

The Apopka Chief

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County quietly ends affordable housing project

Project broke ground in 2023

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

Orange County officials quietly terminated a developer's agreement with the Hannibal Square Community Land Trust for a 24-unit affordable townhome project in Apopka, citing financial instability and a lack of construction progress as the reasons.

Known as Cornerstone at Sixth, the development would have been built in the heart of the Apopka Community Redevelopment Area (CRA). The estimated \$8.1-million project was meant to provide affordable housing options as a mixed-income development, including a pocket park and pavilion, on 2.53 acres at 350 E. Sixth St.

An April 7 letter, not previously reported, served as written notice of Orange County's termination of the agreement. It confirmed that the agreement is ending "for cause, as a result of the Agency's default," effective 24 hours after Hannibal's receipt of the notification.

"That project is no longer happening," Dustin Wyatt, an Orange County spokesperson, wrote in a Dec. 18 email to The Apopka Chief. "The agreement was terminated and they will not be receiving funding from us."

The primary catalyst for the termination was the collapse of the project's funding structure. On Aug. 23, 2024, Black Economic Development Fund, as lender, filed a foreclosure action against the Winter Park-based Hannibal Square Community Land Trust.

According to the county's notice, the lender alleged that the nonprofit "failed to make timely loan payments," putting the \$6.425 million construction loan at risk, which is

CORNERSTONE, A3



File photo by Teresa Sargeant

City and county officials celebrate the groundbreaking for Cornerstone at Sixth in July 2023.

Apopka pageant queen concludes reign



Photo by Dana O'Connor

Ms. Florida Petite 2025 Be Edwards wears her crown in the 2025 Apopka Christmas Parade.

Be Edwards looks back on her year as Ms. Florida Petite

By Sarah Merly
Reporter

Apopka resident Labritney "Be" Edwards, crowned Ms. Florida Petite in March, will finish her pageant queen reign at the end of the year.

"This was my first pageant that I participated in in March with Florida Petite," Edwards said. "Before that, I

had no idea about pageantry, never entered any pageants. Just always wanted to as a kid but couldn't afford it."

Florida Petite crowns winners in five categories every March: Teen, Miss, Ms., Mrs. and Elite. Candidates, all 5'6" or less, participate in a swimsuit competition, an evening gown competition, a judge interview and an on-stage question. Edwards won in the "Ms." category, which is open to unmarried women 18 years or older.

"Joining a pageant will really be a confidence build-

er," Edwards said. "It's that confidence builder you really need. I went from being the quietest person in the room who can now speak in front of a group of people with no problems, without stuttering or uttering a word at all."

Each Petite candidate also chooses a personal platform, or a cause to champion in the community. Edwards built hers around animal welfare, titling her platform "Glamour with a Cause: Uniting for Animal Awareness." As a result, she volunteers at the Florida Aquar-

ium, animal shelters and the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive. She also hopes to hold a fundraiser at a pet park and donate the proceeds to a local animal shelter.

"I've just been an animal person my entire life," Edwards said. "I just wanted to make sure that I can be a voice for those that are unheard."

Edwards said her main job is that of a stay-at-home mom to her 9-year-old son. She said her Ms. Florida title

MS. FLORIDA PETITE, A5

George 'Smitty' Smith running for City Council

Veteran challenging Velazquez for Seat 2

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter



Courtesy of George Smith

George 'Smitty' Smith year Apopka resident, U.S. Navy Veteran, and MBA holder, I've dedicated myself to serving our community through professional experience, civic involvement, and leadership in local organizations, boards, churches, schools, and volunteer efforts," he said.

In his statement posted Dec. 19 to his Facebook campaign page, Smith said he will prioritize fiscal transparency, public safety, upgraded infrastructure, and open community communication. He would also maintain what he called "smart growth" to maintain Apopka's one-of-a-kind character.

"Apopka is at a pivotal

moment," he said. "As our

city continues to grow, we

must protect our neighbor-

hoods, support local busi-

nesses, and make thought-

ful decisions that reflect the

values of our residents. I'm

running to be a strong, ac-

cessible voice for the peo-

ple of Apopka."

He said he has com-

mitted to serving Apopka

in different roles, and those

experiences have all mold-

ed his leadership style.

"As a proud 10+

SEAT 2 ELECTION, A9

Fifth Street to host 3rd annual New Year's Eve ball drop

Ball built by Apopka High engineering students

By Sarah Merly
Reporter

Apopka's third annual New Year's Eve ball drop is headed to downtown Apopka, with festivities starting at 6 p.m. Dec. 31.

"This will actually be the



Courtesy of the city of Apopka

NYE BALL DROP, A9

City of Apopka staff pose at last year's ball drop site.

Group celebrates Christmas with homeless outside gutted thrift store

Owner seeks to get building restored, expanded

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

In May, a fire gutted the Good Neighbor Place Thrift Store on North Park Avenue, leaving the thrift store unable to continue serving the local low-income and homeless population.

However, as the Christmas season arrived, the



Courtesy of HOPE of Apopka

Volunteers serve the homeless population meals at a special Christmas celebration on Sunday.

charred remains didn't stop the spirit of giving, as the thrift store's parking lot continued to be a resource hub

for the local homeless community.

CHRISTMAS, A4

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Opinion

The Apopka Chief

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E-bikes carry both benefits and danger

The Orange County Board of County Commissioners recently pondered a commissioner request to study the regulation of e-bikes. It was a heartfelt conversation as all of us are concerned with the growing number of students riding faster e-bikes on our roadways which are poorly designed for micro-mobility devices.

As chair of the Central Florida federal transportation agency, MetroPLAN, I was recently presented with a New York Times Magazine article on an e-bike crash which led to regulatory reform. As the storyline goes, a young 15-year-old girl riding a Class II e-bike crashed. She experienced severe brain bleeding, and while the extraordinary care she received saved her life, the course and quality of her life was severely altered. Her testimony eventually led to legislation.

The article begins with arguments for e-bikes, which include ease of riding, inspiration to bike instead of drive, economic and health-related benefits, reduction of carbon emissions, reduction in oil demand, lower cost than cars, and greater freedom for young people.

Class I bikes, limited to no more than 20 mph, can go where traditional bicycles are allowed. Classes II and III are restricted to streets and roads, however, very little enforcement is taking place as users often do not have licenses, and few means exist to exact fines and punishment.

Several university campuses have banned Class II and III e-bikes. In New York City, with the proliferation of food delivery drivers on e-bikes, Priscilla's Law — named for a 69-year-old

educator killed by a rented e-bike that ran a red light — led to the confiscation of e-bikes that violate traffic laws.

Bikes have always offered independence to kids and liberated parents from ferrying them around. The author claims statistics prove "young people's proclivity for play" is made worse as they are often not old enough to drive and don't know the rules of the road.

The story also describes the interest of a retired trial attorney and bike enthusiast's work to categorize the myriad bikes on the market. The man inventories the various classes and brands of devices at 12 local high school campuses. He claims the manufacturers took advantage and the bikes are proliferating with each passing day.

Ultimately, with the testimony of this injured, young girl, pilot legislation was passed in her home county restricting e-bike ridership to age 12 or older for both Class I and Class II machines. Time will tell what Orange County or the state of Florida will choose to do regarding the regulation of e-bikes.

Let me know your thoughts at District2@ocfl.net.

County Commissioner
District 2



Christine Moore

Several university campuses have banned Class II and III e-bikes. In New York City, with the proliferation of food delivery drivers on e-bikes, Priscilla's Law — named for a 69-year-old

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Let me know your thoughts at District2@ocfl.net.

City tightening up water billing

Apopka Mayor



Bryan Nelson

As we head into the New Year, I wanted to give everyone an update on the progress we have made reducing the number of no-reads and estimated read water meters to help our residents with rising costs.

By lowering both no-reads and estimates, we can reduce the price of water and sewer. We hired a contractor last year to help jump start our program to replace meters.

Our city team began in earnest in August to focus on the larger commercial meters and making sure every meter had a flex-net, which is the device that transmits data to the tower and ultimately to the water billing department. Our staff finally has inventory of both meters and flex-nets, allowing us to replace the meters without waiting for parts.

We now have the fourth transmission tower in the northwest quadrant operating, which helps pick up flex-net reads that the current towers couldn't reach. We are also seeing additional

revenue from the contractors who inadvertently damaged our water pipes — reclaimed or wastewater.

Now for the results, which are remarkable. In calendar year 2024, the city was billing 34.85% less water than we produced at our water plants. To increase our revenue without impacting our current customers, we began implementing the following: reduce no-reads, estimated reads, and surcharged credit card purchases.

In addition, we began to fine those

who damaged our water and wastewater systems. Some of the things for which we can't bill include: water analysis, water quality flushing, fire department flow testing, storm/sewer cleaning, and utility maintenance, which limits how low we can go on water loss.

In 2024, we had 2,292,264,327 gallons of water that were unaccounted for. We are excited to announce that in 2025 we are down to 981,334,893 gallons of water that have not been billed. That means we went from 34.85% water loss to a 15.96% water loss — which is a remarkable reduction.

If you look at just the months of August through December, the numbers have drastically dropped our percentage to well under 10%, which is better than the state benchmark.

Our teams at utility billing and public services have made a huge impact on lost water revenue and, hopefully, it will have an immediate impact on our water, wastewater and sewer rates.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Readers discuss politics, healthcare

Let's recap what has happened this political season in Apopka's version of the Paramount television show "Survivor."

In a classic blindsight, Commissioner Nick Nesta played his advantage in November and "blocked" the potential vote of residents supporting Matt Aungst, who dropped out of the race in an effort to not "split" the vote and present either candidate an "immunity idol" to win the office.

And now let's discuss the "Final Three," each with their own baggage but who will be the only names on the ballot to select.

Over the next 70+ days, residents

will be able to watch as the candidates vying for the office of Apopka Mayor, attempt to "Out-Spend," "Out-Blame" and "Out-Last" their competition.

But remember that, as members of the "jury," or registered voting public, everyone has an opportunity to ask a question.

Each of these candidates currently holds a local elected office and should be held accountable for their past actions or decisions that may be negatively affecting this city that we call H-O-M-E.

One question might be: "When was the defective water meter issue

discovered, and how are some City of Apopka Water customers NOW receiving excessively high bills as a result when fixed?"

Another question might be why were "cluster" home subdivisions allowed to be built in Apopka and surrounding areas of unincorporated Orange County, increasing the population while ignoring infrastructure improvements?

The "finale episode," or election, is Tuesday, March 10, 2026, when a winner will be chosen.

Make sure your vote counts!

Tamiko Kirt
Apopka

and much more expensive over time, defeating the purpose of holding off for a "more convenient time. A postponed filling can turn into a crown. A missed orthodontic evaluation can mean longer, costlier treatment later. Using HSA dollars helps families stay ahead of those issues without blowing their budget or being forced to dip into their savings.

This is an ideal time for people to take advantage of their HSA funds. This holiday season, when financial stress is high and family needs come first, HSAs offer a rare opportunity for families to take care of their health using money that has already been set aside. It's not a matter of spending more, but of wisely using what's already available to you.

Dr. Andre Baptiste
Baptiste Orthodontics, Apopka

About The Apopka Chief

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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.

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HOLIDAY HISTORY

New Year's Day traditions pack flavor

Eating black eyed peas a long-standing Southern tradition

By Tim Price
Correspondent

New Year's Day gives us a lot of opportunities to discover the fun side of history—and have fun doing it.

Food, for example, is part of many New Year's traditions. Food is one of the best ways to gain insight into a culture. We study cultures to determine how they operated in the past and what we can learn from them. Most everyone equates food and fun on some level.

Eating black eyed peas on New Year's is a long-standing Southern tradition. Black eyed peas, which are actually a type of bean, originated in West Africa, although they are now eaten around the world. En-

slaved people almost certainly brought black eyed peas with them when they were taken and brought to the Americas.

The most likely suggestion is that eating black eyed peas on New Year's Day originated with African Americans, with the idea that they bring good luck. Other accounts point to the Civil War, when Union troops in the South would requisition foodstuffs, or confiscate them outright, but were said to leave black eyed peas because the troops considered them unfit for consumption. Those grateful to have them considered themselves fortunate.

That leads to two other points in the study of history. The first one is this: Sometimes there is no definitive answer, or it has not yet been rediscovered. We may know with certainty that the D-Day invasion occurred on June 6, 1944, but no one is sure who originated

eating black eyed peas on New Year's Day.

Greens, especially collard greens, are another New Year's favorite. One rationale is that the greens are the color of cash. Now, "greenbacks" didn't appear as cash until the 1860s, and our current currency notes didn't come along until about a century ago. Do you think that makes sense, that greens are tied to prosperity in a New Year because of their color? Or is there another reason?

Money is suggested as the reason for other first day of the year favorites. Cornbread is golden. Lentils, a New Year's choice in Italian cooking, are said to resemble ancient Roman coins.

Ham is offered as a good way to start the year because of the traits of the pigs from which it comes. Pigs get their food by rooting forward, in the way we should be looking forward, in contrast to chickens,

for example, that scratch backward looking for food.

There may be another practical reason ham, or pork in general, is prepared on New Year's Day. Germans and other central Europeans brought the tradition with them. It may be this simple. Pigs are slaughtered late in the year and their meat would then be available at this time. In the same way, cabbage can become available late in the year and is considered an omen of good luck for the year.

What experience do you have with these traditional foods? What other foods have your family eaten to celebrate a New Year? Please leave your comments below.

The second point in the study of history—as illustrated by the black eyed peas tradition—is this: Small things that we would consider good or positive can come from much larger, tragic things. The ghastly Middle Passage bringing en-



Metro Creative Graphics

Black-eyed peas

slaved people from Africa is the opposite of anything good or positive. This is not about finding some silver lining. It is about recognizing that there are connections we would not anticipate.

History teaches us that there will be difficulties every year, along with tragedies—tragedies that sometimes endure.

Let us resolve to do what

we can to make lives better in 2025.

May your first day of the year be filled with fun, food and the people you love.

May you also have a prosperous, healthy, and yes, *Happy* New Year.

Editor's note: Tim Price (1959-2024) was a feature writer for Mainstreet Daily News, which previously published a version of this story.

CHRISTMAS

FROM A1

Three Sundays of every month for nearly a year, the thrift store property has been the site of HOPE of Apopka's efforts to serve meals to those experiencing homelessness. On Sunday, the grassroots organization celebrated Christmas with them, serving 53 people and distributing 93 to-go boxes filled with meals.

"Thanksgiving and Christmas, we do a big thing for them," Kelly Eichner, HOPE of Apopka founder, said.

The impact of this consistency is felt deeply by

those on the receiving end. Daniel Dennerline, 80, who has been homeless for five years following a predatory housing situation, attended the Dec. 21 celebration.

Despite facing health struggles and the recent theft of his belongings, he found a moment of peace at the thrift store event.

"The decoration, they always have good food, and just the whole idea itself [touched my heart]," Dennerline said through tears. "Kelly is lovely."

Going into the next year, the building will be expanded and restored with more amenities available for volunteers to further serve and support people in need.

Dr. Dean Behner owns the North Park Avenue structure and leases it to the Apopka Seventh-day Adventist Church to operate its thrift store ministry.

"I know when [Behner] rebuilds this thrift store, he's going to put offices in there and laundry facilities, so hopefully we can wash their

clothes," Eichner said.

Over the years, HOPE of Apopka had to frequently relocate throughout the community to continue its mission of supporting people experiencing homelessness. Previous locations included the First Methodist Church and Kit Land Nelson Park.

"We just keep getting thrown out of places," said HOPE volunteer Joe Austin.

Besides meals, HOPE provides hygiene kits, clothing and even, once a quarter, veterinary care for pets

through the organization Project Street Vet.

Behner is acquiring a permit from the city to restore and expand the building, adding 1,200 square feet to the existing structure for a total of 5,500 square feet.

"They have always wanted more space, so we will be providing that for them," he said. "They are not going to, probably not offer anything different in that space, just additional ability to do what they've been doing. But everything will be like new."

The restoration project will include new electrical, heating, air conditioning, windows, doors and a new roof. All in all, once the permit is obtained, March will be the target date of completion and occupancy, Behner said.

"I like the idea of them helping people," he said. "I think it's a great idea. That's why I'm willing to give them the property so far at no charge, and I don't plan to charge them for that back area property."

Season's Greetings

From Our Family To Yours

As we get ready to wrap up 2025, we're grateful for the chance to share our appreciation and best wishes with our valued customers and friends. We hope your New Year is filled with love, friendship, and joy.



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Apopka Serves Foundation delivers gifts for 150 children in need

Presents given Saturday at Propagate's Breakfast with Santa event

By Sarah Merly
Reporter

The Apopka Serves Foundation recently delivered gifts from its annual toy drive at a breakfast with Santa on Saturday at Propagate Social House.

"These kids are almost all high school-age kids, but the way that you see their eyes light up when Santa comes onto the deck, you would think that they were still little kids," said Ella Duke, Propagate Social House and Hall's on 5th co-owner.

Apopka Serves was able to deliver gifts for 150 children from residents across the Apopka community. The foundation partnered with three area schools — Apopka High School, Wekiva High School, and Apopka Middle School — to determine which kids were experiencing homelessness or who qualified as unaccompanied youths.

"Sometimes it just means that their parents don't have



Courtesy of Jay Kleinrichert



Courtesy of Ella Duke



Courtesy of Ella Duke

Ella Duke (R) and Sasha, an Apopka High School volunteer, smile with gifts for 150 children.

Volunteers from the Apopka Serves Foundation, Orange Lodge No. 36, and Ignite Church pose at Saturday's Breakfast with Santa.

an address," Duke said. "They might be living with a family member, or they might be couch surfing at a friend's house."

the drive four years ago. She had seen a social media post from an Apopka High School teacher requesting Thanksgiving meal donations.

"When I was packing her car up with the food, I said, 'So what about Christmas?'" Duke said. "And she's like, 'Well, that kind of gets complicated.'"

The teacher told Duke that some children get left out of programs like Shop With a Cop or Angel Tree for various reasons. After Duke heard that, she reached out to Birchwood Coffee, who agreed to partner with her. They then posted calls for gifts on social media.

"The response was nothing short of a miracle," Duke said. "That year, it was just one school, and I think we did about 50 kids that we were able to match with a present for Christmas."

Toward the end of the first drive, Wekiva High School reached out to Duke, who said it was then she learned about the homeless students and unaccompanied youths.

"I was like, 'Okay, I have some presents left over, and I can cover the rest of them,'" Duke said. "So we took care of those kids."

The next year, Duke reached out to Apopka Serves

for help in caring for 100 children. Last year, Apopka Serves had enough presents for 200 children. Presents often include items like guitars, iPads, makeup and dolls.

"We always try to have gifts for little ones, because luckily, the teachers will say, 'So-and-so has a brother that's 6 years old at home,'" Duke said.

Students put in requests for regular gifts and wish list items. Duke said she loves giving jobs as wish list items.

"We found out about this little boy — he was an unaccompanied youth, and that's what he put on the list," Duke said.

said. "Being able to not just give a gift, but give the gift of capacity so that they can start taking care of themselves is probably the greatest joy that I get out of it."

Duke gives the credit to the Apopka community for supporting the children in need.

"The real stars are the community members that show up with the gifts and our volunteers that we don't even have to ask anymore — they actually contact us in November," Duke said. "We could not do it without them. We would not be able to provide gifts for all those children."

MS. FLORIDA PETITE

FROM A1

has given her the resilience necessary to push through as a single mom. Edwards has also used the title to find employment.

"I took it upon myself to use my crown to make money," Edwards said. "I started to go and speak at certain events. I also was paid to

judge national pageants and state pageants."

Edwards said she moved to Apopka from Texas to receive flight training at Orlando Apopka Airport through D&J Aviation. Her great uncle, who served as a captain with the famed Tuskegee Airmen — the first African

American military pilots in the U.S. armed forces — inspired her to pursue her dream of getting her commercial license and becoming a cargo pilot.

"I like to be the one who transports the puppies that need to come or transport your Christmas gifts that you

need to get here in time," Edwards said.

Although she is proud of her Texas roots — particularly its culture of hospitality — Edwards said she does not want to leave Apopka, since she appreciates the down-to-earth personality of the community.

"When we first moved in the Maude Helen community, there's a lot of military in the Maude Helen community — and I really, really respect the military a lot — and they were all very welcoming," Edwards said.

"My next door neighbor — he came over and welcomed us the first day when we were

getting things out of the car."

After she passes on her crown to the next Ms. Florida Petite in March, Edwards will participate in the Miss Bikini competition in May in Miami.

"It's not just about beauty," Edwards said. "It's not just about your body. It's really about your stature."

Simply Wishing You a Wonderful New Year

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A PUBLIC HEARING ADOPTING A NON-AD VALOREM TAX ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR EAST KELLY PARK – RIDGEBROOK STREET LIGHTING DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that the City Council for the City of Apopka will conduct a public hearing and subsequently adopt a resolution to Adopt a Non-Ad Valorem Tax Assessment Roll for the East Kelly Park – Ridgebrook Street Lighting District for the imposition of annual non-ad valorem special assessment in the areas designated by the specified herein. Each individual non-ad valorem special assessment shall be billed on the Orange County Annual Tax Bill for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2026, and annually thereafter for the collection of all associated costs and expenses applied to the designated areas as applicable.

The public hearing for the East Kelly Park – Ridgebrook Street Lighting District Assessment shall be before the City Council of the City of Apopka in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida, for the purpose of receiving public comment on the imposition of the assessments, as follows:

Development/Sub-Division Name	1st Reading Final Certification	2nd Reading Final Certification
East Kelly Park – Ridgebrook Street Lighting District	February 4, 2026 1:30 P.M.	February 18, 2026 7:00 P.M.

Florida Statutes (F.S.) require us to advise you that a failure to pay the assessment will cause a tax certificate to be issued against the property which may result in the loss of title, F.S. 197.3632(4)(b).

The non-ad valorem assessment is for the East Kelly Park – Ridgebrook Street Lighting District as provided.

The imposition of the annual non-ad valorem assessment may only apply to the Designated District Area, identified herein, where the City Council intends to impose an assessment for the purpose of providing East Kelly Park – Ridgebrook Street Lighting District for the safety and welfare of the residents whom reside within the designated district area.

The costs of the assessment shall be entirely apportioned to the property owners within the subdivision receiving the benefited service. The assessment will continue to be billed by the Orange County Tax Collector on the annual Orange County Tax Bill until all emergency costs expended are recovered by the City. Parcel owners may elect to pay their proportionate share in whole in lieu of paying the annual assessment should they elect to do so but must notify the city of their intentions prior to July 1, 2026.

All affected property owners have the right to appear at the public hearing and the right to file a written objection with the City Clerk's Office within 20 days of the publication of this notice. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at the hearing, such person will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be made. In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the City Clerk's Office at 407-703-1794 at least three (3) days prior to the date of the hearing.

Copies of the Resolutions detailing the legal description of the areas to be assessed are available for inspection at the City Clerk's Office in City Hall, located at 120 E. Main Street, Apopka Florida, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

If you have any questions regarding the assessments, please contact the Special Assessments Coordinator at 407-703-1700, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

December 26, 2025 and January 2, 2026

Floyd Tillman, founder of Sonny's BBQ, dies at 96

Tributes abound on social media

By Lillian Hamman
Reporter

Floyd "Sonny" Tillman, the founder of the Sonny's BBQ restaurant chain based in Gainesville, died this month at the age of 96.

Tillman, who opened the first Sonny's location in 1968 and possessed a deep love for Florida Gators athletics, died peacefully and surrounded by family, according to a social media post from his grandson, Joe Tillman.

"Fly high, and save me a spot at the BBQ heaven," long-time Sonny's BBQ employee Shannon Snell wrote in a Facebook post honoring the

life of Tillman.

Snell, a former NFL and Florida Gators football player who now serves as head pitmaster and brand ambassador for Sonny's BBQ, said his colleague had been a friend and mentor to him.

He said Sonny Tillman created a gathering place, tradition and family through Sonny's BBQ and that the countless friendships Sonny made along the way are "the things of legends."

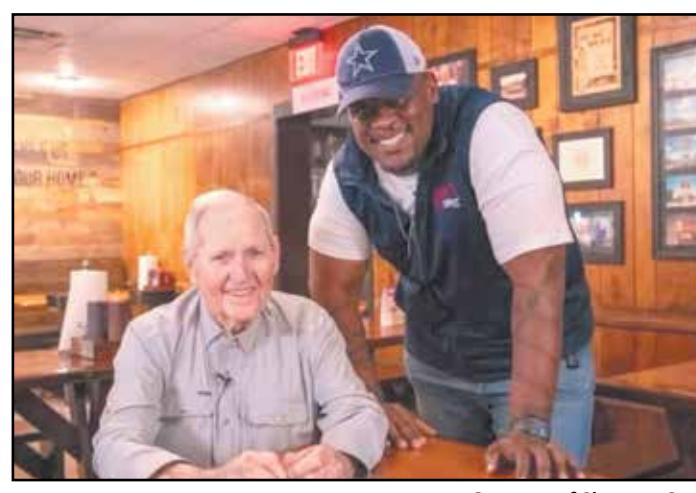
"His legacy will continue to shape every pitmaster, every restaurant, and every guest who walks through our doors," Snell said. "His vision became my vision, and part of who I am today is because of him."

Since founding Sonny's BBQ with family-crafted recipi-

pes including its Kansas-style barbecue, Sonny's restaurant has grown into one of the largest barbecue chains in the country with more than 90 locations.

Corroboration of Sonny's personal and professional legacy showered various social media platforms this week as family, friends, restaurant patrons and community members shared stories of encounters with Sonny, his restaurant, or both.

"Sending comfort and prayers to you and your family," U.S. Rep. Kat Cammack responded on Joe Tillman's post on X. "Your granddad was a great man who touched countless lives. Our community is so much better as a result of his contributions. He will be



Courtesy of Shannon Snell

Sonny Tillman (left) with Sonny's BBQ Head Pitmaster and Brand Ambassador Shannon Snell.

tremendously missed."

As a student at UF, Facebook user Beth Ann Drake said she interned at Sonny's marketing agency and recalled

his intentional care for employees.

"Interns could eat for free at the [Sonny's] restaurant next to the offices, but I got

tired of BBQ. He found my Lean Cuisine in the freezer in the office kitchen and asked about it... I told the truth and the next day the office freezer was stacked full of Lean Cuisines. RIP Sonny," Drake said.

Many others also said Rest In Peace [RIP] Sonny, including a Facebook user named Kristin Harmon Maus.

"We are forever grateful for his vision, his values, and the legacy of bringing people together that he leaves behind," posted Sonny's BBQ. "We ask that you take a moment today to remember Sonny and his family, and to spread a little kindness to those around you in his honor."

Sonny is preceded in death by his wife, Lucille, of 72 years and son, William.

Council approves first reading of Ondich North zoning change

Development part of new Kelly Park Interchange District

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

The Apopka City Council passed 4-1 the first reading of an ordinance to change the zoning of an estimated 197 acres for a development that is part of the growing Kelly Park Interchange (KPI) District.

The ordinance's second reading is scheduled for the Jan. 7 City Council meeting, which follows the first reading that took place Dec. 17.

Ondich North is a planned gated community located at the northwest corner of Ondich Road and S.R. 429/S.R. 453. The development would include 50% open space, with 40% as tree preservation



Courtesy of city of Apopka

The City Council approved the first reading of a zoning change for the 197-acre Ondich North.

areas and 4 miles of trails.

"This is intended to be a higher-end community," attorney Ele-

sia Sowell, representing the Ondich North developer, told the City Council. "It's a very nice transi-

tion. You have the KPI right along Ondich Road, which is the boundary of the KPI. This is allowing this really nice gradual transition into a more rural area."

Sowell said the community would have "one-to-one development," meaning one unit per acre.

Citing growth concerns as the reason for her vote, Commissioner Nadia Anderson opposed the ordinance, which would change the zoning of 196.83 acres from citrus rural to planned development.

She said Ondich North is a "great project" but "adding 196 residents right now ... is not a good idea," citing constituent feedback.

"I've been contacted by a lot of the residents," she said. "Right now, it's important that we slow growth down. If we approved this development, then we will be actually adding to the issues and the problems

we have right now. I think we need to focus more on infrastructure right now, because with the impact that this subdivision would have, I don't think right now our system can actually handle this."

Commissioner Diane Velazquez voted in favor of the ordinance, saying that the development is compatible with the existing rural character.

"Isn't it that they're building this area kind of compatible with what's already out there, which is pretty much rural, so they're kind of keeping the same character in that area back there and up as I drive, we drive up there," she said. "So I'm in favor of the projects."

A 4-1 City Council vote on July 2 annexed the property into the city. A future land use amendment to mixed-use was unanimously adopted on Nov. 5.

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R REGAL

Fri., Dec. 26, 2025 thru Sun., Dec. 28, 2025

ANACONDA (PG-13)

9:30 am; 12:00; 2:30;

5:00; 7:40; 10:20

SONG SUNG BLUE (PG-13)

9:40 am;

12:50; 4:00; 7:10;

10:30

THE HOUSEMAID (R)

10:10 am; 1:10; 4:20;

7:30; 10:40

AVATAR: FIRE AND ASH (REALD 3D) (PG-13)

10:30 am; 2:40;

7:00; 9:40

AVATAR: FIRE AND ASH (PG-13)

1:30;

6:00; 10:10

ZOOTOPIA 2 (PG)

10:40 am

MARTY SUPREME (R)

11:20 am; 3:00;

6:40; 10:00

DAVID (PG)

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THEME: BODY LANGUAGE

ACROSS

- Hot Springs and such
- ____ Bell and ____ Barker
- Wharton degree, acr.
- Artist's inspiration
- *Move head to show attention
- Angry growl
- Shamu, e.g.
- Diva's number
- Put on fancy dress (2 words)
- *Making facial expression showing pain
- Mine passage
- Single-handedly
- Assistance
- Made according to specifications
- Economizes
- Biochemistry acr.
- Aerie baby
- Genesis skipper
- Leaves out
- *Some look up and to the right when telling one
- Watcher

39. "The Forsyte ____" by John Galsworthy

40. Forty winks

42. Fraternity letter T

43. *Said "easy peasy" with fingers

45. Like a weight lifter, usually

47. Weasel-related onomatopoeia

48. Undo laces

50. Helicopter sound

52. *Showing low self-esteem or boredom

56. 100 centimes

57. Purl partner

58. From square one

59. Frustration, in a comic book

60. "At ____, soldier!"

61. Don't go

62. Dashboard acr.

63. Like Willie Winkie

64. Frustrated driver's recourse

DOWN

1. Urban haze

2. Make like a cat

3. Ascus, pl.

4. Same as sea moss (2 words)

5. Rice wine

6. Dress with a flare

7. Rudolph, when older

8. Famous Christmas guests

9. Like some champagnes

10. High mountain

12. Toyota truck model

13. Part of flight

14. *Showing agreement

19. Healing plants

22. Be in a cast

23. *Show anger with arms

24. Unnerve

25. Eurasian antelope

26. "____ but not heard"

27. Much, in Italy

28. Song of praise

29. *I don't know" move

32. *One's smiling because one's ____

33. Intoxicated

36. *Showing impatience with fingers

38. Like retina and brain connecting nerve

40. Large edible mushroom

41. Keen

44. Nice place for a rocking chair

46. Reuse ideas

48. Forearm bones

49. Hustle and bustle sound

50. Sandwich alternative

51. Stay out of its way!

52. Place at angle

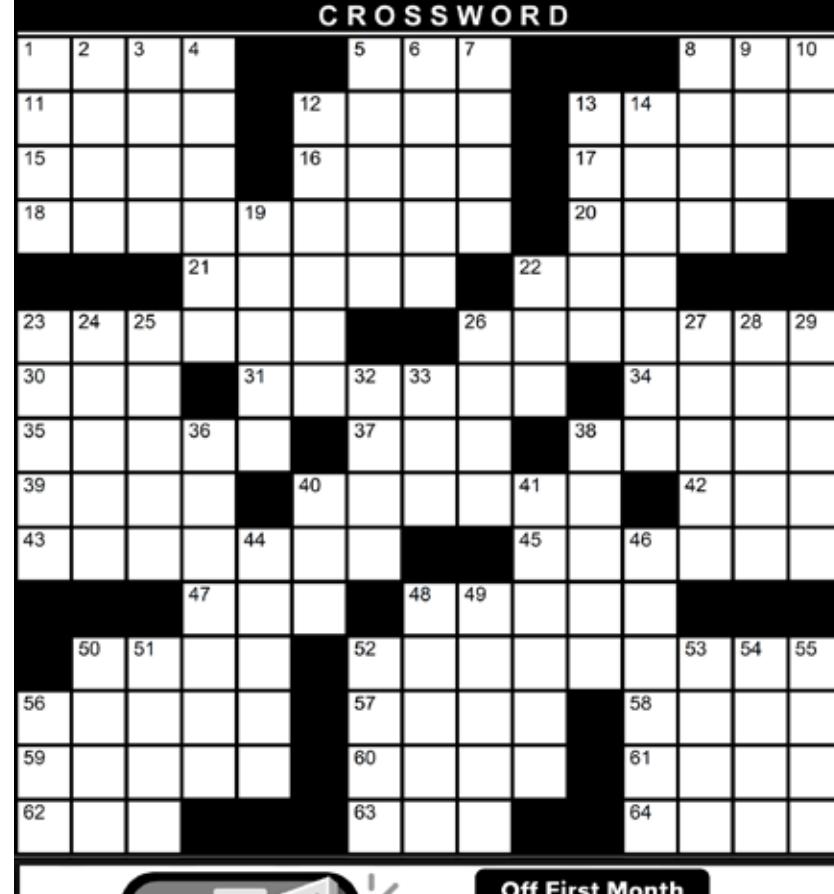
53. Gung-ho about something

54. Close by

55. Gwyneth, for short

56. Opposite of #54 Down

CROSSWORD



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FOLIAGE GARDEN CLUB OF APOPKA



Courtesy of Bev Winesburgh

The ladies of the Foliage Garden Club of Apopka had their Christmas party at Caffé Positano on Dec. 4 and collected items for the homeless and children in need in Apopka. Front row (left to right): Bobbie Dougherty (president), Trudeau Weiss, Marty Harrison, Eleanor Jones and Sandy Bove. Middle row (left to right): Christy Faircloth, Bonnie Parks, Kaye Wolson, Pat DeAmico, Lou Staly, Louise Fortunado and Charlotte White. Back row (left to right): Kathy Gill, Jennifer Barber, Brenda Solomon, Ann Mixson and Dena Morrow.



Courtesy of Bev Winesburgh

The club's float of living bees and flowers won the Sertoma's Most Creative award in this year's parade.

FOLIAGE SERTOMA CLUB OF APOPKA



Courtesy of Bev Winesburgh

A cookie exchange, prayers for the then-upcoming Christmas parade and a prosperous new year, and more set the club on the way to fulfill their purpose of service to mankind for the Apopka area.



Courtesy of Bev Winesburgh

The party committee created a Family Feud game of questions, complete with a disqualification buzzer and sound effects.

GFWC APOPKA WOMAN'S CLUB



Courtesy of Bev Winesburgh

Club treasurer Ginny Iafrate ("Ms. Santa") and Jeff Christiano ("Mr. Ho Ho Ho!") won the "Most Festive" award.



Courtesy of Bev Winesburgh

The Apopka Woman's Club's annual Christmas party had a record-setting 95 attendees on Saturday, Dec. 6. A 12-person committee takes on a challenge each year to make the party more fun than the last and were congratulated for their success. The committee (pictured L-R) includes Vivienne Chambers, Joann Castillo, Shawne Baker, Lorena Potter, Janice Dafeldecker, club president Diane Harrison, committee chair Bev Winesburgh, Ginny Iafrate, Sandy Bove, Margaret Hettler, Bobbie Dougherty and Valarie Duffek.

NORTHWEST ORANGE REPUBLICAN WOMEN FEDERATED



Courtesy of Bev Winesburgh

The Northwest Orange Republican Women Federated (NORWF) met for its officer installation and great BBQ at Papa Diesel's in Hunt Club on Dec. 18. A surprise murder mystery play, enacted by these eight members and written and produced by Verlie Norris, added to the fun of the day. Attendees had to guess who did it, with the most unlikely being the guilty party. Pictured above, from left to right, are member "actresses" Paulette Chessa, Brenda Solomon, Marty Harrison (the guilty party), Beverly Blackmon, Charlotte White, playwright Verlie Norris, Bev Winesburgh and Sandy Bove.

RISER RANCH HOLIDAY DRIVE



Courtesy of Phyllis Olmstead

Shirley Risser supervised another toy drive for children and a food drive for a food bank Dec. 7. Pictured above are members of the Risser extended family, including Shirley (in green sleeves), Nancy Hebert (in the back with glasses), Drew, and Judy. The annual event started over 40 years ago at the Risser Ranch, when the family threw a Christmas BBQ. They invited friends and family while asking their guests to bring toys for children instead of gifts for themselves.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CENTRAL FLORIDA EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY, a body politic and corporate, and an agency of the state under the laws of the State of Florida, Petitioner,

JOSEPH GUADALUPE; LAND TRUST SERVICE CORPORATION AS TRUSTEE OF TRUST NO. 1209 DATED JUNE 20, 2006; UNKNOWN BENEFICIARIES; UNKNOWN TENANTS AND OTHER PARTIES IN POSSESSION; UNKNOWN HEIRS OR BENEFICIARIES; SCOTT RANDOLPH, ORANGE COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR,

Respondents.

CASE NO.: 2025-CA-010944-0

Parcels: 31-203

NOTICE OF ACTION IN EMINENT DOMAIN AND NOTICE OF EVIDENTIARY HEARING FOR CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE OF PROCESS

TO: All Respondents named in Exhibit A, attached; all parties claiming interests by, through, under, or against the named Respondents; and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title, or interest in and to the property described in Exhibit B.

A Petition in Eminent Domain has been filed to acquire property interests in Orange County, Florida.

Each Respondent is required to serve written defenses to the Petition on Petitioner's attorney, whose name and address are shown below, OR before January 19, 2026, and to file the original of the defenses with the Clerk of this Court either before service on the Petitioner's attorney or immediately thereafter, showing what right, title, interest, or lien respondent has in or to the property described in the Petition, and to show cause why that property should not be taken for the uses and purposes set forth in the Petition. If any Respondent fails to do so, a default will be entered against that Respondent for the relief demanded in the Petition.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an Order of Taking Evidentiary Hearing is currently set before the Honorable Michael Deen on the 22nd day of January, 2026, beginning at 10:30 a.m. in Hearing Room 11-A of the Orange County Courthouse, 425 N. Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida 32801.

At that time, an Order of Taking will be entered. All Respondents in this action may file a request to be heard at that hearing. Each party to be heard at that hearing shall notify the Court of the specific issue(s) to be addressed at the Order of Taking Hearing, and shall identify any exhibits, motions needed, and the time requirements for the presentation of their case. Any Respondent failing to file a request for hearing shall waive any right to object to the Order of Taking.

WITNESS my hand and seal of this Court this 21st day of November 2025.

TIFFANY MOORE RUSSELL, ESQUIRE
ORANGE COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS
(COURT SEAL)

By: /s/ Rasheda Thomas

As Deputy Clerk

*See Americans with Disabilities Act Notice.

NOTICE
If you are a person with a disability who needs accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Ninth Circuit Court Administration ADA Coordinator, Orange County Courthouse, 425 North Orange Avenue, Suite 510, Orlando, Florida 32801 (407) 836-2303. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711 to reach the Telecommunications Relay Service within 2 working days of your receipt of this document.

DAVID A. SHONTZ, ESQ.
dshontz@shunts.com
Florida Bar No. 063051

SHUTTS & BOWEN, LLP
300 South Orange Avenue, Suite 1600
Orlando, Florida 32801
Secondary Email:
tmartin@shunts.com; ssleiter@shunts.com

(407)835-6722
(407)849-7273 (fax)

Attorneys for Petitioner,
OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA

HALDOCS 23403745 1

OWNERS AND ENCUMBRANCES
PARCEL 31-203

I. Joseph Guadalupe
5036 Dr Phillips Boulevard
Orlando, Florida 32819-3310
Fee Owner by virtue of Trustee's Deed with Lien dated July 1, 2013 and recorded August 19, 2013 in OR Book 10621, Page 2938 of the Official Records of Orange County, Florida

EXHIBIT A



EXHIBIT B

CITY OF APOPKA
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
CHANGE OF ZONING

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Sec. 166.041(3)(a), Florida Statutes and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7.B, that Thomas Faber has made application relating to the following described property.

ORDINANCE NO. 3154

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM T (TRANSITIONAL) TO RSF-1B (RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY - LARGE LOT), FOR PROPERTY LOCATED 550 W LESTER ROAD; OWNED BY CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS AND KATRINA BARRETT COMPRISING 3.05 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 33-20-28-0000-00-069
Contains: 3.05 +/- Acres

Notice is given that the City of Apopka Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 beginning at 5:30 P.M., or as soon thereafter as possible.

FURTHER NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Number 3082 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, February 4, 2026 beginning at 1:30 P.M. or soon thereafter.

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

Apopka City Council
Apopka Planning Commission
Community Development Department

Try slow-cooked comfort and classic eggnog

From thepioneerwoman.com site, "Meltingly tender and seriously easy, this Slow Cooker Pulled Pork recipe includes a flavorful rub spiked with brown sugar and dry mustard, sweet onions, and even apple cider to make it a comforting cool weather recipe. The best part about it? No need to sear on the stove before cooking. Serve it on toasted pretzel rolls with a smear of sharp mustard, and it's ready for feeding a hungry crowd. "This Crock-Pot recipe calls for bone-in pork shoulder, which is sometimes labeled picnic roast. (Pork butt or Boston butt roasts will also work for this recipe.) You can use a boneless cut as well, but the bone gives both the meat and cooking liquid a flavorful boost as the roast cooks slowly. When finished, the meat is tossed with the cooking liquid, so build flavor by seeking out that bone-in roast!"

From Cabell Huntington Hospital Foundation in Huntington, WV, we have their recipe for Healthy Recipe - Classic Hummus. They say, "This recipe is used by Chef Marty Emerson at Huntington's Kitchen to teach children how to prepare healthy foods for themselves. While this Middle Eastern dish has been around for eight centuries, it's only been in the last 25 years that it has taken America by storm. Its popularity here has helped propel sales worldwide, with global revenues for hummus projected to reach \$1 billion by 2026. And why not? Hummus is nutritious, helps lower cholesterol, is gluten- and lactose-free, and contains cancer-preventing properties. Plus, you can enjoy it on everything from pita chips to crackers."

From Food Network, Alton Brown's classic "Good Eats" Eggnog is an uncooked recipe that uses both the yolks and the whites of the eggs, with bourbon and dark rum as the spirits of choice. He also offers an aged variation for a different flavor profile. For those concerned about using raw eggs, you can use pas-



teurized eggs or a cooked version of the recipe. Alton Brown also has a popular aged eggnog recipe that requires aging in the refrigerator for at least two weeks to allow the alcohol to "cook" the eggs and meld the flavors.

And From Mark Sohn's *Hearty Country Cooking*, we have a different recipe for Eggnog, this one called Tennessee Eggnog, which also calls for your favorite brands of bourbon and rum.

SLOW COOKER PULLED PORK

Recipe from: thepioneerwoman.com

From: Caitlin Bensel

INGREDIENTS:

1 5 to 6 pound bone-in pork shoulder roast
6 cloves garlic
4 teaspoons kosher salt
1 tablespoon brown sugar
2 teaspoons ground mustard
3 teaspoons ground black pepper
1 large yellow onion, thinly sliced
8 sprigs of thyme
1 cup apple cider

1) The pork will release a lot of moisture when cooking, so while it is not entirely necessary to add liquid to the slow-cooker, we like the flavor that the apple cider adds to the finished dish. If you don't have apple cider, use chicken broth or beef broth, or even beer. 2) At high heat, the pork shoulder will take about six hours in the slow cooker to become meltingly tender. At low heat, plan on 8 to 10 hours. 3) Depending on the amount of time that you have, either high or low temperature will yield fork-tender pork. Got a late start to the day? Set on high to expedite the cook time. Starting this before a long day at work? Choose low heat and come home to a meltingly tender meal.

TO SERVE:

Dijon mustard
12 pretzel rolls, split and toasted

Yields: 6 - 8 serving(s)

CLASSIC HUMMUS

Contributed by: Chef Marty,
 Cabell Huntington Hospital
 Foundation

INGREDIENTS:

2 lemons
2 cans of chickpeas (garbanzo beans)
1/3 cup tahini paste
Extra virgin olive oil
3 roasted garlic cloves
OPTIONAL:
Hot sauce
Smoked paprika
Roasted red peppers
Edamame
Dried basil
Avocado

NOTE: When adding in extra ingredients for flavor or added nutrient value, adjust liquid addition to reach desired thickness.

DIRECTIONS:

1) Open cans of chickpeas and drain, reserving about two tablespoons of the juice. Add both cans and reserved juice to a food processor or blender. 2) Make sure tahini is well-stirred, and add 1/3-cup to the chickpeas. 3) Juice the two lemons and add to processor, as well. 4) Add the cloves of roasted garlic. 5) Turn on the food processor and drizzle in olive oil until you reach desired thickness. 6) Serve with toasted whole grain pita triangles or cut vegetables.

Possible Combos: 1) Roasted garlic and edamame hummus, 2) Spicy roasted red pepper hummus (garlic, paprika, hot sauce), 3) Lemon basil hummus (lemon zest, lemon juice, dried basil), 4) Garlic avocado hummus, 5) Top with chopped olives, parsley, olive oil, or dried spice.

CLASSIC "GOOD EATS" EGGNOG

From: Alton Brown,

FoodNetwork.com

INGREDIENTS:

4 large eggs, separated
1/3 cup plus 1 tablespoon sugar
1 pint (2 cups) whole milk
1 cup heavy cream
3 ounces (approximately 1/3 cup) bourbon
4 egg whites
1 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg, plus more for garnish

(Optional: You can substitute the

bourbon for a mix of 1-1/4 fluid ounces bourbon and 1-1/4 fluid ounces dark rum.)

DIRECTIONS:

1) **Beat the yolks:** In a large bowl or the bowl of a stand mixer, beat the egg yolks until they lighten in color. 2) **Add sugar to yolks:** gradually add the 1/3 cup sugar to the yolks and continue beating until completely dissolved and the mixture is thick and pale. 3) **Mix in liquids and nutmeg.** With the mixer on low speed, slowly add the milk, heavy cream, and bourbon (or rum/bourbon mix). Stir in 1 teaspoon of freshly grated nutmeg. 4) **Chill:** Place the mixture in the refrigerator to chill. 5) **Beat the whites:** In a separate clean bowl (and clean mixer blades), beat the egg whites to soft peaks. 6) **Add sugar to whites:** With the mixer still running, gradually add the remaining one tablespoon of sugar and continue to beat until stiff peaks form. 7) **Combine:** Gently whisk or fold the stiff egg whites into the chilled yolk mixture until incorporated. 8) **Serve:** Ladle into glasses and garnish with additional freshly grated nutmeg. 9) For those concerned about using raw eggs, you can use pasteurized eggs or a cooked version of the recipe.

TENNESSEE EGGNOG

Recipe from *Hearty Country Cooking*

From: Mark Sohn

3/4 cup white sugar

6 eggs, separated and at room temperature

3 cups milk

1 cup heavy cream

1 cup bourbon

1/4 cup rum

STEPS:

1) In a mixing bowl, whisk together half the sugar, the egg yolks, milk, and heavy cream. 2) Add the bourbon and rum; then stir. 3) In a grease-free bowl and using an electric mixer on high, beat the egg whites till frothy. 4) One tablespoon at a time, add the remaining sugar to the egg whites. When the mixture is thick like a meringue, whisk it into the milk mixture. 5) Refrigerate.

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 Community Church

SATURDAY SERVICES

Bible Study - 10 AM
Worship - 11:30 AM

Livestream - tinyurl.com/4ak7933j

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graceworxcc@gmail.com **321-228-4599**

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POLICE BEAT

APD makes 33 arrests, works 27 crashes Dec. 14-20

If a law enforcement agency charges you with a crime and this news outlet reports that information, please notify us within 90 days if the charge is dropped or if you are found not guilty by the court. After verifying the information, we will be happy to publish it. Please send notification to dhayden@theapopkachief.com.

In the period from December 14-20, 2025, the Apopka Police Department received 1,981 calls for service, responded to 27 crashes, issued 90 citations, and made 33 arrests. Burglaries: 4 vehicles, 0 residences, 2 businesses. No juveniles were charged.

The following adults were arrested and charged:

John Paul Brown, 23, 1371 Clarcona Rd., Apopka, resist officer-obstruct without violence.

Hoa Thi Bui, 72, 2014 Continental Blvd., Orlan-

do, other agency warrant. Wes Erik Cady, 47, 611 Business Park Blvd. 101, Winter Garden, larceny-other theft (X2).

Tina Louise Carey, 45, general delivery, Orlando, trespassing-structure or conveyance.

Cristhian Noe Castellanos, 28, 1125 S. Christiana Ave., Apopka, drugs-possession of controlled substance without prescription.

Jose Del Carmen Sosa Vazquez, 36, Apopka, battery-touch or strike; obstructing justice-tampering witness, absent official proceeding, noncriminal proceeding.

Elijah Pierre Delisca, 23, Apopka, simple assault-intent threat to do violence.

Jaylen Trinity Dudley, 20, 1940 Wild Coffee Ave. #209, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Makarios Paul Fisher, 40, 203 W. 7th St., Apop-

ka, moving traffic violation-drive while license suspended, habitual offender.

Lavaris Demonte Foster, 33, 3162 St. Johns Bluff Rd., S. 203, Jacksonville, larceny-petit theft, merchandise farm transit 2+ prior conviction.

Lynton Cardell Fox, 27, 6401 Canterbury Dr., Orlando, drugs-possession of controlled substance without prescription.

Alexander Garraud, 18, 728 Parkside Pointe Blvd., Apopka, resist officer with violence; weapon offense-unlawful possession, law enforcement officer firearm; battery on specified personnel; resist officer-obstruct without violence; robbery-carjacking without firearm or weapon.

A'Kiliaus Jacob Breland Hamilton, 26, 1409 Clarcona Rd., Apopka, Amphetamine-traffic in meth/amphetamine 14 grams+.

Abraham Jaramillo Re-tana, 21, 548 Mason Ave., Apopka, moving traffic violation-operate motor vehicle without valid license, 1st conviction; DUI-unlawful blood alcohol, DUI-influence of alcohol or drugs.

Joab Allen Kelly, 58, 107 S. Highland Ave. Apt 2, Apopka, moving traffic violation-operate motor vehicle without valid license, 1st conviction.

Andrea Rae Kitchen, 33, 655 Lake Lerla, Apopka, larceny-other theft.

Taniya Loubertha Lannigan, 20, 1921 Nicole Lee Cir. #1134, Apopka, out-of-county warrant.

Cory Devon Livingston, 46, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Michael Paris McRoy, 61, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Myles Brandon McRoy, 33, Apopka, battery-cause bodily harm.

Luis R. Melendez, 60,

612 Bishop Bay Loop, Apopka, larceny-other theft. Alexander Joseph Mitchell, 31, Apopka, contempt of court-violation injunction protection, domestic violence.

Wadkys Napoleon, 39, 161 N. Cervidae Dr., Apopka, drugs-possession of controlled substance without prescription (X3).

Christopher Donald Ogg, 44, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Julio Ortega, 41, 253 Springs Colony Cir. #391, Altamonte Springs, moving traffic violation-driving while license suspended, revocation equivalent status.

Seth Nyarko Peasah, 58, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Larry Robinson, 62, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Gloria Evette Rolon, 47, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Reshawn Rovelle

Sims, 37, 1165 S. Central Ave., Apopka, obstructing justice-tamper with evidence in criminal proceeding; trespassing-failure to leave property on order of owner; drug equipment-possession and/or use; resist officer-obstruct without violence.

Colin R. Stevens, 41, 2690 Somerset Dr. #Z-302, Lauderdale Lakes, robbery-residence home invasion with weapon; burglary with assault or battery; larceny-other theft.

Rafael Vega-Marrero, 39, 5739 Dogwood Dr., Orlando, drugs-possession of controlled substance without prescription (fentanyl); drugs-possession of controlled substance without prescription (crack).

Rixie Leigh Viera, 31, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Vertrelle Vernon Walker, 22, 909 Poplar Dr., Altamonte Springs, other agency warrant.

NYE BALL DROP

FROM A1

first year that it's been hosted on Fifth Street, so everybody's really excited," Ella Duke, co-owner of Propagate Social House and Hall's on 5th, said.

Apopka's New Year's Eve ball drop originated at Hurricane Grill & Wings at 2209 E. Semoran Boulevard. Although the ball drop location has changed, the restaurant will still host a Caribbean-themed New Year's Eve party starting at 7 p.m.

"They [the city of Apopka] have done the ball drop at the other location for the past two years, and I think they just wanted to host it elsewhere and kind of spread the love, which is always very cool," Duke said.

Both of Duke's restaurants will provide dinner for partygoers, in addition to Odd Guys Brewing and food truck Pernilicious, which

sells Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico-inspired fare.

Before the clock strikes 12, guests may also listen to DJ 407 and join Central Florida Tang Soo Do for a board-breaking demonstration, according to a Propagate Facebook post. Apopka Murals founder Luis Rivera said artist This 1 (@this.1) will paint this year's interactive New Year's Eve installation.

"What we're really excited about is the live music, because After 5 is playing," Duke said. "Their most recent show was at Judson's Live, which is the jazz club in the Dr. Phillips Center. So it's gonna be a real treat — these guys are amazing."

Apopka High School's engineering students will provide this year's ball, as per tradition.



Courtesy of the Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce
Apopka High School engineering students pose with Mayor Bryan Nelson while constructing the New Year's Eve ball in 2023.

SEAT 2 ELECTION

FROM A1

committed to engaging with ALL residents, respecting diverse viewpoints, and working collaboratively to move Apopka forward — 'together-minded.'

Velazquez is currently the longest-serving council member. She was first elected to the council in 2014 and has been on the council since then, except from 2018 to 2020.

Last week, entrepreneur Angela D. Turner also qualified to run for Seat 2.

The municipal general election will take place March 10. In addition to Seat 2, Seat 1 and the mayor's office are also up for election. All three offices are set to expire in 2026. Qualifying for the general election closed Dec. 19.

Commissioner Nesta submitted his resignation from Seat 4, effective Dec. 4, to run for mayor. The City Council voted to call for a Seat 4 special election at the Dec. 17 meeting, with qualifying to begin at noon Jan. 5 and end at noon Jan. 7.

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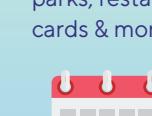
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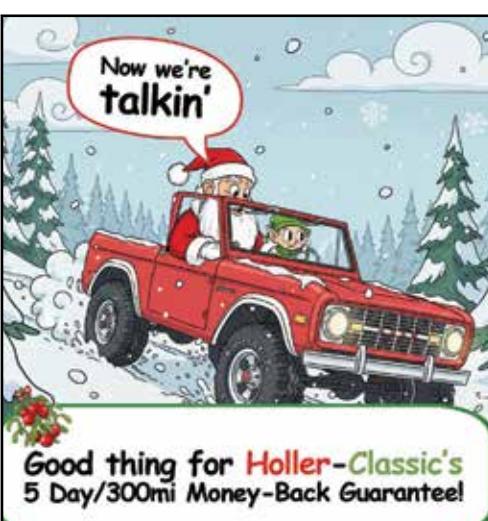
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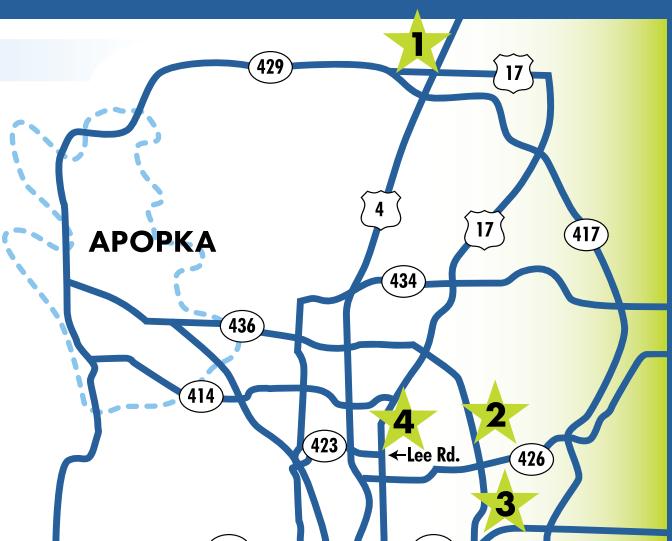
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Wekiva boys soccer continues historic season



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Harold Jimenez-Hernandez eyes the goalie as he moves up the pitch.

Mustangs run an 11-2-1 record into new year

By Vinnie Cammarano
Reporter

Wekiva's boys soccer season continues to look different than any other in program history, and last week against Deltona was another example of how complete this Mustang group has been.

come.

"I'm impressed with our resilience and our skill level," assistant coach Jordain James said. "A lot of them played for club or they played for other soccer teams, so they have that experience. Last year we probably lacked that. It lets them feel out the game more, and they've killed it. I couldn't be more proud of these guys."

That experience showed immediately as Wekiva

jumped on Deltona just one minute into the match. Harold Jimenez-Hernandez worked his way down the pitch with ease and set up Kevin Fuentes-Ortega, who finished cleanly to give the Mustangs an early 1-0 lead.

From there, Wekiva controlled the tempo. For the next 19 minutes leading up to the water break, the Mustangs dictated possession and generated four more shots on goal, keeping Del-

tona pinned back in its own half even though none found the net.

Three minutes after play resumed, Wekiva struck again. Omar Roman made a strong run up the pitch and met the goalkeeper at the ball, blasting a shot that deflected off the keeper's hands and bounced near the goal. Roman stayed with the play, kept the ball in bounds and found Jimenez-Hernandez at the top of the box,

where he ripped a screamer into the net to make it 2-0.

The Mustangs continued to find space through the Deltona defense, controlling nearly 80% of the possession as the first half wore on.

Any hope of a second-half response from Deltona was quickly shut down. Ricardo opened the half with back-to-back goals in quick succession, stretching the

WEKIVA SOCCER, B3

Wekiva basketball defends home court against Apopka

Mustangs' third quarter blowout leads to 56-40 win against rival

By Vinnie Cammarano
Reporter

A packed Mustang Arena and a roaring Wekiva band set the stage Dec. 18 as rivals Apopka and Wekiva met in a high-energy basketball showdown. This match swung after halftime as the Mustangs dominated the third quarter and pulled away for a 56-40 win.

The opening minutes matched the environment — fast, physical, and defensive. Apopka struck first when Trent Jean jumped a passing lane at midcourt and finished strong at the rim. Wekiva answered a few possessions later as Louvens Saint-Pierre blasted through the lane for a tying layup, signaling the kind of inside-out battle that would define the night.

Apopka seized control midway through the first quarter. Rafi Betancourt drove and kicked to Alex Congdon for a corner 3, and after back-to-back free throw trips from both sides, the Blue Darters found rhythm behind their pressure defense.

Jean found Freeman at the top of the key for a 3, then immediately picked another pocket. In transition, Freeman swung it to Noah Ferrer in the corner, who buried a triple. Another forced foul led to Jor-



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Kaiden Jean-Louis nails a contested floater.

quavion McClain driving and kicking out to Jaden Andino for yet another trey, pushing Apopka ahead 15-5 at the end of the first.

Wekiva's response came loudly in the second quarter. Eric Nichols answered a foul call by forcing a turnover and drilling a deep 3 from several feet beyond the arc. Moments later, Khai Orr forced a turnover into the hands of Nichols, who rose up for a thunderous dunk that sent the arena into a frenzy and forced an Apopka timeout. The momentum flipped, and Saint-Pierre buried a contested, falling-away 3 to give Wekiva its first lead.

Kaiden Jean-Louis

checked in and converted an and-one floater for Wekiva, but Jean-Louis continued to disrupt passing lanes. After consecutive steals, the Blue Darters tied the game at 22 on a Jacques Evariste three, then briefly reclaimed the lead at the free throw line. Jace Moore answered with free throws on the other end, sending the teams into halftime locked at 24-24.

"They raised their level," Apopka coach Scott Williams said. "They were more equipped for a game like this than we were tonight in December. Our job now is to learn from it and be better equipped in emotional games

like this."

Wekiva opened the third quarter firing on all cylinders. Saint-Pierre hit a 3 just over a minute into the half, then returned to the same spot moments later to bury another, forcing a quick Apopka timeout. He followed with a pull-up triple in transition and a layup off a steal, stretching the lead to double digits.

The Mustangs defense smothered Apopka throughout the frame, forcing turnovers and rushed shots. Kenny Diejusete helped the run late, forcing a turnover that led to a Markel Anderson coast-to-

MUSTANGS WIN, B3

Wekiva, Apopka collide in Mustang Stampede wrestling tournament

Mustangs battle with Apopka, Evans, Oak Ridge

By Vinnie Cammarano
Reporter

Wekiva wrestling hosted its first of two Mustang Stampede tournaments on Dec. 17. This individual round robin featured a collision with the Apopka Blue Darters, Evans Trojans and Oak Ridge Pioneers. Boys and girls wrestled in what the coaches made order of best vs. best and rookie vs. rookie.

From the opening bouts, the day was marked by intensity and constant action, with both Apopka and Wekiva

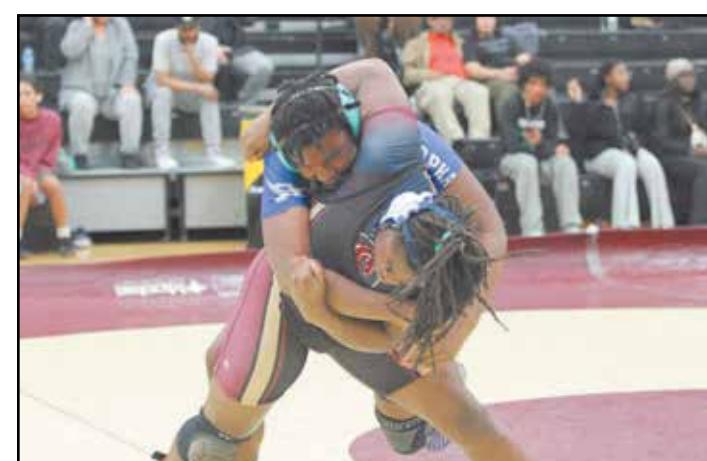


Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Elijah Jean hip-tosses Brandon Roberts in best on best matchup.

showing depth across multiple weight classes. Several wrestlers stood out by going undefeated on the day, while

others delivered signature moments that swung momentum and energized the crowd inside Wekiva's gym.

For Wekiva, Elijah Jean was the tone-setter early and often. Competing at 215 pounds, Jean pinned Apopka's Marcus Young just 1:45 into the first period, then followed it up with another statement win against Apopka's Brandon Roberts, securing a pin in just one minute.

Jean's dominance was one of the defining storylines of the tournament, as he handled two of the area's top heavyweights decisively.

"This just proves that I mean business this season," Jean said. "Two pins, first period, that was a good feel of what the season's going to be like."

WRESTLING, B2

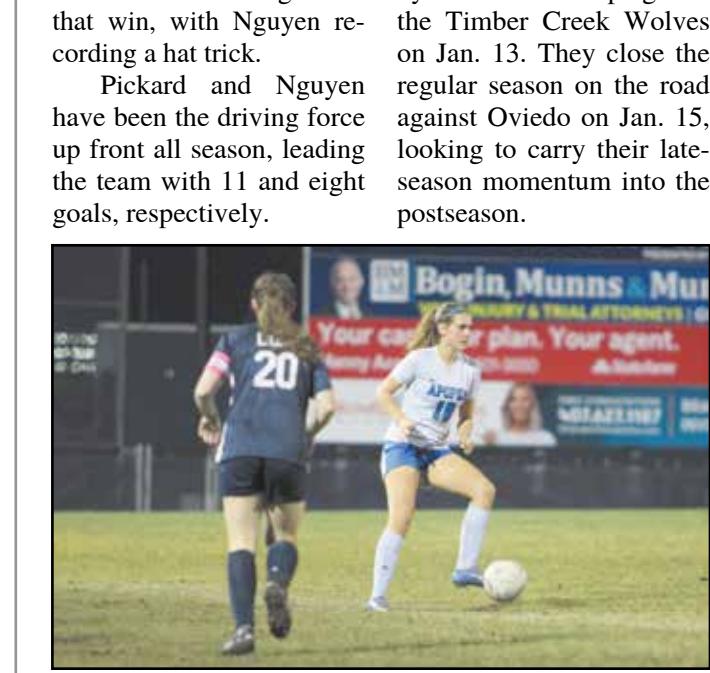


Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Sydney Chandler looks to make a pass.

Anglers say colored jigs pull in specks aplenty

Hello Folks,

I hope everyone had a very merry Christmas and that you were able to spend some time with family and friends. I also hope Santa was good to you, and that you got that new lures-in' pole or a bunch of new lures.

The fishin' is still goin' strong in most of the lakes in our area. The specks are bitin' pretty good, and the bass are startin' to bite even better! Folks're still catchin' plenty of specks up in Lake Woodruff and in the St. Johns River. Most of the specks are bitin' on brightly colored jigs and jigs tipped with a minnow.

You can catch some specks in Lake Monroe and Lake Jesup. You need to use those same bright jigs and



**GOIN'
FISHIN'**

Jim Keck
Correspondent

minners in Lake Monroe. The specks are still in deep water, and you can catch 'em just driftin' with the wind or you even can troll for 'em.

The bass fishin' is pickin' up in most of the bigger chains in our area, and the Butler Chain is still showin' out, as I reported last week.

You'll probably catch a lot of small bass, but you always have a chance to catch

a big'un, as well. The big females will be feedin' and gettin' ready to spawn real soon, so now's a good time to get out there and try your luck.

I want to give a shout out to Austin Nelson on his win at the Wednesday Night Shootout Classic Championship on Johns Lake. Austin caught 15.60 pounds for the win. He beat John Brazell and Mike Bruton by just 1/10th of a pound. John and Mike finished in second place with 15.50 pounds. They also had Big bass, which hit the scales at 8.0 pounds.

Everyone reports what a great year they had fishin' the championship, and they're lookin' forward to next year... which just happens to start in

March.

The bass fishin' on the Headwaters is still really good. A lot of guides are takin' folks out on four-hour trips, and they're catchin' 20 to 30 bass per trip. Most of those bass are bein' caught on shiners.

The bass fishin' on West Lake Toho is goin' great guns. The guides down there are takin' folks out and catchin' some nice bass in the 5- to 8-pound range. If you're lookin' to catch a big bass, get in touch with Big Toho Marina, and they'll set you up on a trip.

The FWC is drainin' the Rodman Reservoir up near the Interlachen area of the state. Rodman Reservoir is off from the St. Johns River. The water

is gettin' pretty low, and some folks are gettin' outta there, even though they're still tryin' to catch their 'personal best' bass. You need to know how to navigate the reservoir, because it's full of stumps, lay-downs, and sand bars!

One angler reported that he fished up there last week, and he caught 17 bass, includin' two trophy bass. He reported that he caught all of his big bass on shiners. He put it on Facebook so that you can see those large bass he caught. His name is David Dillman, and he really caught 'em! One was a 12-pounder; one a 10-pounder; and one was a 7-pounder! David reports that this was an epic day on the water, and he says the Rod-

man Reservoir is on fire! He was able to catch 17 bass in six hours, and not even one of 'em weighed under 3 pounds! He also reports that the water is really low in the reservoir, and you sure need to know what you're doin' in the river or you could lose a lower unit or hit a big log and tear up your boat!

Well, that's it for this week. I hope everyone had a great Christmas, and you're lookin' forward to a great new year.

See ya next week... or I guess I should say, next year!

Tip of the week: Go Fishin' in!

SAVE A FEW AND GOOD LUCK!

WRESTLING

FROM B1

Wekiva head coach Lenin Vazquez echoed that sentiment, pointing to Jean as a leader for a Mustang squad still blending veterans and newcomers.

"Elijah Jean performed — he exceeded his expectations," Vazquez said. "He went up against two of the top guys in the area around his weight. That's what you want to see from your veterans."

Apopka had strength of its own in the upper weights. Brandon Roberts won his first match of the day, controlling and pinning an Evans wrestler in the third period. Marcus Young also responded with authority at 190 pounds, pinning another Trojan opponent in just one minute after slamming him twice in the opening seconds.

Jaydon Battle put on a show in his two matches. He racked in points against a Mustang in his first match before pinning him in round 1, then tossed a Trojan to the ground quickly in match two, with a 50-second pin.

One of the most competitive head-to-head matchups came at 150 pounds between Apopka's Ian Hernandez and Wekiva's Samuel Pierre. Hernandez controlled the opening round and led 3-0, but when Pierre

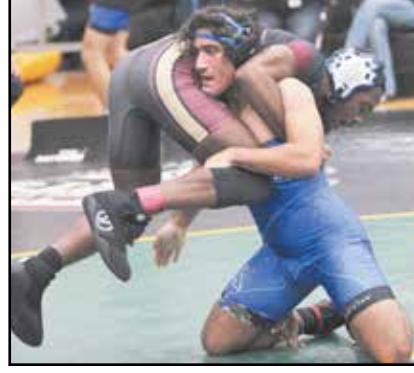


Photo by Vinnie Cammarano
Ian Hernandez and Samuel Pierre parry for position.



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano
Landonn Shultz scraps with and beats a Pioneer.

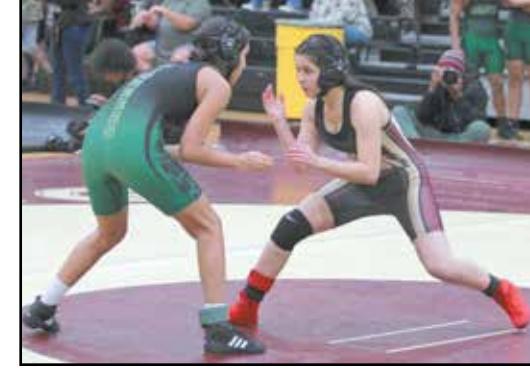


Photo by Vinnie Cammarano
Wekiva's Alina Quinde Rivera beat an Evans wrestler last week.

looked down and out, he countered midway through the second period and earned a pin, flipping the result and showcasing Wekiva's ability to adjust on the fly.

Hernandez earlier picked up a first-round pin against Oak Ridge, making the split a notable moment for both programs.

At lighter weights, Apopka found success through aggressiveness and quick finishes. At 120 pounds, Joel Rivera pinned one of Wekiva's top weapons, Jeremiah Demosthene in the first round, while Hector Santana delivered two wins at 126 pounds, including a tightly contested decision against Oak Ridge. Santana followed that

with a pin against Evans to finish his day strong.

Jonathan Flaquer was another standout for Apopka, going 2-0 at 132 pounds with pins in both matches. His consistency drew praise from Apopka coach Laroy James Harris.

"Overall, our best performance was probably our 132-pounder, Jonathan Flaquer," Harris said. "He won both matches. He showed a lot of effort and a lot of skill."

Harris also emphasized the depth and competitiveness of his roster, noting that very few wrestlers walked away winless.

"As long as we're in every fight, that means we have a chance of winning," Harris said. "Did we

dominate? No. But for Apopka, it was a good day."

Landonn Shultz provided an electric moment for Wekiva at 106 pounds, pinning an Evans wrestler in the first round and igniting a full-team celebration as he walked off the mat.

Depth also showed on both sides. Wekiva's Jamar "Skittles" Giles earned a first-round pin at 215 pounds, while 190-pounder Emmanuel Mobayo picked up a lightning-fast pin in just 21 seconds against Oak Ridge. Ahmir Restituyo proved himself for Wekiva at 165 pounds when he dominated a Trojan, winning by tech fall, 15-point majority in round 2.

Coach Tony Imbriani praised the balance between experienced wrestlers and first-timers.

"When our leaders are getting the job done and our rookies are making progress, that's what you want," Imbriani said. "They're learning the ropes, developing mental toughness. I'm super proud of them."

On the girls side, Alina Quinde Rivera pinned an Evans opponent in the first round for Wekiva, while Apopka's Lilyana Andrews responded after an early loss by earning a pin in her second match, a bounce-back effort that coaches highlighted as a key positive.

By the end of the long round robin, Apopka totaled 30 match wins across its squads, while Wekiva showcased both veteran leadership and promising newcomers competing in their first home event of the season.

With one Mustang Stampede complete and another still ahead, both Apopka and Wekiva left the mat confident that the foundation has been set for the rest of the season. Apopka wrestles again on Jan. 7 for the FHSAA District dual at Ocoee. Wekiva's next outing is on Jan. 10 for its own FHSAA district dual at Oviedo.

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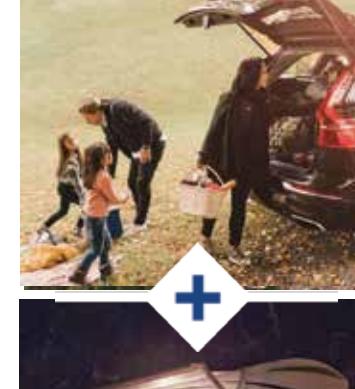
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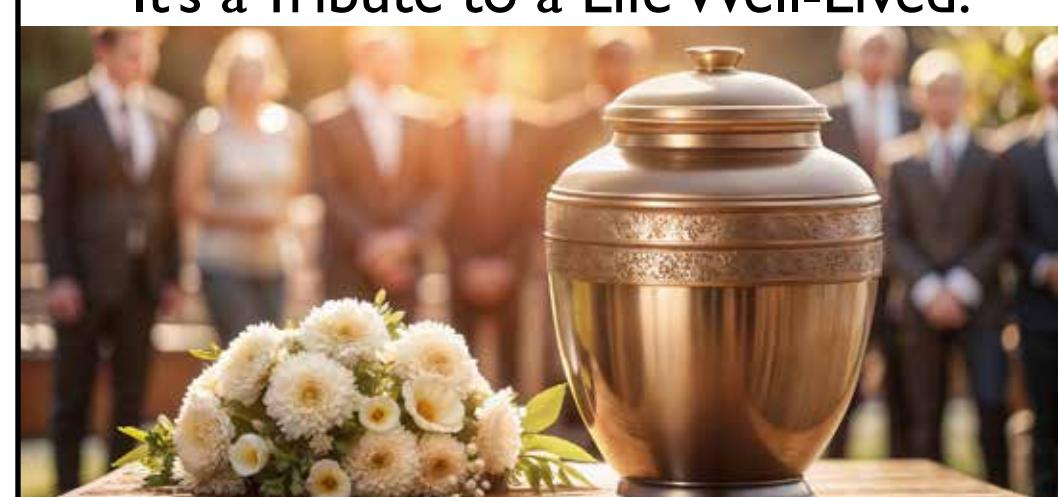
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**VERSE OF
THE WEEK**

"But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus." —Luke 1:30-31

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WEKIVA SOCCER

FROM B1

lead and breaking the game wide open.

Fuentes-Ortega added his second goal of the night later in the half, continuing his strong performance. Before the final whistle, Luis Angeles buried his first goal of the season, sending his teammates into celebration as Wekiva finished off a dominant 6-0 shutout.

The win was Wekiva's eighth victory in its last nine matches and continued a stretch that has defined the Mustangs' season. On Dec. 11, Wekiva put together a goal-scoring showcase in a 7-3 win over Ridgeview Academy, highlighted by a hat trick and an assist from Roman. Billy Pu Lopez added two goals in that match.

Four days later, the Mustangs gutted out a defensive battle at home against Lib-



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Wilfred Fuentes boots a ball deep into enemy territory.



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Omar Roman, Wekiva's second-leading scorer, finds open space to take a shot against Deltona.

MUSTANGS WIN

FROM B1

coast finish through contact. After two free throws, Diejuste struck again with a steal and an outlet to Orr for a crafty up-and-under layup. Wekiva closed the quarter ahead 44-25, allowing just one Apopka point in the period.

"I told them, if you're gonna be good, you gotta be good all the time," Wekiva coach Gersino Lubin said off his halftime message. "You can't get slapped first in our gym, our home, with this environment. These people pay good money to see good ball, and y'all are laying the egg! If you don't want to play, sit down — somebody else will



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Coach Lubin corrals the team through the slow start.

do your job."

Apopka showed resilience in the fourth. Betan-

court knocked down a corner

3, then followed a steal with a feed to McClain for a pow-

erful dunk that energized the traveling Blue Darter crowd. Ferrer later converted a steal into a 3, trimming the deficit to seven with three minutes remaining.

The Darter surge was met with an answer. Nichols calmly sank two free throws, and after a missed free throw on the other end, Diejuste secured the offensive rebound and finished inside to push the lead back to double digits.

Saint-Pierre led Wekiva with 14 points and four rebounds, while Nichols added 10 points, four blocks and steals, and three rebounds. Jean-Louis provided nine

points off the bench, and Diejuste anchored the paint with 10 rebounds.

For Apopka, Ferrer finished with nine points, six rebounds and three combined steals and blocks. McClain also scored nine, while Jean was a menace defensively with seven steals.

"We were very inefficient offensively in the middle two quarters, and you can't do that against them," Williams said.

"But I'm proud of our character in the fourth. Proud of our effort to finish pretty close to making it real interesting at the end."

Lubin was proud of the fight in his guys, praising his

team's response more than the result.

"I like the fact that they found a way, because it was a hard game for them to figure out," he said. "Keeping teenagers locked in is hard. But when we block everything else out and focus on what we're doing, we'll be okay."

The Wekiva Mustangs head into a long break at 9-3 and will wait until Jan. 13 for action against Leesburg. The Blue Darters head into a short break at 7-5. They play back-to-back games Dec. 29-30 against Creekside (4-4) and Flagler Palm Coast (6-4).

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Competitors shown are subject to change. © 2025 Feld Motor Sports, Inc.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Friday, December 26

Festive Events at The Florida Mall

2 p.m. at 8001 S. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando
Seasonal Santa photo experience with varying hours; reservations encouraged.

Friday Nights at the Morse

4 p.m. at 445 N. Park Ave., Winter Park
Free admission to the Morse Museum during extended Friday evening hours.

Central Florida's 26th Annual Kwanzaa Celebration: Umoja (Unity)

5 p.m. at 721 W. New England Ave., Winter Park
Day one of Central Florida's longest-running Kwanzaa celebration.

Holiday Friday Nights

5 p.m. at 445 N. Park Ave., Winter Park
Live orchestral music in the museum galleries during free Friday evening hours.

Asian Lantern Festival: Into the Wild

6 p.m. at 3755 W. Seminole Blvd., Sanford
A nighttime walk through glowing, handcrafted lantern displays at the Central Florida Zoo.

Christmas Monster Truck Ride

7 p.m. at 15051 Frank Jarrell Road, Clermont
A festive monster truck ride through holiday lights at the Showcase of Citrus.

The Office Holiday Party Musical Extravaganza Show

8 p.m. at 415 E. Princeton St., Orlando
A holiday musical comedy inspired by *The Office* and *Parks and Rec*.

Saturday, December 27

Register Your Team for Cardboard Canoe Regatta at Kelly Park

8 a.m. at 400 Kelly Park Road E., Apopka
Teams build and race cardboard canoes at Kelly Park.

Comics Half-Off Holiday Outlet

10 a.m. at 8010 Sunport Drive, Orlando
Shop deeply discounted comics, collectibles, toys, and Funko Pops.

Author Signing

Noon at 3018 Corrine Drive, Orlando
Meet romance authors Christy Schillig and Deidra Duncan. Free.

Cousins Maine Lobster at Three Odd Guys Brewing

Noon at 956 SR-434, Longwood
Enjoy authentic Maine lobster rolls, bisque, and seafood favorites paired with local craft beer.

North American Children and Youth Arts Festival

1 p.m. at 445 S. Magnolia Ave., Orlando
A multicultural arts festival showcasing performances by youth from across North America.

Sanford's Craft Beer & History Tour

5 p.m. at 115 Magnolia Ave., Sanford
A guided walking tour combining Sanford's craft beer scene with local history.



Courtesy of Coliseum of Comics Warehouse

Score big savings at the Comics Half-Off Holiday Outlet on Saturday, Dec. 27, featuring discounted comics, collectibles, toys, and Funko Pops in Orlando.

Dance the Night Away With the Crew

6 p.m. at Renaissance Senior Center, Orlando
Live music and dancing with The Crew in the ballroom; open to adults 18+ only.

Ladies of Orange County Watch Party

7 p.m. at 100 S. Eola Drive, Orlando
Watch party featuring food, cocktails, and networking.

Live Music

7 p.m. at 315 N. Highland St., Mount Dora
Enjoy live music performances in the backyard at Whiskey Kitchen.

Charlin Bato Live Band Concert

9 p.m. at 801 John Young Parkway, Orlando
Konpa music concert and dance party.

Sunday, December 28

Sunday Run at The Salty

8 a.m. at 3025 Corrine Drive,

Orlando

Enjoy a relaxed community-run tour of Audubon Park. Registration required.

Widowed Support Group

9:30 a.m. at 439 E. Fifth Ave., Mount Dora
A monthly support group.

A Christmas Story – Sunday Movie Nights

6:15 p.m. at 445 S. Magnolia Ave., Orlando
Watch *A Christmas Story* outdoors. Free.

Live Hart Trio

6:30 p.m. at 1486 Buena Vista Drive, Lake Buena Vista
Live music by the Hart Trio at the Waterview Park stage near The Boathouse.

Monday, December 29

Goal Achievers Summit

8 a.m. at 10100 International Drive, Orlando
A one-day conference focused on goal-setting, leadership,

and execution strategies for entrepreneurs and professionals.

English Connect – Haitian Creole

6 p.m. at 8450 Silver Star Road, Orlando
An English-learning group centered on faith, fellowship, and personal growth.

Wednesday, December 31

New Year's Eve Party on Fifth Street with Ball Drop

6 p.m. in Apopka
Celebrate New Year's Eve on Fifth Street with live entertainment and a festive ball drop.

Latin New Year's Eve Party

7 p.m. at 12 N. Primrose Dr., Orlando
Welcome the New Year with a live band, seating, and a large dance floor at this Latin celebration.

New Year's Eve at The Rock

8 p.m. at 4939 Rock Springs Rd., Apopka
Ring in 2026 with live music, food, and a midnight fireworks show.

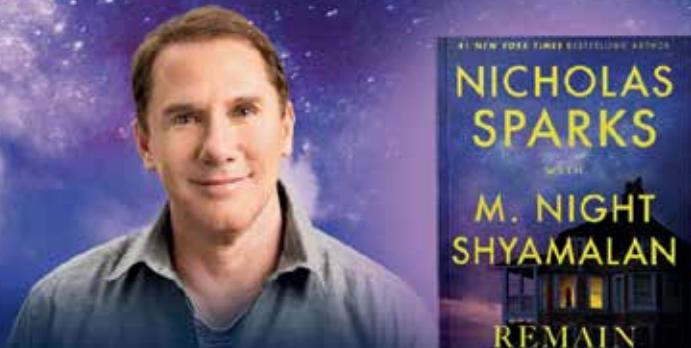
New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball

9 p.m. at 325 S. Orange Ave., Orlando
Dress to impress and ring in the New Year at this elegant masquerade celebration.

Thursday, January 1

Line Dancing at Propagate

6:30 p.m. at 36 E. 5th St., Apopka
Beginner-friendly line dancing. No partner needed.


NICHOLAS SPARKS
AN EVENING WITH AUTHOR
NICHOLAS SPARKS
SATURDAY, JAN. 17 | 7:30 P.M. Dr. Phillips Center

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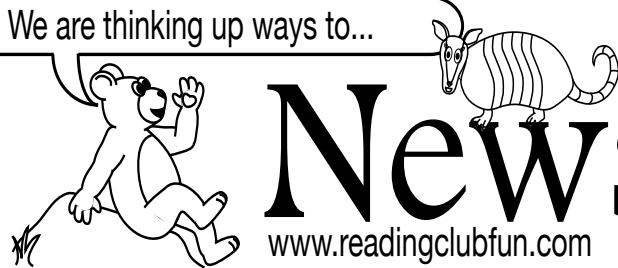
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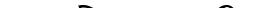


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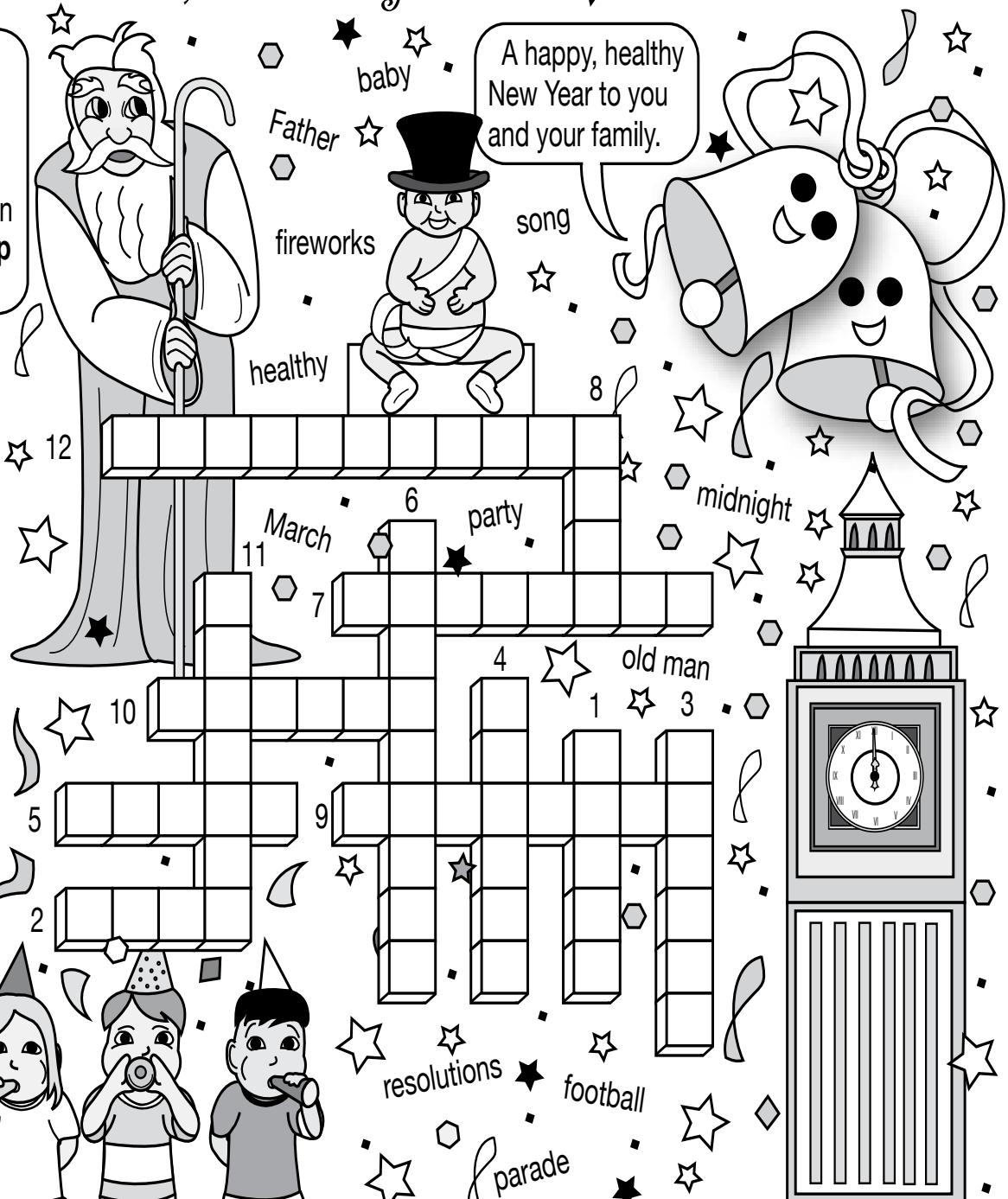
•  • Happy New Year, Everyone!  Out With the Old Year,
In With the New!

Out With the Old Year, In With the New!

I **really** like the New Year celebration. It comes around and gives me a new chance **every** year to do a little better or start doing something in a new way.

What do you know about the celebration of the new year? **Read these clues to help you fill in this New Year puzzle:**

1. in Ancient Rome, the new year started in _____ because the month of January did not exist yet
2. to represent the birth of a New Year we use a newborn _____ dressed in a top hat and a sash
3. by the end of the year the child grows into a wrinkled _____
4. _____ time is used to represent the passage of years; he usually carries an hourglass
5. to celebrate the new year many people gather to eat, drink and dance at a _____; the biggest is in New York City in Times Square
6. _____ light up the sky in celebration; they can be seen behind the Statue of Liberty, the Eiffel Tower and the Forbidden City in China
7. the new year officially begins when the clock strikes _____
8. everyone's favorite New Year's _____ is "Auld Lang Syne," which means 'old long since'
9. after the parties of New Year's eve, many people relax by watching the big _____ game, "The Rose Bowl"
10. after the game people line the streets to watch the "Rose _____," which takes place in California
11. friends wish each other a happy, _____ New Year
12. people use the start of a new year as a way to better themselves through New Year's



I
promise
to ...

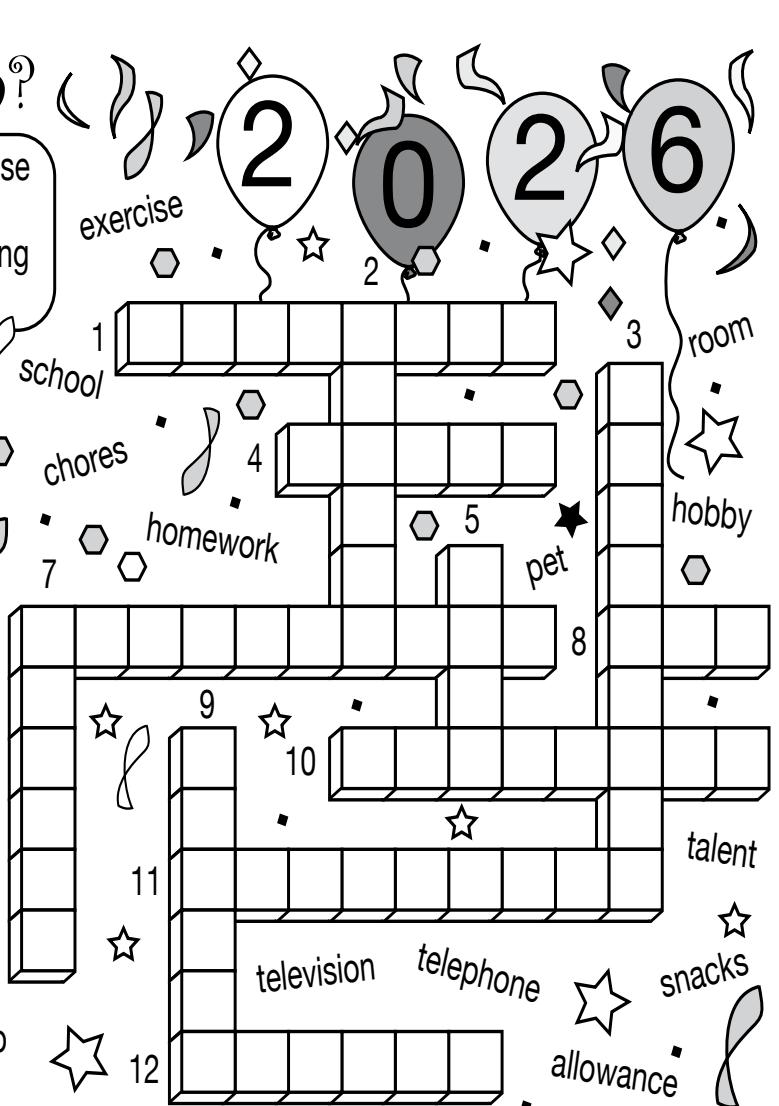
What's a New Year's Resolution?

Have you ever heard of a **New Year's resolution**? It is a promise you make to yourself to change something or add something to your life. My New Year's resolution is to do my chores without being reminded by my Mom. What will be *your* New Year's resolution?

This 2-part puzzle has ideas that *you* might like to try. **First**, read the clues and fill in the crossword puzzle. **Next**, match each resolution to its 2nd part that would “kick it up” a bit.

1. get more fresh air and _____
2. finish all your _____
3. spend less time talking on the _____
4. try out a new _____ or sport
5. clean your _____
6. watch less _____
7. develop a new, special _____
(singing, dancing, juggling)
8. feed your _____
9. think about how to make yourself healthy _____
10. do your _____ well before it is due
11. save up your _____
12. get to _____ on time

- A. and invite friends and family over instead
- B. and help your brother and sister with theirs
- C. and put on a show for your family to enjoy
- D. and take on a few extra little
jobs without being asked ★
- E. and choose an exciting book to read instead
- F. and spend it on someone else
- G. and make a chart of your progress
- H. with clean clothes and a clean you!
- I. and help your parents shop and
pick out fruits you like
- J. and help with the rest of the house too ★
- K. and play with it every day, and keep it clean too
- L. and become the best you can at it



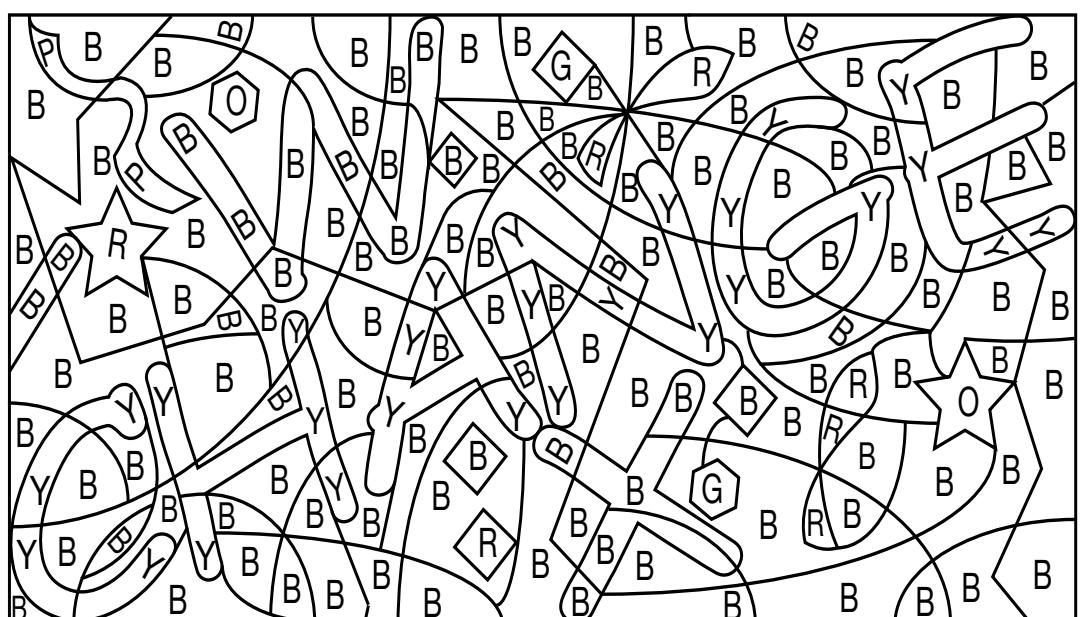
Forecast for a New Year!

Circle “yes” if you think an item could happen in the new year and “no” if it is just silly:

1. Small drones will be delivering pizzas and packages.
2. We will build a colony on the moon and live there.
3. Art shown on computer displays as well as canvases.
4. Cars will travel on the roads with no one driving them.
5. An entire meal will fit into one tiny pill.

Follow the color key to see one thing you can count on next year:

Color Key: B = Blue B = Red O = Orange Y = Yellow P = Pink G = Green



NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:
Notice is hereby given that on February 11, 2026 at 9:00 AM the following vehicles may be sold at public sale at 9825 SIDNEY HAYES RD Orlando, FL 32824 for the amount owed on each vehicle to satisfy the lien for repairs, services and storage charges and any administrative fees allowed pursuant to Florida Statute 713.585.

1994 Acura

JH4NA1150RT000108 \$6710.00

The name, address and telephone number and public sale location of the repair shop claiming the lien for unpaid charges is:

Lienor Name:

ADVANCE TRUCK REPAIR LLC

Lienor Address:

9825 SIDNEY RD

ORLANDO, FL 32824

Lienor Telephone #: 407-466-0123

MV License #: MV 109093

Location of Vehicles:

9825 SIDNEY RD

ORLANDO, FL 32824

The customer or person claiming an interest, or a lien may redeem the vehicle by satisfying the amount due in cash on or before the sale date and time. The customer or person claiming an interest in or on a vehicle may file a demand for a hearing with the Clerk of Court in the ORANGE County where the vehicle is held to determine whether the vehicle has been wrongfully taken or withheld from him or her. At any time before the date of sale a customer or person of record claiming a lien on the vehicle may post a cash or surety bond in the amount stated in the invoice with the Clerk of Circuit Court where the disputed transaction occurred.

December 26, 2025

Public Notice
is hereby given that Johnsons Wrecker Service, will sell at PUBLIC AUCTION, free of all prior liens, the following vehicle(s)/ vessel(s) that remain, unclaimed in storage, with charges unpaid, pursuant to Florida Statutes, Sec. 713.78, to the highest bidder. The sale will be held at 7777 Narcoossee Road, Orlando, FL 32822. The following vehicle(s) will be sold on 01/08/2026 at 0700.

Year Make VIN

2025 ZHILONG

HZ2TCDM42S1005871

2009 Kawasaki

JKAKXTD7C9A026347

Terms of the sale are CASH. No checks will be accepted. Seller reserves the right to final bid. ALL SALES ARE FINAL. No refunds will be made. Vehicle(s)/ vessel(s) are sold AS IS* "WHERE IS" with no guarantees, either expressed or implied.

December 26, 2025

Public Notice
is hereby given that Johnsons Wrecker Service, will sell at PUBLIC AUCTION, free of all prior liens, the following vehicle(s)/ vessel(s) that remain, unclaimed in storage, with charges unpaid, pursuant to Florida Statutes, Sec 713.78, to the highest bidder. The sale will be held at 580 Wilmer Avenue, Orlando, FL 32808.

The following vehicle(s) will be sold on 01/08/2026 at 0700.

Year Make VIN

2019 Infiniti JN1EV7AP4KM513813

2019 Lexus JT1BA1D24K5090121

2014 Nissan 1N4AA5AP8EC483193

2016 Honda JH2PC40J1GK200770

2014 Kia 5XK73A64E6476796

2015 Mazda 1J1BM17T01264608

2016 Chevrolet 3GNCJKS8B3GL120108

2011 Hyundai 5NPEB4AC1BH200729

2016 Nissan KNMKT2M6GP720920

2008 Jeep 1C4R5B6X18C199732

2024 ZHILONG HZ2TCBCN1R1000110

2004 Mazda 4F4Y16U24TM00713

2011 Honda 1HGP2F45BA064631

2012 Honda 1HGP2F4CA121591

2022 Jeep 1C4R5B6XN8748591

2013 Kia KNAGM4ADX5051848

2009 BMW WBAPH77519LN84501

2020 Chevrolet 1G1ZG5ST7LF086909

Terms of the sale are CASH. No checks will be accepted. Seller reserves the right to final bid. ALL SALES ARE FINAL. No refunds will be made. Vehicle(s)/ vessel(s) are sold AS IS* "WHERE IS" with no guarantees, either expressed or implied.

December 26, 2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:
BARTLETT TOWING, INC gives notice that on 01/16/2026 at 08:30 AM the following vehicle(s) may be sold by public sale at 2252 APOPKA BLVD, STE B, APOPKA, FL 32703 to satisfy the lien for the amount owed on each vehicle for any recovery, towing, or storage services charged and administrative fees allowed pursuant to Florida statute 713.78.

2007 Nissan 3N1B61E17L634798

Publish: The Apopka Chief

December 26, 2025

NOTICE OF SALE OF

MOTOR VEHICLE

Pursuant to Florida Statute 713.585, Simon's Diesel LLC, will sell at public sale for cash the following described vehicle(s) 2005 Ford F250 SD V8t 2155EC14763 located at lienor's place to satisfy a claim of lien. Lien Amt: \$4,446.54. Sale Date: January 17th, 2026 08:00 AM. At Location Address 9527 Bachman Rd Orlando FL 32824, phone # 407-373-5297. Said Vehicle (s) may be redeemed by satisfying the lien prior to sale date. You have the right to a hearing at any time prior to sale date by filing a demand for hearing in the circuit court. Owner has the right to recover possession of the vehicle by posting a bond in accordance with F.S. 559.917. Any proceeds in excess of the amount of the lien will be deposited with the Clerk of Circuit Court in the county where the vehicle is held.

December 26, 2025

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

CASE NO. 48-2025-CP-003966-O

IN RE: Estate of WILLARD DONNELL FAHNING, JR., deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE ADMINISTRATION of the estate of WILLARD DONNELL FAHNING, JR., deceased, File Number 48-2025-CP-003966-O is pending in the Circuit Court for Orange County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 425 North Orange Avenue, Suite 335, Orlando, FL 32801. The name of the personal representative and personal representative's attorney are set forth below. **ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:**

All known or reasonably ascertainable, including contingent creditors of the decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is served within three (3) months after the date of the first publication of this notice must file their claims with this Court **WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.**

All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate must file their claims with this court **WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.**

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The date of the first publication of this Notice is December 19, 2025.

Personal Representative:

DEBBIE NIMNICH

1072 Gray Road

Cocoa, FL 32926

Attorney for Personal Representative:

GEORGE C. KELLEY, ESQ.

Florida Bar No. 098523

P.O. Box 1132

Apopka, Florida

32704-1132

Telephone: 407 886 2130

Email: attorney@gokelleylaw.com

December 19, 2025

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

File No. 2025-CP-3571

Division

IN RE: ESTATE OF DAVID S. GREENBERG Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of DAVID S. GREENBERG, deceased, whose date of death was July 31, 2025, is pending in the Circuit Court for Orange County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 425 North Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida, 32801. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below. All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served, must file their claims with this court **ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.**

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court **WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.**

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The date of first publication of this notice is December 19, 2025.

Personal Representative:

Georgiana F. Dambra

Attorney

Florida Bar Number: 708550

Law Office of Georgiana F. Dambra, P.A.

5737 Okeechobee Blvd., Ste 201

West Palm Beach,

Florida 33417

Attorney for Personal Representative:

Georgiana F. Dambra

Attorney

Florida Bar Number: 708550

Law Office of Georgiana F. Dambra, P.A.

5737 Okeechobee Blvd., Ste 201

West Palm Beach,

Florida 33417

Attorney

Florida Bar Number: 708550

Law Office of Georgiana F. Dambra, P.A.

5737 Okeechobee Blvd., Ste 201

West Palm Beach,

Florida 33417

Attorney

Florida Bar Number: 708550

Law Office of Georgiana F. Dambra, P.A.

5737 Okeechobee Blvd., Ste 201

West Palm Beach,

Florida 33417

Attorney

Florida Bar Number: 708550

Law Office of Georgiana F. Dambra, P.A.

5737 Okeechobee Blvd., Ste 201

West Palm Beach,

Florida 33417

Attorney

Florida Bar Number: 708550

Law Office of Georgiana F. Dambra, P.A.

5737 Okeechobee Blvd., Ste 201

West Palm Beach,

Florida 33417

Attorney

Florida Bar Number: 708550

at Public sale to the highest and best bidder for cash starting at the hour of 11:00 o'clock a.m. on February 4, 2026, online at www.myorangeclerk.realforeclose.com. Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. Submitted for publication to The Apopka Chief on December 19, 2025. DATED this 19th day of December, 2025
 /s/ Edward M. Fitzgerald
 EDWARD M. FITZGERALD
 FLORIDA BAR NO 0010391
 HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP
 If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Orange County, Courthouse, at 425 North Orange Avenue, Suite #510, Orlando, Florida 32801; Telephone (407) 836-2303, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
 OUR FILE #126435.7626
 MORI #ORANGE
 December 26, 2025, January 2, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2024-CA-000054-O
DIV NO.: 40
MARRIOTT OWNERSHIP RESORTS, INC.
 Plaintiff,
 vs.
ELAINE COOK, et al., Defendants.
NOTICE OF SALE AS TO COUNT VIII
TO: HAROLD MARTIN, DECEASED,
 THE ESTATE OF HAROLD MARTIN, DECEASED AND ANY UNKNOWN SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES OR OTHER CLAIMANTS BY AND THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST, SAID DEFENDANT 3539 SEAGRASS LANE LAUREL, MD 20724
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on December 19, 2025 in the cause pending in the Circuit Court, in and for Orange County, Florida, Civil Case No. 2024-CA-000054-O, the Office of Tiffany Moore Russell, Orange County Clerk of Court will sell the property situated in said County described as:
COUNT VIII 40 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: R89816 & R89817 & R89818 & R89819 & R89820 & R89821 & R89822 & R89823 & R89824 & R89825 & R89826 & R89827 & R89828 & R89829 & R89830 & R89831 & R89832 & R89833 & R89834 & R89835 & R89836 & R89837 & R89838 & R89839 & R89840 & R89841 & R89842 & R89843 & R89844 & R89845 & R89846 & R89847 & R89848 & R89849 & R89850 & R89851 & R89852 & R89853 & R89902 & R89903) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 10000 Points (250 Points for each Interest), which Trust was created pursuant to and further described in that certain MVC Trust Agreement dated March 11, 2010, executed by and among First American Trust, FSB, a federal savings bank, solely as trustee of Land Trust No. 1082-0300-00, (a.k.a. MVC Trust), Marriott Ownership Resorts, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and MVC Trust Owners Association, Inc., a Florida corporation not-for-profit, as such agreement may be amended and supplemented from time to time ("Trust Agreement"), a memorandum of which is recorded in Official Records Book 10015, page 4176, Public Records of Orange County, Florida ("Trust Memorandum"). The Interests shall have a Use Year Commencement Date of October 1, 2017 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement).
 at Public sale to the highest and best bidder for cash starting at the hour of 11:00 o'clock a.m. on February 4, 2026, online at www.myorangeclerk.realforeclose.com. Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. Submitted for publication to The Apopka Chief on December 19, 2025. DATED this 19th day of December, 2025.
 /s/ Edward M. Fitzgerald
 EDWARD M. FITZGERALD
 FLORIDA BAR NO 0010391
 HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP
 If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Orange County, Courthouse, at 425 North Orange Avenue, Suite #510, Orlando, Florida 32801; Telephone (407) 836-2303, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
 OUR FILE #12710.0081
 MRHC #ORANGE
 December 26, 2025, January 2, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2024-CA-000054-O
DIV NO.: 40
MARRIOTT OWNERSHIP RESORTS, INC.
 Plaintiff,
 vs.
ELAINE COOK, et al., Defendants.
NOTICE OF SALE AS TO COUNT IX
TO: LYNN J. MCGOUGH, DECEASED,
 THE ESTATE OF LYNN J. MCGOUGH, DECEASED AND ANY UNKNOWN SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES OR OTHER CLAIMANTS BY AND THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST, SAID DEFENDANT 3525 DEL MAR HEIGHTS RD # 400 SAN DIEGO, CA 92130
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on December 19, 2025 in the cause pending in the Circuit Court, in and for Orange County, Florida, Civil Case No. 2024-CA-000054-O, the Office of Tiffany Moore Russell, Orange County Clerk of Court will sell the property situated in said County described as:
COUNT IX 22 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: 063939 & 063940 & H18103 & H31905 & H1906 & H31907 & H31908 & H1909 & H21010 & H31911 & H31912 & H31913 & H31914 & H31923 & H31924 & H31925 & H31926 & H31927 & H31928 & H31929) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 5500 Points (250 Points for each Interest), which Trust was created pursuant to and further described in that certain MVC Trust Agreement dated March 11, 2010, executed by and among First American Trust, FSB, a federal savings bank, solely as trustee of Land Trust No. 1082-0300-00, (a.k.a. MVC Trust), Marriott Ownership Resorts, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and MVC Trust Owners Association, Inc., a Florida corporation not-for-profit, as such agreement may be amended and supplemented from time to time ("Trust Agreement"), a memorandum of which is recorded in Official Records Book 10015, page 4176, Public Records of Orange County, Florida ("Trust Memorandum"). The Interests shall have a Use Year Commencement Date of August 1, 2021 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement).
 at Public sale to the highest and best bidder for cash starting at the hour of 11:00 a.m. on the 4th day of February, 2026, online at www.myorangeclerk.realforeclose.com. Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. Submitted for publication to The Apopka Chief on December 19, 2025.
 /s/ Edward M. Fitzgerald
 EDWARD M. FITZGERALD
 FLORIDA BAR NO 0010391
 HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP
 If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Orange County, Courthouse, at 425 North Orange Avenue, Suite #510, Orlando, Florida 32801; Telephone (407) 836-2303, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
 OUR FILE #126435.7674
 MORI #ORANGE
 December 26, 2025, January 2, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2024-CA-000054-O
DIV NO.: 40
MARRIOTT OWNERSHIP RESORTS, INC.
 Plaintiff,
 vs.
ELAINE COOK, et al., Defendants.
NOTICE OF SALE AS TO COUNT X
TO: CRAIG LONGHURST
 12625 MEMORIAL DRIVE
 UNIT 18
 HOUSTON, TX 77024
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on December 19, 2025 in the cause pending in the Circuit Court, in and for Orange County, Florida, Civil Case No. 2024-CA-000054-O, the Office of Tiffany Moore Russell, Orange County Clerk of Court will sell the property situated in said County described as:
COUNT X 4 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: BS8526 & BS8527 & BS8528 & BS8529) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 1000 Points (250 Points for each Interest), which Trust was created pursuant to and further described in that certain MVC Trust Agreement dated March 11, 2010, executed by and among First American Trust, FSB, a federal savings bank, solely as trustee of Land Trust No. 1082-0300-00, (a.k.a. MVC Trust), Marriott Ownership Resorts, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and MVC Trust Owners Association, Inc., a Florida corporation not-for-profit, as such agreement may be amended and supplemented from time to time ("Trust Agreement"), a memorandum of which is recorded in Official Records Book 10015, page 4176, Public Records of Orange County, Florida ("Trust Memorandum"). The Interests shall have a Use Year Commencement Date of January 1, 2019 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement).
 at Public sale to the highest and best bidder for cash starting at the hour of 11:00 a.m. on the 4th day of February, 2026, online at www.myorangeclerk.realforeclose.com. Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. Submitted for publication to The Apopka Chief on December 19, 2025.
 /s/ Edward M. Fitzgerald
 EDWARD M. FITZGERALD
 FLORIDA BAR NO 0010391
 HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP
 If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Orange County, Courthouse, at 425 North Orange Avenue, Suite #510, Orlando, Florida 32801; Telephone (407) 836-2303, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
 OUR FILE #126435.7702
 MORI #ORANGE
 December 26, 2025, January 2, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2024-CA-000054-O
DIV NO.: 40
MARRIOTT OWNERSHIP RESORTS, INC.
 Plaintiff,
 vs.
ELAINE COOK, et al., Defendants.
NOTICE OF SALE AS TO COUNT XI
TO: ERIC FREEMAN
 PO BOX 233
 ST HELENA ISLAND,
 SC 29920
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on December 19, 2025 in the cause pending in the Circuit Court, in and for Orange County, Florida, Civil Case No. 2024-CA-000054-O, the Office of Tiffany Moore Russell, Orange County Clerk of Court will sell the property situated in said County described as:

COUNT XI 4 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: W84940 & W84941 & W84942 & W84943) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 1000 Points (250 Points for each Interest), which Trust was created pursuant to and further described in that certain MVC Trust Agreement dated March 11, 2010, executed by and among First American Trust, FSB, a federal savings bank, solely as trustee of Land Trust No. 1082-0300-00, (a.k.a. MVC Trust), Marriott Ownership Resorts, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and MVC Trust Owners Association, Inc., a Florida corporation not-for-profit, as such agreement may be amended and supplemented from time to time ("Trust Agreement"), a memorandum of which is recorded in Official Records Book 10015, page 4176, Public Records of Orange County, Florida ("Trust Memorandum"). The Interests shall have a Use Year Commencement Date of September 1, 2016 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement).

COUNT XII 4 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: W84940 & W84941 & W84942 & W84943) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 1500 Points (250 Points for each Interest), which Trust was created pursuant to and further described in that certain MVC Trust Agreement dated March 11, 2010, executed by and among First American Trust, FSB, a federal savings bank, solely as trustee of Land Trust No. 1082-0300-00, (a.k.a. MVC Trust), Marriott Ownership Resorts, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and MVC Trust Owners Association, Inc., a Florida corporation not-for-profit, as such agreement may be amended and supplemented from time to time ("Trust Agreement"), a memorandum of which is recorded in Official Records Book 10015, page 4176, Public Records of Orange County, Florida ("Trust Memorandum"). The Interests shall have a Use Year Commencement Date of September 1, 2018 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement).

COUNT XIII 4 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: W84940 & W84941 & W84942 & W84943) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 1500 Points (250 Points for each Interest), which Trust was created pursuant to and further described in that certain MVC Trust Agreement dated March 11, 2010, executed by and among First American Trust, FSB, a federal savings bank, solely as trustee of Land Trust No. 1082-0300-00, (a.k.a. MVC Trust), Marriott Ownership Resorts, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and MVC Trust Owners Association, Inc., a Florida corporation not-for-profit, as such agreement may be amended and supplemented from time to time ("Trust Agreement"), a memorandum of which is recorded in Official Records Book 10015, page 4176, Public Records of Orange County, Florida ("Trust Memorandum"). The Interests shall have a Use Year Commencement Date of September 1, 2019 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement).

COUNT XIV 4 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: W84940 & W84941 & W84942 & W84943) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 1500 Points (250 Points for each Interest), which Trust was created pursuant to and further described in that certain MVC Trust Agreement dated March 11, 2010, executed by and among First American Trust, FSB, a federal savings bank, solely as trustee of Land Trust No. 1082-0300-00, (a.k.a. MVC Trust), Marriott Ownership Resorts, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and MVC Trust Owners Association, Inc., a Florida corporation not-for-profit, as such agreement may be amended and supplemented from time to time ("Trust Agreement"), a memorandum of which is recorded in Official Records Book 10015, page 4176, Public Records of Orange County, Florida ("Trust Memorandum"). The Interests shall have a Use Year Commencement Date of September 1, 2020 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement).

COUNT XV 4 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: W84940 & W84941 & W84942 & W84943) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 1500 Points (250 Points for each Interest), which Trust was created pursuant to and further described in that certain MVC Trust Agreement dated March 11, 2010, executed by and among First American Trust, FSB, a federal savings bank, solely as trustee of Land Trust No. 1082-0300-00, (a.k.a. MVC Trust), Marriott Ownership Resorts, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and MVC Trust Owners Association, Inc., a Florida corporation not-for-profit, as such agreement may be amended and supplemented from time to time ("Trust Agreement"), a memorandum of which is recorded in Official Records Book 10015, page 4176, Public Records of Orange County, Florida ("Trust Memorandum"). The Interests shall have a Use Year Commencement Date of September 1, 2021 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement).

COUNT XVI 4 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: W84940 & W84941 & W84942 & W84943) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 1500 Points (250 Points for each Interest), which Trust was created pursuant to and further described in that certain MVC Trust Agreement dated March 11, 2010, executed by and among First American Trust, FSB, a federal savings bank, solely as trustee of Land Trust No. 1082-0300-00, (a.k.a. MVC Trust), Marriott Ownership Resorts, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and MVC Trust Owners Association, Inc., a Florida corporation not-for-profit, as such agreement may be amended and supplemented from time to time ("Trust Agreement"), a memorandum of which is recorded in Official Records Book 10015, page 4176, Public Records of Orange County, Florida ("Trust Memorandum"). The Interests shall have a Use Year Commencement Date of September 1, 2022 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement).

COUNT XVII 4 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: W84940 & W84941 & W84942 & W84943) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 1500 Points (250 Points for each Interest), which Trust was created pursuant to and further described in that certain MVC Trust Agreement dated March 11, 2010, executed by and among First American Trust, FSB, a federal savings bank, solely as trustee of Land Trust No. 1082-0300-00, (a.k.a. MVC Trust), Marriott Ownership Resorts, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and MVC Trust Owners Association, Inc., a Florida corporation not-for-profit, as such agreement may be amended and supplemented from time to time ("Trust Agreement"), a memorandum of which is recorded in Official Records Book 10015, page 4176, Public Records of Orange County, Florida ("Trust Memorandum"). The Interests shall have a Use Year Commencement Date of September 1, 2023 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement).

COUNT XVIII 4 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: W84940 & W84941 & W84942 & W84943) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 1500 Points (250 Points for each Interest), which Trust was created pursuant to and further described in that certain MVC Trust Agreement dated March 11, 2010, executed by and among First American Trust, FSB, a federal savings bank, solely as trustee of Land Trust No. 1082-0300-00, (a.k.a. MVC Trust), Marriott Ownership Resorts, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and MVC Trust Owners Association, Inc., a Florida corporation not-for-profit, as such agreement may be amended and supplemented from time to time ("Trust Agreement"), a memorandum of which is recorded in Official Records Book 10015, page 4176, Public Records of Orange County, Florida ("Trust Memorandum"). The Interests shall have a Use Year Commencement Date of September 1, 2024 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement).

COUNT XIX 4 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: W84940 & W84941 & W84942 & W84943) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 1500 Points (250 Points for each Interest), which Trust was created pursuant to and further described in that certain MVC Trust Agreement dated March 11, 2010, executed by and among First American Trust, FSB, a federal savings bank, solely as trustee of Land Trust No. 1082-0300-00, (a.k.a. MVC Trust), Marriott Ownership Resorts, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and MVC Trust Owners Association, Inc., a Florida corporation not-for-profit, as such agreement may be amended and supplemented from time to time ("Trust Agreement"), a memorandum of which is recorded in Official Records Book 10015, page 4176, Public Records of Orange County, Florida ("Trust Memorandum"). The Interests shall have a Use Year Commencement Date of September 1, 2025 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement).

COUNT XX 4 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: W84940 & W84941 & W84942 & W84943) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 1500 Points (250 Points for each Interest), which Trust was created pursuant to and further described in that certain MVC Trust Agreement dated March 11, 2010, executed by and among First American Trust, FSB, a federal savings bank, solely as trustee of Land Trust No. 1082-0300-00, (a.k.a. MVC Trust), Marriott Ownership Resorts, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and MVC Trust Owners Association, Inc., a Florida corporation not-for-profit, as such agreement may be amended and supplemented from time to time ("Trust Agreement"), a memorandum of which is recorded in Official Records Book 10015, page 4176, Public Records of Orange County, Florida ("Trust Memorandum"). The Interests shall have a Use Year Commencement Date of September 1, 2026 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement).

COUNT XXI 4 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: W84940 & W84941 & W84942 & W84943) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 1500 Points (250 Points for each Interest), which Trust was created pursuant to and further described in that certain MVC Trust Agreement dated March 11, 2010, executed by and among First American Trust, FSB, a federal savings bank, solely as trustee of Land Trust No. 1082-0300-00, (a.k.a. MVC Trust), Marriott Ownership Resorts, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and MVC Trust Owners Association, Inc., a Florida corporation not-for-profit, as such agreement may be amended and supplemented from time to time ("Trust Agreement"), a memorandum of which is recorded in Official Records Book 10015, page 4176, Public Records of Orange County, Florida ("Trust Memorandum"). The Interests shall have a Use Year Commencement Date of September 1, 2027 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement).

COUNT XXII 4 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: W84940 & W84941 & W84942 & W84943) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 1500 Points (250 Points for each Interest), which Trust was created pursuant to and further described in that certain MVC Trust Agreement dated March 11, 2010, executed by and among First American Trust, FSB, a federal savings bank, solely as trustee of Land Trust No

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 CC 1219-0109 APO 61

70. MERCHANDISE MISC.

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81. AUTOS FOR SALE

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130. REAL ESTATE

131. VACANT LAND

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 B 1212-0102 IRV 131

133. HOMES FOR SALE

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 CC 1226-0116 ROG 133

136. MOBILE HOMES / RV'S FOR SALE

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142. ROOMS FOR RENT

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 CC 1219-0109 JAC 142

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