

ARCADIAN

Thursday, October 30, 2014 - 32 pages / 75 cents



A section of the Sun

PINE LEVEL LANDMARK



The Historical Society celebrates Pine Level's historic designation.

PAGE 24

County holds off on Sonoma decision

By STEVE BAUER

ARCADIAN ASSISTANT EDITOR

In a marathon meeting that was standing room only, the DeSoto Board of County Commissioners unanimously tabled a proposed Planned Unit Development rezoning for Sonoma Preserve.

Concerned residents from the Deep Creek and Lake Suzy communities filled the board's chamber room, expressing their reservations with a proposed housing

development that would allow up to 999 mixed residential units on 515 acres of land just south of the Charlotte County border. Of the 515 acres, however, nearly half would be unusable wetland property. Neighboring residents complained the developer's PUD doesn't comply with community standards, will cause traffic nightmares on Kings Highway due to only one exit/entry-way and provides inadequate buffers from light and noise pollution.

COUNTY | 17



PHOTO BY STEVE BAUER

Lake Suzy and Deep Creek residents filled the DeSoto Board of County Commissioners chamber room Tuesday night to voice their displeasure over a proposed housing development in the Sonoma Preserve.

Forum focuses on marshal, council races

By STEVE BAUER

ARCADIAN ASSISTANT EDITOR

Arcadia residents had the chance to hear first-hand from all city council and marshal candidates on their visions for the city's future during a forum last Thursday.

The event, hosted by the Arcadian, featured questions from the newspaper and audience members, with topics ranging from the new city administrator search to major crime concerns and fixing the city's roads and infrastructure. DeSoto Memorial Hospital CEO Vince Sica also explained why residents should vote for the proposed 1/2-percent sales tax that will go toward paying off the hospital's mortgage.

Marshal candidates

During the marshal portion of the forum, each candidate made his case for being elected. Current marshal Matt Anderson said his leadership skills have shone through while dealing with the arrest and prosecution of former marshal Charles Lee. "Through the Lee incident, my leadership skills were tested right away and I've proven myself," he said. "I've reduced the department's budget by \$250,000, increased the non-paid auxiliary department and secured grants for things such as in-car laptops in the squad cars. This is just the beginning, I'm a proven leader who is certified and I'm proud to put on my uniform and badge and serve this community daily."

Candidate Cliff Brown said he didn't see himself as running a race, but rather his campaign was more like a job interview with city residents. "I'll be working for you, not the other way around," he said. "I bring 34 years of experience as a certified law officer, and I will be bringing a lot of cost-cutting ideas into office with me."



ARCADIAN PHOTOS BY SUSAN E. HOFFMAN

Thursday's political forum, held at the Margaret Way Building, drew a crowd of prospective voters wanting to learn more about candidates for public office.

There must be more communication between the city and the county. Right now there is none, and that needs to be improved immediately. The bad guys don't just commit crimes in one area or the other."

During his opening statement, candidate Lorenzo Dixon noted his experience with law enforcement starting with his time as an auxiliary explorer. He also said under his administration, citizens will feel protected unlike during past administrations. "This department is in need of a leader and administrator."

Two major issues addressed during the conversation were the Arcadia Police Department's budget, and whether the marshal should be a certified law officer.

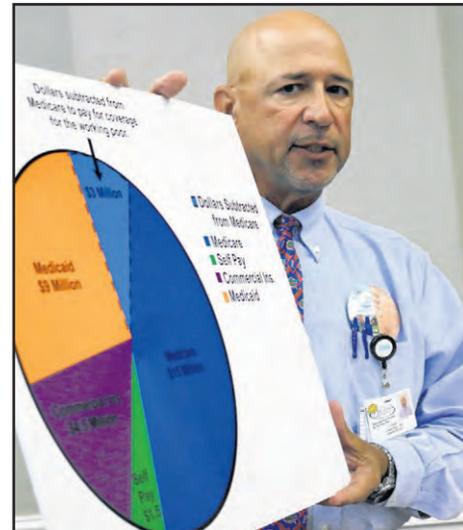
Anderson said he had done a good job in cutting the department's budget during the past two years, and said the current budget is justified when compared to the national average and neighboring cities such as Wauchula.

Brown said cutting wasteful spending would help the department's budget become even leaner, and said any monies the APD has needs to be spent wisely.

Dixon argued that Anderson really hadn't cut the APD budget, saying, "I don't call it cutting the budget when you take money from one fund and move it to another." He added he would be in favor of cutting the budget, starting with reducing his own paycheck as marshal by \$10,000-\$15,000.

As to the marshal needing to be a certified officer, Brown said, "This department is too small for a figurehead who only shuffles papers." He added it is important for the department to be headed by a marshal who has the experience and credentials of a law enforcement officer.

Dixon, who is not certified, said it takes a short amount of time to earn a certification, and he would enroll in the police academy shortly after being elected to office. "The President of the



DeSoto Memorial Hospital CEO Vince Sica explained that Medicare and Medicaid payments constitute a significant portion of the hospital's income. DMH had an opportunity to tell voters at Thursday's forum why the hospital hopes the half-percent sales tax referendum will be approved.

United States is the Commander-in-Chief of our armed forces, but yet they aren't required to be certified in any specific area," he said. "I think the same applies here, this department needs an administrator in place, not another officer."

Anderson disagreed, saying the marshal needs to be certified. "The marshal has to be in the field to teach his men, and that comes from experience," he said. "I have achieved ranks, leadership and experience during my time as an officer and those are all a must for this position."

Council candidates

The eight city council candidates each provided their visions for the city if they are elected to council.

FORUM | 18

Arcadian 75¢



INSIDE



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PRCA RODEO: Wild action Saturday and Sunday in Arcadia	2
SENTENCED: Karl Burnham sentenced for murder of father	8
MEDICAL MARIJUANA: Unlikely allies promote Amendment 2	29
Editorial	4
Family Album	7
Obituaries	9
Politics	14
Calendar	6
Police Beat	8
Religion	10
Sports	19

High school principal resigns to take out-of-district position

By **SUSAN E. HOFFMAN**
ARCADIAN EDITOR

During Tuesday's school board meeting, superintendent Dr. Karyn Gary reported that DeSoto County High School Principal Nelson Stephenson had submitted a letter of resignation, because he had an offer to head another school district outside of DeSoto. She said Stephenson will probably remain on board through December. She will recommend Assistant Principal Tod Baldwin take his place, and another AP

hired to fill Baldwin's current slot. Several fourth and fifth grade students from West Elementary School demonstrated the things they are learning in their Leader in Me program. Teacher Wil Brunty introduced the program, saying that teachers and staff had been visiting other school districts where the program is being applied or had gone to seminars to learn more about it.

The Leader in Me program includes Seven Habits through which students are developing life skills and strong

characters. Each student had prepared a display of their chosen "habit" with examples and illustrations.

Alex explained how her habit was "be proactive." She was inspired by an aunt with cancer to start a fundraiser in her school. She gave a speech in each classroom in the school to encourage staff and students to donate to the American Cancer Society, and was able to raise \$241.

Natalya chose "win-win" because, she said, "I like feeling I can win and someone else can, too. When I practice this habit I remember to do nice things

for others."

Taylor seeks "first to understand, then to be understood by others." This helps her to listen and pay attention to something someone else tells her, because it is probably important to that other person.

Michael's habit was the "sharpening saw" which means keeping your body, mind and spirit sharp and healthy.

Gary said was impressed when visiting West last week. A line of students

PRINCIPAL | 31



ARCADIAN PHOTO BY SUSAN E. HOFFMAN

Bullriding is the highlight of every PRCA rodeo, and there will be plenty of bullriding action this weekend at the Arcadia Rodeo Arena.

Lasso up some pro rodeo action

By **SUSAN E. HOFFMAN**
ARCADIAN EDITOR

Cowboys and cowgirls, saddle up the family wagon and head on down to the Arcadia Rodeo Arena this weekend for some high-flying professional rodeo action. Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association riders mount up this weekend for a wild afternoon of entertainment, laughs and excitement.

The Arcadia Rodeo Arena All Florida Championship hits the dirt Saturday and Sunday. Gates open at 11 a.m. and rodeo action starts at 2 p.m. both days.

You'll see team roping, tie down roping, Women's Professional Rodeo

Association barrel racing, steer wrestling, saddle bronc and bareback riding, mutton bustin' and calf scramble for the kids, and — everyone's favorite — bull riding. And all through the afternoon, you'll enjoy the music and patter of the announcer and bullfighters as they entertain the audience with quick comebacks.

Tickets are available in advance for \$14 per person today and tomorrow (\$15 if purchased Saturday or Sunday) and can be bought at the Rodeo Office, 124 Heard Street, Arcadia, or call 800-749-7633 or 863-494-2014. Tickets are on a first-come, first-served basis and there are no refunds. The event goes on rain or shine, but

you'll be sitting in a covered grandstand. Visit www.ArcadiaRodeo.com for more information.

While you're in town, you might browse among the vendors for Arcadia's Olde Town Market in downtown Arcadia, with a Farmer's Market at the Tree of Knowledge Park on West Oak Street. There you'll find antiques, collectibles, hand-crafted items, baked goods, sauces and unique condiments and much more.

There's nothing more American than a good old-fashioned rodeo, testing the skills and endurance of professional cowboys. Catch some of the action on a fine fall afternoon at the Arcadia Rodeo Arena. Lorum ipsant et

Notice of Public Hearing

The Board of County Commissioners of DeSoto County Florida, will consider the adoption or an ordinance at its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, November 10, 2014 at 9:00 AM or as soon thereafter as it may be heard, in the County Commission Meeting Room 103, Administration Building 201 East Oak Street, Arcadia, Florida as follows.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE DESOTO COUNTY FLORIDA, BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OF LOCAL BUSINESS TAX RECEIPTS FOR THE OPERATION OF "PAIN CLINICS" AND "PAIN MANAGEMENT CLINICS" FOR ONE YEAR; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

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

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

Costume clean-up Friday at Lake Katherine



Come to Lake Katherine Friday afternoon to help the Health Department clean up the lake — and wear your costume! The DeSoto County Health Department is looking for local citizens to help pick up some of the papers and trash around the lake to make it more attractive. Wear your costume and compete in the "Best Costume Ever" contest. The weather is expected to be great, and this is a fun way to help your community.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE 2014 TAX ROLL IS OPEN FOR COLLECTION

The tax roll has been delivered by the Property Appraiser to the Tax Collector for collection.

During the month of November 2014 a 4% discount applies, 3% discount in December 2014, 2% discount in January 2015, 1% discount in February 2015. The net amount in March 2015. Penalty and advertising are added April 1, 2015, as per Florida Statute 197.322.

Let's KEEP Arcadia SAFE

Vote for Matt Anderson for your City Marshal



✓ Proven Experience

- Over 25 years of service at the Arcadia Police Dept.
- A.A. Degree in Criminal Justice
- More than 2,000 hours of continued training
- Law Enforcement & Correction Academy
- Homicide Investigation
- Violent Crimes Investigation
- Advanced Tactical Operation
- Internal Affairs Investigation

✓ Proven Leadership

Over the past 25 plus years, I've worked my way through the ranks. I've served in several capacities including:

- Narcotic Detective to Person & Property Crime
- Sergeant
- Lieutenant
- Captain
- And most recently as City Marshal

✓ Proven Success

- Crime REDUCED in the past 6 months under our new Community Policing Initiative
- Obtained over \$1,000,000 in grants for equipment, man power & technology offsetting financial burden to the city

✓ Proven Commitment

- President, Walt Brewer Foundation
- Vietnam War Memorial Wall Committee
- DeSoto County High School Baseball Diamond Club
- DeSoto County Teen Court Prevention Committee
- DCYAA Coach, Board Member & Commissioner
- Arcadia Police & Fire Department Pension Board

"I understand the importance of family and keeping them safe. I pledge to do the same for your family."



Elect
Matt
ANDERSON
for City Marshal

Committed - Proven - Trustworthy

VIEWPOINT

The Sun / Thursday, October 30, 2014

www.sunnewspapers.net Arcadian | Page 4

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

Derek Dunn-Rankin —

Suncoast Media Group Chairman

David Dunn-Rankin —

Suncoast Media Group President

Joe Gallimore — Arcadian Publisher

Susan E. Hoffman — Arcadian Editor

OUR VIEW

Vote yes on Amendment 2

OUR VIEW: It's time to legalize medical marijuana and let our ag community benefit, too

If Amendment 2 on the Nov. 4 ballot receives 60 percent of the vote, marijuana would be legalized for medical purposes in Florida, which would join 23 other states and the District of Columbia where medical pot is legal.

Faced with polls showing widespread support for medical marijuana among Florida voters, opponents of the amendment, led by the Florida Sheriff's Association, have unleashed what can only be called a scare campaign reminiscent of the 1930s propaganda movie "Reefer Madness." The anti-medical marijuana crusaders paint fictional scenarios of pot shops on every street corner, criminal "caregivers" as the new pushers and legions of stoned young zombies lurching through neighborhoods that bear no relationship to the verifiable data, studies and experiences from states that previously legalized it.

Under the pretense they are providing facts about the amendment to voters, anti-medical marijuana advocates, such as FSA President Grady Judd, Charlotte County Sheriff Bill Prummell and Sarasota County Sheriff Tom Knight, have invented "loopholes" that would unleash their imagined outcomes. Prummell convinced the Charlotte County Commission to pass a resolution urging residents to vote against the amendment. DeSoto County Sheriff Will Wise has echoed Prummell's sentiments when asked his opinion on the legalization of medical marijuana.

That 23 states have managed to avoid the pitfalls amendment foes present as sure things should tell you all you need to know about their arguments. That such misinformation and outright fabrications of "fact" are coming mainly from law enforcement officials is outrageous. For a county that prides itself on agricultural roots and one so desperate for economic growth, there is an argument to be made—if the amendment passes—that DeSoto should welcome the marijuana growing industry and rake in the financial windfall that would come with it. We have heard, in fact, that at least one local business has applied for a growers permit.

Claims that the amendment would make anyone with the most minor ailment eligible for medical marijuana are specious, as is the argument that the Florida amendment language is so vague it constitutes a loophole that would *de facto* legalize recreational marijuana. The Florida amendment language is nearly identical to referendums passed in other states, including the types of diseases and conditions that are explicitly identified and the leeway physicians have to recommend it for other conditions.

Claims that shady "pot docs" would hand out marijuana recommendations like candy on Halloween are just as ludicrous. If the amendment passes, the Florida Legislature will determine the procedures, qualifications, conditions and other aspects of implementing the new law. A committee of lawmakers, law enforcement and health officials has already been meeting to explore those issues.

The pro argument for Amendment 2 requires no distortion or scare tactics, simply compassion and common sense.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Make illegals earn citizenship

Editor:

I am a Korean War combat veteran. I spent 18 months on the front lines in Korea. I was born in this country and joined the United States Marines to fight for it.

If our president needs troops to send to the Middle East to fight and destroy the evil murdering ISIS devils, I know where he can get millions of them.

If all these illegal immigrants from Mexico and South America or wherever want to live and enjoy the freedom we treasure in this country so much, let them spend four years in the military like I did and earn their right to be an American citizen.

Take all these illegals, male or female, and give them a choice. Spend four years in the military and earn citizenship, or go back where they came from. They did not fight for the right to be free in their own country but they want to come here and enjoy the freedom that I and every other veteran of the U.S. military fought and died for.

You want to be a U.S. citizen? Earn it.
S/SGT. Thomas Godbout, USMC (Ret.)
Arcadia

Vote 'no' on half-cent tax

Editor:

Next Tuesday the people of DeSoto County will decide their future as they vote on the sales tax increase generated by DeSoto Memorial Hospital.

If this sales tax increase passes, everyone is looking at:

1. All taxable items will cost more.
2. All large items, such as homes and automobiles, will see a hefty increase.
3. Inflation is increasing at more

For sufferers of AIDS, cancer, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, glaucoma, seizures, paralysis, Hepatitis C and chronic pain caused by illnesses such as lupus and neuropathy, medical marijuana offers relief from symptoms. All of these illnesses and conditions are currently

than 2 percent every year. This will increase your cost of every purchase.

4. A recession, such as 2008, will disrupt the payoff parameters of the loan and extend the payout beyond 2036.

5. The hospital in the future could borrow against this tax and further extend the payout date.

6. If a major emergency should occur, DeSoto County would be unable to use any of this tax to offset such emergency.

7. All children born in DeSoto County through 2017 would grow to adults and begin paying this tax. Yes, it will still be around.

During the past few weeks DeSoto Memorial Hospital administration stated publicly in the local media that the proposed sales tax increase will be to pay off the existing hospital mortgage and that all taxes will be used for that purpose only. On the actual voting ballot wording it states "County-wide indigent care one-half cent sales surtax for payment of DeSoto Memorial Hospital indebtedness." The way this is worded it appears part of this tax will go to future indigent care costs. This is borne out by the stated word Indebtedness and not Mortgage.

The DeSoto County economy is struggling, and this tax will further depress any chance at county development.

On Tuesday, Nov. 4, I encourage everyone to vote NO on this proposed tax increase that is wrong for the people of DeSoto County.

Donald McCormick
Arcadia

Hospital urges 'yes' vote on tax

Editor:

As the campaign for the ½ penny

treated with drugs only doctors can prescribe. Why would medical marijuana deployed under the same conditions be banned? Why would anyone else, including politicians and law enforcement officers, have a say in how a doctor and his or her patient treat a

sales tax is coming to an end, we have just a few more words to say:

Please make no mistake, we want you to vote YES. But, whether you are voting YES or NO, our goal was to make sure the community was educated on the facts and the reasons for the ½-penny sales tax.

There have been several persistent questions we have tried to answer definitively. The hospital is owned by the DeSoto County Hospital District. The District is a state agency created by an act of the State Legislature in 1965. Pursuant to state law the district board members are appointed by the Governor to serve four-year terms. If the hospital were to be sold, the law requires that the net sale proceeds be given to the Board of County Commissioners. Fifty percent would be set aside to provide for indigent care and 50 percent would be deposited in a fund for health care economic development.

Let's be clear: all taxable items will cost more. How much more? If you made a \$2 purchase today, the total cost would be \$2.14. If this ordinance passes, that same \$2 purchase in January would be \$2.15. Don't forget, there's a cap—tax is not paid on anything over \$5,000 of your large purchases. So, if you bought a car for \$30,000 the additional tax would \$25 (you only are paying additional tax on the first \$5,000). If you financed that car for five years, it would cost you 42¢ more per month. Real estate transactions are not subject to tax.

The sales tax money will only be used to pay the current hospital mortgage payment. Although the short title of the amendment indicates the tax is related to indigent care, the actual text

disease or condition?

We encourage you to read the amendment language (election.dos.state.fl.us), research the issue and exercise your right to vote on this important policy issue.

The Arcadian recommends a yes vote on Amendment 2.

Why You Should **ELECT Rick Scott**

Charlie is in a sweat and needs to cool off because of Governor Scott's record. Charlie should buy a fan for the 832,000 Floridians who lost their jobs while he was governor.

The Real Record

GOVERNOR SCOTT'S PERSONAL STORY

- Governor Scott grew up in public housing and his parents struggled to make ends meet.
- He served our country in the Navy then obtained an education that allowed him to build businesses and create jobs.
- Governor Scott has lived the American dream and is focused on providing all Florida families the opportunity to succeed.
- He is a husband (married at age 19), father of two married daughters, and grandfather to three boys.

ECONOMY/JOB

ACTIONS:

- Governor Scott has paid down \$3.6 billion of the state's debt, and paid back \$3.5 billion Florida owed to the federal government for unemployment insurance.
- Governor Scott eliminated the tax on manufacturing equipment and machines, making Florida companies more competitive with other states and other nations.
- Governor Scott has cut over 2,800 regulations, cut property & business taxes, and streamlined the permitting process.
- Governor Scott cut taxes five times in three legislative sessions for families & job creators.
- Governor Scott recently announced plans to cut \$500 million in taxes and fees for Florida's families this next fiscal year.
- Under Charlie Crist, Florida lost 832,000 jobs, increased state debt by \$5 billion, and had double-digit unemployment.

RESULTS:

- Under Governor Scott's leadership, Florida's economy has turned around. Since taking office Governor Scott has created over 446,300 private-sector jobs and the unemployment rate has dropped 4.7% - that's the second largest unemployment drop in the nation since December 2010.
- Florida's unemployment rate has dropped year-over-year for 37 consecutive months. The current rate is 6.4%, below the national average for the 9th consecutive month.
- Because of Governor Scott's fiscal stewardship, Florida now has a \$1.5 billion rainy day fund.
- Companies from across the country are moving to Florida because Governor Scott has created a climate that is attractive for businesses. Hertz announced it will be relocating to Florida from New Jersey, adding at least 700 jobs. Other companies creating jobs in Florida include: DuvaSawka (Volusia), ATR North America (Miami Springs), Global Business Solutions (Pensacola), Darden Restaurants (Miami-Dade), Executive Wings (Brevard) Fort Walton Machining (Okaloosa), Vectorworks Marine (Brevard), Widewaters Bradenton (Manatee), 2G Manufacturing (St. John's), Office Depot (Boca Raton), Verizon Wireless (Lake Mary), Northrop Grumman (Melbourne) and USAA (Hillsborough)
- The housing market has made a strong comeback and home sales continue to increase. Median home sale prices are increasing. The momentum in the market means more sellers are listing property.
- Tourism is stronger than ever, with 91 million tourists coming to Florida in 2012. In the 3rd quarter of 2013 22.9 million visited - the largest third quarter for visitation in the states history. Every 85 tourists is another job.

EDUCATION

ACTIONS:

- On education, Governor Scott has implemented record state-based K-12 funding & merit based pay for teachers, ended teacher tenure, and increased the standards of excellence in education for Florida students. Under Governor Scott's leadership, Florida's students are the real winners.
- Governor Scott, along with the House and Senate, agreed to implement \$480 million in teacher pay raises.
- Florida Education Association President Andy Ford applauded Governor Scott and the House and Senate for their leadership on education.
- Governor Scott gave teachers a year-round, tax-free debit card with \$250 for school supplies.
- Some Florida state colleges offer degrees for \$10,000 so it is affordable for Florida families.

RESULTS:

- According to The Progress in International Reading Literacy Study, Florida's 4th grade students rank 2nd in the world for reading.
- According to Education Week, Florida's 4th & 8th graders have had better student achievement gains than any of the other large states.
- According to the National Council on Teacher Quality, for two years running, Florida has the best teachers in the country.
- According to Education Week, Florida is 6th overall for K-12 education.
- Florida state colleges have degrees for \$10,000 so it is affordable for Florida families.
- Governor Scott has held the line on tuition - just because tuition in Florida is low is not a reason to increase it.

VOTE NO

Amendment 1

This amendment removes 33% of state Doc Stamp Funds to purchase more land for the state of Florida. The civilians of Florida DO NOT need to have removal of more land from private ownership and place it under government control.

Amendment 2

Florida does not need to become the 1st southern state to legalize marijuana - Licensed Florida physicians help expand the Pill Mill Trade - Increased cost to state and local government will rise and it will require additional regulation and enforcement activities - This is only the first step - VOTE NO TODAY!

WE BELIEVE in equal rights, equal justice and equal opportunity for all, regardless of race, creed, sex age or disability.
 WE BELIEVE free enterprise and encouraging individual initiative have brought this nation opportunity, economic growth and prosperity.
 WE BELIEVE government must practice fiscal responsibility and allow individuals to keep more of the money they earn.
 WE BELIEVE the proper role of government is to provide for the people only those critical functions that cannot be performed by individuals or private organizations and that the best government is that which governs least.
 WE BELIEVE the most effective, responsible and responsive government is government closest to people.
 WE BELIEVE Americans must retain the principles that have made us strong while developing new and innovative ideas to meet the challenges of changing times.
 WE BELIEVE Americans value and should preserve our national strength and pride while working to extend peace, freedom and human rights throughout the world.
 FINALLY, We believe the Republican Party is the best vehicle for translating these ideals into positive and successful principles of government.

Paid for and Approved by DeSoto County Republican Executive Committee

Arcadia's COMMUNITY CALENDAR

NOTE: All phone numbers are in Area Code 863 unless stated otherwise.

TODAY

- The Bulldogs Varsity Football team plays Hardee tonight in the oldest high school football rivalry in the state! It's also Senior Night — come on out and support our team in this special Thursday night game!
- DeSoto Public Library will hold a preschool nature walk at Morgan Park, 10 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 30. Meet at the picnic shelter.
- DeSoto County Historical Society Research Library is open in the Ingraham Seed House, 120 W. Whidden Street: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursdays (except for the second Thursday of the month), and by appointment.
- The John Morgan Ingraham House is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursdays, except the second Thursday, and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the second Saturday of the month.
- Relaxation Yoga Class every Thursday, 5 p.m. Sign-in 4:50 p.m. 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.
- Faith Mission provides free lunches for anyone in need, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 1109 S.E. 9th St., Arcadia. Donations gratefully accepted.

FRIDAY

- Friendship Missionary Baptist Church is holding its Community Fall Festival from 3-7 p.m. Oct. 31 at the church, 304 W. Myrtle St.
- The DeSoto County Health Department is hosting a "Costume Clean-up" starting at 3:30 p.m. Friday. They ask everyone to come out to Lake Katherine in their best costume and help clean up the lake, and also enter the "best costume ever" contest.
- On Friday, DeSoto Public Library will host a discussion of the proposed Constitutional Amendments at 10 a.m. Learn the pros and cons for each measure.
- The Turner Center will host Trick or Treat for kids from 6-8 p.m. Oct. 31. Admission and parking are free.
- DeSoto Youth Football is selling BBQ plates for the 12U teams on Oct. 31, at 1023 S.W. Golden Ave. \$10 chicken plates or \$12 rib plates, include baked beans, mac'n cheese and potato salad. Call Tim White at 263-8233 or J.C. Mansfield at 231-2033. Proceeds will help fund the teams to play in the regional tournament.
- Arcadia Quilt Club meets from 9-11:30 a.m. Fridays at the Palace Dance Hall, 1627 N.E. Floridian Circle, Arcadia.
- iPads and eBooks - Instruction and assistance with questions about using your digital devices at 3 p.m. every Friday at the DeSoto Public Library.
- Walk & Talk: gentle exercise and conversation at 4 p.m. every

Friday at the DeSoto Public Library.

- Square Dancing classes are held at the Palace Square Dance Hall, 1627 N.E. Floridian Circle, from 7-9 p.m. every Friday. Robert at 813-601-1834 or Mary at 941-380-5336 494-2749 for information.
- Faith Mission provides free lunches for anyone in need, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 1109 S.E. 9th St., Arcadia. Donations gratefully accepted.
- Sabbath service begins at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Beth El, 3840 S. Biscayne Dr., North Port. Oneg Shabbat follows.

SATURDAY

- The Tater Hill BBQ Bunch and DeSoto County Veterans Services will hold "All 4 the Wall," a benefit to bring the traveling Vietnam Wall to DeSoto County, at 11 a.m. Nov. 1 at Veterans Park. BBQ plates (ribs or chicken) are \$7. Drinks, pies and swamp cabbage, too. Bring your own chairs. For details, call Steve Boggess at 941-628-5871 or Ronny Allen at 244-7906.
- Strolling 4 A Cure will be held Nov. 1 at The Bluffs Community. Call Janet Preston at 303-2690 for details.
- North Hillsborough Baptist Church will hold its Fall Festival from 1-4 p.m. Nov. 1. Free food, drinks, games, bounce house, face painting, balloons, sand art, down, cotton candy, popcorn, candy apples, animal petting booth, haystack candy hunt. Friendly costumes only (no scary ones). Bike giveaway at 4 p.m., Gospel Sing at 4:45 p.m. 253 N. Hillsborough Ave.
- Arcadia Rodeo Nov. 1-2, \$15 admission (\$14 in advance). Kids 10 and under free. Visit www.ArcadiaRodeo.com or call 800-749-7633 or 863-494-2014.
- DeSoto Memorial Hospital Foundation is holding its 15th annual Golf Tournament on Nov. 1 at The Bluffs Golf Course. 8 a.m. Shotgun start/4-man scramble. \$65 entry fee includes 18 holes, cart, beverages, door prizes, continental breakfast and BBQ lunch. For information call 494-6599 or 494-8402.
- The Week of the Family takes place Nov. 1-8. The sixth annual Free Family Fun Fair will be held Nov. 8. Groups, businesses and individuals who want to have displays about the services they offer are welcome to participate, and are encouraged to have some kind of game or other kid-friendly activity, and some freebies to hand out. For details, call Cindy Siegel at 990-0387.
- The Olde Town Market and Main Street Farmer's Market are held the first Saturday every month in downtown Arcadia from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fresh produce, pickled products, jams, jellies, homemade granola bars, baked goods, fresh and dried herbs, arts, crafts, woodworking, quilts, sewing, plants and other goodies. For vendor info call the Arcadia Main Street office at 494-2020.
- DeSoto County Library has Book Buddies, when children read to dogs, on the first Saturday of every month at 10:30 a.m., 125 N. Hillsborough Ave. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 993-4851 for more information.
- Boaters Get-Together meets at 1 p.m. on the first Saturday of every month at Nav-A-Gator Grill, 9700 S.W. Riverview Circle (off Kings Hwy/C.R. 769). For more information, call 941-627-3474.
- The 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

- Volunteers needed for new Friendship Center open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Call 494-5965 if you

have 4 hrs/week to share. Positions available for receptionists (morning or afternoon), help serving meals, help with activities, special talents, and more.

MONDAY

- 4-H county council, leaders and volunteers meet at 6 p.m. the first Monday of each month at the DeSoto County Turner Center extension office.
- The Arcadia Garden Club meets at noon on the first Monday of each month Oct. through June at its office, 1005 W. Magnolia St. Bring a covered dish to share.
- Friendship Center, 219 W. Oak St. Activities daily from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Watch for special programs coming soon. Lunch program available for those 60+ with a 48-hr. advance reservation. 863-494-5965

TUESDAY

- Election Day - 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Please VOTE!
- Peace River Audubon Society will hold a walkabout on Nov. 4 at Audubon Pennington Nature Park, in Port Charlotte. Free and open to the public.
- Arcadia City Council meets at 6 p.m. at the Margaret Way Building, 23 N. Polk Ave., Arcadia.
- S.H.I.N.E. (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elderly) has office hours every Tuesday at the Friendship Center, 219 W. Oak St., from 12:30-3:30 pm. Phone 239-470-5350 to make an appointment.
- 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.
- 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.

WEDNESDAY

- DeSoto County Homeless Coalition Mobile Pantry is on the first and third Wednesday of each month at the Smith Brown Gym starting at 9 a.m. until the food is gone. The only requirement is to be a DeSoto County resident. Sponsored by the All Faiths Food bank of Sarasota.
- The Arcadia Writers Group meets from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month at Arcadia Village in the Cantina Clubhouse, in the small dining room. For more information, call Sarah Hollenhorst at 244-1663.
- The Retired Law Enforcement Association of Southwest Florida meets first Wednesday monthly at the Fraternal Order of Police Hall, 23300 Harper Ave., Port Charlotte. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m.; meeting is at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 941-423-0902.
- Hour of Power Prayer time is held at noon at Freedom Fellowship Christian Ministries, 1528 N.E. Turner Ave.
- "Art for Kids" is at 3 p.m. every Wednesday in the DeSoto County Library's children's wing. This program, sponsored

Myakka Lemur refuge holds open house



ARCADIAN PHOTO BY SUSAN E. HOFFMAN

The Lemur Conservation Foundation is holding its annual Open House 2-5 p.m. on Nov. 8 in Myakka City. See these cute, endangered animals up close. The event is free although donations are gratefully accepted. It is open to the public. Come see how adorable -- and endangered -- these cute little furry primates are and learn about the work of the Lemur Conservation Foundation, right up the road in Myakka City. For more details and to RSVP, email nhendrickson@lemurreserve.org or call 941-322-8494. Visit <http://www.lemurreserve.org/myakka.html> for more information on the facility.

by the DeSoto County Arts and Humanities Council, is for elementary school-aged children.

THURSDAY

- The All Faiths Food Bank will deliver free food to those in need at the DeSoto Homeless Center, 1425 MLK Jr. St., from 10 a.m. to noon on Nov. 6 and Dec. 4.
- Thursday, Nov. 6 is the Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet at the Turner Agri-Civic Center. Reception and cash bar 6 p.m., dinner 7 p.m. Cornerstone Award presentation, installation of 2015 officers. \$35/person, \$60/couple. Call 494-4033 or email chamber@desotochamberfl.com.
- The DeSoto Arts and Humanities Council Board of directors meets on the first Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m., at The Arcadian, 108 S. Polk.
- 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 Arcadia Housing Authority Conference Room. For details, call Rev. Ted Hanus at 993-3435.
- Chamber of Commerce Early Bird Breakfast is at 8 a.m. the first Thursday monthly. Each month's location will be announced.
- DeSoto County Historical Society Research Library is open in the Ingraham Seed House, 120 W. Whidden Street: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursdays (except for the second Thursday of the month), and by appointment.
- DeSoto County Library has story time for children at 3 p.m. every Thursday.

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Family Album



FAMILY ALBUM PHOTOS

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

Happy 107th birthday!

Tillie Brown will be celebrating her 107th birthday on Nov. 4! In this photo, she is seen celebrating her 106th birthday last year with family and friends gathered around to wish her a beautiful day. Best wishes to Tillie Brown for a wonderful birthday celebration.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Happy birthday



PHOTO PROVIDED

Happy 8th birthday to the love of my life, my MaMa Janaisa A'rya Arnold — I love U more than words can say.

Love, Nana Elaine, PaPa Eugene, your daddy Lucky Uncle Reese and granddad Mayo.

Family Fun Fair wraps Week of the Family on Nov. 8

By CYNTHIA L. SIEGEL

DESOTO WEEK OF THE FAMILY

Started 11 years ago by two concerned mothers in Orange County who met with their mayor to discuss strengthening families in their community, Week of the Family is celebrating its sixth year here in DeSoto County, and it continues to grow. The committee this year includes representatives from Catholic Charities, Guardian ad Litem, Healthy Families, Hand of Angels, Redlands Christian Migrant Association, DeSoto County Homeless Coalition, the County Library, SPARCC and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, among others, and these members and their organizations are dedicated to strengthening family relationships through education, wholesome activities, fitness and community service.

FAIR | 10

To the voters of Arcadia, Florida

Running for Public Office is new to me so I consulted the great political philosopher "Google," and Google says I'm to tell you a little bit about myself, then tell you why I am running for city council and the after all that I am supposed to ask you to vote for me.

I am JUDY WERTZ STRICKLAND. I was born and raised here in DeSoto County and have lived here all my life. I am a Christian and an active member of Oak Hill Baptist Church. I am a resident and tax payer in the City of Arcadia and that gives me vested interest in the City. My children Eddie Wertz and Kim Wertz DuCette were born here and have lived here all their lives. My children are 4th generation residents of the county and my grandchildren are 5th generation residents of the county.

I attended schools in DeSoto County and graduated from DeSoto County High School and later I attended Florida Southern College in Lakeland and received a Bachelor of Liberal Arts Degree still remaining in DeSoto County.

FOLKS, our city has challenges and opportunities. I believe with every challenge there are solutions. I don't think we have problems in the city, I think we have a lot of challenges and we need to find the solutions.

The solution to our challenges and opportunities is LEADERSHIP. Our city now more than ever needs leaders, not more managers, not more consultants, but LEADERSHIP.

LEADERSHIP is what it will take to handle the challenges and opportunities facing Arcadia.

I don't need Google to tell me about LEADERSHIP. LEADERSHIP IS NOT COMPLICATED YOU LEAD, FOLLOW OR GET OUT OF THE WAY.

LEADERS WE SOLVE PROBLEMS

LEADERS WE KNOW WHEN TO LISTEN AND WHEN TO FOLLOW

LEADERS WE WORK WELL WITH OTHERS TO ACCOMPLISH THE GOALS

LEADERS WE ARE NOT AFRAID TO SAY "I DON'T KNOW" BUT LET ME FIND OUT AND I WILL BE GLAD TO GET BACK WITH YOU

LEADERS HAVE A VISION. WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE LOOKS LIKE.

A news reporter was interviewing a hockey player and asked this question "WHAT MAKES A GOOD HOCKEY PLAYER?" the hockey player replied "A GOOD HOCKEY PLAYER GOES WHERE THE PUCK IS AND A GREAT HOCKEY PLAYER GOES TO WHERE THE PUCK IS GOING TO BE.

I believe a great council member needs to ask where our puck will be in the next 10-20 years to anticipate the needs of our community. I was told not to make promises. Whatever you do, do not make any promises. Well I don't always follow conventional wisdom. So today I want to make two promises.

1. If I am blessed enough to win this election, I will be myself, I will be that problem solver, I will be that critical thinker who will ask questions and solve today's problems for a brighter future.

2. I promise I will always try to be a leader that YOU, JOHN Q PUBLIC WILL BE PROUD OF.

As many of you know, I have worked for Sorrells for the past 19 1/2 years, my job is getting our labor force of 558 workers over to pick the company fruit.

My point is this - Paloma as we call the labor camp, is run like a small city; we have a sewer system, a water system and a very active busing system. This is part of my job, to see this little city, located off of County Road 661 runs smoothly and operates correctly on a daily basis.

Paloma is not on the same scale as the city of ARCADIA, but the dynamics are the same.

Now Google says I am supposed to close and get you to vote for me.

I believe it is our DUTY to vote, I BELIEVE as citizens of a free country, IT IS OUR DUTY TO VOTE. SO NOVEMBER 4, DO YOUR DUTY AND

VOTE FOR: JUDY WERTZ STRICKLAND THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS

Paid Political Advertisement Paid For and Approved By Judy Wertz Strickland



50475844

Burnham sentenced to life in prison

Karl Edward Burnham will spend the rest of his life in state prison for murdering his father and attempting to murder his mother. On Tuesday, appearing before Judge James Parker, Burnham entered a plea of no contest in DeSoto County court on the murder and attempted murder charges, along with a count of grand theft auto. Burnham, 50, was arrested on March 29 in the Orlando area after his sister came to the N.W. Owens Avenue home where he lived with his parents, George and JoAnn Burnham, and found both bleeding. Sheriff Office records indicate George had been beaten with a blunt object, and died at the scene. JoAnn also had been badly injured but she recovered after extensive treatment.

Karl Burnham stole the couple's car and was eventually stopped in the Orlando area, where he was arrested and returned to DeSoto County. His health has been failing during the time he was in DeSoto County jail.

Burnham had several previous run-ins with the law, including charges of forgery and grand theft dating back to 1985, a second degree murder charge in 1988 (for which he served 15 years in state prison), and other theft, firearms and substance abuse charges.

George and JoAnn Burnham were well known in the community; George had recently retired at the rank of major from

the DeSoto Road Prison, and the couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last year.

Report: woman stole watch, phone at nursing home

The DeSoto County Sheriff's Office reported the arrest of Celina Younda Davis, 25, of the 8700 block of County Road 661, on charges of exploitation of an elderly person and petty theft of an item valued between \$100 and \$300.



DAVIS

According to the arrest report, a woman who works at the assisted living facility where Davis worked reported her Michael Kors watch missing from her purse in June.

Several months later, she happened to see Davis's photo on Facebook, and she was wearing a watch like the one which had been missing. Further review showed photos of Davis wearing the watch just nine days after the watch first went missing. The woman reported her finding to DCSO.

When questioned, Davis at first denied having any knowledge of the watch. But when a detective confronted her with photos showing her wearing it, she then said she found it by a freezer at work and kept it. She said the stem was broken and she thought no one wanted it so she never reported it missing.

REPORT | 12

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.

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

- Lamar Lee Alvarez, 34, 1300 Oak Trail Apts., Arcadia. Charge: petty theft, third or subsequent offense. Bond: \$1,000.
- Kelly Marie Carcamo, 36, 1900 block of S.E. West Ave., Arcadia. Charge: violation of probation. Bond: none.
- Steven Mark Clark, 58, 12500 block of S.W. Kingsway Circle, Lake Suzy. Charge: misuse of 911. Bond: \$2,000.
- Ruben Lynn Connell, 22, 2300 block of S.W. U.S. Hwy. 17, Arcadia. Charge: DUI alcohol or drugs. Bond: \$500.
- Ashley Nicole Slemons, 22, 1200 block of E Cypress St., Arcadia. Charge: assault. Bond: none.
- Harold Jonathan Fisher, 49, North Fort Myers. Charge: driving while license is suspended, third or subsequent offense. Bond: \$1,500.
- Jose Valdez Jr., 29, first block of Walnut St., Arcadia. Charge: failure to support child or spouse. Purge: \$250.
- Tyler Ray Carlan, 22, 3000 block of County Road 760, Arcadia. Charge: driving while license is suspended. Bond: \$120.
- James Alexander Davis, 26, Stonegate Apts., Arcadia. Charges: possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and possession or use of drug equipment. Bond: \$240.
- Ricardo Tetlanco Garcia, 31, 2000 block of S.W. Robin Road, Arcadia. Charges: contempt (violation of domestic protective injunction), driving without a valid license and violation of probation. Bond: none.
- Malcom Keith Lattimore, 41, 1900 block of Hendry St., Arcadia. Charge: driving while license is suspended. Bond: \$500.
- Patrick Lee Oneal, 28, 11200 block of S.W. Crenshaw Ave., Arcadia. Charge: out-of-county warrant. Bond: \$900.
- Jonathan Henry Robinson, 19, 700 block of W. Pine St., Arcadia. Charges: grand theft between \$300-\$5,000 and giving false ownership statement to second-hand dealer, under \$300. Bond: \$2,000.

- Carl Anthony Stewart, 36, 300 block of N. 17th Ave., Arcadia. Charges: two counts of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, and one count each of possession or use of drug equipment, fleeing to elude officer, hit and run/leaving accident scene involving property damage, driving without a valid license, driving while license is suspended and resisting or obstructing an officer without violence. Bond: \$12,370.
- David James Stroman, 52, 100 block of Golden Drive, Arcadia. Charges: possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and possession or use of drug equipment. Bond: \$240.
- Maria de la Cruz Hinojosa, 38, 1100 block of S.E. 8th St., Arcadia. Charge: driving without a valid license. Bond: \$120.
- Ruben Piquinto Sanchez, 19, 4500 block of S.E. Apache Drive, Arcadia. Charges: possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and possession or use of drug equipment. Bond: \$240.
- John Matthew Parrish, 37, 1400 block of N.W. 2nd Ave., Arcadia. Charge: failure to support spouse or child. Purge: \$1,000.
- Michael David Harris, 42, 5500 block of S.W. Shores Ave., Arcadia. Charge: battery. Bond: none.
- James Mercer, 48, 5200 block of Norris Road, Ona. Charge: battery. Bond: none.
- Elizabeth Rode Tschetter, 23, no address, Arcadia. Charges: two counts of failure to appear. Bond: none.

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

- Patrick Lee Oneal, 28, 11200 block of S.W. Crenshaw Ave., Arcadia. Charge: violation of probation or community control. Bond: \$900.
- Heather Thomas Holland, 23, 1800 block of Los Anos Drive, Arcadia. Charge: violation of probation or community control. Bond: \$600.
- Michael Anthony Harris, 18, 7100 block of S.W. Albritton St., Arcadia. Charge: petty theft. Bond: \$1,000.

The Sarasota County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrest:

- Heather Holland, 23, 1800 block of S.W. Los Pinos Drive, Arcadia. Charge: violation of probation. Bond: \$600.

— Compiled by Susan E. Hoffman



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FIRST PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE FFY2014 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

The city of Arcadia is considering applying to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (FDEO) for one or more Small Cities Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) for Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (700,000) or more. These funds must be used for one of the following purposes:

1. To benefit low and moderate income persons; or
2. To aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight; or
3. To meet other community development needs of recent origin having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community and where other financial resources are not available to meet such needs.

The categories of activities for which these grant funds may be used are in the areas of housing, neighborhood revitalization, commercial revitalization or economic development and include such improvement activities as acquisition of real property, loans to private-for-profit business, purchase or machinery and equipment construction or infrastructure, rehabilitation of houses and commercial buildings, and energy conservation. Additional information regarding the range of activities that may be undertaken will be provided at the public hearing.

For all Florida CDBG activities that are proposed, at least fifty-one (51%) of the funds must benefit low and moderate income persons.

In developing an application for submission to FDEO, the City of Arcadia must plan to minimize displacement of persons as a result of planned CDBG activities. In addition, the City of Arcadia is required to develop a plan to assist displaced persons.

The public hearing to receive citizen views concerning the community's economic and community development needs will be held at the City of Arcadia's City Council Chambers located at 23 N. Polk Avenue, Arcadia, FL on Monday, November 3, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible. For information concerning the public hearing contact Ms. Shelley Peacock at phone: (863) 494-4114 or email: speacock@arcadia-fl.gov.

The public hearing is being conducted in a disability accessible location. Any non-English speaking person wishing to attend the public hearing or any disabled person requiring special accommodations or an interpreter for the hearing or visually impaired should contact Ms. Shelley Peacock by phone: (863) 494-4114 or email: speacock@arcadia-fl.gov at least five (5) calendar days prior to the meeting and accommodations will be provided. To access a Telecommunications Device for Deaf Persons (TDD), please call (863) 494-9441.

City of Arcadia
City Council
By - Shelley Peacock

Fair Housing/Disability Access Jurisdiction and Equal Opportunity Employer

OBITUARIES

Robert W. Bradt

Robert W. Bradt, of Arcadia, Fla., passed away peacefully Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2014. Arrangements are by Ponger-Kays-Grady Funeral Homes.

Orlando Ismael Capiro

Orlando Ismael "Orr" Capiro, 63, of Tampa, Fla., transitioned Sunday, Oct. 12, 2014, of natural causes.

He was a real estate broker-salesman for over 40 years. He enjoyed boating, cooking and gardening.

Orr is survived by his sisters, Rose M. Capiro of Port Charlotte, Fla., and Maria (Jerry) White of Arcadia, Fla.; brother, Dr. Jose (Shannon) Capiro of Lewes, Del.; sons, Daniel (Jonnie) Capiro of Del Mar, Calif., and Joseph Capiro of Cocoa Beach, Fla.; daughter, Elizabeth Capiro of St. Augustine, Fla.; grandson, Jasyn of Cocoa Beach; granddaughters, Jasmine of Cocoa Beach, and Stella of Del Mar; four nieces; three great-nephews; one great-niece; numerous relatives through marriage; and numerous old-time and recent friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. Orlando H. and Rosa J. Capiro.

He will be cremated, and a private celebration of life will be held Saturday, Nov. 22, 2014, in Arcadia.

Margaret Banks Huddleston

Margaret Banks (Woolley) Huddleston passed away Thursday, Oct. 9, 2014, from Lewy-Body dementia while living in San Diego, Calif.



She was born an identical twin on Dec. 21, 1925, in Dry Valley, Ala., (Chilton County).

In 1940, her family moved to Arcadia, Fla., where she participated in basketball and cheer-leading before graduating from DeSoto High School in 1944. Margaret and Frank Williams Huddleston Jr. (a "fella" she had barely known in high school but then became more acquainted with after she moved to San Francisco, Calif., in 1945, and accidentally ran into while he was stationed there in the Navy) were married there Oct. 25, 1946. Margaret and Frank had five children, three boys and two girls. She then went on to work at J.C. Penney and The Pottery Shack in Laguna Beach, Calif., Smith Printers in Tustin, Calif., and finally Hughes Aircraft in Los Angeles, Calif., as lead in the bindery/shipping department. She retired from there in 1992, and relocated to Arcadia to be closer to her twin sister, Mary, and brother-in-law, Murl Coker.

While in Arcadia, Margaret volunteered for the Arcadia Center for the Needy and as head of the After School Child Care Program run by the First Baptist Church of Arcadia. She returned to California in 2005, following the loss of her mobile home to Hurricane Charley in 2004. She resided with her son, Richard, for four years. In September 2009, she went to live with her grandson, Gary, and his family in Las Vegas, Nev., where she watched her three great-grandsons participate in a variety of sports. In May 2010, while still quite independent, she moved to San Diego, to be closer to her daughter, LuAnn. In November 2010, a major decline in her cognitive abilities forced a move into an assisted living facility for those with dementia, St Paul's Villa Memory Care Program. She remained in San Diego until her passing. Margaret and her family were also greatly supported by Apreva Hospice of San Diego.

Survivors include her twin sister, Mary Banks (Murl) Coker of Arcadia; sons, Richard of Santa Ana, Calif., and Frank (Cathie) of Moreno Valley, Calif.; daughters, LuAnn (Richard) Benton of San Diego, and Paula (Roger) Bassemier

of Kingman, Ariz.; grandchildren, Laura (Chris) Tetzlaff of Manhattan Beach, Calif., Gary (Tara) Edwards II of Golden Valley, Ariz., Andrew and Ryan Huddleston of Valley Village, Calif.; and great-grandchildren, Tyler, Tristen and Tobey Edwards of Golden Valley. She was preceded in death by her oldest son, Kevin of California, in 1983; her sister, Gladys Sanders of California; brothers, Lewis David Woolley of Florida, and Henry (Betty) Woolley of California.

Visitation will be held at 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, 2014, at the Ponger-Kays-Grady Funeral Home, 50 N. Hillsborough Ave., Arcadia, FL 34266. A celebration of Margaret's life will begin at 2 p.m. and officiated by Paul Bennett. Burial will follow at Oak Hill Cemetery in Arcadia. Online condolences may be made at www.pongerkaysgrady.com. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to further the research of Lewy-Body dementia through the Mayo Clinic in Florida, www.mayoclinic.org or through the Emory University Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, www.alzheimers.emory.edu.

Arrangements are by Ponger-Kays-Grady funeral home and Cremation Services, Arcadia.

Kay Laurel Kelly

Kay Laurel Kelly, 93, of Arcadia, Fla., passed away Friday, Oct. 24, 2014, in Arcadia.



She was born July 22, 1921, in the Owens Community of DeSoto County, to Charlie and Leona Coulter.

Kay married Patrick (Pat) Kelly in 1942. She worked for years with family at the Arcadia State Livestock Market. Kay's husband, Pat Kelly, would become the manager with Kay running the office. At the time of Pat's death in 1981, Kay became the first woman to manage a livestock market. She worked tirelessly serving the cattle industry until her retirement in 1993. During this time, Kay was a member of the Florida Association of Livestock Markets and also served a two-year term as their president. She was a member of the Florida Cattlemen's Association in DeSoto County.

Kay enjoyed spending time with her family and friends. She had a passion for gardening and could spend hours in her yard tending to her beautiful plants. Some of her best times were spent in the kitchen, cooking for family gatherings or pot luck dinners at the church. Her church was an important part of her life. She served as a deacon and an elder. Upon retirement, Kay enjoyed spending Mondays at the church with her "Monday Morning Ladies Group." Being of service to her church in any capacity was very important to her.

Survivors are her daughter, Kathy (Frank) Tanner, Arcadia; daughter-in-law, Judy Kelly, Sarasota, Fla.; three grandchildren, Heather (Corey) Johnson, Lebanon, Tenn., Justin (Kelly) Tanner, Arcadia, and Jennifer Kelly, Sarasota; seven great-grandchildren, Mark Johnson, Kayla Tanner, Kyle Tanner, Trey Tanner, Kaitlyn Armstrong, Leigh Armstrong, and Robbi Lyn Armstrong; and one great-great-grandchild, Colton Armstrong. Kay is preceded in death by her parents, Charlie and Leona Coulter; her beloved husband, Patrick D. "Pat" Kelly; one son, Richard "Dick" Kelly; two brothers, Burl and Ion Coulter; and two sisters, Barbara Ann Roberson and Delores Burke.

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

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 10:45 - Morning Worship
 6:00 - Evening Worship
 Wednesdays 6:00
AWANA & YOUTH
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www.firstbaptistarcadia.com

First Christian Church
 34 El Verano Ave.
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Fort Ogden United Methodist Church
 6923 SW River St.
863.494.3881
 Adult Sunday School 9:00am
 Sunday - Worship 10:00am
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 2865 SW Co. Rd 661
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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
 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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863- 494-0044
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 Wednesday Adult, Youth & Children's Programs 7 PM
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www.pinelevelumc.com

St. Edmund's Episcopal Church
 327 W. Hickory St.
 (70 W at Manatee)
863-494-0485
www.EpiscopalArcadiaFL.com
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Trinity United Methodist Church
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 Sunday School 10:45 am
 Sun. 4:30 p.m. UMYF
 Wed. 6:30 pm Bible Study
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May the Lord fill your heart with love.

Faith enables us to live daringly

When a rural church invited me to be the speaker for a four-day conference it was to celebrate the 10th anniversary of its founding. The church had begun with three families holding services in a rented hall and, five years later, had grown enough to purchase a small church building, a parsonage and some acreage on a picturesque country corner. Upon my arrival, however, I found the congregation had outgrown their purchased building and were now again meeting in a rented hall.

I quickly recognized this as a caring congregation. An atmosphere of love could be sensed in every service and their effective ministry to the community was evident by the number of children and teens attending. The banquet hall, seating about 150, was filled with enthusiastic worshippers. Sunday School classes were being held in curtained-off areas along the side of the hall, requiring some teachers to compete with others to be heard. Noise and confusion reigned.



Roger Campbell

Later, the pastor shared his concerns with me about these limited, temporary facilities. He said he knew something had to be done about their crowded conditions and nomadic existence, but admitted he didn't know what to do. Word from the owners of the hall that their rent would soon be raised (perhaps a poorly disguised ploy to pressure them into buying the hall) added to the urgency of the problem. But what could they do?

The church still owed a sizable amount on the building they had outgrown and the leaders were understandably reluctant to plunge the congregation more

deeply into debt.

Following the final service of my four-day series, the pastor asked me to meet with him and his board to pray and talk about their need of finding a way to properly house their present congregation and allow for future growth. In that service, I had challenged the members to think big and expect God to increase their outreach, saying this would require vision, faith and hard work, the ingredients of growth in any church.

Months later, I received a letter from the pastor of this church that had seemed to be financially trapped. They had decided to accept my challenge, expecting God to respond to their faith. From that moment on they were in the mountain-moving business.

Plans were drawn for an attractive and adequate addition to their country church. A local bank offered to finance the project with reasonable interest rates and payments they believed they could afford. There were on their way.

But that was only the beginning. Once the building was started, donations of labor, equipment and money began pouring in from those in the congregation and others. People in the community were moved by what was happening and offered to help.

Now for the rest of the story: the miracle. The pastor's letter reported that the construction loan he and the church leaders had feared to face was paid off exactly one week after it was signed. The church dared to act in faith and God came through for them.

In his book, "Paths to Power," A.W. Tozer wrote: "In every denomination, missionary society, local church or individual Christian this law operates. God works as long as His people live daringly. He ceases when they no longer need His aid."

Our Lord identified faith as the key to both eternal and abundant life (John 10:10).

God does wonderful things for those who dare to trust Him. Do we dare?

PHOTO PROVIDED

Pinkalicious celebration for breast cancer awareness

DeSoto Memorial Hospital honors Breast Cancer Awareness Month by dressing in PINK on Oct. 24. The employees also celebrated by having pink pancakes, selling pink carnations with the Auxiliary, decorating pink cookies to benefit the Employee Relief Fund, and drew employee names for pink prizes. National Breast Cancer Awareness Month was founded in 1985 as a partnership between the American Cancer Society and the pharmaceutical division of Imperial Chemical Industries, maker of several anti-breast cancer drugs. The aim of NBCAM at the start was to promote mammography as the most effective weapon against breast cancer. DeSoto Memorial Radiology hosted Mammogram Screening. Special pricing and prizes were given to all patients.



FAIR

FROM PAGE 7

Former Governor Charlie Crist signed proclamations in 2009 and 2010 declaring the first week of November as Family Week, and Governor Scott has signed similar proclamations. In the first five years, the DeSoto County Board of County Commissioners also declared the week as DeSoto County Week of the Family, as have the City of Arcadia and the DeSoto County School Board, and are expected to issue proclamations again in 2014.

The committee has suggested what families might do to get to know one another better, to



PHOTO PROVIDED BY SKIP WEST

During the free Family Fun Fair last year, families had a lot of activities to choose from, including games to play with their children. This year's Year of the Family will culminate in the biggest Family Fun Fair ever, at the DeSoto County Fairgrounds.

strengthen, support, encourage one another, and to just have fun together. E

Each year the "Free Family Fun Fairs" wrap up the week.

Each fair was free to participants and attendees alike, and was held in a different city park. Each was a huge success.

Among other things, this

year's Family Fun Fair on Nov. 8 will coincide with the DeSoto County Historical Society's annual Yard Sale, as well as the DeSoto County Library's annual Book Sale.

There have been three Marches Against Hunger for which folks donated a non-perishable food item to help Fill the F-150 With Food for Needy Families while they learned about hunger and ways in which we work together to eradicate it, and all of it went to local food banks. School groups entertained, along with athletes and other performers. The event has grown from 12 participating non-profits, health and governmental groups, service and support groups, churches

and civic organizations in the first year, each displaying their services and opportunities for the families of DeSoto County and providing a game or activity, to almost 50 groups last year. Most provided some 'freebie' – everyone loves free stuff!

This year, there will be more participating organizations and entertainers than ever before, and many events are happening throughout the county this week. The free Family Fun Fair will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 8 at the DeSoto County Fairgrounds (on Heard Street, adjacent to the rodeo arena). And don't forget to bring your whole family!



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Memorial names students of the month

SUBMITTED By DALE WOLGAST
MEMORIAL ELEM. SCHOOL

Memorial Elementary School named

the Students of the Month for the month of September. These students demonstrated outstanding academic work and citizenship.



Fourth and fifth graders named as students of the month are, front Row, from left: Nicolas Aguilar-Mendez, Caleb Hilgeman, Miranda Silos, Krishna Patel, Daniela Rivera-Ordena. Second row: Michael Flowers, Margarita Chavez, Roberto Ibarra, Mariela Vargas, Shane Smith.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Kindergarten and first grade students of the month are, front row, from left: Emmeralda Tepetlanco-Cruz, Gerardo Politron, Julian Stainbrook, Taylor Evans, Adriana Lopez, Trenton Alley, Daniel Rubio, Ahmir Gains; second row: Saria Saunders, Victor Parocua, Aron Mage, Jose Contreras, Dulce Sarimenter-Mercado, Elizabeth Ramirez-Brazo, Michelle Garcia, Ava Fabila, Julian Gayton. Not pictured: Drema-leigh Mendoza.



Second and third grade students of the month: Front row, from left: Yahir Velazques, Ny'asya Furlow, Ricky Bartee, Anette Zamora, Darwin Vazquez. Middle row: Vanessa Villafuerte, Manuel Herrera, Brittney Lounsbey, Lashaniqua Young, Daniela Arellano. Third row: Keren Sampson, Joy Zhang, Patricia Marroquin, Lindsay Stuart, Nancy Martinez, Kalye Perez-Canseco. Not pictured: Harlee Munn.

Pine View helps Memorial school — again



PHOTO PROVIDED BY DALE WOLGAST

When Hurricane Charlie decimated Arcadia a decade ago, students from Pine View School in Sarasota adopted Memorial Elementary and provided a multitude of supplies, clothes, and countless other badly needed materials that helped the children, families, and staff of MES recover. The partnership lasted for over four years before it began to slow down and eventually come to a halt ... almost. Last year, Anajali Sharma, a freshman at Pine View, decided she was not going to let such a wonderful partnership and relationship between the two schools die, and began a campaign to collect books for the MES library. In late May she made the trip to DeSoto County and delivered over 100 books for every age child imaginable to the library and vowed she was going to do it again. This year, Anjali, now a tenth grader, her mother, Rene Sharma, and her sister, Sunny, spearheaded the effort, and with support from the Pine View School and their wonderful staff and students, collected another huge stack of books to further enrich our library. Pictured, from left, are Rene Sharma, Anjali's mother Anjali Sharma; Assistant Principal Tracey White; Sunny Sharma, Anjali's sister; and Coach Mitchell Johnson who graciously accepted the donation to Memorial's media center.



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OPINION

Mitzie McGavic, walking her dog Striker, laughs with Missy Moxley and Megan Jensen as they leave the picnic area along the beautiful Peace River. They took part in Stroll 4 A Cure in 2013 to help raise \$2,600 for cancer screenings for area residents.



ARCADIAN PHOTO BY JOHN BLACK, photoke@gmail.com

Strolling 4 A Cure is on Saturday

By JANET PRESTON
STROLLING 4 A CURE

Saturday marks the fifth annual Strolling 4 A Cure cancer walk at the Brookside Bluff Community. Strolling was started by Janet Preston in memory of her sister, Susan, who passed away almost six years ago due to cancer.

Preston has since lost her father to the disease and will freely say, "I can't bring back my loved ones, but we can help a lot of people hopefully not hear the dreaded words "You have cancer."

Strolling 4 A Cure is a walk that helps

people of DeSoto and Hardee counties, who are either uninsured or under-insured, with cancer screenings and related assistance. To date Strolling has been able to help with biopsies, mammograms, gas cards to get to treatments, and other related items, because of the community's support and generosity.

Join the walkers on Saturday at Brookside Bluff and support this wonderful cause. The Bluffs is on U.S. Highway 17 in Hardee County just north of the DeSoto/Hardee county line. For more information please call Janet at 863-303-1690.

Woman's Club funds bench at Vets Park



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY JUDY VENTRELLA

The GFWC Woman's Club of Arcadia recently witnessed the installation of their memorial bench in honor of veterans at Memorial Park. The bench was purchased during the 2012 - 2014 club presidency of Sherry Miraldi. From left: Sue Mealey, Joyce Sanguedulce, past president Sherry Miraldi, Lois Towne, and President Jannett Hawley. For more information about the club or to become a member call Babs Ames at 494-2457. The club is reverent, but not religious; patriotic, but not political.



REPORT

FROM PAGE 8

Around the same time, the report states, a woman reported that the cell phone she had bought her 90-year-old mother, who lived in the ALF, was missing. The daughter discovered someone had ordered a new SIM card for the phone in the name of Celina Davis. Davis was one of the elderly woman's caretakers.

When a detective confronted Davis, she denied knowing anything about the phone and offered to take a lie detector test. But when told about an envelope delivered in her name containing the SIM card, she changed her story, claiming someone else gave her the phone and she only later realized it had been stolen. She told deputies where she had hidden the phone at the ALF. She said she took it, according to the report, because she needed an 863 number to call her boyfriend, Reece Sturgis, currently being held without bond in the DeSoto County jail on two counts of first degree murder and three counts of attempted first degree murder in connection with the drive-by shooting death of teenager Melvin Hearn.

Davis was charged with petty theft and exploitation of an elderly or disabled person. Bond was set at \$10,120.

Two teens nabbed after escape

The DeSoto County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of two teens — Richard Joseph Allocco, 18, and a juvenile — escaping Thursday evening from the Spring Lake Youth Academy, off Kings Highway.



ALLOCCA

The arrest report states Charlotte County Deputy S. Franko and his K9 Azor also helped with the search. The younger escapee was caught. Eventually, the trail led them to a residence off County Road 761, and Franko and Azor came upon Allocco attempting to get free.

Franko released Azor, and when the man tried to elbow Franko, the dog bit Allocco on the head. Allocco kicked at the dog and hit him in the muzzle. Azor grabbed Allocco on his right arm, at which point the man gave up.

Allocco was transported to DeSoto Memorial Hospital for treatment of the dog bite, then to the DeSoto County Jail.

Both boys were charged with escape, and Allocco was additionally charged with battery on a law officer as well as battery on a police dog. Allocco was held without bond.

Arcadian man hurt in one-car wreck Saturday

The Florida Highway Patrol reported one man was critically injured in a single-car accident that occurred Saturday night at 11:50 p.m.

According to FHP's press release, Matthew D. Messer Jr., 21, of Arcadia, was eastbound on Roan Street at Sugar Babe Road, when the driver ran off the roadway to the left, over-corrected and then went left. His vehicle left the roadway and into the ditch on the north side of Roan.

Messer was transported to Lee Memorial Hospital in critical condition. FHP had not determined whether alcohol was related. Any charges are pending further investigation.

Wreck sends two to hospital

A three-vehicle collision Saturday afternoon on Kings Highway (County Road 769) sent one man to the hospital and tied up traffic on the busy roadway. According to the Florida Highway Patrol, a car driven by Gerardo R. Silva, 37, was heading northeast on Kings Highway. The driver failed to notice a car driven by Scott Jones, 46, stopped in the same lane waiting to turn left onto Kingsway Circle.

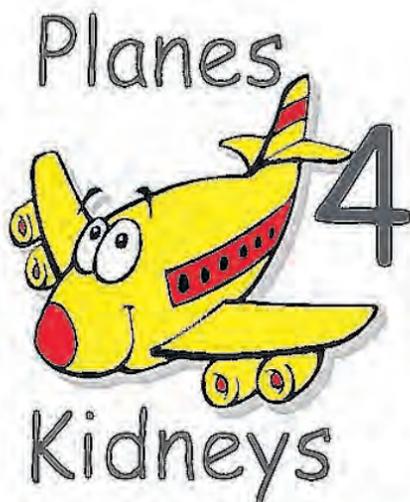
Silva's car collided with the rear of Jones' vehicle. The impact caused debris from both cars to strike the windshield of Jose Ramos Moreno, 46, who was

No truck or trailer tricks

The DeSoto County Sheriff's Office reminds readers that no one is permitted by law to ride on public roads in the back of a pickup truck or in a trailer being towed by a vehicle. Not only is the practice unsafe, but citations may be issued. Be safe this Halloween and obey the law.

southbound on Kings Highway.

There were no tire marks on the roadway suggesting Silva tried to stop before the impact. Silva was cited for careless driving. Jones and his passenger were taken to Bayfront hospital for treatment.



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County Voters

Official General Election Ballot for Desoto County, Florida, November 4, 2014. Includes sections for Representative in Congress, Attorney General, Chief Financial Officer, and various County Commissioners.

City Voters

Official General Election Ballot for Desoto County, Florida, November 4, 2014. Includes sections for Representative in Congress, Chief Financial Officer, County Commissioner, and Arcadia City Council.

Page Two of both City & County Ballots

Continuation of the ballot with Constitutional Amendments No. 1, 2, and 3, and a County Wide Indigent Care One-Half Cent Sales Surtax.

DeSOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA VOTING PRECINCTS

- List of 17 voting precincts with their names and locations, such as South County Annex (Fire station) and Owens' Community.

Please remember that state law requires you to present a form of photo/signature identification, such as a Florida Driver License, when voting on Election Day.

Early Voting Schedule at Supervisor of Elections Office, 201 E. Oak St., Suite 104. October 20th-Nov. 1st. Monday - Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Saturday & Sunday 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM. General Election November 4th, 2014. 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM at your Polling Place. To request an absentee Ballot be mailed to you, call the Election's Office (863) 993-4871.

A final look at the candidates

By **STEVE BAUER**

ARCADIAN ASSISTANT EDITOR

In an effort to help you, the voter, decide whom to choose in local elections, the Arcadian submitted questionnaires

to the candidates running for local offices in contested races (City Council, City Marshal).

Each candidate was asked to provide answer to one or more of four questions posed. (The questions

were the same for all candidates in the same race). They were asked to answer in no more than 150 words per question.

The questions appear below. On the following pages, we have

printed the candidates/ answer as they were submitted to us.

It is our hope that the answers reprinted below will help you decide which candidates you want to choose in the Nov. 4 general election.

Questions to City Council candidates:

1. What traits that you possess make you the most qualified candidate to be elected the city council?
2. What do you feel is the top issue facing the city, and if elected to the city council how would you address it? Please list specific solution(s).
3. The new city council will be tasked with hiring an administrator in December. In your opinion, what traits must the new administrator possess, and what will you do to ensure the city does not repeat the mistakes made during the hiring process of the previous administrator.
4. Is there anything you would like to say directly to the *Arcadian* readers and residents of the city regarding your candidacy for office?

Questions to City Marshal candidates:

1. If you are elected marshal, what do you think is the top issue that needs to be addressed in the city? Please be specific on your plans to resolve the issue.
2. What traits do you possess that qualify you as the best candidate for the position of marshal?
3. Name specific ideas you have that would help improve the Arcadia Police Department's visibility in the community, and ways to help foster better relations with city residents.



City Council candidates

William B. Bailey



BAILEY

1. I have successfully owned and operated my own business since 1985, at this point I own 100 percent of two businesses, and am in a partnership for 50 percent of another. I did all the paperwork to start up two Christian-based 501(C)3 non-profit ministries. I presided over one as president for over two years and the other for approximately four years. I believe all of this has been extremely valuable to me, in that I have learned how to run a business and how run a board of directors meeting (much like the mayor runs a City Council meeting.) I have always been blessed

with a numbers mind, which helps in budgeting and scrutinizing the books. I like to listen; to me listening is the key to making people happy, if you listen, you know what people think and what makes them tick. I can get along with anybody, unless that person just doesn't want to get along, I feel I am what's called a "people person."

2. There are so many that it is hard to pick just one but by listening to the people in and around Arcadia, I'd say the people would say the two that tie for the top are the roads and the theft that plagued our city.

So first, accountability. I think the checks and balances system works, have three of the top in each department personally responsible for any

and all expenditures, this will mean if one person isn't honest, one of the other should know about it right away. Another option would be to make the administrator be the only check writer, but require one or even two others to sign off on each check, possibly even a designated council member.

Second, I believe we can, through a comprehensive audit of the city's finances, find enough money to get started on a roads project, but we will need help to fix all that has been neglected for so long. So, I'd like to see a position created for a grant finder and writer. This person would make a minimal salary set up as a draw that would be supplemented by a percentage of the grants "awarded"

to Arcadia.

3. I will not vote for anyone unless all possible due diligence has been done first; background checks, both criminal and ethical. The right person should have the education, training and show the ability to guide our city in a forward path, have a 5- to 10-year vision for Arcadia's future with a realistic plan to help restore the beauty, grandeur and dignity of Arcadia's past while consistently moving Arcadia into its future. Someone who can guide and help our new grant writer to help ensure we have the necessary help until such a time as we have built Arcadia into a City that can self-sustain herself.

4. No response submitted by candidate.

Susan Coker



COKER

1. I am accountable, action oriented, approachable, can think outside the box, diplomatic, forward thinking, friendly, hard working, honest, inquisitive, practical, a problem solver and professional

As a previous business owner I possess a strong business mind while being very budget conscious. It is important to me how every dollar is accounted for. We must function in the most efficient way possible, while finding a solution to the issues we face. I'm a problem solver. I will exhaust every avenue for solutions to the city's problems. I will listen respectfully while weighing the good and bad of each decision to be made. I have and will devote the time needed to be a good representative of the city. I have no agenda. I will seek what is

best for the community, because I care about the community and its people. I play well with others.

2. Arcadia does not just have one top issue. Arcadia has morale problems, road problems, budget issues and not enough money. All these are top concerns. It is going to take some time and lots of effort and teamwork to get Arcadia back in good shape. We must start somewhere and soon. I believe morale will improve when we start seeing something positive happening with our tax dollars. We need money to fix the roads. Lots of money. We can start small with the money that is budgeted for roads and start fixing some of the more important roads around our hospital, schools, police and sheriff's departments.

We must search for road grants and FDOT monies to help fix our roads. It is time for Arcadia and DeSoto County

to start working together and sharing sources and resources where possible. We are all in this together and what affects one does affect the other. We have to revisit the budget to make sure that no dollars are being wasted. It starts with me.

3. A city administrator must be honest, hard working, approachable, accountable, forward thinking, a problem solver, multi-tasker, respectful, professional and action oriented. The position is one of authority and significant responsibility. They must have a degree in Public Administration, and should possess extensive knowledge of public works and urban politics. They need excellent communication skills and must have budget experience. They should be current in personal taxes and bills. They must be an effective leader and provide motivation, while

being able to supervise and delegate. They should be a critical thinker with strong financial and math skills, and must treat all people with the same respect and fairness. This person must be a leader. They should also be a registered voter and able to stay objective. Other important traits include having a knack for business and experience with the computer software programs that are used in the office. We need to take our time in hiring the new person. More than one interview to get a feel for the person. A thorough background check. Find someone who fits with our small town and understands our needs. All cities are different. One shoe does not fit all. Ask questions, lots of questions.

4. Your job as a voter in this election is to get to know the candidates and make an informed decision. Please get out and vote.

Richard "Dick" Fazzone

(No profile answers provided)



FAZZONE

Keith Keene



KEENE

1. I make sound, fact based, common sense decisions to do what is best for the City of Arcadia. I feel my most important traits are honesty, integrity and accountability. I have great communication skills and a high standard of ethics.

2. There are many issues facing the city of Arcadia. Roads, infrastructure, low tax base, police and fire fighter pension funding, many abandoned properties, unattractive gateways into the city, inequitable funding for public safety, lack of good paying jobs and on and on. No single council person can address these issues individually. It is imperative that the new

council work together to choose the most qualified candidate for City Administrator and then work together to tackle the many issues. We know where we are ... we need to determine where we want to go and how to get there. The lesson learned from serving on the council is that without majority support,

City Council candidates

Candice Reid



REID

1. God has blessed me with skills in working with people, team building, listening, long range planning and goal setting. I've worked in various Churches as Director of Christian Education for all ages. I have been called to serve a variety of churches, beginning in Arcadia, and moving on to serve large, suburban, small town churches and lastly as Program Coordinator for about 40 churches from Palmetto to Naples. I've worked with a variety of people and ideas to achieve our goals. I have experience with Habitat for Humanity, soup/feeding programs

and homeless shelters. My experience, skills in listening, team building and planning skills, combined with my love and passion for the people of this city, make me a qualified candidate.

2. There are many critical issues facing this city; road repair, leadership turnover, financial transparency, economic growth, city/county issues, activities for our youths, etc. I believe that while all of these are important issues, we need to learn to work together toward our common goals, respect each other and listen to the needs of our community. I would propose periodic "town hall" listening opportunities/meetings to listen, build consensus and give the citizens

an opportunity to be part of the solutions. Until we begin to work together with respect for each other we cannot move forward.

3. Traits that I would be looking for in the new administrator are honesty, integrity, proven skills and work experience that matches our job description needs; preferably someone who will live among us as they work, play and worship. The new council takes office in December so I would hope that they could take their time and not rush into hiring someone. A thorough background check on many levels is a must for me.

4. I am someone who fell in love with the people of Arcadia over 40 years ago when I moved here to

serve the First Presbyterian Church of Arcadia, beginning in 1974. I left in 1981 to answer God's call to serve various other churches. Through the years I have returned to Arcadia frequently to vacation and to spend holidays with dear friends who are family. I returned in 2003 and retired in 2008 after my job was phased out. I have been concerned in recent years about the amount of discord in the city government and the high turnover in staff. I am not a politician and I do not have all the answers but I do know that until we learn to work together, respect each other and find common ground we can not move forward. I would greatly appreciate your vote.

KEENE

FROM PAGE 14

your individual ideas go nowhere. I desire to serve on a council that respects each other, considers all the options and then make the best decision. I pledge to work with the new council to better the City of Arcadia.

3. The council must select an

administrator that can hit the ground running. The new administrator must have a proven track record that demonstrates the experience to take direction from the council and implement its polices. The best indicator of future performance is past performance. Traits I feel are most important are honesty, integrity, accountability and the emotional intelligence to lead staff, work with the council and stakeholders and develop a positive working relationship

with the County Commission.

The most recent selection process was not flawed. The selection committee did a commendable job of choosing the top candidates. The issue was the council's inability to collectively choose the most qualified candidate. Three sitting council members ignored the best candidates and used their majority to select their favorite. The selection is made by a majority vote of council. I will strongly advocate for the

candidate with the most experience, whose past action and behaviors are responsible and sound. We must choose the most qualified candidate.

4. I pledge to tackle all issues with an open mind, seek clarity and use common sense. I look forward to the opportunity to working with a council that is focused on issues and doing what is best for the City of Arcadia. My goal is to make Arcadia a better place to live, work and play.

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Judy Wertz Strickland

1. I possess leadership and experience. I'm a problem solver, work well with others and am a leader with a vision for Arcadia.

2. Money: The city needs to find ways to enhance the tax base. Make



STRICKLAND

use of grants for roads and beautification projects and develop ways to attract businesses to the city.

3. He or she should have the education and background experience to hold the position. They must have the knowledge and experience in preparing a budget, must have the requisite skills to manage people

and must be able to submit to an in-depth background check. The City Council should devote time to all the resumes and interviews submitted for the position, followed by an in-depth background check. After sufficient time is given to all resumes and interviews, the council should all agree on the final selection.

4. If I am blessed enough to win this election, I will be myself, I will be that problem solver, I will be that critical thinker who will ask questions and solve today's problems for a brighter future. And I promise I will always try to be a leader that you, John Q. Public, will always be proud of.

S. Delshay Turner

1. One of trait that I have is my experience in dealing with the citizen's needs. I spent over 20 years in law enforcement and during that time I gained knowledgeable information from the citizens of Arcadia in this community needs and desires. I heard the complaints from the citizens during my time as a community resource officer (bicycle officer) and throughout my career. Many of these situations weren't law enforcement related but I did my best to help the citizen. This trait (previously community familiarity with key issues) as a council member will give me more authority to make a change to those citizens that I was elected to serve.



TURNER

2. The top issues facing the city are the current financial situation. Improving the City's financial status will give the council the ability to improve our streets (a lot are in dire need of repair), lower water/sewage rates, and increase services to the City. I will research cost effective grants that can help offset the cost of these improvements. The City needs a better source of cash flow to improve its financial woes. This could be done by attracting more businesses to the City. As a council member I will be creative in attracting businesses and this in return will strengthen our general fund for improvements like roads, public safety, and other services that the citizens can enjoy.

3. If I am elected to the city council some of the traits that I will be looking

for from the new administrator are strong leadership skills, creativity, commitment, and experience. I wouldn't considered the past city council selections of the administrators as a mistake because they selected the best person that they felt was right for the position; could things have been done differently, yes but nothing is not foolproof. In today age most experience public administrators is not without fault, somewhere down the line in their career they have made a mistake or created controversy; it comes with the job. This being said I will make a prudent decision when it is time to select our city administrator. My final decision will be based on an extensive background selected administrator, which will shed light on that person.

4. The city of Arcadia is dealing with key issues that will affect every citizen directly. Some of these issues are hiring a new administrator, financial difficulties, rising water/sewage rates, road an underground infrastructure repair, and services that the city provide to it citizens. Important decisions will have to be made in dealing with these issues from both the city council and from the new city administrator. This election is very important for us as citizens to get Arcadia on the right path to prosperity. If you want a council member that is always available to hear your complaint, help provide assistance to you, committed to the betterment of Arcadia, and changing the public perception of the council; I asked for you to vote for S. Delshay Turner.

Mitchell Watson

1. I am a hard worker and am willing to do my very best for you (the citizens of Arcadia). Do I have all the answers? No, I don't, but I'm willing to work with the other city council members and all government of DeSoto



WATSON

County to help find solutions to our programs through hard work and dedication.

2. Our top issue is the budget (look for ways to increase revenue). I'm also thinking of you, the disabled and elderly, who are on fixed incomes and have to make decisions as to being able to afford either food or medications,

especially as water bills in the city continue to rise.
3. The new administrator must possess strong people skills, be and grant writer and have administrative experience/be better informed.

4. I am not a politician, for I have found out politicians have a tendency to bend the truth and tell people what they think they want to hear. But it's my promise to work hard, do my best at all times and listen to you, the citizens.

City marshal candidates

Matt Anderson

1. Internally, it has to be trying to keep the budget of the Arcadia Police Department under control, without risking the safety and protection of our community and the officers who are sworn to protect you. To prove this I have been able to reduce the Budget by over \$250,000 over the past two years.



ANDERSON

In terms of crime, we must continue what I am leading our department in doing, which is Community Oriented Policing. This will help with visibility, and build better relations with our citizens. Then in turn, we will be able to better address the concerns each community neighborhood may have, to better serve their needs. This will aid us in combating the criminal element, which in turn will make our city safer for all our residents.

2. I have been with the Arcadia Police Department for over the past 25 years as a full-time police officer. I have worked in every capacity, and achieved every rank possible inside our department. These leadership skills that I have learned over these years of supervising will aid me in continuing to lead our department for the next four years. Along with over 2,000 hours of specialized training that include such courses as Management Training, Internal Affairs and Violent Crime Investigation.

3. Since I have been Marshal we have already started Community Oriented

Policing practice. This style of policing consists of us walking our neighborhoods, inside businesses and around the shopping centers, and walking around inside our schools. This has aided us in better visibility and community contact with our residents and business owners and managers. This style of policing will aid our department with better communication with our citizens that we are sworn to protect. This will also help build trust with our community, when the citizens start seeing and talking to our officers while they're conducting this practice.

4. Over the Past 25 years with the Arcadia Police Department, I have proudly served and protected the citizens of Arcadia with great honor and integrity. To this very day I take great pride putting on my uniform and badge to serve you, the citizens of Arcadia. Over the next four years as your City Marshal I will continue my dedication to our community.

Lorenzo Dixon

1. To build a closer relationship with the public and restore the trust and confidence of the people, assuring them that law enforcement is there to serve and protect them.
2. I'm an honest and



DIXON

Cliff Brown

1. How can we pick one issue? As a city we are faced with several problems. The reputation of the office of City Marshal, budget concerns, and the crime rate all need to be addressed.

The budget and reputation concerns have already been addressed. So let's look at the crime rate. According to the Uniform Crime report, which is a publication from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement of the crimes reported by the Arcadia Police Department, they have a current clearance rate of only 26.8 percent. This number is about 12 percent lower than the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office and the state average. As you can see, this is another problem area. So, how do we correct this issue? A change is needed in the basic way the APD is run. If we take it from a reactive patrol and make it proactive we add in the human factor. Patrol needs to be placed back into the neighborhoods.

2. I have been a fully certified law enforcement officer in Desoto County for well over 34 years. I have devoted my entire working life to the citizens of Desoto. I have over 3,000 hours of training. I am certified to teach in the Academy as well as college level courses. I have made no promises during this campaign. I have not paid anyone. I was the one who knocked on the doors. I have not misled anyone with false statements on experience. What does all this mean? I have nothing to hide. I bring honesty and integrity to the office. I have not changed. I have always been honest and open. I did not have to change.

To sum it all up, I have walked the walk and talked the talk for over 34 years with no write-ups, problems or



BROWN

issues. How many others can say the same thing?

3. We need to foster the idea that the Arcadia Police Department works for the citizens. I would like to see meetings with church and civic groups throughout the year. Neighborhood meetings in the parks, activities with the youth, and just the basic concept of stopping and talking with citizens on the street go a long way. When I was a patrol officer, I found that I was able to obtain a lot of information just by saying "hi." People skills training is highly needed at the APD.

I know the APD has a Facebook account. This is not enough. We must add a website which will explain and offer information about the department. The Sheriff's Office has a site that has had well over 2 million hits so far. Not bad for a small agency. The Marshal must have an open door policy and be available when needed or asked for.

4. I will not waste your time in listing out all my certifications and credentials. You have already seen most of them. I am well qualified to hold the office of City Marshal. I am more than able to run the Arcadia Police Department and to take it to the next and proper level. I will bring back honor, honesty, and integrity to the department. Everyone knows the issues. People do not change. Respect is earned over time, not just in the months prior to an election, but over your entire lifetime.

I know that by now, most of you have already decided who to vote for. Now is the time to act. I have always been amazed at the low voter turnout at each election. Please get out and vote. Please vote your heart and make the right choice for the City of Arcadia. I thank the staff of the Arcadian for allowing me the chance to speak my mind.

High school students take part in Celebrate My Drive

By DEVIN LACAVA
DeSoto Co. School District

Check your mirrors, adjust your seat, and click in your seatbelt, as you commit yourself to safety, with thousands of other drivers across America. On Oct. 22, students from DeSoto County High School joined their peers around the nation as they participated in the second Celebrate My Drive, a safe-driving initiative powered by State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Agency. Along with local law enforcement officers (DeSoto County Sheriff's Office and Arcadia Police Department), Blake Medical Center, Collier County Sheriff's and Florida Highway Patrolmen; State Farm Agents hosted a number of driving simulations that allowed students to safely experience the dangers of

driving, earn rewards for making safe choices and even the consequences of not following the rules of the road.

The celebration began from the moment students drove into their designated parking lot for the day; all students found wearing their seatbelts were given a dollar to demonstrate that making a good decision pays off. Students were then asked to pledge themselves to continue making safe driver choices by following the practice of two eyes on the road and two hands on the wheel. Students who pledged were then eligible to win different prizes ranging from sunglasses to USB charging adapters for their vehicle.

After students made their pledges, they interacted with a number of demonstrations. One device simulated



ARCADIAN PHOTO BY JOHN BLACK

Lexi Williams takes a ride on the "convincer" which simulates a car crash. Her screams were heard loud and clear by all her schoolmates.

DRIVE | 18

COUNTY

FROM PAGE 1

Staff recommends PUD

DeSoto County Planning Manager Thomas Cookingham said staff recommended approving the PUD, noting it was consistent with the comp plan, compatible with surrounding land development and would not impact level of service standards for DeSoto County infrastructure. Staff also agreed the PUD would not adversely influence living conditions or pose a detriment to the development of adjacent properties by increased traffic counts, adversely changing property values or proposing out of scale development.

"Is a residential rezoning detrimental to a residential district? No, it's not," he said.

Several commissioners questioned Cookingham over the number of proposed units in a relatively small area, with Commissioner Jim Selph pointing out small lot widths that in some cases are only 40-foot wide. "Some of these minimum lot widths really bother me," he said. "I have real reservations on anything only 40 feet wide."

Several residents questioned Cookingham on whether increased light pollution from heavier traffic would be addressed, if the buffers proposed would be sufficient and how the development would affect DeSoto's school population and bus routes.

"I'm very concerned with the additional amount of headlights that are going to be shining through my windows," said Lake Suzy resident Theodore Nickerson. "How do you plan to prevent that from happening, how do we know exactly what the buffer zones will be?"

Attorney Neale Montgomery spoke on behalf of Sonoma Preserve at the meeting, and brought several experts along to justify the board voting in favor of going forward with the PUD. Among them were land use, civil engineer and transportation planning experts.

After explanations from Montgomery on how the PUD guidelines would be implemented, the commission wondered if they were being asked to approve more than just a rezoning request.

"So when can we tell you whether things like buffers are too much or too little?" Commissioner Gabriel Quave asked.



PHOTO BY STEVE BAUER

A standing-room only crowd gathered to hear the DeSoto Board of County Commissioners discussion of a proposed housing development bordering the Lake Suzy and Deep Creek neighborhoods. The BOCC voted to table the matter to give the developer more time to make changes to its plans.

"Well, I would think you'd want to do it now," Montgomery responded. "I think there's a lot of people in this room who are hearing it's a rezoning, when the truth is it's a lot more than just that," Quave said to a round of applause from the audience.

Cookingham interjected that with a PUD, a concept plan is also being approved as part of the process. "I'm as guilty as anyone regarding the confusion over rezoning," he said. "But with the PUDs you have a concept plan, and this is the time for the board to make any changes to that plan."

Traffic headaches

Commissioner Bob Miller said his biggest concern was the lack of adequate outlets in the concept plan. "So you want us to approve this with only one exit and one entrance?" he asked. "Considering how many cars you would have in a development with nearly 1,000 dwellings, my rough estimates equate to around 5,000 trips in an out of there each day. I see that as a major problem."

Montgomery said there was another exit road that was categorized for use only in an emergency, but added if the board stipulated it be changed to a primary entry/exit road, that could be changed in the concept plan.

Miller responded he wasn't satisfied with that solution. "We need to have an alternative that will satisfy the traffic flow for up to 999 units," he said.

Commissioner Buddy Mansfield was concerned how residents in the back of the development could exit the area

in case of emergency or evacuation. "How long would it take for someone to get from the back of the development to the main exit?" he asked. "There are no other ways out — that is a major concern for me."

Quave agreed with Mansfield and Miller, adding, "Until more things can be defined, you just don't know what the end result will be," he said. "If Kings Highway was possibly widened to four lanes by the time development starts, then you might only need one exit, but I'm with Commissioner Miller on this one. You can't just have one entry and exit."

Chairman Elton Langford also questioned how the county would be able to handle the additional burden on its EMS/police departments, and was concerned the additional costs would be passed on to taxpayers. "I also want the traffic issues solved, and I don't want existing taxpayers to have to eat the costs of additional items such as a new fire station or police substation," he said. "Yes, I want to see DeSoto do something good, but I want to make sure it's going to be an asset for this county and not a detriment."

After nearly a dozen citizens spoke in opposition to the PUD, echoing concerns about traffic impacts and negative impacts on property values, Montgomery requested the board table the agenda item until her staff could work to fix complaints brought forward from both residents and commissioners.

"In light of the issues brought before us tonight, I would ask the board table its decision and allow us a chance to

revisit some of the items in the concept plan," she said.

The board then voted unanimously to approve Montgomery's request, and Miller commended the audience on voicing their concerns in an educated and civilized manner.

"I have always thought highly of Lake Suzy residents, and tonight you have exemplified that," he said. "You did your homework and presented it in an orderly and informative fashion, and I want to thank all of you for attending tonight's meeting."

There is no timetable on when Sonoma Preserve will return to the board with its revised PUD rezoning request.

Land development regulations given final OK

The board also voted unanimously to approve final revisions to the county's land development regulations.

County Attorney Donald Conn presented five amendments to the board for formal approval, including the following: Exemption from right-of-way permitting for certain driveway maintenance activities; development plan review and approval by the board; retail winery sales in Agriculture-10 and Agriculture-5 zoned lots; definition of a commercial vehicle; and parking of commercial vehicles, including in A-10 and A-5 zones.

The board unanimously approved each amendment separately, and then voted 5-0 to formally accept all revised changes to the county's LDRs.

The board also voted 4-1 to approve two license agreements with Seminole Gulf Railway L.P. for water and wastewater lines at the crossing on Liverpool Road. The move will allow county utilities to connect to the Thornton Creek Motor Coach Resort that is currently under construction. Langford cast the lone dissenting vote, saying he has been in opposition to the resort since it was first brought before the board, and could not support any projects related to it.

The board also approved two special conditions for the resort, voting 3-2 to allow individuals with signed contracts to utilize lots in a "try before you buy" method that allows them to test out lots before they are officially platted. The board voted 5-0 to require a concrete wall as a buffer between the resort and surrounding communities, rebuking the resorts request to build an opaque vinyl wall instead.

embarrass the people of our city and to always keep the door open to take care of your concerns/complaints, never forgetting that it's the people who put me into this office.

DIXON

FROM PAGE 16

proven people person.

3. Community patrolling on bicycles

— officers walking through the community periodically. I also want to remove the dark tint off the "cops" cars so that people can see their friendly officers. I also plan to have citizen patrol vehicles. I also plan to cut \$15,000 from my own pay and invest

it back into the community (Guardian Ad Litem program, Smith-Brown Gym Foundation).

4. I'm humbly asking you, the voters, to please for for Dixon as your Arcadia City Marshal. I pledge to do all within my powers to not disappoint or

DRIVE

FROM PAGE 17

a driving collision at speeds from seven to 14 miles per hour by launching students forward with their seatbelts fastened, and then abruptly stopping their propulsion. Collier County deputies said the simulation lets new drivers feel what their first crash may be like, and allows them to learn from personal reactions to the experience. They also noted that drivers involved in their first crash often close their eyes and throw their hands from the wheel, instead of attempting to remain in control if at all possible.

Another device demonstrated what may happen to two unbuckled passengers in a vehicle that rolls over during an accident. A simulated truck spun at

20 mph, and each time the passengers were flung from the vehicle; in some cases they were thrown free, in others, the passenger dummies ended up trapped beneath the truck. Lt. Gregory S. Bueno of the Florida Highway Patrol noted that motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death for high school students.

Sponsor Don Knoche of the local State Farm Agency said, "This event is a good learning experience; if we can save even a few lives through a little education, that's why we're here."

Students even had a chance to learn what it's like to drive while wearing vision-altering goggles to mimic intoxication. With law enforcement supervision, students attempted to navigate a golf cart through a figure-eight traffic cone course. They were then asked to wear the same goggles and walk a straight line for eight steps, ensuring



ARCADIAN PHOTO BY JOHN BLACK

DeSoto County Fire Rescue impressed the students with the jaws of life and the door jamb shears, explaining how they save lives. Humberto Lugo, Omar Garcia, Canobia Montoya, Mary Pinon, Luke Womack Mary Teresa, Lani Caraballo, Alma Hernandez, Maxwell McKettrick, Miguel Romo all were very impressed with the demonstration by firefighters Lt. Boggess and Chris Armiger.

their heel struck the line before their toes. To culminate the drunk driving scenario, students also experienced being handcuffed and placed in a police vehicle by an officer for a few moments to think about the consequences of breaking driving laws.

Superintendent of schools Karyn Gary recounted her own accident experience and thanked the officers for staging this educational event for the students. She said she hopes it will encourage student drivers to make safe choices when behind the wheel.

FORUM

FROM PAGE 1

Bill Bailey said, "One promise for you is that I will listen. We need to come up with solutions to our roads, jobs, things to do for families and a system of checks and balances to prevent thefts like we've experienced with Lee and Tom Slaughter."

Susan Coker said the city has been strongest in the face of difficult times. "This city has always survived — the great fire, Hurricane Donna and Hurricane Charley — when it has been tested to its limits," she said. "I'm outraged by what I read in the paper, and if you're not then you aren't paying attention. We need someone on the council with common sense, a business mind and a strong work ethic, and I

believe I can be that person for you."

Dick Fazzone said he is running for a council seat because the city needs more leadership. "We all have a responsibility to become a meaningful part of our community, and my past experience as a council member and my business background gives me a unique perspective on several issues."

The lone incumbent running for re-election, Keith Keene, noted his experience on the council and said the city needs to spend its money more efficiently and forge a stronger bond with the county on several issues such as rebuilding the city's infrastructure and providing more recreational opportunities for families. "Neglect brought us to where we are now, and the only way we can solve many of our problems is through partnerships with organizations beyond just the county," he said. He referenced the council's recent



ARCADIAN PHOTO BY SUSAN E. HOFFMAN

All eight candidates for city council participated in the Forum Thursday sponsored by The Arcadian: from left, Mitchell Watson Sr., Delshay Turner, Judy Wertz Strickland, Candy Reid, Keith Keene, Dick Fazzone, Susie Coker and Bill Bailey.

partnership with the Smith-Brown Gym Foundation to help restore the former building and surrounding property.

Candy Reid stressed the importance of everyone in the community working together, saying Arcadia is "the best small town I've ever lived in." Reid added that her inexperience in politics is an asset when it comes to bringing new ideas to the city. "I bring new ideas and a fresh face," she said. "We really need to work together with the county, and one of the first things I would propose is for the city to have a county liaison similar to how Commissioner Bob Miller is the liaison to the city."

Another newcomer, Judy Wertz Strickland, said there is no challenge too great for the city to overcome. "Every challenge has a solution," she said. "This city needs leadership. You either lead, follow or get out of the way. Leaders accomplish things, and they have a vision. For example, they should have an idea of where this city should be in 10-20 years. I promise you I will

be myself, and I have always been a problem solver."

S. Delshay Turner, a retired Arcadia Police Department veteran, noted his experience with the APD and told the crowd he wanted nothing but the best for the city. "I've been to a few council meetings are there are definitely things I see going on there that are wrong," he said. "I want to be on the council so I can help get this city moving in the right direction."

Mitchell Watson agreed with Turner, and added he had seen enough with the current council constantly bickering and not focusing on issues facing the city. "I want to work with the council, not against it, which is what we are seeing more often from our current elected officials," he said. He also stressed the importance of getting the city's children more involved in the community and giving them places to go. "We need to step up and lead the way for them, so they can have positive mentors to look up to and follow."

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Economic Development Advisory Committee

Upcoming schedule

- Friday, November 14, 2014 8:00AM
- Friday, December 12, 2014 8:00AM
- Friday, January 16, 2015 8:00AM

DeSoto County Extension Office
2150 NE Roan Street
Arcadia, Florida 34266

Tourism Development Council

Upcoming Schedule

- Monday, November 24, 2014 11:00AM
- Friday, February 13, 2014 11:00AM

DeSoto County Administration Building, Room 103
201 E. Oak Street
Aracaia, Florida 34266
Board Chambers

If special accommodations are required in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals should contact the County Administrator's Office by calling 863-993-4800 at least forty-eight hours prior to the meeting. Please not two or more DeSoto County Commissioners may be in attendance at the meeting and may participate in discussion of the issues.

For more information please contact Mandy Hines or Mike Taber at (863) 993-4800

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SPORTS

POP QUIZ!

How well do you think you know Bulldog football? Take the quiz on page 19 to find out how much you know about your 2014 district champs. A few lucky readers could even win Bulldog apparel!

PAGE 20



Lady Bulldogs fall flat in playoffs

By DAVE BREMER

ARCADIAN SPORTS WRITER

What looked like a promising year all went flat for the Lady Bulldogs varsity volleyball team this season. After the first three games of district play the Bulldogs were 3-0 and looked well on

their way to another district title. During the second half of the season, however, the girls only managed a 1-2 record, and it took a hard fought five-set victory at home against Hardee to get the lone win.

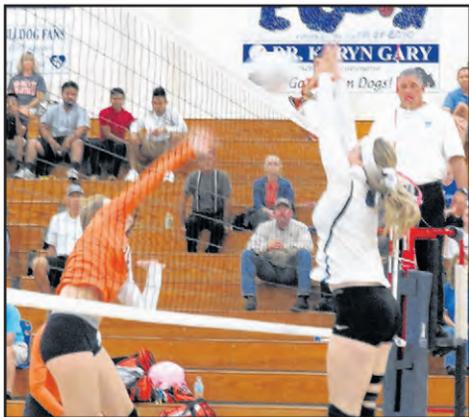
Injuries plagued the Bulldogs in the second half of the season. Outside hitter and setter Bethany Bonville went down

with an injured foot. Middle blocker Kaitlin Steyer went down with a sprained ankle. Right side hitter Cassidy Fur was nursing strained obliques. Down to eight on the roster, freshman standout Malysa Jeter was brought up and did a more than admirable job of setting for the Bulldogs.

LADY BULLDOGS | 23



Front row players Datasia Wallace, Josie Deriso and Kacey Steyer all look to see if a ball hit is in or out. The way the night was going, it was probably in as DeSoto lost the match 3-1.



Josie Deriso puts up a strong block against a Lemon Bay attacker in district play. The Bulldogs lost the match 3-1 to end their season.



Coach Laura White takes a timeout to talk to her team during a district semi-final match against Lemon Bay. The Bulldogs lost the match 3-1 to end their season.

PUBLIC NOTICE TO CITY OF ARCADIA WATER CUSTOMERS

On Monday, November 3, 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 Nov. 17, 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.

50475782

I support the 1/2 penny sales tax because...

DeSoto Memorial Hospital saved my life.



I encourage every voting citizen of DeSoto County to help keep our hospital in our community with appropriate funding by passing the 1/2 penny sales tax!

Rev. Dr. Sharon Goodman

LOOK FOR THE 1/2 PENNY SALES TAX ON THE BACK OF YOUR VOTING BALLOT.



ARCADIAN PHOTO BY STEVE KNAPP, sbigdaddyknapp@aol.com

You could be the lucky winner of a Bulldog Football shirt if you can correctly answer at least 12 questions on Steve Knapp's football quiz.

So you think you know DeSoto football?

By **STEVE KNAPP**
ARCADIAN SPORTS WRITER

The first three people to bring this paper to Steve "Big Daddy" Knapp in the press box during the Hardee game October 30 with at least 12 questions right will win a t-shirt that is only available to those players who have been chosen player of the week. All of the answers have been either written in the game stories or heard on the WFLN radio broadcast of the games. Good luck!

Circle the correct answer

(Middle school team level questions)

1. What were the middle school sports teams known as before this year?

- A. Panthers
- B. Wildcats
- C. Bulldogs
- D. Hush Puppies

2. Which school is our longest running rival in football?

- A. Hardee
- B. Charlotte
- C. Lake Placid
- D. School of hard knocks

3. Who is considered the fastest man on the varsity team?

- A. Tajahs Jackson
- B. Tony Lee
- C. Nirion "Speedy" Washington
- D. RayShawn Stroman

4. Who gave the Bulldogs their first loss of the regular season?

- A. Frostproof
- B. Port Charlotte
- C. Booker
- D. Coach Egloff's 5th hour gym class

5. What are the call letters for the radio station that broadcasts every Bulldog football game?

- A. WFLN
- B. WKRP
- C. WOLD
- D. WHO

(Junior varsity team level questions)

6. How many weeks was the Bulldog team ranked in the top 10 in the state?

- A. All six weeks of the season
- B. One week
- C. Two weeks
- D. Never in top 10

7. Angel Gaitan and Julio Gaitan are on the varsity team. They are:

- A. Brothers
- B. Cousins
- C. Father and son
- D. Not related

8. What is the most popular high school team mascot?

- A. Bulldogs
- B. Eagles
- C. Wildcats
- D. Lions

9. In 1920 Gallaudet University invented the huddle. They were a school of deaf players and used it so opponents couldn't see their signs. Which Bulldog has a hearing loss?

- A. Moe Howard
- B. Quay Fudge
- C. Earnest Robinson
- D. The guy in front of the tuba player in the band

10. Which player is known as "Pooh?"

- A. Zack Beeles
- B. DaWayne Hearn
- C. Oscar Alfonso
- D. Winnie the ...

(Varsity team level questions)

11. Who is the only player to catch a touchdown pass and run a touchdown in the same game this season?

- A. Tony Lee
- B. Tajahs Jackson
- C. Nirion Washington
- D. Kionte Akins

12. We have four new coaches on the varsity team. Which pair is correct?

- A. Smith and Jackson
- B. Nicklow and Lee
- C. Jones and Johnson
- D. Barnes and Noble

13. Which quarterback threw our only interception this season?

- A. Reggie Jones
- B. Tajahs Jackson
- C. Nirion Washington
- D. Tony Lee

14. If you add Emmanuel Wesley's uniform number with Caleb Blackwood and Alfredrick Tyson's numbers, then subtracted Cesar Barajas' number, what would it be?

- A. 0
- B. -4
- C. 12
- D. 14

15. Earnest Robinson has a brother and father with the same first name. What is it?

- A. Swiss Family
- B. Franklin
- C. Earnest
- D. Edgar

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JV boys drops hard-fought game to Hardee

By **DAVE BREMER**
ARCADIAN SPORTS WRITER

The always positive Coach Richard Koonce kept telling his young junior varsity football squad to play hard and keep their heads up during the game against the Hardee Wildcats. "We're very young with only 18 players," said Assistant Coach Darrel Nicklow. "We have mostly freshman and a few sophomores out here."

The coaching staff constantly gave instructions and coached the team during the last game of the season, and the Bulldogs listened and played hard. Too many second half turnovers cost the Dogs scoring opportunities, however, and they fell to Hardee 13-0.

There was no scoring in the first quarter, but Hardee had established its running game, netting five first downs. The Bulldogs went three-and-out on their first possession, taking some time to get their instructions and get settled in their offense to start the game.

On the first play of the second quarter the Wildcats scored on the ground and made the extra point to go up 7-0. The Bulldogs then got a first down at their 32-yard-line, but soon found themselves in a fourth-and-25, forcing another punt.

With Hardee starting at their own 48-yard-line, they immediately found themselves going in the wrong direction with a holding penalty. After two incomplete passes, the Bulldogs helped Hardee get 10 yards back on an encroachment penalty. Hardee then went to the air for a first down, and immediately followed with another pass play for a touchdown. The extra point failed, but Hardee found itself up 13-0. The Bulldogs threatened late in the half thanks to a long pass play from Malcom Smith to Shawn Campbell. A couple of running plays by Smith and

Elijah Arthur brought the ball down to five-yard-line, but the Bulldogs ran out of time as Hardee managed to keep the next running play in bounds.

Second half turnovers

Turnovers were frequent for the Bulldogs in the second half. DeSoto received the kickoff and promptly fumbled the ball back to Hardee on the Hardee 46. Three plays later Hardee returned the favor on a fumble recovery by Walker. The Bulldogs started to move the ball with first downs thanks to some key runs by Smith. A costly interception, however, stopped the momentum and Hardee had the ball back on their 30-yard line. Hardee moved the ball on three first downs, but the Bulldog defense tightened up and forced Hardee to punt.

Once again, the Bulldogs shot themselves in the foot with a fumble on the punt return, giving the ball right back to Hardee on the DeSoto 37. Hardee managed to keep the ball and run time off the clock without gaining yardage thanks to long runs and holding penalties. With 8:19 remaining Hardee finally gave the ball back to the Bulldogs. A nice pass play to Campbell moved the Bulldogs to the Hardee 31, but a dropped lateral was picked up by Hardee for another Bulldog turnover.

With a little over seven minutes left in the game, Hardee simply ran time off the clock with three first downs, until finally giving the ball back to the Bulldogs on their own 10-yard-line and three minutes left in the game. Backed up to their own five-yard-line after a penalty, DeSoto threw up another intercepted pass, and Hardee was able to run out the clock for a 13-0 victory over the Dogs.

"I'm proud of you — each and every one of you," Koonce said after the game. "I'm also confused. I'm confused because

we're 1-6 yet (if we had played all year) the way we played tonight would we be 1-6? And why did we play so hard tonight?"

The players' answer was because it was Hardee. And Koonce's response was, "Well, then we now always need to play every game like it's Hardee."

This seemed to take some of the hurt out of the players after the loss. Koonce then emphasized to the freshman the importance of keeping their grades up and staying out of trouble, so they could continue to be a Bulldog in the future.

"We might not have won the game, but hopefully we learned some lessons," he said.



PHOTOS BY DAVE BREMER

Tertius Guice warms up before the JV matchup with Hardee. The Bulldogs played well, but the Hardee Wildcats came up with a 13-0 victory.

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DMS football loses 31-13 to Avon Park



PHOTOS BY DAVE BREMER

Assistant coach Al Blackwood gives instructions to his players before the game against Avon Park.



Arnold Mele, Shaka Gilchrist and Shane Kersey look ready to take on the Avon Park Devils in a recent football game. The look wasn't enough as the Bulldogs lost 30-13.



Rudy Delgado kicks off after a DeSoto Middle School score in a game against Avon Park. The Bulldogs lost 30-13.



LaQuan Griffen puts a block on an Avon Park player for ball carrier Alex Muse. Yards were gained, but the Dogs lost 30-13.



The line is set and quarterback Alex Muse calls the play in a recent game against Avon Park. DeSoto lost to the Avon Park Devils 30-13.



Receiver Arnold Mele closes in on the goal line as Avon Park players are in hot pursuit. Mele made it to the line to give the Bulldogs their first score and the lead. The lead wouldn't hold as DeSoto fell 30-13.

JIM SELPH

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District 2
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- Married for 46 years to Cindy Selph
- Graduate of the University of Florida, Bachelor's and Master's Degrees
- Combat Veteran in Viet Nam War
- United States Army, Commissioned Officer, 1969-1971
- Actively involved in our community for 35 years
- President, DeSoto/Charlotte Farm Bureau past 5 years
- Vice Chair, Florida Cattlemen's Association's Research & Education Committee
- Workforce Development School Advisory Committee for 20 years
- Co-owner of a small business (a lakeside mobile home park)
- Public school teacher for 8 years
- Director, Florida Heartland Regional Economic Development Initiative
- Vice-Chair, Executive Board, Career Source Heartland
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LADY BULLDOGS

FROM PAGE 19

Hope heading into tourney

But things started looking up for the Bulldogs heading into the first round of district playoffs against Lemon Bay. They'd defeated North Port in the final game of the season on Senior Night. Fur's strained obliques seemed healed.



PHOTOS BY DAVE BREMER

Bonville's foot, though not really tested would be good for at least some back row play, and possibly front. Although Steyer was in a cast, new position Jayla Cowell was filling in the middle blocker roll very well, so it looked like the Bulldogs might be able to fight through it.

The game started fairly well for the Bulldogs. They jumped to a 10-6 lead due mainly to Lemon Bay service errors. Midway through the set, however, the Bulldogs could not control the ball to attack, and Lemon Bay cut down on their errors and became more confident and consistent. As a result, the Manta Rays easily pulled away with a 25-18 first set victory.

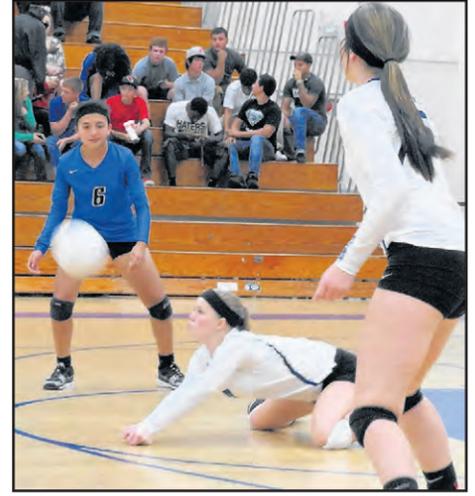
The second set was close throughout. DeSoto built a small 14-11 lead before Lemon Bay came back to tie. The Bulldogs again pulled ahead by three before Lemon Bay tied the set. From there the game stayed within one point for each team until Senior Michaela Roberts broke a 22-22 tie with a kill and a block to give the Bulldogs a 25-22 victory.

DeSoto looked flat and deflated in the next two sets. Poor passing was their biggest nemesis. Setters were having a hard time to set an attack and Lemon Bay was given more than enough opportunities to attack, especially their two outside hitters Caitlin

Lucero Perez has to reach high to keep a ball in action against Lemon Bay. The Bulldogs lost the district match 3-1 and were eliminated from the playoffs.

Montgomery and Maureen Ryan, who gained more confidence as the match went on. If falling behind 18-9 in the third set wasn't bad enough, falling behind 20-7 in the fourth set was even worse. Lemon Bay did some frequent substitutions in the sets to help make the score a bit more respectable, but a final 25-20, 25-16 respective losses for the Bulldogs left them feeling pretty dejected about the night.

"We just looked dead out there," Coach Laura White said. "Our passes were way off target, our sets were off and our blocks didn't penetrate. I don't know how many easy balls we gave for them to set off, but it was a bunch. We went through a lot of lineup changes and adjustments the last couple of



Michaela Roberts goes down low and keeps a bead on the ball during a season ending match against Lemon Bay. DeSoto lost the match 3-1.

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History celebrated at Pine Level



ARCADIAN PHOTOS BY SUSAN E. HOFFMAN

Visitors at the Pine Level Art and Archaeology Day tour the grounds of Pine Level United Methodist Church. The church building includes the former schoolhouse from the days when Pine Level was the county seat. Research has revealed interesting artifacts found on nearby properties, evidence of the people who formerly lived here.



A new monument, placed at the base of the current historical marker, indicates the Pine Level Town Site was placed on the National Register of Historic Places this year.



Vernon Keen poses next to a scale model of a home that one might have seen in Pine Level in the 1800s. He also submitted several pen and ink drawings for the contest, open to adults and children, to create art representing what Pine Level might have looked like.



Kassie Kemp and Jeff Moates of the Florida Public Archaeology Network had a variety of displays and games for children to experience hands-on the kids of activities that archaeologists do.



Kassandra Haakman, left, and her sister Sophia test out a stereopticon, a device for viewing two images to make them appear three-dimensional.



Trevor Duke of the Florida Public Archaeology Network invited children to try piecing together the shards of a broke ceramic plate, to give them an idea of the kinds of activities an archaeologist might do.

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Karen Smoke looks over an authentic quilt hand-made by one of her ancestors. She talked to visitors about how to preserve old family quilts to minimize wear and fading.

A close-up of some of the authentic fabrics from the late 1800s reveals one made about the time of the centennial: note how this fabric is printed with "1776-1876" as part of the pattern.

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ARCADIAN PHOTOS BY SUSAN E. HOFFMAN

Jana Futch, with ponytail, talks to visitors about the history of Pine Level, going back to when it was the county seat.



Carol Mahler uses a decidedly modern digital camera to catch photos of some old fashioned quilts entered in the Quilt Challenge for Pine Level Art and Archaeology Day.



The Rev. Brian Russell, pastor of Pine Level United Methodist Church, spoke during the dedication of a marker denoting the historical designation of the Pine Level Area.



Laney Poire, executive director of the Crowley Museum (seated), shows visitors some of the curious old-fashioned tools and devices that typify the time when Pine Level was the county seat.



Howard Melton, well known as one of the most knowledgeable historians in DeSoto County, visits Pine Level Art and Archaeology Day. The event was sponsored by the DeSoto County Historical Society along with the DeSoto Arts and Humanities Council to celebrate the history of Pine Level, formerly the county seat.

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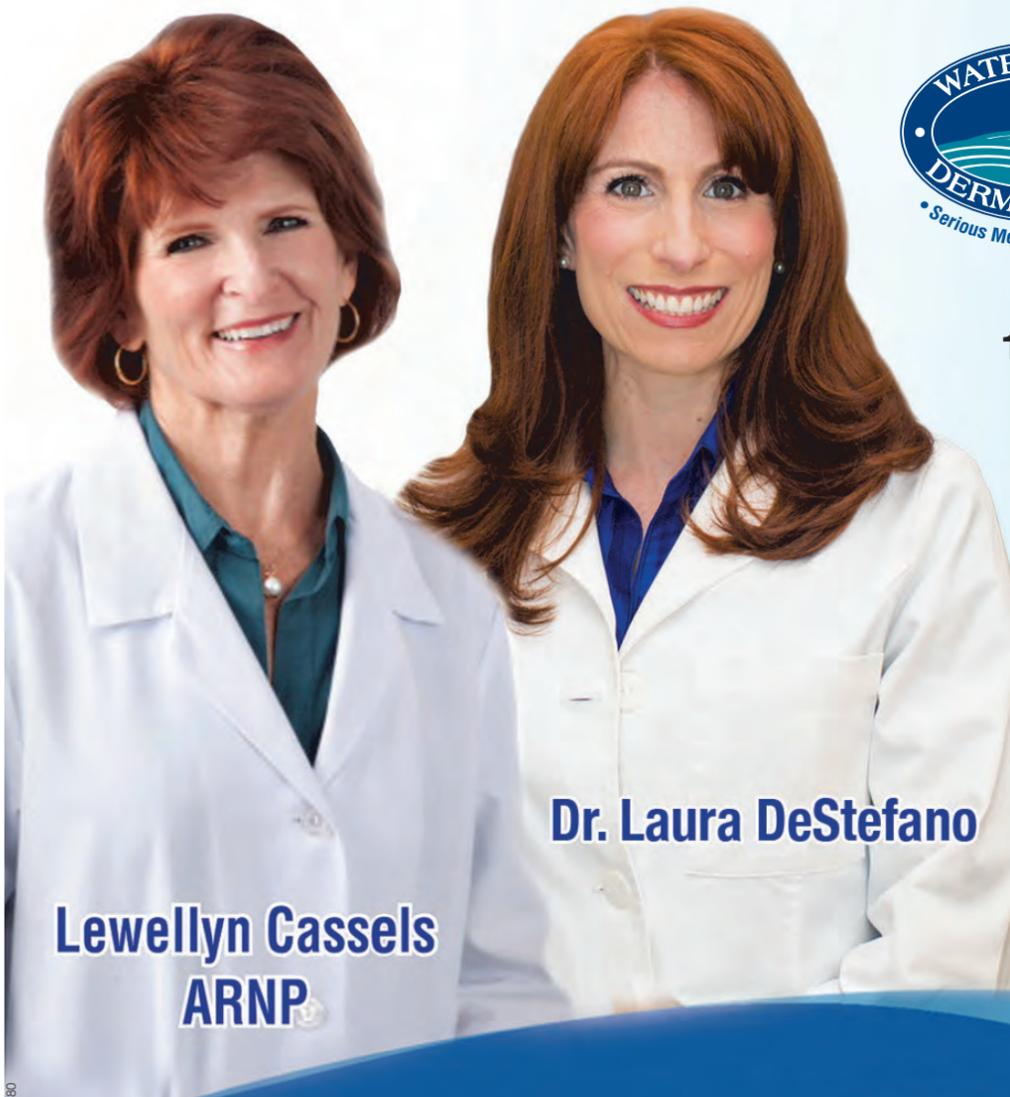
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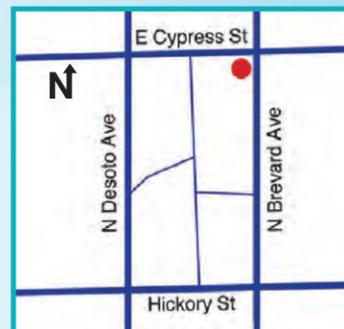


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Dr. Laura DeStefano

Friends toast Marty Dow on his retirement



ARCADIAN PHOTOS BY SUSAN E. HOFFMAN

Marty Dow hosted his own retirement party Saturday with a barbecue cookout at DeSoto Veterans Memorial Park. Dow is a well known figure in DeSoto, being involved in many charitable functions. Recently he served as grillmaster for *The Arcadian's* meet-the-candidates barbecue.



A few dozen friends gathered Saturday at DeSoto Memorial Park to honor Marty Dow, who is well known for assisting almost every charitable cause in the county.



Luke Wilson gives a wry smile for Marty Dow's retirement party.

Links2Success kicks off Academy

By **ASHLEY COONE**
LINKS2SUCCESS

On Oct. 20, 30 DeSoto County High School students spent their Records Day in orientation for Links2Success' College & Career Prep Academy. Students were selected for the program based on their GPAs, community involvement and desire to plan for life after high school graduation. Orientation included a leadership experience through the Falls Adventure, an overview of the college application process by College Counseling, and more.

The College & Career Prep Academy is a comprehensive college, career and leadership prep program. The program

relies on collaboration with educational and non-profit organizations, the business community and more. Partners such as South Florida State College, Suncoast Credit Union, the DeSoto County Education Foundation, Florida Department of Education and others provide students with guidance for post-secondary education and career plans.

Students participate in monthly workshops designed to provide assistance with college applications, resumes, ACT/SAT test prep, financial aid, and more. Each year, students organize a spring break college tour and community service project. Students are currently fundraising for next year's trip to visit the University of

Florida, Florida State University, and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. They are also planning a visit to the Florida capital. They are seeking donations and sponsorships through an online fundraiser at <http://fundanything.com/en/campaigns/links-spring-break-college-tour>.

Students in the program are called Student Ambassadors because part of their commitment in the program is to share what they are learning in the Academy with their peers. The goal is to reach as many DeSoto County students as possible to help them successfully prepare for life after high school graduation.

On Jan. 28, Links2Success will host its second College & Career Prep Bonanza at the Turner Center. This event is free and open to all juniors and seniors enrolled at DeSoto County High School. The event includes games, prizes, food and

college prep workshops.

The Academy is provided at no cost to participants. The program is made possible through the generous support of the following organizations: Peace River Citrus Products, George W. and Ethel B. Hoefler Fund at The Community Foundation of Sarasota County, The Jerome and Mildred Paddock Foundation, Mosaic, Correct Care (Formerly GEO Care), South Florida State College Foundation, DeSoto County Education Foundation, First State Bank, Hackney & Ames, Suncoast Credit Union, Sun Bulb, Tremron, FPL, Rep. Ben Albritton, Rotary, The Mason G. Smoak Foundation, United Way, Walmart Super Center, and Walmart Distribution.

For more information or sponsorship opportunities, visit www.links2success.org or contact Ashley Coone at 863-990-0527.

Is Public Record Slanderous?

Recently, I received the following letter from a Lake City Attorney.

Re: My Client: Dr. Lorenzo Dixon
February 21, 2014 Cease and Desist Letter

**note: his letter is dated Feb. 21, 2014
I received his letter 10/8/14)**

Mr. Frierson

This is a formal demand on behalf of Dr. Lorenzo Dixon that you **immediately CEASE and DESIST** publication of the false and misleading statements you have caused to be printed in the October 2, 2014 *Arcadian*. Consider this notice an opportunity to retract and correct your false and misleading advertisement without delay.

Your slanderous statements regarding Dr. Dixon attempt to damage his reputation and will not be tolerated. Inasmuch as Dr. Dixon learns of any additional slanderous statements he will file suit against you and pursue all available legal remedies. When the resulting judgment is issued against you, we will relentlessly pursue collection of the same.

Govern yourself accordingly,

Sincerely,
Patrick V. Douglas, Esq.

It is my understanding that Lorenzo Dixon through his attorney is contesting that he was never evicted in Duval County.

Based on a "FINAL JUDGMENT OF EVICTION" recorded 10/17/2012 with the Duval County Clerk of Court listing Lorenzo Dixon as the defendant, I, in good faith, thought it was the same individual described in the documents provided to me. He says it wasn't him, OK, I **RETRACT** that portion of the October 2, 2014 ad.

However there has been **NO** denial of the content of the other questions presented in my display ad in the October 2, 2014 issue of the *Arcadian* to me. In my opinion, the Apartment eviction was the most minor offense listed. I could have asked if anyone had been put on probation by the court, but didn't.

I believe it's wrong for any candidate to threaten anyone with lawsuits for publishing court actions that are public record. **Can you imagine the threat or intimidation a person could use if they controlled a Police Department?**

And when did public record items become slanderous? I believe recorded public documents are the history records of what people did in a community.

This is a very important election.

This ad and the October 2, 2014 ad, are not meant to support any candidate for Marshal. The ads only serve to provide some, not all, information necessary to help voters make an informed decision and elect a qualified CITY MARSHAL

LOW VOTE TURNOUT
will only help elect an unqualified candidate.

PLEASE VOTE and VOTE ACCORDINGLY

Paid for by Gary Frierson



PHOTO PROVIDED

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**PROFESSIONAL
2010**

THE CITY OF ARCADIA is seeking a Human Resources Manager to perform highly responsible duties developing, planning, managing, and implementing employment records, employee relations, employee benefits and compensation and safety programs. Five or more years HR experience; government experience is preferred. A BA in Human Resources or related degree or equivalent experience is preferred but not required. Excellent knowledge of HR principles, practices, and laws is preferred. This position is open until filled. Salary Range: \$ 17.31 hr- \$ 19.23 hr.
www.arcadia-fl.gov
Equal Opportunity Employer and Drug-Free Workplace.

**MEDICAL
2030**



HARBORCHASE OF VENICE, SKILLED NURSING AND ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITY IS SEEKING CANDIDATES FOR THE **BUSINESS OFFICE MANAGER POSITION.** IN THIS POSITION THE BUSINESS OFFICE MANAGER WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DAILY MANAGEMENT OF ALL FACILITY-RELATED BILLING. THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE SHOULD HAVE AN EXCELLENT UNDERSTANDING OF SKILLED NURSING FACILITY BILLING TO INCLUDE EXPERIENCE WITH MEDICARE AND MEDICAID, THE ABILITY TO MANAGE INSURANCE / HMO PRE-AUTHORIZATIONS AND AGENCY REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAMS, ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE COLLECTIONS, DAILY CENSUS RECONCILIATION AND PPS REIMBURSEMENT MANAGEMENT. REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE: SUPERVISORY EXPERIENCE; PROFICIENCY IN MS OFFICE, WORD, EXCEL, AND POWERPOINT; FLUENCY IN ENGLISH (SPOKEN AND WRITTEN); ABILITY TO INTERACT ON A PROFESSIONAL LEVEL WITH CLIENTS, BUSINESS ASSOCIATES, AND CO-WORKERS. WE OFFER COMPETITIVE SALARY, EXCELLENT BENEFITS INCLUDING HEALTH, DENTAL AND LIFE INSURANCE, 401(K), VACATION, AND PAID HOLIDAYS.

**SKILLED TRADES
2050**

CONCRETE FINISHER EXPERIENCED ONLY. FT MUST HAVE OWN TRANSPORTATION & OWN TOOLS. **941-286-6695**

Construction Mgr, pd f/t, start December Knowledge of home construction, strong organizational/management skills Email only to: frontdhabitat@embarqmail.com Arcadia Habitat for Humanity

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS

- ★ **BACKHOE OPER.**
For dirt crew.
- ★ **DUMP TRUCK DRIVER**
Off road for dirt crew
- ★ **FINISH DOZER OPER.**
Exp. in finishing slopes
- For well-established construction company. Excellent pay and benefits. Apply in person 3801 N. Orange Ave Sarasota, FL 34234.
- Or send resume to JobsAtDerr@gmail.com
- EOE DFWP



**GENERAL
2100**

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

P/T position (20 hrs. per week) responsible for the enforcement of and compliance with various City Ordinances. Performs a wide range of technical work involving research, data and evidence collection, documentation, word processing, presentation and public service. Presents cases for review before a Special Magistrate. Requires high school diploma or equivalent and valid FL driver's license. Experience or knowledge in a law enforcement or code enforcement environment preferred but not necessary. Drug Free Workplace. Applications may be downloaded at www.arcadia-fl.gov and returned by Mail to City of Arcadia, Human Resources, P.O. Box 1000, Arcadia, FL 34266, or email to Shelley Peacock at speacock@arcadia-fl.gov. Phone - 863-494-4114. Open until filled.

**NOTICE OF ACTION
3116**

in this lawsuit will be mailed to the address on record at the Clerk's office. Dated: October 20, 2014 MITZIE W. MCGAVIC CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT BY: /S/ B. Wynn Deputy Clerk Published 10/23/14, 10/30/14, 11/6/14 & 11/13/14 131159 3100664

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2014 DR 540 Brigitte Pamela Gander and Rickie James Gander, Respondent

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

TO: Rickie James Gander Last Known Address: 102 Perdido Cr. Niceville, FL 32578

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, Brigitte P. Gander whose address is, 4364 NE Andrea Terrace, Arcadia, FL 34266 on or before November 17, 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: October 14, 2014 MITZIE W. MCGAVIC CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT BY: /S/ M. Harris Deputy Clerk Published 10/16/14, 10/23/14, 10/30/14 & 11/6/14 131159 3098517

You Save Big Bucks Shopping Classifieds!

**NOTICE OF ACTION
3116**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2014 DR 546 Cheryl Diane Munoz and Ismael Munoz Capistran, Respondent

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

TO: Ismael Munoz Capistran 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, Cheryl Diane Munoz whose address is, 1172 SE 9 AVENUE, Arcadia, FL 34266 on or before November 24, 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

Turn your trash into cash! Advertise your yard sale!

**GENERAL
2100**

44 workers needed for F. Madrid Harvesting, Inc. for citrus harvesting, from 12/01/14 to 6/30/15, workers will be paid \$1.00+ per 90 lb tub, but will be guaranteed \$10.26 per hour, job location is in Lake, Orange and Collier Counties, FL, this job opportunity is temporary, 36 hours per week guaranteeing at least 3/4 of the time offered, free housing is provided to workers who cannot reasonably return to their permanent residence at the end of the work day, transportation and subsistence expenses to the work site will be provided by the employer upon completion of the 50% of the work contract, tools, equipment and supplies will be provided at no cost, Job order holding office is at 107 East Madison St Tallahassee, FL 32399 job order 9947813

Horizon Coach is now hiring three positions: Parts & Sales Associate, Service Technician & Service Assistant. Apply in person. Horizon Coach 2885 SE Highway 70 - Arcadia. Drug and tobacco free workplace.

Turn your trash into cash! Advertise your yard sale!

**MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT
1340**

LOOK
NOCATEE, 1 Bedroom, 1 Bath Singlewide. CHA. \$350/mo. + Security Deposit
941-716-0088 or 941-624-0355

**LOTS & ACREAGE
1500**

DESOTO COUNTY
5 acre tracts on paved road just east of Arcadia, \$50k **OWNER FINANCING**
www.landcallnow.com
Call 941-778-7980 or 7565

**COMMERCIAL/ INDUSTRIAL PROP
1620**



ARCADIA 5.26 ac By Owner! House & Shop, 800 ft. Hwy 17 Frontage, Zoned Comm. Info. 863-494-5540 or 863-244-3585

Seize the sales with Classified!

**MEDICAL
2030**



RNS / LPNS
FULL TIME, PART TIME, PRN

HARBORCHASE OFFERS COMPETITIVE WAGES AND AN EXCELLENT BENEFITS PACKAGE SUCH AS MEDICAL, DENTAL, VISION & 401K

PART-TIME TEAM MEMBERS RECEIVE BENEFITS AT 20+ HOURS.

FOR CONSIDERATION PLEASE APPLY IN PERSON TO:

HARBORCHASE OF VENICE
ASSISTED LIVING AND SKILLED NURSING
950 PINEBROOK ROAD VENICE, FL 34285
(941) 484-8801 PH (941) 484-3450 FAX
EOE M/F/D/V

A Bargain Hunters Delight Check the Classifieds First! A Whole Marketplace of Shopping is right at your Fingertips!

VISION IMPAIRED MONITOR XEROX, Color. Magnifier \$75
863-993-0782

GET RESULTS USE CLASSIFIED!

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE 3122

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure filed October 8, 2014 entered in Civil Case No. 2014CA000242AXMA of the Circuit Court of the TWELFTH Judicial Circuit in and for DeSoto County, Arcadia, Florida, the Clerk of Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the south door of the DeSoto County Courthouse, 115 East Oak Street, Arcadia, FL 34266 in accordance with Chapter 45, Florida Statutes on the 20th day of November, 2014 at 11:00 AM on the following described property as set forth in said Summary Final Judgment, to-wit:

All that certain land situate in DeSoto County, Florida, viz: Begin at the S 1/4 corner of Section 3, Township 39 S, Range 23 E; thence N 00°33'11" E along centerline of SR #761, 2693.58 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence continue same line, 330.0 feet; thence S 89°49'11" W, 660.0 feet; thence S 00°33'11" W, 330.0 feet; thence N 89°49'11" E, 660.0 feet to the Point of Beginning, LESS Right-of-Way to SR #761 along East side. 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 this 10 day of October, 2014. CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT As Clerk of the Court BY: /s/ B. Wynn Deputy Clerk

NOTICE OF SALE 3130

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 14-2013-CA-000281 WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Plaintiff, v. JANICE M MARES; JESUS M MARES; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JANICE M. MARES; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JESUS M. MARES; UNKNOWN TENANT 1; UNKNOWN TENANT 2; AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT(S), WHO (IS/ARE) NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIM AS HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, SPOUSES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS; Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on July 30, 2014, and the Order Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale entered on August 20, 2014, in this cause, in the Circuit Court of De Soto County, Florida, the clerk shall sell the property situated in De Soto County, Florida, described as: LOT 4, AND THE WEST 16 1/3 FEET OF LOT 5, IN BLOCK "P", OF "BONITA" GILCHRIST'S SUBDIVISION OF THE NW 1/4 OF THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH, RANGE 25 EAST, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 91, OF THE PUBLIC

NOTICE OF SALE 3130

RECORDS OF DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA. a/k/a 37 W GIBSON STREET, ARCADIA, FL 34266-4531 at public sale, to the highest and best bidder, for cash, at the South door of the Desoto County Courthouse, 115 East Oak Street, Arcadia, FL 34266, on November 13, 2014 beginning at 11:00 AM. If you are a person claiming a right to funds remaining after the sale, you must file a claim with the clerk no later than 60 days after the sale. If you fail to file a claim you will not be entitled to any remaining funds. Dated this 16th day of October, 2014.

Mitzie W. McGavic Clerk of the Circuit Court By: /s/ B. Wynn Deputy Clerk IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS ANY ACCOMODATION 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 10/23/14 & 10/30/14 146641 3100548

Pursuant to the provisions of the Florida Self-Storage Facility Act (Statute 83.801-6) notice is hereby given that Secure Public Storage, 8890 NE Highway 17, Zolfo Springs, FL will conduct a sale or otherwise dispose of the unknown contents of: Unit 42

Altiesn Morris Tommy J. Golsby Said sale to be held no sooner than 15 days from the date of this notice. Published 10/30/14 & 11/6/14 357619 3102515

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR DE SOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 14-2013-CA-000346 WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Plaintiff, v. LINDA L. GUARD; RICHARD L. GUARD A/K/A LAVERNE RICHARD GUARD A/K/A RICHARD GUARD; UNKNOWN TENANT 1; UNKNOWN TENANT 2; AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT(S), WHO (IS/ARE) NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIM AS HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, SPOUSES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS; Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on August 18, 2014, and the Order Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale entered on September 24, 2014, in this cause, in the Circuit Court of De Soto County, Florida, the clerk shall sell the property situated in De Soto County, Florida, described as: THE NORTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTH 1/3 OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 20, TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH, RANGE 25 EAST, DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA, LESS THE WESTELY 33 FEET FOR ROAD RIGHT OF WAY. TOGETHER WITH THAT CERTAIN 2005 PALM HARBOR HOMES DOUBLEWIDE MOBILE HOME VIN #PH235909A, TITLE #95868004 AND VIN

NOTICE OF SALE 3130

#PH235909B, TITLE #95868137, WHICH HAS BEEN RETIRED. a/k/a 3816 N.E. BONANZA PARK AVENUE, ARCADIA, FL 34266 at public sale, to the highest and best bidder, for cash, at the South door of the Desoto County Courthouse, 115 East Oak Street, Arcadia, FL 34266, on November 04, 2014 beginning at 11:00 AM. If you are a person claiming a right to funds remaining after the sale, you must file a claim with the clerk no later than 60 days after the sale. If you fail to file a claim you will not be entitled to any remaining funds. Dated this 3rd day of October, 2014.

Mitzie W. McGavic Clerk of the Circuit Court By: /s/ B. Wynn Deputy Clerk IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS ANY ACCOMODATION 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 10/23/14 & 10/30/14 146641 3100539

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION CASE NO.: 2013CA0374 DIVISION: JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff, vs. CENDEJAS, JOSE E. et al, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF RESCHEDULED SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to an Order Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale dated September 12, 2014, and entered in Case No. 2013CA0374 of the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit in and for DeSoto County, Florida in which JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, is the Plaintiff and Jose E. Cendejas, Tenant # 1 n/k/a Bianca Delafuente, are defendants, the DeSoto County Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash the DeSoto County Courthouse, 115 Oak Street, Arcadia, FL 34266; www.desotoclerk.com, DeSoto County, Florida at 11:00AM on the 18th day of November, 2014, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure: **LOT 18, BLOCK "E", FOREST PINE ESTATES, AS PER MAP OR PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT, IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA, IN PLAT BOOK 9, PAGE 20. 1761 SE PLUM DR ARCADIA FL 34266-7471** 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 in Hillsborough County, Florida, this 18th day of October, 2014 /s/ Georganna Frantzis Georganna Frantzis, Esq. FL Bar # 92744 Albertelli Law Attorney for Plaintiff P.O. Box 23028 Tampa, FL 33623 (813) 221-4743 (813) 221-9171 facsimile eService: servealaw@albertellilaw.com JR-020322F01

NOTICE OF SALE 3130

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 Court's ADA Coordinator at 115 E. Oak Street, Arcadia, Florida 34266, (863)993-4876 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711. To file response please contact DeSoto County Clerk of Court, 115 E. Oak Street, Room 101, Arcadia, FL 34266, Tel: (863) 993-4876; Fax: (863) 993-4669. Published 10/23/14 & 10/30/14 272484 3100525

OTHER NOTICES 3138

DESOTO COUNTY CANVASSING BOARD PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE (Florida Statute 102.141) The DeSoto County Canvassing Board will meet beginning at 5:00 pm on Thursday, October 30, 2014 in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, Suite 103, DeSoto County Administration Building, 201 East Oak Street, Arcadia, Florida. The meeting is open to the public. The Canvassing Board will meet to canvass the absentee ballots for the General Election and to receive queries from the public about the absentee ballots. The Canvassing Board will reconvene on Monday, November 3, 2014 at 5:00 pm, and again on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 at 6:00 pm in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, Suite 103, to canvass the remainder of the absentee ballots and tabulate the results of all the absentee ballots and canvass all returns as necessary. All precinct returns will be tabulated beginning after 7:00 pm on General Election Day, November 4, 2014. NOTE: Persons are advised that if they wish to appeal any decision made at this meeting, they will need a record of the proceedings and for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based, per Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes. Mark F. Negley Supervisor of Elections DeSoto County, Florida Published 10/30/14 108404 3104941

FIND YOUR BEST FRIEND IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

DESOTO COUNTY ELECTIONS' OFFICE PRE-ELECTION TABULATION TEST (FS 101.5612) NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Thursday October 16, 2014 a pre-election test of the automatic tabulation equipment will be held to ascertain that the equipment will correctly count all votes cast in the November 4, 2014 General Election. The test will take place at 1:00 PM in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, DeSoto County Administration Building, 201 East Oak Street, Suite 103, Arcadia, Florida. Any interested citizens are invited to attend. Reminder...Florida Law requires that all electors present photo identification when voting. This identification may be a Florida Driver License, Florida Identification Card or

OTHER NOTICES 3138

some form of photo/signature identification. Please be prepared to show photo identification for the November 4, 2014 General Election. Mark F. Negley Supervisor of Elections DeSoto County, Florida PUBLISHED 10/16/14 108404 3098565

NOTICE OF FINAL AGENCY ACTION BY THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT Notice is given that the District's Final Agency Action is approval of the application for a Water Use Permit to serve Industrial & Commercial activities. The total authorized withdrawal is 400,000 GFD, Peak Month is 612,000 GPD, and Maximum is 612,000 GPD. The project is located in DeSoto County, Section(s) 33, Township 37 South, Range 24 East. The permit applicant is Peace River Citrus Products, Inc. whose address is 4104 Hwy 72 West, Arcadia, FL 34266. The Permit No. is 70.009. The file(s) pertaining to the project referred to above is available for inspection Monday through Friday except for legal holidays, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Southwest Florida Water management District, 6750 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34240.

NOTICE OF RIGHTS Any person whose substantial interests are affected by the District's action regarding this matter may request an administrative hearing in accordance with Sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Chapter 28-106, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), of the Uniform Rules of Procedure. A request for hearing must (1) explain how the substantial proposed action; (2) state all material facts disputed by each person requesting the hearing or state that there are no disputed facts; and (3) otherwise comply with Chapter 28-106, F.A.C. A request for hearing must be filed with and received by the Agency Clerk of the District at the District's Brooksville address, 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34604-6899 within 21 days of publication of this notice. Failure to file a request for hearing within this time period shall constitute a waiver of any right such person may have to request a hearing under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S. Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the filing of a petition means that the District's final action may be different from the position taken by it in this notice of agency action. Persons whose substantial interests will be affected by any such final decision of the District in this matter have the right to petition to become a party to the proceeding, in accordance with the requirements set forth above. Mediation pursuant to Section 120.573, F.S., to settle an administrative dispute regarding the District's action in this matter is not available prior to the filing of a request for hearing. Published 10/30/14 108220 3104896

Mark F. Negley Supervisor of Elections DeSoto County, Florida Published 10/30/14 108404 3104941

ADULT CARE 5050

RESPITE CARE CNA #85974 HHA - 35 yrs. exp. Home Health Care. Ref - Carol Scott 863 735-0401 863-245-6680

HOUSEHOLD GOODS 6030

3 BAR STOOLS, Newly upholstered \$45 for all Call 863-494-3652 for info
9 SOLAR SUN RINGS to heat your pool. \$75 for all Call 863-494-3652 for info

HOUSEHOLD GOODS 6030

ELECTRIC BLANKET, full size, \$30 863-494-3652

FURNITURE 6035

MATTRESS AND Box. New will sell \$100 941-629-5550

BED, QUEEN Mattress and Box Brand New will sell. \$175 Also have KING. 941-629-5550

NIGHT STAND 2 drawer, all wood \$30 863-494-3652

ANTIQUES COLLECTIBLES 6070

VINTAGE SARLO Self Propelled, High Wheel Mower, 8hp. Briggs & Stratton \$275 863-993-0782

MEDICAL 6095

AMPLIFIED PHONE for Hearing Impaired. Was \$200 new. Now \$55 Good working Condition. 863-558-3486

MOBILITY SCOOTER/CHAIR Hitch mounted or cargo carrier with fold down ramp and class 3 to class 1 adapter. New condition \$90, OBO 863-993-0275

WHEELCHAIR Medline Combo/Companion, 19" Seat, 300 lb max weight. BRAND NEW! \$350 or trade for Good to Excellent 22" 350 lb wheelchair. 863-993-2231

BICYCLES/TRICYCLES 6135

TRICYCLE ADULT brand new, in the box! \$275 941-524-1025

LAWN & GARDEN 6160

LANAI/PATIO SET large square glass table w/ 8 matching chairs w/ cushions. \$100, OBO 863-494-3190

PATIO SET, 5 peice set. \$150 obo 863-494-3652

APPLIANCES 6250

A/C SYSTEMS Used. 2 1/2 and 3 1/2 ton. 14 Seer systems \$500 Call 863-990-2314

MISCELLANEOUS 6260

SANTA CLAUSE, Animated. \$75 863-494-3652

AUTOS WANTED 7260



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

AUTO PARTS/ACCESSORIES 7270

TIRES 19.5, Like New. Have 6. 4 Goodyears, Firestone, Michelin \$120ea 863-558-3486

Some memories are sweet, some not so much

Well, here it is Halloween again. Sure, I'm reminded of a great many trick-or-treat adventures and some classic homemade costumes, but mostly what comes to mind today is the most important part — the candy!

That got me to thinking back through the years, about so many craving-inducing, cavity-causing culprits that found their way home with me, generally in a plain old paper grocery bag. Remember those? I'm proud to say we never begged for candy with plastic Walmart bags, because it was the good old days, before the big box stores came along and started killing off all the little mom and pop ones.

Let's talk candy. Remember Chick-O-Stick? It looked like something resembling a long dowel made of pressed wood. Kinda has the same consistency, but at least it tasted



Grits & Pieces

Luke Wilson

trubador55@embarqmail.com

sweet. And remember how you had to pick your teeth after eating one?

How about those Charleston Chews? They were long and chocolate covered, and filled with something that certainly personified their name — you could chew on that sucker till the cows came home and your jaw would be so sore that you'd feel like you'd been doing push-ups with your chin! How old is that candy bar? Well, it came out in 1922 and was named for the dance that was popular at that time. Tasteful trivia, for sure.

I have a sneaky suspicion that the Sugar Daddy candy we enjoyed back in the day was a plot by dentists. Not only was it real sweet, but if you ever got your teeth sunk into one, it could extract your fillings and sometimes a tooth as well! Do you remember that there was a companion candy that came out years later called Sugar Mama? Of course you did. But I bet you didn't know that Sugar Daddy's original name was Papa Sucker. Yes, by all means Google that.

Like all kids, from the dawn of candy 'til today, my cousins and I loved the sweet stuff. At our granny's house at Nocatee there was an alcove in the wall that served as her pantry, covered by a curtain. One day we were digging around in there and discovered a block of baking chocolate. Oh yes.

It was like finding a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. The heavens

parted, the angels sang, magic was in the air, and we made our getaway out the back door to the old tree fort our dads had built for us in an Australian Pine out back. After scurrying up the ladder and through the trap door, we hastily divided it and gobbled it as fast as we could. We discovered that it wasn't sweet, but hey, it was chocolate, right? Not a morsel survived. And what we discovered not long afterwards was that one bathroom just ain't enough for several cousins suffering from a case of the galloping epizootics, also called the backdoor quick steps. I think there's even a technical name for it — something like diarrhea.

Anyhow, Halloween reminds me of good old candy, and better simpler times. Oh, yeah, it also reminds me of an unsweet memory and a lesson learned — you don't want to go messing with Granny's cooking stuff!

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 4

clearly states "The proceeds of the sales surtax shall be used to service existing indebtedness ... the proceeds shall not be used to pay the salaries of the hospital staff or the day-to-day operating expenses of the hospital."

The predicted amount of sales tax money doesn't cover the whole mortgage payment so DMH will continue to pay the rest. If more money is collected through this tax than the mortgage payment, those funds will be applied to the principle. The ordinance states that this sales tax will end in June 2036 or sooner if the Board of County Commissioners decides it should end. The hospital can not extend this date and cannot borrow the money against the sales tax. The hospital will not be using this money to pay for the uninsured, under-insured, or the indigent population. Again, it will be used only to pay the hospital mortgage.

Employees at DeSoto Memorial Hospital will not be receiving a pay increase just because the sales tax passes. Right now, all DMH employees take voluntary furlough or are using their Personal Time Off when the hospital is not at full or near capacity. That includes all of administration as well. Everyone here is sharing the load. (Vince Sica is happy to explain the concept of our labor metric to anyone interested in knowing how we calculate this.)

We are very grateful for the community groups that hosted us to state the facts about the ½-penny sales tax: Rotary, Woman's Club, Garden Club, Democratic Party, Republican Party, DeSoto County Library, *The Arcadian* "Meet the Candidates" forum, and the numerous RV Parks.

We also thank the host sites for the Community Conversations: The Turner Center, Kingsway Country Club, Fort Ogden Baptist Church, Pine Level United Methodist Church, and the DMH Cookout with the Board of Directors.

Kristen Spahr
DeSoto Memorial Hospital

By STEVE BAUER

ARCADIAN ASSISTANT EDITOR

Editor's note: The names in this story have been changed to protect those mentioned.

Ray sits on a rocking chair in his lanai, awkwardly adjusting back and forth as he tries to find relief from the obvious pain he's in. "Today has not been a good one," he said, referring to the extreme pain from a cancerous colorectal tumor that doctors can only treat with chemotherapy and radiation.

Despite being prescribed numerous prescriptions for painkillers such as Oxycontin and Vicodin, Ray has found comfort from an unexpected source: marijuana.

"I'm in my 70s and I have been completely anti-drug my entire life," he said as he carefully places pinches of marijuana into a small pipe. "I never would have imagined I'd be here smoking pot on my back porch, or supporting an amendment to legalize medical marijuana."

The amendment he's referring to is The Florida Right to Medical Marijuana Initiative, commonly known as Amendment 2. Voters will either approve or deny the initiative as an initiated constitutional amendment on Nov. 4. The measure, upon voter approval, would legalize medical marijuana. Specifically, it would guarantee the following:

- That medical use of marijuana by a qualifying patient or personal caregiver is not subject to criminal or civil liability or sanctions under state law.
- That a licensed physician is not subject to criminal or civil liability or sanctions for issuing medical marijuana to a person diagnosed with a "debilitating medical condition" under state law.
- That registered medical marijuana treatment centers are not subject to criminal or civil liability or sanctions under state law.

The measure defines a "debilitating medical condition" as cancer, multiple sclerosis, glaucoma, hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS, ALS, Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease or other conditions for which a physician believes that the medical use of marijuana would likely outweigh the potential health risks for a patient.

The Florida Department of Health would be responsible for

regulating medical marijuana. The department would issue and regulate patient identification cards and personal caregiver identification cards, develop procedures related to medical marijuana treatment centers and institute regulations defining reasonable amounts of marijuana for medical use. The department would be required to protect the confidentiality of all patients.

The initiative is not without its opposition, however, including the Florida Sheriff's Association and other civil organizations. Despite medical marijuana being legal in 23 states already, those opposed to Amendment 2 argue the drug is too dangerous to use, lacks FDA-approval, and that various legal drugs make marijuana use unnecessary. They also claim marijuana is addictive, leads to harder drug use, interferes with fertility, impairs driving ability, and is a front for drug legalization and recreational use.

Unlikely resources

Ray was first introduced to the drug through, of all things, friends in the senior-living park he resides in. "These are people I've played cards with every week for years, and I never had any idea they were using marijuana for their medical issues," he said. "A few months back I was having a really bad pain day, and one of my fishing buddies told me he could help me with marijuana if I ever wanted it."

At first Ray scoffed at the idea, but as the pain continued to worsen he researched the benefits of medical marijuana and finally built up the courage to ask his oncologist for the OK to try it. After receiving his doctor's approval, Ray then sheepishly approached his friends for help. That day they showed him how to use the drug, and he says it's made a world of difference in his quality of life.

"Ray's story isn't much different from what we're hearing from older voters and the electorate as a whole," said Ben Pollara, campaign manager for United For Care, which helped bring the issue to the ballot. "For the most part, it's not a controversial topic for them. If their doctor recommends a particular treatment plan, whether it's a medication regimen, a new diet, exercise, yoga or medical marijuana, they

should be able to follow their doctor's orders without being treated like a criminal," he said.

Ray agrees that it should be his choice on how to best attack his cancer. "I have stage 4 cancer, with a tumor that can't be operated on," he said. "When you get a diagnosis like that, it tears your world apart. I spent days just crying, asking why the cancer had to target me and wondering what I could have done different to prevent it," he said. "Your world is suddenly full of worry and despair, there's no escape. If marijuana can help me cope with that, then no one should have a right to tell me I can't follow that route."

It seems Ray isn't the only Florida senior who feels that way. In a Quinnipiac University poll released in May, Florida seniors were overwhelmingly in favor of medical marijuana — 84 percent in favor to 13 percent against.

Crushed by chemo

Despite the pain, Ray says the tri-weekly chemotherapy sessions he goes through left him as a shell of himself. In the span of a month he'd lost more than 25 pounds, barely able to keep down chicken broth despite powerful anti-nausea and vomiting medications provided both intravenously and in pill form.

Since he began smoking, Ray's wife, Candice, says his appetite has come back to levels it was before treatment, and there's been a marked improvement in his mood.

"The aftermath of chemo is devastating," she said. "It chews you up and spits you out, and you have no time to recover from it. The first time he smoked, he went to the store and filled the cart with all his favorite foods. I was truly afraid the chemo by itself was going to kill him; he wasn't eating and was in a constant state of depression. The marijuana has really made a difference. I've been astounded to be honest."

Candice says although she was also raised to think of marijuana in a negative light, she's found herself suggesting Ray "have a smoke" if he is in particular pain or having a bad time dealing with the grim prognosis for his disease.

One of Ray's friends, Brian, has been using marijuana for years to

treat his muscular dystrophy, and says he will often stop by to smoke with Ray to ease any anxiety he has about using the drug.

"At first he would only smoke it in his back bedroom, treating it like this very taboo thing he was doing," Brian said. "I told him that it was OK, he wasn't alone in his struggles, and that if the sheriff has nothing better to do than arrest old men smoking pot, then so be it. It tells me how backwards our society is."

Ray said he was hesitant to tell his family about his marijuana use, but was surprised by how supportive they were. "My children didn't bat an eye when I told them," he said. "They told me that if it was helping me cope with my cancer, then by all means use it if it improves my quality of life. And that's the key, in my opinion. I want to maintain a certain quality of life and this drug allows me to do that."

Medical marijuana on the ropes

With less than a week until the general election, it looks unlikely Amendment 2 will receive the 60 percent vote needed for it to become a state constitutional amendment. Various polls have the initiative passing, but by only 50 percent, not enough for it to become law.

Ray is disappointed in the numbers, but says it's just a matter of time before another law is passed that will help critically ill patients like him. "I don't know if I'll be around long enough to see this become a law in Florida, but my gut tells me it's going to happen sooner rather than later," he said. "I would like someone who voted no on this issue to come look me in the eyes and tell me why, or to take my place for a day and then see if their attitude changes."

He adds that if you plan on voting Nov. 4, keep those suffering in mind when you head to the ballot. "I'm not the only one in this fight, and if I could do more I'd be on the sidewalk waving a banner in the air supporting this amendment," he said. "There are truly great medical uses for this drug, and I hope people take the time to educate themselves on the truths and not the myths. I'm glad I did."

An unlikely ally

Arcadia Village dedicates memorial for veterans



ARCADIAN PHOTOS BY JOHN BLACK

Arcadia Village recently installed a special memorial for all veterans, including engraved pavers and flags representing each branch of the armed services. On hand Saturday to officially dedicate the memorial are, from left, Lee Gallagher, Tim Martin, Charlene Martin, Harlan Wilson, Deb Wilson, John Whitaker, and Robert Bailey Sr., representing the Vietnam Brotherhood.



Brian Seavey, Jerry Seavey and Mitch Dollmeyer, all veterans of the U.S. Army, led fundraising efforts and secured permission from Arcadia Village to install a memorial to honor all the veterans in the park. On Saturday, they joined in the dedication ceremonies, starting with 137 engraved pavers to commemorate veterans who live in the park.



The DeSoto Middle School Band plays the Star Spangled Banner during the ceremony dedicating the Arcadia Village Veterans Memorial on Saturday.

The DeSoto Veterans Color Guard presents the Flag during the ceremony dedicating the Veterans Memorial at Arcadia Village.



Mitch Dollmeyer presents a check to Christie Cooley for the DeSoto Middle School band as a thank you for their participation in the dedication ceremony.



Arcadia Village residents had a strong turnout for the dedication of the military memorial on Saturday.



Ron Freeman, his mother Pat, and his father Ron examine the engraved pavers placed to commemorate Freeman family members at the new Veterans Memorial in Arcadia Village.



A crowd gathered for the dedication of the Veterans Memorial at Arcadia Village, featuring engraved pavers and flags representing the branches of the service.

PRINCIPAL

FROM PAGE 2

greeted her, shook her hand and welcome her.

In other business, School Board attorney Bucky Waldron said it was premature to address any pressure a proposed Sonoma development might place on the school system, because it was just coming up for rezoning by the County. If it is ultimately approved, the district can examine the impacts at a later point.

Waldron also said the county/school district agreement regarding the payments from the water authority had been finalized and payments should start coming soon.

Gary said redistricting would be reviewed starting next year. It is to be done in odd-numbered years. The district will work with Supervisor of Elections Mark Negley on this.

She also noted several public records requests have come in from a Draper and Thomas Paine. She could not verify who these people were but noted Paine was said to be an inspiration for Franklin D. Roosevelt, and a man named George Draper was FDR's physician. Former school superintendent Adrian Cline is known to be an expert on FDR.

DEATHS

FROM PAGE 9

Coleman C. Reaves

The Rev. Dr. Coleman C. Reaves departed this life Monday, Oct. 20, 2014, while residing at Peace River Convalescent Home in Port Charlotte, Fla.



The Rev. Reaves was born May 23, 1917 in Webster, Fla., to Coleman and Stella

Reaves.

Coleman graduated from Mills High School in Webster, then entered the U.S. Army where he served for four years. Rev. Reaves attended Florida Bible College of Lakeland, Fla., earning a diploma in Theology. He also studied at Edward Walters College, Florida Theological Seminary, and earned a Doctorate Degree from the Florida Bible College and Seminary. Rev. Reaves frequently stated that "The only degree I did not earn is the B.A.G.C.P.—Born Again God Called Preacher." Rev. Reaves began his pastoral ministry April 15, 1968, as the pastor of Browns Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Miami. He also served at Peace Missionary Baptist, Mt. Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church, First Baptist Church and Galilee Baptist Church. He was a member and Associate Pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church of Pierce, Fla.

On Jan. 9, 1990, the Rev. Reaves married Vivian Coleman. They enjoyed attending church, fishing and gardening together until his health began to fail.

He is survived by his wife; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; brother; two god-sons; special great-niece; two god-daughters; five sisters-in-law; three brothers-in-law; the Johnson and Thomas families; and many other relatives and friends.

Visitation was held Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2014., followed by the funeral services at the St. Mary Primitive Baptist Church in Punta Gorda.

Arrangements are by Hickson Funeral Home.

Daniel Elmo Sangaree

Daniel Elmo "Dan" Sangaree, 102, passed away at his home, surrounded by family and friends, Sunday, Oct. 26, 2014, the oldest living veteran of World War II in Franklin County, Fla.

He was born June 20, 1912, in Fort Myers, Fla. His father was Veto Sangaree of Apalachicola, Fla., and his mother was Josephine Daniel Sangaree of Fort Myers.

Many of Dan's adolescent and teen years were spent with his uncle and aunt, adoptive parents, William E. and Imogene Daniel, in Arcadia, Fla. Following World War II, he enjoyed a career of more than 25 years in the motion picture industry.

He is survived by his half-sister,

Adrienne Sangaree Elliott; nephews, Kenny, Jimmy and Mark Elliott, and Ernest "Woody" Dean; and nieces, Charlyn Dean Luster and Lisa Dean Hooker.

At his request, no funeral services will be held. Dan will be interred at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Arcadia.

Nettie Irene Summeralls

Nettie Irene (Baxter) Summeralls, 67, passed away Monday, Oct. 27, 2014, in Arcadia, Fla. Arrangements are by Ponger-Kays-Grady Funeral Homes.

Words of Comfort
Memories live on in the heart, where they deepen and resonate over the years, providing strength and comfort in times of need.

- Anonymous

For more Words of Comfort, go to www.inheavenshome.com

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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09/19	7:30pm	Booker	W20 - 6
09/26	7:00pm	@ North Port	W44 - 7
10/03	7:30pm	@ Bayshore	W41 - 3
10/10	7:00pm	@ Frostproof	L15 - 20
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Some of WaterLine's subject matter consists of the writers' opinions. We do our best to be accurate in matters of fact in this publication, but matters of opinion are left to each individual author.

ON THE COVER

WaterLine photo by Matt Stevens

Zombie Shrimp dares you to try using him for bait. Happy Halloween!



FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK • JOSH OLIVE

The way forward?

Publisher's note: I'm giving up my space this week in order to run this news (not opinion) piece about last week's Gulf Council meeting.

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Reef Fish Amendment 40, a move in the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to divide the annual recreational red snapper quota in the Gulf's vast federal waters between private anglers and "for-hire" charter boat operations, passed by a 10-7 vote in the final hours of the council's quarterly meeting last week in Mobile, Ala.

The approval of the controversial plan that could carve as much as 47 percent of the annual recreational red snapper take for charter boat operators came despite the appeal of the governors from the five Gulf states, a plea from the 300-member Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus and widespread pleas from recreational fishermen to turn down the move.

Recreational fishermen operated under a plan that gave them 49 percent of the 11 million-pound total allowable catch of red snapper. Commercial fishing gets 51 percent of that total, the breakdown grants recreational fishermen 5.39 million pounds annually, and passing

Amendment 40 is certain to reduce the nine-day season federal fisheries managers allowed recreational anglers this year.

Although that 47 percent figure is still up for debate, it was the "preferred alternative" mentioned in GMFMC presentations when the amendment was proposed earlier this year.

"The bottom line is it passed," said Camp Matens, Louisiana's recreational representative on the 17-member council. "There remains lots of questions about who gets what and when they will get it."

"On Jan. 1, the total allowable catch begins for next year and now that we have states that are noncompliant, any (red) snapper caught between then and when the feds will allow the recreational season to begin, that catch from the noncompliant states will have to come off the top of that allowable catch."

The term "noncompliant" refers to states that allow recreational fishermen to take red snapper in its state waters outside the federally declared recreational red snapper season in federal waters.

Late additions to the amendment included a three-year "sunset" limit on this plan that picked up the label "sector separation," because it divided the recreational sector's catch, and a plan that restricts for-hire operations from purchasing

quota from commercial fishing interests.

For Matens, those additions mean, "We're going to have a lot of pushing and shoving on this issue when the council meetings in Point Clear (Alabama) in January."

"It also means somebody is going to have to figure out how to divide the new quota among the charter boats," he said. "There appears to be 1,300 charter boat operations (in the five Gulf States) . . . if divided equally, that's about 300 fish per (charter) boat."

Matens said a move to push forward with Reef Fish Amendment 39, a plan to push red snapper and possibly other species into a regional management program could resolve any and all problems. The regional management concept would mean each of the five states would develop their individual plans for taking red snapper under federal quota guidelines.

"Florida has its own unique (red-snapper catch) problems to solve, and Louisiana has problems to solve, too. Both have different sets of problems, and both would have different solutions," Matens said. "If regional management moves forward, then each state would have its own plan — and the National Marine Fisheries Services would have to approve each state's plan — but regional management would make Amendment 40 moot."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If you have a comment or question for WaterLine, email us at Editor@WaterLineWeekly.com.

JOSH: Drive into Bridgepoint Condos to the circle at the end by the canal and look in the water. It looks like there's some kind of soapy bubbles in the canal. I've been here in same condo for four years now and have never seen this before. For the first two years this canal was good fishing for snook and even a few tarpon, plus mangrove snapper and sheepshead. Not so much the last two years. It is most evident at low tide. Could it be soap from a community car wash or some sort of pesticide residue?
— Richard Ibsen

RICHARD: Although I didn't see anything when I went for a peek, I'd be willing to hazard a guess that you're seeing ordinary sea foam. In the rich waters of the Harbor, there's a lot of plant matter and natural materials that can form sea foam. All it takes is for the wind or waves to whip up, which is why we don't see it too much inshore. Tidal edges often form a "scum line" which is really sea foam that's just not very foamy because there's less air in it.

The presence of sea foam shouldn't have a negative effect on the fishing. Alternatively, your neighbors may be dumping laundry detergent into the canal. More than likely, you're just noticing the normal ups and downs of any spot.
— Josh Olive, WaterLine Publisher

JOSH: Who does the restaurant reviews? I've been reading for years and never see a name. To me, they have lost all credibility as there is never a bad review. Everywhere they go the food is incredible. Each dish is perfect. I've eaten at lots of restaurants, and there are some that just are not that good.
— Lou Hockel

LOU: The reviews are staff-produced. We don't announce that a reviewer is coming and we actually do eat what you've seen photographed. However, there have certainly been some less-than-stellar meals, and those have resulted in the restaurant not being reviewed. The policy we've adopted in this instance is "if you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all." As far as what is written, it's our honest opinion. Product reviews, which I hope to start running again within the next month or

so, are done the same way. If a product performs poorly, we simply don't talk about it.
— Josh Olive, WaterLine Publisher

JOSH: I noted that there have not been any reader photos shown in the WaterLine the past two weeks. Has display of fish photos been discontinued?
— Jack Assunto

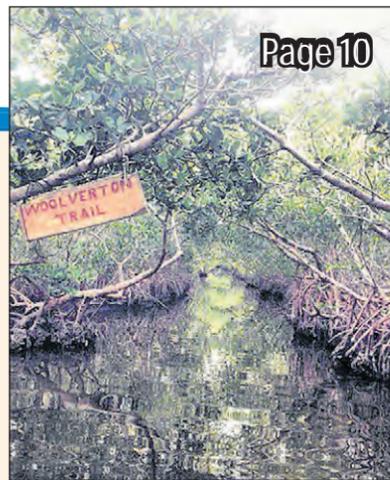
JACK: Nope. We've just been a bit short on space, and I've had to choose between printing columns or printing photos. We're printing a bunch of them this week, starting on page 16. Keep those photos coming, people!
— Josh Olive, WaterLine Publisher

Letters are welcome on any outdoor-related subject, but we do have some rules. Please keep them to less than 250 words. Letters may be edited for length as well as grammar and spelling. All letters must be signed with full name — not initials. Slanderous or libelous material will not be published. The Letters to the Editor section is designed as a public forum for community discourse. The opinions and statements made in letters are solely those of the individual writers. WaterLine and Sun Coast Media Group take no responsibility for the content of these letters.

WaterLine

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Angling 101 • ROBERT LUGIEWICZ	SUP Fun
Who said red tide?Page 8	NICOLE MIERS-PANDOLFI
SLACK TIDES.....Page 9	Rediscover the Woolverton Trails
A Life on the Water • CAPT. VAN HUBBARD	A paddler's paradise in the mangrove swamps of Gasparilla Sound was lost and found, and then almost lost again.
It's onPage 11	
Around Charlotte Harbor • CAPT. RALPH ALLEN	
'Where's the 41 bridge?'Page 13	
Angling 201 • CAPT. MIKE MYERS	
Flat-out scary.....Page 15	
Peace River Wildlife Center • ROBIN JENKINS, DVM	
When duty callsPage 23	
Tournament Bassin' • GREG BARTZ	
Still looking for the right rod.....Page 24	



Page 10

REGULAR FEATURES

BULLETIN BOARD Page 3	SEAFOOD RECIPES Page 22
TIDE CHARTS Page 4	READER PHOTOS Pages 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22
MAP OF LOCAL WATERS Page 5	BOATING CLASSES Page 21
FISH FINDER Page 6	SOLUNAR TABLES Page 22
FISHING REGULATIONS Page 7	



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WaterLine TIDE CHARTS

THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY

VENICE INLET 27.1117° N, 82.4633° W



MHHW 2.201, MHW 1.932, MSL 1.172, MTL 1.152, MLW 0.371, MLLW 0.000 — All measurements in feet; for more info see TidesAndCurrents.noaa.gov

THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY

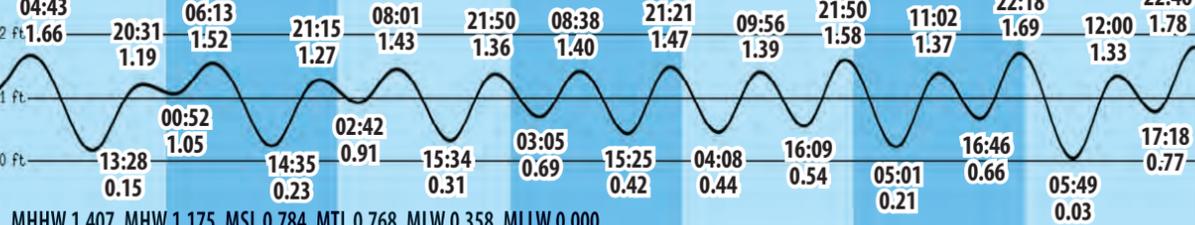
PUNTA GORDA 26.9283° N, 82.0650° W (ADD 32 MINUTES TO TIMES FOR EL JOBEAN TIDES)



MHHW 1.962, MHW 1.703, MTL 1.076, MSL 1.070, MLW 0.449, MLLW 0.000

THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY

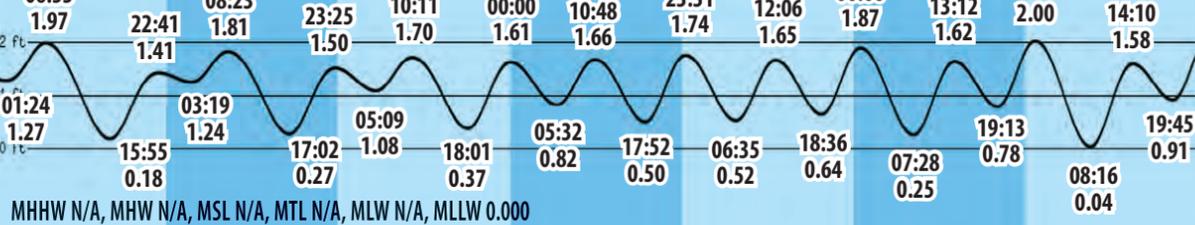
PLACIDA, GASPARILLA SOUND 26.8333° N, 82.2667° W (ADD 28 MINUTES TO TIMES FOR LEMON BAY TIDES)



MHHW 1.407, MHW 1.175, MSL 0.784, MTL 0.768, MLW 0.358, MLLW 0.000

THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY

MATLACHA PASS (BASCULE BRIDGE) 26.6333° N, 82.0667° W



MHHW N/A, MHW N/A, MSL N/A, MTL N/A, MLW N/A, MLLW 0.000

VENICE INLET	PUNTA GORDA	PLACIDA	MATLACHA PASS
Thursday 04:26 1.98 feet H	Thursday 01:45 1.21 feet L	Thursday 04:43 1.66 feet H	Thursday 01:24 1.27 feet L
12:43 0.14 feet L	07:26 1.92 feet H	13:28 0.15 feet L	06:53 1.97 feet H
20:17 1.44 feet H	15:52 0.17 feet L	20:31 1.19 feet H	15:55 0.18 feet L
00:36 1.32 feet L	22:47 1.40 feet H		22:41 1.41 feet H
Friday 05:48 1.79 feet H	Friday 03:28 1.17 feet L	Friday 00:52 1.05 feet L	Friday 03:19 1.24 feet L
13:51 0.26 feet L	08:49 1.78 feet H	06:13 1.52 feet H	08:23 1.81 feet H
20:58 1.54 feet H	16:57 0.27 feet L	14:35 0.23 feet L	17:02 0.27 feet L
	23:38 1.48 feet H	21:15 1.27 feet H	23:25 1.50 feet H
Saturday 02:28 1.10 feet L	Saturday 05:06 1.01 feet L	Saturday 02:42 0.91 feet L	Saturday 05:09 1.08 feet L
07:27 1.64 feet H	10:25 1.66 feet H	08:01 1.43 feet H	10:11 1.70 feet H
14:52 0.39 feet L	17:57 0.38 feet L	15:34 0.31 feet L	15:34 0.31 feet L
21:29 1.65 feet H		21:50 1.36 feet H	21:50 1.36 feet H
Sunday 02:43 0.80 feet L	Sunday 00:19 1.59 feet H	Sunday 03:05 0.69 feet L	Sunday 00:00 1.61 feet H
08:10 1.56 feet H	05:26 0.76 feet L	08:38 1.40 feet H	05:32 0.82 feet L
14:46 0.55 feet L	11:03 1.60 feet H	15:25 0.42 feet L	17:52 0.50 feet L
20:58 1.78 feet H	17:49 0.51 feet L	21:21 1.47 feet H	06:35 0.52 feet L
Monday 03:41 0.48 feet L	Monday 06:31 0.48 feet L	Monday 04:08 0.44 feet L	Monday 23:31 1.74 feet H
09:40 1.54 feet H	12:26 1.58 feet H	09:56 1.39 feet H	12:06 1.65 feet H
15:32 0.73 feet L	18:34 0.64 feet L	16:09 0.54 feet L	18:36 0.64 feet L
21:26 1.91 feet H		21:50 1.58 feet H	
Tuesday 04:32 0.19 feet L	Tuesday 00:24 1.85 feet H	Tuesday 05:01 0.21 feet L	Tuesday 00:00 1.87 feet H
10:55 1.53 feet H	07:26 0.21 feet L	11:02 1.37 feet H	07:26 0.21 feet L
16:10 0.90 feet L	13:33 1.57 feet H	16:46 0.66 feet L	13:12 1.62 feet H
21:54 2.04 feet H	19:12 0.77 feet L	22:18 1.69 feet H	19:13 0.78 feet L
Wednesday 05:18 -0.03 feet L	Wednesday 00:53 1.98 feet H	Wednesday 05:49 0.03 feet L	Wednesday 00:28 2.00 feet H
12:01 1.51 feet H	8:15 -0.00 feet L	12:00 1.33 feet H	08:16 0.04 feet L
16:43 1.05 feet L	14:31 1.53 feet H	17:18 0.77 feet L	14:10 1.58 feet H
22:22 2.15 feet H	19:46 0.89 feet L	22:46 1.78 feet H	19:45 0.91 feet L

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— Capt. Mike Myers, Reelshark Charters

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WaterLine FISHFINDER

LOCAL FISHING REPORTS FROM VENICE TO PINE ISLAND

INSHORE & FRESHWATER

MALCOLM

COOKS
SPORTLAND
Venice
941-493-0025

Anglers at the Venice Pier are reporting **cobia** and **kingfish**. There are good numbers of **snook** at the jetties, but most are just under slot size. **Trout** are picking up, but you'll have to work to find keepers. The inshore **mangrove snapper** bite has slowed a bit but is still decent. Fish to 14 inches have been taking live shrimp around dock pilings.

GULF & OFFSHORE

Red grouper are closed in federal waters but still open inside of 9 miles, and there have been some keepers taken in state waters at about 50 feet. While you're out there, you'll probably pull up decent numbers of **lane snapper** and **grunts**, and you can use smaller baits for tasty **squirrelfish**. The **cuda** and **kingfish** have been good at 12 miles.

BEST BET

The flats of Lemon Bay have been a great spot for **redfish** at low tide. They'll be happy to eat root beer MirrOlure Lil Johns and other dark soft plastic baits.

JIM

FISHERMAN'S
EDGE
Grove City
941-697-7595

Keeper **trout** in the 15- to 18-inch range are picking up; they like plastic jerkbaits. **Spanish mackerel** are along the ICW and up to a few miles off the beaches. Scattered **redfish** are coming from the backcountry of Catfish and Whidden creek. **Snook** are still biting, but slot fish are getting hard to come by. Reports of **sheepshead** and **flounder** are continuing to get better, but only a few small **pompano** have been caught.

The **kingfish** bite is turning on nicely, with the best bite along Gasparilla Island in 30 feet of water. Troll lipped plugs or anchor up with a chum bag and bring them to you. Gulf anglers are also finding plenty of drag-testing **bonita** to tangle with. **Gags**, **yellowtails** and **mangrove snapper** are biting hard at 50 miles.

The **cobia** bite has gone off in 40 to 60 feet of water. They'll come right up to your boat if you anchor near structure. Be ready to drop a sardine or pinfish over for them.

ROGER

FINE BAIT &
TACKLE
North Port
941-240-5981

The Manasota Key and Venice beaches are producing lots of **flounder** on shrimp. Just walk the beach and cast. The south end of the west wall has been giving up **snook** and **trout** on freelined shrimp. **Bluefish** are eating curlytail jigs on the grassflats; there are also **trout** hitting root beer soft plastics or shrimp. Anglers on the Venice Pier are getting **kingfish** on cut or whole fish.

Troll lipped plugs or big spoons for **king mackerel** from just off the beach to 6 miles out. **Blackfin tuna** have been reported 10 to 15 miles off the beaches and just 6 miles out of Boca Grande Pass. **Bonita** are hitting jigs a couple miles offshore. A **sailfish** was rumored to have been caught at 10 miles.

Look for dams or moving water in the North Port canals and pitch in a live shiner for big **bass**. Some really good fish are being caught right now, and the numbers are also impressive.

JEFF

CAPT. TED'S
TACKLE
Port Charlotte
941-627-6800

The bigger canals are holding eating-size **black drum** and a few whoppers. Small **tarpon** are roaming the back canals. The canal and river mouths are producing a good **snook** bite. The abundance of bait in the Placida area has the **redfish** and **snook** fired up on the nearby flats and oyster bars. If it warms up, look under the mangroves. **Sheepshead** will slow as the water heats up a bit. A bit of **flounder** action is going on in the passes.

Bonita are blitzing bait a few miles off the beaches. **Cobia** are turning up, but only a handful are keepers. The bait is also drawing tarpon to run the beaches. A few **hogfish** have been hooked on the reefs, along with a lot of small **red** and **gag grouper**. A few keeper grouper are coming in from Sarasota and Venice. Fish the reef edges for **flounder**.

King and **Spanish mackerel** are running close to shore along the beaches with all the available bait. Spoons and lipped plugs are good. Troll, cast from shore or the Venice jetties, or drift. A bit of wire is a good idea.

ROBERT

FISHIN' FRANK'S
Charlotte Harbor
941-625-3888

The **catfish** are eating everything that moves, so expect some as bycatch no matter what you do. **Tarpon** are scattered across the center of the Harbor and into the river mouths. **Snook** are abandoning the beaches for the backcountry. **Redfish** are scattered all around the bars and flats, with a few venturing farther up the east and west walls. Lots of little **trout** (and a handful of keepers) are appearing on the flats. **Snapper** are biting on the inshore reefs.

If you really want **mangrove** and **lane snapper**, look 3 to 15 miles out over hard bottom. There are loads of tasty **grunts** out there too. A few more **gag grouper** are hitting the docks; most of the successful anglers are trolling deep-running plugs.

And speaking of trolling plugs, that's a great way to catch **king mackerel**. They're 1 to 10 miles out. Stick to 25 to 30 feet of water for big ones. Lures swimming 3 to 20 feet below the surface will get attention.

CHUCK

LAISHLEY MARINE
Punta Gorda
941-639-3949

The east wall is producing **redfish** from Ponce Inlet south, and there are over-slots off Cape Haze. Look to the trees at high tide and the bars at low tide. **Snook** are still in Bull Bay but are pushing up the Harbor. **Trout** are on the bars in 3 to 4 feet of water from Alligator Creek south; mostly shorts. **Pompano** reports keep getting better; fish the channel edges and bars. **Gags** and small **Goliaths** are eating Mann's Stretch plugs around Gator Creek Reef.

Kingfish are getting thicker within a mile of the beach; troll around the **Spanish mackerel** schools. Don't be surprised if a few **bonita** show up. **Mangrove** and **lane snapper** are biting well at 5 miles and farther. Some really nice **gags** have been caught by anglers trolling in 45 feet; those fish should move in closer with the next cold front.

Tarpon are drawing to a close for the year. If we get a good cold snap next week, they'll head south. For now, fish live ladyfish, Hogys or DOA Bait Busters from the south end of Gator Creek Reef into the Harbor's deep holes.

JESSE

OLD PINE ISLAND
MARINA
St. James City
239-283-2548

Juvenile **tarpon** are under the mangroves hitting topwaters. Top choice is a Bomber Badonk-A-Donk, silver with a black back and orange throat. **Snook** of all sizes and a few **redfish** are also being caught the same way. To target **reds**, fish a gold spoon on the flats. **Spanish mackerel** are off the Sanibel beach; they'll hit spoons and really like the chartreuse Huntington Drone.

Kingfish are taking trolled spoons 10 to 15 miles out. Lots of **gags** are being caught on trolled deep-running plugs and also by bottom fishermen. Some patches of red tide have been reported 20 miles offshore, but it's not a big deal so far.

Get that topwater plug working — the surface bite is on fire right now.

FISHING TIP OF THE WEEK: Deep-running lipped plugs are hot right now for both king mackerel and gag grouper, but mastering their use is not quite as simple as just tossing them out the back of the boat and hitting the throttle. Each lure model has a speed range at which its action will be best, so be sure to carefully study the instructions on the packaging. In general, you can make a lure dive deeper by running it farther behind the boat or by using thinner-diameter line. This is important for gag, which will come a surprising way off the bottom to hit the lure but are usually more willing if you can get the bait within 10 or 15 feet of the bottom. Kings are more than happy to whack a plug near the surface, so don't ignore the shallow-running lure models. If you can, run one shallow and one deep. The more of the water column you can cover, the more likely are to find where the fish are. Once you get a couple on one lure, you can switch out the losing bait to match the winner.



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WaterLine FISHING RULES

State and federal regulations for Southwest Florida waters as of Sept. 14, 2014. All bag limits are per harvester per day. Other limits may apply. This chart does not include every rule an angler needs to know; for most current rules visit MyFWC.com/fishing and GulfCouncil.org/fishing_regulations.

LICENSES

Resident saltwater or freshwater:

Annual \$17, 5-year \$79. If you fish from shore only, a license is required but is free. Resident license for both freshwater and saltwater fishing: \$32.50 annually.

Nonresident saltwater or freshwater: 3 days \$17, 7 days \$30, annual \$47. Free shore fishing license not available for nonresidents.

Annual fishing permits: Snook \$10, lobster \$5, not required when no license required

SALTWATER FISH

Almaco Jack

Bag limit 100 pounds in state waters; notes: 9,11

Amberjack, Greater

30" min. size; bag limit 1; season closed June 1-July 31 in state waters, closed until Jan. 1 in federal waters; notes: 1,3,4,5,9

Amberjack, Lesser & Banded Rudderfish

Slot 14" to 22"; aggregate bag limit 5; notes: 1,4,5,9

Black Drum

Slot 14" to 24" (may possess one over 24"); bag limit 5; notes: 5,7,8

Black Sea Bass

10" min. size; bag limit 100 pounds; notes: 2,4,5,9

Bluefish

12" min. size; bag limit 10; notes: 1,5

Blue runner

Bag limit 100

Bonefish

Harvest prohibited.

Cobia

33" min. size; bag limit in state waters, 1 per harvester or 6 per vessel, whichever is less; limit in federal waters, 2; notes: 1,5

Dolphin (Mahi mahi)

Bag limit 10 per harvester or 60 per vessel, whichever is less; notes: 5

Flounder, all species

12" min. size; bag limit 10; harvest by gig or spear OK; notes: 2,5,8

Grouper, Black

22" min. size; bag limit 4; notes: 2,3,4,5,9,10,12

Grouper, Gag

22" min. size; bag limit 2; season open July 1-Dec. 3 in state waters; in federal waters, open July 1 until quota met; notes: 2,3,4,5,9,10

Grouper, Goliath

Harvest prohibited. Legal to target for catch and release in state but not federal waters

Grouper, Red

20" min. size; bag limit 4 in state waters or 3 in federal waters; season closed in federal waters Oct. 4 to Jan. 1; notes: 2,3,4,5,9,10,12

Grouper, Scamp

16" min. size; bag limit 4; notes: 2,3,4,5,9,10,12

Grouper, Snowy & Yellowedge

Bag limit 4; notes: 2,3,4,5,9,10

Grouper, Warsaw & Speckled Hind

Bag limit 1 per vessel; notes: 2,3,4,5,9,10

Grouper, Yellowfin & Yellowmouth

20" min. size; bag limit 4; notes: 2,3,4,5,9,10,12

Grouper, Coney, Graysby, Red Hind, Rock Hind & Tiger

Bag limit 4; notes: 2,3,4,5,9,10,12

Hogfish

12" min. size; bag limit 5; notes: 1,4,5,9

Mackerel, King (kingfish)

24" min. size; bag limit 2 (reduced to 1 in some state waters if federal waters are closed to harvest; see MyFWC.com/fishing for current regulations); notes: 1,5

Mackerel, Spanish

12" min. size; bag limit 15; transfer of Spanish mackerel to other vessels at sea prohibited; notes: 1,5

Mullet, Striped & Silver

Bag limit, Feb 1-Aug. 31, aggregate 50 per harvester or 100 per vessel, whichever is less; Sept. 1-Jan. 31, aggregate 50 per harvester or per vessel; bag limit also applies to mullet used as bait; harvest or possession of striped mullet prohibited in Punta Gorda between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. from Nov. 1-Feb. 29. See <http://bit.ly/urExej>.

Permit

Slot 11" to 20" (may possess one over 20"; maximum of 2 over 20" per vessel); bag limit 2; hook and line gear only in state waters; spearing legal in federal waters; notes: 1,5,7

Pompano, Florida

11" min. size; bag limit 6; notes: 1,5,7

Pompano, African

24" min. size; bag limit 2 per harvester or per vessel; spear fishing prohibited; notes: 1,5,7

Porgy, Red

Bag limit 100 pounds; notes: 4,5,9

Redfish

Slot 18" to 27"; bag limit 1 per harvester or 8 per vessel, whichever is less; transport limit 6 per person; gigging, spearing or snatching prohibited; illegal to harvest or possess in federal water; notes: 2,5,7

Sailfish

63" min. size from tip of lower jaw to center of fork; bag limit 1 any billfish (sailfish and marlin); Highly Migratory Species permit required to harvest in federal waters and all harvested fish must be reported to NOAA within 24 hours; notes: 5

Sea Trout, Spotted

Slot 15" to 20" (may possess one over 20"); bag limit 4; notes: 2,5,7

Shark, all species

54" min. size except Atlantic sharpnose, blacknose, blacktip, bonnethead, finetooth and smooth dogfish (only exceptions to 54" min. in federal waters are Atlantic sharpnose and bonnethead; bag limit in state waters 1 per harvester or 2 per vessel, whichever is less; bag limit in federal waters, 1 per vessel; may be harvested by hook and line only; Highly Migratory Species permit required to harvest in federal waters; lemon and hammerhead sharks prohibited; notes: 1,5,7

Sheepshead

12" min. size; bag limit 15; notes: 2,5,7

Snapper, Cubera

Slot 12" to 30" (may possess 2 over 30" per harvester or per vessel); bag limit 10 if under 30"; fish over 30" not included in aggregate limit; notes: 2,4,5,9,13

Snapper, Gray (Mangrove)

10" min. size in state waters; 12" min. in federal waters; bag limit 5; notes: 2,4,5,9,13

Snapper, Lane

8" min. size; bag limit 100 pounds in state waters; not included in aggregate limit; notes: 2,4,5,9,11

Snapper, Mutton

16" min. size; bag limit 10; notes: 2,4,5,9,13

Snapper, Red

16" min. size; bag limit 2; season to be determined in state waters; in federal waters, open June 1 - June 12; notes: 2,3,4,5,9,13

Snapper, Schoolmaster

10" min. size; bag limit 10; notes: 2,4,5,9,13

Snapper, Vermilion (beeliner)

10" min. size; bag limit 10; notes: 2,4,5,9,11

Snapper, Blackfin, Dog, Queen, Mahogany, Silk & Yellowtail

12" min. size; limit 10 per harvester; notes: 2,4,5,9,13

Snook

Slot 28" to 33"; bag limit 1; season closed Dec. 1-Feb. 29 & May 1-Aug. 31; \$10 snook permit required to harvest when license is required, including free resident shore fishing license; state regulations apply in federal waters; notes: 2,5,6,7,8

Tarpon

Bag limit 1 per harvester per year; \$51.50 tarpon tag required to harvest or possess, which

is legal only in pursuit of an IGFA record; for seasonal Boca Grande Pass rules, see <http://bit.ly/l6zrDj>; notes: 6,8

Triggerfish, Gray

14" min. size in state waters; 12" min. size in federal waters; bag limit 2; season closed June 1-July 31 in state waters; closed until Jan. 1 in federal waters; notes: 1,4,5,11

Tripletail

15" min. size; bag limit 2; may be harvested by hook and line only; notes: 2,5,7,8

Wahoo

Bag limit 2; notes: 1,5

lionfish

Invasive exotic; kill all specimens on sight. Fins have venomous spines.

NO-HARVEST SPECIES

Zero bag limit for bonefish, Goliath grouper (jewfish), Nassau grouper, sawfish, spotted eagle rays, lemon sharks, hammerhead sharks. Go to the website listed below for a full list of no-harvest species.

Visit <http://bit.ly/10nYDlz> for full rules.

NOTES

1. Measured fork length. Fork length is the straight line distance from the most forward part of the head with the mouth closed to the center of the tail.

2. Measured total length. Total length is the straight line distance from the most forward part of the head with the mouth closed to the farthest tip of the tail with the tail compressed or squeezed together while the fish is lying on its side.

3. Bag limit zero for captain and crew of for-hire vessels on a paid trip.

4. Reef fish gear rules apply. Anglers must use non-stainless steel circle hooks when using natural baits, and must possess a dehooking device.

5. Must remain in whole condition (head and tail intact) until landed ashore. Removal of gills and internal organs OK.

6. Harvest by spearfishing prohibited.

7. Use of multiple or treble hooks in conjunction with natural bait prohibited.

8. Harvest by snatching prohibited.

9. Except for sand perch and dwarf sand perch, fish designated as reef fish are illegal to use as bait in federal waters or aboard a vessel with a federal reef fish permit. In state waters, legal-size reef fish may be used as bait but must remain in whole condition and must be counted against bag limit.

10. Included in aggregate grouper bag limit of 4 fish.

11. Included in 20-fish reef fish aggregate bag in federal waters (vermillion snapper, lane snapper, almaco jack, grey triggerfish, all tilefishes).

12. Closed Feb. 1-March 31 ONLY in federal waters outside 20-fathom break.

13. Included in aggregate snapper bag limit of 10 fish.

FRESHWATER FISH

Largemouth Bass

South of State Road 80; max. size 14", bag limit 5 (may possess one over 14") — North of State Road 80; slot 14"-22", bag limit 5 (may possess one over 22")

Sunfish (excluding crappie)

Aggregate limit 50

Crappie

Limit 25

Butterfly peacock bass

Max. size 17", limit 2 (may possess one over 17")

Grass carp

Must be released immediately

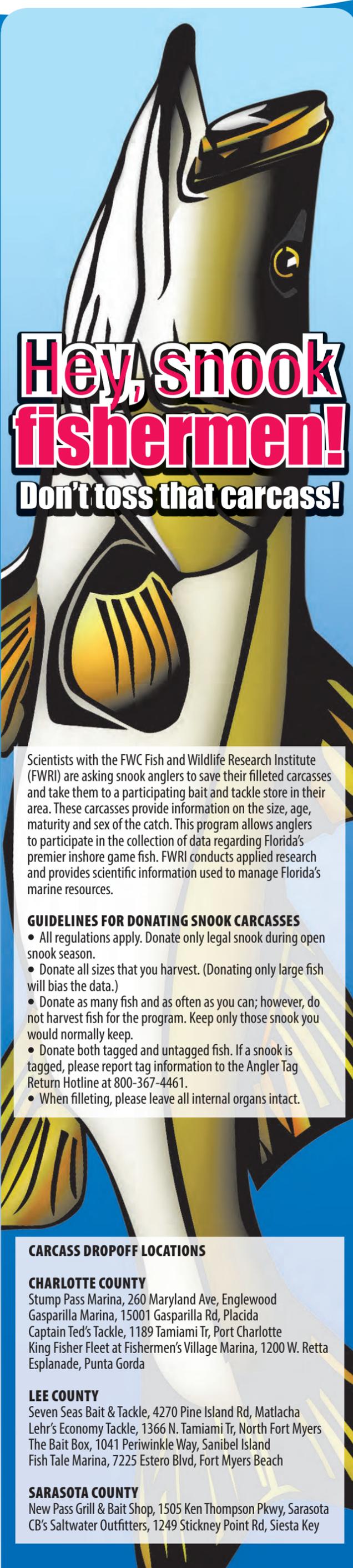
Other exotic fishes

Please keep and eat or otherwise destroy; do not use as live bait.

Unregulated species

No bag or size limits on gar (except alligator gar; possession of this species is illegal), bowfin, pickerel and all catfish.

Visit <http://bit.ly/10nYJQr> for full rules, including special management areas.



Hey, snook fishermen!
Don't toss that carcass!

Scientists with the FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) are asking snook anglers to save their filleted carcasses and take them to a participating bait and tackle store in their area. These carcasses provide information on the size, age, maturity and sex of the catch. This program allows anglers to participate in the collection of data regarding Florida's premier inshore game fish. FWRI conducts applied research and provides scientific information used to manage Florida's marine resources.

GUIDELINES FOR DONATING SNOOK CARCASSES

- All regulations apply. Donate only legal snook during open snook season.
- Donate all sizes that you harvest. (Donating only large fish will bias the data.)
- Donate as many fish and as often as you can; however, do not harvest fish for the program. Keep only those snook you would normally keep.
- Donate both tagged and untagged fish. If a snook is tagged, please report tag information to the Angler Tag Return Hotline at 800-367-4461.
- When filleting, please leave all internal organs intact.

CARCASS DROPOFF LOCATIONS

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Stump Pass Marina, 260 Maryland Ave, Englewood Gasparilla Marina, 15001 Gasparilla Rd, Placida
Captain Ted's Tackle, 1189 Tamiami Tr, Port Charlotte
King Fisher Fleet at Fishermen's Village Marina, 1200 W. Retta Esplanade, Punta Gorda

LEE COUNTY

Seven Seas Bait & Tackle, 4270 Pine Island Rd, Matlacha
Lehr's Economy Tackle, 1366 N. Tamiami Tr, North Fort Myers
The Bait Box, 1041 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel Island
Fish Tale Marina, 7225 Estero Blvd, Fort Myers Beach

SARASOTA COUNTY

New Pass Grill & Bait Shop, 1505 Ken Thompson Pkwy, Sarasota
CB's Saltwater Outfitters, 1249 Stickney Point Rd, Siesta Key

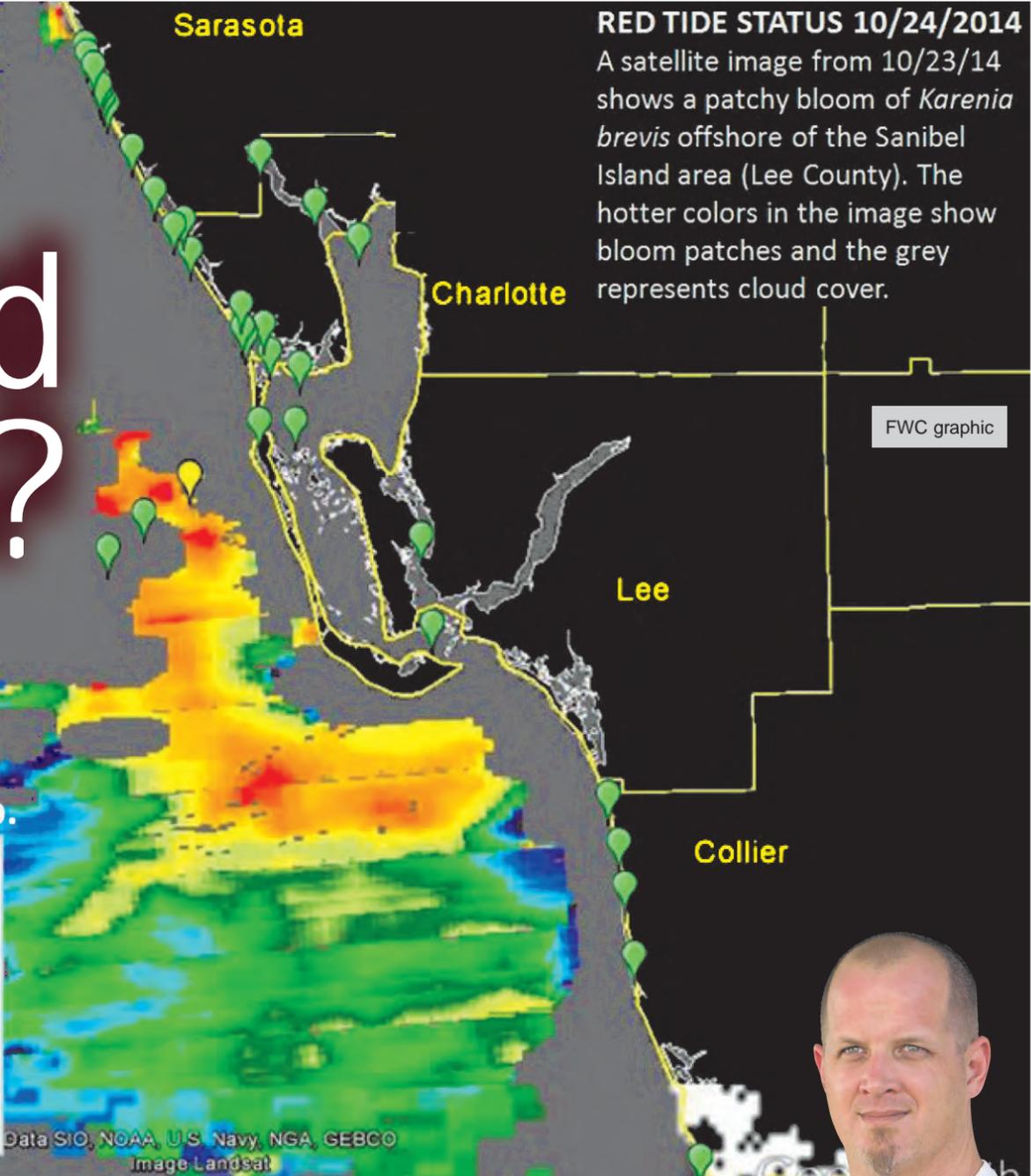


Who said red tide?

NOTE: Sampling efforts for other areas are not depicted on this map.

Karenia brevis scale (cells/liter)

- NOT PRESENT – BACKGROUND (0 to 1,000)
- VERY LOW (>1,000 to 10,000)
- LOW (>10,000 to 100,000)
- MEDIUM (>100,000 to 1,000,000)
- HIGH (>1,000,000)

RED TIDE STATUS 10/24/2014
A satellite image from 10/23/14 shows a patchy bloom of *Karenia brevis* offshore of the Sanibel Island area (Lee County). The hotter colors in the image show bloom patches and the grey represents cloud cover.

FWC graphic

ANGLING 101 • ROBERT LUGIEWICZ



In the last week or so, you may have heard something about red tide showing up in our area. It's true: There's a red tide bloom lurking off the coast of Lee County. The FWC puts out full reports each Friday. According to the latest one, the bloom starts a few miles off Boca Grande Pass and extends south to just past the Collier County line. It may actually extend farther, but cloud cover blocked some of the satellite picture. Most of the bloom consists of low concentrations, but there are small areas of greater intensity.

So it's probably time to panic, right? Well, not just yet. This is not exactly unexpected. Pretty much every year we get a red tide bloom right about the tail end of the rainy season. Researchers seem to think it doesn't have anything to do with freshwater outflow, but it sure seems like an interesting coincidence.

Red tide can be devastating, killing huge numbers of fish and other marine organisms, leaving behind a nearly barren wasteland. Or it can be no big deal, causing a few fish deaths but sparing the majority. What are we going to see from this bloom? Time will tell. In the meantime, it's important to not freak out.

It's pretty rare for high concentrations of

red tide to turn up in the Harbor. I already know with this report that we're going to be answering the same question a lot this week: No, the red color of the Harbor water isn't red tide. It's just tannins in the water. If you are in an area where there's a high enough concentration of red tide to discolor the water, there will be other signs. There won't be anything alive in the water, and you'll probably be suffering from what appears to be an allergy attack.

There's a lot of interesting science that surrounds red tide, but I'm going to leave that to the scientists (I don't want to be the guy who steers you wrong). Instead, I'd rather focus on the practical aspects.

Unless there's a strong prevailing west wind and a strong incoming tide, there's not much chance of red tide showing up in the upper Harbor. The organism that causes red tide (*Karenia brevis*) can't live in fresh water, and doesn't thrive in low-salt brackish water. I've seen red tide at the U.S. 41 bridges only once in 15 years, and that lasted only until the tide turned to go back out. In Gasparilla Sound, it may linger for days; on the beaches it sometimes sticks around for weeks at a time.

Unless you have asthma or COPD, airborne red tide should probably not be a major problem for you. Most people will feel a little tickle in the back of the throat. Some will cough or have weepy eyes. It's not pleasant but hardly life-threatening. Again, easy solution — move. The relatively few with respiratory problems who might have a serious issue are better off staying home, but for the 90 percent, you'll be just fine.

Don't let reports of red tide keep you off the water. Red tide is usually very patchy. Even if you're in an area of low concentrations, you might never know it. Fish will often still feed in these conditions, and unless you're very sensitive, you probably won't be irritated by it. If you happen to drift through an area where you notice dead or dying fish, or you have a coughing attack, just move a half-mile or so and you'll probably be fine. It's the same if you go to the beach. Chances are you can find an area where you'll have no issues.

A lot of anglers get concerned about eating their catch during red tide outbreaks. Red tide kills fish by suffocation. The poison it produces, called brevetoxin, is nasty stuff. If ingested, it causes a variety of unpleasant

symptoms. You do not want to eat filter-feeding shellfish — clams, oysters, coquinas, etc. — from an area impacted by red tide. But fish, shrimp and crabs are safe to eat, provided they're alive when you catch them and assuming you eat only the meat.

In theory, even fish that are freshly killed by red tide would be safe to eat if they hadn't started to spoil. I wouldn't go that far, and I wouldn't suggest that you should either, but as long as a fish is still moving, there's no health reason why you couldn't harvest it for the table (remember, bag and size limits still count). Be sure to throw the organs and gills in the trash. If pelicans or raccoons eat them, they'll probably suffer some ill effects.

Red tide sucks, plain and simple. But it's hardly a zombie apocalypse. If you take a common-sense approach and avoid unnecessary panic, it's usually not as bad a thing as it seems.

Robert Lugiewicz is the manager of Fishin' Frank's Bait & Tackle, located at 4425-D Tamiami Trail in Charlotte Harbor. Call 941-625-3888 for more information about the shop or for local fishing info, or visit them online at FishinFranks.com.

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SLACK TIDES

Oddities, rumors, allegations, suggestions, suppositions, random thoughts and the occasional outright lie

WHAT'S A TUNICORN?



During a recent fishing trip with his brother and nephew, Kim Haskell and his group was left stunned after he reeled in what he thought was a mythical sea creature, now jokingly referred to as the "Tunicorn." After struggling to reel in the huge dogtooth tuna on the outer reef outside of Cooktown, Queensland, in Australia, the group noticed a giant horn sticking out of the fish's head. At first glance, the image is truly surreal. It seems that the tuna somehow got a billfish spike pierced right through the middle of its head. "It was totally healed so must have been in it for a while. We were wondering if the spike entered through the mouth because the thin bit was at the end," Haskell's brother, Jamie, wrote in an online post. "Looked almost too perfectly [centered] and would not have believed it if we hadn't caught it ourselves," he added. "Probably the strangest thing I have ever found inside a fish. Has anyone else seen such a thing?" Haskell speculated that the spike may have gotten lodged in the fish's head during a feeding frenzy. "My guess is that there was a bait ball, and the sailfish must have speared the tuna by mistake and the bill snapped off," he said. The fishermen removed the bill and released the tuna back into the water. While it was a well-intentioned gesture, the fish's blood immediately attracted nearby sharks, which killed and ate it.

ABANDON BOAT, GO TO JAIL

A 69-year-old Florida man was briefly jailed over an abandoned boat in the Florida Keys the day after he told authorities that he would make payments to

them if they could remove the boat for him. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officers said the man failed to remove his boat from a Florida Keys channel after it got stuck on July 29. Since July, FWC officers have posted a "derelict" notice on the boat, sent a certified letter to the owner and kept tabs on the vessel, according to The Key West Citizen. Cody Middleswart, 69, of Marathon said he bought Galaxy on July 14 and tried to navigate it to the Boot Key Towers, according to FWC spokesman Bobby Dube. The boat took on water and Middleswart said he got it to shallow water to avoid a sinking. The vessel keeled over after it became grounded in the channel. On Oct. 21, he told the FWC that he could make payments to the FWC if it could remove Galaxy. FWC officers arrested Middleswart the next day on suspicion of the misdemeanor charge. Middleswart was released from jail about an hour later after posting \$328 bond.

DO FISH PLAY?



It's only natural to assume small-brained animals like fish would care about little outside of the quest for food and mates, but according to a new study by researchers at the University of Tennessee, some of them like to play. Of course, scientists can't ask a fish if it is having fun; they must develop a definition of fun that works in the context of the animal kingdom. That's what Gordon Burghardt, an evolutionary biologist at Tennessee, has done, allowing him to identify such organisms as wasps, reptiles and invertebrates

as capable of play — of having fun. "Play is repeated behavior that is incompletely functional in the context or at the age in which it is performed and is initiated voluntarily when the animal or person is in a relaxed or low-stress setting," said Burghardt. While studying three cichlid fish over the course of two years, Burghardt and his colleagues observed a behavior that fits his definition of play. The three fish would periodically strike at a bottom-weighted thermometer, and would do so regardless of the presence or absence of food or other fish. The researchers believe the fish, like other animals, are drawn to the righting motion that happens when the thermometer is pushed down and then returns to its original position. Burghardt says it's important for scientists to readjust their understanding of play and see unexplained behaviors as part of an animal's evolutionary development — not random. "Play is an integral part of life and may make a life worth living," Burghardt concluded.

HAWAII CORALS IN TROUBLE

HONOLULU (AP) — Large sections of coral reef on windward Oahu and parts of Kauai are continuing to suffer from high ocean temperatures, raising the risk that they will die, scientists said last week. Corals stressed by warm waters continue to expel algae, which the coral rely on for survival. These conditions are expected to continue for another four weeks. The more resilient corals will likely bounce back but the more sensitive ones will die, said Amy Apprill, an assistant scientist with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts who is visiting Hawaii to study the bleaching. "You're going to have this sort of phase shift in the coral species distribution. We're not sure right now what these events are going to look like," she said. Coral reefs provide habitat for shrimp, crab, fish and other species. They support the state's biggest industry, tourism, as many visitors snorkel and dive to see the coral and the fish that live among them. Anne Rosinski, a marine resources specialist at the state Department of Land and Natural Resources, said the current bleaching event is more serious than the last one to occur in Hawaii, in 1996. Scientists who witnessed that one say this current event is both more severe and covers a larger area, she said. The most serious bleaching is currently at Kaneohe Bay

off Oahu, where 75 percent of the dominant coral species surveyed has started to lose color or has turned completely white.

PUFFER LUNCH POISONS 11



Eleven people fell seriously ill in southeast Brazil after eating a deadly puffer fish for lunch, reports say. The group of neighbors, including four children, were hospitalized after they made a mistake while preparing the fish — one of the deadliest in the world. Within minutes all had become violently sick, according to Brazil's RJ TV news. Five have since left the hospital. The neighbors met for lunch last week in Duque de Caxias, a city on the southeast coast of Brazil. Quoting a hospital doctor, RJ TV news reported that the group were eating at one of their homes and had known they were being served a puffer. The creatures, which contain a poison called tetrodotoxin which is more lethal than cyanide, must be expertly prepared to avoid poisoning.

ALL THAT NEEDS TO BE SAID

Buster died, so Susan went to the local paper to put a notice in the obituaries. The gentleman at the counter, after offering his condolences, asked Susan what she would like to say about Buster. Susan replied, "Just write, 'Buster died.'" The gentleman, somewhat perplexed, said, "That's it? Just 'Buster died?'" Surely, there must be something more you'd like to say about Buster. If it's money you're concerned about, the first five words are free. We really should say something more." Susan pondered for a few minutes and finally said, "OK, then write, 'Buster died. Boat for sale.'"



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WaterLine photo by Nicole Miers-Pandolfi
A stand-up paddleboard is ideal for exploring the winding Woolverton Trails.



SUP FUN • NICOLE MIERS-PANDOLFI

The coastal waterways of Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve are filled with wildlife and support more than 100 species of native and migratory birds. Dolphins, manatees and hundreds of fish species can also be sighted when paddling in this coastal environment. One of my favorite places to launch from is located in Placida under the bridge by the Fishery Restaurant. From here, a paddler can explore Coral Creek, Catfish Creek and Gasparilla Sound. This area is rich with history and features of one the best paddling destinations in the area: The Woolverton Trails.

Years ago, Ed Woolverton discovered miles of canopy mangrove trails located in the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve. The trails comprise more than 6.5 miles of canopy mangrove trails and have a rich history. They were created many years ago as a means of mosquito control. Creating a tidal flow through the dense mangrove forests disrupted the mosquito breeding area, decreasing their population and preventing the spread of mosquito-borne diseases. The paths were dredged through the mangroves at enough depth to prevent the regrowth of the mangrove trees.

Woolverton found the trails, which had been untraveled for years, while searching Gasparilla Sound for a fishing spot. He had paddled upon Charlotte County's best-kept secret. Woolverton reached out to Capt. Marian Schneider, owner of the former Grande Tours, to share his discovery.

Capt. Marian was the pioneer of Charlotte County's paddlesports industry, and the



Photo provided

These fascinating mangrove tunnels were almost lost once. It would be a shame for it to happen again.

Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve was her home and paddling backyard. She named the trails after Ed Woolverton in dedication of his discovery. She made signs at the entrance of the trails and numbered the paddling routes, then began to guide paddling trips through

the trails and publicized this location as a premiere paddle destination. The trails did not disappoint and provided memorable experiences to the thousands of people who paddled with Grande Tours.

Though the trails were created years ago,

you can still paddle through them today. But sadly to many in the area, Grande Tours is no longer open and the trails have not been traveled much. Some of the signs in the trails are missing, and most paddlers seem to have forgotten that the trails exist.

It would be a shame to lose them again, so I have put together an effort to restore the trails to the way they were when Grande Tours was open. I recently hosted a waterway cleanup with my paddling companies, SUP Englewood and Seashore Eco Tours. The cleanup of the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve and Woolverton Trails was a success. Ed Woolverton recently celebrated his 98th birthday and wished us luck with the restoration project. I will be making signs to restore the ones that have fallen and encourage paddlers to explore this area. Grande Tours once provided paddling maps. My goal is to keep the numbers active for anyone following the map that was created years ago, as this is a rich piece of paddling history in Charlotte County.

Although you can explore the area on your own, the maze of trails can be confusing. If you'd rather go with a guide, we are offering paddling trips through Woolverton Trail four days a week. Tours feature local history, a trip through parts of the Woolverton Trail, and encounters with the wildlife that surround this area.

Nicole Miers-Pandolfi is owner of SUP Englewood, a touring paddleboard company servicing Sarasota and Charlotte counties. Explore our Gulf Coast islands with SUP Englewood. Call 941-234-4311 or visit SUPEnglewood.com for paddleboard rental and tour reservations.

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A LIFE ON THE WATER • CAPT. VAN HUBBARD

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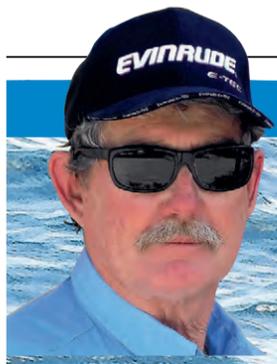


Photo provided
The first of several waves of migrating kingfish is just off our Gulf beaches right now.

Last week everything came together as predicted: Baitfish congregations appeared and big fish followed. We caught king mackerel up to 30 pounds, plus Spanish mackerel up to at least 4 pounds (and those are fine eating). We caught too many sharks and lost a few bigger than we wanted. There are plenty of sharks of all sizes to play with. We hooked one tarpon and encountered schools of huge redfish in the 40-pound range. The fish will come as expected, because they basically have to follow their food.

Fish move with weather, but also because they can. West winds will stir the water and send fish south. These fish showed up scattered on last Wednesday, but minnow schools were thick. Thursday and Friday offered good action, with bait schools highly concentrated by feeding fish activity. By Saturday, the bait had thinned out and most predatory fish had moved on. With northwest winds forecast for Saturday afternoon, we headed north towards home port rather than fight back into head seas. We did enjoy catching a few barracuda on the nearshore reefs while looking for kings.

There will be plenty more waves of mackerel and kings moving through until the waters get too cold (below 69 degrees). I'm hopeful we will still have fish when I return around Thanksgiving, but everything depends upon how fast winter rolls in and chills our waters. My favorite action is around the bait concentrations. I enjoy watching a minnow going crazy as a big mack eyeballs it. A kingfish of 30 pounds going airborne as it skyrockets on your bait will ignite an adrenalin rush. Then the line sizzling through the water, actually creating a cloud of moisture, lets you know you are in for a serious test of tackle and skill.

Then add the fact that if you play too long your trophy will become shark food. We had numerous large kings stolen by Jaws wannabes. In one case, we pulled up half a king that still weighed 20 pounds. The sharks are fun if you like to bend a rod.

We didn't really want to fool with the redfish, so we just enjoyed their brief visit. It is nice to see these massive schools of breeder fish move through our area. If you want to catch them, try trolling around natural live bottom with large lipped lures like the Deep 25 MirrOlures. I'd suggest a wire leader because of the kings and sharks, which are likely bycatch. This is also a great way to find gag grouper. If you have a plotter, use your chart trail option and plot grids as you explore. Mark any bites so you can follow your path and come back for more. Back on land, we have many places where we like to eat. It's the same in the sea. Find the popular fish-feeding "restaurants" and you'll enjoy good action.

I see from press releases that the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals judges are so out of touch with reality that they cannot understand that E15 fuel will cause anyone harm. Apparently your gas-powered engine block blowing up because of the EPA's stupid E15 mandate is not important to these D.C. judges. E10 is junk that already hurts. Many engines not made for ethanol, which acts as a solvent. Ethanol also soaks up atmospheric moisture like a sponge, contaminating our fuel tanks. E15 will be even worse. They force us to buy gas that gets worse mileage and is made from corn which jacks up food costs, and now the EPA insist on more inefficient and engine-harming ethanol.

But what do expect from Washington? They don't grasp reality. They don't depend

upon the fruits of their labor to pay bills and stay employed. That's what we live with. The federal government has it made, pilfering our tax dollars for their fat checks and pensions. Check out their retirement packages and educate yourself before you vote.

Sorry about the rant. I'm just not very patient with government stupidity, and it is abundant these days. Thank you all for putting up with me. Enjoy life and be thankful we live in America where we can talk about things we like and dislike. Then do something about it; please educate yourself and vote (even if we

don't actually have many good choices).

Look forward to good action until the cold weather sends the minnows and fish south. I've been very busy and am ready to take off up north for a couple of weeks to explore the north woods and try my hand at crossbow hunting.

Capt. Van Hubbard is a highly respected outdoor writer and fishing guide. He has been a professional USCG-licensed year-round guide since 1976, and has been fishing the Southwest Florida coast since 1981. Contact him at 941-740-4665 or VanHubbard@CaptVan.com.

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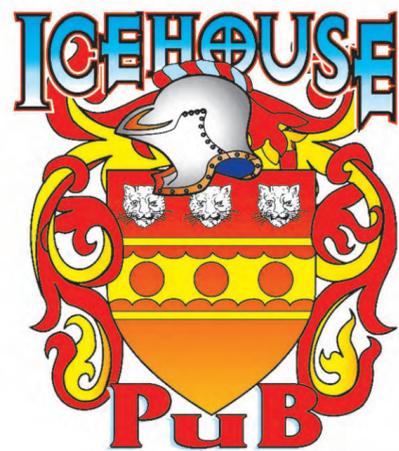
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AROUND CHARLOTTE HARBOR • CAPT. RALPH ALLEN



This tale will interest those who are familiar with navigating on Charlotte Harbor. One afternoon last week, I was in the entrance channel to Pirate Harbor when I was approached by a couple in a center console of about 25 feet in length. They motored to within 50 feet and the gentleman at the helm shouted over to me: "We need some help. Can you tell us where to find the 41 bridge?" They probably thought they'd asked the wrong person for advice, because it took me a few moments to formulate an answer for them.

Since we were nearly 10 boating miles from the U.S. 41 bridges, and the course would require that they skirt the shoals all the way up the east side of the Harbor and around Punta Gorda's fat point, I figured that there was no way to really ensure their safe arrival without a lengthy charting conversation. I guessed they wouldn't know how to read a chart, anyway. I thought about trying to give them a detailed set of directions, but finally just pointed vaguely north and said "It's about 10 miles that way. Watch out for shallow water." They thanked me, promptly motored outside of the Pirate Harbor channel and went aground, then raised the motor, idled out of the channel and headed north.

How would you have answered them? After many years of encountering similar situations, it still amazes me how many people are running around (and running aground) on the water with so little idea of what they're doing. And I really don't understand how more of them don't come to grief.

SIGNS OF THE SEASON

Fall is in the air as evidenced by lower temperatures, lower humidity, and the changing patterns of fish and other wildlife. On a jaunt through the woods last weekend, I saw my first pair of snipe, probably early-arriving birds from this year's fall migration from the north. Florida's snipe hunting season opens Saturday. Yes, snipe are really game birds and people really do hunt them, in spite of all the funny stories you've heard about taking neophytes into the woods at night on phony snipe-hunting expeditions. It turns out that the Webb/Babcock Wildlife Management Area usually outproduces all the other WMAs in Florida for snipe, dove and quail.

FIRE IN THE WATER

I was fishing at night in the Harbor last

'Where's the 41 bridge?'

Photo provided

The U.S. 41 bridges over the mouth of the Peace River are well-known landmarks for most area boaters.



week during the new moon and was lucky enough to witness one of nature's most beautiful spectacles. On that particular evening, the fire in the water, or bioluminescence, was the most intense that I've ever seen. Every fish that swam past created a blazing underwater trail of agitated algae. When we spooked a school of mullet, the resulting splashes and wakes were marked by unbelievable underwater flashes and streaks. We could easily see the illuminated curve of our fishing lines beneath the surface, and every time we tossed a bait, the splashdown looked like a miniature fireworks geyser had erupted skyward. When we were underway, the boat's wake and the prop wash trailed astern with an incredibly bright greenish glow.

Of course there was a price to pay for the captivating show: As often seems the case when the fire in the water is bright, the fishing was only mediocre, though we did manage to fool some snook and trout, and the ladyfish seemed unfazed by the light show.

RED TIDE

The massive bloom of red tide which hung in offshore waters of the Gulf north of Tampa has mostly broken up. The bloom was very strong and very long-lasting, and it caused significant fish kills which included grouper and other reef fish. It's good news that it seems to be mostly gone from that area, but not all the red tide news is good. In recent weeks, there have been scattered patches of low and moderate level red tide reported in the Gulf waters of

Southwest Florida, including some along the beach at Sanibel. There have been no fish kills reported near us thus far, but since the fall season is the time of year that red tide outbreaks seem most common, we always get nervous in autumn when there is any red tide activity. Stay tuned for further developments. Let's go fishing!

Capt. Ralph Allen runs the King Fisher Fleet of sightseeing and fishing charter boats located at Fishermen's Village Marina in Punta Gorda. He is an award-winning outdoor writer and photographer and is a past president of the Florida Outdoor Writers Association. Call him at 941-639-2628 or email Captain@KingFisherFleet.com.

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HAUNTED WALK

In celebration of Halloween, Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium (3450 Ortiz Ave., Fort Myers) presents "Freaks of Nature" Haunted Walk. Times are 7:30 to 10 p.m. through Oct. 31. The Haunted Walk is the center's biggest fundraiser of the year, and has been thrilling residents for many years. Be prepared to be scared — not recommended for anyone under 16 years of age. Costumes expected! \$10 per person. Call 239-275-3435 for more info.

FAMILY NATURE HIKE

Come join CREW for a fun family walk on the CREW Marsh Trails (4600 Corkscrew Road, Immokalee) from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Nov. 1. More than just a hike, this event is complete with games and activities that will get you dirty, inspire you, and engage all your senses. This is an active walk for the whole family to get involved and enjoy nature at its best. Call 239-657-2253 for more info.

BIRD ROOKERY SWAMP WALKS

Join the volunteer staff at CREW Bird Rookery Swamp Trails (1295 Shady Hollow Blvd. W, Naples) for a free entertaining and informative 2.5-hour guided walk. Learn the history, see wildlife and enjoy the views. Walks are scheduled for 1:30 to 4 p.m. Nov. 2, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, March 1 and April 5. Call 239-657-2253 for more info.

VOLUNTEER AT CEDAR POINT PARK

Meet with like-minded CHEC volunteers at 3:30 p.m. Nov. 3 at Cedar Point Environmental Park (2300 Placida Road, Englewood). Hear about new and upcoming CHEC programs and events and how to volunteer to help. Call 941-475-0769 for more info.

HOME SCHOOL NATURE PROGRAM

Bring your home-schooled kids to Rotary Park Environmental Center (5505 Rose Garden Road, Cape Coral), where they can learn all about nature and the environment. Make a related craft in some programs. Please wear shoes and clothes appropriate for hiking and outdoor exploration. Upcoming programs (10 to 11:30 a.m.): Surviving the Wild, Nov. 3; Nature Giving, Dec. 8. Cost is \$8 per student. Call 239-549-4606 to register or for more info.

AUDUBON WALKABOUT

Join the Peace River Audubon Society at 8 a.m. Nov. 4 for a walkabout at 8-acre Audubon Pennington Nature Park (1153 Alton Road, Port Charlotte). This peninsula-shaped parcel of land is a jewel of nature supporting oak hammock, pine flatwoods, and cypress swamp, the park surrounded on two sides by canals. The different seasons provide an ever-changing landscape of wildflowers, stately oaks, red maples, bald cypress, buttonbush, a variety of vines, fungi, butterflies, ferns, mosses, water inhabitants such as turtles, and, of course, songbirds and water birds. For more info, contact Larry Behrens at 941-204-1708.

FAKAHATCHEE MOONLIT TRAM

View Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park under the illumination of a full moon from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Nov. 6 or Dec. 6. The two-hour tours start as the sun is setting, prime time for spotting some of the mammal residents of the Strand as well as birds settling in for the evening. An experienced naturalist leads each tram tour and will demonstrate communication with denizens of the night, including fireflies, bats and owls. The 24-passenger tram is wheelchair accessible and some seats face backwards. The tour leaves from the ranger station at 137 Coastline Drive, Copeland, off Janes Scenic Drive. To register, go to FOFReservation.Eventbrite.com.

BOARDWALK AFTER DARK

See the Big Cypress Bend boardwalk (Fakahatchee Strand

CHARLOTTE HARBOR SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

All outings are free of charge and the public is welcome to attend. Voluntary donations to the Charlotte Sierra Club are always gratefully accepted. Trips are from 8:30 to 11 a.m. unless otherwise noted. Call the listed number with any questions.

MORGAN PARK: Ancient oaks and other hardwoods line the trail along the Peace River in Arcadia's Morgan Park. Join Master Naturalists Jamie Reynolds and Jim Knoy Nov. 11 as we enjoy the birds and flora along this beautiful trail. Call 941-637-8284.

PADDLE LETTUCE LAKE: Explore the wooded maze of channels from the lake out into the Peace River from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 12 or Dec. 17. Our guide, Rick Fried, is an experienced master naturalist and knows this tricky area well. Once we reach the Peace River, we will stop and enjoy a leisurely lunch at the Nav-A-Gator Restaurant. Participants must provide their own watercraft, bring money for lunch and know how to swim. Call 941-637-8805.

STUMP PASS BEACH WALK: Join popular biologist Dr. Bill Dunson from 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 14 on this beach walk from Stump Pass State Park to the Pass and back. This will be about 2.5 miles round trip. We will investigate the beach lagoon and learn about barrier island plants and animals. Bring water, lunch and a shady hat. Call 941-423-2713.

KAYAK MYRTLE CREEK: Paddle with us from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 18 or Dec. 13 as we go upstream into an ever-narrowing freshwater jungle. We will return backstream, out into a grassy maze of brackish water channels where Myrtle Creek meets with lower Shell Creek. Our guide will be Master Naturalist Jim Story. We will visit the only waterfall in this area, the Punta Gorda Dam, which contains the city's water supply. Participants must provide their own watercraft and be able to swim. Call 941-505-8904.

SHELL CREEK BELOW THE DAM: Paddle Shell Creek below the dam Nov. 20, led by Florida Master Naturalists Jamie Reynolds and Jim Knoy. Participants must provide their own watercraft and be able to swim. Call 941-637-8284.

HIKE PRAIRIE CREEK PRESERVE: Join us Nov. 25 for a nature hike led by Florida Master Naturalists Jamie Reynolds and Jim Knoy. They will identify and explain the plants and

wildlife of this preserved area of pine flatwoods, scrub and riparian habitats. Call 941-637-8284.

KAYAK SHELL CREEK: Paddle the longer route of Shell Creek, up to the shallows and the Cypress Knee Garden, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 2 or Dec. 29. Our guide will be Master Naturalist Rick Fried, who knows this creek intimately. Participants must provide their own watercraft and be able to swim. Call 941-637-8805.

HIKE SHELL CREEK PRESERVE: Join us Dec. 4 for a guided nature walk in this protected preserve of pine flatwoods and scrub habitats. Florida Master Naturalists Jamie Reynolds and Jim Knoy will identify and explain the plants and animal life as we walk along. Call 941-637-8284.

KAYAK AND NATURE WALK: Want a little something more than just paddling a kayak? How about paddling over to a barrier island and enjoying a nature walk with an expert? We will launch at 9 a.m. Dec. 5 from the new Buck Creek launch site on Placida Road and go over to the south side of Stump Pass, about 4 miles round-trip. Our guide will be the popular biologist Dr. Bill Dunson. We will investigate an island lagoon and learn about barrier island plants and animals. Bring water, lunch and a shady hat. Call 941-423-2713.

KAYAK PRAIRIE CREEK: Paddle through streamside and cypress wetlands Dec. 9, led by Florida Master Naturalists Jamie Reynolds and Jim Knoy. Participants must provide their own watercraft and be able to swim. Call 941-637-8284.

HIKE MYAKKA STATE PARK: Join the fun from 9 a.m. to noon Dec. 18 as we walk a 3-mile loop in Myakka State Park with popular biologist Dr. Bill Dunson. Our walk will take us through a wet and dry riparian creek corridor. Dr. Dunson will point out plants and animals as we walk. Bring drinking water and a shady hat. Call 941-423-2713.

FOOTPRINTS TRAIL AT BABCOCK RANCH: This is one of our most popular hikes. Florida Master Naturalists Jamie Reynolds and Jim Knoy will identify and describe the plants and animals as we walk along on Dec. 19. Footprints Trail is a protected area of pine flatwoods, prairie and cypress swamp habitats. Call 941-637-8284.

BONEFISH & TARPON SYMPOSIUM

Join the Bonefish & Tarpon Trust Nov. 7 and 8 in Dania Beach, Fla., for two full days of fascinating presentations by the world's top tarpon, bonefish and permit biologists mixed with enjoyable fishing and casting clinics taught by some of the world's top anglers and instructors including Joan Wulff and Andy Mill. Other guests include Stu Apte, Bill Curtis, Will Benson, Ralph Delph, Steve Huff, Sandy Moret, Rick Ruoff and Mark Sosin. An all-access event pass, which includes the banquet and silent auction, Friday and Saturday day sessions, and film and art festival and cocktail hour, costs \$150. For more info or to register, visit <http://bit.ly/1yx3dLj>.

STA-5 BIRD TOUR

Through a partnership with Hendry-Glades Audubon, the South Florida Water Management District will offer escorted birding trips to Stormwater Treatment Area 5 (STA-5), located 27 miles south of Clewiston in eastern Hendry County. Trips are scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Nov. 8 & 22, and Dec. 13 & 27. No charge, though donations are gratefully accepted. Limited to 60

participants per trip; call 863-674-0695 to reserve.

TASTE OF THE ISLANDS

Sanibel's most popular festival is back for its 33rd year to celebrate three Sanibel signatures — community, cuisine and CROW — all in one fell swoop. Set to the tune of live bands, local restaurants will descend to The Dunes Golf & Tennis Club (949 Sand Castle Road, Sanibel) from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 9 with their most decadent delicacies and duke it out to earn top honors for their dish from our esteemed judges and the crowd. This annual fundraiser raises awareness and financial support for Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW), a 501(c)(3) organization that relies 100 percent on the philanthropic support of individuals, corporations and foundations. \$5 for adults; children 12 and under admitted free. Call 239-472-3644 for more info.

FISHING CLUB MEETS

The Englewood Fishing Club will hold its monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 13 at the Lemon Bay Park Environmental Center (570 Bay Park Blvd., Englewood). Capt. Jay Withers of Silver Lining Charters will be speaking on winter fishing with soft plastics. Admission is free and open to the public. For more info, go to EnglewoodFishingClub.net.

SAND SCULPTING COMPETITION

Siesta Key Public Beach (948 Beach Road, Sarasota) will host the Siesta Key Crystal Classic Master Sand Sculpting Competition Nov. 14-18. Two dozen master sand sculptors from around the world will compete. The five-day art event will include all-day viewing Friday through Tuesday; more than 50 vendors Friday through Monday; live entertainment noon Friday through Sunday; and an amateur sand sculptor contest on Saturday. Siesta Santa will be on his sand throne again this year, making a great photo op for next year's Christmas cards. \$6 per person; proceeds benefit Mote Marine Laboratory's sea turtle research and conservation programs. Also, "Taste of Siesta" will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. Nov. 15, featuring more than 15 local restaurants, an open bar and live music by Alli & the Venturas. Advance tickets will be \$40.

CHARLOTTE HARBOR NATURE FESTIVAL

This year's festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 22 at Charlotte Sports Park (2300 El Jobean Road, Port Charlotte). Free admission for all. Explore and learn about the natural environment of Southwest Florida through activities and exhibits for all ages, including more than 50 nature exhibits, Mote Mobile Exhibit and a Children's Discovery Zone. Guided walks through Tippecanoe Environmental Park will be conducted by trained CHEC volunteers at 10:30 am, noon and 1:30 pm. To learn more, visit CHNEP.org.

LEARN TO FLY FISH

CB's Saltwater Outfitters (1249 Stickney Point Road, Sarasota) will hold an Orvis-endorsed fly fishing school from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 22. Instructor Capt. Rick Grasset will cover fly casting basics, line control, shooting line, the roll cast, leader construction, fly selection and saltwater fly fishing techniques. Cost is \$150 per person and includes the use of Orvis fly tackle, a text book and lunch. Call 941-349-4400 for more info or to reserve a spot.

MOMS & TOTS IN NATURE

Bring the wee ones (ages 3 to 5) to Cedar Point Environmental Park (2300 Placida Road, Englewood) for a play day in nature. This free one-hour program allows moms, dads, grandparents and other caregivers a chance to experience the natural world of Florida with guided walks, puppets, crafts, stories, songs and more. Scheduled

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Flat-out scary



Flounder may not be the prettiest fish in the sea, but they sure are great on the table.

ANGLING 201 • CAPT. MIKE MYERS

So, tomorrow is Halloween, promoted all around the world as the scariest day of the year. Now I'm not one who's easily scared, but for some strange reason I'm drawn to scary things. I love to watch scary movies with my wife and kids (I feel safer with them nearby) and I truly enjoy scary rides like roller coasters and parasailing. Heck, I even look forward to haunted houses like Haunting on the Harbor, the one Jerry Cleffi hosts each year in Punta Gorda. You can bet your bottom dollar I'll be at that party Halloween night. It's pretty much a good old-fashioned shindig that just happens to have one heck of a scary haunted house — not that I'd get scared or anything, but I'll bring my wife and daughter just in case.

Considering my passion for putting folks on monster fish like tarpon, Goliath grouper and sharks, you wouldn't think there was much out there in our local waters that would make me quiver — but there is. Even though I'm very cautious with catfish, stingrays and toothy critters like mackerel, I'm not actually scared of them (I am scared of bluefish, but that's a story for another day). The one fish that pretty much always makes me think "that's creepy" is a well-known flat fish that has a violent set of chompers, a bad disposition, stalks its prey by blending in to its environment, and — most disturbing of all — has both eyes on one side of its head. I'm pretty sure you've already figured out what fish I'm talking about, but just in case you haven't, it's the tasty flounder.

Flounder are not usually a target species for most people, but rather a very welcomed surprise catch. Over the last five years or so, I've noticed that flounder have become more abundant in our local waters, especially in the spring and fall. It has gotten to the point now that they can be patterned and targeted with a pretty good success rate. The biggest tricks to bagging your fair share of flatties are knowing where to look for them, knowing what they like to eat, and knowing how to present your bait to make it irresistible.



Photos provided
This is a mud minnow, and it's flounder candy.

Flounder can be a very aggressive fish at times but they can also be very reluctant to take bait that's not presented right. Just always remember, flounder are ambush feeders that like to hide in plain sight, so present your bait like it's not worried about getting eaten.

So, where do flounder like to lurk? Flounder like sandy areas with some kind of structure nearby, be it a reef or a grassflat, that will make baitfish want to hang around. For you anglers who like to stay inside the Harbor, try tossing baits in and around the potholes in Turtle and Bull bays and fish the outside bars along Whorehouse Point and the east wall. Work your baits as close to the bottom as possible, even dragging them across the sand if you can.

For those of you who don't mind meandering out into the beautiful Gulf of Mexico, try working the sandy areas around your favorite offshore hangouts. If you don't have any good GPS numbers of your own, go pick yourself up a Hotspots map at any of our local tackle shops. These maps show ledges, reefs and hard bottom areas that tend to stay fishy, so they'll get you started on the right track for sure. Again, fish the sandy areas around the structures out there. Flounder will not be hiding behind a rock

or under a ledge. They will bury themselves in the sand around these areas, waiting for an unsuspecting baitfish to wander away from it. Then WHAM! — no more baitfish. Flat-out scary, right?

Flounder will take an array of different baits, but as with all fish they have their favorites. As far as artificials go, you really can't beat soft plastic baits. A 3-inch DOA paddletail on a jighead has shown to be deadly at catching flounder. I have found that brighter colors (pink, white and chartreuse) seem to get the most bites, but they'll take the darker color baits as well. When it comes to natural baits, nothing beats a live minnow. Greenbacks and small pinfish will do, but mud minnows are your best bet if you can get them. Shrimp and cutbait will get bites, but flounder are fish-eaters by nature. Go catch yourself some live bait and then go tear 'em up. Tight lines.

Capt. Mike Myers, owner and operator of Reelshark Charters, is a full-time Charlotte Harbor guide. Having fished the waters all along the Southwest Florida coast for more than 35 years, he has the experience to put anglers on the fish they want. His specialties are sharks, tarpon and Goliath grouper. For more info, visit ReelShark.com or call Capt. Mike at 941-416-8047.

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READER PHOTOS

Megan Gillman had fun catching and releasing this bonnethead shark near the Boca Grande trestle.



Ethel Croce caught her redfish on a greenback and then let it go.



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DO NOT send us photos of oversized or other release-only fish being poorly handled. Photos of such fish being gaffed, held by the lower jaw only or obviously damaged or dead **WILL NOT** be published, no matter how big the fish or how proud the angler may be.



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Tom Hickey's 'cuda ate a live bait trolled off Gasparilla.



Kallie Williams of Warren, Pa., landed this small nurse shark off Englewood Beach on a good day of fishing.



Bryan Gillman caught and released this pepper-speckled bonnethead shark.

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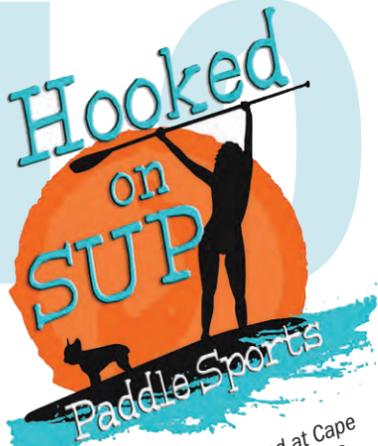
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READER PHOTOS

Don Ross of Punta Gorda with a king he caught while trolling a live bait off Gasparilla.



Dotty Kern caught and released this big whiting at Middle Beach.



Jim Crawley caught and released this 37-inch Charlotte Harbor snook.

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20' 2007 Starcraft Deck Boat: In great shape, just detailed, new batteries, Lowrance GPS/FF, lots of seating and storage. Powered by a recently serviced four stroke 115 HP Mercury outboard. Asking \$14,900 or best offer. Call Ray Mason 941-505-7269



21'5" 1991 Wellcraft WAC, 2000 150 HP Yamaha, Power Trim, New Fuel Tank, Low Hrs! Galv. Trailer, \$6,000.

Pier One YACHT SALES

Crystal Cay Center 941-639-6603 WWW.CRYSTALCAY.COM 4225 Taylor Road, PG



20'5 2002 SEA-DOO UTOPIA JET BOAT, 240HP, Galvanized Trailer, Bimini, Cover, Radio, DF, Seats 8. Excellent Condition! \$10,000. obo 941-743-8408 or 941-204-8618



21' 2001 Bayliner Bow Rider w/ 5.0 Mercruiser. Blow Out Price \$4990.00 Bimini Top with boot. She has Plenty Of Seating. Clean Boat with very little use. Mercruiser V8 Runs Good!



2005 18' SWEETWATER PONTOON BOAT 40HP, 100 Running Hours On Motor, New Fish Finder & Marine Radio \$9,200 863-558-6124



21' 2001 Sea Fox Center Console w/ 135hp Johnson. \$10,990. Excellent open bow w/ room for fishing. Bimini Top, Good seating. Incl. a Trailer. Was rack stored and engine was gone thru last year.



21' 1998 Century Bay Boat \$10,999 Orion Wholean (941) 249-0177 View All our inventory @ McCallMarineSales.com Licensed Yacht Broker



22' 1976 Aquasport 222 \$14,999 Call Orion Wholean (941) 249-0177 VIEW ALL OUR INVENTORY @ McCallMarineSales.com Licensed Yacht Broker



21' 2000 Sea Swirl Center Console \$10,999 Call Orion Wholean (941) 249-0177 McCallMarineSales.com Licensed Yacht Broker



22' 1995 Privateer CC Johnson 150hp \$15,990. Very Low hrs. Drafts Only 10"! Rides like a dream thru the waves. Incl. Live Well, Raised Console, Hydraulic Steering, Color Chart Plotter GPS. Comes w/ Dual axle trailer & T-Top. Ready to Fish!

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WaterLine WEEKLY MAGAZINE every Thursday, Only in the



22' 2013 SEA HUNT ESCAPE 211 LE \$32,750 Meagan McCall 941-268-3198 View all our inventory @ McCallMarineSales.com Lic Yacht Broker

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This 27-inch snook was a nice birthday surprise for Riley Hollingsworth of Gettysburg, Pa., even though he had to release it.

WE WANT YOUR PHOTOS!

Here's how it works: Take pictures of your outdoor adventures. Send your high-quality digital photos to Editor@WaterLineWeekly.com, or send prints by snail mail to WaterLine, 23170 Harborview Road, Port Charlotte, FL 33980, ATTN: Lee Anderson. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want your prints returned to you.

DO NOT send us photos of oversized or other release-only fish being poorly handled. Photos of such fish being gaffed, held by the lower jaw only or obviously damaged or dead **WILL NOT** be published, no matter how big the fish or how proud the angler may be.



Ryan Jones of Atlanta caught his first red grouper back in August. Although a shark took a nibble as he was reeling it in, the 28-inch fish still yielded some good fillets.



Andy Syruws caught this hogfish in 70 feet of water off Stump Pass on his second day in Southwest Florida.

Call 941-429-3110 to list your boat today!



BOATERS' BARGAINS



22' 2014 Elete Pontoon \$12,999 Call Orion Wholean (941) 249-0177

See all our inventory: McCallMarineSales.com

McCall Marine Sales



22' 1989 Proline Center Console w/1996 Johnson 200hp \$6990.00 In Very clean condition. Aluminum Trailer, live Well. Fish Boxes. Motor Runs Smooth. Ready to fish. Bow Dodger, Bimini Top.

BAYSHORE MARINE 941-627-5777 bayshoremarinefl.com



24' AQUASPORT 1998 CENTER CONSOLE W/ FIBERGLASS T-TOP, 225HP JOHNSON, \$16,900 RUNS & LOOKS GREAT! 941-505-8138



24' 1997 Play Time Pontoon, 50HP Yamaha, Bimini, Good Deck, New Carpet, No Trailer \$2,500.

Crystal Cay Center
941-639-6603
WWW.CRYSTALCAY.COM
4225 Taylor Road, PG



22' 2006 Crest w/ a 50hp Four Stroke Suzuki & trailer for \$11,990.00. Nice boat! Fresh Water Used Only 100hrs, Very Nice & comfortable Seats, Plenty of storage, and a Full Cover. Strong Running Motor. Great for Enjoying the Harbor. Comes With trailer.

BAYSHORE MARINE 941-627-5777 bayshoremarinefl.com



23' 1998 BAYLINER 2252 CIERA Express Cruiser \$9,900 Call Meagan McCall 941-268-3198

McCallMarineSales.com Licensed Yacht Broker

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23' 1998 Sea Ray 230 Bow Rider. V8 Mercrusier, Tandem Alum trailer. Sale price \$6900.00 Lots Of Seating. Fiberglass Floor. Only 434hrs. Comes w/ nice Tandem Alum. Trlr Canvas Covers, Anchor, Radio & Bimini are incl..

BAYSHORE MARINE 941-627-5777 bayshoremarinefl.com



24' 2003 SWEETWATER CHALLENGER \$9,900
MEAGAN McCALL (941) 268-3198 VIEW ALL OUR INVENTORY @ McCallMarineSales.com Licensed Yacht Broker

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24' 2004 VECTRA S-221 DECK BOAT \$14,499
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24' 2008 SEA RAY 240 SUNDANCER 44,900
MEAGAN McCALL 941-268-3198 VIEW ALL OUR INVENTORY @ McCallMarineSales.com Licensed Yacht Broker

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24' 2011 SEA RAY \$51,900
MEGAN McCALL 941-268-3198 VIEW ALL OUR INVENTORY @ McCallMarineSales.com Licensed Yacht Broker

McCall Marine Sales



24' 2014 Sea Hunt BX 24 \$69,900 Meagan McCall at 941-268-3198 VIEW ALL OUR INVENTORY @ McCallMarineSales.com Lic Yacht Broker

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23' 2002 Playtime Deck Boat w/ 150 Merc, Bimini, Radio, Rod Holders. Exc. Cond! No Trailer. \$8,200.

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WWW.CRYSTALCAY.COM
4225 Taylor Road, PG



23' 2005 RINKER CAPTIVA BOWRIDER \$24,500
RICHARD HORSTE (941) 456-4001 VIEW ALL OUR INVENTORY McCallMarineSales.com Lic Yacht Broker

McCall Marine Sales



23'10" 2005 Coastal Bay By Action Craft. 225hp Mercury Opti Max. \$38,990.00 Dual Station Tower, Porta Potty Rm. Seat Cushions, Covers. Storage, 2 Large Live Wells, Large Screen GPS, SS Propeller.

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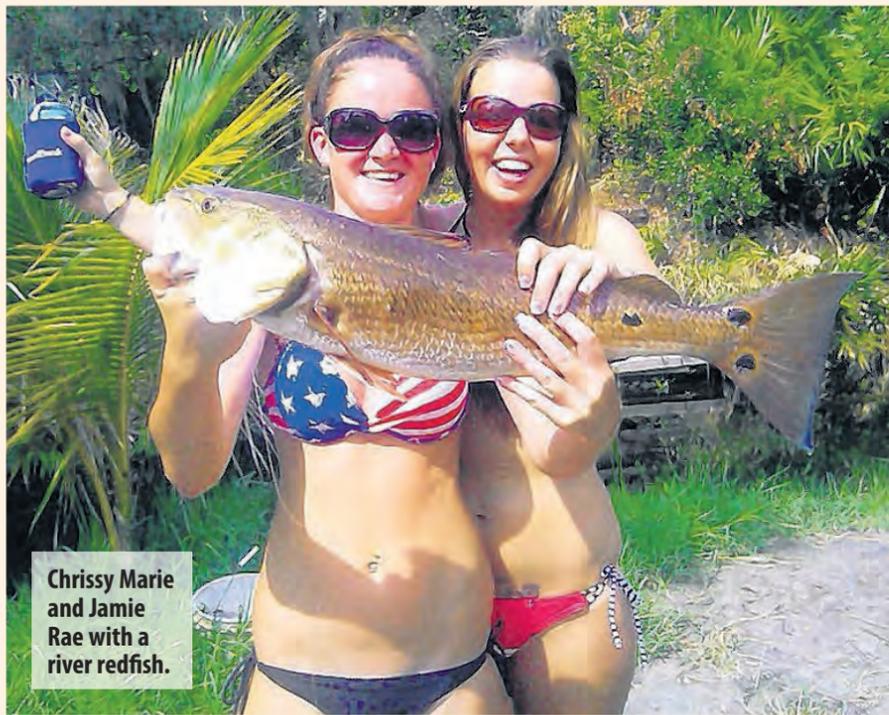


WaterLine WEEKLY MAGAZINE
Got a boat to sell?
Call 941-429-3110

READER PHOTOS



After trying for two years, Mary Lathrope finally got a slot snook for the dinner table.



Chrissy Marie and Jamie Rae with a river redfish.



8-year-old Frank Planer caught and released this beautiful Charlotte Harbor redfish.



Call 941-429-3110 to list your boat today!

BOATERS' BARGAINS



24' 9" 2001 Glastron 249 with Volvo V8 Just Reduced! \$10990.00 Very Clean, Ready For Overnight or even day cruises. Comfortable seating. Fresh water with sink. Full Stand Up head. Aft Cabin Sleeps Four. Call For More Info.

BAYSHORE MARINE 941-627-5777 bayshoremarinefl.com



26' Pursuit Denali 2670: Excellent condition, T-200 Yamaha four strokes w/285 hrs, hardtop w/enclosure, windlass, elec. head, Garmin GPS and fishfinder. Asking \$68,500.

Call Cpt. Bob Babineau, 941-626-1329

Pier One YACHT SALES



25' 1997 STAMAS 250 TARPON \$29,900 Meagan McCall (941) 268-3198 VIEW ALL OUR INVENTORY @

McCallMarineSales.com Licensed Yacht Broker

McCall Marine Sales



26' 2002 Regal Commadore 2655 With Low Hrs Great Price @ \$17,990.00 Lots of good stuff on this boat. Aft Cabin, Full Stand Up Head. Fresh Water. Generator. Need Some TLC Books Over 35k. Top Quality boat. Make an offer today!

BAYSHORE MARINE 941-627-5777 bayshoremarinefl.com



25' 2013 BOSTON WHALER OUTRAGE \$110,000 Richard Horste (941) 456-4001 VIEW ALL OUR INVENTORY @

McCallMarineSales.com Lic Yacht Broker

McCall Marine Sales



27' 1993 Chaparral Signature 27 \$10,999 Call Orion Wholean (941) 249-0177

McCallMarineSales.com Licensed Yacht Broker

McCall Marine Sales



25'1" 2004 Proline Walk Around Cuddy With Nice Honda 225hp Just Reduced! ~~\$27,999~~-\$23,900. GREAT SHAPE! Like New! 300hrs. Chart plotter GPS with Sonar. Hard Top, A/C! Comes w/Aluminum trailer.

BAYSHORE MARINE 941-627-5777 bayshoremarinefl.com



27' 2000 Rinker Fiesta Vee: Generator, new 5.7L Mercruiser engine in 2011, engine flush system, walk through w/s, just detailed. Asking \$27,900. Call Ray Mason, 941-505-7269

ray@pieroneyachtsales.com

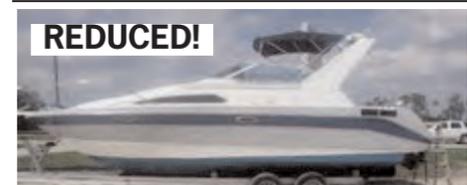
Pier One YACHT SALES



26' 1997 SHAMROCK 260 EXPRESS \$39,900 Richard Horste 941-456-4001 VIEW ALL OUR INVENTORY @

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27' BAYLINER CABIN CRUISER - 1989 351 Ford V-8 with Cobra drive, bimini top, new bottom paint. \$7,849 Trl. Extra

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26' 1997 Splendor Cat Deck Boat. With 200hp Saltwater Series. \$13990. Great shape, Tons of seating. Porta Potty Room. SS Prop. Low hrs!. Trailer. Coast Guard Equip. & Full Custom Covers. Ready for fun in the sun!

BAYSHORE MARINE 941-627-5777 bayshoremarinefl.com



28' Boston Whaler Conquest 2000, T/250HP, Yamaha's, A/C, genset, Furuno radar, color fish finder, Northstar GPS chart, Standard Horizon VHF, Clarion CD/stereo, Simpson Lawrence windless, twin spotlights, outriggers, custom canvas, pristine condition, \$69,000, 941-966-5400



26' 2012 Sea Ray Sundeck \$69,900 Meagan McCall (941) 268-3198 VIEW ALL OUR INVENTORY @

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28' TOPAZ SPORTFISH Twin 305 Merc Inboards, Power Anchor, Low Hrs. VHF Radio, GPS FF, A/C In Cabin Power Head & Holding Tank. Solid Boat, Lift Kept 20 years. \$10,300 941-473-9581



26' CHRIS CRAFT CROWN, Rebuilt engine, good canvas, great trailer, 1996 at \$13,500 call Mike at 941 412 6430 Or the office at 941-833-0099 Punta Gorda Yacht Brokers



28' 1991 Sea Ray Weekender: Two rebuilt Mercs with low hours, large cockpit for fishing, new interior upholstery. Asking \$23,900. Ray Mason, 941-505-7269 ray@pieroneyachtsales.com

Pier One YACHT SALES

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Want to be in the Bulletin Board? Send your event to Editor@WaterLineWeekly.com

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 14

for Nov. 24 and Dec. 29. Registration required; call 941-475-0769. Sponsored by Mosaic Company Foundation.

CAPE CORAL SAILING CLUB MEETS

Sail and power boaters are invited to join the Cape Coral Sailing Club at their meetings. Get to know them and their events, from cruises in the waters of Southwest Florida to luncheons at

boat-friendly restaurants in Cape Coral, Fort Myers and Fort Myers Beach. Meetings will be held at the Cape Coral Yacht Club (5819 Driftwood Parkway, Cape Coral) from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Nov. 26 and Dec. 24. Call 508-667-7677 for more info.

FREE WILDLIFE SEMINARS

Are you interested in learning about the native and exotic species found in Cape Coral and Southwest Florida? Enjoy free seminars from 1 to 2 p.m. at Rotary Park Environmental Center (5505 Rose Garden Road, Cape Coral). Burrowing owls, Dec. 4; snakes, Dec. 15. RSVP in advance at 239-549-4606.

ONGOING EVENTS

VOLUNTEER AT SHAMROCK PARK: Shamrock Park Nature Center (3900 Shamrock Drive, Venice) holds its monthly volunteer work mornings from 8 to 10 a.m. on the third Friday of each month. As abilities and interests allow, volunteer tasks may include trash collection along trails and within vegetated areas of the park, light trimming along paved multiuse trail, organization of storage areas, exotic plant removal and other maintenance tasks. Long pants, closed-toe shoes, sun protection, and plenty of drinking water are recommended. Park staff will provide trash collection buckets/bags, pickers, gloves, and other tools as necessary. Meet at the Shamrock Park Environmental Center. For more information, call Jennifer Rogers at 941-861-5000 or email her at jrogers@scgov.net.

FISHING CLUB MEETINGS: The Gulf Cove Fishing Club meets on the second Monday of the month October through May at the Hope Lutheran Church in Gulf Cove (14200 Hopewell Ave., Port Charlotte) at 7 p.m. At each meeting, a speaker will talk on a timely topic. In addition to the meetings, the club holds a monthly fishing tournament and a monthly picnic. For more info, call 941-698-8607.

FREE SAFETY CHECKS IN VENICE: The Coast Guard Auxiliary conducts free vessel safety checks every Saturday morning from 8:30 to 11:45 a.m. at the Venice boat ramp (200 N. Seaboard Ave., Venice). They'll make sure the safety equipment mandated by federal and state regulations is on board. If an inspected vessel is found to be safe, a "Seal of Safety" is affixed to it. For more info or to schedule an appointment, call Patrick Wheeler at 941-412-1026.

CHARLOTTE HARBOR MULTIHULL ASSOCIATION: Members of this club for multihull owners, sailors or those who are interested in the exchange of ideas about equipping and sailing boats, share information about anchorages and cruising destinations, hold informal races that help to improve their sailing ability, and have local raft-ups. No dues. The club meets at the Celtic Ray (145 E Marion Ave., Punta Gorda) on the first Monday of each month at 6 p.m. For more information, call 941-876-6667.

KORESHAN STATE HISTORIC SITE STROLL: Walk or bike the historic site (3800 Corkscrew Road, Estero). Park fee is \$2 for walk or bike; \$4 for single-occupant vehicle; \$5 for two to eight occupants vehicle and \$2 for each additional person over eight per vehicle. Call 239-992-0311 for more information.

SARASOTA FITNESS WALKS: Join Sarasota County Parks staff each Friday for a fitness walk through Rothenbach Park (8650 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota) from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. The pace will be geared toward fitness, aiming for a 20-minute-mile pace. The walk will cover approximately three miles in one hour of brisk walking. Enjoy the beautiful scenery and wildlife,

but keep up the pace. Wear appropriate workout clothing, including good walking shoes, and bring your water bottle. Meet in the pavilion near the playground. Call 941-861-5000.

WHAT'S THAT BIRD?: Volunteer bird interpreters share their expertise on ID and behavior of raptors, shorebirds, waterfowl and other avian visitors at Myakka River State Park (13208 S.R. 72, Sarasota). Volunteers set up scopes and help people identify birds from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every day of the week.

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MEETS: The Cocoloba Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society meets from 7 to 9 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at the Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium (3450 Ortiz Ave., Fort Myers). Meetings are free and the public is welcome. For more info, call 239-275-3435.

HANG OUT WITH SCRUB JAYS: Spend the morning with the scrub jays at Oscar Scherer State Park (1843 S. Tamiami Trail, Osprey) from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. every Sunday. This unique Central Florida experience includes a nature walk to see the park's diverse ecosystems, native flora and fauna. Call 941-483-5956 for more info.

SIX MILE CYPRESS SLOUGH PRESERVE: Take a leisurely stroll on our fully accessible boardwalk trail anytime dawn to dusk (7791 Penzance Blvd., Fort Myers). Visit our Interpretive Center to learn more about the plants and animals that live in the Slough or just talk to a friendly volunteer. The center is open Tuesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Parking is \$1 per hour per vehicle. Reservations not required. No groups of eight or more. For more info call 239-533-7550 or visit LeeParks.org/SixMile.

BIRD WALK AT LAKES PARK: A bird patrol guide will lead an easy walk along clear paths of Lakes Regional Park (7330 Gladiolus Drive, Fort Myers) at 8:30 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month. This free nature walk offers an opportunity to see birds in natural vegetation as your guide points out the many species in what is a birding hot spot and crucial nesting area for many birds. Arrive at 8 a.m. at Shelter A7 for a brief intro and sign-in. Wear comfortable shoes and dress for outdoors. Bring water, hat, sunscreen, binoculars and camera. Call 239-533-7580 for more info.

BOTTOM TIME DIVE CLUB: This Punta Gorda-based SCUBA club meets on the third Tuesday of each month. Call 941-740-4245 or visit BottomTimeDiveClub.net.

BIRD WALK: Search for Florida scrub jays, eastern towhees, brown thrashers, and other pine flatwoods species with the Venice Area Audubon Society every Thursday at Oscar Scherer State Park (1843 S. Tamiami Trail, Osprey). Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Nature Center. Two miles walking on sand trails. For more info, call Joyce Leary at 508-737-8954.

LOCAL BOATING SAFETY PROGRAMS

U.S. POWER SQUADRONS

SARASOTA POWER SQUADRON — 941-400-6467

Junior Navigation.....7 p.m. Nov. 4
Basic Weather & Forecasting.....7 p.m. Nov. 6
Sail Trim.....6:30 p.m. Nov. 20

VENICE SAIL & POWER SQUADRON — 941-408-8591

Boating Safety.....Nov. 15, 22 & 29

PEACE RIVER SAIL & POWER SQUADRON — 941-637-0766

Weather.....9:30 a.m. Nov. 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27

CAPE CORAL POWER SQUADRON — 239-549-9754

Call for a schedule of upcoming courses.

— Provided by Greg Scotten

COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

PROGRAM	DATES	LOCATION	CONTACT
Boating Skills & Seamanship	Nov. 3	Sarasota	215-317-5167
How to Read A Nav Chart	Nov. 4	Punta Gorda	941-639-3811
Navigating with GPS	Nov. 6	Venice	941-492-5904
Navigating with GPS	Nov. 8	North Port	941-223-9064
Navigating with GPS	Nov. 11	Punta Gorda	941-639-3811
About Boating Safely	Nov. 16	Fort Myers	239-322-7089
Boating Skills & Seamanship	Nov. 20	Fort Myers	239-322-7089

— Provided by Dave Nielsen

Call 941-429-3110 to list your boat today!



BOATERS' BARGAINS



28' 2001 SEA SPRITE aft cabin, 310 dual prop AC, GPS, bridge enclosure, electric head, full galley, 45 mph, only 125 hrs. lift kept. Excellent condition. ~~\$28,500.~~ \$22,500 941-639-7890.



31' CATALINA 309 With plotter, wind, AC, TWO mainsail systems, 2007. \$79,500 Call Jim 941-740-0389 PUNTA GORDA YACHT BROKERS



28' 2008 FOUR WINNS V278 \$64,900 Richard Horste (941) 456-4001 McCallMarineSales.com Licensed Yacht Broker



32' ERICSON SLOOP 1989 with Yanmar 3GM30 and many upgrades \$32,900 call Tod at 941-457-0131 PUNTA GORDA YACHT BROKERS

McCall Marine Sales



29' 2002 Boston Whaler Conquest: Loaded, generator, T-225HP Mercs, upscale interior, full galley, sleeps four, outriggers, much more. Asking \$72,900. Ray Mason, 941-505-7269 ray@pieroneyachtsales.com Pier One YACHT SALES



33' 1995 SEA RAY SUNDANCER 330 \$32,500 Well Maintained! Contact Richard Horst 941-456-4001 McCallMarineSales.com Licensed Yacht Broker

McCall Marine Sales



JUST REDUCED!!

29' 6" REGAL COMMODORE 2002 Twin IO, AC, Radar, GPS, Canvas Camper Covers. Electric Toilet, TV, VCR, Windless, Generator. Loaded. \$32,000 OBO 508-942-4600.



33' CHRIS CRAFT 333 SEDAN \$34,995. Call Ed at 941-628-0167 Or the office at 941-833-0099 Punta Gorda Yacht Brokers



30' 2001 PROLINE 30 EXPRESS \$34,500 Contact Richard Horst 941-456-4001 McCallMarineSales.com Licensed Yacht Broker



33' NONSUCH \$84,995 Call Ed at 941-628-0167 Or the office at 941-833-0099 PUNTA GORDA YACHT BROKERS

McCall Marine Sales



30' 1988 Cruiser, Twin 350's, 10' Beam, Full Cabin, Bimini, GPS, 2 FFs, Marine Radio. Lots of Potential! \$14,900.

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33' 2006 Regal Express Cruiser: Well equipped with Kohler generator, super clean and well maintained. Maintenance has been a priority with this original owner. Asking \$72,000. Ray Mason, 941-505-7269 ray@pieroneyachtsales.com Pier One YACHT SALES



30' 1997 Doral 300 SC \$29,900 Call Meagan McCall (941) 268-3198 View all our inventory @ McCallMarineSales.com Lic. Yacht Broker



33' HUNTER 1996 With walkthrough, diesel, roller furling, dodger and more \$49,995 Call Tod at 941-457-0131 Or the office at 941-833-0099 PUNTA GORDA YACHT BROKERS

McCall Marine Sales



31' 1977 Silverton Sedan Bridge: Two rebuilt engines w/100hrs, outriggers, new upholstery, new bottom paint, great Gulf fishing vessel for under \$10,000. Asking \$8500. Call Ray Mason 941-505-7269 or ray@pieroneyachtsales.com Pier One YACHT SALES



34' 1999 PURSUIT EXPRESS \$124,500 RICHARD HORSTE (941) 456-4001 VIEW ALL OUR INVENTORY McCallMarineSales.com Licensed Yacht Broker

McCall Marine Sales

READER PHOTOS

Darrienne Marotta caught and released this huge redfish unharmed while visiting from Tampa.



Rock Gilbert caught and released this 4.5-foot Goliath grouper while fishing with GSW Charters. The fish took 45 minutes to beat and broke an "unbreakable" rod in the process.



KINGFISH IN CIDER

4 kingfish steaks, about 6 ounces each
 1/4 pint apple cider
 2 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed
 2 tomatoes, ripe, skinned, and chopped
 Juice and rind of 1 orange
 Handful fresh parsley, chopped
 Half handful fresh basil leaves, bruised

Place the kingfish steaks in an ovenproof dish and top with the other ingredients. Leave in the fridge for about 30 minutes. Heat the oven to 375°F and bake kingfish covered for about 20 minutes. Serves 4.

A clip-n-save seafood recipe provided by



— Recipe adapted from All-Fish-Seafood-Recipes.com

SOLUNAR TABLES

What is a solunar table? The sun and moon, even when they are out of sight, exert forces wild creatures can feel. These forces affect when fish and other animals feed. Weather and tide also play a role, but expect fish to be more active during the major and minor solunar times.

THURSDAY
 Sunrise: 07:37
 Sunset: 18:47
 Moonrise: 13:37
 Moonset: 00:01
Moon Phase
 First quarter
Major Times
 06:51 - 08:51
 19:19 - 21:19
Minor Times
 00:01 - 01:01
 13:37 - 14:37
Prediction: Average

FRIDAY
 Sunrise: 07:38
 Sunset: 18:46
 Moonrise: 14:23
 Moonset: 01:02
Moon Phase
 56% waxing gibbous
Major Times
 07:46 - 09:46
 20:13 - 22:13
Minor Times
 01:02 - 02:02
 14:23 - 15:23
Prediction: Average

SATURDAY
 Sunrise: 07:38
 Sunset: 18:45
 Moonrise: 15:08
 Moonset: 02:04
Moon Phase
 67% waxing gibbous
Major Times
 08:39 - 10:39
 21:06 - 23:06
Minor Times
 02:04 - 03:04
 15:08 - 16:08
Prediction: Average

SUNDAY
 Sunrise: 06:38
 Sunset: 17:44
 Moonrise: 14:51
 Moonset: 02:06
Moon Phase
 78% waxing gibbous
Major Times
 08:32 - 10:32
 20:58 - 22:58
Minor Times
 02:06 - 03:06
 14:51 - 15:51
Prediction: Average

MONDAY
 Sunrise: 06:39
 Sunset: 17:44
 Moonrise: 15:34
 Moonset: 03:09
Moon Phase
 87% waxing gibbous
Major Times
 09:25 - 11:25
 21:51 - 23:51
Minor Times
 03:09 - 04:09
 15:34 - 16:34
Prediction: Average

TUESDAY
 Sunrise: 06:40
 Sunset: 17:43
 Moonrise: 16:16
 Moonset: 04:11
Moon Phase
 94% waxing gibbous
Major Times
 10:17 - 12:17
 22:44 - 00:44
Minor Times
 04:11 - 05:11
 16:16 - 17:16
Prediction: Good

WEDNESDAY
 Sunrise: 06:40
 Sunset: 17:42
 Moonrise: 17:00
 Moonset: 05:14
Moon Phase
 98% waxing gibbous
Major Times
 11:10 - 13:10
 23:37 - 01:37
Minor Times
 05:14 - 06:14
 17:00 - 18:00
Prediction: Better

Call 941-429-3110 to list your boat today!



BOATERS' BARGAINS



34' MAINSHIP MARK 3, PERKINS DIESEL
 Genset, AC and more \$43,900 call Tommy 941-769-2594
 Or the office at 941-833-0099
PUNTA GORDA YACHT BROKERS



Feel Free Moken 12 Angler Kayak. New kayak: 12'7" long, 56 lbs, unit-track quick release system for custom fishing accessories. Kingfisher seat, Wheel in the keel for easy transport. \$1099. 941-966-5477 A Silent Sports Outfitter



40' SCHUCKER MOTOR SAILER
 85hp diesel, 3 roller systems, much more \$92K call Jim 941 740 03899
 Or the office at 941-833-0099
PUNTA GORDA YACHT BROKERS



Jackson Big Rig Kayak
 Designed for standup fishing with incredible stability. \$1499. (300 kayaks in stock)
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PEACE RIVER WILDLIFE CENTER • ROBIN JENKINS, DVM

When duty calls ...

Trick, or treat? That is the question that runs through my mind every time my phone rings. Especially on those rare occasions when I am not at work at Peace River Wildlife Center. Sometimes it is a relatively benign question from one of the rehabbers like, "Where do we order crane chow from? We are completely out of it." (They never say, "We're running low" — it always has to be a scramble!) Inevitably the next phone call will be, "What can we feed the cranes until the crane chow comes in?"

And, yes, crane chow is a thing — a specially formulated pelleted food that we feed our resident sandhill cranes. The answer, by the way, is Crossties Farm and Garden in Punta Gorda. They have been supplying PRWC with not only crane chow, but bird seed, hay and numerous other staples for more than 10 years. And they usually don't even snicker anymore when we call them with questions like, "Is crane chow more like Dog Chow or Kitten Chow? Or Cheerios?"

Those are the questions I look forward to. Many times the first question from the disembodied voice on the other end of the phone is, "Are you busy?" That never ends well. A recent phone call that started with that inquiry was a doozy. I knew I was in for trouble when the rehabber on duty wasn't even the one calling, but had somehow talked the volunteer in the office into calling me. That poor guy. Apparently there was a baby raccoon stuck on the roof at Lowe's in Port Charlotte. Was I busy? I have been advised by the editor that I cannot report on the exact nature of my response. Suffice it to say that I threw some rescue equipment in the car and headed OTB (over the bridge) anyway.

Luckily for me, unluckily for him, my husband

was trying to nap on the sofa in front of a bad football game. None of our favorite teams are having exactly stellar seasons this year, so they are almost all bad games lately. When we arrived at Lowe's, my favorite Charlotte County Animal Control officer, Ronelle Moore, was already on scene. It turns out there were five baby raccoons and a mother on the roof. One had fallen into the garden department earlier and had climbed up the chain link fence in the far corner of the store and seemed to be stuck there, not knowing how to get down or back to where mom and the siblings were.

Ronelle had been successful in getting one other baby off the roof, into a net, and transferred to a carrier. Raccoons being as smart as they are, that was not going to work a second time. The mother was there splitting her time between the three babies still on the roof and the one in the carrier directly below. The baby in the far corner at the top of the fence was seemingly not on her radar at the moment, so that is where we headed next. An extension ladder was provided and I shimmed up, grabbed that baby, and handed it down to Ronelle.

Sounds simple, right? It was not. First I had to convince Lowe's safety officer that I knew what I was doing, wouldn't fall, and wouldn't sue them if I did. Then I had to convince myself of the first two things. Have I mentioned lately that I suffer from acrophobia — an irrational fear of heights? Although in my own defense, I don't really see how being leery of climbing a rickety ladder to wrestle with a wild animal could be considered irrational. The Lowe's employees and well-intentioned bystanders were not vaccinated against rabies, so they couldn't handle the raccoon. Even though babies this young are

not really at risk of the disease, raccoons are Florida's top rabies vector species and should always be handled as such.

After tripping over some crazy rope that was intertwined with the ladder rungs and the sales label that was attached halfway up the ladder, I made it up to the baby. That was when everyone started yelling that the mother raccoon was headed my way. The baby had a remarkably strong grip on the fence and was just out of reach, but I finally pried him loose and gently tossed him into Ronelle's waiting net below. Meanwhile the chorus of "Here she comes!" was getting ever louder. I couldn't look up — I surely didn't want to stare a mad mama coon in the face. And I couldn't look down — never look down! I just picked my way back down through the impediments as quickly as I could and listened to Cat Stevens serenade me in my mind with "Oh, baby, baby, it's a wild world."

We placed the two captured babies in the woods at the edge of the parking lot and mama followed, leading them away from the store. That is when Casey McVey from Assurance Wildlife Trapping showed up. We moved the ladder next to the area where the remaining three babies were hunkered down, and he weaved his way through the overhanging tarps to grab them and hand them down to us. He made it look so easy. Of course, the little tykes were tired out by then (probably from laughing at our antics.) The last of the babies were reunited with mom and the family lived happily ever after. Or not. All I know is that they did not end up back on Lowe's roof the next night. And don't think for a minute that I wasn't worried about that happening.

I couldn't look up —
I didn't want to stare a
mad coon in the face.
And I couldn't look down
— never look down!

Kudos to Ronelle and all the CCAC officers for helping with wildlife emergencies, even though their job is to provide service to companion animals and protect people. A big thanks to Casey, who obviously knows his way around a ladder and isn't afraid to use it. Most importantly, I want to point out that Lowe's closed down a large portion of their garden center for a couple hours while we orchestrated the removal of the raccoon family. It's so gratifying when the whole community works together. What a treat! Which reminds me, stop by PRWC in costume during our normal business hours of 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Halloween for a special treat.

Peace River Wildlife Center is a nonprofit organization, dedicated to the care, preservation and protection of Charlotte County's native wildlife since 1978. They are open seven days a week year-round, including holidays. Tours are offered from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. PRWC receives no government funding and relies entirely on private donations. For more info, or if you would like to volunteer or make a donation (including aluminum cans), visit PeaceRiverWildlifeCenter.com, email PeaceRiverWildlife@yahoo.com or call 941-637-3830.



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Still looking for the right rod



TOURNAMENT BASSIN' • GREG BARTZ

Photo provided
The right gear is a personal choice for every angler.

Three months ago I broke a rod in a fishing tournament. I still have not found a suitable replacement to put my reel on. While the reel is sitting collecting dust and spiders on a workbench in the garage, I continue my hunt for the best worm rod I can find.

I have always been a huge fan of the Daiwa rods. I used them for years and very seldom did I ever break one. When I did, they were awesome about replacing it. I know Bass Pro Shops carries many different rod brands, including Daiwa — but for some reason, I simply have not been able to pull the trigger on selecting one. I think I have gotten to the point that I've held every rod in my hand, and they've started to all feel the same. There are also new rod manufacturers on the market today that I have never heard of, and that makes it harder to choose.

I would love to take my favorite ones from the store to the lake, cast them all and catch a fish on each of them just to see how they feel. But we know no one is going to allow me to do that. I have a specific length and action I'm

looking for, coupled with a price that makes sense. Those requirements, along with some indecision on my part, have made it tough to commit to buying one.

I have my final tournament of the year coming up in November, when we go down to Okeechobee to fish our classic tournament. Let's be real here — I have not torn up the club by any stretch of the imagination this season. As a matter of fact, I have caught fewer fish this year than any other year since I have been tournament fishing. Not only has my quantity been down, but outside of one or two bass that topped 5 pounds, I have not put a dent in the quality of bass either. So purchasing this rod is almost my way of saying, "This is going to fix my productivity."

We all know that a fishing rod itself does not catch fish, no matter how great it is. The angler, or in my case the idiot holding the rod, has a great influence on what is happening. I guess I'm hoping that some newer equipment will give me a sense of ... something, and

that it will help me put more and bigger fish in the boat. OK, call me whatever you'd like, but when I have some new fishing equipment in my hand it makes me more confident. Based on that logic, I should have been buying things months ago to help me out of my slump, right?

Call it a mindset. Everyone has that one thing that makes them more confident. Actually, if I really wanted confidence, I would trade the truck and the boat in and buy brand new ones. That might lead to divorce, though, so that option is out. The rod is a known item that needs to be replaced, so I can do that without getting in trouble. Hopefully, that will put me in a place mentally that gives me my edge back. Right now, my edge is somewhat dull.

So back to my selection process. I think it's time I stick with my initial instincts, bite the bullet on price and get what I want in a Daiwa rod. They have long been my favorite, they have everything I want in a rod, and they stand behind their equipment. The only reason they didn't replace this one is because

I had it so long that they stopped making it years ago. In fact, since I bought that rod, two other models have held the same spot in their lineup. Did I mention I hardly ever get rid of anything? Usually I use it until it breaks. That's just how I am. I get comfortable with something and hold onto it.

My next trip to Bass Pro Shops will lead to a new rod. Maybe I just needed to vent my shopping frustrations. Maybe I need to stop being so picky and do what needs to be done. Wow — no offense, ladies, but I sound like a woman picking out shoes to go with a dress. After raising three stepdaughters, I can say that. Maybe I am just getting fussy now that I've crossed the great five-oh mark in age. One way or another, I will have a new rod before the next week is out.

Greg Bartz is a tournament bass fisherman based in Lakeland. Greg fishes lakes throughout Florida's Heartland with his wife and tournament partner, Missy Snapp. Contact him at Greg.Bartz@SummitHoldings.com.

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