

# The Apopka Chief

A MAINSTREET DAILY NEWS  
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## WESH, Chief to partner on debate

Mayoral debate to take place at Highland Manor

By Teresa Sergeant  
Reporter

The Apopka Chief and WESH 2 News are partnering on a 2026 Apopka mayoral election debate on Feb. 3 at Highland Manor.

All three active candidates, Orange County Commissioner Christine Moore,



Courtesy of WESH

Greg Fox

incumbent Mayor Bryan Nelson and former Commis-

sioner Nick Nesta, have committed to participate in the debate, which will take place 5:30-7 p.m. in front of a live audience. Doors will open at 5 p.m.

WESH political reporter Greg Fox and Chief publisher J.C. Derrick will co-moderate the debate.

"We are thrilled to partner with WESH and its Emmy Award-winning reporter to bring this informative event to the community," Derrick said. "This is

an important election for Apopkans, and the Chief is committed to making sure voters have the information they need to make an informed decision."

The debate will be livestreamed online and remain available on demand after the event.

During the debate, the three mayoral candidates will discuss their plans for the future of Apopka, in-

MAYORAL DEBATE, A6

## Car crashes into Apopka Museum

Museum closed until further notice

By Sarah Merly  
Reporter

A burgundy sedan crashed into the Apopka Museum Monday afternoon, according to the Apopka Police Department, forcing the museum's temporary closure.

"I was coming back to take down our Christmas decorations, and I get a call from one of our board members saying that something was going on — looked like somebody may have crashed into the museum," said Francina Boykin, vice president of the Apopka Historical Society board of directors.

According to Boykin, a 93-year-old man arrived at the 150 East Fifth Street utility billing office to pay his bill. Afterward, he pushed the gas pedal, ran over the plants and a millstone in front of the museum, and hit one of the poles holding up the roof of the museum's front porch. Boykin said a police officer transported the driver home and that the driver refused treatment.

"[It] could have been a lot worse, and he could have gotten seriously hurt, too, but I saw him standing there talking to the police, and so he's okay," Boykin said.

The Apopka Police Department said no injuries were reported.

Boykin credits the millstone, formerly positioned upright in front of the museum, for saving the build-



Photo by Francina Boykin

City staff inspect the damage.

ing from any severe damage. Other than the missing pole, several artifacts in a glass display case and hanging on the wall fell down inside, though the wall remains intact.

"Things are broken, but nothing that can't be replaced, like photos came off the wall and cabinet," Boykin said.

Boykin said she felt sorry for the 93-year-old driver and requested prayer from the Apopka community. The museum is closed until further notice as a result of the accident, although Boykin said she hopes the museum opens as soon as possible.

"We're responsible for the history of Apopka in

northwest Orange County," Boykin said. "We're the pulse of our sacred history."

The museum's board of directors will be searching for volunteers in the near future to help restore the building. Those who are interested may email the museum at theapopkamuseum@gmail.com.

## LYNX service changes to affect Apopkans

Service hours decreased, Fern Park service discontinued

By Sarah Merly  
Reporter

Service changes to LYNX's Link 436N route will begin Sunday, Jan. 11, cutting service to Fern Park SuperStop and decreasing hours.

According to an Oct. 23 news release, the changing route will operate between Apopka SuperStop and Altamonte Springs SunRail.



Photo by Sarah Merly

A bus pulls out of the Apopka SuperStop.

The following routes are affected:

• Weekday trips from Fern Park to Apopka SuperStop at

9:05 p.m., 10:05, 11:05, and 12:20 a.m.

- Saturday from Fern Park to Apopka SuperStop at 6 a.m., 9:35, 10:25, 11:35 p.m. and midnight
- Saturday from Apopka SuperStop to Fern Park at 4:40 and 5:10 a.m., 8:40 and 9:40 p.m.

The Link 436N route connects Apopka to Seminole County, currently running through Forest City and Altamonte Springs and ending at Fern Park SuperStop.

LYNX, A4

Photo by Sarah Merly

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## Nelson sues Moore over city residency

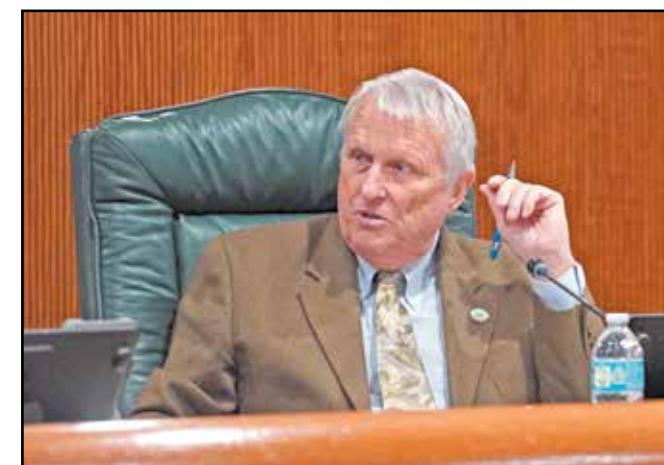
Mayor seeks to remove challenger from ballot

By Teresa Sergeant  
Reporter

Orange County Commissioner Christine Moore is facing a legal challenge over whether she met the residency requirements necessary to run for mayor of Apopka.

Apopka Mayor Bryan Nelson, who is running

LAWSUIT, A6



File photo by Marshall Tempest

Mayor Bryan Nelson says challenge Christine Moore has not lived inside the city limits long enough to qualify.

## City Council appoints Torres, Mock alternates to canvassing board

By Teresa Sergeant  
Reporter

ditional names of potential alternates.

According to Jodi Wrigley, deputy city clerk, the clerk's office received emails from residents offering to serve as alternates.

From this communication, Wrigley listed the potential alternates as Eric Mock, Michelle Torres, Nikki McGuire, Dennis Harper, and Dr. Phyllis Olmstead. Before the council voted, McGuire told the council she had asked to withdraw her name from consideration.

The decision to select alternate canvassing board members was first discussed at the Dec. 17 City Council meeting. However, the council voted unanimously to postpone the decision in order to solicit ad-

CANVASSING BOARD, A8



Photo by Marshall Tempest

Commissioner Nadia Anderson

## APOPKA ELECTION 2026:

**Voter registration deadline:** Monday, Feb. 9

**Early voting dates:** Monday, Feb. 23 through Sunday, March 8, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

**Election Day:** March 10, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

**What's on the ballot:** Mayor; City Council seats 1, 2 and 4; eight city charter amendments

# Opinion

## The Apopka Chief

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## 'Sheduation' — A high degree of useful knowledge

Columnist



Jake Vest

I took Christmas stuff from the garage to decorate my office. To make room, I moved office stuff to the garage.

Last week, I undecorated and found that there is not enough room in my office for the stuff that used to be there and there's no longer enough room in the garage to put the Christmas stuff back where it came from.

I took a Logic class in college, so I know this is not possible. I also taught math. If you have equal amounts and you subtract one from the other, you will not have a remainder. Add the difference to the subtrahend and you will have what you started with. You can trust me, because I know what a subtrahend is.

Yet here I stand in the driveway with half an artificial Christmas tree and an extra storage bin full of books. Obviously, there are "life skills" that are not taught in college, like maybe "Organization, an Introduction to Applied Common Sense."

Pappaw didn't go to college, but he could have taught that course. He had a shed out behind his house that contained one of just about everything on this planet that could be used for work. There were vises, pipe threaders, miter saws, twister things and bender things, and about a billion boxes of nails, screws, bolts, washers, flanges, hasps, hinges, clamps and a bunch of gizmos that looked like metal insects.

If you asked him for a counter-threaded Himmelfinger three-sevens hex, he could walk right to the correct box and fetch one. Even more amazing is that if the box was empty, he knew there was no counter-threaded Himmelfinger hex in the shed.

I have no confidence that I would be able to go into my garage and locate the lawn mower. I once bought

a hedge trimmer, went to hang it on a hook and found, of all things, a hedge trimmer already there.

Pappaw had no formal education. He could make out some words in print but couldn't really read. I sometimes tutor students who are taking the SAT and am currently

reading a 224-page history of esoteric punctuation, Dr. Cecelia Watson's "Semicolon: The Past, Present and Future of a Misunderstood Mark."

When I am finished, I will know more about the semi-colon than I will ever be able to apply to any situation I will ever find myself in, and I still won't be able to take care of my own pool or keep my grass alive.

I call it "situational IQ." Jeopardy! contestants can casually identify obscure operas, know that the Orinoco is the fourth largest river by discharge in South America, and can tell the difference between Manet and Monet. Then they don't know that the University of Alabama is called the Crimson Tide and are unaware that the Army rank above captain is major.

It's like we all have little sheds in our heads with boxes we fill with whatever we think will come in handy. Might be know-how, might be punctuation, could be opera. There are all sorts of smarts, so why do we only officially recognize the college kind and hold it in such high esteem?

Beats me. Maybe somebody is studying that in college right now.

Meanwhile, let's say you need a torx-headed carriage toggle. Who you gonna call? Probably not Dr. Cecelia Watson, certainly not me. Unfortunately, Pappaw is no longer around, and they aren't making them like him anymore.

On the other hand, if you need a hedge trimmer, half a Christmas tree, or some consultation about a semi-colon, I'm your man.

## About The Apopka Chief

The Apopka Chief is published every Friday and entered as Periodicals, postage paid at Apopka Post Office, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879 (USPS545-440). The Apopka Chief newspaper is published by Mainstreet Daily News from 400 North Park Avenue, Apopka, Fla., 32712-3417. Phone 407-886-2777.

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

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

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## Property tax is the phantom menace

It's the beginning of a brand new year, and in just a few short days the Florida Legislature will kick off the new 2026 session. Now that the tinsel is put away (or soon will be) the thoughts of many are turned once again to the important issue of property taxes, and the ever-present issue of affording our American dream.

I'd like to shed light on the process and hopefully demystify this possibly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to decide how we will fund the free state of Florida.

The first thing to understand is that the choice on how we structure our property taxes will ultimately be decided not by the governor or Legislature but by the people of the state of Florida. This issue will be placed on the ballot this coming November, and though similar in some respects, the process to place the issue on the ballot is different than the typical bill that becomes a law.

It begins with the House creating an HJR (House Joint Resolution), which involves a legislator proposing a resolution — in this case how property taxes are levied and their parameters.

Florida House of Representatives



Doug Bankson

To date, the Florida House has proposed eight different options for consideration, with one more late entry being proposed just before Christmas. (Remember, this is the beginning of the process, and all these may not be on the final menu.)

Unlike bills, which eventually go to the governor to decide, these HJRs will go directly to the people, and with a 60% majority those chosen will become the new mandate for Florida.

Each of the first eight proposed HJRs have passed through the House Select Committee on Property Taxes (on which I serve). The committee has been studying the issue for months, amassing real data and seeking input from across the state as to

how this will affect each district, all of which are diverse, from urban to rural, in how they attend to the needs of their constituents.

Herein lies the rub, as they say, and it is part of the complex issue of rethinking our tax structure. In future columns, I will expand on the choices being considered, but let us limit this one to understanding the process.

The real business starts this week with session, as these proposals pass through the typical committee process. There they will be scrutinized and fine-tuned, and members may pare down the list.

Ultimately, each HJR must pass the full House by a 3/5ths vote. Simultaneously, the Senate will go through the same process, proposing its own versions. Finally, both House and Senate must agree by 3/5ths margins to pass the final resolutions to the ballot, where voters will decide our collective fate and future.

Next time we'll break down the proposed items on the menu. (For all you Matrix fans, this article is 100% home grown, not AI generated.)

## OCPS offers life-shaping experiences

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone is off to a great start to 2026 and that everyone had a wonderful break. I know many of our students in Apopka did.

Our Apopka Blue Darter and Wekiva Mustang marching bands certainly had a great break. Both of our local bands were honored to be invited to participate in very special parades on New Year's Day.

The Darter band headed overseas to participate in the London New Year's Day parade. What an absolute treat to see OUR Apopka Blue Darters marching down the London streets. The students visited all the great sites while in London, including Westminster Abbey.

They weren't the only ones representing our community; The Wekiva Marching Mustangs participated in the Sugar Bowl parade in New Orleans, also on New Year's Day. They won five awards at an awards dinner, including 3rd place overall for the parade.

Both bands represented not only Apopka, but all of OCPS in a tremendous way!

These incredible experiences

Orange County School Board, District 7



Melissa Byrd

for our students do not come easily. They take months of fund-raising and organizing from parents, boosters, community members and very dedicated teachers like Mr. Langford and Mr. Petty, the band directors at Apopka and Wekiva, respectively.

We have been working with these bands for over a year to make these trips a reality. The final push happened just last month when the Foundation for Orange County Schools secured a funder for the last \$25,000 Wekiva needed for its trip.

We hear a lot about educational choice these days, and our state is very proud of the opportunities it offers families to choose what educational path is best for their child, and I support that.

When choosing an educational path, I hope parents look at all the opportunities that each option provides. As children age, education becomes about more than just what happens in the classroom. Opportunities outside the classroom impact students as well.

These kids not only experienced these trips with their friends and created memories that will last a lifetime, but experiences like these also change perspectives and outlooks. They have a way of creating a desire to set up your life to allow for future adventures, to plant a seed of exploration that can develop into motivation to work hard to keep your dreams alive.

In other words, these kinds of trips can be life-changing.

How lucky we are that hundreds of our Apopka children were given the opportunity by their local public school to have this experience.

# AdventHealth acquires distribution center property

Site is located near airport, major corridors

By Teresa Sargeant  
Reporter

AdventHealth acquired a property used as its distribution center near the Orlando Apopka Airport, according to a Dec. 23 announcement.

The deal for 5050 Wesley Road in Apopka closed for an estimated \$84 million, the Orlando Business Journal reported.

Cushman & Wakefield represented EQT Real Estate in the disposition of the fully occupied building, according



Photo by Teresa Sargeant

AdventHealth acquired the property at 5050 Wesley Road in Apopka for about \$84 million.

to the firm's news release.

Located within the Apopka Commerce Center, the property has access to U.S. 441, the newly widened S.R. 429 and S.R. 414.

The cross-dock distribution center was built in 2023 and features 40-foot clear heights, 150 dock doors, 190-foot truck courts and four drive-in doors, according to

Cushman & Wakefield.

Cushman & Wakefield listed the property at 546,820 square feet, while AdventHealth described the consolidated service center itself as a nearly 375,000-square-foot operation.

"This offering provides investors with a rare opportunity to acquire a modern cross-dock facility located in one of Florida's key statewide distribution hubs in the highly sought-after Orlando market," Rick Colon, Cushman & Wakefield senior director, said in a press release. "Apopka and Central Florida have had remarkable population growth over the past 10 years, and that growth, combined

with Apopka Commerce Center's strategic location, allows users to draw from a skilled and diverse labor pool. This location and its demographics have also drawn strong interest from leading institutional investors and developers, such as EQT Real Estate."

In a February 2024 press release, AdventHealth announced the opening of its new supply-and-operations hub in Florida, which helps ensure its hospitals have the medical supplies, mail, pharmacy items and support services needed to care for patients.

At the time of the announcement, the center was fully operational, employed

about 250 people, and housed a mail-order pharmacy serving more than 125,000 patients.

AdventHealth and Medline, a medical supply company, co-developed the Consolidated Service Center.

AdventHealth, which is headquartered in Altamonte Springs and has a campus in Apopka, confirmed it acquired the property in an email to the Chief.

"The property recently became available, and AdventHealth purchased it to ensure the long-term continuity of operations that support our patient care," the AdventHealth public information office said in a Monday email.

## City Council terminates Main Street Apopka agreement

By Teresa Sargeant  
Reporter

The Apopka City Council voted unanimously Wednesday to dissolve its financial agreement with scandal-marred Main Street Apopka following concerns about financial oversight, governance and unmet obligations under the agreement.

Interim City Administrator Radley Williams presented staff's request for direction regarding a notice of default previously issued to Main Street Apopka regarding the down-

town mural that the organization had commissioned last year.

Caitlin Kasheta resigned as executive director effective last October and is no longer affiliated with the organization, Yvette Anderson, a Main Street Apopka board member, told the council.

Anderson also announced that Main Street Apopka had recently been approved by Main Street America, a national organization that supports downtown revitalization programs, and said the city would be

promoted nationally for three months as part of that approval.

"The reason I am telling you this is so you can have that in consideration, because that would be very important for our city to be a part of Main Street National as well as the state," she said.

Despite Yvette Anderson's update, council members expressed reservations. Commissioner Nadia Anderson questioned the organization's financial practices and lack of transparency.

"I don't think [we can] jus-

tify ... continuously spending taxpayer dollars on an organization that has clearly defaulted on our agreement and has spent substantially a lot of money that I don't think is justifiable," she said.

Commissioner Diane Velazquez said that since the notice of default was issued, no one from the Main Street Apopka board had reached out to council members to explain what went wrong or how the organization planned to move forward.

Velazquez also referenced

the controversial downtown mural project, which was unveiled with much fanfare and then painted over days later after an Iowa artist called out the design for plagiarism.

During public comment, local business owners said they support the concept of a Main Street program but emphasized the need for experienced leadership, transparency and accurate public information.

The city had sent Main Street Apopka the notice of default on Oct. 29, 2025, outlining concerns with compliance

under the funding agreement.

Main Street Apopka submitted a Dec. 12 response, within the notice of default cure period that was set to expire Dec. 14, 2025.

The response outlined how the organization implemented several solutions to rectify the mural issue, including forfeiting \$4,600 from the next city disbursement, stating that it spent that same amount on the downtown mural, including \$1,600 to remove it, according to the Jan. 7 City Council staff report.

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# Apopka, Wekiva marching bands perform in London, Louisiana

Mustangs earn awards in Sugar Bowl Parade

By Sarah Merly  
Reporter

The Apopka High School Blue Darter Marching Band and the Wekiva High School Marching Mustangs performed in London and Louisiana, respectively, during Christmas break.

"We are a facilitator of life experiences," Apopka band director Jeremy Langford said. "Music is our medium, however, we provide many opportunities to our kiddos to take all of the learning and knowledge gained and put it into practice. Skill, art, leadership, and family are all part of our mantra as an organization."

The Blue Darters performed a medley of "Orange Blossom Song" and "You Are My Sunshine" on Jan. 1 at the London New Year's Day Parade.

"We marched right down Picadilly Circus in London, through Trafalgar Square, on to Whitehall Street, by #10



Courtesy of Destination Events

The Apopka High School Blue Darter Marching Band first gained the attention of the London parade organizers after they performed in 2024 in Washington, D.C.

Downing Street and lastly by Big Ben," Langford said in a Jan. 1 Facebook post.

Langford's wife, Marla Langford, serves as the school's media specialist. She said the organizers of the London parade first contacted the school in the summer of 2024, after watching the band's performance in the 2024 National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade.

According to the slide presentation from the Oct. 23, 2024, informational session, the parade draws approximately 750,000 spectators in-person and 600 mil-

lion TV viewers.

Marla Langford also said students visited iconic United Kingdom destinations on the trip, such as St. Paul's Cathedral, the University of Oxford and Westminster Abbey.

"So much learning [in] so many ways occurred each day," Jeremy Langford said. "It was sensational to see their reaction to the total experience. They embraced the differences and acquiesced to the norms of this new place!"

The band director also wished the Marching Mustangs well in a Dec. 29 Face-



Courtesy of Destination Events

An Apopka High School cheerleader performs in the London New Year's Day Parade.



Courtesy of Destination Events

Dewey Darter parties on the streets of London.

book post as Wekiva traveled to New Orleans to perform in the Allstate Sugar Bowl New Year's Eve Parade.

"It is profoundly rewarding to witness these young musicians venture beyond the familiar, embracing opportunities that will shape their personal and professional trajectories," said Wekiva band director Jon-Té Petty in a Dec. 30 Facebook post. "Such experiences affirm the enduring value of arts education as a catalyst for critical thinking, creativity, and community engagement."

The Marching Mustangs traveled to New Orleans in a partnership with World-Strides, which offers "immersive learning adventures" to students in kindergarten through college. According to Byrd, Wekiva reached its funding goal in December, when the Foundation for Orange County Public Schools granted the band the last \$25,000 it needed for the trip.

## Wekiva won the following five awards from the trip:

- Parade Competition — Outstanding General Effect, Class AA
- Field Show Competition-3rd Place, Class AA
- Parade Competition-3rd Place, Class AA
- Halftime Participation

"The Marching Mustangs have set the bar high for 2026," Wekiva High School principal Anthony Russell said in his Monday e-newsletter. "They have shown us that when you dig deep and forge ahead, you don't just finish the race — you come home with the gold."

## LYNX FROM A1

"The proposal for the changes to Link 436N were proposed as part of the Seminole reductions, which were finalized in the fall of 2025," said Bruce Detweiler, LYNX's manager of service planning, in a Dec. 29 email to frequent rider Tamiko Kirt, an Apopka resident. "All routes in Seminole County were analyzed

for efficiencies as part of the service changes scheduled for January. Certain trips on the Link 436N were identified with very low ridership and submitted in the change proposal."

Detweiler said route changes may also occur from a lack of funding from one or more counties.

"We ran into this issue

with the Link 1, as Seminole County was not going to continue to fund the route and Orange County was not able to pick up the additional cost of continuing service into Seminole," Detweiler wrote. "Orange County is not able to cover the total cost of services that Seminole County no longer funds."

A LYNX spokesperson told WFTV Channel 9 that Seminole County is instead investing its money in Scout, an on-demand ride-share service.

Kirt said the 436N has not changed in several years, but the changes reflect a pattern of reduced public transportation throughout the Apopka area.

"In January 2024, passengers in Zellwood experienced both a reduction in service as well as a loss of bus stops with service changes that went into effect," Kirt said in an email to The Apopka Chief. "Lynx removed bus stops along Hermit Smith, forcing residents to walk and catch the bus at the intersection of

West Orange Blossom Trail and Fudge Rd. Residents near Holly Creek Road fared only slightly better. No residential bus stops were removed, but service was reduced to every two hours."

To view the full Link 436N schedule, visit the "Maps & Schedules" page at golynx.com.

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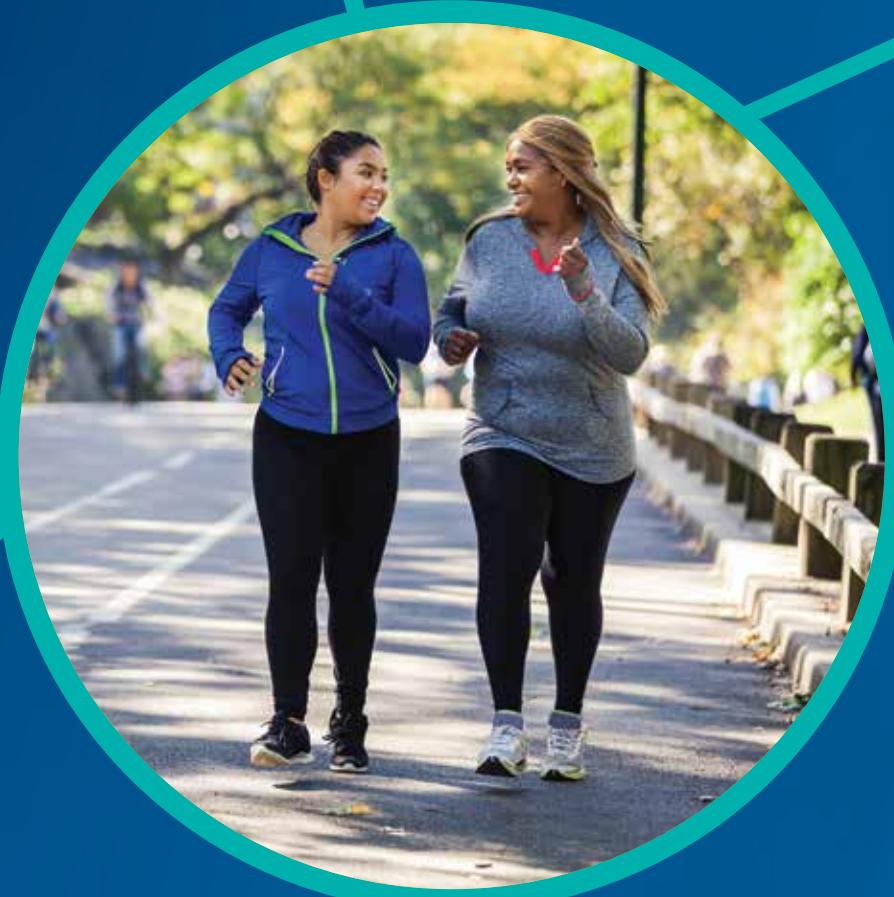
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**LAWSUIT**

FROM A1

pear to show her vehicle was regularly parked between April and July 2025 in front of her homesteaded Palm Crest Drive residence in unincorporated Orange County.

The Apopka City Charter requires mayoral candidates to reside within city limits for at least one year prior to taking office. This would have required Moore to establish residency in Apopka by April 28, 2025, Nelson said.

Moore listed the Magnolia Street address as her residence, a property homesteaded to City Council Seat 1 candidate Sam Ruth, according to Orange County property appraiser records. Moore continues to claim a homestead exemption on her Palm Crest Drive home. Florida law allows only one homestead exemption and one permanent residence.

"What she is doing is ille-



Photo by Sarah Merly

Christine Moore

gal, which is why I have filed a lawsuit to ask for the courts to review the evidence," Nelson said in a statement. "I believe they will see her actions have been improper as well and will remove her name from the ballot."

In a Wednesday state-

ment to the Chief, Moore dismissed Nelson's complaint and called it "false and misleading."

"People get sued all the time," Moore said. "Mayor or Nelson was the subject of similar criticism in 2018 after applying for annexation for his home and two other properties in his unincorporated neighborhood. Bryan Nelson did not cease his candidacy for Mayor due to complaints, and neither will I."

Moore said she is a 38-year resident of Orange County and Apopka whose children and grandchildren were Apopka school students.

"Prior to deciding to run for Mayor of Apopka I began looking for homes for purchase in the city limits," she said. "I secured the assistance of a professional, licensed realtor. I signed a lease at

75 W. Magnolia Street and completed numerous required residency documents. By mid-July I moved with all my belongings from both the rental room and my 30-year-old property to 141 S. Central Ave. I'm in the process of filing for homestead exemption as the application window for such is January. However, homestead exemption is not required as proof of residency."

Nelson also accused Moore of improperly submitting her qualifying fee, saying she signed the qualifying check herself despite campaign records showing Benjamin Moore as campaign treasurer.

State law requires candidates to submit "a properly executed check drawn upon the candidate's campaign account." Nelson said Section 106.11(1) of the Florida Statutes requires that the

campaign treasurer or deputy treasurer sign the check.

"Moore is neither," the suit says.

In her Wednesday statement, Moore maintained that her signature on the qualifying fee check was not illegal.

"As to the check required per statute for qualifying for municipal races, it is not required that the check be signed by a treasurer," she said. "In fact, most of the other candidates filing for the Apopka city races also signed their own checks. If it had been a legal requirement, the Apopka Clerk would have had the opportunity to cure all the signatories."

Moore announced her campaign for mayor last April. Former City Commissioner Nick Nesta is also vying for mayor on the March ballot, which will also feature three City Council races and eight charter amend-

ments.

Moore called on Nelson to focus on issues.

"I believe Mayor Bryan Nelson should spend his time working on the myriad of serious issues facing Apopka and not resort to such bogus claims of residency against his strongest competitor," she said. "My campaign is about slowing growth, improving infrastructure, improving downtown Apopka and the other city neighbor-hood centers."

Nelson's suit names City Clerk Susan Bone, who supervises city elections, and Orange County Supervisor of Elections Karen Castor Dental in their official capacities as co-defendants. The complaint asks the court for an expedited decision to either remove Moore from the ballot or, if ballots are already printed, to not count any votes cast for her.

**MAYORAL DEBATE**

FROM A1

cluding such issues as the city's growth, infrastructure and leadership.

Apopka Chief members have the opportunity to submit questions in advance and will have reserved seating at the event. Other local residents who wish to submit questions will need to attend in person and fill out a card.

"We will ensure the debate focuses on substantive issues that matter to local residents," Derrick said.

Nelson is seeking his third term as mayor and said he wants to continue achieving the goals he set in his

current term, including adding new amenities and developments to the community.

This week he launched a bid to remove Moore from the ballot by challenging her residency.

Moore is in her second term as county commissioner for District 2 and announced her campaign for mayor last April. Her platform includes halting suburban sprawl, infrastructure improvements and increasing transparency in city government.

Nesta jumped into the race in November and cited three top priorities: strength-

ening city infrastructure, supporting city employees and public safety personnel, and restoring fiscal accountability. His entrance led to the withdrawal of local attorney Matt Aungst, who said he was concerned about "splitting the reform vote."

Fox is a seven-time Emmy Award winner and a two-time winner of the Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Television Political Journalism. He has been an anchor and reporter for WESH since 1987 and is a veteran debate facilitator.

"This mayoral race carries real significance for



Photo by Marshall Tempest

Bryan Nelson



Photo by Marshall Tempest

Nick Nesta



Photo by Marshall Tempest

Christine Moore

Apopka's long-term direction, and we believe the community deserves a thoughtful, well-moderated discussion," said John

Soapes, WESH 2 and CW18 president and general manager. "Greg Fox's decades of experience, deep understanding of Florida politics,

and proven track record as a debate moderator make him an ideal choice to help guide a meaningful conversation that keeps voters informed."

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AVATAR: FIRE AND ASH (REALD 3D) (PG-13)	2:30; 9:00
THE HOUSEMAID (R)	12:40; 3:50; 7:10; 10:15
AVATAR: FIRE AND ASH (PG-13)	12:10; 6:30
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4:30; 7:30; 10:10

**I WAS A STRANGER  
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- Word before humbug
- Jim Carrey's 1994 disguise
- Rough, as in voice
- Kimono sash
- Misrepresent
- Do like ivy
- Go for the bronze?
- Poem of lament
- \*Grammy nominee Bad Bunny's first language
- "KPop Demon Hunters" nominated song
- Sought at crime scene
- Lord's worker
- Rob Manfred's org.
- Jab, in speech
- \*.com Arena
- Rowboat engine, pl.
- gum, ingredient
- Cowboy's cry of joy
- Big attraction
- Spring holiday honoree
- Live bait

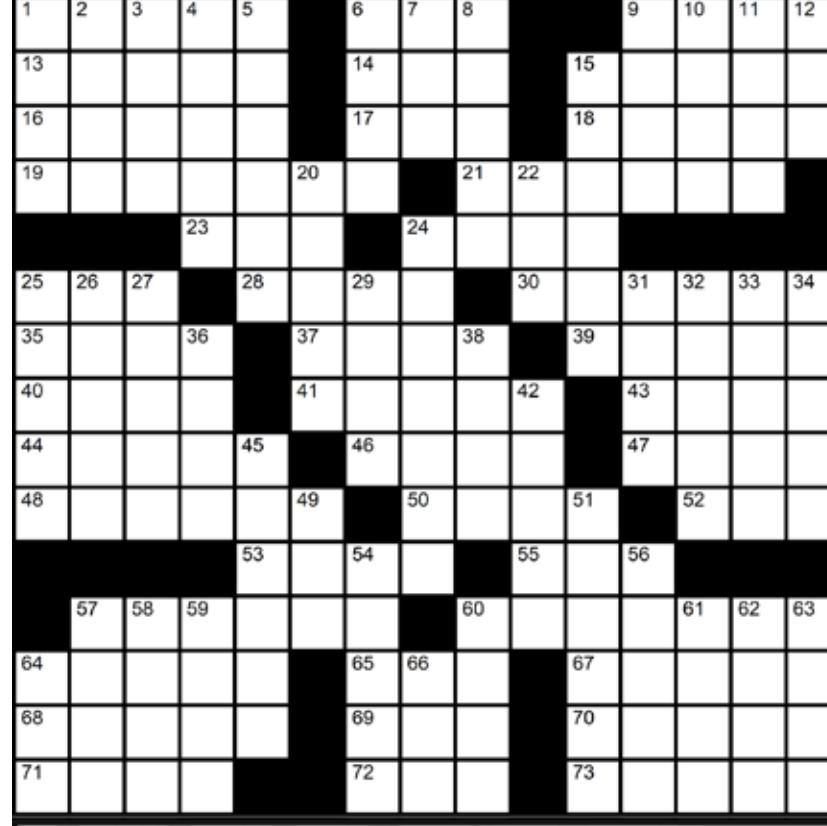
**44. Daytime moth**

- Puerto follower
- Finger move
- Colonnade
- Invitation letters
- "Zip it!"
- Trash bag brand
- Polar helper
- \*Lady Gaga's nominated album
- Tyler of CHROMAKOPIA, with The
- Prejudiced one
- Busy one
- Do penance
- Approves
- Make a mistake
- Sans- font
- "I, Claudius" role
- Jack and Jill did this
- Changes to a manuscript

**DOWN**

- Parentheses, e.g.
- "Star Trek" speed
- Away from port

- Not be frugal
- What TikTokers are often doing
- This and that
- Legal grp.
- Door holder
- Mix together
- Away from wind
- Leo or Libra, e.g.
- "Wonder's "Songs in the \_\_\_ of Life," Album of Year (1977)
- Where bats are?
- Eurasian goat-like antelope
- Middle-earth dweller
- Pelican or albatross, e.g.
- Person in an ad
- One of Florida Keys
- Health food pioneer of liquid aminos fame
- \*Nominated "Drop Dead Years" comedian Bill
- Swerves
- Sound units
- Synagogue scroll
- Zing or pizzazz
- \*Justin Bieber's nominated song
- Fabled fliers
- Red one, send somebody over!
- Unalienable ones are in the Declaration of Independence
- Draft pick
- Give satisfaction
- Spot for prehistoric fly
- Doomed
- \*MCA, Ad-Rock and \_\_\_ D, Grammy-winning Beastie Boys
- Culture-growing turf
- Walk-the-dog toy
- What concerning and discernable have in common
- \*Nine-time Grammy-nominated Amos
- Fonzie's comeback: "Sit \_\_\_ \_\_\_"
- Whistle blowers
- \*Iver of SABLE, fABLE fame
- Historical period

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# YouTuber's Apopka police encounter spreads on social media

APD reviewing Jan. 2 incident

By Sarah Merly  
Reporter

YouTuber and self-proclaimed civil rights investigator Jeff Gray posted a video on Monday of his encounter with Apopka police officer Robert Campbell last Jan. 2 at the Market on 5th. The video has since spread on social media and sparked a statement from Apopka Police Chief Lovetta Quinn-Henry.

"I am aware of the video circulating on social media involving one of our officers at the local street market on the night of January 2, 2026," Quinn-Henry said. "As Police Chief, I want the community to know that the Apopka Police Department takes all public interactions seriously, particularly those that raise concerns or questions about our interactions



Jeff Gray encounters Apopka police officer Robert Campbell in his YouTube video.

with the public."

Gray's video, posted under "HonorYourOath Civil Rights Investigations" on Facebook, shows Gray holding a cardboard sign reading "God Bless the Homeless-Vets" at the Fifth Street farmer's market. Gray, an army veteran, visits public areas across Florida with the sign

and records reactions from onlookers to his "magic card-board mirror."

"At the Friday evening farmer's market in Apopka, Florida, somebody did in fact get the cops on me," Gray said in the video. "I was only there for like, three or four minutes when the City of Apopka police officer showed up, but

that's basically because they were already there."

After Gray greets several marketgoers with the sign, the video shows an unidentified individual encouraging Gray to stop.

"We don't want to see you get arrested, but they're not gonna let you stay here," the individual said in the vid-

eo. "It's implying that you're panhandling."

After the warning, Gray continues to hold the sign up. A police officer, who identifies himself as "Officer Campbell" later in the video, then walks up to Gray, who turns his back on the officer and walks away from him. Campbell then walks alongside Gray, requesting his attention, after which Gray says he wants to be left alone.

"You ask for money, you're gonna get arrested," Campbell says.

Gray then asks the officer directly if he could have some money, after which Campbell questions Gray's behavior. Gray then asks the officer by name for the money, then tries to walk away, saying he'd rather be left alone. Campbell then asks for Gray's name, which Gray declines to share. Campbell walks away shortly after-

ward.

Quinn-Henry thanked the Apopka community in advance for its patience as the Apopka Police Department completes its review of the video.

"The video is currently under review in consultation with our legal advisor," Quinn-Henry said. "The current panhandling ordinance is being reviewed to ensure alignment with Supreme Court rulings. As part of this process, we will be providing department-wide retraining to reinforce guidance on panhandling laws and the appropriate lawful handling of these encounters."

Gray's videos have previously sparked controversy on several occasions, one of which involved a 2023 lawsuit against the city of Alpharetta, Georgia. Alpharetta settled the case on July 15, 2024.

## POLICE BEAT

### APD arrests 27 Dec. 28-Jan. 3

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](mailto:dhayden@theapopkachief.com).

In the period from December 28, 2025-January 3, 2026, the Apopka Police Department received 1,640 calls for service, responded to 25 crashes, issued 77 citations, and made 27 arrests. Burglaries: 4 vehicles, 1 residence, 1 business. No juveniles were charged.

The following adults were arrested and charged:

Edgar Aguilar Martinez, 33, 71 Camellia St., Umatilla, crash DUI-property damage/personal injury; moving traffic violation-operate motor vehicle without valid license, 1st conviction; hit and run-leave scene of crash involve damage to property.

Alicia Liana Alfaro, 27, Ocoee, battery on specified personnel; resist officer-obstruct without violence.

Jesus Arturo Arevalo Mil-

ian, 32, Apopka, resist officer-obstruct without violence; weapon offense-missile into dwelling vehicle/building or aircraft; damage property-criminal mischief damage property \$200-\$1,000.

Matthew James Armel, 41, 25808 Pine Valley Dr., Sorrento, moving traffic violation-driving while license suspended, revocation equivalent status 3rd subsequent violation.

Shacquez Armonious Col-lington, 25, 33306 Ryan Dr. U 116, Leesburg, simple assault-intent threat to do violence.

Nathan Ray Davis, 38, 1006 Terry Dr., Altamonte Springs, other agency warrant.

Madison Bradley Donnell, 31, Apopka, weapon offense-improper exhibit of firearm or dangerous weapon; battery-touch or strike.

Wilmer Esteban Guillen-Guillen, 21, 23 E. Albatross St., Apopka, crash DUI-property damage/personal injury; moving traffic violation-operate motor vehicle without valid license, 2nd conviction.

Luz M. Gutierrez, 68, 915 Trailwood Dr., Apopka, other agency warrant.

Matthew Taylor Heming-

way, 23, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Antonio Rashanda Hop-kins, 26, 206 Lalla Ln., Apopka, larceny petit theft-merchan-dise farm transit, 2+ prior conviction; resist officer-obstruct without violence.

Steve S. Hoyte, 49, 417 Jordan Stuart Cir. Apt 203, Apopka, DUI-unlawful blood alcohol, DUI-influence of alcohol or drugs; DUI-unlawful blood alcohol, refusal submit DUI testing.

Elmer Ibarra-Gutierrez, 30, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Alan Perry James, 38, Apopka, battery-touch or strike-domestic violence; resist officer-obstruct without violence.

Cassi Alexis Kelley, 33, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Yvonne Lee Koch, 45, 411 S. Highland Ave., Apopka, retail theft.

Harry Mavronas, 55, 7487 FL-121, MacClenny, burglary of occupied dwelling, unarmed; burglary unoccupied conveyance, unarmed.

Melanie Muniz Rosa, 34, 1048 Aspen Way, Apopka, battery on specified personnel.

Zachary Dane Peacock, 34, Apopka, battery-prior conviction, battery commit 2nd subsequent battery.

Jennie Marie Pinson, 45, 808 W. Central Blvd., Orlando, other agency warrant.

Fabio Alberto Restrepo, 45, 624 Spring Oaks Blvd., Al-tamonte Springs, other agency warrant (X2).

Kevin Scott Revier, 48, 1806 Deanna Dr., Apopka, trespassing-failure to leave property on order of owner.

Charlene Rivera, 38, Apopka, aggravated battery with a deadly weapon.

Lloyd Spencer, 63, 154 N. Apollo Dr., Apopka, moving traffic violation-drive while license suspended, habitual of-fender.

Edbin Guillobany Velas-quez Morales, 35, 649 O Shea Ct., Apopka, DUI-unlawful blood alcohol 0.15 or higher or with person under 18 in vehicle; moving traffic violation-operate motor vehicle without valid license, 1st conviction.

Terry Lee Weaver, 57, Apopka, battery-touch or strike-domestic violence.

Lester Leroy Westerman, 71, Apopka, battery-touch or strike-domestic violence.

### Grand jury indicts woman for wire fraud

Jury trial set for Jan. 28

#### Staff Reports

A federal grand jury recently indicted Apopka resident Xin Liu, 40, for conspiracy to commit wire fraud against an elderly victim via phone and email.

John P. Heekin, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Florida, announced the charge Dec. 31.

"An indictment is merely an allegation by a grand jury that a defendant has committed a violation of federal criminal law and is not evidence of guilt," said a press release from the United States Attorney's Office of the Northern District of Florida. "All defendants are presumed innocent and entitled to a fair trial, during which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt be-

yond a reasonable doubt at trial."

Liu's arraignment in federal court occurred Dec. 23 before United States Magistrate Judge Midori A. Lowry. Liu's jury trial is set for 8:30 a.m. on Jan. 28 before Chief District Court Judge Allen C. Winsor. If convicted, Liu will face a prison sentence of up to 20 years.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Criminal Investigations division of the Internal Revenue Service, and the Gainesville Police Department investigated the case. Assistant United States Attorney Adam Hapner serves as prosecutor.

The Northern District of Florida office is one of 94 offices nationwide serving as the country's primary litigators under the guidance of the Attorney General.

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# MLK parade organizers invite area to celebrate King

'The Dream Marches On' to serve as 2026 theme

By Teresa Sergeant  
Reporter

As of Tuesday, more than 85 entrants have applied to participate in Apopka's 17th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade, which will feature marching bands and exemplify the theme, "The Dream Marches On."

The South Apopka Ministerial Alliance (SAMA) is accepting applications up to the day before the parade for the annual event, Monique Morris, parade chair, told The Apopka Chief on Tuesday. The parade will take place in the city of Apopka on Monday, Jan. 19.

Staging will begin promptly at noon at VFW Post 10147, located at 519 S. Central Ave. Any late arrivals after 1:01 p. m. will be added to the end of the pa-



Photo by Teresa Sergeant

Apopka High School marches in the 2025 MLK Parade.

rade. Entry fees are non-refundable. The parade will begin at 2 p. m.

Former Apopka High School (AHS) assistant principal Marcia Owens, who served at AHS for many years, is now the principal at Campbell Middle School in Daytona Beach. Owens will bring the school's marching band to participate in the parade.

"I'm thinking that's

great because Dr. King is not just in Orange County," Morris said. "We know his dream marches on, which is this year's theme. It marches on in every county, everywhere. So, it's great that she wants to participate, because she used to be in our community as an assistant principal, and I'm grateful for that."

Joining Campbell Middle School will be several high school bands, includ-



Photo by Teresa Sergeant

Wekiva High School marches in the 2025 MLK Parade.

ing Apopka, Wekiva, Oak Ridge, Evans and Ocoee.

"We have tons of bands this year," Morris said.

The parade — and hence the celebration of King's legacy — is not limited to the South Apopka community, Morris said.

"We want everybody — the whole Apopka community and Central Florida — to join the parade," she said.

Othellus Swift, an Apop-

ka resident, will serve as the parade's grand marshal for the community. The grand marshal for education and youth is Sophia Bascon, an Apopka daycare owner. The "bridge builder" grand marshal, a younger person who mentors and impacts community youth, is Joshua Black, a mime praise dancer who conducts free praise dance classes for youth, and mentors at St. Paul AME Church.

The grand marshal for the Hispanic community will be a representative from the Hope CommUnity Center, an immigration and working poor advocacy group.

Gerard Moss, the visionary of the event, will also join in the parade.

On Wednesday, the Apopka City Council voted on approving the requested street closures for the parade, including Central Avenue from VFW Post 10147 north on Station Street and south on Marvin C. Zanders Avenue to 13th Street, between the hours of noon and 4 p. m.

According to city documents, city staff, including police and fire officials, have reviewed the parade's special events permit application and recommended approval.

Parade entrant applications are available at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church by calling 407-702-4223, emailing deanqueen456@gmail.com, or calling 407-721-4759.

## CANVASSING BOARD

FROM A1

When Torres contacted the city clerk's office, she stated that she has 22 years of experience working in elections, including employment with the Orange County Supervisor of Elections Office, according to Wrigley.

Torres's election experience includes ballot tabulation, canvassing procedures, and statutory requirements.

She is familiar with board processes, expectations, and etiquette, and would require minimal training, Wrigley said.

"She resides in the city of Apopka, and she can remain entirely impartial and has the ability to serve as needed," Wrigley told the City Council. "She feels that her years of experience in the field of elections have uniquely prepared her to serve in an unbiased manner while upholding statutory requirements."

Mayor Bryan Nelson, who is campaigning for his third term, said he doesn't know Torres and has never contacted her.

"Just for clarity here,

I didn't ask [her]," Nelson said. "I don't even know that I know her, although I was on the canvassing board once, way back when. So, she was there eight or nine years ago. I might have met her, don't know. But for all intents and purposes, I don't know who Michelle Torres is."

Commissioner Nadia Anderson said that, for the sake of transparency, she is the only council member who is not currently up for election.

"I know that the concern was that it would be biased for

the mayor to actually suggest someone [for appointment to the canvassing board]," Anderson said. "But unfortunately, all four of us are up for election [at some point], so I don't know how we would move past that."

Before the council took action, Anderson recommended Torres as first alternate and Mock as second alternate, citing Mock's experience working with local government. Mock, a realtor, is a member of the Planning Commission and has run for City Council in the past.

The city canvassing board includes the city clerk and two City Council members who are not running for office. The board requires designated first and second alternates.

If one of the City Council members becomes ineligible to serve on the canvassing board, a council majority must appoint two citizens to serve as first and second alternates. The first alternate would serve as the canvassing board's third member. If that individual is unable to fulfill those duties, the second alter-

nate would then serve as the board's third member.

The general election and Seat 4 special election will take place March 10 with any potential runoffs to follow April 14. The general election includes the races for mayor, Seat 1 and Seat 2.

Also on March 10, residents will be asked to vote on a referendum for eight proposed City Charter amendments, including a change to the municipal form of government from strong mayor to council-manager.

## Saturday Sounds

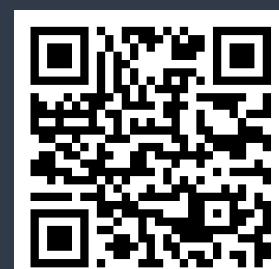
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- **January 10, 2026:** Velvet Stone
- **January 24, 2026:** The Spazmatics
- **February 7, 2026:** After 5
- **February 21, 2026:** Springsteen - The Bruce Tribute
- **March 7, 2026:** To Be Announced
- **March 21, 2026:** D and The Nashville All Stars
- **April 4, 2026:** The Dueling Pianos Extravaganza
- **April 18, 2026:** Apopka's International Jazz Day presented by HAPCO
- **May 2, 2026:** Fire Rhythms Band
- **May 16, 2026:** The Dave Matthews Tribute Band



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[www.Apopka.gov/UpcomingShows](http://www.Apopka.gov/UpcomingShows)  
to learn more about our concerts.

Dates subject to change.

## Kevin Robin Diceglie

Kevin Robin Diceglie passed away January 4, 2026 at the age of 64, surrounded by his family. He resided in Apopka.

He was born February 15, 1961, in Warren, Ohio. His parents are Frank and Clella Diceglie.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Diceglie; his children, Tasha Lowe (Simon Lowe) in Sorrento, Joshua Diceglie (Corinne Theodore) in Sanford, and Jessica Diceglie (Sam Himes) in Apopka; grandchildren, Teigan McMahan of Apopka, and Isabella Diceglie of Sanford; brother, Jim Diceglie of St. Petersburg; his mother, Kay Diceglie of Apopka.

He was preceded in death by his Father, Frank Diceglie (1988); his brother Gary Diceglie (1970), his son Christopher Forde (2012); and his niece, Jessica Marie Diceglie and all his grandparents.

Kevin attended Warren High School in Ohio. He started his career in irrigation commissioned by some of the most prestigious locations throughout Orlando. He eventually went into construction, including remodeling and new builds, both commercial and residential.

He loved telling jokes, watching NASCAR, favorite drivers were Mark Martin, Kevin Harvick, and Ryan Blaney.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, January 24th at his home. Friends and family are welcome to join the celebration from 1:00 to 5:00 pm.

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## Wekiva boys win consolation title in Illinois

Mustangs go 3-1  
Centralia Holiday  
Tournament

By Vinnie Cammarano  
Reporter

Wekiva traveled north to Centralia, Illinois, to compete in the Centralia Holiday Tournament, gaining valuable out-of-state experience while finishing 3-1 and capturing the consolation championship. Behind a star performance from

Eric Nichols, the Mustangs showcased versatility, physicality, and growth against Midwest competition.

The trip provided a measuring stick for Wekiva (11-4) as the team prepares for the heart of the season.

"My thing for them was score fast, do a lot of things fast, but in control," head coach Gersino Lubin said. "Being out of town, we got a chance to see Midwest basketball, and Midwest basketball, they are very efficient in a lot of things."

I would like for us to be efficient."

The tournament opened on Dec. 29 with a tight battle against Belleville West (Ill.). The Mustangs were locked in a one-possession game late, but a controversial no-call in the final moments led to a game-winning 3-pointer as Wekiva fell 54-51. The loss sent the Mustangs to the consolation side of the bracket despite a strong performance from Nichols.

WEKIVA BASKETBALL, B2



Courtesy of Joyce Lubin

Wekiva won the consolation prize in the Centralia (Illinois) Holiday Tournament Dec. 29-31.

## Apopka falls to Evans in first round of Metro West Tournament

Trojans lead wire to wire to clip Darters

By Vinnie Cammarano  
Reporter

The Apopka boys basketball team hit the road to Evans Tuesday night for the first game of the new year and Game 1 of the Metro West In-Season Tournament. The Blue Darters (8-7) were given the seventh seed and lost 42-37 to the two seed Trojans (12-4).

Evans set the tone immediately, scoring on its first two possessions with an inside finish followed by a perimeter bucket. Apopka answered through Jarquavion McClain, who pulled up confidently from the elbow to get the Blue Darters on the board. From there, the opening quarter settled into a physical, half-court battle, with both teams working deep into the non-existent shot clock on nearly every possession.

"We knew coming in it was going to be a grind," Apopka coach Scott Williams said. "They're really hard to score on, and we have to recognize when we're being passive because that hurts us."

Midway through the first, McClain drove and kicked to Rafi Betancourt, who buried a corner 3 to tie the game. Evans responded with a strong layup, but Apopka stayed active on the offensive glass, fighting for two boards to convert second-chance points.



Xavier Freeman (left) goes up to attempt a block on an Evans big man (21).

Jean traded pull-up jumpers with a Trojan guard, but Evans closed the quarter with a buzzer-beating putback to take a 13-9 lead.

Jaden Andino opened the second quarter with a corner 3 for Apopka, but offense became harder to find as both defenses tightened. Stoppage

es were limited, and the pace quickened as each possession carried more pressure. Ev-

APOPKA BASKETBALL, B2

## New year fishing off to quick start

Hello Folks,  
Happy New Year to each and every one of you! And, we are off to the some great fishin' in 2026. The fishin' this year is off to a great start so far, and folks are gettin' on the water and catchin' fish! If you want to catch specks or bass, now's a great time to go.

The specks are bitin' really good in the St. Johns River up north around Highlands Fish Camp. The guides have been takin' folks out, and they're catchin' their limits each trip. Most of the specks are bein' caught on jigs tipped with a minnow. The specks are bitin' in Lake Monroe pretty good, as well.

On Saturday, Jan. 17, there's gonna be a bass and speck tournament held on Lake Monroe. It's called the 7th annual Hook'd on Lake Monroe, and it'll be held from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. Flights will go out of



**GOIN'  
FISHIN'**

Jim Keck  
Correspondent

25 teams every 15 minutes. The weigh-in starts at 1 p.m. There'll be a mandatory Captains' meeting and registration the day before, on Friday, January 16th. If you have any questions, you can contact 407-790-9515 for more information.

Also, for your information, the speck fishin' is pickin' up in Lake Jesup. Also, they're catchin' a few specks in Lake Harney.

Folks are startin' to catch some specks in the Harris Chain, as well. If you're interested in takin' your kids fishin', there's gonna be a free Kids Fishing Rodeo at

Highland Park Fish Camp on January 31st. Mark your calendars, and I will provide more information in the comin' weeks.

The bass fishin' has been really good at the Headwaters down in Palm Bay. One of the guides down there had some clients out, and they caught 41 bass in 4 hours, with the biggest bass weighin' 6 pounds 4 ounces. That, my friends, is how you do it!

If you are plannin' a bass fishin' trip to Orange Lake near the Ocala/Gainesville area, you might want to delay it. The water is very low, and conditions aren't at all suitable for fishin'. I got a report this week that one angler couldn't even get his boat back on the trailer because the water was so low!

The bass fishin' is still good in the Butler Chain. You'll catch a lotta small bass, but you will have a blast catchin' 'em! Depend-

din' on the weather, we should start seein' some bass move into shallow water; it's that time of the year for the big females to move into shallow water to spawn. It's been reported that a few male bass're startin' to clear out some beddin' areas in our lakes.

We have a new moon on the 18th of this month, so be on the lookout for some activity in your favorite lake.

The weather has just been great for fishin', and I hope you get a chance to do some worthwhile fishin' very soon; I hope to get on the water myself in the near future, and hopefully, I'll catch some of those bass!

Well, that's it for this week. I hope to see you soon on the water.

See ya next week.

Tip of the week: The fishin' is great!

SAVE A FEW AND  
GOOD LUCK!

## Big win opens 2026 for Apopka soccer

Girls extend win streak in shutout against Hagerty

By Vinnie Cammarano  
Reporter

The Apopka girls soccer team (7-5) picked up right where it left off three weeks ago, handling the Hagerty Huskies 3-0 at home Wednesday night. This marked the Darters' fourth consecutive win as they gain momentum toward the district tournament with just two games remaining in the regular season.

The victory didn't come without an early test. Coming off a long break, Apopka spent the opening minutes settling back into match rhythm as Hagerty (6-4-2) controlled possession and tempo.

Head coach Tino Sangster said the focus entering the night was less about tactics and more about reconnecting with their identity. "The whole game plan was to connect the pass a little more, be more patient, especially in the midfield," Sangster said. "One or two touches, pick your head up, connect with your teammates, and let the confidence grow. Once we see the open space, we go for it."

Hagerty earned the first quality scoring chance, but Apopka's back line contested the shot for an easy pick-up by goalkeeper Nicole Garcia. As the first 10 minutes ticked by, the Huskies spent most of their time in Apopka's defensive third. Several early through-ball attempts by the Blue Darters were either intercepted or pushed just beyond reach.

Garcia was called into action again nine minutes in, calmly securing a rolling shot as Hagerty continued to press.

Apopka finally found its footing around the 13-minute mark when Nevaeh Nguyen created space up the pitch and tried to slip Robyn Pickard into the box, but the Huskies cleared the danger. Hagerty sustained possession and unleashed a powerful strike. Garcia made a full extension save, leaping to deny what would have been the opening goal.

That moment proved to be a turning point. Apopka stopped the ensuing corner and countered quickly, swinging momentum back toward midfield. The match evened out from there as the teams went into the water break scoreless.

Sangster used the pause to refocus his group after the slow start.

"I asked them what they're seeing first, then they told me the same thing we saw – we're rushing the game," he said. "I told them it's us. We're at home. Play for the badge, play for our families, and just go get it. Connect with each other and have fun."

The message paid off quickly. Four minutes after play resumed, Jillian Kurz sent a ball forward to Nguyen, who found Pickard in the box for Apopka's first real scoring opportunity, though the shot sailed just over the net. Hagerty briefly regained possession off the goal kick attacking the right side, but Apopka flipped the script moments later.

Andrea Sifontes received a ball up the right side and sent a cross into the box, and Nguyen – with her back to goal – redirected it toward the net. The ball popped over the goalkeeper and found twine with 15 minutes into the half, giving Apopka a 1-0 lead.

From there, the Blue Darters began to see clearly through the Husky defense.

APOPKA SOCCER, B3



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Blue Darters celebrate Nevaeh Nguyen's opening goal.

## APOPKA BASKETBALL

FROM B1



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Alex Congdon sinks a 3.



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Trent Jean one-hands a high pass.

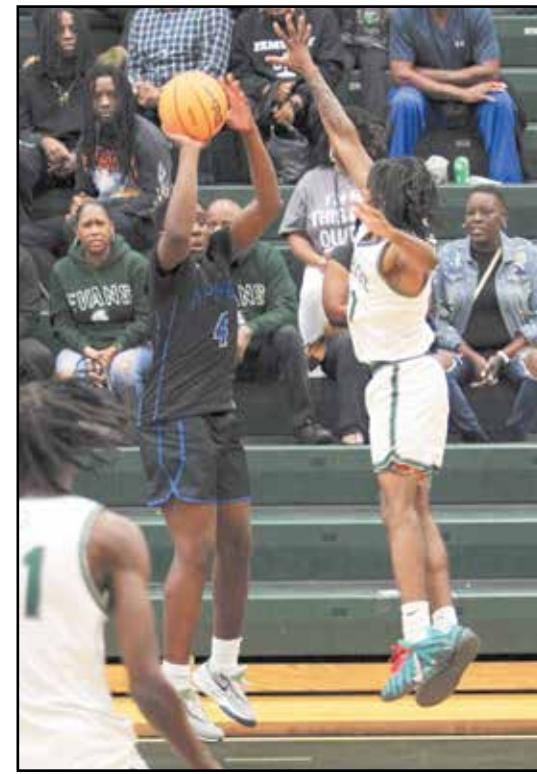


Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Zee Davis lets contested transition 3 ball fly.



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Zee Davis buries wing 3 in second half.

ans connected on another 3 with just over three minutes remaining, then earned the first trip to the free-throw line, extending the lead to 21-12.

Apopka broke the drought late, but Evans beat the trapping defense to take a 23-14 advantage into half-time.

Zee Davis sparked Apopka to start the third quarter, opening with a baseline jumper before drilling a wing 3 to cut the deficit to four. Evans

answered inside, but Apopka continued to chip away. Alex Congdon stepped into a 3 after the ball swung around the perimeter, then followed with a putback through contact.

Evans regained control at the free-throw line and began to lock in defensively, forcing long possessions and empty trips. After Jean and Xavier Bell each knocked down late free throws, Evans raced the length of

the floor and scored in three seconds for another buzzer-beater, taking a 35-27 lead into the fourth.

Evans opened the final period with a midrange jumper, but Noah Ferrer answered with a 3 – his first points of the night – to keep Apopka within reach. The Trojans pushed the lead to 39-30 before both teams went cold. Zee Davis broke the drought with a corner 3 to bring it back to two possessions.

After an Evans layup through contact, McClain answered with a floating shot in the paint, then finished a fast break to cut it to four with just over two minutes remaining. Apopka had two chances in transition to make it a one-possession game but couldn't convert. Forced to foul, the Blue Darters entered a free-throw battle they couldn't win as Evans closed it out.

Apopka struggled to force turnovers at its usual rate, and Davis and

McClain combined for nearly half of the team's points, each finishing with eight while contributing on the boards.

"We gave great effort once again," Williams said. "On nights we don't shoot it great, we've got to find other answers. We left too many points at the free-throw line and at the rim. If we handle our business there, none of it matters. But I'm really proud of our guys."

## WEKIVA BASKETBALL

FROM B1

ols, who finished with 22 points.

On Dec. 30, Wekiva responded with resilience against Champaign Central (Ill.). The Mustangs jumped out early and weathered multiple runs in a back-and-forth contest, holding control down the stretch to earn a 55-50 win. Nichols contributed 14 points, while Kenny Diejuste chipped in 10.

Wekiva carried that momentum into New Year's Eve against Millers Career Academy in a feisty, physical matchup. The Mustangs separated themselves in the second half, commanding the game on both ends of the floor to secure a 70-54 victory and earn an extra game in the tournament. Nichols once again led the way with 15 points.

In the consolation championship

later that day, Wekiva delivered its most dominant performance of the trip, dismantling Miami Southridge, 71-27. The opposing coach praised the Mustangs' physical presence and their ability to consistently pressure the basketball.

Nichols capped off an unforgettable tournament with 25 points, finishing as the tournament's leading scorer and earning a spot on the Second All-Tournament Team.

"Eric understood the assignment," Lubin said.

Lubin pointed to the benefit of simply observing elite programs during the tournament.

"We saw Marist play, which we really wanted to play, and Marist is No. 2 in their class," he said. "We

saw Centralia play, which was No. 3 in their class. So we saw some really good basketball teams, and the details they paid attention to, we sat and watched those games."

Despite the opening loss, Lubin was encouraged by how his team responded and adapted.

"Although we lost that buzzer-beater game against Belleville West, our better guy, Jasen, didn't do as well as I expected," Lubin said. "It was gratifying to see that everybody else was able to still handle business."

Lubin highlighted lineup flexibility as one of the biggest takeaways.

"We showed a lot of versatility," he said. "We were able to go big, go small, mix it up. Every group we put out there found a way to bring heat."

With roughly a quarter of the season remaining, Lubin believes the Mustangs are progressing but still searching for another level.

"I think they've progressed, but I'm still looking for something more," he said. "I was really looking forward to playing Marist to see how we stack up. Now we're playing Edgewater, and they're one of those teams that will help us. That's a significant, balanced team that's going to challenge us."

As the district tournament approaches, Lubin's message remains consistent.

"Be better each game," he said. "It's never about the other team. It's always about us. If we keep clicking on all cylinders, we'll be okay."



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Eric Nichols looks to coach for a play.

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

# ATW

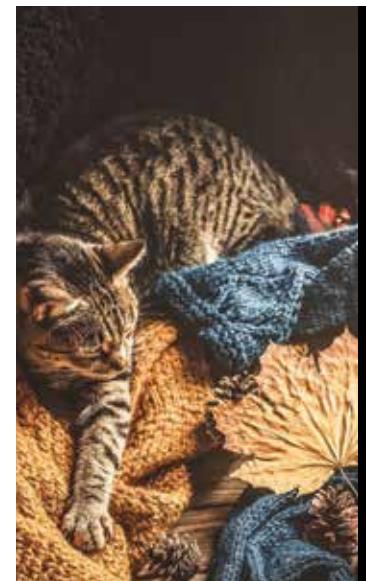
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**VERSE OF  
THE WEEK**

**"By day the Lord  
directs his love, at  
night his song is  
with me—  
a prayer to the God  
of my life."**

**—Psalm 42:8**

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## APOPKA SOCCER

FROM B1

Ariana Obregon carved her way down the left side, beating a defender and striking the post with a shot that nearly doubled the advantage. Apopka controlled the remainder of the half, locking in defensively and keeping the ball in attacking areas until the halftime whistle.

Hagerty opened the second half aggressively, earning an immediate corner and firing a shot that Garcia handled with ease. Nguyen continued to threaten with two quick chances — a header that missed wide and a deep shot that skimmed past the crossbar — as Apopka maintained steady pressure.

That pressure broke through again when Sydney Chandler delivered a cross from the right side that found Obregon, who finished cleanly past the goalkeeper to make it 2-0 with 32 minutes remaining. Chandler's assist was her sixth of the season, giving her the team lead.



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

The Apopka girls soccer team huddles before what would be a dominant performance against Hagerty.

Apopka kept attacking from the right flank, nearly adding another goal when a

low cross skipped just past Pickard's foot. Hagerty's best chance of the half came

with 27 minutes left, but Garcia stood tall on a one-on-one opportunity, shutting down

the near-post attempt.

Seconds later, Pickard capitalized on a mistake.



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Jillian Kurz boots a long free kick.



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Robyn Pickard makes a move past the defender.



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Nevaeh Nguyen steals the ball from a Husky at midfield.

## SPEND LESS, LEARN MORE

Technology Classes at Your Library – January 12-16



**Tuesday**

iPad and iPhone - Camera, 10:30 a.m.

**Wednesday**

Destrezas en el Manejo del Teclado, 11 a.m.  
Principios de Computadora Nivel 1, 12:30 p.m.

**Thursday**

Learn How to Type, 11 a.m.  
Computer Basics Level 1, 12:30 p.m.

**Friday**

Microsoft Word Level 2, 2:30 p.m.  
Open Lab - Microsoft Word, 4 p.m.



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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To submit an event, you can email them to [news@theapopkachief.com](mailto:news@theapopkachief.com).

## Friday, January 9

### Lunch & Learn: Golf Fore Central Florida

Noon at 65 E. Central Blvd., Orlando

Curator Travis Puterbaugh highlights historic tournaments, players, and courses that shaped Central Florida golf.

### A Mindful Planter Workshop

1 p.m. at 1920 N. Forest Ave., Orlando

Hands-on workshop where participants create a ceramic planter with mindful, nature-inspired techniques.

### Chessmates

1 p.m. at 841 N. Park Ave., Winter Park

Casual chess for all ages and skill levels.

### Florida Underground Fest 6

4 p.m. at 200 Myrtle Ave., Sanford

Experience more than 90 punk and alternative bands across six stages during this statewide music showcase.

### "Dream Team" Opening Reception

5:30 p.m. at 201 S. Rosalind Ave., Orlando

Art in the Atrium opening reception featuring Damon DeWitt's exhibition.

### 20th Anniversary Show

7 p.m. at 1490 E. Buena Vista Dr., Lake Buena Vista

The Broken Hearts and Given to Fly perform a joint tribute inspired by Petty's 2006 tour pairing with Pearl Jam.

## Saturday, January 10

### 4th Annual Charity Sport Event

8 a.m. at 4990 New Broad St., Orlando

A day of games, friendly competition, and fundraising for a local cause.

### Supercar Social

9 a.m. at 2202 33rd St., Orlando

Monthly meetup for exotic cars, benefiting Dream Cars 4 Kids.

### Young Naturalist Explorers: Winter Bird Walk

9:30 a.m. at 1300 S. Denning Dr., Winter Park

Family-friendly bird walk through Mead Botanical Garden.

### Intro to Pastel Painting

9:30 a.m. at 847 E. 5th Ave., Mount Dora

Hands-on pastel workshop.

### Botanical Resin Jewelry Making

10 a.m. at 1920 N. Forest Ave., Orlando

Create custom jewelry pieces using botanicals and resin.

### Auditions: "Assassins" — Stephen Sondheim Musical

10 a.m. at 6900 Aloma Ave., Winter Park

Open auditions for the Breakthrough Theatre production.

### Sugar & Spice Esthetics One-Year Anniversary Event

12 p.m. at 1300 Alden Rd., Orlando

Celebrate with local vendors, wellness services, and community activities.

### The Harlem Globetrotters — 100 Year Tour

2 p.m. at 12777 Gemini Blvd. N.,

## THE 100 YEAR TOUR



Courtesy of Addition Financial Arena

The Harlem Globetrotters will be bringing their 100 Year Tour to Orlando on Saturday, Jan. 10, delivering trick plays, comedy, and interactive basketball entertainment.

### Orlando

High-energy basketball entertainment celebrating 100 years of tricks, comedy, and fan interaction.

### Greyhounds Meet & Greet: Adoption Event

2 p.m. at 221 E. 4th Ave., Mount Dora

Meet retired racing greyhounds and learn about adoption opportunities.

### Saved by the 90's

7:30 p.m. at 1490 E. Buena Vista Dr., Lake Buena Vista

All-ages 90s tribute concert.

## Sunday, January 11

### Maitland Farmer's Market

9 a.m. at 1776 Independence Ln., Maitland

Shop for food, crafts, plants, flowers, and produce in downtown Maitland.

### Renaissance Family Day

12 p.m. at 633 Osceola Ave., Winter Park

Enjoy a free, family-friendly

### Renaissance celebration.

### Design Your Own Succulent Arrangement

2:30 p.m. at 1920 N. Forest Ave., Orlando

Create a custom succulent arrangement in this hands-on workshop.

### Square Dance

3:30 p.m. at 200 N. Triplet Lake Dr., Casselberry

Beginner square dance class hosted by the Hoedowners Pairs & Spares.

### Sourdough Pizza

5:15 p.m. at 125 W. Plant St., Winter Garden

Learn hands-on techniques for making crisp, tangy sourdough pizza from scratch.

## Monday, January 12

### Event Mastery for Realtors

11:30 a.m. at 2712 E. Colonial Dr., Orlando

Learn strategies for hosting events that strengthen community ties and build meaningful

connections in real estate.

### Marty Supreme

Noon at 5901 Hazeltine National Dr., Orlando

Free movie showing. Open to ages 55+.

### Artificial Intelligence: Theory, Practice, and the Latest Developments

6 p.m. at 841 N. Park Ave., Winter Park

Explore current trends in generative AI through short lectures, demos, and group discussion.

## Wednesday, January 14

### PMU Termite Foundations

8 a.m. at UF/IFAS Mid-Florida REC, Apopka

Training on subterranean termites, construction elements, and treatment practices per product labels.

### Stroller Tours

10:30 a.m. at 2416 N. Mills Ave., Orlando

A one-hour museum tour for caregivers with infants and toddlers, featuring interactive discussion and gallery exploration—pre-registration required.

### Trivia

6:30 p.m. at 405 S. Highland St., Mount Dora

Free weekly trivia at Eden Abbey.

### Book Release Party

7 p.m. at 1300 S. Denning Dr., Winter Park

Author chat and signing celebrating *Fundamentals of Being a Good Girl*.

## Lowcountry comfort in chicken perloo and Savannah red rice

Mrs. Meggett has a recipe for Chicken Perloo. She says, "Many of the one-pot rice dishes in the Lowcountry and the South can trace their origins back to west Africa. There's jollof rice in West Africa, jambalaya in Louisiana, and here in the Lowcountry? We've got red rice and chicken perloo. Chicken perloo has a lot of the same European and African cooking styles you find in dishes like Spanish paella and Ghanaian jollof rice. However, tender chicken, broth, and perfectly fluffed rice make this a true Lowcountry dish."

Bob Warden has written a book titled "Great Food Fast," and there is a recipe for Steak Chili (that's fit for a meal)! Bob says, "This steak chili made with fresh pinto beans makes a warm and satisfying meal, especially when served over rice or pasta. I like to use sirloin steak but cheaper cuts of beef, especially cubed stewing beef, work great, too."

June Shannon shares her Savannah Red Rice in *Feeding the Flock* from New Vision Community Church located in Plymouth. We appreciate all the lovely recipes contained in their keepsake book of recipes that have been provided by church members, family and friends.

Fresh Garden Relish from the Progressive Farmer's *SOUTHERN Cookbook* is superb over turnip greens and black-eyed peas. I can see it on my table this time of year because it is made from wonderfully fresh vegetables.

From Savannah Style, there is Orange Cheesecake with Orange Cheese Filling. It looks scrumptious. It is not a traditional cheesecake, but cake with cream cheese filling.

**EMILY MEGGETT'S CHICKEN PERLOO**  
Recipe from *Gullah Geechee Home Cooking* by Emily Meggett  
6 tablespoons bacon grease or vegetable oil  
1/2 pound salt pork, cut into 1-inch chunks  
1 cup roughly chopped onion  
5 cups chicken broth  
1 teaspoon Nature's Seasons (Morton's Nature's Seasons Seasoning

### Blend

1 teaspoon poultry seasoning  
1 pound cooked chicken thighs, skin removed and roughly chopped  
2-1/2 cups long-grain white rice, un-rinsed

1) In a large, heavy-bottomed pot, heat 2 tablespoons of the bacon grease or oil over high heat. Once the grease or oil is shimmering, add the salt pork and cook on high heat for 1 minute. Pour the remaining bacon grease or oil into the pot. Reduce the heat to medium-low and cook the salt pork for about 5 minutes, until browned. 2) Once browned, remove the salt pork from the pot and set aside. Leave enough oil to coat the bottom of the pot. Add the onion and fry for 1 minute. Return the cooked salt pork to the pot and cook the onion and salt pork together over low heat for about 5 minutes, until onion just darkens. 3) Add the broth, Nature's Seasons, and poultry seasoning and bring to a boil. 4) Once boiling, add the chicken. Cook for about 2 minutes, then add the rice. Adjust the heat to medium-low and cook until most of the liquid has been absorbed, 10 to 15 minutes. 5) If using a steamer, transfer the rice mixture to the top of the steamer, cover and steam over medium heat for about 20 minutes, until done. If you're using the regular pot, continue to cook the rice mixture on medium-low heat for 20 to 25 minutes, until the rice has absorbed all of the broth. Once done, stir the rice with a fork, and serve immediately.

### STEAK CHILI

From *Great Food Fast*, by Bob Warden  
1-1/4 cups pinto beans (not canned)  
3 tablespoons vegetable oil  
1-1/2 pounds sirloin steaks, cubed  
1 large yellow onion, chopped  
1 tablespoon chili powder  
1 green bell pepper chopped  
3 large tomatoes, chopped  
1 (28-ounce) can tomato sauce  
5 cups beef stock or broth  
1 tablespoon minced garlic  
2 teaspoons sugar  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon pepper

Soak pinto beans for 30 minutes as you prep the remaining ingredients. Drain and rinse the soaked beans. 2) with the cooker's lid off, heat oil on HIGH

or "brown," until melted and sizzling. 3) Place the steak and onion in the cooker, and cook until steak is lightly browned, about 5 minutes. 4) Stir in chili powder and cook 1 additional minute. 5) Add remaining ingredients, securely lock the pressure cooker's lid, and set for 24 minutes on HIGH. 6) Let the pressure release naturally for 10 minutes before performing a quick release for any remaining pressure. 7) Add any additional salt and pepper to taste before serving.

Note: Make it Yours! Serve this chili smothered with your favorite toppings. Try Cheddar or pepper-jack cheese, sour cream, sliced jalapenos, diced red onion, or even a dollop of guacamole!

### JUNE SHANNON'S SAVANNAH RED RICE

Recipe from *Feeding The Flock, New Vision Community Church*

1/4 pound bacon  
1/2 cup chopped onion  
2 cups raw rice  
2 cups tomatoes, diced  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon pepper  
1/8 teaspoon Tabasco sauce

Fry bacon crisp; remove from pan. Sauté onions in bacon fat. Add washed rice, tomatoes, seasonings and crumbled bacon. Cook 10 minutes over low heat. Pour into one quart casserole dish and cover tightly. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour, stirring with fork twice. Serves 8 to 10.

### FRESH GARDEN RELISH ON TURNIP GREENS

Recipe from The Progressive Farmer's *SOUTHERN Cookbook*

3 tomatoes, diced  
1 cup chopped celery  
1 medium cucumber, peeled, sliced, and finely chopped  
3 tablespoons finely chopped onion  
1 medium-sized green pepper, chopped  
Salt and black pepper to taste  
2 tablespoons French dressing  
2 tablespoons vinegar

Mix and chill.

Note: Birmingham serves superb food, many old as well as new recipes. Our favorite there (and we never saw it served elsewhere) is just plain turnip

greens topped off by a fresh garden relish. These quantities are for six portions.

### ORANGE CHEESECAKE

Recipe from *Savannah Style, a Cookbook by The Junior League of Savannah, Inc.*

1 cup flour, sifted  
1/4 cup sugar  
1 tablespoon orange rind, grated  
1/2 cup butter  
1 egg yolk  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla  
Orange sections for garnish  
Mint sprigs for garnish

Combine flour, sugar and rind. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse meal. Add egg yolk and vanilla and blend well. Pat 1/3 of the dough onto the bottom of a 9-inch springform pan. Bake in a hot oven at 400 degrees Fahrenheit for 5 minutes or until golden brown. Remove and cool. Pat remaining dough evenly around sides of pan to 1/2 inch from top.

Pour orange cheese filling (see below) into pan. Place aluminum foil under pan on oven rack and bake in hot oven at 400 degrees Fahrenheit for 8 to 10 minutes until the crust browns slightly. Reduce heat to 225 degrees Fahrenheit and bake 1 hour and 20 minutes longer. Remove and cool slowly, then refrigerate. Serve garnished with orange segments and mint sprigs.

### ORANGE CHEESE FILLING

Recipe from *Savannah Style, a Cookbook by The Junior League of Savannah, Inc.*

5 (8-ounce) packages cream cheese, room temperature  
1-3/4 cups sugar  
3 tablespoons flour  
1 tablespoon orange rind, grated  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon vanilla  
5 eggs  
2 egg yolks  
1/4 cup frozen orange juice concentrate, thawed and undiluted

Combine cheese, sugar, flour, orange rind, salt and vanilla in a large bowl. Beat at low speed until smooth. Add eggs and egg yolks, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Stir in orange juice. Pour mixture into prepared pan. Serves 12 to 18.



# Newspaper Fun!

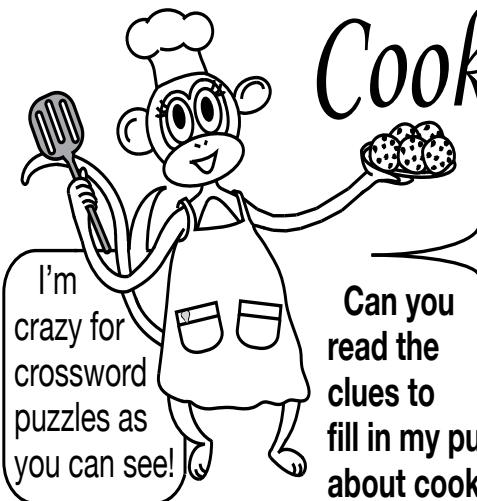
[www.readingclubfun.com](http://www.readingclubfun.com)

Annimills LLC © 2026 V1

...own ingredients to make a great pizza!

ds: color  
stuff in!

# *Cooking and Baking Fun!*



I'm  
crazy for  
crossword  
puzzles as

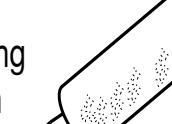
Can you  
read the  
clues to  
fill in my p  
about coo

I enjoy cooking and baking. I like putting foods together to make new, hopefully delicious, combinations. One of my favorite hobbies is to take an old recipe that everyone loves, like cheese and macaroni and “lighten” it to make it a healthier dish that’s just as tasty.

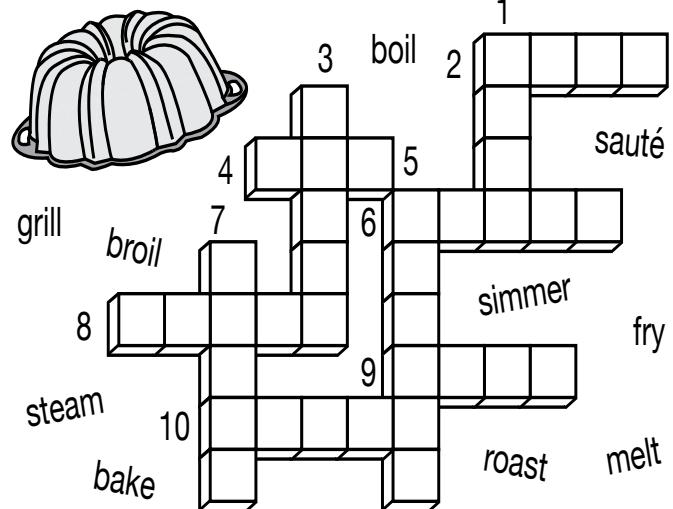
crossword  
puzzles as  
you can see!



clues to  
**fill in my puzzles  
about cooking?**



1. bowl-shaped pan used to cook Chinese food
2. comes in many shapes and sizes, usually not very deep
3. very deep with handles and lids
4. flat piece of metal for laying out pieces of dough
5. bowl heated from below – keeps cheese and chocolate melted for dipping
6. mixed foods cooked in a large, deep, usually uncovered dish in the oven
7. round, doughnut-shaped baking pan
8. shallow, round, glass or metal dish used to bake one of America's favorite desserts
9. round, flat, with low sides; may be made of iron, may have a non-stick surface, handle
10. has several, tiny cups for batter; a cupcake pan or a \_\_\_\_\_
11. square or rectangular "frying pan," may be flat or have ridges, drains off extra grease
12. rectangular pan that is deep, used for breads and a favorite meat dinner
13. large, round, flat metal pan, sometimes deeper for "deep dish"



## *Running the Kitchen Smoothly*

I'm helping Chatter in the kitchen today. I am her "sous chef," which means I am the second in command! I make sure everything is ready and the kitchen is running smoothly, and I help to cook the food.

## Getting food ready and keeping the kitchen running smoothly:



1. cut into thin strips with a knife
2. cut food into small square pieces
3. crush food in blender or other machine
4. press to remove lumps
5. cut food into squares smaller than 1/2 inch, using a knife
6. stir ingredients together with a whisk or spoon
7. chop into tiny pieces
8. cut ingredients into pieces using a knife or food processor
9. cut into long, thin pieces (may use round holes on grater)
10. pull off or cut off the skin or rind of fruit or vegetable



We are helpers in the kitchen.  
**Read the clues to find out how  
we help. Then, fill in the puzzle!**



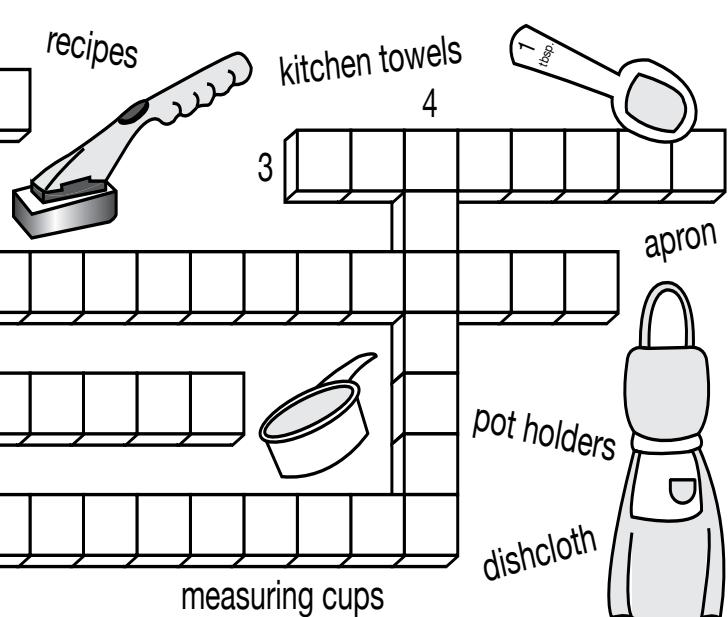
1. small rag used for washing plates, pots, and pans
2. books filled with recipes
3. rough, sponge-like tool for removing food from pots and pans
4. sets of instructions for making or preparing something
5. special piece of clothing that covers the front to keep clothes clean
6. cups with markings on the side
7. thick cloths that protect hands and table from hot pots and pans
8. larger cloths for drying off your washed plates, pots, and pans



## Kitchen Helpers

the kitchen.  
out how  
puzzles

*Kitchen  
Helpers*<sup>1</sup>  <sup>2</sup>



**NOTICE OF CLAIM OF LIEN AND PROPOSED SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE**

Pursuant to Florida Statute 713.585, MAJESTIC AUTOS INC., will sell at public sale for cash the following described vehicle(s) located at below address to satisfy a claim of lien: 2021 TESL VIN 5YJ3E1EA4MF922459, Lien amt. \$6,970.00. OWNER: MARCIA BITENCOURT FUKAO 17616 NORTHLAKE GROVE DR WINTER GARDEN, FL 34787, Location of Vehicle: 5452 N PINE HILLS RD, ORLANDO, FL 32808. Auction Date: JANUARY 31ST, 2026, at 10:30 AM, at 5452 N Pine Hills Rd, Orlando, FL 32808 407-861-1727. 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 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. Publish: The Apopka Chief January 9, 2026

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:** BARTLETT TOWING, INC gives notice that on 02/23/2026 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 charges and administrative fees allowed pursuant to Florida statute 713.78.

2026 INFI

5N1AL1FW1TC343427

Publish: The Apopka Chief

January 9, 2026

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:** BARTLETT TOWING, INC gives notice that on 01/30/2026 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 charges and administrative fees allowed pursuant to Florida statute 713.78.

2012 LNDR

SALSF2D47CA725778

Publish: The Apopka Chief

January 9, 2026

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:** BARTLETT TOWING, INC gives notice that on 02/02/2026 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 charges and administrative fees allowed pursuant to Florida statute 713.78.

2008 Hyun

KMHDU46D08U461285

Publish: The Apopka Chief

January 9, 2026

**Public Notice** is hereby given that **Johnson's 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 01/22/2026 at 0700.

Year Make VIN

2018 Nissan

3N1CP5CU2JL540746

2005 Kia

KNDJF723557121236

2020 Kia

3KPA24AD8LE305071

2017 Nissan

1N4L3APXHC207617

2008 Ford

2FMDK48C98A68403

2005 Mazda

4F2YU2265KM14674

1999 Mazda

JM1B221X0124059

2004 Chevrolet

1GNEK13Z4R239837

2012 Nissan

3N1AB6AP5CL669100

2004 Chevrolet

1GNDT13S442358134

1998 Acura

JH4KA9642WC005551

2011 Chevrolet

2CNALBEC8B6240400

2012 Dodge

3CPDCAB8CT300073

2017 Chevrolet

1G1ZC5ST0HF223062

2018 Nissan

1N4L3AP8JC282371

2007 Chevrolet

1GNDTS13S672249052

2017 Dodge

3CPDCAB4H7676017

2005 Toyota

5TDZA2C7S5260651

2022 Honda

3CZRUH52NN709400

2013 Toyota

271BU1EE1DC101102

2023 Dodge

2C3CDXGJOPH643709

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.

January 9, 2026

**Public Notice** is hereby given that **Johnson's 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 Narcoosse Road, Orlando, FL 32822. The following vehicle(s) will be sold on 01/22/2026 at 0700.

Year Make VIN

2015 Honda

5FNRL5H45FB026753

2015 BMW

5UXWX9C57FD050415

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.

January 9, 2026

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

File No. 2025-CP-004114-O

IN RE: ESTATE OF

KAREN MARIE MCLUCKIE, a/k/a

Deceased.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE.

The administration of the estate of KAREN MARIE MCLUCKIE, deceased, whose date of death was July 15, 2025, is pending in the Circuit Court of Orange County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 425 N. Orange Avenue, Orlando, FL 32801. The name(s) and address(es) of the petitioner and the petitioner's attorney are

set forth below.

An Order of Ancillary Summary

Administration may be entered in the estate of KAREN MARIE MCLUCKIE, deceased. The names and addresses of those who are to receive the exempt assets are:

Name Address

WILLIAM MCLUCKIE

1096 Ala Moana Court

Diamondhead, MS 39525

1/2 share of Florida assets

KATHLEEN MCLUCKIE

1096 Ala Moana Court

Diamondhead, MS 39525

1/2 share of Florida assets

All creditors of the decedent and other persons, who have claims or demands against the decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons who have claims or demands against the decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION

733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is

January 9, 2026.

WILLIAM MCLUCKIE

1096 Ala Moana Court

Diamondhead, MS 39525

1/2 share of Florida assets

KATHLEEN MCLUCKIE

1096 Ala Moana Court

Diamondhead, MS 39525

1/2 share of Florida assets

All creditors of the decedent and other persons, who have claims or demands against the decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION

733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is

January 9, 2026.

WILLIAM MCLUCKIE

1096 Ala Moana Court

Diamondhead, MS 39525

1/2 share of Florida assets

KATHLEEN MCLUCKIE

1096 Ala Moana Court

Diamondhead, MS 39525

1/2 share of Florida assets

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January 9, 2026.

WILLIAM MCLUCKIE

1096 Ala Moana Court

Diamondhead, MS 39525

1/2 share of Florida assets

KATHLEEN MCLUCKIE

1096 Ala Moana Court

Diamondhead, MS 39525

1/2 share of Florida assets

All creditors of the decedent and other persons, who have claims or demands against the decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION

733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is

January 9, 2026.

WILLIAM MCLUCKIE

1096 Ala Moana Court

Learpearl Natta-727-  
Household Goods;  
Krista Thurston-103-  
Household Goods;  
James Delyan-256-  
Household Goods;  
January 2, 9, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR  
ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CASE NO. 2025-CA-012239-O  
DIV NO.: 39

MARRIOTT RESORTS  
HOSPITALITY CORPORATION, a South  
Carolina Corporation, Management  
Agent on behalf of CYPRESS HARBOUR  
CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC., a  
Florida not for profit corporation, and All  
Owners as Agent,  
Plaintiff,  
vs.

GARY W. DAVIS, et. al.,  
Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION BY PUBLICATION  
AS TO COUNT II

TO THE FOLLOWING DEFENDANT  
WHOSE RESIDENCE IS UNKNOWN:  
TO: JOHN A. FARRIS,  
DECEASED,

THE ESTATE OF JOHN A. FARRIS,  
DECEASED AND ANY UNKNOWN  
SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES,  
GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS,  
CREDITORS, TRUSTEES OR OTHER  
CLAIMANTS BY AND THROUGH, UNDER  
OR AGAINST, SAID DEFENDANT  
C/O JO ELLEN FARRIS PERSONAL  
REPRESENTATIVE  
9303 TOPANGA CT NE  
ALBUQUERQUE,  
NEW MEXICO 87122-1225  
AND

JOHN A. FARRIS,  
DECEASED,

THE ESTATE OF JOHN A. FARRIS,  
DECEASED AND ANY UNKNOWN  
SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES,  
GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS,  
CREDITORS, TRUSTEES OR OTHER  
CLAIMANTS BY AND THROUGH, UNDER  
OR AGAINST, SAID DEFENDANT  
C/O JO ELLEN FARRIS PERSONAL  
REPRESENTATIVE  
340 W JAMISON CIR  
UNIT 7  
LITTLETON,  
CO 80120-4282  
AND

JO MARGARET FARRIS, DECEASED

9303 TOPANGA CT NE  
ALBUQUERQUE,  
NEW MEXICO 87122-1225

The above named Defendant is believed  
to be dead and, if dead, the unknown  
spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees,  
assignees, liens, creditors, trustees,  
or other claimants by, through under or  
against said Defendant and all parties  
having or claiming to have any right, title or  
interest in the property described below.  
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED of the  
institution of the above-styled foreclosure  
proceedings by the Plaintiff, MARRIOTT  
RESORTS HOSPITALITY CORPORATION,  
upon the filing of a complaint to foreclose  
for other relief relative to the following  
described property:

COUNT II

Unit Week 42 in Unit 5131 respectively in  
CYPRESS HARBOUR CONDOMINIUM,  
according to the Declaration of  
Condominium thereof, as recorded in  
Official Records Book 4263 at Page 0404  
in the Public Records of Orange County,  
Florida, and any amendments thereof.  
AND you are required to serve a  
copy of your written defenses, if any  
to the complaint, upon EDWARD M.  
FITZGERALD, ESQUIRE, Holland & Knight  
LLP, 200 S. Orange Avenue, Suite 2600,  
Orlando, Florida 32801, attorneys for the  
Plaintiff, on or before thirty (30) days from  
the first day of publication herein and file  
the original with the Clerk of the above-  
styled Court either before service on  
Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter,  
otherwise a default will be entered  
against you for the relief demanded in the  
complaint.

DATED on this 12/17/2025

Tiffany Moore Russell,  
Clerk of Courts  
/s/ Charlotte Appling  
Deputy Clerk  
Civil Division  
425 N Orange Ave  
Room 350  
Orlando, FL 32801

CIRCUIT COURT SEAL  
CONFORMED COPY TO:

EDWARD M. FITZGERALD  
HOLLAND & KNIGHT, LLP

200 S. Orange Avenue,  
Suite 2600

Orlando, Florida 32801

Ph. (407) 244-5198

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

REQUESTS FOR ACCOMMODATIONS  
BY PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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 the

ADA Coordinator, Human Resources,

Orange County Courthouse, 425 N.

Orange Avenue, Suite 510, Orlando,

Florida, (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.

THIS DOCUMENT IS AN ATTEMPT

TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY

INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE

USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

HK#126435.9560/MP115

January 2, 9, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR  
ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CASE NO. 2025-CA-011906-O  
DIV NO.: 35

MARRIOTT OWNERSHIP

RESORTS, INC.

Plaintiff,

vs.

LORI PARKER- GLADSTEIN aka LORI

(NMN) PARKER-GLADSTEIN, et. al.,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION BY

PUBLICATION AS TO COUNT XIV

TO THE FOLLOWING DEFENDANT

WHOSE RESIDENCE IS UNKNOWN:

TO: CAROLYN ANNE MINK, DECEASED,

THE ESTATE OF CAROLYN ANNE MINK,

DECEASED AND ANY UNKNOWN

SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES,

GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS,

CREDITORS, TRUSTEES OR OTHER

CLAIMANTS BY AND THROUGH, UNDER

OR AGAINST, SAID DEFENDANT

208 BLOSSOM GLEN WAY

LOS GATOS, CA 95032  
AND

CAROLYN ANNE MINK,

DECEASED,

THE ESTATE OF CAROLYN ANNE MINK,

DECEASED AND ANY UNKNOWN

SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES,

GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS,

CREDITORS, TRUSTEES OR OTHER

CLAIMANTS BY AND THROUGH, UNDER

OR AGAINST, SAID DEFENDANT

45453 13TH ST WEST

LANCASTER,

CA 93534-1769  
AND

DONALD R. BORCHERS, DECEASED

37373 PAINTBRUSH DR

PALMDALE,

CA 93551-6173  
AND

MARY E. MATHENY,

DECEASED,

THE ESTATE OF MARY E. MATHENY,

DECEASED AND ANY UNKNOWN

SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES,

GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS,

CREDITORS, TRUSTEES OR OTHER

CLAIMANTS BY AND THROUGH, UNDER

OR AGAINST, SAID DEFENDANT

45453 13TH ST WEST

LANCASTER,

CA 93534-1769  
AND

MARY E. MATHENY,

DECEASED,

THE ESTATE OF MARY E. MATHENY,

DECEASED AND ANY UNKNOWN

SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES,

GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS,

CREDITORS, TRUSTEES OR OTHER

CLAIMANTS BY AND THROUGH, UNDER

OR AGAINST, SAID DEFENDANT

45453 13TH ST WEST

LANCASTER,

CA 93534-1769  
AND

MARY E. MATHENY,

DECEASED,

THE ESTATE OF MARY E. MATHENY,

DECEASED AND ANY UNKNOWN

SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES,

GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS,

CREDITORS, TRUSTEES OR OTHER

CLAIMANTS BY AND THROUGH, UNDER

OR AGAINST, SAID DEFENDANT

45453 13TH ST WEST

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SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES,

GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS,

CREDITORS, TRUSTEES OR OTHER

CLAIMANTS BY AND THROUGH, UNDER

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