

Birthday proclamation

A 105-year-old woman receives a proclamation for her birthday. See page 3A.



Volleyball victories

Blue Darter boys volleyball starts season strong. See page 1B.



The Apopka Chief



**MAINST
DAILY NEWS**

A Mainstreet Daily News company

Your trusted local news source

Volume 103 Number 10
Friday, March 7, 2025 / FREE

Council allocates \$100K to fix Border Lake flooding

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

The Apopka City Council unanimously approved a short-term flood mitigation solution at its meeting on Wednesday, March 5.

Da Huo, utility design manager for the city's public service department, presented the short-term plan to pump water from Border Lake to Blue Lake in the S.R. 436/Piedmont-Wekiwa

Road area. The council then voted 5-0 to allocate a budget of \$100,000, with possible cost adjustments.

According to Huo, the plan would involve four pumps operating nine hours a day, seven days a week. The project could take 52 days, potentially reduced to two and a half weeks, if 24/7 operation is allowed. The city will also watch lake levels and proper operation.

The Wekiwa Village Homeowners' Association and residents have consented to the short-term solution, and minimal pump noise control is planned, Huo said.

"We're going to rent the quietest unit possible, and we're going to possibly set up wood panel installation around it to reduce the noise as much as possible," he said. "But ultimately, the plan is a plan. There's not much we can do to avoid

some minimum interruption with the residents there, but the HOA has expressed that they think this is a good plan."

Orange County is taking care of the plan's permitting process, which often takes 24 hours, according to Huo.

Huo said that the contractor is working on finalizing the project's numbers.

Angelica Jones, a resident of Wekiwa Village, asked the City Council for

a commitment to resolving the flooding issue once and for all. Piedmont Wekiwa Village is a community of 60 townhome units off Piedmont Wekiwa Road that was severely impacted by the flooding in October 2024 following Hurricane Milton.

"I just would like a commitment that this will remain a topic until what's going to be done specifically for us is addressed," she said. "You

guys have to start with this, and I get that, but I don't want us to be forgotten."

The March 5 Border Lake presentation was a continued discussion of the Feb. 19 Council meeting conversation. On Feb. 19, Apopka officials, Orange County Commissioner Christine Moore and county staff discussed short-term and long-term solutions for the flooding issue among the many lakes in the area.

Officials gather to open Greeneyes Wildlife Preserve



Photo by Teresa Sargeant

Elected officials and Orange County staff members cut the ribbon for the Greeneyes Wildlife Preserve's grand opening on Friday, Feb. 28, at 951 W. Kelly Park Road, Apopka.

Preserve becomes 15th property protected under county program

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

The Greeneyes Wildlife Preserve's grand opening marks its importance as the 15th property protected under Orange County's Green PLACE (Park Land Acquisition for Conservation and

Environmental) initiative, which currently safeguards over 25,000 acres.

The grand opening occurred on Friday, Feb. 28, at 951 W. Kelly Park Road, Apopka, where the preserve's entrance is located.

Named after the one-of-a-kind Florida native greeneyes wildflower (*Berlandiera subcaulis*), Greeneyes Wildlife Preserve features a hiking trail and interpretive walks such as "What's under your feet?" which highlights the sand hill landscape and wild-

life inhabitants.

Over the decades, the Greeneyes Wildlife Preserve property has undergone many land use transformations, from citrus in the 1940s to cattle pastures in the 1960s to timber production in the 1990s, Orange County District 2 Commissioner Christine Moore said.

The Greeneyes Wildlife Preserve conservation process began in 2009 when Orange County first purchased

See PRESERVE Page 5A

Apopka Chamber to honor Eileen Ricketson March 19

Event to take place at Highland Manor

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

The Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce will present Eileen Ricketson with its Lifetime Achievement Award for her 45 years of contribution to The Apopka Chief and as an active community member.

Ricketson, 83, will appear in person to receive the award at the chamber's Women in Leadership Luncheon on Wednesday, March 19, at Highland Manor in Apopka. The luncheon's keynote speaker will be Laura Halfpenny, senior director of soccer growth for the U.S. Soccer Federation.

The chamber does not give out the Lifetime Achievement Award every year but wanted to do so to recognize Ricketson's contributions. On Feb. 13, she sold The Apopka Chief and The Planter to the Mainstreet Daily News, a subsidiary of Orlando-based MARC Media.

"The decision was



Photo by J.C. Derrick

Eileen Ricketson works on laying out an issue of The Apopka Chief in January.

made because it is the end of an era after over 45 years running the paper, and Eileen's contributions over the years to the Apopka community have been immense," said Dr. Nicholas Grounds, executive director of the Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce. "Eileen exemplifies the meaning of the award because she has never taken the limelight and does her job and civic duties in the humblest way."

With characteristic hu-

mility, Ricketson said that she feels undeserving of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

"I would like all the many wonderful and understanding people that I have met and worked with to be so honored as they are more deserving as they willingly continued to work with me and for me," she said.

Born in Lineboro, Md., in 1941, Eileen Ricketson spent her childhood on

See HONOR Page 8A

Council authorizes eminent domain as last resort for property

Property is last piece to construct new public safety building

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

On Wednesday, March 5, the Apopka City Council unanimously approved a resolution authorizing the acquisition of a Seventh Street property via eminent domain, if necessary, to construct a new public safety building.

City administrator Jacob

Smith and city attorney Cliff Shepard are tasked with executing this resolution.

The property in question, consisting of a single-family residence at 123 E. Seventh St., is the last one needed for the public safety building. This new building would house city departments, including fire, police, an emergency communications center and the information technology department.

The current Apopka Municipal Justice Building,

See DOMAIN Page 3A

Wekiwa Springs State Park to require reservations for entry

Pilot program starts March 12, ends Sept. 1

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

Beginning next week, the state is launching a day-use entry reservation pilot program at Wekiwa Springs State Park in a bid to cut down on disruptive traffic overflow and protect the environment.

The pilot program will begin on Wednesday, March 12, and end on Sept. 1, Labor Day. Advanced reserva-



File photo

Wekiwa Springs is a jewel of the state park system.

tions will open on Monday, March 10. The Florida Park Service will gauge the pilot program's effectiveness.

To enter the park, all

day-use guests need a reservation, including annual passholders. Guests can

See RESERVATIONS Page 3A

This week

Section A:

Opinion.....2A
Public notice.....5A
Dining &
Entertainment.....6A
Chief Junior.....7A
Bus. Review.....8A

Section B

Sports.....1B
Legal ads.....5B
Classifieds.....8B
Service Directory.....8B

View public notices online at
www.TheApopkaChief.com OR
FloridaPublicNotices.com.



Opinion

The Apopka Chief

A weekly newspaper founded in 1923

| | |
|--|--|
| Publisher J.C. Derrick | Business Development Jackie Trefcer |
| Reporters Teresa Sargeant Marshall Tempest | Legal Clerk Lesbia Toruño |
| Copy Editor Nancy Thomas | Administrative assistant Debrah Hayden |
| Publication Coordinator Josué Toruño | |

City finds innovative solution to Clear Lake flooding issue

To continue the theme of flooding, the city has finally gotten the approvals for a unique approach to reduce the water levels at Clear Lake that will create a long-term solution.

Apopka Mayor



Bryan Nelson

Clear Lake is a closed basin, which means the water that enters the lake either by rain, run-off or irrigation will stay in the basin until evaporation or by pumping directly into the canals at Lake Apopka.

Last year's pumping cost the taxpayers almost \$200,000 to reduce the water level to a manageable level. The two neighborhoods that have had flooding issues are both private, gated communities which means that no one outside of their neighborhoods has access to Clear Lake.

Both neighborhoods have used the city's reclaimed water to irrigate their yards, which adds to the rising lake levels. A lot of this "outside" water ultimately ends up back in Clear Lake.

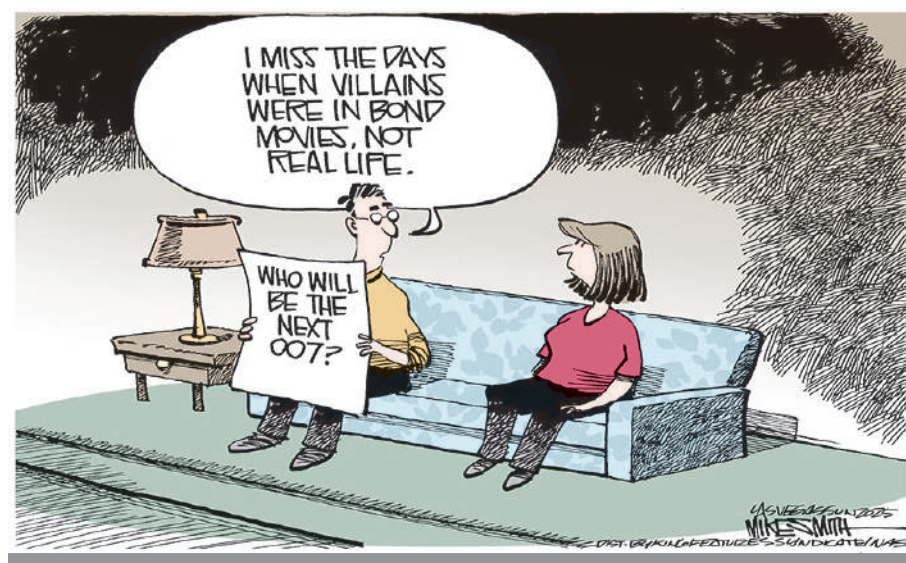
I asked our engineering consultant to work with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and St. Johns Water Management District

(SJWMD) to see if it was feasible to use the lake water to irrigate the lawns and common areas within their neighborhoods and to cut off the reclaimed water that the city was providing.

After multiple meetings with DEP and SJWMD, we determined that the neighborhoods could disconnect from our city reclaimed main pipeline and reconnect the irrigation lines to a pump that was pulling water from Clear Lake. The only issue was that the system had to be owned by the Clear Lake Landing HOA on behalf of the neighborhood.

We will start this innovative solution with Clear Lake Landing and design a pump station and irrigation system to supply the water for their yards and common areas. The cost and maintenance of the lake water irrigation system will be similar to the cost of city reclaimed water.

It's a win-win for everyone. They use the lake water for irrigation, which helps long term to keep the lake level at a more consistent level and avoids wasting reclaimed water that could be used elsewhere.



Urban 3 sheds light on suburban sprawl

In November of 2024, Orange County voters approved a charter amendment greenlighting a consulting firm, nationally known for its keen fiscal analysis, to determine the viability of new suburban projects and financial performance of existing communities. When counties or municipalities are not financially sound, they defer maintenance of water, sewer, and road infrastructure. To correct this, Urban 3 was hired to complete a countywide analysis.

According to Urban 3's analysis, large lot communities generally do not produce enough tax revenue per acre to cover maintenance of roads, utilities, and services. Oddly enough, older denser areas, while producing sufficient revenue, become blighted. This situation seems counterintuitive.

Urban 3 also produced a report called, "The Economics of Development in Florida." Urban 3 lays out the premise that tighter-knit communities produce much more value per acre. Why? They pack more people into less space.

Compact communities ease the urge to pave over Florida's

County Commissioner District 2



Christine Moore

conservation and farmlands. Sure, rural areas and farmlands do not pay much in taxes, but they also do not require much in infrastructure. Remember, they generally utilize wells and unpaved streets.

I currently live in a suburban area, and I certainly want suburban neighborhoods to thrive. However, the long-term fiscal health of our suburban areas is in the hands of higher density, downtown areas. Thus, we must all care about the maintenance and future of our urban areas.

The report chronicles the roots of suburban sprawl back to federal policies in the early-to-mid 20th century. During this time, they fueled infrastructure expansion and mortgage financing, making low-density growth

artificially affordable. For decades, this suburban model thrived, masking true long-term liabilities.

But as aging infrastructure requires costly repairs or replacements, the fiscal insolvency of suburban sprawl has come into focus. Urban 3's findings reveal that many Florida counties are struggling to fund essential services under this suburban paradigm. They claim we are locked into a cycle of short-term thinking.

Urban 3 and the 1000 Friends of Florida report there is a better way. They advocate that through revitalizing walkable, bikeable mixed-use development in denser areas we can make our cities and counties financially sound. It is not just about tax dollars. Good urbanism with environmental concern, reduces waste, and saves land.

Urban 3 and the 1000 Friends of Florida believe we should ditch the suburban sprawl method and replace it with incremental urban area improvements and protect natural lands.

What do you think? I would love to hear your feedback.

Street racing poses serious problem

In recent weeks, our community has suffered the loss of two students in horrific accidents that have brought attention to a dangerous pastime: street racing.

Last weekend, a Windermere High School senior was one of four young people killed in a high-speed crash. The 18-year-old was a back-seat passenger in a vehicle traveling at high speed that was clipped by another vehicle while attempting to pass. His vehicle veered off the road, hit a light pole and several trees.

The Windermere student is the second student in recent weeks to die in a crash. On Feb. 13, a high-speed collision in Orlando led to the death of another student, this time a Lake Nona High School senior who was severely burned after both cars involved in the crash burst into flames.

Both accidents were caused by cars traveling at very high speeds, possibly street racing.

Two young lives cut short. Two young people with so

Orange County School Board, District 7



Melissa Byrd

much to look forward to. The Windermere student who passed away this past weekend was planning to attend Duke University this fall on a full scholarship.

In 2023, Orange County deputies alone arrested and cited more than 1,000 people for street racing. The vehicles involved in the Lake Nona wreck are believed to have been traveling close to 200mph.

Last year a change in the law doubled fines to \$2,000 and made street racing a felony for a second offense or if the offense impeded an emergency vehicle.

Still, deputies said in Jan-

uary they cited 100 people for driving more than 100 miles per hour. In 2024, they cited approximately 550.

While street racing isn't new, I believe these two recent incidents present a great opportunity for parents and adults to have tough conversations with our teen drivers about safe driving.

Don't be afraid to show them the news stories all over the internet showing the two cars ablaze after the accident in Lake Nona. Conversations can make a difference. Even if it seems like they are not listening, they hear you.

Discuss plans should your child find themselves in an unsafe situation, like if they are a passenger in a car traveling at high speeds. Create a secret text word they send you that alerts you that they need your help, or for you to make a call to law enforcement.

Let's all do what we can to keep our kids safe as well as those that share the roadways with them every day.

About The Apopka Chief

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 (USPS545-440). The Apopka Chief newspaper is published by Mainstreet Daily News from 400 North Park Avenue, Apopka, Fla., 32712-3417. Phone 407-886-2777.

The Apopka Chief is an award-winning community weekly newspaper and a member of the Florida Press Association. Email news tips to news@theapopkachief.com.

Letters to the editor are welcome and encouraged, but they should be signed and include a daytime telephone number, address, or email address for verification. Management reserves the right to edit letters.



ALL ABOUT APOPKA

City of Apopka Telephone Numbers

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

Orange County Telephone Numbers

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

Other Area Numbers of Note

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| U.S. Senators | |
| Rick Scott (Rep.)..... | 202-224-5274 |
| Marco Rubio (Rep.)..... | 407-254-2573 |
| U.S. Representative | |
| 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 |

105-year-old woman receives birthday proclamation

Woman is a retired midwife, has lived in Apopka for 7 1/2 years

Staff Reports

Christianne Dieudonne Sabourin Francois received a mayoral proclamation from Mayor Bryan Nelson declaring her 105th birthday, which is Feb. 13, as Christianne Dieudonne Sabourin Francois Day.

In the mayor's office at Apopka City Hall on Friday, Feb. 28, the mayor read Sabourin Francois the proclamation with her family accompanying her, daughter Violayne Francois and first grandson Francois Didier Menard.

Born on Feb. 13, 1920, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Sabourin Francois grew up in Port-au-Prince and the Dominican Republic. She received her first communion at Altigracia Church Hiquey and was a parishioner at St. Charles Borromeo Church Parish in Carrefour, Haiti. She is fluent in French, Creole, Spanish, English and Latin for Latin Mass rites.

Sabourin Francois's education included the Elie Dubois School in Haiti, then nursing school followed by midwifery school. She was a midwife at General Hospital in Haiti for 35 years and an obstetrics teacher at the Haiti National School of Nursing.



Photo by Teresa Sargeant

Christianne Dieudonne Sabourin Francois (l) holds a proclamation ready by Mayor Bryan Nelson (r) declaring her 105th birthday, which is Feb.



Photo by Teresa Sargeant

Christianne Dieudonne Sabourin Francois listens to the mayor read her birthday proclamation in his office on Friday, Feb. 28, as her daughter Violayne Francois (r) watches.

She was married to Andre Francois from December 28, 1944, until his death in December 1972. They are the parents of six, grandparents of 12 and great-grandparents of 13.

Sabourin Francois has lived in Apopka for the past 7 1/2 years. She attends the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Apopka. Her hobbies include singing and intercessory prayers.

Reservations

Continued from page 1A

make reservations up to 60 days ahead of time.

According to Rene Acuna, Wekiwa Springs State Park manager, the reservation pilot program is meant to give visitors a more effortless arrival with faster wait times at the entrance.

"This reservation pilot program is part of our ongoing commitment to enhancing the visitor experience while preserving the natural resources we all cherish," Acuna said in the manager's message on the Florida State Parks website. "By managing entry flow, we can reduce congestion and provide a more serene environment for everyone to explore and enjoy. Additionally, this change will allow our team to better focus on maintaining the park's trails, facilities and wildlife for future generations."

Financial constraints of the state parks have prevented them from funding law enforcement to manage traffic,

hence the decision to add the extra lane, Orange County District 2 Commissioner Christine Moore said.

In 2019, Moore successfully lobbied for a \$1 million bill to construct the additional lane outside the Wekiwa Springs State Park entrance to address dangerous head-on collisions there. The lane was at first successful, but it wasn't enough to address the traffic, leading to the pilot reservation program.

"That was why we went with the lane, because it was a one-time expenditure that we hoped would work, but the road wasn't long enough," Moore said. "It still wasn't long enough to totally avoid the problem. So again, our reservation system is always a backup, and apparently, they felt the need to go to that."

Because the park has a maximum of 250 parking spaces, entry is restricted once these spaces are full to safeguard the environment from crowds at

Wekiwa Springs, Moore said.

"It's not just about the parking, because I learned this back when we were adding the road for the safety, for the environmental concerns of the spring and the river, and they don't want more people there at one time, because it could have a deleterious impact on the park," Moore said.

Moore said she only learned on Friday, Feb. 28, about the pilot program's implementation. She said she didn't personally check out the registration program but expressed hope that the pilot program will be effective in regulating traffic.

Each day must have one reservation. Park admission fees will be accepted when reserving online. Visitors will not be charged extra fees when making reservations.

To make a reservation, go to shorturl.at/8xpNC. To send feedback about the reservation program, email ReservationPilotProgram@FloridaDEP.gov.

Domain

Continued from page 1A

where the police department is located, stands at 112 E. Sixth Street on about 1.7-gross acres of real property.

"This is the remaining property on Seventh Street that we don't have, to complete the public safety building we've been working on for numerous years," Police Chief Michael McKinley said at the council meeting. "This goes back to [late city administrator] Mr. [Edward] Bass trying to resolve this issue for us to purchase the property, or work with them to obtain this proper-

ty so that we have all the property on that block to complete the public safety building."

The city has tried working with the owners and their attorney, but the owners prefer eminent domain for the possible tax benefits, McKinley said.

Eminent domain refers to the power of the government — repeatedly upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court — to take someone's property for public use, as long as the government provides "just compensation."

Shepard said he tried

reaching out to their attorney but was unable to get in touch. Besides attempted negotiations, the city also offered fair market value, which was rejected, and an appraisal showing that the property's value was significantly higher than the owners' last offer.

The Seventh Street property, a three-bedroom, two-bath house built in 1961, has a 2024 market and assessed value of \$61,495, according to Orange County records. The owner on record is McGee Family Trust.

Beyond Cremation: Personalized Memorials and Graveside Services.



Let our licensed professional funeral directors help you explore our compassionate cremation options. Call or visit us online.



HIGHLAND FUNERAL HOME
HIGHLAND MEMORY GARDENS

We Make It Personal.®

3329 East Semoran Blvd.
Apopka, FL 32703
407-869-1188
highlandfh.com

The average person waits

SEVEN YEARS

to get their hearing checked.

That's seven years of missed laughs.
Seven years of missed conversations.
Seven years of missed moments.

Schedule an appointment to hear what the next seven years hold for you.

407.358.7045 | APOPKA
352.326.5253 | LEESBURG

Apopka
200 North Park Ave, Ste B
Leesburg
1108 W Dixie Ave

CentralFloridaAudiology.com



CENTRAL FLORIDA
Audiology
Amy Davis, Au.D.
Cynthia Quintana, Au.D.



Lawn Maintenance
Pressure Washing
Yard Clean-Up
Leaf Removal

Total Ground Maintenance

352.729.2507

faithworkstotalground.com

EVANS ROOFING

NEW ROOF & REPAIRS

407.295.4944

RSR

Rock Springs Realty, LLC
Residential & Investment Real Estate

• **Selling:** What's your home worth in the current market?

Call for a No-Obligation "Home Evaluation" Report

• **Buying:** Search "ALL" homes for sale in Apopka
www.RockSpringsRealty.com

CALL Joe Bornstein, Broker: (407) 252-8092

VOTED "BEST OF APOPKA" REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONAL

Shelley's Septic Tanks



FREE ESTIMATES 407-889-8042

Hours: Monday - Friday 7AM - 5PM

Environmentally Friendly Company!
Licensed & Insured
State Certified

Emergency Services Available After Hours

6505 W. Jones Ave.,
Zellwood,
FL 32798



WORKPLACE
SCREENING INTELLIGENCE

Helping Employers and Employees
Get Back to Work Safely and Stay COVID Free

LABORATORY TESTING

- ✓ Drug Screen Nationally
- ✓ Covid Screens ✓ Titer Testing
- ✓ New Transferring Gold TB Test

Call: 800-338-5515 or Email: Info@workplacescreening.com
www.workplacescreening.com



We Buy Gently Loved Clothes



Classic Car Show returning to Kit Land Nelson Park

Apopka Rotary Club follows up fair with 24th annual car show

By Marshall Tempest Reporter

Following last weekend's Apopka Fair, the 24th annual Rotarian Lowell Swanberg's Classic Car Show will take place Saturday, March 8, at Kit Land Nelson Park.

Vintage, classic, and specialty automobiles, from Lamborghini to classic Corvettes, will be displayed, and judges will recognize standout vehicles with awards. The awards include the People's Choice, Celebrity Choice, and more. There will be a 50-50 drawing, door prizes, and the first 100 cars registered will receive dash plaques. There will also be music, entertainment, merchan-

dise, and fun for the whole family.

Food will be available, and all proceeds from the venue will go toward funding the Apopka Rotary Club. Funds raised from the Apopka Fair and the car show play a key role in supporting local charities, schools and community initiatives. The event remains a significant fundraising opportunity for the Apopka Rotary Club, as it uses the allure of the fair and car show to generate funding to contribute to the city's well-being.

Registration begins at 8:30 a. m. and ends at 9:30 a. m. The show runs from 10 a. m. to 2 p. m. The registration fee to enter your vehicle will be \$20 on the day of the event. Registration also includes hot coffee, orange juice and fresh doughnuts for show participants.



Photo by J.C. Derrick

Daisy Lester, 7 (left), and Zachary Lester, 9, of Orlando enjoy a ride at the Rotary Fair on March 1.



Courtesy of the Rotary Club

A car in display at one of the Rotary Club's past Classic Car Show events.



Photo by J.C. Derrick

Commander Andy Anderson, Service Officer Larry Comstock, Senior Vice Commander Rolland Doerfer, and Junior Vice Judy Waters solicit entries for the VFW's winter raffle.

Wekiwa Springs Baptist Church

Would like to invite you to come join us for a blessing from "The Duncans"

March 16th, 2025 @ 10 am
Followed with Dinner on the Grounds

584 N. Wekiwa Springs Road Apopka, FL 32712
657-281-7668 • www.wsbcapopka.org

Essential Eye Care & Optical

NEW LOCATION!
Dr. David Dada, Owner

108 S. Park Ave, Suite 100
Apopka, FL 32703

20% OFF YOUR ENTIRE ORDER
EXP. 3/31/25
CAN NOT BE COMBINED WITH INSURANCE
CALL FOR MORE DETAILS

essentialeyecareoptical.com | 407-893-2733

Home & auto. Bundle & save.

Call me for a quote

State Farm

Shren Yeager
Agent

49 E 3rd St Ste A
Apopka, FL 32703-4245

Bus: 407-880-3167
www.theyeagerbomb.com

Availability and amount of discounts and savings vary by state.
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL
State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas, State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX
State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL

SMILE WITH Confidence!

SCHROEDER DENTAL GROUP

Katrina M. Schroeder, DMD
COSMETIC & GENERAL DENTISTRY
Call Now For An Appointment **407-886-1611**

\$45 CLEANING
Schedule Your Next Cleaning and Save!

Valid for new patients only. Subject to exam by doctor. Does not include periodontal gum disease treatment. Not to be combined with any other offer. Transferable. Please share with your family and friends. Expires 3/31/25.

New Patients Welcome!
MyApopkaDentist.com
527 Wekiwa Commons Cir., Apopka, FL
Emergency Appointments Available
Invisalign/ZOOM!

NAPA AUTO PARTS

GLENN JOINER & SON, INC
NATIONALLY KNOWN, FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1937

Import • Domestic Tractor • Golf Cart Marine
Heavy Truck • Light Truck • Lawn Mower
Industrial Supplies • Paint & Body Supplies
All Car Care Needs • New & Old

250 E. 3rd St., Suite B, Apopka
13202 W. Colonial Dr., Winter Garden

SPONSOR OF CHASE ELLIOT CAR #9

407-889-5222 404-656-4141 napaonline.com

MALTBY'S TREE SERVICE & LANDSCAPING

LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED
CELEBRATING OVER 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Tree Trimming & Removal
- Landscape Installation
- Stump Grinding
- Grapple Truck Services

JAMES MALTBY
(Owner) 321-689-5866

Call us today for a free consultation and estimate. **Licensed and Insured**

COMPASS HEALTH
YOUR PLAN. YOUR CHOICE.

LET US GUIDE YOU

- HEALTH
- MEDICARE
- CREMATION
- ACCIDENT
- DENTAL
- LIFE
- CRITICAL ILLNESS

SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

Compass Health Insurance.com
3030 East Semoran Blvd., #184
Apopka, FL 32703 407-758-9487
Next to Gators Dockside (in Colonial Shoppes at Bear Lake)

Your Local Agency for **Florida Blue**

GraceWorX Community Church

SATURDAY SERVICES

Bible Study - 10 AM
Worship - 11:30 AM
Livestream - tinyurl.com/4ak7933j

9913 Bear Lake Rd., Apopka, FL 32703
graceworxcc@gmail.com 321-228-4599

Preserve

Continued from page 1A

the site from the Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX) as part of a larger necessary effort to construct the Wekiwa Parkway. At that time, this effort included protecting over 300 acres in partnership with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

“These acres complement and strengthen a network of nearby public lands, including the Sandhill Preserve, the Lake Lucy conservation area, Rock Springs Run State Reserve and Wekiwa Springs State Park,” Moore said. “By opening this wildlife preserve today, we’re making a promise to preserve our natural heritage and ensure that all of our Orange County citizens today, future that they really can understand what this community was, how important it is to preserve nature and the environment.”

The greeneyes wildflower, which is found at the preserve, is characterized by bright yellow petals and a green center disk. The flower emits what Orange County Environmental Protection Division manager Renee Parker described as a chocolatey scent.

To that end, the county gave away free chocolate bars to recipients at the grand opening. Whoever discovers a golden ticket in the bar — in keeping with the “Willy Wonka” theme — will receive a greeneyes flower to take home.

As part of the Green PLACE initiative, in 2021, the Orange County Board of County Commissioners committed to doubling the number of acres of environmentally sensitive lands under



Photo by Teresa Sargeant

Following the ribbon cutting, grand opening attendees were invited go on a hiking tour through Greeneyes Wildlife Preserve. The preserve features a hiking trail and interpretive walks such as “What’s under your feet?” that spotlights the sand hill landscape and wildlife.

protection by 2030 and thus, earmarked \$100 million for preserving wildlife habitats, wetlands and forests.

In 2024, the county added 23 new parcels, protecting an additional 1,357 acres and bringing the county’s total protected lands to about 25,000 acres.

In 2024, the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council recognized Orange County government’s efforts through Green PLACE with the Executive Award of Regional Significance.

While awards are nice, that’s not the county’s motivation for land preservation,

said Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings. Rather, he the goal is to produce a healthier environment, safeguard air and water and give residents and visitors areas to connect with the outdoors.

“People want to live in places with access to nature. Companies want to invest in communities that prioritize sustainability. Our families want parks, trails and open spaces where they can unwind and enjoy the outdoors,” Demings said. “That’s why this preserve and others like it are an essential part of Orange County’s future. Every investment we make in con-

servation strengthens our local economy and enhances our resilience as we continue to grow.”

Orange County District 1 Nicole Wilson noted Orange County’s determination to land preservation.

“I just want to say how thankful I am for Orange County’s dedication to these types of places and spaces, and how every time I ever drive through an area like this, I look at the evolution of agriculture to suburban and I think if we don’t tuck away whatever we can, we’re not going to have anything left,” she said.

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 23-March 1, 2025, the Apopka Police Department received 1,339 calls for service, responded to 31 crashes, issued 38 citations, and made 16 arrests. No Juveniles were charged.

The following adults were arrested and charged: Brian Lynn Brogan, 50, 2845 Grace St., Apopka, Apopka city ordinance-panhandling from vehicle on street.

Orvelin Diaz, 44, 547 Moon Rocker Ct., Apopka, other agency warrant.

Angela Marie Hefner, 38, 1616 Mabbette St., Kissimmee, resist officer-obstruct without violence.

Omari Rashaud Johnson, 26, 4019 Brinell Ave., Orlando, other agency warrant.

Sophie M Lippert, 30, Altamonte Springs, battery on person 65 years of age or older.

Yeyson Perez-Roblero, 22, 3816 Caledonia Ave., Apopka, other agency warrant.

Manuel Dejesus Rodriguez, 47, Apopka, assault-aggravated with intent to commit a felony; resist of ficer-obstruct without vio-

lence; possession of weapon or ammo by convicted Florida felon.

Anthony Steven Rodriguez, 28, Apopka, kidnap-false imprisonment of person.

Hugo Javier Roza Lopez, 38, 1653 Hogue Ave., Apopka, DUI-unlawful blood alcohol, DUI-damage to property or person of another.

Anthony Michael Shaw, 35, general delivery, Apopka, out-of-county warrant.

Joshua Matthew Sutton, 38, Apopka, battery-touch or strike; battery-commit domestic battery by strangulation; cruelty toward child-abuse child without great bodily harm.

Mark Edward Sutton, 64, general delivery, Apopka, municipal ordinance-violation section 42-151. — camping prohibited; exceptions.

Maximo Manuel Velasquez-Gabriel, 29, 1405 Duval St. NE #25, Live Oak, moving traffic violation-operate motor vehicle without valid license 1st conviction.

Gilberto Villasenor Curiel, 28, 603 Herb Hudson Ct., Apopka, DUI-unlawful blood alcohol 0.15 or higher or with person under 18 in vehicle.

Bryant Tonard Williams, 48, 444 S. Hawthorne Ave., Apopka, other agency warrant; resist of ficer-obstruct without violence; out-of-county warrant.

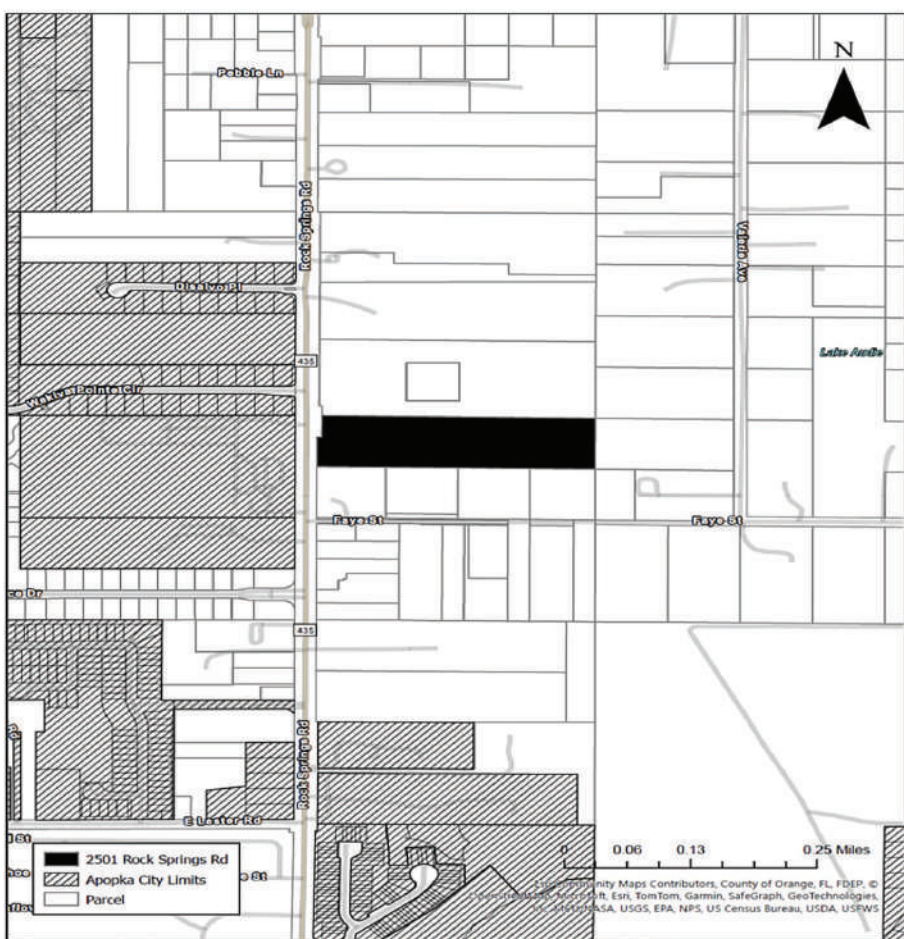
Jacob Ross Wilson, 23, Apopka, battery-touch of strike.

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 **Elisabeth Crane** has made an application to the City of Apopka City Council for an **ANNEXATION** of a property located at 2501 Rock Springs Road. This application relates to the following described property:

ORDINANCE NO. 3094

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 BDT IRREVOCABLE INCOME ONLY TRUST; LOCATED AT 2501 ROCK SPRINGS ROAD, COMPRISING 9.63 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 27-20-28-0000-00-072
Contains: 9.63 +/- acres

NOTICE is given that public hearings for Ordinance No. 3094 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 5, 2025 beginning at 1:30 P.M. AND Wednesday, March 19, 2025 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

March 7, 2025

In Loving Memory of
Soraine B. Johnson-Fredricksen
Longtime Apopka resident Soraine B. Johnson-Fredricksen, 91, died on Feb. 17, 2025.
Soraine was born in 1935 to Soren and Winifred Fredricksen in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. She moved to the United States in the late 1950s and later settled in Apopka, where she lived for some 50 years. A vibrant soul with a boundless love for people and life, Soraine touched the hearts of everyone who knew her. A wonderful mother, cherished friend, and beloved family member, she lived each day with joy and creativity. Her love for nature and her family was evident in everything she did.
Known affectionately as “Great Grandma Smalls,” Soraine was the heart of her family, the masterful cook, the imaginative creator, and above all, the kindest spirit. She leaves behind a legacy of warmth, laughter, and unconditional love that will forever be treasured by those who had the privilege of knowing her.
Soraine is survived by children Mervin Johnson (Florida), Darryl Johnson (Florida) and Sharon Evans (California). She was predeceased by daughter Ruth Fialkiewicz.
Soraine will be buried on April 10 in Casselberry with her parents.
1933-2025

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
ADELBERT DOUGLAS RAULERSON
ADELBERT DOUGLAS RAULERSON KNOWN BY FAMILY AND FRIENDS AS DAD, PAPA, POPS, DEL AND DELBERT, PASSED AWAY **FEBRUARY 25, 2025** AT THE AGE OF 91. BORN ON **SEPTEMBER 29, 1933**. HE WAS A LIFELONG RESIDENT OF APOPKA WHO LIVED AND PASSED AWAY ON THE PROPERTY HE WAS BORN ON. HE WAS PREDECEASED BY HIS PARENTS, WESLEY B. RAULERSON AND MABEL STARBIRD RAULERSON, FOUNDING RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF APOPKA. HE IS SURVIVED BY CHILDREN DIANNE RAULERSON SPEGAL OF APOPKA AND DOUG RAULERSON OF APOPKA; GRANDCHILDREN ADAM SPEGAL OF APOPKA, DOUGLAS RAULERSON OF ODUM, GA, BRIAN SPEGAL OF APOPKA, STACY SUMMERLIN OF EUSTIS, JENNIFER RAULERSON OF APOPKA, VICTORIA RAULERSON OF KNOXVILLE, TN AND 10 GREAT GRANDCHILDREN.
TO ORDER MEMORIAL TREES OR SEND FLOWERS TO THE FAMILY IN MEMORY OF ADELBERT DOUGLAS GO TO
([HTTPS://STORE.CONDOLENCES.COM/LOOMIS-FAMILY-FUNERAL-HOME/AA793182-F9B5-4231-99B6-6A860FBB6FAF/TREES](https://store.condolences.com/loomis-family-funeral-home/AA793182-F9B5-4231-99B6-6A860FBB6FAF/TREES))
FOR FLOWERS ([HTTPS://STORE.CONDOLENCES.COM/LOOMIS-FAMILY-FUNERAL-HOME/AA793182-F9B5-4231-99B6-6A860FBB6FAF/FLOWERS](https://store.condolences.com/loomis-family-funeral-home/AA793182-F9B5-4231-99B6-6A860FBB6FAF/FLOWERS))
(1933-2025)

NICK'S
AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING
HVAC PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- ✓ Duct cleaning
- ✓ Attic insulation
- ✓ Hvac maintenance and installation
- ✓ Equipment and duct repair

HELP WANTED
CALL FOR DETAILS **407-489-5060**

More info www.nicksacandheat.com CAC1817219

Apopka High School announces top 10 students of 2025 class

Four students will attend the University of Central Florida

By Marshall Tempest
Reporter

Apopka High School officially announced its top 10 students in the 2024-2025 senior class this week.

Emma Camacho is Apopka's valedictorian and the first-ranked student overall, followed by Kaetlyn Singh as salutatorian. Saaya Lijo, Melissa Bonilla Alvarez, Taylor Sellers, Reese Kernz, Nicholas Gardner, Kelly Tran, Shila Gillis, and Irene Lewis are the students in ranks three through 10, respectively.

Camacho, the valedictorian of Apopka High School's class of 2025, told me that she will attend Cornell University to study mechanical engineering with a minor in robotics and plans to get her master's degree afterward. She was thrilled to be among the top 10 students and, even more, the valedictorian.

"It's just such a great honor, especially with this group of people," Camacho said. "I have known so many of them my entire time in high school, and some of them are my closest friends. I think the community that we create here is amazing."

Camacho's favorite memory as a Blue Darter has been the spirit weeks over the last four years. She said being able to dress up at school and show her Blue Darter pride with her friends during homecoming week are her favorite memories.

Singh is Apopka's salutatorian, or second-ranked student in the 2025 class. She told me she would study computer engineering at the University of Central Florida (UCF). She said it is a privilege to represent her classmates as one of the top 10 students and show-



Photo by Marshall Tempest

Apopka's top 10 students of the 2025 senior class. Front row L-R: Irene Lewis, Kaetlyn Singh, Emma Camacho and Saaya Lijo; back row L-R: Nicholas Gardner, Shila Gillis, Melissa Bonilla Alvarez, Taylor Sellers and Kelly Tran.



Photo by Marshall Tempest
Valedictorian Emma Camacho.



Photo by Marshall Tempest
Salutatorian Kaetlyn Singh.

case Blue Darter leadership skills. Singh said her favorite memories as a Blue Darter are all her time in extracurricular clubs.

Lijo is Apopka's third-ranked student. She told me that she hasn't fully committed to where she wants to continue her academic career, but she plans to pursue a pre-med degree and eventually become a doctor.

"It's such an honor to be recognized with so many other great students," Lijo said. "We all worked really hard to get to where we are right now."

Lijo says her favorite memories as a Blue Darter involved going to football games.

"I didn't go to too many, honestly, but the two that I went to were really fun," Lijo said with a laugh.

Alvarez is the fourth-ranked student in Apopka. She told me she would attend UCF and study materials sci-

ence and engineering. "It's really cool to be a part of such an amazing group of students and to be able to celebrate our accomplishments," Alvarez said.

Alvarez said that her favorite memory as a Blue Darter was Hispanic Heritage Week. She said she has participated in it for four years, and seeing how it has changed and grown has been amazing.

Taylor Sellers rounds out the top five. She told me she would attend the University of Florida to study biochemistry and then attend physician assistant (PA) school. Sellers told me it was never really her plan to be in the top 10. She just wanted to get as many college credits as possible before graduating from high school. Being in the top 10 was a happy coincidence and a consequence of her striving for that goal.

Sellers' favorite memories as a Blue Darter involve

being a part of the Apopka band.

"I was part of the drum line all four years. I was captain for a year, then became the colonel of the entire band. It was my favorite part of high school because all of my friends were there, and I just wanted to be a big part of my school," said Sellers.

Reese Kernz is the sixth-ranked student for Apopka, but she was unavailable for an interview due to a dual-enrollment course that she could not miss.

Nicholas Gardner is ranked No. 7 for Apopka. He told me he would attend UCF to study electrical engineering and pursue a master's degree. Gardner said it's really interesting to be in the top 10 because he wasn't expected to make the cut.

"It's great and exciting for all of us," Gardner said. Nobody expected me to be here, so it's great for me."

Gardner's favorite mem-

ory as a Blue Darter is his time on the soccer team in his sophomore year. He said he had a lot of fun playing with his teammates and made friends.

Kelly Tran is Apopka's eighth-ranked student. She told me she will attend UCF but has not decided what to study. Tran said being among the top 10 is an honor and a surprise. She went from No. 17 to eight and said that all of her friends were very proud of her.

Tran says her favorite memories as a Blue Darter are of going through high school together with friends she made before they arrived.

Shila Gillis is Apopka's ninth-ranked student and will be attending Tufts University in Boston, Massachusetts, where she plans to major in biochemistry. Gillis told me she didn't think she would make the cut for the top 10 but said it feels great to feel accomplished for all her hard work.

Gillis said her favorite memories as a Blue Darter are hanging out with her friends and watching each other grow over the last four years.

Finally, Lewis is ranked the No. 10 student in Apopka's senior class. Lewis told me she hasn't decided where to continue her academic career yet, but she wants to enroll in a pre-vet program and attend veterinary school. She told me that it is very exciting to be a part of the top 10 and rewarding to be recognized for all of the hard work that they have put in over the last four years.

"There was a lot of stress wondering if you would or wouldn't be in the top 10, but it's really exciting and makes you really proud," said Lewis.

Lewis said her favorite memory as a Blue Darter is having classes with so many different types of people and making memories with everyone.

Dining AND Entertainment

Please support our local businesses.

In Print. Online. On the Go.

Your Local News. Your Way!

Staying connected will soon be easier than ever...

Welcome to Caffé Positanos, where food is our passion

- Our sauces are made fresh daily
- The house salad dressing is made from scratch
- Only the finest ingredients are used

Caffé Positano

Call us for take out orders!

We are located at
3030 E. Semoran Blvd,
Apopka, FL 32703 • 407-774-8080

1665 WP Ball Blvd, Sanford, FL 32771 • 407-531-1151
Visit us at www.caffepositanos.com

REGAL

Fri., March 7, 2025 thru Sun., March 9, 2025

WEEKEND VALUE DAYS
NOW ONLY \$6.99 + TAX with Regal Crown Club card. (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS)

MICKEY 17 (R) 12:00; 12:30; 3:30; 4:00; 7:00; 7:30; 9:40; 10:10
ANORA (R) 12:10; 3:20; 6:40; 10:00
PADDINGTON IN PERU (PG) 12:20; 3:40; 6:30; 9:30

CAPTAIN AMERICA: BRAVE NEW WORLD (PG-13) 12:50; 4:20; 7:20; 10:20
DOG MAN (PG) 1:00; 4:10; 7:10
LAST BREATH (PG-13) 1:10; 3:50; 6:50; 9:50

THE MONEY (R) 1:20; 4:30; 7:40; 10:30
ONE OF THEM DAYS (R) 10:40

Puzzle Solution

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | N | I | P | | A | S | S | E | R | T | | D | E | E | |
| W | I | D | E | | G | A | U | C | H | E | | E | R | A | |
| E | X | O | S | K | E | L | E | T | O | N | | C | A | R | |
| P | I | L | E | I | | P | R | O | M | S | | U | S | E | |
| T | E | S | T | E | D | | | | B | I | A | S | E | D | |
| | | | | | A | V | A | R | I | C | I | O | U | S | |
| M | U | M | S | | N | A | M | E | | N | G | A | M | I | |
| U | F | O | | | S | E | N | I | O | R | S | | T | A | D |
| D | A | N | A | E | | | I | N | R | O | | F | E | D | S |
| | | | | | I | R | R | E | S | O | L | U | T | E | |
| S | A | T | E | E | N | | | | | P | A | M | P | A | S |
| E | G | O | | | N | A | D | E | R | | B | A | R | C | A |
| E | A | R | | | A | M | E | N | A | B | I | L | I | T | Y |
| M | M | E | | | D | O | C | I | L | E | | E | M | I | R |
| S | A | D | | | E | R | O | D | E | D | | S | A | N | E |

The Crossword Puzzle is found on page 3B

SUDOKU PUZZLE

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

SUDOKU ANSWERS: PAGE 3B

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

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | 7 |
| | | | 3 | 5 | | 8 | 4 | |
| 4 | 5 | 3 | | 7 | 8 | 9 | | |
| 2 | 3 | 7 | | 8 | | 6 | | 1 |
| 1 | | | 7 | | 6 | | | |
| | 8 | | 2 | 1 | | | | 3 |
| | 1 | 5 | | | | 3 | 2 | |
| 3 | 7 | | | | | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| 9 | | 8 | | | | 3 | 7 | |

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.



Trinity Christian School wins prizes at state convention



Victories pave way for national competition



Courtesy of Trinity Christian School

The Carol Hittel Reading Awards were presented in a chapel program in January.

Carol Hittel Reading Award

The Carol Hittel Reading Award was established at Trinity Christian School in memory of Carol Hittel who had a passion for encouraging the love of reading in children. This award is presented twice a year to elementary students who have been nominated by their teacher because of their love for reading or for showing improvement in reading.

Mr. Bill Hittel presented the award during a chapel program to these students: first graders Naomi, Jeffrey and Bryce; second graders Zayden and Olivia; and third graders Abbi and Emerson. These students received a gift bag with books, prizes and gift cards. Fourth grader Zoe was recognized with the Passionate Reader Award and was presented with a Kindle.

National Beta convention

National Beta members from Trinity Christian School are celebrating their recent participation in the Florida Sr. and Jr. State Convention. They were announced as winners in the following competitions:

- Senior division—Bella Merkle, second place fiber arts
- Junior division—Amariah Gibson, second place health/physical education; Adilynn Roberts, third place on-site painting
- Elementary division—Evangeline Busch, first place black/white photography; Alia Bigelow, third place color photography; Kinsley Roberts, second place creative writing, second place painting; Zoe Ajani, second place digital art, second place poetry; Arthur DeSouza, second

place mixed media; Alexa Bigelow, second place recyclable art; Troy Risner, second place social studies; Eliana Claudio, second place Spanish; Joanna Bass, third place spelling; and Isaac Rojas, second place woodworking

In addition, several club entries received awards: first place scrapbook, first place service learning, second place musicology (Kaylin, Kinsley, Tessa, Luke), third place marketing (Alia, Alexa, Nathalia, Zoe) and third place book battle (Zoe Joanna, Alex, Isaac).

National Beta Convention allows students the opportunity to compete in various individual and team competitions. These victories at the state level provide an opportunity to compete at the National Convention at the Gaylord Palms in Orlando this summer.

Piedmont Lakes M.S. had an eventful and inspiring few weeks!

PIEDMONT LAKES MIDDLE



Courtesy of Piedmont Lakes Middle School

Literacy Week, National FFA Week on school calendar

Beginning with Literacy Week and a family event that included special guest author Kristin Durfee. Ms. Durfee talked about her journey from a struggling reader to a published author of nine novels and numerous other publications. Families learned strategies to assist their students and worked together to build a poem to share. One of the highlights was listening to students share their own poetry! Shout out to Evelyn Trejo Salazar and Renee Elliott for eloquently sharing their works! Literacy continues to be a focus as Piedmont Lakes Middle students participate in the "Let's Read OCPS" challenge. Students are reading and logging their minutes in Beanstack. Each student is encouraged to set their goal for at least 500

minutes by April 30.

We rounded out the first semester by celebrating 600+ students who showed growth from PM1 to PM2 at our school's growth party! Students were able to visit different rotations including building their own ice cream sundae, a dance party, and outdoor games.

From celebrating literacy with Kristin Durfee to recognizing student growth with a fun-filled party, Piedmont Lakes Middle School is striving to foster a positive and engaging environment for learning.

We also celebrated our amazing counselors Ms. Bargaineer and Ms. Infante during School Counselor Appreciation Week, February 3—7. These two work diligently to ensure our students are properly sched-

uled, on track for credit completion for high school, provide social/emotional support, provide mental health support, provide resources for our families, and contribute to maintaining a positive climate at our school.

There were 27 participants representing Piedmont Lakes Middle School at the four annual School Spirit Run at SeaWorld on February 8. Our Top 3 finishers included Mr. Rowe, Mr. McNair and the Bolden Family!

National FFA Week is February 15—21. Along with some fun spirit days, one of the highlights for the week is the FFA Week Proclamation from Mayor Nelson at the Apopka City Council Meeting held on February 19. Four of our Piedmont Lakes Officers were able to attend including Sofia Martinez, Ariella Lopez, Kendall Lloyd and Haleigh Hurst.

With strong representation at the School Spirit Run and participation in National FFA Week, Piedmont Lakes MS is providing well-rounded opportunities for students to shine in academics, extracurriculars and community involvement.

Thank you to the students, staff, and families for making these events meaningful and impactful!

Emily Meggett's fried zucchini 'vegetable chips' serves 6 to 8

Dry rubbed ribs from Palmetto Creek Farms comes from the book titled *From Field to Feast*. This is simple to prepare and absolutely delicious. The ribs are oven baked in heavy-duty foil packets you make and seal around the ribs, great for folks who don't want to fool around with a grill or smoker. I saw the temperature, "250 degrees" and thought I must have made a mistake. But no, the book really says "250 degrees for 2- to 2-1/2 hours."



Carol Ann Heath has a recipe for Black Beans and Rice that she shares with us in *Pot-Pourri of Zellwood* put out by the Zellwood Community Center. It calls for one package of beans which will probably contain 1 pound (about 2 cups) of dry beans. Two cups will produce about 6 cups of cooked beans, drained. There are no instructions for cooking the beans, but normally you would soak the beans overnight and then cook them in 3 parts water to 1 part soaked beans. So, for 2 cups beans, you may need about 6 cups of water. Don't let the beans dry out while cooking; keep an eye on the pot.

Emily Meggett's Fried Zucchini serves 6 to 8 and looks wonderful. She says, "I think of Fried Zucchini as vegetable chips. I slice my zucchini thin (but not TOO thin, as you'll want to taste the vegetables, not just the breading), and season them with some salt before dipping them in a light batter and dropping them into the frying oil. You should fry these until they're golden brown and serve them immediately. When you are going to fry anything, the oil must be hot enough so that whatever you put in there does not absorb the oil, but no so hot that it smokes."

Sunshine Pie comes from *Stew-Pot Favorites of Zellwood*. Claire Ellington has gifted us with this lovely treasure.

PALMETTO CREEK FARMS, AVON PARK, DRY-RUBBED BABY BACK RIBS

- Recipe from *Field to Feast*
- 1/4 cup packed dark brown sugar
 - 1/4 cup paprika
 - 1/4 cup ancho chili powder (dark Mexican chili powder)
 - 4 teaspoons coarse salt
 - 4 teaspoons smoked paprika
 - 4 teaspoons cumin
 - 4 teaspoons cayenne
 - 4 (2-pound) slabs loin back ribs, membrane removed (ask your butcher to do this for you)

For the rub: Mix brown sugar, paprika, ancho chili powder, salt, smoked paprika, cumin, and cayenne in a small bowl, making sure to break up chunks of brown sugar.

Put ribs bone side up on sheet pan. Season each slab with rub on both sides. Refrigerate at least 1 hour, loosely covered.

Heat oven to 250 degrees Fahrenheit. Cut four (12- by 12-inch) square sheets of heavy-duty aluminum foil. Put a slab of ribs, meat side up, on a sheet of foil. Fold ends to make loose packet around each slab; seal. Put packets on sheet pan. Bake 2- to 2-1/2 hours. Check ribs for doneness by gently pulling on bones. When they begin to pull away from meat, they are ready to serve.

CAROL ANN HEATH'S BLACK BEANS AND RICE

- Recipe from *POT-POURRI OF ZELLWOOD*, published by The Zellwood Community Center
- 1 package black beans
 - 2 tablespoons olive oil (no substitutions)
 - 1 whole tomato
 - 1 bay leaf
 - 1 small onion
 - 1/2 green pepper
 - 2 cloves garlic, minced
 - 1 cup olive oil
 - 1/2 cup onion
 - 1/2 cup chopped green pepper
 - 1/4 teaspoon oregano
 - 1/4 teaspoon cumin
 - 1 tablespoon salt

2 tablespoons wine vinegar 1/2 teaspoon hot sauce Hot cooked rice

Mix beans and the next six ingredients. Bring to a boil. Cook with water for 3 to 3-1/2 hours until beans are tender. Discard what is left of the tomato, pepper, onion (and bay leaf). Saute the onion, pepper, oregano, cumin and salt in olive oil. Add wine vinegar and hot sauce. Stir all into beans. Cook for five minutes. Serve over hot cooked rice.

NOTE: General instructions for cooking dry beans:

A pound of dry beans measures out to two cups. Pick over beans to remove stones, shriveled beans or other debris. Put in large pot to rinse, run clean water over beans, discarding rinse water.

Presoaking will make your beans more edible and digestible. Easiest presoak method is to soak overnight by placing in a large pot and covering with an inch of water over the top of the beans. Alternatively, if you don't have the luxury for overnight soaking, cover with water and bring quickly to full boil. Let beans sit for an hour on the stove in the hot water to soften prior to cooking.

When cooking, place beans in a large pot on the stove, pressure cooker or multi-cooker (refer to manufacturer's instructions for pressure cooker or slow cooker). Add enough water to cover beans. Check from time to time, adding water if it has gotten too low; being too dry results in mealy beans. You can freeze leftover beans within four days after cooking. It takes between an hour and two hours for most dry beans.

EMILY MEGGETT'S FRIED ZUCCHINI

- Recipe from *Gullah Geechee Home Cooking* by Emily Meggett
- 3 medium zucchini, sliced into rounds about 1/8-inch thick
 - 1 tablespoon salt
 - 1 large egg
 - 1/3 cup milk, whole or 2-percent
 - 1/2 cup self-rising flour
 - 2-1/2 cups vegetable oil
- 1) Sprinkle the salt evenly onto

the zucchini (use more salt if you like veggies a bit more salty). Set the salted zucchini aside. 2) In a large mixing bowl, combine the egg and milk. Add the zucchini slices, and make sure that every slice is coated in liquid. 3) Place the flour in a large paper bag (a grocery bag will do). Remove the zucchini slices from the wet mixture and add them to the bag with flour. Close the top of the bag and shake, shake, shake! Toss the ingredients back and forth, enough to where all of the zucchini slices are coated in the flour. 4) In a 12-inch cast-iron skillet, heat the cooking oil to a high temperature. Drop each zucchini slice carefully into the hot oil, make sure there is enough oil so the zucchini slices will float; cook in batches. Brown the zucchini on both sides until crisp. This should take no more than 5 minutes total. 5) Line a plate with two paper towels, and place the zucchini on the paper towels to allow the oil to drain. Serve immediately.

GLADYS RICE'S SUNSHINE PIE

- Recipe from *Stew-Pot Favorites of Zellwood*
- 1 can (6 oz) frozen orange juice or (fresh juice)
 - 1 can (6 oz) water
 - 1/3 cup pineapple juice
 - 1/3 cup apricot juice
 - 1 lb marshmallows
 - 1-2/3 cup graham cracker crumbs
 - 1/3 cup confectioners' sugar
 - 1/3 cup butter, melted
 - 1/3 cup flaked coconut
 - 1/3 cup chopped walnuts

Whipped cream, if desired
Combine orange juice, pineapple juice, and apricot nectar in a large pan and add marshmallows; heat gently until marshmallows are almost dissolved, stirring frequently. Remove from heat and stir until completely dissolved. Place pan in sink filled with ice water to chill quickly, cool to room temperature. Meanwhile, combine graham cracker crumbs, sugar, and butter; press into pan. Chill crust and add filling. Add walnuts and coconut after mixture has cooled. Refrigerate overnight if possible.

Honor

Continued from page 8A

different farms. She understood the value of hard work. As young as 9 years old, she would wake up before dawn to milk cows before heading to school.

In 1958, she graduated from North Carroll High School in Carroll County. Afterward, she attended business classes and held four part-time jobs until gaining full-time employment in Westminster, Md.

Eileen met her future husband John Ricketson through a friend, when John and the friend's husband were stationed together as Army servicemen in Fort Campbell, Ky. On March 20, 1964, Eileen and John Ricketson married on base. After John was discharged from the Army, Eileen moved to Florida to be with him. Once in Florida, her several jobs included working for state Sen. William A. Shands' son-in-law, an attorney.

Eileen is the mother of three sons, all born in Gaines-

ville. Her first two sons, twins Jerry and Joey, were born in 1969. Her third son, Jamey, was born in 1971.

In late 1979, John Ricketson reached agreement to purchase The Apopka Chief and The Planter, taking over in early 1980 and assuming the role of publisher in 1982. Around 1985, Eileen began helping at the family's Apopka Office Supply store and for the last 40 years has poured all her efforts into helping the business and the community.

Over the years, Ricketson took on such vital functions as overseeing subscriptions, invoicing of advertisers, and the Chief's large legal notice business. Since John's death in July 2024, Eileen has stepped into an even larger leadership role to continue the Chief's weekly publication. She has long worked seven days a week.

"Being able to continue to be the caretaker of a historic publication and to be compensated and appreciated



Courtesy of Eileen Ricketson

John and Eileen Ricketson on their 50th anniversary.



Photo by J.C. Derrick

Eileen working at the Chief.

by the community of Apopka and its many diverse elements make me thankful for the many blessings God has provided," she said.

Recounting her entire life, Ricketson considers herself blessed, from her childhood in a rural area and becoming a born-again Christian in a Methodist Church in her early teens, from her school gradu-

ation and subsequent employment in several cities, then marrying and raising three children and being a member of the Apopka community.

"To be accepted and appreciated by this community will always be a treasure with unlimited boundaries," Ricketson said.

She not only expressed gratitude for the years of

community service by running The Apopka Chief, but also for the ownership transfer to a company that will take good care of the publication: "I have shed many tears of gratefulness these recent days for the privilege of knowing the community will continue to have a caring publisher and community member in charge of The

Apopka Chief." The women in Leadership Luncheon will take place 11:30 a. m. to 1:30 p. m. Wednesday, March 19, at Highland Manor, 604 E. Main St., Apopka. Registration is required to attend. Chamber members is \$50, and non-Chamber members is \$75. Visit shorturl.at/xFk08 to register.

Honesty and integrity are the underlying building principle for J&K Automotive, Inc.

J&K Automotive, Inc. upholds the highest ethical standards in all aspects of their automotive repair services. For them, ethics means more than just fixing cars—it's about building trust and ensuring transparency. For over 38 years they've built a reputation for their reasonable prices, timely repairs, and their ethical approach. They're trusted with everything from routine maintenance to more complex repairs, while upholding their core values of honesty and integrity to each valued customer.

"Trust forms the cornerstone of the relationships with our customers. When you bring your vehicle to us, you can trust our expertise to accurately diagnose issues and perform necessary repairs. We prioritize your safety and satisfaction, ensuring that every repair is conducted with your best interests in mind," stated owner and operator Steve Gotham.

"We offer a unique, honest approach to auto repairs, and operate on the policy of always giving you

the fairest deal and flawless repair or maintenance work," noted Gotham.

J&K Automotive, Inc. is a local, full-featured auto shop in Apopka with a service team that possesses over 60 years of combined auto repair experience and comprehension ability. Instead of searching for a different provider every time your vehicle has a problem, their team of technicians is ready to deal with everything from electrical problems to diagnostic issues.

J&K Automotive, Inc. prides themselves on their ability to handle whatever reveals itself under the hood. From inspections, scheduled maintenance, lube, oil and filters, tire and wheel services; electrical systems, from batteries and starters to radios and windshield wipers, they do it all. And even though it's not related to the mechanical or electrical systems, they also provide glass repair and replacement. No challenge is too large or too small for this expert team.

This team of specialists understands



J&K Automotive, Inc. believes in providing the best possible customer service and pricing for all the work they do. They're conveniently located at 1012 E. Semoran Boulevard in Apopka.

that during challenging times there are things that might take precedence over car repairs and services. But it's important to think long-term if you're planning your vehicle for any amount of time. It's in the best interest of your vehicle (and your wallet) to not ignore the little things, which, in time, can turn into bigger issues.

J&K Automotive, Inc. utilizes only top-quality replacement parts and highly skilled technicians. They offer a no-obligation free estimate and utilize up-to-date diagnostic equipment to diagnose and repair your car, truck, or SUV. This

helps ensure that your automobile is repaired to factory specifications. And, of course, all their work is 100 percent guaranteed.

They're conveniently located at 1012 E. Semoran Boulevard in Apopka, just a block east from Sheeler Road. For top-quality service at affordable prices, call J&K Automotive, Inc. at 407-880-3530. For more information, you can also visit their website at www.JandK.mechanicnet.com and become a fan on Facebook: J & K Automotive.

Maltby's Tree Service and Landscaping is equipped to handle all your tree service needs

Landscaping with trees is an investment in the future.

Trees aren't just an investment in your property, but an investment in the environment as well. Trees clean the air, provide oxygen, cool the streets and sidewalks, and even help to conserve energy.

Trees can increase the value of your property and provide some incredible benefits to your landscaping, including shade for you and your family from the hot Florida sun, wonderful fruits, and a place for birds to nest and squirrels to play. They can also improve the look of your home and landscaping when they're properly maintained.

To have beautiful trees, proper pruning is necessary and important for a tree's health. Pruning can remove safety hazards, discourage the spread of any decay and insect infestations, increase airflow, and allow for more light to shine through.

Well cared for trees are attractive, safe, and reduce various liability risks associated with hazardous trees. Trees at risk that need professional service can have:

- Branches that are rubbing each other or rubbing wires on your home or business
- Branches that are touching or laying on



For over 20 years Maltby Tree Service and Landscaping has provided prompt and personalized service from people who work, live and are engaged in their community. Call 321-689-5866 today to schedule your free consultation for your residential or commercial needs.

- your rooftop
- Low hanging branches that obstruct the street or sidewalk
- Branches that appear diseased or insect infested

Another issue trees face in Central Florida is severe storms. Many trees can be damaged from strong winds and hail or even become uprooted. Since storm damaged trees are often an accident waiting to happen, calling for tree damage repair is not something you want to put off once a problem is noticed. Ignoring the problem of storm-damaged trees is likely to lead to larger, more expensive repair costs down the road.

James Maltby, owner and operator of Maltby's Tree Service and Landscaping stated, "If you have a tree that has grown too large for your property, is damaging your foundation, or is in danger of breaking

or falling on the roof of your home, this can be a major cause for concern. When these things happen, call us. We have trained professionals to evaluate each situation and to provide you with the best in customer service. We pride ourselves on a fast response time, and the best prices are guaranteed."

If a tree needs to be removed, their employees work quickly and efficiently, while adhering to the highest standards of safety. Their staff is always ready to assist you to make sure your landscaping and tree needs are met to your satisfaction.

Maltby's Tree Service and Landscaping is reachable 24 hours-a-day for any after-hours emergency service. For your convenience and peace of mind, a management team member is always on site for all services and

property evaluations. Owner James Maltby was born and raised in Apopka. He's a family man, and his employees have been with his company for many years. They hire the best in the business, and honest and dependable work is their priority. They're fully licensed and insured, including Workers' Compensation on all employees.

Maltby's Tree Service and Landscaping would be happy to quote commercial tree trimming or removal jobs. With over 20 years in business, you can rest assured you're in good hands with a company that prides itself on a job well done.

Call them today at 321-689-5866 to set an appointment and see why Maltby's Tree Service and Landscaping are the local experts you can count on.

Community Events
74°
The Apopka Chief
Ricketson family sells Chief after 45 years

In Print. Online. On the Go.

Your Local News. Your Way!

Staying connected will soon be easier than ever...

mullinax Ford

GO NO DEALER FEES

NO Dealer Fee Electronic Filing Fee

FORD TRUCK MONTH

2024 Super Duty XL/XLT/STX

OVER 350 SUPER DUTIES IN STOCK

3.9% APR OR \$3,000 Rebate + Financing For 66 Months Huge Mullinax Discounts!

Valid on the XL, XLT and STX trims only. Offer includes manufacturer rebate and is not compatible with the financing offer. 3.9% APR Flex Buy financing for 66 months at \$15.62 per month per \$1,000 financed for the first 36 months and \$18.51 per month per \$1,000 financed for months 37-66, regardless of down payment. Based on 66 month payment term using 60 month 3.9% APR with interest distributed over 66 months. Requires approval and financing through Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify. Residency restrictions apply. See salesperson for qualifications and complete details. Offer ends 3/31/2025.

1551 E. Semoran Blvd., Apopka, FL • www.MullinaxFordFL.com • 407-972-1678

"If you're on a mission to fix your transmission call..."

ATW

ALLTRANSMISSIONWORLD

Se Habla Español

ACCREDITED BUSINESS BBB

Chamber of Commerce

1150 E Semoran Blvd., Ste. B Apopka, FL, 32703

407-880-9300

12939 W. Colonial Dr., Winter Garden. 34787

407-877-7600

alltransmissionworld.com

Central Florida's Oldest & Largest Transmission & Total Car Care Company

- Transmission • Clutches • CV Axles
- Foreign & Domestic • Check Engine & Dashboard Warning Lights

Sports

B Section Index
 4B-7B-Legals
 8B-Classifieds
 8B-Service Directory

OCPS confirms Apopka baseball, softball complexes unfit for use

Rory Salimbene sends letter to parents after meeting at AHS

By Marshall Tempest Reporter

Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) announced Tuesday that the new Apopka High School baseball and softball complexes will not be ready for occupancy for home games scheduled for softball this Friday, March 7, and baseball on Monday, March 10.

The news came from Rory Salimbene, the school district's acting chief facilities officer for

the baseball and softball projects, who sent a message to softball families regarding the team's first scheduled home game on Friday.

"After reviewing the status of outstanding issues, remaining inspections, and remaining documentation requirements today, it is unlikely we will be able to achieve occupancy at either field in advance of the scheduled home games for softball on Friday, March 7, and baseball on Monday, March 10," Salimbene wrote in a message obtained by The Apopka Chief.

Salimbene went on to say both the softball and baseball teams would need to make accommodations to hold the

games at "alternate locations." He concluded his comments on the opening of the facilities by noting that they could still be operational by Thursday, March 13.

Salimbene also listed unfinished construction and remaining issues to be resolved. The first item he mentioned was roof installation. After an investigation on Tuesday, March 4, he stated that the roof installation for both fields needed "necessary corrections" and "corrective work." The work was expected to be completed and inspected on Wednesday, March 5, which Salimbene said should have allowed the final building inspections for baseball to be

scheduled for later in the week. However, Salimbene said that's not the only problem.

"Final building inspections for softball are also dependent upon resolution of electrical installation issues..." he wrote.

Salimbene said that the documents required for "embedded conduit" require a re-submission regarding electrical installation issues. The updated documents were expected to be delivered late Tuesday or Wednesday. He also said that other documentation related to lighting contractors is currently under review after being previously submitted.

"Once these documents are approved, final inspections



Submitted photo

An aerial view of the new Apopka baseball dugout.

of the electrical installation can occur," Salimbene wrote to parents.

The third issue on Salimbene's list was bleacher installation. Details for the original

installation are needed to confirm that the additional concrete for the new bleachers was poured correctly for safety. Sa-

See **COMPLEXES** Page 3B



Photo by Marshall Tempest

Apopka's Holden Powell (13) attempts to secure a kill during Apopka's win over Wekiva on Tuesday, March 4.

Apopka boys volleyball opens season with consecutive wins

Team looking to retool after 2024 playoff run

By Marshall Tempest Reporter

This week, the Apopka Blue Darter boys volleyball team graced the court for the first time since spring 2024. They are looking to bounce back from their exit in the regional semifinal of the 2024 FHSAA Boys' Basketball State Tournament.

Apopka started the season strong with a 3-0 victory over Forest Lake Academy, followed by another 3-0 win over the city rival Wekiva Mustangs on Tuesday, March 4.

Catching up

The Apopka boys fell to Winter Park in the second round of the state tournament, 3-0, to close out the 2024 season. Winter Park went on to win the whole thing, becoming state champions. The boys are off to a quick start in 2025, but they do not have the same arsenal they did last year.

The boys were a powerful team last year — thanks in large part to nine seniors. Those departures leave nine spots to fill this year, when the team has eight seniors. So while they are still senior-heavy, they now have to replace the level of talent they had last year.

Another change this year is the coaching staff. Brian

Mater and Sarah Egbers will be the head coaches of the boys volleyball team. The two previously coached the girls varsity team and decided to take over the boys program last year. But both Mater and Egbers have high hopes for this season.

"To be honest with you, we have both set the bar very, very high for this team," Mater said after the team's win over Wekiva. "We had the girls last year, so when we decided we were going to take on the boys, we had high expectations. It wasn't just to get in the state tournament and exit early. It's to win the whole thing."

Mater and Egbers agree

See **VOLLEYBALL** Page 2B

Apopka baseball splits 4 road games

Tough loss at Timber Creek follows seventh-inning win at Boone

By Marshall Tempest Reporter

The Apopka baseball team is currently 6-4 as of Thursday, March 6, after two losses in the last week to West Orange and Timber Creek. Apopka defeated Cypress Creek and Boone High School and went 2-2 in their last four games, all on the road.

Apopka at West Orange (3-0) Loss

The Blue Darters couldn't get anything going offensively in this game, as they collected just three hits and no runs. Head baseball coach Bobby Brewer told me after the game that the boys were struggling against the West Orange pitcher. He said the Warriors pitcher on the mound is one of the best they have had to go against all season.

"We got guys seeing this kind of pitching for the first time, so it's a learning experience for them," he said. "Like on-the-job training. We will get better as the season goes on."

The Blue Darters had a team batting average of .130 and struck out 14 times at the plate.

In the loss, Connor

McAfee, Tyler Spaid and Jez Hamrick were on the mound for Apopka. McAfee started and gave up three hits, three runs (one earned), three walks and collected seven strikeouts while throwing 61 pitches over three innings.

Spaid struck out three over two shutout innings of work on just 29 pitches. Hamrick followed with another shutout inning, working around a pair of hits.

"Connor did a great job on the mound. The guys that came in behind him did a good job, too," Brewer said. "They just had a couple of balls that fell that we couldn't get to, and that is how they scored their runs."

Apopka at Cypress Creek (11-4) Win

The Blue Darters dominated in this one. They got it going in the first inning and never slowed down, scoring two runs in the first inning, one in the second, two in the third, two in the fourth, two in the fifth, two in the sixth and none in the seventh.

The Blue Darters had a .379 batting average and a .565 on-base percentage, thanks to 11 hits, 13 runs and one double. Leading the Blue Darters in the win at the plate was Aiden Rieli, who went 3-for-4. He scored three runs, stole three bases and collected three RBIs.

Camron Pennock and Logan Page were on the mound for Apopka in the win. The two combined for

a 3.00 ERA, a .148 batting average against, a .233 on-base percentage against and 12 strikeouts.

Apopka at Boone (4-3) Win

This one did not look good for Apopka for most of the game, as they were behind two runs for three whole innings going into the top of the seventh. The Blue Darters were able to score one run in the first inning but couldn't score any more after that. Boone went without a run for the first two innings but then exploded for three in the third inning.

Apopka sat behind 3-1, just trying to figure out a way to get someone on base, put the ball into play, and bring in a run. In the top of the seventh, the Blue Darters were able to break through for three runs, just like Boone did in the third inning. But the Braves could not score a run in the bottom of the seventh, which secured Apopka's win 4-3.

Apopka also struggled at the plate in this game, with only three Blue Darters grabbing a hit. Hamrick, Reef VanKuren, and Rieli were responsible for all five of Apopka's hits. Hamrick went 1-for-2 at the plate, VanKuren went 2-for-3, and Rieli went 2-for-4.

On the mound, Wyatt Jagers and Maddox Stinson both pitched well, striking

See **BASEBALL** Page 3B

Apopka softball reels off 3 straight wins to start season

Taylor Smith grabs five RBIs, two triples, home run

By Marshall Tempest Reporter

The Apopka softball team continued its dominant run by defeating the West Orange Warriors 15-0 on Friday, Feb. 28, followed by a victory lap at Twistee Treat.

The team is now 3-0 for the season and has three match-

ups this week. The Blue Darters start with an away game against Eustis on Wednesday, March 5, followed by an away game with Ocoee on Thursday, March 6. They are also scheduled for a game on Friday, March 7, but the game will be moved because the softball field renovation was not completed on time.

Apopka vs. West Orange (15-0) Win

Head coach Mike Mac-Withey was proud of his team

after the massive win over West Orange. The score may not show it, but West Orange has been a perennial playoff and state championship team with two softball state championships and one runner-up finish in the last 10 years.

The first inning was the only inning that mattered as the Blue Darters brought in 13 runs and almost went through the batting lineup twice. It seemed like every

See **SOFTBALL** Page 4B



Photo by Marshall Tempest

Head coach Bobby Brewer leaves the mound after talking to pitcher Tyler Spaid in Apopka's loss against Timber Creek.

Big bass equals big payday for anglers



GOIN' FISHIN'
Jim Keck
CORRESPONDENT

Hello Folks,
I hope everyone is havin' a great week and y'all are enjoyin' this beautiful weather we are havin'. I just wish it would be like this all year long, but that's wishful thinkin'. The fishin' is still doin' good in most of the lakes in our area.

Kyle at Bitter's Bait & Tackle reports that the specks are off and on in the speck lakes. We have a full moon on Friday the 7th. If there are any specks that haven't spawned yet, this would be the time they will go on the beds. The main problem we are havin' right now is the wind. In the bigger lakes like Monroe and Kissimmee the wind will blow you right off the water, so be careful while you are out there.

Folks are catchin' most of their specks on minners. Folks are catchin' some specks in Lake Kissimmee in the pads with a nice sandy bottom. The

bass are still bitin' in most of the lakes in our area. The bass were spawnin' on the last full moon, and those bass that haven't spawned yet will do their thing on the upcomin' full moon.

The bass fishin' has been good in Lake Apopka, the Harris Chain, and the Kissimmee Chain. You can catch some bass and specks all the way down in Lake Okeechobee. BassMaster held their Elite Tournament on Lake Okeechobee last week and it took 95 pounds and 4 ounces to win. Congrats to Brandon Palaniuk who took home the blue trophy,

and a check for \$102,000 dollars. This is Brandon's seventh win on tour.

There were quite a few big bass caught durin' the tournament, but the biggest bass was caught by David Gaston from Sylacauga, Ala. David was awarded \$2,000 dollars for his big bass. David's big bass hit the scales at 11 pounds, 8 ounces. Also, David's big bass is the largest bass caught in Lake Okeechobee Elite Series history.

I want to give a shout-out to my buddy Bernie Schultz from Gainesville. Bernie won \$1,000 dollars for

the BassTrakk Contingency award. Also, I want to give a shout-out to John Cox of DeBary. John finished in the top ten and he was able to fish on Championship Sunday. The bass fishin' on the Kissimmee Chain is still doin' pretty good if you can get out of the wind. Most of the big bass are bein' caught on shiners, and some of the bass are bein' caught by flippin' the spawnin' areas with soft plastics.

Folks are catchin' some bass in the Butler Chain, but most of those bass are somewhat smaller. You can catch most of those bass on swimjigs, chatter-baits, and soft

plastics. We have a cold front comin' to town this week, so that's gonna affect the way the bass will bite. It's only gonna be cold for a couple of days, and then it's gonna warm up. Once the weather warms up, that will get the bass and specks to bitin' again.

Well, that's it for this week. I hope you get a chance to do some fishin' this week or over the weekend. Enjoy this great weather, and I hope to see you on the water real soon.

Tip of the week: Go Fishin'.

Save a few and good luck.

Volleyball

Continued from page 1B

that the team's talent this year is fantastic, including one member who is committed to a Division I program. Mater said that once the team starts to click, everything will work out. He said he had been nervous after watching the boys practice for the past few weeks, but after seeing what they are capable of when they put their heads down and get to work, he is still very confident in their success this season.

"I think we'll be in good shape once the team starts clicking," he said. "We want to revamp the Apopka volleyball program. We want to put it on the map. We don't want it to be just a team that makes the state tournament and exits. We want to be a contender each and every year for both the boys and the girls teams."

Mater said he already sees two clear-cut leaders on the team.

"I see two leaders that have stepped up right away: Logan (Rogers) and Caden (Magatha)," Mater said. "They are both leaders on and off the court, and that's what a real leader is to me."

The 2025 season

The boys opened the season against Forest Lake Academy (FLA) on Monday, March 3, and defeated the Panthers in three straight sets, leaving with a 3-0 win. Apopka beat the Panthers 25-21 in set one, 25-20 in set two, and 25-18 in set three.



Photo by Marshall Tempest

Logan Rogers of Apopka gets up high, looking for a weak spot in the Wekiva defense on Tuesday, March 4.

After their game against FLA, Apopka hosted their in-city rivals, the Wekiva Mustangs. In this game, Apopka showed its ability to turn it off and on. The Blue Darters looked a bit slow at the start of each set but got sharper as the sets continued.

"Tonight, we were lacking a bit," Mater said after defeating Wekiva. "We were slow. We played a lot better last night against FLA."

Mater went on to say that he attributes the team's slow start to the absence of fans in the gym, which was caused by the cancellation of the junior varsity game and the rescheduling of the varsity game.

"They feed on the energy

from the crowd," Mater said. "They feed off the energy of one another. When you don't have both of those working together, it shows — and it showed tonight."

Despite their shortcomings, the Blue Darters won the game in three straight sets. Apopka beat Wekiva 25-17 in set one, 25-15 in set two, and 25-17 in set three.

Apopka has one more game this week: Thursday, March 6, against Lake Howell at home, which will take place after the Chief's press deadline. The Blue Darters will be Lake Howell's second match-up of the season, as their first was on Wednesday, March 4, against University High School.



Photo by Marshall Tempest

Logan Rogers looks to send down a kill.



Photo by Marshall Tempest

Apopka's Elzie Robinson (11) and Wekiva's Adrian Vargas meet at the net as Robinson looks for a kill and Vargas looks for a block.



Photo by Marshall Tempest

Wekiva's Adrian Vargas serves to the Apopka side of the net.

J & K Automotive
FAIR • HONEST • DEPENDABLE
All Work Guaranteed
Serving Satisfied Customers Since 1987
CERTIFIED AIR CONDITIONING SPECIALISTS • COMPUTER DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT
Now Hiring Mechanic
Now Offering ANYWHERE CARE National Limited Warranty & 24-Hr. Roadside Assistance
1012 E. Semoran Blvd. Apopka
Mon.-Fri. 8-5:30 • Closed Saturday
www.JandKAutomotiveinc.com
407-880-3530
• Wheel Balance & Alignments
• Tune Ups • Brakes
• Shocks
• Fuel Injection Service Oil Change
• C.V. Joints
• Tires
f Become a Fan on Facebook: J & K Automotive

LOOMIS
SINCE 1941
GENERAL HOME
LOOMIS FAMILY FUNERAL HOMES
VISIT OUR ONLINE OBITUARY AT
LOOMISFUNERALHOMES.COM

INCREASE THE VALUE OF YOUR HOME WITH NATURAL GAS AND SAVE MONEY.
811 Know what's below. Call before you dig.
At Lake Apopka Natural Gas, we're helping families connect to affordable, reliable, and efficient natural gas, with appliances that pay dividends for years to come. Studies show a home with natural gas has a **6% greater resale value** than an all-electric home.
Lake Apopka Natural Gas District
ENERGY CHOICE
www.langd.org
407-656-2734 ext. 307

GEICO Local Office
Zachary Ingram
407-551-4350
geico.com/apopka-ingram
3840 E State Rd 436, Apopka
¡Hablamos Español!
We Offer You More Than Just Car Insurance
Limitations apply. See geico.com for more details. GEICO & affiliates. Washington, DC 20076
GEICO Gecko® image © 1999-2024 © 2024 GEICO

HUNT CLUB MEDICAL Family Practice & Internal Medicine
WE ARE NOW OFFERING A TELE-VISIT OPTION AS WELL AS ONLINE SCHEDULING
• On-Site X-Ray Lab
• Most Insurance Accepted
• Serving the community for over 30 years
Michael Gordon MD
Pinida Toochinda MD
Whitney Dailey PA-C
Elisabeth Duer PA-C
Kristen Consiglio PA-C
Roshani Levister PA-C
We Take Walk-In Patients 7 Days a Week!
3191 E. Semoran Blvd., Apopka | 407-788-6500 Enter at McDonald's Hunt Club
Hours: Mon. thru Thurs. 8-7PM • Fri. 8-6PM • Sat. thru Sun. 8-4PM

Wekiva wrestling goes down in regionals

Mustangs finished 15th out of 34 schools at regionals

By Marshall Tempest Reporter

The Wekiva wrestling team sent six wrestlers to the FHSAA 3A Region 1 Championship held from Feb. 28 to March 1.

Sadly for the Mustangs, no Wekiva wrestlers made it past the regional championship into the state tournament. Wekiva finished the tournament with 32.5 team points, which placed them 15th out of 34 schools competing in re-

gionals.

The six wrestlers that made it to the regional stage of the playoffs were Joseph Saint Melus, Jeremiah Demosthene, Nevin Thomas, Demarcus Stokes, Elijah Jean, and Joniel Deleon.

Melus finished the season with a 23-7 record and collected four team points at regionals. Demosthene finished the season with an 11-11 record and collected three team points at regionals. Thomas finished the season with an 18-10 record and collected eight team points at regionals. Stokes finished the season with a 29-6 record and collected 6.5 team points at regionals. Jean finished the season with a

29-7 record and collected 8 team points at regionals. Deleon finished the season with a 14-13 record and collected 3 team points at regionals.

Even though the Cinderella story of the Wekiva wrestling team did not end happily ever after, they accomplished a lot this year. The program became Metro West Champions for the first time after three Mustangs placed first in their individual weight classes (Stokes, Jean, and St. Melus).

Despite the loss, the future appears bright for the Wekiva wrestling program under head coach Lenin Vazquez and assistant coach Tony Imbriani. The program will look to build on its success next season.



Photo by Marshall Tempest

The six Wekiva wrestlers that made it to regionals (L-R): Jeremiah Demosthene, Joniel Deleon, Nevin Thomas, Elijah Jean, Joseph Saint Melus and Demarcus Stokes.

Baseball

Continued from page 1B

out six combined and allowing no earned runs.

Apopka at Timber Creek (4-2) Loss

This was a game of missed opportunities for the Blue Darters.

“That’s the first game we’ve given away all year,” Brewer said after the loss.

“We gave that one away. We had five walks and hit three batters.”

Apopka and Timber Creek were tied at 2-2 after three innings, but Apopka fell behind when Timber Creek scored single runs in the fifth and sixth to take a 4-2 lead.

Apopka’s bats couldn’t

find the sweet spot against the Timber Creek pitcher and struggled at the plate all night to get good contact and put the ball in play. The Blue Darters left the bases loaded in the third, missing a change to take the lead.

In the seventh inning, Apopka had a chance to

bounce back, but more mistakes killed the rally, which ended with a caught stealing at third base. After the game, Brewer told me stealing third there was “just not good or smart baseball.”

Pennock, Spaid and Page pitched in the loss, striking out five and holding Timber Creek

to a .095 batting average.

What’s next?

The Blue Darters have four games between Friday, March 7, and Friday, March 14. The first is at East River on March 7. The second is against the Villages Charter on Monday, March 10, and was

supposed to be Apopka’s first home game, but the field won’t be ready in time, according to OCPS, so the location was still undecided at press time. A scheduled home game against Dr. Phillips on Tuesday, March 11, may also need to be relocated. The fourth game is at Lake Nona on March 13.

Complexes

Continued from page 1B

limbene said that the previous details provided were “insufficient.” On Tuesday, they located the required information and gave it to the contractor for resubmission.

“Following approval, bleacher inspections can be completed,” Salimbene wrote, without giving a date for when those inspections would be done.

Fourth on Salimbene’s list was the bleacher ramp for the baseball facility. He said this was similar to the softball bleacher issue and noted, “... details regarding the previous ramp installation are needed to confirm that reinstallation

is safe.” Salimbene said documents are ready and will be provided to the contractor for submission but did not give a date for when that would happen.

Salimbene’s final issue concerned the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) clearance for water and wastewater.

“...as-built survey documents for the wastewater system for baseball require corrections prior to submittal for clearance,” said Salimbene.

Salimbene said that the corrections are in progress and that once the engineer approves the documents and the

city of Apopka reviews them, they must be sent to FDEP.

“While clearance will not delay final inspections, it may delay certification of occupancy,” Salimbene wrote.

The message to parents came four days after a contentious meeting between concerned Apopka baseball and softball families and OCPS at Apopka High School to discuss the status of the two complexes. Parents raised many issues at the meeting, including player safety, lost revenue from gate fees and concessions, and construction inconsistencies.

According to meeting

notes circulated among parents and shared with The Apopka Chief, when parents asked if Salimbene had been down to the field to inspect the projects, he answered that he had not seen it in person.

One of the more significant issues raised at the meeting was that varsity baseball players have to drive to three or four games a week because buses were not available to take them to games that started before 7 p. m. On Tuesday, head baseball coach Bobby Brewer informed parents that OCPS would provide a chartered bus for the team’s Wednesday game at Timber

Creek.

According to the meeting notes, parents also inquired about the lost revenue from gate fees and concessions at home games. Those revenue sources are vital for fundraising for the team’s necessities each year. Salimbene stated that the school and the county would address the lost ticket revenue and concessions and allocate funds to cover the lost revenue.

Salimbene was also asked if the home dugout, which resembles a cage, will continue construction or reconstruction to look consistent with the visitor’s dug-

out, which looks nothing like the home side. According to notes taken during the meeting, the answer to that question is still to be determined, and some parents heard that the home-side dugout will not be redone until after the end of the regular season.

Another question among parents concerned the extended and overhead foul ball netting that stops foul balls from hitting fans, nearby homes and vehicles. The baseball complex previously had a net, but the renovated field does not include one, sparking concerns about potential property damage and injuries

SUDOKU ANSWERS

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 7 |
| 7 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 6 |
| 4 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 2 |
| 2 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 1 |
| 1 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 8 |
| 5 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 3 |
| 6 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| 3 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 9 |
| 9 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 5 |

PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 6A



March is National Nutrition Month, a time to focus on making informed food choices and developing healthy eating habits that support overall well-being.

National Nutrition Month Checklist

- Eat a Nutrient-Rich Diet
- Building a Balanced Plate
- Smart Eating Habits
- Talk to your provider

CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE YOUR FIRST TOUR AND GET A FREE GIFT!

(407) 349-8155

(407) 803-4622 | SE HABLA ESPAÑOL



Colin Watts, M.D. Physician



Yarima Marcucci, M.D. Physician

VERSE OF THE WEEK

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork
Psalm 19:1

Visit us online for all the Apopka area church listings



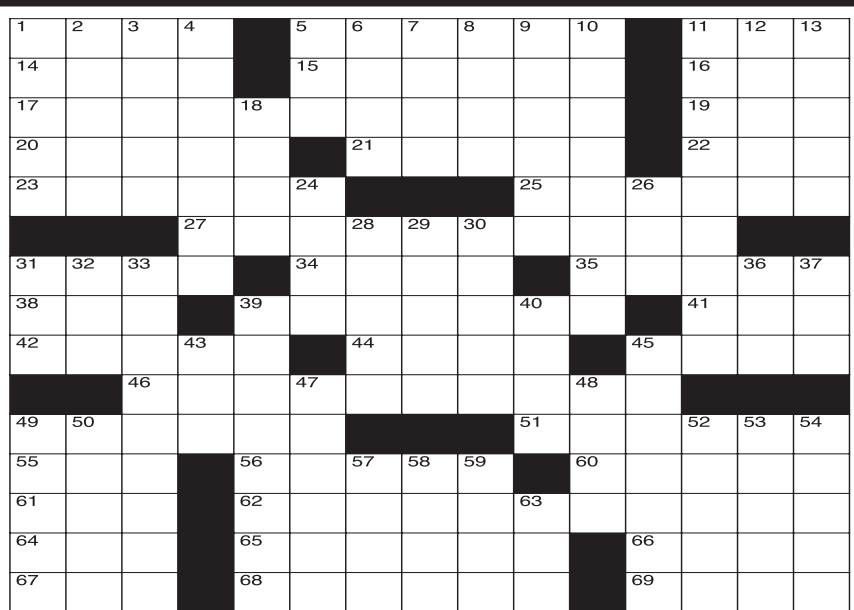
CLUES ACROSS

- Cut a little bit off
- State with confidence
- River in NE Scotland
- Not narrow
- Lacking social polish
- Amount of time
- Frame
- Automobile
- Toadstools
- High school dances
- Utilize
- Challenged
- One-sided
- Showing extreme greed
- Potted plants
- Everyone has one
- Lake in Botswana
- E.T. rode in one
- Juniors' parents
- Small amount
- Mother of Perseus
- Ornamental box
- Gov't investigators
- Uncertain
- A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- The vast grassy plains in S. America
- Your consciousness of your own identity
- Noted consumer advocate
- Spanish sports club
- Body part
- Tractability
- Woman (French)
- Ready and willing to be taught
- Muslim ruler title
- Depressed
- Gradually gave way
- Clear-thinking

CLUES DOWN

- Brushed aside
- Water sprite
- Ones to look up to
- Monetary units
- A number everyone has
- Marine invertebrate
- One who takes you to court
- Indicates outer
- Parallelograms
- Strains
- Cross
- A way to remove
- Some pages are dog-__
- Ukraine city
- A citizen of Denmark
- Summer month (abbr.)
- Hindu queens
- Depressed
- Fictional rider of Rohan
- Wet dirt
- Russian city
- Observed
- Furious
- Drivers' licenses
- Musical composition
- Auction
- They __
- Women
- Inspire with love
- Japanese ankle sock
- Appears
- Old World lizard
- The leading performer
- Type of protein
- Pennsylvania town
- Art __: around 1920
- __ Blyton, children's author
- Abnormal breathing
- A place to sleep

Solutions can be found on page 6A of this newspaper.



CLASSIFIED

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE: MONDAY 5 P.M.
classifieds@theapokkachief.com

Call 407-886-2777
Fax 407-889-4121

15. LOST AND FOUND

PUPPY FOUND? Sell something you do not need. Call 407-886-2777 to place your ad.

53. ANIMALS AND LIVESTOCK

GOATS, CHICKENS, Geese & Ducks for sale 407-486-5374.

69. SPORTING GOODS

GOLF CART REPAIRS. All makes and models. I come to you! 321-356-5669.

113. LANDSCAPING

H.J.L.C - FULL LAWN service, Insured, Licensed. 40 yrs experience. 407-341-4133

133. HOMES FOR SALE

SENIORS 55+ Communities: Looking to purchase in a senior community in Central Florida? Many to choose from.

LOST, STRAYED, OR RESCUED

Near the intersection of North Park Avenue and Votaw Road. Jasper Sinclair is a large fuzzy grey cat.

61. APPLIANCES LARGE

IN HOME SERVICE on washer, dryers, stoves, refrigerators installed. \$50 off service calls with installation.

65. FURNITURE

MEDIUM ROLL-TOP desk. 46h x 54w x 20d \$50. Dark wood corner cabinet TV top \$30.

21. HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Health care for entire family: Pediatrics, Family, Internal, ob/Gyn, Dental and Pharmacy.

32. HELP WANTED

NEED KNOWLEDGEABLE person to install and program wireless security camera on door.

32. HELP WANTED

LEARN HOW TO repair appliances. Must have valid driver license and able to use tools.

41. BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

GREAT BUSINESS opportunity for ambitious persons. Must sell our lawn care business due to health.

FLORIDA STATEWIDE

1. Home Improvement/Service PROTECT YOUR HOME from pests safely and affordably.

2. Home Improvement/Service WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home.

3. Home Improvement/Service You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work.

4. DONATE YOUR VEHICLE to fund the SEARCH FOR MISSING CHILDREN. FAST FREE PICKUP.

5. Home Improvement/Service AGING ROOF? NEW HOME OWNER? STORM DAMAGE?

6. Medical ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You.

7. Home Improvement/Service BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months!

8. Wanted to Buy CASH PAID FOR HIGH-END MEN'S SPORT WATCHES. Rolex, Breitling, Omega, Patek Philippe, Heuer, Daytona, GMT, Submariner and Speedmaster.

9. Wanted to Buy We Buy Vintage Guitars! Looking for 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg, and Gibson Mandolins / Banjos.

REACH FLORIDA March 3, 2025

check non-refundable. First/last month. \$200 electric deposit. 407-921-9555.

APARTMENT FOR RENT Place your ad here. Call 407-886-2777 and ask for the 3/4 special.

142. ROOMS FOR RENT

SWEENEY'S ROOMS Cleanest. Quietest. WIFI, Internet. Multiple locations. Call Dwayne 321-271-6773.

136. MOBILE HOMES / RV'S FOR SALE

Double wide mobile home, needs extensive repairs. Buyer must move trailer. 407-886-0471

141. MOBILE HOME OR LOT FOR RENT

OVERSIZED RV LOT Clarcona Resort. \$800/month + electric. \$50 background

Mobile Home Small 2Bd/1ba Private Lot Apopka Seniors Only 407-947-3065

Weekend Sales #66 "CLIP 'n SAVE" 0307-0314 Tell them you saw it in Classifieds! March 6 & 7 @ 8am 3131 Plymouth Sorrento Rd., New stuff, tools, lots of miscellaneous. 0307 URF 66

I just got my FREE PHONE from FTRI!! Call phone amplifiers, captioning phones, amplified telephones, flashing ring signalers, and more! View the full assortment at: ftri.org/products To learn more: Call: 800-222-3448 Live Chat on our website: M-F, 9 to 5 Email: customercare@ftri.org Apply online at: ftri.org/free 800-222-3448 www.ftri.org RF2025

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES. They are open, equipped, and ready for business.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Advertise your service here. Have your business seen every week.

APOPKA APPLIANCE Refrigerators • Washers • Dryers WOW \$29.99 Service Call with completed repair USED APPLIANCES WE SERVICE REFRIGERATORS 407-886-2255 407-497-7458 936 S. Orange Blossom Trail

BEST OF SHOW Auto Detailing - Hand Wash and Wax - Carnauba and Ceramic Wax Applications - Paint Decontamination & Correction - Tires, Wheels & Windows - Bug and Tar Removal - Interior Cleaning - Leather Care and Treatment - Carpet Vacuuming and Cleaning 407-435-5159 Jorge Pinto

ATW ALL TRANSMISSION WORLD Central Florida's Oldest & Largest Transmission & Total Car Care Company • Transmission • Clutches • CV Axles • Foreign • Domestic • Check Engine & Dashboard Warning Lights 1150 E Semoran Blvd., Ste. B Apopka, FL 32703 alltransmissionworld.com 407-880-9300

What are you waiting for? call today 407-886-2777

WRIGHT'S "WE DO IT ALL OUTDOORS" SINCE 1987 407-889-0018 • DEMOLITION • LANDCLEARING • Bobcat • Loader • Backhoe • Dumpsters Services • BUSHHOGGING • Grading • Fill Dirt • DRIVEWAYS (RECYCLED ASPHALT) Clay • Concrete • TRASH REMOVAL

AA Same Day GARAGE DOOR SERVICE We specialize in Commercial & Residential Service Sales • Repair • Install We repair • Springs • Cables • Rollers • much more... GREAT Prices on Garage Door Openers 407-780-1691

Lake Apopka Natural Gas District P: 407.656.2734 F: 407.877.3893 www.LANGD.org 811 Know what's below. Call before you dig.

Got Services To Offer? Advertise Today. Call 407-886-2777

Compass Health YOUR PLAN. YOUR CHOICE "Your Local Florida Blue Agency" HEALTH MEDICARE CREMATION Se Habla Espanol O 407-951-8013 C 904-310-5777 SergioFonseca91@gmail.com 3030 East Semoran Blvd., Suite 184 Apopka 32703

SPRINKLER REPAIR Free Estimates • Install Timers and/or rain sensors • Fix broken pipes • Replace Sprinkler Heads • Locate/replace valves • Adjust sprinkler coverage Environmental Irrigation Services, LLC 407-347-7900 Lic: IRR#11020702 • Insured

Advertise Place your business in the service directory. 13 weeks only \$188.50 Call: 407-886-2777 Service Directory

AROUND 2 IT SERVICES, INC. ✓ Landscape Service / Irrigation ✓ Bushhog Service ✓ Loader Service & Rental ✓ Dump Trailer Service & Rental Free Estimate 407-310-1003

WORKPLACE SCREENING INTELLIGENCE Helping Employers and Employees Get Back to Work Safely and Stay COVID Free LABORATORY TESTING ✓ Drug Screening Nationally ✓ Covid Screens ✓ Titer Testing ✓ New Transferrin Gold TB Test Call: 800-338-5515 or Email: info@workplacescreening.com

Advertise your service here. Have your business seen every week.

NON-PROFIT VFW Post 10147 Apopka / Altamonte Springs 519 S. Central Ave Apopka Smoke-Free Environment Fellowship and Assistance Coffee and Doughnuts WED/SAT 8:00- 10:00 AM Monthly Breakfast: Public Welcome 3rd Saturday 8:00- 10:00 AM 407 889 8266 for assistance and questions Information and Events: www.facebook.com/VfwPost10147/ www.vfwpost10147.org/

Reliable Notary & Tax Services • Accurate • Affordable • Fast. Your trusted partner for all needs. Contact: Donnette Smith Mobile: (407) 900-7040

RAY'S PRECISION PAINTING Quality and Precision you can trust • Residential & Commercial Painting & Repair • Move-In Move-Out Specials • Licensed & Insured FREE ESTIMATES CALL TODAY! 321-277-0409 RaysPrecisionPainting@gmail.com

Dirty house or driveway? WASHING: House, Fence, Tile Roof CLEANING: Gutter, driveway, sidewalk, pool/screen enclosure VETERAN OWNED OMAR Reasonable. Reliable. References. 407-953-8367

Private Investigative Services Mobile Notary Service 407-814-1895 HollisKendallAgency.com

Quality Screens, LLC "Quality Screens for your every screen need!" Rescreen & Repair of: • Pool Enclosures, Porches, • Window Screens, • Pressure Washing • Licensed and Insured • Free Estimates John McNeal Owner/Operator (386) 479 - 4277 qualityscreensllc@gmail.com www.qualityscreens.net

ISLAND REALTORS Inc. Michael Harrison Lic. Real Estate Broker Facilitating All of Your FLORIDA Real Estate Needs C: 407-234-3916 O: 407-822-0509 islandrealtors@aservantofgod.net 2428 W. Orange Blossom Trl. Apopka, FL 32712

ALLEGIANCE ROOF RESTORATION & COATINGS \$\$\$ Save Money vs. Replacement On: Flat Roofs • Metal Roofs • Mobile Homes Tile Roofs • Rubber Roofs • Asphalt Roofs 15-Year Warranty Superior Durability & Energy Efficient Senior / Military Discounts Residential • Commercial 407-455-2636

A.O.S. APOPKA OFFICE SUPPLY ✓ Send Faxes ✓ Receive Faxes ✓ Make Copies ✓ Business Cards ✓ B&W Filers ✓ Office Supplies 407-889-4455 Fx: 407-889-4121

VALUE ROOFING & REPAIRS Roof replacement and ALL types of roof repairs No Repair Too Big or Too Small! 352-669-1857 License # CCC1325714

Miller's Sod Sales Serving Apopka area since 1995 All types of Sod and Mulch Pickup, Delivery, Rip outs & Installation 407-814-2489 Fax: 407-814-0421 Licensed & Insured

ARBORCARE • Certified Arborists • Tree Trimming • Tree Removals • Management • Grapple Hauling • Crane Service • Commercial Property 407-866-8733

FRAZIER Heavy Mowing Tree Service Land Clearing Clean-up Hauling Bush Hogging Loader Service No Job To Small Licensed & Insured 30 Years Experience 407-467-6627

MALTBY'S Tree Service & Landscaping • Landscape Maintenance & Installation • Irrigation • Tree Trimming • Tree Removal • Grapple Truck Service JAMES MALTBY Owner Licensed & Insured 321-689-5366 All Your Outdoor Needs!