

Byrd: State funding pays, but not for arts and athletic programs

Continued from page 2A

and universities are looking for. This, in turn, provides another avenue for students to access higher level education that they might not have been able to access through academics alone.

Most of our athletics and arts are funded by fundraising because state funding does not pay for these programs. In Orange County, our generous voters have voted several times for an increased millage rate to assist in paying for these programs but it

doesn't cover all the costs and expenses.

Schools are left to fundraise for much of the costs. They look to local businesses to sponsor teams and to parents to donate funds. This works out great for our schools in more affluent areas, but for our schools with high-poverty rates, it can be very challenging.

For example, the Wekiva High School water polo team has a schedule this season wherein only 5 of the 19 games are "at home," meaning they are played at Lake Brant-

ley High School. The team rents pool time since they don't have a pool of their own. These are the only times that were available for the games by the host pool. This means that students have to find transportation to places all over Orange County several nights a week to get to these games.

This is a major barrier for students who don't have transportation as experienced by many of our students in Title I schools. It would be easy to guess that this keeps many students from participating in

this sport.

I wrote last week about theater programs. As you know, if you have attended any theater show, there is a program. In the program, often businesses will pay for a space to advertise.

In a school in a more affluent area, many parents are business owners and will pay for these spots to help out the program. In a Title I school, it can be challenging to find these

sponsors.

Better-funded programs produce better productions which get more attention from colleges. See how that works?

This seems bleak, I know, and, to be honest, sometimes it is.

But we, as a community, can help. We need to plead our case to local businesses to get involved. We need to work together to help find alternative funding sources to help

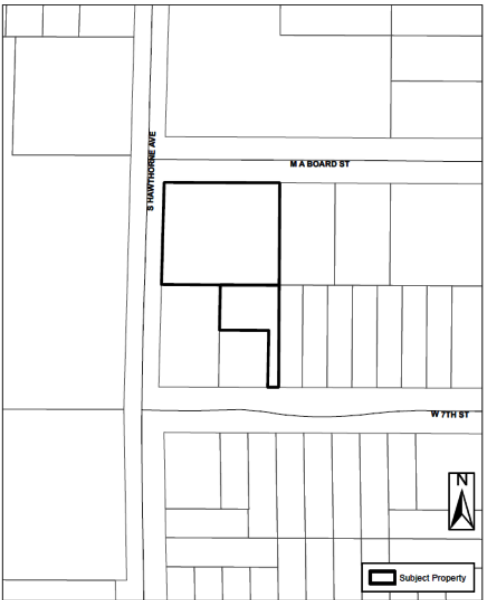
supplement our arts and athletics programs in all of our schools, but, especially, in our Title I schools, so all children have the same opportunities.

Our children don't choose where they are born. Our children often don't choose what school they attend. We shouldn't let barriers like transportation and access come between children and the opportunities available to them.

CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE FUTURE LAND USE AMENDMENT

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Secs. 163.3184 and 166.041(3) (a), Florida Statutes and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7.B, that **CITY OF APOPKA** has made application relating to the following described property.

ORDINANCE NO. 2995
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT OF THE APOPKA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CITY OF APOPKA; CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION FROM RESIDENTIAL LOW TO RESIDENTIAL MEDIUM LOW FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED SOUTH OF M A BOARD STREET AND EAST OF S HAWTHORNE AVENUE; OWNED BY THE CITY OF APOPKA; COMPRISING 1.09 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 09-21-28-0196-40-250 & 09-21-28-0196-40-313
Contains: 1.09 +/- Acres

Notice is given that the **City of Apopka Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Tuesday, February 14, 2023 beginning at 5:30 P.M.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

FURTHER NOTICE is given that a public hearing will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, March 1, 2023 beginning at 1:30 P.M. AND Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.**

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. The proposed Future Land Use Application can be inspected at the Apopka Community Development Department located at Apopka City Hall on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. City Hall address shown below. Please be advised that, under State law, if you decide to appeal a decision made with respect to this matter, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk's Office at 120 East Main Street, Apopka FL 32703, Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

January 13, 2023
January 27, 2023

Publish: The Apopka Chief

Apopka City Council
Apopka Planning Commission
Community Development Department

172882

Moore: Two-mile radius has it all

Continued from page 2A

miles to Altamonte Springs any longer. I want this for all my constituents.

I'm also blessed to know that there are several assisted-living facilities in the Wekiwa Springs area, I might need one for my mother in the future. My granddaughter's choir recently walked from Clay Springs Elementary School to sing for the senior population residing there. And guess what is across the street? A daycare. I'm sure my grandson will benefit from this option soon. (He turned two-years-old on January 8.) And finally, I attend church at Wekiwa Springs Baptist Church – also in the Wekiwa Springs part of Orange County. I have everything I need for my life within two miles of my home.

I have the same goals and desires for the Thompson Road area. While possessing some beautiful neighborhoods, too many are hidden behind unkempt vacant lots. We have a homeless problem near the intersection of Votaw and Thompson roads. I still do not have contiguous sidewalks – I'm working on it. I have been cleaning up vacant lots at the intersec-

tion of Votaw and Thompson with the hope that investors will bring us some improvements. Thankfully, the county requires 35 percent passive lands (we can save the good trees), and the community will be hooked up to sewer.

If you look at the Votaw Road corridor, also in the Wekiwa Springs area, it presents some major challenges: While I have some major subdivisions to work with, most are either not well-connected with one another, or not interested in participating in People of Wekiwa Springs. I'm not deterred; However, folks know I will call and call them again.

I'm thrilled about Wekiva Chase funding streetlights and Breezy Heights improving their entranceway. I'm also looking forward to a new subdivision providing additional housing and incentives for current residents to improve the corridor.

As for Welch Road – I'm interested here, as well. My senior aide lives along this corridor. I told her that for all she does for everyone else, I would make a priority of improving the Welch Road corridor. I'm planning streetlights in collaboration with

the City of Apopka for a portion of the way. Unfortunately, I was unable to get the support of Foxborough Farms. If anyone reading this column is from this neighborhood and would assist me, I would be grateful. I'm also partnering with Apopka High School's Student Government Association to paint fences for senior residents along Welch Road.

People of Wekiwa Springs, myself, and my staff have our work cut out for us in 2023. We meet regularly the first Tuesday of each month at the Wekiwa Springs Baptist Church. The group will be landscaping, painting, pressure-washing, and encouraging property owners to join in the fun and camaraderie.

Will Votaw Road win Corridor of the Year? It depends on the success of garnering the interest of current residents and property owners. That is the fun of it for me. I love every homeowner and their properties just the way they are, but I believe that, together, we can be an even better version of ourselves. Attracting new investment, services, and improvements to an area is vital. It is exciting to see the transformations.

Hayden: Today's freedoms are less

Continued from page 2A

metic. The colleges they attended taught those skills, perhaps a little elevated in substance but, nonetheless, reading, writing, and arithmetic.

Our educational system has been hijacked by liberal administrators who push agendas that cannot keep up with the rest of the world, and the NEA is one of the biggest jokes that has ever been instituted. Their main interest isn't in teaching children, it is more in line with indoctrination.

Socialist Party in America is alive and well. Their syllabus includes

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI). Again, I ask, what is wrong with teaching the three "R's"? If you have ever looked at Lenin's design to take over a nation, or, as it was reiterated in Saul Alinsky's writings for a nation's downfall, the sixth step is to take over the education of children.

The liberals in our nation are pushing for a one-world government (Globalization) and if you compare yesteryear's freedoms with those we have today, it will amaze you. We are so much closer to tyranny than you think. There are so many examples of our constitution being bypassed for a

political coup, I wish "We the People" would come out of our comatose situations and use our intelligence to ferret out these malfunctions in our nation's disabled government.

You and I are the only buffers to stop our decline. The framers of our constitution had the utmost faith in their new form of government wherein the people would be in charge and those who were elected to office would be under the leadership of the people and serve them according to their direction.

In other words, "Get up, dress up, and show up!!"

ALL ABOUT APOPKA

The Apopka Chief

Established 1923
(USPS 545-440)

The Apopka Chief is published every Friday and entered as Periodicals, postage paid at Apopka Post Office, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. The Apopka Chief newspaper is published by Foliage Enterprises, Inc., every Friday at 400 North Park Avenue, Apopka, Fla., 32712-3417. An annual subscription is \$25 in Orange County and \$30 outside Orange County. Phone 407-886-2777. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Apopka Chief, P.O. Box 880, Apopka, Fla., 32704-0880.

The Apopka Chief is a consistent award-winning community weekly newspaper and a member of the Florida Press Association. The newspaper won the group's award as its best newspaper in 1982, 1987, and 1988, the only three-time winner. Letters to the editor are welcome, but must be signed and include a daytime telephone number, address, or email address for verification. Management reserves the right to edit letters.

www.theapokkachief.com, news@theapokkachief.com



City of Apopka Telephone Numbers

City Hall	407-703-1700
Mayor's Office	407-703-1701
City Administrator	407-703-1649
City Clerk	407-703-1704
Community Devel.	407-703-1712
Code Enforcement	407-703-1738
Finance Dept.	407-703-1725
Fire (non-emerg.)	407-703-1756
Parks and Rec. Dept.	407-703-1741
Police Chief	407-703-1769
Police (non-emerg.)	407-703-1771
Job Line	407-703-1743
Solid Waste Collect.....	407-703-1731
Street Maintenance	407-703-1731
Utility Billing	407-703-1727
Medical, fire emergency.....	911
The city of Apopka was chartered in 1882. It is located at 28°30 north latitude and is 150 feet above sea level. Its population is about 48,000 and its total area is more than 30 sq. mi. www.apopka.net	

Orange County Telephone Numbers

Animal Services.....	407-836-3111
Auto/Boat Tags.....	850-617-2000
Building Dept.	407-836-8550
County Mayor	407-836-7370
County Commission	407-836-7350
County Attorney	407-836-7320
Clerk of the Court	407-836-2065
Elections Supervisor	407-836-2070
Fire/Rescue	407-836-3111
Solid Waste	407-836-6601
Garbage Collection	407-703-1731
Health Dept.	407-836-2600
Hunting/Fishing Lic	888-347-4356
Parks and Rec. Dept.	407-836-6200
Property Appraiser	407-836-5044
Sheriff Administrative	407-254-7000
Non-Emerg. Complaint.....	407-836-4357
Utilities	407-836-5515
All other departments	407-836-3111
Medical, fire emergency	911
www.orangecountyfl.net	

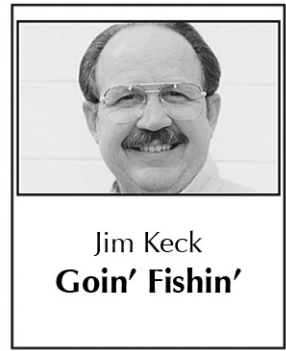
Other Area Numbers of Note

U.S. Senators	
Rick Scott (Rep.)	202-224-5274
Marco Rubio (Rep.)	407-254-2573
U.S. Representative	
Maxwell Frost (Dist. 10)	202-2252176
State Representatives	
Doug Bankson (Dist. 39)	407-476-6787
Carolana Amesty (Dist. 45)	web site
State Senators	
Geraldine Thompson (Dist.11)	407-297-2045
Orange County Commissioner	
Christine Moore	407-836-7350
Orange County Public Schools	
Pupil assignment	407-317-3233
Bus routes.....	407-317-3800
Superintendent.....	407-317-3200
School Board.....	407-317-3200
Miscellaneous	
The Apopka Chief.....	407-886-2777
Museum of the Apopkans.....	407-703-1707
Chamber of Commerce.....	407-886-1441

Everybody has an opinion. Why not share yours?

Send a letter to the Editor online: www.theapokkachief.com

Speck fishin’ should remain strong despite some cooler weather



Jim Keck
Goin’ Fishin’

Hello Folks,

We have some cooler weather comin’ our way this weekend. I’m sure that’s goin’ to affect the fishin’ just a little. The good news is if the weather isn’t too bad, the speck fishin’ should keep goin’ strong. When it gets a little windy,

it makes it tough on con-trollin’ the boat where you want to fish.

Kyle at Bitter’s Bait and Tackle reports that the specks are still bitin’ well in most of the lakes in our area. Lake Monroe, Lake Jesup, and Lake Harney are produc’in some nice stringers of specks when you can fish those lakes. Most folks are usin’ minners and havin’ some good results. A few folks are usin’ jigs tipped with a minner and they are catchin’ some nice stringers, too. It’s just hit-or-miss right now with the weather and the wind.

The bass fishin’ on the St. Johns River is a little slow right now because of the high water. The bass are scattered around, and they are holdin’ in one particular area of the river. Kyle reports that the bass fishin’ on the Winter Park Chain is doin’ OK if you are fishin’ with shiners. Folks are free-linin’ shiners over the submerged hydrilla and eel-grass beds and catchin’ a few bass.

Rick and I fished the Harris Chain last week and it was kinda slow for us.

We fished Lake Beauclair and Lake Dora and only caught a few bass. I also fished last week on West Lake Toho with Rich Niles from Mt. Dora. We had a pretty good day on the water. We caught and released 18 bass up to 4 lbs. each. Rich went back on Sunday and caught another 20 bass up to 3 lbs. each. We caught most of our bass on swim-baits, plastic worms, and weightless Senko-type baits. We also caught a few bass flippin’ the heavy cover as well.

Folks are fishin’ John’s Lake for specks and bass.

Kyle reports the specks are bitin’ on minners in the bigger lakes. The bass fishin’ on John’s Lake has been good on most days. The MLF bass organization held its tournament on the Harris Chain last week and over the weekend. They held the college tournament on Friday and then the high school tournament on Saturday. MLF is comin’ back to the Harris Chain next week for the Toyota Series. The tournament will be held from February 1-3. If you want to attend the take-offs, you need to be at Ski-beach at Venetians Gardens

in Leesburg at 7 a.m. The weigh-ins will start at 3 p.m. each day at the same place: Venetian Gardens in Leesburg.

The bass on the chain are in pre-spawn and post-spawn, and they are movin’ in and then back out to deeper water when we have a cold front. We could see some big stringers of bass weighed in next week.

Well, that’s it for this week. I hope to see you on the water.

Tip of the week: go fishin’.

Save a few and good luck!

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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	4		8				1	
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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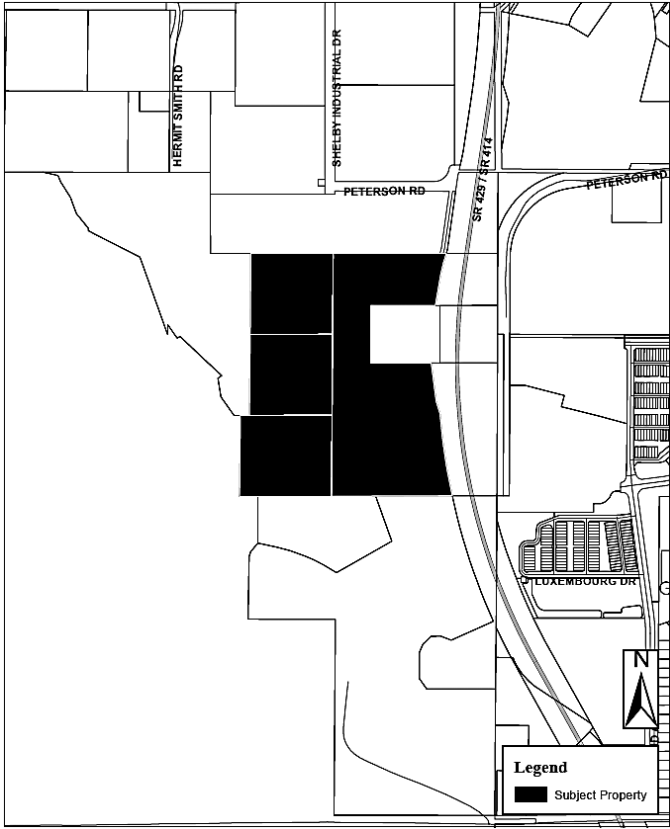
SUDOKU ANSWERS: PAGE 1C

CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE FUTURE LAND USE AMENDMENT AND CHANGE OF ZONING

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Secs. 163.3184 and 166.041(3)(c), Florida Statutes and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7.B, that **TRENTON SQUIERS** has made applications to the City of Apopka Planning Commission and the City Council for a **CHANGE IN THE FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION FROM COUNTY RURAL AND FUTURE LAND USE - IN PROGRESS TO INDUSTRIAL AND A CHANGE IN ZONING FROM T (TRANSITIONAL) AND COUNTY A-1 (CITRUS RURAL) DISTRICT TO I-L (LIGHT INDUSTRIAL) DISTRICT FOR 65.3 +/- ACRES.** These applications relate to the following described property:

ORDINANCE NO. 2957
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT OF THE APOPKA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CITY OF APOPKA; CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION FROM COUNTY RURAL AND FUTURE LAND USE - IN PROGRESS TO INDUSTRIAL FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED ON THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF PETERSON ROAD AND SR 429, OWNED BY SIMPSON D WAYNE 50% INT, SIMPSON SUSIE F 50% INT, LAXMI LAND INVESTMENT LLC, SESSIONS PLYMOUTH LLC and Hill LISA L TR, COMPRISING 65.3 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 2958
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM T (TRANSITIONAL) AND COUNTY A-1 (CITRUS RURAL) DISTRICT TO I-L (LIGHT INDUSTRIAL) FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED ON THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF PETERSON ROAD AND SR 429, COMPRISING 65.3 ACRES MORE OR LESS, AND OWNED BY SIMPSON D WAYNE 50% INT, SIMPSON SUSIE F 50% INT, LAXMI LAND INVESTMENT LLC, SESSIONS PLYMOUTH LLC AND Hill LISA L TR; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 12-21-27-0000-00-007, 12-21-27-0000-00-011, 12-21-27-0000-00-012 and 12-21-27-0000-00-013
Contains: 65.3 +/- Acres

NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Numbers 2957 and 2958 will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.**

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. The proposed Future Land Use and Rezoning Applications can be inspected at the Apopka Community Development Department located at Apopka City Hall on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. City Hall address shown below. Please be advised that, under State law, if you decide to appeal a decision made with respect to this matter, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk’s Office at 120 East Main Street, Apopka FL 32703, Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

Apopka City Council
Apopka Planning Commission
Community Development Department

January 27, 2023

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173021

Girls: Apopka won Lyman event with 153 points, 18.5 ahead of 2nd

Continued from page 1B

obvious means for specifically improving the position in the standings from seventh,” McMillian has said throughout the season. “The more qualifiers, the more opportunities to earn points isn’t a secret.”

Although not a part of the FHSAA postseason, the prestige of winning the Metro Conference championship tournament is no less intense, at least no less intense in Central Florida.

The tournament most importantly has the potential to serve as a springboard and blueprint for success during the FHSAA postseason.

“We have talked specifically about improving the number of qualifiers through the season,” McMillian said. “Practice is where the talk begins to turn into qualification. The results are a continuation of the motivation to not waste any practices, and as an opportunity to improve one step at a time. So far, we have positioned our team to get more athletes to the state championship meet and we aren’t a surprise because of the improvements made during practices. We placed seventh at the state championship meet last season and, this season, the results are even better at the same juncture.

“Seven is a realistic number as far as state qualifiers this season. Even though placing seventh as a team last season, the expectation was significantly less. Biggest reason for the number of state qualifiers doubling is the team’s understanding of how the point system for individual matches functions improved. Decisions are made based on the situation now.”

Fourteen weight classes are contested in the sport of girls wrestling at the high school level. Double-elimination tournaments are the norm for each weight class. Two brackets make up a double-elimination tournament – the winners’ or championship bracket and the consolation. Wrestlers can still place once falling into the consolation bracket. However, the best possible outcome is third place.

Team totals are made up of the points gained by each individual wrestler. A certain number of points are gained by individual wrestlers for margin of each individual victory, round advancing to, and final place earned. Wrestlers placing no worse than sixth are considered to have placed.

“Every season has begun with potential to place again at the state championship meet and is steadily growing,” McMillian said. “This season is also no different. The wrestlers understand consistency in terms

of getting the most out of the numbers or with the efficiency has been established.

“However, establishing consistency with the end result and getting the most grows out of not wasting the opportunity to improve during practices. Consistency among how and what we practice followed by preparation for meets must be first is understood by the wrestlers.”

The Blue Darters scored a total of 153 points, 35-16 record and .686 winning percentage at the Lyman Girls Greyhound Open on Saturday, January 21.

With 134.5 points, the Middleburg Broncos placed second. Third place was taken by the Gateway Panthers while scoring 119 points. Next in the standings were the Ft. Myers Riverdale Raiders and Daytona Beach Mainland Buccaneers. A total of 27 teams competed.

Apopka’s Shelby Sherman (110 pounds weight class) and Samantha Sherman (125) won all four matches competed in en route to individual weight class championships.

However, five other Apopka wrestlers placed and earned points, Hananeel Gregoire (second-100), Shamari Smith (fourth-130), Nehemie Gregoire (second-135), Danielle Ingram (third-155), and Jada Jones (second-190).

All 10 Blue Darters won at least one match.

Total of championships claimed by the Blue Darters for large number of team tournament meets is now at two.

In an event held at Colonial High School, Apopka won 36 matches as part of a 32-team field en route to claiming the Grenadier Girls Grappler championship.

Individual weight class championships were claimed by four Apopka wrestlers, three of them 2022 state championships meet qualifiers – Shelby Sherman (110 pound weight class), Nehemie Gregoire (135), Anaiya Deleon (140), and Jada Jones(190). Hananeel Gregoire (100) and Samantha Sherman (125) captured second place.

List of wrestlers placing and tallying points for the Blue Darters included Shamari Smith (third place-130), Emma Tweedy (fourth-145), and Mishara Smith (fifth-170). Michelle Hernandez competed as well for Apopka (eighth-155).

At least one victory was recorded by each individual Blue Darter.

The Gateway Panthers accumulated 156 points to place second in the Colonial event.

An even larger field of 54 entries competed at Let

Freedom Ring IBT at Freedom High School. Apopka placed fourth with 96 points, a noticeably solid result. However, in comparison to the size of the other two meets, fourth was equally impressive as claiming the championship. The host school and state champion Freedom Patriots claimed the championship with 163.5 points.

The rest of the standings were made up of the Mantazas Pirates (121 points) and Hernando Leopards (108).

Hananeel Gregoire (100 pounds-sixth), Shelby Sherman (110-third), Samantha Sherman (125-fifth), Nehemie Gregoire (135-fifth), and Jada Jones (190-second) placed for the Blue Darters.

Dual meets have also been competed in by Apopka. Nine victories out of 10 matches was produced against the Lake Brantley Patriots and West Orange Warriors. The Blue Darters began the season winning 14 of 18 matches. Facing the Wekiva Mustangs on the road, the meet consisted of each wrestler competing in two matches.

“Consistency at the most basic and fundamental level is putting in the work to develop the talent, McMillian said. “Each Apopka team passes down to the next the first and foremost importance of developing talent is only possible when the behind-the-scenes work, practicing is done. Practice is always pursued with a specific purpose, improvement in a specific area or areas. Then matches during the regular season are looked at as an opportunity for lessons learned and improvement.”

The Blue Darters have one more regular season meet left, a dual against the Mustangs on Thursday, February 2, at home. Dates for the FHSAA postseason are Friday, February 10 for District 5 at Ocoee High, February 17-18 for Region 2 at Osceola High in Kissimmee, and March 2-4 for the state championship at Silver Spurs Arena in Kissimmee.

“I am looking forward to continuing to see a high quality of wrestling and how much further this team can move forward,” McMillian said. “As the season has progressed, I have become more and more convinced a genuine opportunity, the capability to do better than previously is present.

“However, chasing the end, overall goal of taking the next step into medal contention at state but performing well during the meet at hand remaining the priority is not easy. We can’t lose sight of what we are doing during each and every match of the postseason.”