action group meets tonight

STAFF REPORT

DeSoto Cares, a grassroots organization in DeSoto County, has recently come together to address the problems of homelessness here, with a goal of finding some solutions. They will meet at 5:15 p.m. every first and third Thursday (starting tonight) at the Housing Authority conference room, 7 Booker T. Washington Road, Arcadia.

As the group begins its mission, they will be focusing on research, identifying needed services and transitional housing.

The group has outlined an ambitious list of tasks leading to the creation of a homeless shelter in DeSoto County.

The executive board consists of Rev. Ted Hanus, Rev. Bob Vaughn, Jane Breylinger and Mike Provau. Five

committees have been identified — Grants, Facility/Needs, Site of Facility, Government and Community, and Immediate Services. Each has a general set of tasks to focus on.

Breylinger, executive director of Arcadia-DeSoto Habitat for Humanity, said, "We may not have people freezing in the streets today, but winter will come again. At issue for me personally is the fact that my fellow humankind, my neighbor, is suffering with health issues, compounded by the inadequacy of shelter. ... My conscience will not allow apathy when there are answers and solutions successfully practiced in other counties. Why should DeSoto County have less?"

Anyone interested in addressing the issues of homeless is welcome to participate.

CONGRATULATIONS

Class of 2014

Once again, it is time for us to honor our DeSoto County High School graduates. We at The Arcadian are preparing for our annual graduation keepsake edition.

It will be filled with all the senior pictures, congratulations from local businesses and loved ones, as well as many other pages filled with memories for the seniors and their families to have as their own keepsake.




This section will appear in the Arcadian on June 12th.

If you would like to have a picture or pictures of your senior and a personal message to them in our special edition, call today at 863-494-2434 for pricing and to reserve your spot.

Deadline to turn in pictures and messages is Wednesday, May 28th, 4:00PM.



For More Information:
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The remodeled McDonald's — we're lovin' it



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

Tim Vowels, left, and his Director of Operations, Dexter Lewis, pose before the newly remodeled main counter at the Arcadia McDonald's, which has just reopened after a 45-day remodeling job.



The totally remodeled dining room is open, spacious and inviting. Comfortable conversation areas and modern finishes highlight the new look.



Tim Vowels, left, owner of the Arcadia McDonald's, along with his wife, Pam, and son Brandon greet Chamber of Commerce President Penny Kurtz at a special sneak preview of the remodeled restaurant. A formal grand opening will be scheduled soon.



Totiana Ousley is excited to work at the newly remodeled McDonald's. Not only has the dining area been revamped but the entire kitchen has been renewed with the latest equipment.

No matter what you're looking for, Check the Sun Classified first! From a new job to a place to live, Classified has what you need!

Watermelon Festival: Celebrating DeSoto's sweet treat

STAFF REPORT

The Watermelon Festival returns Saturday to celebrate one of DeSoto County's juiciest fruits. The event takes place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at DeSoto Veterans Memorial Park and includes craft vendors, musical entertainment and, of course, pageants.

Pageants are scheduled for the title of Watermelon Queen, Jubilee Pageant, Princess Pageant, Crimson Sweet Pageant and Sugar Babe Pageant. The

Queen will compete for the Florida State Watermelon Pageant. There will be a Photogenic Award Winner in each pageant.

Also scheduled are the Wacky River Race, a Bed Race, Kids Korner, seed-spitting contest, watermelon-eating contest, arts and crafts and plenty of good food — including watermelon, of course.

More information and contact numbers can be found on the Arcadia Main Street website, www.arcadiamainstreet.com.



ARCADIAN FILE PHOTO

The Watermelon Festival takes place this weekend at DeSoto Veterans Memorial Park. Hopeful pageant winners, like these young ladies from last year's event, will don their prettiest watermelon-themed outfits as they compete for coveted titles.

Two great offers. Don't Miss it!

LEGO LEGOLAND FLORIDA **LEGO LEGOLAND WATER PARK**

Police, Fire and EMS Appreciation Days

During the month of May, all Police, Fire and EMS employees will receive 1 complimentary single day ticket to LEGOLAND Florida and may purchase up to an additional 4 single day tickets for \$40 each.*
 Guests may upgrade to the Water Park on day of visit.**
 Please present your employment status photo ID at LEGOLAND Florida's front gate to redeem this offer.
 *Plus tax. Offer not valid on-line or through third party ticket sales locations.
 No refunds on pre-purchased tickets. Please refer to LEGOLAND.com for operating hours.
 **The Water Park has limited hours in May; please visit www.LEGOLAND.com for details.

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To find out more about these programs, please contact Amanda Amico, Corporate Sales Representative, at 863-837-8326 or amanda.amico@legoland.com.
 Visit LEGOLAND.com for park operating hours and additional park information.

VIEWPOINT

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

OUR VIEW

Open and honest

Our view: New administrator needs to gain trust of the community

We congratulate Tom Slaughter on his appointment as city administrator. It's clear he now has his work cut out for him. The City Council was sharply divided on which candidate was best for the job, with a controversial vote by Councilman Bob Allen cementing the hire. We were also concerned to have learned during last Tuesday's meeting that the selection committee was told to put Slaughter in the top five candidates. If he deserved to be there by virtue of his qualifications that would be fine, but to put him there simply because he was already the interim makes us wonder if all of the candidates were given a fair shake during the hiring process.

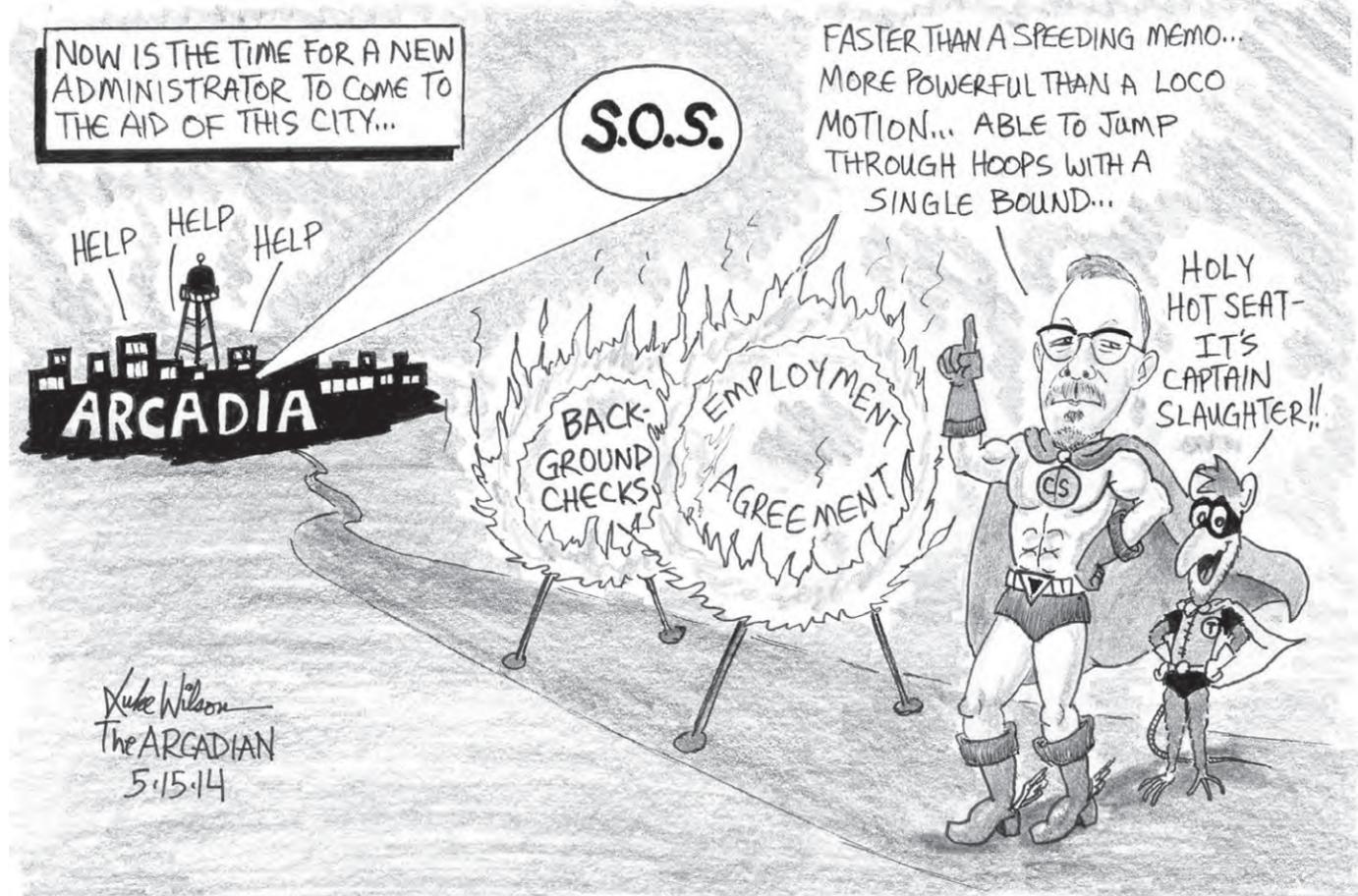
While much of what occurred during the Council's administrator search was beyond Slaughter's control, it's fair to say that despite serving six months as interim, some in the community still view him as an unknown quantity. We urge him to be open and transparent in his dealings representing the city. We've heard (and experienced firsthand) that he does not always return phone calls or emails promptly. We get that he's busy, but when it comes to city business, he must be reachable, responsive and forthright. We expect him to act professionally and to treat with respect everyone he deals with, from staff and council to the county and, especially, the public.

It was great to see him in the audience at Tuesday's Board of County Commissioners meeting, and we encourage him to continue to cultivate that relationship. The city has not always been the best partner to the county in the past, but for positive change to occur the two must work hand-in-hand. For starters, Slaughter should be front and center at the county's next Community Conversation June 4. The city's limited participation in the previous meetings was disappointing (and it's worth noting it occurred during Slaughter's time as interim).

We were also glad Councilman Joe Fink suggested that two background checks (criminal and professional) be conducted on Slaughter. We agree they are important, especially in light of Allen's puzzling opposition to the idea. Councilman Keith Keene made an excellent point when he said that if a candidate wasn't willing to stand up to the scrutiny of a background check, then he shouldn't have the job. Let's not have another "festering sore" suddenly appear out of the woodwork.

There are an alarming number of high-profile organizations and businesses which have spent a lot of money on background checks that failed to reveal obvious red flags. A recent example that made national headlines involved a Montana college that hired and fired a new sports information director in the span of two hours. After the University of Great Falls announced the hire via a press release, a local newspaper Googled his name and discovered he had a past criminal conviction for sexual relations with a

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Residents, help keep storm drains clear

Editor:

This is to all readers but especially to the readers in the city limits of Arcadia.

The heavy rains will be here before we know it and we will have serious street flooding, once again. I would like to suggest that if you have a tree that has left a lot of fallen leaves at the curb or if you have a storm drain near your property — get out there and clean up the debris before it completely clogs the grates. Or if you have a storm water drainage ditch — clean out the trash that has collected in them before the rains start.

I know many will say "it's not my

job" but if we all pitch in a little and help out, our flooding might not be as serious as it can get and we can see the standing water, clear away that much quicker.

I say Thank You in advance and safe driving.

Margot Ayre
Arcadia

City administrator selection process was faulty

Editor:

I am kicking myself over and over for not voicing my opinion to the decision-makers on whom I would select for City Administrator out of the final five candidates. I did involve myself

and certainly care about the future of the city. I can not say enough about how much the *Arcadian* has helped me in the final hours of the interviews to conclude my final choice.

I find it amazing that only two council members were willing to put their personal judgments to the test of others in front of the public before rendering a final vote allowing for a difference of opinion and possible outcome otherwise.

I applaud Mr. Keith Keene and Ms. Alice Frierson risking any open comment they might have made to the world in what might have turned out to be a better selection for the future of city over time. It was evident three

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GRITS & PIECES

Childhood playgrounds, revisited

I ride by nearly every school in our county at least once a week in my comings and goings, including some sites where schools once stood, and my memories usually tap me on the heart and say, "Remember those days?" I can't forget them, nor do I want to.

Perhaps the fondest memories I have of school days involve recess time, when we could escape from desks, books and teachers, and run wild outside with our friends. I can picture the playground so well in my mind, filled with laughter and innocence of children who had no idea how quickly the years would pass and how soon they'd be adults.

Who didn't love playing on the playground? Nocatee Elementary (the old one that's long gone now) had a very



Grits & Pieces

Luke Wilson

troubador55@embarqmail.com

tall stainless steel slide. The morning sun would heat it up to the point that it would burn your skin, but that didn't deter the long line of kids waiting to use it. The line behind it would be long, and there'd even be kids standing on the ladder rungs, anxious to use it. Sometimes we'd throw handfuls of sand down it, which served to speed up the sliding.

But the most popular kid there would be the one who'd snuck a piece of wax paper from their mama's roll. You could sit on that thing and be off the end of the slide and in the dirt before you got sat down good! Remember that?

Swings allowed us to soar way up into the sky, as though we were flying. I think we believed if we swung high enough, we go all the way over the top, like in the cartoons. I'm kind of glad we didn't, considering the danger aspect now in my old age. We didn't mind swinging real high and jumping out of them, hollering either "Geronimo!" or "Superman!" Some would even bail out backwards, meaning under the swing

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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.

Hospital celebrates Fitness Trot

SUBMITTED By KRISTEN SPAHR
DMH

On May 3, DeSoto Memorial Hospital Foundation hosted its first-ever Fitness Trot, a 10K run and 5K walk/run. The foundation is the fundraising arm of the hospital whose vision is to ensure the hospital has the resources to continue serving the community with the latest medical technology and services available.

The 93 Trotters started out at the Turner Agri-Civic Center and ran along a route through the city of Arcadia.

The DMH Auxiliary served up smiles at the post-trot pancake breakfast.

Congratulations to all the runners, especially the winners — Adrian Gonzalez and Trudy Benton for the 10K, and Oscar Gonzalez and Maria Munoz in the 5K.

In all, more than \$5,325 was raised by the event, which also celebrated the Lose 2 Win program. The results of participants making healthy choices in food and exercise has been remarkable, with a total weight loss of more than 3,600 pounds, with 390 people still enrolled in the program.



PHOTO BY DEVIN LACAVAL

A large group of runners gets ready for the 5-K run in DeSoto Memorial Hospital's Fitness Trot on May 3.

National Emergency Medical Services Week starts Sunday

SUBMITTED By THOMAS MORAN
PUBLIC SAFETY DEPT.

May 18-24 is the 40th anniversary of National Emergency Medical Services Week. President Gerald Ford first signed legislation authorizing EMS week in 1973, and it was first celebrated in 1974.

National EMS week honors the hundreds of thousands of EMS practitioners serving communities across the nation.

In DeSoto County, the Public Safety Department oversees the Emergency Medical Services provided in the community. Members of DeSoto Fire Rescue are EMTs and Paramedics

and are assigned to the county's fire engines and EMS units (ambulances).

They all work together 24 hours, seven days a week, 365 days a year to provide dedicated service to the community, and care for the sick and injured. They provide care at the scene and while a patient is being transported to a hospital.

EMS is part of a community system that works with local hospitals, physicians and other partners.

Take time to acknowledge EMS Week by saying hello to the county's paramedics and EMTs who ensure professional, caring and competent emergency service to citizens whenever and wherever they are needed.

Applications open for middle school leadership camp

By ASHLEY COONE
LINKS2SUCCESS

Links2Success is accepting applications through May 16 for the 2014 Youth Leadership & Career Conference for DeSoto Middle School students. The conference is for students currently in 7th and 8th grade with a minimum 2.5 GPA. The conference will run from July 7-12.

The 2014 Conference is designed to provide exposure to career, confidence, leadership and interest-building activities to middle school students in DeSoto County. The aim of the camp is to introduce students to careers and education that can be obtained upon graduation from DeSoto County High School. The conference will help students develop a love for learning and set a goal to graduate and pursue post-secondary education opportunities.

"I learned so much about careers and I now know that I want to go to college," said Richelle Stewart, a graduate of the inaugural 2013 class. "We had so much fun and I'm happy that I was able to be in the first class."

Each day, participants will meet at the South Florida State College. Students will

visit local organizations, governmental agencies and businesses. Student will get to experience careers in banking, STEM, judicial, government, law enforcement, non-profit, agriculture and much more.

Throughout the week, students will work with the DeSoto Arts & Humanities Council to create artwork to illustrate their current career goals and dreams. The conference will end on July 12 with an art exhibition and award ceremony at the Turner Center Exhibition Hall.

Students must have a minimum GPA of 2.5, no behavior referrals, exhibit leadership qualities and complete an application and essay. The conference is provided at no cost and is limited to 30 students.

The conference is made possible through the generous sponsorship of the following organizations: Peace River Citrus, George W. and Ethel B. Hoefler Fund at The Community Foundation of Sarasota County, The Jerome and Mildred Paddock Foundation, Mosaic, South Florida State College Foundation, Desoto Education Foundation, Drug-Free Desoto Coalition, First State Bank, GEO Care, Hackney & Ames, Suncoast



PHOTO PROVIDED

Last year's Youth Leadership Conference gave middle school students a tour of the county's businesses and organizations, including a visit to the FLP photovoltaic solar power plant north of Arcadia. Middle school students will develop a love for learning and gain skills by attending this year's summer program.

Schools Credit Union, Sun Bulb, Tremron, FPL, Benny Albritton Grove Services, Rotary, The Mason G. Smoak Foundation, School District of DeSoto

County and United Way. For more information, applications or sponsorship opportunities, visit www.links2success.org.

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(across from Walgreen's)



Dr. Mark D. Sevigny

Dr. Ronald O. Sevigny

SEVIGNY ASSOCIATES EYE CARE

Arcadia's COMMUNITY CALENDAR

NOTE: All area codes are 863 unless otherwise indicated.

■ TODAY

• USDA Commodities Distribution takes place at Seventh Day Adventist Church, 2867 Ami Drive, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. You qualify if you receive Medicaid, Supplemental Social Security Income (SSI), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Food Stamps, or are eligible based on income. Recipients must fill out a form each time to demonstrate qualification. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

• DeSoto Cares, a community group dedicated to searching out homelessness needs and solutions, meets on the first and third Thursday at 5:15 p.m. at the Housing Authority Conference Room. For details, call Rev. Ted Hanus at 993-3435.

• Peace River Audubon Society will hold its final meeting of the season on May 15 at First Alliance Church, 20444 Midway Blvd. in Port Charlotte. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with light refreshments, and meeting starts at 7 p.m. Members are invited to bring their best slide show or homemade video to share — presentations should be no more than 5 minutes each. Also election of officers will be held. For more information, visit www.peacriveraudubon.org.

• The DeSoto Amateur Radio Club meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month at the DeSoto County Emergency Operations Center, 2200 Roan St., Arcadia. Anyone interested may attend. Talk in for the meetings is at 147.180+ DARC repeater.

• Family Safety Alliance for DeSoto, Manatee and Sarasota counties, sponsored by Department of Children and Families, meets at 4 p.m. third Thursdays monthly at Lakewood Ranch Northern Trust Bank's community room, 6320 Venture Drive, Lakewood Ranch. For information, call Kerri Gibson at 941-316-6129.

• 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

• MAPP committee and VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) meet at 9 a.m. third Fridays at the Family Service Center, 310 W. Whidden St., Arcadia.

• 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

• The Watermelon Festival is 9 a.m.-4 p.m. today at DeSoto Veterans Memorial Park.

• Classic car show in downtown Arcadia, 5 p.m.-9 p.m. the third Saturday of every month. Sponsored by Team Arcadia. Trophies, door prizes, and 50/50 jackpot. For more information call 494-2020.

• Ice Cream Social tonight in conjunction with the classic car show, sponsored by Team Arcadia, from 5-7 p.m. Homemade ice cream with toppings! Proceeds will benefit Team Arcadia's projects including the renovation of Lake Katherine.

• DeSoto County Library story time is at 10:30 a.m. at 125 N. Hillsborough Ave., Arcadia. 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

• St. John's Church, 208 Gordon St., holds its "Night in White" program on May 18. Call 494-0449 for details.

• Find thousands of unusual fruiting plants and trees at reasonable prices at the MRFC tree sale, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 18 at the Manatee Rare Fruit Council tree sale at Bradenton Area Convention Center, One Haben Blvd, Palmetto. Free admission, parking and expert advice. For more information visit www.mrfc.org, or call Pete Ray, 941-776-0222.

• 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

• The DeSoto County Republican Executive Committee meets on the third Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Beef O'Brady's.

• The DeSoto County Fair Association meets at 7 p.m. third Mondays monthly in the fair office on Heard Street, Arcadia.

• AA "Brown Bagger" meetings are offered every Monday at noon at Trinity United Methodist Church, 304 W. Oak St.

• Women of Worship "WOW" Women's ministry meets at 6:15 p.m. Monday at Freedom Fellowship Christian Ministries, 1528 N.E. Turner Ave. All are welcome.

• A women-only G.I.R.L.S. AA meeting is held at St. Edmund's Episcopal Church at 6 p.m. on Monday at 327 W. Hickory St.

• Alcoholics Anonymous Second Tradition meets at St. Edmunds Episcopal Church at 8 p.m. Monday at 327 W. Hickory St.

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

• The DeSoto County Homeless Coalition Community Resource Center is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday at 1425 Martin Luther King St. The center provides referrals for mainstream resources, elderly food stamps (by appointment) and computer service. Salvation Army has office space on Wed. by appointment. For more information, call 491-5683.

• Prescription Assistance is at the DeSoto County Health Department Clinic Location: 1031 E. Oak St., Arcadia. Call to make an appointment or for more information, call 491-7580 ext. 256.

■ TUESDAY

• Arcadia City Council meets at 6 p.m. at the Margaret Way Building, 23 N. Polk Ave., Arcadi

• The DeSoto County Special Olympics committee meets at 3 p.m. on the third Tuesday every month at The Last Chapter Coffee Shop on W. Oak St. The meeting is open to anyone who is interested in coaching or working with adults or youth in sports. For more information, call Joyce at 873-8219 or 494-3440.

• DeSoto Memorial Hospital offers free blood pressure screenings from 3 to 4 p.m. in the DeSoto Memorial Hospital McSwain room. Call 494-8432 for details.

• The AA Intergroup Business meeting is held at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month at St. Nathaniel's Episcopal Church, 4200 S. Biscayne Dr., North Port.

• The AA District 5 committee business meeting is held at 8 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month at St. Nathaniel's Episcopal Church, 4200 S. Biscayne Dr., North Port.

• DeSoto Amateur Radio Club meets at 7 p.m. third Tuesdays monthly. For information, contact PIO officer Marge Rikcer, call name KG4BWF.

• Freedom Fellowship Christian Ministries Support Group meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday at 1528 N.E. Turner Ave.

• Every Tuesday night, line dance class at the Palace Dance Hall (17N). Beginners welcome. \$3 donation. For more info, call Jennie Martin at 494-2749.

• Weight Watchers meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church, 1509 E. Oak St. For details visit www.weightwatchers.com and "find a meeting" or call 800-651-6000.

• 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 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

• The grand reopening and ribbon cutting of Martin Realty Co., 207 E. Magnolia St., takes place at noon on May 21.

• Hour of Power Prayer time is held at noon at Freedom Fellowship Christian Ministries, 1528 N.E. Turner Ave. coffee all for only \$6. Door prize and 50/50. So come on out and enjoy breakfast at the airport.

• DeSoto Arts and Humanities Council monthly meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. For more information visit <http://desotoartscouncil.org/index.html>.

• DeSoto County Homeless Coalition Mobile Pantry is on the first and third Wednesday of each month at the Smith Brown Gym starting at 9 a.m. until the food is gone. The only requirement is to be a DeSoto County resident. Sponsored by the All Faiths Food bank of Sarasota.

• The First Marine Division Association meets at 11:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday at Family Table Restaurant, 14132 Tamiami Trail, North Port. Call Carl Jones, 941-493-1408 for more information.

• Heartland Rural Health Network's Food Stamp Outreach grant program will have Angela Hendry come every third Wednesday to help seniors submit applications for food stamps. She will be at the Homeless Coalition Community Resource Center, 1425 Martin Luther King St., Arcadia, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Households should have at least one senior resident. Bring your ID, information on your income, assets, and expenses including medical. For more information call 863-452-0638.

• Community for Seniors meets from 12:30-1:30 p.m. every third Wednesday at TideWell Hospice and Palliative Care administration building on Arcadia Avenue. Open to anyone interested in being a new member. For more information, call Lori Coker at 990-1340.

• DeSoto County Traffic Safety Team meets at 1:30 p.m. third Wednesdays monthly at the DeSoto County Commissioners room, 201 E. Oak St., Arcadia.

• Hearing Loss Association demonstrates amplified listening devices from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. third Wednesdays monthly at Charlotte County Cultural Center, 2280 Aaron St., Port Charlotte. For more information about HLA meetings, call 941-624-2947.

• 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.

• 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.

■ THURSDAY

• Caregiver support group meets at 1:30 p.m. at DeSoto Memorial Home Health Care at DeSoto Memorial Hospital Medical Plaza, 1006 N. Mills Ave., Arcadia. For more

■ SPECIAL

• The DeSoto County Library is holding a "Summer Fun" photo contest. Print your photo -- either 4 x 6 or 5 x 7, vertical or horizontal -- mount it on cardboard or foam core (no border). One free entry per person; additional entries \$1 each. Bring your photo to the library by July 12, fill out and attach label. Works will be displayed and the public can vote for their favorites through Aug. 14. Reception is at 5 p.m. August 15. Pick up photos by August 23. Four age groups: pre-K and elementary; middle school; high school; adult. No prizes, just bragging rights. Proceeds benefit DeSoto Co. Library Assoc.

• The DeSoto County Library is holding an "Itty Bitty Art" contest. You can enter one piece for free; you can enter additional pieces (up to 5 total) for \$1 each. Pick up a 3 x 3-inch art board at the library, create your art (any media, including multimedia, as long as it fits within the borders of the art board), and bring it back to the library by June 14. Works will be displayed and the public can vote through July 10. A public reception will be held at 5 p.m. July 11. Pick up art by July 19. Four age groups: pre-K and elementary; middle school; high school; adult. No prizes, just bragging rights. Proceeds benefit DeSoto Co. Library Assoc.

information, call DeSoto Memorial Home Health Care at 494-8432 or Hospice of Southwest Florida at 993-0662.

• The Family Safety Alliance meeting for DeSoto, Manatee and Sarasota counties is held the fourth Thursday of every month at 4 p.m. at the McClure Center, 4215 Concept Court, Lakewood Ranch. For information, call 941-316-6009.

• 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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• 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.

■ COMING EVENTS

• May 24 — Bluegrass Bash (live music) 1 p.m.-4 p.m., Craig's RV Resort, 7895 Cubitis Ave.

• A Memorial Day Barrel Race takes place at the Arcadia Rodeo Arena May 25-26.

• For Desoto County residents there will be no garbage collection on May 26 in observation of Memorial Day. Monday customers' next service date will be Thursday, May 29.

• Public hearings on revisions to the county's current LDRs will take place at 6:30 p.m. May 27 at the County Commission Chambers, 201 E. Oak St.

• The Habitat for Humanity class for May is Basic Home Maintenance, presented by Jane Breylinger, Executive Director, and Junior Bird, Construction Manager, at 6 p.m. on May 27 at the SunTrust Bank, second floor. Free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

• The ELCFH Finance Committee Meeting will be held at 9 a.m. on May 28 at the ELCFH-DeSoto office, 4 W. Oak Street, Suite H in Arcadia as well as via conference call (dial 866-628-8620 and enter participant code 504163#). The Executive Committee follows at the same location (and via same phone participation numbers).

• The DeSoto County High School Choral Ensemble will present a free concert at 7 p.m. May 29 at the high school cafeteria. If you have not had a chance to hear these students sing before, you should make every effort to attend because they are outstanding.

• Digital Photography Basics - Jerry Waters is offering a free photography class to teach people how to get more out of their digital cameras. The class is 10 a.m. to noon on May 30 at the DeSoto County Library.

Post office food drive helps those in need



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ASHLEY COONE

Students from Links2Success helped pack the food brought in during last weekend's Mail Carrier Food Drive. So much food was gathered, there was not a final count by press time but a lot of hungry people will be fed through the generosity of customers of the local postal service.

Food collected during the annual Mail Carriers Food Drive last weekend was sorted prior to distribution to those in need.



PHOTO BY STEVEN JEWELL

City honors Elks' dedication to youth



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JACKIE TUCKER

The City of Arcadia has proclaimed the week of May 10-17 as the Elks National Youth Week. Receiving the proclamation on behalf of the Arcadia Elks are city councilmen Keith Keene and Bob Allen. They are both Past Exalted Rulers and Past District Deputies. The major project of the Arcadia Elks is sponsoring the Regional Baton Competition being held during this week. More than 500 youth are expected to attend.

Volunteers honored



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JANE POWERS

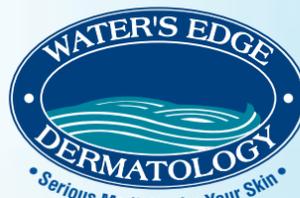
Janet Dunderman, left, with 10,000 hours, and Shirley LaBocki with 4,500 hours, were honored with awards at the May luncheon for the DeSoto Memorial Hospital Auxiliary volunteers.

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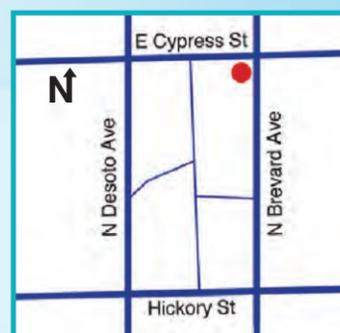


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The DeSoto County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests:

- Jimmy Lee Allan, 38, Tampa. Charge: violation of probation. Bond: none.
- Dwain Lavone Bacon, 49, Bradenton. Charge: violation of probation. Bond: none.
- Richard Foster Badger, 36, 2800 block of S.E. Timber Ave., Arcadia. Charge: violation of domestic protective order. Bond: none.
- Lionel Gabriel, 33, 2400 block of 3rd Ave., Arcadia. Charge: disorderly public intoxication. Bond: \$120.
- Justin Ray Ganske, 20, 2400 block of S.W. Co. Road 760A, Nocatee. Charge: failure to appeal. Bond: none.
- Armando Francisco Gomez, 31, Port Charlotte. Charge: disorderly public intoxication. Bond: \$120.
- Jose Carlos Hernandez, 25, 600 block of Magnolia St., Arcadia. Charge: violation of probation. Bond: none.
- Ernest Cristian Hoffmeier, 35, 6500 block of N.W. Pine Bridge Road, Arcadia. Charges: armed burglary of a dwelling, structure or conveyance, unarmed burglary of a structure, grand theft between \$300-\$5,000, grand theft of a firearm and dealing in stolen property. Bond: \$67,000.
- April Marie Jenkins, 30, no address, Nocatee. Charges: possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and violation of probation. Bond: none.
- Philip Harrison Kern, 52, 200 block of Singleton Ave., Arcadia. Charge: out-of-state fugitive. Bond: none.
- Thomas Garrett Killmon, 22, 1600 block of S.E. West Ave., Arcadia. Charge: battery. Bond: \$2,500.
- Jesus Lopez, 51, Granada Ave., Arcadia. Charge: disorderly public intoxication. Bond: \$120.
- Juan Angel Martinez, 57, 100 block of Esmeralda St., Arcadia. Charges: disorderly public intoxication, resisting an officer without violence and trespass. Bond: \$1,120.
- Clinton Shane Mullis, 26, 1000 block of S. Alabama St., Arcadia. Charge: battery. Bond: \$1,500.
- Joseph Burton Nair, 52, 1800 block of S.W. Fletcher St., Arcadia. Charges: petty theft and resisting an officer without violence. Bond: \$870.
- Sedrick Raymond Nesmith, 38, no address, Arcadia. Charge: failure to

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.

- support spouse or child. Purge: \$2,000.
- Matthew Dwayne Taylor, 28, Wauchula. Charge: violation of probation. Bond: none.
- Leobardo Luis Vasquez, 25, 1900 block of Heron Cove, Arcadia. Charge: violation of probation. Bond: none.
- Kimani Tyrone Deleveaux, 30, Lake Placid. Charge: driving while license is suspended or revoked. Bond: \$120.
- Ricardo Tetlanco Garcia, 31, 1200 block of Esmeralda Drive, Arcadia. Charge: battery. Bond: \$1,500.
- Marquice Edwar Gatewood, 22, 1300 block of S.W. Harlem Circle, Arcadia. Charges: uttering a false bill, note or check and grand theft between \$300-\$5,000. Bond: \$2,500.
- Joseph Scott Grillo, 29, 1200 block of S.W. Fern Terrace, Arcadia. Charge: battery. Bond: \$1,500.
- Jessica Gail Hag, 23, 600 N. Monroe Ave., Arcadia. Charge: grand theft between \$300-\$5,000. Bond: \$1,000.
- Anthony Tyrone Hearn, 39, 300 block of W. Owens Ave., Arcadia. Charges: battery and out-of-county warrant. Bond: \$1,190.
- Jose Antonio Lopez, 26, 1500 block of S.E. 1st Ave., Arcadia. Charge: disorderly public intoxication. Bond: released on recognizance.
- Abigail Rodriguez Ramirez, 19, Zolfo Springs. Charge: driving without a valid license. Bond: \$120.
- Emilio Rodrigues, 43, 1st Ave., Arcadia. Charge: disorderly public intoxication. Bond: \$120.
- Dusty Lamar Chaney, 30, no address listed, Arcadia. Charges: possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of a listed chemical for the manufacture of a controlled substance and possession or use of drug equipment. Bond: \$8,620.
- Angela Torres Hatcher, 32, 1600 block of S.W. Brannon Drive, Arcadia. Charge: two counts of nonsupport of child or spouse. Purge: \$2,000.
- Lee Wright Quave, 38, 1400 block of Magnolia Terrace, Arcadia. Charges: possession of listed chemicals for

Showing thanks to teachers



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JAMIE PIPHER

Calvary Baptist Women's Ministry participated in Teacher Appreciation Week by distributing over 700 candy bars to Desoto County teachers and support staff. Each candy bar had a special message. For example, Almond Joy bars contained the message "You are a Joy." Teacher Appreciation Week is a time to honor teachers for their contributions to learning, child development and to the community.

manufacturing a controlled substance, possession or use of drug equipment, driving while license is suspended and violation of probation. Bond: none.

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

- Danny Rollins, 58, Zolfo Springs. Charge: failure to appear. Bond: \$2,000.
- Gabriel Velazquez Gomez, 35,

2600 block of S.W. Lois Ave., Arcadia. Charge: driving on license expired more than 6 months. Bond: \$1,000.

- Jennifer Rae Albritton, 31, 6200 block of S.W. Marco Ave., Arcadia. Charge: grand theft between \$300-\$5,000. Bond: \$5,000.

—Compiled by Susan E. Hoffman

ROADWATCH

U.S. Highway 17 from south of SW Collins Street in Fort Ogden to County Road 760A south of Nocatee

— Work is under way to expand US 17 to four lanes. Work includes clearing land for two new travel lanes to the east of the existing US 17 travel lanes and drainage activities. Expect intermittent lane closures northbound and southbound on US 17 between SW Hull Road and CR-760A and on

SW Beard Street east of US 17 while crews are working. Motorists should be aware of work vehicles entering and exiting the roadway during the week. Expected project completion is the end of 2015.

U.S. 17 from Magnolia Street to Hickory Street — Crews are cleaning storm drains. No lane closures are expected. Motorists should use caution and expect possible delays.

HOSPITAL

FROM PAGE 2

businesses thriving. It brings in out-of-town patients, and their own practices are what allow the doctors to stay with the hospital.

Dr. Maria Galimidi said there are times she has tried to refer work to the hospital, but certain X-rays she was asking for weren't being done.

She said important parts of the images were being cut off because the hospital did not have the right equipment. "So I have to redo them."

Members of the hospital staff say these issues could be addressed, and other inefficiencies made more cost-effective, but Ambler responded, "We're bleeding \$100,000 a month. We'll get to the point we can't operate without cash and we could be there in 14 or 15 months."

Watson added, to stay open "we need to generate more income. We can't cut enough costs to meet that."

"Or else you'll have to cut some services," Ambler said.

Board member Dr. Vaidy Nathan said he spoke with the County Commissioners and they planned at their next meeting to consider whether to put the suggested one-half cent tax on a referendum in the fall, to help fund the hospital.

Internal bleeding

From the audience, local veterinarian Dr. Mike McNulty said, "The hospital is suffering from anemia. But it can be changed by the doctors themselves. The main cause is hemorrhage," he said. Losses due to the state turning down Medicaid expansion can't be solved locally, "but we can stop the internal hemorrhage. You doctors are the cause of this internal hemorrhage."

He blamed the doctors for doing procedures in their offices that the hospital could do, or referring

procedures to out-of-town friends "while the hospital has a disproportionate amount of non-paying indigents."

If a patient stays longer than Medicare pays for, the hospital doesn't get any money for that, but the doctors still get paid, McNulty said.

"How much money could the hospital regain if these putatively caring doctors supported the hospital?" McNulty said, calling them "internal parasites."

He said the doctors have suddenly become interested in DMH becoming solvent because "if it is sold to a 'big-box hospital,' their gig is over. They could no longer perform procedures in their offices.

"We're reminded, 'no doctors, no hospital.' But now maybe it's 'no hospital, no doctors.'"

Mishkind responded, "Does anyone own a dog? I do, and my dogs are like family members. When I take my dogs to the vet's office for care, the dog may get a prescription. Where is it filled? At the vet's office. The same goes for X-rays or surgery. So I think it's awfully rich of you to compare this medical staff to parasites. It's totally inappropriate. You do all those procedures in your office, yet you're going to begrudge Dr. Alokeh a few physical therapy massages in his office?"

"Not doing massages in an office is not going to turn the tide. But I haven't heard, how are we going to increase market share? It's not our

job, but the hospital's — how are we going to get patients?" Mishkind asked.

McNulty also claimed DeSoto's hospital executives are making less than their counterparts, as an average, in similar hospitals. "Our people made only 72 percent of the industry average for this size hospital," he said. Our executives would need raises to be up to their peers."

Board member Jerry Waters said he appreciated the doctors' input. "We have to build a spirit of trust and respect. Dr. Mishkind communicates with this board frequently and eloquently. I never heard before there are things you couldn't get done here and had to go elsewhere.

"This hospital is vital to this community. I appreciate Dr. Nathan working with the County Commissioners for the tax, but it won't pass unless the hospital and doctors work together and get the message out. It's time to look for solutions."

Ambler said, "This was a productive meeting. At least we know where each other stands. By the end of the month, we'll know the results (of the half-cent tax proposal) from the County Commissioners. I'm not as positive as Dr. Nathan. By the end of the month we'll probably know the likelihood of finding a buyer or a partner."

The next DMH Board is scheduled to meet next at 5:30 p.m. on May 29 in the McSwain Room at the hospital.

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OBITUARIES

Laurence L. Croy

Laurence L. Croy, 64, passed away Tuesday, May 6, 2014, in Port Charlotte, Fla.

He was born Dec. 24, 1949, in Miami, Fla., and lived his entire life in Southwest Florida.

Laurence moved to DeSoto County, Fla., as a young man, with his family. He was of the Baptist faith, and attended Central Missionary Baptist Church of Arcadia, Fla.

Laurence was a wonderful father, grandfather and brother, and will be greatly missed by all. Before his long illness, Laurence was a Correctional Officer at the DeSoto County Road Prison. He was an avid Gators fan, enjoyed going fishing, and never missed his grandson's baseball games.

He is survived by his daughter, Tammie L. (Trey) Turner of Arcadia; two brothers, John (Marie) Croy of Arcadia, and Larry Croy of Sarasota, Fla.; sister, Dorothy Williams of Arcadia; two grandchildren, Hal Turner and Kameron Turner, both of Arcadia; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The visitation was followed by the funeral services on Saturday, May 10, 2014, at the Chapel of Ponger-Kays-Grady Funeral Homes, 50 N. Hillsborough Ave., Arcadia. The Rev. Tim Daniels from Central Missionary Baptist Church in Arcadia officiated. Interment will be private at Joshua Creek Cemetery in Arcadia. Online condolences can be made at www.pongerkaysgrady.com.

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

Howard E. Sorrells

Howard E. Sorrells, 87, of Arcadia, Florida, passed away on Thursday, May 8, 2014.

Mr. Sorrells was born in Hiram, Georgia, on September 17, 1926.

After graduation from Hiram High School in 1943, he joined the United States Army (1945-1947) and worked at the Pentagon in Washington, DC. Upon discharge, he completed a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from his beloved University of Florida in 1951. Mr. Sorrells was a devoted Gator and could be seen wearing Gator apparel everywhere.

He married Celia Blount Sorrells on May 20, 1951. During their 62-year marriage, Howard and Celia had four daughters: Marie Sorrells (1955-1968), Jane Sorrells Cline (Adrian) of Arcadia, Susan Sorrells of Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina, and Julie Sorrells Timmons of Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina. Mr. Sorrells is survived by five grandchildren: Jonathan Olive, Benjamin Cline, William Cline, Audra Timmons, and Keegan Timmons.

After moving to DeSoto County in 1951, Mr. Sorrells and his brothers were leaders and innovators in the development and expansion of the local citrus industry. Together they founded Sorrells Brothers Packing Company in Arcadia and successfully operated it for decades, providing a valuable marketing outlet for fresh fruit growers in Southwest Florida. In addition, they developed and planted many acres of citrus groves in DeSoto County, becoming one of the most reputable and premier caretaking services, intermediate handlers, and harvesters in Florida.

Mr. Sorrells was appointed to the Florida Citrus Commission by Governor Lawton Chiles and served from 1991-1998. During his tenure, he served as vice-chairman for one year and subsequently as chairman for four years. During Mr. Sorrells' term as chair, he helped to redirect the citrus industry from a production orientation to a

marketing orientation. To quote Mr. Sorrells, "The Commission as a whole felt we needed a marketing program. We have learned how to grow citrus, and now we have to find more effective ways to sell it." The success of this approach was proven by a 3 percent increase in orange juice volume sales. He also served as a member of the Florida Citrus Mutual from 1957-1997. On the local level, Mr. Sorrells was a member of the Peace River Valley Citrus Growers Association.

His commitment to agriculture in Florida was not limited to citrus as he was actively engaged in growing watermelons and served on the National Watermelon Association and the Florida Watermelon Association. In 2008, Mr. Sorrells was recognized with the National Watermelon Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

For all of his contributions to Florida agriculture, Mr. Sorrells was honored by induction to the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame in 2010. He was so proud of this recognition.

Mr. Sorrells actively worked to improve his community, particularly in the area of education. From 1968-1980, Mr. Sorrells proudly served on the School Board of DeSoto County serving as chairman of the board from 1971-1973. In addition, he was a charter director for the DeSoto County Education Foundation. Mr. and Mrs. Sorrells stressed the importance of education to their daughters and each graduated from college and became successful in different medical fields.

A visitation was held on Saturday, May 10, 2014, at Calvary Baptist Church, Arcadia. The funeral was held Saturday, May 10, 2014. Dr. T. Howell Upchurch conducted the service. Burial immediately followed at Joshua Creek Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Tidewell Hospice.

Online condolences can be made at pongerkaysgrady.com.

Ponger-Kays-Grady Funeral Homes are in charge of the arrangements.

Sidney Arthur Little

Sidney Arthur Little, 63, of Arcadia, Fla., passed away Tuesday, May 6, 2014.

He was born Aug. 17, 1950, in Alamo, Ga., to Eldon H. and Willie R. (nee Turner) Little.

As a young boy, the family moved to Tampa, Fla., and then to DeSoto County, Fla., in 1959. Sidney was a diesel mechanic by trade, and worked for MacBee Harvesting, DeSoto Groves and, most recently, for Sun Ray Harvesting. He enjoyed fishing, camping and airboating in his spare time. Sidney was a Nocatee Shade Tree Mechanic. He was of the Baptist faith.

Sidney is survived by his brothers, Wilber (Linda) Little of Arcadia, and Doug Little of Seffner, Fla.; cousin, Tom Wideman of Arcadia; and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; and brother, Lloyd Dewayne Little.

A visitation was followed by the funeral service on Friday, May 9, 2014, at Ponger-Kays-Grady Funeral Home. Burial followed at Mount Ephraim Cemetery. Online condolences can be made at www.pongerkaysgrady.com.

Arrangements are by Ponger-Kays-Grady Funeral Home.

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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 an obituary indicates a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces.



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11:00 AM - Noon
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Sunday School/Bible Study 9:45am
Morning Worship 11:00am
Evening Worship 6:00pm
Wed. Fellowship Meal 5:45pm
Prayer Meeting 6:30pm
West on SR 70, left on SR 72,
left on CR 661, 3.5 miles on right
Office Phone: (863) 494-0307

Nocatee United Methodist Church

Spanish - English Class
Tuesday - Friday
7am- Noon
May 7th - June 5th
info
863-494-3881

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

Oak Hill Baptist Church
Arcadia, Florida
5104 NW Oak Hill Ave.
863-494-6224
Pastor Dr. Howell Upchurch
Sunday School 9:30 am
Sunday Worship 10:45 am
and 6:00 pm
Wednesday 6:30 pm
for Prayer Group,
Youth & Children

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(70 W at Manatee)
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www.EpiscopalArcadiaFL.com
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Misa en español Dom 6pm

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May the Lord fill your heart with love.

The book for all seasons

Once, while painting our bathroom ceiling, I ended up in the tub. Here's how it happened: In order to reach every part of the ceiling, I had placed a ladder and a tall kitchen step-stool in the room so I could move from one to the other without coming down to get paint. When stepping from the top of the kitchen stool to the ladder, my foot slipped and in a moment I was airborne, flying backward and crashing into the tub ... well, not quite crashing.

My wife, who had been painting lower areas, looked up to see her flying husband headed for the tub and momentarily feared I would be seriously hurt. Then, she says, when I reached the tub a strange thing happened. Suddenly, everything seemed to go into slow motion and I was eased into the tub as if waiting hands had lowered me to safety. I sustained no injuries ... not even one bruise.

How can I explain this unusual deliverance? To answer that question, I must take you to the bedside of a woman in a hospital where I once did volunteer work as a chaplain.

"Do you ever read the Bible?" I asked.

"I read the ninety-first Psalm every day of my life," she replied.

This sufferer's statement sent me to her favorite Bible text to discover why she visited it so often; why it had become such an important part of her life. There I found many faith-building promises, including: "He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. They shall bear you up in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone" (Psalm 91:11-12).



Roger Campbell

When driving through the parking area of a large shopping plaza, I felt a hard bump from behind, and upon stopping, faced an apologetic driver of a pickup who, unable to stop in time, had crinkled the paint on my rear bumper. When exchanging insurance information, I discovered he had only a temporary driving permit because alcohol use had cost him his driver's license. Now he resumed apologizing again and again.

Since I had publications with me intended to help people break free from alcohol, I knew this was no accident and told him to stop apologizing. "If this hadn't happened, we wouldn't have met," I said, handing him this bondage-breaking information.

He was surprised at my reaction, but I was simply drawing on a Biblical promise that has repeatedly enabled me to see a divine design in every experience: "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

For many years, my work has taken me to people in times of crisis. I have been there when tears were flowing, castles had tumbled, dreams were

Two special lunches

We each have different favorites in the food department, so when I opted to make a delicious meal of Spring-harvested parsnips received from a generous Wisconsin brother, I suggested to my husband, Tom, that might be a good opportunity for him to make his favorite barbecue sandwiches. Parsnips had always been a Spring treat when I was growing up on a Wisconsin farm, so it's a nostalgic treat for me, but I know Tom's taste buds are elsewhere.

While he helps with many household chores — except creating meals, which is pretty much my realm — Tom has one special recipe which he enjoys making and which conforms to his diet. So, while I enjoy my parsnip treats, which are simply peeled, chunked, precooked, then fried in butter, Tom's barbecue recipe is equally simple, but has a wonderful aroma as it cooks ... try it:

Saute ¼ pound of ground turkey in one tablespoon of canola oil. Then add



From a Senior Viewpoint

Lois Hendricks

loistom@embarqmail.com

two chopped green onions, one tablespoon of dark molasses, ½ teaspoon Dash, one teaspoon of dark mustard, ¼ cup ketchup and a dash of black pepper. Stir well.

Simmer for 10 to 15 minutes (smells delicious!) and serve on two whole wheat hamburger buns.

So, as I enjoy my simmering parsnips, I smile at the culinary artist at work.

We'll both have a favorite lunch, with a side of our favorite yogurt-laced Jello with fruit, topped with marshmallows.

Bon appétit!

dashed and the lives of loved ones had ended; sometimes in old age and, even more tragically, in childhood or youth. Often I have felt inadequate to cope with such needs, but I have had a resource that has always been up to the occasion: the Book for all seasons.

Troubled people have been lifted by "Let not your heart be troubled" (John 14:1).

Grieving ones have had their tears dried by "He shall wipe away all tears from their eyes (Revelation 21:4). Those imprisoned by fear have found the many "Fear nots" in this Book adequate to overcome their anxieties.

No matter what you're going through, there's an answer for you. You'll find it in the Book for all seasons: the Bible.

DEATHS

FROM PAGE 9

Calvin M. Hall

Calvin M. "Gator" Hall, 70, of North Port, Fla., passed away peacefully Monday, May 5, 2014, with his family by his side, at Charlotte Harbor Healthcare in Port Charlotte, Fla.

He was born in Arcadia, Fla., to E. Murry and Margaret Hall.

Calvin graduated from Charlotte High School. In 1962, he married Karen S. LeMunyon, and they were happily married for 50 years. Calvin was aptly nicknamed "Gator" for his love of University of Florida football. His favorite pastime was watching or attending Gator football games, along with bowling. Calvin was an accomplished, avid bowler, where he received a 300 ring for a perfect game.

Calvin found plumbing to be his niche, working at Whitey's Plumbing from 1970 to 1981, before he ventured out in 1982 to form, you got it, "Gator Plumbing." He often said of his experience at Whitey's Plumbing, "that was the hardest-working man I have ever met," and that the experience laid the groundwork for his work ethic. In 2004, with his son, Steven, they formed Sandlot Plumbing Inc., where he was Vice President until his retirement in 2006.

Calvin was also Sexton of the Charlotte Harbor Cemetery, and Trustee for Trinity United Methodist Church for a number of years, and a "Charter Member" of the Charlotte County Gator Club.

Calvin is survived by his three children, including his son, Steven (Diana) Hall; and two daughters, Shellee (Cindy Booher) and Ashlee (Jack) Donlan; as well as grandchildren, Jake, Colbee, Shelbi, Brice and Brady; and his sister, Jewell (Larry) Kantner. He was preceded in death by his wife, Karen S. Hall.

The family will receive friends 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, May 16, 2014, at Larry Taylor Funeral and Cremation Services. A funeral service will be held 10 a.m.

Saturday, May 17, 2014, at Trinity United Methodist Church, at the corner of Seneca and Parmely in Charlotte Harbor, Fla. Burial will follow at Charlotte Harbor Cemetery. To express condolences to the family, please visit www.Ltaylorfuneral.com and sign the online guest book.

Mary Wildon Hasty

Mary Wildon Hasty, 94, of Arcadia, Fla., passed away Thursday, May 8, 2014.

Mary, the youngest of 10 children, was born in Bereah (rural Polk County), Fla., halfway between Fort Meade, Fla., and Frostproof, Fla.

She lived her younger years in Polk and Hardee County, Fla., and moved to DeSoto County, Fla., 70 years ago. In February 1937, she married J.W. Hasty, and they began their life together, establishing many DeSoto County businesses, including City Cab, Peace River Moving & Storage, and Hasty Ice. At one time, they owned and operated a small motel in Maggie Valley, N.C. It was the cab business that Mary enjoyed most, since it allowed her the freedom to get out driving, meeting and talking to people. Later, they owned and managed their own orange groves.

Mary is survived by her son, Jerrill "Wayne" (Judy) Hasty of Arcadia; daughter, Virginia (Lowell) Liskey of Arcadia; four grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; nine great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Frances B. and Mary V. (nee Sanders) Waters; nine siblings; and her beloved husband of 73 years, J.W. Hasty.

Graveside services were held on Monday, May 12, 2014, at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Arcadia. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Florida Baptist Children's Home, 1015 Sikes Blvd., Lakeland, FL 33815. Online condolences can be made at www.pongerkaysgrady.com.

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

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.



Use of food stamps rises in DeSoto County

By **EMILY GUERIN and TIM MAREMA**
THE DAILY YONDER

The use of food stamps in DeSoto County increased during the recession, assisting families in stretching their food dollars, contributing to local spending and helping spark a national debate about the future of the federal nutrition program.

The proportion of DeSoto County residents receiving food stamps hit 21.7 percent in 2011, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services. That's an increase of 13.5 percentage points since 2007, the year the recession started.

Across Florida, 17.2 percent of residents in 2011 received support from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, as the food stamp program is officially known. Nationally, 14.8 percent of the population receives SNAP benefits.

Places like DeSoto County, which are located outside metropolitan areas, tend to have a higher percentage of the population receiving SNAP benefits. That's because incomes are generally lower in nonmetropolitan counties.

The inflation-adjusted median household income in DeSoto County

in 2011 was \$33,923, compared with the Florida median of \$45,830 and the national median of \$52,306 (in 2013 dollars).

Food stamps may play a larger role in the local economy in rural areas and small towns, according to federal data. In DeSoto County SNAP benefits are 1.1 percent of personal income. Nationally, the figure is 0.6 percent.

In 2011, residents of DeSoto County received a combined \$12,394,381 in SNAP benefits. The USDA reports that each \$5 in SNAP benefits generates \$9.20 in spending.

SNAP benefits start to circulate in the economy quickly. Participants spend nearly all their food stamps within one month of receipt, according to a study by the University of New Hampshire Carsey Institute.

Grocers say they feel the impact of SNAP and other USDA nutrition programs like Women, Infants and Children.

"Without SNAP and WIC, we wouldn't be able to make it," wrote the owner of the Mill City Market in the small town of Mill City, Ore., in a survey of rural grocers conducted by the Oregon Food Bank and Kansas State University Rural Grocery Initiative.

Owners know they have to stock the shelves to prepare for more business when SNAP benefits hit the streets, said David Procter with the Rural Grocery Initiative

It's not just the mom-and-pop stores that see a bump from food-stamp spending in small towns and rural areas. Walmart reported in a recent Securities and Exchange Commission filing that a decrease in SNAP benefits last year could affect the retail giant's bottom line.

Average SNAP benefits nationally fell about \$30 a month per family in November after a temporary increase that was part of the 2009 economic stimulus package. More funding decreases are on the way.

This summer, Congress agreed to trim about \$8 billion from SNAP over the next decade. Backers of the cuts said the program had expanded too much in recent years and was creating too much reliance on government assistance. SNAP expenditures increased 135 percent between 2007 and 2011.

U.S. Rep. Eric Cantor (Va.-R) backed a measure that would have removed SNAP from the farm bill entirely.

"While [SNAP] is an important part

of our safety net, our overriding goal should be to help our citizens with the education and skills they need to get back on their feet so that they can provide for themselves and their families," Rep. Cantor said during congressional debate.

Food stamps have been part of the farm bill for the past 50 years. The legislation's combination of farming and nutrition programs has helped ensure the bill receives broad backing from farm-country representatives and more urban-based members who support anti-poverty programs.

That alliance was tested but held with the passage of the 2014 farm bill.

Data for this article came from USDA Food and Nutrition Services, the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the U.S. Census. The data was compiled and analyzed by Roberto Gallardo, Ph.D., associate Extension professor with the Mississippi State University Extension Service. Funding for this report came from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. The Daily Yonder (www.dailyyonder.com) is an independent rural news site published by the nonprofit, nonpartisan Center for Rural Strategies.

DeSoto A-Team hosts 'Shoe-morial' academic tourney

SUBMITTED By **ANDREW HAGEN**
DCHS A-TEAM

The DeSoto County High School Academic Team — the A-Team — held its first John Schudel Memorial Academic Team Tournament on Saturday.

Five teams plus DCHS participated in the invitational tournament, named after the late John C. Schudel, a beloved English teacher and former A-Team coach.

Schudel died of lung cancer in 2010, but during his tenure as coach, "Mr. Shoe" led the team to the state championships three times, and also led Team Florida to win the Nationals in 1999. Carolyn Crews, co-coach of the A-Team, said, "We could think of no better way

to keep alive the memory of Mr. Shoe than by getting out the buzzers and asking a few questions."

Schools from neighboring counties traveled to compete in the event and scholarships were awarded. Bishop Verot and DeSoto-A both qualified for the P.A.C.E. Nationals on May 24 in Reston, VA.

"This is the first time an A-Team tournament has been held in our county," said co-coach Andrew Hagen. "In addition to honoring Mr. Shoe and his achievements as coach, this tournament puts DeSoto on the A-Team map. Every team in attendance has already stated they wish to return, and our goal is to entice about 5 to 10 more schools from neighboring counties to compete. In time, The Shoemorial could become a regional championship."

Winners were: First, Bishop Verot; second, DeSoto County; third, Dunbar High School; fourth, Edison Collegiate High School; fifth, Palmetto Ridge High School; and sixth, DeSoto Team B.

The DeSoto County Education Foundation (sponsored by The Morgan Foundation, Suncoast Credit Union, Mosaic and Peace River Citrus) funded scholarships for the highest performing individuals in the amounts of \$750, \$500 and \$250. These were awarded to Garret Chapman of Palmetto Ridge, Allison Oliva of Bishop Verot, and DeSoto Captain Sergio Villafuerte, respectively.

Volunteers and sponsors were: Matt

Holloman (reader), Dana Holloman (scorekeeper), Anna Springer (reader), Meredith Shattuck (scorekeeper), Jack Mizell (reader), Pat Schudel (scorekeeper), Derek Markham (tabulator), Larry Bailey (tabulator), Greg Kondukov

(tabulator), Mike Mizell (Chef), Riley Mizell (Co-Chef), Cynthia Mizell (accounting), Sheldon Shine (head custodian), Marilyn Lutton (Coach DeSoto B), Carolyn Crews (Catch-all) and Colby Arsenseau (Runner).



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY ANDREW HAGEN

Tournament director and A-Team coach Andrew Hagen, left, poses with Pat Schudel.



Placing second was the DeSoto County High School A-Team Mitchell Moore, Juan Perez, Sergio Villafuerte and Blaine Wallace, with coach Andrew Hagen.

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

In the foreground is the wall of one of the original General Development clarifier tanks, showing the walls after cleaning and with patches applied to seal any cracks. In the back, another tank has been coated with epoxy inside.



Richard Anderson, system operations manager, explains that old metal fixtures such as pipes and weirs corroded with rust over the years and need to be repaired or replaced.



A complex system of pipes delivers water from the clarifier tank to the filter system. Pipes that have corroded or developed leaks over the past 30+ years are being replaced.

WATER

FROM PAGE 1

pumped from the Peace, and conducted underground and under Kings Highway through 66-inch diameter pipes to the large reservoir. Even at that, the plant removes only about 3 percent of the total annual flow of the river.

Raw water is stored in the reservoir, which has an under-water aeration system to keep the water from stagnating. The banks of the reservoir are steplike, which helps it resist wave action. The reservoir is built to withstand a Category 5 hurricane, and is about 35 feet deep.

Raw water is then pumped over to the plant as needed. There are several banks of treatment equipment: the



DeSoto County Commissioner Bob Miller represents the county on the board of the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority.

original General Development tanks which produce about 12 million gallons a day (MGD), plus another 12 MGD system added in 2002, and another set of tanks which added 24 MGD in 2009, bringing the total capacity to 48 MGD.

Treated water is stored on-site in a series of large tanks, and it can also be squirreled away in an aquifer storage system, the largest of its kind in the eastern United States. Some 6.3 billion gallons of treated water can be stored in a field of 21 wells that are up to 900 feet deep.

The \$1.5 million state grant was ceremoniously presented with an oversized check. Lehman invited past PRMRWSA board members, including former DeSoto County commissioner Jerry Hill, who served at the time the plan was developed, to accept the check Friday. Those funds will help expand the plant's capacity by an additional 3 million gallons a day.

"We should put up golden arches and a sign that says '70 billion gallons of water served over the past 20 years,'" Lehman said.



The State of Florida is presenting \$1.5 million to the Peace River/ Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority toward renovation and expansion of the water treatment plant located on Kings Highway. On Thursday, former representatives of the member communities, who served on the board of directors when the rebuilding plan was approved, were on hand to accept the check during the Authority's annual tour and barbecue lunch. From left: State Representative Ray Pilon; Dick Loftus, former Charlotte County Commissioner; Shannon Staub, former Sarasota County Commissioner; Jerry Hill, former DeSoto County Commissioner; State Representative Ken Roberson; and Adam Cummings, former Charlotte County Commissioner.



The newer filters clean the water after the coagulation process. Water is filtered through layers of gravel, sand and charcoal to remove any fine particles prior to disinfection.



DeSoto County Coordinator Mandy Hines, left, greets Tara Poulton, Southwest Florida Water Management District's government affairs manager, at the water authority's barbecue Friday.



At the barbecue, a plaque honoring the late Guy Maxcy, DeSoto County administrator, was displayed.



Four large pumps draw water from the Peace River and direct it to 66-inch diameter underground pipes that bring the water to the reservoir on the other side of Kings Highway.



The regional water authority has won many awards for best-tasting water.



Inset: The area of the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority's intake along the Peace River is scenic. The authority withdraws water only when water levels are high enough to assure the river and estuary habitats will be protected.



The one-square-mile reservoir, completed in 2009, holds 6 billion gallons of raw water. The banks are finished as stairsteps to reduce the impact of water waves on the slopes. It is built to withstand a Category 5 hurricane.

DeSoto SPORTS EXTRA

The Sun / Thursday, May 15, 2014

www.sunnewspapers.net Arcadian | Page 14



ARCADIAN PHOTOS BY STEVE KNAPP, sbigdaddyknapp@aol.com

DeSoto County softball coach Billy Hines is retiring after 15 years at the helm of the Lady Bulldogs softball program.

Hines retires as varsity softball coach

By STEVE KNAPP

ARCADIAN SPORTS DIRECTOR

At the May 6 spring sports awards ceremony, DeSoto County softball coach Billy Hines announced his retirement to his 2014 team. It was an emotional announcement, as coaches often become as close to their players as they do to their own families.

Family was the reason behind Hines' decision to leave after 15 years as the top dog in the very successful softball program.

"I knew it is time to quit when I realized how much of my grandchildren's lives I've missed because of the time I've spent with my team. I've got three grandchildren ages 15, 13 and 9 and I've missed a lot of 'firsts' that they've done and I think it is about time I spend a little more time with them," Hines said.

Hines is the kind of coach who doesn't keep track of his record over his 15-year career. "I don't coach for records, I coach to help these girls become better players and better people

so they have a chance to become successful in their lives," he said. "I know we've won three district titles and a handful of runners-up along with a final four a few years ago but I really couldn't tell you my overall record."

"Coach Billy," as many players call him, is a gentleman who allowed the press to sit in the dugout during games and use his office to go over the books after the games and was always able to come up with a good quote even after a difficult game.

He never yelled at his team. He was like a grandpa to the players as he just told them what went wrong and

would often say, "We've got to work on a few things to get better." When the team won a game, he referred to them as "they." When the Bulldogs came up short on the scoreboard, he referred to the team as "we."

"Downtown" Debbie Brown graduates this year after playing on the varsity for four years for Hines. "He's not a mean coach and doesn't yell so that is nice. I'm really glad he stayed through my senior year, it would have been sad if he would have left earlier," Brown said.

When Charlotte High School softball coach Greg Higgins was told of Hines' retirement, Higgins responded, "Oh no, not Billy! He's a true gentleman and was the only coach

who came up to me in my first year of coaching and introduced himself to me and welcomed me to the area. Nobody else did that and I respected him for that. He's going to be missed. He's an old schooler as a coach and I like that. I'm really going to miss not seeing him in the other dugout."

Hines might not be completely out of the softball program. "I'll help out the new coach if they want me around. Now I don't have to leave 'My Office' (Hines' boat's name) at 2 p.m. to get to practice or to a game," he said. "Now I can show up at 6 p.m. and just watch the game. I don't have to stay late and take care of the field or do any of that stuff anymore. I think I'm going to enjoy retirement."

DeSoto athletes named to all-area team



ARCADIAN PHOTO BY STEVE KNAPP, sbigdaddyknapp@aol.com

These DeSoto County High School athletes were selected to the Charlotte Sun All-Area teams for the winter season. Back row, from left: Tony Lee (basketball); Rosario Zavala (soccer); Kari Williams (basketball); Juan Villafuerte and Manolo Mejia (both for soccer). Sitting, from left: Lucero Perez (soccer); Tishonna Riley (basketball); and Angelica Garcia (soccer). Missing is Chino Vargas, who was selected as the player of the year for boys' soccer.

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Billy Hines talks to his pitcher Destiny Payne and catcher Hayden Lipe during a game at Lemon Bay this past season.

Spring sports banquet ends successful year

By **STEVE KNAPP**

ARCADIAN SPORTS DIRECTOR

The DeSoto County High School Athletic Department held its spring sports awards May 6, which concludes a very successful year for Bulldog sports. Eleven of the 18 teams that the high school fields competed in postseason action and got past the district level of play.

Several individual athletes made an appearance at the state meet in spring sports including Mike McEwen in weightlifting and Tajahs Jackson in track and field. McEwen finished seventh with a total lift of 585 pounds. Jackson finished third in the triple jump, seventh in the 100 meters and 13th in the long jump.



ARCADIAN PHOTOS BY STEVE KNAPP, sbigdaddyknapp@aol.com

The 2014 boys' and girls' track and field teams.



Tajahs Jackson shows his most valuable player trophy as he wears his two state medals around his neck.



Athletic Director Jarrett Zolkos introduces Mike McEwen (left) and Tajahs Jackson at the spring sports awards held May 6. Both athletes competed in the state meet, with McEwen finishing seventh in weightlifting and Jackson qualified in three events for the track and field team. He finished third in the triple jump, seventh in the 100 meters and 13th in the long jump.



Showing their awards from the varsity baseball team are Levi Osceola, Tony LaLonde, Robb Adams and Will Nelson.

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Latin Bombers down Nocatee Baptist 23-12



ARCADIAN PHOTOS BY STEVE KNAPP, sbigdaddyknapp@aol.com



The Latin Bombers are happy after their win over Nocatee Baptist Church in the DCAA softball league

Josh Safford from Nocatee Baptist Church takes his turn on the mound as the Latin Bombers had some hot bats in their 23-12 win in the DeSoto County Adult Athletic Association contest.

The Nocatee Baptist Church team in the DCAA mens' softball league.



Miguel Cendejas takes a healthy cut at a pitch in the Latin Bombers' win over Nocatee Baptist Church.



The Latin Bombers' Jorge Zara rounds the bag too far in his team's game against Nocatee Baptist Church. Zara got back in time as the Bombers downed NBC 23-12.

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Another view of armadillos

By CAROL MAHLER

Like many other creatures introduced to Florida, armadillos are destructive to native habitats. Although they have destroyed lawns, golf courses, gardens, groves, and other human efforts with their endless rooting, they have also decimated the leaf litter community of hardwood hammocks.

A herpetologist renowned for his studies of sea turtles, Archie Carr (1909-1987), observed and wrote about other species including armadillos. Originally published in the magazine *Animal Kingdom* and reprinted in his book "A Naturalist in Florida," his essay, *Armadillo Dilemma*, begins with his fascination.

"There was a time when armadillos seemed to me among the most beguiling of mammals. I first met them when my father read Kipling's 'Just So Stories' to me, and we got to 'The Beginning of the Armadillos,' in which it is suggested that they arose when the tortoise and the



ARCADIAN PHOTO BY CAROL MAHLER

Many armadillos, like this one, inhabit Morgan Park. The nine bands in the middle of their "shells" are described by the second word in their scientific name: "Dasypus novemcinctus."

hedgehog combined their special adaptations to foil Painted Jaguar. Nothing I later learned about armadillos has changed my view that as long as they say in their natural range, they are just great."

Florida is not the natural range of the armadillo.

Originally, they lived in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. They migrated along the Gulf Coast, and they eventually reached the Florida Panhandle in the 20th century.

Armadillos also escaped into Florida's wilderness: from

a Hialeah zoo in 1920; from a Cocoa zoo during a hurricane in 1924; from an overturned circus truck near Titusville in 1926. The number of animals involved in any of these incidents is unknown, but Carr logically explains how in the intervening decades the progeny of even one pregnant armadillo could have overwhelmed the state.

In his 1982 essay, he noted, "Today peninsular Florida armadillos are more numerous than any other mammal bigger than a squirrel." Does anyone remember when armadillos were first seen in DeSoto County?

Some people — including Al and Karen Smoke in their *Over the Garden Gate* column published in the May 1 issue of *The Arcadian* — consider armadillos to be beneficial because they eat insects considered to be pests.

Although armadillos are classified as insect eaters, they are truly omnivores. They will eat anything that will pass through their relatively small, nearly toothless

mouth. They also consume millipedes, spiders, snails, toads, lizards, skinks and snakes. In addition, armadillos disrupt the layers of leaves and leaf fragments, decaying debris, detritus, humus and sand, or what Carr describes as "the natural order of the peninsula's broadleaved forest communities." In essence, they ruin the habitat for creatures "from microbes to vertebrates" as well as the production of nutrients to nourish the plants.

Through systematic sampling of this leaf litter around Gainesville since the 1930s, Carr documented that the "small animals" he once found in numbers from 20 to 100 in each sample were completely absent after the armadillos had rooted in the area.

Although he is sympathetic to the destruction that armadillos cause to human landscapes, Carr mourns more the loss of Florida's hardwood hammock's fauna. He remained uncertain of its long-term effect on the environment.



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Pomegranate holds promise for Florida growers

Until a few years ago, the pomegranate was a novelty fruit; entire fruits used for decoration or the bright red arils used as garnish, adding a sparkling of ruby jewels to salads and meats. Then it was discovered that pomegranates are high in anti-oxidants, and overnight pomegranate became a glamour fruit. Pomegranates are also rich in thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, vitamins B6, B9, and C, calcium, iron, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium and zinc.

Pomegranate may hold potential as an alternative fruit crop for citrus growers and small farmers. Commercially only a few varieties are grown, but there are dozens of other varieties that possibly hold promise for growing in our area. Pomegranate grows in tropical to warm temperate climates. It is native to southern Asia and was grown in ancient Egypt, Babylon, India and Iran. The Spanish cultivated it and brought it to Mexico and California in the 16th century. Pomegranates were also grown in Florida in the 1800s.

More than 80 types of pomegranate are currently being evaluated in a study directed by Dr. Bill Castle at the Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred, with a duplicate planting in Winter Garden. More than 5,000 plants have been distributed to commercial growers and home growers around the state, including a small grove in Hardee County. This plant will grow and thrive in our area — whether it has value as a commercial crop has not yet been determined.

Pomegranate does best in areas with cool winters and hot dry summers. Varieties vary in their frost tolerance, but all are more tolerant than citrus. Pomegranate forms a bushy small tree, usually with multiple trunks. Leaves are dark green and



Over the Garden Gate

Al & Karen Smoke

aandksmoke@gmail.com

shiny and trees are normally deciduous, but in our area may retain some leaves year round.

The flowers are bright orange-red and quite showy. Male flowers that do not produce fruit and self-fertile flowers are produced on new growth in spring. The fruit retains the crown-like calyx at the blossom end as it develops. Fruits average 3 inches in diameter and are round at first, becoming somewhat blocky as they mature. Inside the leathery skin, several irregular chambers are tightly packed with seeds surrounded by the edible juicy flesh called an aril. The seeds range in hardness — varieties with soft seeds are desirable for fresh eating, hard seeded varieties are best for juice. The color of the aril also ranges from deep red or purple to white, and the lighter color arils typically contain softer seeds. However, the deep red arils contain the most anti-oxidants.

Plants are easily started from cuttings or seeds. Seedlings are highly variable, but since seedlings may begin producing fruit in as little as two years, they are worth experimenting with. Since the trees tend



PHOTO PROVIDED BY COMMONS WIKIMEDIA.ORG (H. ZELL)

The fruit retains the crown-like calyx at the blossom end as it develops. Fruits average 3 inches diameter and are round at first, becoming somewhat blocky as they mature. Inside the leathery skin several irregular chambers are tightly packed with seeds surrounded by the edible juicy flesh called an aril.

to sucker from the base and produce a bushy plant, one tree will provide cuttings for many more.

Seed should first be washed, dried and then stored in the refrigerator for a few weeks before planting. Sow the seeds about 1 inch deep in potting mix and keep the soil warm and moist. Transplant seedlings to individual pots when they are 4 to 6 inches tall.

Root cuttings to get a plant true to the parent. Cuttings taken at any time of the year will root well if using a mist bed; a home grower would probably have better luck with pencil-sized cuttings taken in winter. Scrape the bark gently on the lower end and dip in a rooting hormone

compound for best results. The trick is to control moisture so soil at the rooting tip stays moist, but not soggy. Roots will begin to develop in four to eight weeks, and plants are ready to set out at about eight months.

Pomegranate is able to grow in a wide range of environmental and soil conditions. Avoid chronically wet conditions and over watering. One of the most significant limiting factors in Florida is their susceptibility to the root-knot nematode. Enriching the soil in advance with organic amendments will help, for other ideas see: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/NG/NG03200.pdf>.

For best fruiting, plant where trees will receive at least six hours of sunlight per day. In groves space plants 10 to 12 feet apart in the row and 20 feet between rows. A fairly heavy moist soil is preferred, with a pH of 5.5 to 7. The exact fertilizer needs are not known. Fertilize pomegranate about the same as citrus.

Insect pests such as aphids, mealy bugs, scales, thrips and various mites may occasionally require control. Diseases caused by fungi and bacteria are a serious problem in Florida. Leaf spotting may cause premature leaf drop, reducing plant vigor. Fruit blemishes, fruit drop and fruit rot caused by fungi and bacteria have been reported. Neutral copper fungicide or another spray program to control fungal diseases is recommended.

'Wonderful' is the variety grown commercially in California. 'Purple Seed' and 'Spanish Ruby' are popular dooryard cultivars. 'Angel Red' is a patented variety with cream colored fruit.

To open a pomegranate, score the outer shell as if you were quartering it. Smack the stem end down on a hard surface and it will split into irregular sections. Hold fruit over a bowl and pick out the arils. Use the arils as garnish, or squeeze the juice using a potato ricer. The seeds are edible, but some may be tough.

Pomegranate is an interesting fruit to grow. You'll find pomegranate trees and hundreds of other fruits suitable for growing in Florida at the Manatee Rare Fruit Council Tree Sale Sunday, May 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Bradenton Area Convention Center, One Haben Blvd, Palmetto, FL 34219. For more information see www.mrfc.org, or call Pete Ray, 941-776-0222.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY COMMONS WIKIMEDIA.ORG (H. ZELL)

Pomegranate forms a bushy small tree, usually with multiple trunks. Leaves are dark green and shiny and trees are normally deciduous, but in our area may retain some leaves year round.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY COMMONS WIKIMEDIA.ORG (EITAN F.)

Pomegranate may hold potential as an alternative fruit crop for citrus growers and small farmers. Because of the health benefits of this fruit, interest in growing it has surged in recent years. But growing pomegranate is not new to Florida; pomegranates were shipped from Florida in the 1800s.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY COMMONS WIKIMEDIA.ORG (H. ZELL)

The flowers are bright orange red and quite showy. Male flowers that do not produce fruit and self-fertile flowers are produced on new growth in spring.

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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.: 2014 DR 244
Jesus Hernandez Guzman, Petitioner and Maria Elizabeth Sanchez Medrano, Respondent

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

TO: Maria Elizabeth Sanchez Medrano
Last Known Address Mexico
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 on the Petitioner, Jesus Hernandez Guzman whose address is, PO BOX 2607, Arcadia, FL 34265 on or before June 13, 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

NOTICE OF ACTION 3116

demand 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: May 14, 2014 MITZIE W. MCGAVIC CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT BY: /s/ Marlene Harris Deputy Clerk
Published 5/15/14, 5/22/14, 5/29/14 & 6/5/14 131159 3040264

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 Wilys German, Respondent
NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

TO: Wilys 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 FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 2014 CP 46
Division Probate
IN RE: ESTATE OF SARAH B. ROE Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS (Summary Administration)
TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:
You are hereby notified that an Order of Summary Administration has been entered in the estate of Sarah B. Roe, deceased, File

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 3120

Number 2014 CP 46, by the Circuit Court for Desoto County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 115 East Oak Street, Arcadia, FL 34266; that the decedent's date of death was November 17, 2013; that the total value of the estate is \$21,634.23 and that the names and addresses of those to whom it has been assigned by such order are:
Name Address
Sarah A. Roe 2917 Grandview Atlanta, GA 30305
ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:
All creditors of the estate of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent other than those for whom provision for full payment was made in the Order of Summary Administration must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE. ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER APPLICABLE TIME PERIOD, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of first publication of this Notice is May 8, 2014. Attorney for Person Giving Notice /s/ Ira S. Wiesner Attorney Florida Bar Number: 222887 Professional Association, Advocates in Aging 328 N. Rhodes Avenue Sarasota, Florida 34237 Telephone: (941) 365-9900 Fax: (941) 365-4479 E-Mail: advocates@wiesnerlaw.com Secondary E-Mail: sarah@wiesnerlaw.com Published 5/8/14 & 5/15/14 370391 3037720

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE 3122

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2012 CA 000156
WELLS FARGO BANK, NA, Plaintiff, VS. CLEO SMITH; 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 April 15, 2014 in Civil Case No. 2012 CA 000156, of the Circuit Court of the Judicial Circuit in and for DESOTO County, Florida, wherein, WELLS FARGO BANK, NA is the Plaintiff, and CLEO SMITH; UNKNOWN TENANT #1 N/K/A ALBERT SMITH JR. 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 June 3, 2014** the following described real property as set forth in said Final Summary Judgment, to wit: **LOT 114, HARLEM HEIGHTS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6,**

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE 3122

PAGE 82, 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)
Dated this 13th day of May, 2014
1615 South Congress Avenue, Suite 200 Delray Beach, FL 33445
Phone: 561.392.6391
Fax: 561.392.6965
BY: Nalini Singh
FBN: 43700
Primary E-Mail: ServiceMail@aclawllp.com
Secondary E-Mail: NSingh@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 5/15/14 & 5/22/14 334261 3040107

Find it in the Classifieds!

NOTICE OF MEETING 3126

Notice of Meeting/ Workshop Hearing
Department of Environmental Protection

The Department of Environmental Protection announces a public meeting to which all persons are invited.
Date and Time: Thursday, June 5, 2014, 6:00 p.m.
Place: DeSoto County Commission Chambers, 201 E. Oak St., Suite 201, Arcadia, FL 34266
General Subject Matter To Be Considered: Take public testimony on all Florida Forever land acquisition projects, new proposals, and ranking within categories. A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting: Hank Vinson, Office of Conservation Services at (850) 245-2713 or on the web at www.dep.state.fl.us/lands/arc_calendar.htm. Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this workshop/meeting is asked to advise DeSoto County at least 48 hours before the workshop/meeting by contacting: Lauri Jones, DeSoto County Administration Office at (863) 993-4800 or l.terry@desotobocc.com. For more information, you may contact: Hank Vinson, Office of Conservation Services at (850) 245-2713 or hank.vinson@dep.state.fl.us. Published 5/8/14 369999 3035063

**NOTICE OF SALE
3130**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION Case# 2013-CA-000239 Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Trustee for WaMu Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-PR1 Trust Plaintiff, vs Diana De Barr, Administrator of The Estate of Anthony C. Pace, Deceased; Natalie R. Pace; Unknown Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, Assignees, Creditors, Lienors and Trustees of Anthony C. Pace, Deceased; et al. Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment, entered in Civil Case No. 2013-CA-000239 of the Circuit Court of the 12th Judicial Circuit in and for DeSoto County, Florida, wherein Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Trustee for WaMu Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-PR1 Trust, Plaintiff and Diana DeBarr, Administrator of the Estate of ANthony C. Pace, Deceased are defendant(s), I Clerk of Court, Mitzie W. McGavic, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash AT THE SOUTH ENTRANCE OF THE DESOTO COUNTY COURTHOUSE, AT 11:00 A.M. on may 27, 2014, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:

LOT 9, BLOCK 4, FIRST REPLAT IN PEMBROKE SUBDIVISION, A SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED N PLAT BOOK 9, PAGES 80 THROUGH 80C, OF 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. 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 ADA Coordinator; 2002 Ringling Boulevard, 8th Floor, Sarasota, Florida 34237 (941)861-7811 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification of the time before the scheduled appearance is less then 7 days. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

Mitzie W. McGavic
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
DeSoto County Florida
/s/ B. Wynn
DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT
Published 5/8/14 & 5/15/14
118683 3037789

Notice of Public Sale, Notice is hereby given that on 6/11/14 at 10:30 am, the following vehicle will be sold at public auction pursuant to F.S. 713.585 to satisfy towing, storage, and labor charges:

**1996 FORD
#1FALP6538TK199151**
The vehicle will be sold for \$1171.00. Sale will be held by lienor at Downtown Paint Can-245 W Magnolia, Arcadia, FL 34266, 941-628-2720. Pursuant to F.S. 713.585, the cash sum amount of \$1171.00 would be sufficient to redeem the vehicle from the lienor. Any owner, lien holders, or interested parties have a right to a hearing prior to the sale by filing a demand with the Desoto County Clerk of Circuit Court for disposition. The owner has a right to recover possession of the vehicle prior to the sale, by posting a bond pursuant to F.S. 559.917, and if sold, proceeds remaining from the sale will be deposited with the Clerk of the Circuit Court in Desoto County for disposition. Lienor reserves the right to bid. Published 5/15/14 295152 3040221

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

Case No.: 14-2013-CA-000314
Section: 02
DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE, ON BEHALF OF THE HOLDERS OF THE ACCREDITED MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2007-1 ASSET BACKED NOTES Plaintiff, vs.

**NOTICE OF SALE
3130**

CYNTHIA BROWN; 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, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS; HOMEPLUS FINANCE CORPORATION; AND TENANT Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order of Final Summary Judgment of Foreclosure dated April 11, 2014, entered in Civil Case No. 14-2013-CA-000314 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 27th 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 6, BLOCK B, ROBINSON COURT, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 5, PAGE 65, 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. **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 16th day of April, 2014 /s/ Crystal M. Henderson Deputy Clerk Mitzie W. McGavic CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT DeSoto County, FLORIDA Published 5/15/14 & 5/22/14 329037 3039907

NEED CASH?

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION Case No. 2013-CA-000425 AXMA CALUSA NATIONAL BANK, Plaintiff, vs. AUDREY T. SANBORN and UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment dated March 24, 2014, and entered in Civil Action Number 2013-CA-000425 AXMA in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit in and for Desoto County, Florida, wherein CALUSA NATIONAL BANK is the Plaintiff and AUDREY T. SANBORN is the Defendant. I WILL SELL to the highest bidder for cash beginning at 11:00 a.m. on July 15, 2014 at the Desoto County Courthouse located at 115 East Oak Street, Arcadia, FL 34266 in accordance with Chapter 45 Florida Statutes the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit: Lots 123 and 124, of PEACE RIVER ACRES, FIRST ADDITION, a subdivision according to the map or plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 6, page 80, of 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. Dated April 25, 2014. Mitzie W. McGavic, Clerk of Court BY: /s/ N. Daughtrey Deputy Clerk Published 5/15/14 & 5/22/14 114849 3039924

**NOTICE OF SALE
3130**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 142014CA000001 THE FIRST STATE BANK OF ARCADIA Plaintiff, vs. JERROLD M. GASKINS, ET AL Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES CHAPTER 45
NOTICE IS GIVEN that pursuant to a UNIFORM FINAL JUDGMENT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE dated April 28, 2014, in the above styled cause, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the DeSoto County Courthouse, 115 Oak Street, Arcadia, FL 34266, at 11:00 A.M. on July 8, 2014, the following described property as set forth in UNIFORM FINAL JUDGMENT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE, to wit: **Begin at the Southeast corner of the Southeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 12, Township 38 South, Range 25 East for Point of Beginning; thence North 88 degrees 00 minutes 40 seconds West along South line of said tract, 371.68 feet; thence North 6 degrees 37 minutes 11 seconds West, 921.87 feet to Southerly right of way of County Road # 760 (formerly S.R. # 760); thence North 54 degrees 00 minutes 54 seconds East along said right of way, 460.25 feet to P.C. of curve to right having a cord bearing of North 61 degrees 37 minutes 03 seconds East and a cord distance of 144.57 feet; thence Northeasterly along said right of way on arc of said curve, 144.97 feet to East line of said Southeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4; thence South 0 degrees 59 minutes 21 seconds West along said East line, 1267.96 feet to Point of Beginning. LESS AND EXCEPT THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY:**

Begin at the Southeast corner of the Southeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 12, Township 38 South, Range 25 East, DeSoto County, Florida; thence North 88 degrees 00 minutes 40 seconds West along South line of said tract, 291.36 feet for Point of Beginning; thence continue same line, 80.32 feet; thence North 06 degrees 37 minutes 11 seconds West, 416.19 feet; thence South 17 degrees 07 minutes 36 seconds East, 435.52 feet to Point of Beginning. Parcel Id: 12-38-25-0000-0042-0000 Commonly known as: 6463 CR 760 E, Arcadia, FL 34266

Dated this 29th day of April, 2014. MITZIE W. McGAVIC, Clerk of Court By: /s/ N. Daughtrey 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 the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the DeSoto County Jury Office, 115 East Oak Street, Arcadia, Florida 34266, telephone: (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. 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 SIXTY (60) DAYS AFTER THE SALE. Published 5/15/14 & 5/22/14 369050 3039871

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 142014CA000012 THE FIRST STATE BANK OF ARCADIA Plaintiff, vs. DEREK W. LINTON a/k/a DEREK WILLIAM LINTON, ET AL Defendants.

**NOTICE OF SALE
3130**

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS GIVEN that pursuant to a UNIFORM FINAL JUDGMENT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE dated April 28, 2014, in the above styled cause, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the DeSoto County Courthouse, 115 Oak Street, Arcadia, FL 34266, at 11:00 A.M. on May 29, 2014, the following described property as set forth in UNIFORM FINAL JUDGMENT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE, to wit:

The North 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 22, Township 39 South, Range 25 East, DeSoto County, Florida, LESS AND EXCEPT road right-of-way. TOGETHER WITH a 2005 Fleetwood Double-Wide Mobile Home (VIN #GAF1535A90245BH31 and GAF1535B90245BH31). Parcel Id: 22-39-25-0000-0030-0000 Commonly known as: 10670 SE Shelfer Avenue, Arcadia, FL 34266 Dated this 29th day of April, 2014.

MITZIE W. McGAVIC Clerk of Court By: /s/ N. Daughtrey 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 the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the DeSoto County Jury Office, 115 East Oak Street, Arcadia, Florida 34266, telephone: (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.

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 SIXTY (60) DAYS AFTER THE SALE. Published 5/8/14 & 5/15/14 369050 3037747

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NUMBER: 14CA060 WAUCHULA STATE BANK, a Florida banking corporation, Plaintiff, vs. AURORA C. GUERRERO a/k/a AURORA CANO GUERRERO and DIANA GUERRERO HERRERA a/k/a DIANA HERRERA and RICHARD HERRERA, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a final decree of foreclosure entered in the above-entitled cause in the Circuit Court of DeSoto County, Florida, I will sell the property situated in DeSoto County, Florida, described as: Lot 46, PINE RIDGE ESTATES, an unrecorded plat of DeSoto County, Florida, being more particularly described as follows: Begin at the Northwest corner of the South 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 33, Township 37 South, Range 24 East, DeSoto County, Florida; thence South 89°50' East, along the North line of said tract, 900.00 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING; thence continue along same line, 100.0 feet; thence South 00°07'30" East, 250.43 feet; thence North 89°40' West, 100.0 feet; thence North 00°07'30" West, 250.43 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING; LESS AND EXCEPT right-of-way for NW Highland Street. TOGETHER WITH a 1996 Trin Single Wide Mobile Home, ID #FLA146M9733, Title #71192217 STREET ADDRESS: 4576 NW Highland Street, Arcadia, Florida.

at public sale, to the highest and best bidder for cash, on the Courthouse steps of the DeSoto County Courthouse located at 115 East Oak Street, Arcadia, Florida, in accordance with Section 45.031, Florida Statutes (2004), at 11:00 a.m., on the 24th day of June 2014. NOTICE: Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the

**NOTICE OF SALE
3130**

Lis Pendens must file a claim within sixty (60) days after the sale. SIGNED this May 2, 2014. MITZIE W. MCGAVIC CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT By: /s/ B. Wynn Deputy Clerk Published 5/15/14 & 5/22/14 360555 3040089

Find your Best Friend in the Classifieds!

**OTHER NOTICES
3138**

Mahendrakumar Patel, MD has closed medical practice at AGIM Inc, 201 E Gibson, FL 34266 on 4/30/14. Records may be obtained from Arcadia Medical Associates, 425 Nursing Home Dr, Arcadia, FL 34266. Phone: 863-993-2966. You may see him at Community Care Family Clinic, Arcadia.

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF DESOTO COUNTY is soliciting a contract for "Financing for School Buses - Tax Exempt Lease". Proposals must be submitted no later than May 28, 2014 at 10:00 A.M., at which time they will be opened. Copies of the solicitation may be obtained from our website at www.desotoschools.com, the Purchasing Department, at 530 LaSolona Avenue, Arcadia, Florida 34266 or by calling (863)494-4222, ext. 1111. Published 5/8/14 & 5/15/14 103762 3037757

**ARCADIA AREA GARAGE SALES
6001**

SAT 8am-5pm Furniture, children clothes & misc. 8379 SW Sunnybreeze Rd.

Thu-Sat 8am-? Building material, furniture, & misc. 701 W. Hickory St. Arcadia

A Bargain Hunters Delight Check the Classifieds first! A Whole Marketplace of shopping is right at your fingertips!

**AUTOS WANTED
7260**



**WE BUY & PICK UP JUNK CARS
941-661-1928**

**MOTOR HOMES/RVs
7380**



'02 GEORGETOWN 34' 2 slides, new tires on rear, new batteries, 34k miles, 5.5 generator, jacks. Camera ready for travel! \$17,500 OBO Call 863-491-8170 lv. mess. or 863-303-4442 for info!!



ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, your thoughts are distant right now, almost as if you're living in a fantasy world. This is creatively beneficial but not so helpful for practical tasks.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, if you're not careful, you could find yourself debating family and friends this week. Instead, try to sit back and listen rather than fostering debate.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, a realization about what is really important to you instills a renewed sense of confidence this week. You will be focused on important things.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, if your finances seem like they are in a state of upheaval, it could be because you have not looked at everything in black and white just yet. Make some changes.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23
You come on too strong sometimes, Leo. Those who know you best can handle this approach, but you can scare off potential new friends if you do not ease up.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
Be patient and do not demand too much of yourself during the next few days, Virgo. You need to keep your workload light; otherwise, you may get easily overwhelmed.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23
This is a time to discover the value of others, Libra. A willingness to try new things and delegate some responsibilities will free up your calendar.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22
Certain personalities don't always click, Scorpio. Don't feel the need to overcompensate for a strained relationship. Spend more time with those with whom you connect.

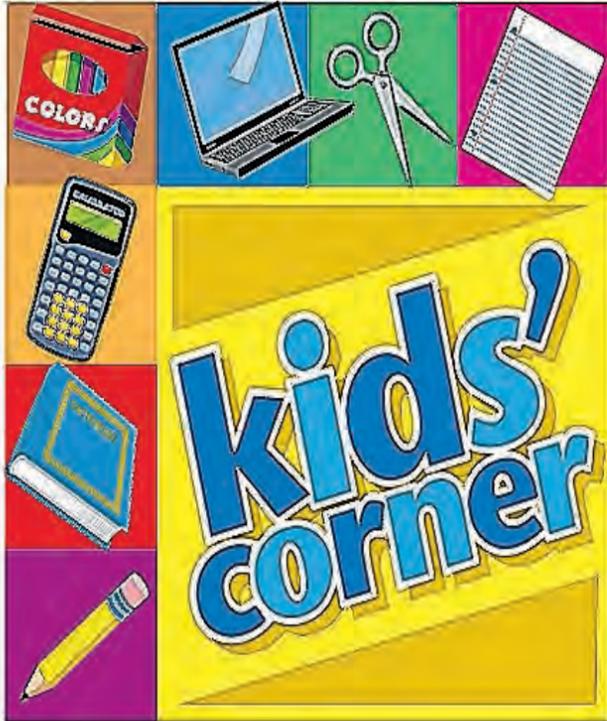
SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
Flexible thinking is key, Sagittarius, especially as you face a few new challenges this week. There are some opportunities to reconnect with family later in the week.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20
A rush of activity fills your calendar and keeps your phone ringing off the hook, Capricorn. Your challenge will be separating the pressing events from others.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, paperwork has built up and requires more time than you had originally planned. There is no way to avoid this task, but a helper can make it move more quickly.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20
Moderation is your mantra for the week, Pisces. Do not let the pendulum swing too far in either direction.

- FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS**
- MAY 18**
Tina Fey, Actress/Writer (44)
 - MAY 19**
Lily Cole, Actress (26)
 - MAY 20**
Sierra Boggess, Actress (32)
 - MAY 21**
Judge Reinhold, Actor (57)
 - MAY 22**
Ginnifer Goodwin, Actress (36)
 - MAY 23**
Jewel, Singer/Poet (40)
 - MAY 24**
Bob Dylan, Singer (73)



Creative Coloring

Get ready for National Hamburger Month. Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1770: MARIE ANTOINETTE MARRIES THE FUTURE KING LOUIS XVI OF FRANCE.
- 1929: THE FIRST ACADEMY AWARDS ARE AWARDED TO HONOR THE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY.
- 1946: THE MUSICAL, "ANNIE GET YOUR GUN," OPENS ON BROADWAY.

HEALTH FACT:



MAKE A HAMBURGER OUT OF THIS TYPE OF BEEF FOR A LEANER, HEALTHIER MEAL.

ANSWER: SIRLOIN



BROIL

cook by direct, radiant heat

How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Lettuce
- SPANISH:** Lechuga
- ITALIAN:** Lattuga
- FRENCH:** Laitue
- GERMAN:** Salat

Did you know?



DESPITE THEIR NAME, FRENCH FRIES DID NOT ORIGINATE IN FRANCE. IN MANY AREAS OF THE WORLD, FRIES ARE KNOWN AS "CHIPS."

GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: BURGER

OUR VIEW

FROM PAGE 4

16-year-old student in Kansas. After the paper reported the information to the school's athletic director, the employee was immediately fired.

It's a good reminder that not all background checks are created equal. A recent article in USA Today revealed documents showing that the search firm the University of Texas used

to hire its new football coach cost \$267,000, and did not even include employment reference checks or education verification.

The Council has placed its faith in Slaughter to put an end to the city's administrator roller coaster. The first step to building a strong foundation is to bury any doubts regarding his past, and change the closed-door culture that has permeated city hall in recent years. Only time will tell if Slaughter is up to the task, and we hope the answer is a resounding yes.

GRITS & PIECES

FROM PAGE 4

when it was going backwards, sliding out from under it, across the ground on their bellies. I think each class had at least one or two who were crazy enough to do this.

The sidewalks could be fun at recess, too, where some played jacks or hopscotch. I never was good at the former, but loved the latter and would play it right now if anyone wanted to. Mother, May I and Red Light, Green Light were popular as well. Have kids today even heard of those games? If not, it's a sad commentary on childhood today.

There were those kids who had to climb on everything, so the monkey bars or jungle gyms were the best way to let them get that out of their system for the day. Girls loved jumping rope, and had lots of chants that counted rhythm for those jumping — remember that? And how about spinning endlessly on the merry-go-round and staggering around, dizzy, after getting off?

Interactive sports included kick-ball and dodge ball, and for the real adventuresome, Red Rover, Red Rover! Remember having sore arms afterwards? I hear there were some players who'd intentionally "clothesline" approaching opponents back in the day, to put them out of the game. But don't look at me — I was more likely the one who got that abrupt throat chop!

See-saws and teeter-totters were the same thing. Nocatee had very long, wooden ones, with metal handles to hang onto, and after a few minutes of the old up and down routine, somebody would invariably park their end on the ground, leaving their partner's end up in the air. You'd be stuck up there forever, and sometimes the person on the ground would suddenly jump off, sending you straight down for a bump that rattled everything from your tailbone to your eye teeth. And don't say you don't remember being on one end of that or the other, or even both.

Some boys (and a few girls too) would draw a circle in the dirt and play

marbles for keeps. They'd drag from the pockets of their dungarees cat's eye marbles, clearies, steelies, bouldies, and of course, their favorite shooter. Kids today would probably get arrested for gambling if they tried to play today, and that makes me think that it's society who has lost all its marbles.

Some of us would play Rock, Scissors, Paper, and wind up with sore arms — especially if somebody "frogged" you. That meant raising the knuckle of your middle finger a little when you'd punch your opponents, and it was quite effective — remember?

Those who really wanted to interact radically would square off in sandspur fights, and if you ever got hit in the eyelid with one, you likely started rethinking that activity. Especially mean boys would get a small stick and swab sap off the pine trees on the playground, and fling it at your head, so it'd stick in your hair. The girls got the worst end of that, until they'd run to the teacher. In that case, you'd wind up on the wrong end of a wooden paddle. But it might've been worth it now and then, just for the fun and experience.

While riding past playgrounds brings back good memories, it feels a bit sad if they're empty. Some kids today still love to play there, thankfully, while I know a lot of kids would rather be playing on iPads or laptops. How'd we go from playgrounds to PlayStations in just a generation or two?

Is it not insane that the police are called anytime a child points his finger at a playmate, pretending it's a gun, and the kid is sent home and talked about on the evening news? And yet children are allowed to submerge themselves in video games where they hunt others down and blow them away with computerized weapons, complete with blood and brain splatter. How and why is that acceptable? I believe a lot of that has led to weapons at school in recent years.

Anyway, I'm thankful for my childhood memories and for being allowed to use my imagination in a carefree, simpler time. My inner child enjoys those memories as well. In fact, he wishes he could still go out and play.

Hopscotch, anyone?

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 4

did not want that discussion opened up, perhaps in fear of not having enough logical or rational support for their obvious candidate to offer in order to win an open debate with the two wanting discussion. If that was the case, it tells me the three did not use good judgment at all or were committed from the beginning with Mr. Slaughter and refused to be fair in judgment.

In my opinion they were not fair by placing Mr. Slaughter in the top five in the middle of the evaluation process when he was not qualified by the grid or criteria necessary to be fair in the evaluation. Again, as a result the council is at great risk of multiple failures or poor performances in the near future by these unfair tactics if found true.

Maurice Brown
Arcadia

Let owners use RVs on their land

Editor:

In response to Ms. Pafford's views expressed regarding the proposal for exception of RV use in DeSoto County, let's set the record straight, or at least provide a fair synopsis of current events that may provide a better understanding of why this exception is being considered.

As one of the property owners referred to in this matter, come clarification of Ms. Pafford's opinions is in order:

1. Our neighborhood is far from being an RV haven and no one is seeking the right to facilitate an RV park on their privately owned properties. Each individual landowner has invested a great deal in an effort to enjoy and maintain the beauty and simplicity of their land.
2. Each property is secluded and gated, and doesn't create any neighboring opportunity, for those who may find using a recreational vehicle offensive, or a deterrent.
3. Each landowner is diligent in maintaining proper protocol in waste management, and to suggest otherwise is simply false. I may remind you, primitive camping doesn't allow the use of facilities, so perhaps the alternative (RV) isn't so bad.

4. It is not illegal to use, own or maintain an RV on one's own property. At present, the only code enforced "violation" applicable would be for those considered "living" in their RV. Considering we all own a home, this is not our intent, as we simply want the right to enjoy our property as we should be allowed to do without scrutiny.

5. Not only do we pay taxes, we also pay our association fees just as those living in our neighborhood on a full-time basis, and are willing to work in partnership within our community and contribute where needed.

To suggest we contribute nothing to DeSoto County as "part-timers" defines the lack of knowledge and basis in these claims. We are all established business owners who have supported the local contractors, businesses and people of Arcadia for many years, and have roots planted within the community far beyond taking ownership of our properties. None of us are "transplants," so to speak, and have a great deal of pride and respect for this area and its people. Enough of the nonsense, let us enjoy our properties in peace.

And let's be fair; the members of BOCC have been both diligent and fair during this process in allowing views, opinions, suggestions and proposed solutions to be heard. We are confident their decision will be fair to all parties involved, and provide a workable solution to the issues at hand.

Mary and Michael Muscente
Arcadia

Don't complain — find a hobby

Editor:

First and foremost I would like to thank each of the DeSoto County Commissioners for their diligent work on the exhausting task that they have undertaken to update the LDR; it has certainly not been an easy task. As a long-standing member of this community I have admired the courage of the BOCC in many areas; they stand by their convictions and they have always been fair-minded. Thank you BOCC, no matter what the final outcome of this issue turns out to be.

It is beyond comprehension when people think that they have the right to dictate how others are going to live, because they purchased a beautiful serene piece of acreage to get away on the weekends from the hustle and bustle of living in the city. What audacity to think they have a right to belittle, harass and just plain be a nuisance instead of minding their own business. It is appalling the lengths some of these people have gone to continuously badger others, I always believed that most people are good and decent but how do you deal with this repugnant behavior in such a small community.

Have you all forgotten that you once did not have a home on your properties? Have we become a society of resentful bitter human beings because maybe the neighbor next-door has something you don't have? Perhaps the question to ask is where this aggression and hostility comes from because, from where I stand, it looks like a spoiled little child who did not get their way or the notorious school yard bully syndrome. Reassess your life, if you have too much time on your hands find a good hobby, lend a helping hand to someone in need but please stay out of other people's business.

Life is too short for all the negativity displayed in one small community; ask yourselves "how do I want to be remembered when my time here is over?" Do I want people to be sad but remember all the good things I've done, or by all the unforgivable acts of ill will that I hurled toward my neighbors? By the way, how do you dare say that these neighbors are still using their RVs illegally? All three of the neighbors you are berating have tents that they are staying in until this matter is settled.

"Peace of mind comes from not wanting to change others." — Gerald G. Jampolsky
Marie-Anne Smith
Arcadia

Keep your hands clean

Editor:

Everyone has seen the ad. A young girl claiming to be an environmental technician displays her muddy hands and says, "I get my hands dirty for the environment."

Hands aren't the only thing that's dirty about Mosaic, the world's largest phosphate strip mining company. Friends of Horse Creek maintains that phosphate strip mining is an unsustainable industry that permanently destroys water hydrology and biodiversity.

When a corporation has deep pockets, it can try to get the public to believe anything. Lately, Mosaic has launched a darker method to get respectability. Mosaic sends its representatives into the communities where it intends to mine and asks them, "What can we do for you?" Does your community or organization need money? Mosaic will give you the money. But those who receive the "gifts" might be reluctant to say anything negative about Mosaic in the future.

A long list of organizations and groups who have accepted grant and sponsorship money is on Mosaic's website. By accepting Mosaic's money, those groups may feel they shouldn't criticize Mosaic.

When Mosaic comes around with its checkbook, keep your own hands clean and turn them down.

Tanya Bond
Friends of Horse Creek
Arcadia

PUBLIC NOTICE TO CITY OF ARCADIA WATER CUSTOMERS

On Saturday, May 19, 2014, the city of Arcadia Water Treatment Plant will switch from Chloramines to Free Chlorine Disinfection. This change is a routine maintenance to optimize water quality in the distribution system. The City of Arcadia Water Treatment Plant will switch back to chloramines on June 2, 2014.

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 Chloramines rather than Free Chlorine.

For more information, please contact City of Arcadia Water Treatment Plant 863-494-1626 or A. J. Berndt 863-558-2091.

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF DESOTO COUNTY

hereby gives notice to the public that consideration shall be given to the adoption of the following school board policies

Table with columns: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DESOTO COUNTY, BYLAWS 0000/page 1 of 2, and a list of policies including 0000 BYLAWS, 0100 Definitions, 0110 Identification, 0120 Powers, Boardmanship, and Ethics, 0130 Functions, and 0140 Membership.

Table with columns: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DESOTO COUNTY, PROGRAM 2000/page 2 of 2, and a list of policies including 2432 Driver Education, 2440 Summer School, 2450 Adult and Community Education, 2451 Alternative School Plans/Programs, 2460 Exceptional Student Education, 2460.01 Least Restrictive Environment, 2520 Instructional Materials Program, 2531 Copyrighted Works, 2540 Audio Visual Use, 2605 Research and Evaluation, 2623 Student Assessment, and 2700 Academically High-Performing School Districts.

Table with columns: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DESOTO COUNTY, STUDENTS 5000/page 1 of 3, and a list of policies including 5000 STUDENTS, 5111.01 Homeless Students, 5111.02 Educational Opportunity for Military Children, 5112 Entrance Requirements, 5113 School of Choice Options Provided by the No Child Left Behind Act, 5114 Foreign Students, 5120 Assignment Within District, 5130 Withdrawal from School, 5136 Wireless Communication Devices, 5200 Attendance, 5223 Absences for Religious Instruction, 5225 Absences for Religious Holidays, 5230 Late Arrival and Early Dismissal, 5310 Health Services, 5320 Immunization, 5330 Use of Medications, 5330.01 Self-Administered Medication, 5335 Care of Students with Chronic Health Conditions, 5335.01 Diet Modifications, 5340 Student Accidents, 5341 Emergency Medical Authorization, 5350 Student Suicide Prevention, 5410 Student Progression, 5410.01 Promotion, Placement, and Retention, 5420 Reporting Student Progress, 5421 Grading, 5421.01 Grade Forgiveness, 5430 Class Rank, 5440 Student Progress Through Mastery Learning, 5451 Student Recognition, 5460 Graduation Requirements, 5460.01 Graduation Requirements for Out-of-State or Out-of-County Transfer Students, 5463 Credits from Other Schools, 5464 Accelerated Graduation Options, 5465 General Education Development (GED) Tests.

Table with columns: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DESOTO COUNTY, PROPERTY 7000/page 1 of 2, and a list of policies including 7000 PROPERTY, 7100 Facilities Planning, 7101 Building Permits and the Code Enforcement Office, 7110 Student Accommodation, 7217 Weapons, 7230 Gifts to the School District, 7240 Site Acquisition, 7250 Commemoration of School Facilities, 7300 Property Custodianship and Insurance, 7305 Assessments, 7310 Disposition of Property, 7320 Acquisition, Removal, Disposal, Sale, or Exchange of Real and Tangible Property, 7410 Maintenance, 7420 Sanitation and Housekeeping, 7430 Risk Reduction Program, 7434 Smoke-Free Environment, 7440 Plant Security, 7440.01 Protection of Personnel and Property, 7440.02 Vandalism, Damage, Loss, and Malicious Mischief, 7450 Property Inventory, 7455 Accounting System for Fixed Assets, 7460 Conservation of Natural and Material Resources, 7510 Use of District Facilities, 7530 Lending of Board-Owned Equipment, 7530.01 Staff Use of Wireless Communication Devices.

Table with columns: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DESOTO COUNTY, BYLAWS 0000/page 2 of 2, and a list of policies including 0150 Organization, 0160 Meetings, 0170 Duties, 0171.1 Review of Policy - Educational, 0171.2 Review of Policy - Philosophy and Goals, 0171.3 Review of Policy - Community Relations, 0171.4 Review of Policy - Ethics.

Table with columns: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DESOTO COUNTY, INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF 3000/page 2 of 3, and a list of policies including 3000 INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF, 3111 Designation of a New Position, 3112 Board-Staff Communications, 3113 Conflicting Employment or Contractual Relationship, 3120 Employment of Instructional Staff, 3120.03 Athletic Coaches, 3120.04 Employment of Substitute, Short-Term, and Part-Time Instructional Staff, 3120.08 Adult Education Certification, 3120.10 Job Sharing, 3120.11 Preference for Veterans in Employment, 3121 Conditions for Employment and Re-Employment of Instructional Staff, 3121.01 Criminal Background and Employment History Checks, 3122 Opportunity, 3122.01 Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment, 3122.02 Prohibition Against Disability Discrimination in Employment, 3122.02 Nondiscrimination Based on Genetic Information of the Employee, 3122.04 Complaint Procedure Related to Discrimination in Employment, 3124 Drug-Free Workplace, 3128 Contracts: Instructional Personnel, 3129 Conflict of Interest - Private Practice, 3129.01 Tutoring, 3130 Appointment, Assignment, Transfer, and Promotion of Instructional Staff, 3132 Vacancies, 3139 Educator Misconduct, 3139.01 Discipline of Instructional Staff.

Table with columns: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DESOTO COUNTY, STUDENTS 5000/page 2 of 3, and a list of policies including 5000 Student Conduct, 5511 Dress and Grooming, 5512 Tobacco-Free Environment, 5514 Use of Bicycles, 5515 Use of Motor Vehicles, 5516 Student Hazing, 5517 Anti-Harassment, 5517.01 Bullying and Harassment, 5517.03 Dating Violence and Abuse, 5520 Freedom of Speech, 5530 Drug Prevention, 5540 The Schools and Investigations Involving Students, 5600 Student Discipline, 5605 Suspension/Expulsion of Disabled Students, 5610 Removal, Suspension, and Expulsion of Students, 5610.01 Emergency Removal of Students, 5610.02 In-School Discipline, 5610.03 Detention of Students, 5610.04 Suspension of Bus Riding/Transportation, 5610.05 Privileges, 5611 Prohibition from Extra-Curricular Activities, 5612 Due Process Rights, 5630 Corporal Punishment and Use of Reasonable Force and Restraint, 5630.01 Seclusion and Restraint of Students with Disabilities, 5722 School-Sponsored Publications and Productions, 5730 Equal Access For Nondistrict-Sponsored, Student Clubs and Activities, 5751 Parental-Married Status of Students, 5771 Search and Seizure, 5772 Weapons, 5780 Student/Parent Rights.

Table with columns: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DESOTO COUNTY, PROPERTY 7000/page 2 of 2, and a list of policies including 7540 Computer Technology and Networks, 7540.01 Technology Privacy, 7540.02 District Web Page, 7540.03 Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety, 7540.04 Staff Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety, 7540.05 Electronic Mail, 7542 Access to Technology Resources from Personal Communication Devices, 7543 Utilization of the District's Website and Remote Access to the District's Network.

Table with columns: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DESOTO COUNTY, ADMINISTRATION 1000/page 1 of 2, and a list of policies including 1000 ADMINISTRATION, 1001 District Organization, 1010 Board - Superintendent Relationship, 1020 Election of the Superintendent, 1030 Superintendent of Schools, 1030.01 Development of Administrative Procedures, 1111 Designation of a New Position, 1112 Board-Staff Communications, 1113 Conflicting Employment or Contractual Relationship, 1120 Employment of Administrators, 1120.01 Employment of Interim Principals/Supervisors, 1120.06 Selecting Administrative Interns, 1120.11 Preference for Veterans in Employment, 1121 Conditions for Employment and Re-Employment of Administrators, 1121.01 Criminal Background and Employment History Checks, 1122 Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity, 1122.01 Prohibition Against Disability Discrimination in Employment, 1122.02 Nondiscrimination Based on Genetic Information of the Employee, 1122.04 Complaint Procedures Related to Alleged Discrimination in Employment, 1124 Drug-Free Workplace, 1128 Employment Contract, 1129 Conflict of Interest - Private Practice, 1130 Appointment, Assignment, Transfer, and Promotion of Administrators, 1139 Educator Misconduct, 1139.01 Discipline of Administrative Staff, 1140 Suspension or Dismissal of Administrators, 1150 Resignations, 1160 Physical Examination, 1161 Fitness for Duty.

Table with columns: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DESOTO COUNTY, INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF 3000/page 3 of 3, and a list of policies including 3140 Suspension or Dismissal of Instructional Staff, 3140.01 Disciplinary Suspension Without Pay, 3150 Resignations, 3160 Physical Examination, 3161 Fitness for Duty, 3170 Substance Abuse, 3210 Standards of Ethical Conduct, 3211 Whistleblower Protection, 3213 Student Supervision and Welfare, 3214 Solicitation or Acceptance of Gifts or Unauthorized Compensation, 3215 Smoke-Free Environment, 3216 Staff Dress and Grooming, 3217 Weapons, 3220 Evaluation of Instructional Personnel, 3231 Outside Activities of Staff, 3231.01 Research and Publishing, 3232 Political Activities, 3242 Professional Development, 3243 Professional Meetings, 3281 Use of Employee's Personal Property at School, 3310 Freedom of Speech in Non-Instructional Settings, 3362 Anti-Harassment, 3380 Threatening Behavior Toward Staff Members, 3410 Compensation, 3419 Group Health Plans, 3419.01 Privacy Protections of Self-Funded Group Health Plans, 3419.02 Privacy Protections of Fully Insured Group Health Plans, 3420 Benefits.

Table with columns: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DESOTO COUNTY, STUDENTS 5000/page 3 of 3, and a list of policies including 5830 Student Fund-Raising, 5840 Student Groups, 5850 School Social Events, 5855 Student Attendance at School Events, 5860 Safety Patrol, 5880 Public Performances by Students, 5895 Student Employment, 6000 FINANCES, 6100 Uniform Records and Accounts, 6105 Authorization to Accept and Distribute Electronic Records, to Use Electronic Signatures, and Make Electronic Fund Transfers, 6110 Grant Funds, 6120 Safety Deposit Box, 6140 Public Depository, 6144 Investments, 6145 Borrowing, 6151 Bad Checks, 6152 Student Fees, Fines, and Charges, 6152.01 Waiver of School Fees, 6210 Fiscal Planning, 6220 District Budget Preparation, 6233 District Budget Implementation and Monitoring, 6234 Use of Discretionary Lottery Funds, 6235 Fund Balance, 6320 Purchasing and Contracting for Goods and Services, 6320.01 Vendor Preference - Nondiscrimination in Purchasing and Contracting, 6326 Vendor Selection, 6330 Acquisition of Professional Architectural, Engineering, Design Build, Landscape Architectural, or Land Surveying Services, and Construction Managers At-Risk, 6334 Prequalification of Contractors for Educational Facilities Construction, 6340 Modifications and Alterations to School Buildings, 6345 Change Orders, 6423 Use of Purchasing Cards, 6440 Cooperative Purchasing, 6460 Vendor Relations, 6480 Expenditures and Payments, 6510 Payroll Authorization, 6510 Payroll Deductions, 6521 Tax Sheltered Annuity Plans and Accounts, 6530 Reemployment Assistance, 6540 Employment of Consultants, 6550 Travel and Per Diem, 6610 Internal Accounts, 6621 Change Fund, 6661 Instructional Materials Allocation, 6685 Punding for Promotion, Public Relations, and Hospitality, 6700 Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), 6830 Audits.

Table with columns: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DESOTO COUNTY, OPERATIONS 8000/page 1 of 2, and a list of policies including 8000 OPERATIONS, 8100 Interlocal Agreements, 8141 Mandatory Reporting of Misconduct by Certificated Employees, 8210 School Calendar, 8220 School Day, 8310 Public Records, 8315 Information Management, 8320 Records Management, 8325 Receipt of Legal Documents by District Employees, 8330 Student Records, 8340 Letters of Reference, 8350 Confidentiality, 8390 Annals on District Property, 8400 Environmental Health and Safety Issues, 8405 School Safety and Security, 8410 Crisis Event Intervention and Response, 8410.01 Critical Incident Response, 8415 Emergency and Crisis Management, 8420 Emergency Management, Emergency Preparedness, and Emergency Response Agencies, 8431 Preparedness for Toxic Hazard and Asbestos Hazard, 8442 Reporting Accidents/Incidents, 8450 Control of Casual-Contact Communicable Diseases, 8452 Use of Automated External Defibrillators (AED), 8453 Direct Contact Communicable Diseases, 8453.01 Control of Blood-Borne Pathogens, 8462 Student Abuse and Neglect, 8470 Community Notification of Registered Sexual Predators/Sex Offenders, 8475 Criminal Background Checks for Employment and Access.

Table with columns: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DESOTO COUNTY, ADMINISTRATION 1000/page 2 of 2, and a list of policies including 1170 Substance Abuse, 1180 Records and Reports, 1210 Standards of Ethical Conduct, 1211 Whistleblower Protection, 1213 Student Supervision and Welfare, 1214 Solicitation or Acceptance of Gifts or Unauthorized Compensation, 1215 Smoke-Free Environment, 1216 Dress and Grooming, 1217 Weapons, 1220 Evaluation of Administrative Personnel, 1231 Outside Activities of Administrators, 1231.01 Research and Publishing, 1232 Political Activities, 1242 Professional Development, 1243 Professional Meetings, 1281 Use of Employee's Personal Property at School, 1362 Anti-Harassment, 1380 Threatening Behavior Toward Staff Members, 1410 Compensation, 1419 Group Health Plans, 1419.01 Privacy Protections of Self-Funded Group Health Plans, 1419.02 Privacy Protections of Fully Insured Group Health Plans, 1420 Benefits, 1430 Leaves of Absence, 1430.01 FMLA Leave, 1430.02 Domestic Violence Leave, 1430.03 Sick Leave, 1431 Absence of Administrators, 1440 Job-Related Expenses, 1550 Complaints Against Administrative Staff, 1590 Personnel Files, 1600 Job Descriptions.

Table with columns: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DESOTO COUNTY, INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF 3000/page 3 of 3, and a list of policies including 3430 Leaves of Absence, 3430.01 FMLA Leave, 3430.02 Domestic Violence Leave, 3430.03 Sick Leave, 3440 Job-Related Expenses, 3531 Unauthorized Work Stoppage, 3550 Complaints Against Instructional Staff, 3590 Personnel File, 3600 Job Descriptions, 4000 SUPPORT STAFF, 4111 Designation of a New Position, 4112 Board-Staff Communications, 4113 Conflicting Employment or Contractual Relationship, 4120 Employment of Support Staff, 4120.03 Athletic Coaches, 4120.04 Employment of Substitutes and Temporary Support Staff, 4120.08 Part-Time Extra-Curricular Personnel, 4120.11 Preference for Veterans in Employment, 4121 Conditions for Employment and Re-Employment of Support Staff, 4121.01 Criminal Background and Employment History Checks, 4122 Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity, 4122.01 Prohibition Against Disability Discrimination in Employment, 4122.02 Nondiscrimination Based on Genetic Information of the Employee, 4122.04 Complaint Procedure Related to Discrimination in Employment, 4124 Drug-Free Workplace, 4129 Conflict of Interest - Private Practice, 4129.01 Tutoring, 4130 Assignments, 4130.01 Re-Assignment of Support Staff, 4139.01 Discipline of Support Staff, 4140 Suspension or Dismissal of Support Staff, 4150 Resignations, 4160 Physical Examination, 4161 Fitness for Duty, 4162 Drug and Alcohol Testing of CDL License Holders and Other Employees who Perform Safety Sensitive Functions, 4170 Substance Abuse, 4210 Standards of Ethical Conduct, 4211 Whistleblower Protection, 4213 Student Supervision and Welfare, 4214 Solicitation or Acceptance of Gifts or Unauthorized Compensation, 4215 Smoke-Free Environment, 4216 Staff Dress and Grooming, 4217 Weapons, 4220 Evaluation of Support Personnel, 4231 Outside Activities of Support Staff, 4232 Political Activities, 4281 Use of Employee's Personal Property at School, 4310 Freedom of Speech in Non-Instructional Settings, 4362 Anti-Harassment, 4380 Threatening Behavior Toward Staff Members, 4410 Compensation, 4411 Differentiated Pay, 4419 Group Health Plans, 4419.02 Privacy Protections of Fully Insured Group Health Plans, 4420 Benefits, 4425 Nursing Mothers, 4430 Leaves of Absence, 4430.01 FMLA Leave, 4430.02 Domestic Violence Leave, 4430.03 Sick Leave, 4440 Job-Related Expenses, 4531 Unauthorized Work Stoppage, 4550 Complaints Against Support Staff, 4590 Personnel File, 4600 Job Descriptions.

Table with columns: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DESOTO COUNTY, FINANCES 6000/page 1 of 2, and a list of policies including 6000 FINANCES, 6100 Uniform Records and Accounts, 6105 Authorization to Accept and Distribute Electronic Records, to Use Electronic Signatures, and Make Electronic Fund Transfers, 6110 Grant Funds, 6120 Safety Deposit Box, 6140 Public Depository, 6144 Investments, 6145 Borrowing, 6151 Bad Checks, 6152 Student Fees, Fines, and Charges, 6152.01 Waiver of School Fees, 6210 Fiscal Planning, 6220 District Budget Preparation, 6233 District Budget Implementation and Monitoring, 6234 Use of Discretionary Lottery Funds, 6235 Fund Balance, 6320 Purchasing and Contracting for Goods and Services, 6320.01 Vendor Preference - Nondiscrimination in Purchasing and Contracting, 6326 Vendor Selection, 6330 Acquisition of Professional Architectural, Engineering, Design Build, Landscape Architectural, or Land Surveying Services, and Construction Managers At-Risk, 6334 Prequalification of Contractors for Educational Facilities Construction, 6340 Modifications and Alterations to School Buildings, 6345 Change Orders, 6423 Use of Purchasing Cards, 6440 Cooperative Purchasing, 6460 Vendor Relations, 6480 Expenditures and Payments, 6510 Payroll Authorization, 6510 Payroll Deductions, 6521 Tax Sheltered Annuity Plans and Accounts, 6530 Reemployment Assistance, 6540 Employment of Consultants, 6550 Travel and Per Diem, 6610 Internal Accounts, 6621 Change Fund, 6661 Instructional Materials Allocation, 6685 Punding for Promotion, Public Relations, and Hospitality, 6700 Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), 6830 Audits.

Table with columns: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DESOTO COUNTY, OPERATIONS 8000/page 2 of 2, and a list of policies including 8500 Food Service Program, 8510 Wellness, 8531 Free and Reduced-Price Meals, 8540 Vending Machines, 8550 Competitive Food Sales, 8600 Transportation, 8600.04 Bus Operator Qualifications, Certification, Discipline, and Termination, 8606 Use of Wireless Communication Devices by District School Bus Operators, 8610 Transportation Route Planning, 8625 Ban on Texting while Driving, 8640 Transportation for Field and Other District-Sponsored Trips, 8645 Use of School Buses, 8651 Board-Owned Vehicles, 8660 Transporting Students by Private Vehicles, 8700 Anti-Fraud, 8710 Insurance, 8740 Bonding, 8760 Student Accident Insurance, 8800 Religious/Patriotic Ceremonies and Observances, 8810 The American Flag, 9000 COMMUNITY RELATIONS, 9130 Public Complaints, 9150 School Visitors, 9160 Public Attendance at School Events, 9160.01 Complaint Procedures Related to Alleged Discrimination Regarding Accessibility of District Facilities, 9210 Parent Organizations, 9211 Parent Organizations, Booster Clubs, and Other Fund-Raising Activities, 9215 Direct-Support Organizations, 9270 Equivalent Education Outside the Schools (Home-Education), 9500 Relations' with Educational Institutions and Organizations, 9555 Partnerships with Business, 9600 Staff/Student Participation in Community Events, 9700 Relations with Special Interest Groups, 9700.01 Advertising and Commercial Activities, 9800 Charter Schools, 9900 Recognition of World War II, Korean Conflict and Vietnam Veterans Awarded High School Diplomas.

Table with columns: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DESOTO COUNTY, PROGRAM 2000/page 1 of 2, and a list of policies including 2000 PROGRAM, 2111 Parent and Family Involvement in the School Program, 2120 School Improvement, 2125 School Advisory Councils for School Improvement and Accountability, 2220 Adoption of Courses of Study, 2230 Course Guides, 2240 Controversial Issues, 2260 Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity, 2260.01 Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Discrimination Based on Disability, 2260.02 Nondiscrimination Grievance Procedure, 2261 Title I Services, 2261.01 Parent Participation in Title I Programs, 2261.02 Title I - Parents' Right to Know, 2261.03 Title I - Annual Report Requirements, 2262 School Age Child Care, 2270 Religion in the Curriculum, 2271 Postsecondary Enrollment Programs, 2280 Physical Education, 2330 Homework, 2340 Field and Other District-Sponsored Trips, 2370.01 Virtual Instruction, 2411 Guidance and Counseling, 2412 Homebound Instruction Program, 2416 Student Privacy and Parental Access to Information, 2417 Comprehensive Health Education, 2421 Career and Technical Education, 2421.01 Students as Trainees, 2424 Student Internships, 2430 Student-Sponsored Clubs and Activities, 2430.01 Special Programs by Community Volunteers, 2431 Interscholastic Athletics, 2431.01 Participation by Transfer Students, 2431.03 Concussions and Head Injuries.

Table with columns: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DESOTO COUNTY, SUPPORT STAFF 4000/page 2 of 2, and a list of policies including 4210 Standards of Ethical Conduct, 4211 Whistleblower Protection, 4213 Student Supervision and Welfare, 4214 Solicitation or Acceptance of Gifts or Unauthorized Compensation, 4215 Smoke-Free Environment, 4216 Staff Dress and Grooming, 4217 Weapons, 4220 Evaluation of Support Personnel, 4231 Outside Activities of Support Staff, 4232 Political Activities, 4281 Use of Employee's Personal Property at School, 4310 Freedom of Speech in Non-Instructional Settings, 4362 Anti-Harassment, 4380 Threatening Behavior Toward Staff Members, 4410 Compensation, 4411 Differentiated Pay, 4419 Group Health Plans, 4419.02 Privacy Protections of Fully Insured Group Health Plans, 4420 Benefits, 4425 Nursing Mothers, 4430 Leaves of Absence, 4430.01 FMLA Leave, 4430.02 Domestic Violence Leave, 4430.03 Sick Leave, 4440 Job-Related Expenses, 4531 Unauthorized Work Stoppage, 4550 Complaints Against Support Staff, 4590 Personnel File, 4600 Job Descriptions.

Table with columns: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DESOTO COUNTY, FINANCES 6000/page 2 of 2, and a list of policies including 6423 Use of Purchasing Cards, 6440 Cooperative Purchasing, 6460 Vendor Relations, 6480 Expenditures and Payments, 6510 Payroll Authorization, 6510 Payroll Deductions, 6521 Tax Sheltered Annuity Plans and Accounts, 6530 Reemployment Assistance, 6540 Employment of Consultants, 6550 Travel and Per Diem, 6610 Internal Accounts, 6621 Change Fund, 6661 Instructional Materials Allocation, 6685 Punding for Promotion, Public Relations, and Hospitality, 6700 Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), 6830 Audits.

Table with columns: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DESOTO COUNTY, COMMUNITY RELATIONS 9000/page 1 of 1, and a list of policies including 9000 COMMUNITY RELATIONS, 9130 Public Complaints, 9150 School Visitors, 9160 Public Attendance at School Events, 9160.01 Complaint Procedures Related to Alleged Discrimination Regarding Accessibility of District Facilities, 9210 Parent Organizations, 9211 Parent Organizations, Booster Clubs, and Other Fund-Raising Activities, 9215 Direct-Support Organizations, 9270 Equivalent Education Outside the Schools (Home-Education), 9500 Relations' with Educational Institutions and Organizations, 9555 Partnerships with Business, 9600 Staff/Student Participation in Community Events, 9700 Relations with Special Interest Groups, 9700.01 Advertising and Commercial Activities, 9800 Charter Schools, 9900 Recognition of World War II, Korean Conflict and Vietnam Veterans Awarded High School Diplomas.

The complete text of all of our proposed policies is available at: <http://www.neola.com/desoto-fl>. The printed version of the proposed policies is also available in the front lobby of our district office located at 530 La Solana Ave., Arcadia, FL 34266.

Purpose and Effect: The policies have been developed by the Board within the legal responsibilities and as statutorily required by the State of Florida. F.S. 120.536(1), 120.54. The adoption of the policies would re-organize, re-codify and update the policies, conform policies to current legislation, consolidate similar policies on the same subject, eliminate redundant and obsolete language, and make policies easier to find, understand and use. Once adopted, the new policies will be electronically published, hyperlinked and keyword searchable.

Authority: F.S. 1001.41(2); 1001.42, 1001.43, 1012.23, 120.536(1), 120.54

Summary of Statement of Estimated Regulatory Cost: No statement of estimated regulatory costs has been prepared. Any person who wishes to provide information regarding the statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative, must do so in writing within 21 days of this notice.

Any affected person may request a public hearing on the proposed repeal and adoption of these policies. Such requests must be submitted in writing to the Superintendent, within 21 days after the date of publication of this notice. Any material pertinent to the issues under consideration submitted to the Superintendent within 21 days after the date of publication of this notice or submitted between the date of publication and the end of the last public hearing shall be considered by the Board and made a part of the rulemaking record. Action on the rule repeal and adoption will occur at the future School Board meeting, which shall be separately noticed.

The Person to be Contacted Regarding the policies is: Dr. Karyn E. Gary, Office of the Superintendent, 530 LaSolana Ave, Arcadia, FL 34266; telephone, 863-494-4222

Any person who decides to appeal a decision with respect to a matter considered at the hearing is hereby advised that, for such purpose, the person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the meeting is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Any person with a disability or physical impairment who wishes to attend this meeting and who requires special accommodations should contact the Office of the Superintendent, 530 LaSolana Ave, Arcadia, FL 34266; telephone, 863-494-4222, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

The board will consider final adoption of the above described policies at the June 17, 2014 board meeting scheduled for 5:30 pm in the board chambers at 530 LaSolana Avenue, Arcadia, Florida.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

DeSoto high school arts show

DeSoto County High School Visual Arts students will display their talents and skills to the public on Thursday and Friday, May 22 and 23 in the Media Center at the high school. More than 500 works will be on view throughout the school day, until 6 p.m. pm both days. Parents, friends and the public are encouraged to come see the range of talents at the high school.

Local organizations partner to offer TIPS for Businesses

Thanks to a grant award from Wells Fargo, CareerSource Heartland has collaborated with South Florida State College to offer Employee Development and Training to local businesses.

Through this special grant funding, and as a result of employer "listening sessions" sponsored by CareerSource Heartland and conducted throughout the tri-county region last year, a variety of workshops have been designed to upgrade the skill sets of your current staff, keeping them motivated and your business humming!

Classes on Microsoft Word, Excel, and QuickBooks, as well as Customer Service and Leadership, are being offered through the end of June. All classes are at no cost to you.

For dates, times, and locations on any TIPS Workshop, call 863-784-7034; to register call 863-784-7405. Or visit the Employers Corner on the CareerSource Heartland website at www.careersourceheartland.com for a complete listing of TIPS Workshops.

careersourceheartland.com for a complete listing of TIPS Workshops.

Tidewell needs volunteers

Tidewell Hospice desperately needs volunteers in DeSoto County, for everything from answering phones at the administrative office, to being greeters at the hospice house and sitting with patients. For details, call Kim Hartshorne, our Volunteer Coordinator at 941-979-4324 or email Khartshorne@tidewell.org.

Historical Society needs volunteers

The DeSoto County Historical Society welcomes volunteers! We need do-cents every week for the John Morgan

Ingraham House and ongoing assistance with upkeep of the museum, grounds, and the Howard and Velma Melton Historical Research Library in the Ingraham Seed House. For details, call Carol Mahler at 863-445-0789 or email carolmahler3@gmail.com.

4-H seeks volunteers

DeSoto County 4-H needs volunteers willing to work with youth or to work in the office to assist in coordinating programs etc. 4-H provides opportunities for youth to gain life skills. They have 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 email kpopa@ufl.edu.

COUNTY

FROM PAGE 1

lose 300 jobs, but people will choose not to live here if there is no medical care. The end result would be a total financial collapse for the county."

Hospital board member Lew Ambler said the hospital is a critical component of the community. "I don't think anyone can argue the value of the hospital for this county," he said. "The financial situation we are in was caused by state and national measures. I'm asking you to put this on the ballot. Give me one good reason why it shouldn't be there."

Miller noted the sales tax revenue would not go directly to DMH, as by law it would be divided among all county agencies that provide indigent care. He also said the money generated by the tax would not be enough to sustain the hospital. "You are asking the people of this county to generate money, but even with that you're still operating at a deficit of more than \$1 million," he said. "Is the (hospital)

board doing everything it can? If we ask the people of Arcadia and the county to pay a tax and DMH doesn't do its due diligence, where are we going to fill that monetary gap? You show me how the hospital plans to generate that revenue, and I'll be the first to make the motion to move this to the ballot."

Miller made it clear, however, that he doesn't want the hospital to shut its doors. "Don't take my comments as saying I want DMH to close, but we've got to find a resolution to fill the remainder of the deficit. At this point, I am not in favor of letting it go to referendum until I see more action from the hospital."

Commissioner Gabriel Quave agreed, saying the sales tax wouldn't solve the hospital's deficit. "I don't feel the numbers make sense. The public impression is that DMH closing is on the county's shoulders," he said. "That's inaccurate but the spin cycle has begun. I don't believe the hospital will close, and I don't support putting this tax on the referendum."

Nathan said the hospital has two plans to generate the necessary revenue. "We are looking to increase facilities in the hospital, in particular

leasing the third floor for long-term acute care," he said. "We are also looking to expand procedure-oriented practices in areas such as cardiology and gastroenterology. If you give me two weeks, I can have exact numbers for you on paper."

Quave responded that expanding services doesn't always equate to additional revenue. "Growing services is the goal of every hospital. There is a unique balance to provide services and having the infrastructure to do it," he said. "If you aren't doing enough procedures, then things can quickly become expensive for the hospital."

Not all board members had an issue with the tax going on the ballot. Both Selph and Commissioner Elton Langford had no reservations about letting the voters to decide. "We live in a democracy, and I have no problem putting on the ballot and letting the public decide," Langford said. "I think a sales tax is the fairest solution, but I do think this community should be educated on the matter before voting."

Commissioner Buddy Mansfield also supported a public vote, but was also concerned the hospital wouldn't

be able to close the financial deficit. "I don't have a problem letting the citizens decide," he said. "With that said, however, I'd also like to see the hospital close that gap. And there are actions being taken at the state level that might further widen that gap."

Miller suggested the commissioners hold a workshop with DMH's board of directors. DMH CEO Vince Sica said he was in favor of the idea, and he'd work with the county to find a time convenient for both boards.

Conn added that in the meantime, he would begin working with both DMH's and the county health department's legal counsel to draft an ordinance and properly advertise it to the public before a formal vote.

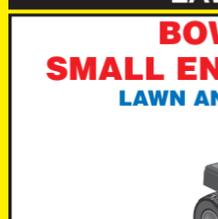
Community Conversation follow-up

The board agreed to hold another Community Conversation public meeting June 4 at 6 p.m. at the Turner Center Exhibit Hall. The meeting is meant to be a follow-up on the issues discussed in the four previous meetings held in April.



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