

# Byrd: Understanding issues makes members better advocates for students

Continued from page 2A

the training, reading, and research has helped me to better understand current education issues and trends so that I can better advocate for our students and staff, which is why I am on the board.

This week’s conference offered many different opportunities for further learning. One of the most important topics was a session that covered the

upcoming legislative session in January and the deregulation legislation that is being proposed for education.

Over the last few weeks, the legislature has dropped several bills relating to deregulation of public education in the state, and it is quite overwhelming when looking at the long list of legislation. FSBA worked to share the important points and clarify the proposed legisla-

tion. Understanding the proposed changes and the effect of school districts is extremely important for board members since advocating with Tallahassee is a big part of our job.

Our local delegation of representatives will reach out to us to find out what needs to be changed or how the legislation will affect our students, so it’s important to understand all proposed legislation. I will be heading to

Tallahassee during the legislative session in January to meet with legislators to advocate for laws that will be beneficial to our students and teachers, and this conference helps prepare me for that task.

Other topics that were covered during the conference were also very enlightening and helpful. Some of the ones I enjoyed the most were using Career and Technical Education in Exceptional Stu-

dent Education job development, keeping staff safe with aggressive student behaviors, embracing and elevating English Language Learners, recruiting, hiring and retaining staff members, late start times, the science of reading, and navigating book challenges.

All of these topics are relevant to the work I do every day on the school board, so I found all these sessions to be very infor-

mative and helpful. As I approach another year on the board, I am excited at the potential of what lies ahead, and I’m hopeful that the upcoming legislative session will bring about many positive changes for our schools in this state. I’m also thankful that I have an organization like FSBA to help prepare me with the knowledge and skills I need to be effective at my job.

# Budget: Birthing will help economy

Continued from page 2A

everyone’s taxes or both, realize that the outcome was largely avoidable. To future generations who might read this missive, assuming fertility doesn’t go all the way to zero, be fruitful and multiply, or this is what happens.

Robert Romano is the Vice

President of Public Policy at Americans for Limited Government Foundation.

To view online: <https://dailytorch.com/2023/11/plummeting-fertility-and-the-aging-population-is-killing-economic-growth-as-the-national-debt-is-exploding-with-entitlement-spending-should-hit-1-00-trillion-by-2037-or-so/>

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

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 **Mark Gilman and Kamoltip Norrasing** have made application relating to the following described property.

ORDINANCE NO. 3036  
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE FROM IN PROGRESS TO RVLS (RESIDENTIAL VERY LOW SUBURBAN), FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1240 USTLER ROAD; OWNED BY MARK GILMAN AND KAMOLTIP NORRASING, COMPRISING 5.068 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 3037  
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM T (TRANSITIONAL) TO RCE (RESIDENTIAL COUNTY ESTATE), FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1240 USTLER ROAD; OWNED BY MARK GILMAN AND KAMOLTIP NORRASING, LLC COMPRISING 5.068 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 34-20-28-9550-00-200  
Contains: 5.068 +/- 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, December 12, 2023 beginning at 5:30 P.M.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

FURTHER NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Numbers 3036 & 3037 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, January 3, 2024 beginning at 1:30 P.M.**

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. The proposed Small-Scale 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

December 1, 2023

Publish: The Apopka Chief

175319

# Hayden: Our country is not tribal

Continued from page 2A

from my Medicare replacement program every month, advising me of what they have done for me in the past month, and it shows why it costs so much. Out of five pages of information, three are dedicated to as many as 25 different languages. I am one of thousands; how much money could be saved by eliminating those three pages?

When I call my doctor’s office, or any local governmental office, I have to press “1” to communicate in English.

As a veteran I have been to many foreign countries, and not one time have I ever had to press a number key to communicate in their language. We are not a tribal nation! We are one people joined to one another by the name, AMERICAN. Immigration can

only be productive if those immigrating are willing to drop any other nationality to *become* an American. I did not say, drop their culture or heritage, but they must become immersed in the “stew pot” and be a part of the American nation. There are no fringe Americans, you either *are* or you *are not*. No hyphenated Americans, i.e.: African-American.

See HAYDEN Page 5A

# Moore: Transportation is an issue

Continued from page 2A

district. I’m glad the county is completing a high-level transportation survey of the entire northwest area of the county and wish more of the economic development efforts were focused in District 2 and not so much on the UCF area. This is certainly an area to focus more attention on in 2024.

As for cultivating interesting and authentic features, a strategy for building “character” – this work is ongoing. My Neighborhood Leader Program has focused on building authentic features with minimal cost and through volunteer effort. Consider the temporary “park” area we created at Thompson and Votaw Road. Significant clean-up by the fire department and the People of Wekiwa Springs (POWS) has brought that area back into use and activity. I know part of POWS’ strategic planning in January will discuss offering additional events on that piece

of property. If you wish to engage with POWS, they meet the first Tuesday of the month at Wekiwa Springs Baptist Church.

As for encouraging civility and sociability, my Neighborhood Leader Program provides numerous opportunities for engaging in community events. The cities of Apopka and Ocoee as municipalities offer numerous community events, and I highly recommend that residents participate. The People of Lockhart recently offered a large-scale event in conjunction with their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Here is a checklist for neighborhood leaders to consider developing character or highly functioning neighborhoods. One – establish or strengthen the existing neighborhood organization or create a new voluntary association. Two – provide a beautification plan or spirit decorating plan to better engage resident volunteers. Three – establish and utilize an internal communication

system and use it regularly. Four – fully engage and partner as a neighborhood team with your municipal government.

Critical elements for creating and maintaining great neighborhoods include: a safe environment with low crime rates. Trees and beauty are a must. Neighborhoods should be located by nearby amenities such as parks, quality schools, gathering places, civic and religious institutions, shopping, dining, and local businesses. Citizens must insist on quality public services such as police, fire, parks and recreation, utilities, and public works. In this environment, municipalities are being forced to spend more on employment packages to attract the best and brightest into public service.

And the final suggestion from my source, Bill Kercher’s series on “Character Towns, Neighborhoods etc” is “walkable, pretty streets”. I spend sig-

See MOORE Page 5A

# FWC seeks public input on plants

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is seeking public input on a draft addendum to the State Wildlife Action Plan. The purpose of this addendum is to incorporate 596 native plant species into the state’s Species of Greatest Conservation Need list. Species listed as SGCN are declining or are at risk of becoming imperiled in the future.

Written comments are being accepted via survey until Dec. 15.

If you would like to

comment but are unable to do so in the specified timeframe, or if you require an alternate format in which to comment or review the draft Addendum, contact information can be found at MyFWC.com/SWAP.

Florida has the greatest diversity of native plant families in the United States. Native plant species are vital to Florida ecosystems and provide food and shelter to wildlife species.

They also provide many benefits to Florida

residents, including hurricane protection and water filtration. Florida’s action plan is a comprehensive, statewide plan for conserving wildlife and natural areas for future generations.

The action plan takes an ecosystem approach, focusing on the needs of Florida’s terrestrial, freshwater, estuarine and marine ecosystems that will benefit the most Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

For more information, visit MyFWC.com/SWAP

## 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. <b>www.apopka.net</b>	

#### 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
<b>www.orangecountyfl.net</b>	

#### Other Area Numbers of Note

<b>U.S. Senators</b>	
Rick Scott (Rep.) .....	202-224-5274
Marco Rubio (Rep.).....	407-254-2573
<b>U.S. Representative</b>	
Daniel Webster (Dist. 11).....	352-241-9220
<b>State Representatives</b>	
Doug Bankson .....	407-476-6787
Carolina Amesty (Dist. 45).....	unknown
<b>State Senators</b>	
Geraldine Thompson (Dist.11) .....	407-297-2045
<b>Orange County Commissioner</b>	
Christine Moore .....	407-836-7350
<b>Orange County Public Schools</b>	
Pupil assignment.....	407-317-3233
Bus routes.....	407-317-3800
Superintendent.....	407-317-3200
School Board.....	407-317-3200
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
The Apopka Chief .....	407-886-2777
Museum of the Apopkans.....	407-703-1707
Chamber of Commerce.....	407-886-1441



# Darters: Coach Williams pleased with second half performance

*Continued from page 1B*

Apopka would start to catch back up to Lake Brantley in the third quarter, going into the fourth down 36-20, scoring more points in the third than they did the first half of the game. Apopka started to put out the Lake Brantley fire and control the damage with steals and forced turnovers. Apopka also stuck with a higher percentage of looks in the third quarter staying away from volume three-point shooting and looking more towards the in-

side. Even with this, Apopka went 2-for-2 from the three-point line in the third quarter which helped them cut down the deficit.

Apopka went 3-for-11 from the field in the third quarter with half of their points coming from the free throw line. Turnovers were still a problem in the third with Apopka giving away the ball eight times, but Jermichael Johnson had a great quarter with eight points, a block, and a few offensive rebounds.

The fourth quarter start-

ed great with Apopka going on an 8-5 run on Lake Brantley, putting them behind at 41-28 with 4:57 left in the final quarter. Apopka fought hard until the last possession to get back into it, but could not overcome the deficit in the end.

The game ended with Apopka behind 52-43. Apopka's loss was caused by inefficiency and turnovers, and in the end, just a few mistakes would cost them the win.

Coach Williams said, "We were very inefficient,

and turnovers were a problem. It's subtle, but we had some defensive lapses, little things, and we didn't do a very good job in terms of recognizing their personnel. And in a game that turns out to be a nine-point game, we need to do better with the little details."

Jermichael Johnson was the shining light of the game with 25 points, five steals, one block, two assists, and nine rebounds on 64.2 shooting percentage. Coach Williams said Daren Leath is the leader of the team, but Johnson is the emotional kick starter or energy guy on the court.

"Daren is our unquestioned leader. My hope for

Daren is, on nights when maybe he struggles a little bit offensively, that he can continue being assertive... But, you know, Jermichael is a life force on his own. He's relentless, and that was very evident obviously in the second half. He had a lot of help, but I think he was the guy that kind of set the tone for the momentum shift."

What I saw in the final quarter of that game was a need to win. A need to come back and fix the mistakes made earlier in the game. I think, with that mentality, Apopka has the ability to bounce back from anything, and they showed that, even down a huge deficit, they

can play at an elite level to bring the game back into reach in a very short amount of time.

"I was extremely pleased with the courage we showed in the second half. A lot of teams just go ahead and get beat by 28 and call it a bad day. And these guys just aren't wired like that. And that's been the norm here. It wasn't the norm last year, and we are really trying to establish our identity as a team that's going to be really tough, and is going to fight, and is going to dig in. And so I'm super pleased by that," Coach Williams said after the game.

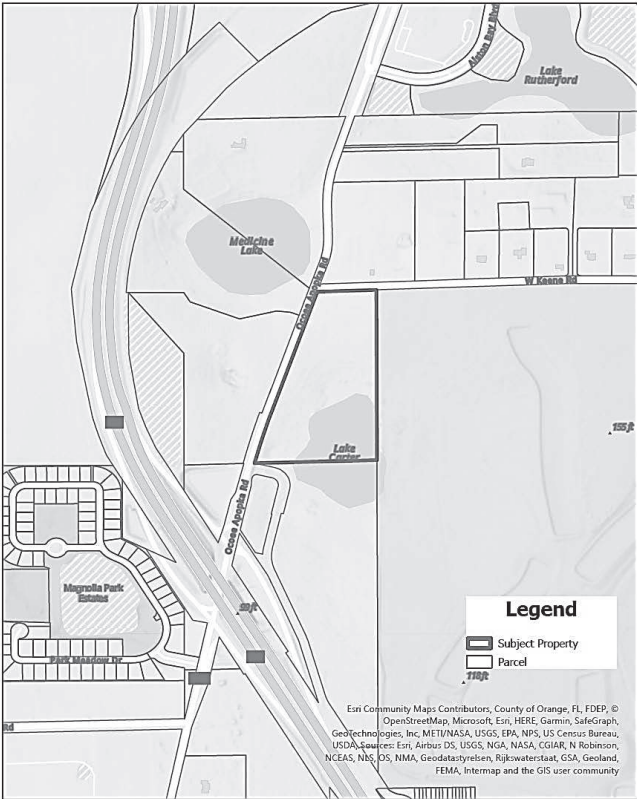
## CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE FUTURE LAND USE AMENDMENT AND CHANGE OF ZONING

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 3034**  
**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 OFFICE TO COMMERCIAL FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1700 WEST KEENE ROAD, OWNED BY M.L. CARTER SERVICES, INC., TRUSTEE OF THE CARTER-KEENE ROAD LAND TRUST, COMPRISING 18.8 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 3035**  
**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM O (OFFICE) TO C-C (COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL DISTRICT) , FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1700 WEST KEENE ROAD; OWNED BY M.L. CARTER SERVICES, INC., TRUSTEE OF THE CARTER-KEENE ROAD LAND TRUST COMPRISING 18.8 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Location Map



Parcel Identification Number(s): 29-21-28-0000-00-003  
Contains: 18.8 +/- 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, December 12, 2023 beginning at 5:30 P.M.**, or as soon thereafter as possible. **FURTHER NOTICE** is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Numbers 3034 and 3035 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, January 3, 2024 beginning at 1:30 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 Planning Commission  
Apopka City Council  
Community Development Department

December 1, 2023

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175318

## 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 November 19-25, the Apopka Police Department received 1,795 calls for service, responded to 40 crashes, issued 96 citations, and made 16 arrests. No Juveniles.

The following adults were arrested and charged:

Gregory Greg Dasilva, 19, 2013 Rivertree Cir. #208, Orlando, carrying concealed weapon-unlawful carry of concealed firearm.

Anthony Harris, 61, transient, Apopka, trespassing-failure to leave property on order of owner.

Alfonza Aaron Harvey, 51, 44 E. Michael Gladden Blvd., Apopka, larceny-pe-

tit theft, merchandise farm transit 2+ prior conviction.

Ronmika Lanea Jackson, 40, confidential, Orlando, battery on specified personnel.

Fredrick L. Johnson, 32, general delivery, Apopka, resist officer-obstruction without violence.

Mark Andrew Land, 42, 38000 FL-19 Unit 13, Umatilla, other agency warrant.

Jason Daniel Maron, 28, 545 S. Keller Rd. Unit 3208, Orlando, burglary-unoccupied structure unarmed; damage property-criminal mischief over \$200 under \$1,000; indecent exposure-exposure of sexual organs 1st offense; resist officer-obstruction without violence; DUI-unlawful blood alcohol, DUI-influence of alcohol or drugs; hit and run-failure to stop, remain at crash involving injury other than serious bodily injury.

Joseph Miles Jr., 34, 2426 S. Holden Rd. Apt A, Greensboro, drugs-possession of controlled substance without prescription; possession of weapon or ammo by convicted Florida felon.

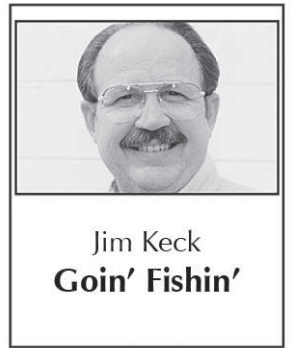
## Colder weather, specks are biting

Hello Folks,

Well it looks like November is gettin' over and December will be here by the end of the week.

We have only 24 more days until Christmas Day. All I know is that Christmas really comes early now or it gets here faster than it did when I was younger. I love this time of the year, bein' with family and friends and eatin' plenty of good food.

The weather has turned a little cooler and you know what that means, it's speckled perch time again. Folks are gettin' on the water and catchin' some nice stringers of specks. My friend John Kremer and family went speck fishin' up in the St. John's River over the weekend, and they caught some big specks along with lots of keeper-size specks.



Jim Keck  
Goin' Fishin'

They were joined by Terry Scroggins and friends for a great trip on the St. Johns River.

Kyle at Bitter's B&T reports that folks in his area are catchin' some specks in Lake Monroe and Lake Jesup. We had a full moon this past Monday, and the specks started bitin' like crazy. So if the wind will lay down a little, the specks should be bitin' all week.

Kyle reports that folks

are catchin' most of their specks on minners, and a few specks bein' caught on jigs tipped with a minner. Always use bright colored jig sfor best results.

The bass fishin' has been pretty good in most of the chains in our area. The Harris Chain has been hit or miss, but a few folks are catchin' plenty of keeper-bass and a couple of big 'uns, too.

The Butler Chain has been good for bass fishin'. Folks are catchin' plenty of keepers and a few little ones in the mix. The little ones are feedin' on bait-fish in the chain. You can catch 'em on lipless crank-baits, quarter oz. Rat-L-Traps, flukes, and Senko-baits. Some folks are catchin'em

See KECK Page 4B

<b>CLUES ACROSS</b>	<b>CLUES DOWN</b>	
1. Second sight	29. Simple	1. Number of players on each side in a football game
4. Standard electrode potential	30. Swiss river	24. States' group
7. Type of gibbon	31. Portion of a play	27. Dashes
8. John Joseph __: American industrialist	32. It's under the tree	28. Body part
10. Manning and Whitney are two	39. Wood sorrels	29. Electronic countermeasures
12. Abrupt	41. No (Scottish)	31. Consumed
13. Baroque musical instrument	42. Dialect of English	32. Small bird
14. Post-burning residue	43. Former Steelers' QB	33. Unhappy
16. When you hope to arrive	44. Popular beer	34. Football's big game (abbr.)
17. Sign up (Brit. Eng.)	45. It can make you sick	35. Valued object offered in good faith
19. Sun up in New York	46. Tropical tree and fruit	36. Wild goats
20. Employee stock ownership plan	48. Company officer	37. Precede in place
21. Where people live	49. Contact lens term	38. Small edible fish
25. Method to record an electrogram	50. Your consciousness of your own identity	39. Notice of death
26. Angry	51. "Ghetto Superstar" singer	40. Body cavity of a metazoan
27. No longer living	52. Piece of turf	44. Partner to cheese
		47. Not around
<b>Solutions to the Crossword Puzzle found on page 10A of this newspaper.</b>		