

TRAVEL

# 'Tourists don't like unpredictability'

Higher fuel prices have some scaling back their plans

**RIO YAMAT**  
AP Airlines and Travel Writer

As someone who is "not the best person with bugs and stuff," Stephanie Bernaba never imagined herself becoming an outdoorsy mom.

But the mother of three is getting more daring as gas prices and other travel costs make vacations more expensive. Her family has traded pricier trips, such as long summer stays in Florida and an annual Disney World visit around her birthday, for local beaches, bike rides and hiking trails

near their home in coastal Rhode Island.

"I've been trying to do more of that because one, it's quality time. Two, it's fresh air. And three, we're not spending an arm and a leg," Bernaba, 47, said.

That kind of calibration is shaping the summer travel season, which gets its traditional start in the U.S. with the long Memorial Day holiday weekend.

Higher fuel prices resulting from the Iran war and other inflationary pressures are making most forms of travel costlier as people in many parts of the world form their plans.

The U.S. Travel Association expects annual travel spending to grow by a modest 1% this year, powered

largely by domestic leisure travel despite the FIFA World Cup giving soccer fans from other countries a reason to visit the U.S. Airfares have climbed around the world along with the price of jet fuel as the war constrains global oil supplies.

**CHANGING TRAVEL PATTERNS**

Despite elevated prices, industry forecasts suggest Americans still want to get away, even if it means replacing long trips with long weekends, choosing destinations closer to home and finding ways to cut costs by cooking meals or using buses and trains instead of driving.

AAA predicted that 45

million U.S. residents would travel at least 50 miles from home between Thursday and Monday for the holiday. The Transportation Security Administration said it expects to screen 18.3 million passengers from Thursday to next Wednesday.

Many households are planning summer vacations but making tradeoffs such as shorter trips or cheaper lodging, according to Bank of America analysts. Mastercard said in a recent report that consumers appeared increasingly focused on value and were adjusting their destinations and timing instead of not going away at all.

"Generally, it's certainly more of a demand reshuffling than a demand

softening," David Tinsley, a senior economist at Bank of America Institute, said.

New polling of registered U.S. voters by Quinnipiac University found that 48% have cut back on vacation spending, 54% have reduced what they spend on dining out, and 36% have curbed their driving.

Travelers are confronting other stressors besides cost.

Airlines around the world have canceled flights and trimmed routes to save on fuel and operating costs, leaving passengers with fewer options. The conflict in the Middle East has complicated getting there and rerouted flights to and from Asia, adding another layer of concern on top of broader geopolitical tensions and

the declining value of the dollar for people considering trips abroad.

Recent U.S. government shutdowns, which caused major flight disruptions and long security lines, also are likely still fresh in travelers' minds.

The various factors impacting travel right now has made planning trips more mentally taxing and may be pushing people toward simpler and more accessible vacations that feel easier to manage, said Marta Soligo, a tourism sociologist at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

"The key word here is unpredictability," Soligo said. "Tourists don't like unpredictability."

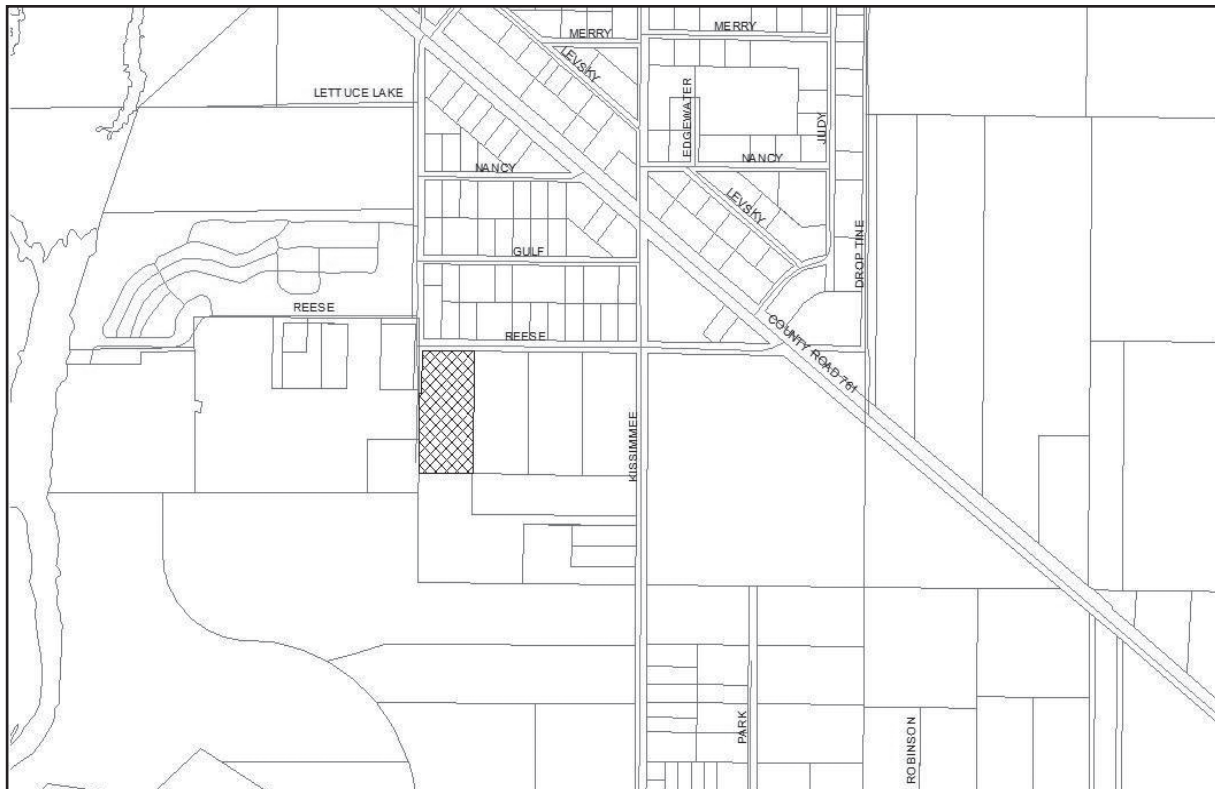
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the below ordinance(s)/resolution(s) will be considered at the regularly scheduled Public Hearings/Meetings of the **PLANNING COMMISSION** ("PC"), sitting as the Local Planning Agency, on **Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at 5:30 PM**, or as soon thereafter, as they may be heard on those dates. All public hearings will be held in the County Commission Meeting **Room 103, Administration Building, 201 E. Oak Street, Arcadia, Florida**. Copies of the applications and staff reports are available at the Development Department Room 204, Administration Building, 201 E. Oak Street, Arcadia, Florida five days prior to the meeting dates and are available on the County's website at [www.desotobocc.com](http://www.desotobocc.com) under Department News and News & announcements. Members of the public may appear and be heard on the matters to be considered. Pursuant to Section 286.0105, F.S., if you want to appeal any decision of the Planning Commission, you will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, you may need to arrange for a verbatim transcript to be prepared.

**PLANNING COMMISSION: (PC) Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at 5:30 PM**

**1. Ordinance, R.D. Welch Company, Rezone (RZNE-0080-2026)**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING ATLAS FOR A +/- 5.07 ACRE LOT FROM AGRICULTURAL - 5 (A-5) TO RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY-2 (RSF-2) FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SW REESE STREET AND SW LETTUCE LAKE AVENUE WITH PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER BEING 23-39-23-0010-0000-0010; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



**2. Resolution, Craig's RV Park Inc. (Hahn Towers Inc.), Special Exception (USE-0215-2025)**

A RESOLUTION OF THE DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS APPROVING WITH CONDITIONS A SPECIAL EXCEPTION USE (USE-0215-2025) FOR A COMMUNICATIONS TOWER AND ACCESSORY EQUIPMENT ON A +/- 8.28- ACRE PARCEL ZONED AGRICULTURAL - 10 (A-10) AND LOCATED BETWEEN CUBITIS AVENUE AND NE HIGHWAY 17, APPROXIMATELY 800-FEET NORTH OF NE BROWNVILLE STREET, THE PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER BEING 33-36-25-0000-0226-0000; INCORPORATING THE WHEREAS CLAUSES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



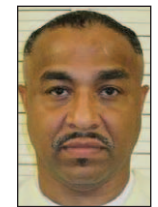
**CAPITAL PUNISHMENT**

## Execution fails; reprieve given

**TRAVIS LOLLER**  
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee officials on Thursday called off the lethal injection of Tony Carruthers, who was convicted of kidnapping and murdering three people in 1994, after his executioners tried and failed for over an hour to establish an intravenous line. Gov. Bill Lee announced soon afterward that the state would not try again for at least a year.

The Tennessee Department of Corrections said



**Carruthers**

medical personnel had quickly established a primary IV line but were unable to find a suitable vein for

a backup line as required by the state's execution protocol.

Carruthers, 57, was found guilty of the 1994 kidnappings and murders of Marcellos Anderson; his mother, Delois Anderson; and Frederick Tucker.

**CITY OF ARCADIA, FLORIDA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026 AT 6:00 PM**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE CITY OF ARCADIA CITY COUNCIL WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026, AT 6:00 PM IN THE MARGARET WAY BUILDING IN THE ARCADIA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 23 NORTH POLK AVENUE, ARCADIA, FLORIDA TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

**ORDINANCE 1117**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ARCADIA, FLORIDA, AMENDING ARTICLE 4, SPECIFICALLY AMENDING SECTION 4.10.00 (ZONING DISTRICTS AND ALLOWED LAND USES), PROVIDING APPLICABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR SINGLE-FAMILY, EXISTING, PERTAINING TO THE RECONSTRUCTION OR REPLACEMENT OF SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES, INCLUDING MODULAR HOMES AND MOBILE HOMES THAT HAVE BEEN DAMAGED OR DESTROYED; AND AMENDING TABLE 4.10.01 (LAND USES AND ZONING DISTRICTS), ADDING USE PERMISSIONS FOR SINGLE-FAMILY, EXISTING; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ANY INTERESTED PERSONS WHO FEEL THEY ARE AFFECTED BY THESE CHANGES ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE PUBLIC HEARING AND BE HEARD. ANY PERSON(S) WISHING TO VIEW RELEVANT INFORMATION IN ADVANCE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING MAY VIEW SAID DOCUMENTS AT THE CITY OF ARCADIA ADMINISTRATION OFFICE AT 23 NORTH POLK AVENUE, ARCADIA, FLORIDA BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8 AM AND 5 PM, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.

ANYONE WISHING TO APPEAL ANY DECISIONS MADE AT THIS HEARING WILL NEED A RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS, AND FOR SUCH PURPOSE THEY MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS MADE.

ANY PERSON WITH DISABILITIES REQUIRING ACCOMMODATIONS IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE SHOULD CONTACT THE CITY CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING AT 863-494-4114.