

## Hayden: We each make nation strong

Continued from page 2A

to laugh, love, sing, and be an encourager of people. I want people to see the joy of living in a free nation in my actions, and in my lifestyle. Is our nation perfect? Not by a long shot, but we can influence change by being what we know to be right, doing what needs to be done, and not bowing to the god of 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.

## Moore: Expense is biggest problem

Continued from page 2A

among 1- to 24-year-olds. The effort included housing, educational support, career training, and mental and physical healthcare. They also coordinated shelter and transportation during freeze warnings and distributed cooling supplies during the record-breaking summer heat. 99 percent of their funding goes to help people get stable housing.

Many of you have been reading about a bill in the state legislature to force municipalities without any funding to create homeless camps. This "book report" will discuss this method of dealing with homeless persons and make recommendations for more productive strategies.

In "A Tale of Two Tent Cities," the authors state, "Local governments have essentially three choices in responding to the presence of homeless encampments:"

1) They can adopt a law enforcement approach forcing individuals to move their camps on pain of arrest for trespassing.

This method does not solve the problem of people

without homes, and a recent court decision limits the ability of government to pursue it unless there is adequate space in a shelter. We have read about this in the case of Altamonte Springs.

2) A municipality can adopt an "out-of-sight, out-of-mind" approach, designating a specified area where homeless individuals are permitted to camp. The article delineates several examples of this from Gainesville. The camps can be a petri dish for crime, drug abuse, sexual abuse, and more. The cost of law enforcement's daily trips to referee are also substantial. This is the process the legislature is currently proposing.

3) The third choice is a housing engagement approach designed to get people out of homelessness and into housing. It substantially reduces the hidden costs of tent cities, encampments, and promotes a pro-social, well-regulated environment. However, it takes a truly organized and committed local government.

If I can find the time to write more about the

Gainesville camps examples, I will. I currently believe we need to fund the capital costs for a shelter replete with the HSN management systems and require the three new approved affordable housing projects in northwest Orange County to rent to a number of these homeless. If the municipality begins to take in more than their fair share from nearby counties and jurisdictions, they can always resort to option number one. I do believe we can manage to find some affordable housing options for homeless persons. Most of the homeless persons have some sort of funding, albeit Medicaid, Medicare, or Disability and can pay some amount of rent.

I'm terribly concerned when we see one-third of the homeless in our area being women with young children. The cost of doing nothing is too great, and with the state legislature knocking at our door to establish "camps," building a shelter and finding housing options sure seems superior.

I would love to hear your thoughts.

### CORRECTION:

Unintentional errors were published in *The Apopka Chief* on Friday, February 16, in the Letter to the Editor. The spelling correction is for Nadia Anderson, who is running for Seat 3. Darryl Richardson is also running for Seat 3, not Seat 4 as published. Nick Nesta is running as an incumbent for Seat 4 not as an incumbent for Seat 3 as published. Eric Mock is also running for Seat 4. We apologize for any inconvenience our errors may have caused.

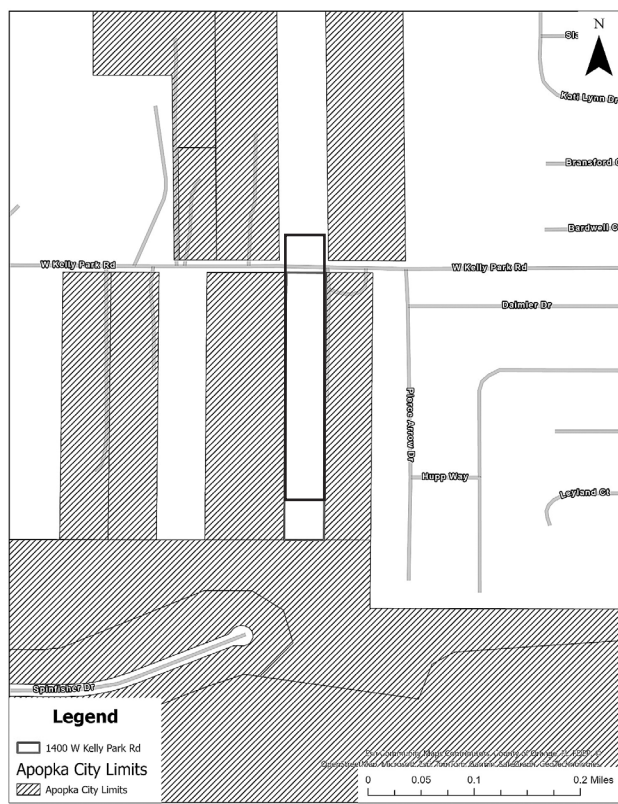
John E. Ricketson, Publisher

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ANNEXATION CITY OF APOPKA

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Florida Statutes 171.044, the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.5.1.A, that **Jose Chaves** has made an application to the City of Apopka City Council for an **ANNEXATION** of a property located at 1400 W Kelly Park Road. This application relates to the following described property:

### ORDINANCE NO. 3043

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, TO EXTEND ITS TERRITORIAL AND MUNICIPAL LIMITS TO ANNEX PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTE 171.044 THE HERINAFTER DESCRIBED LANDS SITUATED AND BEING IN ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, OWNED BY MICHAEL A GENTLES; LOCATED AT 1400 W KELLY PARK ROAD, COMPRISING 5.06 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**



Parcel Identification Number(s): 17-20-28-0000-00-008  
Contains: 5.06 +/- acres

NOTICE is given that public hearings for **Ordinance No. 3043** will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at its regularly scheduled meetings in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, March 6, 2024 beginning at 1:30 P.M.** AND **Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.**

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. The proposed Annexation 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 23, 2024  
Publish: The Apopka Chief

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## Byrd: Explore careers and schools

Continued from page 2A

spective and decided to go to Tallahassee anyway and start at Tallahassee Community College and then transfer to FSU.

She spent a year at TCC finishing her AA and is now a student at FSU pursuing a double major and when she gets those degrees from FSU, nowhere on it will it say she started at a state college. In fact, she was glad she started there because she had smaller classes and her professors were very accessible to her. She had a great transition to college by going this route after all.

Our local state schools like Seminole State and Valencia are fantastic schools. These are great places for our young people to start before heading to a large university environment. As adults, we have to make it okay and not only celebrate those big school acceptances, but celebrate kids that make the best decision for their own situation.

I would also strongly encourage parents and students to remember that you only have one childhood and it's important to keep balance as we work towards our goals. So many times I see high school kids that are literally making themselves sick working on achieving 4.5+ GPAs, being involved in club/sport practice every night, putting in hours of homework after that and having no free time to enjoy being a kid. I'm seeing more and more kids sick, suffering from panic attacks, and not socializing with friends at all.

It's time for us to reevaluate how we

want our kids to live and it's time for us to reevaluate the message we are sending our young people. Let's not only tell them that it is more than okay to start post-secondary education at a state college but that it is actually a great way to start.

Let's expose them to all the great careers out there that don't require a four-year degree that they can begin training for while they are in high school through Orange Technical College. Careers like hospitality, culinary, human services, veterinary technician, nursing, construction trades and many more. Many of these programs students can dual enroll for while in high school and OPCS will bus the students from the high school to the technical college and many of them can be taken at the high school.

I come from a home with a father who was a general contractor. He had no college degree but owned a very successful building construction company in Orlando for many years. He built us a beautiful home and was able to send his children to college debt free with this career. I'm a big believer that a four-year university is not the only way to success.

Let's continue to spread this message to our kids, let's let them be kids, and let's celebrate every child who has a goal and finds the path that is right for them to achieve that goal. Congratulations to all the seniors who have set a goal for their future and are ready to make the next step towards that goal, no matter what that next step is!

**Everybody has an opinion.  
Why not share yours?**

**Send a letter to the Editor online  
[www.theapokkachief.com](http://www.theapokkachief.com)**

## 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](http://www.theapokkachief.com), [news@theapokkachief.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://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**  
Daniel Webster (Dist. 11) 352-241-9220  
**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

# WHS baseball to keep the steady improvement going into season

By Neal Fisher  
Apopka Chief

A familiar face is in a new place and position as the Wekiva Mustangs begin the 2024 season. Brian Tatai is charged with overseeing the Mustangs' attempt to take the next step beyond a 19-7 record and opponents' victories are no longer assured by walking onto the field. An assistant last season and native of Dearborn, Michigan, Tatai was promoted to head coach during the offseason.

The next step is also within the context of a steady continuing progression. Wekiva has improved the overall record from 1-8 to 7-16 to 10-14 since 2020. An above .500 record was recorded by the Mustangs for the first time in over a decade last season. Wekiva will also for the first time in over a decade attempt to post a record over .500 during consecutive seasons.

"The end result and most tangible positive towards winning or negative towards losing is noticed first in any sport," Tatai reiterated. "However, the end results are the product of executing the subtle actions properly and making the right decisions. There were many reasons for the improvement in the overall record last season. All grew out of and were predicated on understanding why subtle actions are so important between last and two seasons ago.

"If subtle actions aren't executed properly and the right decisions made, the tangible positive endings don't happen. Proper execution and correct decision making becomes second nature with

repetition. Everything a team aspires to accomplish during the offseason grows out of the opportunity for repetition when participating in fall ball."

Winning during the postseason will also accompany improving the record as topping the list of next steps. A 6-2 loss during the first round of the District 6A-7 championship tournament ended last season for the Mustangs. The contest was tied at 2-2 heading into the bottom of the sixth inning.

Wekiva has risen and grown out of understanding the importance of subtle action with aggression first and foremost. In particular, base running and establishing scoring threats through base running has been the impetus of the overall aggressive play.

"Proceeding under the cliché of we will take our chances with aggressiveness in all three phases of the game and are willing to live with the results either way," Tatai said. "We would rather fail in the attempt to be aggressive as opposed to not taking the risk at all and hoping for a positive outcome."

Last season 165 out of 173 stolen base attempts were successful, a percentage of 95.4 and 6.4 per contest. The aggressive approach or ambition isn't limited to the direct and tangible means of the stolen base though.

"The bar for stolen bases was set last season," Tatai said. "However, this team will not be the same as last season's. As far as repeating the number if reaching the potential, this team will be competitive in matching the number. Sev-

eral new subtle wrinkles of pursuing aggressiveness have been incorporated into our play. We want the opponent to feel pressure from an aggressive approach in general. We want the opponent to feel pressure from being forced to focus on more than the batter-pitcher relationship all the time though.

"We don't want the opponent to feel the need of stopping a runner from scoring after reaching second base on the previous play. We want the opponent to feel the need to stop a runner from scoring after reaching second base during the play. The same applies to the cut off throw. We want the opponent to feel pressure from where is and the accuracy of the cut off throw during the play in progress. We don't want the opponent to feel any less amount of pressure because the play stops and use the time between plays to refocus on the possibility. The goal is to feel as much high level pressure from the need to execute an accurate throw home from the cut off fielder as creating options because ahead in the count."

Last season, the Mustangs batted .307 and scored 188 runs as well, an average of 7.2 per contest. The ball was hit hard but not necessarily with power by Wekiva last season. Of the 51 extra base hits, only one was a home run. Walks also totaled 114 or an average of 4.5 per contest.

The starters for the Mustangs entering the regular season are as follows: Greg Jones-CF, Miguel Acosta-3B, Luis Perez-SS, Damir Simon-1B

Marcus Campbell-3B/OF, Jonathon Mills-LF, Zack Reinert-C, Dominic Sanchez-2B, Brady Reinert-OF, Campbell is the only newcomer to Wekiva's starting line-up but joining as a junior.

"A combination of the team's skillset as a whole and personal approach developed, the line-up will not be static from contest to contest either," Tatai said. "We aren't going to use the same and traditional line-up for every contest.

"I believe the traditional make-up of a line up as far as the speedy, contact hitters at the top and the team will take its chances with strikeouts opposed to home run power hitters is still applicable. However, not every individual match-up or with the opponent lends itself to the traditional lineup is the best. Nor will I move a player just one position down in the line-up. For example, a leadoff hitter can be used in the nine hole and create

having to face two consecutively instead of a pitcher. I have never understood why the strategy isn't used more often."

Every pitching statistic was also the best in over a decade. Earned run average was lowered to 2.80 with 120 hits and 107 walks given up. Strikeouts totaled 226 and a 2.11 to walk ratio.

"The closest comparison is the Atlanta Braves of the 1990's with Maddux, Glavine and Smoltz and the long relievers," Tatai said. "Obviously, the level of performance is not the same. I was referring to the diversity though, in every conceivable significant way and means-The pitches, style, approach of attack, interpretation of situation.

Acosta, Mills, Reinhardt, Campbell, Perez and Jacob Meyers make up the pitching staff. How managed will also be the same as the batters and fielders. The traditional line-up of pitchers will be used but

not always and from contest to contest. All pitchers will take the mound as starts and relievers.

"We believe continuing to steadily move the program forward begins with building depth throughout," Tatai said. "However, steadily moving the program forward begins with building depth specifically among the pitching staff. A major jump occurred between 2022 and 2023. The record took major improvement in conjunction. The statistics clearly demonstrate difference between winning consistently and an over .500 record was the pitching."

Rounding out the Mustangs roster is Ivan Tolentino, Jaylon Dolvin, Darelle Martinez, Jaden Graham, Nowah James and Onrique Archie.

This season's schedule is made up of contests against the Davenport Broncos (Feb. 21), Lake Mary Prep Griffins

See WEKIVA Page 4B

## 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 11-17, the Apopka Police Department received 1,664 calls for service, responded to 33 crashes, issued 29 citations, and made 21 arrests. Juveniles were charged with burglary-unoccupied conveyance unarmed (x4); damage property-criminal mischief \$1,000 or more (X4); vehicle theft-grand theft of motor vehicle (X2); burglary tools-possession of burglary tools with intent to use (X2); resist officer-obstruction without violence.

The following adults were arrested and charged: Ludwin Erickson Alvarado, 19, 2660 Attleboro Pl., Apopka, moving traffic violation-drive without license causes death/serious injury with vehicle. Karla Michelle Baez-Ayala, 29, confidential, Saint Cloud, battery-touch or strike (domestic violence). Preston Levi Brown, 23, 906 Hemlock Dr., Apopka, aggravated assault-with deadly weapon without intent to kill; DUI-unlawful blood alcohol, DUI-influence of alcohol or drugs.

Bradley Dwayne Linton Burch, 33, 2051 Section Dr., Apopka, amphetamine-traffic or methamphetamine 14 grams or over; possession of cocaine; drugs-traffic own rent structure, vehicle know traffic drugs; drugs-possession of controlled substance without prescription (heroin). Aria Jade Bush, 24, confidential, Apopka, battery-touch or strike. Brandon Jamar Corbett, 28, 1317 Marvin C. Zanders Ave., Apopka, out-of-county warrant. Harold Calvin Crumpler, 31, 2213 Whitby Dr., Orlando, battery-touch or strike; resist officer-obstruction without violence; burglary of occupied structure unarmed.

Joseph Josias Dorneval, 32, 524 Susannah Leigh Ln., Orlando, out-of-county warrant. Louis G. Galmitz, 19, 443 E. 10th St., Apopka, trespassing-failure to leave property on order of owner. Nathan Arthur Hicks, 57, 812 Sweetwater Club Blvd., Longwood, possession of cocaine; drugs-traffic own rent structure, vehicle know traffic drugs; drugs-possession of controlled substance without prescription (Percocet). Oscar Ramon Lopez-Campos, 37, confidential, Apopka, simple assault-intent threat to do violence; obstructing justice-tamper witness withhold testimony/information felony 3rd proceeding; battery-touch or strike; kidnap-false imprisonment, false imprisonment

or drugs.

Shanquail Latrese Lynch, 42, 808 Marvin C. Zanders Ave., Apopka, aggravated battery with a deadly weapon. Claudio Jair Mendieta-Ramirez, 22, 147 Ashville St., Apopka, DUI-unlawful blood alcohol 0.15 or higher or with person under 18 in vehicle. Mauno Baudilo Mendoza-Mendez, 20, confidential, Apopka, battery-touch or strike. Venard Vicsean Norris, 38, 1605 Pine Lake Rd., Lee, carjacking without firearm or weapon; burglary with assault or battery; battery on person 65 years of age or older.

Richard Allen Russ, 34, 5209 Via Major, Orlando, carjacking without firearm or weapon; burglary with assault or battery; battery on person 65 years of age or older.

Coty Paul Buddy Short, 32, 506 Alabama Ave., Apopka, other agency warrant. Johnnie Ray Smith, 61, 730 E. 7th St., Apopka, aggravated assault-with deadly weapon without intent to kill.

Kourtney Marie Straubel, 36, 1755 Crane Creek Blvd., Melbourne, out-of-county warrant. Santos Vazquez, 46, Transient, Apopka, other agency warrant. Marin Octavia Williams, 21, 227 E. 12th St. Apt 1, Apopka, loitering or prowling.

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ANNEXATION CITY OF APOPKA

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Florida Statutes 171.044, the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.5.1.A, that ROMMEL FONTANA has made an application to the City of Apopka City Council for an ANNEXATION of a property located at 2518 Haas Road. This application relates to the following described property:

ORDINANCE NO. 3046  
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, TO EXTEND ITS TERRITORIAL AND MUNICIPAL LIMITS TO ANNEX PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTE 171.044 THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED LANDS SITUATED AND BEING IN ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, OWNED BY INVESTMENTS ALLIANCE, LLC; LOCATED AT 2518 HAAS ROAD, COMPRISING 4.17 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 07-20-28-0000-00-025  
Contains: 4.17 +/- acres

NOTICE is given that public hearings for Ordinance No. 3046 will be held by the City of Apopka City Council at its regularly scheduled meetings in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, March 6, 2024 beginning at 1:30 P.M. and Wednesday, March 20, 2024 beginning at 7:00 P.M.** or as soon thereafter as possible.

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

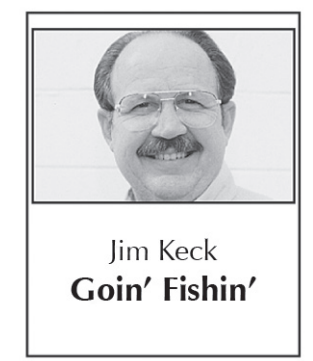
## Cool temperatures and sunny days make for good speck fishing

Hello Folks,

We wanted some rain and, boy, did we get some!

We needed the rain and it was greatly appreciated. The rain did upset a lot of things going on in our area, but everything worked out pretty well. It did affect the fishin' just a little, but even in the rain a few folks got in some fishin'.

I didn't get many reports on the speck fishin', but I'm sure they will be bitin' this weekend. We have a full moon on Saturday, the 24th. We are expectin' some rain on Friday and sunny over the weekend. So, with these cooler temperatures and sun-



Jim Keck  
**Goin' Fishin'**

ny days, the speck fishin' should be real good. You need to try Lake Monroe, Lake Jesup, and Lake Harney.

They are also catchin' some specks in the Harris Chain and the Kissimmee Chain. Most folks are catchin' their specks on

minners and some with a bright colored jig tipped with a minner.

The bass fishin' has been good to really good in most of the chains in our area. In case you haven't heard, the FWC has deployed the bright pink tags again in Florida. There are five new tags that were put on bass in these lakes. Each bass weighs over 8 pounds, and they have a pink tag on them.

These pink tagged bass are located in the following lakes: Lake Okeechobee, Porter Lake, Winter Haven Chain of Lakes, Lake Lochloosa,

See KECK Page 4B