



See the story and picture at the top of the page about the Apopka Blue Darters' 56-20 victory over rival and District 8A-4 foe West Orange. The Warriors had beaten Apopka three out of

the past four contests. But the Blue Darters rushed for 566 yards to run past the Warriors. Quarterback Demetri Burch also passed for 131 yards and a pair of touchdowns for Apopka.

Sports



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Darters whip West Orange, 56-20

**By John Peery**  
Apopka Chief Staff

For the past two seasons, West Orange turned the tables on the Apopka Blue Darters football team. The Warriors not only broke a 15-game losing streak to Apopka, but took command of the district race with the wins.

As far as the Blue Darters are concerned, however, things are back to normal. Apopka put four runners over the 100-yard mark en route to a 56-20 victory over the host Warriors on Friday, September 30.

The win not only kept the Darters unbeaten in six tries this season, but, more importantly, put Apopka at 1-0 in District 8A-4 action. Apopka is now tied with Wekiva, which beat Evans, atop the district standings, while West Orange and Evans are at 0-1.

Coach Rick Darlington said the first district game was an important one for the Blue Darters.

"It was the first one that really

matters. That was a huge, huge win," he said. "Last year, we were 5-0 when we played them and became 5-1.

"It's a rivalry game. They've become a rival in that (Lake) Brantley won't play us anymore and Edgewater's kind of fallen on hard times, and West Orange has beaten us three out of the last four before this one."

DeShawn Massey led the way on the ground for the Blue Darters, racking up 227 yards and a touchdown on 17 carries. Quarterback Demetri Burch had a night to remember as he not only had 129 yards and three rushing scores on just 10 runs, but also had a pair of touchdown passes.

Jordan Thompson (108 yards and one touchdown on 14 carries) and Cornelius Williams (106 yards and one score on six rushes) helped Apopka put up 566 rushing yards on 50 attempts.

The running was strong for the Blue Darters.

"It was good and we did most of it out of our spread sets," Darlington

said. "We'd worked really hard on a game plan for them, did some different things formationally. The RPO (run-pass option) game was pretty good and counter was the big scheme the other night. We hadn't been running a lot of counter, but I thought it was one of those things where we needed to be good at this play, this blocking scheme and this is what we need to do to ensure that it works. It worked out well for us."

Burch was 6-of-8 for 131 yards through the air as the Blue Darters continue to get better with the pass, especially as compared to last year. Through six games in 2015, the Darters had completed just 8-of-31 passes for 175 yards and one touchdown. This year, the numbers are dramatically better as Apopka is 33-of-56 for 601 yards and 10 scores.

Burch has completed 60 percent of his passes as he is 30-of-50.

"We wanted to get up to 60 per-



Apopka quarterback Demetri Burch cuts to avoid a West Orange defender.

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Wekiva downs Evans by 21 in district contest

**By Neal Fisher**  
Apopka Chief Staff

If a set of clothes matched the performance of the Wekiva Mustangs when facing the Evans Trojans last Friday, September 30, the chosen attire would have been the three-piece business suit.

Driven by executing the proverbial business-like performance to the utmost, the Mustangs overwhelmed the Trojans to the tune of a 27-6 victory in what was the District 8A-4 opener for both teams.

At 1-0 in district action, both Wekiva and Apopka now stand atop the district standings.

"This was a business victory, as much as possible," Mustangs coach Rich Bedesem said. "We didn't do anything different in how we attacked the Trojans. The execution on our part was solid throughout the contest. Nothing we did was spectacular. But more importantly, we didn't have to overcome the position of making mistakes either. More often than not, the di-



Anton Wynn brings down an Evans runner as teammates Dwight Lawrence and Jason Charles (36) are nearby during Wekiva's 27-6 victory over the Trojans.

the defense got even better, registering another four sacks while lowering the number of points given up for the third consecutive contest. Wekiva also made the most of four Evans fumbles.

"The big picture of how not making the mistakes played a role in the outcome was efficiently forcing the Trojans into compensating for having possession of the ball less time," Bedesem said. "We physically wore the Trojans down to a degree and the other positive effects coming from not making the mistakes are a part of that significant difference in time of possession. In every area of the game, having the ball a significantly less amount of time limits the means by which a team can attack an opponent.

"When on offense, we did what we do well over and over because we had the ball more often. When on defense, we steadily took away what Evans does well. The less time

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Jumping high to win



Kayla Tapscott jumps to slam the ball Monday, October 3, during the Apopka Blue Darters' girls volleyball match against Lake Minneola High. The Blue Darters won 3-0.

Wekiva to host Apopka on Thurs., Oct. 13

Due to a school holiday on Friday, October 14, the hometown rivalry game between the host Wekiva Mustangs and visiting Apopka Blue Darters will be played on Thursday, October 13.

The Mustangs and Blue Darters are tied at 1-0 each in District 8A-4 play and the contest will all but as-

sure the winner of a playoff berth as there will be just one more district game for both teams after they tangle.

Wekiva is 4-2 overall and has an open date for Friday, October 7. Apopka is 6-0 and ranked No. 1 in the state in the AP's Class 8A poll.

The Blue Darters were sched-

uled to face Olympia Friday, October 7, at 7 p.m. in the annual homecoming game, but the threat of Hurricane Matthew caused the game to be canceled.

Kickoff for the Wekiva-Apopka game is set for 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$6 and will be available at the gate.

Apopka-Olympia football game canceled

**By John Peery**  
Apopka Chief Staff

Apopka High School's homecoming football game against the Olympia Titans has been canceled and won't be made up.

Hurricane Matthew's close brush with the Central Florida coast also caused the cancellation of classes and all extracurricular activities in Orange County for Thursday, October 6, through Sunday, October 9.

As a result, the Blue Darters and Titans could not agree on a date to play.

Apopka athletic director Fred Priest said the Blue Darters proposed that the game be played on Monday,

October 10, at 7 p.m. He said that Olympia representatives said they would not have had football practice for four days and didn't want to play without being able to practice even though the Blue Darters would have been in the same situation.

As did Apopka, Olympia played on Friday, September 30. However, the Titans' game against Freedom High was stopped midway through the fourth quarter due to bad weather. The game was completed Monday, October 3.

Priest said Olympia doesn't have a game next week so the Titans will go nearly three weeks between football games.

The Apopka athletic director said

the Blue Darters wanted to play the homecoming game but that Olympia has the right of refusal and enacted that claim. He said he didn't agree with the decision but that no one at Apopka High had any control over the matter.

After last week's 56-20 District 8A-4 victory over West Orange, the Blue Darters remained unbeaten in six games.

Apopka High's homecoming week activities were also interrupted by Hurricane Matthew. AHS Principal Matt Arnold sent out the following schedule of continuing activities that will take place next week at the

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Darters: Apopka looking to shore up rushing defense

Continued from page 1C

school.

On Wednesday, October 12, it will be Heroes vs. Villains Day for ninth through 11th graders. Seniors will have their Under the Sea theme that day.

Crazy Blue and White day will be Thursday, October 13, as students

will be able to use their face-painting tickets that day.

School officials are hoping to have the homecoming parade on Thursday, October 13, pending city of Apopka approval.

The pep rally will be held that day in the stadium. (The Blue Darters will play at Wekiva High at 7 p.m. that same day.)

The crowning of the homecoming king and queen will take place during the pep rally.

The homecoming dance will be held Saturday, October 15, from 8 p.m. to midnight at the Rosen Plaza, the original location for the dance.

The canceled school days will be made up on Friday, October 28, and Friday, April 28, 2017.



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# Mustangs continue winning ways in 27-6 victory



The Mustangs run on to the field Friday, September 30, prior to their game against the host Evans Trojans. Wekiva is now 4-2 after the 27-6 victory over the Trojans. Wekiva is off this week and will host hometown rival Apopka on Thursday, October 13, in a huge District 8A-4 contest.



Quarterback Ben Williams carries the ball for the Mustangs during their 27-6 District 8A-4 victory over Evans.



The Wekiva High marching band performed during halftime of the game at Evans High School.



Escorted by teammates, Brandon Hill runs the ball for Wekiva to help defeat the Evans Trojans.



Running back Jaylon Fair carries the ball for the Mustangs as a pair of Evans defenders get near.

## Mustangs: Running game, special teams, and defense lead to Wekiva victory

Continued from page 1C

we spend on defense, the less opportunity the opponent has to score. During the second half, we continued to keep possession of the ball more. But Evans also made some more mistakes, the kind directly preventing the ball from being moved and allows an opponent to close out the victory. In general and obviously, fumbles put teams in the position of having one less play and more yards to gain to keep the drive alive to begin with. We were never able to recover a fumble, but we also never allowed Evans to overcome the fumbles and the other mistakes.”

The Trojans started the contest off with a flurry of heavy punches, wobbling the Mustangs’ defense. Taking the opening kickoff, the Trojans moved the ball from their own 38-yard line to the Mustangs’ 6.

But on two consecutive plays, the snaps sailed over the head of the quarterback, Kimani Binder. Although the Trojans recovered the fumble, 14 yards was lost on the first. Needing over 20 yards and making for an obvious passing situation on third down, the Mustangs got into the backfield for the first time and pressured Binder into throwing an interception.

Finding its footing after the interception, Wekiva never faced a challenge to

exerting the identity.

“Allowing the Trojans to move the ball on the first drive was not a good start, which has been a problem throughout the season,” Bedesem said. “There were three pass interference calls. Perhaps one or even two were pass interference, but it is hard to not question the penalties when three are called in one drive.

“And a couple of passes for about 15 yards were completed by Evans. The defense wasn’t able to stop the empty set Evans was using at first. But in the end, when the big play was needed, the defense made the adjustments and came up with the big play. From that point, the defense played as well as it has been. Over the last three contests, the defense has given up 10 points.”

An 80-yard, 15-play drive that chewed up 7:30 of the clock followed. Along with a successful point-after conversion, the Mustangs took the lead for good with the first touchdown of the contest. Behind the right side of the offensive line and covering the final 11 yards, Fair rambled into the end zone with 8:37 left in the second quarter. Then the ball was moved 70 yards as the first half came to a close to increase the lead to 10-0 and give the Mustangs all the points needed to win. Oscar Salazar converted a 23-yard field goal attempt on

the final play before halftime. Quarterback Trey McGee completed passes of 18 and 41 yards during the field-goal drive.

However, anything but leaving the outcome in the hands of the defense alone followed. Another monster drive began the second half. This time, the statistics were 78 yards, 12 plays, and 7:04. The end of the drive came once again on the legs of Fair, who covered the final two yards by bulling into the end zone.

Other scores by Wekiva were a 90-yard punt return by Brandon Hill and Salazar’s second field goal, this one from 27 yards.

With 9:07 left in the contest, Traveo Kendrick scored the only points for the Trojans on a 13-yard rush.

Total yards were 287-245 in favor of Wekiva. Plays run were 53 by Wekiva compared to 37 by Evans. After each of the teams’ first possessions, though, the numbers aren’t nearly as close. Wekiva ran 48 plays while gaining 274 yards. Evans managed to gain 169 yards while running 25 plays.

“Only three contests are played in District 8A-4,” Bedesem said. “So, each is like a playoff contest. There are no mulligans. All it takes sometimes is one bad contest and loss for a team to be eliminated from a playoff berth. Win-

ning the district opener was vital. With what is on the line when playing district contests from here on out, the quality of play is going to be higher and the opponents more difficult to defeat. No team wants to go into this stretch of the season coming off a loss.

“We now have a 1-0 record along with a week to heal and improve before meeting Apopka and resuming the district schedule.”

|               | Wekiva | Evans   |
|---------------|--------|---------|
| First downs   | 17     | 18      |
| Rushes-yds    | 37-200 | 21-60   |
| Passing yds   | 87     | 185     |
| Com-Att-Int   | 6-16-0 | 16-30-1 |
| Fumbles-lost  | 0-0    | 4-0     |
| Penalties-yds | 7-70   | 9-74    |

|        |   |    |   |    |   |    |
|--------|---|----|---|----|---|----|
| Wekiva | 0 | 10 | 7 | 10 | - | 27 |
| Evans  | 0 | 0  | 0 | 6  | - | 6  |

W-Fair 11 run (Salazar kick), 8:37 1st; W-FG 23 Salazar, :00 2nd; W-Fair 2 run (Salazar kick), 4:56 3rd; W-Hill 90 punt return (Salazar kick), 10:36 4th; E-Kendrick 5 run (run failed), 9:07 4th; W-FG 27 Salazar, 5:24 4th.

### Individual statistics

Rushing: Wekiva-Fair 22-155, 2TD; Hughley 1-19; McGee 8-8; Moore 1-8; Shepherd 1-7; Ben Williams 3-3; Edgerton 1-0. Evans-Kendrick 7-35, 1TD; Binder 11-25; Tramel 1-3; Moody 2-(-3). Passing: Wekiva-McGee 6-12-0, 87; Ben Williams 0-4-0, 0. Evans-Binder 16-29-1, 185; Moody 0-1-0, 0. Receiving: Wekiva-Touze 4-43; Brandon Williams 1-41; Hughley 1-3. Evans-Cook 3-54; Kendrick 3-44; Garrett 5-34; Major 1-26; Harrett 2-20; Moody 2-7.



Offensive coordinator Buddy Hurd talks with quarterback Ben Williams.



Offensive lineman Tyler Monestime lifts Jaylon Fair following a touchdown run by Fair.

Photos by Ken Rojo

# Warriors no match for Blue Darters in district game



Coach Rick Darlington sends the offense back onto the field after talking to them during a timeout in the game.



Blocking back Paul Fitzgerald is hit about the 3-yard-line but clutches the ball as he scores on a 21-yard touchdown pass from Demetri Burch.



David Britzius (11), Kamron Williams (27) and teammates tackle a West Orange runner.



Cornelius Williams keeps his eyes down the field as he runs the ball. He was one of four Blue Darters to rush for more than 100 yards.



Jarvis Ware returns an interception for the Blue Darters to set up a touchdown.



The Apopka High cheerleaders stand at attention as the National Anthem is played by the West Orange band prior to the football game.

## Apopka: Blue Darters gained 697 total yards

Continued from page 1C

cent (completions),” Darlington said. “Look at his (Burch’s) efficiency this year compared to last year. Last year, he didn’t even throw a touchdown pass until game five. He ended up with more interceptions than touchdowns and had 303 yards for the year.

“When you can get to 60 percent, that’s what I want. That’s the standard right there.

“He’s becoming a quarterback, not just an athlete,” Darlington said about Burch.

Apopka took no time in driving 75 yards for the first score as Darlington pulled out a play he hadn’t shown since the spring jamboree. And, just like in the spring, it went for a touchdown as Burch hit blocking back Paul Fitzgerald for a 21-yard scoring strike just 3:12 into the game.

Fitzgerald was all alone over the middle of the field and although he was hit about the 3-yard line, he bulld in for the score.

Logan Minniear added the first of his eight extra points to give the Darters a quick 7-0 lead.

After a West Orange punt and an Apopka turnover, the Warriors struck on Darrian Williams’ 59-yard run to tie the game at 7-7.

However, Apopka grabbed the lead back for good on the first play after the kickoff as Massey scampered 70 yards for the touchdown, giving a West Orange defender a stutter step along the way. With Minniear’s extra point, Apopka led 14-7 with 2:19 left in the first period.

The Blue Darters weren’t finished scoring in the first quarter, however. The Apopka defense forced a three-and-out and the offense quickly took advantage, driving 67 yards in just two plays and 15 yards on a facemask penalty.

Burch tossed his second scoring pass of the game when he hit freshman receiver Jackson Darlington, son of the head coach, for a 36-yard touchdown with 36 seconds remaining in the first quarter to put Apopka up 21-7.

West Orange cut the lead to 21-14 on a 12-yard scoring toss from Austin Burton to Kyveon Jones early in the second period. But that was as close as the Warriors would get as the Blue Darters scored 21 unanswered points over the final 8 minutes of the second quarter.

Once again, it was a long play that did the deed for Apopka as Burch ran 61 yards for the score to cap an 80-yard drive.

An interception by Jarvis Ware off a tipped pass set up Apopka’s next score, as he returned the pick to the West Orange 5-yard line. Burch scored from the 2 midway through the second period to give the Darters a 35-14 lead.

The defense forced another West Orange punt that backed Apopka up to its own 9-yard line. But that was of no consequence, as the Darters quickly drove the distance with Burch ending it on an eight-yard option-play run.

During the drive, Jordan Thompson had a 33-yard run and Massey added 28 more on the ground as the Darters took a 42-14 halftime lead.

On Apopka’s first possession of the second half, Burch twisted a knee and didn’t return to the game. After the game, he said he was doing OK and was in no obvious pain while walking without a limp.

In the second half, it was more of the same. Although Apopka’s offense wasn’t quite as efficient with Burch being out. Apopka scored two times, one on an 81-yard run by Williams and one on a 1-yard run by Thompson.

West Orange had two field goals in the second half.

|               | Apopka | WO      |
|---------------|--------|---------|
| First downs   | 29     | 13      |
| Rushes-yds    | 50-566 | 23-177  |
| Passing yds   | 131    | 211     |
| Com-Att-Int   | 6-8-0  | 15-30-1 |
| Fumbles-lost  | 1-1    | 0-0     |
| Penalties-yds | 4-35   | 10-88   |

|           |    |    |   |    |   |    |
|-----------|----|----|---|----|---|----|
| Apopka    | 21 | 21 | 0 | 14 | - | 56 |
| W. Orange | 7  | 7  | 3 | 3  | - | 20 |

Ap-Fitzgerald 21 pass from Burch (Minniear kick), 8:48 1st; WO-Williams 59 run (Brickweg kick), 2:44 1st; Ap-Massey 70 run (Minniear kick), 2:19 1st; Ap-Darlington 36 pass from Burch (Minniear kick), :36 1st; WO-Jones 12 pass from Burton (Brickweg kick), 9:14 2nd; Ap-Burch 61 run (Minniear kick), 8:00 2nd; Burch 2 run (Minniear kick), 6:03 2nd; Burch 8 run (Minniear kick), 1:54 2nd; WO-FG 39 Brickweg, 4:53 3rd; Ap-Williams 81 run (Minniear kick), 10:53 4th; WO-FG 38 Brickweg, 9:35 4th; Ap-Thompson 1 run (Minniear kick), 4:26 4th.

### Individual statistics

Rushing: Apopka-Massey 17-227, 1TD; Burch 10-129, 3TD; Thompson 14-108, 1TD; Williams 6-106, 1TD; Darlington 1-1; Team 2-(-5). West Orange-Williams 19-190, 1TD; Winters 1-0; Burton 3-(-13). Passing: Apopka-Burch 6-8-0, 131, 2TD. West Orange-Burton 15-30-1, 211, 1TD. Receiving: Apopka-August 3-64; Darlington 1-36, 1TD; Fitzgerald 1-21, 1TD; Massey 1-10. West Orange-Jones 4-77, 1TD; Harding 4-73; Gaskins 3-26; Williams 1-16; Winters 2-15; Baber 1-4. A-2,200



DeShawn Massey has his facemask pulled. The penalty cost West Orange 15 yards.



Coach Rick Darlington helps quarterback Demetri Burch off the field after an injury.

# With open date, Wekiva has fewer hurricane headaches

With Hurricane Matthew threatening the Florida coast, this week's high school football games are being postponed as I write this.

For the Wekiva Mustangs, the open date couldn't have come at a better time. Not only do coach Rich Bedesem and the Mustangs have their open week prior to the all-important game against Apopka, but they don't have to worry about the hurricane issues and trying to get this week's game played in a timely manner.

The Blue Darters, on the other hand, must deal with the storm and the change of the game to Monday, October 10, against Olympia. Of course, it is also homecoming week at Apopka High School so getting all the normal festivities in is a concern, although I'm not sure the coaching staff concerns itself with anything other than the game.

At the end of the day,



**John Peery**  
**Peery's Extra Points**

as long as the hurricane doesn't cause serious problems in our area of Central Florida, we'll all get through this and, hopefully, get back to normal as quickly as possible.

...

### Last week's game

Although it was no surprise, it was good to see both the Blue Darters and Mustangs come away with victories in their first District 8A-4 games of the season.

Apopka ran the ball almost at will against West Orange, while Wekiva did its thing with a strong running game and good defense to down Evans.

After watching West Orange live and seeing

enough film of Wekiva, I feel like the Mustangs will likely be able to beat West Orange when those two tangle on October 27.

It won't be a sure thing, but if the Mustangs can get Jaylon Fair going in the rushing game and not give up much in big plays, they can beat the Warriors, no matter what happens against Apopka on Friday, October 14.

Injuries and other issues can always pop up, but I feel like Apopka and Wekiva will finish as the playoff participants from District 8A-4. If that happens and then both teams win their first-round playoff games, they would meet in the second round of the playoffs for the right to continue to the third round.

That would be pretty cool.

...

### Apopka at Wekiva

Because of our normal printing deadlines, this

hometown rivalry game may or may not be played prior to our Friday, October 14, edition.

We'll have full game previews early next week on our website at [www.theapokkachief.com](http://www.theapokkachief.com).

I expect this game to be one of the closer ones in the series. To date, Apopka's 49-33 win in 2011 is the closest of any of the nine previous games.

Wekiva's ability to run the ball and keep Apopka's incredibly potent offense off the field could not only keep it close, but could give the Mustangs a chance to get their first victory against the Blue Darters. Apopka showed some vulnerability against the run in the win over West Orange and the Blue Darters need to get that shored up.

The Mustangs also play solid defense and will give the Blue Darters some problems. I do think, however, that Apopka's ability to run out of the single

wing and the spread makes the offense one that is incredibly hard to stop. Add the fact that Apopka is pretty effective at passing the ball and that only helps to aid the strong running game.

While I think that Wekiva will land a playoff spot, it will be as a district runner-up, as the Blue Darters will go undefeated through their three district games.

It will be close, but Apopka will down the Mustangs.

### Apopka by 14.

...

### Olympia at Apopka

Assuming this game gets played on Monday, October 10, it should be a happy homecoming game for the Blue Darters.

Yes, Olympia is 5-1, but a closer look at the Titans' schedule shows why they have won five of six games.

After dropping a 42-12 loss to Sanford Semi-

nole in the season opener, the Titans have defeated East River, Colonial, Cypress Creek, Evans, and Freedom. That's not exactly murderer's row and most teams would be 5-0 against that slate.

Apopka has faced its own schedule with some cupcakes, but the Blue Darters have also played a strong Dr. Phillips team, a decent West Orange squad, and an OK DeLand team and come out on top in all three.

While Olympia is not a terrible team, I don't think they will match up to the Blue Darters, especially when the Darters have the ball.

Apopka's offense should be able to put up plenty of points against Olympia's defense.

The Titans are probably better on offense than defense, but it won't matter as the Blue Darters will roll, whenever the game is played.

### Apopka by 33.

## Special Olympics golfing stars



Hunter Keaton stands with his father, Ed, after the Apopka duo finished second in their division in the 2016 Special Olympics North America Golf Championships. The event was played last weekend in Port St. Lucie. The Keatons qualified for the event by winning the Florida state championship in September.



## Darters claim third in statewide event

**By Neal Fisher**  
Apopka Chief Staff

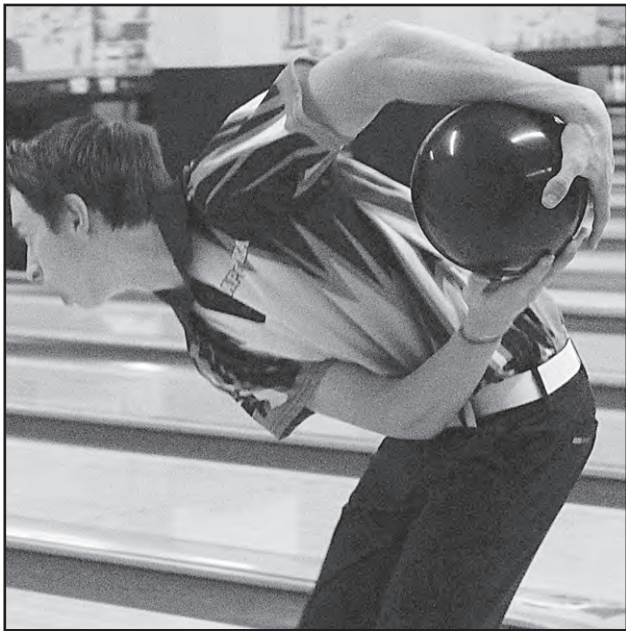
One of the means by which The Apopka Blue Darters boys bowling has combated the target coming from being a three-time defending state champion is competing against the highest level of competition during the regular season.

Held at the Kegel Training Center in Lake Wales, the Kegel High School Challenge is one such tournament the Blue Darters have benefitted from for those reasons during its run.

After two consecutive Kegel championships, the Blue Darters placed third at the competition held Saturday, October 1. But even though the defense of the back-to-back championships was unsuccessful, the benefits of competing in the tournament were once again significant.

With a 9-0 record for head-to-head competition at the midway point of 2016, the Blue Darters' winning streak is now approaching 60 meets and three seasons.

"We didn't bowl our best," Blue Darters coach Todd Hauser said. "Gage (Stelling) being in the hospital and unusual house-shots (the lay-out of the oil) were two of the reasons. But despite not successfully defending the champion-



Gage Stelling was released from the hospital in time to play in the Kegel High School Challenge.

ship, the effort was worth it. The experience made us better, especially the new bowlers dealing with the postseason atmosphere for the first time.

"Better to experience the nerves of dealing with do-or-die pressure for the first time during the regular season than at the district or even state championship meets."

Stelling has been suffering from blurry vision in his left eye. As a precaution and to find out the cause, Stelling was hospitalized for several days. The doctors believe a swollen nerve is the cause of the blurriness.

But the cause of the swollen nerve has not been determined.

The oil on most lanes has the same characteristics (i.e. thickness, composition and where). But the lanes at the Kegel Training Center are customized.

Two games of 10-pin were thrown by each bowler on each team. Three games of Baker-format bowling followed. The number of pins for both were added together for the final team totals.

"Of course, the goal was to defend the championship and we wanted to win, like everyone else," Hauser said. "But the purpose in the big picture was to get the new bowlers in the line-up the experience of competing in the postseason atmosphere. The new bowlers have nev-

er been in a postseason atmosphere. I know it is said over and over, but the atmosphere and competing in the postseason is a completely different animal. Reading, talking, and understanding what it is like to compete in the postseason is of value. But theory and knowing what to expect only goes so far. At some point, the theory has to be turned into action.

"When the bowler is in the middle of the pressure and has to remember all of the theory without the benefit of it not counting, the experience is a wake-up call. The new bowlers got the wake-up call this weekend in a lot of areas as far as executing during the postseason."

Apopka as well as Martin County knocked down a total of 2,677 pins. The Championship was taken by Miami Christian with 2,871 pins.

"What will be most important during the postseason is the picking up the spare. If a team throws a lot of strikes, the points left on the table from the next frame after the spares don't matter. But most games aren't going to be strike after strike. The standings were the tangible consequences. Even though we weren't bowling our best, picking up the spares give us the points we need to still make a run at the championship."

## Fishin' is good locally

Hello Folks,

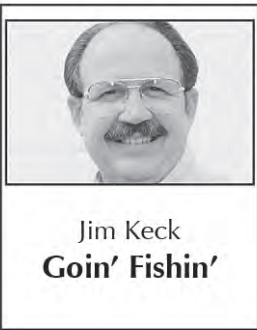
I sure hope you had a great weekend and you got in some fishin'. It was a little hot but we had some overcast skies so it wasn't too bad on the water.

The fishin' right now is doin' pretty good in most of the chains in our area. Lots of folks are still catchin' plenty of bluegills and a few shellcrackers in the mix. You need to drift open water with crickets and red worms. A few anglers are catchin' some specks but we need some cooler weather to get the water temperature down. We have been gettin' some rain and that's helpin' to get the water temperature down as well.

Folks are catchin' some nice stringers of panfish along the shoreline of the St. Johns River. Folks are catchin' plenty of panfish around the pads and laydowns in the river. Take along plenty of crickets and red worms, and keep movin' until you get on 'em.

The bass fishin' in the St. Johns has been good and Lake Monroe has been a good lake to catch some bass. You need to get on the water real early and try fishin' plastic frogs and toads around the shoreline cover. If you fish in the river, look for feeder creeks and the mouth of the canals for some runnin' water. You usually find the bass hangin' around those areas of the river.

The Butler Chain has been off and on for a couple of weeks. Rick was out there last week and caught a few bass on slow-sinkin' Senko-type baits and plastic worms. The bass fishin' has been good in the Kissimmee Chain, too. Most of the bass are hangin' around movin' water that is flowin' over a shell bed or where the current runs into the mouth of the lake. You will do best to locate movin' water in all the lakes in the chain. If you get on the



Jim Keck  
**Goin' Fishin'**

water early, try fishin' the shoreline cover with plastic toads and frogs. Once the sun gets up, try fishin' the submerged hydrilla and eelgrass beds throughout the chain.

Rick also fished the Harris Chain last week and caught five bass up to 3 lbs. each. All the bass were caught on Senko-type baits. Rick and I got a chance to do some fishin' over the weekend. We decided to fish John's Lake due to a tournament on the Harris Chain. We got on the water at dark-thirty. We started fishin' the shoreline cover where the grass line and the hydrilla meet. We got a couple of bites so we left and went to some other spots. We were able to find some fish along the shoreline grass with hydrilla mixed in with the grass. The hydrilla has taken over John's Lake. It's topped out in all the lakes. Places we used to flip have got hydrilla growin' out from the shoreline grass and reeds out in lake 10 feet to 20 feet. In some areas of the lake, you can't even get to the shoreline due to the hydrilla.

We did have a good day on the lake. We both caught six bass apiece. Rick caught all the big bass up to 5 lbs. We caught all of our bass on slow-sinkin' Senko-type baits.

Well, that's it for this week. I hope you get to do some fishin' real soon, and let's hope Hurricane Matthew doesn't mess things up for the weekend. See ya next week.

Tip of the week: Fish real slow.

Save a few and good luck!

## Zellwood Station to host benefit golf tournament

The Zellwood Station Veteran's Club will host a golf tournament to benefit physically challenged veterans on Saturday, October 22, at the Zellwood Station Golf Course.

Special guests will be AVAST members (Amputee Veterans of America Support Team). Sponsors

and players for this event are needed.

According to the veteran's club, this is a great way for businesses to advertise while helping local veterans.

For further information about the golf tournament, call Peggy at 407-382-8893.

# Mustangs couldn't have timed open date any better

By Neal Fisher  
Apopka Chief Staff

The open date on the Wekiva Mustangs football schedule has arrived.

There has been some down this season for the Mustangs. But the results have been by far more on the positive side, propelling the Mustangs into the position most teams envision they will be in at this point of the season. With a 1-0 District 8A-4 record and two more district contests remaining, the Mustangs have laid the foundation required to produce a legitimate run at earning a berth in Class 8A's postseason tournament.

When considering the level of competition, Wekiva's overall record is an attention-grabbing 4-2.

"At this point of the season, our play has been more efficient in playing the style which fits our skill-set than not and, as a result, we are right where we need to be to reach the goal of making the playoffs," Mustangs coach Rich Bedesem said. "Now the bye date is a complement to laying that foundation to make a run at the playoffs because of the timing. The bye date has come at the right time this season. We have a week to heal and improve even further on what has been our weakness, especially the failure to score inside the red zone. The weaknesses have been strengths recently.

"But we want those weaknesses to no longer be weaknesses permanently. The only way to do so is by repetition. And we are at the point of another week spent specifically focusing on what were weaknesses earlier turn into at least no longer being weaknesses."

Laying that foundation to produce the run at earning a playoff berth was the result of using the first five contests to prepare for the most recent one.

Because berths in the tournament are determined strictly according to district standings (first and second place earn berths), district contests have the most tangible weight. Last week, both District 8A-4 open-

ers took place. Wekiva defeated Evans 27-6 and West Orange fell to Apopka 56-20. Wekiva and Apopka are tied for the top position in the District 8A-4 standings with 1-0 records.

With four teams in the district, two victories are required to finish in at least second place. Most of the time, the champion wins all three contests. However, two teams finishing tied for first with 2-1 records is a possibility. The tiebreaker is head-to-head.

More specifically, it means the Mustangs and Blue Darters both enter the contest against each other in control of their own destiny. The one difference though is the Mustangs have two weeks to prepare for the contest.

Furthermore, when Wekiva hosts Apopka on Thursday, October 13, the district championship will most likely be determined by the outcome. At the very least, the winner will clinch second place and one of the berths into the tournament. The loser will still be in control of its own destiny as one more win secures the berth into the postseason.

"Because there are only three games and how good the members are, each contest is the same as the playoffs," Bedesem said. "If a team has a bad contest or plays badly, there is no opportunity to overcome or for a make up. Furthermore, five of our opponents are playoff caliber. We have seen first-hand and experienced what is the difference between qualifying for the (FHSAA) playoffs and not. The difference starts with mistakes. Now we are taking a step up in class. For us, getting into the playoffs comes down to how we play against Apopka and West Orange, applying what we learned up to this point of the season.

"I realize West Orange is not having the kind of season they have had recently. But like Evans, the athletes and the ability to turn opponents' mistakes into points is still there along with the playoff experience. Of course, Apopka doesn't talk about the playoffs. Apopka talks

about state championships, that next and highest of levels. When a limited amount of mistakes are committed and again, in particular, inside the red zone, we exert the style and kind of game we are best at. I am not saying we automatically win, but our opportunity to win is as good as anyone else when the opponent has to play its best to win. Qualifying for the playoffs will have to be earned."

That style and kind of game the Mustangs are most suited for as well as built to play is the old-school way, running the ball with physical authority in order to control the clock.

Wekiva running back Jaylon Fair has gained 857 yards on 113 carries (including preseason, seven contests) and scored 13 touchdowns on the season.

For the season, quarterback Trey McGee has completed 49-of-99 passes for 889 yards. Although the percentage is only 50, the average yards per completion is 18.14.

By playing with the lead in conjunction with holding onto the ball for long periods of time, the defense has the ability to deliver the physical presence sought as well.

"Allowing Evans to move the ball on the first drive was not a good start, which has been a problem throughout the season," Bedesem said after that contest. "There were three pass interference calls. Perhaps one or even two were pass interference. But it is hard to not question the penalties when three are called in one drive.

"And a couple of passes for about 15 yards were completed by Evans. The defense wasn't able to stop the empty set Evans was using at first. But in the end, when the big play was needed, the defense made the adjustments and came up with the big play. From that point, the defense played as well as it has been. Over the last three contests, the defense has given up 10 points."

A prime opportunity to do all of the above while making gains toward the big picture of moving up



Wekiva coach Rich Bedesem and the Mustangs have their open date this week.

the ladder in the sport went by the boards when Timber Creek took a 19-7 victory over Wekiva.

The good news though, is if the Mustangs do earn a berth into the postseason, the loss might be that watershed moment. Since then, Wekiva defeated Winter Park and Evans. The scores were 35-7 and 27-6, respectively.

Bedesem placed the inability to score when inside the red zone as the biggest reason for Wekiva's second loss of the season.

"There hasn't been a lot of talk about whether or not we have corrected the inability to score from inside the red zone," Bedesem said. "However, there hasn't been any because the results speak for themselves. We have won the last two contests since Timber Creek, scoring all eight times inside the red zone and 48 of a possible 56 points in the process.

"It appears failing to score more than the seven points was a visual, first-hand experience which has been taken to heart. The coaches challenged the team the following week. To me, scoring 48 points since the contest is as tangible proof as there is of the team understanding the importance of eliminating those mistakes inside the red zone caused the failure to score three times."

Against Winter Park, Wekiva's conversion rate inside the red zone was 100 percent, not only for the amount of times scored, but the amount of points. Weki-

va crossed the end zone all four times inside the red zone, putting up 28 points.

The conversion rate was once again 100 percent against Evans, two touchdowns and two field goals added up to 20 points. A 90-yard punt return by Brandon Hill accounted for the remaining seven points of the 27 total.

"In itself and on the surface, the failure to score so often makes winning more difficult," Bedesem said. "But for us there is also a deeper layer and in some ways more difficult to win than most because of the style we play. Because we rely on controlling the clock and physically wearing the opponent down by rushing the ball with power, the amount of opportunities are also limited. For example, when we scored the first touchdown against Evans, we held onto the ball for about eight minutes. But the risk is having eight minutes less to score every time we hold onto the ball so long.

"So in order for the style and strategy to effectively work as far as us winning, the end result has to be points. As far as putting points on the board when the ball is held onto for so long, the risk and reward is high. There is no middle ground as far as gaining any type of benefit affecting the outcome. Basically, there is only one opportunity with possession to avoid the situation of high risk coming to fruition, and often, there just isn't enough time left to come from behind

once those long drives take place. At the very least, the lack of time left after holding onto the ball for so long makes coming from behind difficult."

At the end of the contest against Winter Park, only seven passes were thrown. However, making the most out of the few opportunities, each of the four passes completed gained at least 10 yards and kept the chains moving.

Against Evans, the numbers for McGee were 6-of-12 for 87 yards. The average completion covered 14.5 yards, enough to keep the chains moving. Completions of 13 yards and 41 yards set up Oscar Salazar's 23-yard field goal on the last play of the first half as the lead was upped to 10-0.

As far as an early lead is concerned, a blocked punt returned 31 yards for a touchdown put Winter Park behind only 1:04 into the contest.

Albeit taking longer, Evans gave up the first points.

An 80-yard, 15-play drive, taking 7:15 off the clock was put together by the Mustangs. The final 11 yards were gained on the ground by Fair with 8:37 left in the second quarter.

In the meantime, the consistency with which the defense has held its ground has continued throughout the season.

An average of 12 points per contest and 72 total have been given up by the defense. Over the last three contests, the total is 30 points.

Other victories came over Boone (35-28) and University (35-2).

In the regular-season opener for both, Dr. Phillips handed Wekiva the first loss, 28-7.

"Continuing to focus on reducing the mistakes inside the red zone so we can score and more explosiveness on offense is the plan during the bye week," Bedesem said. "Defensively, we plan on making the focus getting leverage at the line, eliminating missed tackles and the secondary not losing sight of the receiver in coverage."

## Golf will help fund scholarships in firefighter's memory

Apopka firefighters are organizing the second annual Armando Borjas Jr. Golf Tournament to honor fallen firefighter Armando Borjas Jr., who died of cancer in 2013.

Proceeds from the golf tournament will benefit a memorial scholarship fund in his name that will help send a local youth to fire and EMT school and carry on Borjas' legacy of public service.

The Armando Borjas Jr. Golf Tournament will be held Saturday, October 15 at Forest Lake Golf Club, 10521 Clarcona-Ocoee Road, Apop-

ka.

Borjas spent 14 years fighting fires and saving lives with the Apopka Fire Department and seven years of active duty in the Marines. However, in 2011, he was diagnosed with Stage IV esophageal cancer that he battled until his death in 2013 at the age of 39.

Registration is 6-7:30 a.m. There will be continental breakfast. A shotgun start begins at 8 a.m.

Participants can enjoy 18 holes of golf including golf cart and a bucket of range balls.

Lunch will be barbecue pulled pork sandwich with two sides and a beverage.

Among the golf tournament's highlights are a raffle for a four-day, three-night Marriott Villa vacation, a silent auction, and a dart golf ball pro launcher.

For more information, contact Jerold Maynard, 407-718-1763 or maynard1662@gmail.com; Andrew Brown, 407-920-9959 or andrewbrown86@gmail.com; or Matt Yoham, 407-601-8474 or myoham@apopka.net.



The Apopka Fire Department's annual golf tournament will honor the late Armando Borjas Jr.

## Football playoff structure changed beginning in 2017

In a 14-2 vote, the Florida High School Athletic Association Board of Directors approved a new football playoff format at its meeting Monday, September 26.

Beginning with the 2017 season, district play will be eliminated in Classes 1A-4A, with teams making the playoffs based on a points system. Classes 5A-8A will retain districts, with the district champion receiving an automatic playoff bid.

Football teams from both Apopka and Wekiva high schools play in Class 8A, the largest classification in Florida.

District play for Class 5A-

8A will remain, with 32 teams qualifying for the playoffs in each class. District champions will receive an automatic bid to the playoff and a 1-4 seed based on the new points system. Four wild cards will be taken from each region based on points following the conclusion of week 11.

For Classes 1A-4A, no region or district play will be required, as each school will control its own schedule. Four teams from each region (16 total) will make the playoffs based on the new points system.

This is a landmark day for high school football in the state

of Florida.

"We're excited about where we're going. We have the best high school football in the nation and this is only going to enhance that. We hope to build the game and grow the game. We're excited about where we're headed and where we're going to go," said Frank Beasley, executive director of athletics with the Florida High School Athletic Association. Beasley is the author of the new system.

"I think it will create a more exciting playoff. By going to a seeding system, it's going to reward teams who play a strong schedule," Beasley said.

"There are a lot of positives, but there will be some negatives along the road. We're fully aware of that. We're going to continue to work and tweak as we move forward.

"Is any system perfect? No, but we feel like we've created a better system. Every game you play is going to count, from week 1 to week 11."

Teams must play a minimum of eight games to qualify for the postseason, and points will be awarded for playing teams with better records. For instance, a loss to a team that wins 80 percent or more of its games will be worth 35 points and a win over

that team would give 50 points to the winner. Meanwhile, a win over a team that wins 39 percent or less of its games would be worth only 35 points, while a loss would be worth 20 points.

If the points system had been in place for the 2015 season, Apopka would have made the playoffs as the fifth seed (highest non-district winner) and Wekiva would have landed a spot at the sixth seed. Under the system now being used, Apopka advanced to the postseason as a district runner-up to West Orange. Wekiva did not make the playoffs after finishing third in the same district.

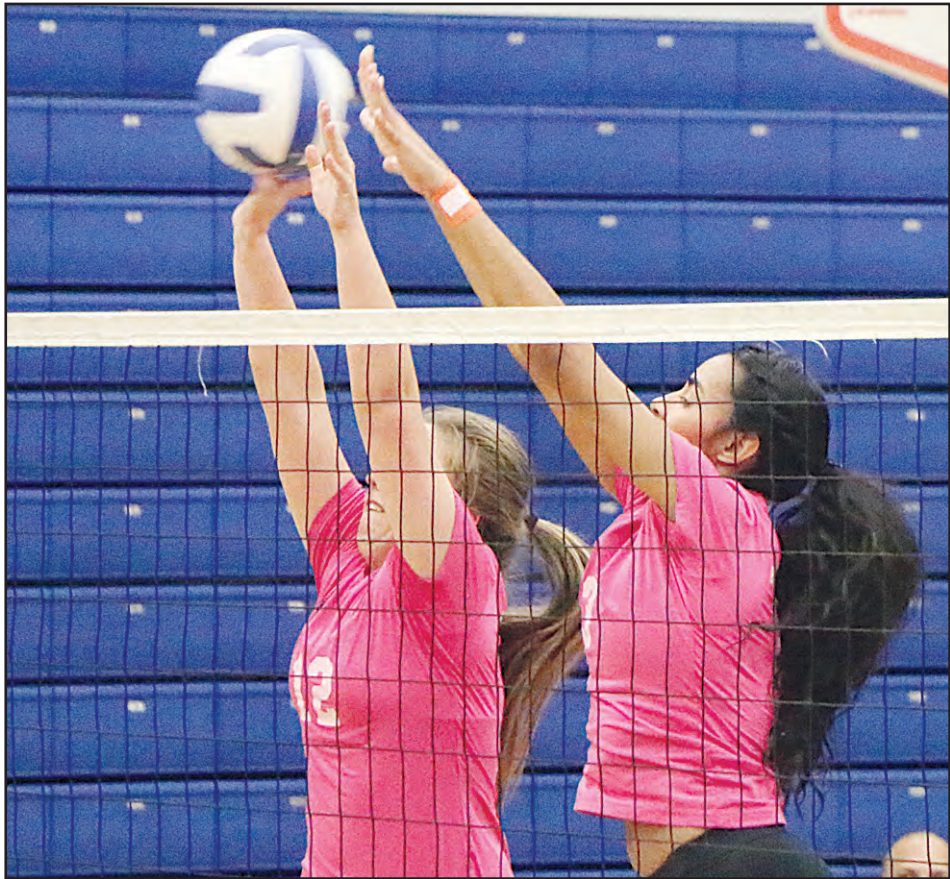
# Blue Darters down Lake Minneola 3-0 in girls volleyball



Coach Nuni Dominguez (second from right) gestures as he speaks to the Blue Darters Monday, October 3, during a timeout. Apopka defeated the Lake Minneola Hawks, 3-0. Apopka's next home match is scheduled for Wednesday, October 12, against Timber Creek.



Tiana DiMarco returns a Lake Minneola shot as teammate Mahalia Valmores looks on.



Emily Weaver (12) blocks a shot by Lake Minneola as Alexa Barrall backs her up during Apopka's 3-0 victory.



Lily Jackson serves the ball for the Blue Darters on Monday, October 3.



Alexa Barrall goes up to block a shot by a Lake Minneola player.



Hannah King slaps a shot back over the net for the Blue Darters.



Hannah King slaps the ball past a couple of Lake Minneola players. The Blue Darters toppled the Hawks, 3-0, on Monday, October 3.



Tiana DiMarco watches the ball as she prepares to serve during the victory over Lake Minneola.

The firefighters in our community...



# Newspaper Fun!

www.readingclubfun.com

Annimills LLC © 2016 V13-41

...give us lots of fire safety tips and ideas

Kids: color stuff in!



## Fire Safety Matters!

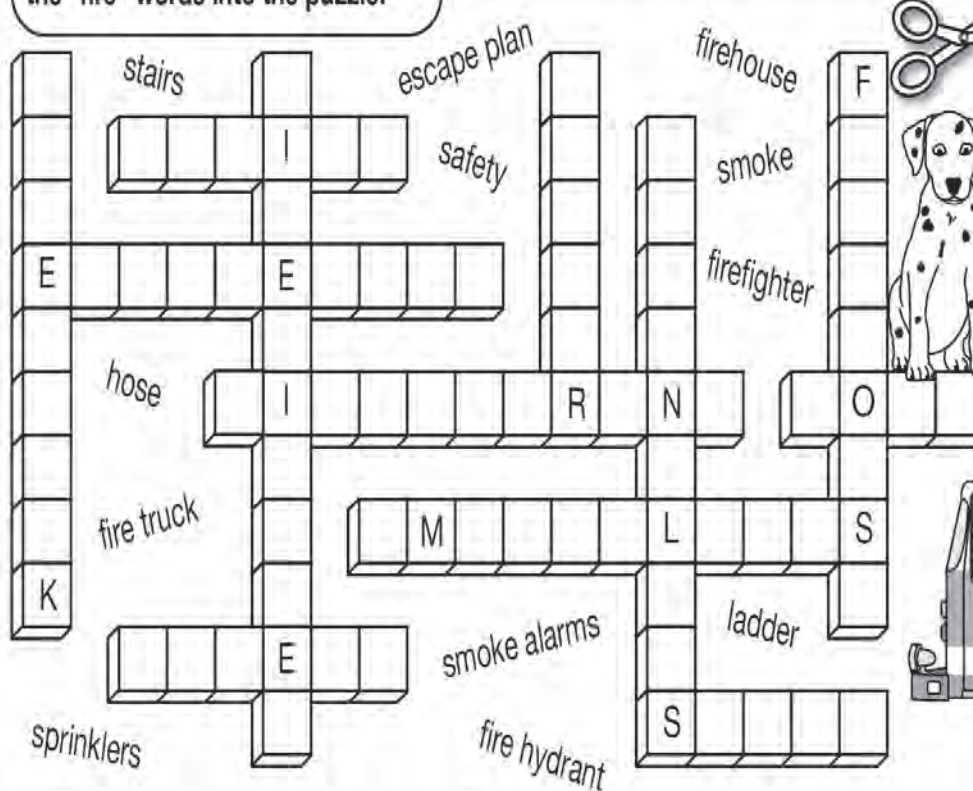


Read the words scattered about this puzzle. Use the letters already placed in the puzzle to help you fit the "fire" words into the puzzle.

Do you know any firefighters? Everyone likes to ask them about their jobs. It's fun to visit the firehouse or have firefighters come and speak at school. They like to talk about preventing fires and the display pieces of their equipment. Three safety messages that firefighters share with students are:

- Get out of the house quickly if there is a fire.
- Call the fire department from a neighbor's house.
- If your clothes catch on fire, remember to

**STOP, DROP AND ROLL!**



## Family Fire Safety Checklist

- ☐ Only cook in the **kitchen** when an adult is helping you.
- ☐ Don't touch matches, lighters or candles. They are for **adult** use only.
- ☐ Do you have smoke **detectors** on every level of your home? Test them monthly and change the batteries at least once a year.
- ☐ Do you know **two** or more ways out of the house?
- ☐ Never use elevators (**stairs** are much safer) if there is a fire.
- ☐ Smoke rises, so if there is a fire, stay low: **crawl** under the smoke.
- ☐ Have you picked a place to **meet** the rest of your family once you are all out of the house?
- ☐ Once you are out of the house, **stay out** of the house.

Cut out the list and talk with your family about each idea.



Why do you think firefighters need to keep in good physical shape?

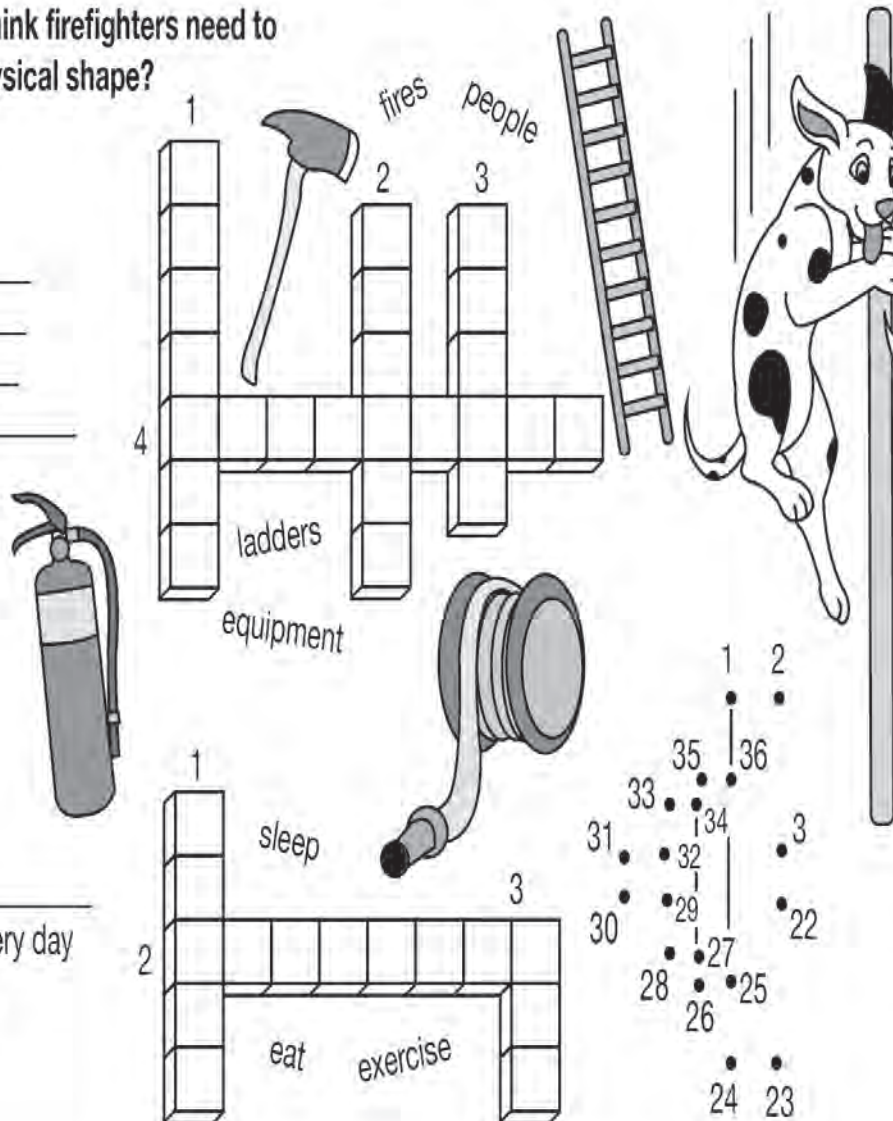
Because they:

1. climb \_\_\_\_\_
2. carry \_\_\_\_\_
3. fight \_\_\_\_\_
4. use heavy \_\_\_\_\_

How do fire-fighters stay in top physical condition?

They:

1. get enough \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ every day
3. \_\_\_\_\_ a healthy diet

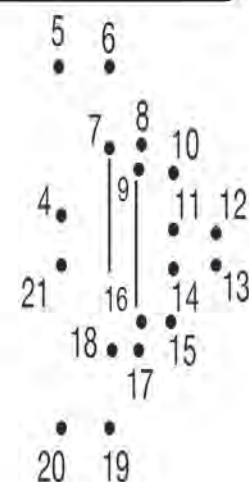


## Firefighters Keep Us Safe!

The job of firefighters is dangerous and physically demanding. They always must be ready to fight fires and help at other emergencies, such as an explosion in a factory or a traffic accident. Firefighters need to stay in shape physically and be mentally alert at all times. They must be able to run, stand for a long periods, drive fire trucks and use heavy equipment to put out fires and keep people safe. **Follow the dots to see one tool that firefighters might use to increase arm strength.**



This is tougher than it looks!



## Fighting Fires!



- "I help firefighters reach people trapped by fire."
- "We protect the firefighter's head and feet."
- "I spray foam to smother a fire."



# PREPARE FOR HURRICANE MATTHEW

Hurricanes are strong storms that can be life-threatening as well as cause serious property-threatening hazards such as flooding, storm surge, high winds and tornadoes.

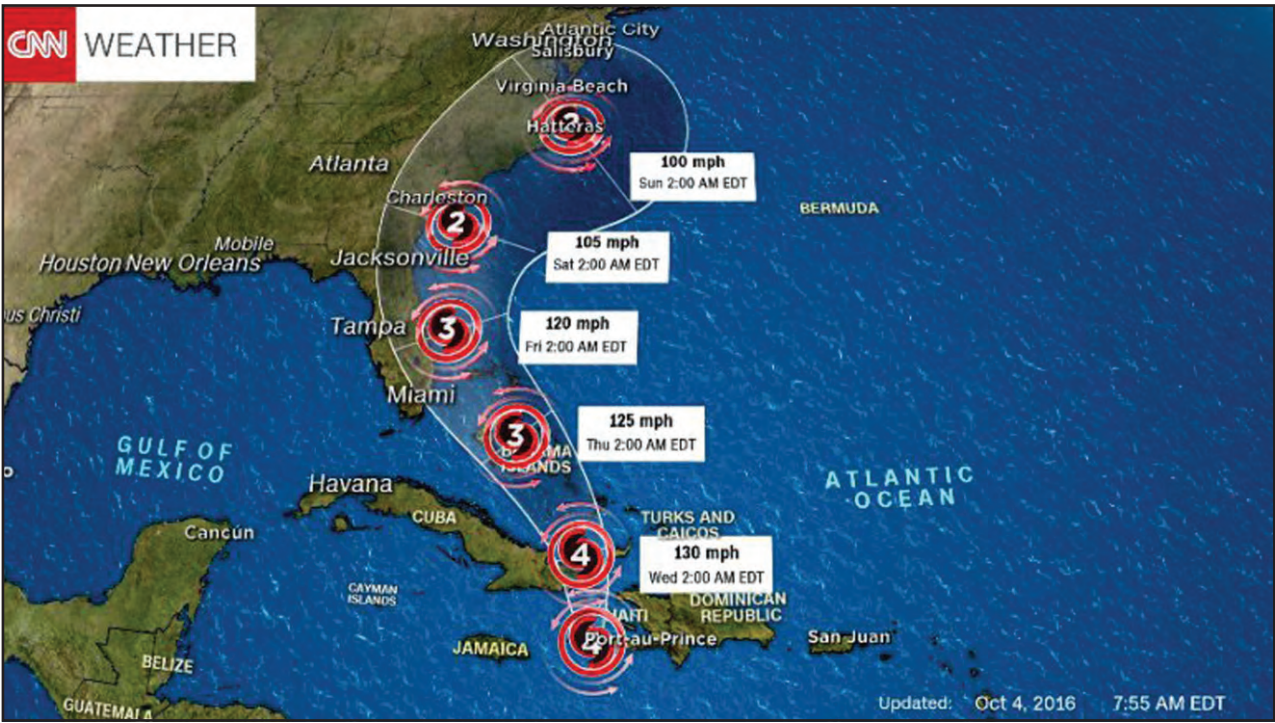
Preparation is the best protection against the dangers of a hurricane. Know the difference between the threat levels and plan accordingly.

### ARE YOU READY FOR A HURRICANE?

- Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio (Available on the Red Cross Store) for critical information from the National Weather Service (NWS).
- Check your disaster supplies. Replace or restock as needed.
- Bring in anything that can be picked up by the wind (bicycles, lawn furniture).
- Close your windows, doors and hurricane shutters. If you do not have hurricane shutters, close and board up all windows and doors with plywood.
- Turn your refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting. Keep them closed as much as possible so that food will last longer if the power goes out.
- Turn off propane tank.
- Unplug small appliances.
- Fill your car’s gas tank.
- Create a hurricane evacuation plan with members of your household. Planning and practicing your evacuation plan minimizes confusion and fear during the event.
- Find out about your community’s hurricane response plan. Plan routes to local shelters, register family members with special medical needs and make plans for your pets to be cared for.
- Obey evacuation orders. Avoid flooded roads and washed out bridges.
- Standard homeowners insurance doesn’t cover flooding. It’s important to have protection from the floods associated with hurricanes, tropical storms, heavy rains and other conditions that impact the U.S. For more information on flood insurance, please visit the National Flood Insurance Program Web site at [www.FloodSmart.gov](http://www.FloodSmart.gov).

### RECOMMENDED SUPPLIES

- Water—at least a 3-day supply; one gallon per person per day
- Food—at least a 3-day supply of non-perishable, easy-to-prepare food
- Flashlight - Battery-powered or hand-crank radio - NOAA Weather Radio, if possible (Available at the Red Cross Store)
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Medications (7-day supply) and medical items (hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, etc.)



Matthew is the strongest Atlantic hurricane in almost a decade and is projected to arrive in Florida as early as Thursday, potentially spreading northeast to coastal Georgia and the coastal Carolinas Friday into the weekend.  
*Photo Courtesy of CNN Weather.*

- Multi-purpose tool
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies)
- Cell phone with chargers
- Family and emergency contact information
- Extra cash
- Emergency blanket (Available at the Red Cross Store)
- Map(s) of the area
- Baby supplies (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers)
- Pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food, carrier, bowl)
- Tools/supplies for securing your home
- Extra set of car keys and house keys
- Extra clothing, hat and sturdy shoes
- Rain gear
- Insect repellent and sunscreen
- Camera for photos of damage

### RECOVER AFTER A HURRICANE

#### What to Do After a Hurricane:

- Continue listening to a NOAA Weather Radio or the local news for the latest updates.
- Stay alert for extended rainfall and subsequent flooding even after the hurricane or tropical storm has ended.
- If you evacuated, return home only when officials say it is safe.
- Drive only if necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed out bridges.
- Keep away from loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately to the power company.
- Stay out of any building that has water around it.
- Inspect your home for damage. Take pictures of damage, both of the building and its contents, for insurance purposes.
- Use flashlights in the dark. Do NOT use candles.
- Avoid drinking or preparing food with tap water until you are sure it’s not contaminated.

- Check refrigerated food for spoilage. If in doubt, throw it out.
- Wear protective clothing and be cautious when cleaning up to avoid injury.
- Watch animals closely and keep them under your direct control.
- Use the telephone only for emergency calls.

#### As You Rebuild:

- Secure double entry doors at the top and the bottom.
- Strengthen existing garage doors to improve the wind resistance, particularly double- wide garage doors.
- Protect windows with permanent storm shutters or one-half inch marine plywood that is pre-cut to fit your doors and windows.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts to prevent flooding and unnecessary pressure on the awnings.
- Select trees that are not as subject to uprooting to replace damaged ones. A gardening or landscaping professional can give you excellent advice.
- Identify a place to store lawn furniture, toys, gardening tools and trash cans that is away from stairs and exits to prevent them from being moved by high winds and becoming missiles.

#### Ask a Professional to:

- Ensure roof sheathing is properly installed.
- Ensure end gables are securely fastened to the rest of the roof.
- Fasten the roof to the walls with hurricane straps.
- Elevate your home if it is near the coast and subject to flooding from storm surge.
- Let Your Family Know You’re Safe:
- If your community has experienced a disaster, register on the American Red Cross Safe and Well web site to let your family and friends know about your welfare. You may also call 1-866-GET-INFO to register yourself and your family.