

Health: Expenses for health care rise faster than income coming in

Continued from page 2A

prising that seven in ten Brits now describe the National Health Service as “bad.” Apparently, “free” isn’t all it’s cracked up to be.

We can be thankful that we don’t have socialized (i.e., government-run) health care in the United States—

well, at least not yet. For over 50 years, the federal government has been expanding its involvement in the health care industry. Medicare and Medicaid have been problematical. While many Americans are grateful that those programs have kept out-of-pocket expenses down, there has been

a downside, too. The hundreds of billions of dollars that Uncle Sam has channeled into health care has pushed health-care costs higher at a far faster rate than overall inflation. Also, the federal health-care programs—when combined with Social Security—are crowding out other spending and

virtually guaranteeing annual budget deficits for as far as the eye can see.

As I wrote in this space a decade ago, Uncle Sam’s expenditures on health care have been rising faster than the revenue coming into the U.S. Treasury. That cannot be sustained indefinitely. There will need to be a reckoning, an adjustment. However, talk about reforming federal entitlements like Medicare and Medi-

icaid is the proverbial “third rail” in American politics. It can lead to the suicide of a politician’s career. Much more popular are the promises of politicians that Uncle Sam will always be there to take care of our health-care needs. Many pols propose the establishment of a more comprehensive government-run health-care system similar to ones in Canada and the UK. The siren song of “free” and “let

the government take care of you” may prove irresistible to a majority of American voters. All I can say is that we ignore the lessons of Canadian and UK health care at our own peril.

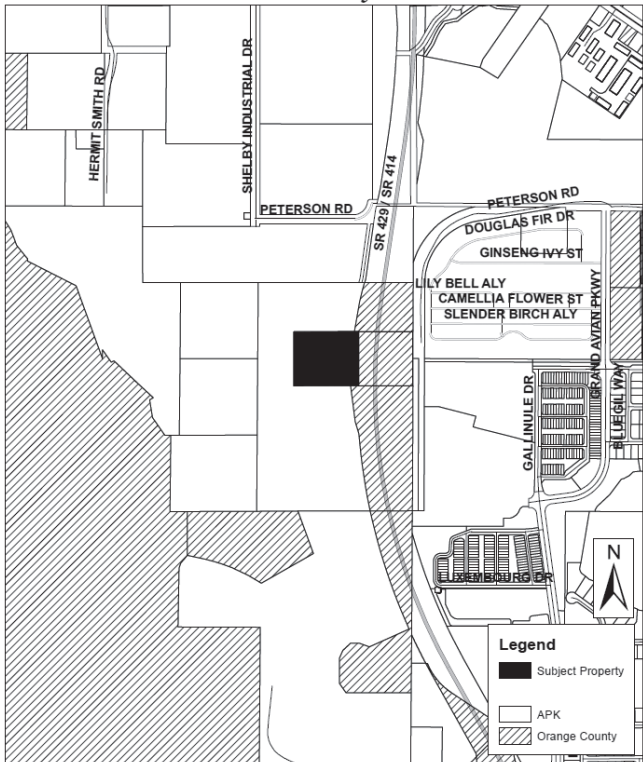
—*Dr. Mark W. Hendrickson is a retired adjunct faculty member, economist, and fellow for economic and social policy with the Institute for Faith and Freedom at Grove City College.*

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 **CENTRAL FLORIDA EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY** 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 TO INDUSTRIAL AND A CHANGE IN ZONING FROM COUNTY A-1 (CITRUS RURAL) DISTRICT TO I-L (LIGHT INDUSTRIAL) DISTRICT FOR 6.0 +/- ACRES.** These applications relate to the following described property:

ORDINANCE NO. 2998
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 TO INDUSTRIAL FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED ON THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF PETERSON ROAD AND SR 429, OWNED BY CENTRAL FLORIDA EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY, COMPRISING 6.0 +/- ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 2999
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM 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 6.0 +/- ACRES MORE OR LESS, AND OWNED BY CENTRAL FLORIDA EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 12-21-27-0000-00-008
Contains: 6.0 +/- 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, March 14, 2023 beginning at 5:30 P.M.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

FURTHER NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Numbers 2998 and 2999 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, April 5, 2023 beginning at 1:30 P.M.** AND **Wednesday, April 19, 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

February 24, 2023

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Byrd: Everyone’s support needed

Continued from page 2A

were the most agreed upon by the group and those thoughts were discussed further.

The first question asked was what is one reason for youth violence.

There were a couple of thoughts that everyone agreed on, and that was that there was not enough accountability at home as well as social media influencing in a negative way. Everyone agreed that parents need more support and direction on how to hold children accountable for their actions. Everyone also agreed that conflicts are getting blown way out of proportion on social media, and that often leads to the

violent acts we see.

We then asked what is one strategy that can be put in place to help curb or eliminate youth violence.

Again, the suggestion of parenting classes and workshops was mentioned. Better marketing of all the resources that are available for students and families including mental health services and mentoring programs to name a few.

Finally, we asked the attendees to pair up with a person near them and talk with them about what was discussed tonight and what they could put into place right away and then share what they will take with them and do right away.

Some great ideas were shared, but most important-

ly, I saw connections being made. Even after the meeting, I saw people talking to other attendees and discussing ideas. That is why I had this meeting.

I wanted to bring awareness of the struggles our schools are facing and what we all can help prevent.

I wanted leaders to see the resources that are available and understand how important this topic is, and that everyone needs to work together if we are going to find answers. I believe we can change our trajectory.

I am very hopeful that this meeting was the starting point of something bigger and that we can make progress together.

Moore: Cleaning up still necessary

Continued from page 2A

lot with little to distinguish one from the other. This is an area of which we have not even scratched the surface to create more interesting corridors in District 2. I would point to Wekiwa Springs Road as my best example, but certainly nowhere near where we could be. Wekiwa Springs Road has several communities with interesting frontages: beautiful oaks and ponds. It also has some older churches, daycares, a school, and shopping center to create interest for pedestrians and cyclists. As my Neighborhood Leader Program grows, this discussion could emerge as a focal point. However, we have at this point mainly tried to mobilize unengaged lead-

ers and clean up aging communities.

First-ring neighborhoods generally have too much retail-zoned land which leads to vacant and underused buildings, and declining value and disinvestment in adjacent neighborhoods. Such sites provide opportunities for constructing new higher-density residential development in the form of townhouses, zero-lot-line houses, urban-style lofts, and condominiums, which can diversify the community’s housing mix, as well as strengthen the market for retail, especially if planned with good pedestrian links.

It is important to point developers to areas in our communities which need investment. It is equally important to bring residents

together to be sure they are in agreement with the areas identified, and type of development we are seeking. More in next week’s column.

It would be nearly impossible to implement any of these awesome ideas without being part of a team. Join a civic group such as a Rotary, Sertoma, Lodge, PTA, HOA or even one of my neighborhood leaders’ groups. I have active groups in Lockhart, Wekiwa Springs, North Pine Hills, and Southern Apopka. Everything is possible if you are an active member of a supportive team.

Finally, I hope you pencil in your calendar the date of the Wekiwa Springs Mural Dedication. It is Saturday, April 1.

Hayden: Stand up for America

Continued from page 2A

popular demand. I want to be ME, not who someone else thinks I should be. As Americans, we have always celebrated our own sovereignty and our willingness to recognize other people’s sovereignty, working together to accomplish what the rest of the world struggles with. We join ourselves together as different people with a common goal and that

allows our differences to work forming a nation of strength, compassion, freedom, and liberties that are GOD given and protected by our Constitution.

We need to awaken the “sleeping giant,” not for conflict outside our shores, but for the conflict that is vying for the very soul of our nation.

Our nation is so great that even those who hate her will not leave! I love

America and Americans. I hate to keep harping on the message of standing up for America, but we can make our nation beautiful, prosperous, respected, and proud again just by being Americans, and that includes going about our daily lives promoting one another, encouraging one another, and being a friend to all by celebrating the fact of our unity in diversity. E Pluribus Unum.

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.theapopkachief.com, news@theapopkachief.com



City of Apopka Telephone Numbers

City Hall	407-703-1700
Mayor’s Office	407-703-1701
City Administrator	407-703-1649
County Mayor	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)	202-225-2176
State Representatives	
Doug Bankson	407-476-6787
Carolina Amesty (Dist. 45)	unknown
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

Wekiva handles Palm Bay Heritage in regional quarterfinal

By Neal Fisher
Apopka Chief Staff

The Wekiva Mustangs boys basketball looked every bit the part of a number one regional seed when the 2023 FHSAA Class 6A playoffs got under way on Thursday, February 16. As soon as the referee released the ball for the opening tip-off against the Palm Bay Heritage Panthers, no doubts went unanswered as the Mustangs downed the Panthers, 68-52.

The contest followed the script expected when the highest and lowest seeds met in the first round of the playoffs.

Fifteen seconds were needed to take the lead for good against the Panthers. Wekiva steadfastly increased the lead until establishing the largest of 27 points with a minute left in the third quarter. The victory was the 24th this season for Wekiva, while the Mustangs suffered only four losses.

The victory advanced Wekiva into the regional semifinal round or Sweet 16 of the FHSAA Class 6A playoffs for the second consecutive season. A story about the Sweet 16 contest against the Viera Hawks begins on page 1B.

“We took the first step of the playoffs, advancing with a convincing victory as expected,” Lubin said. “Importance was no se-



Wekiva guard K.J. Robinson avoids a Heritage player on his way to the basket.

cret. The team responded to the worst performance of the season. Inspiration was lacking during the district championship tournament final. However, victory against the Panthers began with a fire and desire to prove lacking inspiration was not OK.”

Formula for victory against Heritage remained the same. The two factors making up the formula for victory continued to be solidly executed throughout the contest.

Only one three-point field goal attempt was taken by Abiah Charles, the first of the contest and successful. Value of the field goal attempt was not only because it was successful and points were scored.

The successful field goal attempt bred ratcheting up the intensity on the defensive end as has been the norm throughout the season. Two of the first three field goal attempts taken by the Mustangs were converted. Then five attempts failed to find the mark. However, Wekiva weathered the stretch of missed attempts because the defense was even more taxing to Heritage’s efforts. The first eight field goal attempts taken by the Panthers were unsuccessful. Turnovers ended three possessions as well.

“Taking a lot of field goal attempts and perhaps not necessarily the best is OK if the defensive effort is strong,” Lubin said. “When doing what is capable of

on defense, far more positive plays with impact will be created than unsuccessful field goal attempts. Defense dictating the play on offense is always the primary philosophy and approach. The contest against Heritage was perhaps the execution at its best.”

Producing runs at the start of contests with authority and command has been a staple of the Mustangs’ play throughout the season. This time, Wekiva scored the first 12 points over the first seven minutes.

“Five field goals in a row were missed,” Lubin said. “We are too good a shooting team to keep missing though. If enough field goal attempts are taken and, in particular, by driving through the paint, eventually a few are going to fall. Even when the five in a row weren’t converted, we were still consistently creating the field goals attempts in the first place. The field goal attempts were created because the defense transitioned into offense quickly and after preventing the Panthers from attacking through the paint.”

Also a staple of Wekiva’s play through the season, contributions producing the run were balanced. The run was made up of six points from Darius Livingston, two from Vophey Prophete, and a successful free throw attempt from Malachi Hampton after Charles found the range from behind the arc.

“Certainly, the run is an example of jumping on a team early setting a tone in general and specifically relieves a lot of pressure as far as committing mistakes,” Lubin said. “Of course, no team intends to commit mistakes. Even the best teams commit mistakes. The perfect contest isn’t going to happen. The goal is to create a position in which committing a mistake or even a few isn’t going to significantly set a team back. The larger the lead, the more a team can afford to commit mistakes.”

Converting only 43 percent or 30 of 70 field goal attempts is surprising given the lead was as much as 27 and steadily increased from the tip-off.

The Mustangs’ play dictated the location of the ball throughout the contest. Majority of the time the ball was inside the paint defended by Heritage. Then once inside the paint, the Mustangs’ play grew into lethally authoritative and commanding. Field goal attempts alone demonstrate the authority and command of Wekiva’s play inside the paint. Forty-nine field goal attempts were taken from inside two-point range compared to 21 behind the arc. The good looks were subsequently turned into points by the Mustangs as 55 percent or 27 of the 49 field attempts went through the net. However, 34 of the 49 field goal attempts were within 10 feet of the basket. Wekiva converted 25 of the

attempts from 10 feet or less for 74 percent.

“Perhaps most importantly, the three-point field goal was not the primary means of attempting to score,” Lubin said. “The scouting report stated attacking in and through the paint was the best means of scoring against the Panthers. We still attacked roughly twice as much as spotting up and shooting from the perimeter.

“Obviously the three-point field goal percentage was nowhere near the capability. The mistake was taking the three-point field goal attempt when not always the best option. However, the lead was large enough we could take the risk. Burden to score on every possession isn’t on the team giving up an average of just over 10 points through the first three quarters. Heritage was facing the burden of having to score on every possession.”

Working hand-in-hand with the high field goal percentage, offensive rebounds totaled fifteen. However, the most was four offensive rebounds snagged by Livingston. Seven players grabbed offensive rebounds. The Mustangs corralled 27 rebounds in total.

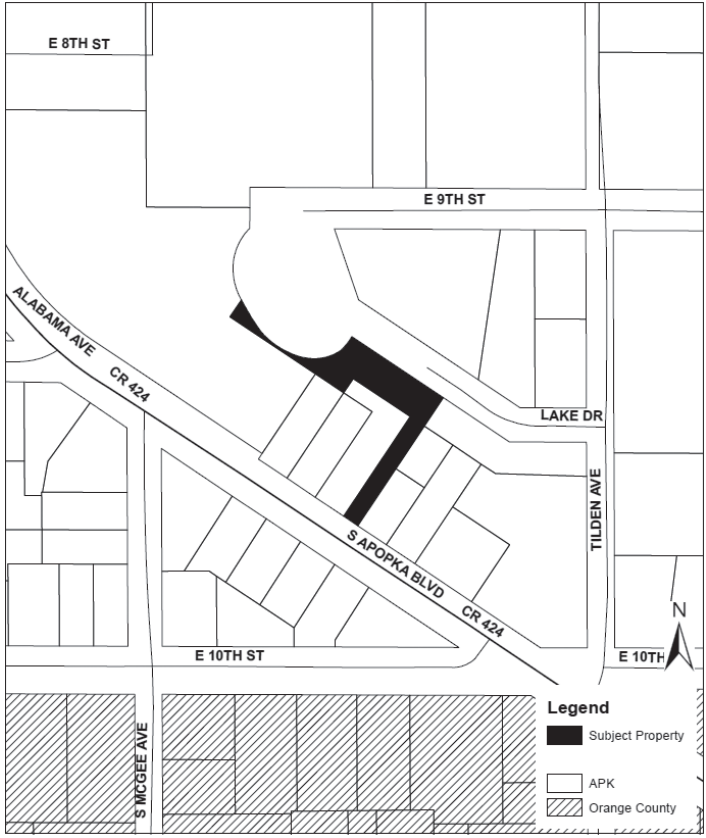
Wekiva led 13-2, 32-15, and 55-31 at the end of each quarter, respectively.

Charles was high scorer with 13 points. Five players recorded at least six points and Wekiva’s entire roster got into the scoring column.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE SMALL-SCALE FUTURE LAND USE AMENDMENT CITY OF APOPKA

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Secs. 163.3184 and 166.041(3) (c), Florida Statutes and the Apopka Code of Ordinance, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7.B, that **REBECCA WILSON, ESQ.** has made an application to the City of Apopka Planning Commission and the City Council for a **CHANGE IN THE FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION FROM RESIDENTIAL LOW TO MIXED-USE FOR 0.19 +/- ACRES.** This application relates to the following described property:

ORDINANCE NO. 3000
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 MIXED-USE FOR A PORTION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED NORTH OF APOPKA BOULEVARD, SOUTH OF LAKE DRIVE AND WEST OF TILDEN AVENUE, OWNED BY BHURASINGH KESHIA WARREN, COMPRISING 0.19 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number: 15-21-28-2956-00-010 (portion of)
Contains: 0.19 +/- acre

Notice is given that the City of **Apopka Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing to consider Ordinance No. 2961 at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Tuesday, March 14, 2023 beginning at 5:30 P.M.** or as soon thereafter as possible.

FURTHER NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance No. 2961 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, April 5, 2023 beginning at 1:30 P.M., and Wednesday, April 19, 2023 beginning at 7:00 P.M.** or soon thereafter.

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.

Apopka City Council
Apopka Planning Commission
Community Development Department

February 24, 2023

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173221

Police Beat

If a law enforcement agency charges you with a crime and this paper reports that information, please notify us within 90 days if the charge is dropped, or if you are found not guilty by the court. After verifying the information, we will be happy to publish it. Please send notification to *The Apopka Chief*, P.O. Box 880, Apopka, 32704-0880.

In the period from February 12-18, the Apopka Police Department received 1,902 calls for service, responded to 36 crashes, issued 118 citations, and made 12 arrests. Juveniles were charged with burglar tools-possession with intent to use (3X); burglarize unoccupied conveyance-unarmed (3X); damage property-criminal mischief over \$200 under \$1,000 (3X);

resist officer-obstruct without violence (3X).

The following adults were arrested and charged:

Alish Lashay Blue, 18, confidential address, Apopka, battery-touch or strike (DV).

Sakeinah Alisha Burgess, 31, transient, Apopka, other agency warrant.

Desarae Custodio, 32, confidential address, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Samuel Disla, 34, 2106 Athens Ct., Apopka, other agency warrant.

Alfonza Aaron Harvey, 51, 44 E. Michael Gladten Blvd., Apopka, battery-touch or strike; larceny-petit theft merchandise farm transit-2+ prior convictions; larceny-resist arrest-common theft-resist recovery of property; resist officer-obstruct without violence.

Antonio Rashanda Hopkins, 23, 209 N. Maine Ave., Apopka, larceny-petit theft-merchandise farm transit-2+ prior convictions.

Edward Charles Marrs, 56, 744 Wildview Dr., Apopka, other agency warrant.

Ronald Edward Nelson, 63, 919 Crest Ct., Apopka, out-of-county warrant.

Samantha Dee Reyes, 25, confidential address, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Marvin A Romero-Sanchez, 21, unknown, loitering or prowling; moving traffic violation-operate motor vehicle without valid license; resist officer-obstruct without violence.

Luz Eneida Rosario-Ortega, 56, 1805 Kimberly Jeanne Cir 1915, Apopka, larceny-other theft.

Quintyn Marquis Simpkins, 20, confidential address, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Wekiva: Mustangs outscored Viera 34-10 in second half of game

Continued from page 1B

interception converted into the emphatic slam dunk onward, margin of scoring was 36-10 in favor of the Mustangs.

“The steal and the power with which Malachi executed the slam dunk provided direct and quantifiable momentum,” Lubin said. “However, we had to maintain the momentum during the third quarter. Check and then some. The margin of the lead was gradually increased during the first half. Points were scored in bunches and the lead increased much more quickly during the third quarter though.

“Switching to a 1-3-1 zone set up the circumstances for producing the runs though. Viera didn’t adjust to the different defensive approach conceptually and look tangibly. Penetration was far less common during the second half while using the 1-3-1 zone.”

“All the teams are mentally tough and strong when reaching the regional final round,” Lubin said. “However, Lakeland is the toughest and most physical we probably will face this season. Majority of the players were a part of the football team,

which won the state championship. They know how to win and understand the mental as well as physical component needed to win.”

History from roughly three quarters of the contests during the regular season repeated with Wekiva scoring first and on the first possession. Sinking a trey on the first possession was a repeat from the regional quarterfinal contest. This time, Darius Livingston took on sharpshooter role and setting the tone of playing with the lead as soon as possible. The trey was launched from behind the top of the arc and found the net without touching the rim. The lead was then extended to 6-2 at the end of the second possession as Livingston repeated the points tallied and the attempt’s location.

Also a staple of the Mustangs’ play through the season, contributions producing the runs and victories were balanced. Hampton was clearly first among equals with 24 points. However, Livingston reached 11 points and the entire roster scored.

Wekiva led 20-15, 32-22, and 51-24 at the end of each quarter, respectively.

Apopka boys basketball coach mulls over the issues in 11-15 season

As expected, an 11-15 season wasn't a pleasant one for the Apopka Blue Darters boys basketball team and head coach Scott Williams said as much this week as we talked about the season.

For Williams, who has been at Apopka for seven years, it's the first time in 15 years that one of his teams had a losing season.

Those who know Williams and his coaching style, it's not so much about the wins and losses as it is about the process to get there. His philosophy is more along the lines of if the players give a great effort, play hard, and compete to the best of their ability, the wins will come and there will be success. He wants to win games more than he might say, but it truly is about the process for him.

The process wasn't met this season and that's one of the main reasons why the Blue Darters finished below .500 and didn't make the regional playoffs. Another major reason was the Darters suffered through some critical long-term injuries that pretty much came all at once in mid-January.

Williams didn't mince any words when talking about this year's team from himself down to the players end of the bench.

"It's the first time in 15 years having a losing season," Williams said. "In terms of the reality of those grades and how we went about it for a large portion of the season, it's not acceptable. It's not who we are. It's not what we aspire to be. From that standpoint, really, really disappointed. In a million years, I didn't think that it would transpire that way, but a handful of things went in the wrong direction, both from an injury standpoint to what are the expectations we would get from some returners to where some of our newer players were.



PEERY'S
EXTRA POINTS
John Peery

"All of it manifested to where we had a really difficult time competing at stretches this year and that's just something that should never in a million years take place at Apopka. I don't care. We lose games, we win games, whatever, but competing in a game and giving the type of effort and the type of enthusiasm and the type of intensity necessary to compete at a high level, those things should never be substandard at Apopka High School and they were and that's a reflection of a very poor job on my part, getting it out of them at the times that we didn't. That being said, we certainly trended in a very positive way the last three weeks of the season, including the district tournament.

"Success, or lack thereof, is somewhat based on the expectations you have. An outsider could look at our season, saying, you lost 15 but you played 18 against state playoff teams. You were the first team out in your region and, in fact, by Max-Preps, you would have been the last team in. It's only the very slight differences between the two computer systems. I am not faulting that. I don't think we deserved to get in. We needed a big win at some point. We had a number of chances, but we could never quite get that big win that we needed that would have put us over

the hump, so I find no fault with any of the system at all. I love the current system. I think the current system is fair and equitable.

"So, if you take that lens of a 30,000-foot look at our year, you took the team that ended second in the region and was first in the region when they played you that night and you led with three minutes to go in a district semifinal and the computers that measure these things say you were on the cusp of a playoff spot, it makes it more palatable. The stuff I said first is probably more relevant to how we judge it, but we did trend in a positive direction."

Williams did say the players cared about the team and their teammates.

"I think our three most utilized seniors – Philip (Tepper), Elijah (Louis), and Donovan (Dangerfield), when healthy – all three, I thought, showed tremendous character and resolve in finishing the process that they started and they were, for the most part, very dependable in terms of how much they cared and how much they tried," the coach said.

"Coming alongside them, slowly but surely, was this group of young guys who brought an energy and a real competitive fire to our club. Injuries, not withstanding, at the entire of the year, we felt pretty comfortable with them out on the floor and that they would give everything that they had. We did that and I'm really proud of them."

The two most significant players who suffered injuries were big man Carter Hankerson and shooting guard Daren Leath.

They both saw their final action in the middle of January and are expected to be cleared soon to begin workouts and drills as they look toward Apopka team ac-

tion with other local schools in June and then with their AAU teams for the rest of the summer.

"It obviously hurts when you have a legitimate post presence who had a really solid year the first time to play an important role and then our best perimeter players, kind of the same thing, with the first opportunity to have an extended role," Williams said. "To be without those guys the last 3-1/2 to 4 weeks of the season, was not good, and we had a combination of (guards) Donovan (Dangerfield and/or Elijah (Louis) who were out at times, too."

The upside is that some younger players saw more action and gained some valuable experience.

"It provided opportunities for guys to get valuable reps and those things, hopefully, will make a difference for us next year," Williams said.

Williams also said that players such as guards Jaedon Shepherd and Jahi Bowden, along with forwards Adam Bracy and Larson Taylor saw some playing time that will be valuable next season. Jordan Ford is also expected to be back for Apopka next season.

"What we hope is that they learn from their experiences, that they appreciate the ways that we fell short and are determined to not let that happen again. One of our big responsibilities, as a staff, this spring is to point out that they (players) have to begin owning their success or failures in a more tangible way," Williams said.

"This was the least player-driven club I can ever remember having and I take responsibility for that. Whatever we attempted to do didn't work. Whatever we sought to have them do just didn't get done so we've got to make a more concerted effort in that

area because, at the end of the day, individual responsibility and accountability only really happen in the locker room when you're looking your teammates in the eyes and you are refusing to let them down because you're going to do everything necessary and you know that, accordingly, they're going to do the same thing. I don't think we had that this year and, again, at the end of the day, that falls back on the shoulders of the coaching staff and myself, in particular."

This season will cause changes for the 2023-2024 season, Williams said.

"We were a terrible team on the road and the reasons for that we would fill in the blank and none of them are good and all of them are highly critical of the personnel we had and the things that we were trying to accomplish and the ways that we tried to coach them. Apopka basketball should never, ever, ever, ever, ever, lose a game by 30 points or more unless we're playing Montverde, and for it to happen five times and all five times on the road, all against five very, very good clubs and worthy of being deep playoff teams, which they are, but, nonetheless, it doesn't matter," the Apopka coach said.

"I know this, we are going to play a bunch of road games next year by design and we're going to figure it out and we're going to get better in that area because I think one of the purest signs that a high school team is tough enough to win games when it matters is the ability to go on the road and we were a terrible, terrible road team, the worst I've ever had. I don't have the answers yet. I have some ideas in my head and I'm keeping them to myself because I'm not totally sure, but we certain-

ly have to get better in that area."

Gaining toughness is a key for the Blue Darters, Williams said.

"There are some good pieces there, but, at the end of the day, it comes down to are we going to be good enough. Toughness dictates if you'll get in shape. Toughness dictates if you'll guard. Toughness dictates if you'll run hard and toughness dictates if you'll do all the things necessary to win," Williams said.

"If we have that, we'll be happy, but if we don't, we won't. Our job is to get it out of them and to make sure that they understand why all that matters. I'm confident that we can do that, but, obviously, I have a little PTSD from the season, not ever believing we would experience this year – not the winning and losing – but how we went about it. I'm going to have to see that we're beyond that until I'm truly comfortable, but I do feel really good that the pieces we have are pieces that are easily good enough to be a really good club next year and to be a team that not only should be a playoff team but a team that can be hosting playoff games."

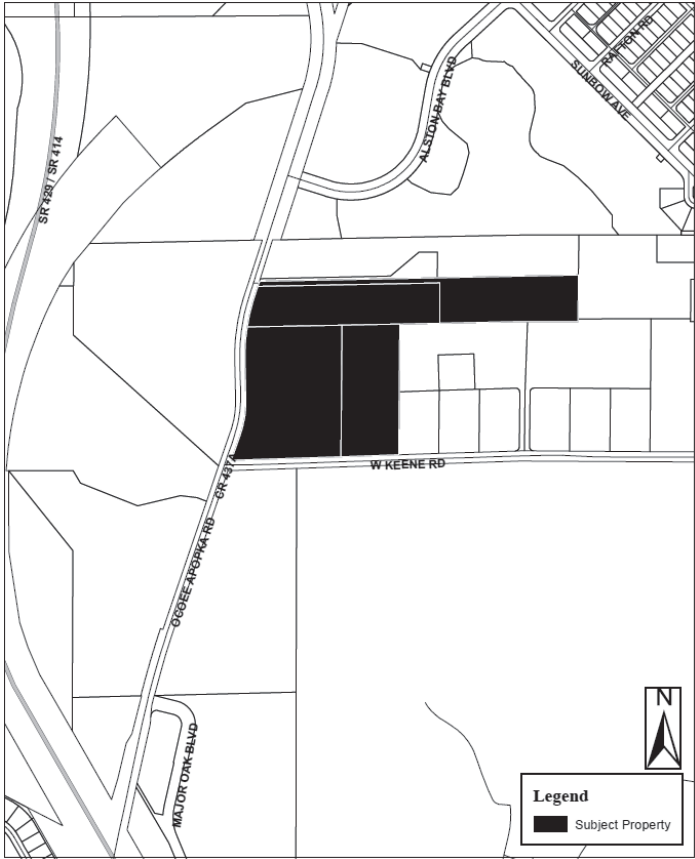
The work on the court this summer will be more important, Williams said, as he looks to make sure his players work toward having a winning attitude.

"We've got to prove we know how to win with a little more urgency during June," Williams said.

"I certainly want to come out of June knowing what our deficiencies are and what our strengths are more than what I was last year because, clearly, last June I did not have a sense of our competitive deficiencies until it was way too late. I've got to put some things in place where we can weed out those things earlier."

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE VARIANCE REQUEST CITY OF APOPKA

The City of Apopka Planning Commission, in accordance with Article II, Section 2.5.5.A of the City's Land Development Code (LDC), herein advises you that **SHOPPES AT EAST SHORE C/O JONATHAN HUELS, ESQ.** requests a **VARIANCE** from LDC Table 5.10.8.A.4 Maximum Height of Freestanding/Monument Signs, permitting a maximum height of 12 feet and in lieu of 8 feet. This application relates to the following described property:



Parcel ID Numbers: 20-21-28-0000-00-028, 20-21-28-0000-00-021, 20-21-28-0000-00-025 and 20-21-28-0000-00-024
Total Acreage: 28.02 +/- acres

You are hereby notified that a Public Hearing will be held in the City of Apopka Council Chambers on **Tuesday, March 14, 2023 beginning at 5:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible. The variance application is available for review at the Community Development Department at Apopka City Hall, 120 East Main Street, Apopka, Florida between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearing to speak. 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

February 24, 2023
Publish: The Apopka Chief
Apopka Planning Commission
Community Development Department
173222

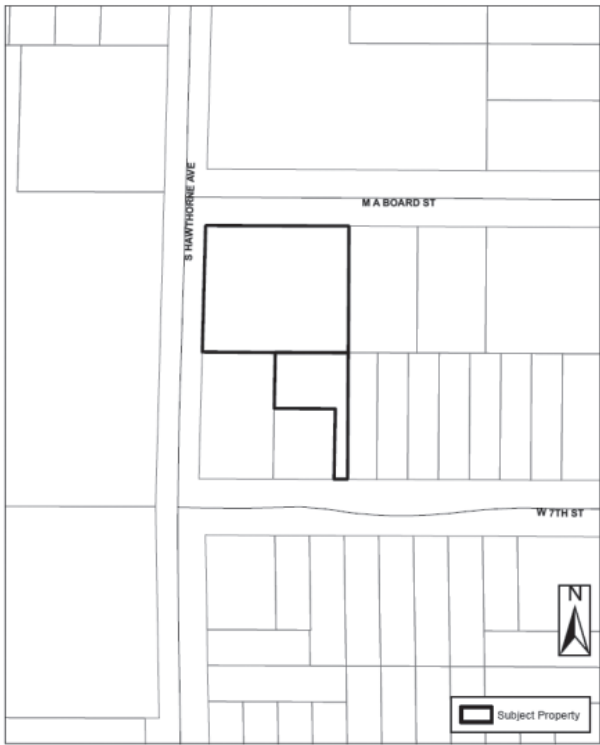
Tell them you saw it in The Apopka Chief

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 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.

February 24, 2023
Publish: The Apopka Chief
Apopka City Council
Community Development Department
173219