



FALL BALL

SPORTS + RECREATION
2021



WEKIVA MUSTANGS



&

APOPKA BLUE DARTERS

NEWS / TEAMS / PLAYERS / GAME SCHEDULES / CITY RECREATION NEWS
SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE PLANTER AUGUST 26 AND THE APOPKA CHIEF AUGUST 27

Blue Darters focusing on finishing games properly

With a full schedule ahead for the 2021 Apopka Blue Darters football team, Jeff Rolson begins his third season as the head coach of the Blue Darters.

Apopka is 20-6 under Rolson and has made deep runs in the playoffs each season. However, the coaches and players will tell you that both seasons should have and certainly could have ended with the Blue Darters hoisting the Class 8A state championship trophy.

In 2019, there was a 13-point late fourth-quarter lead that evaporated and led to a 21-20 loss to Miami Christopher Columbus and in 2020, it was a 24-14 fourth-quarter lead in a state semifinal that Sanford Seminole turned into a 28-24 victory and the state title the following week, easily defeating Kissimmee Osceola 38-10.

With those two disappointments looming in their minds, Apopka coaches and players have a focus on finishing for the upcoming 2021 season.

“Obviously, the past two years have been

great seasons, but we haven’t finished,” Rolson said.

“We talked about the fine line between winning and losing. It’s a razor’s edge sometimes. We have to make sure we’re holding each other accountable and that we’re getting the job done, and paying attention to all the tasks. I think the kids understand that and they relate to the fact that we’ve got to finish. That’s from us (coaches) and them (players) as well. I think they understand that and we’ll see how it plays out.”

Nikai Martinez, who is one of three four-year starters for the Blue Darters and a leader on the Apopka defense, left no doubt as to how the team will approach the 2021 regular season.

When he was asked about what the team needs to do to finish the season after losing out on a great chance of winning the past two state championships, Martinez broke it down even further.

See APOPKA Page 7

Mustangs facing several adjustments this season

The Wekiva players on the Mustangs’ football team aren’t just facing the challenge of adjusting to a new coaching staff. Nor is the new coaching staff just facing the challenge of adjusting to replacing around 75 percent of the personnel. As the new season approaches, the program is facing both challenges.

“Progress has been steady though,” coach Jeremiah Schwartz said when fall practices began. “Every day, every practice, we are further ahead of where we were when starting (Schwartz took over in January). The players and coaches value practicing with purpose. The big picture is understood more and more. For us, the big picture started with the most basic fundamental of sports, gaining experience toward what being an athlete entails.”

Wekiva has earned a 57-23 record and six berths into the FHSAA postseason tournament over the past seven seasons.

“The specific area where progression has taken place the most is understanding what

being an athlete entails,” Schwartz said. “It’s been most noticeable over the last month as well. The intensity and amount of dedication has always been strong. However, what is dedicated to has expanded beyond the present. Attention what we are doing now affects how moving forward has developed.

“Waiting for the coaches’ directions is no longer the norm for the players as an example. The players are now making decisions and taking actions essential to creating practices in which a routine is followed. Nor are decisions made and actions taken limited to during practices. Dedication to the overall goal of steady improvement at the highest level starts with having a purpose when practicing.”

A significant number of Mustangs have experience playing football. However, less than 25 percent of the players have experience lining up for a high school varsity team. Only two starters return for the Mustangs.

See WEKIVA Page 5

Table of contents	
Apopka Blue Darters outlook	2
Wekiva Mustangs outlook	2
Index of advertisers	2
Apopka Blue Darters team picture	3
Apopka Recreation Division activities	4
Wekiva Mustangs team pictures	6
Apopka Blue Darters schedule.....	10
Wekiva Mustangs schedule.....	12
Wekiva Mustangs roster.....	15
Apopka Blue Darters roster.....	15

Position group pictures for each team will appear in the Aug. 27 edition of *The Apopka Chief*.

INDEX	
Anzaldo Septic	9
Apopka Chief, The & The Planter	13
Apopka High School Administration & Faculty	8
Apopka High School, Athletic Department and Administrative Team	10
Apopka Office Supply	8
Baptiste Orthodontics and Dentistry for Kids.....	16
City Driving School.....	8
Community Health Centers.....	14
Deb’s Garden Shop at Liner Patch.....	7
Marvin C. Zanders Funeral Home, Inc.	11
Roger Franklin Williams Show.....	3
Roger A.Williams, Remembrance.....	6
State Farm, Shren Yeager	4
Wekiva High School Administration & Faculty.....	9
Wekiva High School, Athletic Department	5
Workplace Screening Intelligence	9

2021 Apopka Blue Darters varsity football team



FORMER BLUE DARTER TE



ROGER WILLIAMS



***Salutes* Coach Jeff Rolson
and the 2021 Apopka
Blue Darters**



City of Apopka's Recreation Division offers many programs

The following was provided by and written by the Apopka Recreation Division

It's time to dust off the cleats as the city of Apopka Recreation Division welcomes you and your family back for another exciting fall season of athletic programming. However, the action does not stop at the fields alone! The Recreation Division is dedicated to providing the residents of Apopka with a variety of wholesome, innovative, and environmentally diverse recreational programs, activities, and facilities.

The city of Apopka truly is "Where the Fun Begins," and we look forward to seeing you. For more information regarding any of the programs or special events listed below, please call 407-703-1784 or visit us online at www.apopka.net and look for the recreation link.

Online registration

Avoid long registration lines by registering online! Online registration is available for many of the programs offered by the city of Apopka Recreation Division. To register, please visit www.apopka.net, click on the "Register for a Recreation Programs button." You will then be taken to our new

CivicRec site. Once you create your User Name and family profile (please make certain to enter your birth dates) you will be able to look for activities and pay online!

Athletics

The city of Apopka's Athletic Division offers youth and adult programs and leagues for all ages. Whether you are trying to re-kindle that athletic spirit from your high school days or introducing your youngster to a new sport, we have you covered! Sports teach life lessons such as teamwork, leadership, and hard work along with promoting a healthy lifestyle. We will see you on the fields!

Youth Soccer (Spring, Fall) @ Northwest Recreation

Youth soccer is offered for boys and girls ages 4-13.

The fees for these programs are \$110 for city residents per season and \$140 for non-city residents per season and include a uniform.

Registration for the fall 2021 season is currently under way and will continue through August 29. Participants may register online by visiting www.apopka.net or in person at the Northwest Recreation Complex located at

3710 Jason Dwelley Parkway, Apopka. The Northwest Recreation Complex front office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Birth certificates are required at registration.

Come join the fun! Our youth soccer program had more than 500 players last season!

The spring 2022 soccer season registration will begin in January.

Youth Flag Football (winter) @ Northwest Recreation

Youth flag football is offered for boys and girls ages 5-14.

The fees for this program are \$110 for city residents per season and \$140 for non-city residents. Registration fee includes NFL team-branded reversible jersey and one NFL flag belt and flags.

Registration for the Winter 2020 season will start in October. Participants may register online by visiting www.apopka.net or in person at the Northwest Recreation Complex located at 3710 Jason Dwelley Parkway, Apopka. The Northwest Recreation Complex front office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Birth certificates are required at registration.

Youth basketball (summer)

Youth basketball is offered for boys and girls ages 6-14.

The fees for this program are \$110 for city residents per season and \$140 for non-city residents. Registration fee includes jersey and one ticket to an Orlando Magic basketball game.

Registration for the summer 2022 season will start in March. Participants may register online by visiting www.apopka.net or in person at the Northwest Recreation Complex located at 3710 Jason Dwelley Parkway, Apopka. The Northwest Recreation Complex front office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Birth certificates are required at registration.

Youth Outdoor Basketball League (fall) @ Alonzo Williams Park

Youth Outdoor Basketball is offered to boys and girls ages 5-14. The fees for this program are \$60 for city residents and \$75 for non-city residents. Registration includes a jersey. Registration will begin August 1 online at www.apopka.net. Call 407-703-1742 for more information.

Adult Softball and Kickball

We offer several adult softball leagues throughout the year, including men's, women's, and co-ed. All leagues are sanctioned

by the USSSA. First-place teams will receive a trophy and a T-shirt; second-place teams will receive a trophy. On Monday nights, we will also offer our adult co-ed kickball league. Softball and kickball teams are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Your team must have a completed registration form and have paid all necessary fees to be considered registered. There must be at least four registered teams for kickball in order to host the league. There will be no summer or winter seasons for kickball.

Games are held at the Northwest Recreation Complex, 3710 Jason Dwelley Parkway, Apopka. Adult softball program fee: \$405/team; adult kickball program fee: \$250/team.

Please call Rhonda Cline at 407-703-1784 for registration information and league dates.

Adult Flag Football @ Alonzo Williams Park

We are launching a coed adult flag football league this winter! First-place team in league play wins a T-shirt. First-place team in playoffs wins a trophy. Teams are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Free agents may call for registration. There must be at least four registered teams in order to host the league. Fees: \$350/team for an eight-game season plus playoffs. \$35/individual for a free agent team. Sign-ups: October 1.

Call 407-703-1742 or email fsutton@gmail.com for more information.

Racquetball Court

The racquetball court at Kit Land Nelson Park, 10 South Forest Avenue, is available for play by permit only. City of Apopka residents can purchase a six-month permit for \$100 and an annual permit for \$195, slightly higher fees apply for non-residents. For further information, please call 407-703-1642

Tennis courts

Northwest Recreation Complex

The city has four tennis courts at the Northwest Recreation Complex, 3710 Jason Dwelley Parkway. Use of the tennis courts is free Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. After 5 p.m. and on the weekends, the hourly court fee is \$5 for residents and \$6 for non-residents. You may also purchase a permit for after-hours and weekend use. Permit users must show their current permit in order to play. The cost of a monthly permit for Apopka residents is \$25 monthly, a 6-month permit is \$100; and the cost for a 12-month



Good Luck Blue Darters & Mustangs

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See CITY Page 12

Wekiva: Mustangs need experience more than just about anything

Continued from page 2

“Making progression is the first step in general,” Schwartz said. “Given the steadiness with which progression continues to be made, is a good first step for us. Moving forward is always a positive compared to standing still or even going backwards. Measurement is in comparison to where Wekiva was at the beginning and from the intra-team perspective. Again, though, at this stage the coaches know what we can do against ourselves.

“Eventually every team has to ask the same general question though. How quick of a pace is the progress when measuring ourselves against opponents? The point of sports is to compete against other teams.”

“The abilities, talent and skill set are more refined, better applied every day, in practice,” Schwartz said. “We are still learning how to apply the skill-set and talent at the same level consistently which is the next step of progress. Execution isn’t always consistent from play to play. Alternating between weighty and non-tangible yardage gained is the tangible result. Moving from competitive to winning requires improving how efficiently skill set and talent is applied.”

Wekiva will run a spread offense with pro-style emphasis.

Generally, pro-style offenses place a premium on a balance as far as design of the plays. In order to achieve balance, the use of multiple formations is a principal focus. Employing fullbacks and tight ends works hand in hand. Rushing is primarily built on zone and stack rushing schemes at the line. Intention is to create open space beyond the tight ends and tackles at the linebacker level, into which the ballcarrier slides.

Play-action is the trigger for the passing attack. The rushing attack has to gain significant yards for play-action to effectively cause confusion among the defense.

Perhaps no position more illustrates the Mustangs’ need for consistency than quarterback. Elijah Rooney and Tyra Davis saw limited time last season as backups. Neither has performed at a level consistently detrimental to the team. However, the performances haven’t included an overall consistently high component either.

Ability to execute plays gaining significant yardage and creating damage to defenses has been shown by both quarterbacks. Executing successive plays with the specific

end result of keeping the chains moving downfield or possession has yet to be shown by either as well.

The running back position will be by committee as of right now. James Brown, Romell Smith, and Terrell Weathers will be assigned the majority of the rushes and running back responsibilities. Use of H-backs and tight ends vary in offenses with a pro-style emphasis. The roles will be filled by Omar Haynes, Sincere Edwards, and Tamareon Foster.

Chris Reed, Justin Hutchinson, and Mike Foster form the core of the wide receivers.

With the addition of Hakeem Lowe, Wekiva can also employ an athlete or player who can contribute from every skilled position.

Edyson Edmond (right tackle), Giodanny Negron (right guard), Jakoby Lowery (center), Holly Saintmelus (left guard), and Davion Watkins (left tackle) are the most likely offensive line.

The lone returning starter on offense is Lowery. However, Lowe is a senior transfer who previously started.

Wekiva will line up in the 4-2-5 and 3-4 formations on defense.

Primary tangible advantage of utilizing the 4-2-5 is the more defensive lineman, the more likely potential gaps at the line are turned into non-existent. Clogging the middle of the line is the trigger for successfully executing the 4-2-5. Forcing offenses to run plays away from the middle of the line, significantly creates uncertainty for offenses.

Secondary is made up of two safeties, two cornerbacks and a nickelback. The nickelback functions as a cornerback though, playing on every down.

The 4-2-5 is also an advantage for teams whose forte is speed. Reaction is when the ball is snapped, instead of while reading the play before.

Creating more pressure at the line reduces the amount of time defensive players have to cover receivers while running routes. If pressure isn’t created though, there’s still five players in the secondary.

“Who is known for the most part on defense,” Schwartz said. “However, we have a lot of moving pieces in general, which means the what and when is still to be determined. Moving pieces is even more so

See WEKIVA Page 12

Wekiva High School Athletic Department

salutes the

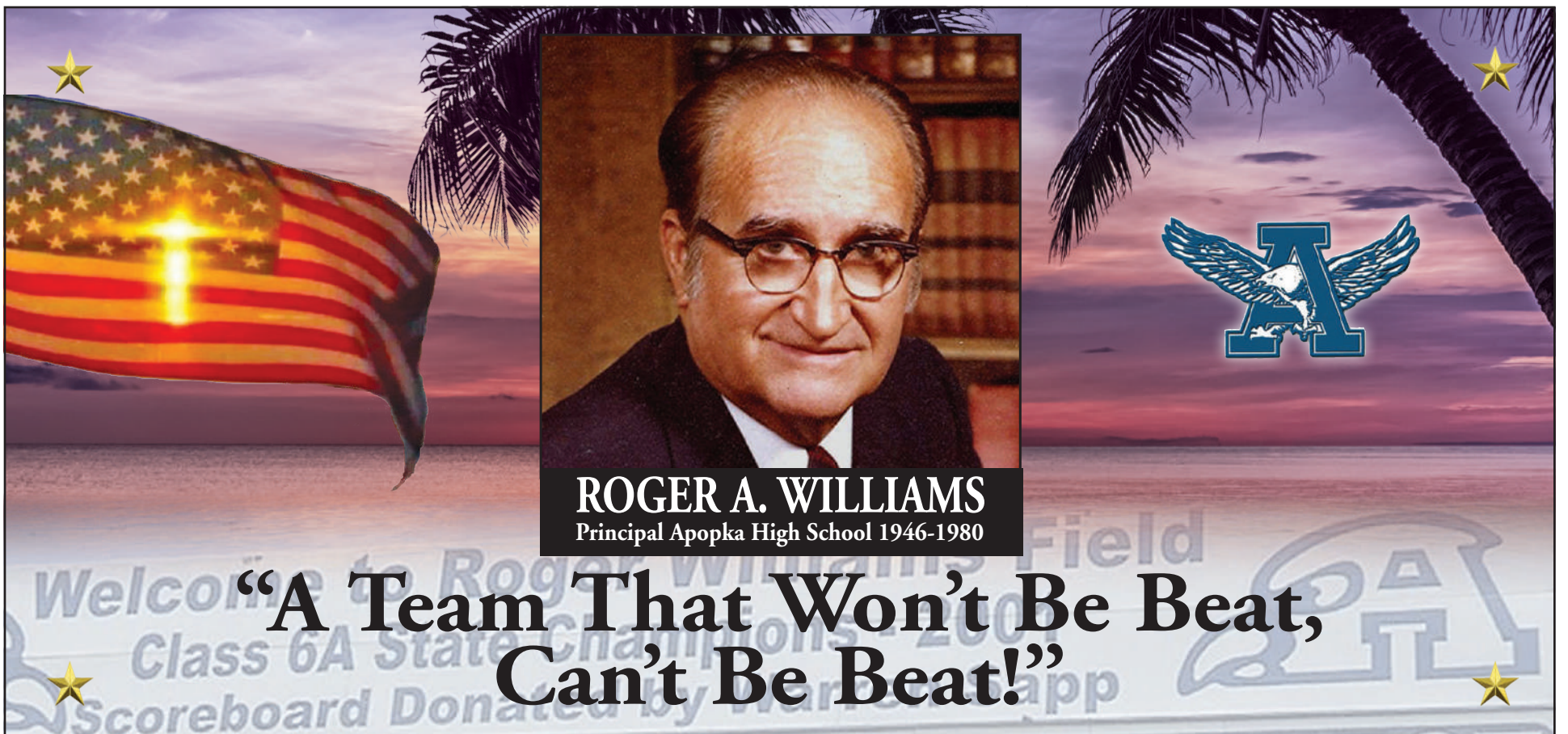
2021 Wekiva Mustangs!

GO Mustangs!

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2021 Wekiva Mustangs varsity football team



Apopka: Blue Darters will run offense out of the spread this season

Continued from page 2

“Instead of finishing the season, we need to finish games,” the senior cornerback said. “We need to get through the fourth quarter the way we get through the first, second, and third quarters. That’s really the goal for this year.”

Martinez, who has committed to play college football at the University of Central Florida, said that learning to finish games and win tough playoff contests is done when the team is gridding in practice.

“Every day in practice is like the fourth quarter. Who’s going to lay down when it’s time to run that last sprint? Who’s going to lay down when we do fourth-and-one? Who’s going to quit and who’s going to survive? Whoever survives, that’s who we want to have in there in the fourth quarter. In those big games, when it’s win-or-go-home, even when it’s not. That’s really the goal, to finish, finish, finish.”

Senior linebacker Josiah Robinson, who is also a four-year starter for the Blue Darters, echoed Martinez’s statement on what the team needs to do in 2021.

“For us this year, we’ve got to stay in it,” Robinson said. “We’ve got to prepare right and our mentality has to be right. Like Nikai said, we’ve got to finish. When it comes to the third and fourth quarter, the nitty-gritty, when it’s a close game, we can’t just lay down or we can’t just lay off the gas pedal when we’re up. We’ve got to keep on the gas until that fourth-quarter bell.”

Robinson has committed to Coastal Carolina.

Another senior, offensive lineman Dyson Hurlburt, said those losses deep in the playoffs will serve as motivation for the Blue Darters this season.

“Most of us who are seniors were there as sophomores for the state championship game. We all know how it felt and we know how it felt last season,” Hurlburt said.

“I think we really have the mindset and the heart that we have to get it done this year. We know what we want to do and we know what we’re gonna do. It’ll mean a lot to me being at Apopka all four years with my brothers. It’ll mean a lot to get a ring this year.”

Defensive lineman Kaven Call is just a junior, but the 2021 season will be the third year he’s been a starter, so he understands the disappointment suffered in the past two playoff losses.

“Even though I’m coming up on my

junior season, I can’t take it for granted. I can’t just say, ‘Oh, I’ve got another season. I have another chance at a ring,’” Call said.

“I’ve got to treat this like it’s my last season, too, like it’s my senior season. I’ve got to put everything on the line this year to get a ring because that second-place feeling is still in my mouth and I don’t like it, so we’ve got to push and I know we will because we’re going to train harder than ever. To finish this season (as state champion) would mean everything and I’ve got to treat it as my last.”

Offensive changes

As the Blue Darters did in the spring jamboree against Dr. Phillips and Winter Park, they will move to the spread offense, but don’t plan to become pass happy all of a sudden.

Rolson said he wants to pass the ball about 15 times a game and keep Apopka’s traditionally strong running game intact.

“I think we’ll take what the defense gives us, but we definitely want to be able to run the ball. We want to have a physical run game, a physical scheme,” Rolson said.

Getting new quarterback Andrew McClain ingrained in the new Apopka offense is important. He transferred earlier this year from Seminole High, the team that knocked the Blue Darters out of the playoffs in a Class 8A state semifinal game last year.

“There’s more quarterback run stuff that we can do that we haven’t done because you don’t want to get your guy hurt in spring or at camp. There’s some single wing stuff that we’ll be hanging on to and repping so it will give us an opportunity to have a couple of packages that we can shovel the guys in.”

To get those offensive packages set for the season, the first week of practice that began Monday, August 2, saw more intense work on that side of the ball since no contact was allowed during the first five practices.

Prior to practice beginning, Rolson said, “It’s going to be about installation and timing. It’s easier to practice offense without pads than it is defense, but we’ll be concentrating on personnel groupings and our scheme stuff, and develop and solidify our depth chart.”

Defensive depth chart

Even though the depth chart is fairly well set for the Apopka defense, Rolson said that nobody’s starting job is guaranteed.

“You’ve got guys who are capable of starting but they’ve got to go out there and practice. If you can beat a guy out, it might happen week three. There are still some spots

we’re up in the air about and still some spots we’ve got to get some depth at,” he said.

“We don’t write anything in ink and say, ‘You’re the guy and that’s where you stay.’ It seems like we always make changes at some point in the season where we’ve got to move a guy. We may find out we’re just not getting it done in a spot and maybe our next guy in the position needs to start there and so we take one of those guys and move him somewhere else to strengthen that. We’ll have to see how that plays out.”

Season ahead

With the pandemic having thrown high school football schedules for a loop last season, the 2021 season, while scheduled to be a full 10-game regular season, there are major changes to the Class 8A districts, especially in Central Florida as Apopka is now in a district that doesn’t include longtime rival West Orange. Since districts were established more than 50 years ago, the Blue Darters and the high school in Winter Garden – either Lakeview or West Orange – have been in the same district. This season, however, the Warriors are in District 8A-9 along with Osceola and Dr. Phillips, while Apopka is in

District 8A-4.

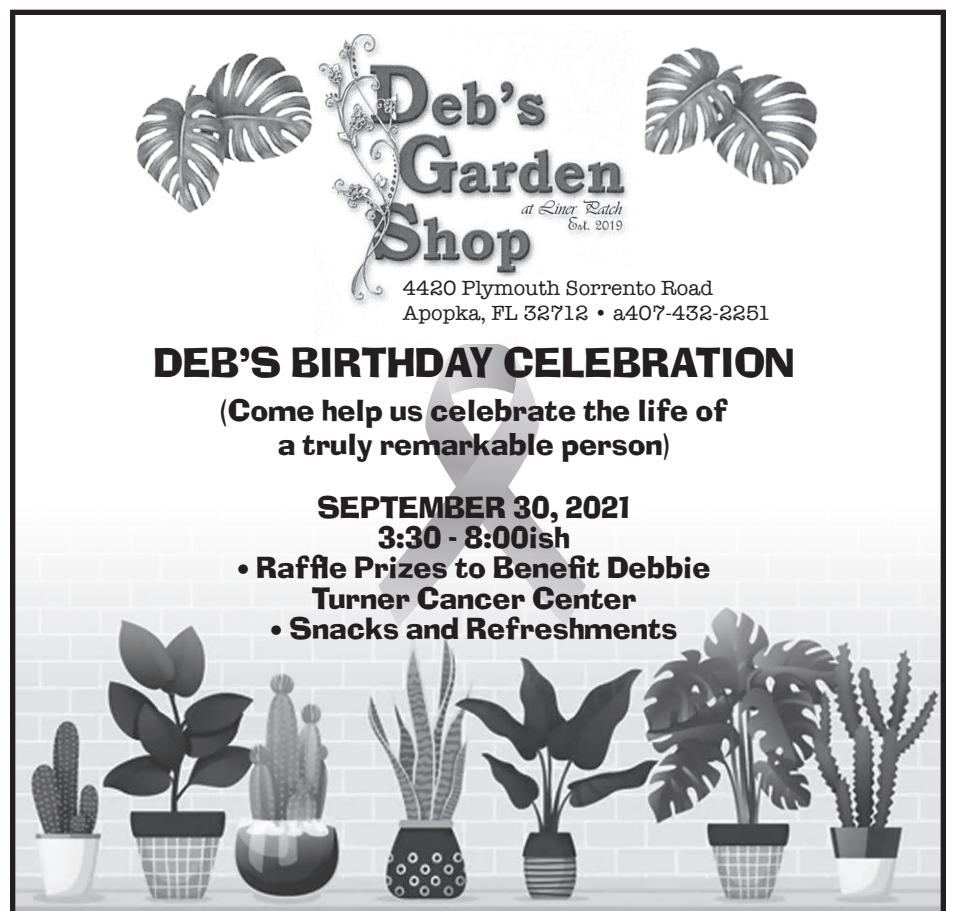
Joining the Blue Darters in that district are Ocoee, Evans, Lake Brantley, and Ocala West Port.

Apopka will be a heavy favorite to dominate the district, but the vast majority of the Blue Darters’ non-district foes reads like a who’s who list of perennial playoff contenders. In those games, the Darters will play West Orange, Dr. Phillips, Edgewater, Lakeland, Wekiva, and Colonial.

Although Colonial is certainly no powerhouse, the Grenadiers were 3-6 last season under head coach Donny Hodges and joining Colonial this season is longtime area coach Bill Gierke, who will serve as the defensive coordinator.

The open date for the Blue Darters doesn’t come until eight regular-season games have been played and will be on October 22. Homecoming is set for the week prior on October 15 against West Port. Senior night will be in the final game of the regular season against hometown rival Wekiva on November 5. The Blue Darters have one Thursday game on October 28 when they host Lake Brantley.

See APOPKA Page 10



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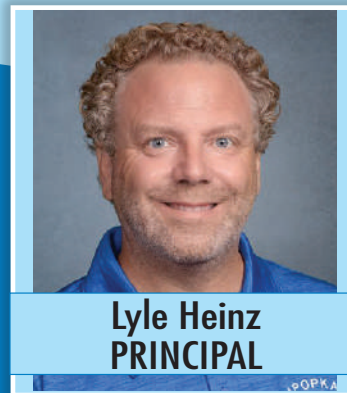
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3:30 - 8:00ish

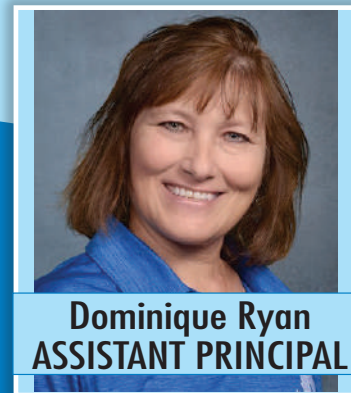
- Raffle Prizes to Benefit Debbie Turner Cancer Center
- Snacks and Refreshments

APOPKA HIGH SCHOOL & WEKIVA HIGH SCHOOL

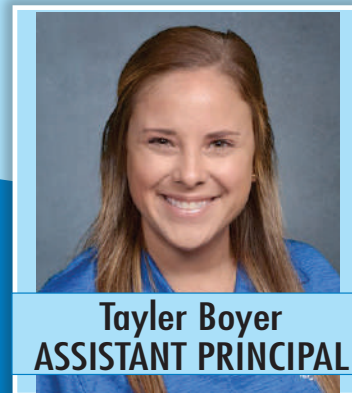
MEET SOME OF THE FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATORS



Lyle Heinz
PRINCIPAL



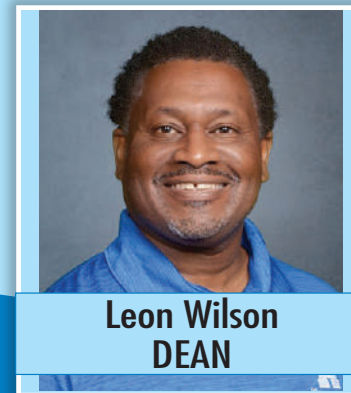
Dominique Ryan
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



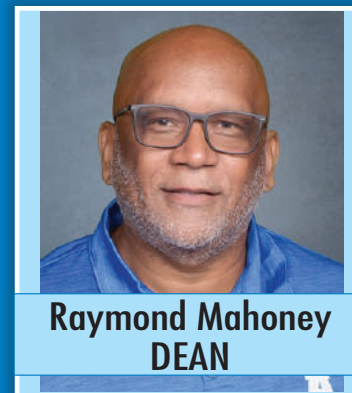
Tayler Boyer
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



Marcia Owens
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



Leon Wilson
DEAN



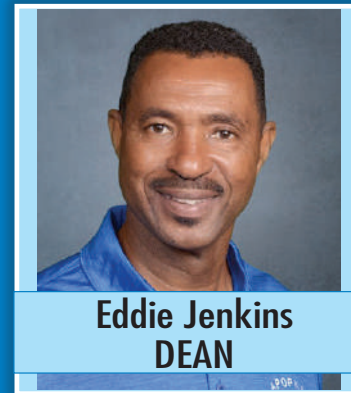
Raymond Mahoney
DEAN



Katherine Pickels
DEAN



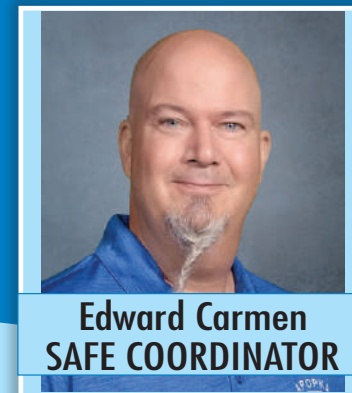
Stevie Oliver
DEAN



Eddie Jenkins
DEAN



Edgar Sanders
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



Edward Carmen
SAFE COORDINATOR

Not Pictured
Jodie Rolston-Cary
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



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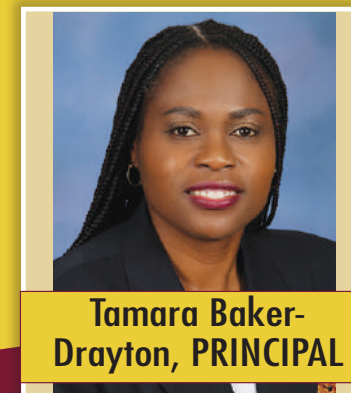
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- First-Time Drive Class (D.A.T.C.)
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Good Luck, Blue Darters & Mustangs!

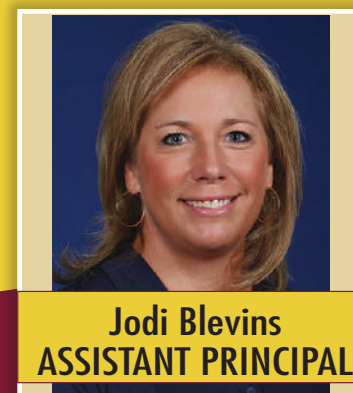
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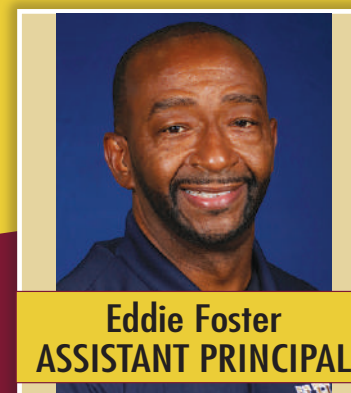
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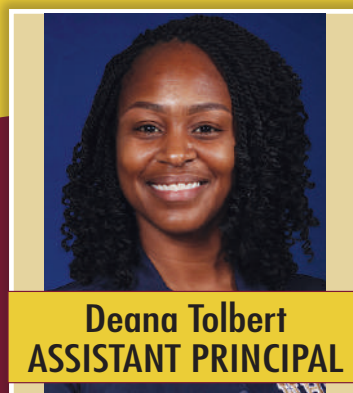
Jodi Blevins
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



Eddie Foster
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



Crystal McMiller
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



Deana Tolbert
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Not Pictured
Danelle Littles
READING COACH

Not Pictured
Tami Martin
INTERVENTIONIST
SPECIALIST



Donell Morrell
ACADEMIC DEAN



Danny Martinez
MATH COACH



Brian Bruce
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Not Pictured
Corey McGuire
ADMINISTRATIVE DEAN

Not Pictured
La'tanya Coffey-Wilson
SAFE COORDINATOR

Not Pictured
Keisha Brown-Griffin
ADMINISTRATIVE DEAN



Shayla Lilly
SECONDARY PARENT
LIAISON



Stephen Furo
BUSINESS/ACTIVITIES MANAGER

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Travis Brown
CURRICULUM
RESOURCE TEACHER

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2021 Apopka Blue Darters varsity football schedule

Aug.	27	Colonial	A#
Sep.	3	West Orange	H#
	10	Dr. Phillips	A#
	17	Ocoee	A*#
	24	Edgewater	H#
Oct.	1	Evans	A*#
	8	Lakeland	A
	15	Ocala West Port	H*
	22	Open	
	28	Lake Brantley	H*
Nov.	5	Wekiva	H#

*-District 8A-3 game

#-Metro Conference game

Lake Brantley game is on Thursday.

Ticket prices are as follows: \$7 on gofan.co, plus \$1 convenience fee. Cash price at gate will be \$9. Games begin at 7 p.m. Games will be broadcast on WBZW-1520AM and www.1520thebiz.com.

Apopka: Regular season starts Aug. 27

Continued from page 7

The regular-season schedule is as follows for the Blue Darters with District 8A-4 games in bold: Friday, August 27, 7 p.m. at Colonial Grenadiers; Friday, September 3, 7 p.m. home vs. West Orange; Friday, September 10, 7 p.m. at Dr. Phillips; **Friday, September 17, 7 p.m. at Ocoee**; Friday, September 24, 7 p.m. home vs. Edgewater; **Friday, October 1, 7 p.m. at Evans**; Friday, October 8, 7 p.m. at Lakeland; **Friday, October 15, 7 p.m. home vs. Ocala West Port**; Friday, October 22, open date; **Thursday, October 28, 7 p.m. home vs. Lake Brantley**; and Friday, November 5, home vs. Wekiva.

Coaching staff

There are some changes to the coaching staff as Rolson begins his third season as the Blue Darters' head coach.

Mark Barrett served on the Apopka football staff from 2014 to 2016 but moved to Texas until earlier this year. He worked with the team some during spring practice in May, commuting from Texas to Apopka for about half the practices. Now, he's back full-time

and will coach the quarterbacks as well as call the plays for the Apopka offense.

Bill Caughell will coach the offensive line, while former Apopka quarterback Zack Darlington will also work with the quarterbacks.

Jett Davison will coach running backs and Dawson Shreiner will serve as coach of the wide receivers.

Rolson will continue serve as defensive coordinator and coach linebackers, while Ty Parker will help with the overall defense, concentrating on the safeties. Marcus Neeson will coach cornerbacks and longtime Apopka assistant Matt Anderson will again coach the defensive line.

Dave Newell, who once was an assistant coach, has returned to help out on defense as he will coach outside linebackers and coordinate the nickel pass coverage packages.

Working both on Friday nights with the varsity and during the week with the Apopka High freshman football team will be Kelvin Joyner, Dion Williams, and Chris Barnes. In addition, Rodney Hodges will continue to serve as a staff member, especially on Fridays during games.

The Blue Darter Athletic Department and Administrative Team

Salutes

The 2021 Apopka High School
Football Team

Best Wishes!



Marwin C. Landers

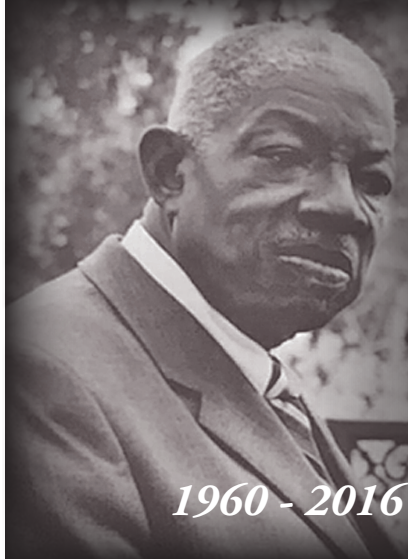
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2021 Wekiva Mustangs varsity football schedule				
Aug.	27	Olympia	A#	
Sep.	3	Ocoee	A#	
	10	West Orange	H#	
	17	Open		
	24	Lake Nona	A#	
Oct.	1	Davenport Ridge Community	H*	
	8	Evans	H#	
	15	Edgewater	A*#	
	22	Clermont East Ridge	H*	
	29	Winter Haven	A*	
Nov.	5	Apopka	A#	
*-District 7A-6 game #-Metro Conference game Ticket prices are as follows: \$7 on gofan.co, plus \$1 convenience fee. Cash price at gate will be \$9. Games begin at 7 p.m., except for Winter Haven game, which will start at 7:30 p.m.				

City: Facilities available for rent

Continued from page 4

permit is \$195.

Other events

Facility and field rental

The Fran Carlton Center, the Apopka Community Center, and the picnic pavilions and athletic fields at the Northwest Recreation Complex are available for rental. Call us before you book your corporate seminar, wedding, family reunion, birthday party, or other special occasion. To rent the Fran Carlton Center or the Apopka Community Center, please call 407-703-1642. To reserve a picnic pavilion or athletic field at the Northwest Recreation Complex, please call 407-703-1784.

All rentals are booked on a first-come, first-served basis. A security deposit is required at some locations. Please call the numbers listed above for more detailed information.

Adventure Day Camp

Our day camp program is second to none in the Central Florida area! Your children will have so much fun that they will beg to come back for the next session. Our program

follows the Orange County Public School schedule. We offer day camp programs during summer break, winter break, and spring break. Our program fills up fast and we only take a limited number of children in each age group, so be sure to call 407-703-1741 for current prices and further details.

To register Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., please visit our office located at the Northwest Recreation Complex, 3710 Jason Dwelley Parkway, Apopka, or our office at the Fran Carlton Center located at 11 N. Forest Ave, Apopka. Or you may register online by visiting www.apopka.net.

Our summer, winter, and spring Adventure Camps all take place at the Fran Carlton Center located at 11 North Forest Avenue, Apopka.

Winter Adventure Camp

This is the Apopka Recreation Day Camp for children currently in kindergarten through fifth grade.

For current camp fees, please call 407-703-1642. There will also be additional fees

See CITY Page 13

Wekiva: Coach Schwartz played running back at Edgewater High

Continued from page 5

for the defense though. Determining any concrete, definitive answers to the what and when usually requires a few games. However, needing a few games to determine concrete, definitive answers for the who and what is even more so for the defense. Youth and inexperience are why again. When the lights are turned on and directed to the players is the best measurement of what and when.

“And part of the bright lights is more room for a mistake on offense than defense. If offense loses yardage because of a mistake involving execution, the play is wasted. However, the offense has four plays to work with during each series. Making a mistake on defense can result in the offense scoring a sudden and unexpected touchdown. The defense can’t take the touchdown off the scoreboard on the next play. Long touchdowns almost always change the complexion of a game.”

The defensive line will be manned by Sincere Edwards, Traveon Rudolph, Davion Watkins, and George Reid.

The linebacker core consists of Donovan

Knight and Quadar Cargill.

Tamareon Foster (safety), Noah Putnam (safety), Jeremy Rudolph (cornerback), Jabari Smith (cornerback), and Matt Perkins (nickelback) make up the secondary.

The lone returning starter on defense is Foster. However, Foster is the player best suited to deal with the situation. Foster has been a starter for the last two seasons while leading the team in interceptions as well as pass break ups. The most tackles among the secondary last season were also made by Foster.

“Importance of the difference in managing the emotional response between inexperience and experience is utmost, too,” Schwartz said. “Failure to consider the emotional response and its effect needs to change in order to consistently win is a big mistake. A team isn’t going to always lead. The level of focus among teams which consistently wins remains the same regardless of emotional swings during a game. A part of the big picture is understanding the game is 48 minutes long and each play adds up to the outcome. The more experience a team has dealing with the emotional swings, the better

managed.

“The cancellation of junior varsity competition for 2020 also factors into the pace of progression. However, every team is dealing with the unknown effects of a cancelled junior varsity season.”

The 2021 schedule is made up of Olympia (Aug. 27, away), Ocoee (Sept. 3, away), West Orange (Sept. 10, home), Lake Nona (Sept. 24, away), Davenport Ridge Community (Oct. 1, home), Evans (Oct. 8, home), Edgewater (Oct. 15, away), Clermont East Ridge (Oct. 22, home), Winter Haven (Oct. 29, away) and Apopka (Nov. 5, away).

Automatic berths into the state playoffs (FHSAA postseason tournament) are earned by the district champions. District champs are seeded no lower than fourth in the region. Each of the four regions in the state are divided into four districts. A point system (Maxpreps.com) determines the four wild-card, at-large berths in each region and seedings. The better the records of opponents, the more points are earned.

A running back, Coach Schwartz played for Bill Gierke at Edgewater and graduated in 2008. Iowa State and Hampton University

made up Schwartz’s collegiate career. When coaching called, Schwartz began coaching at Durham University in England (about 155 miles south of Scotland) while pursuing a master’s degree in education. Since returning to the states, Schwartz has been a part of coaching staffs for Hialeah Gardens, Miami Norland, Oak Ridge, and Orangewood Christian. Milburn Duverna, Jeremy Gallon, Buddy Hurd, Keith Ivey, Jerry Middleton, Clearance Pankey, Max Purcell, Cedric Reese, Josh Robinson, and George Spearman serve as assistant coaches.

“Skill-set and talent is good enough to compete right now,” Schwartz said. “Experience across the entire range is the greatest strength and weakness right now though. Every decision and direction will continue for the immediate future to be dictated by experience across the entire range possessed. Making the move to the varsity level is the biggest definitive and individual challenge this season. Youth means a lot of learning, and adjusting to the requirements of athletic competition has been achieved. A lot more is required as the regular season begins as well though.”

City: Apopka offers several programs and classes for senior adults

Continued from page 12

for field trips. All fees including daily camp fees and trip fees must be paid at the time of registration.

Open registration will begin on November 15. Registration will be ongoing until all spaces have been filled.

Winter camp will run from Monday, December 20, through Thursday, December 30. Camp will not be offered on December 25, 26, or 31 due to the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Spring Adventure Camp

This is the Apopka Recreation Day Camp for children currently in kindergarten through fifth grade.

For current spring camp fees, please call 407-703-1642. There will also be additional fees for field trips. All fees including, application fees, daily camp fees, and trip fees must be paid at the time of registration.

Open registration will begin on February 7, 2022. Registration will be ongoing until all spaces have been filled.

Spring camp will run from Monday, March 14, 2022, through Friday, March 18, 2022.

Summer Adventure Camp

This is the Apopka Recreation Day Camp for children entering first grade through fifth grade (ages 5-10).

During the summer, our day camp hits a whole new level with various activities, which are available to children at each age level. Whether your child is creating a masterpiece, cooking their own meal or exploring our beautiful natural surroundings, you can be sure they will experience a variety of activities throughout the summer.

For current camp fees, please call 407-703-1642. Rates will include a movie snack each week, special event, activities, and all field trips. Lunch and an afternoon snack will be provided each day. Due to scheduling, we do not register for partial weeks during the summer. Since rates are all inclusive, no field trip refunds will be issued for trips not attended. A camp T-shirt is required for all field trips.

Open registration will begin on April 11, 2022. Registration will be ongoing until all spaces have been filled.

Camp will not take place on July 4 due to citywide observance of Independence Day. Summer Camp will begin on Tuesday, May 31, 2022 and run through Friday, July 29, 2022

City Dance by KidzDance

City Dance by KidzDance will be offering dance classes at the Fran Carlton Center located at 11 North Forest Avenue, Apopka. The cost is \$125. Sign up today by calling 321-256-4705 or emailing info@KidzDance.com

<http://www.apopka.net/dance>

Senior adult programming

The city of Apopka Recreation Division believes that leisure time and physical activity help to promote a healthier lifestyle within our senior adult community. With that in mind, the Fran Carlton Center, located at 11 North Forest Avenue, is proud to offer a variety of mid-morning activities, programs, and day trips designed especially for our senior adult members. Please call 407-703-1642 for further details.

Senior memberships

In order to participate in the various senior adult programs offered by the Apopka Recreation Department, you must first obtain a recreation membership. Membership fees are due each January and are good for a full calendar year. To purchase a membership, stop by the Fran Carlton Center located at 11 N. Forest Avenue, Apopka, or the Northwest Recreation Complex located at 3710 Jason Dwelley Parkway, Apopka, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Senior chair exercise class

Chair exercise classes meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 9-10 a.m. at the Fran Carlton Center in Apopka. These free classes are led by certified instructor, Kathryn Duncan.

Senior Zumba gold

Zumba especially for senior adults is offered every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9-10 a.m., at the Fran Carlton Center. Certified Zumba instructor Rosemary Zaldana will guide you through a series of fun, easy dances such as merengue, cha cha, flamenco, belly dance, reggae, salsa, and more. This "exercise in disguise" will leave you wondering whether it was a workout or a party. Prior dance experience is not required. There is no set class fee, but the instructor accepts donations. 407-703-1642

Walk With Ease program

Walk With Ease is a six-week guided walking program that meets three times per week at several of our local recreation sites. This free program is offered through a grant from The Arthritis Foundation and The Florida Parks and Recreation Association. Participants will build their endurance and also increase flexibility and mobility in a safe and non-competitive atmosphere. For more information

on upcoming session dates and times, please call 407-703-1642.

Artist's studio

Come join the fun with our adult painting club. Learn techniques in traditional watercolor and acrylic and find your hidden artistic talent! This group meets on Tuesdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. There is no set fee for this class; however, there are occasionally guest instructors that will charge a fee. You will be given a supply list at the first class you attend.

Social bridge

Every Wednesday we offer a social bridge group. The bridge is mid-level and new players are asked to sign up in advance to be sure the tables are even. The card group always welcomes new members; there is no need to sign up in advance for this group. Just show up! The bridge group meets at 9:30 a.m. at the Fran Carlton Center.

Crafts and chatter

Stop by for a morning of creativity at the Fran Carlton Center. Every Tuesday and Wednesday, from 10:00 a.m. to noon, our craft group meets to work on their projects, share ideas, and share conversation. If you are currently working on a project and can't seem

to find the time to finish it, or just want to get some new ideas, stop by and join in the fun.

Senior trips and movies

Each month, we offer our senior members exciting day trip opportunities to several local attractions and events. To name a few, we have visited DeLeon Springs, the Orlando Museum of Art, and have seen many Broadway productions at the Bob Carr Auditorium. In addition, we host a free movie every month at the Fran Carlton Center. Refreshments are provided so come join in the fun!

Senior pot luck lunch

Every month (usually on the last Friday) we host a pot luck lunch just for our senior adult members, where we draw for door prizes, host guest speakers, and share in each other's good cooking! This is a great way to acquaint yourself with our program so why not join today? The cost is \$1 plus a covered dish to share.

Introduction to Ballroom Dancing

This is a six-week session for beginners teaching the basics steps to several ballroom

See CITY Page 14

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City: Doctors' Dog Park is popular

Continued from page 13

dances. This is for adults and is held at the Fran Carlton Center.

Cards

Is held on Thursdays from 10 a.m.-noon. This is a drop-in format so bring some friends or come alone and make some friends.

Dominoes

Held every Thursday from 1-4 p.m. at the Fran Carlton Center. Drop in and bring some friends or come alone; we provide the dominoes.

Other facilities

Doctors' Dog Park

Hey, don't bark up the wrong tree! The city of Apopka invites you and our four-legged friends to join us for a howling good time at Doctors' Dog Park located off of Highland Avenue behind Edward's Field. This dog park of 750 ft. by 300 ft. features water fountains, a pet shower, benches, and, most importantly, plenty of space for man's best friend to frolic and play. We hope to see you there! For further information regarding the dog park, please call 407-703-1784 or www.apopka.net.

Apopka Splash Pad

The Apopka Splash Pad at Kit Land Nelson Park is currently open on weekends through September 26 from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will re-open for the spring season in April 2021. Admission is free. The splash pad can also be rented for private parties after the normal operation hours. Please call for more information 407-703-1741

Special events and activities

The city of Apopka Recreation Division is proud to host many fun-filled special events throughout the year! Sponsorship opportunities are available for area businesses. Please call 407-703-1809 for further information.

September

First Responders 5K at the Northwest Recreation Complex on Saturday, September 11.

October

Hometown Halloween in the Park will take place on Saturday, October 23, 5:30-8 p.m. Saturday Sounds concert series every Saturday at the Apopka Amphitheater October-May from 5-7 p.m. begins October 2.

Queen Tribute Band concert October 23, 5-7 p.m.

Farmers Market returns weekly at Kit Land Nelson Park starting October 21 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

November

City-wide Food Drive begins November 1. The Rotary Fall Festival will take place November 11-14 at Edwards Field.

December

Christmas Tree Lighting will take place on Thursday, December 2.

Apopka Art & Music Fest, Saturday, December 4, Time TBD.

Apopka Christmas Parade will take place on Saturday, December 11.

Holiday Pops Concert December 11 from 5-7 p.m. at the Apopka Amphitheater.

March

Apopka Rotary Fair will take place March 10-13, 2022.

Seniors' Health Fair will take place on Saturday, March 5, 2022.

April

Easter Eggstravaganza (egg hunt) will take place on Saturday, April 16, 2022.

The Apopka Art and Foliage Festival will be held April 23-24, 2022.

May

Memorial Day Ceremony will take place on Monday, May 30, 2022.

July

Fireworks on the 4th event will be at the amphitheater on July 4, 2022.

Apopka Amphitheater

The Apopka Amphitheater is located at the Fields of Fame, Northwest Recreation Complex, 3710 Jason Dwelley Parkway, Apopka. The 223-acre complex is located west of Rock Springs Road and east of Plymouth-Sorrento Road between Ponkan Road and Kelly Park Road.

The amphitheater's bandshell covers a large stage area and fixed-seating for 1,362 people. An open-air lawn provides additional seating that will accommodate up to 5,000 people. The concession building with public restrooms and ticket box office is located nearby.

The amphitheater is encircled with a wide, paved, and well-lighted walkway, which provides an excellent location for vendor/display booths on either side.

Close by, there is a large, waterfront open-air pavilion that is also available for vendor or private rentals. The park has more than 1,500 paved parking spaces, and unpaved parking for overflow parking during high-volume events that provides around 3,000 additional spaces.

The amphitheater stage is equipped with two 400-amp hook-ups or lighting and one

See CITY Page 15

2021 Apopka Blue Darters varsity football team roster

No.	Name	18	Andrew Johnson	36	Travion Barnes	61	Aeneas McCullough
1	Andrew McClain	19	Jordan Wright	38	Cameran Barnes	63	Gabriel Antoine
2	Ke'Shawn Jones	20	Lowendy Smith	39	Jeremiah Keaton	66	Jordan Porter
3	Josiah Robinson	21	Nikai Martinez	42	Jeffrey Woodson	67	Tai Ray
4	Quincy Frazier	22	KeAndre Brown	43	Andrew Kennedy	68	Oness Beauchamp
5	Kavion Nichols	23	Blake Burgett	44	Michael Spain	70	Evan Ashford
6	Antonio Ferguson	24	Reggie McBride	45	Nicolas Gonzalez	72	D'Andre Middlebrooks
7	Keyondray Jones	25	Brent Waldon	50	Lorenzo Payne	77	Demetrius Hall
8	Jamahl Mitchem	26	Isaiah Delgado	51	Joseph Linartas	78	Jace Wright
9	Andre Phillips	27	Malik Nicholson	52	Alex Wideman	84	Kelvin Payne
10	Anthony Summerlin	28	Antwone Robinson	53	Bryson Bowman	88	Bryce Harrison
12	Jaidyn Utile	29	Nathan Jenkins III	54	Zeldrick Roberts	92	Kevin Roberts
13	Lamarius Fair	30	Collin Hughley	55	Eian Martinez	95	Alex Meridith
14	Marcus Grant	31	Matthew Campbell	57	Matthew Valdes	96	Jayden Floyd
15	Rashad Watson	32	Claude Ternier	58	Ethan Korkes	97	Troy Lea
16	Isaac Knight	33	Kaven Call	59	Jonah Mitchell	98	Yamir Betancourt
17	Kaleb Hicks	34	Tyrese McIntyre	60	Dyson Hurlburt	99	Zaire Warner

2021 Wekiva Mustangs varsity football team roster

No.	Name	Grade	Pos.	17	Salomon Georges	9	QB	35	Kyren Elie	10	LB
1	Tamareon Foster	12	S	18	Elijah Rooney	10	QB	36	Xavier Stephens	10	DL
2	Christopher Reed	12	WR	19	Jeffrey Townsend	11	CB	50	George Reid	12	OL/DL
3	Romell Smith	11	RB/LB	20	Roderick Mobley	10	CB	51	Joshua Griffin	10	OL
4	Jeremy Rudoph	11	CB	21	Jaari Smith	9	DB	52	Holly Saintmelus	11	OL
5	James Brown	12	RB	22	Donovan Knight	10	LB	54	Jakoby Lowery	12	C
6	Hakeem Lowe	12	WR	23	Alejandro Carmona	12	K	56	Carlos Fonseca	11	OL
7	Key'vell Cooper	10	S	24	Quadar Cargill	11	CB	60	Edyson Edmond	11	OL
8	Amarion Prince	12	WR	25	Demarion Hicks	12	WR	64	Joshua Shroyer	10	OL
9	Terrelle Weather	11	RB	26	Gregory Jones	10	CB	65	Shyne Love	10	C
10	Sincere Edwards	10	DL	27	David Denis	11	S	72	James Mixon	10	OL/DL
11	Michael Foster	12	WR	28	Matthew Perkins	11	DL/DB	75	Jaheim Reid	12	DL
12	Tyray Davis	10	QB	29	Teito Shaw	11	LB	78	Jahzi Valentine	11	OL
13	Justin Hutchinson	11	WR	30	Charles Hall	11	LB	79	Kemani Nembhard	10	OL
14	Elijah Brown	11	WR	31	Simeon Danner	12	DL/FB	91	Sem Alcime	10	DL
15	Jeremy Benjamin	10	CB	32	Traveon Rudolph	10	FB/DL				
16	Noah Putnam	11	CB	33	Jouvens Dalcima	12	LB				

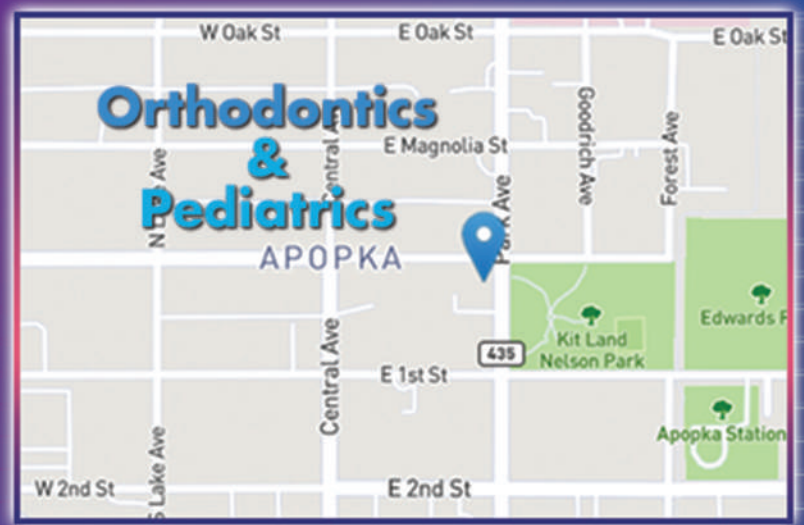
City: Addresses, phone numbers of various recreational facilities listed

<i>Continued from page 14</i>	407-703-1783 (fax)	407-703-1784 (phone)	21 North Highland Avenue, Apopka
	Fran Carlton Center	407-703-1740 (fax)	407-703-1741 (phone)
200 amp for audio systems. There are two private dressing rooms with handicap accessible restrooms and showers.	11 North Forest Avenue, Apopka	Apopka Community Center	407-703-1740 (fax)
Please call Carolyn Ray at 407-703-1809 for further details.	407-703-1741 (phone)	519 S. Central Avenue, Apopka	Dream Lake Park
	407-703-1740 (fax)	407-703-1809 (phone)	364 North Park Avenue, Apopka
	Alonzo Williams Park	407-703-1740 (fax)	407-703-1741 (phone)
	515 South Hawthorne Avenue, Apopka	Kit Land Nelson Park	407-703-1740 (fax)
	407-703-1742 (phone)	10 South Forest Avenue, Apopka	Lake Avenue Park
	407-703-1740 (fax)	407-703-1741 (phone)	439 North Lake Avenue, Apopka
Northwest Recreation Complex	Apopka Athletic Complex	407-703-1740 (fax)	407-703-1741 (phone)
3710 Jason Dwelley Parkway, Apopka	797 Wells Avenue, Apopka	Doctors' Dog Park	407-703-1740 (fax)
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