## Byrd: Career Training classes are available on high school campuses

#### Continued from page 2A

ange Technical campuses throughout Orange County.

At Apopka and Wekiva High Schools, students can dual enroll with OTC, meaning they start their day at their home school and ride the bus to the OTC West, South or Main campus for courses. Dual enrollment programs available include: Building Construction Technology, Carpentry, Electricity, HVAC/ Refrigeration, Plumbing and Welding Technology, 3-D Animation Technology, Automotive Collision and Service Technologies, Digital Cinema Production, Digital Media Design, Hotel and Resort Business Management, Modeling Simulation Design, Pharmacy Technician, Medical Assisting and many others.

If you haven't checked recently, these are very well-paid lines of work these days as the trade industries are desperate for new hires.

For example, welders can enter the field making \$80,000 a year. Students graduate from these programs with industry certification ready to work in these high-demand fields. Remember: that is without a college education debt to pay back.

Students don't even have to leave their high school campus to get these great training courses. OCPS has worked hard to bring back these CTE (Career Technical Education) classes to our high school

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

**ANNEXATION** 

CITY OF APOPKA

campuses because the demand is so high for these programs and the trained workers they produce within our community.

Apopka High School offers the following CTE classes on its campus: Agritechnology, Animal Science and Services, Horticulture Science and Services, Digital Photography, Digital Video Technology, Accounting Applications, Business Management and Analysis, Early Childhood Education, Applied Robotics, Engineering Pathways, Biomedical Sciences, Fundamental Foodservice Skills, Entrepreneurship, Diesel Systems Technician.

Next year, they will be bringing Building Construction Technologies to the campus as well, and

we are very excited for this program to be offered at Apopka High School.

Wekiva High School offers many CTE courses, as well. Those include Agritechnology, Animal Science and Services, Agriculture, four different Digital Video Technology classes, various Engineering Pathways courses, several

Culinary Arts and Hospitality and Tourism courses as well as Entrepreneurship.

Next year, the school will be adding more Hospitality and Tourism Management courses and additional Entrepreneurship courses. They are also very excited to bring Medical Assisting to the campus which will provide another great career option for our

As you can see, the options are vast, so let's encourage our kids to explore the many pathways that are available for a successful future. If you have questions, please reach out to one of the College and Career Counselors that are in every high school.

## **Moore:** Ideas are successful elsewere

#### Continued from page 2A

stripe wide roadways.

This was completed in 2010 in Lancaster, California, creating a \$282-million impact. They spent only \$11.2 million retrofitting their main street. The effort doubled pedestrian activity, reduced injury crashes by 49 percent, pedestrian crashes by 78 percent and led to 57 new businesses opening. It also provided more than 800 new housing units and created around 2,000 jobs. All I can say is, WOW! What did they do? They restriped the fourlane roadway and created a beautiful on-street parking area in the middle of the road. This could work on Park Avenue in Apopka.

Idea 100: Don't give up on sprawl, or retrofitting suburbia.

This idea has many potential applications in District 2. The author describes the "monotony of sprawl." That is what our people organizations are endeavoring to eradicate this year through a new contest, "The Most Creative Corridor." Thus far, People of Lockhart are preparing

blighted fencing for students to paint an extravaganza of roses on Rose Avenue. People of Wekiwa Springs are working with supportive subdivisions to create more interest. Chelsea Ridge is planting jasmine to jazz up their pond. Sweetwater will be wrapping trees in beautiful solar, rope lighting. Majestic Oaks will create a rock garden respite under a large oak tree.

I'll be adding decorative cups on county pond fencing with a \$50 investment. None of this needs to be expensive. The idea is to create interest and break up the monotony of suburbia while enticing walkers to core areas for a cup of coffee, ice cream, drink, or even watching a movie. We just want happy, healthy, walkable communities.

Idea 101: Dream big,

The author lists projects in Chicago and Michigan that have built large parks and transit options. Mayor Daley in Chicago constructed the \$200-million Millennium Park in the early 2000s. Within 10 years, the city saw \$3 bil-

**Hayden:** Go back to the past success

lion invested in new private construction near the park, which incidentally now attracts five million visitors annually.

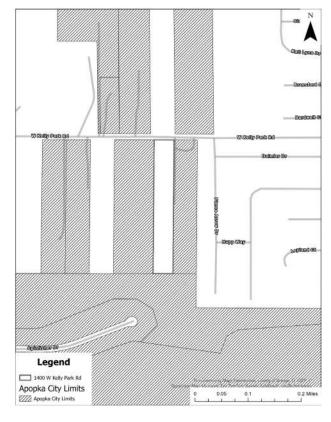
Another example in the book is Grand Rapids, Michigan. After the secret service wouldn't allow a parade in the downtown for President Gerald Ford due to so many empty spaces, local business owners pledged to move operations downtown. They also built a new arena and convention center. A medical school and several hotels followed shortly thereafter. Before long, Grand Rapids enjoys one of the healthiest downtowns in the entire Midwest.

Time permitting, I will discuss more ideas from the "Walkable City" books by Jeff Speck. I hope you are inspired and join one of the three exciting groups implementing these ideas: People of Lockhart, People of Wekiwa Springs, People of Clarcona-Ocoee, and soon the People of Southern Apopka.

Together, we can make our communities more livable, walkable, and the best they can be.

#### 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 <u>Jose Chaves</u> has made an application to the City of Apopka City Council for an <u>ANNEXATION</u> 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 HEREINAFTER 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 SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE



Parcel Identification Number(s): 17-20-28-0000-00-008 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

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## Continued from page 2A

ing to keep Disneyworld from turning into a statement against the nuclear family, and a promotion of anti-family ideals exhibiting a corrosive, rebellious attitude of ME first. I say corrosive because the lifestyle they promote neither encourages, nor does it engender joyful living. Their ideals are the big shows, the flambovant flashing of indecency, claiming a banner of their own, parading their bizarre dress, and actions, and making a mockery of down-to-earth moms and dads who are doing their best to raise children who love the United States of America, and to be law-abiding, taxpaying citizens of the greatest nation in the

Displaying the kind of lifestyle exhibited by the woke generation, tears at the hearts of every American when seeing the degradation that results from something in their lives that is missing. If you dig a little deeper into their past, you might find a home that was being held together by an overworked mom who needed a husband to be a part of child rearing. For whatever reason, dad was absent, and mom was left alone to be the complete source of learning, chastising, watching over, protecting, and being the bread winner. No man was there to be an example of manhood for the boys, a loving shoulder for a daughter to lay her head on, and a pillar of love and strength for the mother to depend on.

Walt Disney founded a place called

Disneyland and later Disneyworld, to bring families together in a healthy, happy environment where adults could enjoy being kids again, and children could enjoy their parents being in touch with its magic as much as they were. Today's woke movement is moving in a completely different mode. It separates people and families. It removes ethical barriers that were set up to protect our youth and our nation's morality. and it leads to ungodly living that results in deviance, separation, loneliness, and in some cases, suicide.

To understand the chasm that separates our lifestyle now from that of fifty years ago, look at and compare the past theme of living as families to today's life-

Thank GOD for Ron DeSantis and his stand - not against Disneyworld - but the factions that would tear the heart out of Walt Disney if he were alive today, and those that would change the magic of Disneyworld into the stagnation of the woke

Remember the words of Walt himself. "To all who come to this happy place: welcome. Disneyland is your land. Here age relives fond memories of the past ... and here youth may savor the challenge and promise of the future. Disneyland is dedicated to the ideals, the dreams and the hard facts which have created America ... with the hope that it will be a source of joy and inspiration to all the world."

#### 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 Apopha 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 Apopha Chief, P.O. Box 880, Apopka, Fla.,

The Apopha 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 Hall407-703-1700 Mayor's Office407-703-1701 City Administrator407-703-1649 City Clerk407-703-1704 Community Devel.407-703-1712 Code Enforcement407-703-1738 Finance Dept.407-703-1725 Fire (non-emerg.)407-703-1756 Parks and Rec. Dept.407-703-1741 Police Chief407-703-1769 Police (non-emerg.)407-703-1771 Job Line407-703-1743 Solid Waste Collect.407-703-1731 Street Maintenance407-703-1731 Utility Billing407-703-1727

Medical, fire emergency911 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 Services407-836-3111 Auto/Boat Tags850-617-2000 Building Dept.407-836-8550 County Mayor407-836-7370 County Commission 407-836-7350 County Attorney407-836-7320 Clerk of the Court407-836-2065 Elections Supervisor407-836-2070 Fire/Rescue407-836-3111 Solid Waste407-836-6601 Garbage Collection 407-703-1731 Health Dept.407-836-2600 Hunting/Fishing Lic888-347-4356 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** 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 Board407-317-3200

Miscellaneous The Apopka Chief407-886-2777 Museum of the Apopkans407-703-1707

Chamber of Commerce 407-886-1441

# AHS looks to repeat or improve on last year's playoff run

By Neal Fisher Apopka Chief Staff

Apopka Blue Darters' women's wrestling has been a model of doing more with less. No more than six wrestlers have qualified for an individual state championship meet over the course of the 16 seasons the Blue Darters have been competing in the sport. Final standings have never included Apopka outside the top-20 though.

However, third place was earned for the second time in the program's history last season. The next logical goal is to consistently repeat the achievement. A decisiveness in the direction of prime to take the next step past perennially placing inside the topfive has been demonstrated throughout the regular sea-

Then the FHSAA postseason has been nothing but the same. The Blue Darters placed third during the first two rounds of the FHSAA postseason, the District 5 and Regional 2 championships. Held this weekend (Feb. 29-Mar 2), four wrestlers have advanced to the state championship meet.

Classifications do not exist in women's wrestling.

"Every season has begun with potential to place again at the state championship meet and steadily grows," Apopka coach Bruce McMillian said. "This season is also no different. The wrestlers understand consistency in terms of getting the most out of the numbers or with the efficiency has been established.

The sport of girls wrestling has also taken on a higher profile and equal sta-

tus at the same time as the come is third place. Blue Darters looking to secure consistent top-five sta-

A state wrestling championship meet for girls was held by several other sanctioning bodies before being taken over by the Florida High School Athletics Association. The 2023-24 season marks the third with the Florida High School Athletics Association as the

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

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

Advancing to the next round of the FHSAA postseason is much simpler and tangible though, placing at least fourth.

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

most basic and fundamental level is putting in the work to develop the talent, McMillian reiterated after the region championship meet. "Each Apopka team passes down to the next the first and foremost importance of developing talent is only possible when the behind the scenes work, practicing is done.

"Practice is always pursued with a specific purpose, improvement in a specific area or areas. Then matches during the regular season are looked at as an opportunity for lessons learned and improvement."

The Blue Darters scored a total of 132 points. 21-4 record and an even better than last season .840 winning percentage at the District 5 championship

With 177 points, the host team, Ocoee Knights claimed the 2024 championship. Second place was taken by the Jones Tigers while scoring 150.5 points. The Colonial Grenadiers (84 points) and Winter Park Wildcats (82) completed the top-five. A total of 14 teams competed.

All seven Apopka wrestlers placed.

Gregoire Hananeel (100 pound weight class), Shelby Sherman (110), Nehemie Gregoire (130) and Jada Jones (190) won all four matches competed in en route to individual weight class champion-

Also placing, earning points and advancing to the Region 2 championship meet were Daliane Thompson (third-145) and Michelle Hernandez (second-155)

Rounding out the re-"Consistency at the sults under the Blue Darter banner, Elianna Lavoile placed sixth.

> Apopka then scored a total of 97 points, 18-7 record and .720 winning percentage at the Region 2 championship meet.

> With 199 points, the Hernando Leopards clinched the 2024 championship. Second place was taken by the Freedom Patriots with 156 points. The Osceola Kowboys (94 points) and East River Falcons (64) completed the top-five. A total of 53 teams competed.

> Jada Jones won all four matches en route to the individual weight class championship for the 190

pound weight class.

Also placing, earning points, and advancing to the state championship meet were Hananeel Gregoire (100 pounds), Shelby Sherman (110) and Nehemie Gregoire (130).

Points were scored by Thompson and Hernandez.

"Positioning ourselves for the postseason is then a continuation of the motivation to not waste any practices, an opportunity to improve one step at a time," McMillian said. "I think with this group of state qualifiers, a genuine opportunity to do even better than previously as far as consistently placing inside the top-10 exists. The first of what will hopefully be a streak of placing inside the top-three was achieved last season. Placing in the topfive or even three a second consecutive season is the next step

"However, chasing the end, overall goal of taking the next step is not easy. We can't lose sight of what we did at each and every meet during the regular season. Wrestling is like every other sport. If unfocused on the match competing in at the time, the performance will be poor."

The state championship meet is held at the Osceola Heritage Park/Silver Spurs Arena in Kissimmee.

# **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 18-24, the Apopka Police Department received 1,555 calls for service, responded to 37 crashes, issued 40 citations, and made 17 arrests. Juveniles were charged with trespassingtrespass posted construction site (X4); loitering or prowling (X4); resist officer-obstruct without violence (X4); burglary-unoccupied structure unarmed (X4); probation violation (X2); trespassing on school grounds; disturbing the peace-interfere with school administration function.

The following adults were arrested and charged: Kevin David Barrow,

Eustis, loitering or prowl-

Hans Billewicz, 37, 1926 Pia Ct., Apopka, 24, general delivery, Apop-DUI-unlawful blood alcohol, DUI-influence of alcohol or drugs; neglect child without great bodily harm.

Sakeinah Alisha Burgess, 32, transient, Apopka, possession of cocaine.

Plymouth, moving traffic violation-driving while license suspended, revocation equivalent status; drugs-traffic possession using structure/vehicle knowingly traffic drugs; amphetamine-traffic or methamphetamine 14 grams or

Russell Wilfred Gagne, 35, 145 Nashua Ave., Altamonte Springs, simple assault-assault on specified personnel; resist officer-obstruct without violence; battery on specified personnel.

Anthony Harris, 61, 1211 Roger Babson Dr., Orlando, resist officer-obstruct without violence; burglary of occupied dwelling unarmed.

Samantha Mary Hutt, 30, confidential, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Boubakar Jalloh, 35, 1055 E. Flamingo Rd. Apt 1002, Las Vegas, drugspossession of controlled substance without prescription (fentanyl); resist officer-obstruct without violence; trespassing-trespass occupied structure or con-

Jacquelyn 26, 25246 McBrady Ln., Knapik, 36, 1038 Sheeler Hills Dr., Apopka, other agency warrant.

> Erion Cordell Lowe, ka, other agency warrant.

William Mazariegos-Ramirez, 43, 2870 N. Pine Hills Rd. #139, Orlando, DUI-unlawful blood alcohol, DUI-influence of alco-Brandon Scott Cooke, possession of cocaine -46, 25041 Albia Ave., Mt. bond \$2,500; moving traf-

fic violation-operate motor vehicle without valid license - bond \$150.

Donnell Varuael Mc-Clain, 44, 1642 Lucy Terry Ave., Apopka, resist officer-obstruction without violence; disorderly intoxication disorder-intoxication in public place cause disturbance; disturbing peace-breach of the peace; trespassing-trespass of occupied structure or convey-

William Love Miller, 37, general delivery, Apopka, carrying concealed weapon-unlawful carry of concealed weapon; possession of weapon or ammo by convicted Florida felon; officer-obstruction without violence; weapon offense missile into dwelling, vehicle, building or aircraft; homicide-specified felony commit action could cause death; public order crimes-possession of bulletproof vest during certain offenses; aggravated assault with intent to commit a felony.

Brandon Lawilfred Sanders, 23, confidential, Orlando, battery-touch or

Michael Devon Small, 64, transient, Apopka, possession of cocaine.

Joshua John Stratton, 44, confidential, Apopka, larceny-grand theft \$750 less than \$5,000; batterytouch or strike.

Tyler Cain Worrick, 28, transient, Apopka, drugs-possession of controlled substance without prescription (amphetamine); larceny-other theft; trespassing-trespass occuhol or drugs - bond \$1,000; pied structure or convey-

### 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

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE** 

ANNEXATION

CITY OF APOPKA

to the City of Apopka City Council for an ANNEXATION of a property located at 2518 Haas Road. This application relates to the following 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 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.

Apopka City Council

Community Development Department

# FWC approves new rules to support TrophyBass management

Hello Folks,

What a great weekend we had. Lots of folks are gettin' on the water and enjoyin' this chamber of commerce weather we have been havin'.

There were folks fishin' for specks and bass in most all our waterways in the area. We had a full moon on Saturday and that got the fish bitin'. Specks are bitin' in just about all the big lakes in Central Florida, Lake Monroe, Lake Jesup, Lake Harney, and the St. John's River. Most of the specks are still bein' caught on minners, and a few specks on jigs tipped with a minner. Some specks are bein' caught in the Harris Chain and the Kissimmee Chain as well.

I wanted to let everyone know that the FWC approved new rules to support TrophyBass management. There are two rules that have been approved for two specific waterbodies. Lake Lochloosa and Orange Lake in Alachua County. There is no killing or pos-



Jim Keck Goin' Fishin'

sessing of any black bass that is 20 inches or more in total length. Also, the other new rule requires a circle hook when fishin' with natural baits greater than 3 inches in length. These new rules will support the agency's concerted efforts to grow larger trophy bass across the state. The goal of the FWC's Florida Trophy Bass Project is to make Florida the undisputed Trophy Bass Capital of the

There was an Xtreme Bass Series tournament on the Harris Chain a couple of weeks ago. Congrats to Brent Stagg and Neil Davis for their win on the chain. They had 5 bass that hit

the scales at 27.68 pounds. They also had a nice kicker bass that weighed 7.44 pounds. There were 6 bass that were caught durin' the tournament that weighed over 6 pounds each. My point in reportin' about all these tournaments is to say this: With all the tournaments we have durin' this time of the year on our chains, these chains continue to produce big stringers and big bass each week. It's just amazin' to me how these lakes continue to provide the amount of bass that were caught and the weight that it takes to win one of these tournaments. It goes to show you that we are blessed to be able to fish these lakes and chains in our area and show-out what they can produce.

I know that I have whined about all the tournaments bein' held in Florida durin' this time of the year, but it's cold up North and folks do want to fish; and Florida is the destina-