

Apopka sets FY26 millage 6% above rolled back rate

City Council held three straight days of budget workshops

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

The Apopka City Council voted 4-1 on Wednesday to set the fiscal year 2025-26 proposed millage rate at 4.6876, a 6.18% increase over the rolled back rate of 4.4146. Commissioner Nick Nesta voted in opposition of the proposed millage rate.

The 4.6876 millage rate would generate about \$36,617,203 in property tax revenues for 2025-26. A mill is the tax rate for each \$1,000 of taxable property value.



Photo by Marshall Tempest

The council voted 4-1 to approve the 2025-26 millage rate.

The proposed rollback rate is based on last year's collected rate, considering property value growth and new construction. The ad valorem tax increased by 13.22% due to the increased value of existing properties and new properties.

According to the staff report, the total 2025-26 general fund revenues are predicted to yield about \$103,041,608. The city's general fund service levels, personnel and capital needs show a total operating and capital budget of an estimated \$108,611,697.

The building permits and tax revenue dollars together are projected to go up by \$3,541,325 or about 22.72% for 2025-26.

"In FY2025, the City set aside sufficient reserves to support future operating and capital needs," the July 9 City Council staff report states. "In addition, the City is currently exceeding the 25% policy reserve requirement. As a result, the FY2025-26 proposed general fund budget is balanced, using \$5,570,089 from capital and excess operating reserves to support additional capital needs. In addition, the City has sufficient reserves to cover the 25% reserve policy requirement. State revenue estimates have

MILLAGE RATE, 7A

City Council reviews FY26 operating budget

Requests include \$12.5 million for Golden Gem facility expansion

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

The Apopka City Council met three consecutive nights this week to review the proposed fiscal year (FY) 2026 city budget, which totals \$108.6 million and includes proposed growth for the fire and police departments.

The City Council heard department heads make budget requests for initiatives, equipment, personnel and more during the workshops, which took place July 7-9 at City Hall. On July 9, the City Council voted on setting the millage rate at 4.6876 for FY26.

The council's tentative budget hearing is scheduled for 5:15 p.m. on Sept. 3 in the City Hall council chambers, where citizens will have the opportunity to offer feedback on the budget.

The July 7 workshop covered administration, legal services, city clerk, human resources, community and economic development, parks and recreation, facilities, cemetery and finance. July 8 covered information technology, public works and utility operations, and sanitation and fleet maintenance. July 9 covered fire and police.

City admin sees 4.4% decrease in budget

The proposed city administration budget for

FY26 is \$7.6 million, a 4.4% overall reduction of the FY25 budget of \$8,020,272.

Specific changes include a 1.9% budget decrease in the mayor's office, an 18.5% increase in the city administrator's office, a 14.6% increase in the city clerk's office and a 21.3% increase in human resources.

Proposed new initiatives include an online cemetery search for the Edgewood-Greenwood Cemetery and leadership training programs.

The workshop also covered the need for a policy on discretionary funds, the status of unfilled staff positions – which currently stands at 62 full-time and 29 part-time seasonal – and the significance of preventative maintenance schedules.

The community development department's proposed FY26 budget is \$3,739,765.

The planning division has been allocated \$2,360,458 (63%), an 8.7% increase over the FY25 budget of \$2,171,922, due primarily to salary and benefit costs.

The planning division's main new initiative will be a rewrite of the land development code. According to the presentation, the rewrite is expected to begin in fiscal year 2026 on a \$500,000 budget.

\$12.5M requested for Golden Gem facility

The utilities operations department is asking the Apopka City Council

BUDGET WORKSHOPS, 6A

SUMMER HEAT ARRIVES



Photo by Dana O'Connor Studios

Rauri O'Connor, 9, cools off after riding at the Apopka Action Sports Park on Wednesday afternoon. Temperatures in Apopka reached the 90s this week, with the heat index soaring into triple digits.

Propagate Social House re-opens after repairs

Temporary closure was for construction work

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

Nearly two weeks after announcing its closure, Propagate Social House has reopened on July 9.

"It'll definitely be before the weekend," Propagate co-owner Ella Duke said in a phone interview. "There's a lot that goes into reopening after you've been closed for 10 days. So, we're just trying to get everything figured out."

The restaurant's closure was due to issues with construction work behind the building, necessitating an 10-day shutdown to ensure safety and fix the issues.

"There was just some is-



Photo by Teresa Sargeant

An open sign hangs on the Propagate Social House front door Thursday morning.

sues with some work being done behind our buildings, not related to us," Duke said. "I mean, that's it. It caused some issues for us. And we closed to make sure that it was safe for us to open... Health wasn't going to be

compromised."

She said updates will be available on Propagate's social media channels and on Google.

"We are very active on

PROPAGATE SOCIAL, 3A

Third mayoral candidate files, then withdraws from race

William Dabbs withdrew for personal reasons

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

A third candidate filed in May to run for Apopka mayor, but when The Apopka Chief contacted him about his candidacy on July 2, he said he had decided not to run.

The candidate, William Dabbs, had filed qualifying paperwork on May 13, and his departure from the 2026 mayoral race leaves incumbent Mayor Bryan Nelson and challenger Orange County District 2 Commissioner Christine Moore in a two-person contest.

In a phone interview, Dabbs, an information technology professional with a specialty in analytics, told The Apopka Chief his decision to leave the race was because of



Courtesy of William Dabbs

William Dabbs

personal issues. However, he said he would consider running for mayor in the 2030 election cycle.

Dabbs's platform listed on his campaign website includes revitalizing the city's downtown business core, expanding the Apopka City Center, preserving the community's green spaces, keeping property taxes stable by growing the city's business tax base, and implementing technology that would reduce costs, simplify-

ing procedures and improve community service.

His campaign website was still online as of the afternoon of July 2.

"I'm running for Mayor not to build a political career, but to help shape a stronger, smarter future for the community my family and I are proud to call home," Dabbs said on his website. "With years of experience in business and analytics, I believe I can bring a practical, thoughtful approach to city leadership — grounded in data, driven by results."

Raised in Tennessee, Dabbs and his family moved to Apopka almost four years ago.

"As I became more involved in the community, I saw challenges that concerned me: slow progress on our City Center, the lack of a thriving downtown business core, and a need for greater

MAYORAL CANDIDATE, 8A

Opinion

The Apopka Chief

A weekly newspaper founded in 1923

Publisher

J.C. Derrick

Reporters

Teresa Sargeant | Marshall Tempest

Copy Editor

Nancy Thomas

Media Advisor

Gigi Cohen

Business Development

Jackie Trefcer

Legal Clerk

Lesbia Toruño

Administrative Assistant

Debrah Hayden | Sarah Merly

Publication Coordinator

Neida Quiñones Cruz

Orange County budget begins to take shape

While it may appear that budget season is suddenly upon us, Orange County department leaders and constitutional officers have met with county commissioners since January. To build a budget, managers first adjust staffing levels. Secondly, they prioritize maintenance of existing facilities.

Funding is only made available for large capital projects during strong budget years. We are grateful for federal dollars after the pandemic which supplied funds for the Fire Department's New Training Center and Septic-to-Sewer.

Mayor Jerry L. Demings' theme for 2025–26 is Building Better Through Efficiency.

"We remain committed to maintaining Orange County's fiscal strength, prudently managing resources, and strategically investing in our community's well-being and growth," the budget book notes.

Orange County continues to earn Fitch's highest tripple-A credit rating. Property taxes, our primary revenue source, have increased by 7.6%, reflecting robust and sustainable economic growth. Our general fund reserves of \$119 million represent 7.3% of the general fund.

Economic vitality continues to set higher standards, anchored by a world-class tourism and hospitality sector. We proudly welcome 75.3 million visitors, as the most visited destination in North America, resulting in nearly \$93 billion in economic impact. Orange County's commitment to economic diversification is evident in our support for innovation, entrepreneurship, and workforce development. Our \$1.5 million

County Commissioner
District 2



Christine Moore

partnership with Plug and Play, the world's leading innovation platform, links startups with resources to accelerate job growth.

Income is mainly derived through property taxes. Additional sources include local option gas tax and local option resort tax. Revenue is also received from fees such as building permits and impact fees. Charges for services include refuse collection, water and wastewater, park entrance fees, and court fees.

The budget supports public safety (sheriff, jail and fire), transportation, utilities, mental health and homeless services, family and neighborhood services, parks and recreation, affordable housing, arts opportunities, animal and mosquito control and more. It also includes all constitutional office budgets (property appraiser, tax collector, supervisor of elections, clerk of the court, etc.).

Finally, the county is extremely committed to environmental sustainability with the goal of preserving an additional 23,000 acres of environmentally sensitive land through our \$100 million budget commitment to our renowned Green PLACE program.

The Northwest Water Reclamation Facility is reducing energy costs by up to 65% by converting to solar. Projects like the Lake Apopka Trail Connector and additional upgrades across 113 parks and recreational sites, ensure residents of all ages have access to safe, beautiful environments for play, exercise, and relaxation.

More on the county budget next week...

City of Apopka working to replace trees, sidewalks in Piedmont Lakes

Back in the late 1980s, the Piedmont Lakes Neighborhood was coming to life. The original plans called for laurel oaks to be planted between the road and the sidewalk, which was only 7 feet wide.

Because oak trees have an extensive root system, it was only a matter of time before the roots pushed up the sidewalk and/or the road creating a trip-and-fall hazard.

These trees planted in the right-of-way are ending their natural life span, with many dying and many more that are unhealthy.

Rather than just remove the trees one at a time and repairing the affected sidewalk, the city decided to remove all the diseased or dying trees in the neighborhood. We have just completed Phase 1 and 2 of 4 to repair the sidewalks, aprons and ADA

Apopka Mayor



Bryan Nelson

ramps at the same time.

In total, we have replaced 1.342 miles of sidewalks, 2,049 lineal feet of curb, 17 aprons and 22 ADA ramps. The city's tree bank money, which is funded by developers who remove large native trees, has enough money in the fund to offer all the residents who lost oak trees a Dutch elm replacement. These Dutch elms do not grow as large as oaks and won't pop the sidewalks.

Unfortunately, only 28 homeowners in the entire neighborhood have requested replacement trees. We are making another push to have more trees planted in the easement to give the neighborhood a more welcoming tree canopy that will attract more families.

We have in the budget this year to continue replacing sidewalks and hope to complete Piedmont Lakes next year. This has been a two-year project that our streets team has been heavily invested in to make sure that Piedmont Lakes is a neighborhood that everyone can be proud of.

As we recognize our errors from the past, we have updated our tree planting criteria to make sure that, if oak trees are included in the landscape design, we have enough space for these oaks to survive for decades, if not centuries.

Instead of the old 'I do,' some vows should be 'let's see how it goes'

The wedding of billionaire Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sanchez cost \$50,000 per guest, a figure that was widely reported and much discussed, but too unreal to hold my attention.

A much more interesting figure is what that price tag will work out to per day of staying married. It can't last. Anyone who spends \$50 million on a party is not the sort of person who will put up with anything that is wrong with another person. And the kind of woman who would marry a man like that has got to have something wrong with her.

Life has not prepared them for marriage. People that wealthy learn that if they get tired of something or if it starts to irritate them, they can just dump it and get a new one. POOF, money makes it go away.

Anybody who has ever listened to the same person snore for 35 or 40 years can see the issue. Everything you do as one of the spouses in a marriage is highly likely, if not certain, to eventually start to irritate the other one.

Take the honeymoon, when they start to regularly see one another first thing in the morning. Each of them will get to watch the other creak off toward the bathroom scratching some too-visible body part, preparing to enliven their fabulous Sicilian beachside

Columnist



Jake Vest

boudoir with a symphony of bodily functions. No matter which one does it first, worst or most often, the other is going to wonder, "Am I not entitled to something better than this?"

People who have grown accustomed to not having to put up with anything that doesn't suit them are poorly equipped for a test of how much they can put up with.

A honeymoon would be just the thing, but they should have gone on one before making a decision about marriage. And not in a private jet or on a yacht, either. I'm thinking 38 to 45 hours of interstate, barely habitable motels with uneatable breakfasts, a flat tire, a dead battery and a missed exit. Both occupants in close quarters making sinus noises, luggage carrier buzzing, golf clubs rattling, and... well, you name it. The list is endless.

It doesn't take long before

people start blaming each other for what's on the radio.

The phrase "for better or worse" comes into much clearer focus, and believe it or not, that is a good thing. You'll find there is a lot of "better" out there if you are willing to work for it. You will laugh about stuff that made you want to scream at the time, and, in fact, you will even come to enjoy some of the stuff you have to put up with — including each other.

It is good for a marriage in the long run. The rich and celebrated folk don't have to put up with that sort of thing, which I think makes their run less likely to be long.

She will never know what it is like to share a peanut butter sandwich that wasn't big enough for one, let alone two. He will never know the feeling you get when you notice that somebody just as hungry as you were tried to give you the bigger half. That meal might be the one remembered most fondly for the longest time.

When the trip's over and each of you can honestly say to the other, "I couldn't have made it without you," you are ready for a wedding. When they get to that part in the ceremony that asks if you are in it "until death do us part," you won't just be guessing.

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@theapokkachief.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.

www.theapokkachief.com



You may pick up The Apopka Chief at the following locations in and around Apopka

- **7-11:** 1117 E. Semoran Blvd.
- **7-11:** 1495 S. Orange Blossom Tr.
- **Advent Health:** 2100 Ocoee Apopka Rd.
- **Apopka Chief:** 400 N. Park Ave.
- **Apopka City Hall:** 120 E. Main St.
- **Apopka High School:** 555 Martin St.
- **Apopka Pack & Ship:** 2246 E. Semoran Blvd.
- **Apopka Post Office:** 581 N. Park Ave.
- **Apopka Vape:** 216 N. Park Ave.
- **Apopka Water:** 150 E. 5th St.
- **Arco's Grocery:** 439 S. Central Ave.
- **Argo's Restaurant:** 3346 E. Semoran Blvd.
- **BWI:** 3700 W. Orange Blossom Trail
- **Beef O' Brady's:** 1410 Rock Springs Rd.
- **BP Gas:** 2685 E. Semoran Blvd.
- **Breakfast Barn:** 2651 N. Orange Blossom Trail
- **Bright & Clean Laundry:** 805 N. Park Ave.
- **Chase Bank:** 1 E. Main St.
- **Circle K:** 277 E. Main St.
- **Circle K:** 489 E. Keene Rd.
- **Clarcona Resort:** 3000 Clarcona Rd.
- **CVS #3748:** 65 E. Main St.
- **CVS:** 2311 E. Semoran Blvd.
- **Discount Beverage & Smoke:** 370 E. Main St.

- **Dream Lake Elementary:** 500 N. Park Ave.
- **Elite Learning Academy:** 1425 W. Orange Blossom Tr.
- **Fairwinds Credit Union:** 1621 S. Orange Blossom Tr.
- **First Horizon Bank:** 1420 W. Orange Blossom Tr.
- **Hampton Inn & Suites:** 321 S. Lake Cortez Dr.
- **Hills Mobile Home Park:** 1100 Roger Williams Rd.
- **John Bridges Comm. Center:** 445 W. 13th St.
- **KOA:** 3800 W. Orange Blossom Tr.
- **Library:** 1211 E. Semoran Blvd.
- **Lockhart Country Café:** 7153 Rose Ave.
- **Lockhart Barber Shop:** 7220 Edgewater Dr.
- **Lula Mae's Eatery:** 940 S. Central Ave.
- **McDonald's:** 223 E. Main St.
- **Mobil (Citgo):** 454 E. Main St.
- **One Florida Bank:** 21 E. 3rd St.
- **Optical Eyeland:** 730 S. Orange Blossom Tr.
- **Orange County Service Center:** 1111 Rock Springs Rd.
- **Palm Plaza Barber:** 533 S. Park Ave.
- **Plymouth Post Office:** 900 Plymouth Sorrento Rd.
- **Post Office:** 581 N. Park Ave.
- **Publix:** 1545 Rock Springs Rd.
- **Publix:** 3080 W. Kelly Park Rd.
- **Rock Springs Bar & Grill:** 4939 Rock Springs Rd.
- **Robinson's Restaurant:** 301 W. Main St.

- **Rodeway Motel:** 1317 S. Orange Blossom Tr.
- **Sam's Discount:** 2662 Apopka Blvd.
- **Seacoast Bank:** 345 E. Main St.
- **Shear Country Barber:** 5704 Jones Ave.
- **Sobik's Sub:** 247 W. Main St.
- **Solaris Healthcare:** 305 E. Oak St.
- **Sunrise Mkt:** 1025 S. Orange Blossom Tr.
- **Temple of Faith:** 1028 Marvin C. Zanders Ave.
- **The Valley:** 5100 Round Lake Rd.
- **Trader Mae's:** 2001 Rock Springs Rd.
- **UPS Store:** 1631 Rock Springs Rd.
- **Valencia MOHO Park:** 547 Drage Dr.
- **Verona's Restaurant:** 220 Edgewood Dr.
- **Victoria Plaza:** 921 W. Orange Blossom Tr.
- **Walgreens:** 125 E. Main St.
- **Walgreens:** 1490 Rock Springs Rd.
- **Wawa Store:** 1615 S. Orange Blossom Tr.
- **Wekiva High School:** 2501 Hiawassee Rd.
- **Wellsprings Assisted Living:** 700 E. Welch Rd.
- **Winn Dixie #2246:** 1565 W. Orange Blossom Tr.
- **World O Suds Coin Laundry:** 430 E. Main St.
- **Zellwood Station:** 2126 Spillman Dr.
- **Zellwood Water:** 3262 Robinson St.

Top 5 places to find great Mexican food in Apopka

These tacos will have you dancing

By Sarah Merly
Correspondent

Life south of the border can be a little too enticing sometimes. Thankfully, Apopka has numerous restaurants to satisfy your tortilla-infused cravings.

Using online reviews, research and staff experiences, we’ve compiled your go-to list for the best Mexican food in Apopka.

Don’t forget a sombrero! **El Potro**

El Potro is the largest chain on the list, spanning both Florida and Georgia.

“My husband and I are new to the area and El Potro has the FASTEST service of anywhere we’ve been to around here,” Alyssa W. said in her Yelp review. “I usually order the cartoonishly large margarita with jalapeños added. It lasts me the entire meal and it’s so good.”

Guests at El Potro enjoy an extensive menu, including salads, tacos, nachos and more.

“El Potro is one of the best Mexican restaurants in the Apopka area!” Yasmin Figueroa said on Google. “They have a wide variety of entrees that are all delicious! The tacos de carnitas are my favorite.”



Photo by Sarah Merly

El Potro Mexican Restaurant

Location: 981 South Orange Blossom Trail
Hours: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Mon.-Thu., 11 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sun.

Garibaldi Mexican Restaurant and Bar

If you’re looking to drink a margarita underneath flowers and neon lights, Garibaldi will satisfy your cravings.

“We had a great waiter, and the food runners were quick to deliver and clear,” Google Local Guide Cindi Cerrato said. “All with a friendly approach and a smile.”

The Torres family opened Garibaldi in 2000, making it a local favorite.

“Every time we come here we remember why we love it so much,” Debi W. said on Yelp. “We love their margaritas and fajitas!”

Location: 2430 East Semoran Boulevard

Hours: 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Mon.-Thu., 11 a.m. - 10:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Sun.

Quesa Loco

Daniel and Silvia King first opened Quesa Loco as a food truck in 2020, then used their earnings to open Quesa Loco’s first storefront location in 2022. A year later, Quesa Loco came to Apopka, much to the city’s delight.

“Stopped in for a quick bite and it did not disappoint,” Erin G. said on Yelp. “My boyfriend and I shared the birria quesadilla which was incredible. The queso was also really flavorful.”

The Quesa Loco site credits Silvia’s culinary skills and Daniel’s entrepreneurial spirit for the restaurant’s success.

“Food was absolutely amazing!” Billy Mendez said in his Google review. “And

service was awesome. Emilio is super cool and friendly and down to earth! Definitely coming back... maybe even tomorrow.”

Location: 2107 East Semoran Boulevard
Hours: 11:30 a.m. - 9 p.m. Tue.-Sat., 11:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. Sun.

San Miguel Mexican Grill

After the Honoratos moved to Florida from Mexico, the family opened the first San Miguel Mexican Grill in Apopka in April 2018.

“Went to San Miguel with my daughter just to spend time and it was the right choice,” Local Guide Ariana Morales said on Google. “I asked for a spicy pineapple margarita which was amazing, the pork tamales were superb and the fried ice cream was delicious.”

The Honoratos dedi-



Photo by Sarah Merly

The quesabirilla taco at Quesa Loco



Photo by Sarah Merly

Mural at Quesa Loco

cated the Apopka location to Miguel Ángel Honorato, who died before San Miguel opened. The family dreams of opening a grill in every major Florida city.

“My go to for Mexican food,” Yelp reviewer Zonica A. said. “Food is delicious and the strawberry mango margarita.... Oh my goodness!!!”

Location: 1442 West Orange Blossom Trail
Hours: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m. - 10 p.m. Sat., 10:30 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sun.

Taco Fiesta Parked next to the Fiesta Mexico store, Taco Fiesta serves their dishes from a food truck emblazoned with the Guerrero coat of arms on the side.

“I’ve been to this food truck over 5 times so I can confidently say this is THE BEST Mexican food in Cen-

tral Florida,” Google Local Guide Alexandra Piña said. “The tacos are delicious, the spicy sauce is SPICY, and the Birria Pizza is finger-licking good & so worth the price. Pro tip: go inside the shop to get some agua fresca, they’re so yummy too!”

In addition to tacos, guests may also order flautas, tamales and more.

“I’ve been 4+ times and it’s delicious every time,” Cindy D. said in her Yelp review. “I’ve gotten tacos, burritos, and French fries. Would love to try the tamales, cow head, and churros one day but it’s so hard to stay away from the usual order that I love.”

Location: 1346 East Semoran Boulevard
Hours: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Mon.-Tue., 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. Wed.-Sat., 8 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sun.

Propagate social

Continued from page 1A

social media,” she said. “We used all of the downtime to do a lot of cleaning in and around the property, updated some of the things that we have been wanting to update, just to continue to be a nice, attractive, cozy place for people to come and enjoy coffee and cocktails and stuff like that.”

Propagate Social House

at the Fifth Street Plaza opened in July 2021, in downtown Apopka. The restaurant gained popularity in the community with its special coffee, wine, cocktails, menu, and variety of house plants for purchase.

Propagate also became known for its outdoor patio and deck, a venue for social events and live performanc-

es, and for operating the Friday night farmer’s market on Fifth Street.

In May, Propagate conducted a soft opening of Hall’s on Fifth, Apopka’s first food hall, in the edifice across the street that once was the historic Hall’s Pet Feed Store.

Propagate Social House announced its closing “for

the foreseeable future” in a June 28 post on its Facebook page.

“This photo was taken the day we opened Propagate ... we look a little more tired these days [laughing emoji].” Propagate Social House wrote in the June 28 Facebook post. “Unexpected challenges hit us hard yesterday. We’ve got a few things

to sort out, so Propagate will be closed for the foreseeable future, while we figure some stuff out. We will be back!”

In the announcement, Propagate co-owners thanked the community for its support as the fourth anniversary of the restaurant’s opening approaches. The post also urged people to stop by Hall’s on Fifth, located across the street

from Propagate.

The announcement of Propagate’s temporary closure shocked and disappointed Facebook users, who said that they will miss the restaurant and acknowledged its role in boosting the downtown area, including Fifth Street.

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

Surrounded by her loved ones Signe Stephens passed away on Saturday, July 5, 2025. She is irreplaceable and will be forever in our hearts and minds. Signe was the first child of Sidney and Margaret Cottrell who were living in Romulus, Michigan when she was born. The family moved to Granville, Ohio in the 1950s. Signe attended Granville High School where she was honored with the title of Homecoming queen and graduated in 1956.

In 1957 Signe married the late David Leland Roberts with whom she had three children, Scott, Steve and Elizabeth. After the marriage ended in 1972, Signe began working as a data entry clerk at Westinghouse in Newark, Ohio advancing to the position of claims processor over time. Signe also met her future husband Paul Stephens in 1973. They married in 1979 and moved to Apopka, Florida.

Signe and Paul put down roots in Apopka where she found a career at J and P Property. J and P fit Signe and she worked there from 1980 until 2009 when she retired. Signe's time in Apopka has also been marked by many joyous events as she watched her children grow, marry and have many cherished grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Signe is survived by her husband, Paul Stephens. Her sons Scott and Steve Roberts and daughter Elizabeth Porter (Robert). Survivors in her extended family include her sister Sue Ward (Larry), brother Sidney 'Mick', Cottrell (Terri) and brother-in-law Arthur Stephens. Signe is also survived by Paul's children, Brian (Lisa), Craig (Claire) and David Stephens. There are eight surviving grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Signe is preceded in death by her parents Sidney and Margaret Cottrell, Her first husband David Roberts and grandson Drew Stephens.

Signe leaves us with more than memories; she leaves us with the knowledge that each family member was seen, valued and prized. Her unwavering faith in her husband, children, grandchildren and extended family will both inspire and challenge each of us to live up to her legacy of love for all.

In loving memory of
Signe Stephens

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

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

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

See Why People Love Us

The Apopka Chief

Trusted local news since 1923

TheApopkaChief.com

400 N. Park Avenue Apopka, FL 32712
407-886-2777

The Apopka Chief

THE APOPKA CHIEF
MEMBERSHIP

SUPPORT LOCAL NEWS AND GET COOL PERKS

COMING SOON

Aging Matters

Study shows more older, married women traveling alone

By **Ronnie Lovler**
Correspondent

Connie Combs, 78, is a retired schoolteacher and an inveterate traveler. She took frequent trips with her husband, Gerry Combs, primarily within the United States, until about 2015, when it became clear that he no longer wanted to travel.

“He just didn’t want to get onto an airplane anymore,” Combs said. “He was tired of being cramped in the seat and maybe being in strange places. But he didn’t want me not to go.”

So, she did. Her first solo trip was on a European river cruise with Grand Circle Cruise Line. About a year later, she signed up for a trip to the French and Spanish Pyrenees with Road Scholar.

“That was very nice,” she said. “Three other ladies on that trip were singles, and we hit it off.”

Combs is part of a growing trend of older, married women traveling independently. The trend is so prevalent that this month Road Scholar, a leader in educational travel for older adults, just launched a new series of trips designed exclusively for solo travelers over 50.

Programs in the solos-only collection span from Louisiana to Lima and Italy to India. Road Scholar’s program designers have hand-selected dates of some of their most popular itineraries for their pilot. Each participant who enrolls in a solos-only program will get a private room.

“We serve tens of thousands of solo travelers every year, so we understand their unique needs,” said Maeve Hartney, Road Scholar’s chief program officer. “Although all of our programs offer a wel-



Courtesy of Ronnie Lovler

A 2022 Ireland tour Fall-Rock of Cashel group shot.

coming and inclusive environment for solos, these new programs offer a greater comfort level and more opportunities to make new friends.”

Road Scholar launched the pilot after a 2023 study found that 60% of its solo travelers in 2022 were women traveling without a spouse.

“We don’t have marital data status on everyone, but at least 60% of our solo travelers are women,” said Kelsey Perri, Road Scholar’s public relations director. “I knew it would be a big number, and I would have been happy with 30%... but 60%, that’s amazing.”

Forty-two percent of women surveyed said they travel solo because their spouse isn’t interested in traveling, and 40% said they have different travel interests.

In fact, 27% of the married women surveyed had never taken a Road Scholar trip with their husbands.

Other women are widowed, divorced, or single but no longer fear taking a trip without a companion.

Perri said the study was

initiated after she noticed frequent postings on a Road Scholar Facebook page from many women complaining about spouses who didn’t want to travel and getting feedback from others urging them to embark on solo trips.

“We’re at a place now where women can travel independently, and it’s not so taboo,” Perri said. “And I think it’s also the fact that two-thirds of our participants are baby boomers...and boomer women are so independent.”

Another Gainesville resident, Kathleen Hayman, 74, said she became very experienced at solo travel when she worked as a communications consultant. She gave Friday seminars in different cities and stayed over on the weekend to explore.

“I’ve been on 600+ planes and stayed in about every kind of accommodation you can imagine—from a bug-infested mattress in a hut in Belize to a solo stay in a tree house at an eco-resort on St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands,” she said. “It brings back good memo-



Courtesy of Michele Jackson

Michele Jackson, a member of Women Traveling Together alongside her reindeer pal on a visit to a park just outside Fairbanks, Alaska.

ries.”

She’s now been married for 21 years but still travels at times without her husband, Dan.

“Some trips were focused on my interests. Others were destinations he wasn’t as eager to visit or revisit,” Hayman said. “I’ve scheduled some trips at a time when I knew he would have several interesting events and friends lined up at home, so we would both feel equally fulfilled and free to enjoy ourselves.”

Paula Chlebowski, 73, of Ocala, retired from a job in information security and now also takes trips without her husband.

“I am going to the Chautauqua Institution in New York without him in June,” she said. “He is just not interested in that kind of place and program.”

She finds advantages and disadvantages in traveling without her spouse, Tom Graser. On the plus side, “absence makes the heart grow fonder [and it is an] opportunity to enjoy an event or place that doesn’t interest him without being concerned about him,”

she said. On the negative side: “It’s wishing he was with you to enjoy a particularly great experience, view, or whatever.”

Phyllis Saarinen, 80, took a few solo trips with Road Scholar before her husband died in 2016, traveling to Death Valley in the United States, on a bike tour of Provence, France, and to the Yucatan in Mexico.

“I did all those without my spouse and had a wonderful time,” she said. “The group is so compatible, and we are all interested in learning.”

Saarinen has a new partner and is planning a trip to Scotland and Ireland with him.

But Road Scholar is not alone in offering travel opportunities to solo women travelers. At Annapolis-based Women Traveling Together (WTT), the focus is solely on women traveling alone.

Debra Asberry founded WTT in 1997 to satisfy her desire “to see more of the world” without having “to go alone or travel as a single on a tour designed for couples.”

WTT offers a travel experience to small groups of 14 to 18 women, usually aged from mid-40s to mid-70s. Some become WTT members, others just sign up for single trips.

Asberry describes her clientele as women without a travel partner. “You are not traveling with couples. You’re not traveling with husbands and wives. You are in an environment where everybody is in the same boat.”

“Women come to us because they found a tour they were interested in taking,” Asberry said. “They stay with us because of our relationships. They have found a home.”

Michele Jackson, 62, an unmarried civil engineer from St. Johns, has chosen WTT as

her go-to travel place and has taken seven trips with them, with another one planned for Santa Fe and Taos, New Mexico, in May.

“I wanted to travel. But generally, friends may not be on the same schedule or may not have the means, and I wanted to go places,” she said. “I wasn’t that interested in going by myself.”

Jackson also likes all that’s planned out for her.

“Aside from getting there, I don’t have to make any arrangements,” she said, adding that she often finds someone she met on a previous trip when travel kicks off.

Kathleen Hennigan, 67, who lives in The Villages, has traveled with WTT to visit Japan, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Machu Picchu, Easter Island, and Churchill, Manitoba, to see the polar bears.

“It is refreshing and liberating that women can travel solo with other women of similar interests,” she said. “It is a fun and safe way to broaden your horizons, not only by visiting and immersing yourself in other cultures but also by making friends for a lifetime.”

Back at Road Scholar, Kelsey Perri is thrilled to find so many older women eager to travel independently and has her fingers crossed that the trend continues.

“It’s empowering as a young woman who’s married,” Perri said. “It’s just the idea that your spouse doesn’t have to hold you back in what your dreams are and in exploring the world.”

Editor’s note: This story first published in Mainstreet Daily News. It was independently reported by Ronnie Lovler and underwritten by Elder Options.

**MOST CAPABLE
OFF-ROAD
SUPER DUTY!**

**29
IN STOCK**

**2025
TREMOR**

**UpFront® Price
\$59,900**

LEATHER & LOADED!

Factory Lift Kit • 35 inch Tires
Trailer Tow Package • Payload Upgrade Package
POWERFUL 7.3L V8

Employee pricing applies to pick-up only and is already reflected in the online price. See salesperson for qualifications and complete details. Offer ends 7/31/2025.

1551 E. Semoran Blvd., Apopka | 407-889-7600
www.MullinaxFordFL.com

**Come See Us at
Our New Location!**

Dr. David Dada, Owner

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

**20% OFF YOUR
ENTIRE ORDER**
EXP. 7/31/25
CAN NOT BE COMBINED
WITH INSURANCE.
CALL FOR MORE DETAILS

essentialeyecareoptical.com | 407-893-2733

**LOOMIS FAMILY
FUNERAL HOMES**

**VISIT OUR
ONLINE OBITUARY AT
LOOMISFUNERALHOMES.
COM**

**What if help was
around the corner?**

Call me for a quote

StateFarm®

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.
StateFarm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, StateFarm Indemnity Company,
StateFarm Fire and Casualty Company, StateFarm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL
StateFarm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas, StateFarm Lloyds, Richardson, TX
StateFarm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL

The Apopka Chief
A MAINSTREET DAILY NEWS
PUBLICATION

**APOPKA
MEMBERSHIP
COMING SOON**

Support Local News, Get Cool Perks!

CURIOUS ABOUT BECOMING A MEMBER?
EMAIL: HELLO@NEWSLETTER.THEAPOPKACHIEF.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.**

Apopka City Council appoints new economic development director

Public services department splits into two with separate directors

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

The Apopka City Council voted unanimously on July 2 to confirm a new economic development director and reassign current employees to head two newly formed departments that were split off from the public services department following the departure of directors.

Antranette Forbes, the current St. Cloud economic development director, succeeds Michele Boylan as Apopka's economic development director. Forbes will begin her new position on Aug. 4.

Forbes has around 20 years of experience in economic and business development with specialization in business recruitment, municipal operations and program management.

Since 2019, Forbes has served as the city of St. Cloud's economic development director. In this role, she "increased CRA taxable value by 29% over five years through strategic infrastructure investments and historic preservation programs," according to her resume.

Before her appointment, Forbes spoke to each of the Apopka city commissioners and the mayor to learn more about the city and their priorities for it.

"I've said to you all individually, and I'll say it publicly: my first priority is always



Photo by Marshall Tempest

Commissioner Nick Nesta supported the appointment of Antranette Forbes as the city's economic development director.

to our local businesses first," Forbes said. "How do we help them grow? How do we help them expand? And then our second one is business retention, because we only bring new businesses in when we work with our existing ones and make sure that they are thriving and successful."

Commissioner Nick Nesta commended Forbes's skills and background, bringing up her work on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program in St. Cloud. Forbes said that and other programs, such as the State House Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) program, fell under her duties as St. Cloud economic development director.

The CDBG program is from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which gives funds for low-income people and areas. SHIP gives money to local governments to spur partnerships that yield and preserve affordable homeownership.

Nesta also asked Forbes about business tax receipts, which saw an increase of close to 30% under Forbes in St. Cloud.

"I am pro for the data piece of it, not necessarily for the fee," Forbes responded. "So one of the hardest things when you are entering a new area is to figure out who your business community is and what their needs are. And so the registration process helps, because then I'm able to identify them and then reach out, get demographic information, and get sales data. If I don't, if there's no registration or some way for a business to alert us that they exist, then it makes it that much more difficult."

Forbes emerged from a selection process that had 34 applicants and eight interviews over two different sessions, interim city administrator Radley Williams said.

"The city conducted a comprehensive recruitment

process identifying quality candidates to lead the Economic Development Department," Williams said. "The role is critical in advancing the city of Apopka, strategic goals around business retention, traction, workforce development and community revitalization."

Residents encouraged Forbes for her future success in Apopka and her ability to improve it. Albert McKimmie said he and perhaps speaking for other city residents, would like to see the reduction of urban sprawl to maintain Apopka's natural beauty, and encourage more manufacturing businesses to come into the city, which would increase all other facilities that manufacturers need.

"We are very fortunate in Apopka," McKimmie said. "We have things here that other people can't buy. We have a lot of natural beauty. We have the springs. We've all sorts of things that I hope

we can retain as they are."

Public services

As another action item, the council tapped current city engineer Vladimir Simonovski as director of the public works department and Glen Brooks, the current water resources utilities operations manager, as director of the utilities operations department.

The selection of Simonovski and Brooks stemmed from the restructuring of the public services department, which is splitting into two: public works and utilities operations.

Both Simonovski and Brooks are in their second tenure with the city of Apopka in their respective current jobs. Each man has over 20 years of combined service to the city, according to city staff reports.

Simonovski began with the city as a utility design manager and is now the city engineer. Brooks has served the city through multiple water, wastewater and utility roles. As the current water resources utilities operations manager, he supervises all wastewater plants, water plants and plant maintenance.

The reorganized public works department will focus on city engineering, development review engineering, utilities engineering, transportation and stormwater engineering, construction management, GIS and assets management, and streets and stormwater management.

The reorganized utilities operations department will handle water plant operations, wastewater plant operations, plant maintenance op-

erations and utilities maintenance, which includes water, wastewater and lift stations.

During the July 2 meeting, Commissioner Nick Nesta asked about the previous public works director's quick turnover and the reasons for the reorganization. Williams explained after the public services director Deodat Budhu vacated the position, the idea was to split that department into three: city engineering, public works and utilities.

However, when the city hired Momtaz Barq as the public works director last spring, "that didn't align with when he got here, what he really wanted to do," Williams said. A few weeks later, Barq quit the position.

"When that happened again, we went to look and see what that operation needed, and we looked at the work units that were being completed by the public services department as a whole and tried to group these into two areas that made sense operationally," Williams said.

Nesta asked if the city currently has a transportation coordinator on staff. Williams said a new senior engineer and transportation coordinator will begin employment on July 7.

Resident Rod Olsen congratulated Siminovski and Brooks on their new positions and stated his concerns about the condition of city assets and the need for a preventive maintenance plan.

"My hopes are on these new positions, that we make sure that we have a preventive maintenance plan in place, as well as a metered plan for all the equipment that's past its normal lifespan," he said.




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



WEEKEND RIVERWALK
NORTH SEMORAN BLVD, APOPKA
www.regmovies.com

Fri., July 11, 2025 thru Sun., July 13, 2025

SUPERMAN (PG-13)
REALD 3D 3:40; 10:20

SUPERMAN (PG-13)
9:00 am; 10:00 am;
11:20 am; 12:20; 1:20;
2:40; 4:40; 6:00; 7:00;
8:00; 9:20

ELIO (PG) 9:10 am;
1:00; 3:30; 7:30; 10:40

LILO & STITCH (PG)
9:20 am

F1 THE MOVIE (PG-13)
9:30 am; 11:40 am; 3:50;
6:50; 10:00

JURASSIC WORLD REBIRTH (PG-13)
REALD 3D 4:00

JURASSIC WORLD REBIRTH (PG-13) 9:40
am; 12:10; 12:40*; 12:50;
3:20; 6:40; 7:20; 9:50;
10:30

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON (PG) 10:10
am; 1:10; 4:10; 7:10;
10:10

NOTE
Asterisk * Sat Only

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

Summer Movie Express! Select G and PG movies are \$1 every Tuesday & Wednesday at 11 am this summer.

THEME: FLOWERS

- ACROSS**

 - Straw man's "victim"
 - Protestant denom.
 - Large edible mushroom
 - Mischievous Norse deity
 - *Thumbelina emerges from a flower in a fairy ____
 - Brick and mortar destination
 - Garner wages
 - Guinness and such
 - *Poison: "Every Rose Has Its ____"
 - **If you go to San ____, be sure to wear some flowers in your hair"
 - Electric one and moray one
 - Killer whales
 - p in mpg
 - Fatwa, alt. sp.
 - Spain's neighbor, across Strait of Gibraltar
 - "Back To The Future" actress
 - Leaked, as in ship
 - Miso bean
- DOWN**

 - Staff symbol
 - Zoo sound
 - Gumbo pod
 - Separate grain from chaff
 - Model-building wood
 - Smart ones?
 - 100 centavos
 - Refrigerate
 - Commits a faux pas
 - Mont Blanc, e.g.
 - a.k.a. meditation in motion (2 words)
 - Ranch grazer
 - *Bette Midler's 1981 Grammy winning song (2 words)
 - Dungeness one and snow one
 - *Poppy's seed container
 - Banned camera setting, in a museum
 - Falcon's home
 - Boreal forest, in Russia
 - Ma tre d's list
 - Raccoon's South American cousin
 - *2024 Grammy winner for "Flowers"
 - Hop-drying kilns
 - *Lis in fleur-de-lis
 - * ____ Goo Dolls of "Gutterflower" fame
 - **"Flowers in the Attic" author V.C. ____
 - One of journalism's Ws
 - Declare
 - Costing nothing
 - Want to
 - ____ Beach, SC
 - Belonging to duke
 - Miuccia Prada's homeland
 - Like traditional storytelling
 - Lose skin
 - Tea servings
 - Tobacco
 - Strong desire
 - Standard's partner
 - Govt. property org.
- Operatic solos
 - H+, e.g.
 - Is dressed in
 - Leave a Hancock
 - Cast-off skin
 - Egyptian boy king
 - Clearance, as under a bridge
 - Neglectful in duty
 - "Dandelion Wine" author ____ Bradbury
 - Dear one
 - Black cat, to some
 - **"Build Me Up ____"
 - Adult
 - ____ bowl, frozen dish
 - Poetic "through"
 - Latin dance
 - "Buffalo ____, won't you come out to-night..."
 - Kids' building block
 - Altitude, abbreviated
 - Like a fox
 - Water carrier

LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE ANSWERS

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

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

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10
11					12				13	14	
15					16				17		
18				19					20		
			21				22				
23	24	25					26			27	28
30				31		32	33			34	
35			36			37			38		
39				40				41		42	
43				44				45		46	
			47				48	49			
	50	51					52			53	54
56							57			58	
59							60			61	
62							63			64	

Switch & Get \$25

Off First Month of New Service!
USE PROMO CODE: **GZ590**

Consumer Cellular

CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR 888-804-0913

© 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. For promo details please call 888-804-0913

© StatePoint Media

Rep. Webster returns over \$2.5 million to constituents

Constituents may contact Webster’s office for federal agency assistance

Staff Reports

Florida Congressman Daniel Webster (R-Clermont) announced that over \$2.5 million was returned to constituents who contact his office for help with issues before the IRS, VA, Social

Security and more. “Providing first-class assistance with issues involving federal agencies is one of my highest priorities,” Webster said in a July 8 statement. “Too often, constituents face difficulties or delays in securing the benefits and services they have earned. Whether it’s a veteran waiting on earned benefits, or a senior needing help with social security, my office works every day to cut through the bureaucracy and deliver results.” Webster’s constituent serv-

es staff work with agency liaisons on a constituent’s behalf to answer questions, find solutions, or simply attempt to cut through the red tape, a press release from Webster’s office said. As an example, Webster’s office cited the recent case of a constituent from The Villages who contacted Webster for assistance with the IRS after waiting over a year for a response to his amended return. Webster’s office contacted the IRS on the constituent’s behalf, who completed his

return and issued a \$35,000 refund payment. Since January 2017, Webster’s office has helped secure more than \$27.6 million for constituents in owed compensation, pension, or other retroactive payments. Webster’s office encouraged residents in Congressional District 11—which includes Apopka, Zellwood, Ocoee and areas west—who need assistance with a federal agency to call 352–241–9220 or visit <https://webster.house.gov/casework>.



Handout photo Daniel Webster

Budget workshops

Continued from page 1A

to allocate \$12.5 million to expand the Golden Gem water reclamation plant. The improvements include rebuilding a storage pond, a pumping station, and all other necessary equipment to make the facility operational. That \$12.5 million will only focus on the small pond at the site, which holds about 50 million gallons of water, public works department director Vladimir Simonovski said at the July 8 workshop. The city is working with a consultant on evaluating the large storage pond – which holds 200 million gallons – and will have a report in a few months on the best approach to repair it, Simonovski said. Together, the small and large ponds span 102.70 acres at the Golden Gem facility, which is located at 3513 Golden Gem Road, near SR 429. A sinkhole formed at the Golden Gem pond in January 2024, and the city has been working to repair that sinkhole since then. Purchased in 2009 for \$4.5 million, the Golden Gem water reclamation storage pond was never in operation.



Police Chief Michael McKinley

“Even if the pond is operational, you can only put so much water into it, and at some point, it’s going to be full and you can’t pull the water for public access,” Simonovski said. “The reclaimed water plant facility needs to be constructed in order to utilize fully that facility.” The city is negotiating with St. Johns River Water Management District for an extension of a memo-

randum of agreement for the Golden Gem facility. There have been four extensions so far, with another meeting between both parties scheduled at the end of this month to discuss the fifth extension, Simonovski said. The FY26 utilities operations budget is \$40 million, with 31% allocated for administration, 23% for wastewater, 20% for water plants, 19% for water maintenance, and 5% for plant maintenance, according to director Glen Brooks. Budget changes include a 2.4% increase for utility administration, a 24.5% increase for wastewater expenses due to lab analysis and capital funding, including Golden Gem repairs. The city is also facing important infrastructure replacement costs, particularly for lift stations and water mains. The public works department’s FY26 budget would be \$12,887,805, with 11% going toward design engineering, 22% toward stormwater and 67% toward streets. Police, fire ask for new personnel The growing Apopka population necessitates six new sworn

police officer positions as well as well as a 5% starting wage increase to keep the city competitive with other law enforcement agencies, Police Chief Michael McKinley told the City Council. The request for six new sworn police positions and new vehicles for each of them is part of the FY26 police department’s budget of \$31,955,903. The current Apopka sworn officer’s starting wage is \$63,736.81, putting the city at No. 7 out of the 14 local law enforcement agencies McKinley compared during his presentation. Increasing that wage by 5% would pull Apopka up to No. 3. McKinley said 49% of APD officers have less than five years of experience, and an additional 28% have less than 10 years of experience. “This means that 77% of our sworn staff are early in their careers and not yet invested in the retirement system, making them more likely to leave for higher paying opportunities elsewhere if we do not offer competitive wages,” McKinley said. “Wage increase is a critical step in help-

ing us attract highly qualified applicants and retain the promising young officers already serving our community.” The city’s population growth from 46,571 in 2015 to 61,820 in 2024 required 94 additional officers, with a current staffing ratio of 2.23 officers per 1,000 residents, according to McKinley. Fire Chief Wil Rivera-Sanchez presented the Apopka Fire Department budget, which included a request for additional personnel — nine personnel to staff a second tower truck on the north side of the city, three firefighters, and three Emergency Medical Services (EMS) captains. The FY26 fire department’s budget is \$29,587,063, which includes increases in costs for fire equipment and personnel. Among the increases are \$627,000 for a new tower truck, \$61,800 for EMS billing services, and \$112,300 for costs of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies. For further information about the FY26 budget, visit Apopka.gov/303/Budgeting-Division/budget.



COMPASS HEALTH
YOUR PLAN. YOUR CHOICE.

LET US GUIDE YOU

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

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

SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

CITY OF APOPKA
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
AMENDMENT TO THE APOPKA LAND
DEVELOPMENT CODE

NOTICE is hereby given that **Tara L. Tedrow, Esq.** proposes to amend the Land Development Code of the City of Apopka, Florida in accordance with Florida Statutes 166.0413(3)(c) and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Appendix A Mixed Use Kelly Park Interchange (MU-KPI) FormBased Code, to revise a section of said Land Development Code as specified within the Ordinance title and within Ordinance Number 3118. The proposed amendment affects or may affect the use of property, the development of building and structures, and the development review process for land located within the jurisdiction of the City of Apopka, Florida.

ORDINANCE NO. 3118

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF APOPKA BY AMENDING PART III, APPENDIX A MIXED USE KELLY PARK INTERCHANGE (MU-KPI) FORM-BASED CODE, APPENDIX C; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.


NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Number 3118 will be held by the **City of Apopka Planning Commission** at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Tuesday, August 12, 2025 beginning at 5:30 P.M.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

FURTHER NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Number 3118 will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, September 3, 2025 beginning at 1:30 P.M.** or as soon thereafter as possible.

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. The proposed Annexation can be inspected at the Apopka Community Development Department located at Apopka City Hall on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. City Hall address shown below. Please be advised that, under State law, if you decide to appeal a decision made with respect to this matter, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk’s Office at 120 East Main Street, Apopka FL 32703, Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

July 11, 2025

Apopka City Council
Apopka Planning Commission
Community Development Department




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

Hohman
Rehab

Move Better.
Live Better.


Real Results. Real Relief.

For nearly 20 years, Hohman Rehab has helped patients of all ages get lasting relief from pain—often in just six weeks. With one-on-one care at three convenient locations (Apopka, Ocoee & Clermont), we treat everything from chronic pain to vertigo and balance issues; no referral needed and all major insurances accepted.




Mobility & Independence

We focus on helping you stay strong, active, and independent for life. With personalized care and a caring team, you're never just another appointment to us.



Fall Prevention & Balance

At Hohman Rehab, we offer one-on-one sessions every visit, which means your balance and fall risk are addressed with a plan tailored just for you—no cookie-cutter exercises.



Pain Relief Without Medication

Our expert therapists use hands-on techniques and proven therapies to relieve pain naturally—so you feel better without relying on pills.

www.HohmanRehab.com
(407) 410-3200
Apopka: 125 S Park Ave.

**Apopka City Council
Apopka Planning Commission
Community Development Department**

State gives Orange County Public Schools ‘A’ grades for 2024–25

No OCPS traditional school got a ‘D’ or ‘F’

Staff Reports

Of the over one dozen schools in the Apopka area, two Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) schools received “A” grades for the 2024–2025 school year: Kelly Park School and Wolf Lake Elementary, maintaining their grades for the second consecutive year. Overall, OCPS scored an “A” grade for the second year in a row from the Florida Department of Education, which on July 7 unveiled school and district grades for the 2024–25 school year. Since last year, OCPS stayed the same or rose in 11 of the 12 accountability components, according to an OCPS news release. Ninety-six OCPS traditional schools received an “A” grade, up from the previous year’s 88. Seventy-six per-



Photo by Teresa Sargeant

Kelly Park School in Apopka

cent of traditional schools got an “A” or “B,” which is a leap from last year’s 69 percent. No traditional schools in OCPS got a “D” or “F” grade. “I’m incredibly proud of our students, staff, and families,” OCPS Superintendent Maria Vazquez said in a news release. “Our commitment to the science of reading and data-driven decisions has strengthened literacy and boosted graduation rates. These gains reflect the collective dedication of our OCPS team — well done!”

Fourteen Apopka area schools were listed on the Florida Department of Education 2025 school grades list. The following schools received “B” Grades: Lakeville Elementary, Apopka Middle, Zellwood Elementary, Dream Lake Elementary, Apopka Elementary, Apopka High, Piedmont Lakes Middle and Wolf Lake Middle. The following schools received “C” grades: Clay Springs Elementary, Rock Springs, Phillis Wheatley Elementary and Wekiva High School.

4 hospitalized after Apopka ambulance-truck collision

Three vehicles collide at OBT, SR 414

By Sarah Merly
Correspondent

A collision between an Apopka Fire Department ambulance and a 2015 Ford F-150 sent four people to local hospitals on Wednesday morning.

According to the Florida Highway Patrol, the ambulance had been traveling southbound on Orange Blossom Trail and approached the SR 414 intersection from the inside lane. The truck had been traveling westbound on SR 414. When the ambulance drove through the red light at 6 a.m. with its lights and sirens activated, it collided with the right passenger side of the

Ford. The impact overturned the truck, which then collided with a 2024 Toyota RAV4 on Apopka Boulevard. The 26-year-old ambulance driver, the 25-year-old passenger, and the 78-year-old patient from Apopka each sustained minor injuries, along with the 52-year-old Ford driver from Kissimmee. According to Click Orlando, the 57-year-old RAV4 driver was not injured.

Mayoral candidate

Continued from page 1A

transparency. I believe Apopka deserves better — and I want to be part of that change,” he said on his website. When The Apopka Chief asked Dabbs if he was affiliated with the Facebook page “Make Apopka Great Again,” he denied any association with it. “I’m glad you asked that question, because people have been asking me about it,” he

said. A mailer has been circulating around the community touting the social media page. One side of the mailer has the slogan “The Third Option. The Right Option.” The other side shows pictures of Nelson and Moore with the headline: “Are these career politicians the best we have Apopka?” Below the candidates’ photos is a bullet point list called “Apopka

Needs,” followed by six bullet points. A QR code on the mailer takes people to the Facebook page. The mailer says it was paid for by “taxpayer Matt Augst,” who is a local attorney. The City Clerk’s Office said it is looking into the legality of whether citizens who have not filed qualifying paperwork may campaign.

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 7/31/25

New Patients Welcome!

MyApopkaDentist.com
527 Wekiva Commons Cir., Apopka, FL

Emergency Appointments Available
Invisalign ZOOM!

The Apopka Chief
A MAINSTREET DAILY NEWS PUBLICATION

In Print. Online. On the Go.

Trusted local news since 1923

www.TheApopkaChief.com

J & K Automotive

FAIR • HONEST • DEPENDABLE

All Work Guaranteed
Serving Satisfied Customers Since 1987

CERTIFIED AIR CONDITIONING SPECIALISTS • COMPUTER DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT

Now Offering ANYWHERE CARE
National Limited Warranty & 24-Hr. Roadside Assistance

- Wheel Balance & Alignments
- Tune Ups • Brakes
- Shocks
- Fuel Injection
- Service Oil Change
- C.V. Joints
- Tires

1012 E. Semoran Blvd. Apopka
Mon.-Fri. 8-5:30 • Closed Saturday
www.jandkmechanicnet.com
407-880-3530

Become a Fan on Facebook: J & K Automotive

Wekiwa Springs Baptist Church

Would like to invite you and your family to join us

Sunday school @ 9:00am
Sunday morning service @ 10:15am
Evening service:
Sunday/Wednesday @ 6:00pm

Worship music and message from GOD's word
Everyone welcome!

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

The Apopka Chief
A MAINSTREET DAILY NEWS PUBLICATION

Let's Hear It for Your Favorite Businesses

Vote for "The Best" in a variety of categories online.

Cast your vote through noon on August 27.

Best of Apopka 2025
www.TheApopkaChief.com

400 N. Park Ave., Apopka, FL 32712
Phone: 407-886-2777 • Fax: 407-889-4121

Winners will be announced in the 2025 Best of Apopka publication on Friday, October 3.

Voting BEGINS Monday, July 28

Saluting APOPKA'S BEST

2025 BEST of APOPKA
READER'S CHOICE AWARDS

1st Place 2nd Place 3rd Place

#1 DENTAL

#1 HAIR SALON

#1 SEAFOOD

#1 RIBS

Wekiva announces 2025 football schedule

Wekiva is facing three top-50 teams from the 2024 season

By Marshall Tempest
Reporter

With August quickly approaching, the fall football season is on the horizon. Wekiva head coach Doug Gabriel and the Mustangs are prepared to bounce back

from a less-than-spectacular 2024 season. Wekiva's schedule includes three teams that finished in the top 50 in the state last year, a state runner-up, a final four team, and one regional runner-up. The Mustang football team concluded the 2024 season with a 3-7 record, ranking 197th in the state. Wekiva scored 202 points and allowed 311 for a negative scoring differential of 109, or 10.9 points per game.

Kickoff Classic Aug. 15
The Wekiva Mustangs will face off against the Olympia Titans for their pre-season Kickoff Classic game. This year, the Mustangs will host the game and hope to kick-start their season with an early win, just as they did last season. Wekiva will host this year after dominating the Titans last year, 36-0, in what was one of Wekiva's best games of the season. The Titans finished the 2024 sea-

son with a 4-6 record, ranked 269th in the state.
Aug. 22 Week 1
In week one, Wekiva will travel to face one of the premier teams in Central Florida — the Edgewater Eagles. The Eagles have been a state title contender for the last decade and have made some significant transfer portal acquisitions this offseason, including a former player from

WEKIVA FOOTBALL, 3B



Photo by Marshall Tempest

A Wekiva quarterback lets go of a pass just in time as a pass rusher breaks into the pocket and wraps around his leg in the Mustangs' spring game against Lyman High School.

Apopka Pop Warner Cheer and Dance have dreams of Charlotte in 2025

Organization is focused on becoming the top-choice for Apopka youth

By Marshall Tempest
Reporter

Apopka Pop Warner Cheer and Dance organization is hoping to build on an influx of 30 new members and a successful 2024, which included two first place finishes and one second place finish at the Pop Warner Nationals in December, to return to the national and international stage in 2025. Apopka Cheer and Dance had all three of their cheer and dance teams invited to Nationals in 2024, where they competed against the best programs in the country. Apopka's Tiny Mites, Mighty Mites, and Jr. Pee Wee teams were all invited to Globals after their performances in their divisions at Nationals.

Unfortunately, scheduling and funding issues restricted the teams from attending Globals last season. But this season, Apopka Pop Warner's Cheer and Dance teams are on the same mission, hoping for the same outcome.

With a larger team, more experience and 30 new members, Apopka Cheer and Dance is preparing for its biggest season yet, Chasity Hyatt and Titilaya Fells, members of the Apopka Cheer and Dance Board, told The Apopka Chief.

Both Hyatt and Fells said the mission of Apopka Pop Warner, on the cheer and football side, is to create a space for the youth of the community to grow and



Courtesy of Sheronda Wright

Apopka Pop Warner's Cheer Coordinator, Sheronda Wright, stands with her Tiny Mites team after finishing first at the 2024 Pop Warner Cheer and Dance National competition.

learn through discipline, hard work, and fun. They said that rebranding the Apopka Pop Warner organization has been key to achieving that. Their goal is to make Apopka Pop Warner the hub for the youth in Apopka to come compete and be part of a family. Hyatt said she and Fells were initially just parents in the organization. However, the Apopka community and the culture within the Apopka Pop Warner organization

made them fall in love with it. "We just really fell in love with how true Apopka is to itself in tradition," Hyatt said. "So neither one of us are from Apopka originally, so our kids are now growing up, and they go to Wolf Lake. Just being part of that organization in itself and creating those ties to the community has been such a blessing for us, because we don't have family in the area. So we love that, and we're trying to real-

ly focus our efforts on bridging the gap with the community." Numerous youth sports organizations offer different options, and many Apopka athletes are choosing to go out of their hometown to play. Hyatt and Fells said they are trying to fix that. "Youth sports has changed so much recently, and there are so many different areas that you can go," Hyatt said. "You can go elite, or you can go all-star cheer, you know? And football players are playing for Altamonte when they live right here in Apopka. So, we're really trying to reconnect with the community and bring everyone back home."

Hyatt and Fells said they are hoping to accomplish their goals through community involvement and results. From being a part of the Christmas parade to becoming one of the top Pop Warner programs in the Central Florida area, Apopka Pop Warner is trying to become a premier organization once again. "I think a lot of people forgot about Pop Warner, so we're just trying to bring a freshness back to it," Hyatt said. Hyatt and Fells said the program's success can be attributed to the participants' dedication at every level of their organization. From the parents to the kids to the coaches — everyone was in 100%, they said. Even the football side of Apopka Pop Warner showed their support for their sister organization. "There would be nights that our girls were nervous about performing in front of crowds," Hyatt said. "We'd have older football players,

CHEER TEAM, 2B

Apopka native Logan Gilbert battles injury bug in 2025

Wekiva grad poised to play pivotal role in MLB playoff race

By Marshall Tempest
Reporter

Wekiva High School grad Logan Gilbert has been as consistent as he has been clutch since joining the Seattle Mariners in 2021. But this season, his fifth in the majors, he has had to battle injury to maintain the lofty bar he set for himself early in his career. In his first four seasons, Gilbert threw an average of 175 innings per season, and he led the league in innings pitched and games started in 2024. Over the last three seasons, he has thrown 185.2 innings (2022), 190.2 innings (2023) and 208.2 innings (2024) for an average of 194.53 innings per season.

That kind of durability — along with a 2.91 midseason ERA — earned him his first All-Star selection last year. Gilbert traveled to Arlington, Texas, as one of the pitchers on the 2024 American League squad.

"It's just a dream come true," Gilbert told mlb.com. But the dream hit some bumps this season. He left his April 25 start early and — for the first time in his career — landed on the injured list with a mild flexor strain in his pitching elbow. At the time, he had a season ERA of 2.37 across six starts and had collected 44 strikeouts in 30.1 innings.

The Mariners shut him down for more than a

month. He eventually returned for three rehab starts with the Mariners' Triple-A team, the Tacoma Rainiers, where he posted a 2.79 ERA and 11 strikeouts over 9.2 innings.

Before Gilbert's return on June 16, Seattle manager Dan Wilson said he and the team were happy to have the right-hander back. "It's been a stretch without him," Wilson said. "The rehab has gone really well, he's in a good spot, and good timing for it. [Gilbert and George Kirby have], over the years, proven how solid they are, how experienced they are, how consistent they've been, and getting that back in your rotation is key."

Gilbert did not disappoint. In his first game back from the injured list, he struck out 10 Boston Red Sox batters, tying his season high, over five innings in the Mariners' 2-0 loss.

"You always get nervous before games, and that's a good thing," Gilbert told MLB.com after the game. "But I was just really grateful just to play and be out there and do something I love and do it for a job. Like, there's a lot more than just going out there, middle-of-the-season baseball game. It felt like a bigger deal than that for me."

Since his return, Gilbert has pitched four more games. The Mariners won three of four, but with mixed results for Gilbert.

On Sunday, June 22, the Mariners traveled to Chicago, where Gilbert struck out six but gave up four runs, including three

LOGAN GILBERT, 3B

Apopka Pop Warner to hold fundraiser at Publix

Effort to help support travel expenses for football, cheer programs

By Marshall Tempest
Reporter

The Apopka Pop Warner organization will host a fundraiser at Publix, 1545 Rock Springs Road, on Saturday and Sunday to help

raise money for the football teams, as well as the cheer and dance teams.

Cheer and Dance
From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday the Apopka Pop Warner Cheer and Dance teams will be at the Rock Springs Publix looking for Apopka community members willing to donate to support travel to national and international competitions. Last year, Apopka Pop Warner teams won at Na-

tionals, but the organization's dreams of heading to Globals were cut short due to a lack of funding. This year, organizers said they hope not only to secure another bid to Globals but also pay for travel to the competition in Charlotte, North Carolina. A potential trip to Charlotte would bring a lot of expenses for the program, including travel and lodging, competition fees, uniforms, equipment, meals, and team

essentials. "By investing in the Lady Darters, you're not just supporting a cheer team — you're uplifting young girls in our community, encouraging teamwork, leadership, and confidence that lasts a lifetime," said Chasity Hyatt, a member of Apopka Pop Warner's Cheer and Dance board. Another way to support the Lady Darters is through

FUNDRAISER, 2B



Courtesy of Sheronda Wright

Sheronda Wright stands with her Tiny Mites team after finishing first at the 2024 national competition.

Rodman Reservoir survives after DeSantis veto



GOIN' FISHIN'

Jim Keck
Correspondent

Hello Folks,
I hope you had a great 4th of July weekend and you got a chance to enjoy our waterways and maybe do a little fishin'.
The Johns Lake Wednesday Night Shootout had 14 boats fish last week. The winners were Neil Davis and David Simpson, with three bass that hit the scales at 12.15 lbs. They

also had big bass honors with a 4.45-pounder. Congrats to all the anglers who fished in the Shootout.
The bass fishin' on The Harris Chain has been good most days, but you need to get on the water at first light.
The team of Clay Reed and Christian Reed took home the win on The Harris Chain the last weekend of June. They topped the 26-boat field with five bass that hit the scales at 21.89 pounds. This was their second win for the season. The team of Terry Mullis and Kim Mullis took home big bass honors with a 6.29-pounder.
There has been much

debate over the future of Rodman Reservoir in Marion County. There were numerous pleas from Ocala-area fishermen to cancel the \$6.25 million in funding for Ocklawaha River Restoration. The plan to restore the Ocklawaha River's natural water flow would have controversially eliminated the Rodman Reservoir.
Rodman Reservoir was created after the erection of the Rodman Dam in 1968. The Legislature agreed earlier this month to fund the restoration plan. This was a win for environmentalists who had advocated for years to reopen the dam and restore the Ocklawaha's primary water tributary, which

runs into the St. Johns River, Florida's longest river.
Fishermen have long defended the dam, which was renamed the Rodman Kirkpatrick Dam in 1998. Mr. George Kirkpatrick, who represented the region for over 20 years, fought long and hard to preserve the structure.
Thanks to Gov. Ron DeSantis, who vetoed the legislative funding request that would have essentially destroyed the Rodman Reservoir. A huge thanks also goes out to all those local families and businesses who mobilized to save the reservoir, along with the Putman County Board of Commissioners. There were many

fishermen, including professional fishermen who lived near the Rodman Dam, who wanted to save the dam.
Pros Bernie Schultz and Shaw Grigsby, who live in Gainesville, helped support the saving of Rodman Reservoir. There were many bass fishermen throughout the state of Florida who also didn't want the reservoir to be destroyed. The Rodman Reservoir is a trophy bass fishery that Putnam County residents say is an integral part of their local economy and way of life.
I have fished the reservoir, but it was a long time ago. There are a lot of big bass in the reservoir, and you can do real well in the

cooler months, fishin' with shiners. Lots of tournament fishermen still fish the reservoir when tournaments go out of the north end of the St. Johns River.
I wanted to give a shout-out to Ott Defoe for his win on the Potomac River last week. You might remember Ott won MLF's tournament on The Harris Chain back in 2021. Ott is a great guy and an excellent fisherman.
Well, I hope everyone has a great week, and I hope to see you on the water real soon.
Tip of the week: Full Moon July 10th.
SAVE A FEW AND GOOD LUCK

Cheer team

Continued from page 1B

perhaps our 12U and 13U teams, come watch them and support them. And honestly, the first time we saw ourselves hit our routine effortlessly was in front of the football players because they wanted to make sure that they performed at their best."
With the success of last season, the organization has seen immediate results. They have received outstanding outreach from the community, including people who are willing to help with fundraising and other initiatives. They will actually host a fundraiser this Saturday and Sunday at the Rock Springs Publix at 1545 Rock Springs Road. Read more about it in our story on the fundraiser.
Apopka Cheer and Dance also has 30 new members this year, proving that whatever they are doing is working.
"We have 30 new cheerleaders that haven't cheered for Pop Warner before," Fells said. "So that's a testament to what we put out there to the

community."
With those new members, the group has a renewed motivation to not only return to the national stage but go even further this year. The goal now is to have all of their teams take home first at Nationals and then head to Globals in Charlotte, North Carolina.
Hyatt and Fells both said they hope they can repeat their success and take the team to Nationals and then Globals. If they can, they said they will have successfully rebuilt their organization into one of the best in Central Florida and into a program Apopka area kids and parents can be proud they belong to.
"I think that Apopka has had some wins previously, but not to this level," Hyatt said. "So I think that just us being able to do it again will really prove that we are now a force to be reckoned with. We can go toe to toe with some of the nation's best and still come out on top. It's not just football anymore here."



The 2024 Apopka Pop Warner Tiny Mites placed first at the 2024 Pop Warner Cheer and Dance National competition.



Head coach Keisha Hicks, assistant coach Chasity Hyatt and assistant coach Titilaya Fells of the Mitey Mites stand with their 2024 trophy.

Fundraiser

Continued from page 1B

their online fundraising shop or by making a flat donation.
The Lady Darters will be selling Double Good popcorn online. Fifty percent of all popcorn sales go directly to the team.
For sponsorship inquiries,

contact apkpopwarnercheer@gmail.com.
Football
The football side of Apopka Pop Warner will also be holding a fundraiser at Publix, but it will be

on Sunday from 9 a. m. to 4 p. m.
Like the Cheer and Dance teams of Apopka Pop Warner, their football programs are also coming off a great year. Last year, the 12U team made it to the Pop Warner Super Bowl. The Blue Darters

fell in the quarterfinal round to the Hartford, Connecticut, Hurricanes 25–22.
This year, more than one team hopes to make it to the Super Bowl and go all the way. This fundraiser at Publix will help the teams cov-


er the same expenses that cheer and dance need, including travel and lodging, competition fees, uniforms, equipment, meals, and team essentials.



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





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



SERVING THE FLORIDA COMMUNITY FOR OVER 30 YEARS



Mid Florida DERMATOLOGY & PLASTIC SURGERY

Located at 200 N Park Ave, Suite A Apopka FL 32703
midflmed.com 407-299-7333

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 football

Continued from page 1B

Apopka and Wekiva.

Wekiva has fallen the last four times the team faced Edgewater, including last year with a 43–6 loss. But the Mustangs came close to wins in 2023 (29–22) and 2022 (14–6). Edgewater finished the 2024 season with a 10–2 record, ranked 36th in the state, and as regional finalists in 5A Region 2.

Aug. 29 Week 2

Week two will be the Mustangs’ first home game of the regular season as they host West Orange. Wekiva has won two of its last four contests against West Orange. Last year, Wekiva fell 33–14.

West Orange finished the 2024 season with a 10–3 record, ranked 60th in the state, and as a 7A Region 2 Finalist.

Sep. 5 Week 3

For week three, Wekiva will hit the road again, heading to Winter Garden to face the Horizon Hawks. Last year, Wekiva grabbed one of a handful of wins in the season against the Hawks with a 28–21 victory. The new Horizon program is still in the process of building its foundations, but the Hawks gave the Mustangs a run for their money last year. Don’t be surprised if they show a huge jump in talent this season.

Horizon finished the 2024 season with a 1–9 record, ranked 389th in the state.

Sep. 12 Week 4

Week four marks the start of a series of home games for



Photo by Marshall Tempest

A Wekiva defender stops a Lyman running back in his tracks during the spring game.

Wekiva, beginning with Eustis High School. Last year, Wekiva had its best game against the Eustis Panthers, defeating them 53–6.

The Panthers finished the 2024 season with a 1–9 record, ranked 411th in the state.

Sep. 19 Week 5

Wekiva’s second home game in a series of three is against high-powered Dr. Phillips. Dr. Phillips and Wekiva haven’t seen each other since 2020, when Dr. Phillips defeated the Mus-

tangs 28–19.

Last year, Dr. Phillips had its best season in many years, finishing the year with a 12–2 record and ranked 35th in the state. Dr. Phillips also made an intense run in the state championship tournament, falling 24–13 to the Lake Mary Rams in the 7A state semifinals.

Sep. 26 Week 6

Wekiva will host Oviedo in its third straight home game. Before last season, Wekiva and Oviedo had never faced each other. But the

Oviedo Lions welcomed the Mustangs to the series with a 52–27 win.

For the past few years, Oviedo has been a consistent playoff contender, but it is in a very tough region competing against Jones and Edgewater for the Regional championship. Last year, Oviedo finished their season 10–2, ranked 54th in the state, and was knocked out in the first round of the playoffs.

Oct. 10 Week 7

For week seven, Wekiva is back on the road as the

Mustangs travel to face the Evans Trojans. Wekiva fell 39–21 to the Trojans last season and is now behind just one win in the series as the Mustangs lead 6–5.

Evans finished the 2024 season with a 6–5 record, ranked 120th in the state, and was knocked out in the first round of the playoffs.

Oct. 17 Week 8

Wekiva will host its final home game of the season against Jones High School for week eight. Jones is coming off a very deep run in the

playoffs last year after falling 41–31 to American Heritage in the state championship game.

During the regular season, the Jones Tigers defeated the Mustangs 28–6.

Jones finished the 2024 season with a 14–1 record, ranked 15th in the state and 54th in the nation.

Oct. 24 Week 9

Wekiva’s final two games of the season will be on the road, starting with Lake Howell. Last year was the first time in 10 years that Wekiva and Lake Howell had faced off. Wekiva took home the win 14–7. In three meetings, Wekiva has taken all three wins.

Lake Howell finished the 2024 season with a 2–8 record and ranked 288th in the state.

Oct. 30 Week 10: The Mayors Cup

For the final game of the 2025 season, Wekiva will travel across town to face hometown rivals the Apopka Blue Darters. With both teams in a rebuilding year, this game will provide valuable insight into which program has made the most progress.

Last year, Apopka took home the Mayors Cup for the second year in a row with a 20–16 win. Apopka holds a commanding 14–5 lead in the series.

Apopka finished the 2024 season with a 4–6 record, ranked 107th in the state, and was knocked out in the first round of the playoffs.

Logan Gilbert

Continued from page 1B

home runs, in five innings. Seattle beat the Cubs 14–6.

On Friday, June 27, the Mariners traveled to Texas to face the Rangers. Gilbert struck out seven and again gave up four runs across 5.1

innings of work. Seattle won 7–6 in 12 innings.

On Wednesday, July 2, Gilbert gave up just one run and struck out seven in 4.2 innings as Seattle defeated Kansas City 3–2.

And in his most recent outing on Tuesday, The Mariners traveled to New York, where Gilbert was shelled by the Yankees batters. Gilbert struck out five and gave up five runs through 5.1 in-

nings. The Yankees defeated the Mariners 10–3.

In his five games since returning from injury, Gilbert has a 5.74 ERA and 35 strikeouts across 25.1 innings.

Gilbert will not come close to the career highs he set in innings and strikeouts (220) last year, but he’s in position to play an important role in the American League pennant race. Entering play

Wednesday, the Mariners were in second place in the AL West and holding down the third AL Wild Card spot — two games in front of Boston and within a game of Tampa Bay and New York.

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

ATW

ALLTRANSMISSIONWORLD

Se Habla Español

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



INCREASE THE VALUE OF YOUR HOME WITH NATURAL GAS AND SAVE MONEY.



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.

ENERGY CHOICE
www.langd.org
407-656-2734 ext. 307

811
Know what's below. Call before you dig.

It's More Than Just Cremation; It's a Tribute to a Life Well-Lived.



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

HIGHLAND FUNERAL HOME
HIGHLAND MEMORY GARDENS

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

We Make It Personal.®

SUDOKU

Call today and receive a **FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF**

SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB 1-855-576-5653

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-in Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165. NSCB 8002098 1003445.

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

© StatePoint Media

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

VERSE OF THE WEEK

"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail."
—Lamentations 3:22

Visit us online for all the Apopka area church listings



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To submit an event, you can email them to news@theapopkachief.com.

Friday, July 11

Luis Guerrero – 11:20 a.m. at 54 W Church St, Orlando. Part of DTOLive's yearlong series of 800+ free arts events—feel the city's creative pulse with live performance in the heart of downtown. Free.

Lunch & Learn: Florida's Snubbed Cow Culture – 12:00 p.m. at Orange County Regional History Center – 65 E Central Blvd, Orlando. Discover the misunderstood legacy of Florida's cowboys and cattle ranching. Attend online or in person. Members: Free / General: \$5 / With lunch: \$12–\$17

Cookies & Milk with a Cop – 12:30 p.m. at West Oaks Branch Library and Genealogy Center – 1821 E Silver Star Rd, Ocoee. A sweet, safe chance for children and families to meet local law enforcement over story time and snacks. Free.

The Art of Brandon Smith – Opening Night – 6:00 p.m. at Lil' Indies – 1036 N Mills Ave, Orlando. Celebrate the vibrant opening of Brandon Smith's latest exhibit with art, drinks, and community vibes. Free.

Textile Heart Brooch Workshop – 6:00 p.m. at FAVO Art Village Studio 238 – 221 E Colonial Dr, Orlando. Create fiber art brooches using repurposed fabric, beads, and personal trinkets. Bring materials and \$10 for supplies. General admission \$45.

Art in the Alley – 6:00 p.m. at Downtown Mount Dora – 138 E Fifth Ave, Mount Dora. A free

outdoor art market spotlighting emerging artists and affordable original work. Hosted by Mount Dora Center for the Arts. Free.

Orlando Haunts: Ghost Tour & Haunted Pub Crawl – 6:00 p.m. starting at 10 W Pine St, Orlando. Explore downtown's haunted past or raise a glass with ghosts on the haunted pub crawl. Two unique, spine-tingling walking tours. \$17–\$29

Glow Together – Couples Date Night – 6:00 p.m. at Aromatic Vibes Candle Co – 975 W Fairbanks Ave, Orlando. Craft custom candles, sip mimosas, snack on charcuterie, and play a connection-building game with your partner at this cozy candle-making date night. \$70

Friday Night Frenzy – 6:00 p.m. at Orlando Speedworld Dragway – 19164 E Colonial Dr, Orlando. Family-friendly test-and-tune drag racing for all ages. Food, drinks, and fast fun. \$20–\$30; Kids under 10 Free

Thornton Park 2nd Thursday Wine & Art Walk – 6:30 p.m. at The Veranda – 707 E Washington St, Orlando. Grab a glass, follow the map, and enjoy 20+ tasting stops, art vendors, music, and a bustling night market. Presale \$10 / Door \$15

The Comedy Tour – 7:00 p.m. at American Legion Post 183 – 2706 Wells Ave, Fern Park. A night of stand-up comedy and drinks at Old Glory. Come ready to laugh!

GRO Line Dance Class and Party – 7:00 p.m. at RTW Creative Space + Studio – 520



Courtesy of Heartwood Soundstage

The Susto Stringband will perform at Tuffy's Music Box & Lounge on July 11.

N Parramore Ave, Orlando. Learn the hottest line dances and party with a fun, welcoming crowd. Perfect for dancers of all levels.

Night Bike Tour – 7:00 p.m. starting and ending at Retro City Cycles – 1810 N Orange Ave, Orlando. Ride through the city after dark, exploring local bars, art, and neighborhoods on two wheels. \$50–\$70

Barks & BBQ with Bib & Tucker – 7:30 p.m. at 724 Brookhaven Dr, Orlando. Unlimited BBQ, Bib & Tucker bourbon, and plenty of pups. An evening of tasty bites and tail wags. \$69.98

Ride the Cyclone – 7:30 p.m. at Theatre South Playhouse – 7601 Della Dr Ste 15, Orlando. Six teens compete for a second chance at life in this quirky, heartfelt musical. \$20–\$50

Susto Stringband – 2025 Summer Tour – 9:00 p.m. at Tuffy's Music Box – 200 Myrtle Ave, Sanford. Alt rock meets Appalachian folk in this electrifying string band show featuring Justin Osborne and mem-

bers of Holler Choir. Tickets start at \$22

Saturday, July 12

Supercar Social – 9:00 a.m. at Fields Motorcars Orlando – 2202 33rd St, Orlando. This monthly exotic car meet-up showcases everything from rare race cars to the latest releases. Benefiting Dream Cars 4 Kids, the event raises donations to provide supercar experiences for medically fragile children. Free.

Florida Military Collectors Show – 9:00 a.m. at Renninger's Mt. Dora – 20651 US-441, Mt Dora. One of the Southeast's largest military collectibles events featuring 100+ tables of artifacts from historic and modern military conflicts. Runs until 3 p.m. Free

Christmas in July – 10:00 a.m. at Florida Mall – 8001 S Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando. Santa visits, whimsical snowfall, tropical holiday decor, giveaways, movies, crafts, and more bring festive cheer all month long. Don't miss photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus

every weekend from 1–4 p.m. Free

Aged to Perfection: Ladies Wine Night – 5:30 p.m. at Root & Branch Bistro + Bar – 1200 Oakley Seaver Dr #102, Clermont. A relaxed, intimate, happy hour designed for women seeking meaningful connection over wine and conversation. Attendees cover their own food/drink tabs. \$16

Gamers Night | Parents Night Out – 6:00 p.m. at Vallahallan Esports Training – 990 N State Rd 434 #1192, Altamonte Springs. Kids can dive into their favorite games (or try new ones!) like Minecraft, Super Smash, Valorant, and more. A night of fun while parents enjoy time off. \$40

Mind Travel 'Silent' Piano Concert – 7:00 p.m. at Lake Eola Park – 195 N Rosalind Ave, Orlando. Let live, improvised piano music wash over you in this meditative outdoor concert from composer Murray Hidary. Bring headphones and prepare for peaceful reflection. Free

Military Appreciation Night – Orlando City SC vs. CF Montréal – 7:30 p.m. at Inter&Co Stadium – 655 W Church St, Orlando. Honor military service members while cheering on Orlando City in this MLS matchup under the lights. Tickets start at \$12

Sunday, July 13

Sunday Run at The Salty – 8:00 a.m. at The SALTY – 3025 Corrine Dr, Orlando. Join Track Shack for an easy community run around Audubon Park and enjoy a FREE donut post-run from The Salty!

107th Lions International Convention – 9:00 a.m. at Orange County Convention Center – 9800 International Dr, Orlando. Thousands of Lions from around the world gather for inspiration, service, and celebration at this global convention. Details at lionsclubs.org.

Full Sail University's Behind the Scenes Tour – 9:00 a.m. at 3300 University Blvd, Winter Park. Explore Full Sail's campus with a tailored tour, Q&A with alumni, and lunch. Free with registration

Promenade Car & Truck Show – 11:00 a.m. at Promenade at Sunset Walk – 3251 Margaritaville Blvd, Kissimmee. A classic-to-modern car show with music by DJ Scotty B. Check out the shops, restaurants, and entertainment throughout the Promenade. Free

Bridal & Event Expo – 11:00 a.m. at Westgate Lakes Resort & Spa – 9500 Turkey Lake Rd, Orlando. Plan your big day with dozens of vendors and inspiration for weddings and special events. Tickets start at \$6

Women's Social Club: Bracelet Making – 1:00 p.m. at Panera Bread – 2260 State Route 50, Clermont. Connect and craft during a fun, relaxed bracelet-making session for women looking to meet new friends. \$16

"Pandora's Box" Aerosmith Tribute – 5:00 p.m. at The Wharf at Sunset Walk – 3274 Margaritaville Blvd, Kissimmee. An epic night of classic Aerosmith hits in an intimate setting with top-tier production and great food and drink. Tickets start at \$25

From the kitchen to the backyard: summer recipes, reader-approved

We are thinking of summer meals that we prepare for dining outside with friends and family, beside the pool or out on the back patio, but having a good time whatever the occasion.

First, we have Nita Holleman's Meat Loaf, contributed by Amanda Thomas-Henke, a reader who has moved away from the area but she still calls Apopka her hometown and still subscribes to *The Apopka Chief*. This recipe can be adapted to pretty much any kind of ground meat you have that you wish to use. There are suggestions for adding the needed fat to make a delicious meat loaf from venison. Amanda says she adds some garlic to hers and sautés the sweet onion and garlic before mixing it into the meat loaf.

Bonnie Werley's Teriyaki Chicken Wings will be delicious and fairly simple to roast in the oven after preparing them the night before and having them soak in marinade overnight.

Teresa Ward's Buffalo Wings recipe also looks to be easy and delicious. The wings are cooked on top of the stove in Crisco.

For a new twist on burgers, we have Eloise Surrette's ground turkey burgers with Roquefort. Remember to use your thermometer in the burgers to make sure the turkey gets to a temperature of 165 degrees to eliminate potentially harmful bacteria.

From Nancy Thomas, a long-time reader, we have potato salad. I have served this potato salad many times and always get lots of thumbs-ups! If you don't care for dill pickle, omit it or replace it with sweet pickle.

Paths of Sunshine Cookbook provides our dessert recipe, Key Lime Pie. I just love the sweet, tangy taste of key lime pie, don't you? And it is perfect for outside dining because it is served cold.

NITA HOLLEMAN'S MEAT LOAF, CONTRIBUTED BY AMANDA THOMAS-HENKE

Reader of *The Apopka Chief* newspaper
Meat loaf:
1–1/2 pounds ground beef OR ground shoulder roast OR venison or other game meat...
see below for game meat loaf instructions



1 slice bread, broken or chopped finely
1 egg
1 small Vidalia onion or sweet onion, chopped finely
1 teaspoon table salt
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
4 tablespoons ketchup
1/2 to 2/3 cup whole milk OR Half & Half Sauce:
4 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
2 to 4 tablespoons dark brown sugar, packed firm (or amount to taste)
1/2 cup ketchup
Sauce instructions:

Combine meat loaf ingredients and place into a loaf baking dish. Smooth out top.

Combine sauce ingredients and pour on top and sides of meat loaf.

Bake at 350 degrees about one hour to an hour and 15 minutes or until done. Nita Holleman, the originator from Food.com, says the addition of 1 or 2 teaspoons of Kitchen Bouquet makes this recipe very good. Recipe should be 'plump' from the addition of the milk or Half & Half. It should not be runny.

If you are using game meat such as deer, which is a very dry meat, it is wise to add some fat to the deer meat. For instance: for one pound of ground venison, add about 1/2 pound of deer sausage for the fat content. Otherwise, your results will be poor for lack of fat.

Preparation time for the meat loaf is 20 minutes, baking takes one hour or a little more.

BONNIE WERLEY'S TERIYAKI CHICKEN WINGS

Recipe from 1990 Presbyterian Women First Presbyterian Church of Apopka, *Treasures and Pleasures* cookbook

1/3 cup lemon juice concentrate
1/4 cup catsup
1/4 cup soy sauce
1/4 cup vegetable oil
2 tablespoons brown sugar
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
1/4 teaspoon pepper
3 pounds chicken wing drumettes or chicken wings cut at joints with wing tips removed

Combine all ingredients except chicken. Mix well. Place chicken in shallow baking dish or ZipLok bag. Pour marinade over. Seal and refrigerate overnight, turning occa-

sionally. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Arrange chicken on rack in shallow baking pan. Bake 40 to 45 minutes, basting occasionally until golden brown. Can be served as hors d'oeuvres.

TERESA WARD'S BUFFALO WINGS

Recipe from Apopka Citizen Police Alumni Association, *Sharing Our Finest Cookbook*

5 pounds chicken wings
Crisco shortening
1 bottle Louisiana hot sauce
1/2 cup butter
2 tablespoons cornstarch
1/2 cup warm water

Melt Crisco in large skillet. When grease is popping, add wings. Fry until golden brown and crispy. While chicken is frying, make dipping sauce, as follows:

Dipping Sauce:

Melt butter in medium saucepan, then add hot sauce. Mix cornstarch and water together. The mixture needs to be soupy. When butter and hot sauce are at a boil, add cornstarch mixture, just a little at a time, stirring constantly. It will make a gravy-like mixture. You can either dip wings into the sauce mixture or drizzle it over wings on plate. For hotter sauce, add more hot sauce and less butter.

ELOISE SURRETTE'S TURKEY ROQUEFORT BURGERS

Recipe from Apopka Citizen Police Alumni Association's *Sharing Our Finest Cookbook*

1 pound ground turkey
1/2 small peeled onion, minced
1/2 cup Roquefort or Blue cheese dressing

Combine ingredients and mix lightly. Gently shape into eight patties. Brown or barbeque three inches from heat two minutes on each side. Each patty has about 105 calories.

NANCY THOMAS' POTATO SALAD

Recipe from Reader of *The Apopka Chief* newspaper

Five pounds potatoes boiled in skins till tender
Five or six eggs boiled hard
Celery, about two ribs
Multicolored sweet peppers, six small
Sweet onion, 1/4 large (not too much)
Dill pickle, large, diced

Salt and pepper
1/2 cup or more Mayonnaise (as needed)
Dill weed, just a sprinkle or omit if you dislike dill
Dry mustard, 1/8 teaspoon
Celery seed, 1/4 teaspoon
Paprika, sprinkles over the top

Cook, drain and cool potatoes. Cook, drain and cool eggs by putting ice on drained eggs while hot. Peel the skins from warm potatoes and set aside. When potatoes are cool enough to handle, chop into pieces no larger than 1/2 inch or so. Salt and pepper the potatoes in big bowl and mix with spatula. Setting aside at least two whole eggs to slice for garnish, peel the cooled eggs, chop, salt and pepper to taste. Dice celery. Setting aside a couple of the peppers to slice for garnish, slice and dice five or six small peppers. Slice and dice 1/4 large onion. Fold together in big bowl the potatoes, eggs, celery, peppers, onion, and pickle.

Mix dressing in separate bowl: 1/2 cup, maybe a little more, of the mayonnaise and two tablespoons or so of dill pickle juice. Add to this soupy mixture, 1/4 teaspoon each of following: dill weed, dry mustard, celery seed. Add salt and pepper to taste if more is needed.

Pour the dressing into the potato salad. Fold together. Don't make mashed potatoes out of the mixture!

Place the garnishes, colorful pepper rings and sliced eggs, on top of the salad:. Sprinkle red paprika on top to make it beautiful. Cover with plastic wrap and store in refrigerator long enough to allow the flavors to meld together. Serve cold.

KEY LIME PIE

Recipe from Florida Federation of Garden Clubs

Paths of Sunshine Cookbook

2 (14 ounce) cans sweetened condensed milk
4 whole eggs
1 cup key lime juice, fresh or frozen
1 cup whipping cream, whipped
2 graham cracker crust pie shells
Beat the first three ingredients together. Fold cold whipped cream into first mixture. Pour into the two pie shells. Chill for several hours or overnight. Yields two pies.

The Apopka Chief

LEGAL ADVERTISING

5B - 6B

NOTICE OF INTENT- Abandon vehicle- Title Transfer

2017 Dodge Grand Caravan
Color: Red
Plate: Y66YYF
Expire: 10/5/2020
VIN: 2C4RDGE8HR632742
Registered Owners:
Joanne Brazell and
Ian Brazelle
Last Known Address:
13002 Nimitz Ct;
Winter Garden, FL 34787
Vehicle abandoned:
October 2020
Abandon location:
1321 Apopka Airport Rd,
Apopka, FL 32712
Will proceed with **Transfer of Title** after August 4, 2025 if property is not claimed.
July 11, 18, 2025

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NUMBER: 2025-CA-006115-O
DIVISION NUMBER: 39
IN RE: FORFEITURE OF \$2,925.00 IN U.S. CURRENCY
NOTICE OF FORFEITURE COMPLAINT
TO: CARL BEAUGE
CASIMIR
9708 AVELLINO AVENUE,
UNIT 4408
ORLANDO, FL 32819
and all others who claim an interest in \$2,925.00 in U.S. Currency, which was seized on or about the 17th day of May, 2025, at or near 2649 North Hiawassee Road, Orange County, Florida. Said property is in the custody of the Sheriff of Orange County. A Complaint for forfeiture has been filed in the above-styled Court.
I HEREBY CERTIFY that this Notice is being served pursuant to the notice provisions of Florida Statutes 932.701-707, this 2nd day of July, 2025.
/s/ Jose C. Campa
Jose C. Campa
Assistant General Counsel
Florida Bar No. 105781
Orange County Sheriff's Office
Legal Services
P.O. Box 1440
Orlando, FL 32802
(407) 254-7170
jose.campa@ocsoff.com
July 11, 18, 2025

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2024-CC-17554
HECTOR GARCIA EVANGELISTA, Plaintiff,
vs.
JORGE W. LOMBA, and THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES, Defendant.
NOTICE OF ACTION
TO: JORGE W. LOMBA,
last known address is:
8766 CR 5914-16,
Cleveland TX 77327.
Notice is hereby given to JORGE W. LOMBA, that an action is being taken on the following property in Orange County Florida: 1984 Brook Mobile Home
VIN:FL1L2BD473205191
(Title "B" 20900297)
A Complaint has been filed against you in the Orange County Court and you are

required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Wayne E. Klinkbeil, Esquire, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is, 121 S. Orange Avenue, Suite 1420, Orlando, FL 32801, 8 on or before X 30 days from the first date of publication Date 6.13.2025
Tiffany Moore Russell
Orange County Clerk
/S/Nancy Garcia
Deputy Clerk
CIRCUIT COURT SEAL
July 4, 11, 2025

PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 2025P001525
ESTATE OF
THERESA C. ERICKSON,
Deceased.
NOTICE TO HEIRS AND LEGATEES- WILL ADMITTED
Notice is given to Leon S. Erickson, Keith E. Erickson to be notified, who are heirs or legatees in the above proceeding to probate a will and whose names or addresses are not stated in the petition to admit the will to probate, that an order was entered by the court on 06/26/2025, admitting the will to probate.
Attached to this **NOTICE** are copies of a **PETITION** to probate a Will and an **ORDER** admitting the Will to probate. You are named in the **PETITION** as an heir or legatee of the decedent.
Within forty-two (42) days after the effective date of the original **ORDER** of admission, you may file a petition with the Court to require proof of the Will by testimony of the witnesses to the Will in open court or other evidence, as provided in § 6-21 of the Probate Act of 1975 [755 ILCS 5/6-21]. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>, or talk with your local circuit court clerk's office.
You also have the right under § 8-1 of the Probate Act of 1975 [755 ILCS 5/8-1] to contest the validity of the Will by filing a petition with the Court within six (6) months after admission of the Will to probate. The date of first publication of this notice is July 4, 2025.
Petitioner:
JEFFREY M. ERICKSON
800 Ash Road
Hoffman Estates,
Illinois 60169
Attorney for Petitioner:
KYLE A. VAN SLYKE
Leonard Law Group, LLC
325 S. Paulina Street,
Suite 100
Chicago, Illinois 60612
P: 312-226-8273
F: 312-226-8274
kyle@leonardlawgroup.net
July 4, 11, 18, 2025

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO. 2025-CA-DIVISION
IN RE: FORFEITURE OF \$4,151.00 U.S. CURRENCY
NOTICE OF FORFEITURE
To Edzavier J. Rodriguez-Amill, and all persons who claim an interest in a \$4,151.00 U.S. CURRENCY seized on or about

4/24/2025 at or about Tampa Ave. & Washington, Orlando, FL, Orlando, Orange Co., FL. Said property is in the custody of the City of Orlando Police Dept. Any owner, entity, bonafide lienholder, or person in possession of the property when seized has the right to request an adversarial preliminary hearing for a probable cause determination from the circuit court within 15 days after initial receipt of notice by sending a written request to undersigned counsel by certified mail, return receipt requested. A petition for forfeiture has been or will be filed in the above-styled court.
/s/ Shannon Hesse
Shannon Gridley Hesse
Police Legal Advisor
Orlando Police Department
1250 W. South Street
Orlando, Florida 32805
(407) 246-2464
Fla. Bar No. 528633
shannon.hesse@orlando.gov
July 4, 11, 2025

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2016-CA-010482-O
LAS PALMAS AT SAND LAKE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC., a Florida not-for-profit corporation, Plaintiff,
v.
ELBA I. OLMO COSTA, et. al., Defendant(s).
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated June 24, 2025 and entered in Case No.: 2016-CA-010482-O, of the Circuit Court in the Ninth Judicial Circuit in and for Orange County, Florida, wherein Las Palmas at Sand Lake Condominium Association, Inc., is Plaintiff, and Elba I. Olmo Costa, Virginia Olmo Costa, and Ivelisse Rodriguez Olmo are the Defendant(s), the Office of Tiffany Moore Russell, Orange County Clerk of Court, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at www.myorange-clerk.realforeclose.com/index.cfm at 11:00 AM ET on July 31, 2025, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit: "Condominium Building No. 805, Unit "A" Las Palmas at Sand Lake, a Condominium, according to the Declaration of Condominium as recorded in Official Records Book 3081, Page 973, as amended in Official Record Book 4629, Page 2378, Public Records of Orange County, Florida, together with an undivided interest in and to the common elements and common expenses appurtenant to the said Condominium Unit as set forth in the Declaration of Condominium recited herein." The Property is located at the street address of: 805 Sky Lake Circle, A, Orlando, FL 32809
ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FUNDS FROM THE FORECLOSURE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS AFTER THE SALE.
Dated this 26th day of June, 2025.
GARFINKEL LAW
Attorney for Plaintiff
Garfinkel Law
300 N. Maitland Avenue
Maitland, FL 32751
Phone: (407) 539-3900
Telefax: (407) 386-8485
BY: /s/ Karen M. Marcell
Karen M. Marcell, Esq.
Florida Bar No.: 51640

Primary email address:
karen@garfinkel.law
Secondary email address:
rachel@garfinkel.law
If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in a court proceeding or event, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact us at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately if you receive less than a 7-day notice to appear: Orange County ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Orange County Courthouse, 425 N. Orange Avenue, Suite 510, Orlando, Florida, 407.836.2303, fax: 407.836.2204. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711 to reach the Telecommunications Relay Service.
July 4, 11, 2025

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No.: 2025DR3397-O
Division: 31
ANGEL RAFAEL VARGAS TORRES
Petitioner
and
LILLIETTE GONZALEZ
Respondent.
NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE
TO: LILLIETTE GONZALEZ
1138 S Amulet, Mesa AZ 85208
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Dissolution of Marriage has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on ANGEL RAFAEL VARGAS TORRES, whose address is 12652 Victoria Place Cir. Orlando FL 32828, on or before 7/17/2025, and file the original with the clerk of this Court at 425 N. Orange Ave Orlando FL 32801, before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.
(If applicable, insert the legal description of real property, a specific description of personal property, and the name of the county in Florida where the property is located.)
N/A
Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.
You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mail to the addresses on record at the clerk's office.
WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.
-
Dated: 6-13-2025
Tiffany M. Russell
Clerk of Court
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
By
(Deputy Clerk)
CIRCUIT COURT SEAL
June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2025

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 9th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No.: 25-DR-2847-O
Division: 29
Marc T. Montrose,
Petitioner
and
Sara Morillas
Respondent.
NOTICE OF ACTION FOR Dissolution of Marriage
TO: Sara Morillas
420 SW Ave
Boynton Beach FL 33433
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Divorce has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Marc T. Montrose, whose address is PO Box 682365
Orlando FL 32868, on or before 7-10-25, and file the original with the clerk of this Court at 425 N. Orange Ave Orlando, FL 32801, before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.
(If applicable, insert the legal description of real property, a specific description of personal property, and the name of the county in Florida where the property is located),
Orange County

Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.
You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the addresses on record at the clerk's office.
WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.
-
Dated: 6-13-2025
Tiffany M. Russell
Clerk of Court
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
By
(Deputy Clerk)
CIRCUIT COURT SEAL
June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2025

Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.
You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the addresses on record at the clerk's office.
WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.
-
Dated: 6-13-2025
Tiffany M. Russell
Clerk of Court
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
By
(Deputy Clerk)
CIRCUIT COURT SEAL
June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2025

NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW
PURSUANT TO SECTION 865.09 FLORIDA STATUTES
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the Fictitious Name of AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVEL RELATED SERVICES COMPANY INC HADDRICK ANTHONY BERTRIN, with a mailing address of C/O P.O. BOX 616492, Orlando FL 32861-6492, and a principal office located in Orange County County, intends to register the said name with the Florida Dept. of State, Division of Corporations, Tallahassee, Florida. Owner: ANTHONY BERTRIN HADDRICK TR
July 11, 18, 25, 2025

THIS PUBLIC NOTICE
regarding FICTITIOUS NAME LAW PURSUANT TO SECTION 865.09 FLORIDA STATUTES NOTICE is an official lawful notice to all men and all corporation's public and private, domestic and foreign. IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the Fictitious Name of ANTHONY BERTRIN HADDRICK TR™, ANTHONY HADDRICK TR™, HADDRICK ANTHONY BERTRIN™ and all derivatives & variations in the spelling of said name/mark with a mailing address of C/o P.O. BOX 616492, Orlando FL 32861-6492) and a principal office located in Orange County, intends to register the said name with the Florida Dept. of State, Division of Corporations, Tallahassee, Florida. Owner: ANTHONY BERTRIN HADDRICK TR
July 11, 2025

Notice Under Fictitious Name Law
Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of **Toum** located at 3375 Hamlet Loop, in the County of Seminole in the City of Winter Park Florida 32792, intends to register the above said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.
Dated at Winter Park, Florida, this 2 day of July, 2025.
Monsef Lic
July 11, 2025

The Apopka Chief

Legal Notices can also be found online at theapokkachief.com/public-notices or floridapublicnotices.com

fresh
NEW APP!

Download & Enjoy!

Download on the App Store GET IT ON Google Play

QR codes for App Store and Google Play

Image of a woman holding a smartphone displaying the app

ORANGE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
ocls.org

Sponsored content

All Transmission World is a Total Car Care Shop serving cars, trucks, and company fleets

If you want to extend the life of your vehicles and save on gas, scheduling periodic maintenance at **All Transmission World** will help you with both.

Along with properly maintaining your vehicle, **All Transmission World** offers a few effective driving habits that can help improve the fuel economy of any car.

Drive conservatively. Avoid “jack rabbit” starts. Rapid acceleration and hard braking can lower fuel economy by 15-30 percent at highway speeds and 10-40 percent in stop-and-go traffic.

Use your cruise control. Minimizing speed fluctuations on the highway saves gas.

Observe speed limits. Fuel economy peaks at around 50 mph on most cars, then drops off as speeds increase. Reducing highway speeds by 5 to 10 mph can increase fuel economy 7 to 14 percent.

Be sure to avoid excessive idling and try to plan your trips to minimize backtracking.

Properly maintaining your vehicle will not only ensure its safety and dependability but may also increase fuel efficiency as well as help maintain your vehicle's value. Periodic maintenance is essential in ensuring a long life for your car, and it goes a long way in keeping your vehicle reliable and worry-free.

Now is the perfect time to take your car in for a full inspection to identify any minor problems before they become major ones. To keep you safe on the road, it's important to take your car to an auto repair shop that is widely known for their superior service and expertise.

Located in Apopka and Winter Garden, **All Transmission World** has been proudly serving the Greater Orlando area (Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Lake counties) since 1982.

Their goal from the very start has always been to provide outstanding customer service while delivering a quality product at an affordable price, supported by an iron-clad warranty. They recognize the customers are their most precious assets.

Having enjoyed their quality service and products over the years, customers have clamored for **All Transmission World** to offer many

other automotive repairs, from oil changes to brakes to complete engine rebuilds. They have slowly introduced these new services, store by store, to ensure their techs have the proper training, and that they can deliver the same high quality and value that their loyal customers have come to expect.

Today, **All Transmission World** is proud to say that they have accomplished that goal, and they are now providing complete automotive repairs.

They are first and foremost transmission specialists. **All Transmission World's** opinion is, move over “brain surgeons” and “rocket scientists.” Make room for “transmission engineers and re-builders” when defining difficult, highly skilled, and demanding performance.

With over 300 parts, hydraulic systems, electrical systems, and computer-controlled operations, today's drive trains are very sophisticated. The technicians and re-builders at **All Transmission World** spend many hours at home and on the job staying up to date with the latest products and changes to transmissions coming from the automotive industry.

Some of the most frequently asked transmission questions are listed below along with **All Transmission World's** responses:

- “What should my transmission fluid look like?” – When checking the fluid level, take a few seconds to observe its color and consistency. Healthy fluid is clear and has a pink or reddish tint. If the transmission fluid appears dark brown or exudes a burnt odor, the transmission is slipping.
- “What should I do if I have a transmission leak?” – Fluid leaks are

signs of trouble. Check the underside of the transmission casing for wetness and the ground directly below the transmission. Catch the leak early and the only expense you may have is a front or rear seal. Leave the leak unattended and extended damage to the transmission can result and lead to a much higher repair bill.

- “How do I know if my transmission is slipping?” – Slipping is the most common driving symptom of transmission trouble. When the transmission slips, the gear changes become drawn out and a slight hesitation is felt as the shifts occur. A vehicle owner should NOT delay in having the problem checked. This condition usually signals an internal failure in the transmission.

Through the years, **All Transmission World** has strived to give back to the community through their many years of participation in Toys for Tots, Habitat for Humanity, Give Kid's the World, Second Harvest, Boy Scouts, local school systems, and uncountable smaller local events.


They proudly prioritize local vendors “first” for all their business needs including parts, advertising, insurance, medical needs, office supplies, and equipment needs. They see this as another way to give back to the community and keep dollars and jobs in Central Florida.


They are also very proud of their updated website. It has lots of information about transmissions, as well as other automotive information. Give it a “look” at Alltransmission-world.com.

Advertisement

Image of All Transmission World storefront and staff



We are going to look for sand dollars...






Newspaper Fun!

www.readingclubfun.com

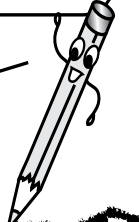



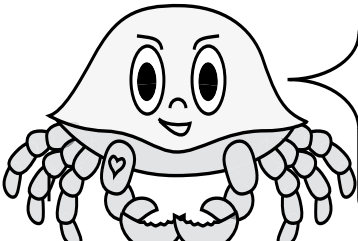
Animills LLC © 2025 V27

...and shells when we go to the seashore.



Kids: color stuff in!





Do you know what **invertebrates** are? They are animals that have no backbone. They may live in water, air or on the land. There are nearly two million kinds of invertebrates.

Ocean Invertebrates!

Deadly! Many creatures of the oceans grab, bite or sting. Some have poisons.

Can you unscramble the letters to name the invertebrates?

U O C S
P T
E J E L I
S L

Wow! He's 55 feet long!

Eek! This can't be good!

Sigh! Extra work for me!

This invertebrate lives in the deepest part of the ocean. It may have no backbone, but it puts up a giant battle!

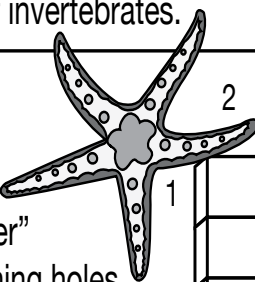
It has the largest eyes of any animal in the world.

It is the largest of all invertebrates.

I A G N
U I S D Q

Read the clues to fill in the crossword:

- I can have up to 40 arms! I pry open shells and eat the scallops, clams and oysters inside.
- I look a bit like a large coin. Do you see a "flower" when you look at me? Those are rows of breathing holes.
- I move sideways and burrow in sand or hide between rocks. My pincers protect me!
- I am headless, but I know the secret of making a grain of sand into a pearl. I have a two-part, hinged shell.
- We chew tunnels in sand and eat tiny pieces of animals and plants!
- When I am shy, I pull my head and foot into my shell.
- I have an exoskeleton (hard shell outside body) and am a scavenger, eating the remains of animals.
- I can change color to protect myself. I am "well armed" and I wrap myself around my prey.
- I have 8 arms, and 2 tentacles that are longer and retractable, which I use to catch prey!
- We stick to rocks. Divers harvest, people use for bathing, cleaning.
- I am round with long, pointed spines that protect me from enemies and help me move along the sea floor.
- We look like umbrellas floating gently in the water – but we might sting you!



snail crab

sea urchin sand dollar sea star

jellies

oyster worms squid octopus

lobster sponges

20th


Free Stuff
It's our 20th Anniversary, but you get the presents!

Print out this week's puzzle set to encourage kids to keep reading and visiting their library: **Summer Reading Kit** @ www.readingclubfun.com

I can be found sliding in the ocean, in your garden or right here.

Sliding Around

I'm a flatworm!



Follow the color key to see one:

I am a
Pu__le S__ried __el_y

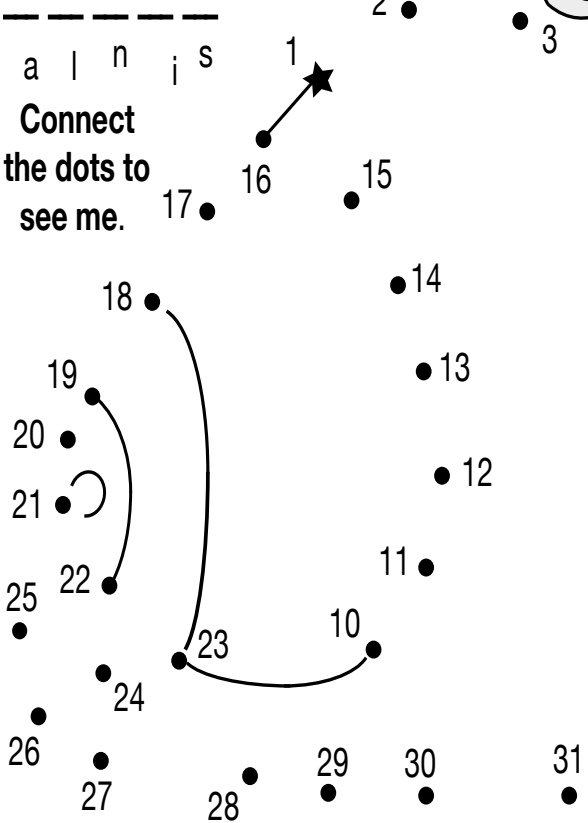
J r p l p t

P = Purple
W = White
T = Tan
B = Blue

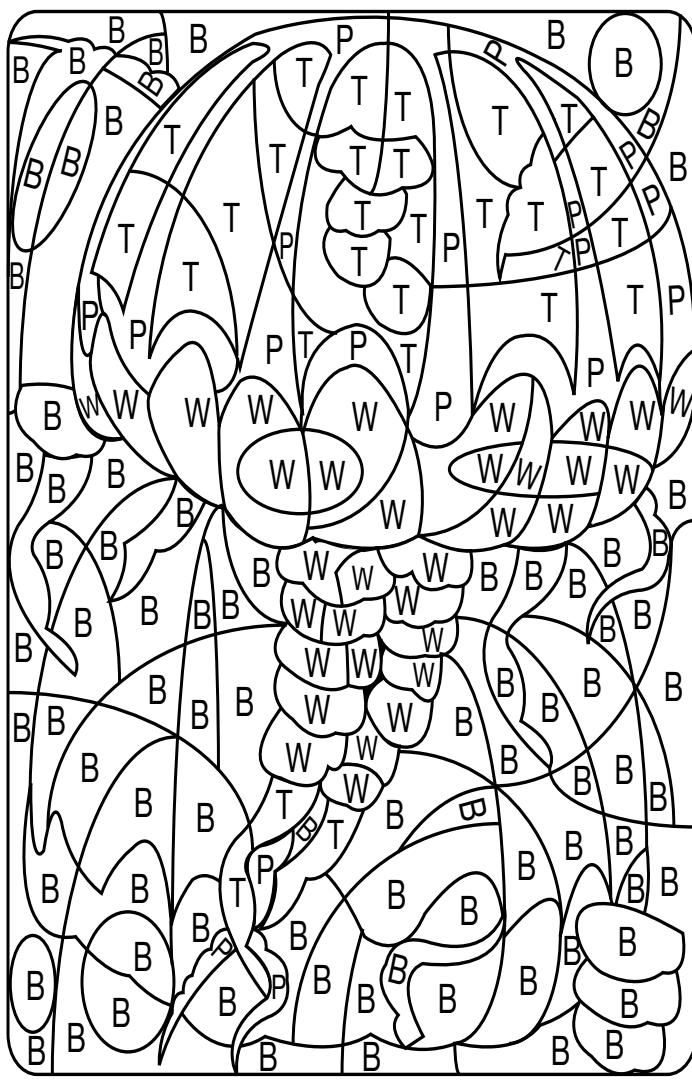
Did you know that the sea creatures we used to call jellyfish and starfish are not fish? They are now called "jellies" and "sea stars"!

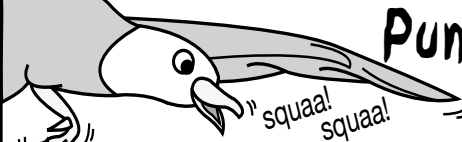
Floating Around

Connect the dots to see me.



51 50 43 42
52 49 41
53 44 40
54 48
55 47 45 39
56 46 38
57 37
58 36
35 34 33 32





Pony Pearl's Whirl!


Pony Pearl tickled and prickled his shell Until it yawned open and out the pearl fell.

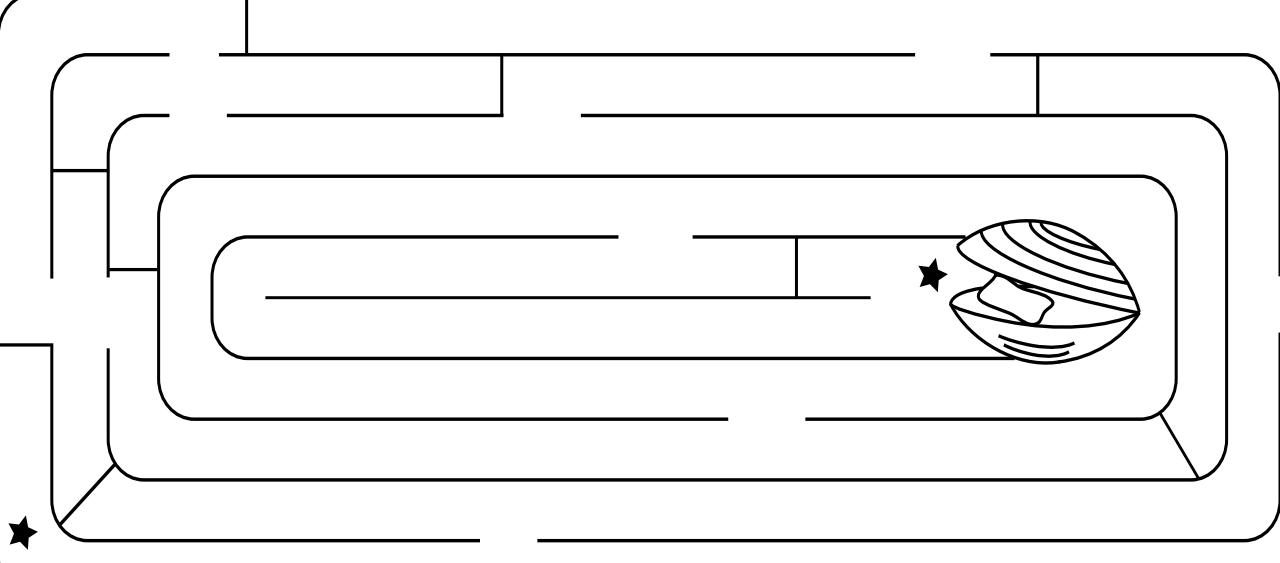
He laughed and he rolled in the sunshine all day. Until a big bird tried to whisk him away.

Now Pony Pearl isn't so eager to roam. Instead he is longing to journey back home.

Can you help Pony Pearl find his way home to the oyster bed?

Help!





Newspaper Fun! Created by Animills LLC © 2025

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

20. ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

1930'S VINTAGE BUBBLE
Glass China Cabinet, excellent condition. \$3,000 China included, text message to: 321-370-6144 Wayne.
CC 0704-0725 THO 20

21. HEALTH AND NUTRITION

HEALTH CARE FOR entire family: Pediatrics, Family, Internal, OB/GYN, Dental and Pharmacy. www.chcfl.org. Centers throughout Central Florida. 225 E 7th Street, Apopka. 407-905-8827.
JT 0627-0718 TFN COM 21

32. HELP WANTED

LAWN MAINTENANCE help needed. Must have experience. Must be ready to work. 407-880-8048
CC 0620-0711 TAY 32

32. HELP WANTED

LOUIS VUITTON SUITCASE on rollers, monogram type. Used once \$500 plus a set of free luggage also. Text message to: 321-370-6144 Wayne.
CC 0704-0725 THO 70

61. APPLIANCES

APOPKA APPLIANCE offers in home service on washers, dryers, stoves, refrigerators, dishwashers installed. \$50 off service calls with installation. All help vaccinated for virus. Be safe! Free haul away (no matter where you bought your new one). Used appliances available. Service call \$39.99 with repairs. 407-886-2255 or 407-497-7458
CC 0704-0725-0725 APO 70

70. MERCHANDISE-MISC.

TRAILER PARTS FOR sale. Largest stocking dealer in NW Orange County (Apopka). 407-293-5788. www.surplus-steel.com.
B 0627-0718 SUR 70

FREE CHAIN LINK DOG PEN, 10ft. long, 5.9ft wide, 6ft high, front gate.. You must transport. Dog house approx. 4ft long 3ft wide 3ft high, free. 407-886-0127 leave a message with name & number.
CC 0627-0711 THO 70

HOUSE OF FURNITURE for sale: chairs, tables, china cabinet, end tables, coffee tables, serving carts, desks, night stands, lamps, much more, make reasonable offer. text 321-370-6144 for more info & location. Wayne.
CC 0711-0801 THO 70

81. AUTOS FOR SALE

USED CARS. NEW cars. Low upfront pricing. No dealer fees. 407-972-1678. Mullinaxfordfl.com
JT 0711-0801 MUL 81

2012 4-DOOR BLACK Range Rover 91,000 miles. \$7,000 must see. Text message to: 321-370-6144
0627-0718 THO 81

117. CEMETERY

LOTS & BURIAL VAULTS for sale by family at Highland Memory Gardens Cemetery, 3329 E. Semoran Blvd., Apopka, FL 32703. Garden of Apostles section, spaces 16 1A, 2A. Currently \$14,180, family will sell for \$10,000. For inquiries call 850-638-4010.
CC 0627-0815 BRO 117

130. REAL ESTATE

131. VACANT LAND

5 ACRE PLOT: SEMINOLE County, 541 E. Oseola Rd., Geneva. 330' x 660' 250K cash or \$300K finance for 10 yrs. "No Realtors" call 407-682-7898.
CC 0711-0801 IRV 131

133. HOMES FOR SALE

BUYING, SELLING, rentals or property management. We're your friend in the business. Rogers & Rogers Realty. 407-880-8888.
CC 0711-0801 ROG 133

3511 FOX LAKE DR., Apopka 32712. 4 bed/2 bath, 1.3 acres. Barbara DeLoach, Rawls Realty 321-229-5968
B 0620-0711 DEL 133

136. MOBILE HOMES / RV'S FOR SALE

DOUBLE WIDE MOBILE 549 Hawkins Cir., Apopka, 3bd/2ba 1400 sq. ft., Valencia Estate 55+, remodeled floors, close to bus line. \$49,500 or best offer. 407-808-4499
CC 0711-0801 KEL 136

TELL THEM YOU SAW IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS

139. APARTMENTS / CONDOS FOR RENT

FOREST AVE. APTS., SMALL 1bd/1ba, In town, convenient location. \$925 monthly \$825 deposit. No pets. 407-463-7956
CC 0704-0725 CEN 139

140. HOMES / DUPLEXES FOR RENT

REDUCED SINGLE FAMILY 2BD/1.5BA 1122 E. Hancock dr., Deltona 32725. \$1,500/mo. Available immediately Barbara DeLoach Rawls Realty. 321-229-5968
B 0620-0711 DEL 140

141. MOBILE HOME OR LOT FOR RENT

Mobile Home for RENT Small Private Lot
1 single Apopka Senior Only
407-947-3065

142. ROOMS FOR RENT

SWEENEY'S ROOMS Cleanest. Quietest. WIFI, Internet. Multiple locations. Call Dwayne 321-271-6773. sweeneysrooms4rent.com
CC 0704-0725 JAC 142

SHARE 3BED/3BATH home w/couple All amenities in Apopka Errol Estate gated community. \$800/mo., \$200/dep. Non-smoker, employed, with own T.V. and savings account. Call Tony 407-919-9785
CC 0620-0711 PAS 142

142. ROOMS FOR RENT

ROOMS FOR RENT! UTILITIES included, \$800 monthly \$400 deposit. Call for more info: 407-218-0526
CC 0704-0719 FRE 142

ROOMMATES WANTED IN Rocksprings Mobile Home Park, utilities included, \$700-\$850 monthly, Bi-weekly or Weekly payments. Call 321-398-3765 for details.
CC 0627-0718 FEE 142

Place Your Classified Today:
407.886.2777

Local Advertising
That Works as Hard as You Do

FLORIDA STATEWIDE

Home Improvement/Service
Don't Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! Our home warranty covers ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. We stand by our service and if we can't fix it, we'll replace it! Pick the plan that fits your budget! Call: 1-833-650-5419

Home Improvement/Service
WATER DAMAGE CLEAN-UP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-833-714-3745. Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

Home Improvement/Service

PROTECT YOUR HOME from pests safely and affordably. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders and other pests. Locally owned and affordable. Call for a quote or inspection today 1-833-542-1732 Have zip code of property ready when calling!

Miscellaneous
Donate your vehicle to help find missing kids and keep kids safe. Fast free pickup, running or not, 24 hr. response. No emission test required, maximum tax deduction. Support Find the Children Call - Call 1-833-546-7050

Home Improvement/Service
AGING ROOF? NEW HOMEOWNER? STORM DAMAGE? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-833-889-1805

Have zip code of property ready when calling!

Medical
ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 1-833-661-3729

Home Improvement/Service
BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-833-754-2465

Home Improvement/Service
NEED NEW WINDOWS? Drafty rooms? Chipped or damaged frames? Need outside noise reduction? New, energy efficient windows may be the answer!

Call for a consultation & FREE quote today. 1-833-889-0953

Wanted to Buy CASH PAID FOR HIGH-END MEN'S SPORT WATCHES. Rolex, Breitling, Omega, Patek Philippe, Heuer, Daytona, GMT, Submariner and Speedmaster. These brands only! Call for a quote: 1-833-641-0211

Wanted to Buy
We Buy Vintage Guitar's! Looking for 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. These brands only! Call for a quote: 1-833-641-6789

REACH FLORIDA
July 7, 2025

SERVICE DIRECTORY

AUTO REPAIR

ATW
ALL TRANSMISSION WORLD
Central Florida's Oldest & Largest Transmission & Total Car Care Company

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

1150 E Semoran Blvd. Ste. B
Apopka, FL 32703
alltransmissionworld.com
407-880-9300

CLEANING SERVICE

ILUSTRA CLEANING SERVICES

Professional. Reliable. Affordable.

Looking for a trusted cleaning service that leaves your space spotless every time?

- Weekly, Biweekly, Monthly Services
- Move-In/Move-Out & Post-Construction Cleaning
- Office & Commercial Cleaning Available
- Serving Apopka and surrounding communities

Call for a free quote!
(407) 383-3266
ilustracleaning@gmail.com

GAS

Lake Apopka Natural Gas District
ENERGY CHOICE

P: 407.656.2734
F: 407.877.3893
www.LANGD.org

811

Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

INSURANCE

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

IRRIGATION

AROUND 2 IT
LANDSCAPING
Residential & Commercial

✓ Irrigation
✓ Lawn care

Free Estimate
407-310-1003

Licensed & Insured

IRRIGATION

Larkin Landscape Irrigation
INSTALLATION WITH INTEGRITY

Flood Prevention (FRENCH WELL DRAIN)
Yard Clean-Ups
Sprinkle Repair
Resodding • Pavers
Fill dirt • Mulch
Tree Trimming
Pressure Wash (hot and cold)

Larkin45@yahoo.com
407-739-7334

LAWNSCAPING

Tony's Lawn Service

- Trimming
- Weeding
- Mowing
- Raking
- Trash

Weekly - Monthly your choice
321~228~3015

LANDSCAPING

Amigo Lawn Care
Specializing in Residential Cuts

- Edging
- Blowing
- Trimming

Call 407-497-3415

FREE ESTIMATES

MEDICAL

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

PACKING & SHIPPING

Apopka Pack & Ship

- ◆ Shipping Services
- ◆ Package Drop Off
- ◆ Office Supplies
- ◆ Pro Packing

407 220 0410
2246 E Semoran Blvd
Apopka, FL 32703

THE SHEPHERD
ORLANDO, FL 1270 AM

RAMSEY

TUNE IN WEEKDAYS AND WEEKENDS

It's not just talk... it's life-changing.

www.theshepherdradio.com

MARC Digital SOLUTIONS

MARC Digital Solutions is a locally owned and operated agency for web design, social media, and targeted geofencing campaigns. We deliver affordable, effective strategies that drive real results to any business.

www.MarcMediaUSA.com

ROOFING

EVANS ROOFING

40+ Years Experience
Reroofs & Repairs

407-295-4944
CCC1333038

ROOFING

RESTORATION

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

TREE SERVICE

MALTBY'S
TREE SERVICE & LANDSCAPING

- Irrigation
- Tree Removal
- Tree Trimming
- Grapple Truck Service
- Landscape Maintenance & Installation

JAMES MALTBY Owner
Licensed & Insured
321-689-5866

The Apopka Chief
MEMBERSHIP

SUPPORT LOCAL NEWS AND GET COOL PERKS

COMING SOON